



Grain Transportation Report

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

Contact Us

July 6, 2017

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

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The next
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STB Updates Regulations on the Publication of Agricultural and Fertilizer Tariffs

On June 30, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) [adopted final rules](#) amending regulations on the publication of rate and service terms for agricultural products and fertilizer. For those commodities, railroads are required by law to “publish, make available, and retain for public inspection its currently effective rates, schedules of rates, charges, and other service terms, and any scheduled changes to such rates, charges, and service terms.” Based on comments provided separately by shipper associations, railroads, and USDA, STB has modernized their regulations to require Class I carriers to make this information readily available to anyone online, without overly burdensome registration processes. Anyone unable to access the required information should contact STB’s Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance.

Lock Delays on Ohio and Illinois Rivers Expected For Early July

As July begins, falling river levels throughout the Midwest will cause navigation delays as river operations adjust to the lower water levels at Ohio River Locks and Dam (L&D) 52 and to on-going repairs at La Grange L&D on the Illinois River. Due to structural conditions at L&D 52, the process of raising the dam there may halt navigation for up to 72 hours as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ workers complete the dam raising procedure and allow the pool to stabilize for safe navigation. Dam raising at La Grange can be completed in a much shorter time, however, traffic will be forced to transit the site through the single lock chamber that is under repair. Until La Grange Lock repair work is completed in mid-September, the lock will be closed 10 hours each day and opened to traffic for 14 hours each day. In addition, tows will be restricted to transiting the lock with sets of two barges side-by-side (70 feet) instead of the standard three barges side-by-side (105 feet).

USDOT Announces Grant Program for Nation’s Roads and Bridges

On June 29, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant program, which will make approximately \$1.5 billion available to projects to address critical issues facing our nation’s roads and bridges. INFRA advances a pre-existing grant program established in the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015 and utilizes updated criteria to evaluate projects to align them with national and regional economic vitality goals and to leverage additional non-federal funding. The INFRA grant program preserves the statutory requirement in the FAST Act to award at least 25 percent of funding for rural projects. INFRA gives rural communities in need of funding for highway and multimodal freight projects with national or regional economic significance an opportunity to apply directly for financial assistance from the Federal government. The INFRA Notice of Funding Opportunity can be found at [infranofederalregister.pdf](#).

Snapshots by Sector

Export Sales

For the week ending June 22, **unshipped balances** of wheat, corn, and soybeans totaled 21.7 mmt, down 15 percent from the same time last year. Net weekly **wheat export sales** were .492 mmt, down 9 percent from the previous week. Net **corn export sales** were .316 mmt, down 40 percent from the previous week, and net **soybean export sales** were .312 mmt, up 181 percent from the past week.

Rail

U.S. Class I railroads originated 21,954 **grain carloads** for the week ending June 24, up 1 percent from the previous week, down 1 percent from last year, and up 12 percent from the 3-year average.

Average July shuttle **secondary railcar** bids/offers per car were \$231 below tariff for the week ending June 29, down \$75 from last week, and \$313 lower than last year. There were no non-shuttle secondary railcar bids/offers this week.

Barge

For the week ending July 1, **barge grain movements** totaled 945,400 tons, 18 percent higher than the last week, and up 23 percent from the same period last year.

For the week ending July 1, 612 grain barges **moved down river**, up 20 percent from last week, 681 grain barges were **unloaded in New Orleans**, up 42 percent from the previous week.

Ocean

For the week ending June 29, 33 **ocean-going grain vessels** were loaded in the Gulf, 3 percent more than the same period last year. Fifty-two vessels are expected to be loaded within the next 10 days, 10 percent less than the same period last year.

For the week ending June 29, the ocean freight rate for shipping bulk grain from the Gulf to Japan was \$37.75 per metric ton, 1 percent more than the previous week. The cost of shipping from the Pacific Northwest to Japan was \$19.00 per metric ton, unchanged from the previous week.

Fuel

During the week ending July 3, **average diesel fuel prices** increased 1 cent from the previous week to \$2.47 per gallon, 5 cents higher than the same week last year.

Feature Article/Calendar

Useful Agricultural Transportation Links

Following are sources and websites we hope our readers will find helpful. The links, subject to change, span the arena of agricultural transportation, connecting to data, information, regulations, and tools.

Topic area	Link
BARGE	
USDA-AMS Barge Data	https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/transportation-analysis/barge
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	http://www.usace.army.mil/
Lock Performance Monitoring System	http://corpslocks.usace.army.mil/lpwb/f?p=121:1:3447421483675
Navigation Data Center	http://www.navigationdatacenter.us/index.htm
Inland Waterways Users Board	http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Inland-Waterways-Users-Board/
Institute for Water Resources	http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/
U.S. Coast Guard Eighth District	https://www.uscg.mil/d8/default.asp
RAIL	
Surface Transportation Board	https://stb.gov/stb/index.html
Financial and Statistical Reports	https://www.stb.gov/stb/industry/econ_reports.html
Board Decisions	https://www.stb.gov/decisions/readingroom.nsf/WebServiceDate?openform
Comments of Stakeholders	https://www.stb.gov/filings/all.nsf/WebFilingDate?openform
Reports to Congress	https://stb.gov/stb/rail/ReauthorizationAct.html
National Grain Car Council	https://www.stb.gov/stb/rail/graincar_council.html
Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee	https://www.stb.gov/stb/rail/retac.html
Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council	https://www.stb.gov/stb/rail/railshipper_council.html
Rail Customer and Public Assistance Program	https://www.stb.gov/stb/rail/consumer_asst.html
Railroad Service News/Customer Advisories	
BNSF	http://domino.bnsf.com/website/updates.nsf/updates?ReadForm&service
Canadian National	https://www.cn.ca/en/media/news
Canadian Pacific (requires a login account)	https://www8.cpr.ca/cpcustomerstation
CSX	https://www.csx.com/index.cfm/customers/news/service-bulletins1/
Kansas City Southern	http://www.kcsouthern.com/customer-resources/service-status-updates/
Norfolk Southern	http://www.nscorp.com/content/nscorp/en/shipping-tools/shipping-news-and-alerts.html
Union Pacific	https://www.up.com/customers/announcements/customernews/index.htm
TRUCK	
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration	https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/
Federal Highway Administration	https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	https://www.nhtsa.gov/
Energy Information Administration Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Update	https://www.eia.gov/petroleum/gasdiesel/
Bureau of Labor Statistics	https://www.bls.gov/home.htm
OCEAN	
Maritime Administration Data and Statistics	https://www.marad.dot.gov/resources/data-statistics/
U.S. Coast Guard	https://www.uscg.mil/
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	http://www.noaa.gov/
Federal Maritime Commission	https://www.fmc.gov/
Committee on the Marine Transportation System	http://www.cmts.gov/
Location of all vessels	https://www.marinetraffic.com/
Port distances	https://sea-distances.org/

MULTIMODAL	
Bureau of Transportation Statistics	https://www.bts.gov/
Bureau of Labor Statistics	https://www.bls.gov/home.htm
Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness	http://trade.gov/td/services/oscpb/supplychain/acsccl/
Transportation Research Board	http://www.trb.org/Main/Home.aspx
Transportation Research Forum	https://trforum.org/
GENERAL AGRICULTURE	
USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Division	
National Grain Reports	https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/national-grain-reports
State Grain Reports	https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/state-grain-reports
Dry Edible Beans, Peas and Lentils	https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/dry-edible-beans-peas-and-lentils
Bioenergy Market News Reports	https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/bioenergy-market-news-reports
Hay Reports	https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/hay-reports
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service	
QuickStats Tool	https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/
List of NASS reports	https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Reports_by_Release_Day/index.php
<i>Grain Stocks</i>	https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1079
<i>Crop Production</i>	https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1046 (see also <i>Crop Production Annual Summary</i>)
<i>Crop Progress</i>	https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1048
About NASS surveys and programs	https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/index.php
USDA Economic Research Service	
Data products	https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/
Publications	
<i>Feed Outlook</i>	https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=83853 (archive: https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1273)
<i>Oil Crops Outlook</i>	http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1288
<i>Wheat Outlook</i>	https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=83864 (archive: https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1293)
<i>Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade</i>	https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/international-markets-trade/us-agricultural-trade/outlook-for-us-agricultural-trade/
USDA Office of the Chief Economist	
World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates Report (WASDE)	https://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity/wasde/
Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin	https://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Weekly/Wwcb/index.htm
USDA Foreign Agricultural Service	
Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS)	https://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/default.aspx
Production, Supply, and Distribution	https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html#/app/home
Grain	https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/grain-world-markets-and-trade
Oilseeds: World Markets and Trade	https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/oilseeds-world-markets-and-trade
Global Agriculture Information Network	https://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx
USDA Economics, Statistics and Market Information System	https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/homepage.do

For more information: GTRContactUs@ams.usda.gov

Grain Transportation Indicators

Grain Transport Cost Indicators¹

For the week ending	Truck	Rail	Barge	Ocean	
		Unit Train	Shuttle	Gulf	Pacific
07/05/17	166	265	200	167	135
06/28/17	165	265	203	164	135

