

## Food and Nutrients in the National Food Supply

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The views expressed here are those of the authors and cannot be attributed  
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## What is the Food Availability (Per Capita) Data System (FADS)?



- First published in December 1941
- Annual data extends back to 1909
- Only source of time series data on food and nutrient availability in the country
- Component of the Nation's nutrition monitoring system



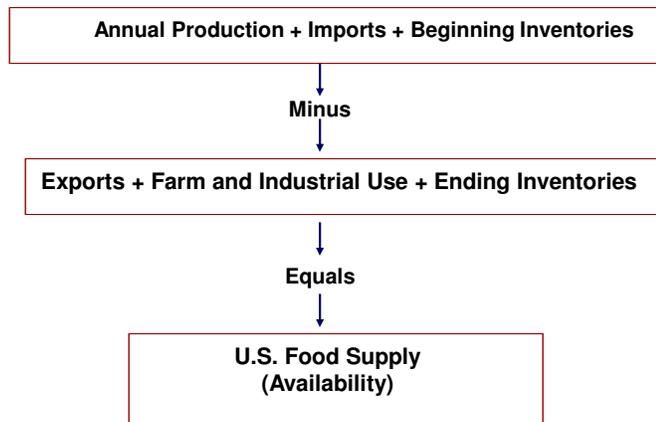
## The Food Availability Data System has three data series:

- Food Availability data (FAD), 1909-2009
- Loss-Adjusted Food Availability data (LAFA), 1970-2009
- Nutrient Availability data, 1909-2006



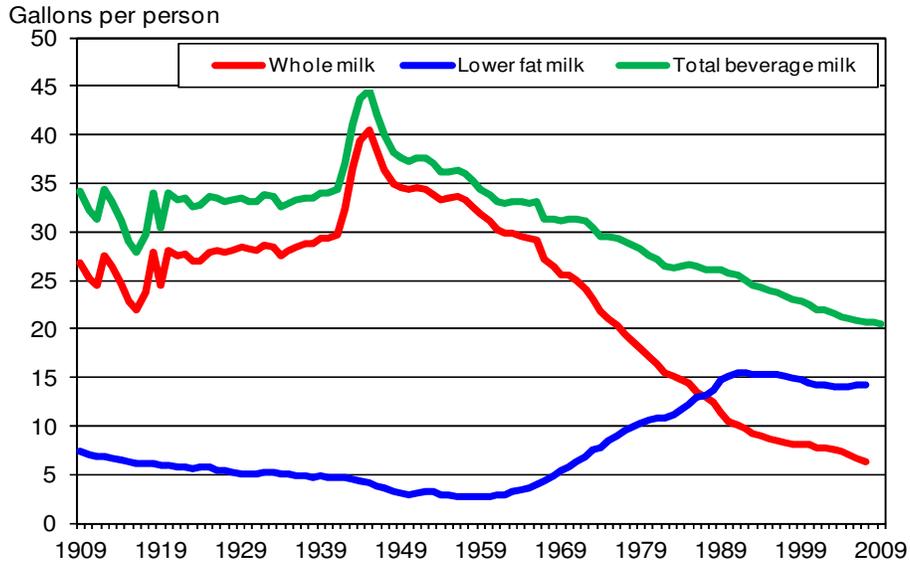
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## Food Availability Data, 1909-2009



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## U.S. per capita food availability: Beverage milk



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Food Availability Data.



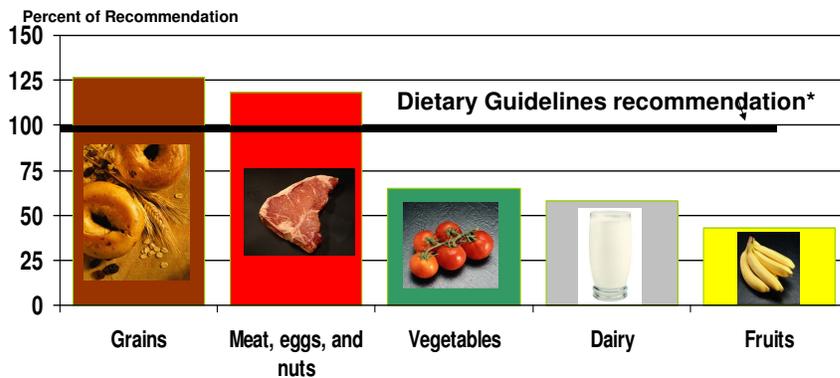
## Loss-Adjusted Food Availability Data

Adjusted for 3 types of losses:

