United States Department of Agriculture

Grain Transportation Report

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

Contact Us

December 24, 2015

Contents

The next release is December 31, 2015

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Port of Los Angeles to Receive Largest Container Ship to Call North America
On December 26, the Port of Los Angeles is scheduled to receive the CMA-CGM Benjamin Franklin, which has a capacity of 18,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU). This vessel is about one third larger than the container ships currently calling southern California ports (which includes the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach). Approximately 10 percent of U.S. grain exports are moved in containers and more than 50 percent of those shipments use the Southern California ports.

STB Reauthorization Act Signed
On December 18, 2015, President Obama signed the Surface Transportation Board (STB) Reauthorization Act of 2015. STB is the Federal agency charged with economic oversight of the Nation's freight rail system. Major provisions of the bill include: (1) expanding membership of the STB Board from three to five members; (2) requiring STB to maintain one or more streamlined processes for rate cases in which the full stand-alone cost presentation is too costly and maintain procedures to ensure expeditious handling of challenges to the reasonableness of rail rates; (3) allowing STB to initiate investigations on its own (as opposed to investigations upon compliant); and (4) requiring STB to make quarterly reports to Congress on its progress toward addressing the issues raised in unfinished regulatory proceedings.

Pacific Northwest Grain Inspections Rebound
For the week ending December 17, total inspections of grain for export from the Pacific Northwest (PNW) reached .834 million metric tons (mmt), up 106 percent from the past week and 8 percent above last year. PNW wheat and soybean inspections jumped significantly as demand from Asia increased. Mississippi Gulf grain inspections were down 3 percent from the previous week. **Total inspections of grain** (corn, wheat, soybeans) for export from all major export regions reached 2.68 mmt, up 9 percent from the past week, 8 percent below last year, and 7 percent above the 3-year average. Total wheat inspections increased 8 percent from the past week, and corn and soybeans increased 27 and 3 percent. Outstanding export sales of corn were up from the past week but wheat and soybean sales decreased.

Snapshots by Sector

Export Sales
During the week ending December 10, **unshipped balances** of wheat, corn, and soybeans totaled 28.1 mmt, down 20 percent from the same time last year. Net weekly **wheat export sales** of .320 mmt were up 42 percent from the previous week. Net **corn export sales** were .517 mmt, down 52 percent from the previous week, and net **soybean export sales** of .748 mmt, down 49 percent from the past week.

Rail
U.S. Class I railroads originated 22,716 **carloads of grain** for the week ending December 12, down 1 percent from the previous week, down 6 percent from last year, and up 7 percent from the 3-year average.

Average January shuttle **secondary railcar bids/offers** per car were $172 below tariff for the week ending December 17, up $53 from last week, and $197 lower than last year. Non-shuttle secondary railcar bids/offers were $43 below tariff, up $16 from last week. There were no non-shuttle secondary railcar bids/offers this week last year.

Barge
For the week ending December 19, **barge grain movements** totaled 963,257 tons, 19 percent higher than last week, and up 17 percent from the same period last year

For the week ending December 19, 614 grain barges **moved down river**, up 16 percent from last week; 978 grain barges were **unloaded in New Orleans**, up 6 percent from the previous week

Ocean
For the week ending December 17, 43 **ocean-going grain vessels** were loaded in the Gulf, 2 percent more than the same as last year. Fifty-nine vessels are expected to be loaded within the next 10 days, 33 percent less than last year.

For the week ending December 17, the ocean freight rate for shipping bulk grain from the Gulf to Japan was $25.25 per metric ton (mt), down 1 percent from the previous week. The cost of shipping from the Pacific Northwest to Japan was $14.00 per mt, unchanged from the previous week.

Containerized grain exports to Asia in October were more than 56,000 TEU—40 percent higher than the previous year, 20 percent higher than the 5-year average, and 37 percent lower than August movements.

Fuel
During the week ending December 21, U.S. average **diesel fuel prices** decreased 5 cents from the previous week to $2.28 per gallon—down $1.00 from the same week last year.

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Web: **http://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS056.12-24-2015**

Feature Article/Calendar

Jan. 10-14, 2016	The Transportation Research Board (TRB) 95th Annual Meeting	Walter E. Washington Convention Center, in Washington, D.C.	http://www.trb.org/
Jan. 11-13, 2016	Michigan Agri-Business Association	Lansing Center, Lansing, MI	http://www.miagbiz.org/
Jan. 12-14, 2016	Wisconsin Agri-Business Association	Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI	http://wiagribusiness.org/
Jan. 12-14, 2016	Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Denver, CO	http://www.rmagbiz.org/
Jan. 17-19, 2016	North Dakota Grain Dealers Association Convention	Fargo, ND	http://www.ndgda.org/
Jan. 18-19, 2016	Agribusiness Council of Indiana	Conf./Expo Downtown Marriott, Indianapolis, IN	http://inagribiz.org/
Jan. 19, 2016	Annual Iowa Renewable Fuels Summit	Des Moines, IA	http://iowarfa.org/
Jan. 20-21, 2016	South Dakota Ag Expo	Sioux Falls Convention Center, Sioux Falls, SD	http://agexpo-sd.org/
Jan. 25-28, 2016	National Biodiesel Conference & Expo	TBA, Tampa, FL	http://biodieselconference.org/2016/
Jan. 26-28, 2016	AFIA International Feed Expo	Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA	http://www.afia.org/
Jan. 27, 2016	Ag Shipper Workshops	Portland, OR	http://agtrans.org
Jan. 29, 2016	Ag Shipper Workshops	Boise, ID	http://agtrans.org
Jan. 20-21, 2016	Minnesota Grain & Feed Association	St. Cloud, MN	http://www.mgfa.org/
Feb. 3, 2016	Ag Shipper Workshops	Atlanta, GA	http://agtrans.org
Feb. 14-16, 2016	Grain and Feed Association of Illinois Annual Convention	Peoria Convention and Pere Marquette, Peoria, IL	http://www.gfai.org/
Feb. 24, 2016	Ag Shipper Workshops	Fresno, CA	http://agtrans.org
Feb. 25, 2016	Ag Shipper Workshops	Sacramento, CA	http://agtrans.org
Feb. 25-26, 2016	Agricultiral Outlook Forum	Arlington, VA	http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/
Feb. 27-1, 2016	2016 GEAPS Exchange	Austin , TX	http://www.geaps.com/exchange/16/
Feb. 29- Mar. 2, 2016	National Waterway Confernce Legislative Summit	Washington DC	https://waterways.org/
Mar. 3-5, 2016	Commodity Classic	New Orleans, LA	http://www.commodityclassic.com/home
March 9-11, 2016	Waterway Council Inc., Washington Meeting	Washington DC	http://waterwayscouncil.org/
March 13-15, 2016	National Grain & Feed Assoc. Convention	Hotel Del Coronado, San Diego, CA	http://www.ngfa.org/upcoming-events/annual-convention/
April 4-8, 2016	IAOM 120th Annual Conference and Expo	Columbus, OH	http://www.iaom.info/annualmeeting/
April 6-8, 2016	GEAPS/IAOM Annual Great Lakes Conference	Angola, IN	http://www.geaps.com/

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
12/23/15	153	271	211	153	113	99
12/16/15	157	270	213	161	114	99

[1]Indicator: Base year 2000 = 100; Weekly updates include truck = diesel ($/gallon); rail = near-month secondary rail market bid and monthly tariff rat with fuel surcharge ($/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

