USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Grain Transportation Report

A weekly publication of the Agricultural Marketing Service
www.ams.usda.gov/GTR

Contact Us

June 16, 2016

Contents

The next release is June 23, 2016

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Panama Canal Suspends Remaining Draft Restrictions

On June 8, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) announced the suspension of the last remaining draft restrictions until further notice due to the weather forecast for the reminder of the rainy season, and the possibility that no further restrictions will be required. The restrictions initially went into effect on April 18 as temporary and preventative measures to mitigate the effect of the El Niño phenomenon, and ensure continuous and safe operation of the canal (see 03/03/16 and 03/24/16 *Grain Transportation Reports*). Until further notice, the maximum authorized transit draft will be up to 12.04 meters (39.5 feet). Earlier restrictions have limited the maximum authorized draft to as low as 11.74 meters (38.5 feet). The new draft will allow a vessel to load more cargo. The ACP pledged to continue to monitor the situation and provide updated information in a timely manner. For further detail, see https://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2016/06/08/pr590.html.

Grain Inspections Highest Since Early March

For the week ending June 9, **total inspections of grain** (corn, wheat, soybeans) for export from all major export regions reached 2.19 million metric tons (mmt), up 40 percent from the past week, up 28 percent from last year, and 56 percent above the 3-year average. Grain inspections were also the highest since early March of this year. Corn inspections (1.67 mmt) jumped 59 percent from the previous week as shipments to Asia, Latin America, and Africa rebounded, and soybean inspections increased 39 percent. Wheat inspections, however, were down 7 percent from the past week. Pacific Northwest (PNW) grain inspections increased 36 percent from the previous week, and Mississippi Gulf inspections jumped 56 percent. Outstanding export sales (unshipped) of grain remained higher for corn and soybeans, and wheat export sales were generally up due to the new marketing year.

AAR Releases Economic Impact Report

On June 13, the Association of American Railroads released its second "State of the Industry Report," a study on the economic impact of the freight railroads conducted by Towson University's Regional Economic Studies Institute (available online). According to the report, "The Towson analysis finds that in 2014, Class I railroads created approximately $274 billion in economic activity and generated nearly $33 billion in total tax revenues while supporting nearly 1.5 million jobs across the country." Railroads are an important compotent of the grain supply chain, hauling about 45 percent of the grain destined for export and 23 percent of grain for domestic markets (see Transportation of U.S. Grains: A Modal Share Analysis).

Snapshots by Sector

Export Sales

During the week ending June 2, **unshipped balances** of wheat, corn, and soybeans totaled 25.6 mmt, up 35 percent from the same time last year. Net weekly **wheat export sales** began the new marketing year at .224 mmt, up significantly from the previous week. Net **corn export sales** were 1.56 mmt, up 18 percent from the previous week, and net **soybean export sales** were .759 mmt, up 146 percent from the past week.

Rail

U.S. Class I railroads originated 18,628 **grain carloads** for the week ending June 4, down 4 percent from the previous week, up 3 percent from last year, and up 3 percent from the 3-year average.

Average June shuttle **secondary railcar bids/offers** per car were $21 above tariff for the week ending June 9, up $85 from last week, and $296 higher than last year. Average secondary non-shuttle secondary railcar bids/offers were $50 below tariff, unchanged from last week, and $50 lower than last year.

Barge

For the week ending June 11, **barge grain movements** totaled 903,090 tons, 49 percent higher than last week, and up 4 percent from the same period last year.

For the week ending June 11, 572 grain barges **moved down river**, up 44 percent from last week; 773 grain barges were **unloaded in New Orleans**, up 21 percent from the previous week.

Ocean

For the week ending June 9, 37 **ocean-going grain vessels** were loaded in the Gulf, 32 percent more than the same period last year. Forty-seven vessels are expected to be loaded within the next 10 days, 9 percent more than the same period last year.

For the week ending June 9, the ocean freight rate for shipping bulk grain from the Gulf to Japan was $28.25 per metric ton, up 1 percent from the previous week. The cost of shipping from the PNW to Japan was $16.00 per metric ton, down 2 percent from the previous week.

Fuel

During the week ending June 13, U.S. average **diesel fuel prices** increased 2 cents from the previous week at $2.43 per gallon, down $0.44 from the same week last year.

Preferred citation: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. *Grain Transportation Report.* June 16, 2016.
Web: **http://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS056.06-16-2016**

June 18-22	American Seed Trade Association - 133rd ASTA Annual Convention	Portland, OR	www.amseed.org/events
June 20-23	International Fuel Ethanol Workshop/Expo	Milwaukee, WI	www.fuelethanolworkshop.com/
July 11-12	Midwst Association of Rail Shippers	Lake Geneva, Wisc	http://mwrailshippers.com/
July 14-16	Florida Feed Association Inc.	Longboat Key, FL	www.floridafeed.com/
July 19-21	Supply Chain Technology Conference & Expo	Chicago, Ill	http://www.sctechshow.com
July 26-28	NGFA/GJ Safety/Grain Quality Conference 28th Annual Meeting	Omaha, NE	https://www.ngfa.org/
July 27 - 28	National Tank Truck Carriers Board Meeting	Coeur' d' Alene, Idaho	http://tanktruck.org/
Aug 2-4	NGFA/GJ Safety/Grain Quality Conf.	Omaha, NE	800-728-7511
Aug 30-Sep 1	2016 U.S. Soy Global Trade Exchange	Indianapolis, IN	www.ussec.org
Sept 15	STB Grain Car Council Meeting	St. Louis, MO	www.stb.dot.gov/stb/rail/graincar_council.html
Sept 16	TEGMA Fall Symposium	St. Louis, MO	www.tegma.org/meetings
Sept 18 - 20	Inermodal Association of North America	Houston, TX	http://www.intermodal.org/
Sept 21-23	National Wayerways Conference, Annual Meeting	Norfolk, VA	www.waterways.org
Oct 24- 27	Export Exchange 2016	Detroit, MI	www.grains.org
Oct 24- 27	IAOM Mideast and Africa Conference	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	http://www.iaom-mea.com/
Nov 15-17	2016 National Waterways Council Symposium	Cincinnatti, OH	www.waterwayscouncil.org
Dec 11 - 13	NGFA Country Elevator Conference	Chicago, IL	https://www.ngfa.org/
Jan 15-17, 2017	North Dakota Gain Dealers Association	Fargo, ND	http://www.ndgda.org
Feb 25 -28	Grain and Feed Association of Illinois Annual Convention	St. Louis, MO	https://www.ngfa.org/
Mar 19 -20	National Grain and Feed Association Convention	New Orleans, LA	https://www.ngfa.org/

Grain Transportation Indicators

Table 1
Grain Transport Cost Indicators[1]

	Truck	Rail		Barge	Ocean	
For the week ending		Unit Train	Shuttle		Gulf	Pacific
06/15/16	163	250	202	174	126	113
06/08/16	162	250	199	152	125	115

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

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

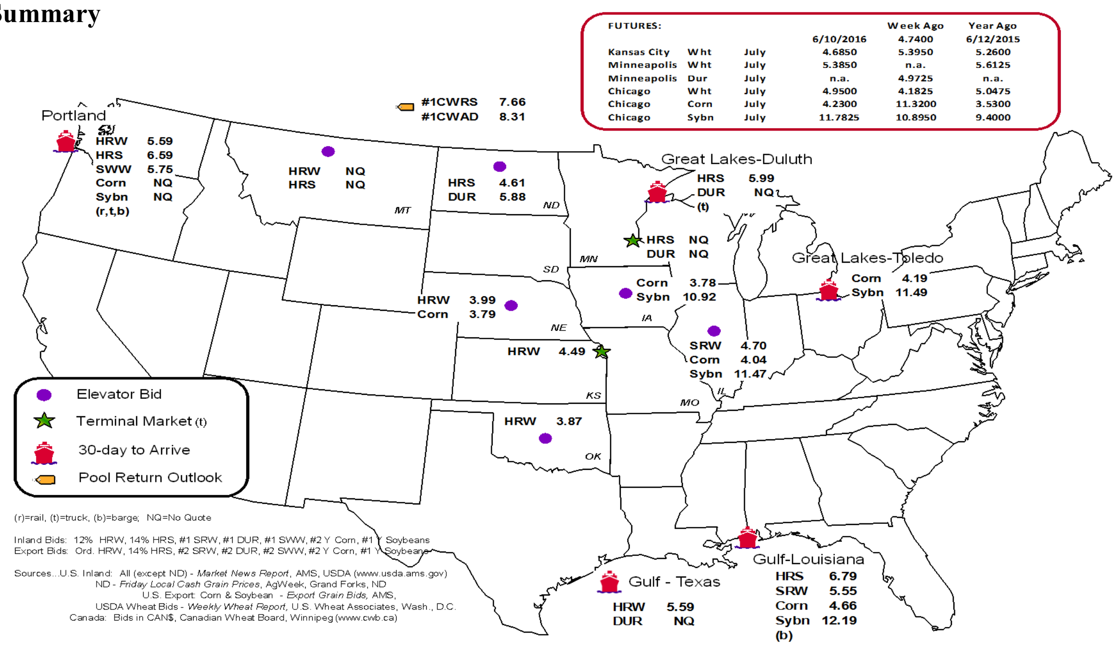
Table 2
Market Update: U.S. Origins to Export Position Price Spreads ($/bushel)

Commodity	Origin--Destination	6/10/2016	6/3/2016
Corn	IL--Gulf	-0.62	0.09
Corn	NE--Gulf	-0.87	-0.84
Soybean	IA--Gulf	-1.27	-1.33
HRW	KS--Gulf	-1.10	-1.15
HRS	ND--Portland	-1.98	-1.80

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 market supply and demand. The map may be used to monitor market and time differentials.

