USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Grain Transportation Report

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

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February 2, 2017

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Grain Inspections Highest Since Late December

For the week ending January 26, **total inspections of grain** (corn, wheat, and soybeans) for export from major U.S. export regions reached 3 million metric tons (mmt), up 18 percent from the previous week, up 37 percent from last year, and 27 percent above the 3-year average. Grain inspections were also the highest since late December of last year. Soybean inspections jumped 27 percent from the past week, and wheat and corn inspections increased 11 and 8 percent, respectively. Mississippi Gulf inspections increased 12 percent from week to week, and Pacific Northwest (PNW) inspections increased 22 percent for the same period. Outstanding export sales (unshipped) are up for corn and wheat, but down for soybeans.

January Could Signal Strong Grain Vessel Loading Activity in 2017

Based on the activity in January and barring any unforeseen circumstances, grain vessel loading activity is likely to remain strong in 2017. During this January, an average of 58 **ocean-going grain vessels** per week were either loading or waiting to be loaded in the U.S. Gulf. This compares to 48 vessels per week during the previous month and 51 vessels during the same month a year ago. Also in January, 77 vessels are expected to be loaded within the next 10 days, compared to 75 in December and 61 vessels a year earlier. Similarly, 28 vessels were at berth in the PNW during January, compared to 25 in December and 16 vessels during the same period last year. Meanwhile, ocean rates for shipping grain from both the U.S. Gulf and PNW to Japan decreased in January compared to December.

Study Examines Potential Funding Possibilities for Inland Waterways

In a study sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School, has recently reported three premises to modernize and expand federally sponsored water resources. Experts, stakeholders, and infrastructure-users analyzed: 1) the need for innovative finance and delivery approaches; 2) the potential role of alternative finance and delivery modalities; and 3) strategies and solutions to potentially overcome existing constraints in finance and delivery methods. "Tapping Private Financing and Delivery to Modernize America's Federal Water Resources" reports the suggested findings to deliver and maintain the inland waterway system in a timelier and more cost-effective manner.

Snapshots by Sector

Export Sales

During the week ending January 19, **unshipped balances** of wheat, corn, and soybeans totaled 39.4 mmt, up 55 percent from the same time last year. Net weekly **wheat export sales** were .853 mmt, up 251 percent from the previous week. Net **corn export sales** were 1.37 mmt, unchanged from the previous week, and net **soybean export sales** were .539 mmt, down 45 percent from the past week.

Rail

U.S. Class I railroads originated 24,485 **grain carloads** for the week ending January 21, unchanged from the previous week, up 16 percent from last year, and up 12 percent from the 3-year average.

Average February shuttle **secondary railcar bids/offers** per car were $1,075 above tariff for the week ending January 26, up $242 from last week, and $1,038 higher than last year. There were no non-shuttle secondary railcar bids/offers this week.

Barge

For the week ending January 28, **barge grain movements** totaled 719,016 tons, 2 percent lower than the last week, and down 4 percent from the same period last year.

For the week ending January 28, 443 grain barges **moved down river**, down 4 percent from last week, 1,008 grain barges were **unloaded in New Orleans**, up 17 percent from the previous week.

Ocean

For the week ending January 26, 45 **ocean-going grain vessels** were loaded in the Gulf, 41 percent more than the same period last year. Sixty-seven vessels are expected to be loaded within the next 10 days, 20 percent more than the same period last year.

For the week ending January 26, the ocean freight rate for shipping bulk grain from the Gulf to Japan was $35.50 per metric ton, 1 percent higher than the previous week. The cost of shipping from the PNW to Japan was $18 per metric ton, unchanged from the previous week.

Fuel

During the week ending January 30, U.S. average **diesel fuel prices** were down 1 cent from the previous week at $2.56 per gallon, 53 cents higher than the same week last year.

Preferred citation: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. *Grain Transportation Report.* February 2, 2017.
Web: **http://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS056.02-02-2017**

Feature Article/Calendar

Feb 7-8, 2017	Iowa Soybean Association Research Conference	Des Moines, IA	http://www.isafarmnet.com/
Feb 8, 2017	AgTC/USDA Ag Shipper Workshop	Fresno, CA	http://www.agtrans.org
Feb 9, 2017	AgTC/USDA Ag Shipper Workshop	Sacramento, CA	http://www.agtrans.org
Feb 10, 2017	AgTC/USDA Ag Shipper Workshop	Boise, ID	http://www.agtrans.org
Feb 25-26, 2017	USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum	Arlington, VA	https://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/
Feb 25 -28, 2017	Grain and Feed Association of Illinois Annual Convention	St. Louis, MO	https://www.ngfa.org/
Feb 25 -28, 2017	GEAPS Exchange Expo 2017	Kansas City, MO	http://s23.a2zinc.net/clients/GEAPS/GEAPS17/
Feb 26-March 1, 2017	17th TPM Annual Conference	Long Beach, CA	http://events.joc.com/tpm-2017
Feb 28, 2017	Prairie Grain Development (PGDC) Committee, Annual Meeting 2017	Winnipeg, MB, Canada	http://www.pgdc.ca/
March 2-4, 2017	Minnesota Grain & Feed Association Convention & Industry Trade Show	Minneapolis, MN	651-454-8212
March 6-10, 2017	AFIA Spring Committee Meetings	Orlando, FL	703-524-0810
March 6-8, 2017	National Waterways Conference 2017 Legislative Summit	Washington, DC	https://waterways.org/2017-legislative-summit/
Mar 19 -20, 2017	National Grain and Feed Association Convention	New Orleans, LA	https://www.ngfa.org/
Mar 20-22, 2017	Waterways Council Washington Meeting	Washington, DC	http://waterwayscouncil.org/
May 27, 2017	International Grain Summit 2017	Milan, Italy	http://www.internationalgrainsummit.net/en/international-grain-summit-2017
March 19-21, 2017	NGFA Convention Sheraton New Orleans	New Orleans, LA	https://www.ngfa.org/event/2017-ngfa-annual-convention/
April 5-7, 2017	GEAPS/IAOM Annual Conference	Great Lakes Pokagon State Park, Angola, IN	http://www.iaom.info/annualmeeting/
April 10-14, 2017	Intl. Assn. of Operative Millers (IAOM) Conference and Expo, New Orleans Marriott	New Orleans, LA	http://www.iaom.info/annualmeeting/
April 26-28, 2017	Texas Grain & Feed Association Annual Meeting & Expo	Galveston TX	http://www.tgfa.com/
June 14-16, 2017	Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Assn. 100th Annual Convention	Spokane, WA	http://www.pnwgfa.org/events
June 22-25, 2017	Georgia Feed & Grain Association Annual meeting	Amelia Island, FL	503-227-0234

Grain Transportation Indicators

Table 1

Grain Transport Cost Indicators[1]

For the week ending	Truck	Rail: Unit Train	Rail: Shuttle	Barge	Ocean: Gulf	Ocean: Pacific
02/01/17	172	262	255	171	159	128
01/25/17	172	263	244	208	158	128

[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	1/27/2017	1/20/2017
Corn	IL--Gulf	-0.62	-0.64
Corn	NE--Gulf	-0.88	-0.93
Soybean	IA--Gulf	-1.23	-1.24
HRW	KS--Gulf	-1.85	-1.94
HRS	ND--Portland	-2.85	-2.54

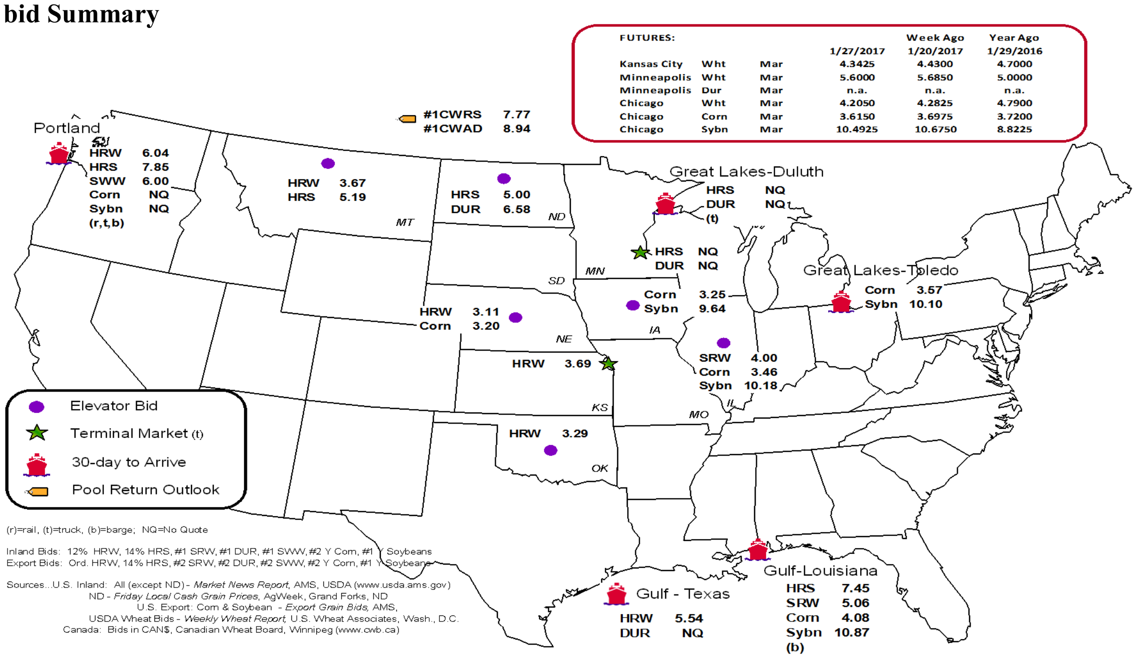
Note: nq = no quote; n/a = not available

