



DatelineERS

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Economic Research Service

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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.



**U.S. food
and agriculture:
Today and beyond**

February 19-20, 2004
Arlington, VA

Bringing together policy-makers, producers, industry analysts, and business leaders.

Focusing on domestic and global trends shaping the outlook for food and agriculture.

For registration and other details:

[www.usda.gov/oce/waob/
agforum.htm](http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/agforum.htm)

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)

Non-Metro Employment Fared Slightly Better than Metro

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/rdr97-1

Rural America at a Glance shows that in 2002, the nonmetro unemployment rate (5.6 percent) reversed trends of recent years and fell below metro rates (5.8 percent). In the first half of 2003, the nonmetro rate stayed about level at 5.7 percent, while the metro rate increased to 6.1 percent. Despite some gains, rural areas continued to lag behind urban areas on many economic and social indicators.

Poor Families Spend Less on Food During Winter Months

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fanrr37 (2001)

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fanrr38 (2002)

Two reports, *Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Small Grants Program: Executive Summaries of Research Grants*, summarize research project findings from the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Small Grants Program in 2001 and 2002. The projects focus on food insecurity and hunger, nutritional outcomes, and the causes and consequences of food assistance program participation. Some projects focus on specific populations, such as people living in the rural South and on American Indian reservations.

Egypt's Poultry Meat Production Stimulates Corn and Soybean Imports

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/wrs03/dec03/wrs0302

The Poultry Sector in Middle Income Countries and its Feed Requirements: The Case of Egypt examines the growth in demand for poultry and eggs as well as the industry's feed requirements through 2010. Because Egypt has little potential for growing feed, imports will supply nearly all of the soybeans and half of the yellow corn used to produce domestic poultry and eggs over the forecast period.

U.S. Farm Household Income Up 5 Percent

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/so/view.asp?f=economics/ais-bb

Agricultural Income and Finance Outlook shows the forecast for 2003 U.S. farm household income is \$68,884, about 5 percent higher than the \$65,757 earned in 2002. Both farm and off-farm earnings will contribute to the expansion in household earnings. Farmers' earnings from off-farm sources are expected to rise about 2 percent in 2003, adding to the more than \$131 billion in off-farm earnings reported in 2002.

Agriculture Economy Improves in 2003

www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FarmIncome/nationalestimates.htm

The latest *Farm Income Forecast* examines the financial condition of U.S. farmers and other agricultural stakeholders. Net farm income, a measure of the sector's profitability, is forecast to be up \$20 billion (58 percent) from the \$35.3 billion earned in 2002 and 18 percent above the 10-year average.



Easier Access to Rural Information

www.ers.usda.gov/data/RuralMapMachine

Get an array of rural indicators (natural amenities, urban influence, commuting areas, employment, demographics, income) using the **Rural**

Indicators Map Machine. This Internet-based mapping utility provides a visualization of indicators for rural areas available from ERS and other government agencies.

Get the Facts on the States

www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts

State fact sheets provide information on population, employment, income, farm characteristics, and farm financial indicators for each state in the United States.

What are Americans Eating?

www.ers.usda.gov/Data/foodconsumption

The *food consumption (per capita) data system* tracks historical national aggregate consumption of several hundred basic commodities. This interactive system allows users to create customized tables and charts for per capita food consumption.

Stay Informed with the New ARMS Update

ERS has developed a newsletter to publicize Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) status, schedule, and data availability. Subscribe to the *ARMS Update* notification service at

www.ers.usda.gov/updates to receive the newsletter via e-mail several times a year.



How to get more information ...

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