Figure 1
Grain bid Summary



Rail Transportation

Table 3

Rail Deliveries to Port (carloads)[1]

For the Week Ending	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf	Total	Week ending	Cross-Border Mexico[3]
6/08/2016[p]	2	1,011	3,144	0	4,157	6/4/2016	1,863
6/01/2016[r]	1	670	3,928	55	4,654	5/28/2016	1,974
2016 YTD[r]	5,832	32,384	113,788	9,196	161,200	2016 YTD	47,132
2015 YTD[r]	10,698	32,136	105,545	12,490	160,869	2015 YTD	39,915
2016 YTD as % of 2015 YTD	55	101	108	74	100	% change YTD	118
Last 4 weeks as % of 2015[2]	21	100	137	42	119	Last 4wks % 2015	124
Last 4 weeks as % of 4-year avg.[2]	17	75	136	46	103	Last 4wks % 4 yr	131
Total 2015	29,054	60,819	239,029	26,730	355,632	Total 2015	97,736
Total 2014	44,617	83,674	256,670	32,107	417,068	Total 2014	98,422

[1] Data is incomplete as it is voluntarily provided

[2] Compared with same 4-weeks in 2015 and prior 4-year average.

[3] Cross-border weekly data is approximately 15 percent below the Association of American Railroads' reported weekly carloads received by Mexican railroads to reflect switching between KCSM and FerroMex.

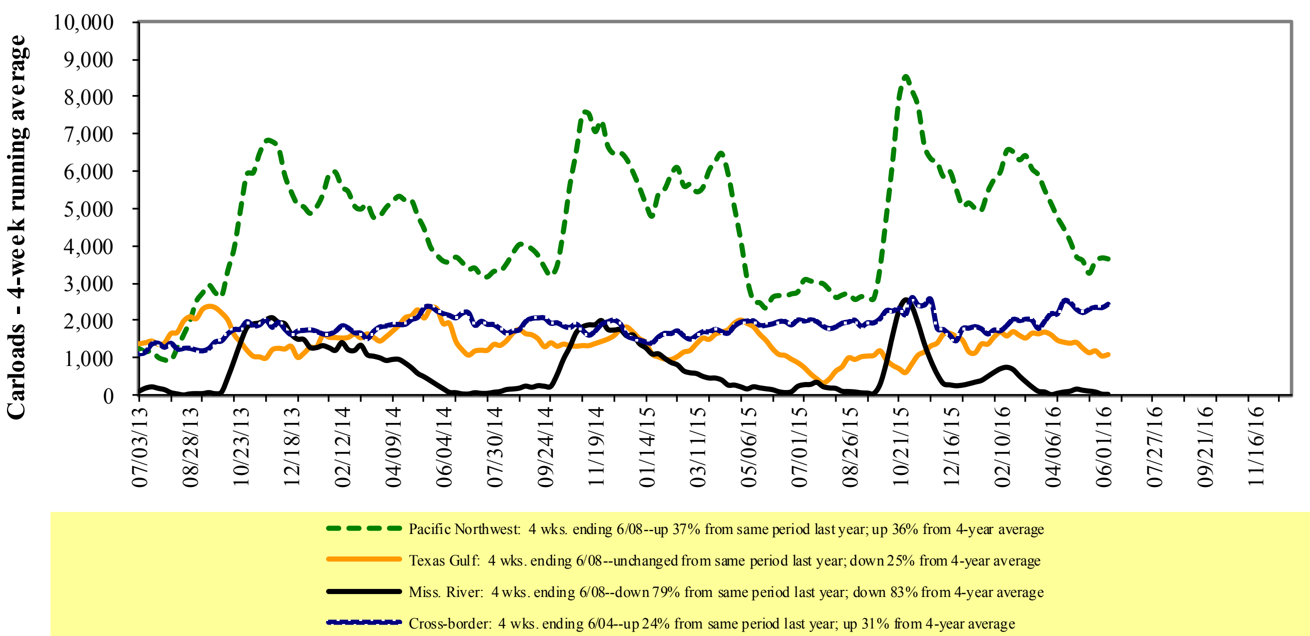
YTD = year-to-date; p = preliminary data; r = revised data; n/a = not available

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Railroads originate approximately 24 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)

For the week ending:	East		West			U.S. total	Canada	
6/4/2016	CSXT	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP		CN	CP
This week	1,486	2,919	8,588	772	4,863	18,628	2,593	3,084
This week last year	1,521	3,097	8,021	930	4,477	18,046	4,077	4,654
2016 YTD	40,676	60,497	219,823	19,495	114,782	455,273	71,303	93,962
2015 YTD	45,610	67,562	221,647	19,150	114,489	468,458	90,878	95,640
2016 YTD as % of 2015 YTD	89	90	99	102	100	97	78	98
Last 4 weeks as % of 2015*	90	91	100	92	109	99	64	75
Last 4 weeks as % of 3-yr avg.**	99	100	103	128	108	104	67	70
Total 2015	104,039	149,043	536,173	45,445	267,720	1,102,420	211,868	236,263

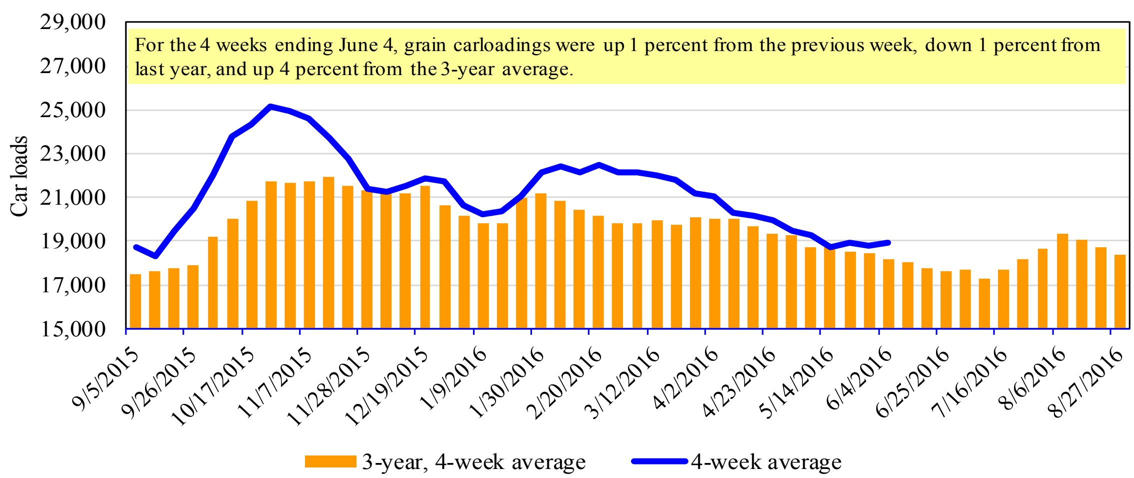
*The past 4 weeks of this year as a percent of the same 4 weeks last year.

**The past 4 weeks as a percent of the same period from 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

Railcar Auction Offerings[1] ($/car)[2]

For the week ending:		Delivery period							
6/9/2016		Jun-16	Jun-15	Jul-16	Jul-15	Aug-16	Aug-15	Sep-16	Sep-15
BNSF[3]	COT grain units	0	0	0	0	0	58	0	61
	COT grain single-car[5]	0 . . 1	0	0	0 . . 1	0	no offer	0	77
UP[4]	GCAS/Region 1	no offer	no offer	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	n/a	n/a
	GCAS/Region 2	no offer	no offer	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	n/a	n/a

[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.

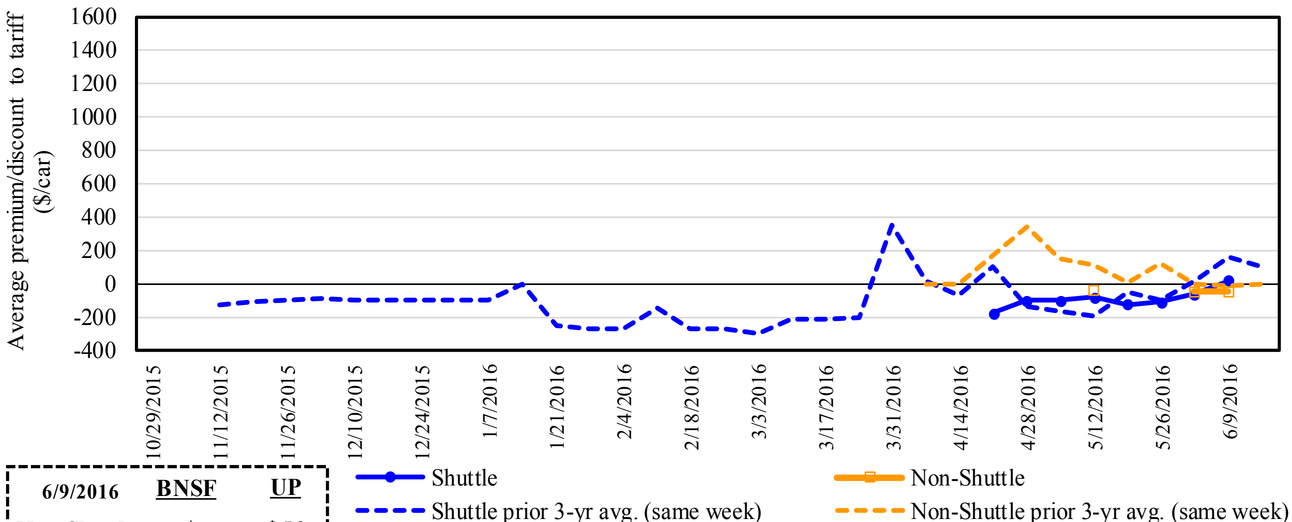
[5]Range is shown because average is not available. Not available = n/a.

