USDA
Agricultural Marketing Service

A weekly publication of the
Transportation and Marketing Programs/Transportation Services Division
www.ams.usda.gov/GTR

Contact Us

February 11, 2010

Contents

The next release is Feb. 18, '10

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

USDA WASDE Report has Mixed Transportation Implications

In its February World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report, USDA raised its projections of U.S. soybean exports in 2009/10, lowered its corn export projections, and increased its projected quantity of corn used for ethanol. U.S. soybean exports were raised by 25 million bushels (mbu) to 1.4 billion bushels (bbu), based on higher than expected shipment pace. However, projected corn exports dropped 50 mbu to 2.0 bbu due to increased competition from Argentina. The largest increase was in the corn-used-for-ethanol category, which was raised by 100 mbu to 4.3 bbu, based on record ethanol production and a clear policy signal for 2010 from the EPA's Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) rulemaking announcement on February 3. The new RFS increased the 2010 volume standard to 12.95 billion gallons up 16.6 percent from the 2009 target. Although the total projected exports reduce grain transportation demand slightly, the increased corn usage for ethanol may create additional demand for truck and, in the case of large ethanol plants, rail transportation demand.

Soybean Export Inspections Up Amidst a Down Week

For the week ending February 4, **total inspections** of grain (corn, wheat, and soybeans) from major U.S. export regions reached 1.99 million metric tons (mmt), down 7 percent from the previous week and 10 percent lower than the 3-year average. A 13 percent weekly increase in soybean export inspections (.95 mmt) was not enough to offset a drop in corn and wheat inspections. Although the end of the marketing year for all three major grains is 4-7 months away, the high unshipped export sale balances indicate that transportation demand is likely to remain strong in the coming months. For the week ending January 28, **unshipped balances** of wheat (4.3 mmt) were 20 percent higher than during the same week last year; corn (11.8 mmt) was 39 percent higher, and soybeans (9.4 mmt)—48 percent higher than last year.

Short Line Railroad Traffic Picks Up After Sluggish 2009

According to the RailConnect Index of Short Line Traffic, total volume on short line railroads was 357,299 carloads in January, an increase of 2.5 percent compared with January 2009. Grain traffic experienced an even sharper increase, rising 19.4 percent from last January to 54,497 carloads. The increase in traffic comes after a lethargic 2009 in which short lines saw their carloads drop by 25 percent. The January uptick in short line traffic coincides with a slight decrease in Class I traffic of 1 percent. The difference could mean more carloads for Class I's at the beginning of February as short lines transfer cars to the larger railroads for longer haul shipments.

Snapshots by Sector

Rail

U.S. Railroads originated 23,530 **carloads of grain** during the week ending January 30, up 6 percent from last week, up 41.6 percent from the same week last year, and 13 percent higher than the 3-year average.

During the week ending February 6, average February **secondary railcar bids/offers** were $31 above tariff for non-shuttle, $18 higher than last week. Shuttle rates were $369 above tariff, $188 higher than last week.

Ocean

During the week ending February 4, 47 **ocean-going grain vessels** were loaded in the U.S. Gulf, up 4 percent from last year, 84 vessels are due to be loaded within the next 10 days, up 56 percent compared to the same period last year.

As of February 5, the cost of shipping grain from the Gulf to Japan was $63 per mt, down 6 percent from the previous week. The rate from the Pacific Northwest to Japan was $37 per mt, down 3 percent from the previous week.

Barge

During the week ending February 6, **barge grain movements** totaled 691,781 tons, 8 percent higher than the previous week, and 64 percent higher than the same period last year.

Feature Article/Calendar

Date	Description	Location	Website
February 18-19, '10	Agricultural Outlook Forum 2010	Arlington, VA	http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/
February 25-26, '10	Water Footprinting and Availability Risk Management 2010	San Francisco, CA	http://www.corporate-water-availability-risk.com/#
February 26-28, '10	2010 International Conference on Agricultural and Animal Science	Singapore, Singapore	http://www.iacsit.org/caas/index.htm
March 8, '10	Rail Equipment Finance Conference 2010	La Quinta, CA	http://www.railequipmentfinance.com/
March 11-13, '10	51st Annual Transportation Research Forum	Washington, D.C.	www.trforum.org
April 8-9, '10	North American Oil Trade and Compliance Forum	Houston, TX	http://www.platts.com/ConferenceDetail.aspx?xmlpath=2010/pc014/index.xml
April 20-22, '10	Critical Commodities Conference	New Orleans, LA	www.criticalcommoditiesconference.com
April 21-23, '10	2010 Agri-Marketing Conference	Kansas City, KS	http://www.nama.org/amc/
April 22-23, '10	30th Annual Country Elevator Council	Lewiston, ID	http://www.pnwgfa.org/events.htm
April 22-23, '10	Annual Food and Agriculture Policy Conference	Washington, D.C.	http://www.informaecon.com/seminars.asp#Annual_Food_and_Agriculture__Policy_Conference
May 26-28, '10	North American Rail Shippers Association Annual Meeting 2010	Washington, D.C.	http://www.railshippers.com/
June 3-4, '10	Informa Annual Transportation Conference-Grian and Oilseed Outlooks	Memphis, Tennessee	http://www.informaecon.com/seminars.asp#Transportation_Conference
June 10-11, '10	2010 Annual Ag Transportation Conference	San Francisco, CA	http://www.agtrans.org/Section.asp?article_id=1987
June 16-18, '10	Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association 93rd Annual Convention	Sun Valley, Idaho	http://www.pnwgfa.org/events.htm
July 25-27, '10	2010 AAEA, CAES, & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting	Denver, CO	http://www.aaea.org/meetings/
August 2-4, '10	23rd Annual Ethanol Conference & Trade Show	Kansas City, MO	http://www.ethanol.org/index.php?id=44&parentid=30
August 19-20, '10	Mid-Continent Transportation Research Forum 2010	Madison, WI	http://epdweb.engr.wisc.edu/Courses/Course.lasso?myCourseChoice=L268
Sep. 14-16, '10	FTR Annual Freight Transportation Conference	Indianapolis, IN	http://www.ftrassociates.com/public/home/document.php?dA=ftrconference

Grain Transportation Indicators

Table 1

Grain Transport Cost Indicators[1]

Week ending	Truck*	Rail[2]	Barge	Ocean Gulf	Ocean Pacific
02/10/10	n/a	126	199	282	262
02/03/10	187	108	222	300	270

[1]Indicator: Base year 2000 = 100; Weekly updates include truck = diesel ($/gallon); rail = nearby secondary rail market ($/car); barge = Illinois River barge rate (index = percent of tariff rate); and ocean = routes to Japan ($/metric ton)

[2]The rail indicator is not an index. It is the difference between the nearby secondary rail market bid for this week and the average bid for year 2000 (+) 100.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

*Note: Truck data not published this w eek as updates are unavailable until after publication

Table 2

Market Update: U.S. Origins to Export Position Price Spreads ($/bushel)

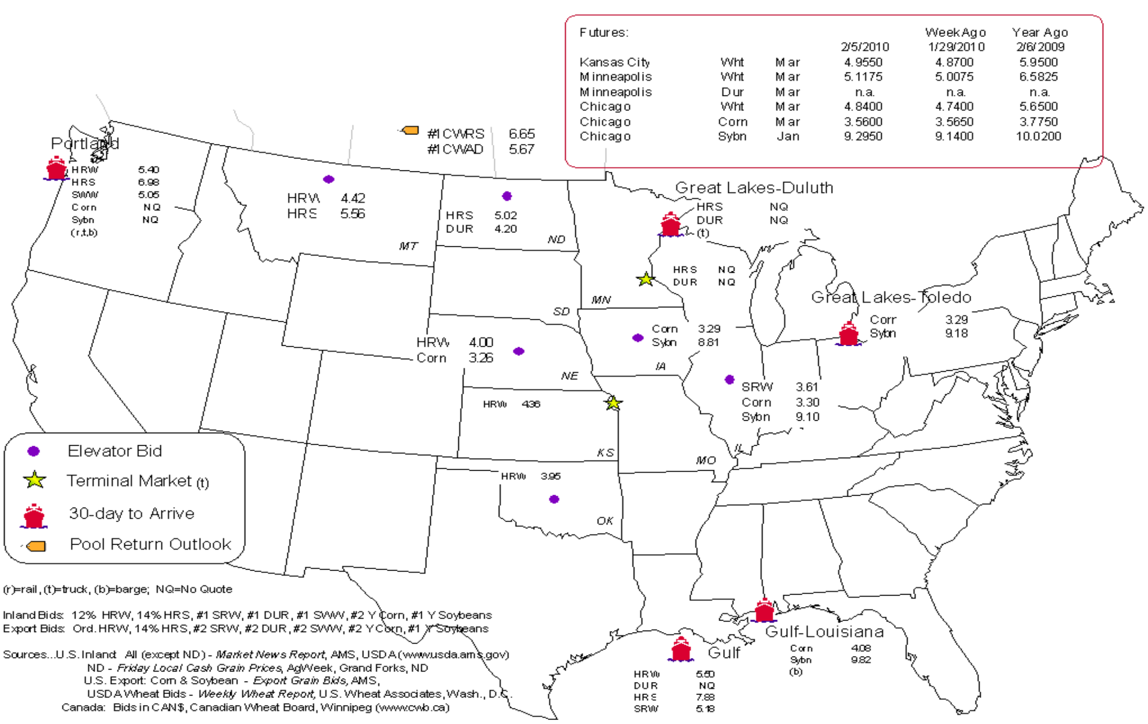
Commodity	Origin--Destination	2/5/2010	1/29/2010
Corn	IL--Gulf	-0.78	-0.73
Corn	NE--Gulf	-0.82	-0.79
Soybean	IA--Gulf	-1.01	-1.16
HRW	KS--Gulf	-1.14	-1.41
HRS	ND--Portland	-1.96	-2.75

Note: nq = no quote

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

The **grain bid summary** illustrates the market relationships for commodities. Positive and negative adjustments in differential between terminal and futures markets, and the relationship to inland market points, are indicators of changes in fundamental mar-

Figure 1
Grain bid Summary



Rail Transportation

Table 3

Rail Deliveries to Port (carloads)[1]

Week ending	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Cross-Border Mexico	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf	Total
2/03/2010[p]	700	1,450	335	2,800	1,050	6,335
1/27/2010[r]	716	1,701	441	3,975	1,113	7,946
2010 YTD	2,754	6,806	2,825	15,956	6,019	34,360
2009 YTD	4,697	4,513	3,872	15,970	3,005	32,057
2010 YTD as % of 2009 YTD	59	151	73	100	200	107
Last 4 weeks as % of 2009[2]	58	145	69	92	201	102
Last 4 weeks as % of 4-year avg.[2]	34	75	81	75	180	76
Total 2009	33,423	57,646	36,738	175,965	30,328	334,100
Total 2008	68,768	107,542	37,491	255,852	33,028	502,681

[1] Data is incomplete as it is voluntarily provided

[2] Compared with same 4-weeks in 2008 and prior 4-year average.

