

■ Food Expenditures and Prices

Total food expenditures, which include imports, fishery products, and food originating on farms, were \$617.1 billion in 1993, an increase of 3.7 percent over these expenditures in 1992. The average was \$2,393 per capita, 2.5 percent above the 1992 average.

Away-from-home meals and snacks captured 46 percent of the U.S. food dollar in 1993, up from 41 percent in 1983 and 35 percent in 1973.

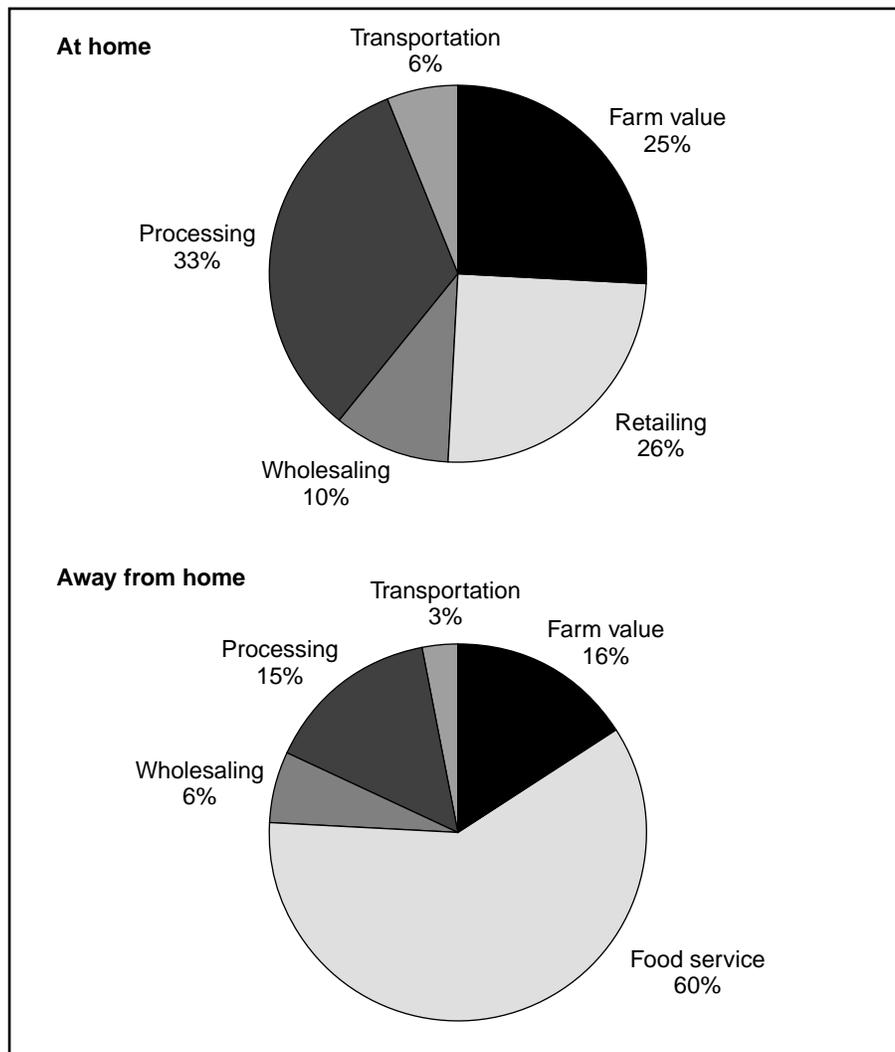
The percentage of disposable personal income (income after taxes) that U.S. consumers spend on food continues to decline. From 1993 to 1994, disposable personal income increased 5.8 percent while food expenditures rose only 4.0 percent. U.S. consumers in 1994 spent 11.1 percent of their disposable personal income on food, compared to 11.8 percent in 1990, 13.5 percent in 1980, and 13.9 percent in 1970.

In the United States, total retail food prices (including meals served in restaurants) rose 39.8 percent over the last 10 years (1984-94). Prices of food eaten away from home increased 39.8 percent, while retail foodstore prices increased 40.2 percent.

Figure 1-10.

Marketing functions of the food dollar in 1994

Processing remained the most expensive marketing function for food eaten at home.



Prices of goods and services, excluding food, in the Consumer Price Index climbed 43.3 percent over the same 10 years. Transportation was up 29.5 percent; housing 39.8 percent; medical care 97.6 percent; and apparel and upkeep 30.7 percent.