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 June 2016, Secondary Market



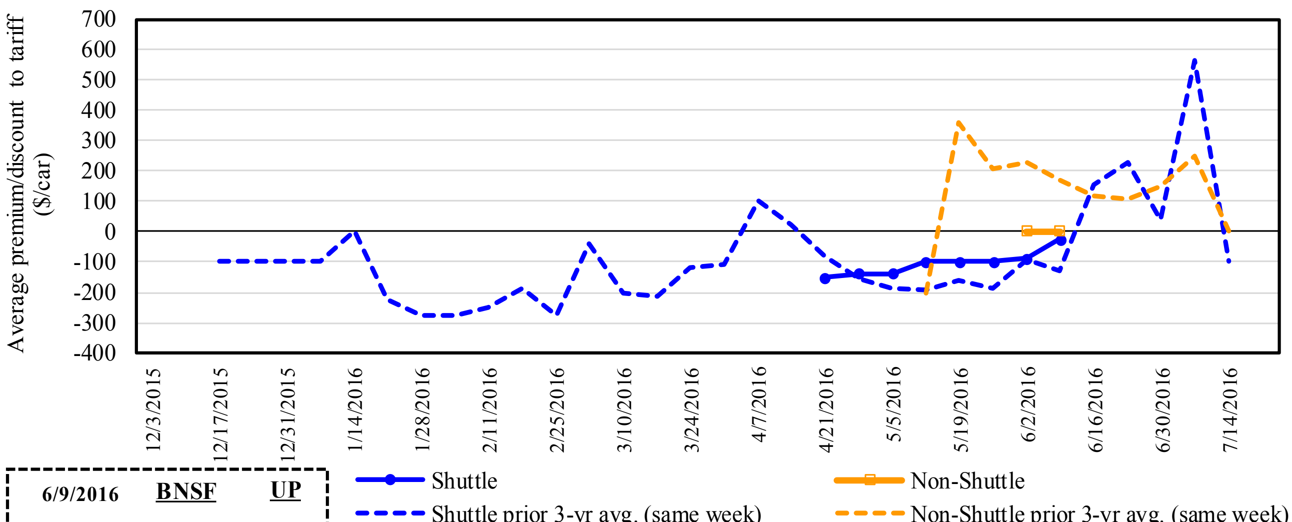
6/9/2016	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	n/a	-$50
Shuttle	$21	n/a

Average Non-shuttle bids/offers are unchanged this week, and are $10 below the peak.
Average Shuttle bids/offers rose $85 this week and are at the peak.

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 July 2016, Secondary Market



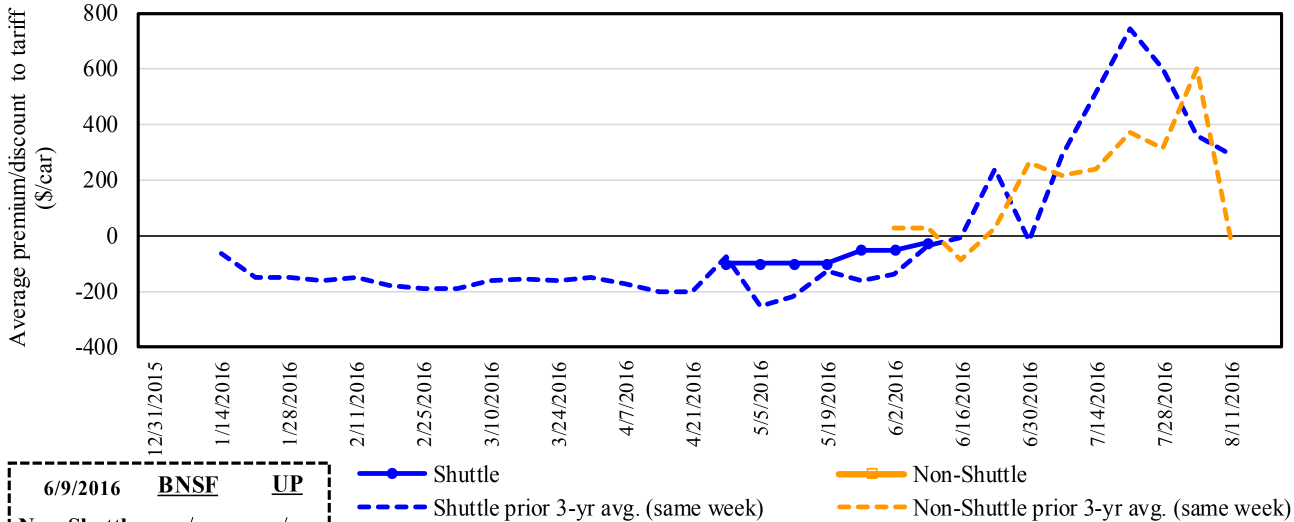
6/9/2016	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	$50	-$50
Shuttle	$0	-$50

Average Non-shuttle bids/offers are unchanged this week, and are at the peak.
Average Shuttle bids/offers rose $63 this week and are at the peak.

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 August 2016, Secondary Market



6/9/2016	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	-$50	$0

There were no Non-Shuttle bids/offers this week.
Average Shuttle bids/offers rose $25 this week and are at the peak.

Non-shuttle bids include unit-train and single-car bids. n/a = not available.
Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Table 6

Weekly Secondary Railcar Market ($/car)[1]

	For the week ending: 6/9/2016	Delivery period: Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16
Non-shuttle	**BNSF-GF**	**n/a**	**50**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2015	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	UP-Pool	**(50)**	**(50)**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2015	(50)	(50)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	**BNSF-GF**	**21**	**0**	**(50)**	**400**	**800**	**550**
	Change from last week	24	25	n/a	(50)	(375)	100
	Change from same week 2015	296	250	n/a	0	0	n/a
	UP-Pool	**n/a**	**(50)**	**0**	**0**	**500**	**275**
	Change from last week	n/a	100	50	0	50	37
	Change from same week 2015	n/a	275	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

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 James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.

The **tariff rail rate** is the base price of freight rail service, and together with **fuel surcharges** and any **auction and secondary rail** values constitute the full cost of shipping by rail. Typically, auction and secondary rail values are a small fraction of the full cost of shipping by rail relative to the tariff rate. High auction and secondary rail values, during times of high rail demand or short supply, can exceed the cost of the tariff rate plus fuel surcharge.

Table 7

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

Effective date:			Tariff	Fuel surcharge	Tariff plus surcharge per:		Percent change
6/1/2016	Origin region*	Destination region*	rate/car	per car	metric ton	bushel[2]	Y/Y[3]
Unit train							
Wheat	Wichita, KS	St. Louis, MO	$3,605	$0	$35.80	$0.97	-2
	Grand Forks, ND	Duluth-Superior, MN	$3,463	-$24	$34.15	$0.93	-17
	Wichita, KS	Los Angeles, CA	$6,950	-$122	$67.80	$1.85	-3
	Wichita, KS	New Orleans, LA	$4,243	$0	$42.14	$1.15	-3
	Sioux Falls, SD	Galveston-Houston, TX	$6,486	-$100	$63.41	$1.73	-3
	Northwest KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	$4,511	$0	$44.80	$1.22	-3
	Amarillo, TX	Los Angeles, CA	$4,710	$0	$46.77	$1.27	-4
Corn	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$3,681	$0	$36.55	$0.93	6
	Toledo, OH	Raleigh, NC	$6,061	$0	$60.19	$1.53	9
	Des Moines, IA	Davenport, IA	$2,168	$0	$21.53	$0.55	-1
	Indianapolis, IN	Atlanta, GA	$5,004	$0	$49.69	$1.26	5
	Indianapolis, IN	Knoxville, TN	$4,311	$0	$42.81	$1.09	5
	Des Moines, IA	Little Rock, AR	$3,444	$0	$34.20	$0.87	1
	Des Moines, IA	Los Angeles, CA	$5,052	$0	$50.17	$1.27	-1
Soybeans	Minneapolis, MN	New Orleans, LA	$3,699	$0	$36.73	$1.00	-3
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	$5,051	$0	$50.16	$1.37	8
	Indianapolis, IN	Raleigh, NC	$6,178	$0	$61.35	$1.67	10
	Indianapolis, IN	Huntsville, AL	$4,529	$0	$44.98	$1.22	4
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$4,395	$0	$43.64	$1.19	7
Shuttle Train							
Wheat	Great Falls, MT	Portland, OR	$3,853	-$70	$37.56	$1.02	-6
	Wichita, KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	$3,871	-$55	$37.90	$1.03	-4
	Chicago, IL	Albany, NY	$5,492	$0	$54.54	$1.48	16
	Grand Forks, ND	Portland, OR	$5,511	-$122	$53.52	$1.46	-6
	Grand Forks, ND	Galveston-Houston, TX	$5,831	-$127	$56.65	$1.54	-14
	Northwest KS	Portland, OR	$5,478	$0	$54.40	$1.48	-4
Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$5,000	-$148	$48.18	$1.22	-9
	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	$4,960	-$136	$47.91	$1.22	-8
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$3,481	$0	$34.57	$0.88	6
	Lincoln, NE	Galveston-Houston, TX	$3,600	-$79	$34.96	$0.89	-5
	Des Moines, IA	Amarillo, TX	$3,795	$0	$37.69	$0.96	0
	Minneapolis, MN	Tacoma, WA	$5,000	-$147	$48.19	$1.22	-9
	Council Bluffs, IA	Stockton, CA	$4,640	-$152	$44.57	$1.13	-6
Soybeans	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	$5,490	-$136	$53.17	$1.45	-8
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$5,510	-$148	$53.25	$1.45	-8
	Fargo, ND	Tacoma, WA	$5,380	-$121	$52.23	$1.42	-8
	Council Bluffs, IA	New Orleans, LA	$4,425	$0	$43.94	$1.20	-4
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	$4,226	$0	$41.97	$1.14	10
	Grand Island, NE	Portland, OR	$5,360	$0	$53.23	$1.45	-4

