



June 23, 2011

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## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

### Corn Inspections Highest Since March

For the week ending June 16, **total inspections of grain** (corn, wheat, and soybeans) for export from all major U.S. export regions reached 1.57 million metric tons (mmt), up 2 percent from the previous week and 35 percent above last year at this time. Corn inspections (0.912 mmt) increased 22 percent from the past week, and accounted for most of the increase in overall grain inspections. Inspections of corn were also the highest since March 24 (0.954 mmt); with increased shipments out of the U.S. Gulf to Mexico and Egypt. Corn shipments to Asia (0.578 mmt) were about equal to the past week. Total inspections of grain during the last 4 weeks also remained strong, increasing 15 percent from last year.

### Missouri River Flooding and Loss of Rail Service Pressure Cash Prices in Western Corn Belt

Over the last two weeks, corn and soybean basis in the Western Corn Belt have weakened. Flooding and loss of rail service to grain elevators and processing facilities have forced some facilities to shut down, according to a DTN/Progressive Farmer news report. Processors are reportedly working on rerouting deliveries to other locations. Lack of competition has lowered corn bids by as much as 16 cents/bushel in the Western Corn Belt, while grain bids in the Eastern Corn Belt have remained strong. Last week the cash corn price difference between some locations in the East and West Corn Belts was more than \$2.00/bu. Livestock operations that rely on distillers grains may see a reduced supply because some ethanol plants have reduced or shut down operations. Cattle feedlots can easily switch to corn, but hog and poultry feeding depends on soybean meal and those operations are expected to rely on truck service to preserve an uninterrupted supply of soybean meal.

### Public Comment on FMCSA Safety Regulations Due by June 30

On May 23, the Federal Motor Carrier Administration (FMCSA) requested public comment by June 30 on the "[Applicability of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations](#) to Operators of Certain Farm Vehicles and Off-Road Agricultural Equipment." FMCSA seeks public comment on (1) previously published regulatory guidance on the distinction between interstate and intrastate commerce in deciding whether operations of commercial motor vehicles within the boundaries of a single State are subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs); (2) the factors the States are using in deciding whether farm vehicle drivers transporting agricultural commodities, farm supplies, and equipment as part of a crop share agreement are subject to the commercial driver's license regulations, and (3) proposed guidance to determine whether off-road farm equipment operated on public roads for limited distances are considered commercial motor vehicles. The guidance would be used to help ensure uniform application of the safety regulations. Supporting documents and comments may be viewed at: <http://www.regulations.gov>, under docket number [FMCSA-2011-0146](#).

## Snapshots by Sector

### **Rail**

U.S. railroads originated 21,996 **carloads of grain** during the week ending June 11, up 5 percent from last week, 6 percent from last year, and 13 percent higher than the 3-year average.

During the week ending June 16, average July **non-shuttle secondary railcar bids/offers** were \$37.50 above tariff, down \$12.50 from last week. Average shuttle rates were \$387.50 below tariff, down \$212.50 from last week.

### **Barge**

During the week ending June 18, **barge grain movements** totaled 350,784 tons, 39 percent lower than the previous week and 57 percent lower than the same period last year.

During the week ending June 18, 232 grain barges **moved down river**, down 37 percent from last week; 365 grain barges were **unloaded in New Orleans**, up 23 percent from the previous week.

### **Ocean**

During the week ending June 16, 30 **ocean-going grain vessels** were loaded in the Gulf, down 17 percent from last year. Thirty-four vessels are expected to be loaded within the next 10 days, 32 percent less than the same period last year.

During the week ending June 17, the average ocean freight rate for shipping bulk grain from the Gulf to Japan was \$54 per metric ton (mt), unchanged from the previous week. The cost of shipping from the Pacific Northwest to Japan was \$30.50 per mt—2 percent less than the previous week.

### **Fuel**

During the week ending June 20, U.S. average **diesel fuel prices** were unchanged from the previous week at 3.95 per gallon—33 percent higher than the same week last year.

# Feature Article/Calendar

## QUARTER 1 CONTAINERIZED GRAIN UPDATE

Containerized grain shippers are enjoying a period of few container availability challenges and favorable rates. However, carriers are warning that this year's traditional import peak season could bring logistical challenges. Additionally, shipments have been depressed during the first quarter due to lower demand for containerized soybeans likely due to higher commodity prices and a trade dispute over distillers grains (DDGS).

The first and last quarters of the year are typically the strongest time of the year for moving U.S. containerized grain to port for export. During the first quarter of 2011, U.S. containerized grain exports were almost 124,000 TEUs,<sup>1</sup> 9 percent lower than the same period last year but 3 percent higher than the 4-year average. The first quarter decrease from last year was mainly due to a decrease in soybean and DDGS shipments, particularly to China. Exporters are anxiously awaiting the result of the DDGS Anti-Dumping complaint China filed against the United States; in the meantime exports have slowed.