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]
01/25/2017[p]	872	1,571	6,140	973	9,556	1/21/2017	1,640
01/18/2017[r]	790	2,011	5,208	928	8,937	1/14/2017	2,559
2017 YTD[r]	3,301	7,132	22,542	3,416	36,391	2017 YTD	5,327
2016 YTD[r]	1,976	5,463	21,789	2,871	32,099	2016 YTD	4,692
2017 YTD as % of 2016 YTD	167	131	103	119	113	% change YTD	114
Last 4 weeks as % of 2016[2]	167	131	103	119	113	Last 4wks % 2016	121
Last 4 weeks as % of 4-year avg.[2]	85	154	107	102	110	Last 4wks % 4 yr	135
Total 2016	36,925	86,992	299,932	28,728	452,577	Total 2016	92,982
Total 2015	29,054	60,819	239,029	26,730	355,632	Total 2015	97,736

[1] Data is incomplete as it is voluntarily provided

[2] Compared with same 4-weeks in 2016 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.

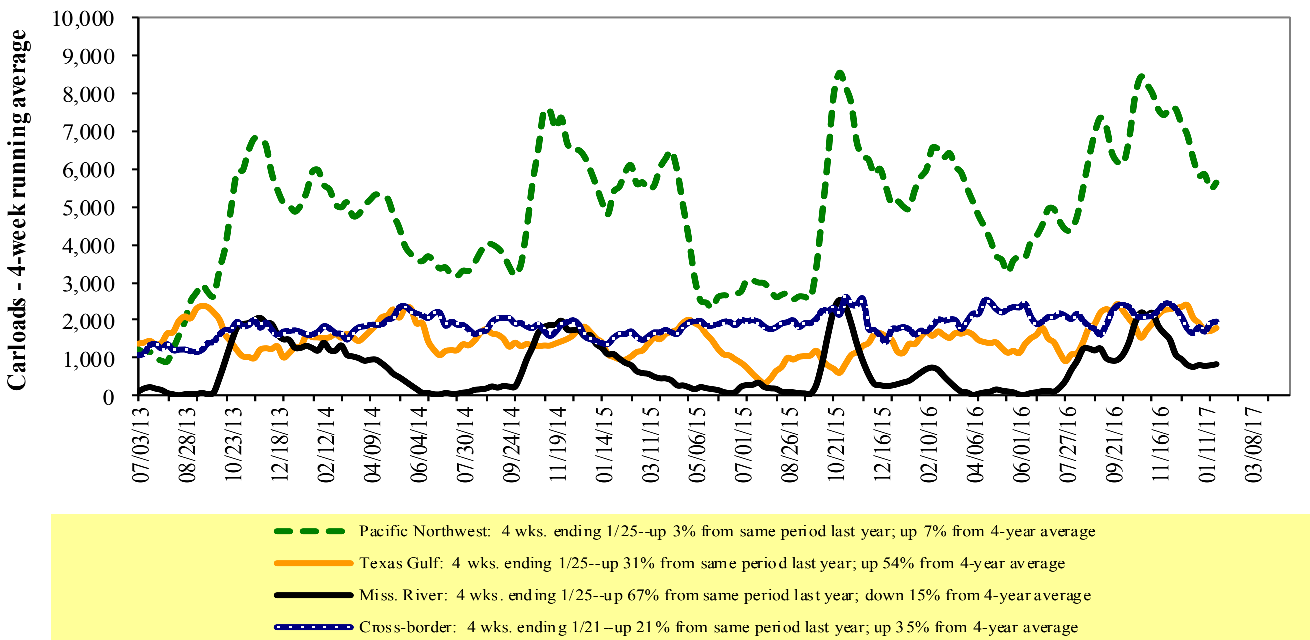
YTD = year-to-date; p = preliminary data; r = revised data; n/a = not available

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	
1/21/2017	CSXT	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP		CN	CP
This week	2,125	3,310	11,467	1,614	5,969	24,485	4,004	3,495
This week last year	1,972	2,269	10,947	751	5,109	21,048	4,127	4,500
2017 YTD	6,092	9,371	34,221	3,135	17,559	70,378	10,666	11,475
2016 YTD	6,309	8,105	33,335	2,744	15,243	65,736	10,912	12,897
2017 YTD as % of 2016 YTD	97	116	103	114	115	107	98	89
Last 4 weeks as % of 2016*	94	110	105	116	113	107	101	94
Last 4 weeks as % of 3-yr avg.**	87	97	114	106	102	106	93	86
Total 2016	95,179	151,006	590,779	45,246	300,836	1,183,046	194,024	234,738

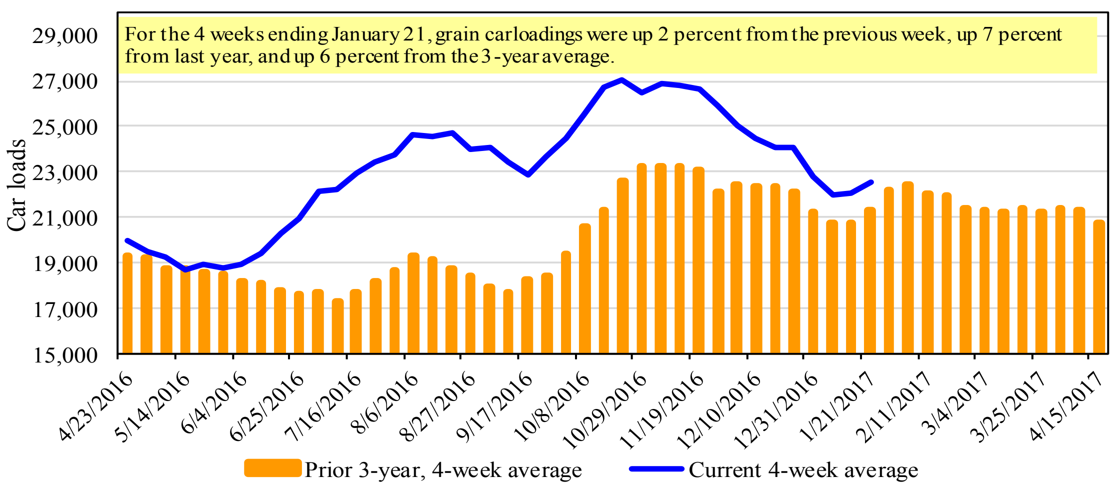
*The past 4 weeks of this year as a percent of the same 4 weeks last year.

**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: 1/26/2017		Feb-17	Feb-16	Mar-17	Mar-16	Apr-17	Apr-16	May-17	May-16
		Delivery period							
BNSF[3]	COT grain units	256	no bids	100	no bids	3	no bids	1	no bids
	COT grain single-car[5]	443	0	270	0	52	0	28	0-1
UP[4]	GCAS/Region 1	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	n/a	n/a
	GCAS/Region 2	76	no bids	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.