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

Table 2

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

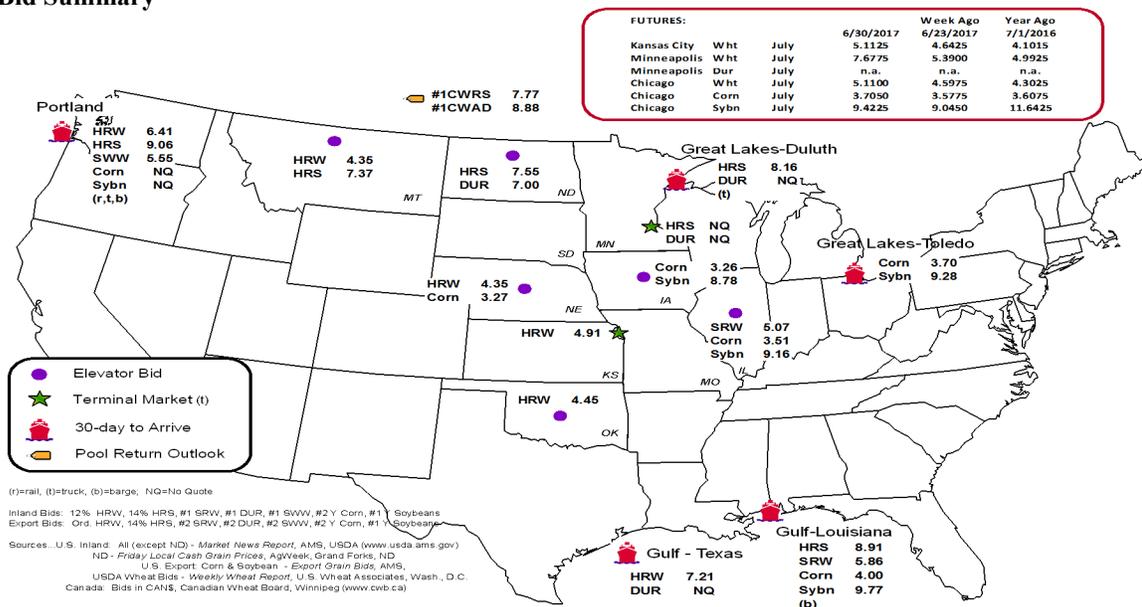
Commodity	Origin--Destination	6/30/2017	6/23/2017
Corn	IL--Gulf	-0.49	-0.52
Corn	NE--Gulf	-0.73	-0.73
Soybean	IA--Gulf	-0.99	-0.96
HRW	KS--Gulf	-2.30	-2.45
HRS	ND--Portland	-1.51	-2.04

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

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

The **grain bid summary** illustrates the market relationships for commodities. Positive and negative adjustments in differential between terminal and futures markets, and the relationship to inland market points, are indicators of changes in fundamental market supply and demand. The map may be used to monitor market and time differentials.

Figure 1
Grain Bid Summary



Rail Transportation

Table 3
Rail Deliveries to Port (carloads)¹

For the Week Ending	Mississippi		Pacific	Atlantic &	Total	Week ending	Cross-Border Mexico ³
	Gulf	Texas Gulf	Northwest	East Gulf			
06/28/2017 ^P	156	1,072	4,588	105	5,921	6/24/2017	2,463
06/21/2017 ^r	257	1,699	5,826	203	7,985	6/17/2017	2,560
2017 YTD ^r	14,737	48,326	157,035	11,370	231,468	2017 YTD	59,045
2016 YTD ^r	6,282	38,828	128,751	9,612	183,473	2016 YTD	53,105
2017 YTD as % of 2016 YTD	235	124	122	118	126	% change YTD	111
Last 4 weeks as % of 2016 ²	202	86	128	116	117	Last 4wks % 2016	129
Last 4 weeks as % of 4-year avg. ²	197	117	196	102	170	Last 4wks % 4 yr	141
Total 2016	36,925	86,992	299,932	28,728	452,577	Total 2016	92,982
Total 2015	29,054	60,819	239,029	26,730	355,632	Total 2015	97,736

¹ Data is incomplete as it is voluntarily provided

² Compared with same 4-weeks in 2016 and prior 4-year average.

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

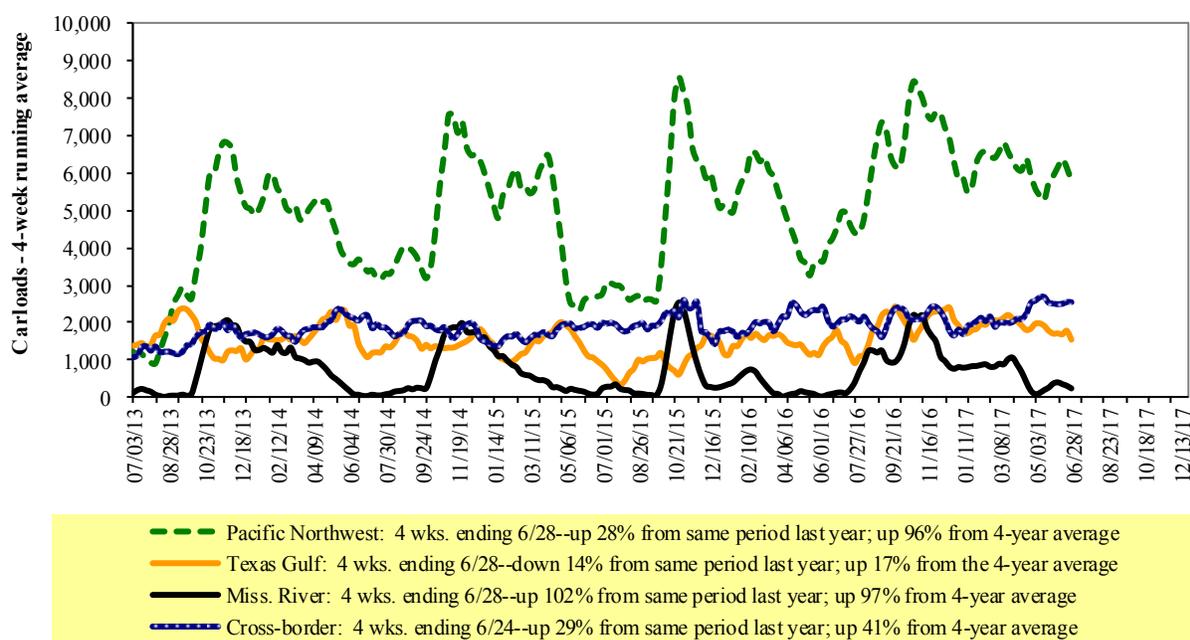
YTD = year-to-date; p = preliminary data; r = revised data; n/a = not available

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Railroads originate approximately 24 percent of U.S. grain shipments. Trends in these loadings are indicative of market conditions and expectations.

Figure 2

Rail Deliveries to Port



Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Table 4

Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin (grain carloads originated)

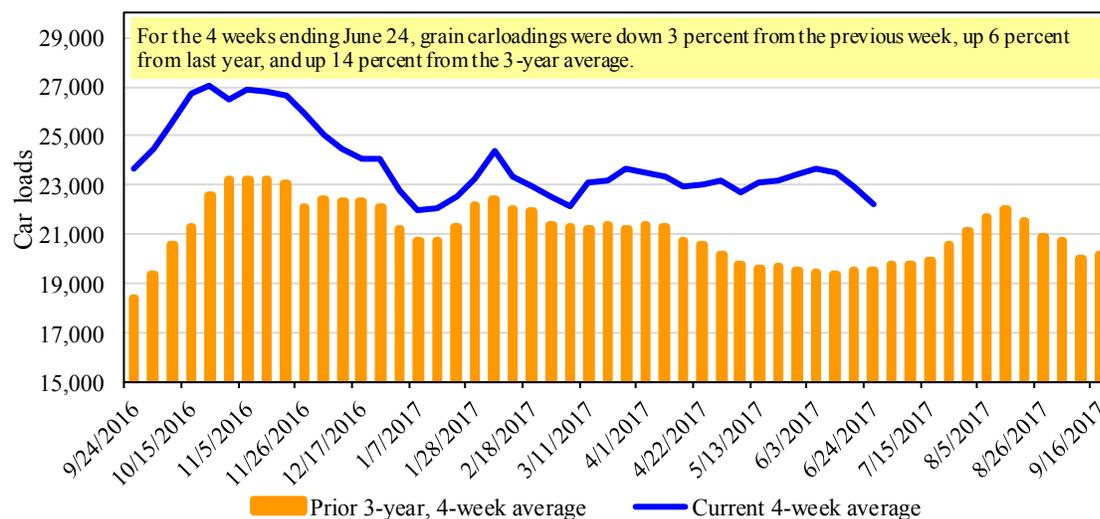
For the week ending: 6/24/2017	East		West			U.S. total	Canada	
	CSXT	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP		CN	CP
This week	1,916	2,738	11,074	1,146	5,080	21,954	3,309	5,030
This week last year	1,461	2,587	11,817	736	5,582	22,183	2,894	4,374
2017 YTD	44,683	69,819	289,637	24,051	148,653	576,843	96,242	111,152
2016 YTD	45,342	69,310	254,643	21,477	129,829	520,601	79,620	103,961
2017 YTD as % of 2016 YTD	99	101	114	112	114	111	121	107
Last 4 weeks as % of 2016*	105	96	107	131	106	106	122	122
Last 4 weeks as % of 3-yr avg**	91	96	128	118	105	114	86	103
Total 2016	95,179	151,006	590,779	45,246	300,836	1,183,046	193,963	234,738

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

**The past 4 weeks as a percent of the same period from the prior 3-year average. YTD = year-to-date.

Source: Association of American Railroads (www.aar.org)

Figure 3

Total Weekly U.S. Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings

Source: Association of American Railroads

Table 5

Railcar Auction Offerings¹ (\$/car)²

For the week ending: 6/29/2017		Delivery period							
		Jul-17	Jul-16	Aug-17	Aug-16	Sep-17	Sep-16	Oct-17	Oct-16
BNSF ³	COT grain units	0	3	no bids	13	0	3	0	18
	COT grain single-car ⁵	0	10-30	0	118	0	81	0	63
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

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

²Average 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.