Containerized DDGS exports saw the greatest decrease over the quarter starting in January at nearly 20,000 TEUs and falling to just over 13,300 TEUs in March. Shipments of containerized grain to China, the top market for containerized U.S. DDGS exports, also fell during the first quarter. More than 11,000 TEUs

U.S. Containerized Grain Exports, Quarter 1, 2011					
HTS Code	Commodity	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	Q1 Total
<i>TEUs</i>					
230330	Distillers Grains	19,255	11,470	13,302	44,027
120100	Soybeans	10,838	11,244	14,155	36,238
100590	Corn	4,686	4,445	6,022	15,153
230990	Animal Feed	3,991	4,323	4,562	12,876
100190	Wheat	1,482	2,266	1,451	5,199
	Other	3,387	3,286	3,726	10,400
<b>Total</b>		<b>43,640</b>	<b>37,034</b>	<b>43,218</b>	<b>123,892</b>

*Source: Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS)*

were moving in January to China, but shipments fell by half to less than 5,500 in March. These shipments were mainly DDGS. According to the latest Transportation and Export Report from O'Neil Commodity Consulting, containerized grain business, especially DDGS, has been slow. Chinese officials are expected to finish their U.S. DDGS antidumping investigation by the end of this year.

DDGS and soybeans made up 65 percent of containerized grain exports in the first quarter. Though overall containerized soybean movements were lower than last year, exports saw a normal, consistent increase in shipments over the quarter. Most of these exports were destined for Taiwan and Indonesia; significant importers of U.S. containerized soybeans. Fewer soybean movements than last year can probably be contributed to high soybeans prices and relatively low bulk ocean freight rates. These dynamics could have likely pulled soybeans that might have moved in the specialty grains market into the traditional commodity soybean market.

### Outlook

Agricultural exporters reported at the recent Agriculture Transportation Coalition's Annual Transportation Conference in early June that container availability and ocean freight rates, traditionally thorns of contention, have been manageable or even favorable. Ocean carriers are working to keep and increase the growing U.S. export business, particularly while the U.S. dollar is weak, which makes U.S.

<sup>1</sup> TEU—Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit. Containerized movements are often calculated in TEUs; 1 TEU is equivalent to 1 20-foot container while 1 40-foot container is equivalent to 2 TEUs. The most common containers measure 20 and 40 foot in length.

products cheaper in many overseas markets. Additionally, carriers report that competing low bulk ocean freight rates are keeping container rates low despite rising fuel costs.

However, the carriers warned exporters the market is volatile and that these rate conditions are not sustainable. Exporters should be prepared for the potential that conditions could change during this year's peak import shipping season (July–October), when carriers turn their attention to the more profitable retail imports. The magnitude of this year's peak import season will partially depend on U.S. consumer confidence and the health of U.S. retailer inventory stocks.

Carriers also reported that despite the unimpressive start to 2011 in the major global trade lanes (Asia-Europe and the Eastbound Transpacific,) Asia's internal trade is one of their most profitable trade lanes. Walter Kemmsies, the chief economist of Moffatt and Nichol, predicted that over the next 10 years these Asian markets are likely to see some of the most impressive gross domestic product (GDP) growth globally, and that U.S. agricultural exports are poised to be a significant recovery agent for the U.S. economy. USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, in cooperation with the Economic Research Service, forecast in May that fiscal 2011 agricultural exports may reach a record \$137 billion, up \$1.5 billion from the February forecast and 26 percent (\$28.3 billion) above 2010. Approximately 95 percent of U.S. containerized grain exports are destined for Asian markets. These encouraging reports help to reassure that U.S. containerized grain exporters have a growing market for their products.

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# Grain Transportation Indicators

Table 1

**Grain Transport Cost Indicators<sup>1</sup>**

Week ending	Truck	Rail <sup>2</sup>	Barge	Ocean	
				Gulf	Pacific
06/22/11	265	133	250	242	216
06/15/11	265	145	248	242	220

<sup>1</sup>Indicator: Base year 2000 = 100; Weekly updates include truck = diesel (\$/gallon); rail = nearby secondary rail market (\$/car); barge = Illinois River barge rate (index = percent of tariff rate); and ocean = routes to Japan (\$/metric ton)

<sup>2</sup>The rail indicator is not an index. It is the difference between the nearby secondary rail market bid for this week and the average bid for year 2000 (+) 100. Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Table 2

