

Dateline ERS

New ERS research and analysis at: www.ers.usda.gov

Economic Research Service

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

ERS is a primary source of economic research and analysis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing timely information on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America.



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Commodity Markets and Trade

ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade.

Coming in August

- Rice
- Feed
- Wheat
- Oil Crops
- Sugar and Sweeteners
- Cotton and Wool
- Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry

All reports along with a calendar of future releases are available at:

www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/commodity-outlook.aspx

U.S. Drought 2012: Farm and Food Impacts

www.ers.usda.gov/newsroom/us-drought-2012-farm-and-food-impacts.aspx

The most severe and extensive drought in at least 25 years is seriously affecting U.S. agriculture, with impacts on the crop and livestock sectors and with the potential to increase food prices at the retail level. On this new webpage, ERS posts current information on potential impacts of the drought on key commodities and food prices. We will update the material periodically as information becomes available.

Food Price Outlook - Data Update

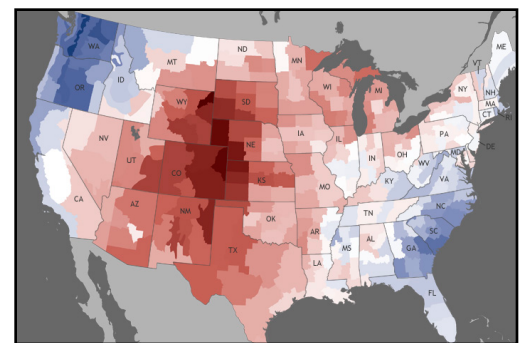
www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook.aspx

Recent news reports are raising concerns about the effect of the U.S. drought conditions on retail food prices. ERS regularly updates the food price data set and forecasts the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for food. These data have become increasingly important due to the changing structure of food and agricultural economies and the important signals the forecasts provide to farmers, processors, wholesalers, consumers, and policymakers.

Agricultural Adaptation to a Changing Climate

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err-economic-research-report/err136.aspx

Global climate models predict increases over time in average temperature worldwide, with significant impacts on local patterns of temperature and precipitation. The extent to which such changes present a risk to food supplies, farmer livelihoods, and rural communities depends in part on the direction, magnitude, and rate of such changes, but equally importantly on the ability of the agricultural sector to adapt to changing patterns of yield and productivity, production cost, and resource availability. The findings of *Agricultural Adaptation to a Changing Climate: Economic and Environmental Implications Vary by U.S. Region* suggest that, while impacts are highly sensitive to uncertain climate projections, farmers have considerable flexibility to adapt to changes in local weather, resource conditions, and price signals by adjusting crops, rotations, and production practices. Such adaptation, using existing crop production technologies, can partially mitigate the impacts of climate change on national agricultural markets. Adaptive redistribution of production, however, may have significant implications for both regional land use and environmental quality.



NOAA

Brazil's Agriculture: Policy and Technology Interact

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err-economic-research-report/err137.aspx

The Brazilian agricultural sector has been transformed from a traditional system of production with low use of modern technologies to a world agricultural leader. Between 1985 and 2006, agricultural production grew by 77 percent and Brazil emerged as a major international agricultural exporter. *Policy, Technology, and Efficiency of Brazilian Agriculture* presents findings that focus on the effect of Brazil's science and technology investments and other public policies on farm production. The findings indicate that agricultural research benefits have been most rapidly adopted by the most efficient farms, widening the productivity gap between these farms and average farms. That gap, however, has been narrowed through other public policies, such as rural credit and infrastructure investments that favor average producers.



Food Environment Atlas - Data Update

www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas.aspx

Food environment factors--such as store/restaurant proximity, food prices, food and nutrition assistance programs, and community characteristics--interact to influence food choices and diet quality. The Food Environment Atlas provides a spatial overview of up to 160 indicators of the ability to access healthy food and individual counties' successes in doing so. The update includes indicators of access to local food in each county. With this tool users can:

- Create maps showing the variation in a single indicator across the U.S.
- View all of the county-level indicators for a selected county.
- Zoom in to specific areas and export or print maps



International Food Security Assessment, 2012-2022

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/gfa-food-security-assessment-situation-and-outlook/gfa23.aspx

Food security is estimated to improve slightly in 2012 as the number of food-insecure people in the 76 countries covered in this report declines from 814 million in 2011 to 802 million in 2012. The share of the population that is food insecure remains at 24 percent. Over the next decade, the share of the population that is food insecure is projected to decline from 24 percent in 2012 to 21 percent in 2022, but the number of food insecure people is projected to increase by 37 million. Regionally, food insecurity is projected to remain most severe in Sub-Saharan Africa. Food-insecure people are defined as those consuming less than the nutritional target of roughly 2,100 calories per day per person.



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How to get more information...

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