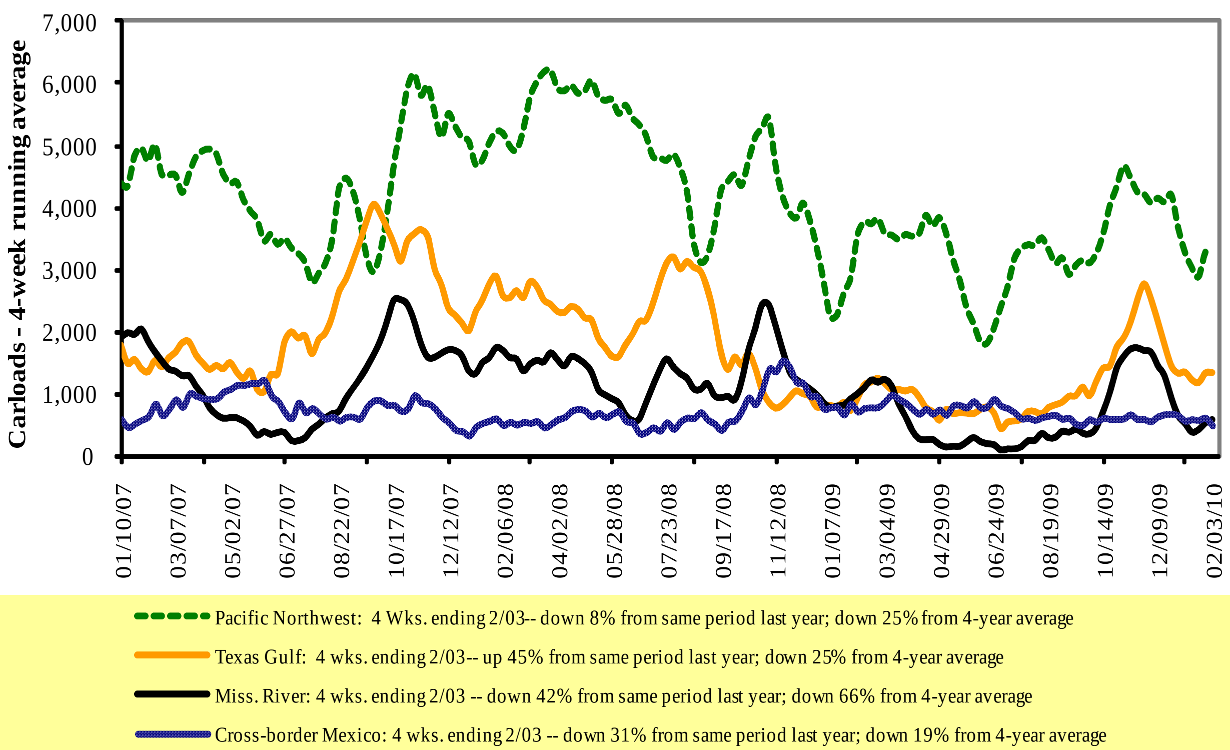
YTD = year-to-date; p = preliminary data; r = revised data; n/a = not available

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Railroads originate approximately 35 percent of U.S. grain shipments. Trends in these loadings are indicative of market conditions and expectations.

Figure 2

Rail Deliveries to Port



Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Table 4

Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin (grain carloads originated)

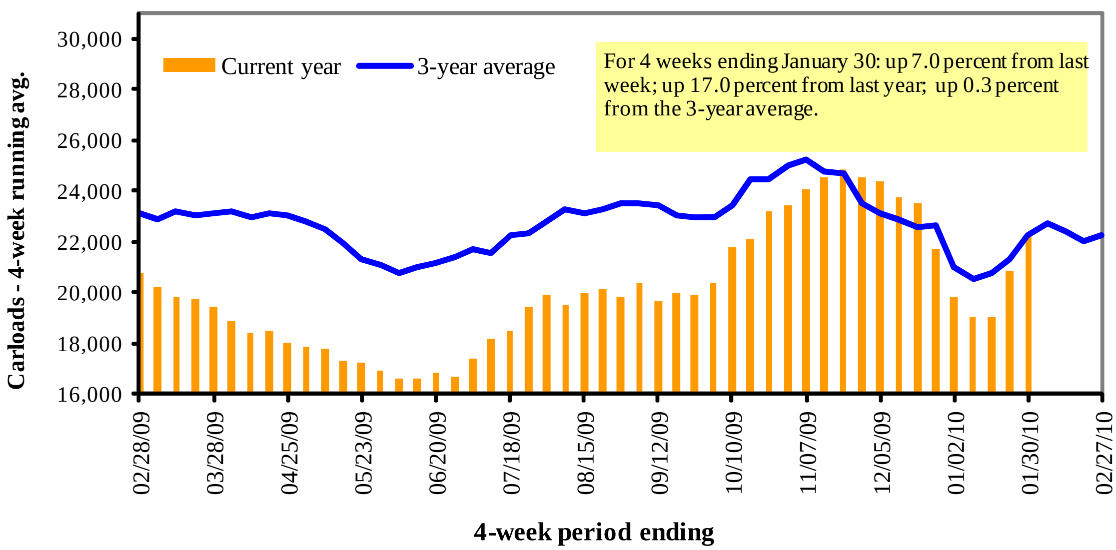
Week ending	East		West			U.S. total	Canada	
	CSXT	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP		CN	CP
01/30/10	2,830	2,894	10,981	707	6,118	23,530	3,975	4,370
This week last year	1,444	2,294	7,744	643	4,496	16,621	4,488	3,444
2010 YTD	10,067	11,911	42,737	3,017	21,353	89,085	16,470	20,839
2009 YTD	9,616	9,975	34,126	3,096	19,330	76,143	15,395	19,908
2010 YTD as % of 2009 YTD	105	119	125	97	110	117	107	105
Last 4 weeks as % of 2009[1]	105	119	125	97	110	117	107	105
Last 4 weeks as % of 3-yr avg.[1]	85	103	105	109	97	100	89	109
Total 2009	105,278	142,254	483,618	36,912	268,811	1,036,873	200,871	278,997

[1]As a percent of the same period in 2008 and the prior 3-year average. YTD = year-to-date.

Source: Association of American Railroads (www.aar.org)

Figure 3

Total Weekly U.S. Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings



Source: Association of American Railroads

Table 5

Rail Car Auction Offerings[1] ($/car)[2]

Week ending 2/6/2009	Feb-10	Feb-09	Mar-10	Mar-09	Apr-10	Apr-09	May-10	May-09
BNSF[3]								
COT grain units	13	no bids	0	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids
COT grain single-car[5]	78	0	1 . . 5	0	0	no bids	no bids	no bids
UP[4]								
GCAS/Region 1	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	no offer	no offer
GCAS/Region 2	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	no offer	no offer

Delivery period: Feb-10 through May-09

[1]Auction offerings are for single-car and unit train shipments only.

[2]Average premium/discount to tariff, last auction

[3]BNSF - COT = Certificate of Transportation; north grain and south grain bids were combined effective the week ending 6/24/06.

[4]UP - GCAS = Grain Car Allocation System

Region 1 includes: AR, IL, LA, MO, NM, OK, TX, WI, and Duluth, MN.

Region 2 includes: CO, IA, KS, MN, NE, WY, and Kansas City and St. Joseph, MO.

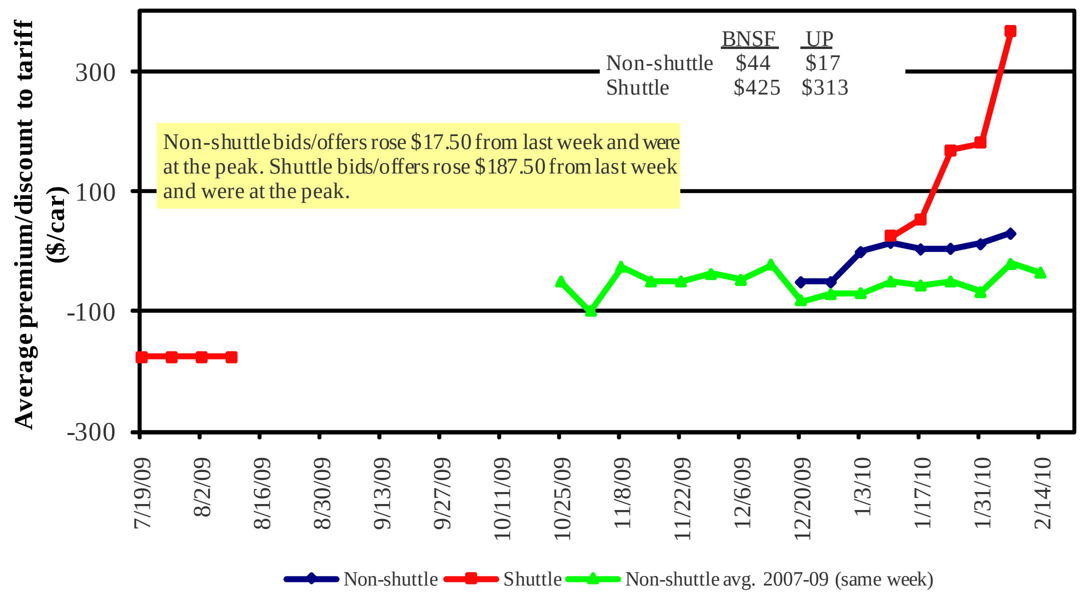
[5]Range is shown because average is not available. Not available = n/a.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA.