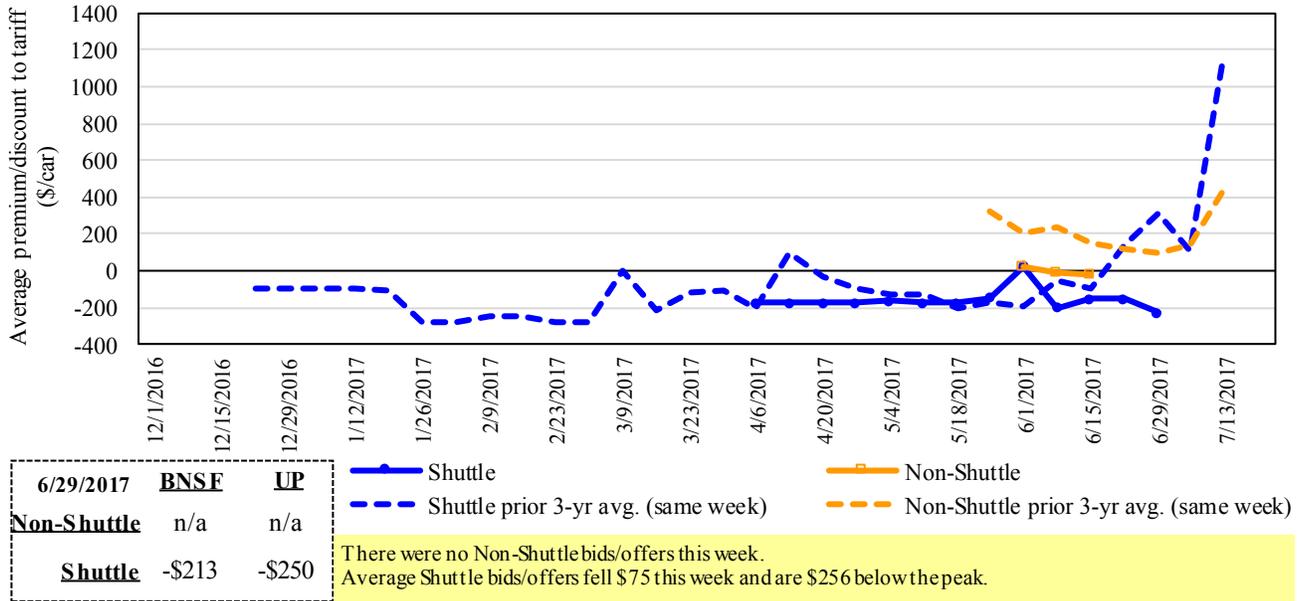
Region 2 includes: CO, IA, KS, MN, NE, WY, and Kansas City and St. Joseph, MO.

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

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA.

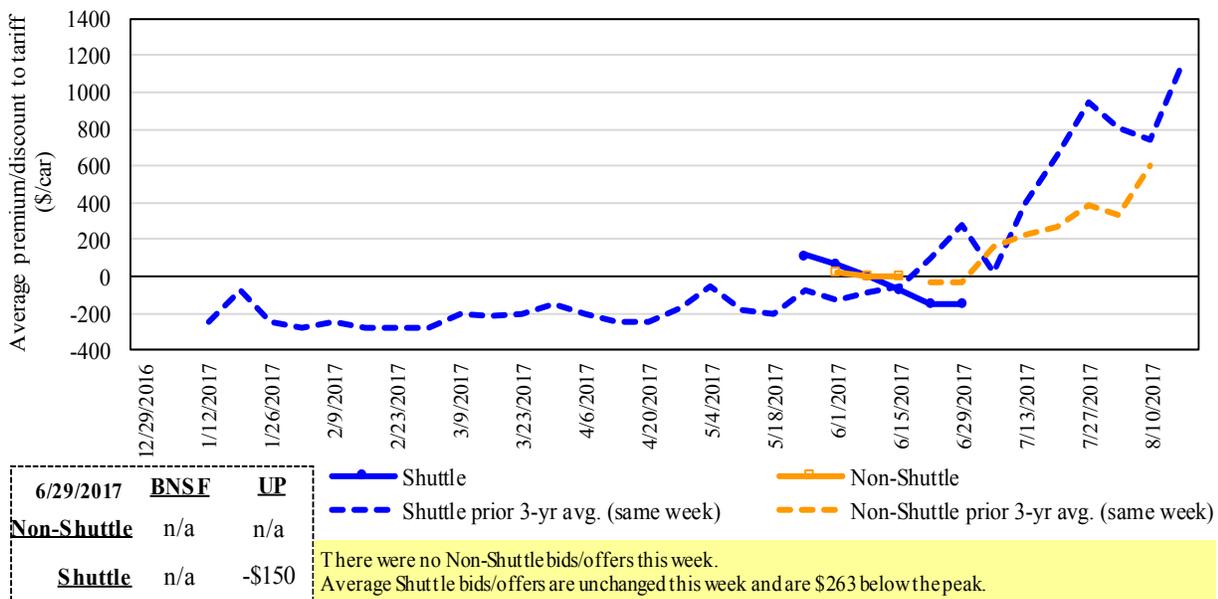
The **secondary rail market** information reflects trade values for service that was originally purchased from the railroad carrier as some form of guaranteed freight. The **auction and secondary rail** values are indicators of rail service quality and demand/supply.

Figure 4
Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in July 2017, Secondary Market



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 August 2017, Secondary Market



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 September 2017, Secondary Market

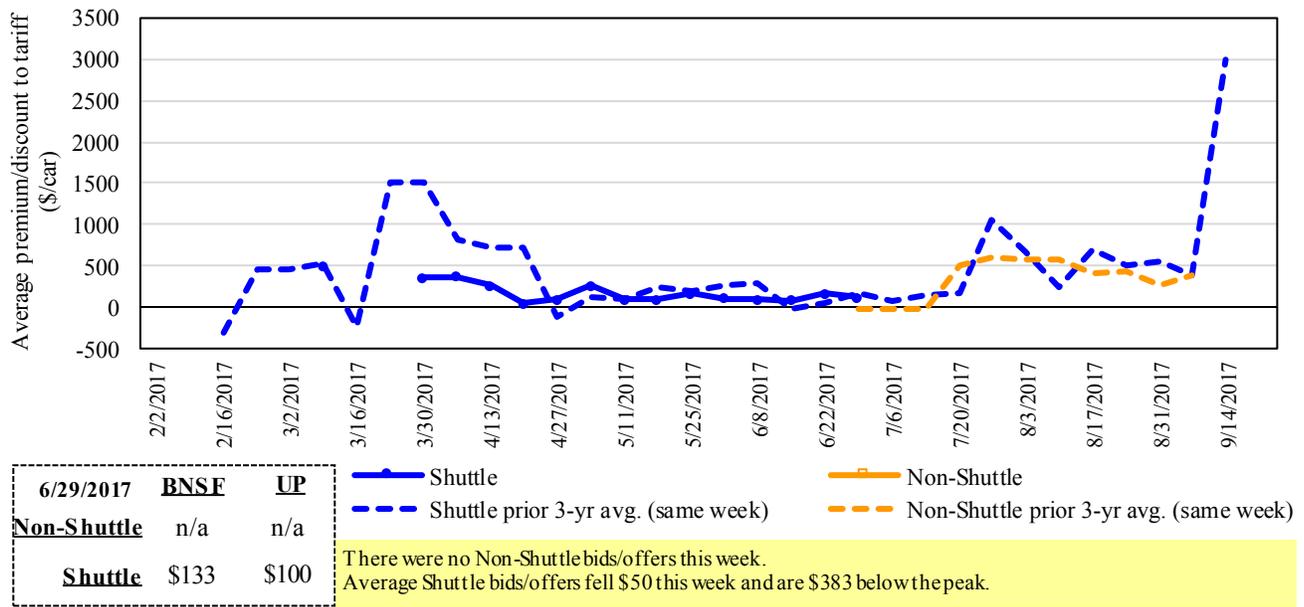


Table 6

Weekly Secondary Railcar Market (\$/car)¹

For the week ending:		Delivery period					
		6/29/2017	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17
Non-shuttle	BNSF-GF	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from last week	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	UP-Pool	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from last week	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	BNSF-GF	(213)	n/a	133	900	n/a	n/a
	Change from last week	(138)	n/a	(100)	(400)	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2016	(350)	n/a	(194)	n/a	n/a	n/a
	UP-Pool	(250)	(150)	100	800	n/a	n/a
	Change from last week	(12)	0	0	150	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2016	(275)	(200)	(50)	350	n/a	n/a