[1]A unit train refers to shipments of at least 25 cars. Shuttle train rates are available for qualified shipments of 75-120 cars that meet railroad efficiency requirements.

[2]Approximate load per car = 111 short tons (100.7 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

*Regional economic areas defined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

Table 8

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

Effective date: 6/1/2016				Fuel			Percent
	Origin		Tariff	surcharge	Tariff plus surcharge per:		change[4]
Commodity	state	Destination region	rate/car[1]	per car[2]	metric ton[3]	bushel[3]	Y/Y
Wheat	MT	Chihuahua, CI	$7,459	$0	$76.21	$2.07	-3
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	$6,514	$0	$66.55	$1.81	-5
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	$6,995	$70	$72.19	$1.96	-4
	TX	Salinas Victoria, NL	$4,142	$0	$42.32	$1.15	-1
Corn	IA	Guadalajara, JA	$8,137	$49	$83.64	$2.12	-5
	SD	Celaya, GJ	$7,480	$0	$76.43	$1.94	-6
	NE	Queretaro, QA	$7,879	$0	$80.50	$2.04	0
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	$6,545	$0	$66.87	$1.70	6
	MO	Tlalnepantla, EM	$7,238	$0	$73.96	$1.88	0
	SD	Torreon, CU	$7,080	$0	$72.34	$1.84	-2
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	$8,652	$54	$88.95	$2.42	1
	NE	Guadalajara, JA	$9,142	$52	$93.93	$2.55	0
	IA	El Castillo, JA	$9,470	$0	$96.76	$2.63	0
	KS	Torreon, CU	$7,439	$30	$76.31	$2.07	1
Sorghum	NE	Celaya, GJ	$7,344	$41	$75.45	$1.91	-3
	KS	Queretaro, QA	$7,563	$0	$77.27	$1.96	2
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	$6,168	$0	$63.02	$1.60	2
	NE	Torreon, CU	$6,672	$25	$68.42	$1.74	-2

[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]Fuel surcharge adjusted to reflect the change in Ferrocarril Mexicano, S.A. de C.V railroad fuel surcharge policy as of 10/01/2009

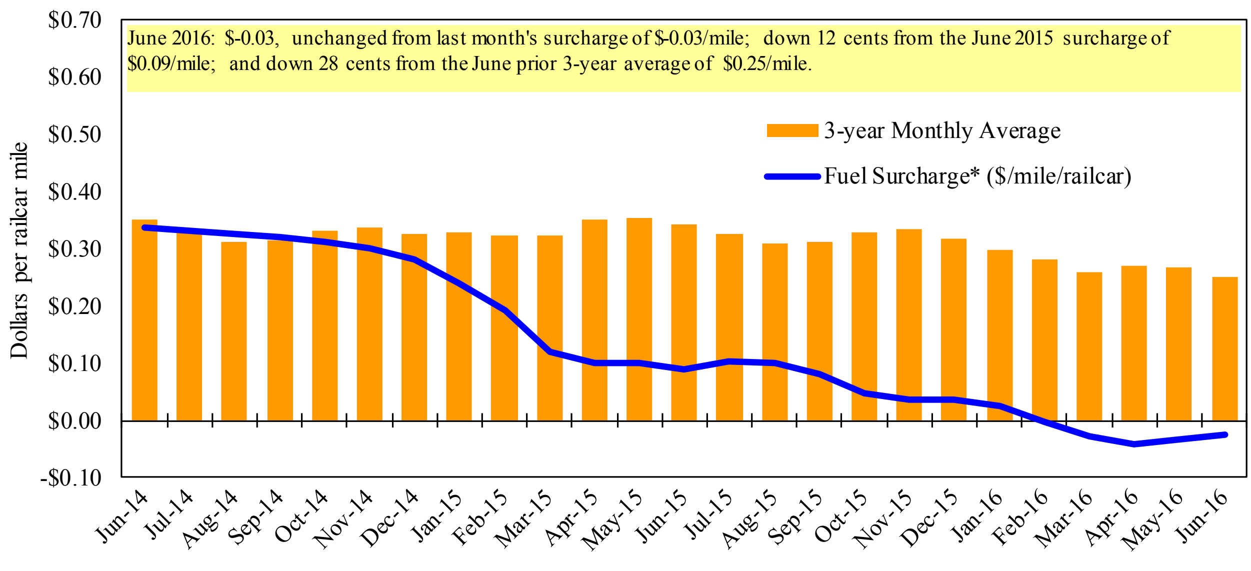
[3]Approximate load per car = 97.87 metric tons: Corn & Sorghum 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

[4]Percentage change 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]

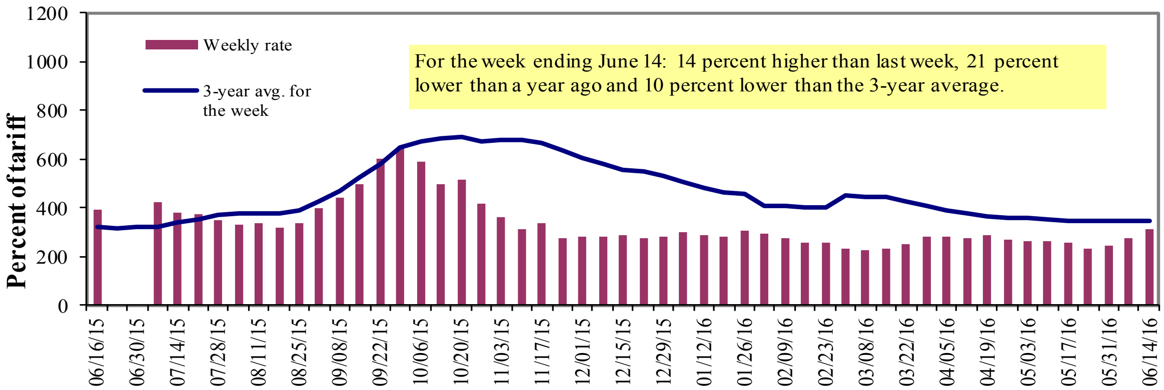


[1] Weighted by each Class I railroad's proportion of grain traffic for the prior year.
* Beginning January 2009, the Canadian Pacific fuel surcharge is computed by a monthly average of the bi-weekly fuel surcharge.
**CSX strike price changed from $2.00/gal. to $3.75/gal. starting January 1, 2015.
Sources: 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	Lower Illinois River	St. Louis	Cincinnati	Lower Ohio	Cairo-Memphis
Rate[1]	6/14/2016	370	323	313	215	195	195	193
	6/7/2016	353	290	273	180	172	172	177
$/ton	6/14/2016	22.90	17.18	14.52	8.58	9.15	7.88	6.06
	6/7/2016	21.85	15.43	12.67	7.18	8.07	6.95	5.56
Current week % change from the same week:								
	Last year	-18	-25	-21	-33	-38	-38	-26
	3-year avg. [2]	-10	-8	-10	-12	-14	-14	-7
Rate[1]	July	395	350	348	257	255	255	250
	September	538	530	530	475	538	538	468