The **secondary rail market** information reflects trade values for service that was originally purchased from the railroad carrier as some form of guaranteed freight. The **auction and secondary rail** values are indicators of rail service quality and demand/ supply.

Figure 4

Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in February 2010, Secondary Market

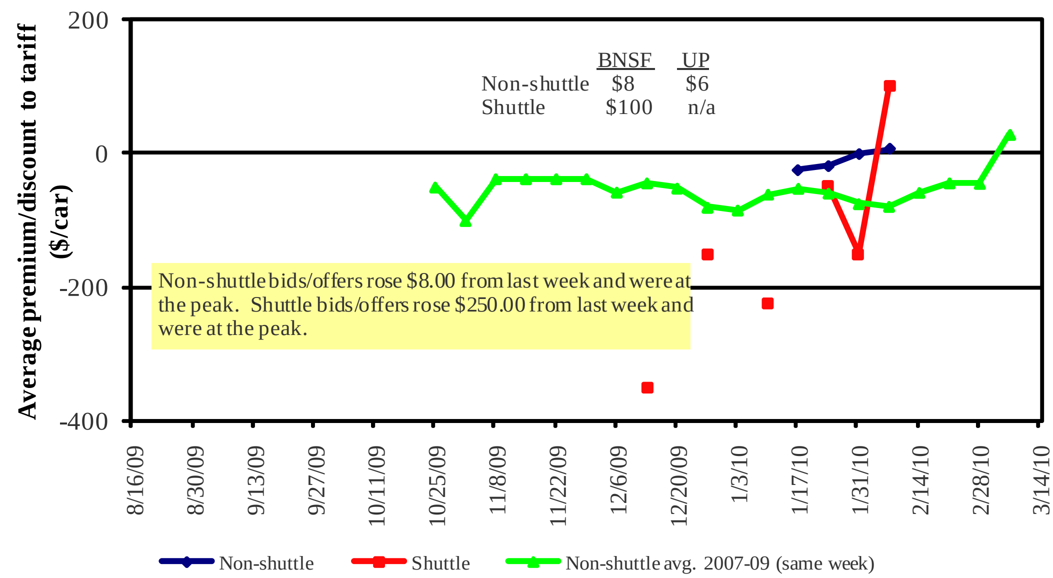


Non-shuttle bids include unit-train and single-car bids. n/a = not available.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 5

Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in March 2010, Secondary Market

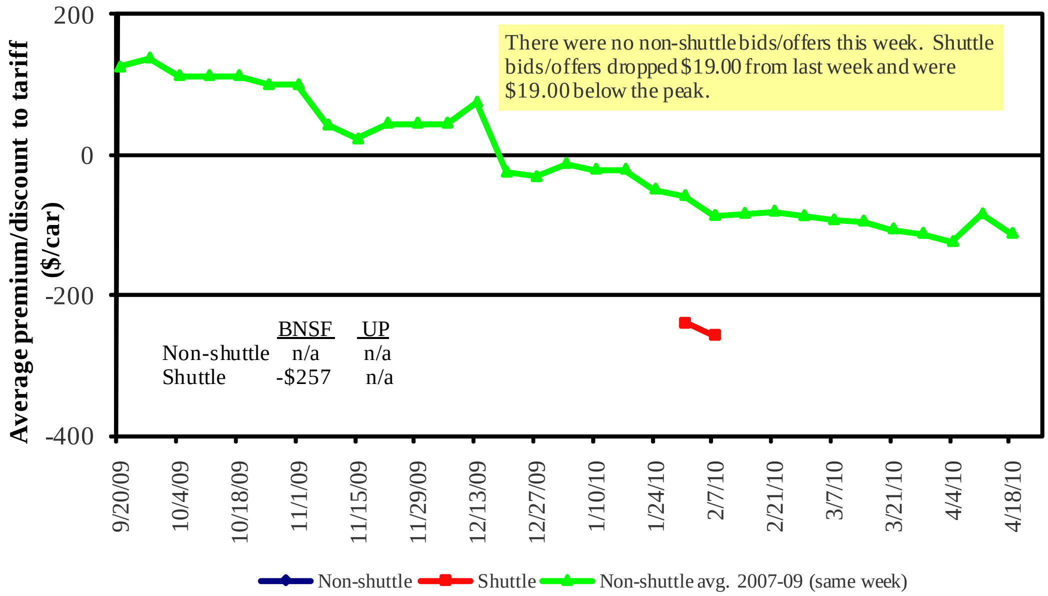


Non-shuttle bids include unit-train and single-car bids. n/a = not available.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 6

Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in April 2010, Secondary Market



Non-shuttle bids include unit-train and single-car bids. n/a = not available.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Table 6

Weekly Secondary Rail Car Market ($/car)[1]

Week ending	Delivery period					
2/6/2010	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10
Non-shuttle						
BNSF-GF	44	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from last week	31	18	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from same week 2008	44	18	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UP-Pool	17	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from last week	4	-2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from same week 2008	75	50	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shuttle[2]						
BNSF-GF	425	100	-257	-300	-158	n/a
Change from last week	162	250	-19	0	9	n/a
Change from same week 2008	550	309	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UP-Pool	313	n/a	n/a	n/a	-150	n/a
Change from last week	213	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	n/a
Change from same week 2008	463	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	n/a

[1]Average premium/discount to tariff, $/car-last week

[2]Shuttle bids are a new data series; prior to this we provided only non-shuttle rates.

Note: Bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices,
n/a = not available; GF = guaranteed freight; Pool = guaranteed pool

Sources: Transportation and Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Data from Atwood/ConAgra, Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.

Table 7

Tariff Rail Rates for Unit and Shuttle Train Shipments[1]

Effective date: 2/1/2010	Origin region	Destination region	Tariff rate/car	Fuel surcharge per car	Tariff plus surcharge per: metric ton	Tariff plus surcharge per: bushel[2]	Percent change Y/Y[3]
Unit train[1]							
Wheat	Chicago, IL	Albany, NY	$2,622	$112	$30.13	$0.82	8
	Kansas City, MO	Galveston, TX	$2,753	$107	$31.53	$0.86	11
	South Central, KS	Galveston, TX	$3,655	$267	$43.23	$1.18	9
	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	$3,799	$540	$47.83	$1.30	9
	St. Louis, MO	Houston, TX	$3,565	$104	$40.44	$1.10	9
	South Central, ND	Houston, TX	$5,328	$601	$65.35	$1.78	3
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$4,200	$657	$53.53	$1.46	9
	South Central, ND	Portland, OR	$4,200	$539	$52.24	$1.42	9
	Northwest, KS	Portland, OR	$5,100	$718	$64.13	$1.75	8
	Chicago, IL	Richmond, VA	$2,834	$166	$33.07	$0.90	13
Corn	Chicago, IL	Baton Rouge, LA	$2,925	$131	$33.69	$0.86	-4
	Council Bluffs, IA	Baton Rouge, LA	$3,020	$140	$34.84	$0.89	-4
	Kansas City, MO	Dalhart, TX	$3,284	$195	$38.34	$0.97	1
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$3,609	$657	$47.02	$1.19	8
	Evansville, IN	Raleigh, NC	$3,204	$163	$37.11	$0.94	8
	Columbus, OH	Raleigh, NC	$3,093	$142	$35.66	$0.91	8
	Council Bluffs, IA	Stockton, CA	$4,900	$709	$61.83	$1.57	-6
Soybeans	Chicago, IL	Baton Rouge, LA	$3,178	$131	$36.48	$0.99	2
	Council Bluffs, IA	Baton Rouge, LA	$3,192	$140	$36.73	$1.00	2
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$4,110	$657	$52.54	$1.43	-2
	Evansville, IN	Raleigh, NC	$3,204	$163	$37.11	$1.01	8
	Chicago, IL	Raleigh, NC	$3,804	$202	$44.16	$1.20	7
Shuttle Train							
Wheat	St. Louis, MO	Houston, TX	$2,867	$104	$32.75	$0.89	10
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$3,700	$657	$48.02	$1.31	7
Corn	Fremont, NE	Houston, TX	$2,520	$397	$32.15	$0.82	3
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$3,528	$657	$46.13	$1.17	8
Soybeans	Council Bluffs, IA	Houston, TX	$2,787	$385	$34.96	$0.95	3
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$3,774	$657	$48.84	$1.33	10

[1]A unit train refers to shipments of at least 52 cars. Shuttle train rates are available for qualified shipments of 75-110 cars that meet railroad efficiency requirements.

[2]Approximate load per car = 100 short tons (90.72 metric tons): corn 56 lbs./bu., wheat & soybeans 60 lbs./bu.

