United States Department of Agriculture

Grain Transportation Report

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

Contact Us

April 28, 2016

Contents

The next release is May 5, 2016

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

First Vessel to Transit the Expanded Panama Canal Will be Picked by Drawing
On Friday, April 29, the Panama Canal Authority will hold a draw to select the first vessel to transit the Expanded Canal on the June 26 inauguration day. The winner will be picked from the top 15 customers of the Canal based on customers' ranking used for booking as of April 2016. Those interested must indicate the Neopanamax vessel's name, type, and dimensions, and each vessel must comply with the Panama Canal's requirements. The vessel must not exceed a maximum beam of 49 meters, overall length of 366 meters, and a maximum draft of 12.5 meters. A runner-up will also be selected in case the winner informs the Canal Authority as of May 10 its inability to deploy an approved vessel for the inauguration. The winner will be responsible for all costs associated with the transit in accordance with Panama Canal published tariffs. Regular commercial transits through the Expanded Canal will resume on June 27. For more information, see https://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2016/04/25/pr584.html.

Panama Canal Lock Maintenance Scheduled, Reduces Transit Capacity
The West Lane of the Miraflores Locks on the Panama Canal will be closed for maintenance and repair work May 4-6, 2016, for 2.5 days. The estimated transit capacity of the Canal due to the maintenance work is 22–24 vessels per day, rather than the normal transit capacity of 35–37 vessels, depending on vessel mix and other factors. At this time, no major delays are anticipated.

Grain Inspections Unchanged from Past Week
For the week ending April 21, **total inspections of grain** (corn, wheat, soybeans) for export from all major export regions reached 1.84 million metric tons (mmt), unchanged from the past week, down 17 percent from last year, and equal to the 3-year average. Inspections of corn and soybeans increased 3 and 4 percent from the previous week, while wheat inspections decreased 11 percent. Mississippi Gulf grain inspections increased 17 percent from the past week, as barge movements remained strong. Pacific Northwest (PNW) inspections decreased 4 percent. Outstanding export sales (unshipped) of grain were down for corn, wheat, and soybeans.

Just over 2 Months Remain before New SOLAS Requirements are Implemented
The International Maritime Organization's amendment to its Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) regulations which requires shippers to provide a verified gross mass of each container before being loaded onto a vessel is rapidly approaching. Despite two recent attempts by the agricultural community to seek help from Congress, the program is still scheduled for implementation on July 1. Shippers insist these new regulations could impede trade and cause further congestion at U.S. ports.

Snapshots by Sector

Export Sales
During the week ending April 14, **unshipped balances** of wheat, corn, and soybeans totaled 19 mmt, down 10 percent from the same time last year. Net weekly **wheat export sales**, at .295 mmt, were up noticeably from the previous week. Net **corn export sales** were 1.2 mmt, up 9 percent from the previous week, and net **soybean export sales** were .408 mmt, up 7 percent from the past week.

Rail
U.S. Class I railroads originated 20,784 **grain carloads** for the week ending April 16, up 10 percent from the previous week, up 14 percent from last year, and up 6 percent from the 3-year average.

Average May shuttle **secondary railcar bids/offers** per car were $189 below tariff for the week ending April 21, up $6 from last week, and $111 higher than last year. Non-shuttle secondary railcar bids/offers were $50 below tariff, up $50 from last week, and $88 higher than last year.

Barge
For the week ending April 23, **barge grain movements** totaled 796,318 tons, 17 percent higher than last week, and up 16 percent from the same period last year.

For the week ending April 23, 512 grain barges **moved down river**, up 19 percent from last week; 688 grain barges were **unloaded in New Orleans**, up 26 percent from the previous week.

Ocean
For the week ending April 21, 37 **ocean-going grain vessels** were loaded in the Gulf, 27 percent more than the same period last year. Fifty-six vessels are expected to be loaded within the next 10 days, 3 percent less than the same period last year.

For the week ending April 21, the ocean freight rate for shipping bulk grain from the Gulf to Japan was $25.00 per metric ton, up 2 percent from the previous week. The cost of shipping from the PNW to Japan was $15.00 per metric ton, up 2 percent from the previous week.

Fuel
During the week ending April 25, U.S. average **diesel fuel prices** increased 4 cents from the previous week at $2.20 per gallon, down $0.62 from the same week last year.

Preferred citation: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. *Grain Transportation Report.* April 28, 2016.
Web: **http://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS056.04-28-2016**

Feature Article/Calendar

May 1-3	American Trucking Association Leadership Meeting	Washington, DC	www.trucking.org/Events.aspx
May 1-4	57th Annual Transportation Research Forum	Toronto, ON, Canada	www.trforum.org/forum/2016/
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
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 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 15-2017	North Dakota Gain Dealers Association	Fargo, ND	http://www.ndgda.org

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
04/27/16	148	250	192	149	112	106
04/20/16	145	250	190	160	110	105

[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	4/22/2016	4/15/2016
Corn	IL--Gulf	-0.60	-0.57
Corn	NE--Gulf	-0.86	-0.82
Soybean	IA--Gulf	-1.17	-1.00
HRW	KS--Gulf	-1.05	-1.05
HRS	ND--Portland	-1.73	-1.76

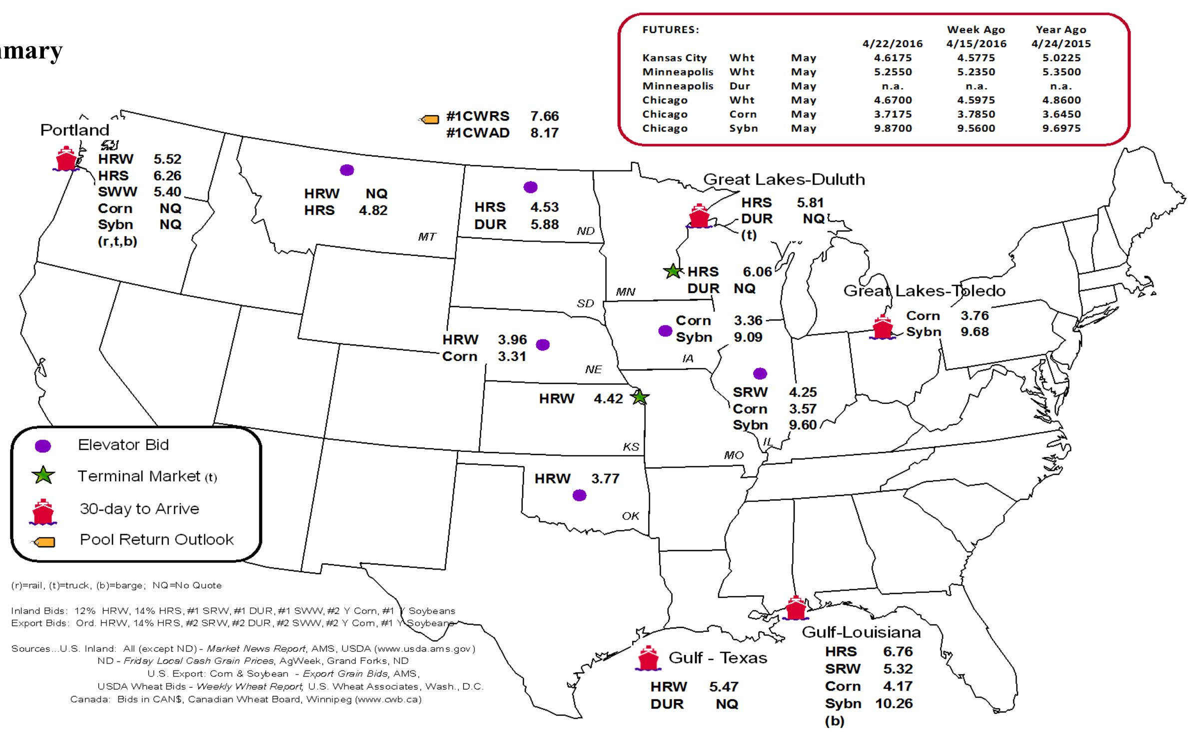
Note: nq = no quote

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]
4/20/2016[p]	137	914	4,377	288	5,716	4/16/2016	2,943
4/13/2016[r]	145	1,467	3,710	241	5,563	4/9/2016	1,849
2016 YTD[r]	5,392	23,903	89,198	8,457	126,950	2016 YTD	31,635
2015 YTD[r]	9,796	22,377	88,157	10,707	131,037	2015 YTD	26,499
2016 YTD as % of 2015 YTD	55	107	101	79	97	% change YTD	119
Last 4 weeks as % of 2015[2]	30	67	88	71	80	Last 4wks % 2015	137
Last 4 weeks as % of 4-year avg.[2]	25	82	108	66	90	Last 4wks % 4 yr	133
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.

