USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Grain Transportation Report

A weekly publication of the Agricultural Marketing Service
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March 17, 2016

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Southern Service Disruptions Due to Record Storm

Flood warnings are still in effect in parts of Lousiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi after a record storm hit the southern region last week. On March 14, multiple railroads reported disruptions in the area due to the storm. Kansas City Southern (KCS) declared a Force Majeure effective March 9 due to main line closures on the Shreveport, Beaumont, and Alexandria Subdivisions. Due to the KCS closures, Norfolk Southern (NS) shut down all routes to Dallas and Mexico from NS origins. NS also expected delays with its Union Pacific (UP) connections into Southern California due to detours. UP reported slow-downs or closures in the DeQuincy, McGegee, Monroe, and Reisor subdivisions. Delays are expected to continue throughout the week. There was a 33 percent reduction in grain barges that were unloaded in the New Orleans area for the week ending March 12, due in part to the weather conditions.

Upper Mississippi River Opens for Navigation Season

On March 13, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reported the unofficial start of the 2016 Upper Mississippi River navigation season when the first barge tow transited Lock and Dam 2, near Hastings, MN. The Corps considers the passage of traffic through Lock and Dam 2 important, as it means that all locks are now accessible to commercial and recreational vessels. The earliest date for an up-bound tow to reach Lock and Dam 2 is March 4, but is a three-way tie between the years 1983, 1984, and 2000. Last year, the navigation season began on March 25. In 2014, the navigation season was delayed until April 16 due to historic ice thickness at Lake Pepin on the Mississippi river, south of Hastings, MN. Since 1978, the average start date of the navigation season is March 22. For the week ending March 12, 297 barges moved up-bound through Mississippi River Locks 15 (Davenport, IA), of which 157 were empty and being positioned for down-bound movements.

Lower Mississippi Gulf Grain Inspections Push Total Down

For the week ending March 10, **total inspections of grain** (corn, wheat, soybeans) for export from all major export regions reached 2 million metric tons (mmt), down 24 percent from the past week, 4 percent above last year, and 11 percent below the 3-year average. Total inspections of each of the three major grains receded from the previous week. Wheat inspections decreased 9 percent, while corn and soybeans dropped 17 and 35 percent from the past week, respectively. Inspections of grain in the Mississippi Gulf were down 44 percent from the previous week, as corn and soybean shipments to Asia dropped significantly. Pacific Northwest (PNW) grain inspections were unchanged from the past week. Outstanding export sales (unshipped) of grain continued to increase for corn, but were down for wheat and soybeans.

Diesel Prices Experience Sharp Increase

The average U.S. On-Highway **Diesel Fuel price** rose to $2.10 per gallon this week—8 cents higher than the previous week and 82 cents lower than the same week last year. After falling 26 cents per gallon since the beginning of the year, prices increased 12 cents over the past 4 weeks. In its latest *Short-Term Energy Outlook*, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) suggests that crude oil prices responded to potential future supply reductions and better economic data compilation. U.S. crude oil production is forecast to average 8.7 million barrels per day in 2016 at an average price of $34 per barrel.

Snapshots by Sector

Export Sales

During the week ending March 3, **unshipped balances** of wheat, corn, and soybeans totaled 20.6 mmt, down 23 percent from the same time last year. Net weekly **wheat export sales** of .331 mmt were down 4 percent from the previous week. Net **corn export sales** were 1.11 mmt, unchanged from the previous week, and net **soybean export sales** were .475 mmt, up 28 percent from the past week.

Rail

U.S. Class I railroads originated 22,325 **grain carloads** for the week ending March 5, up 4 percent from the previous week, up 7 percent from last year, and up 13 percent from the 3-year average.

Average March shuttle **secondary railcar bids/offers** per car were $198 below tariff for the week ending March 10, down $9 from last week, and $398 lower than last year. There were no non-shuttle secondary railcar bids/offers this week.

Barge

For the week ending March 12, **barge grain movements** totaled 489,350 tons, 12 percent higher than last week, and up 35 percent from the same period last year.

For the week ending March 12, 301 grain barges **moved down river**, up 13 percent from last week; 530 grain barges were **unloaded in New Orleans**, down 33 percent from the previous week.

Ocean

For the week ending March 10, 37 **ocean-going grain vessels** were loaded in the Gulf, 9 percent less than the same period last year. Forty-eight vessels are expected to be loaded within the next 10 days, 17 percent less than the same period last year.

For the week ending March 10, the ocean freight rate for shipping bulk grain from the Gulf to Japan was $23.50 per metric ton, 3 percent more than the previous week. The cost of shipping from the PNW to Japan was $14.00 per metric ton, 6 percent more than the previous week.

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Web: **http://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS056.03-17-2016**

Feature Article/Calendar

April 4-7	NIAA - 2016 Annual Conference: From Farm to Table: Food System Biosecurity for Animal Agriculture	Kansas City, MO	http://animalagriculture.org/
April 4-8	IAOM 120th Annual Conference and Expo	Columbus, OH	913-338-3377
April 5-7	ATA SMC &TSC's Annual Policy Conference	Arlington, VA	www.trucking.org
April 5-6	American Association of Port Authorities, 2016 Washington Meeting	Washington, DC	www.aapa-ports.org
April 6-8	GEAPS/IAOM Annual Great Lakes Conference	Angola, IN	763-999-4300
April 13-14	Texas Grain and Feed Association	Forth Worth, TX	www.tgfa.com/
April 27-30	California Grain & Feed Association	San Diego, CA	916-441-2272
May 1-3	American Trucking Association Leadership Meeting	Washington, DC	www.trucking.org/Events.aspx
May 3-5	Inland River Ports & Terminals, 2016 Annual Conference	Natchez, MS	www.irpt.net
May 10-12	Inland Marine Expo	St. Louis, MO	http://inlandmarineexpo.com/
May 15-18	International Seed Federation World Seed Congress 2016	Punta del Este, Uruguay	http://worldseedcongress2016.com
June 12-14	International Oil Mill Supt. Association	Sioux Falls, SD	817-297-4668
June 14	IGC Grain Conference 2016	London, UK	www.igc.int/en/conference/
June 15-17	Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Assn.	Chelan, WA	www.pnwgfa.org/
June 15-17	Agriculture Transportation Coalition, 28th Annual Meeting	Long Beach, CA	http://agtrans.org/events/
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 14-16	Florida Feed Association Inc.	Longboat Key, FL	www.floridafeed.com/
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

Grain Transportation Indicators

Table 1

Grain Transport Cost Indicators[1]

	Truck	Rail		Barge	Ocean	
For the week ending		Unit Train	Shuttle		Gulf	Pacific
03/16/16	141	254	194	129	105	99
03/09/16	136	252	194	125	102	94

[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	3/11/2016	3/4/2016
Corn	IL--Gulf	-0.53	-0.51
Corn	NE--Gulf	-0.78	-0.74
Soybean	IA--Gulf	-1.00	-0.99
HRW	KS--Gulf	-1.22	-1.21
HRS	ND--Portland	-1.87	-1.79