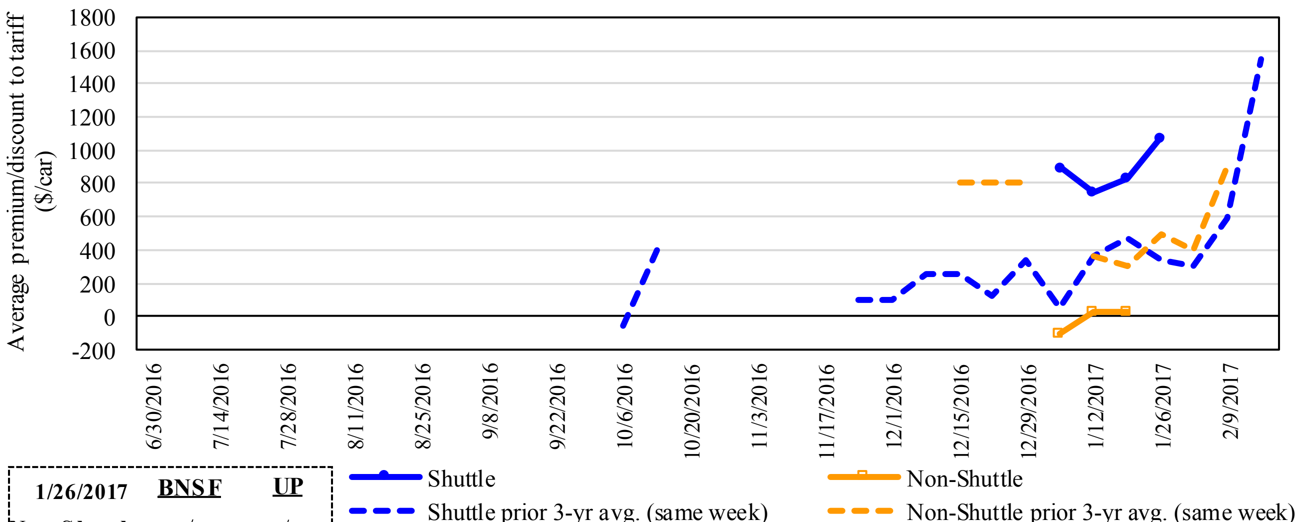
[5]Range is shown because average is not available. Not available = n/a.

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 February 2017, Secondary Market



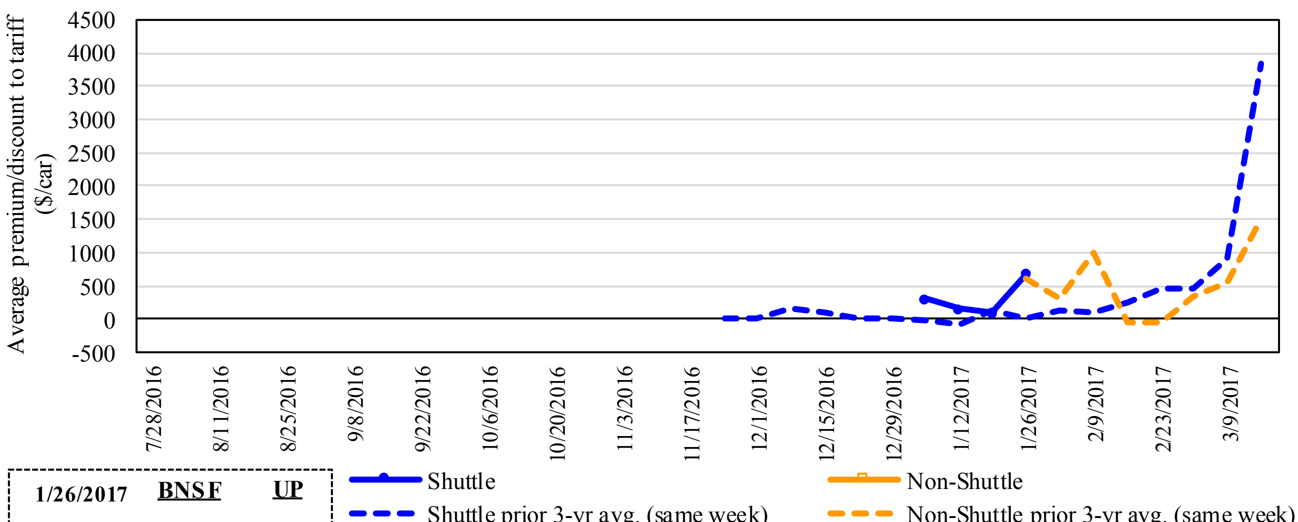
1/26/2017	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	$1,750	$400

There were no Non-Shuttle bids/offers this week.
Average Shuttle bids/offers rose $242 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 March 2017, Secondary Market



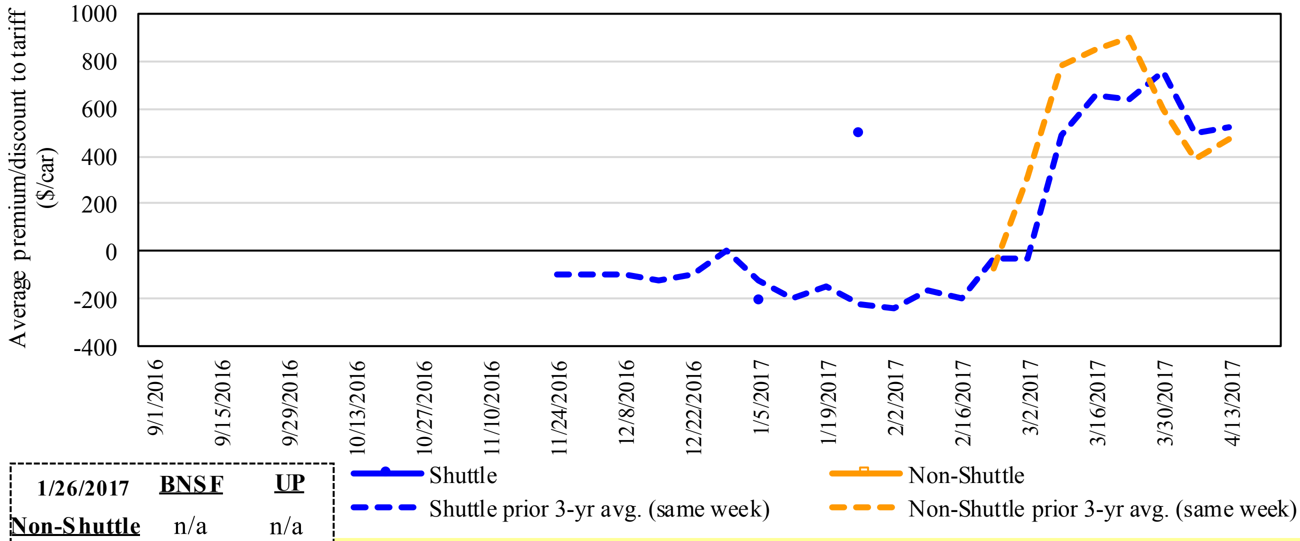
1/26/2017	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	$1,150	$200

There were no Non-Shuttle bids/offers this week.
Average Shuttle bids/offers rose $575 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 April 2017, Secondary Market



1/26/2017	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	$500	n/a

There were no Non-Shuttle bids/offers this week.
There were no Shuttle bids/offers last week. Average Non-Shuttle bids/offers this week 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: 1/26/2017	Delivery period: Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17
Non-shuttle	**BNSF-GF**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	UP-Pool	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	**BNSF-GF**	**1750**	**1150**	**500**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	550	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2016	1675	1275	675	n/a	n/a	n/a
	UP-Pool	**400**	**200**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	(67)	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2016	400	325	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]

