

THE MAIN CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING THE LEVEL OF FOOD SECURITY

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Ensuring food security of the nation at this present stage should be seen not as a strategic goal of the domestic food market, but also as the basis of sovereignty, economic security and social stability of the state as a major lever of its independence in international relations and geopolitical strategy.

The strategic goals of the domestic food market are:

- To guarantee food security;
- Achieving levels of food consumption to science-based standards;
- Ensuring the competitiveness of agricultural products and food products in foreign and domestic markets.

For this purpose a strategic task to problem of food security is to ensure the availability and adequacy of food consumption for all segments of the population mainly due to domestic agro-food production.

In recent years the real incomes of the population of Ukraine have decreased significantly, and have changed their structure. The economic situation in the country led to a changes in the cost structure of the population. However, even with a significant reduction in income minimal nutritional needs that cannot be cut exist. Reduced food consumption leads to unpredictable consequences, worsening demographic situation in the country, public health, increased mortality, reduced fertility. The deterioration of quality of life leads to the necessary actions consumers in replacing quality but relatively expensive goods for cheaper that clearly traced on the example of food consumption of Ukraine's population during this period.

Considering these factors of food security the main evaluation criteria of its level which are as follows:

- Criterion food independence;
- The criterion of adequacy of food consumption (daily per capita caloric diet should not be lower than 2.5 thousand calories);
- The criterion of availability of food consumption (expenditure for food should not exceed 60% of household income).

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