Note: nq = no quote

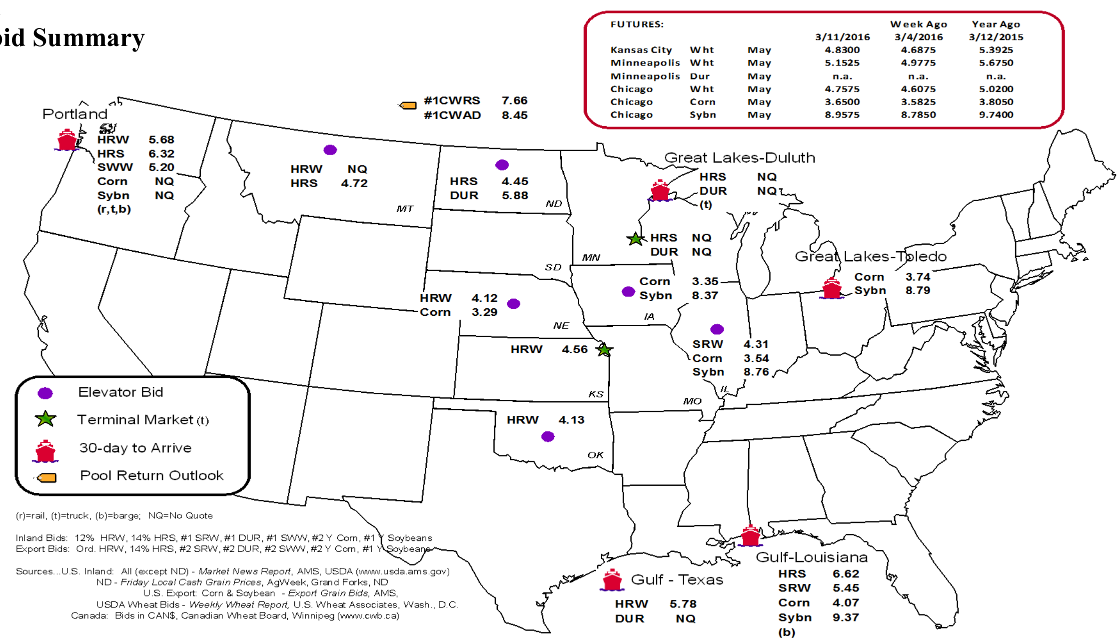
Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

n/a: quotes are not available due to the holiday

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]
3/09/2016[p]	278	888	6,655	490	8,311	3/5/2016	1,936
3/02/2016[r]	109	1,252	6,060	185	7,606	2/27/2016	1,709
2016 YTD[r]	5,069	14,379	60,580	6,678	86,706	2016 YTD	18,182
2015 YTD[r]	7,880	11,909	54,488	8,139	82,416	2015 YTD	15,660
2016 YTD as % of 2015 YTD	64	121	111	82	105	% change YTD	116
Last 4 weeks as % of 2015[2]	62	98	118	105	109	Last 4wks % 2015	128
Last 4 weeks as % of 4-year avg.[2]	63	118	131	91	115	Last 4wks % 4 yr	129
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.

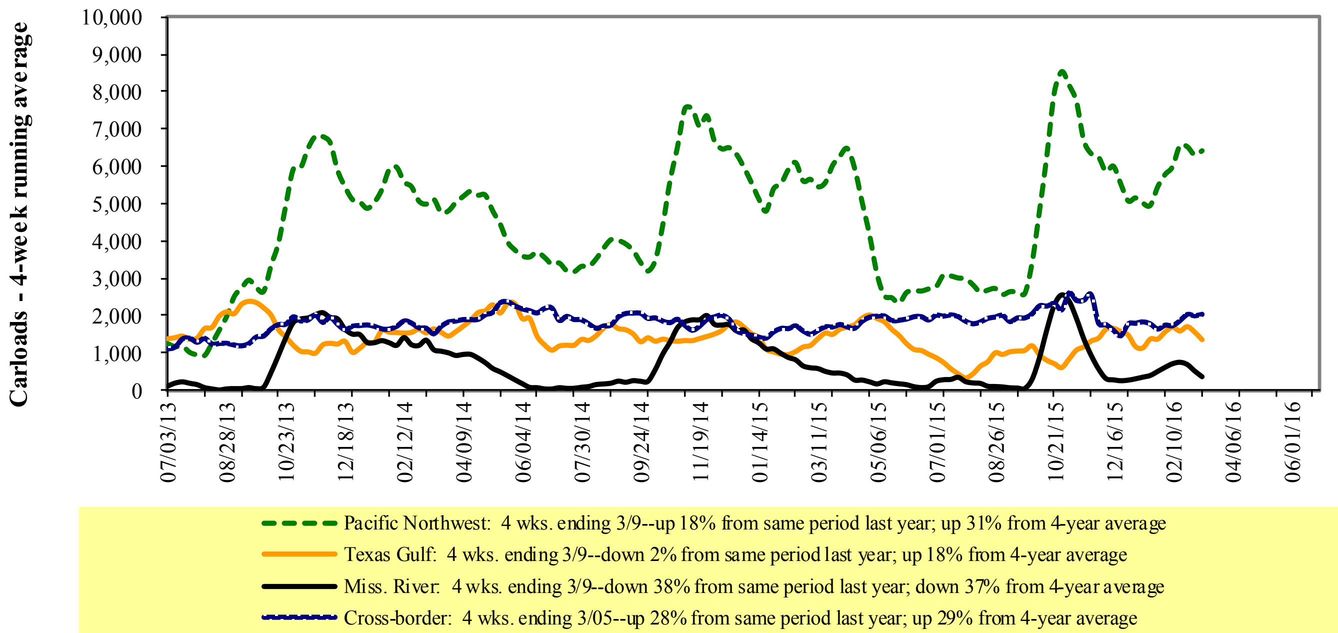
YTD = year-to-date; p = preliminary data; r = revised data; n/a = not available

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	
3/5/2016	CSXT	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP		CN	CP
This week	1,812	2,919	11,554	783	5,257	22,325	3,553	4,095
This week last year	1,907	3,022	9,944	997	4,970	20,840	4,585	4,615
2016 YTD	17,882	25,869	99,746	7,730	48,114	199,341	31,439	38,737
2015 YTD	19,848	27,507	97,048	7,542	51,400	203,345	37,505	39,606
2016 YTD as % of 2015 YTD	90	94	103	102	94	98	84	98
Last 4 weeks as % of 2015*	100	103	103	103	97	101	83	105
Last 4 weeks as % of 3-yr avg.**	108	103	117	118	107	112	92	98
Total 2015	104,039	149,043	536,173	45,445	267,720	1,102,420	211,868	236,263

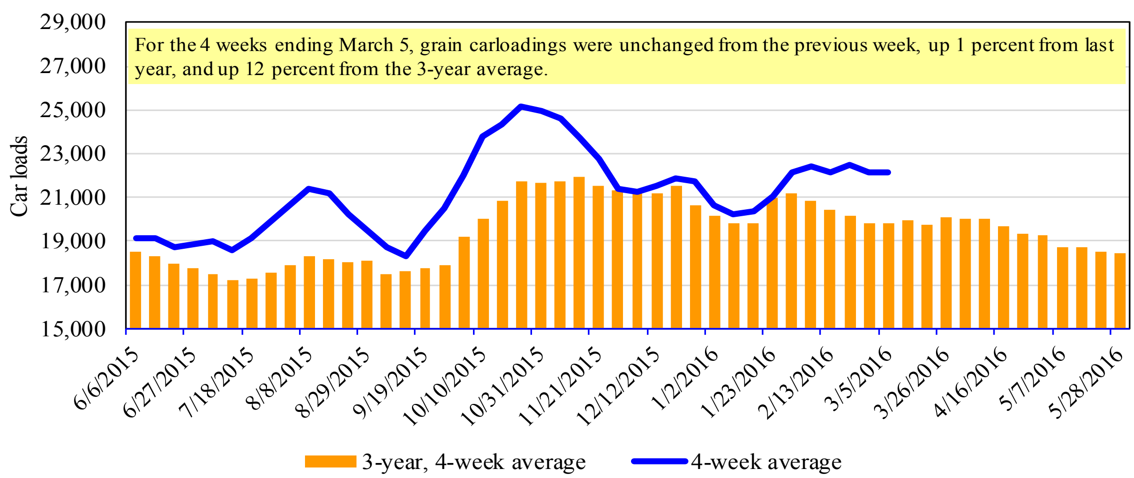
*The past 4 weeks of this year as a percent of the same 4 weeks last year.