February, 2017	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							
Wheat	Wichita, KS	St. Louis, MO	$3,770	$46	$37.89	$1.03	5
	Grand Forks, ND	Duluth-Superior, MN	$4,143	$3	$41.17	$1.12	17
	Wichita, KS	Los Angeles, CA	$6,950	$15	$69.17	$1.88	1
	Wichita, KS	New Orleans, LA	$4,408	$80	$44.57	$1.21	5
	Sioux Falls, SD	Galveston-Houston, TX	$6,686	$13	$66.52	$1.81	4
	Northwest KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	$4,676	$88	$47.31	$1.29	4
	Amarillo, TX	Los Angeles, CA	$4,875	$122	$49.62	$1.35	5
Corn	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$3,681	$91	$37.45	$0.95	1
	Toledo, OH	Raleigh, NC	$6,061	$0	$60.19	$1.53	0
	Des Moines, IA	Davenport, IA	$2,258	$19	$22.61	$0.57	5
	Indianapolis, IN	Atlanta, GA	$5,191	$0	$51.55	$1.31	4
	Indianapolis, IN	Knoxville, TN	$4,311	$0	$42.81	$1.09	0
	Des Moines, IA	Little Rock, AR	$3,534	$56	$35.65	$0.91	3
	Des Moines, IA	Los Angeles, CA	$5,202	$164	$53.29	$1.35	4
Soybeans	Minneapolis, MN	New Orleans, LA	$3,639	$60	$36.73	$1.00	-8
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	$5,051	$0	$50.16	$1.37	0
	Indianapolis, IN	Raleigh, NC	$6,178	$0	$61.35	$1.67	0
	Indianapolis, IN	Huntsville, AL	$4,529	$0	$44.98	$1.22	0
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$4,495	$91	$45.54	$1.24	3
Shuttle Train							
Wheat	Great Falls, MT	Portland, OR	$3,953	$9	$39.34	$1.07	1
	Wichita, KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	$4,071	$7	$40.50	$1.10	5
	Chicago, IL	Albany, NY	$5,492	$0	$54.54	$1.48	0
	Grand Forks, ND	Portland, OR	$5,611	$15	$55.87	$1.52	1
	Grand Forks, ND	Galveston-Houston, TX	$5,931	$16	$59.05	$1.61	1
	Northwest KS	Portland, OR	$5,643	$144	$57.47	$1.56	4
Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$5,000	$19	$49.84	$1.27	2
	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	$4,960	$17	$49.42	$1.26	2
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$3,481	$91	$35.47	$0.90	1
	Lincoln, NE	Galveston-Houston, TX	$3,700	$10	$36.84	$0.94	4
	Des Moines, IA	Amarillo, TX	$3,895	$71	$39.38	$1.00	3
	Minneapolis, MN	Tacoma, WA	$5,000	$18	$49.83	$1.27	2
	Council Bluffs, IA	Stockton, CA	$4,740	$19	$47.26	$1.20	4
Soybeans	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	$5,600	$17	$55.78	$1.52	4
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$5,650	$19	$56.29	$1.53	4
	Fargo, ND	Tacoma, WA	$5,500	$15	$54.77	$1.49	4
	Council Bluffs, IA	New Orleans, LA	$4,525	$104	$45.97	$1.25	3
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	$4,226	$0	$41.97	$1.14	0
	Grand Island, NE	Portland, OR	$5,460	$147	$55.68	$1.52	3

[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

Date: February, 2017				**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	0
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	$6,638	$63	$68.47	$1.86	2
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	$7,180	$265	$76.07	$2.07	5
	TX	Salinas Victoria, NL	$4,258	$37	$43.89	$1.19	3
Corn	IA	Guadalajara, JA	$8,187	$215	$85.84	$2.18	-1
	SD	Celaya, GJ	$7,580	$0	$77.45	$1.97	-3
	NE	Queretaro, QA	$7,909	$125	$82.09	$2.08	1
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	$6,635	$0	$67.79	$1.72	1
	MO	Tlalnepantla, EM	$7,293	$122	$75.76	$1.92	2
	SD	Torreon, CU	$7,180	$0	$73.36	$1.86	-1
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	$8,647	$227	$90.67	$2.47	2
	NE	Guadalajara, JA	$8,942	$229	$93.70	$2.55	-1
	IA	El Castillo, JA	$8,960	$0	$91.55	$2.49	-5
	KS	Torreon, CU	$7,489	$152	$78.07	$2.12	2
Sorghum	NE	Celaya, GJ	$7,164	$191	$75.15	$1.91	-1
	KS	Queretaro, QA	$7,608	$78	$78.53	$1.99	1
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	$6,213	$63	$64.12	$1.63	1
	NE	Torreon, CU	$6,607	$138	$68.91	$1.75	0

[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

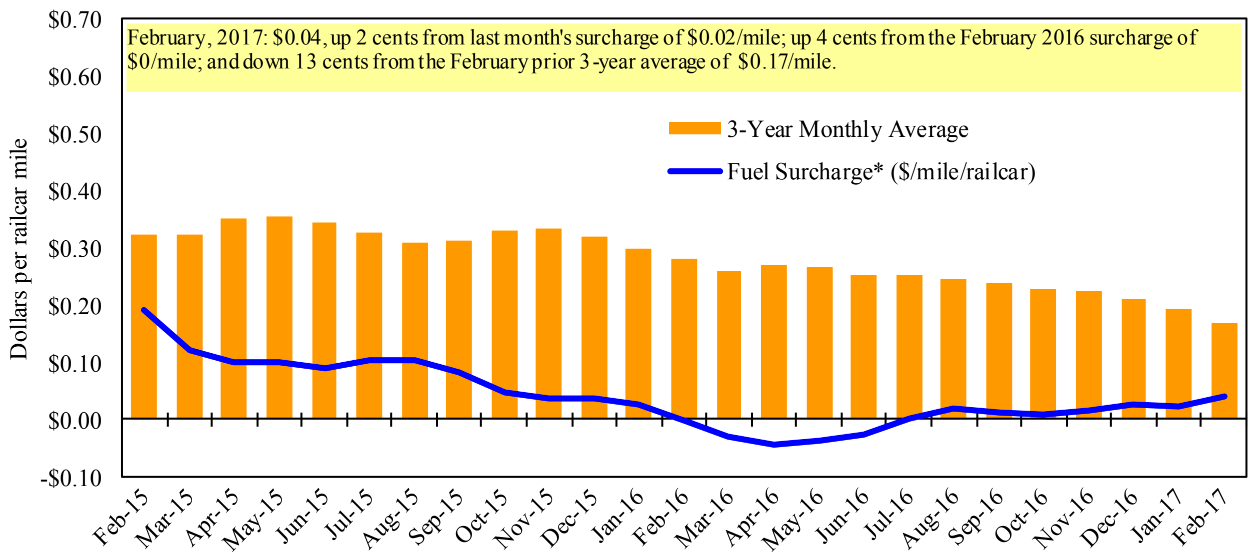
[3]Approximate load per car = 97.87 metric tons: Corn & Sorghum 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

[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.

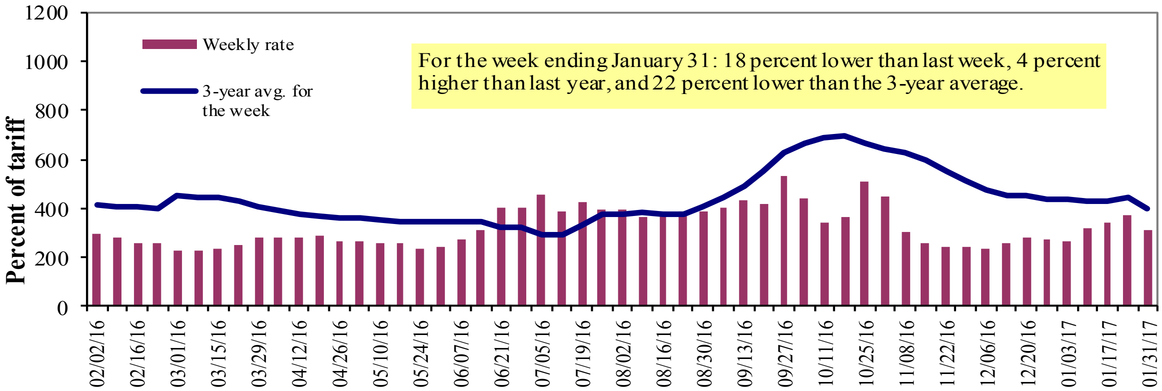
**CSX strike price changed from $2.00/gal. to $3.75/gal. starting January 1, 2015.

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

Weekly Barge Rates for Major Grain Shipping Points on the Mississippi, Ohio, and Arkansas Rivers

Table 9

Weekly Barge Freight Rates: Southbound Only

		Twin Cities	Mid-Mississippi	Lower Illinois River	St. Louis	Cincinnati	Lower Ohio	Cairo-Memphis
Rate[1]	1/31/2017	-	-	308	222	280	280	212
	1/24/2017	-	-	375	300	300	300	250
$/ton	1/31/2017	-	-	14.29	8.86	13.13	11.31	6.66
	1/24/2017	-	-	17.40	11.97	14.07	12.12	7.85
Current week % change from the same week:								
	Last year	-	-	4	14	26	26	19
	3-year avg. [2]	-	-	-22	-34	-19	-19	-14
Rate[1]	March	-	-	273	197	200	200	177
	May	327	275	262	193	197	197	168

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

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.