[3]Percentage change year over year calculated using tariff rate plus fuel surchage

Sources: www.bnsf.com, www.cpr.ca, www.csx.com, www.uprr.com

Table 8

Tariff Rail Rates for U.S. Bulk Grain Shipments to Mexico

Effective date: 2/1/2010				Fuel			Percent
	Origin		Tariff	surcharge	Tariff plus surcharge per:		change
Commodity	state	Destination region	rate/car[1]	per car	metric ton	bushel[2]	Y/Y[3]
Wheat	MT	Chihuahua, CI	$6,291	$611	$70.52	$1.92	8
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	$5,726	$461	$63.21	$1.72	9
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	$6,196	$471	$68.11	$1.85	8
	TX	Salinas Victoria, NL	$3,154	$149	$33.75	$0.92	7
Corn	IA	Guadalajara, JA	$6,670	$547	$73.74	$2.00	6
	SD	Penjamo, GJ	$6,440	$800	$73.97	$2.01	4
	NE	Queretaro, QA	$6,130	$442	$67.15	$1.83	2
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	$4,570	$608	$52.90	$1.44	-1
	MO	Tlalnepantla, EM	$5,318	$430	$58.73	$1.60	2
	SD	Torreon, CU	$5,330	$670	$61.30	$1.67	3
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	$5,994	$470	$66.04	$1.80	5
	NE	Guadalajara, JA	$6,475	$538	$71.66	$1.95	6
	IA	Penjamo (Celaya), GJ	$6,590	$795	$75.45	$2.05	11
	KS	Torreon, CU	$5,180	$353	$56.54	$1.54	5
Sorghum	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	$4,370	$607	$50.85	$1.38	4
	TX	Guadalajara, JA	$5,350	$520	$59.98	$1.63	13
	NE	Penjamo, GJ	$6,395	$492	$70.37	$1.91	5
	KS	Queretaro, QA	$5,398	$341	$58.64	$1.59	1
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	$4,282	$358	$47.41	$1.29	0
	NE	Torreon, CU	$5,240	$405	$57.67	$1.57	4

[1]Rates are based upon published tariff rates for high-capacity shuttle trains. Shuttle trains are available for qualified shipments of 75--110 cars that meet railroad efficiency requirements.

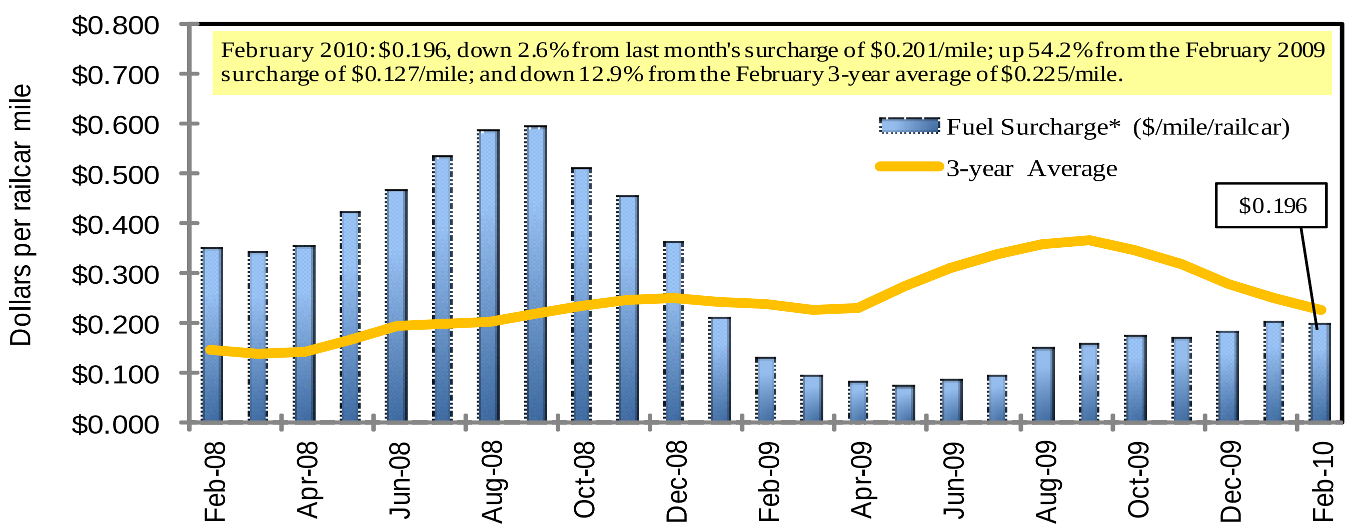
[2]Approximate load per car = 97.87 metric tons: Corn & Sorghum 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

[3]Percentage change year over year calculated using tariff rate plus fuel surchage

Sources: www.bnsf.com, www.uprr.com, www.kcsouthern.com

Figure 7

Railroad Fuel Surcharges, North American Weighted Average[1]



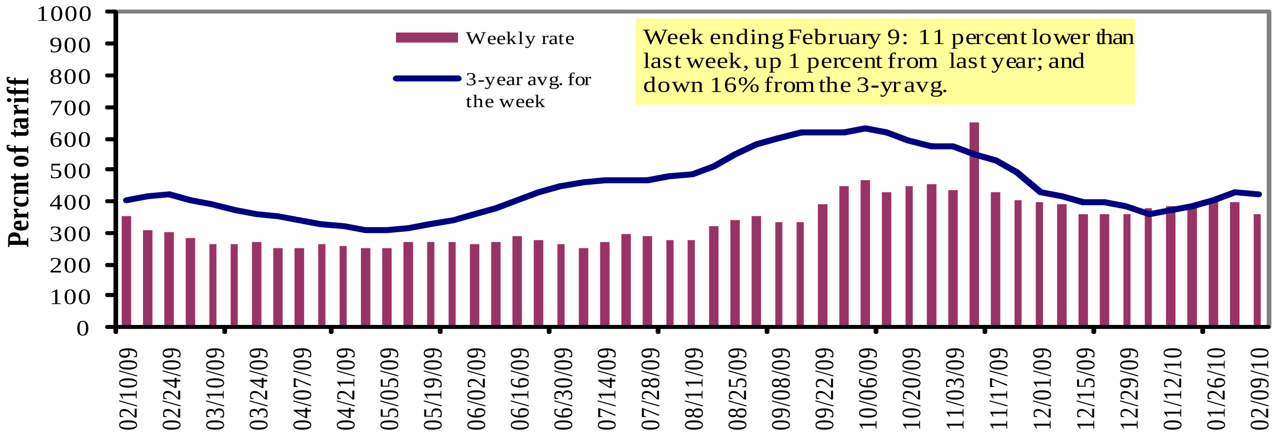
[1] Weighted by each Class I railroad's proportion of grain traffic for the prior year.
* Mileage-based fuel surcharges for March and April 2007 are estimated. Beginning January 2009, the Canadian Pacific fuel surcharge is computed by a monthly average of the bi-weekly fuel surcharge.

Sources: www.bnsf.com, www.cn.ca, www.cpr.ca, www.csx.com, www.kcsi.com, www.nscorp.com, www.uprr.com

Barge Transportation

Figure 8

Illinois River Barge Freight Rate[1,2]



[1]Rate = percent of 1976 tariff benchmark index (1976 = 100 percent); [2]4-week moving average of the 3-year average.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Table 9

Weekly Barge Freight Rates: Southbound Only

		Twin Cities	Mid-Mississippi	Illinois River	St. Louis	Cincinnati	Lower Ohio	Cairo-Memphis
Rate[1]	2/9/2010	-	-	358	258	302	302	237
	2/2/2010	-	-	400	305	324	324	259
$/ton	2/9/2010	-	-	16.61	10.29	14.16	12.20	7.44
	2/2/2010	-	-	18.56	12.17	15.20	13.09	8.13
Current week % change from the same week:								
	Last year	-	-	1	1	12	12	3
	3-year avg. [2]	-	-	-16	-23	-12	-13	-20
Rate[1]	March	-	-	323	250	297	297	237
	May	350	318	305	250	290	290	237

[1]Rate = percent of 1976 tariff benchmark index (1976 = 100 percent); [2]4-week moving average; ton = 2,000 pounds.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Calculating barge rate per ton:
(Index * 1976 tariff benchmark rate per ton)/100

Select applicable index from market quotes included in tables on this page. The 1976 benchmark rates per ton are provided in map (see figure 9).

Figure 9

Benchmark tariff rates

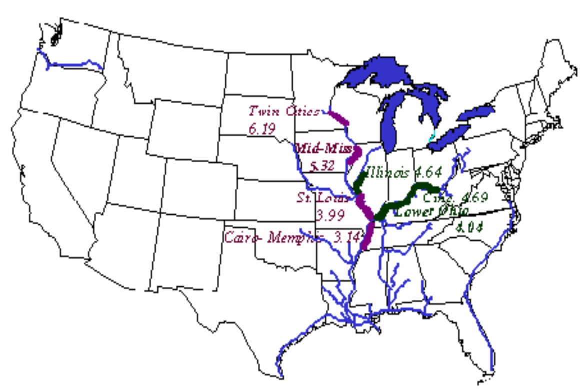
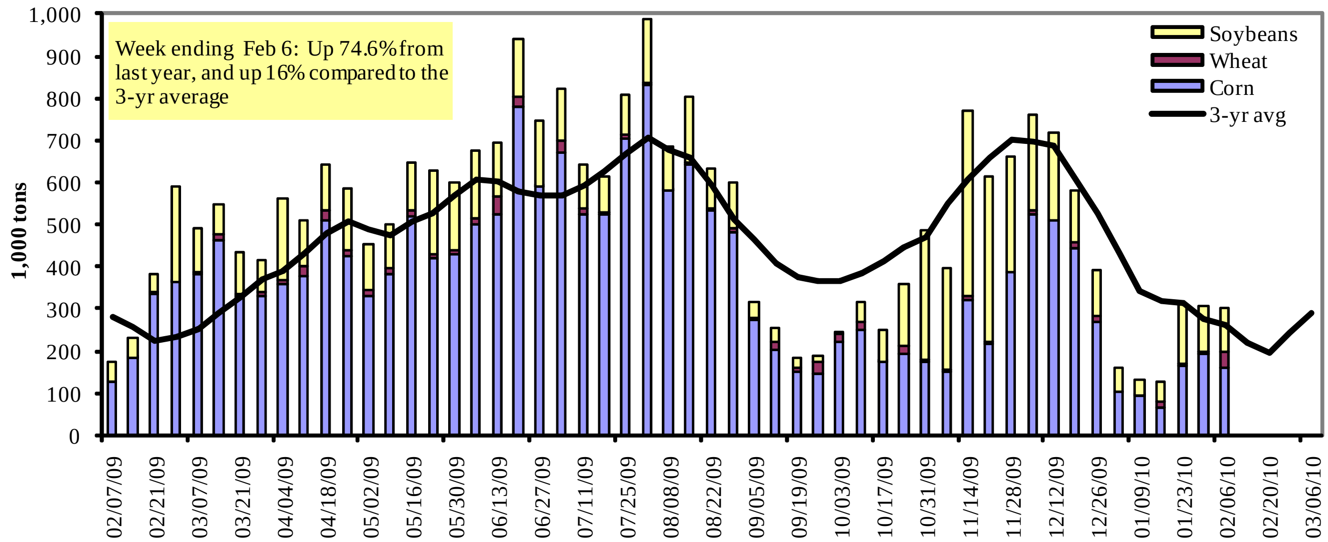


Figure 10

Barge Movements on the Mississippi River[1] (Locks 27 - Granite City, IL)



[1] The 3-year average is a 4-week moving average.