¹Average 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 Shipments¹

July, 2017	Origin region ³	Destination region ³	Tariff rate/car	Fuel surcharge per car	Tariff plus surcharge per:		Percent change Y/Y ⁴	
					metric ton	bushel ²		
Unit train								
Wheat	Wichita, KS	St. Louis, MO	\$3,883	\$51	\$39.06	\$1.06	8	
	Grand Forks, ND	Duluth-Superior, MN	\$4,143	\$0	\$41.14	\$1.12	20	
	Wichita, KS	Los Angeles, CA	\$7,050	\$0	\$70.01	\$1.91	1	
	Wichita, KS	New Orleans, LA	\$4,540	\$89	\$45.97	\$1.25	8	
	Sioux Falls, SD	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$6,786	\$0	\$67.39	\$1.83	5	
	Northwest KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$4,816	\$98	\$48.79	\$1.33	8	
	Amarillo, TX	Los Angeles, CA	\$5,021	\$136	\$51.21	\$1.39	8	
Corn	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	\$3,681	\$101	\$37.55	\$0.95	1	
	Toledo, OH	Raleigh, NC	\$6,061	\$0	\$60.19	\$1.53	0	
	Des Moines, IA	Davenport, IA	\$2,258	\$21	\$22.63	\$0.57	5	
	Indianapolis, IN	Atlanta, GA	\$5,191	\$0	\$51.55	\$1.31	4	
	Indianapolis, IN	Knoxville, TN	\$4,311	\$0	\$42.81	\$1.09	0	
	Des Moines, IA	Little Rock, AR	\$3,534	\$63	\$35.72	\$0.91	3	
	Des Moines, IA	Los Angeles, CA	\$5,202	\$182	\$53.47	\$1.36	5	
Soybeans	Minneapolis, MN	New Orleans, LA	\$3,634	\$67	\$36.75	\$1.00	-1	
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	\$5,051	\$0	\$50.16	\$1.37	0	
	Indianapolis, IN	Raleigh, NC	\$6,178	\$0	\$61.35	\$1.67	0	
	Indianapolis, IN	Huntsville, AL	\$4,529	\$0	\$44.98	\$1.22	0	
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	\$4,495	\$101	\$45.64	\$1.24	3	
Shuttle Train								
Wheat	Great Falls, MT	Portland, OR	\$3,953	\$0	\$39.26	\$1.07	3	
	Wichita, KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$4,171	\$0	\$41.42	\$1.13	8	
	Chicago, IL	Albany, NY	\$5,492	\$0	\$54.54	\$1.48	0	
	Grand Forks, ND	Portland, OR	\$5,611	\$0	\$55.72	\$1.52	2	
	Grand Forks, ND	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$5,931	\$0	\$58.90	\$1.60	2	
	Northwest KS	Portland, OR	\$5,812	\$160	\$59.30	\$1.61	7	
Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$5,000	\$0	\$49.65	\$1.26	0	
	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	\$4,960	\$0	\$49.26	\$1.25	0	
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	\$3,481	\$101	\$35.57	\$0.90	1	
	Lincoln, NE	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$3,700	\$0	\$36.74	\$0.93	3	
	Des Moines, IA	Amarillo, TX	\$3,895	\$79	\$39.46	\$1.00	4	
	Minneapolis, MN	Tacoma, WA	\$5,000	\$0	\$49.65	\$1.26	0	
	Council Bluffs, IA	Stockton, CA	\$4,740	\$0	\$47.07	\$1.20	2	
	Soybeans	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	\$5,600	\$0	\$55.61	\$1.51	2
		Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$5,650	\$0	\$56.11	\$1.53	3
		Fargo, ND	Tacoma, WA	\$5,500	\$0	\$54.62	\$1.49	2
Council Bluffs, IA		New Orleans, LA	\$4,525	\$116	\$46.09	\$1.25	4	
Toledo, OH		Huntsville, AL	\$4,226	\$0	\$41.97	\$1.14	0	
Grand Island, NE	Portland, OR	\$5,460	\$164	\$55.85	\$1.52	3		

¹A 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.

²Approximate load per car = 111 short tons (100.7 metric tons): corn 56 lbs./bu., wheat and soybeans 60 lbs./bu.

³Regional economic areas are defined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

⁴Percentage change year over year calculated using tariff rate plus fuel surcharge

Sources: www.bnsf.com, www.cn.ca, www.csx.com, www.up.com

Table 8

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

Commodity	Origin state	Destination region	Tariff rate/car ¹	Fuel		Percent change ⁴ Y/Y	
				surcharge per car ²	Tariff plus surcharge per: metric ton ³ bushel ³		
Wheat	MT	Chihuahua, CI	\$7,459	\$0	\$76.21	\$2.07	0
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	\$6,631	\$70	\$68.46	\$1.86	2
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	\$7,309	\$249	\$77.22	\$2.10	7
	TX	Salinas Victoria, NL	\$4,292	\$42	\$44.28	\$1.20	4
Corn	IA	Guadalajara, JA	\$8,187	\$204	\$85.74	\$2.18	2
	SD	Celaya, GJ	\$7,580	\$0	\$77.45	\$1.97	1
	NE	Queretaro, QA	\$7,909	\$138	\$82.23	\$2.09	1
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	\$6,635	\$0	\$67.79	\$1.72	1
	MO	Tlalnepantla, EM	\$7,268	\$135	\$75.64	\$1.92	1
	SD	Torreon, CU	\$7,180	\$0	\$73.36	\$1.86	1
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	\$8,647	\$214	\$90.53	\$2.46	1
	NE	Guadalajara, JA	\$8,942	\$218	\$93.59	\$2.54	-1
	IA	El Castillo, JA	\$8,960	\$0	\$91.55	\$2.49	-5
	KS	Torreon, CU	\$7,489	\$147	\$78.02	\$2.12	2
Sorghum	NE	Celaya, GJ	\$7,164	\$184	\$75.07	\$1.91	-1
	KS	Queretaro, QA	\$7,608	\$87	\$78.62	\$2.00	1
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	\$6,213	\$70	\$64.19	\$1.63	1
	NE	Torreon, CU	\$6,607	\$136	\$68.89	\$1.75	0

¹Rates 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.

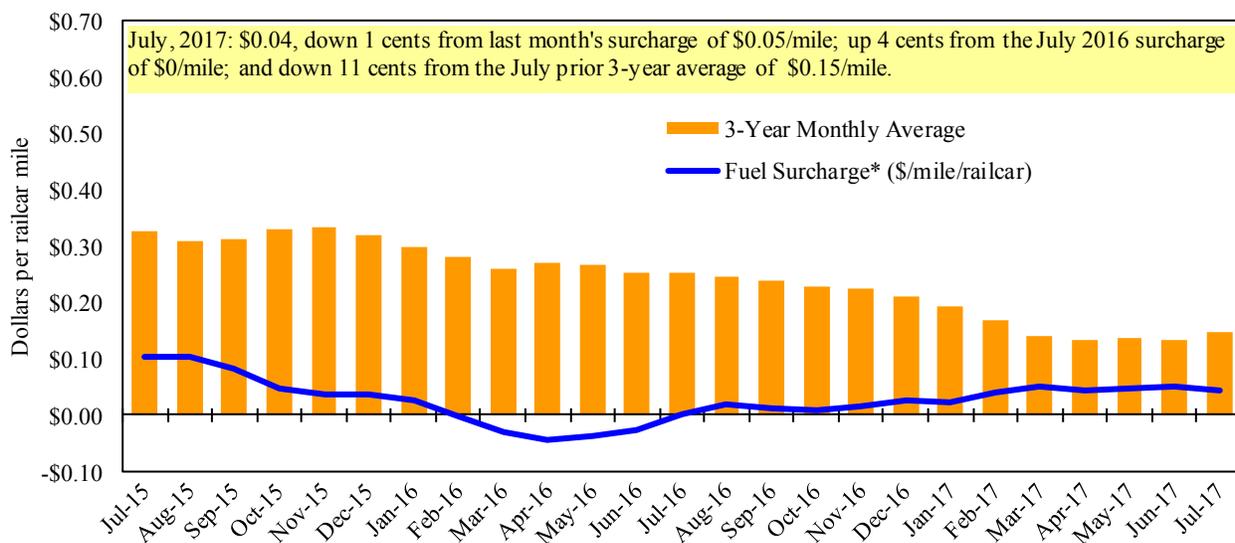
²Fuel surcharge adjusted to reflect the change in Ferrocarril Mexicano, S.A. de C.V railroad fuel surcharge policy as of 10/01/2009.

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

⁴Percentage change calculated using tariff rate plus fuel surcharge

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

Figure 7

Railroad Fuel Surcharges, North American Weighted Average¹

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.

