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Indicators of Food Prices:

The food consumer price index. Food and beverage prices rose by 5.2% in 2008. The official source for consumer price index data is the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<http://www.bls.gov>

Food expenditures at home. In 2007 we consumed \$583 billion worth of food at home. Of this amount, 94% was purchased at retail stores, 3.9% was purchased online, 1.1% was produced at home, and 0.8% was purchased from farmers or other manufacturers.

Food expenditures away from home. In 2007 we consumed \$556 billion of food away from home. The trend of restaurants continuing to capture an increasing share of the U.S. consumer's food dollar continues.

USDA keeps track of food expenditures at home and away from home. Comprehensive website is <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/CPIFoodAndExpenditures/>

Transportation Costs: Record high freight rates threatened the economic viability of the global food system. This system is built on economies of scale taking advantage of relatively inexpensive freight rates. Rates are now at record lows.