[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

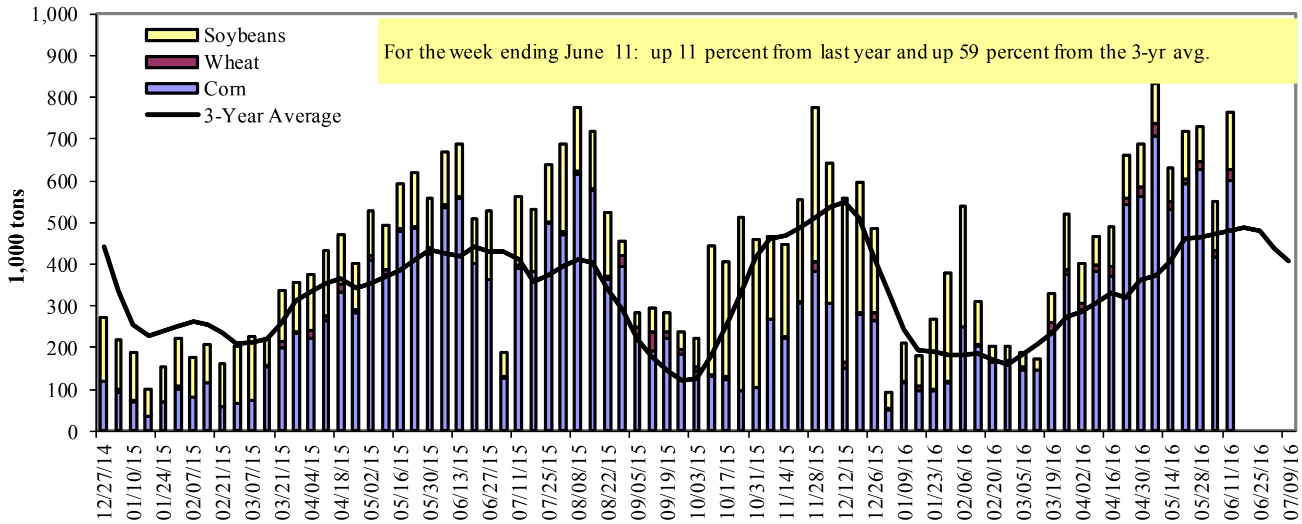
Figure 9
Benchmark tariff rates

Calculating barge rate per ton:
(Rate * 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.

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

Table 10

Barge Grain Movements (1,000 tons)

For the week ending 6/11/2016	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Other	Total
Mississippi River					
Rock Island, IL (L15)	356	13	99	0	468
Winfield, MO (L25)	463	17	107	13	600
Alton, IL (L26)	546	21	121	14	702
Granite City, IL (L27)	602	25	136	13	777
Illinois River (L8)	116	6	32	0	153
Ohio River (L52)	37	0	28	4	69
Arkansas River (L1)	0	32	25	0	57
Weekly total - 2016	640	57	190	16	903
Weekly total - 2015	680	13	165	12	871
2016 YTD[1]	10,288	817	4,589	141	15,835
2015 YTD	9,339	598	4,883	107	14,927
2016 as % of 2015 YTD	110	137	94	132	106
Last 4 weeks as % of 2015[2]	96	315	96	225	100
Total 2015	19,215	1,686	14,191	359	35,451

[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.

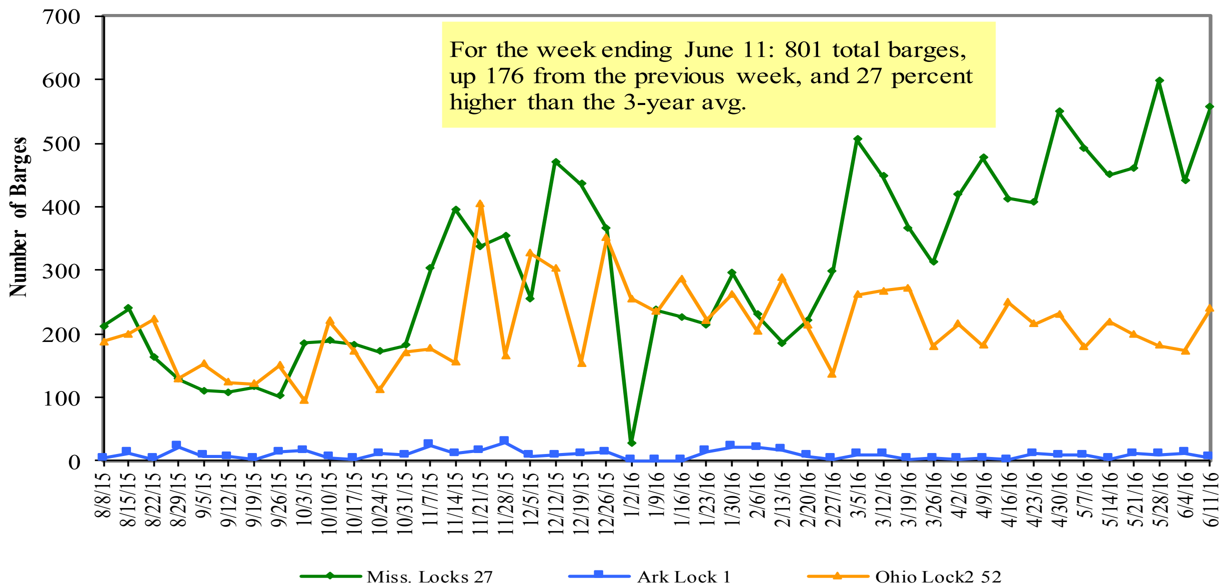
[2] As a percent of same period in 2015.

Note: Total may not add exactly, due to rounding

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Figure 11

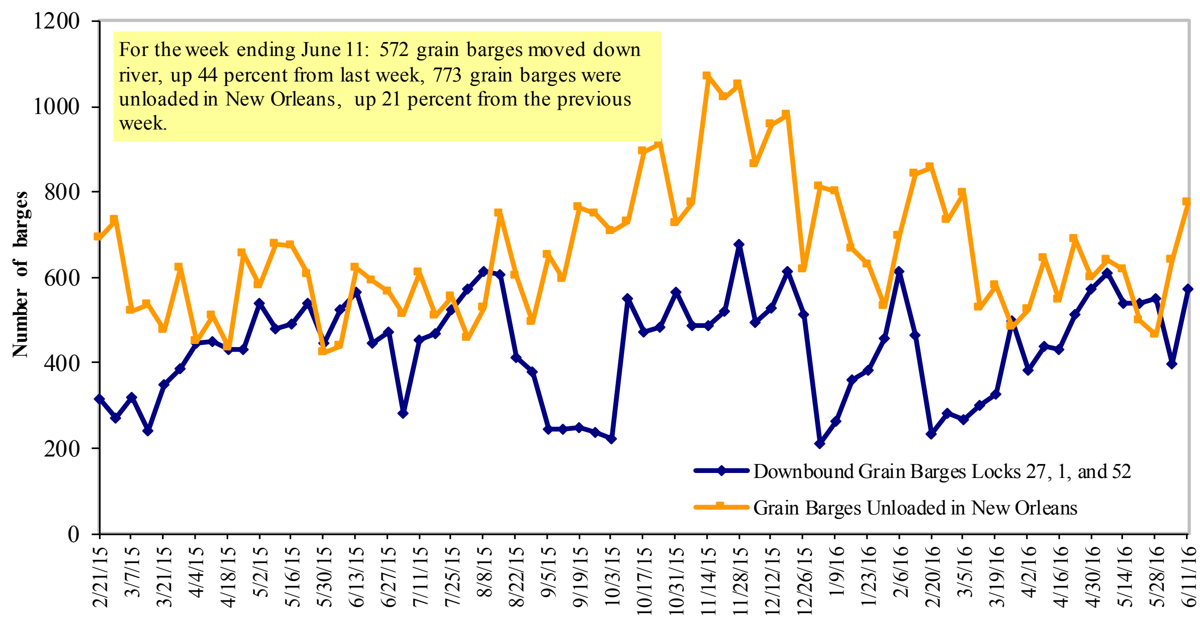
Upbound Empty Barges Transiting Mississippi River Locks 27, Arkansas River Lock and Dam 1, and Ohio River Locks and Dam 52



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 06/13/2016 (US $/gallon)

			Change from	
Region	**Location**	**Price**	**Week ago**	**Year ago**
I	East Coast	2.449	0.013	-0.519
	New England	2.492	0.021	-0.581
	Central Atlantic	2.537	0.015	-0.580
	Lower Atlantic	2.372	0.009	-0.462
II	Midwest[2]	2.390	0.029	-0.364
III	Gulf Coast[3]	2.307	0.029	-0.470
IV	Rocky Mountain	2.413	0.023	-0.395
V	West Coast	2.711	0.030	-0.390
	West Coast less California	2.610	0.010	-0.391
	California	2.791	0.045	-0.391
Total	U.S.	2.431	0.024	-0.439