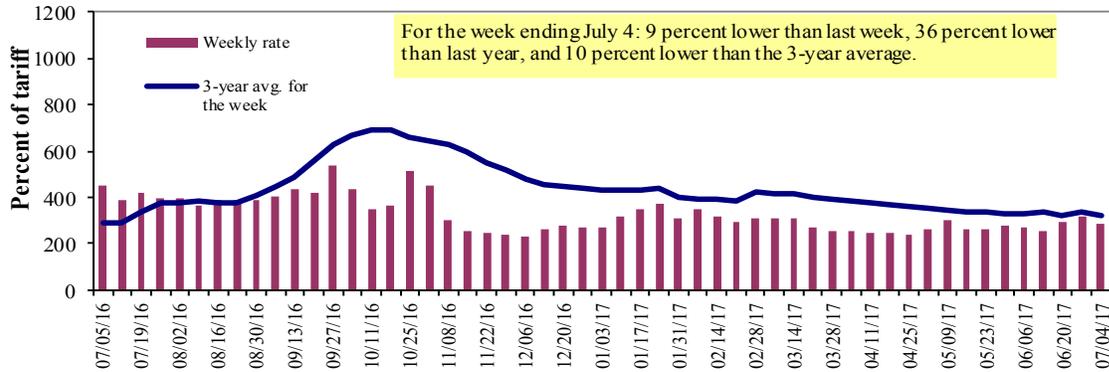
**CSX strike price changed from \$2.00/gal. to \$3.75/gal. starting January 1, 2015.

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}



¹Rate = percent of 1976 tariff benchmark index (1976 = 100 percent); ²4-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
Rate¹	7/4/2017	325	277	288	202	207	207	177
	6/27/2017	375	310	318	215	210	210	178
\$/ton	7/4/2017	20.12	14.74	13.36	8.06	9.71	8.36	5.56
	6/27/2017	23.21	16.49	14.76	8.58	9.85	8.48	5.59
Current week % change from the same week:								
	Last year	-32	-40	-36	-33	-34	-34	-33
	3-year avg. ²	-30	-19	-10	-29	-26	-26	-25
Rate¹	August	347	312	308	227	233	233	208
	October	467	408	407	325	412	412	293

¹Rate = percent of 1976 tariff benchmark index (1976 = 100 percent); ²4-week moving average; ton = 2,000 pounds
Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 9
Benchmark tariff rates

Calculating barge rate per ton:
(Rate * 1976 tariff benchmark rate per ton)/100

Select applicable index from market quotes included in tables on this page. The 1976 benchmark rates per ton are provided in map.

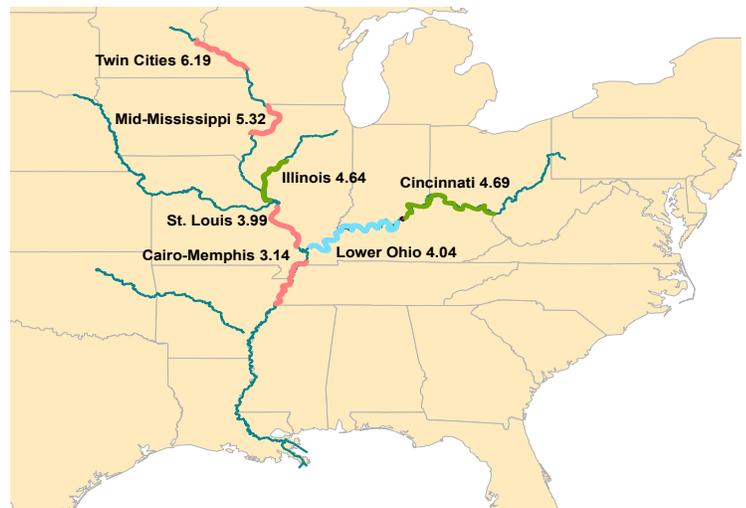
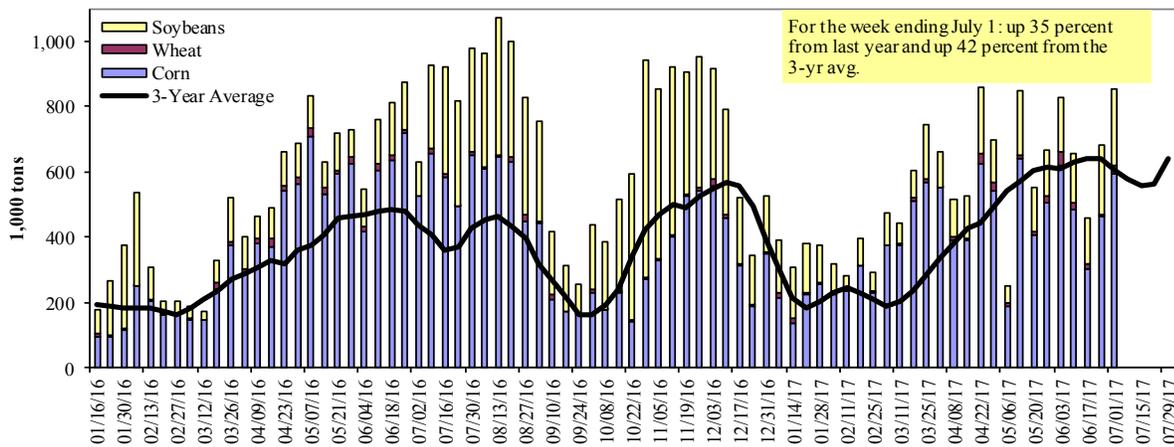


Figure 10

Barge Movements on the Mississippi River¹ (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 7/1/2017	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Other	Total
Mississippi River					
Rock Island, IL (L15)	274	5	112	0	390
Winfield, MO (L25)	418	21	186	0	624
Alton, IL (L26)	583	25	238	0	846
Granite City, IL (L27)	595	25	232	0	852
Illinois River (L8)	74	2	36	0	112
Ohio River (L52)	12	0	13	0	25
Arkansas River (L1)	0	45	24	0	69
Weekly total - 2017	608	70	268	0	945
Weekly total - 2016	574	61	134	3	772
2017 YTD ¹	12,607	1,143	6,077	157	19,983
2016 YTD	12,244	996	5,087	165	18,492
2017 as % of 2016 YTD	103	115	119	95	108
Last 4 weeks as % of 2016 ²	74	95	129	17	86
Total 2016	24,136	2,030	16,668	344	43,178

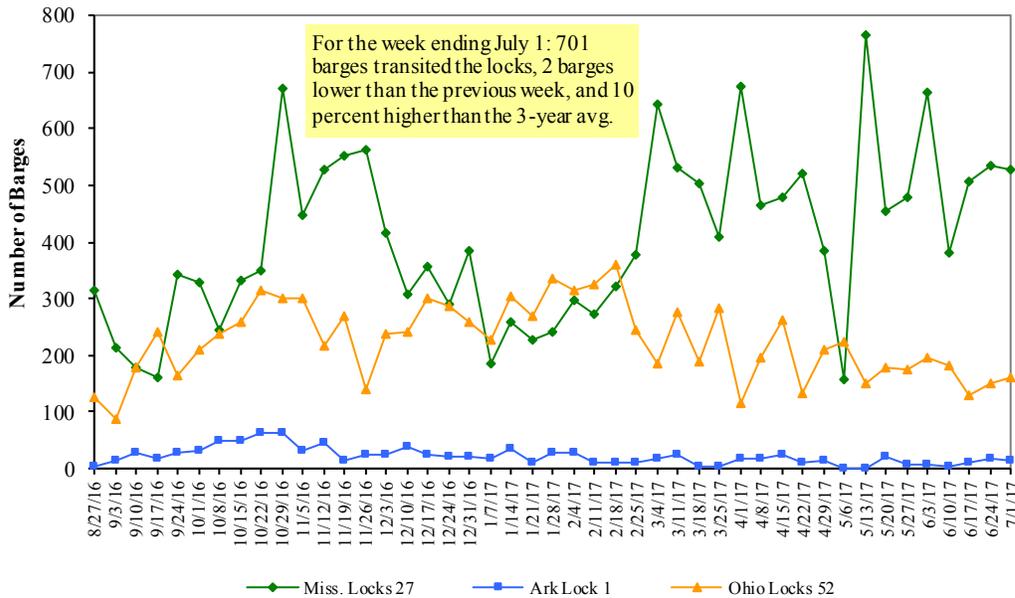
¹ Weekly total, YTD (year-to-date) and calendar year total includes Miss/27, Ohio/52, and Ark/1; "Other" refers to oats, barley, sorghum, and rye.

² As a percent of same period in 2016.

Note: Total may not add exactly, due to rounding

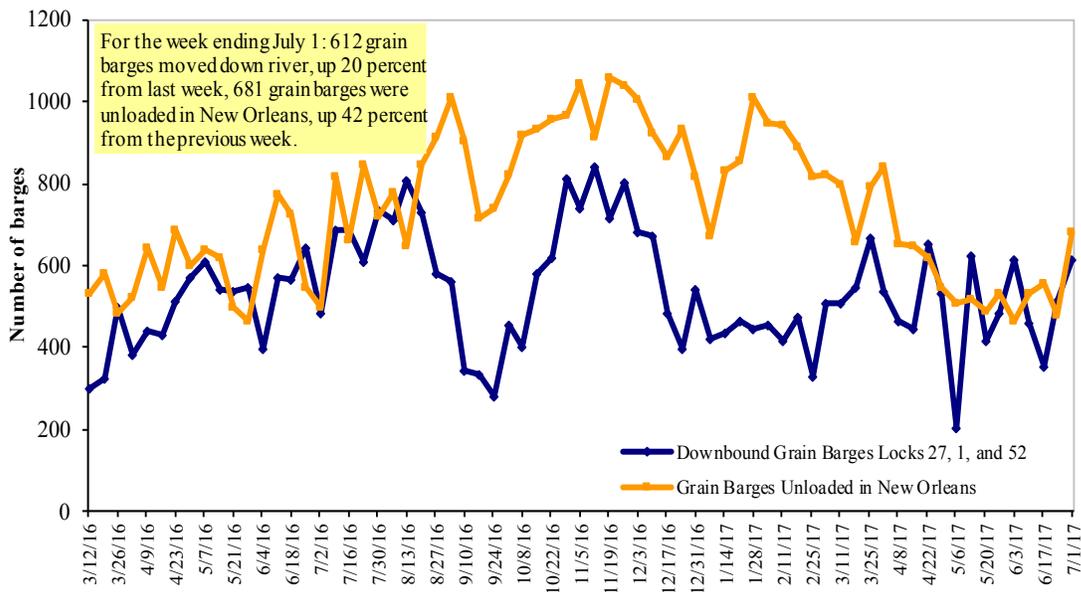
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Figure 11
Upbound Empty Barges Transiting Mississippi River Locks 27, Arkansas River Lock and Dam 1, and Ohio River Locks and Dam 52



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Figure 12
Grain Barges for Export in New Orleans Region



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and GIPSA

Truck Transportation

The **weekly diesel price** provides a proxy for trends in U.S. truck rates as diesel fuel is a significant expense for truck grain movements.