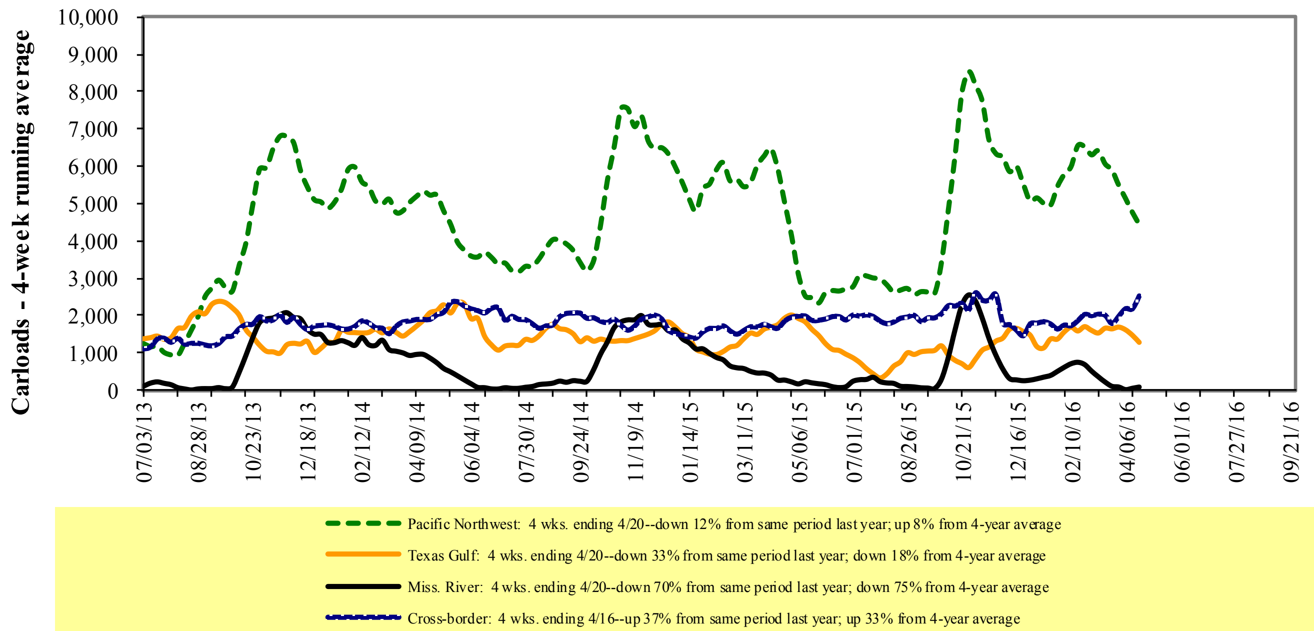
YTD = year-to-date; p = preliminary data; r = revised data; n/a = not available

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: 4/16/2016	East		West			U.S. total	Canada	
	CSXT	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP		CN	CP
This week	1,620	2,820	9,986	899	5,459	20,784	3,513	4,253
This week last year	1,462	2,646	8,519	777	4,762	18,166	4,308	5,507
2016 YTD	28,412	41,688	161,359	12,914	78,824	323,197	51,646	68,702
2015 YTD	31,545	45,761	163,493	12,878	82,077	335,754	61,580	65,353
2016 YTD as % of 2015 YTD	90	91	99	100	96	96	84	105
Last 4 weeks as % of 2015*	86	86	94	87	104	94	90	118
Last 4 weeks as % of 3-yr avg.**	94	93	105	107	105	102	89	100
Total 2015	104,039	149,043	536,173	45,445	267,720	1,102,420	211,868	236,263

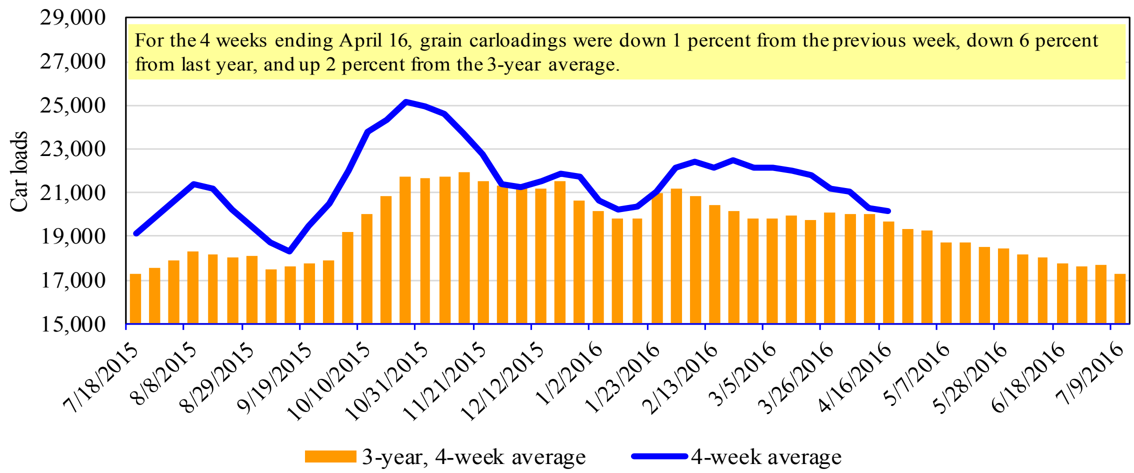
*The past 4 weeks of this year as a percent of the same 4 weeks last year.

**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: 4/21/2016		Delivery period May-16	May-15	Jun-16	Jun-15	Jul-16	Jul-15	Aug-16	Aug-15
BNSF[3]	COT grain units	no bids	no bids	no bids	5	no bids	5	no bids	69
	COT grain single-car[5]	0 . . 1	no bids	0	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	5 . . 27
UP[4]	GCAS/Region 1	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	n/a	n/a
	GCAS/Region 2	no bids	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.