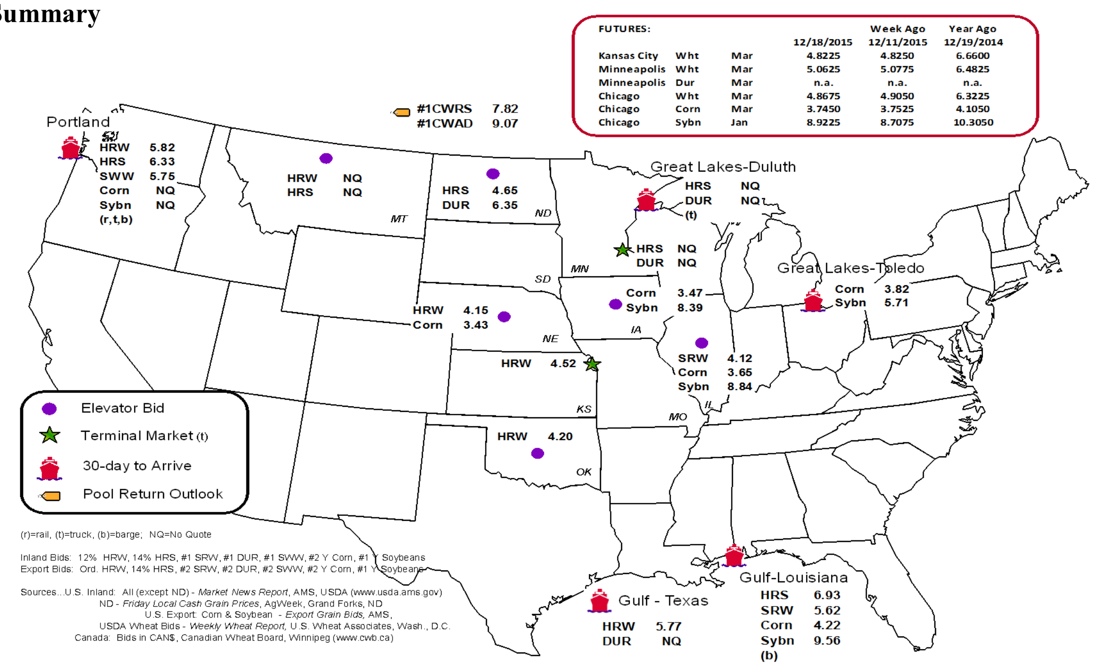
Market Update: U.S. Origins to Export Position Price Spreads ($/bushel)

Commodity	Origin--Destination	12/18/2015	12/11/2015
Corn	IL--Gulf	-0.57	-0.58
Corn	NE--Gulf	-0.79	-0.81
Soybean	IA--Gulf	-1.17	-1.18
HRW	KS--Gulf	-1.25	-1.25
HRS	ND--Portland	-1.68	-1.72

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]
12/16/2015[p]	330	1,009	5,859	849	8,047	12/12/2015	1,679
12/09/2015[r]	214	2,289	5,289	736	8,528	12/5/2015	1,357
2015 YTD[r]	28,551	58,233	229,908	25,948	342,640	2015 YTD	93,733
2014 YTD[r]	41,751	80,622	245,264	30,134	397,771	2014 YTD	95,598
2015 YTD as % of 2014 YTD	68	72	94	86	86	% change YTD	98
Last 4 weeks as % of 2014[2]	16	89	92	82	79	Last 4wks % 2014	84
Last 4 weeks as % of 4-year avg.[2]	22	132	119	89	101	Last 4wks % 4 yr	102
Total 2014	44,617	83,674	256,670	32,107	417,068	Total 2014	96,467
Total 2013	31,550	71,388	168,826	25,176	296,940	Total 2013	71,397

[1] Data is incomplete as it is voluntarily provided

[2] Compared with same 4-weeks in 2013 and prior 4-year average.

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

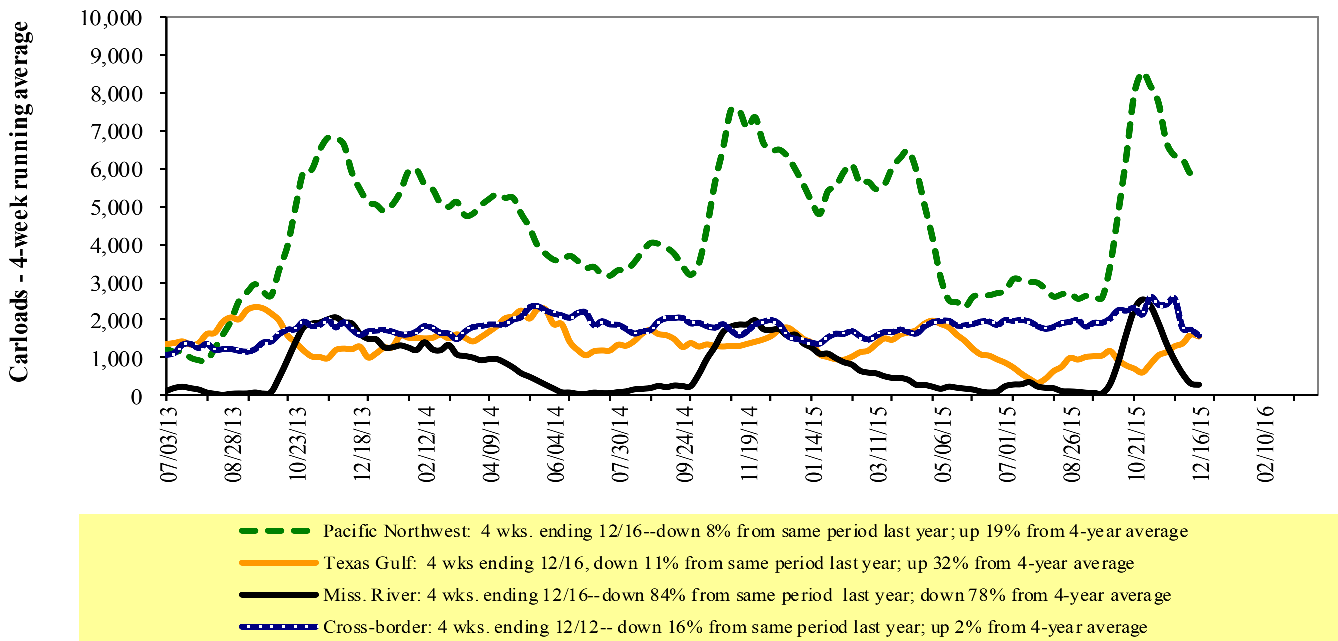
YTD = year-to-date; p = preliminary data; r = revised data; n/a = not available

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	
12/12/2015	CSXT	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP		CN	CP
This week	2,166	2,417	12,226	841	5,066	22,716	4,984	4,877
This week last year	2,743	3,849	10,571	938	6,093	24,194	5,250	4,764
2015 YTD	98,512	141,396	505,911	43,399	253,411	1,042,629	202,012	223,531
2014 YTD	94,100	141,329	444,145	43,857	275,289	998,720	226,008	257,590
2015 YTD as % of 2014 YTD	105	100	114	99	92	104	89	87
Last 4 weeks as % of 2014*	78	80	105	81	84	93	82	93
Last 4 weeks as % of 3-yr avg.*	85	83	115	91	96	102	94	85
Total 2014	103,331	153,771	482,431	47,510	297,969	1,085,012	242,616	276,322

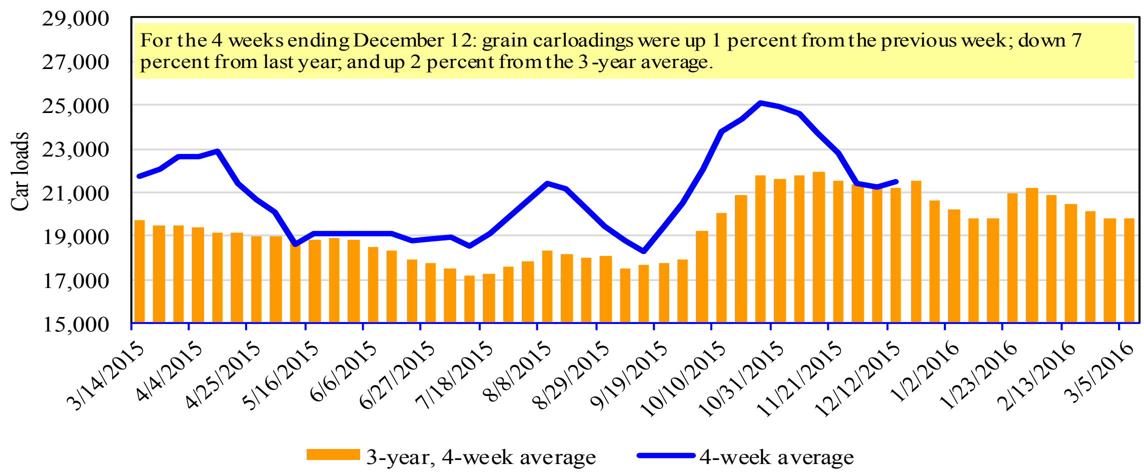
[1]The past 4 weeks of this year as a percent of the same 4 weeks last year.

[2]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: 12/17/2015		Jan-16	Jan-15	Feb-16	Feb-15	Mar-16	Mar-15	Apr-16	Apr-15
		Delivery period							
BNSF[3]	COT grain units	0	40	0	no offer	no bids	66	no bids	no offer
	COT grain single-car[5]	0	14 . . 100	0	no offer	0	101 . . 150	0	no offer
UP[4]	GCAS/Region 1	no bids	no offer	no bids	no offer	no bids	no offer	n/a	n/a
	GCAS/Region 2	no bids	no offer	no bids	no offer	no bids	no offer	n/a	n/a

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

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

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

4UP - 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.