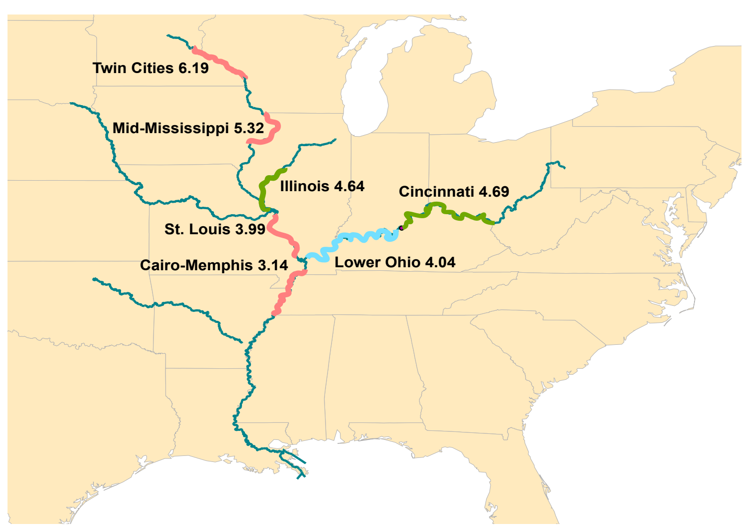
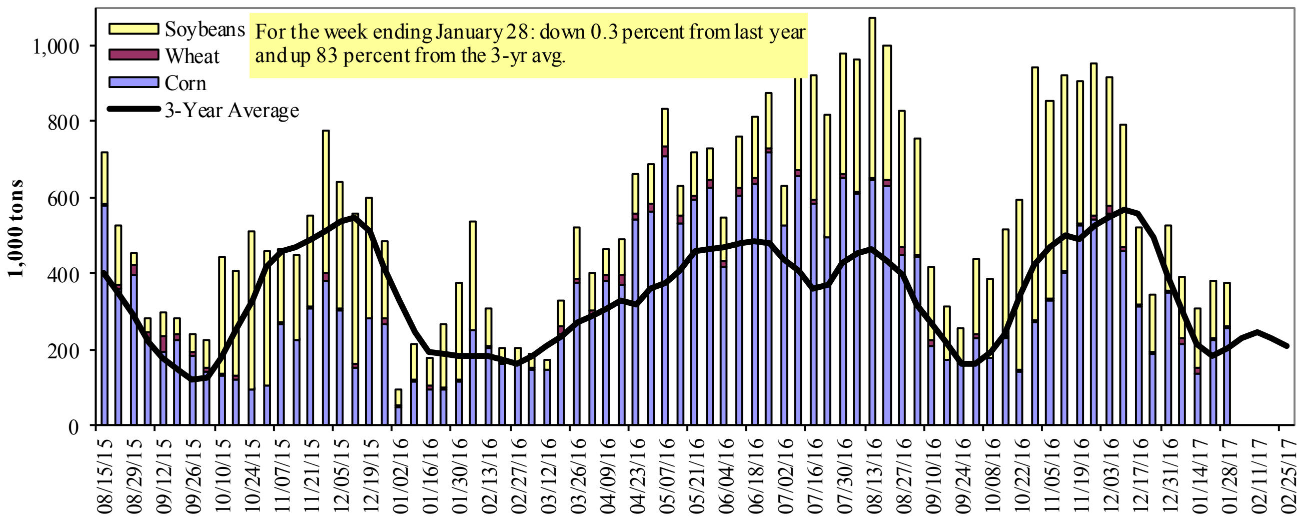


Figure 10

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 1/28/2017	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Other	Total
Mississippi River					
Rock Island, IL (L15)	0	0	0	0	0
Winfield, MO (L25)	19	0	31	0	50
Alton, IL (L26)	228	3	107	0	338
Granite City, IL (L27)	256	3	118	0	377
Illinois River (L8)	157	3	41	0	201
Ohio River (L52)	96	0	162	16	273
Arkansas River (L1)	0	21	48	0	68
Weekly total - 2017	352	24	327	16	719
Weekly total - 2016	283	14	450	0	746
2017 YTD[1]	1,225	136	1,376	71	2,808
2016 YTD	1,022	50	1,302	2	2,375
2017 as % of 2016 YTD	120	276	106	3,726	118
Last 4 weeks as % of 2016[2]	120	276	106	3,726	118
Total 2016	24,136	2,030	16,668	344	43,178

[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.

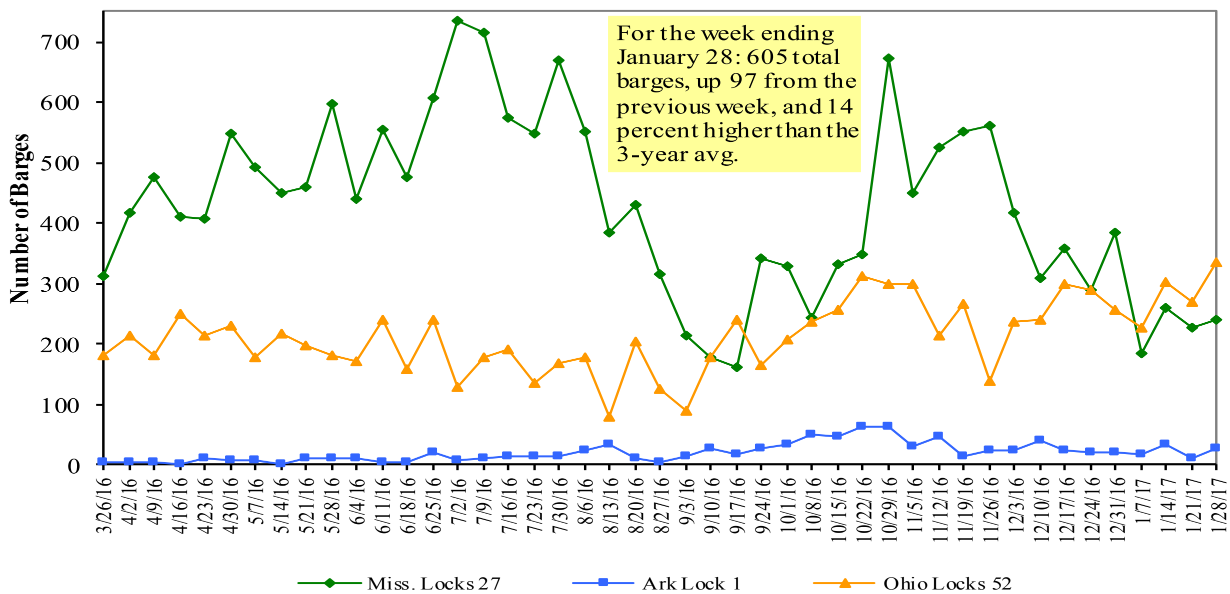
[2] As a percent of same period in 2016.

Note: Total may not add exactly, due to rounding

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Figure 11

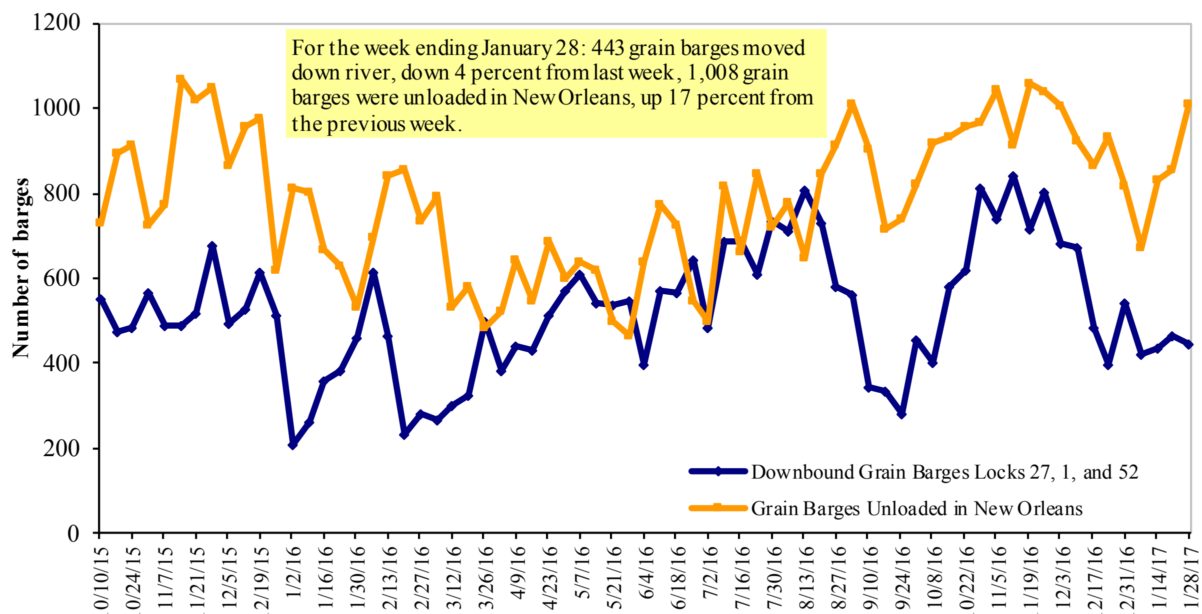
Upbound Empty Barges Transiting Mississippi River Locks 27, Arkansas River Lock and Dam 1, and Ohio River Locks and Dam 52