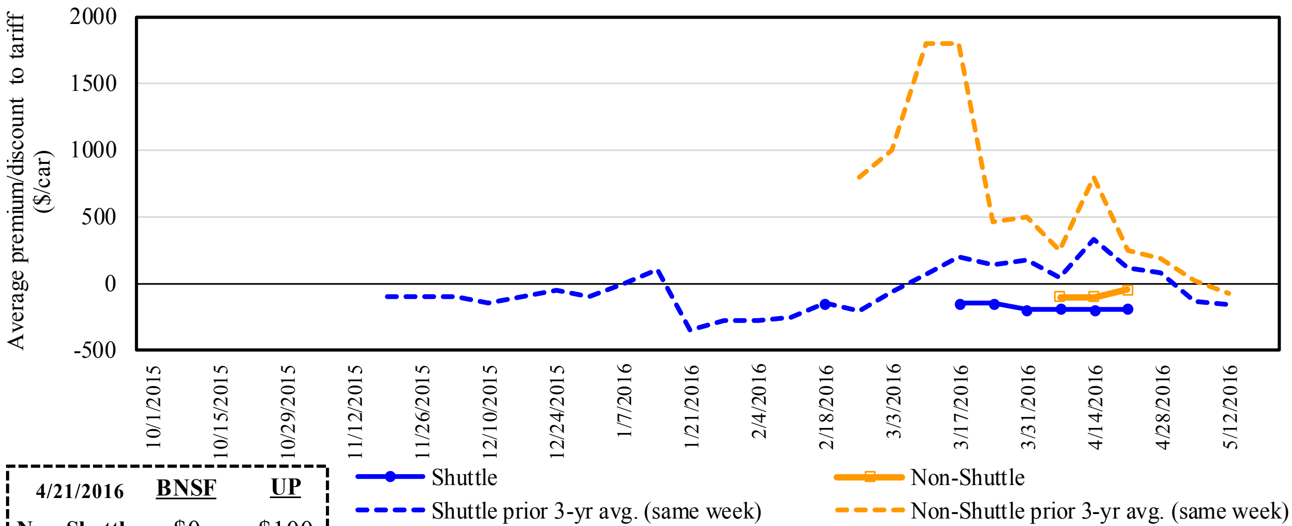
Region 2 includes: CO, IA, KS, MN, NE, WY, and Kansas City and St. Joseph, MO.

[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 May 2016, Secondary Market

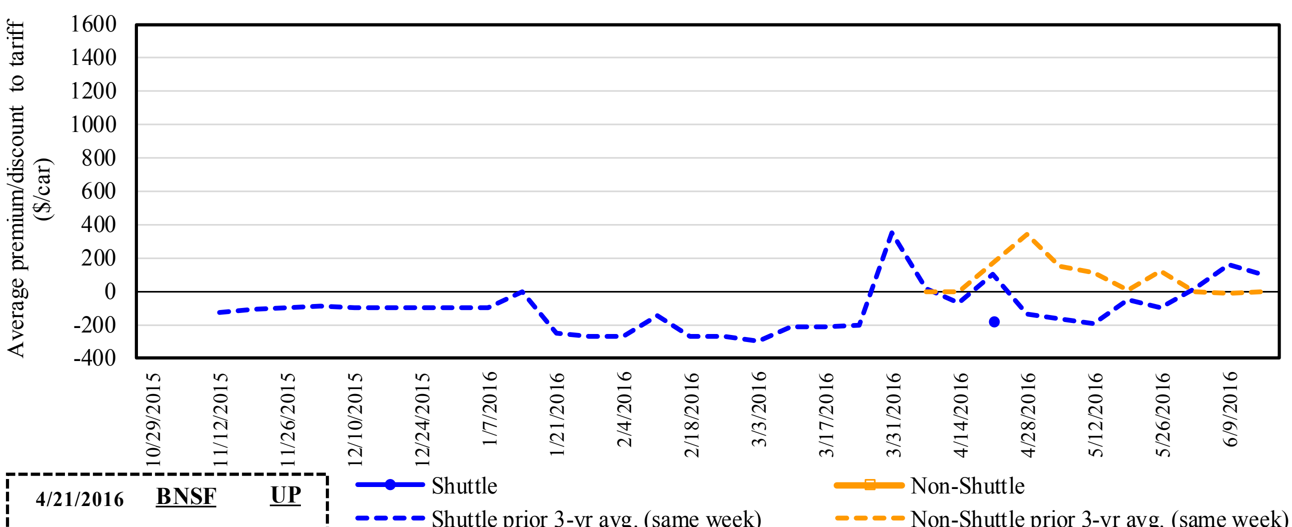


4/21/2016	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	$0	-$100
Shuttle	-$191	-$188

Average Non-shuttle bids/offers rose $50 this week, and are at the peak.
Average Shuttle bids/offers rose $6 this week and are $39 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 June 2016, Secondary Market



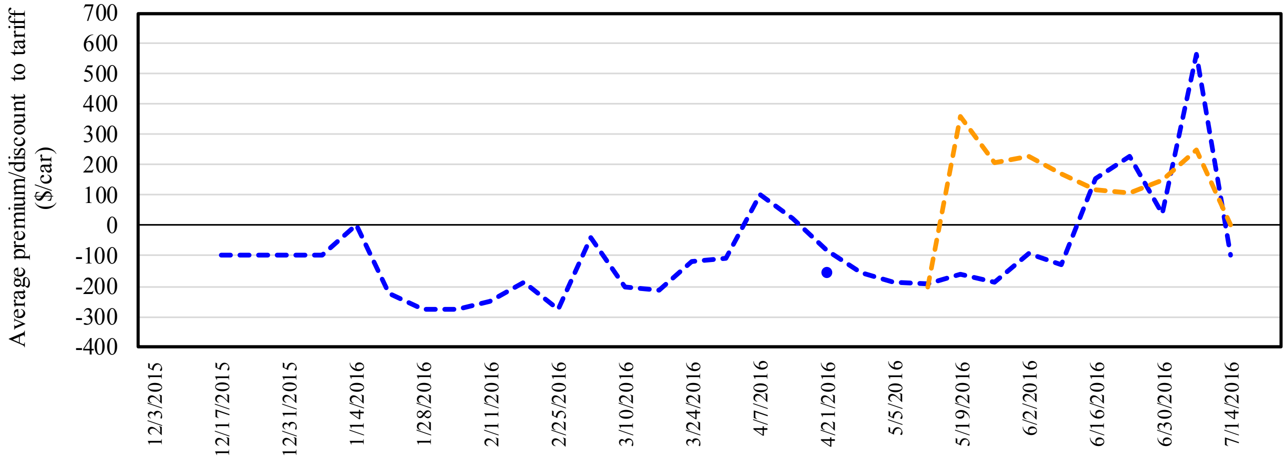
4/21/2016	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	-$200	-$150

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

Figure 6

Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in July 2016, Secondary Market



4/21/2016	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	n/a	-$150

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: 4/21/2016	Delivery period					
		May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16
Non-shuttle	**BNSF-GF**	**0**	**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	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	UP-Pool	**(100)**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2015	75	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	**BNSF-GF**	**(191)**	**(200)**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	3	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	**(188)**	**(150)**	**(150)**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2015	113	150	100	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
4/1/2016	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	4
	Grand Forks, ND	Duluth-Superior, MN	$3,463	-$36	$34.03	$0.93	-5
	Wichita, KS	Los Angeles, CA	$6,950	-$184	$67.19	$1.83	6
	Wichita, KS	New Orleans, LA	$4,243	$0	$42.14	$1.15	2
	Sioux Falls, SD	Galveston-Houston, TX	$6,486	-$151	$62.91	$1.71	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	0
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	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	3
	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	$3,824	$0	$37.97	$1.03	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	2
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$4,395	$0	$43.64	$1.19	6
Shuttle Train							
Wheat	Great Falls, MT	Portland, OR	$3,853	-$106	$37.21	$1.01	0
	Wichita, KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	$3,871	-$82	$37.62	$1.02	7
	Chicago, IL	Albany, NY	$5,492	$0	$54.54	$1.48	12
	Grand Forks, ND	Portland, OR	$5,511	-$182	$52.92	$1.44	1
	Grand Forks, ND	Galveston-Houston, TX	$5,831	-$190	$56.02	$1.52	-9
	Northwest KS	Portland, OR	$5,478	$0	$54.40	$1.48	-1
Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$5,000	-$222	$47.45	$1.21	-8
	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	$4,960	-$203	$47.24	$1.20	-7
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$3,481	$0	$34.57	$0.88	5
	Lincoln, NE	Galveston-Houston, TX	$3,600	-$119	$34.57	$0.88	-3
	Des Moines, IA	Amarillo, TX	$3,795	$0	$37.69	$0.96	-1
	Minneapolis, MN	Tacoma, WA	$5,000	-$220	$47.46	$1.21	-7
	Council Bluffs, IA	Stockton, CA	$4,640	-$228	$43.81	$1.11	-3
Soybeans	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	$5,490	-$203	$52.50	$1.43	-7
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$5,510	-$222	$52.51	$1.43	-7
	Fargo, ND	Tacoma, WA	$5,380	-$181	$51.63	$1.41	-7
	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	6
	Grand Island, NE	Portland, OR	$5,360	$0	$53.23	$1.45	-5