**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]

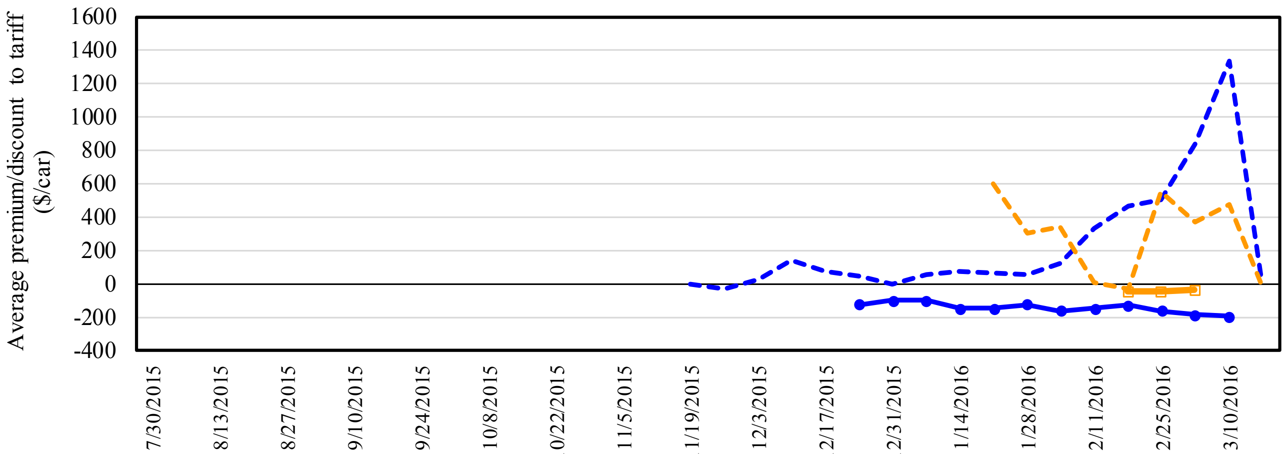
For the week ending: 3/10/2016		Mar-16	Mar-15	Apr-16	Apr-15	May-16	May-15	Jun-16	Jun-15
BNSF[3]	COT grain units	0	no offer	no bids	0	no bids	1	no bids	1
	COT grain single-car[5]	0	no offer	0	0 . . 6	0	0 . . 6	0 . . 7	0 . . 6
UP[4]	GCAS/Region 1	no offer	no offer	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	n/a	n/a
	GCAS/Region 2	no offer	no offer	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	n/a	n/a

(Columns Mar-16 through Jun-15: Delivery period)

[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 March 2016, Secondary Market

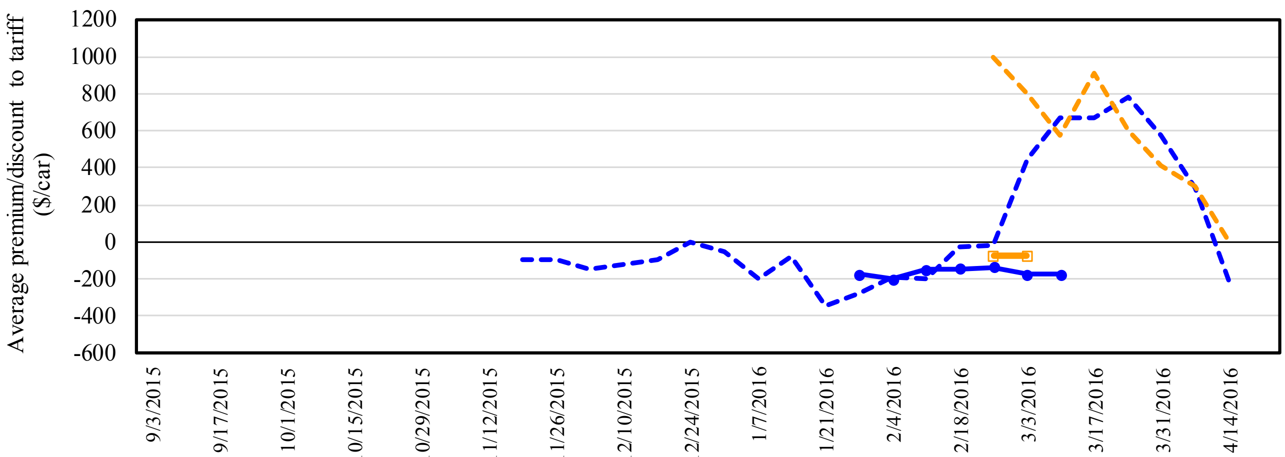


3/10/2016	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	-$146	-$250

There were no Non-Shuttle bids/offers this week.
Average Shuttle bids/offers fell $9 this week and are $98 below 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 April 2016, Secondary Market



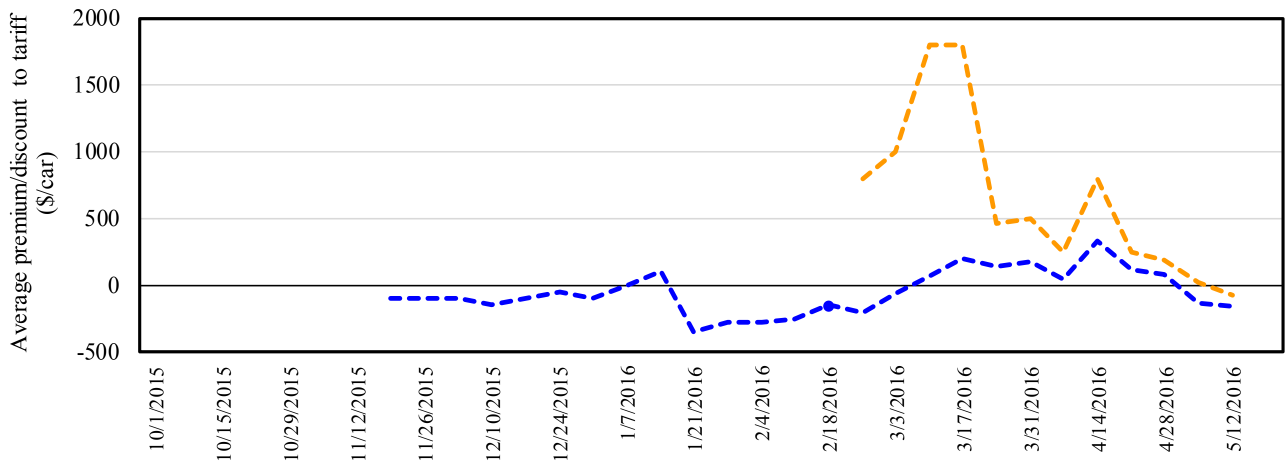
3/10/2016	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	-$125	-$225

There were no Non-Shuttle bids/offers this week.
Average Shuttle bids/offers are unchanged this week and are $38 below 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 May 2016, Secondary Market



3/10/2016	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	n/a	n/a

There were no Non-Shuttle bids/offers this week.
There were no Shuttle bids/offers this week.

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: 3/10/2016	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16
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 2015	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 2015	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	**BNSF-GF**	**(146)**	**(125)**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	7	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2015	(346)	(87)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	UP-Pool	**(250)**	**(225)**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	(25)	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2015	n/a	(50)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

(Columns Mar-16 to Aug-16 are under "Delivery period".)