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

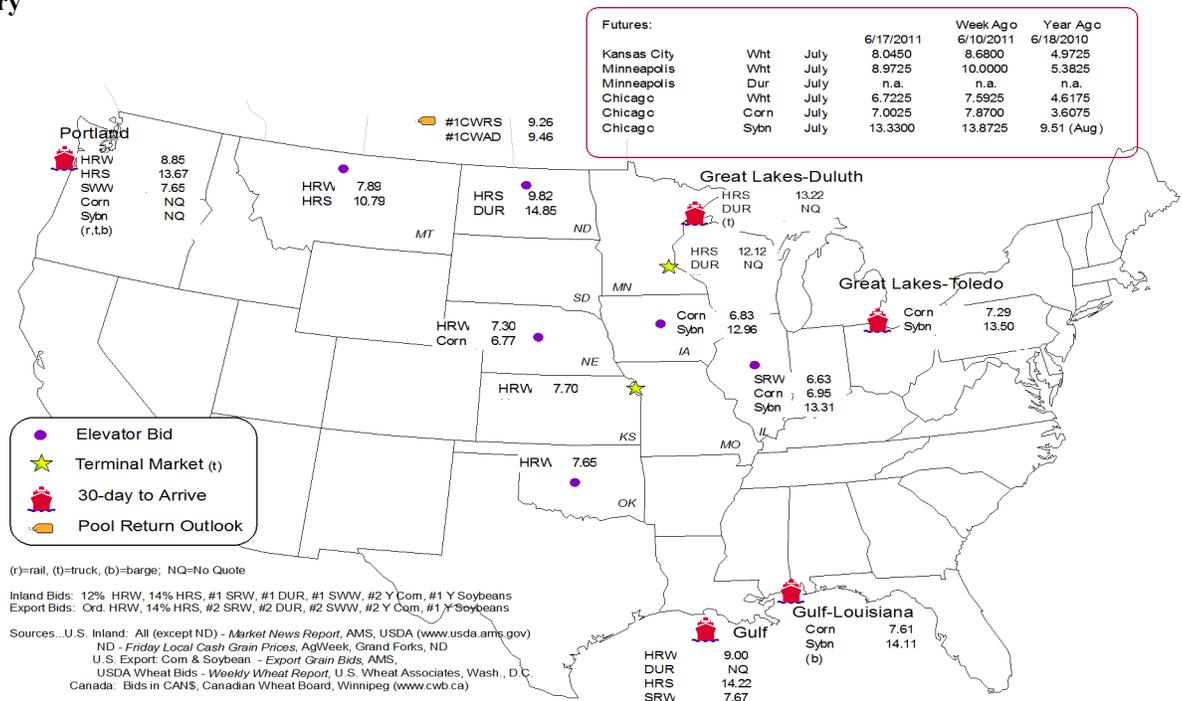
Commodity	Origin--Destination	6/17/2011	6/10/2011
Corn	IL--Gulf	-0.66	-0.67
Corn	NE--Gulf	-0.84	-0.83
Soybean	IA--Gulf	-1.15	-1.17
HRW	KS--Gulf	-1.30	-1.40
HRS	ND--Portland	-3.85	-3.16

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)<sup>1</sup>

Week ending	Mississippi		Cross-Border	Pacific	Atlantic &	Total
	Gulf	Texas Gulf	Mexico	Northwest	East Gulf	
6/15/2011 <sup>p</sup>	156	1,094	322	3,145	274	4,991
6/08/2011 <sup>r</sup>	373	1,636	1,117	3,684	82	6,892
2011 YTD	20,581	52,583	21,603	93,402	14,596	202,765
2010YTD	7,958	32,002	22,260	79,657	17,173	159,050
2011 YTD as % of 2010 YTD	259	164	97	117	85	127
Last 4 weeks as % of 2010 <sup>2</sup>	181	204	120	120	153	137
Last 4 weeks as % of 4-year avg. <sup>2</sup>	121	141	131	104	95	116
Total 2010	33,971	83,492	42,794	177,896	32,780	370,933
Total 2009	33,423	57,646	36,738	175,965	30,328	334,100

<sup>1</sup> Data is incomplete as it is voluntarily provided

<sup>2</sup> Compared with same 4-weeks in 2010 and prior 4-year average.

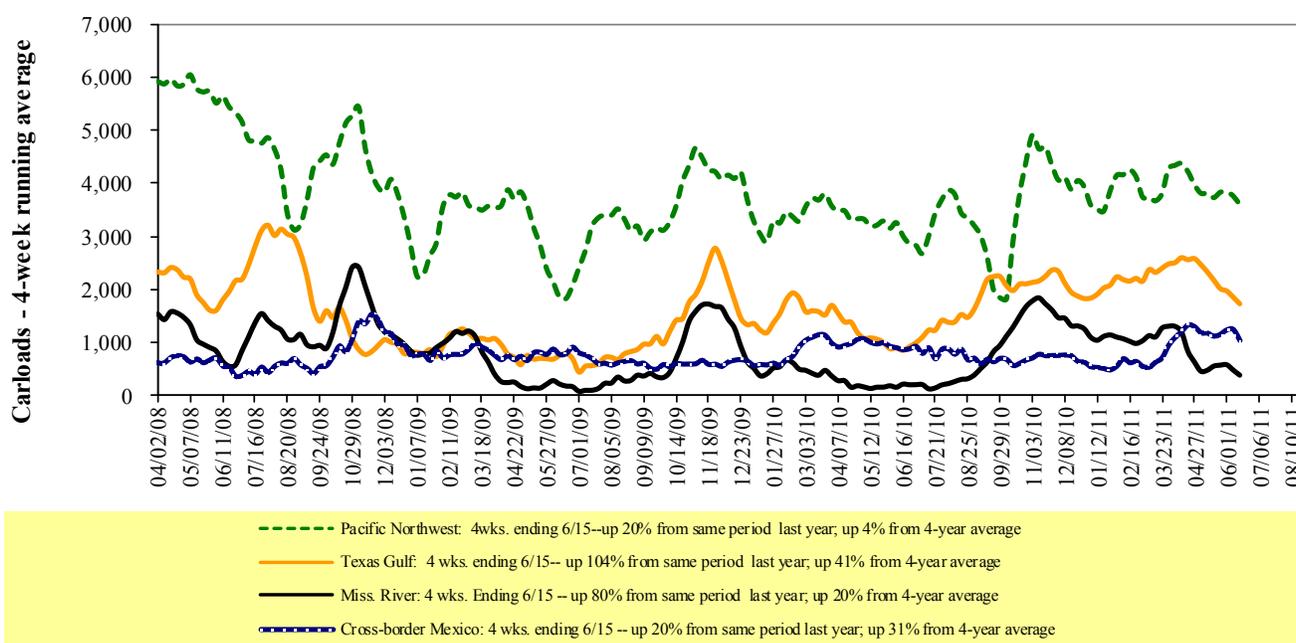
**YTD = year-to-date; p = preliminary data; r = revised data; n/a = not available**

