

## Relative Significance of Dietary Sources of Nitrate and Nitrite

In this article by Jonathan W. White, Jr. [*J. Agric. Food Chem.* 23(5), 886 (1975)], a double accounting of some of the data in Table 502 of Agricultural Statistics has been included in Table II of the article, resulting in erroneous values for U.S. production of cured meats. Use of these data in Table I produced erroneous values for the relative distribution of nitrate and nitrite in the U.S. dietary. The author is indebted to John Birdsall, American Meat Institute, and Charles Everson, Merck & Co., for bringing this to his attention. The corrected tables follow.

Table I. Estimated Average Daily Ingestion for U.S. Resident

Source	Nitrate		Nitrite	
	mg	%	mg	%
Vegetables	86.1	86.3	0.20	1.8
Fruits, juices	1.4	1.4	0.00	0.0
Milk and products	0.2	0.2	0.00	0.0
Bread	2.0	2.0	0.02	0.2
Water	0.7	0.7	0.00	0.00
Cured meats	9.4	9.4	2.38	21.2
Saliva	30.0 <sup>a</sup>		8.62	76.8
Total	99.8	100	11.22	100

<sup>a</sup> Not included on total; see text.

Table II. Cured Meats: Estimate of U.S. Per Capita Consumption, 1972<sup>a</sup>

Thousands of pounds	
U.S. Production	
Meat placed in cure	
Beef	240000
Pork	4090000
Sausage, dried or semidry, franks, wieners, bologna, other smoked, cooked	2876600
Total	7206600 (3268800000 kg)
U.S. Exports	
Beef, pickled or cured	8900
Pork, hams and shoulders, cured and cooked; bacon; other pickled, salted, or otherwise cured pork; canned ham and shoulders; other canned pork; sausages, bologna, franks	22140
Total	31040 (14080000 kg)
U.S. Imports	
Beef, prepared or preserved, including pickled and cured	56154
Pork, canned hams, shoulders, bacon	320460
Pork, other pickled, cured	3975
Mixed, sausage	6195
Other, mixed luncheon meats	15293
Total	402077 (182378000 kg)

Net consumed = production minus exports  
plus imports = 3437098000 kg  
U.S. population, 1972, 207800000  
Consumption, 16.540 kg/capita  
per yr; 45.3 g/capita per day

<sup>a</sup> Tables 502, 505, 508, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Statistics 1973, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1973.