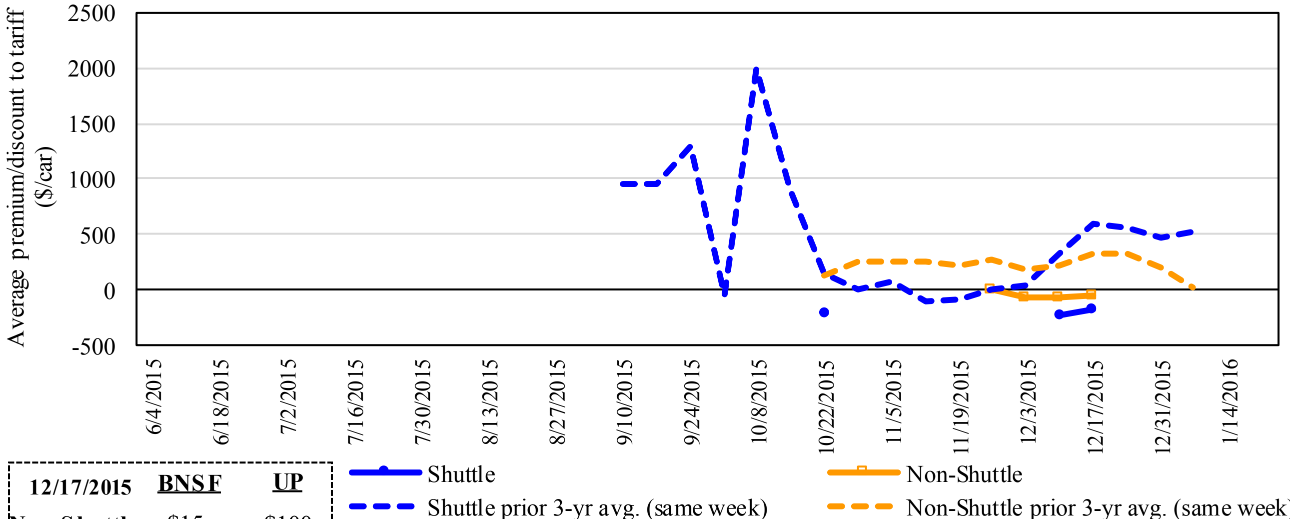
[5]Range is shown because average is not available. Not available = n/a.

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 January 2016, Secondary Market



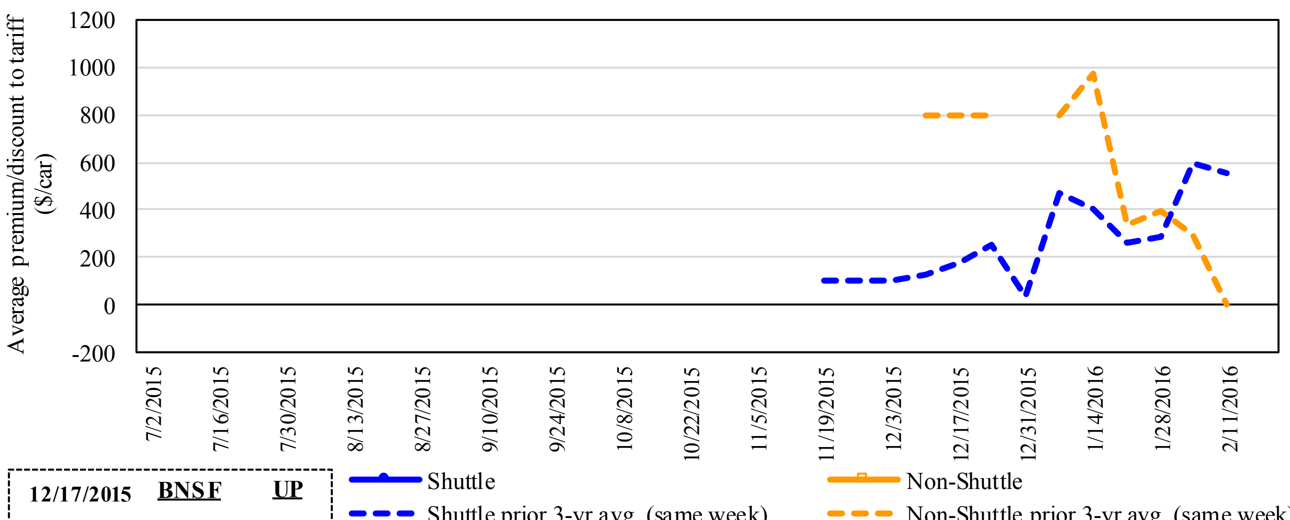
12/17/2015	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	$15	-$100
Shuttle	-$194	-$150

Average Non-shuttle bids/offers rose $16 this week, and are $43 below the peak.
Average Shuttle bids/offers rose $53 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 February 2016, Secondary Market



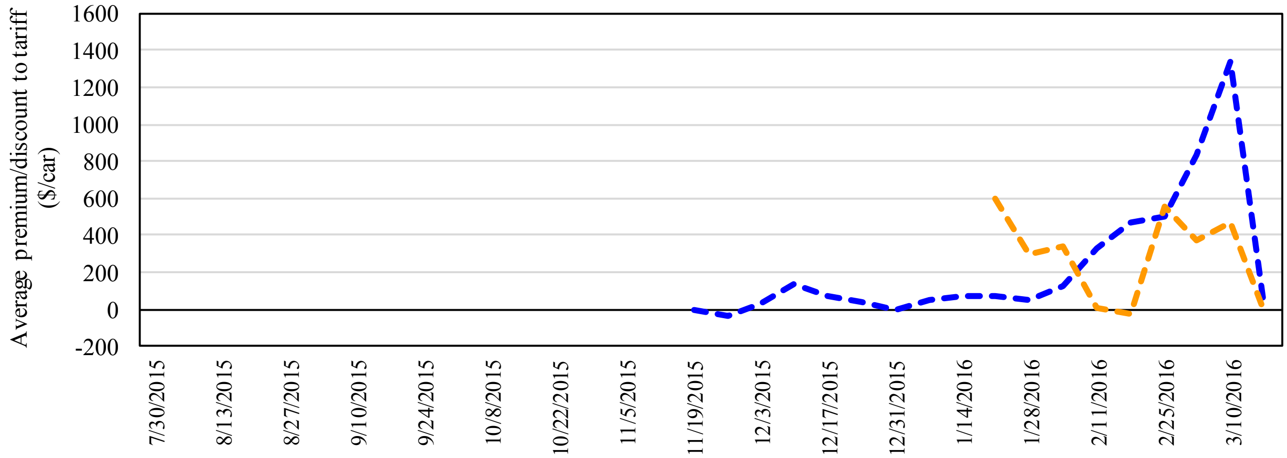
12/17/2015	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	n/a	n/a

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

Figure 6

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



12/17/2015	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: 12/17/2015	Delivery period: Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Non-shuttle	**BNSF-GF**	**15**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	33	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2014	n/a	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 2014	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	**BNSF-GF**	**(194)**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	(44)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2014	(244)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	UP-Pool	**(150)**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	150	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2014	(150)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

Note: Bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices,

n/a = not available; GF = guaranteed freight; Pool = guaranteed pool

Sources: Transportation and Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Data from James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.