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Railroads originate approximately 35 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

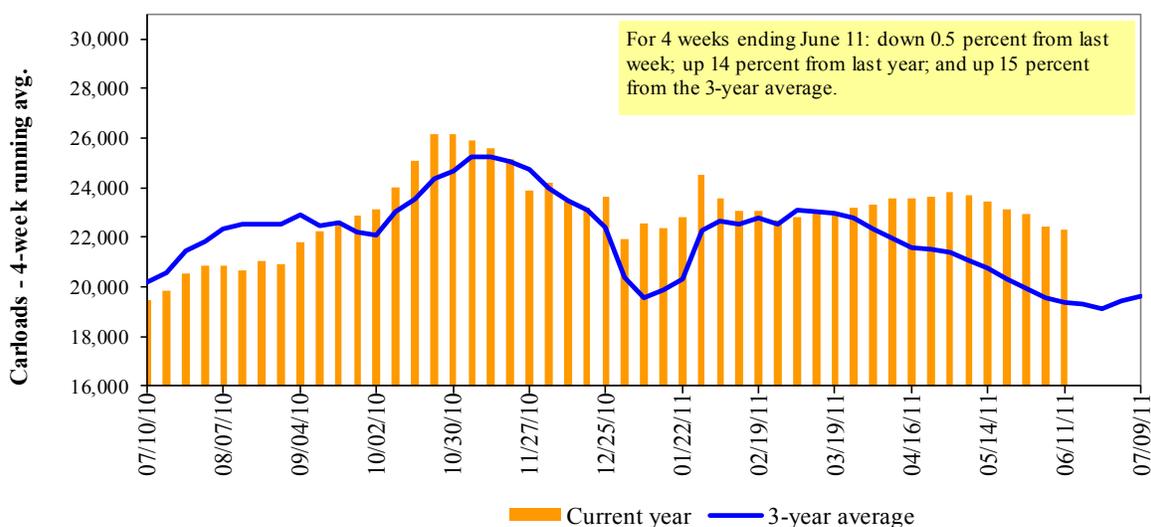
Table 4

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

Week ending	East		West			U.S. total	Canada	
	CSXT	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP		CN	CP
06/11/11	1,794	2,959	11,236	760	5,247	21,996	3,239	5,444
This week last year	1,945	2,728	10,603	792	4,602	20,670	3,408	5,479
2011 YTD	47,447	70,403	260,434	15,412	141,057	534,753	91,949	111,458
2010 YTD	51,912	69,963	235,101	17,428	121,514	495,918	92,473	123,516
2011 YTD as % of 2010 YTD	91	101	111	88	116	108	99	90
Last 4 weeks as % of 2010 <sup>1</sup>	86	114	115	122	122	114	93	105
Last 4 weeks as % of 3-yr avg. <sup>1</sup>	88	108	122	122	117	115	87	103
Total 2010	111,935	159,836	546,901	35,807	295,361	1,149,840	203,038	265,835

<sup>1</sup>As a percent of the same period in 2009 and 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

**Rail Car Auction Offerings<sup>1</sup> (\$/car)<sup>2</sup>**

Week ending	Delivery period							
	Jun-11	Jun-10	Jul-11	Jul-10	Aug-11	Aug-10	Sep-11	Sep-10
BNSF <sup>3</sup>								
COT grain units	2	0	31	0	8	no offer	72	no offer
COT grain single-car <sup>5</sup>	0 . . 1	0 . . 20	0 . . 25	13 . . 25	1 . . 28	32 . . 40	50 . . 80	1 . . 11
UP <sup>4</sup>								
GCAS/Region 1	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	n/a	n/a
GCAS/Region 2	1	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	2	n/a	n/a

<sup>1</sup>Auction offerings are for single-car and unit train shipments only.

<sup>2</sup>Average premium/discount to tariff, last auction

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

<sup>4</sup>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.