[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: 3/1/2016	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	$3,605	$0	$35.80	$0.97	4
	Grand Forks, ND	Duluth-Superior, MN	$3,563	-$24	$35.15	$0.96	-3
	Wichita, KS	Los Angeles, CA	$6,950	-$122	$67.80	$1.85	6
	Wichita, KS	New Orleans, LA	$4,243	$0	$42.14	$1.15	1
	Sioux Falls, SD	Galveston-Houston, TX	$6,486	-$100	$63.41	$1.73	7
	Northwest KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	$4,511	$0	$44.80	$1.22	1
	Amarillo, TX	Los Angeles, CA	$4,710	$0	$46.77	$1.27	-1
Corn	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$3,681	$0	$36.55	$0.93	5
	Toledo, OH	Raleigh, NC	$6,061	$0	$60.19	$1.53	5
	Des Moines, IA	Davenport, IA	$2,168	$0	$21.53	$0.55	-2
	Indianapolis, IN	Atlanta, GA	$5,004	$0	$49.69	$1.26	2
	Indianapolis, IN	Knoxville, TN	$4,311	$0	$42.81	$1.09	2
	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	-2
Soybeans	Minneapolis, MN	New Orleans, LA	$3,929	$0	$39.02	$1.06	0
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	$5,051	$0	$50.16	$1.37	5
	Indianapolis, IN	Raleigh, NC	$6,178	$0	$61.35	$1.67	6
	Indianapolis, IN	Huntsville, AL	$4,529	$0	$44.98	$1.22	1
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$4,395	$0	$43.64	$1.19	6
Shuttle Train							
Wheat	Great Falls, MT	Portland, OR	$3,953	-$70	$38.56	$1.05	2
	Wichita, KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	$3,871	-$55	$37.90	$1.03	7
	Chicago, IL	Albany, NY	$5,492	$0	$54.54	$1.48	11
	Grand Forks, ND	Portland, OR	$5,611	-$122	$54.51	$1.48	2
	Grand Forks, ND	Galveston-Houston, TX	$5,931	-$127	$57.64	$1.57	-8
	Northwest KS	Portland, OR	$5,478	$0	$54.40	$1.48	-1
Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$5,000	-$148	$48.18	$1.22	-7
	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	$4,960	-$136	$47.91	$1.22	-7
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$3,481	$0	$34.57	$0.88	5
	Lincoln, NE	Galveston-Houston, TX	$3,600	-$79	$34.96	$0.89	-3
	Des Moines, IA	Amarillo, TX	$3,795	$0	$37.69	$0.96	-1
	Minneapolis, MN	Tacoma, WA	$5,000	-$147	$48.19	$1.22	-7
	Council Bluffs, IA	Stockton, CA	$4,640	-$152	$44.57	$1.13	-3
Soybeans	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	$5,490	-$136	$53.17	$1.45	-7
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$5,510	-$148	$53.25	$1.45	-7
	Fargo, ND	Tacoma, WA	$5,380	-$121	$52.23	$1.42	-7
	Council Bluffs, IA	New Orleans, LA	$4,425	$0	$43.94	$1.20	10
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	$4,226	$0	$41.97	$1.14	6
	Grand Island, NE	Portland, OR	$5,360	$0	$53.23	$1.45	-1

[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: 3/1/2016				**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	4
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	$6,514	$0	$66.55	$1.81	-4
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	$6,995	$70	$72.19	$1.96	-3
	TX	Salinas Victoria, NL	$4,142	$0	$42.32	$1.15	4
Corn	IA	Guadalajara, JA	$8,397	$49	$86.30	$2.19	-2
	SD	Celaya, GJ	$7,840	$0	$80.11	$2.03	-1
	NE	Queretaro, QA	$7,879	$0	$80.50	$2.04	0
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	$6,545	$0	$66.87	$1.70	8
	MO	Tlalnepantla, EM	$7,238	$0	$73.96	$1.88	0
	SD	Torreon, CU	$7,240	$0	$73.98	$1.88	1
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	$8,652	$54	$88.95	$2.42	2
	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	8
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	$6,168	$0	$63.02	$1.60	8
	NE	Torreon, CU	$6,672	$25	$68.42	$1.74	-1

[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

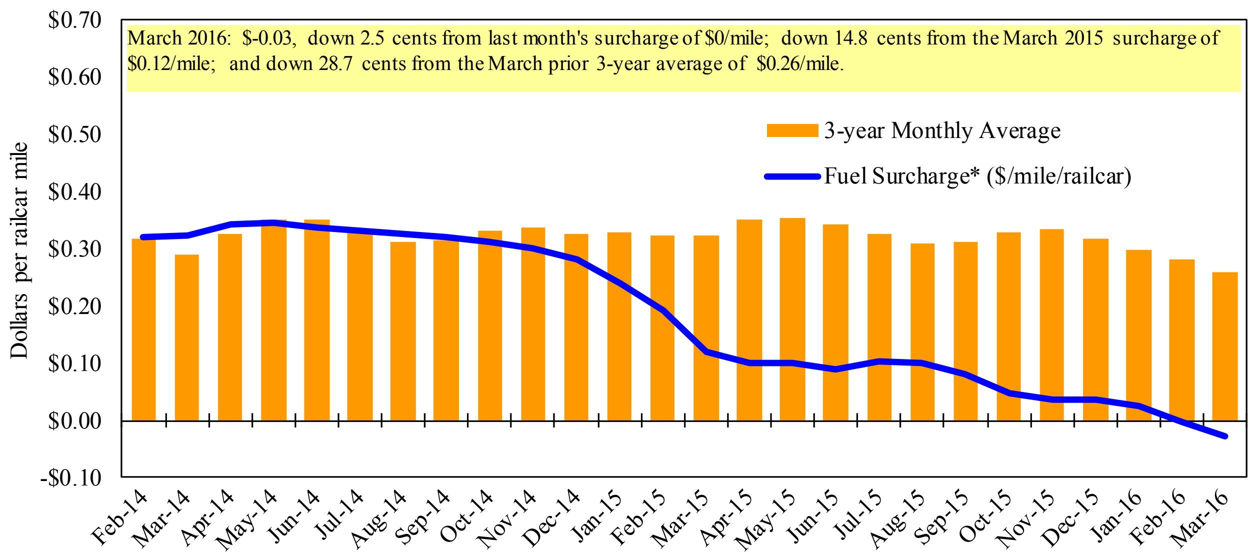
[3]Approximate load per car = 97.87 metric tons: Corn & Sorghum 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

[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.

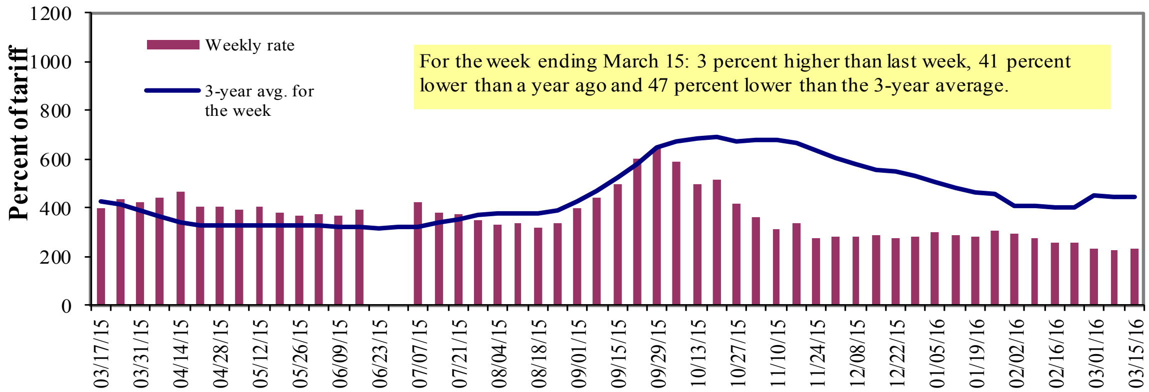
* Beginning January 2009, the Canadian Pacific fuel surcharge is computed by a monthly average of the bi-weekly fuel surcharge.

**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]	3/15/2016	318	238	233	160	180	180	153
	3/8/2016	-	235	225	153	185	185	150
$/ton	3/15/2016	19.68	12.66	10.81	6.38	8.44	7.27	4.80
	3/8/2016	-	-	10.44	6.10	8.68	7.47	4.71
Current week % change from the same week:								
	Last year	-	-	-41	-49	-31	-31	-39
	3-year avg. [2]	-	-	-47	-55	-48	-48	-45
Rate[1]	April	310	238	233	160	180	180	153
	June	300	235	230	158	178	178	153