[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: 4/1/2016				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	5
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	$6,514	$0	$66.55	$1.81	-4
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	$6,995	$70	$72.19	$1.96	-2
	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	0
	NE	Queretaro, QA	$7,879	$0	$80.50	$2.04	0
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	$6,545	$0	$66.87	$1.70	9
	MO	Tlalnepantla, EM	$7,238	$0	$73.96	$1.88	1
	SD	Torreon, CU	$7,240	$0	$73.98	$1.88	2
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	$8,652	$54	$88.95	$2.42	2
	NE	Guadalajara, JA	$9,142	$52	$93.93	$2.55	1
	IA	El Castillo, JA	$9,470	$0	$96.76	$2.63	1
	KS	Torreon, CU	$7,439	$30	$76.31	$2.07	1
Sorghum	NE	Celaya, GJ	$7,344	$41	$75.45	$1.91	-2
	KS	Queretaro, QA	$7,563	$0	$77.27	$1.96	7
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	$6,168	$0	$63.02	$1.60	8
	NE	Torreon, CU	$6,672	$25	$68.42	$1.74	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

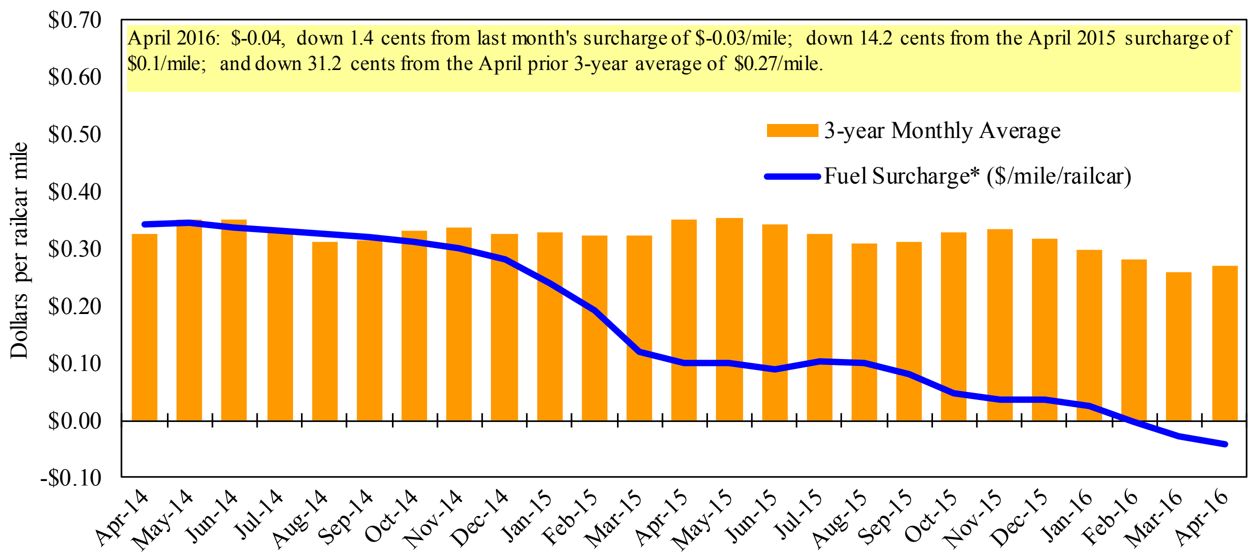
[3]Approximate load per car = 97.87 metric tons: Corn & Sorghum 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

[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.

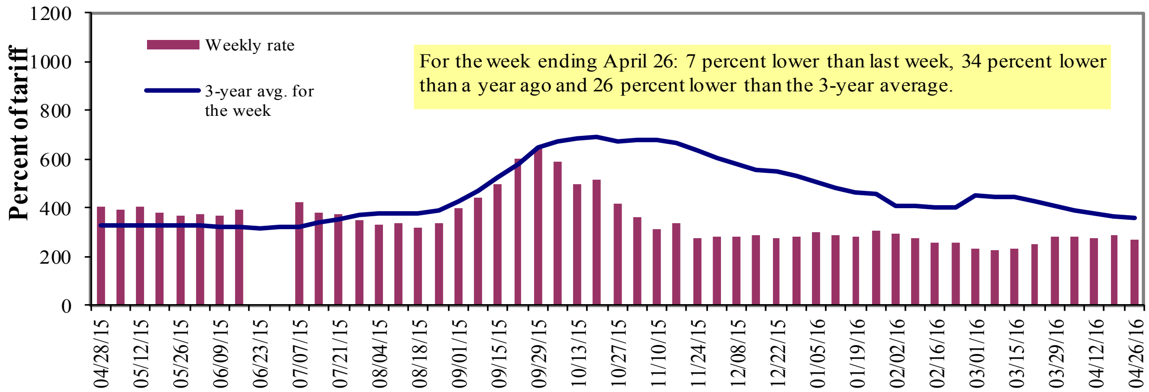
**CSX strike price changed from $2.00/gal. to $3.75/gal. starting January 1, 2015.

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

Table 9

Weekly Barge Freight Rates: Southbound Only

		Twin Cities	Mid-Mississippi	Lower Illinois River	St. Louis	Cincinnati	Lower Ohio	Cairo-Memphis
Rate[1]	4/26/2016	340	293	268	198	200	200	190
	4/19/2016	348	298	288	225	213	213	192
$/ton	4/26/2016	21.05	15.59	12.44	7.90	9.38	8.08	5.97
	4/19/2016	21.54	15.85	13.36	8.98	9.99	8.61	6.03
Current week % change from the same week:								
	Last year	-18	-27	-34	-34	-32	-32	-30
	3-year avg. [2]	-21	-22	-26	-27	-27	-27	-17
Rate[1]	May	348	293	270	198	200	200	190
	July	350	300	278	205	205	205	198