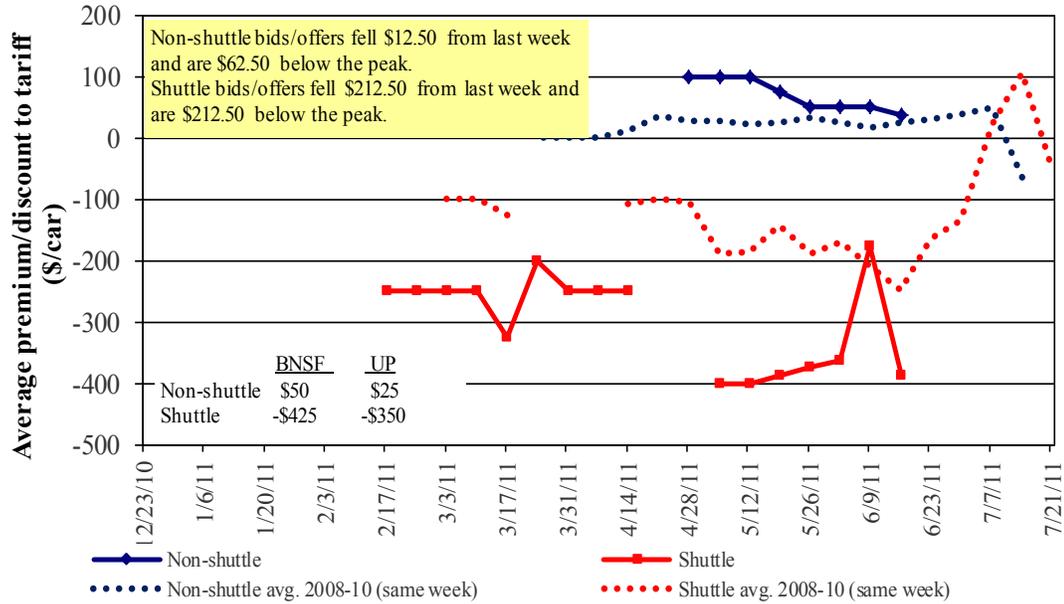
<sup>5</sup>Range is shown because average is not available. Not available = n/a.

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

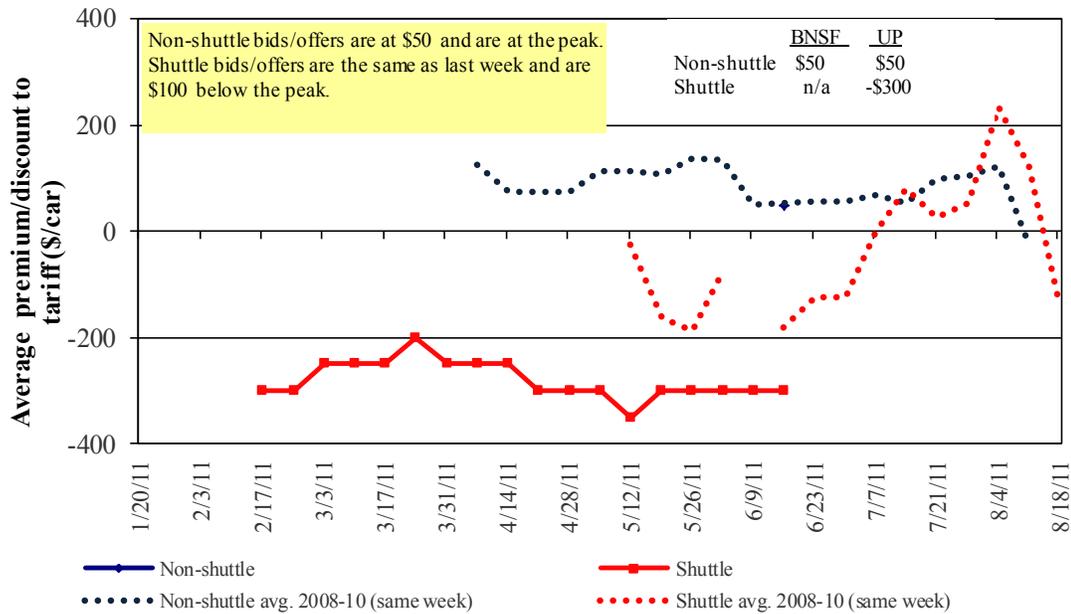
**Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in July 2011, Secondary Market**



Non-shuttle bids include unit-train and single-car bids. n/a = not available.  
 Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 5