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (www.mvr.usace.army.mil/mvrimi/omni/webrpts/default.asp)

Table 10

Barge Grain Movements (1,000 tons)

Week ending 2/6/2010	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Other	Total
Mississippi River					
Rock Island, IL (L15)	0	0	0	0	0
Winfield, MO (L25)	0	0	0	0	0
Alton, IL (L26)	164	39	114	8	325
Granite City, IL (L27)	160	39	103	8	310
Illinois River (L8)	149	8	80	8	245
Ohio River (L52)	156	3	151	0	311
Arkansas River (L1)	0	0	59	13	71
Weekly total - 2010	317	42	313	20	692
Weekly total - 2009	242	6	169	5	422
2010 YTD[1]	1,390	148	1,446	64	3,047
2009 YTD	1,561	47	1,125	16	2,749
2010 as % of 2009 YTD	89	315	129	398	111
Last 4 weeks as % of 2009[2]	100	336	144	530	124
Total 2009	23,424	1,501	10,465	430	35,819

[1] Weekly total, YTD (year-to-date) and calendar year total includes Miss/27, Ohio/52, and Ark/1; "Other" refers to oats, barley, sorghum, and rye.

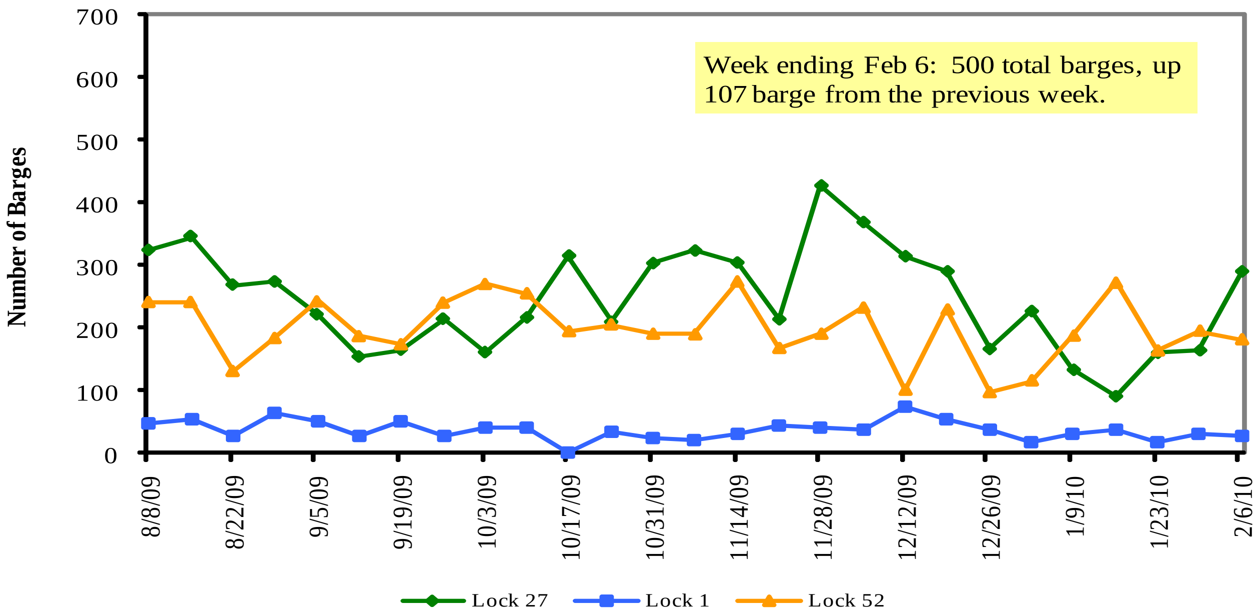
[2] As a percent of same period in 2009.

Note: Total may not add exactly, due to rounding

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (www.mvr.usace.army.mil/mvrimi/omni/webrpts/default.asp)

Figure 11

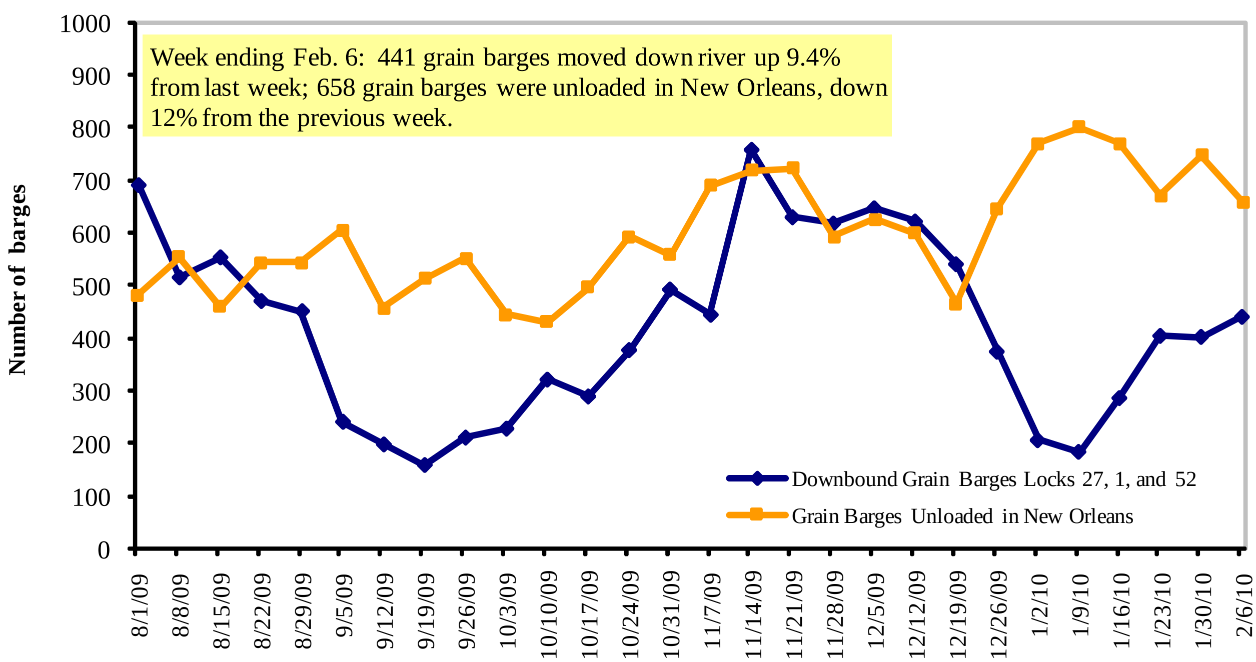
Upbound Empty Barges Transiting Mississippi River Locks 27, Arkansas River Lock and Dam 1, and Ohio River Locks and Dam 52



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Figure 12

Grain Barges for Export in New Orleans Region



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and GIPSA

Truck Transportation

The **weekly diesel price** provides a proxy for trends in U.S. truck rates as diesel fuel is a significant expense for truck grain movements.

Table 11

Retail on-Highway Diesel Prices[1], Week Ending 2/01/2010* (US$/gallon)

Region	Location	Price	Change from Week ago	Change from Year ago
I	East Coast	2.832	-0.051	0.507
	New England	3.017	-0.038	0.434
	Central Atlantic	2.926	-0.060	0.442
	Lower Atlantic	2.775	-0.048	0.542
II	Midwest[2]	2.731	-0.059	0.530
III	Gulf Coast[3]	2.744	-0.056	0.555
IV	Rocky Mountain	2.797	-0.020	0.568
V	West Coast	2.876	-0.039	0.573
	California	2.950	-0.037	0.662
Total	U.S.	2.781	-0.052	0.535

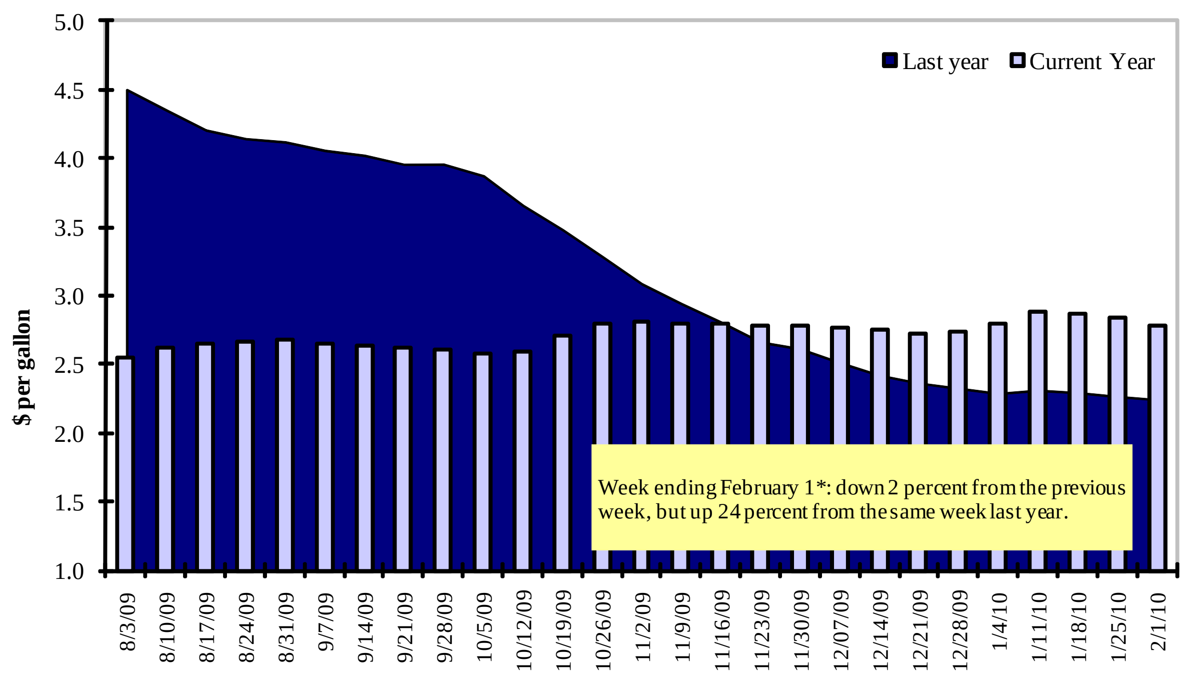
[1]Diesel fuel prices include all taxes. Prices represent an average of all types of diesel fuel.