[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

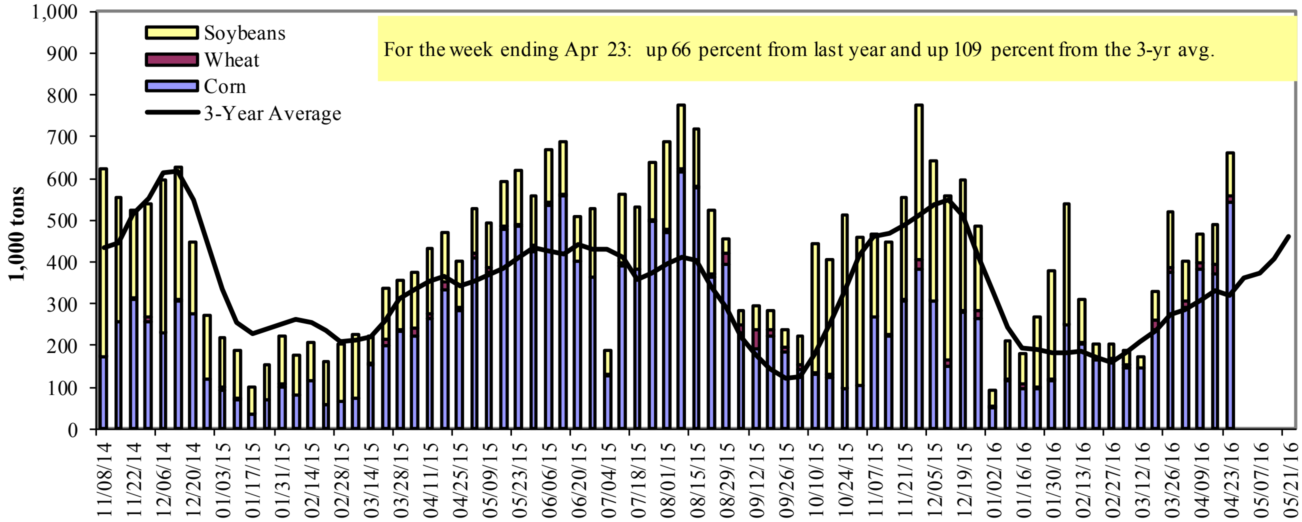
Figure 9
Benchmark tariff rates

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 4/23/2016	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Other	Total
Mississippi River					
Rock Island, IL (L15)	297	14	68	0	379
Winfield, MO (L25)	401	19	99	2	521
Alton, IL (L26)	562	19	117	5	703
Granite City, IL (L27)	542	16	105	5	667
Illinois River (L8)	133	3	11	0	147
Ohio River (L52)	86	0	21	0	107
Arkansas River (L1)	0	15	7	0	22
Weekly total - 2016	628	31	133	5	796
Weekly total - 2015	462	45	169	12	688
2016 YTD[1]	5,801	465	3,595	52	9,913
2015 YTD	5,106	435	3,781	82	9,403
2016 as % of 2015 YTD	114	107	95	63	105
Last 4 weeks as % of 2015[2]	109	86	79	26	99
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.

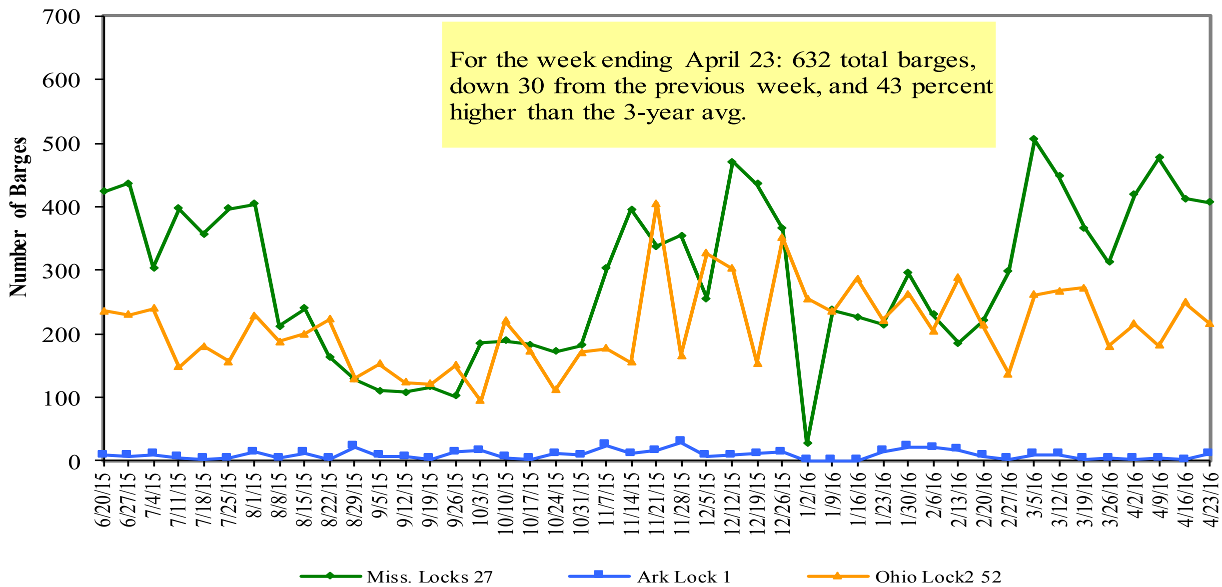
[2] As a percent of same period in 2015.

Note: Total may not add exactly, due to rounding

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Figure 11

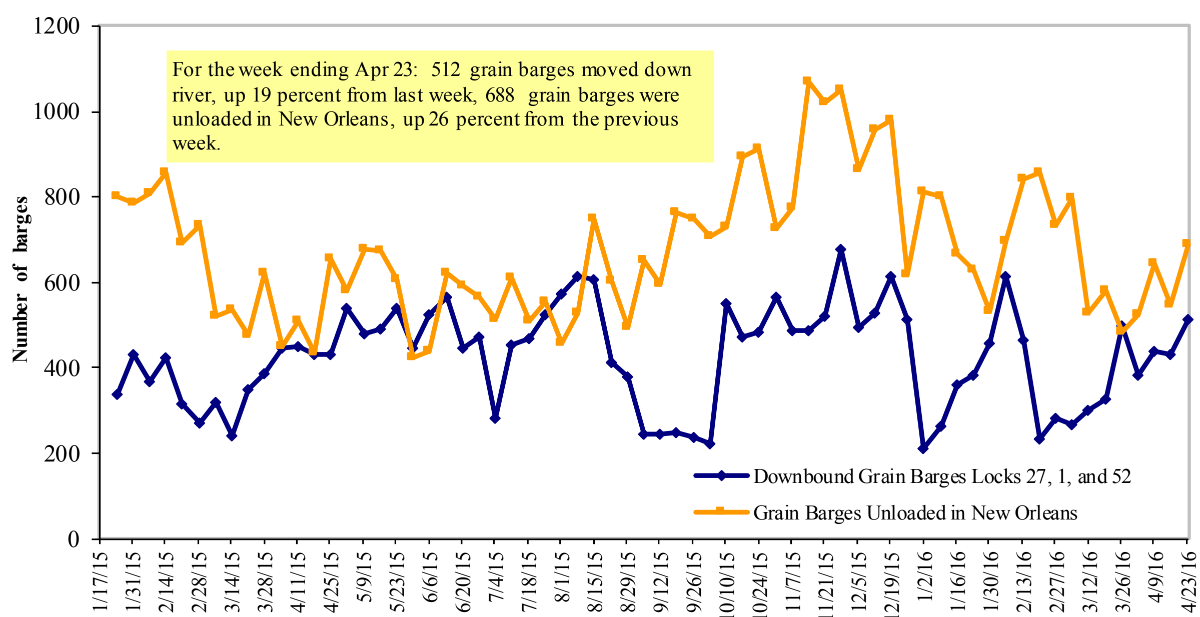
Upbound Empty Barges Transiting Mississippi River Locks 27, Arkansas River Lock and Dam 1, and Ohio River Locks and Dam 52



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 4/25/2016 (US $/gallon)

Region	Location	Price	Change from Week ago	Change from Year ago
I	East Coast	2.244	0.033	-0.706
	New England	2.291	0.050	-0.762
	Central Atlantic	2.343	0.024	-0.756
	Lower Atlantic	2.159	0.036	-0.657
II	Midwest[2]	2.156	0.030	-0.547
III	Gulf Coast[3]	2.074	0.054	-0.613
IV	Rocky Mountain	2.202	0.029	-0.542
V	West Coast	2.406	0.039	-0.594
	West Coast less California	2.505	0.051	-0.545
	California	2.282	0.029	-0.636
Total	U.S.	2.198	0.037	-0.615