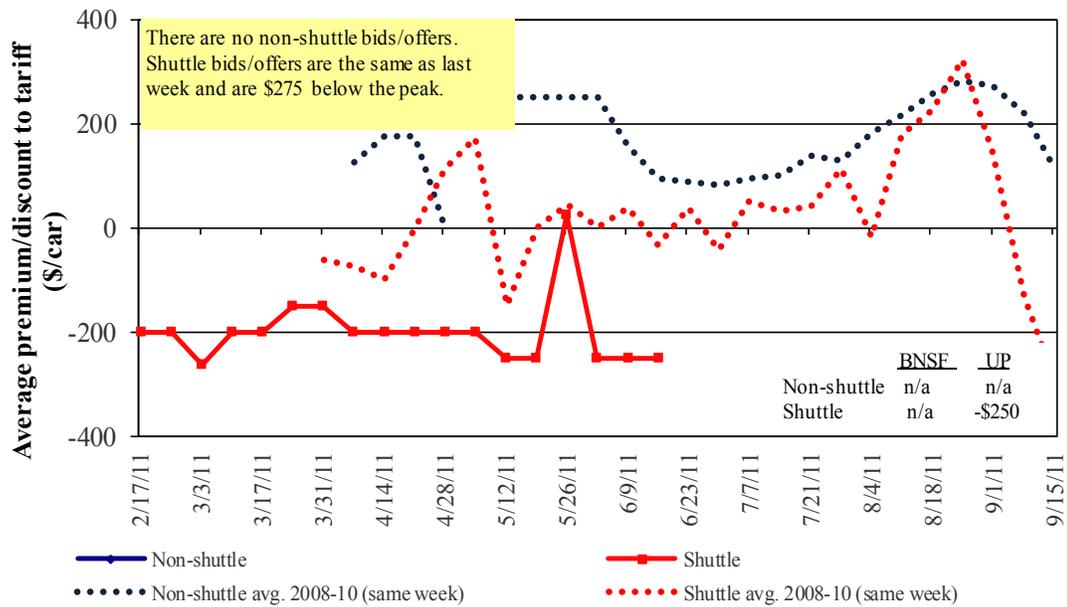
**Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in August 2011, Secondary Market**



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 2011, Secondary Market



Non-shuttle bids include unit-train and single-car bids. n/a = not available.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Table 6

### Weekly Secondary Rail Car Market (\$/car)<sup>1</sup>

Week ending	Delivery period					
	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11
<b>Non-shuttle</b>						
BNSF-GF	75	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from last week	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from same week 2010	77	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UP-Pool	25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from last week	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from same week 2010	28	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Shuttle<sup>2</sup></b>						
BNSF-GF	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from last week	300	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from same week 2010	400	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UP-Pool	(350)	(300)	(250)	600	n/a	n/a
Change from last week	75	-	-	(100)	n/a	n/a
Change from same week 2010	-	n/a	(100)	n/a	n/a	n/a

<sup>1</sup>Average premium/discount to tariff, \$/car-last week

<sup>2</sup>Shuttle bids are a new data series; prior to this we provided only non-shuttle rates.

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 Atwood/ConAgra, Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.

Table 7

**Tariff Rail Rates for Unit and Shuttle Train Shipments<sup>1</sup>**

Effective date:			Tariff	Fuel	Tariff plus surcharge per:		Percent
6/6/2011	Origin region*	Destination region*	rate/car	surcharge per car	metric ton	bushel <sup>2</sup>	change Y/Y <sup>3</sup>
<b>Unit train</b>							
Wheat	Wichita, KS	St. Louis, MO	\$2,992	\$202	\$31.72	\$0.86	11
	Grand Forks, ND	Duluth-Superior, MN	\$2,822	\$119	\$29.21	\$0.79	16
	Wichita, KS	Los Angeles, CA	\$5,710	\$612	\$62.78	\$1.71	10
	Wichita, KS	New Orleans, LA	\$3,492	\$356	\$38.21	\$1.04	11
	Sioux Falls, SD	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$5,410	\$502	\$58.71	\$1.60	6
	Northwest KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$3,760	\$390	\$41.21	\$1.12	11
	Amarillo, TX	Los Angeles, CA	\$3,959	\$543	\$44.71	\$1.22	12
Corn	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	\$2,812	\$402	\$31.92	\$0.87	8
	Toledo, OH	Raleigh, NC	\$3,760	\$450	\$41.81	\$1.14	14
	Des Moines, IA	Davenport, IA	\$1,843	\$85	\$19.15	\$0.52	-1
	Indianapolis, IN	Atlanta, GA	\$3,196	\$338	\$35.09	\$0.96	12
	Indianapolis, IN	Knoxville, TN	\$2,760	\$217	\$29.56	\$0.80	12
	Des Moines, IA	Little Rock, AR	\$2,938	\$250	\$31.66	\$0.86	7
	Des Moines, IA	Los Angeles, CA	\$4,835	\$729	\$55.26	\$1.50	20
Soybeans	Minneapolis, MN	New Orleans, LA	\$3,089	\$439	\$35.04	\$0.95	11
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	\$2,921	\$320	\$32.18	\$0.88	11
	Indianapolis, IN	Raleigh, NC	\$3,830	\$453	\$42.54	\$1.16	13
	Indianapolis, IN	Huntsville, AL	\$2,613	\$217	\$28.10	\$0.76	11
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	\$3,156	\$402	\$35.34	\$0.96	10
<b>Shuttle Train</b>							
Wheat	Great Falls, MT	Portland, OR	\$3,239	\$352	\$35.66	\$0.97	13
	Wichita, KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$3,144	\$274	\$33.94	\$0.92	7
	Chicago, IL	Albany, NY	\$3,497	\$422	\$38.92	\$1.06	-3
	Grand Forks, ND	Portland, OR	\$4,702	\$608	\$52.73	\$1.44	12
	Grand Forks, ND	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$5,648	\$633	\$62.38	\$1.70	11
	Northwest KS	Portland, OR	\$4,727	\$640	\$53.29	\$1.45	11
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,680	\$740	\$53.83	\$1.46	14
Corn	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	\$4,640	\$678	\$52.81	\$1.44	13
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	\$2,677	\$402	\$30.58	\$0.83	7
	Lincoln, NE	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$3,190	\$395	\$35.60	\$0.97	10
	Des Moines, IA	Amarillo, TX	\$3,330	\$315	\$36.19	\$0.99	8
	Minneapolis, MN	Tacoma, WA	\$4,680	\$734	\$53.77	\$1.46	14
	Council Bluffs, IA	Stockton, CA	\$4,080	\$760	\$48.06	\$1.31	13
	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	\$4,840	\$678	\$54.80	\$1.49	10
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,830	\$740	\$55.32	\$1.51	11
	Fargo, ND	Tacoma, WA	\$4,730	\$603	\$52.96	\$1.44	10
	Council Bluffs, IA	New Orleans, LA	\$3,510	\$464	\$39.46	\$1.07	9
Soybeans	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	\$2,536	\$320	\$28.36	\$0.77	13
	Grand Island, NE	Portland, OR	\$4,520	\$655	\$51.39	\$1.40	11