[2]Same as North Central [3]Same as South Central

Source: Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy (www.eia.doe.gov)

Figure 13

Weekly Diesel Fuel Prices, U.S. Average



Source: Retail On-Highway Diesel Prices, Energy Information Administration, Dept. of Energy

*Note: Data republished this week as updates are unavailable until after publication.

Grain exports

Table 12

U.S. Export Balances and Cumulative Exports (1,000 metric tons)

Week ending	Wheat HRW	Wheat SRW	Wheat HRS	Wheat SWW	Wheat DUR	All wheat	Corn	Soybeans	Total
Export Balances[1]									
1/28/2010	1,644	484	1,073	886	194	4,282	11,775	9,417	25,473
This week year ago	1,307	678	837	692	53	3,568	8,497	6,359	18,424
Cumulative exports-marketing year[2]									
2009/10 YTD	5,208	1,997	3,299	2,647	705	13,857	17,367	25,529	56,753
2008/09 YTD	8,960	3,928	3,823	2,046	358	19,114	16,387	18,072	53,573
YTD 2009/10 as % of 2008/09	58	51	86	129	197	72	106	141	106
Last 4 wks as % of same period 2008/09	119	70	122	118	381	114	136	167	142
2008/09 Total	11,244	5,100	5,408	3,420	454	25,626	44,650	33,705	103,981
2007/08 Total	13,709	5,568	7,842	4,191	1,075	32,385	59,666	30,411	122,462

[1] Current unshipped export sales to date

[2] Shipped export sales to date; new marketing year is now in effect for corn and soybeans

Note: YTD = year-to-date. Marketing Year: wheat = 6/01-5/31, corn & soybeans = 9/01-8/31

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service/USDA (www.fas.usda.gov)

Table 13

Top 5 Importers[1] of U.S. Corn

Week ending 01/28/10	**Total Commitments**[2] **2009/10 Current MY**	**2008/09 Last MY**	**% change current MY from last MY**	**Exports**[3] **2008/09**
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
Japan	7,501	9,083	(17)	15,910
Mexico	5,794	5,110	13	7,454
Korea	3,879	2,050	89	5,129
Taiwan	1,879	1,241	51	3,198
Egypt	1,122	902	24	2,233
Top 5 importers	**20,174**	**18,387**	**10**	**33,924**
Total US corn export sales[4]	**29,141**	**24,875**	**17**	**45,214**
% of Projected	57%	53%		
Change from Last Week	923	1,164		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. corn export sales	69%	74%		
USDA forecast, February 2010	**50,800**	**47,180**	**8**	
Corn Use for Ethanol USDA forecast, February 2010	**109,220**	**93,396**	**17**	

(n) indicates negative number.

[1]Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports - www.fas.usda.gov; Marketing year (MY) = Sep 1 - Aug 31.

[2]Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report.

[3]FAS Marketing Year Final Reports - www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/myfi_rpt.htm.

Table 14

Top 5 Importers[1] of U.S. Soybeans

Week ending 01/28/10	Total Commitments[2] 2009/10 Current MY	2008/09 Last MY	% change current MY from last MY	Exports[3] 2008/09
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
China	21,528	13,916	55	18,681
Mexico	1,785	1,536	16	3,098
Japan	1,609	1,982	(19)	2,410
EU-25	2,088	1,796	16	2,180
Taiwan	1,206	1,005	20	1,592
Top 5 importers	**28,216**	**20,235**	**39**	**27,961**
Total US soybean export sales	**34,946**	**24,431**	**43**	
% of Projected	93%	70%		
Change from last week	382	337		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. soybean export sales	81%	83%		
USDA forecast, February 2010	**37,420**	**34,930**	**7**	
Soybean Use for Biodiesel USDA forecast, February 2010	**5,275**	**4,566**	**16**	

(n) indicates negative number.

[1]Based on FAS 2006/07 Marketing Year Ranking Reports - www.fas.usda.gov; Marketing year (MY) = Sep 1 - Aug 31.

[2] Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report.

[3] FAS Marketing Year Final Reports - www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/myfi_rpt.htm.

Table 15

Top 10 Importers[1] of All U.S. Wheat

Week Ending 01/28/2010	Total Commitments[2] 2009/10 Current MY	2008/09 Last MY	% change current MY from last MY	Exports[3] 2008/09
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
Japan	2,427	2,441	(1)	3,103
Nigeria	2,569	2,137	20	2,661
Mexico	1,491	2,188	(32)	2,423
Egypt	456	1,734	(74)	1,928
Philippines	1,504	1,385	9	1,480
Iraq	300	1,205	(75)	1,205
Korea, South	980	926	6	1,127
Brazil	214	777	(72)	789
Colombia	468	698	(33)	749
Taiwan	618	521	19	714
Top 10 importers	**11,027**	**14,012**	**(21)**	**16,179**
Total US wheat export sales	**18,139**	**22,682**	**(20)**	**27,640**
% of Projected	81%	82%		
Change from last week	417	327		
Top 10 importers' share of U.S. wheat export sales	61%	62%		
USDA forecast, February 2010	**22,450**	**27,640**	**(19)**	

(n) indicates negative number.

[1]Based on FAS **2008/09** Marketing Year Ranking Reports - www.fas.usda.gov; Marketing year = Jun 1 - May 31

[2] Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report.

[3] FAS Marketing Year Final Reports - www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/myfi_rpt.htm.

Table 16

Grain Inspections for Export by U.S. Port Region (1,000 metric tons)

Port regions	Week ending 02/04/10	2010 YTD[1]	2009 YTD[1]	2010 YTD as % of 2009 YTD	Last 4-weeks as % of 2009	Last 4-weeks as % of 3-yr. avg.	Total[1] 2009
Pacific Northwest							
Wheat	250	1,047	1,056	99	113	82	10,091
Corn	118	644	533	121	116	92	8,498
Soybeans	244	1,251	1,122	111	90	98	9,743
Total	**613**	**2,942**	**2,711**	**109**	**103**	**91**	**28,332**
Mississippi Gulf							
Wheat	67	330	339	97	135	93	4,019
Corn	449	2,317	2,453	94	94	71	28,846
Soybeans	669	3,557	3,388	105	100	120	21,853
Total	**1,186**	**6,205**	**6,180**	**100**	**99**	**94**	**54,718**
Texas Gulf							
Wheat	136	561	598	94	97	106	5,735
Corn	22	140	101	139	141	95	1,968
Soybeans	0	284	150	190	119	264	2,402
Total	**158**	**985**	**848**	**116**	**108**	**120**	**10,105**
Great Lakes							
Wheat	0	2	0	n/a	n/a	0	990
Corn	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	338
Soybeans	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	781
Total	**0**	**2**	**0**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**0**	**2,109**
Atlantic							
Wheat	0	22	23	96	96	69	547
Corn	0	24	21	119	52	13	472
Soybeans	36	165	123	135	151	126	1,266
Total	**36**	**211**	**166**	**127**	**127**	**77**	**2,285**
U.S. total from ports[2]							
Wheat	453	1,962	2,015	97	111	90	21,382
Corn	589	3,126	3,107	101	99	75	40,122
Soybeans	950	5,258	4,783	110	99	117	36,045
Total	**1,993**	**10,346**	**9,905**	**104**	**101**	**94**	**97,549**

[1] Includes weekly revisions, some regional totals may not add exactly due to rounding.

