



# DatelineERS

New ERS research and analysis at: [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov)

Economic Research Service

October 2004

U.S. Department of Agriculture

ERS is the main source of 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.



## Farm and Farm-related employment: Update

New data on farm and farm-related employment for 2001 and revised estimates for 1998-2000 are now available. The latest industry-level data show that farming and its related industries provided 24.4 million jobs, or about 14.6 percent of total U.S. employment. Farm production accounted for 3.1 million of these jobs.

[www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmandRelatedEmployment/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmandRelatedEmployment/)

## Commodity Markets and Trade

ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade, including special reports on hot topics. All reports, along with a calendar of future releases, are available at: [www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook)

See feature on this page.

## Conservation Reserve Program: How Has it Affected Rural America?

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aer834/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aer834/)

*The Conservation Reserve Program: Economic Implications for Rural America* estimates the impact that high levels of enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) have had on economic trends in rural counties from the program's inception in 1985 until today. ERS research indicates no discernible impact by the CRP on aggregate county population trends.

Aggregate employment growth may have slowed in some high-CRP counties, but only temporarily. High levels of CRP enrollment appear to have affected farm-related businesses over the long run, but growth in the number of other nonfarm businesses moderated CRP's impact on total employment.



## Outlook Reports: The Numbers and the Context

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook/)

ERS' *Outlook* reports provide data and key insights into the factors shaping farm markets. Each month, ERS publishes more than 10 outlook reports which contain the latest USDA forecasts on supply, demand, and price for commodities such as fruits, vegetables, tobacco, livestock, dairy, and poultry.

The most recent *Outlook* reports indicate, for example, that the 2004 **corn** harvest yield and production will set records. The U.S. season-average **soybean** price for 2004/05 is projected at \$5.35-\$6.25 per bushel, compared with \$5.40-\$6.40 last month, reflecting weaker use and lower corn prices. Global **cotton** production is expected to expand faster than consumption, pushing world ending stocks to their highest since 2001/02.

Annual summaries also provide historical data. Special *Outlook* reports, such as *The Changing Tobacco User's Dollar* and *China: A Study of Dynamic Growth*, address timely topics. Some are featured in this issue of *DatelineERS*.

## U.S. Tobacco Expenditures Declining

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/tbs/OCT04/tbs25701/DBGen.htm](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/tbs/OCT04/tbs25701/DBGen.htm)

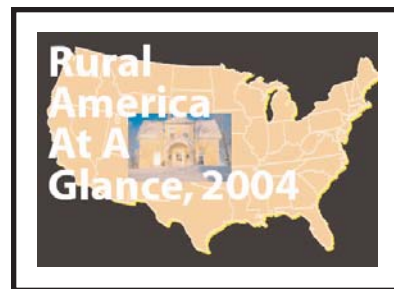
U.S. consumers spent \$86.7 billion on tobacco products in 2003, about \$1.5 billion less than in 2002. *The Changing Tobacco User's Dollar* reports that expenditures are declining as lower consumption (mainly cigarettes) outweighs higher costs facing tobacco product users. For cigarettes, a larger part of the consumer's dollar went to taxes and manufacturers, while wholesalers, retailers, and farmers took less.



## Rural Homeownership at a Record High

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AIB793/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AIB793/)

In July 2004, the homeownership rate for nonmetro households reached 77 percent, well above the 67-percent rate for metro areas but only 1 percentage point above the rate for metro suburbs. Overall economic conditions continue to be favorable for rural areas. *Rural America at a Glance* provides the most current indicators of social and economic conditions in rural areas, for use in developing policies and programs to assist rural people and their communities.



## China's Dramatic Economic Growth

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/WRS0408/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/WRS0408/)

China's rapid economic growth has been driven by high rates of investment, gains in productivity, and liberalized foreign trade and investment. *China: A Study of Dynamic Growth* looks at whether China's growth is likely to continue, although the Chinese economy faces some possibly unsustainable pressures.

## Examining Black Sea Grain Exports

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/WRS04/OCT04/WRS040502/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/WRS04/OCT04/WRS040502/)

*Black Sea Grain Exports: Will They Be Moderate or Large?* examines the prospects for grain exports by the transition economies of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Newly Independent States (NIS) that export through the Black Sea, the largest being Russia and Ukraine. If productivity growth in the region is high, annual grain exports by Black Sea countries could rise to 30-40 million tons. Such high exports would strongly affect the world grain market, since total annual world grain exports during 2000-03 averaged 237 million metric tons.

## Research Briefs Cut to the Chase — FAST

Get to the heart of ERS reports quickly with Research Briefs. Designed with the media in mind, Research Briefs are two-page fact sheets that encapsulate the purpose, methods, and results of ERS research.

Research Briefs are available in the ERS newsroom in PDF format at:

[www.ers.usda.gov/news/ResearchBriefs.htm](http://www.ers.usda.gov/news/ResearchBriefs.htm).

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