Table 11

Retail on-Highway Diesel Prices¹, Week Ending 7/3/2017(US \$/gallon)

Region	Location	Price	Change from	
			Week ago	Year ago
I	East Coast	2.522	0.006	0.084
	New England	2.578	0.001	0.096
	Central Atlantic	2.671	0.001	0.136
	Lower Atlantic	2.407	0.011	0.052
II	Midwest ²	2.403	0.017	0.014
III	Gulf Coast ³	2.307	0.002	0.025
IV	Rocky Mountain	2.585	-0.007	0.149
V	West Coast	2.759	0.002	0.050
	West Coast less California	2.628	0.002	0.029
	California	2.866	0.003	0.068
Total	U.S.	2.472	0.007	0.049

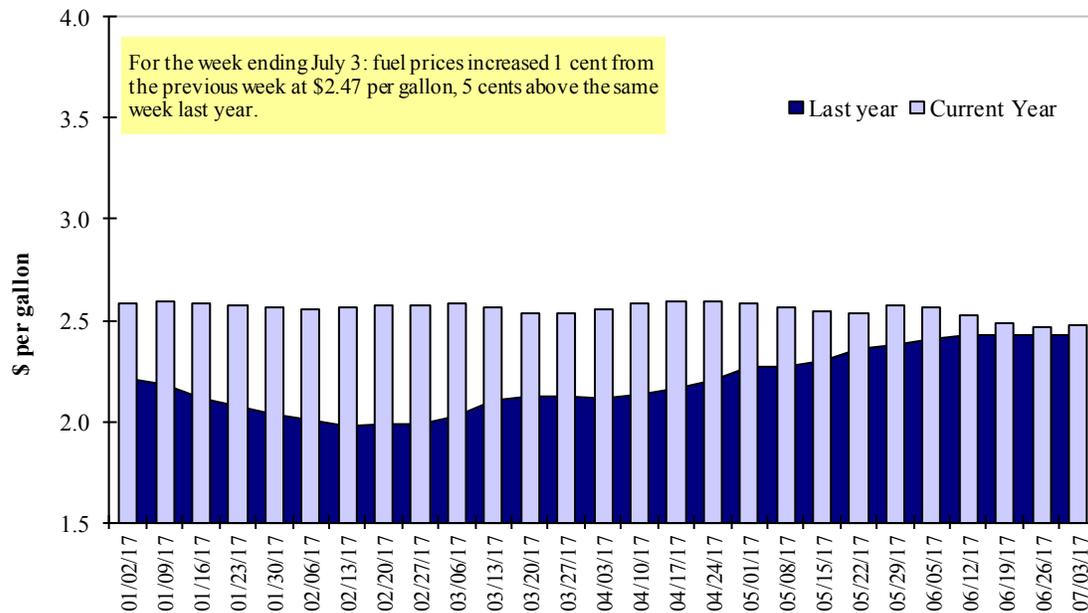
¹Diesel fuel prices include all taxes. Prices represent an average of all types of diesel fuel.

²Same as North Central ³Same 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					All wheat	Corn	Soybeans	Total
	HRW	SRW	HRS	SWW	DUR				
Export Balances¹									
6/22/2017	1,888	719	1,618	1,437	169	5,830	9,160	6,756	21,746
This week year ago	1,962	717	2,140	1,113	121	6,053	12,712	6,785	25,549
Cumulative exports-marketing year²									
2016/17 YTD	887	128	583	554	35	2,187	46,303	52,605	101,095
2015/16 YTD	719	82	472	298	11	1,582	34,171	43,876	79,630
YTD 2016/17 as % of 2015/16	123	156	123	186	305	138	136	120	127
Last 4 wks as % of same period 2015/16	105	91	82	136	149	102	80	102	91
2015/16 Total	5,538	3,057	6,285	3,551	670	19,101	45,564	49,821	114,487
2014/15 Total	7,009	3,654	7,250	3,758	665	22,336	45,205	49,614	117,155

¹ Current unshipped (outstanding) export sales to date

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

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 Importers¹ of U.S. Corn

For the week ending 6/22/2017	Total Commitments ²			% change current MY from last MY	Exports ³ 3-year avg 2013-2015
	2017/18 Next MY	2016/17 Current MY	2015/16 Last MY		
	- 1,000 mt -				- 1,000 mt -
Mexico	1,554	13,296	12,347	8	11,204
Japan	546	11,385	10,215	11	11,284
Korea	0	5,566	2,649	110	3,931
Colombia	7	4,129	4,550	(9)	4,134
Peru	28	2,867	2,064	39	2,109
Top 5 Importers	2,135	37,243	31,825	17	32,662
Total US corn export sales	2,947	55,462	47,252	17	46,633
% of Projected	6%	98%	98%		
Change from prior week ²	68	316	838		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. corn export sales	72%	67%	67%		70%
USDA forecast, June 2017	47,710	56,616	48,295	17	
Corn Use for Ethanol USDA forecast, June 2017	139,700	138,430	132,690	5	

¹Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports for 2015/16 - www.fas.usda.gov; Marketing year (MY) = Sep 1 - Aug 31.

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

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

Table 14

Top 5 Importers¹ of U.S. Soybeans

For the week ending 6/22/2017	Total Commitments ²			% change current MY from last MY	Exports ³ 3-yr avg. 2013-2015	
	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16			
	Next MY	Current MY	Last MY			
		- 1,000 mt -				- 1,000 mt -
China	1,102	35,957	27,549	31	29,033	
Mexico	247	3,546	3,312	7	3,295	
Indonesia	3	2,157	1,876	15	2,065	
Japan	197	2,141	2,262	(5)	1,994	
Netherlands	0	1,718	1,428	20	1,644	
Top 5 importers	1,549	45,518	36,428	25	38,032	
Total US soybean export sales	3,443	59,361	51,298	16	48,389	
% of Projected	6%	106%	97%			
Change from prior week ²	2	312	1,367			
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. soybean export sales	45%	77%	71%		79%	
USDA forecast, June 2017	58,583	55,858	52,752	6		

(n) indicates negative number.

¹Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports for 2015/16 - www.fas.usda.gov; Marketing year (MY) = Sep 1 - Aug 31.²Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report, or Export Sales Query--http://www.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/. The total commitments change (net sales) from prior week could include revisions from previous week's outstanding sales and/or accumulated sales³FAS Marketing Year Final Reports - www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/myfi_rpt.htm. (Carryover plus Accumulated Exports)

Table 15

Top 10 Importers¹ of All U.S. Wheat

For the week ending 6/22/2017	Total Commitments ²		% change current MY from last MY	Exports ³ 3-yr avg 2014-2016
	2017/18	2016/17		
	Current MY	Last MY		
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
Japan	729	554	32	2,620
Mexico	1,163	702	66	2,743
Philippines	734	827	(11)	2,395
Brazil	63	202	(69)	862
Nigeria	361	322	12	1,254
Korea	597	463	29	1,104
China	392	196	100	1,623
Taiwan	299	240	25	768
Indonesia	320	165	95	726
Colombia	198	274	(28)	635
Top 10 importers	4,855	3,945	23	14,729
Total US wheat export sales	8,017	8,461	(5)	24,485
% of Projected	28%	40%		
Change from prior week ²	492	1,471		
Top 10 importers' share of U.S. wheat export sales	61%	47%		60%
USDA forecast, June 2017	28,202	21,117	34	

(n) indicates negative number.

¹Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports for 2015/16 - www.fas.usda.gov; Marketing year = Jun 1 - May 31.²Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report, or Export Sales Query--http://www.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/. Total commitments change (net sales) from prior week could include revisions from the previous outstanding and/or accumulated sales³FAS Marketing Year Final Reports - www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/myfi_rpt.htm.