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

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

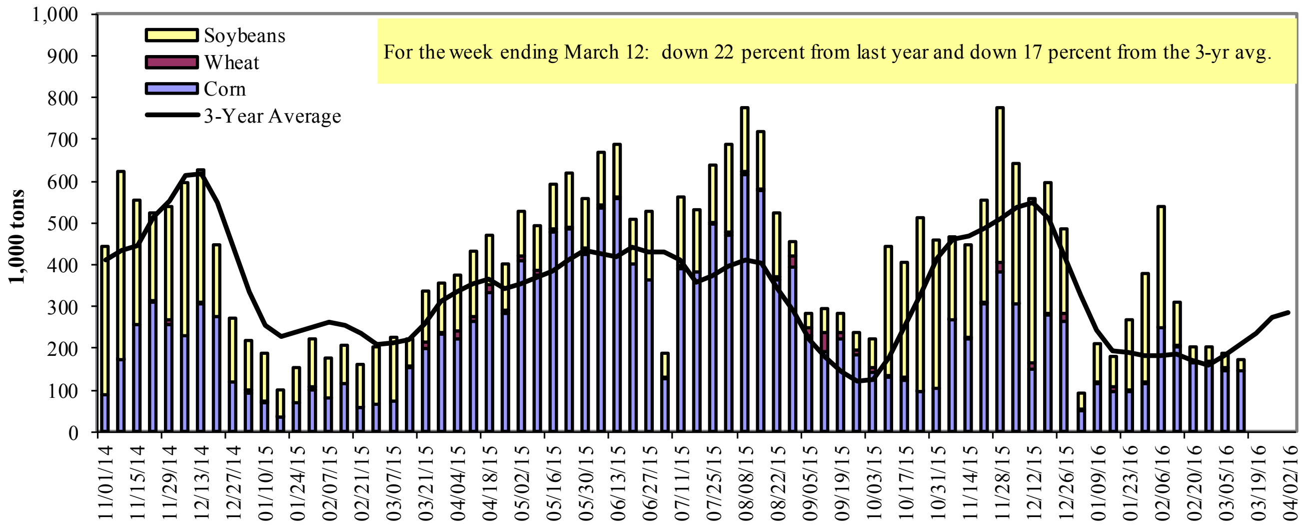
Figure 9
Benchmark tariff rates

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 3/12/2016	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Other	Total
Mississippi River					
Rock Island, IL (L15)	27	2	20	0	49
Winfield, MO (L25)	62	0	22	0	84
Alton, IL (L26)	146	0	25	0	171
Granite City, IL (L27)	146	0	27	0	172
Illinois River (L8)	109	3	16	0	128
Ohio River (L52)	161	20	81	0	262
Arkansas River (L1)	0	25	29	0	55
Weekly total - 2016	307	45	138	0	489
Weekly total - 2015	197	24	139	1	362
2016 YTD[1]	2,922	223	2,664	34	5,843
2015 YTD	2,490	204	2,688	44	5,425
2016 as % of 2015 YTD	117	110	99	76	108
Last 4 weeks as % of 2015[2]	123	166	59	252	95
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.

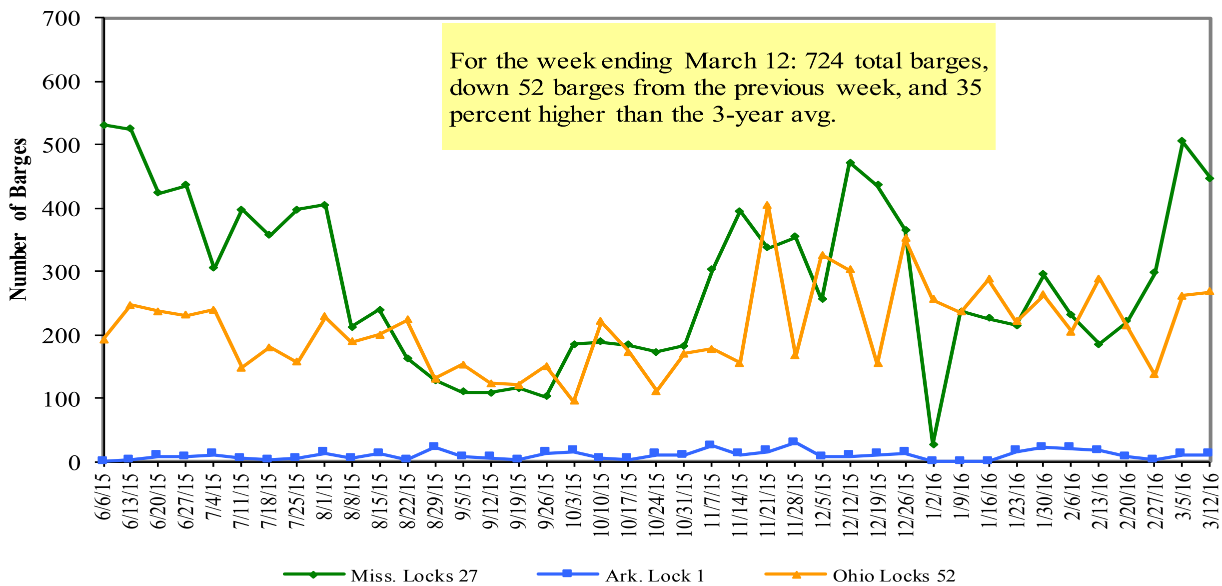
[2] As a percent of same period in 2015.

Note: Total may not add exactly, due to rounding

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Figure 11

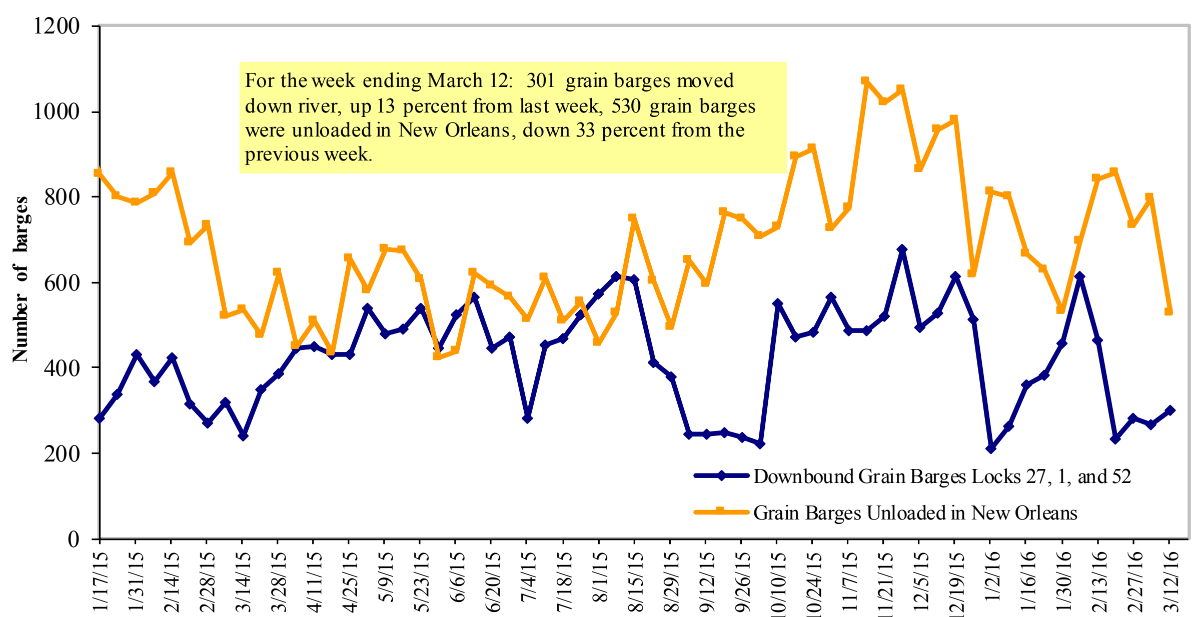
Upbound Empty Barges Transiting Mississippi River Locks 27, Arkansas River Lock and Dam 1, and Ohio River Locks and Dam 52



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 3/14/2016 (US $/gallon)

Region	Location	Price	Change from Week ago	Change from Year ago
I	East Coast	2.153	0.076	-0.929
	New England	2.204	0.057	-1.066
	Central Atlantic	2.249	0.061	-1.062
	Lower Atlantic	2.070	0.091	-0.800
II	Midwest[2]	2.065	0.082	-0.755
III	Gulf Coast[3]	1.990	0.083	-0.773
IV	Rocky Mountain	1.999	0.072	-0.813
V	West Coast	2.285	0.066	-0.779
	West Coast less California	2.153	0.056	-0.741
	California	2.390	0.074	-0.812
Total	U.S.	2.099	0.078	-0.818