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

Table 7

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

Effective date: 12/1/2015	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	$455	$40.32	$1.10	14
	Grand Forks, ND	Duluth-Superior, MN	$3,563	$3	$35.41	$0.96	-3
	Wichita, KS	Los Angeles, CA	$6,950	$15	$69.17	$1.88	4
	Wichita, KS	New Orleans, LA	$4,243	$801	$50.09	$1.36	17
	Sioux Falls, SD	Galveston-Houston, TX	$6,486	$13	$64.53	$1.76	5
	Northwest KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	$4,511	$878	$53.51	$1.46	17
	Amarillo, TX	Los Angeles, CA	$4,710	$1,221	$58.90	$1.60	20
Corn	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$3,681	$905	$45.55	$1.16	26
	Toledo, OH	Raleigh, NC	$6,061	$0	$60.19	$1.53	16
	Des Moines, IA	Davenport, IA	$2,168	$192	$23.43	$0.60	6
	Indianapolis, IN	Atlanta, GA	$5,004	$0	$49.69	$1.26	11
	Indianapolis, IN	Knoxville, TN	$4,311	$0	$42.81	$1.09	14
	Des Moines, IA	Little Rock, AR	$3,444	$563	$39.80	$1.01	14
	Des Moines, IA	Los Angeles, CA	$5,052	$1,641	$66.46	$1.69	13
Soybeans	Minneapolis, MN	New Orleans, LA	$3,699	$52	$37.25	$1.01	-10
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	$5,051	$0	$50.16	$1.37	24
	Indianapolis, IN	Raleigh, NC	$6,178	$0	$61.35	$1.67	16
	Indianapolis, IN	Huntsville, AL	$4,529	$0	$44.98	$1.22	23
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$4,395	$905	$52.64	$1.43	23
Shuttle Train							
Wheat	Great Falls, MT	Portland, OR	$3,953	$9	$39.34	$1.07	1
	Wichita, KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	$3,919	$7	$38.99	$1.06	7
	Chicago, IL	Albany, NY	$5,492	$0	$54.54	$1.48	22
	Grand Forks, ND	Portland, OR	$5,611	$15	$55.87	$1.52	0
	Grand Forks, ND	Galveston-Houston, TX	$5,931	$16	$59.05	$1.61	-9
	Northwest KS	Portland, OR	$5,478	$1,439	$68.69	$1.87	20
Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$5,000	$19	$49.84	$1.27	-10
	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	$4,960	$17	$49.42	$1.26	-9
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$3,481	$905	$43.56	$1.11	26
	Lincoln, NE	Galveston-Houston, TX	$3,600	$10	$35.85	$0.91	-5
	Des Moines, IA	Amarillo, TX	$3,795	$708	$44.72	$1.14	14
	Minneapolis, MN	Tacoma, WA	$5,000	$18	$49.83	$1.27	-10
	Council Bluffs, IA	Stockton, CA	$4,640	$19	$46.27	$1.18	-6
Soybeans	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	$5,490	$17	$54.69	$1.49	-9
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$5,510	$19	$54.90	$1.49	-9
	Fargo, ND	Tacoma, WA	$5,380	$15	$53.58	$1.46	-8
	Council Bluffs, IA	New Orleans, LA	$4,425	$1,044	$54.31	$1.48	14
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	$4,226	$0	$41.97	$1.14	30
	Grand Island, NE	Portland, OR	$5,360	$1,473	$67.86	$1.85	16

[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: 12/1/2015				Fuel			Percent
	Origin		Tariff	surcharge	Tariff plus surcharge per:		change
Commodity	state	Destination region	rate/car[1]	per car[2]	metric ton[3]	bushel[3]	Y/Y[4]
Wheat	MT	Chihuahua, CI	$7,459	$16	$76.38	$2.08	3
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	$6,514	$20	$66.75	$1.81	-7
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	$6,995	$19	$71.66	$1.95	-8
	TX	Salinas Victoria, NL	$4,142	$7	$42.39	$1.15	1
Corn	IA	Guadalajara, JA	$8,397	$22	$86.02	$2.18	-3
	SD	Celaya, GJ	$7,840	$21	$80.32	$2.04	-5
	NE	Queretaro, QA	$7,879	$20	$80.71	$2.05	-3
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	$6,545	$16	$67.04	$1.70	3
	MO	Tlalnepantla, EM	$7,238	$19	$74.15	$1.88	-3
	SD	Torreon, CU	$7,240	$18	$74.16	$1.88	0
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	$8,652	$19	$88.59	$2.41	0
	NE	Guadalajara, JA	$9,142	$21	$93.62	$2.55	-1
	IA	El Castillo, JA	$9,470	$21	$96.97	$2.64	0
	KS	Torreon, CU	$7,439	$13	$76.14	$2.07	1
Sorghum	NE	Celaya, GJ	$7,404	$19	$75.84	$1.92	-6
	KS	Queretaro, QA	$7,563	$12	$77.39	$1.96	6
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	$6,168	$14	$63.16	$1.60	4
	NE	Torreon, CU	$6,827	$16	$69.92	$1.77	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

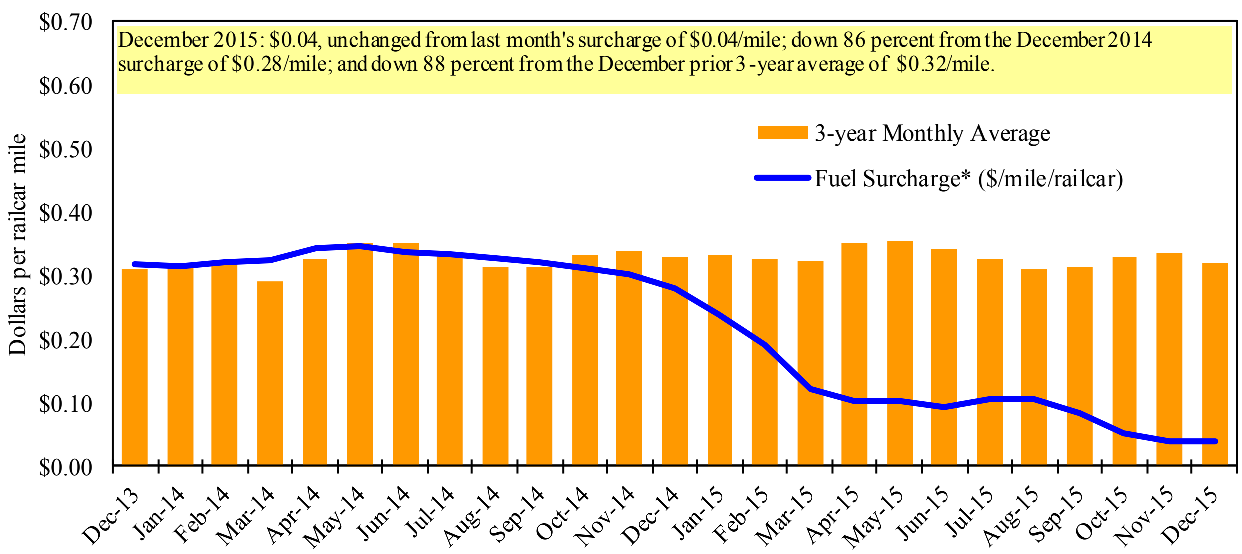
[3]Approximate load per car = 97.87 metric tons: Corn & Sorghum 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

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

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

Figure 7

Railroad Fuel Surcharges, North American Weighted Average[1]



[1] Weighted by each Class I railroad's proportion of grain traffic for the prior year.

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

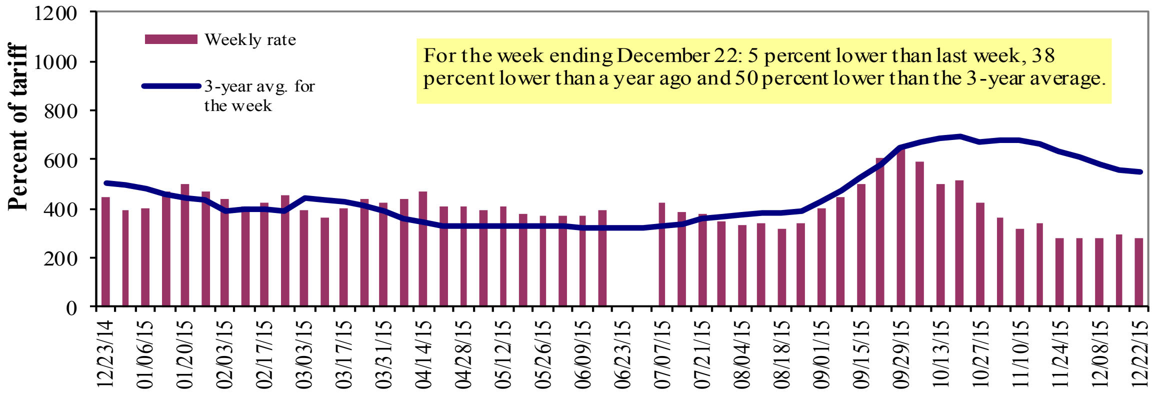
**CSX strike price changed from $2.00/gal. to $3.75/gal. starting January 1, 2015.