Table 16

Grain Inspections for Export by U.S. Port Region (1,000 metric tons)

Port Regions	For the Week Ending 06/29/17	Previous Week ¹	Current Week as % of Previous	2017 YTD*	2016 YTD*	2017 YTD as % of 2016 YTD	Last 4-weeks as % of:		2016 Total*
							Last Year	Prior 3-yr. avg.	
Pacific Northwest									
Wheat	286	382	75	8,053	6,151	131	141	175	12,325
Corn	293	256	114	8,234	5,247	157	82	107	12,009
Soybeans	69	70	98	4,587	4,435	103	3431	2881	14,447
Total	648	708	92	20,873	15,833	132	121	154	38,782
Mississippi Gulf									
Wheat	71	89	80	2,448	1,807	135	121	98	3,480
Corn	591	492	120	17,824	15,622	114	69	80	31,420
Soybeans	150	160	93	11,644	9,932	117	123	140	35,278
Total	813	742	110	31,917	27,361	117	80	90	70,178
Texas Gulf									
Wheat	109	144	76	3,729	1,875	199	120	149	6,019
Corn	0	31	0	407	502	81	25	37	1,669
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	0	92	0	n/a	n/a	1,105
Total	109	175	62	4,136	2,469	167	104	133	8,792
Interior									
Wheat	31	57	54	901	623	145	162	129	1,543
Corn	142	165	86	4,063	3,514	116	119	139	7,197
Soybeans	56	110	51	2,499	2,017	124	92	137	4,577
Total	229	332	69	7,463	6,154	121	113	137	13,317
Great Lakes									
Wheat	34	22	153	309	281	110	92	123	1,186
Corn	19	0	n/a	115	145	79	87	166	584
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	126	23	543	n/a	319	910
Total	53	22	240	550	449	123	101	147	2,681
Atlantic									
Wheat	0	0	n/a	37	184	20	13	1	315
Corn	0	0	n/a	5	14	38	n/a	0	294
Soybeans	5	4	129	914	887	103	75	104	2,269
Total	5	4	129	956	1,084	88	71	25	2,878
U.S. total from ports²									
Wheat	532	694	77	15,478	10,921	142	131	147	24,867
Corn	1,045	945	111	30,648	25,043	122	77	93	53,173
Soybeans	280	344	81	19,771	17,387	114	146	181	58,587
Total	1,857	1,983	94	65,896	53,351	124	99	117	136,627

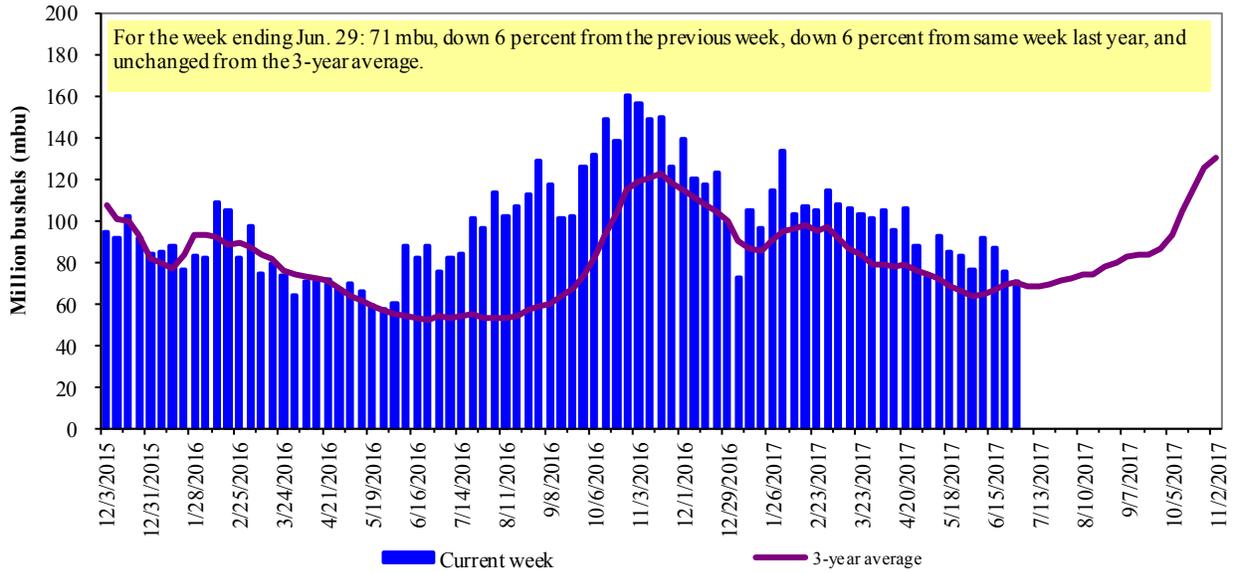
¹ Data includes revisions from prior weeks; some regional totals may not add exactly due to rounding.

Source: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration/USDA (www.gipsa.usda.gov); YTD= year-to-date; n/a = not applicable

The United States exports approximately one-quarter of the grain it produces. On average, this includes nearly 45 percent of U.S.-grown wheat, 35 percent of U.S.-grown soybeans, and 20 percent of the U.S.-grown corn. Approximately 58 percent of the U.S. export grain shipments departed through the U.S. Gulf region in 2016.

Figure 14

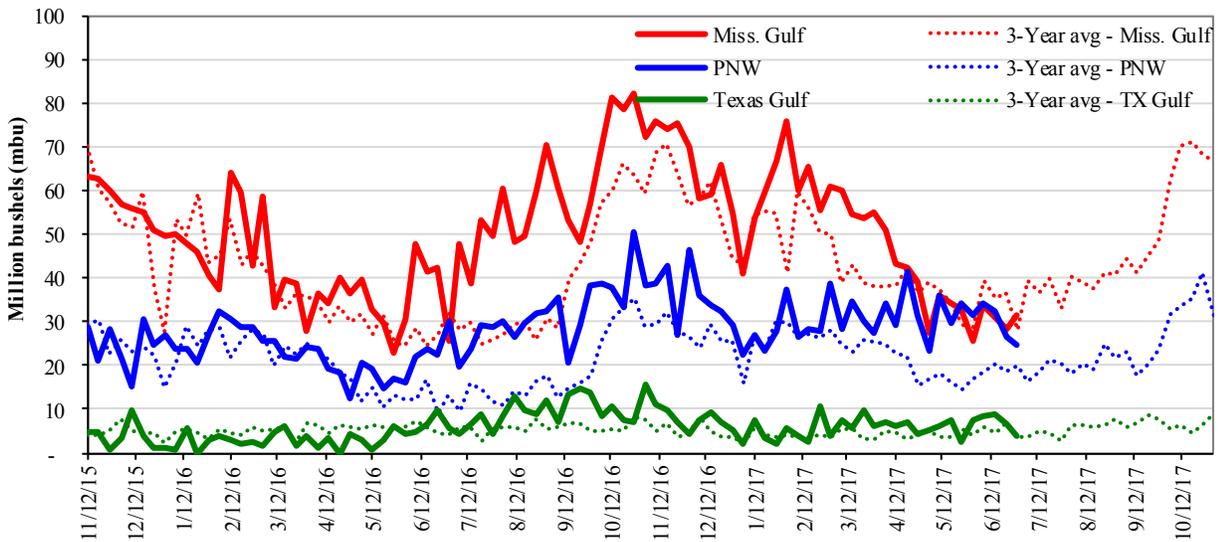
U.S. grain inspected for export (wheat, corn, and soybeans)



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

Figure 15

U.S. Grain Inspections: U.S. Gulf and PNW¹ (wheat, corn, and soybeans)



Week ending 06/29/17 inspections (mbu):		Percent change from:				
Mississippi Gulf:	31.4	Last Week:	MS Gulf up 10	TX Gulf down 38	U.S. Gulf up 1	PNW down 8
PNW:	24.6	Last Year (same week):	up 22	down 30	up 12	down 18
Texas Gulf:	4.0	3-yr avg. (4-wk. mov. Avg):	down 10	down 24	down 12	up 27

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

Ocean Transportation

Table 17

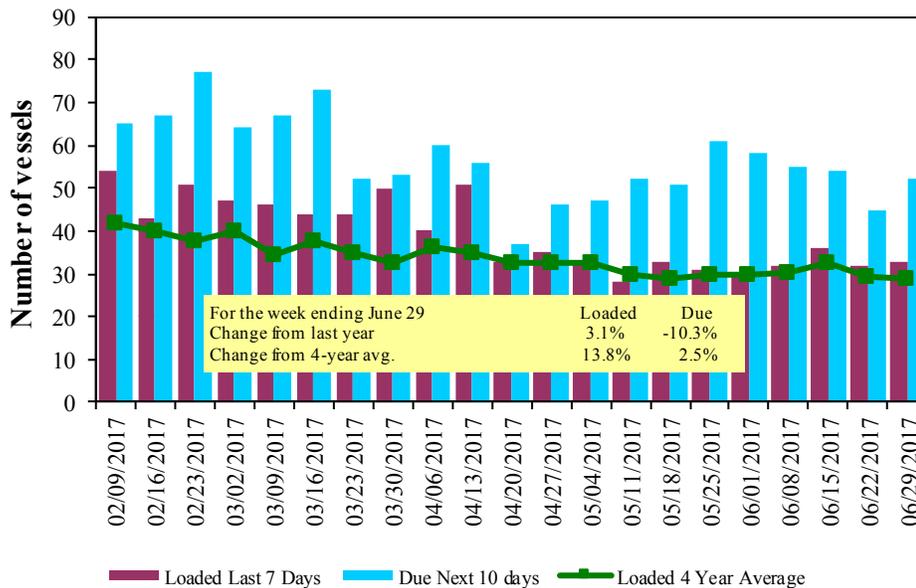
Weekly Port Region Grain Ocean Vessel Activity (number of vessels)