<sup>1</sup>A unit train refers to shipments of at least 25 cars. Shuttle train rates are available for qualified shipments of 90-110 cars that meet railroad efficiency requirements.

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

<sup>3</sup>Percentage change year over year calculated using tariff rate plus fuel surcharge

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**

Commodity	Origin state	Destination region	Tariff rate/car <sup>1</sup>	Fuel surcharge per car <sup>2</sup>	Tariff plus surcharge per:		Percent change Y/Y <sup>4</sup>
					metric ton <sup>3</sup>	bushel <sup>3</sup>	
Wheat	MT	Chihuahua, CI	\$6,854	\$643	\$76.60	\$2.08	6
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	\$6,245	\$666	\$70.61	\$1.92	7
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	\$6,879	\$896	\$79.44	\$2.16	6
	TX	Salinas Victoria, NL	\$3,411	\$269	\$37.60	\$1.02	5
Corn	IA	Guadalajara, JA	\$7,057	\$935	\$81.66	\$2.07	6
	SD	Penjamo, GJ	\$6,521	\$842	\$75.23	\$1.91	-1
	NE	Queretaro, QA	\$6,802	\$852	\$78.20	\$1.98	14
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	\$5,360	\$640	\$61.30	\$1.56	13
	MO	Tlalnepantla, EM	\$5,959	\$830	\$69.37	\$1.76	15
	SD	Torreón, CU	\$5,623	\$705	\$64.66	\$1.64	3
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	\$6,705	\$818	\$76.86	\$2.09	10
	NE	Guadalajara, JA	\$7,519	\$930	\$86.33	\$2.35	15
	IA	El Castillo, JA <sup>5</sup>	\$7,770	\$836	\$87.94	\$2.39	12
	KS	Torreón, CU	\$6,042	\$640	\$68.27	\$1.86	15
Sorghum	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	\$5,350	\$639	\$61.19	\$1.55	18
	TX	Guadalajara, JA	\$6,289	\$548	\$69.85	\$1.77	12
	NE	Penjamo, GJ	\$6,905	\$860	\$79.34	\$2.01	8
	KS	Queretaro, QA	\$6,038	\$588	\$67.69	\$1.72	13
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	\$4,818	\$560	\$54.95	\$1.39	13
	NE	Torreón, CU	\$5,804	\$687	\$66.32	\$1.68	11

<sup>1</sup>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.

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

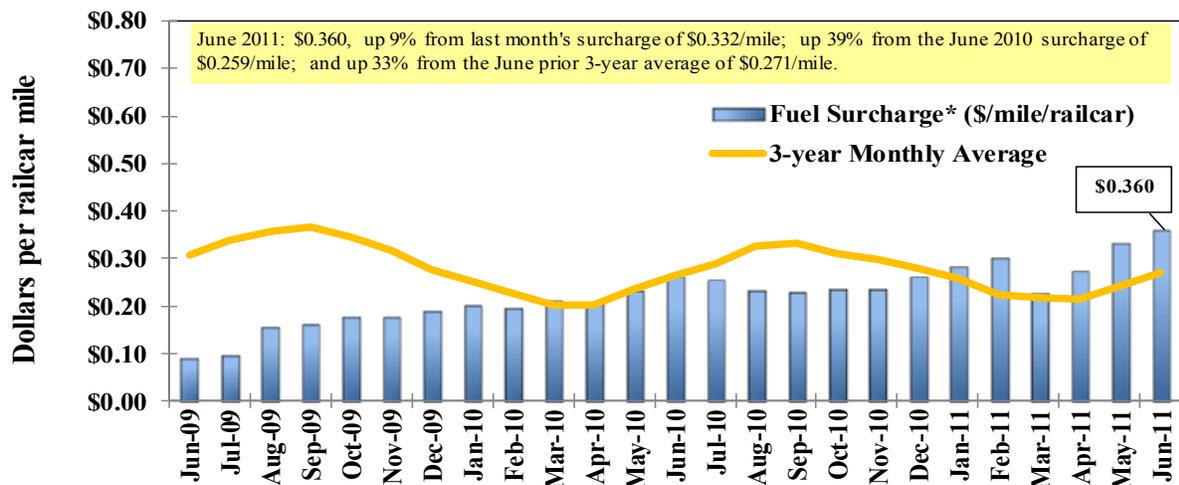
<sup>3</sup>Approximate load per car = 97.87 metric tons: Corn & Sorghum 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

