

Family Food

Users and uses of these statistics

Family Food is a detailed annual survey on purchased quantities, expenditure and nutrient intakes derived from both household and eating out food and drink. This data is used to monitor changes in the diet by examining patterns of food purchases, nutrition and expenditure on food depending on household characteristics.

Within Government, Family Food is used widely to underpin policy development and evaluation in areas such as

- Household food security
- Food waste
- Food prices
- Health and nutrition policy, such as '5 A Day'

It has also been used to produce analyses to inform Government responses to issues such as affordability (to estimate how demand for types of food can be expected to change in the face of price and income changes), and food scares, such as the recent horsemeat issue. As a long standing national survey in various forms, it is a valuable social record and in parts (such as average nutritional intake per person) it has trends back to 1940.

External users of Family Food are varied, ranging from researchers, industry and marketing consultants to members of the public. Common uses of the published analyses are around themes such as rising food prices, low income households and affordability of healthy food, and trends in nutritional intake. The survey is supported by an advisory group comprising representatives from the UK Devolved Administrations, manufacturers, retail and academia. Their feedback, and any other received from external users helps quality assure the report and maintains consistency with wider Government policy on dietary and health issues.

[The Data Archive](#) hold the anonymised raw survey data going back to 1974 which is publically available. There are also [summary datasets](#) on the Defra website

which with results back to 1974. Researchers in the UK and abroad have made wide use of this resource. Some examples of this include studies on:

- the impact of adhering to World Health Organisation dietary norms on the consumption of selected food products in the UK
- the relationship between food eaten out and income, household types and gender
- differences between food consumption patterns by rural/urban and income class
- Estimation of demand for food products attributes, including nutrients, and simulation of policy interventions such as taxes and subsidies
- Price elasticities which shows the impact on household budgets from rising prices.

Feedback

We are always keen to receive feedback from users on any aspect of food statistics: requests for different analyses or presentation, suggestions for improvements, or simply to tell us about what you have done with this data. We can be reached at familyfood@defra.gsi.gov.uk, telephone 020 7238 4852 or via Twitter [@DefraStats](https://twitter.com/DefraStats).

The Food Statistics Team