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]	12/22/2015	-	-	275	203	195	195	165
	12/15/2015	-	-	290	190	200	200	177
$/ton	12/22/2015	-	-	12.76	8.10	9.15	7.88	5.18
	12/15/2015	-	-	13.46	7.58	9.38	8.08	5.56
Current week % change from the same week:								
	Last year	-	-	-38	-33	-54	-54	-37
	3-year avg. [2]	-	-	-50	-54	-58	-58	-51
Rate[1]	January	-	-	285	192	197	197	168
	March	-	315	285	193	205	205	172

[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

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

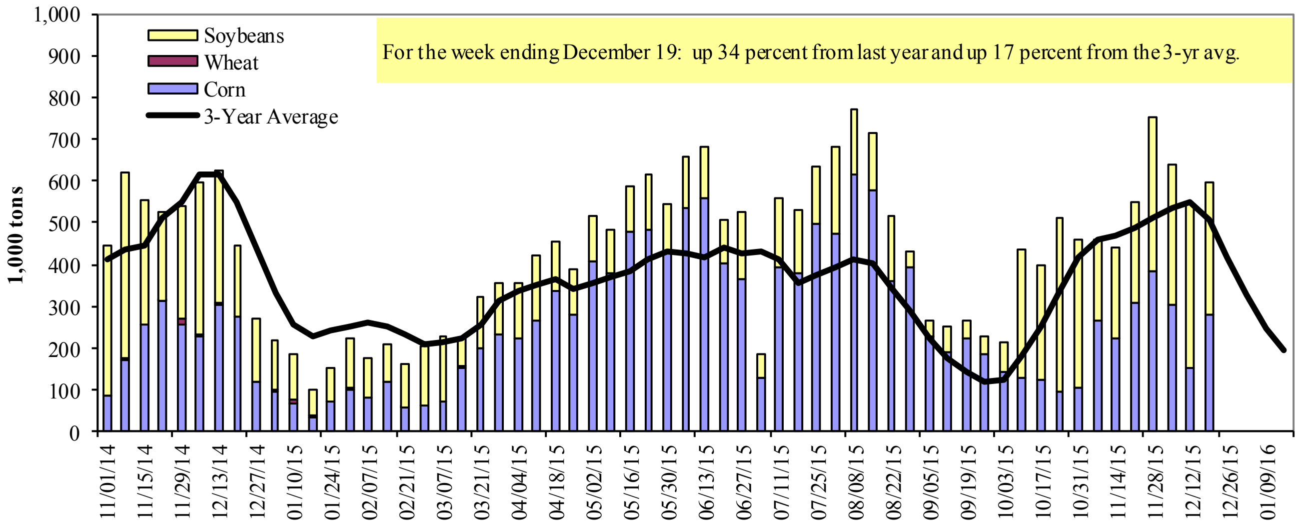
Figure 9
Benchmark tariff rates

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 12/19/2015	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Other	Total
Mississippi River					
Rock Island, IL (L15)	0	0	0	0	0
Winfield, MO (L25)	112	6	120	3	241
Alton, IL (L26)	313	6	313	3	636
Granite City, IL (L27)	281	6	314	3	605
Illinois River (L8)	145	3	173	0	322
Ohio River (L52)	84	12	229	9	334
Arkansas River (L1)	0	3	21	0	24
Weekly total - 2015	365	21	564	12	963
Weekly total - 2014	369	15	423	13	820
2015 YTD[1]	19,261	1,778	12,812	354	34,205
2014 YTD	20,326	2,147	11,148	249	33,870
2015 as % of 2014 YTD	95	83	115	142	101
Last 4 weeks as % of 2014[2]	89	127	107	139	100
Total 2014	20,693	2,181	11,813	258	34,946

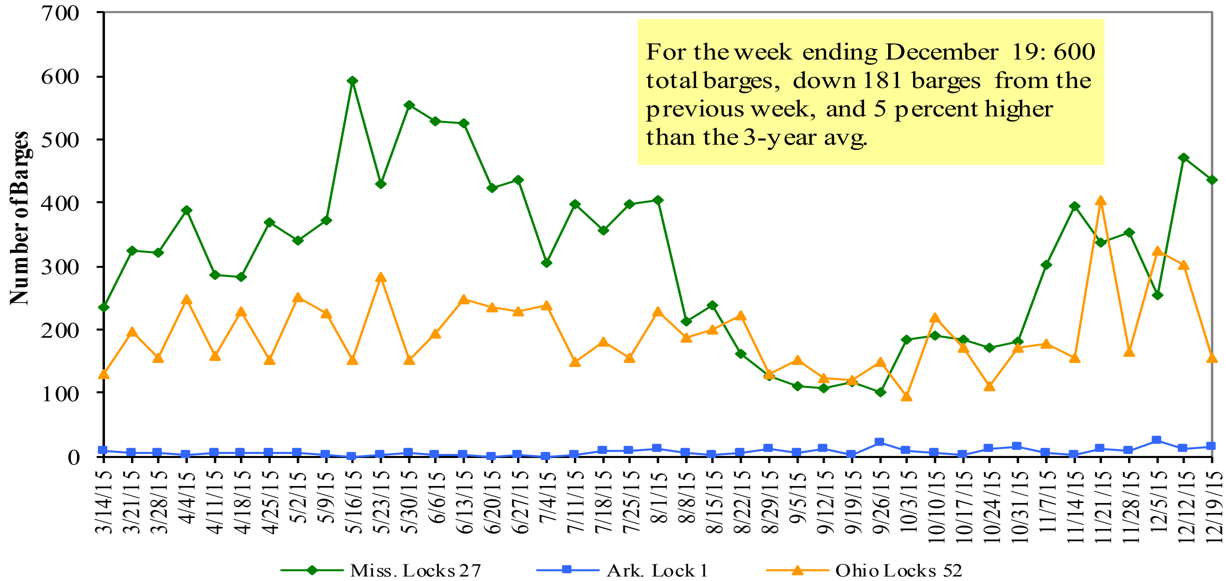
[1] Weekly total, YTD (year-to-date) and calendar year total includes Miss/27, Ohio/52, and Ark/1; "Other" refers to oats, barley, sorghum, and rye.

[2] As a percent of same period in 2014.

Note: Total may not add exactly, due to rounding

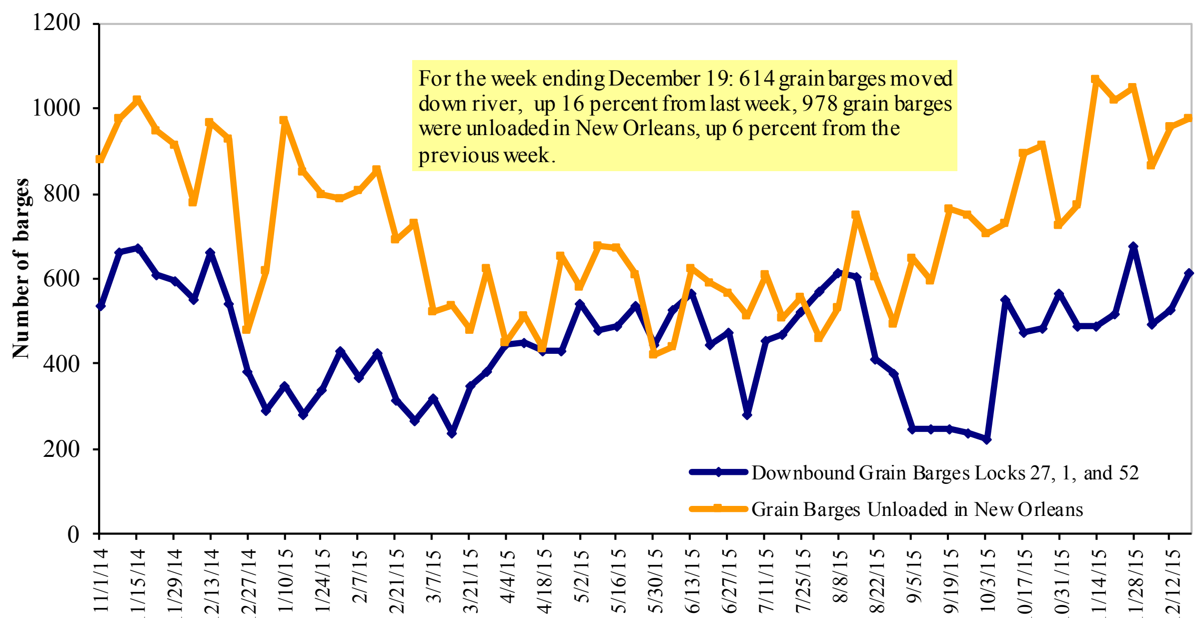
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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 12/21/2015 (US $/gallon)

Region	Location	Price	Change from Week ago	Change from Year ago
I	East Coast	2.318	-0.054	-0.992
	New England	2.397	-0.056	-1.028
	Central Atlantic	2.438	-0.063	-0.954
	Lower Atlantic	2.210	-0.048	-1.013
II	Midwest[2]	2.227	-0.067	-1.067
III	Gulf Coast[3]	2.181	-0.031	-0.994
IV	Rocky Mountain	2.304	-0.071	-1.034
V	West Coast	2.505	-0.047	-0.825
	West Coast less California	2.373	-0.058	-0.855
	California	2.611	-0.039	-0.804
Total	U.S.	2.284	-0.054	-0.997