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 01/30/2017(US $/gallon)

Region	Location	Price	Change from Week ago	Change from Year ago
I	East Coast	2.622	-0.005	0.511
	New England	2.662	-0.014	0.443
	Central Atlantic	2.770	-0.014	0.531
	Lower Atlantic	2.510	0.003	0.518
II	Midwest[2]	2.500	-0.012	0.559
III	Gulf Coast[3]	2.408	-0.006	0.491
IV	Rocky Mountain	2.516	-0.016	0.547
V	West Coast	2.845	-0.001	0.572
	West Coast less California	2.744	-0.006	0.627
	California	2.927	0.004	0.528
Total	U.S.	2.562	-0.007	0.531

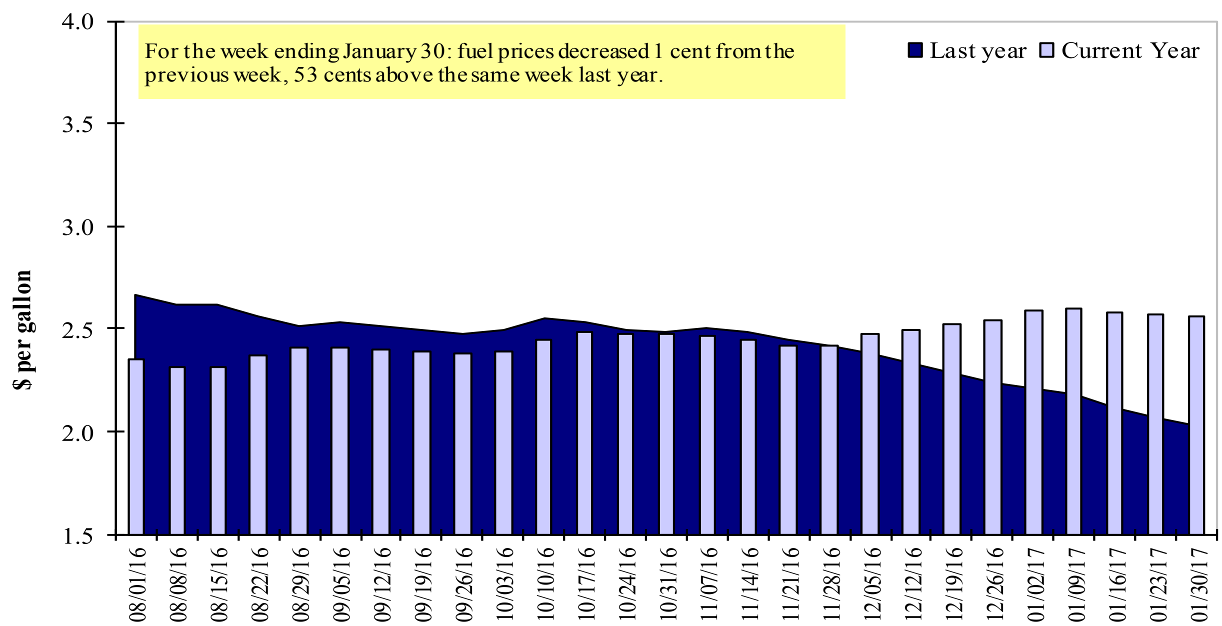
[1]Diesel fuel prices include all taxes. Prices represent an average of all types of diesel fuel.

[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]									
1/19/2017	2,184	628	2,522	1,312	137	6,783	20,162	12,464	39,409
This week year ago	1,169	546	1,482	932	76	4,205	11,837	9,426	25,468
Cumulative exports-marketing year[2]									
2016/17 YTD	6,868	1,315	4,658	2,548	265	15,654	18,912	37,376	71,942
2015/16 YTD	3,560	2,236	3,949	2,214	547	12,506	11,259	31,207	54,972
YTD 2016/17 as % of 2015/16	193	59	118	115	49	125	168	120	131
Last 4 wks as % of same period 2015/16	176	115	164	117	163	140	166	144	154
2015/16 Total	5,538	3,057	6,285	3,551	670	19,101	45,564	49,821	114,487
2014/15 Total	7,009	3,654	7,250	3,758	665	22,336	45,205	49,614	117,155

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

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

For the week ending 1/19/2017	Total Commitments[2] 2016/17 Current MY	2015/16 Last MY	% change current MY from last MY	Exports[3] 3-year avg 2013-2015
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
Mexico	10,233	8,858	16	11,204
Japan	6,007	3,731	61	11,284
Korea	3,261	645	405	3,931
Colombia	2,509	2,173	15	4,134
Peru	1,933	883	119	2,109
Top 5 Importers	**23,944**	**16,291**	**47**	**32,662**
Total US corn export sales	**39,074**	**23,096**	**69**	**46,633**
% of Projected	69%	48%		
Change from prior week	**1,370**	**817**		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. corn export sales	61%	71%		70%
USDA forecast, January 2017	**56,616**	**48,295**	**17**	
Corn Use for Ethanol USDA forecast, January 2017	**135,255**	**132,233**	**2**	

(n) indicates negative number.

[1]Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports for 2015/16 - 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/. Total commitments change from prior week could include revisions from previous week's outastanding sales or accumulated sales.

[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 1/19/2017	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 -
China	32,674	25,188	30	29,033
Mexico	2,427	2,044	19	3,295
Indonesia	1,193	779	53	2,065
Japan	1,422	1,266	12	1,994
Netherlands	887	955	(7)	1,644
Top 5 importers	**38,603**	**30,232**	**28**	**38,032**
Total US soybean export sales	**49,841**	**40,634**	**23**	**48,389**
% of Projected	89%	77%		
Change from prior week	**539**	**648**		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. soybean export sales	77%	74%		**79%**
USDA forecast, January 2017	**55,858**	**52,752**	**6**	

(n) indicates negative number.

[1] Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports for 2015/16 - 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/ .Total commitments change from prior week could include reivisions from previous week's outstanding sales and/or accumulated sales

[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 1/19/2017	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	2,034	1,947	4	2,743
Mexico	2,326	1,797	29	2,660
Philippines	2,099	1,777	18	2,156
Brazil	1,107	369	200	2,076
Nigeria	1,153	1,371	(16)	1,978
Korea	1,118	1,051	6	1,170
Taiwan	845	829	2	1,005
China	1,023	514	99	1,770
Indonesia	848	352	141	776
Colombia	666	520	28	679
Top 10 importers	**13,217**	**10,527**	26	**17,013**
Total US wheat export sales	**22,437**	**16,710**	**34**	**24,485**
% of Projected	84%	79%		
Change from prior week	**853**	**294**		
Top 10 importers' share of U.S. wheat export sales	59%	63%		69%
USDA forecast, January 2017	**26,567**	**21,117**	**26**	

(n) indicates negative number.

[1] Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports for 2015/16 - www.fas.usda.gov; Marketing year = Jun 1 - May 31.

[2] Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report, or Export Sales Query--http://www.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/. Total commitments change from prior week could include revisions from the previous week's outstanding and/or accumulated sales

[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 01/26/17	Previous Week[1]	Current Week as % of Previous	2017 YTD*	2016 YTD*	2017 YTD as % of 2016 YTD	Last 4-weeks as % of: Last Year	Prior 3-yr. avg.	2016 Total*
Pacific Northwest									
Wheat	221	148	149	615	795	77	77	79	12,325
Corn	109	258	42	793	304	261	261	259	12,009
Soybeans	416	206	201	1,255	1,476	85	85	83	14,447
Total	**745**	**612**	**122**	**2,663**	**2,574**	**103**	**103**	**103**	**38,782**
Mississippi Gulf									
Wheat	48	83	59	219	198	110	110	80	3,480
Corn	755	563	134	2,146	1,641	131	131	127	31,420
Soybeans	965	939	103	3,507	3,051	115	115	99	35,278
Total	**1,768**	**1,584**	**112**	**5,872**	**4,890**	**120**	**120**	**107**	**70,178**
Texas Gulf									
Wheat	29	64	45	295	164	180	180	123	6,019
Corn	31	28	111	116	32	360	360	224	1,669
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	0	63	0	0	0	1,105
Total	**59**	**91**	**65**	**411**	**259**	**159**	**159**	**97**	**8,792**
Interior									
Wheat	40	10	407	163	87	187	187	206	1,543
Corn	144	115	126	445	434	102	102	118	7,197
Soybeans	136	100	135	414	317	131	131	121	4,577
Total	**320**	**225**	**142**	**1,022**	**839**	**122**	**122**	**128**	**13,317**
Great Lakes									
Wheat	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,186
Corn	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	584
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	910
Total	**0**	**0**	**n/a**	**0**	**0**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**0**	**2,681**
Atlantic									
Wheat	0	0	n/a	0	31	0	0	0	315
Corn	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	294
Soybeans	140	53	261	345	298	116	116	114	2,269
Total	**140**	**53**	**261**	**345**	**329**	**105**	**105**	**106**	**2,878**
U.S. total from ports[2]									
Wheat	338	304	111	1,292	1,275	101	101	93	24,867
Corn	1,038	963	108	3,500	2,411	145	145	144	53,173
Soybeans	1,656	1,299	127	5,521	5,204	106	106	95	58,587
Total	**3,032**	**2,566**	**118**	**10,313**	**8,890**	**116**	**116**	**107**	**136,627**