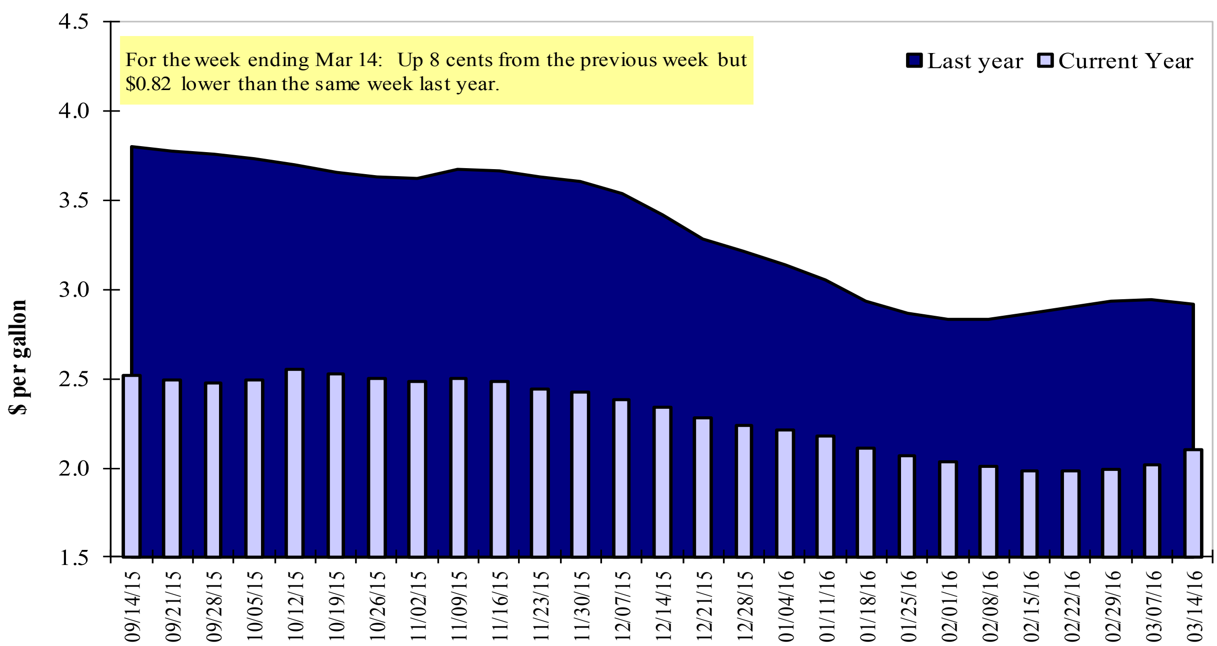
[1]Diesel fuel prices include all taxes. Prices represent an average of all types of diesel fuel.

[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]									
3/3/2016	1,107	408	1,551	703	100	3,869	12,995	3,758	20,621
This week year ago	1,699	712	1,745	734	132	5,021	15,997	5,794	26,812
Cumulative exports-marketing year[2]									
2015/16 YTD	4,157	2,551	4,518	2,690	571	14,487	15,828	39,098	69,413
2014/15 YTD	5,237	2,834	5,611	3,035	516	17,233	20,047	41,801	79,081
YTD 2015/16 as % of 2014/15	79	90	81	89	111	84	79	94	88
Last 4 wks as % of same period 2014/15	64	63	89	107	64	79	75	94	80
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 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 3/03/2016	Commitments[2] 2015/16 Current MY	2014/15 Last MY	% change current MY from last MY	Exports[3] 3-year avg 2011-2013
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
Japan	4,919	7,540	(35)	10,079
Mexico	10,097	8,641	17	8,145
Korea	851	2,379	(64)	2,965
Colombia	3,461	3,001	15	3,461
Taiwan	578	1,083	(47)	1,238
Top 5 Importers	**19,906**	**22,643**	**(12)**	**25,887**
Total US corn export sales	**28,822**	**36,045**	**(20)**	**34,445**
% of Projected	69%	76%		
Change from prior week	**1,109**	**418**		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. corn export sales	69%	63%		75%
USDA forecast, March 2016	**41,985**	**47,430**	**(11)**	
Corn Use for Ethanol USDA forecast, March 2016	**132,715**	**132,309**	**0**	

(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 3/03/2016	Total Commitments[2] 2015/16 Current MY	2014/15 Last MY	% change current MY from last MY	Exports[3] 3-yr avg. 2011-13
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
China	26,793	29,827	(10)	24,211
Mexico	2,415	2,648	(9)	2,971
Indonesia	1,162	1,347	(14)	1,895
Japan	1,649	1,485	11	1,750
Taiwan	1,084	1,111	(2)	1,055
Top 5 importers	**33,103**	**36,419**	**(9)**	**31,882**
Total US soybean export sales	**42,855**	**47,596**	**(10)**	**39,169**
% of Projected	93%	95%		
Change from prior week	475	83		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. soybean export sales	77%	77%		**81%**
USDA forecast, March 2016	**46,049**	**50,218**	**(8)**	

(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 3/03/2016	Total Commitments[2] 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 -
Japan	2,271	2,908	(22)	3,113
Mexico	2,089	2,609	(20)	2,807
Nigeria	1,385	1,907	(27)	2,512
Philippines	1,867	2,193	(15)	2,105
Brazil	386	1,508	(74)	2,091
Korea	1,097	1,200	(9)	1,273
Taiwan	937	905	4	1,007
Indonesia	426	566	(25)	751
Colombia	583	559	4	662
Thailand	447	606		618
Top 10 importers	**11,040**	**14,355**	(23)	**16,939**
Total US wheat export sales	**18,356**	**22,254**	**(18)**	**26,361**
% of Projected	87%	96%		
Change from prior week	331	445		
Top 10 importers' share of U.S. wheat export sales	60%	65%		64%
USDA forecast, March 2016	**21,117**	**23,270**	**(9)**	

(n) indicates negative number.

[1] Based on FAS 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, 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 03/10/16	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	210	265	79	2,172	2,533	86	75	83	10,985
Corn	179	139	128	1,117	1,546	72	62	116	7,232
Soybeans	296	278	106	3,894	3,131	124	186	130	11,809
Total	**685**	**683**	**100**	**7,183**	**7,209**	**100**	**98**	**108**	**30,027**
Mississippi Gulf									
Wheat	94	99	95	705	712	99	116	64	4,504
Corn	491	681	72	4,566	5,440	84	87	105	26,701
Soybeans	285	763	37	7,463	7,777	96	155	137	29,593
Total	**870**	**1,543**	**56**	**12,734**	**13,929**	**91**	**115**	**114**	**60,797**
Texas Gulf									
Wheat	101	40	253	488	651	75	49	37	3,724
Corn	30	0	n/a	158	95	166	n/a	759	596
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	92	210	44	n/a	n/a	864
Total	**130**	**40**	**328**	**737**	**956**	**77**	**73**	**53**	**5,184**
Interior									
Wheat	23	40	57	233	232	100	127	150	1,388
Corn	88	126	70	1,047	1,086	96	94	119	6,201
Soybeans	94	85	111	844	882	96	115	95	3,518
Total	**205**	**251**	**82**	**2,124**	**2,200**	**97**	**105**	**111**	**11,106**
Great Lakes									
Wheat	0	0	n/a	0	12	0	0	0	997
Corn	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	485
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	733
Total	**0**	**0**	**n/a**	**0**	**12**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2,216**
Atlantic									
Wheat	0	28	0	98	69	142	217	114	520
Corn	0	5	0	9	5	190	190	242	277
Soybeans	78	25	309	685	746	92	95	86	2,053
Total	**78**	**57**	**135**	**793**	**820**	**97**	**111**	**93**	**2,850**
U.S. total from ports**									
Wheat	428	472	91	3,697	4,209	88	80	71	22,118
Corn	788	951	83	6,896	8,172	84	83	112	41,492
Soybeans	752	1,151	65	12,978	12,745	102	154	127	48,570
Total	**1,968**	**2,575**	**76**	**23,571**	**25,126**	**94**	**106**	**108**	**112,180**