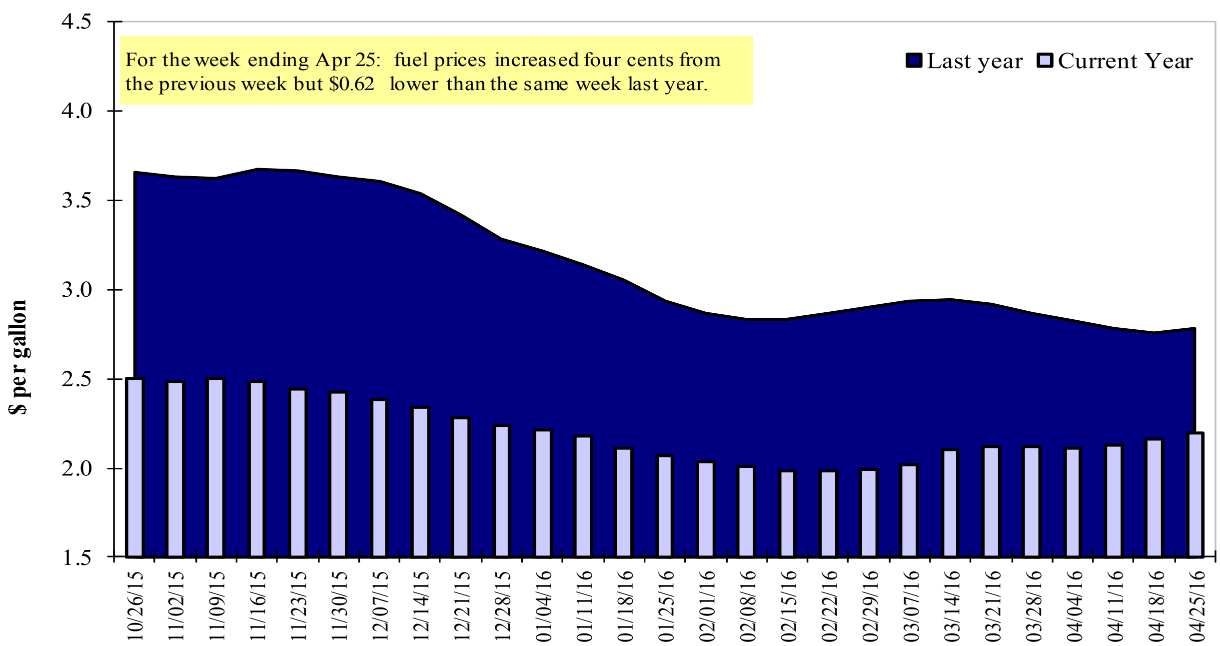
[1]Diesel fuel prices include all taxes. Prices represent an average of all types of diesel fuel.

[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)

For the week ending	Wheat HRW	SRW	HRS	SWW	DUR	All wheat	Corn	Soybeans	Total
Export Balances[1]									
4/14/2016	752	352	998	665	79	2,845	12,663	3,477	18,985
This week year ago	1,161	556	1,322	679	82	3,801	13,912	3,499	21,211
Cumulative exports-marketing year[2]									
2015/16 YTD	4,815	2,772	5,470	3,097	619	16,772	22,264	41,765	80,802
2014/15 YTD	6,235	3,237	6,443	3,353	607	19,875	25,573	45,114	90,561
YTD 2015/16 as % of 2014/15	77	86	85	92	102	84	87	93	89
Last 4 wks as % of same period 2014/15	67	66	93	105	115	84	91	97	91
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 4/14/2016	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	6,144	8,761	(30)	10,079
Mexico	11,161	9,445	18	8,145
Korea	1,345	2,761	(51)	2,965
Colombia	3,947	3,469	14	3,461
Taiwan	1,091	1,402	(22)	1,238
Top 5 Importers	**23,687**	**25,837**	**(8)**	**25,887**
Total US corn export sales	**34,927**	**39,484**	**(12)**	**34,445**
% of Projected	83%	83%		
Change from prior week	**1,203**	**868**		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. corn export sales	68%	65%		75%
USDA forecast, April 2016	**41,985**	**47,430**	**(11)**	
Corn Use for Ethanol USDA forecast, April 2016	**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 4/14/2016	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	27,028	29,697	(9)	24,211
Mexico	3,029	2,945	3	2,971
Indonesia	1,440	1,567	(8)	1,895
Japan	1,940	1,617	20	1,750
Taiwan	1,129	1,137	(1)	1,055
Top 5 importers	**34,565**	**36,962**	**(6)**	**31,882**
Total US soybean export sales	**45,243**	**48,613**	**(7)**	**39,169**
% of Projected	97%	97%		
Change from prior week	408	102		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. soybean export sales	76%	76%		**81%**
USDA forecast, April 2016	**46,458**	**50,218**	**(7)**	

(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 4/14/2016	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	2,421	3,037	(20)	3,113
Mexico	2,225	2,763	(19)	2,807
Nigeria	1,455	1,959	(26)	2,512
Philippines	2,146	2,364	(9)	2,105
Brazil	429	1,534	(72)	2,091
Korea	1,131	1,287	(12)	1,273
Taiwan	1,045	1,032	1	1,007
Indonesia	524	635	(17)	751
Colombia	616	560	10	662
Thailand	555	672		618
Top 10 importers	**11,991**	**15,169**	**(21)**	**16,939**
Total US wheat export sales	**19,617**	**23,676**	**(17)**	**26,361**
% of Projected	93%	102%		
Change from prior week	295	398		
Top 10 importers' share of U.S. wheat export sales	61%	64%		64%
USDA forecast, April 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 04/21/16	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	297	264	112	3,697	3,928	94	100	88	10,985
Corn	184	237	77	2,512	3,288	76	103	149	7,232
Soybeans	11	12	95	4,401	4,034	109	20	23	11,809
Total	**491**	**513**	**96**	**10,611**	**11,249**	**94**	**87**	**97**	**30,027**
Mississippi Gulf									
Wheat	89	73	122	1,087	1,241	88	102	51	4,504
Corn	782	641	122	8,511	8,769	97	104	108	26,701
Soybeans	162	169	96	8,760	9,180	95	94	131	29,593
Total	**1,033**	**883**	**117**	**18,358**	**19,190**	**96**	**101**	**103**	**60,797**
Texas Gulf									
Wheat	0	92	0	827	1,293	64	33	27	3,724
Corn	0	0	n/a	251	178	141	214	186	596
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	92	210	44	n/a	n/a	864
Total	**0**	**92**	**0**	**1,170**	**1,680**	**70**	**43**	**35**	**5,184**
Interior									
Wheat	18	54	33	404	447	90	75	104	1,388
Corn	129	201	64	1,920	1,794	107	109	137	6,201
Soybeans	111	85	131	1,330	1,236	108	145	130	3,518
Total	**258**	**340**	**76**	**3,653**	**3,476**	**105**	**112**	**130**	**11,106**
Great Lakes									
Wheat	0	0	n/a	11	52	20	27	19	997
Corn	21	0	n/a	21	75	28	28	83	485
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	0	6	0	0	0	733
Total	**21**	**0**	**n/a**	**31**	**133**	**23**	**26**	**34**	**2,216**
Atlantic									
Wheat	25	0	n/a	151	243	62	27	64	520
Corn	0	0	n/a	14	44	31	0	0	277
Soybeans	9	17	52	819	850	96	77	92	2,053
Total	**33**	**17**	**197**	**983**	**1,137**	**86**	**38**	**45**	**2,850**
U.S. total from ports**									
Wheat	428	483	89	6,177	7,203	86	78	64	22,118
Corn	1,115	1,079	103	13,228	14,147	94	103	119	41,492
Soybeans	293	282	104	15,402	15,516	99	79	94	48,570
Total	**1,836**	**1,844**	**100**	**34,807**	**36,866**	**94**	**92**	**96**	**112,180**

