

Per capita consumption in each of the states is expected to increase through 1985. This increase is projected to give rise to a 1985 per capita consumption in the area that averages 13 per cent higher than the 1981 figure. This increase along with increasing population throughout the period (see Table 2) leads to a total consumption in 1985 that is 23 per cent higher than that expected for 1981.

Table 6. Projected Per Capita and Total Beef Consumption  
Nine Southern U.S. States, 1981-1985

	1981		1982		1983		1984		1985	
	Per Capita Pounds	Total Mil. Pounds	Per Capita Pounds	Total Mil. Pounds	Per Capita Pounds	Total Mil. Pounds	Per Capita Pounds	Total Mil. Pounds	Per Capita Pounds	Total Mil. Pounds
Alabama	88.7	350.0	92.2	368.5	94.0	380.6	96.8	397.0	100.7	418.3
Florida	101.2	1,033.3	105.2	1,120.8	107.3	1,192.7	110.5	1,281.6	114.9	1,390.5
Georgia	93.7	522.9	97.4	553.8	99.3	575.4	102.3	604.0	106.4	640.2
Louisiana	92.7	396.4	96.4	418.6	98.3	433.4	101.2	453.1	105.2	478.2
Mississippi	83.6	213.9	86.9	225.4	88.6	233.0	91.3	243.4	95.0	256.7
N. Carolina	93.6	559.3	97.3	590.5	99.2	611.4	102.2	639.7	106.3	675.8
S. Carolina	90.8	289.7	94.4	307.3	96.3	319.9	99.2	336.2	103.2	356.9
Tennessee	90.9	425.2	94.5	449.5	96.4	466.4	99.3	488.6	103.3	516.9
Texas	100.6	1,474.3	104.6	1,574.5	106.7	1,649.6	109.9	1,745.1	114.3	1,864.2
Nine-State Total		5,265.0		5,608.9		5,862.4		6,188.7		6,597.7
National Average Per Capita	106.1		110.0		112.0		115.0		120.0	

Source: Population projections in Table 2 and consumption projections based on estimates developed by John C. McKissick and from Spatial and Temporal Aspects of the Demand for Food in the United States II Beef, University of Georgia, College of Agricultural Experiment Stations, Research Bulletin 63.

While expected expansion of consumption in the area is interesting and worth noting, it does not bear too directly on cattle production in the area during the same period. This arises from the fact that a large portion of the beef consumed in the area is finished and processed outside the area. It is probably more significant to observe that per capita consumption is expected to expand during the period. This will lead to increases in total national consumption (though probably a smaller percentage increase than in the nine states) and will contribute to an expected continuation and expansion of commercial cow-calf operations in the South.