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

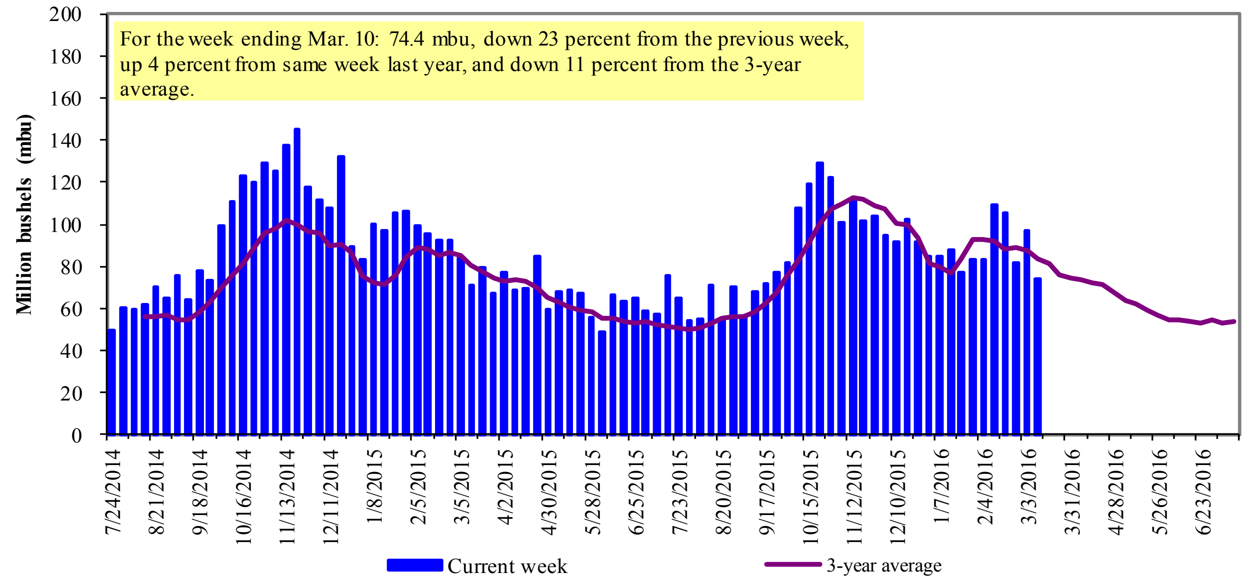
**Total only includes regions shown above

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

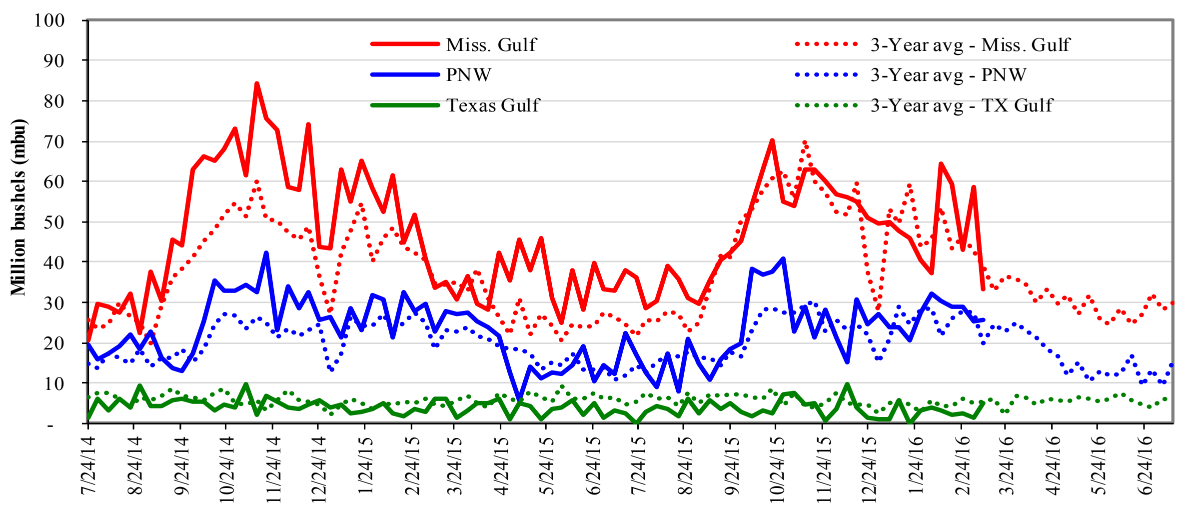
U.S. grain inspected for export (wheat, corn, and soybeans)



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 03/10/16 inspections (mbu):		Percent change from:	MS Gulf	TX Gulf	U.S. Gulf	PNW
Mississippi Gulf:	33.3	Last Week:	down 43	up 233	down 36	unchanged
PNW:	25.6	Last Year (same week):	down 1	down 21	down 4	up 12
Texas Gulf:	4.9	3-yr avg. (4-wk. mov. Avg):	down 22	down 7	down 21	up 2

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

Ocean Transportation

Table 17

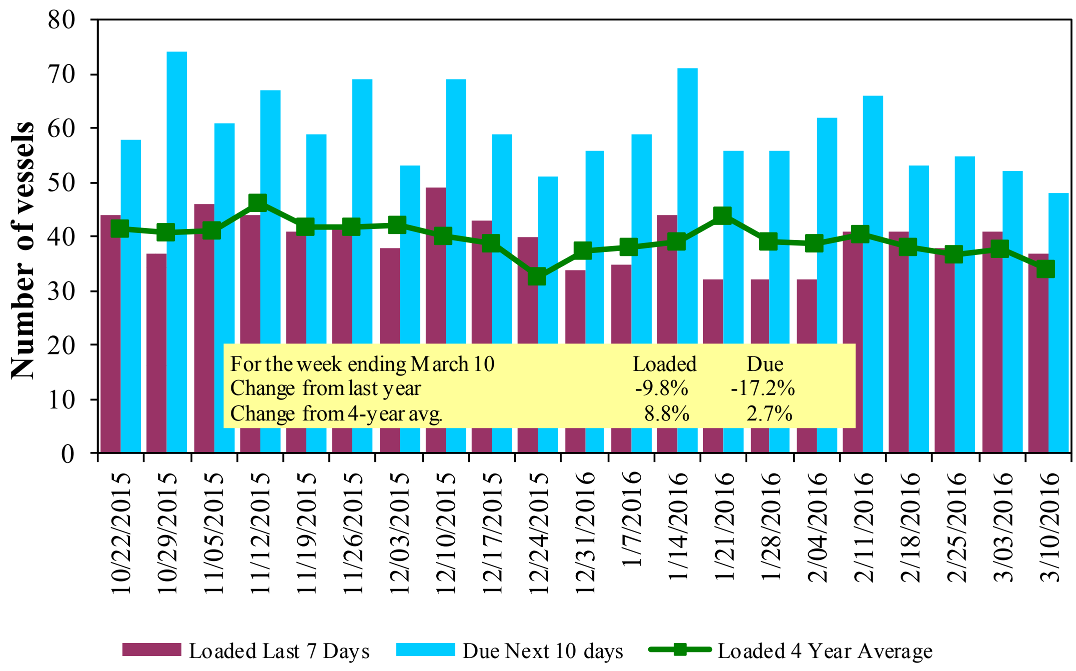
Weekly Port Region Grain Ocean Vessel Activity (number of vessels)

Date	Gulf In port	Gulf Loaded 7-days	Gulf Due next 10-days	Pacific Northwest In port	Vancouver B.C. In port
3/10/2016	40	37	48	13	n/a
3/3/2016	37	41	52	15	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

