

TABLE 12.—WESTERN EUROPE: LEVEL AND CHANGE IN PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION AND CHANGE IN OUTPUT OF SELECTED COMMODITIES

Consumption			Output	
Item	Quantity consumed per capita, 1962-63 (kilograms per person)	Index 1962-63 (1952-53=100)	Item	Index 1962-63 (1952-53=100)
Bread grain.....	97.7	89	Wheat.....	128
Rice.....	3.4	110	Coarse grain.....	137
Potatoes.....	90.8	88	Rice.....	92
Vegetables.....	85.8	111	Sugar beet.....	131
Fresh fruit.....	73.6	126	Meat.....	149
Total meat.....	50.0	135	Milk.....	121
Eggs.....	10.6	133	Eggs.....	145
Sugar.....	32.2	131	Fruit and vegetables.....	130
Fats and oils.....	16.8	121	Oilseeds.....	136
Liquid milk.....	98.5	96		
Cheese.....	6.6	132		
Butter.....	4.9	126		

Source: OECD Agricultural and Food Statistics, 1952-63, Paris, 1965.

Changes in consumption have been accompanied by relatively rapid rates of expansion in the output for most commodities. The index of total agricultural output increased during the same period to about 128 or an output expansion of nearly 3 percent per year. Coupled with the fact that per capita consumption levels are now relatively high for many food products and rates of increase appear to have declined somewhat, a question arises as to whether historical rates of output can be absorbed in the future.

The existing and developing market balance, however, varies considerably between commodities. In wheat, annual increases in output exceed the rate of increased in utilization. Imports are based primarily on the need for quality wheat with little change in the general level of imports since the early 1950's. On the other hand, subsidized exports from western Europe, primarily France, to eastern Europe and other areas have become an increasingly important safety valve in providing outlets.

An even more rapid rate of expansion, about 4 percent per year, has occurred in production of feed grains. However, because of a rapid expansion in production of livestock, self-sufficiency has declined and increasing imports have occurred. This can be expected to continue and represent an expanding market for U.S. products.

With the exception of Mediterranean countries, both the production and consumption of dairy products is relatively high and exporters are experiencing increasing difficulty on international trade flows. Dairy products trade is primarily intra-European with the United Kingdom, Germany, and Italy as the principal importers and with excess production in most other countries. Future expansion in European markets will depend primarily on income growth in countries with lower income levels and on general population growth. "Expanded consumption from these two sources, however, is not likely to keep pace with output. Increasing pressures on dairy markets and greater problems for exporters can be expected within the European markets."¹⁹ A number of European countries would like to expand foreign outlets but short of liberalized trading relationships with

¹⁹ OECD unpublished material.