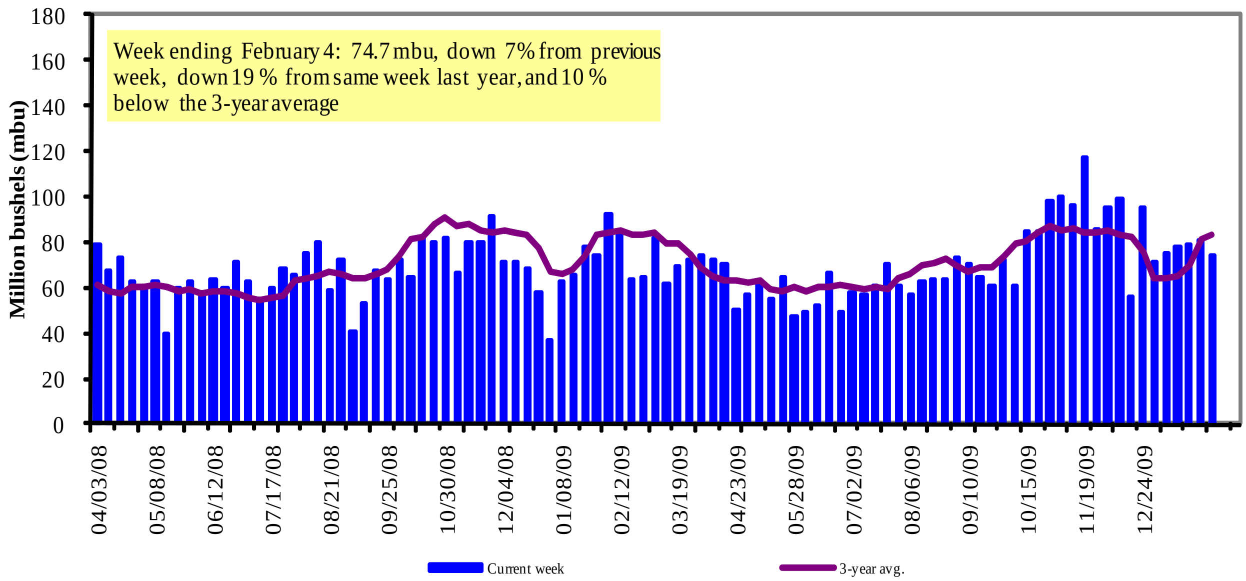
[2] Total includes only port regions shown above

Source: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration/USDA (www.gipsa.usda.gov); YTD= year-to-date; n/a = not applicable

The United States exports approximately one-quarter of the grain it produces. On average, this includes nearly 45 percent of U.S.-grown wheat, 35 percent of U.S.-grown soybeans, and 20 percent of the U.S.-grown corn. Approximately 62 percent of the U.S. export grain shipments departed through the U.S. Gulf region in 2009.

Figure 14

U.S. grain inspected for export (wheat, corn, and soybeans)

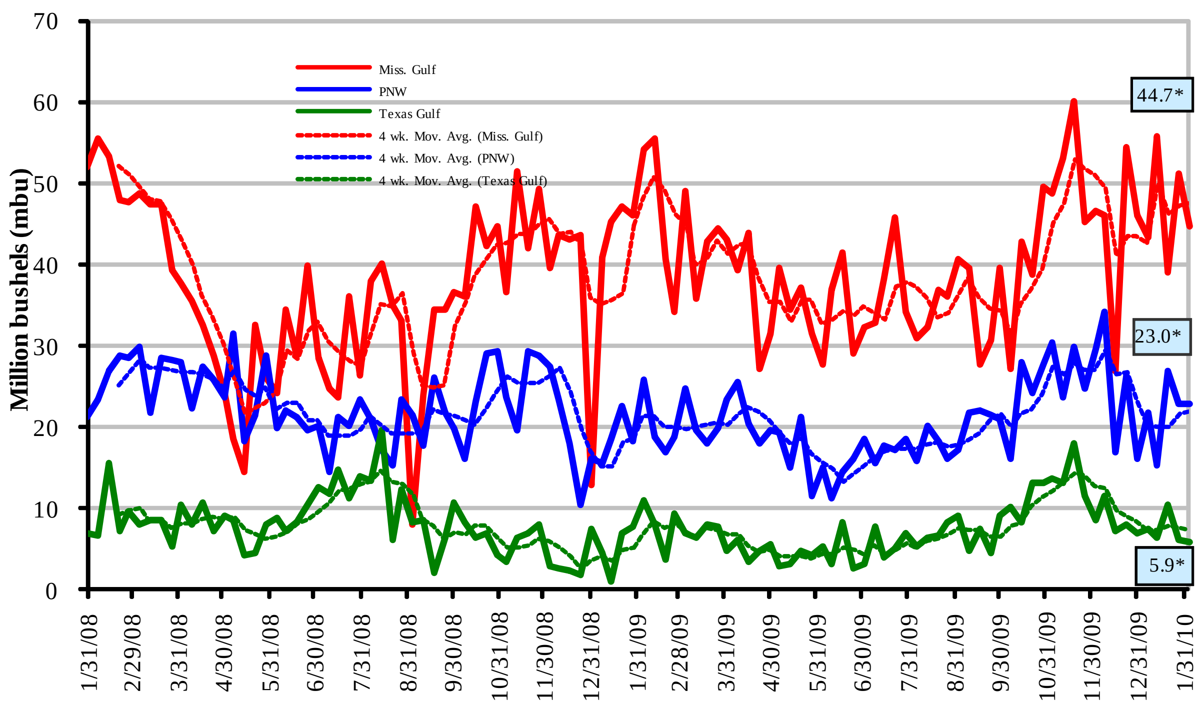


Source: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration/USDA (www.gipsa.usda.gov)

Note: 3-year average consists of 4-week running average

Figure 15

Weekly U.S. Grain Inspections: U.S. Gulf and PNW (wheat, corn, and soybeans)



Source: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration/USDA (www.gipsa.usda.gov); *mbu, this week.

February 4, % change from:	MS Gulf	TX Gulf	U.S. Gulf	PNW
Last week	down 12.5	down 6	down 12	unch
Last year (same week)	down 17	down 47	down 22	down 12
3-yr avg. (4-wk mov. avg.)	down 13	down 3.5	down 12	up 7

Ocean Transportation

Table 17

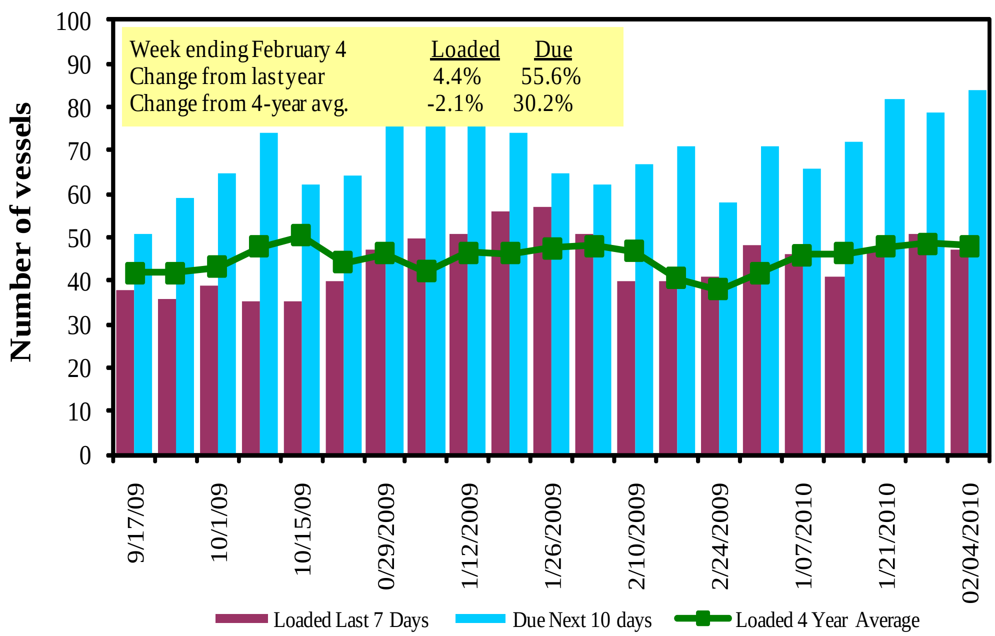
Weekly Port Region Grain Ocean Vessel Activity (number of vessels)

Date	Gulf In port	Gulf Loaded 7-days	Gulf Due next 10-days	Pacific Northwest In port	Vancouver B.C. In port
2/4/2010	56	47	84	18	16
1/28/2010	50	51	79	13	12
2009 range	(18..72)	(21..57)	(37..86)	(2..19)	(3..19)
2009 avg.	37	39	55	10	9

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 16

U.S. Gulf[1] Vessel Loading Activity

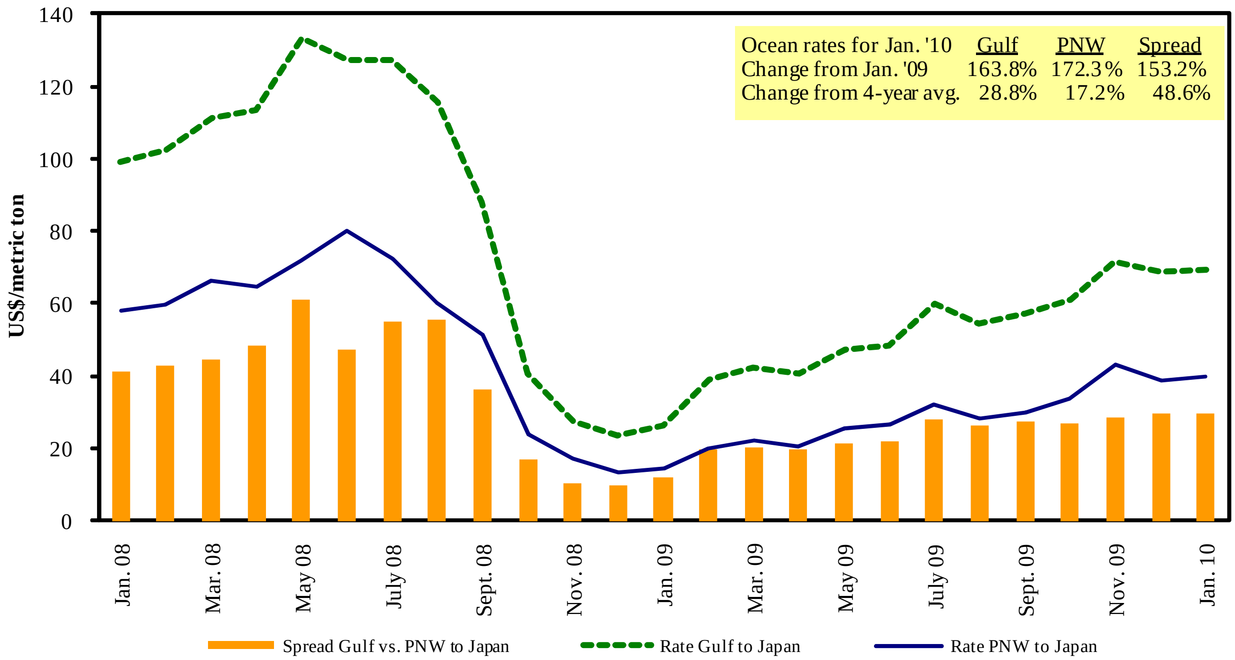


Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

[1]U.S. Gulf includes Mississippi, Texas, and East Gulf.