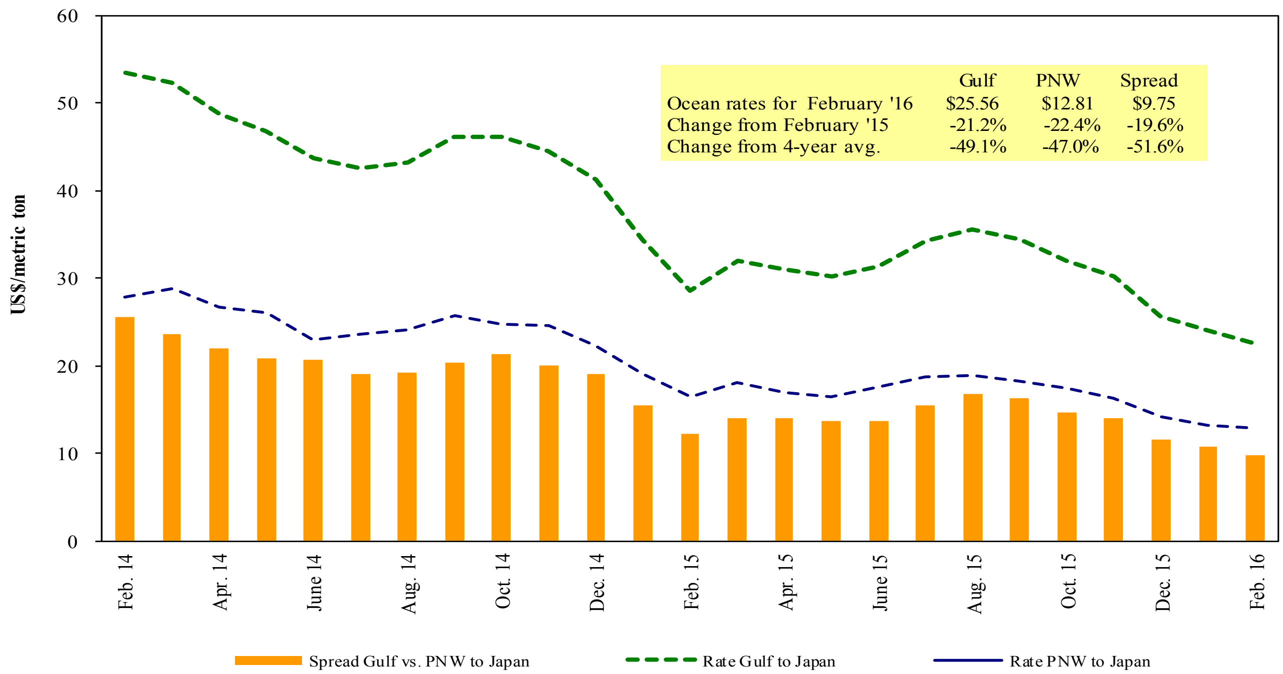
U.S. Gulf[1] Vessel Loading Activity



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 03/13/2016

Export region	Import region	Grain types	Loading date	Volume loads (metric tons)	Freight rate (US$/metric ton)
U.S.Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Feb 15/20	53,000	20.50
U.S. Gulf	Djibouti	Wheat[1]	Apr 4/14	34,000	128.76
U.S. Gulf	Djibouti	Wheat	Mar 8/18	50,000	37.00
PNW	Algeria	Wheat	Feb 10/20	51,500	13.15
Argentina	Vietnam	Heavy Grain	Jan 25/Feb 5	50,000	19.00
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Mar 15/30	60,000	13.75
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Mar 15/30	60,000	13.25
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Mar 1/10	60,000	13.25
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Feb 20/29	60,000	13.85 op 14.60
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Feb 22/25	60,000	14.00
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Feb 15/20	60,000	12.60
EC S America	China	Heavy Grain	May/June	60,000	14.75
EC S America	China	Heavy Grain	Feb/Mar 16	60,000	18.50
Odessa	Ghent	Grain	Feb 10/14	60,000	7.35
River Plate	Vietnam	Heavy Grain	Feb 23/29	68,000	17.50

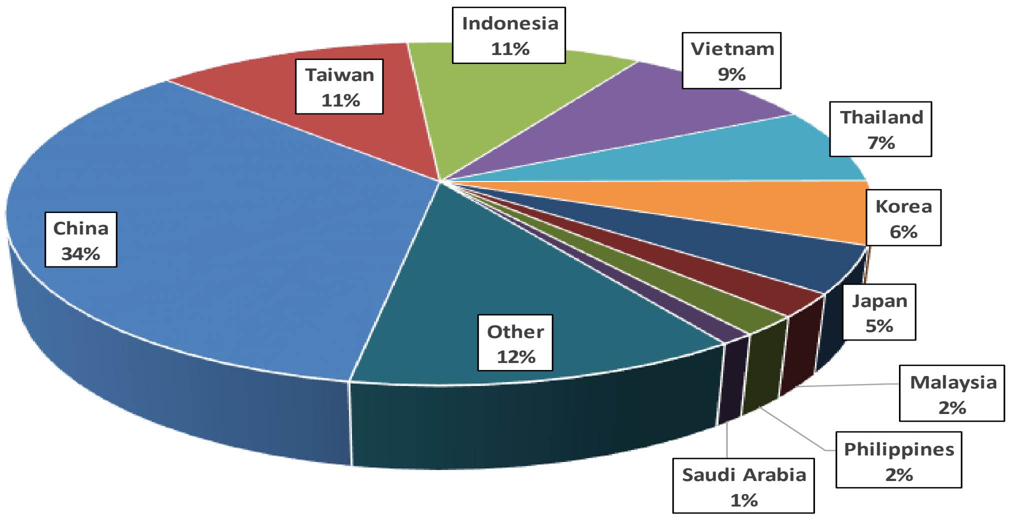
Rates shown are for metric ton (2,204.62 lbs. = 1 metric ton), F.O.B., except where otherwise indicates; op = option

[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.

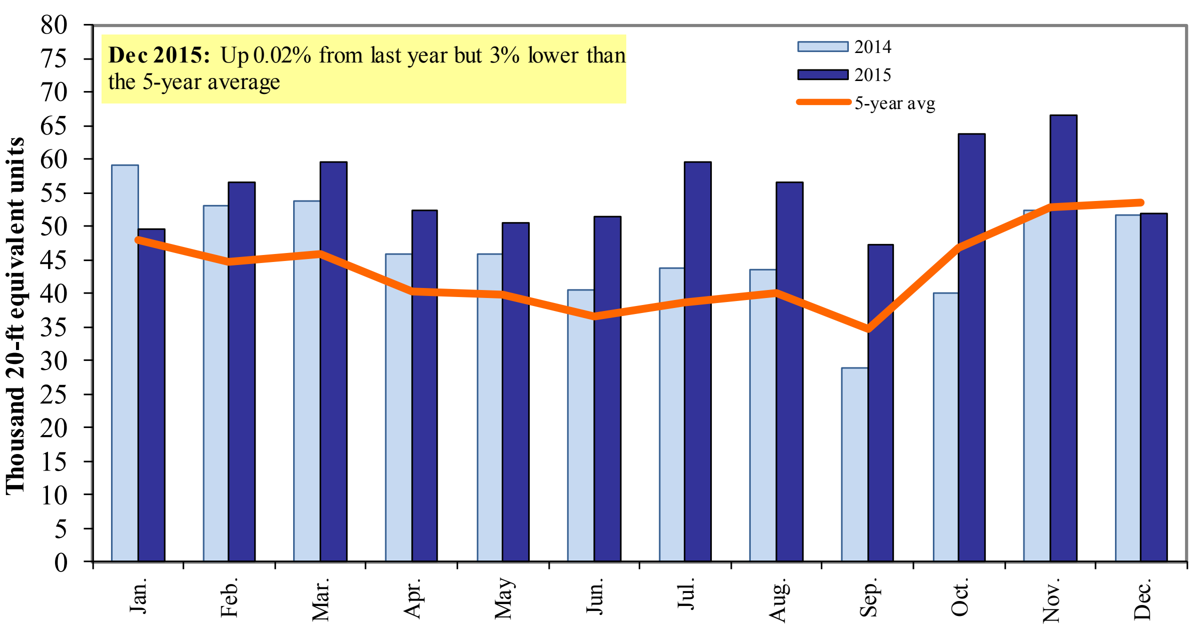
Figure 18
Top 10 Destination Markets for U.S. Containerized Grain Exports, January-December 2015



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.

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