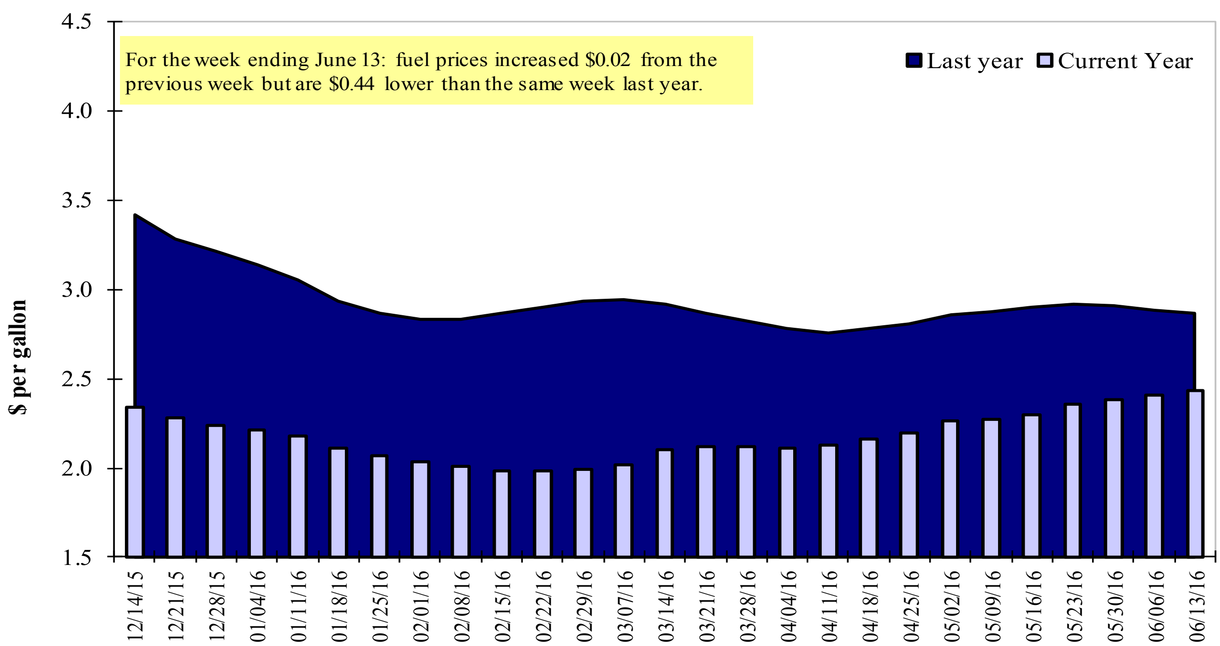
[1]Diesel fuel prices include all taxes. Prices represent an average of all types of diesel fuel.

[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

Grain Exports

Table 12

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

	Wheat						Corn	Soybeans	Total
For the week ending	HRW	SRW	HRS	SWW	DUR	All wheat			
Export Balances[1]									
6/2/2016	1,777	623	2,032	1,068	144	5,644	14,676	5,326	25,646
This week year ago	1,365	953	1,300	845	176	4,639	10,936	3,399	18,975
Cumulative exports-marketing year[2]									
2015/16 YTD	89	17	14	0	0	121	30,016	43,128	73,265
2014/15 YTD	50	10	7	21	4	92	33,020	46,838	79,950
YTD 2015/16 as % of 2014/15	177	179	200	0	0	131	91	92	92
Last 4 wks as % of same period 2014/15	65	29	79	69	37	61	129	139	114
2014/15 Total	7,009	3,654	7,250	3,758	665	22,336	45,205	49,614	117,155
2013/14 Total	11,465	7,307	6,338	4,367	486	29,963	46,868	44,478	121,309

[1] Current unshipped (outstanding) export sales to date

[2] Shipped export sales to date; new marketing year now in effect for wheat

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

For the week ending 6/2/2016	**Commitments**[2]			**% change**	**Exports**[3]
	2016/17	**2015/16**	**2014/15**	**current MY**	**3-year avg**
	Next MY	**Current MY**	**Last MY**	**from last MY**	**2012-2014**
		- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
Japan	351	9,577	10,450	(8)	9,244
Mexico	1,638	12,053	10,185	18	7,448
Korea	0	2,136	3,163	(32)	2,630
Colombia	46	4,334	3,946	10	1,727
Taiwan	84	1,812	1,897	(4)	1,224
Top 5 Importers	**2,118**	**29,913**	**29,641**	**1**	**22,273**
Total US corn export sales	**3,778**	**44,692**	**43,956**	**2**	**34,445**
% of Projected	8%	96%	93%		
Change from prior week	**120**	**1,559**	**496**		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. corn export sales	56%	67%	67%		65%
USDA forecast, June 2016	**48,346**	**46,438**	**47,430**	**(2)**	
Corn Use for Ethanol USDA forecast, June 2016	**134,620**	**133,350**	**132,080**	**1**	

(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, or Export Sales Query--http://www.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/

[3]FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports - http://apps.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/myrkaug.htm; 3-yr average

Table 14

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

For the week ending 6/2/2016	Total Commitments[2] 2016/17 Next MY	2015/16 Current MY	2014/15 Last MY	% change current MY from last MY	Exports[3] 3-yr avg. 2012-2014
		- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
China	1,838	27,393	30,094	(9)	24,211
Mexico	601	3,250	3,254	(0)	2,971
Indonesia	17	1,699	1,630	4	1,895
Japan	118	2,102	1,909	10	1,750
Taiwan	67	1,182	1,241	(5)	1,055
Top 5 importers	**2,642**	**35,625**	**38,127**	**(7)**	**31,882**
Total US soybean export sales	**4,785**	**48,454**	**50,237**	**(4)**	**39,169**
% of Projected	9%	101%	100%		
Change from prior week	476	759	164		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. soybean export sales	55%	74%	76%		**81%**
USDA forecast, June 2016	**51,771**	**47,956**	**50,218**	**(5)**	

(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, or Export Sales Query--http://www.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/

[3] FAS Marketing Year Final Reports - www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/myfi_rpt.htm. (Carryover plus Accumulated Exports)

Table 15

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

For the week ending 6/2/2016	Total Commitments[2] 2016/17 Current MY	2015/16 Last MY	% change current MY from last MY	Exports[3] 3-yr avg 2013-2015
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
Japan	307	87	251	2,743
Mexico	571	360	59	2,660
Nigeria	257	560	(54)	1,978
Philippines	550	344	60	2,156
Brazil	110	117	(6)	2,273
Korea	260	376	(31)	1,156
Taiwan	128	188	(32)	923
Indonesia	25	46	(45)	790
Colombia	63	101	(38)	664
Thailand	112	679		685
Top 10 importers	**2,270**	**2,179**	4	**16,028**
Total US wheat export sales	**5,765**	**4,732**	**22**	**24,059**
% of Projected	24%	22%		
Change from prior week[1]	**224**	**944**		
Top 10 importers' share of U.S. wheat export sales	39%	46%		67%
USDA forecast, June 2016	**24,523**	**21,117**	**16**	

(n) indicates negative number.

[1] Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports - www.fas.usda.gov; Marketing year = Jun 1 - May 31; change from prior week for 2016/17 includes carryover from the previous marketing year

[2] Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report, or Export Sales Query--http://www.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/

[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	For the Week Ending 06/09/16	Previous Week*	Current Week as % of Previous	2016 YTD*	2015 YTD*	2016 YTD as % of 2015 YTD	Last 4-weeks as % of: Last Year	Prior 3-yr. avg.	2015 Total*
Pacific Northwest									
Wheat	251	163	154	5,289	5,125	103	115	120	10,985
Corn	328	262	125	4,122	4,253	97	178	188	7,232
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	4,425	4,054	109	0	0	11,809
Total	**579**	**426**	**136**	**13,835**	**13,433**	**103**	**139**	**146**	**30,027**
Mississippi Gulf									
Wheat	60	82	73	1,596	1,850	86	66	54	4,504
Corn	1,098	646	170	13,514	13,686	99	107	138	26,701
Soybeans	69	61	114	9,420	10,343	91	49	78	29,593
Total	**1,226**	**788**	**156**	**24,531**	**25,879**	**95**	**93**	**117**	**60,797**
Texas Gulf									
Wheat	56	116	48	1,330	1,868	71	109	60	3,724
Corn	29	0	n/a	406	269	151	157	127	596
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	92	210	44	n/a	n/a	864
Total	**84**	**116**	**73**	**1,827**	**2,347**	**78**	**117**	**67**	**5,184**
Interior									
Wheat	16	40	39	566	596	95	100	106	1,388
Corn	170	139	122	3,075	2,736	112	129	165	6,201
Soybeans	70	38	184	1,716	1,595	108	112	126	3,518
Total	**256**	**217**	**118**	**5,357**	**4,927**	**109**	**122**	**147**	**11,106**
Great Lakes									
Wheat	0	11	0	172	201	86	160	62	997
Corn	41	0	n/a	105	110	96	814	848	485
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	23	66	35	n/a	0	733
Total	**41**	**11**	**383**	**300**	**376**	**80**	**306**	**123**	**2,216**
Atlantic									
Wheat	0	0	n/a	182	251	72	21	2	520
Corn	0	0	n/a	14	63	22	0	0	277
Soybeans	5	5	103	866	923	94	156	163	2,053
Total	**6**	**5**	**110**	**1,062**	**1,236**	**86**	**88**	**24**	**2,850**
U.S. total from ports**									
Wheat	383	412	93	9,135	9,891	92	103	82	22,118
Corn	1,665	1,047	159	21,235	21,116	101	123	150	41,492
Soybeans	144	103	139	16,543	17,191	96	64	90	48,570
Total	**2,192**	**1,563**	**140**	**46,913**	**48,199**	**97**	**110**	**120**	**112,180**

* Data includes revisions from prior weeks; some regional totals may not add exactly due to rounding.