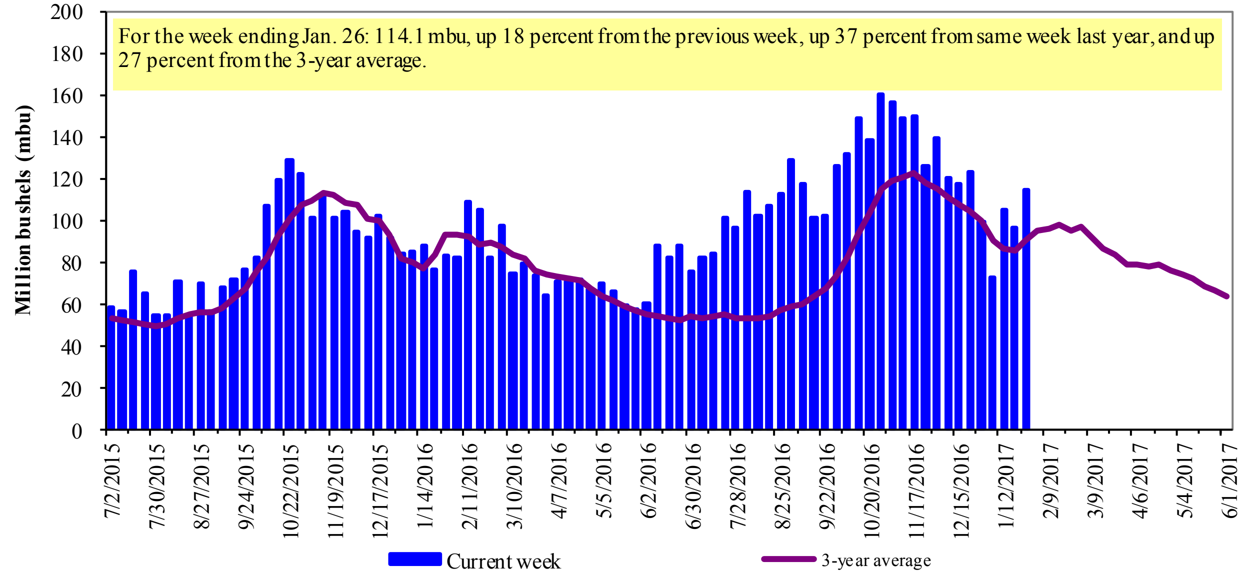
[1] Data includes revisions from prior weeks; some regional totals may not add exactly due to rounding.

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 58 percent of the U.S. export grain shipments departed through the U.S. Gulf region in 2016.

Figure 14

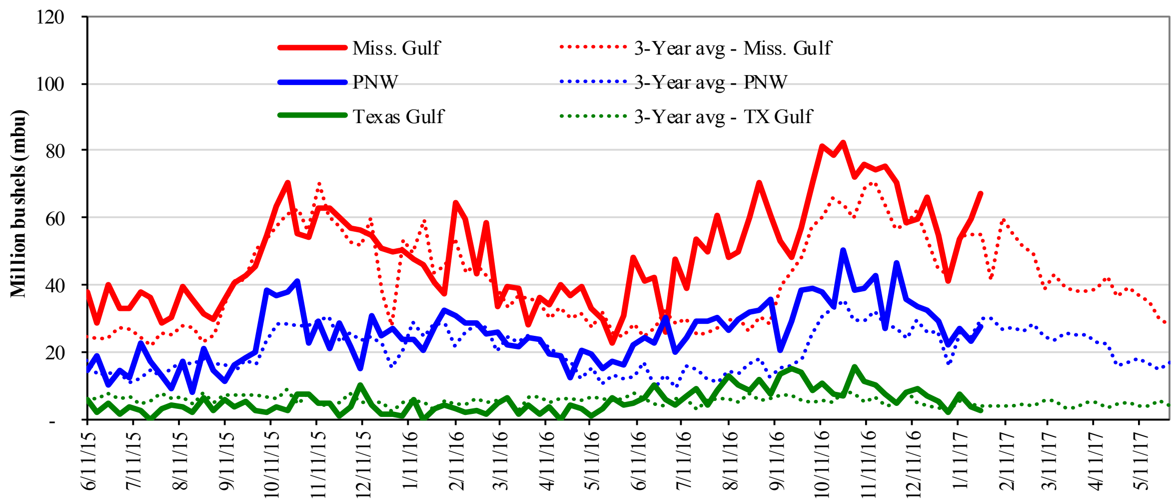
U.S. grain inspected for export (wheat, corn, and soybeans)



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 01/26/17 inspections (mbu):		Percent change from:	MS Gulf	TX Gulf	U.S. Gulf	PNW
Mississippi Gulf:	66.9	Last Week:	up 12	down 34	up 10	up 19
PNW:	27.7	Last Year (same week):	up 65	down 28	up 59	unchanged
Texas Gulf:	2.3	3-yr avg. (4-wk. mov. Avg):	up 30	down 42	up 24	up 15

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

Ocean Transportation

Table 17

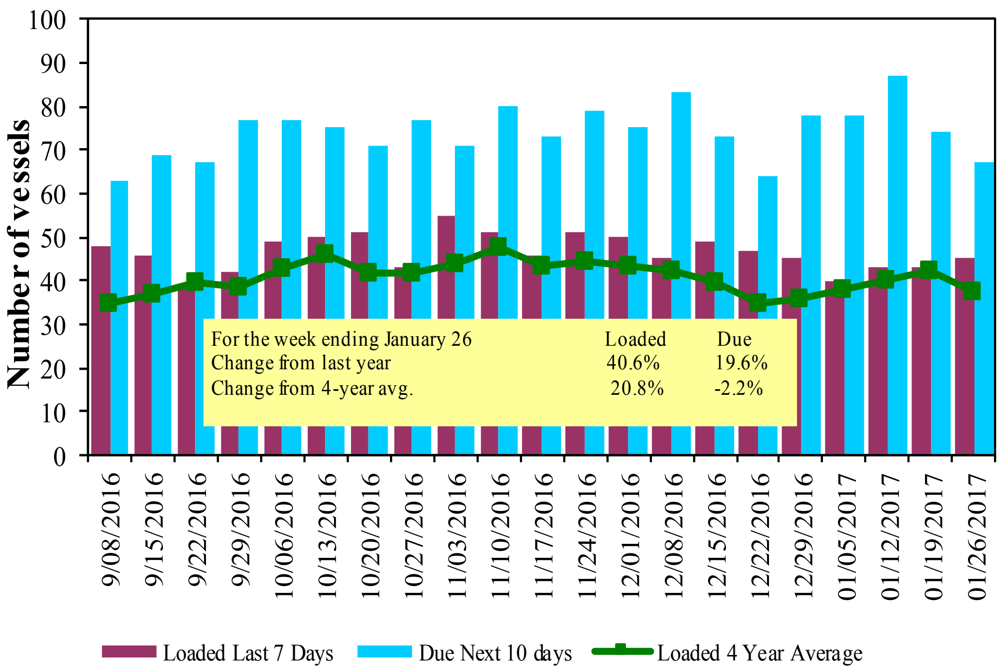
Weekly Port Region Grain Ocean Vessel Activity (number of vessels)

	Gulf			Pacific Northwest	Vancouver B.C.
Date	In port	Loaded 7-days	Due next 10-days	In port	In port
1/26/2017	65	45	67	37	n/a
1/19/2017	64	43	74	28	n/a
2016 range	(21..62)	(27..55)	(40..87)	(6..27)	n/a
2016 avg.	43	40	62	15	n/a