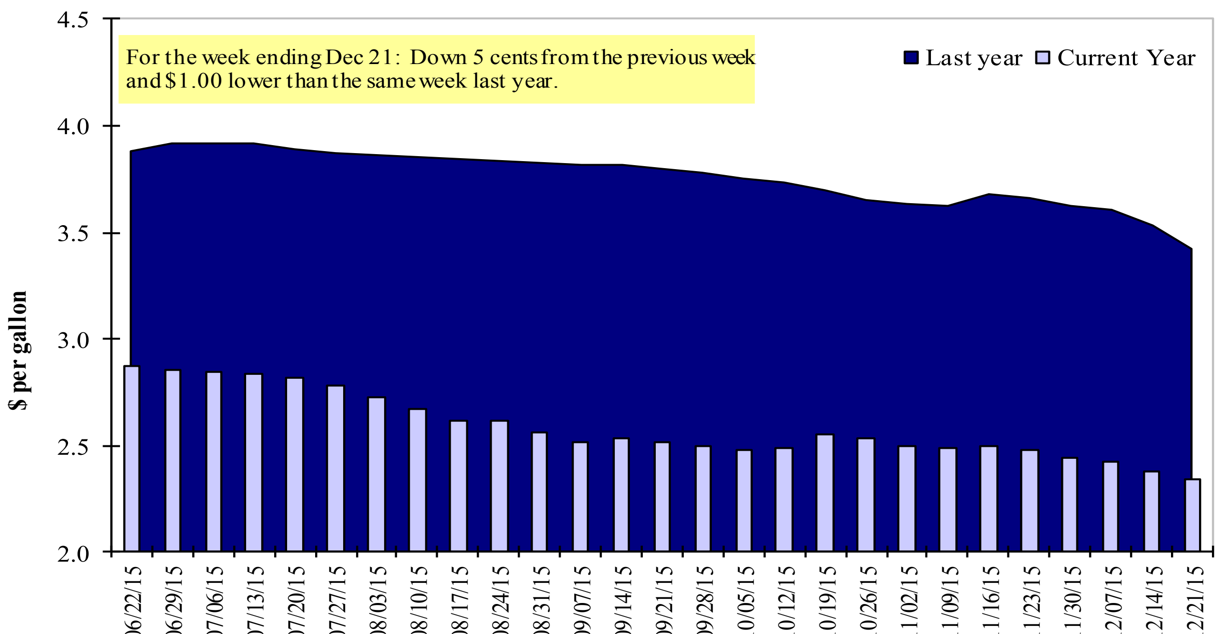
[1]Diesel fuel prices include all taxes. Prices represent an average of all types of diesel fuel.

[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]									
12/10/2015	1,206	619	1,546	1,081	69	4,520	11,028	12,528	28,076
This week year ago	1,513	891	1,594	951	122	5,070	13,716	16,537	35,323
Cumulative exports-marketing year[2]									
2015/16 YTD	3,003	2,017	3,243	1,730	512	10,505	7,663	22,623	40,790
2014/15 YTD	3,996	2,194	4,064	2,118	409	12,781	10,690	24,619	48,090
YTD 2015/16 as % of 2014/15	75	92	80	82	125	82	72	92	85
Last 4 wks as % of same period 2014/15	82	72	95	112	44	89	78	81	81
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 12/10/2015	Total 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	2,842	5,014	(43)	10,079
Mexico	7,325	6,060	21	8,145
Korea	452	858	(47)	2,965
Colombia	1,643	1,901	(14)	3,461
Taiwan	349	484	(28)	1,238
Top 5 Importers	**12,611**	**14,317**	**(12)**	**25,887**
Total US corn export sales	**18,691**	**24,406**	**(23)**	**34,445**
% of Projected	42%	51%		
Change from prior week	**517**	**694**		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. corn export sales	67%	59%		75%
USDA forecast, December 2015	**44,529**	**47,430**	**(6)**	
Corn Use for Ethanol USDA forecast, December 2015	**132,080**	**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 12/10/2015	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	20,677	25,593	(19)	24,211
Mexico	1,775	1,930	(8)	2,971
Indonesia	547	921	(41)	1,895
Japan	1,127	1,074	5	1,750
Taiwan	680	1,034	(34)	1,055
Top 5 importers	**24,806**	**30,552**	**(19)**	**31,882**
Total US soybean export sales	**35,150**	**41,090**	**(14)**	**39,169**
% of Projected	75%	82%		
Change from prior week	748	629		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. soybean export sales	71%	74%		**81%**
USDA forecast, December 2015	**46,730**	**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 12/10/2015	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	1,554	2,392	(35)	3,113
Mexico	1,513	1,961	(23)	2,807
Nigeria	1,248	1,754	(29)	2,512
Philippines	1,536	1,521	1	2,105
Brazil	359	1,456	(75)	2,091
Korea	958	1,049	(9)	1,273
Taiwan	787	713	10	1,007
Indonesia	194	399	(51)	751
Colombia	479	489	(2)	662
Thailand	379	212		618
Top 10 importers	**8,628**	**11,735**	(26)	**16,939**
Total US wheat export sales	**15,025**	**17,852**	**(16)**	**26,361**
% of Projected	69%	77%		
Change from prior week	320	476		
Top 10 importers' share of U.S. wheat export sales	57%	66%		64%
USDA forecast, December 2015	**21,798**	**23,270**	**(6)**	

(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 12/17/15	Previous Week[1]	Current Week as % of Previous	2015 YTD[1]	2014 YTD[1]	2015 YTD as % of 2014 YTD	Last 4-weeks as % of 2014	Last 4-weeks as % of 3-yr. avg.	Total[1] 2014
Pacific Northwest									
Wheat	310	72	431	10,368	11,624	89	64	70	12,436
Corn	22	62	36	7,232	7,573	96	81	27	7,781
Soybeans	501	271	185	10,982	10,849	101	68	110	12,887
Total	**834**	**405**	**206**	**28,583**	**30,045**	**95**	**67**	**85**	**33,104**
Mississippi Gulf									
Wheat	87	108	80	4,465	4,325	103	282	135	4,495
Corn	536	390	137	26,017	29,061	90	76	92	30,912
Soybeans	832	999	83	27,614	25,270	109	89	109	29,087
Total	**1,455**	**1,497**	**97**	**58,095**	**58,656**	**99**	**89**	**106**	**64,495**
Texas Gulf									
Wheat	64	209	31	3,646	5,861	62	131	79	6,120
Corn	0	0	n/a	656	547	120	45	73	580
Soybeans	0	59	0	765	754	101	81	107	949
Total	**64**	**268**	**24**	**5,067**	**7,162**	**71**	**96**	**87**	**7,649**
Interior									
Wheat	16	26	60	1,339	1,305	103	89	110	1,400
Corn	147	103	143	5,973	5,328	112	97	103	5,677
Soybeans	47	52	92	3,511	3,909	90	82	67	4,312
Total	**211**	**181**	**116**	**10,823**	**10,542**	**103**	**89**	**85**	**11,389**
Great Lakes									
Wheat	22	20	107	983	814	121	49	76	935
Corn	0	0	n/a	491	281	175	318	954	288
Soybeans	0	20	0	662	710	93	48	73	988
Total	**22**	**41**	**54**	**2,136**	**1,806**	**118**	**57**	**89**	**2,211**
Atlantic									
Wheat	1	26	4	462	552	84	6,609	19,827	553
Corn	0	0	n/a	276	814	34	236	14	816
Soybeans	98	34	285	1,834	1,706	107	81	89	2,119
Total	**99**	**61**	**162**	**2,572**	**3,072**	**84**	**89**	**97**	**3,487**
U.S. total from ports[2]									
Wheat	500	462	108	21,263	24,481	87	97	88	25,939
Corn	705	556	127	40,646	43,604	93	82	82	46,054
Soybeans	1,479	1,434	103	45,367	43,197	105	79	105	50,342
Total	**2,684**	**2,452**	**109**	**107,275**	**111,282**	**96**	**81**	**98**	**122,335**