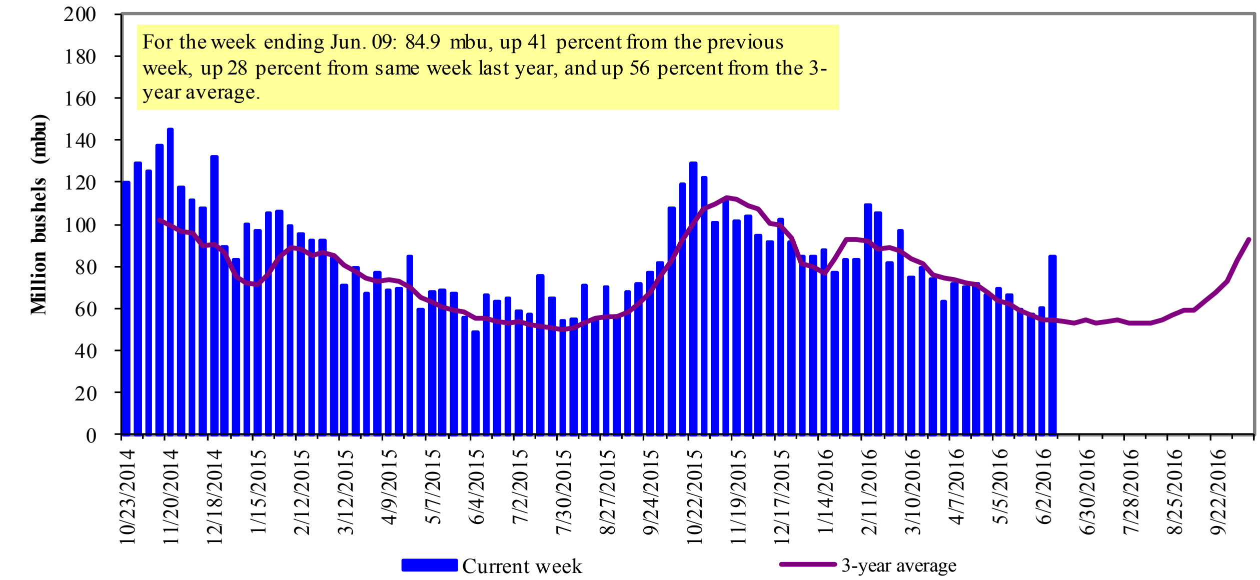
**Total only includes regions shown above

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 59 percent of the U.S. export grain shipments departed through the U.S. Gulf region in 2015.

Figure 14

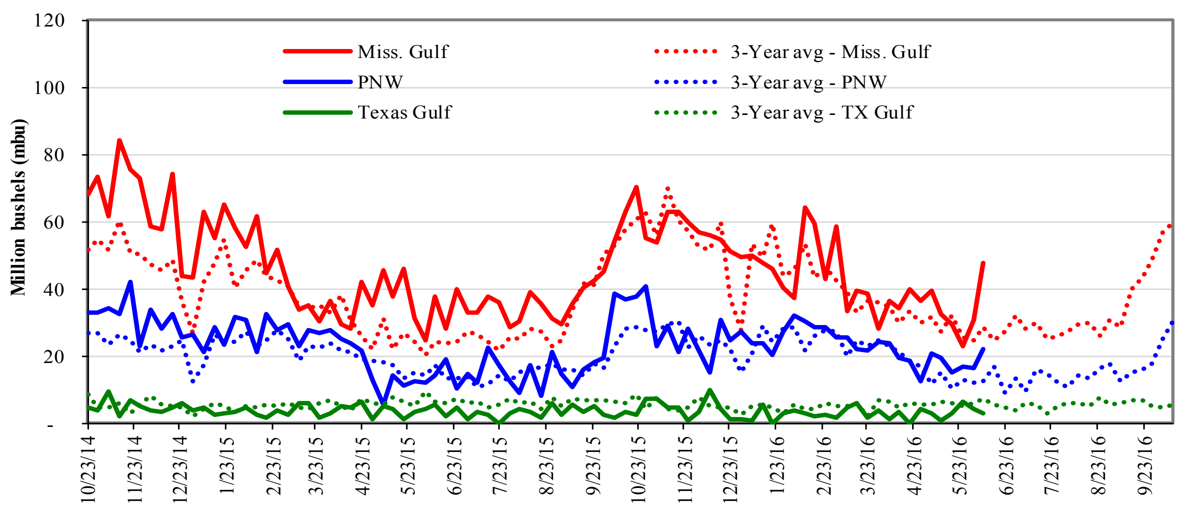
U.S. grain inspected for export (wheat, corn, and soybeans)



Source: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration/USDA (www.gipsa.usda.gov)
Note: 3-year average consists of 4-week running average

Figure 15

U.S. Grain Inspections: U.S. Gulf and PNW[1] (wheat, corn, and soybeans)



Week ending 06/09/16 inspections (mbu):		Percent change from:	MS Gulf	TX Gulf	U.S. Gulf	PNW
Mississippi Gulf:	47.9	Last Week:	up 56	down 25	up 46	up 36
PNW:	22.1	Last Year (same week):	up 26	down 44	up 17	up 55
Texas Gulf:	3.2	3-yr avg. (4-wk. mov. Avg):	up 73	down 49	up 51	up 85

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

Ocean Transportation

Table 17

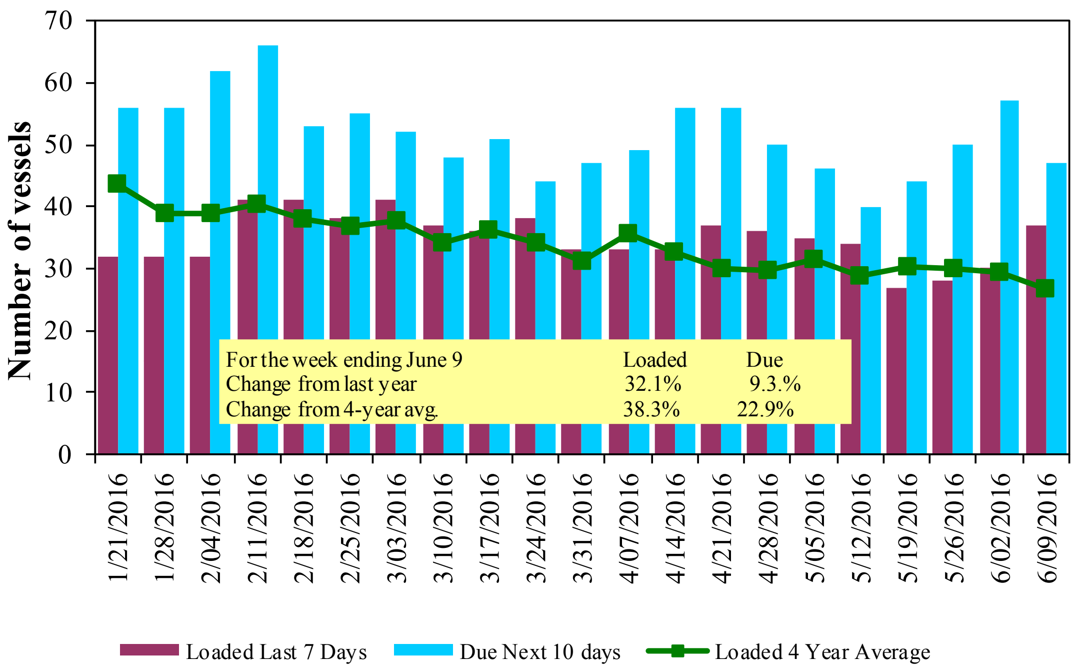
Weekly Port Region Grain Ocean Vessel Activity (number of vessels)

	Gulf			Pacific Northwest	Vancouver B.C.
Date	In port	Loaded 7-days	Due next 10-days	In port	In port
6/9/2016	26	37	47	12	n/a
6/2/2016	34	30	57	10	n/a
2015 range	(25..54)	(28..54)	(36..80)	(3..26)	n/a
2015 avg.	42	38	56	11	n/a