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 16

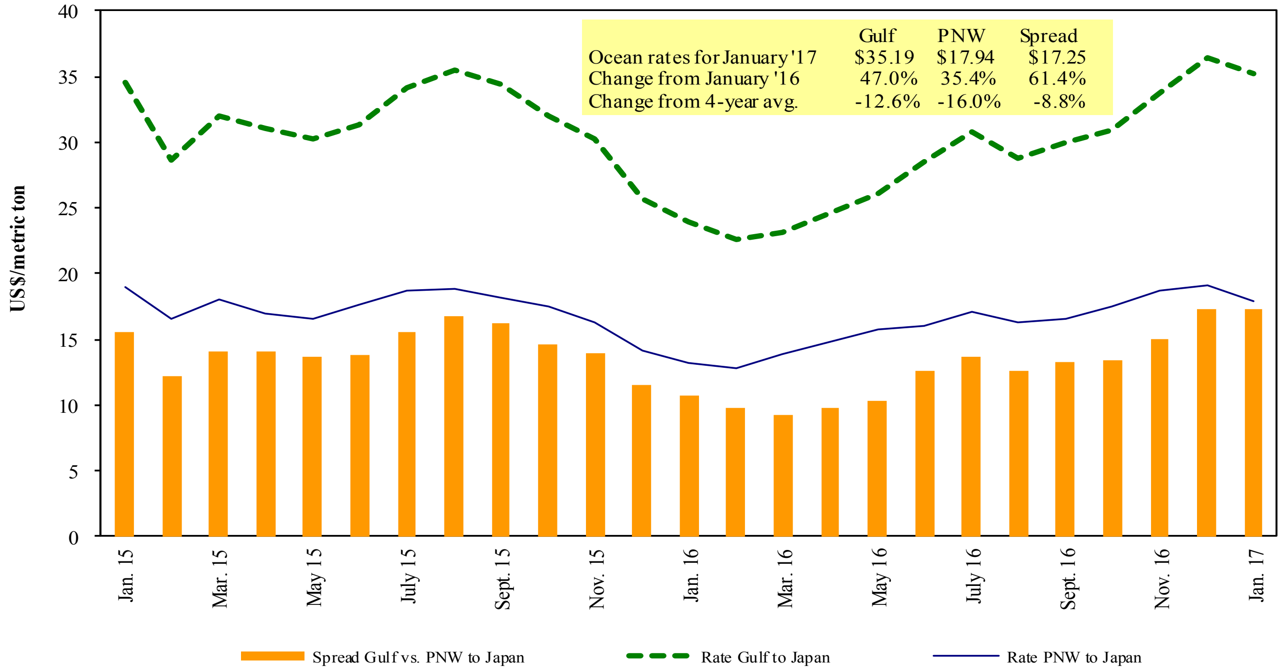
U.S. Gulf Vessel Loading Activity



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 1/28/2017

Export region	Import region	Grain types	Loading date	Volume loads (metric tons)	Freight rate (US$/metric ton)
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Jan 15/25	55,000	34.00
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Dec 19/24	66,000	33.90
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Dec 15/24	65,000	34.50
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Dec 14/20	53,000	34.00
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Dec 12/20	63,000	36.00
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Dec 10/20	63,000	35.75
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Dec 5/15	60,000	35.75
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Dec 1/10	60,000	35.35
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Nov 20/30	50,000	31.00
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Nov 15/25	50,000	29.00
U.S. Gulf	Kenya	Sorghum	Jan 5/15	23,420	56.75
PNW	Bangladesh	Wheat	Dec 1/10	12,500	160.33*
Vancouver	China	Heavy Grain	Nov 1/10	50,000	31.50
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	May 1/5	60,000	23.50
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Feb 20/28	60,000	22.50
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Feb 8/18	60,000	23.85
Brazil	China	Soybeans	Feb 1/10	60,000	24.20
Brazil	South Korea	Heavy Grain	Mar 15/Apr 15	65,000	23.50
EC S, America	China	Heavy Grain	Feb 1/10	60,000	24.00

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

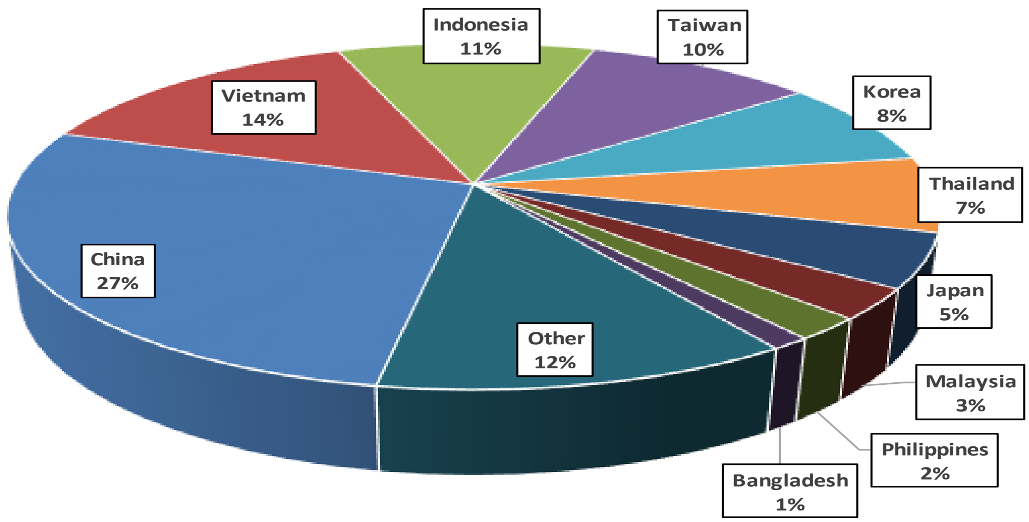
*50 percent of food aid from the United States is required to be shipped on U.S.-flag vessels.

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

In 2015, containers were used to transport 8 percent of total U.S. waterborne grain exports. Approximately 64 percent of U.S. waterborne grain exports in 2015 went to Asia, of which 12 percent were moved in containers. Approximately 94 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-October 2016

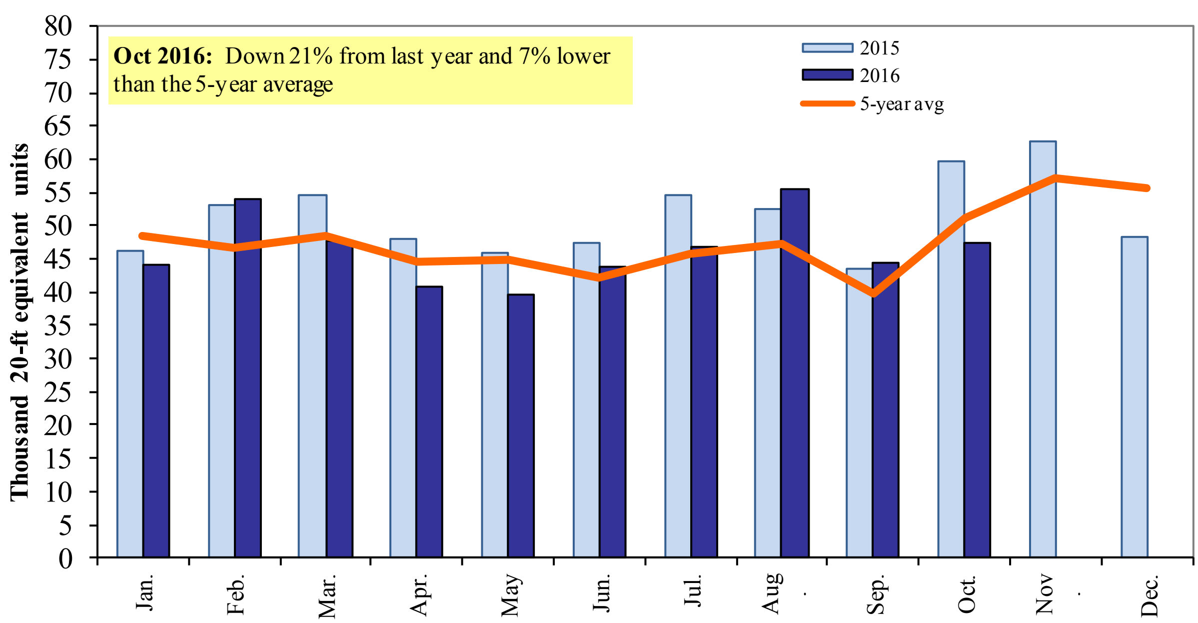


Source: USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service/Transportation Services Division analysis of Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS) data

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.

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