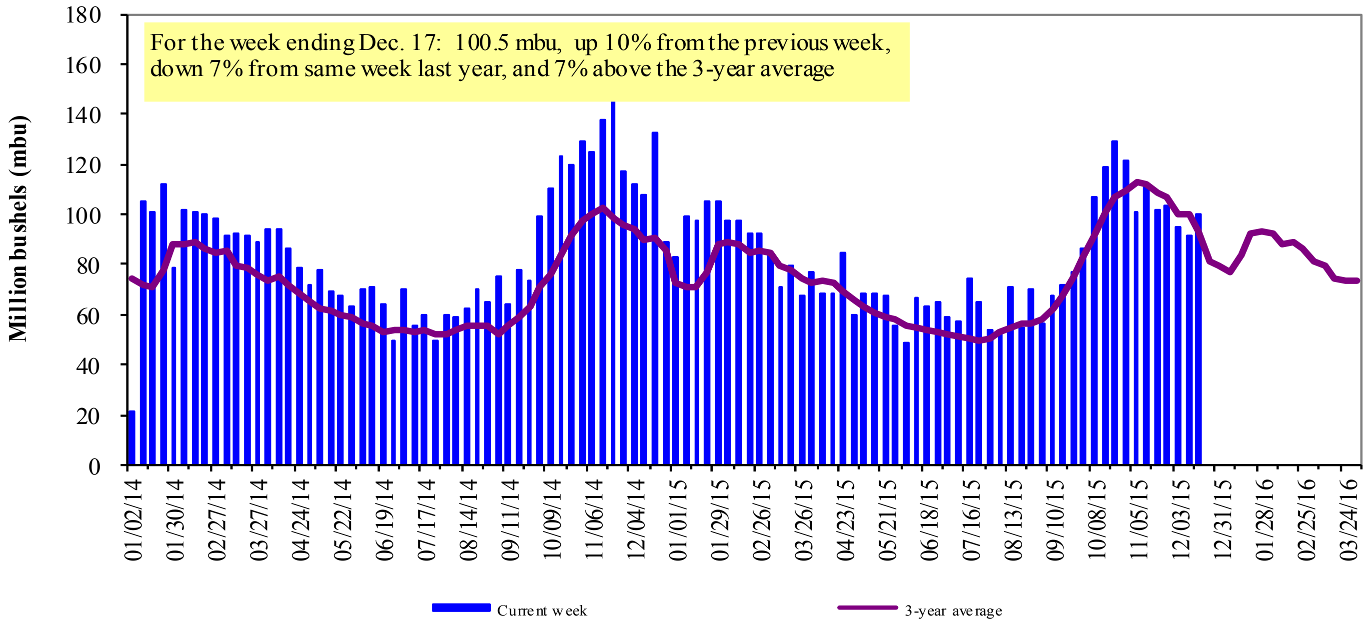
[1] Data includes revisions from prior weeks; some regional totals may not add exactly due to rounding.

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 59 percent of the U.S. export grain shipments departed through the U.S. Gulf region in 2014.

Figure 14

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

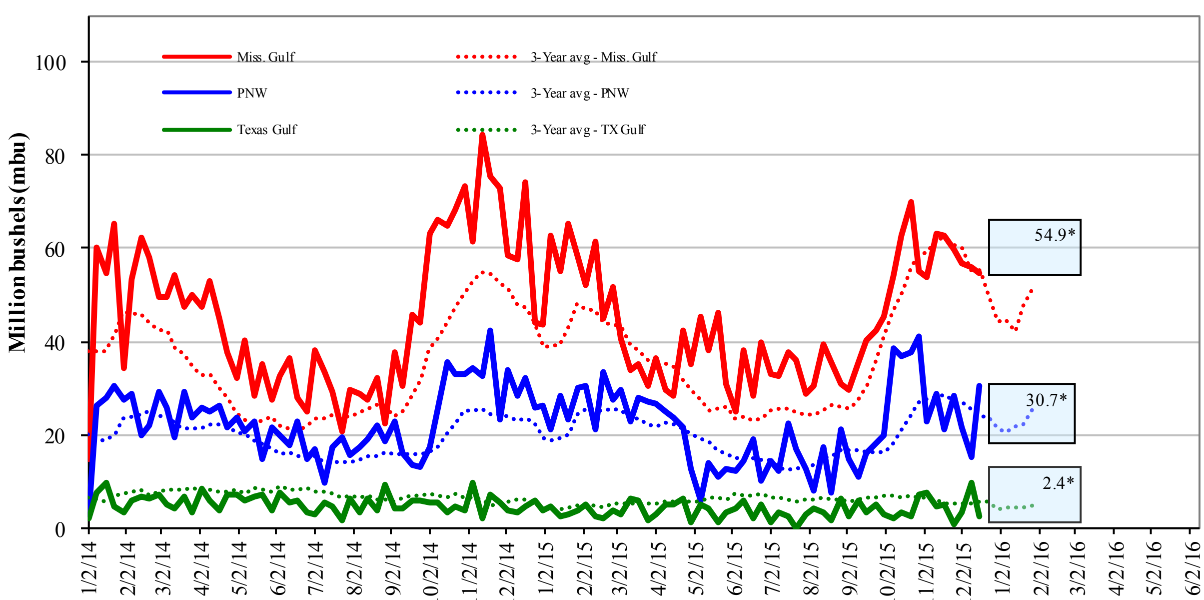


Source: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration/USDA (www.gipsa.usda.gov)

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)



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

December 17: % change from:	MS Gulf	TX Gulf	U.S. Gulf	PNW
Last week	down 2	down 76	down 13	up 104
Last year (same week)	down 26	down 50	down 28	down 5
3-yr avg. (4-wk mov. avg.	down 1	down 57	down 6	up 25

Ocean Transportation

Table 17

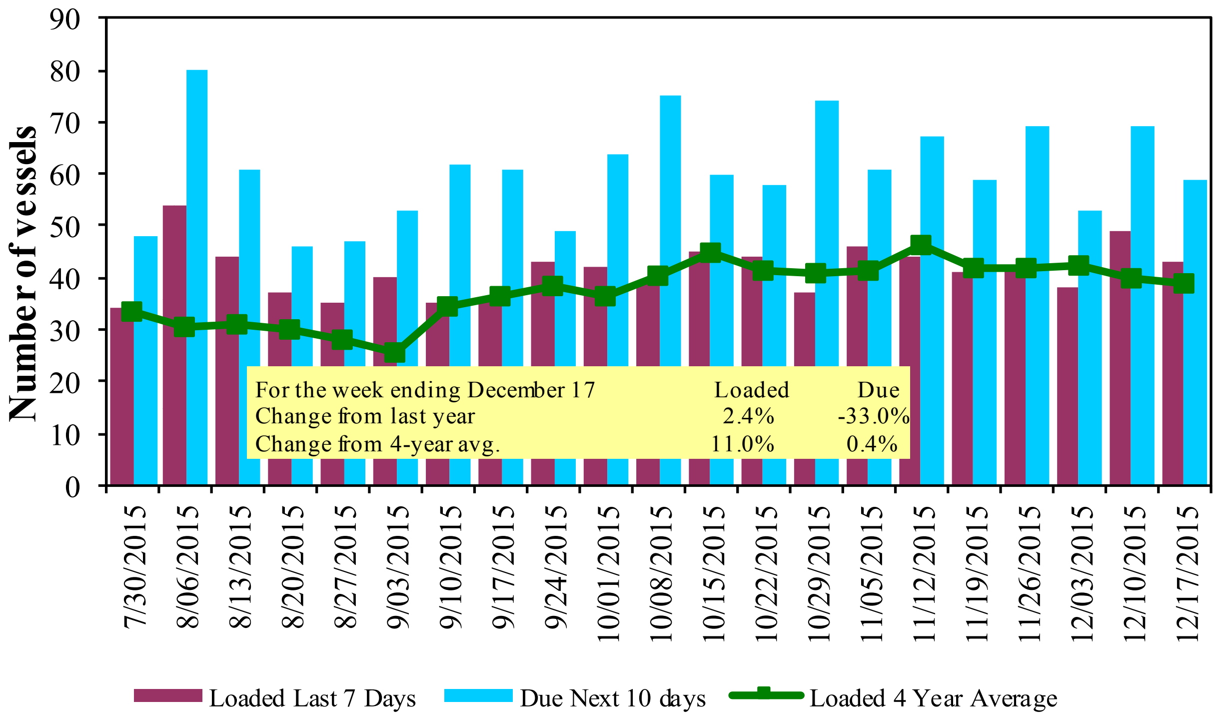
Weekly Port Region Grain Ocean Vessel Activity (number of vessels)

	Gulf			Pacific Northwest	Vancouver B.C.
Date	In port	Loaded 7-days	Due next 10-days	In port	In port
12/17/2015	39	43	59	13	n/a
12/10/2015	48	49	69	15	n/a
2014 range	(18..88)	(24..52)	(27..97)	(6..26)	n/a
2014 avg.	47	39	60	15	n/a