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

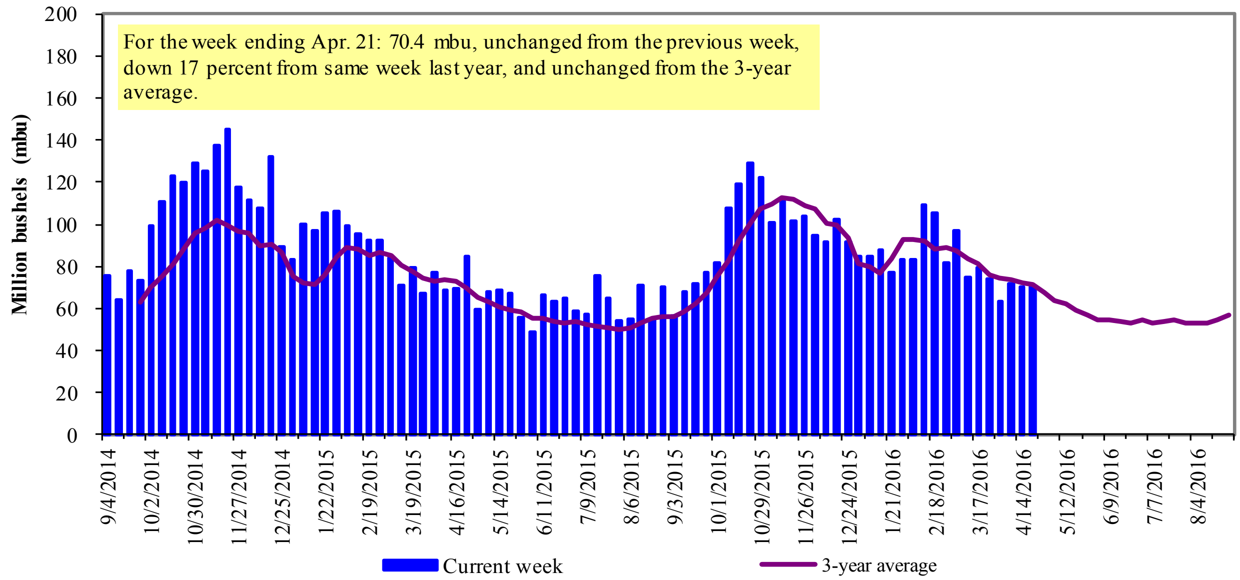
**Total only includes regions shown above

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

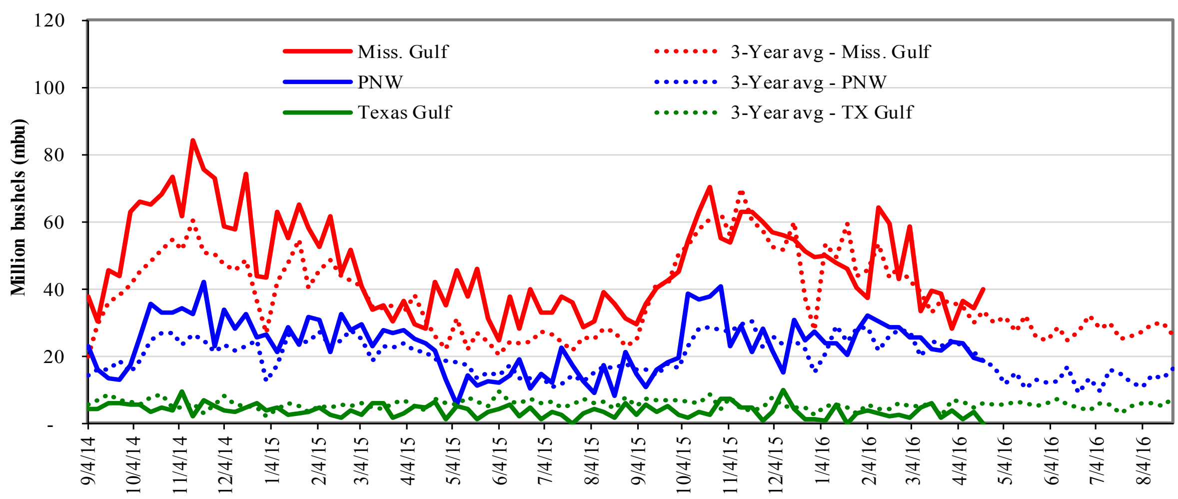
U.S. grain inspected for export (wheat, corn, and soybeans)



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 04/21/16 inspections (mbu):		Percent change from:	MS Gulf	TX Gulf	U.S. Gulf	PNW
Mississippi Gulf:	40.0	Last Week:	up 17	down 100	up 7	down 5
PNW:	18.5	Last Year (same week):	down 5	down 100	down 17	down 14
Texas Gulf:	0.0	3-yr avg. (4-wk. mov. Avg):	up 19	down 100	up 1	down 16

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

Ocean Transportation

Table 17

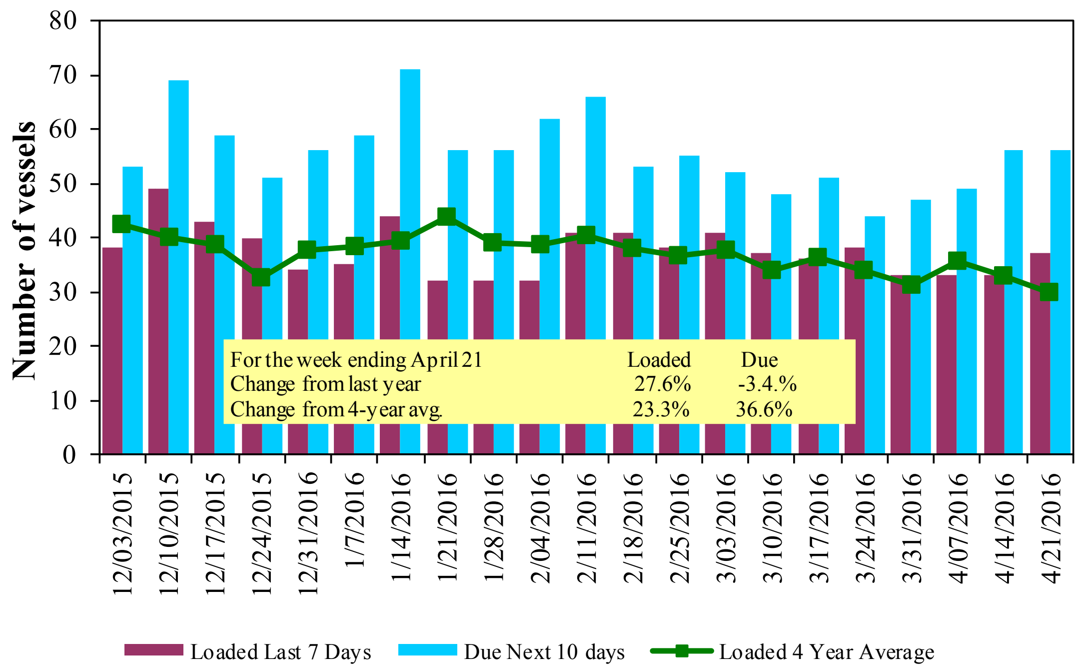
Weekly Port Region Grain Ocean Vessel Activity (number of vessels)

	Gulf			Pacific Northwest	Vancouver B.C.
Date	In port	Loaded 7-days	Due next 10-days	In port	In port
4/21/2016	33	37	56	10	n/a
4/14/2016	33	33	56	16	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