Date	Gulf			Pacific Northwest	Vancouver B.C.
	In port	Loaded 7-days	Due next 10-days	In port	In port
6/29/2017	38	33	52	5	n/a
6/22/2017	40	32	45	16	n/a
2016 range	(21..62)	(27..55)	(40..87)	(6..27)	n/a
2016 avg.	43	40	62	15	n/a

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 16

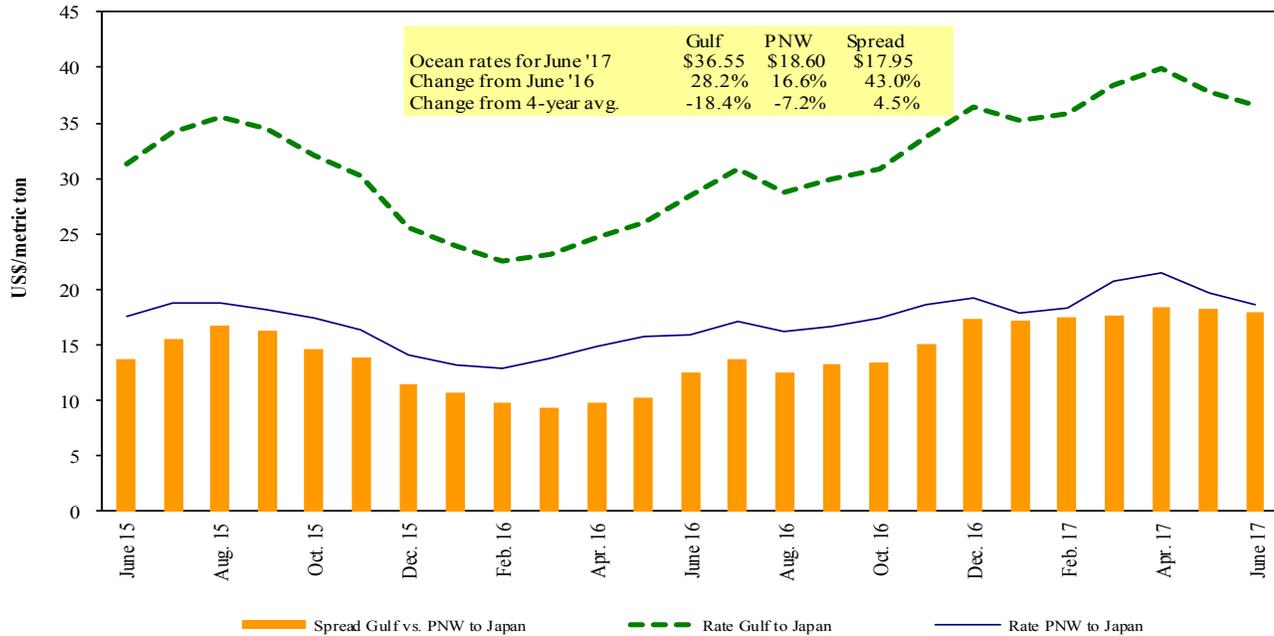
U.S. Gulf Vessel Loading Activity



Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA
¹U.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 07/01/2017

Export region	Import region	Grain types	Loading date	Volume loads (metric tons)	Freight rate (US\$/metric ton)
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Jul 15/25	60,000	33.65
U.S. Gulf	Cote d'Ivoire	Rice	Jun 19/29	6,000	93.33*
U.S. Gulf	Ghana	Rice	Jun 9/19	6,000	341.67*
U.S. Gulf	Ghana	Soybean Meal	Jun 9/19	5,000	86.75*
U.S. Gulf	Hiati	Wheat	Jul 3/13	20,000	80.00*
U.S. Gulf	Jordan	Wheat	Jun 19/28	50,000	36.00
PNW	Taiwan	Wheat	Jun 9/23	48,425	29.70
PNW	Taiwan	Wheat	May 6/20	52,500	28.48
PNW	Taiwan	Wheat	Apr 19/May 3	50,350	29.12
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Jul 15/30	60,000	22.75
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Jul 1/10	60,000	22.00
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Jul 1/5	60,000	22.25
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Jun 20/30	60,000	24.00
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Jun 10/20	60,000	24.75
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	May 20/30	60,000	25.50
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	May 20/30	60,000	26.50
Brazil	Iran	Heavy Grain	Jun 15/18	70,000	22.75
EC S. America	China	Heavy Grain	May 20/30	60,000	29.75
River Plate	China	Heavy Grain	May 10/20	63,000	35.50

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

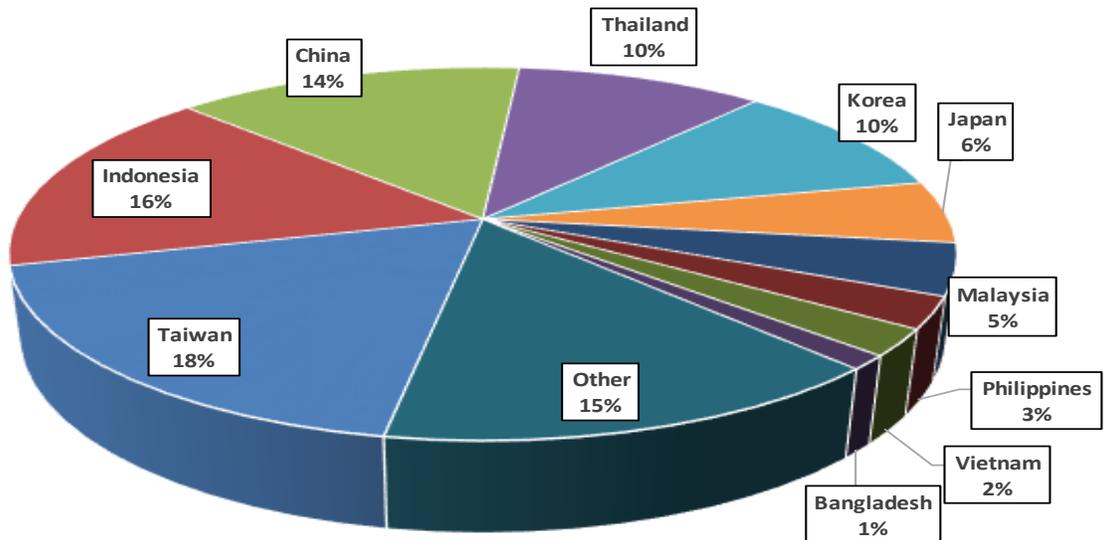
*50 percent of food aid from the United States is required to be shipped on U.S.-flag vessels.

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

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

Figure 18

Top 10 Destination Markets for U.S. Containerized Grain Exports, January-April 2017

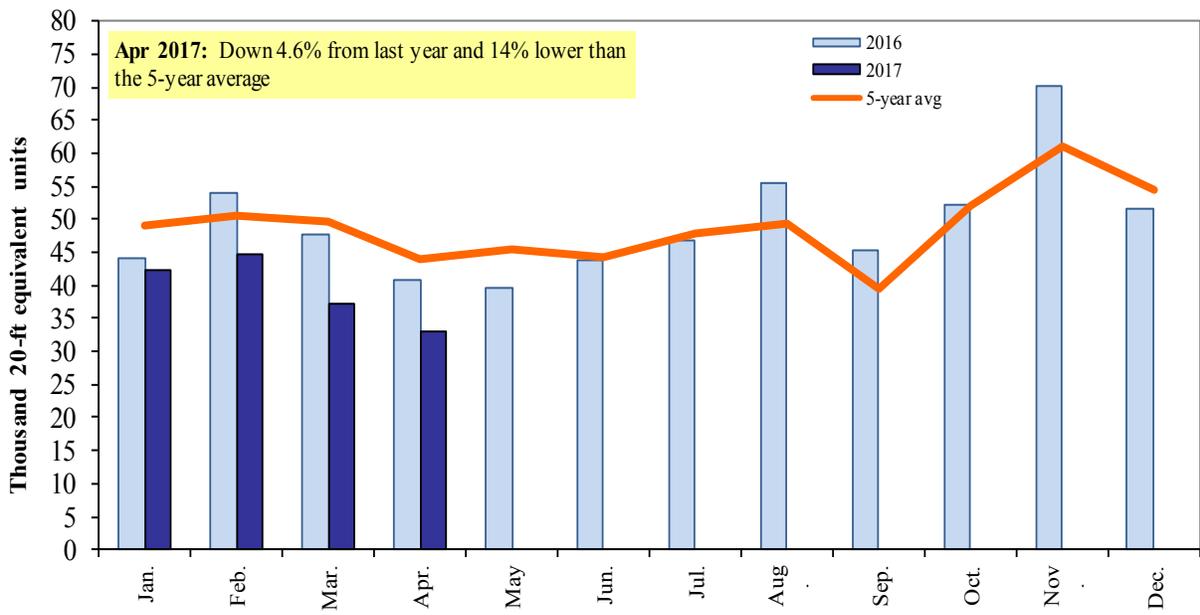


Source: USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service/Transportation Services Division analysis of Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS) data

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, 110220, 110290, 120100, 120810, 230210, 230310, 230330, and 230990.

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Truck Transportation

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

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