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 16

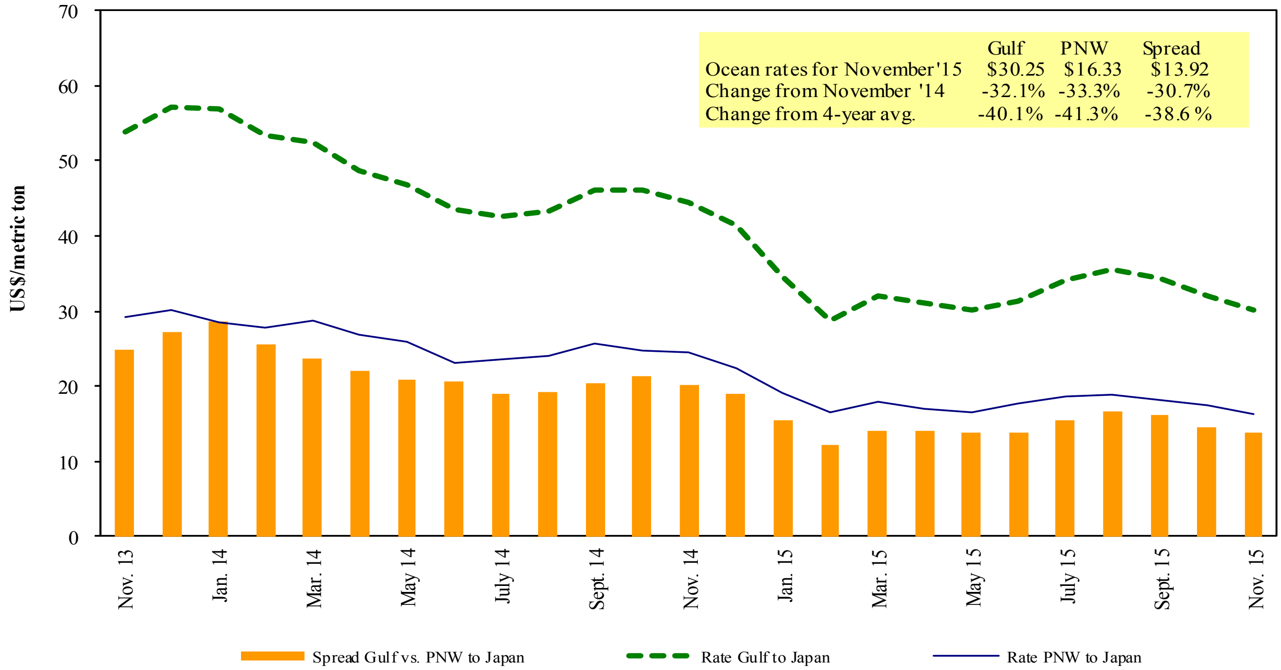
U.S. Gulf[1] Vessel Loading Activity



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 12/19/2015

Export region	Import region	Grain types	Loading date	Volume loads (metric tons)	Freight rate (US$/metric ton)
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Dec 15/25	60,000	24.25
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Dec 15/25	66,000	23.00
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Dec 15/24	60,000	24.50
U.S. Gulf	China	Grain	Dec 5/15	56,500	22.50
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Dec 5/14	58,000	28.25
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Dec 1/10	49,000	25.50
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Nov 25/Dec 5	60,000	25.00
U.S. Gulf	Tanzania[1]	Wheat	Nov 24/Dec 3	12,000	148.97
U.S. Gulf	Honduras	Corn	Nov 5/15	6,700	44.00
U.S. Gulf	Japan	Grain	Dec 1/20	55,000	29.50
U.S. Gulf	Turkey	Soybeans	Dec 21/25	30,000	16.50
PNW	Bangladesh	Wheat	Dec 7/16	20,040	33.93
PNW	China	Heavy Grain	Nov 28/30	60,000	13.50
Brazil	Egypt Mediterranean	Heavy Grain	Nov 24/Dec 10	60,000	10.50
Brazil	Egypt	Grain	Dec 5/15	60,000	9.50
Brazil	Japan	Grain	Dec 16/31	60,000	19.75
Brazil	Vietnam	Grain	Dec 1/Jan 7	60,000	15.75
EC S America	China	Heavy Grain	Feb/Mar 16	60,000	18.50
France	Indonesia	Wheat	Dec 11/15	50,000	20.50
France	Algeria	Heavy Grain	Dec 5/10	25,000	11.5 op 13.00
River Plate	Yemen	Corn	Dec 8/12	310,000	33.00 op 35.00

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

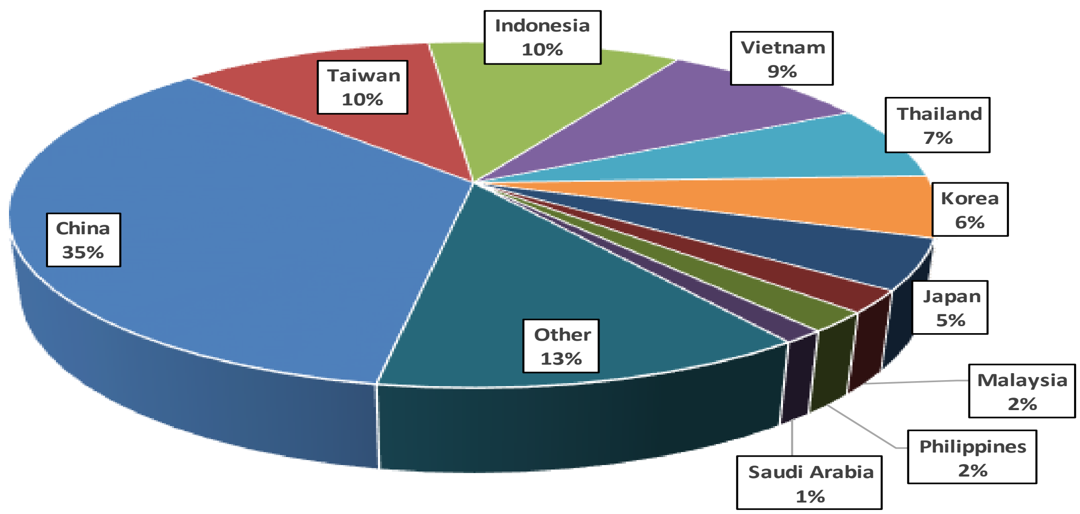
[1]50 percent of food aid from the United States is required to be shipped on U.S.-flag vessels.

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-October 2015

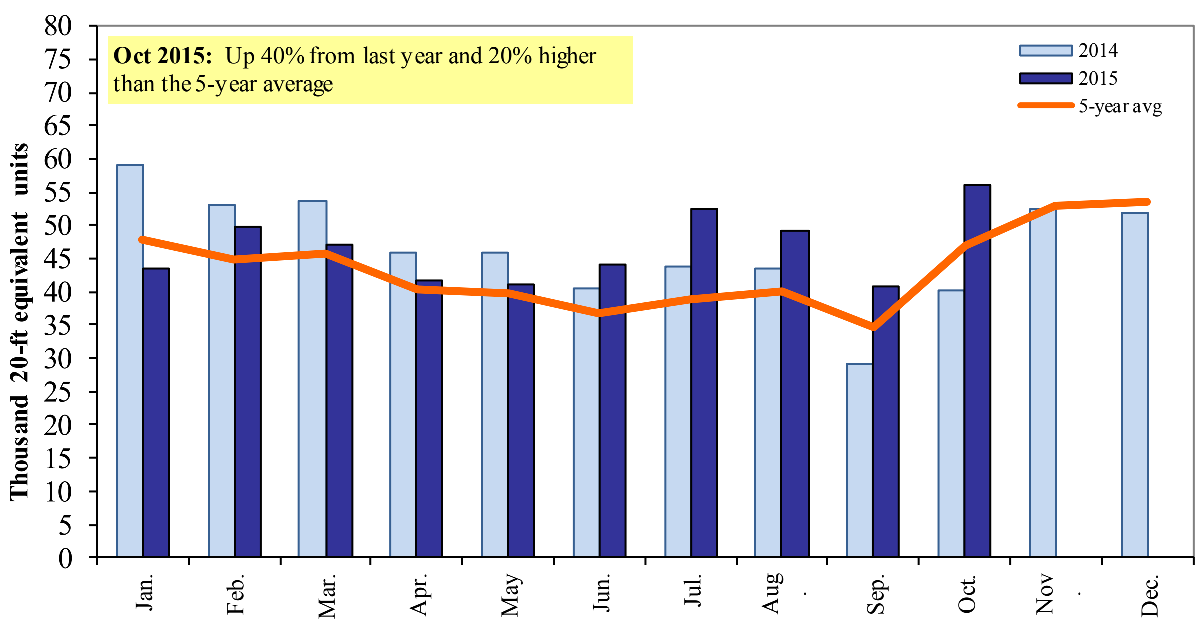


Source: USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service/Transportation Services Division analysis of Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS) data

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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