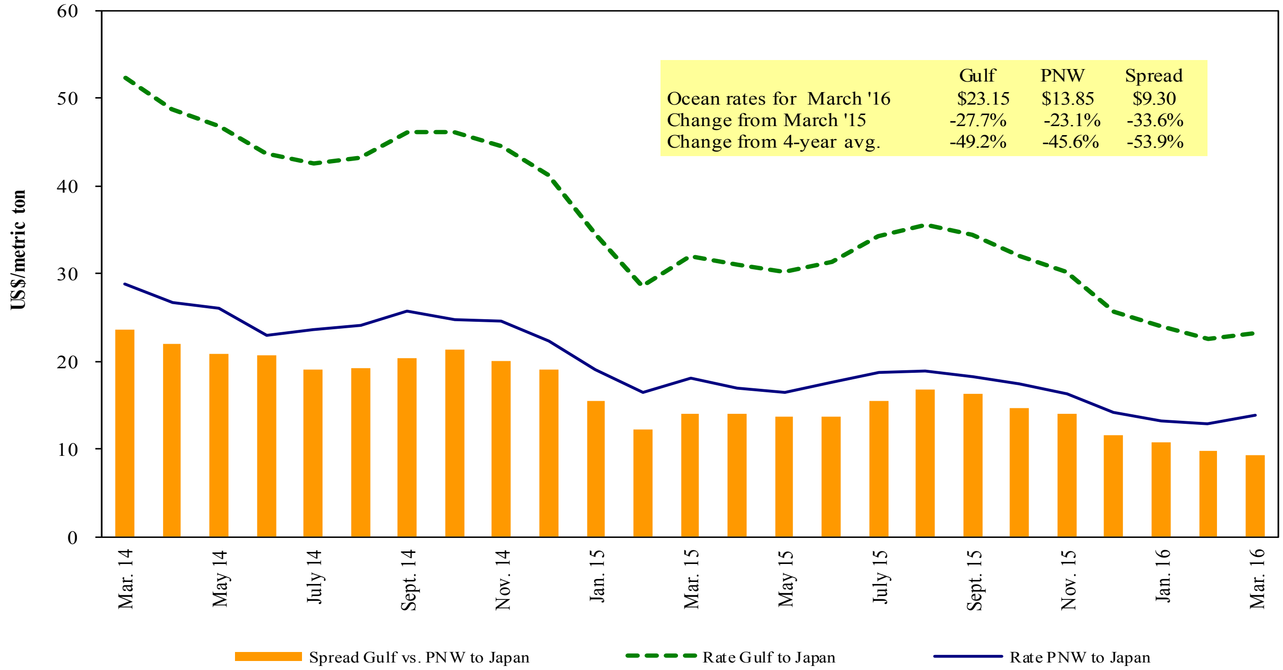
U.S. Gulf[1] Vessel Loading Activity



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 04/23/2016

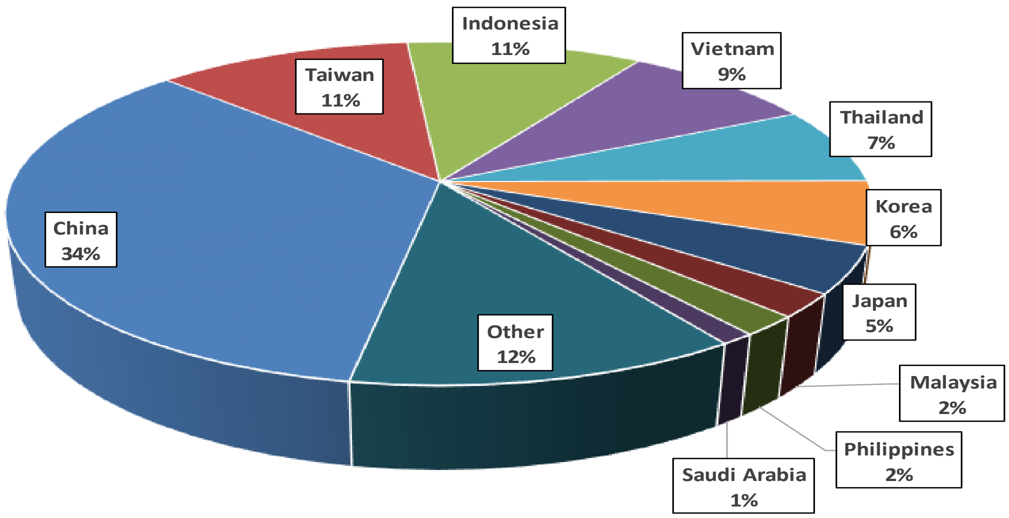
Export region	Import region	Grain types	Loading date	Volume loads (metric tons)	Freight rate (US$/metric ton)
U.S. Gulf	Japan	Heavy Grain	Apr 5/18	52,000	21.25
U.S. Gulf	Japan	Heavy Grain	Apr 1/5	50,000	22.20
U.S. Gulf	Djibouti	Wheat[1]	Apr 4/14	34,000	128.76
U.S. Gulf	Djibouti	Sorghum	Apr 18/28	15,000	64.63
PNW	Algeria	Wheat	Feb 10/20	51,500	13.15
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	May 5/15	60,000	17.75
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	May 1/20	60,000	15.50
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	May 1/16	66,000	15.25
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	May 1/15	66,000	15.50
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	May 1/10	60,000	16.65
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	May 1/6	60,000	14.75
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	April 20/30	60,000	17.50
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Apr 15/24	60,000	14.50
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Apr 1/10	60,000	14.00
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Apr 1/10	60,000	13.90
Brazil	Iran	Soybean Meal	Apr 11/14	54,000	21.50
EC S America	China	Heavy Grain	May/June	60,000	14.75
Uruguay	Portugal	Soybeans	Apr 15/20	30,000	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.

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.

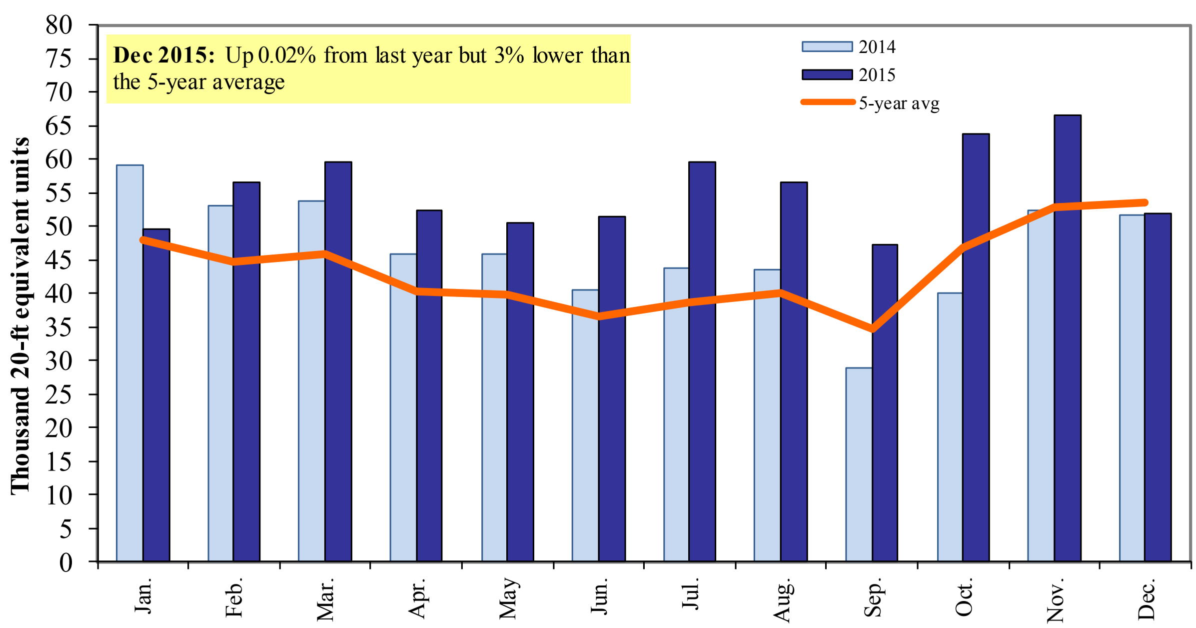
Figure 18
Top 10 Destination Markets for U.S. Containerized Grain Exports, January-December 2015



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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Preferred citation: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. *Grain Transportation Report.* April 28, 2016. Web: **http://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS056.04-28-2016**