



United States Department of Agriculture

# ERS Food Purchase Groups (EFPGs) & Monthly Food at Home Price Database (MFAHPD)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/USDA, Economic Research Service  
Grants Competition Informational Session

March 1, 2022

Anne Byrne





United States Department of Agriculture

ERS Food Purchase Groups (EFPGs):  
mappings between detailed scanner  
data product codes (UPCs) and EFPGs  
to easily group products, based on the  
*Dietary Guidelines for Americans*





United States Department of Agriculture

# EFPG Tier 1 Categories

- Grains
- Vegetables
- Fruit
- Dairy
- Meat and protein foods
- Prepared meals, sides, and salads
- Other foods
- Not coded





# ERS Food Purchase Groups: Example

United States Department of Agriculture

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier Code and EFIG	Description
Grains			1	The grains group contains foods for which the major ingredient is wheat, rice, oats, cornmeal, barley, or other grains. Baked goods, ready-to-eat breakfast cereals, and other prepared grain-based foods are classified elsewhere.
	Whole-grain breads, cereal, rice, pasta, and flours		100	All products with whole wheat, whole grain, 100% whole grain, or equivalent in the description. Greater than 50% of grain ounce equivalents from whole grains.
		Breads	10000	Whole-grain breads, rolls, bagels, tortillas, biscuits, etc., as well as garlic bread and prepared (plain) pizza dough. Includes frozen bread, soft breadsticks.
		Rice and pasta	10025	Whole-grain rice and pasta. Includes whole barley, quinoa, farro, bulgur, quinoa pasta.
		Breakfast grains	10050	Unprepared and unsweetened oatmeal, grits, hominy, farina. Includes quinoa hot cereal and wheat germ
		Flour, bread mixes, and frozen dough	10075	Whole grain flour, bread mixes, pancake and biscuit mixes, frozen doughs

Source: Muth, M. K., Karns, S. A., & Zhen, C. (2022). Overview of food code mapping for ERS Food Purchase Groups and the monthly Food-at-Home Price Database: Interim documentation





United States Department of Agriculture

# Description: SAS and CSV files that map IRI product codes to the EFPGs (2016 – 2018)





United States Department of Agriculture

# EFPG Uses for Research

- Aggregate estimates for category (e.g., prices or sales volumes)
- Subset data by category
- Consolidate the 91 EFPGs into the 58 Thrifty Food Plan categories (see Carlson et al. 2007)





United States Department of Agriculture

# Monthly Food at Home Price Database (MFAHPD): data on food prices by food category, geographic area, and time period





United States Department of Agriculture

# MFAHPD Description

- Similar to the Quarterly Food at Home Price Database
- 14 geographic areas—10 metropolitan areas and four census divisions
- Categories from the EFPGs
- Currently available for 2016 – 2018







# MFAHPD Description (continued)

United States Department of Agriculture

- Price measures
  - Unit prices (per 100-gram basis)
  - Bilateral price indexes (Laspeyres, Paasche, Törnqvist, and Fisher Ideal)
  - Multilateral price indexes (GEKS, CCD)
- Built using store weights





United States Department of Agriculture

# MFAHPD Uses for Research

- Evaluate changes in food prices over time and across space
- Evaluate differences in food price measures based on substitution and quality controls
- Compare the food costs across geographical regions





United States Department of Agriculture

# EFPG & MFAHPD Access

- Publicly available through the ERS website (coming soon)





United States Department of Agriculture

# ERS Food Purchase Groups Team

Andi Carlson

[Andrea.Carlson@usda.gov](mailto:Andrea.Carlson@usda.gov)

Elina Page

[Elina.Page@usda.gov](mailto:Elina.Page@usda.gov)

Linda Kantor

[Linda.Kantor@usda.gov](mailto:Linda.Kantor@usda.gov)

<https://www.rti.org/publication/overview-food-code-mapping-ers-food-purchase-groups-and-monthly-food-home-price-database/fulltext.pdf>





United States Department of Agriculture

# ERS Monthly Food at Home Price Database Team

Anne Byrne

[Anne.Byrne@usda.gov](mailto:Anne.Byrne@usda.gov)

Matthew MacLachlan

[Matthew.MacLachlan@usda.gov](mailto:Matthew.MacLachlan@usda.gov)

<https://www.rti.org/publication/overview-food-code-mapping-ers-food-purchase-groups-and-monthly-food-home-price-database/fulltext.pdf>