Figure 17

Grain Vessel Rates, U.S. to Japan



Source: Drewry Shipping Consultants Ltd (www.drewry.co.uk)/O'Neil Commodity Consulting

Table 18

Ocean Freight Rates For Selected Shipments, Week Ending 2/06/2010

Export region	Import region	Grain types	Loading date	Volume loads (metric tons)	Freight rate (US$/metric ton)
U.S. Gulf	Morocco	Wheat	Feb 8/10	25,000	46.00
U.S. Gulf	Egyptian Mediterranean	Hvy Grain	Jan 7/12	60,000	39.00
U.S. Gulf	Djibouti[1]	Wheat	Jan 1/10	2,770	114.50
U.S. Gulf	China	Hvy Grain	Oct 20/30	55,000	54.00
Brazil	France	Grains	Sep 10/20	20,000	34.00
Brazil	Ireland	Grain	Dec 25/30	25,000	43.50
Brazil	Morocco	Corn	Oct 25/Nov 5	25,000	29.00
Ukraine	Kenya	Wheat	Dec 25/30	25,000	52.00
Ukraine	Mediterranean	Wheat	Dec 14/18	30,000	20.00
France	Algeria	Wheat	Nov 5/15	25,000	29.50
France	Algeria	Wheat	Oct 20/30	25,000	27.25
France	Algeria	Wheat	Sep 25/30	25,000	25.50
France	Algeria	Hvy Grain	Jan 15/20	28,500	28.25
River Plate	Continent	Grain	Dec 20/28	25,000	36.50
River Plate	Continent	Grain	Dec 1/10	25,000	48.00
River Plate	Continent	Grain	Nov 25/30	25,000	40.00
River Plate	Poland	Grains	Sep 1/20	24,000	37.25
River Plate	Poland	Soybeanmeal	Sep 5/15	25,000	37.75

Rates shown are for metric ton (2,204.62 lbs. = 1 metric ton), F.O.B., except where otherwise indicates; op = option

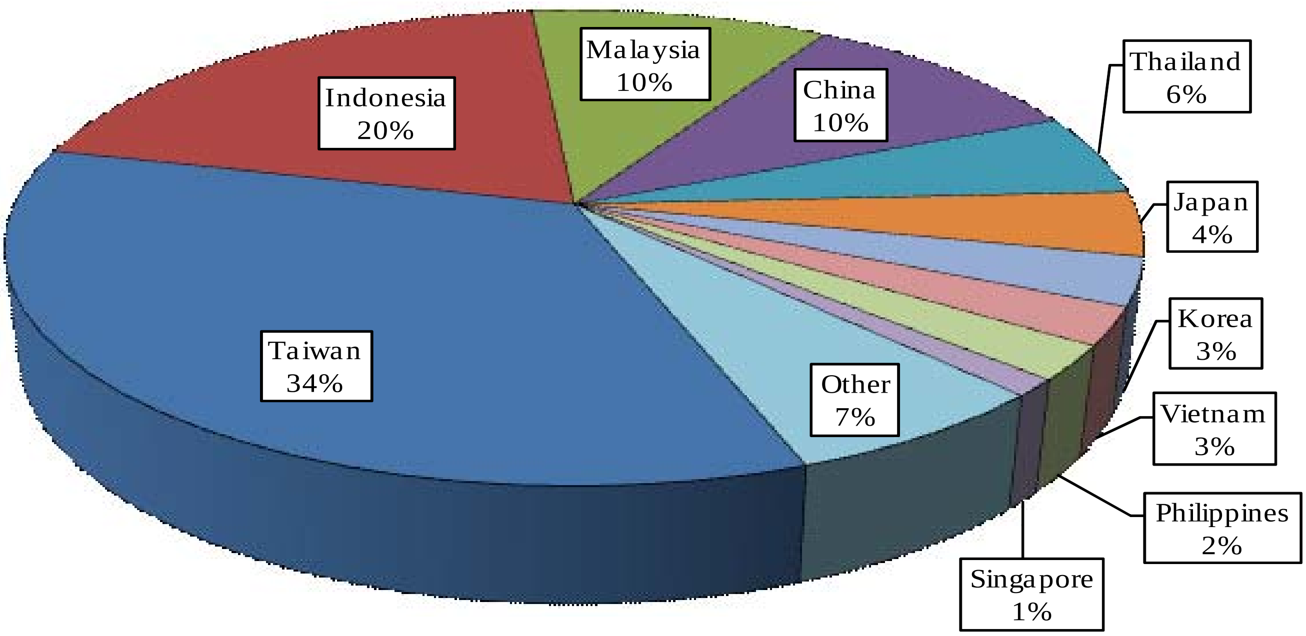
[1]75 percent of food aid from the United States is required to be shipped on U.S.-flag vessels.

Source: Maritime Research Inc. (www.maritime-research.com)

During 2008, containers were used to transport 6 percent of total U.S. waterborne grain exports, and 9 percent of U.S. grain exports to Asia.

Figure 18

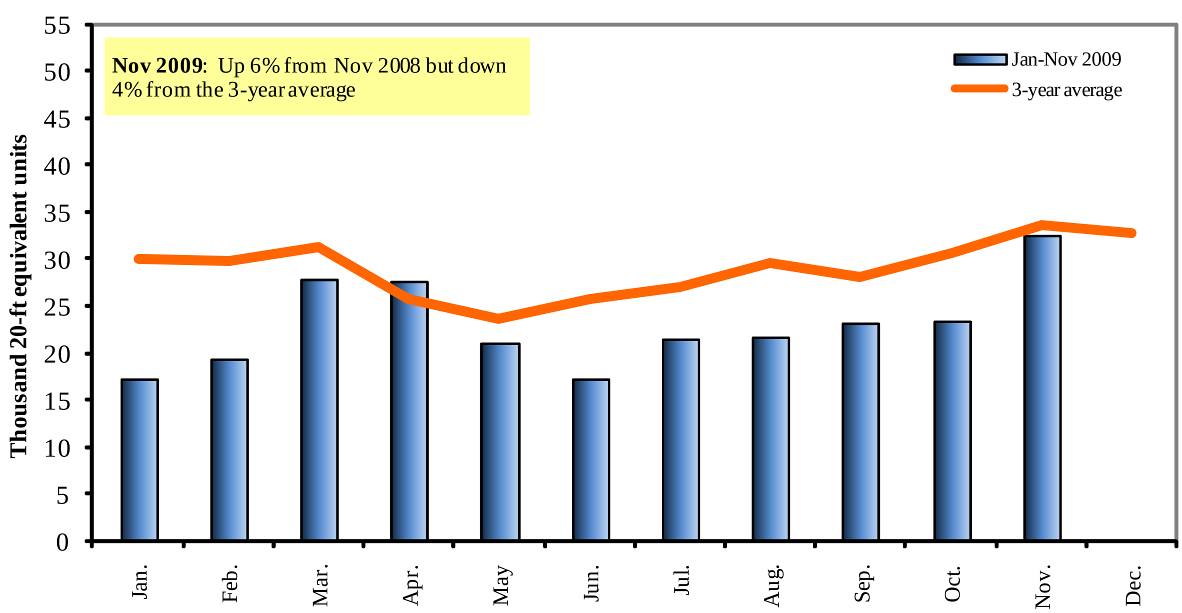
Top 10 Destination Markets for U.S. Containerized Grain Exports, November 2009



Source: Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS)

Figure 19

Monthly Shipments of Containerized Grain to Asia



Source: Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS), *Journal of Commerce*

Contacts and Links

Coordinators		
Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@ams.usda.gov	(202) 694 - 3050
Pierre Bahizi	pierre.bahizi@ams.usda.gov	(202) 694 - 2503
Daniel Nibarger	daniel.nibarger@ams.usda.gov	(202) 436 - 9713
Weekly Highlight Editors		
Marina Denicoff	marina.denicoff@ams.usda.gov	(202) 694 - 2504
Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@ams.usda.gov	(202) 694 - 3050
April Taylor	april.taylor@ams.usda.gov	(202) 295 - 7374
Daniel Nibarger	daniel.nibarger@ams.usda.gov	(202) 436 - 9713
Grain Transportation Indicators		
Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@ams.usda.gov	(202) 694 - 3050
Rail Transportation		
Marvin Prater	marvin.prater@ams.usda.gov	(202) 694 - 3051
Johnny Hill	johnny.hill@ams.usda.gov	(202) 694 - 2506
Daniel Nibarger	daniel.nibarger@ams.usda.gov	(202) 436 - 9713
Isaac Weingram	isaac.weingram@ams.usda.gov	(202) 694 - 2500
Barge Transportation		
Nicholas Marathon	nick.marathon@ams.usda.gov	(202) 694 - 2508
April Taylor	april.taylor@ams.usda.gov	(202) 295 - 7374
Truck Transportation		
April Taylor	april.taylor@ams.usda.gov	(202) 295 - 7374
Ron Hagen	ron.hagen@ams.usda.gov	(202) 694 - 2505
Grain Exports		
Johnny Hill	johnny.hill@ams.usda.gov	(202) 694 - 2506
Marina Denicoff	marina.denicoff@ams.usda.gov	(202) 694 - 2504
Ocean Transportation		
Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@ams.usda.gov	(202) 694 - 3050
(Freight rates and vessels)		
April Taylor	april.taylor@ams.usda.gov	(202) 295 - 7374
(Container rates)		

Subscription Information: Send relevant information to **GTRContactUs@ams.usda.gov** for an electronic copy *(printed copies are also available upon request)*.

Related Websites

Ocean Rate Bulletin