- 1) Loss from primary/farm weight to the retail weight
- 2) Loss at the retail level
- 3) Loss at the consumer level:
  - (a) Non-edible share
  - (b) Cooking loss and uneaten food



## Loss-Adjusted Per Capita Food Availability-- Out of Balance with Dietary Recommendations



\*2009 data based on a 2,000-calorie diet.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Loss-Adjusted Food Availability data. The data are a proxy for consumption.



## Nutrient Availability Data

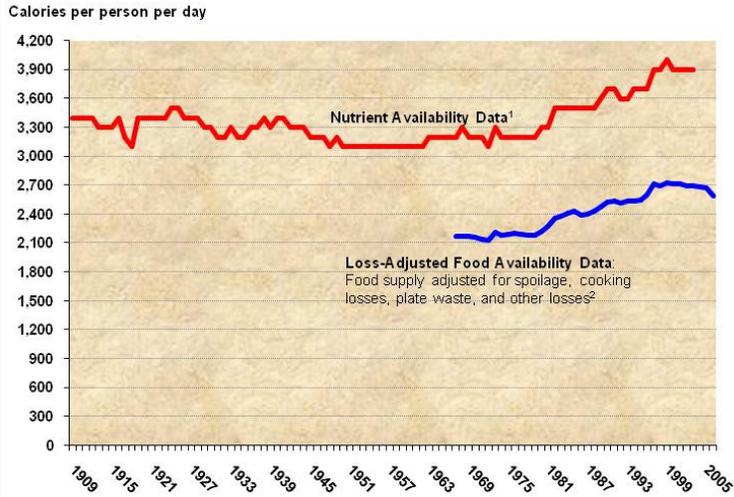


USDA's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) estimates of the amounts per capita per day:

- Food energy (calories)
- Carbohydrates
- Protein
- Fat (total, saturated, monosaturated, polyunsaturated)
- Cholesterol
- Dietary Fiber
- Vitamins (A, Carotene, E, C, Thiamin, Riboflavin, Niacin, B6, Folate (DFE), B12)
- Minerals (Calcium, Phosphorus, Magnesium, Iron, Zinc, Copper, Potassium, Selenium, and Sodium)



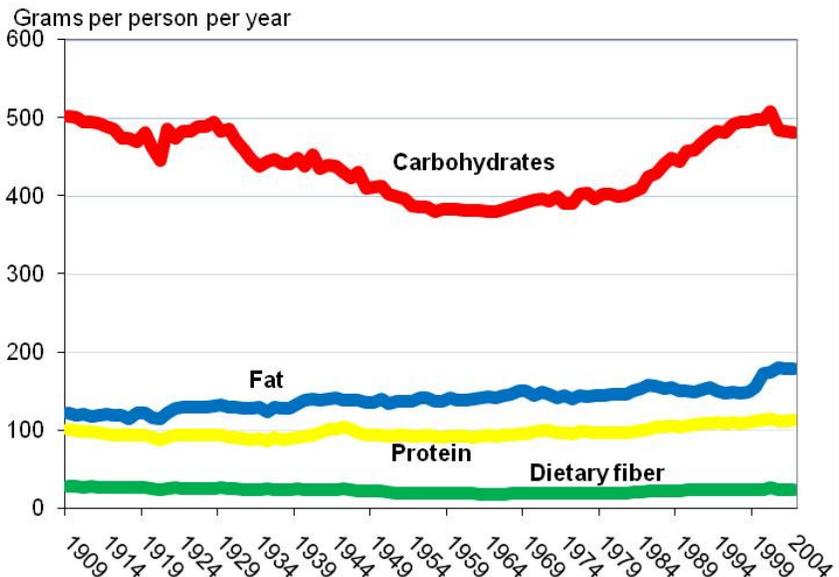
### Estimated Calories Available for Consumption: Nutrient Availability Data vs. Loss-Adjusted Food Availability



<sup>1</sup>Source: USDA, Centers for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, Nutrient Content of the Food Supply Data based on USDA, Economic Research Service's Food Availability Data, 1909-2006. Rounded to the nearest hundred.  
<sup>2</sup>Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Loss-Adjusted Food Availability Data, 1970-2009 (Not calculated for years before 1970).