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 16

U.S. Gulf[1] Vessel Loading Activity

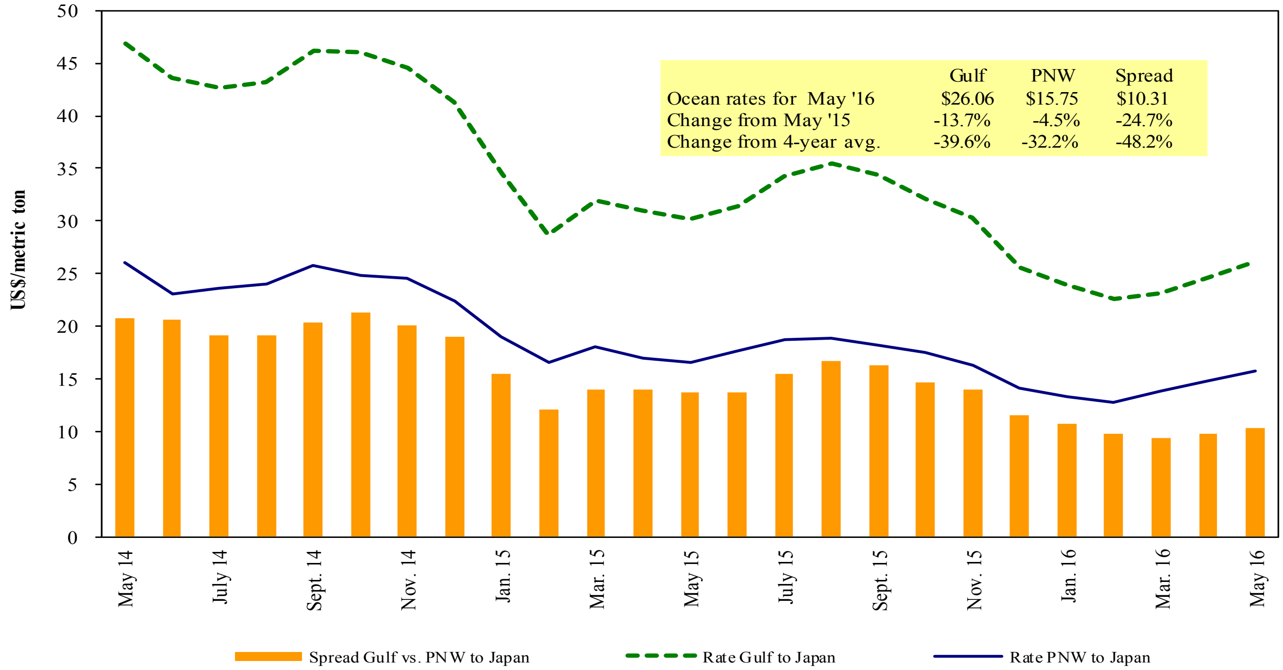


Source:Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

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

Figure 17

Grain Vessel Rates, U.S. to Japan



Data Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

Table 18

Ocean Freight Rates For Selected Shipments, Week Ending 06/11/2016

Export region	Import region	Grain types	Loading date	Volume loads (metric tons)	Freight rate (US$/metric ton)
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Jun 7/17	66,000	17.50
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	May 20/30	60,000	18.25
U.S. Gulf	Tanzania	Wheat[1]	June 20/29	13,000	35.67
U.S. Gulf	Djibouti or Pt Sudan	Wheat[1]	Jul 1/10	51,000	47.25 op 46.00
PNW	Japan	Heavy Grain	Jun 20/Jul 1	60,000	15.90
PNW	Japan	Heavy Grain	Jun 20/Jul 1	60,000	15.00
PNW	Japan	Heavy Grain	May 17/26	59,800	15.45
Albany	Me Gulf	Grain	Jun 17/25	53,000	13.85
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Jun 28/Jul 4	60,000	18.00
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	May 20/30	60,000	18.25
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	May 1/20	60,000	15.50
EC S America	China	Heavy Grain	May/June	60,000	14.75
River Plate	China	Heavy Grain	Jun 23/30	60,000	22.60
Ukraine	Spain	Heavy Grain	May 22/26	60,000	10.50

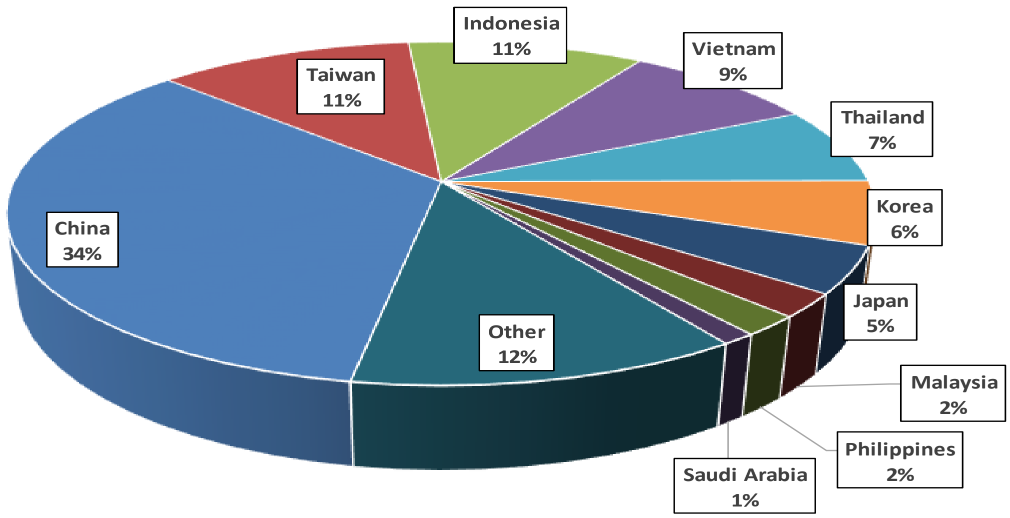
Rates shown are for metric ton (2,204.62 lbs. = 1 metric ton), F.O.B., except where otherwise indicates; op = option

[1]50 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)

In 2014, containers were used to transport 7 percent of total U.S. waterborne grain exports. Approximately 63 percent of U.S. waterborne grain exports in 2014 went to Asia, of which 11 percent were moved in containers. Approximately 95 percent of U.S. waterborne containerized grain exports were destined for Asia.

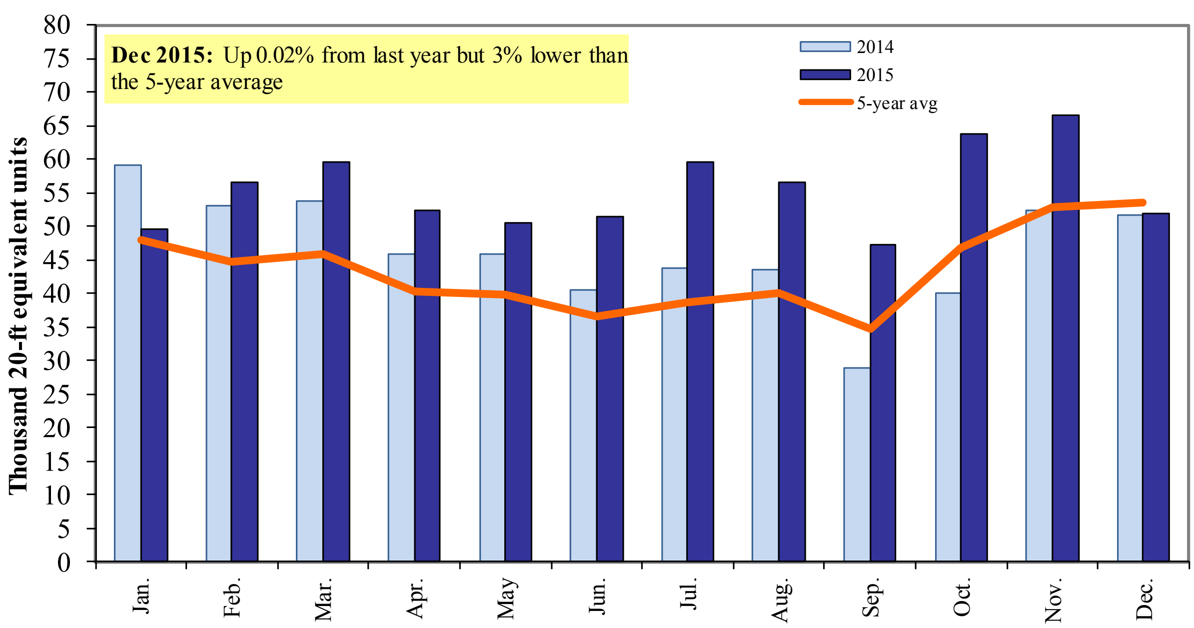
Figure 18
Top 10 Destination Markets for U.S. Containerized Grain Exports, January-December 2015



Source: USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service/Transportation Services Division analysis of Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS) data

Note: The following Harmonized Tariff Codes are used to calculate containerized grains movements: 100190, 100200, 100300, 100400, 100590, 100700, 110100, 230310, 110220, 110290, 120100, 230210, 230990, 230330, and 120810.

Figure 19
Monthly Shipments of Containerized Grain to Asia



Source: USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service/Transportation Services Division analysis of Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS) data.

Note: The following Harmonized Tariff Codes are used to calculate containerized grains movements: 100190, 100200, 100300, 100400, 100590, 100700, 110100, 230310, 110220, 110290, 120100, 230210, 230990, 230330, and 120810.

Contacts and Links

Coordinators

Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0119
Pierre Bahizi	pierre.bahizi@ams.usda.gov	(202) 690 - 0992

Weekly Highlight Editors

Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0119
April Taylor	april.taylor@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 7880
Nicholas Marathon	nick.marathon@ams.usda.gov	(202) 690 - 4430

Grain Transportation Indicators

Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0119

Rail Transportation

Johnny Hill	johnny.hill@ams.usda.gov	(202) 690 - 3295
Jesse Gastelle	jesse.gastelle@ams.usda.gov	(202) 690 - 1144
Peter Caffarelli	petera.caffarelli@ams.usda.gov	(202) 690 - 3244

Barge Transportation

Nicholas Marathon	nick.marathon@ams.usda.gov	(202) 690 - 4430
April Taylor	april.taylor@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 7880
Matt Chang	matt.chang@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0299

Truck Transportation

April Taylor	april.taylor@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 7880

Grain Exports

Johnny Hill	johnny.hill@ams.usda.gov	(202) 690 - 3295

Ocean Transportation

Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo (Freight rates and vessels)	surajudeen.olowolayemo@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0119
April Taylor (Container movements)	april.taylor@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 7880

Contributing Analysts

Sergio Sotelo	sergioa.sotelo@ams.usda.gov	(202) 756 - 2577

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

Preferred citation: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. *Grain Transportation Report.* June 16, 2016. Web: **http://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS056.06-16-2016**