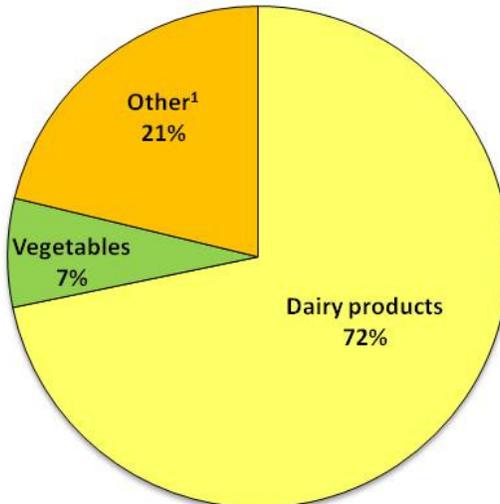
### Carbohydrate intake has fluctuated



Source: Compiled by ERS using Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion data, 1909-



## Sources of calcium in the U.S. food supply



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<sup>1</sup>Other food groups include meat, eggs, fats, fruits, legumes, grains, sugar and sweeteners, coffee, teas, spices, and chocolate liquor equivalent of cocoa beans.  
Source: Compiled by ERS using Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion data, 2004.



## Importance of FADS

- The FADS data are a highly popular proxy for food consumption.
- The data facilitate policymaking and regulatory decisions about farm assistance programs, nutrition education, public health programs, and regulation of vitamin and mineral fortification and food labeling.
- The FADS is web-based and was ranked as the 3<sup>rd</sup> most visited ERS data product for 2010 with 94,570 visits.
- FADS data can be used to:
  - Study relationships between prices, consumption, and diet and health
  - Could be used to compare U.S. food availability with that of other countries

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## What is the Issue?

- The Census Bureau is cancelling the Current Industrial Report (CIR) , data from which is used in FADS.  
*“While few data users wanted to eliminate this existing data source, the availability of manufacturing data from the Annual Survey of Manufactures and the 5-year Economic Census, help mitigate the loss of the CIR data products.”*  
*(<http://www.census.gov/manufacturing/cir/index.html>)*
- 2010 data will be the last year of complete data for several commodities in our data system.



## High Priority Gaps

### Grains

- Total wheat flour
- Wheat flour
- Durum flour
- Rye
- Corn



### Added Fats & Oils

- Lard
- Edible Tallow
- Margarine
- Salad and Cooking Oils
- Shortening





## What will be the impact on FADS?

- The termination of the Census' CIR Program would impact all three data series in the ERS' FADS.
- For example, ERS will no longer be able to provide :
  - Estimates of annual pounds or total daily calories of certain grains or added fats consumed by Americans.
  - Estimates of MyPyramid equivalents (i.e., daily servings) to see how Americans are meeting the recommendations in the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.
- ERS will no longer have complete coverage across the grains and added fats and oils group. Importantly, this means that there won't be coverage across all of the major foods groups.



## Who cares about this data gap?

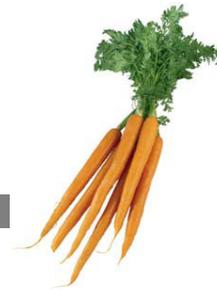
- The audience and users of the FADS are many and varied.
- ERS receives hundreds of inquiries each year about the data from Congress, Federal agencies, State Departments, industry, the media, hospitals, non-profit organizations, associations, universities, research institutes, and researchers in other countries.





## Where do we go from here?

- Over the next year, ERS will be studying alternative data series to identify suitable replacements for the discontinued data series.
- Options include:
  - Extrapolating from existing data
  - Using other suitable data series
  - Discontinuing some components of FADS



Please visit and explore  
our food availability data at:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FoodConsumption/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FoodConsumption/)

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