<sup>4</sup>Percentage change year over year calculated using tariff rate plus fuel surcharge

<sup>5</sup>Beginning 12/6/10, El Castillo, JA replaced Penjamo, GJ as the destination

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

Figure 7

**Railroad Fuel Surcharges, North American Weighted Average<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Weighted by each Class I railroad's proportion of grain traffic for the prior year.

\* Mileage-based fuel surcharges for March and April 2007 are estimated. Beginning January 2009, the Canadian Pacific fuel surcharge is computed by a monthly average of the bi-weekly fuel surcharge.

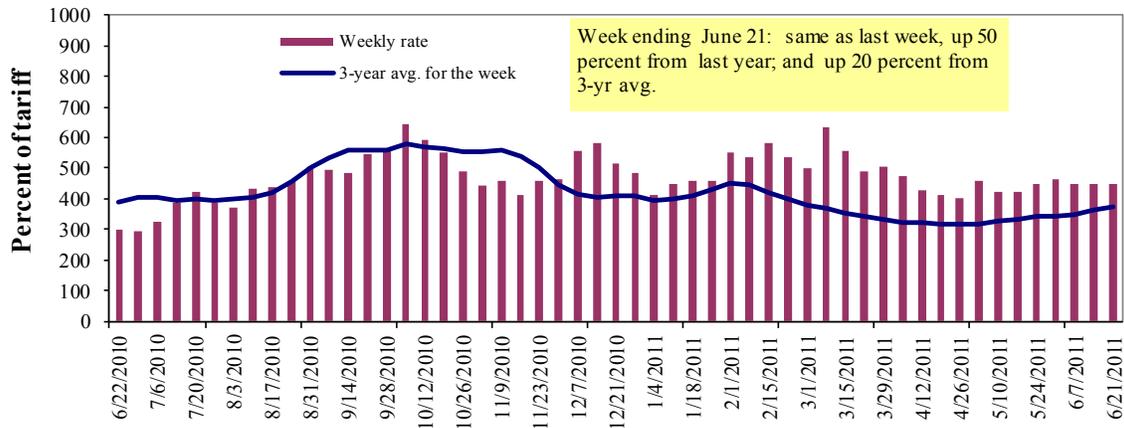
\*\* BNSF strike price (diesel price when fuel surcharges begin) changed from \$1.25/gal. to \$2.50/gal starting March 1, 2011. As a result, the weighted average fuel surcharge for March 2011 was \$0.227/mile instead of \$0.331/mile.

Sources: www.bnsf.com, www.cn.ca, www.cpr.ca, www.csx.com, www.kcsi.com, www.nscorp.com, www.upr.com

# Barge Transportation

Figure 8

## Illinois River Barge Freight Rate<sup>1,2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Rate = percent of 1976 tariff benchmark index (1976 = 100 percent); <sup>2</sup>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
<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>	6/21/2011	558	485	450	362	393	393	323
	6/14/2011	535	475	446	338	395	395	309
<b>\$/ton</b>	6/21/2011	34.54	25.80	20.88	14.44	18.43	15.88	10.14
	6/14/2011	33.12	25.27	20.69	13.49	18.53	15.96	9.70
<b>Current week % change from the same week:</b>								
	Last year	55	59	51	81	66	66	70
	3-year avg. <sup>2</sup>	33	30	21	30	24	24	23
<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>	July	535	450	430	345	400	400	325
	September	605	563	578	563	538	538	485

<sup>1</sup>Rate = percent of 1976 tariff benchmark index (1976 = 100 percent); <sup>2</sup>4-week moving average; ton = 2,000 pounds

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 9  
Benchmark tariff rates

### Calculating barge rate per ton:

(Index \* 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 (see figure 9).

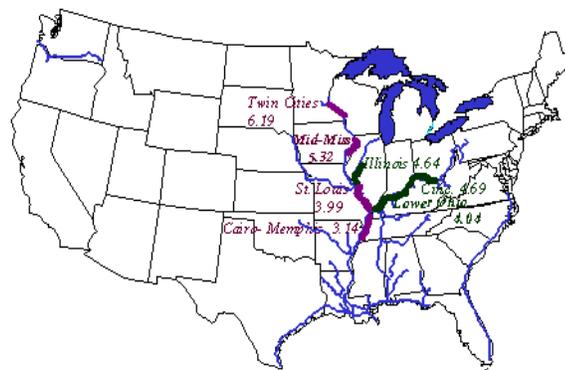
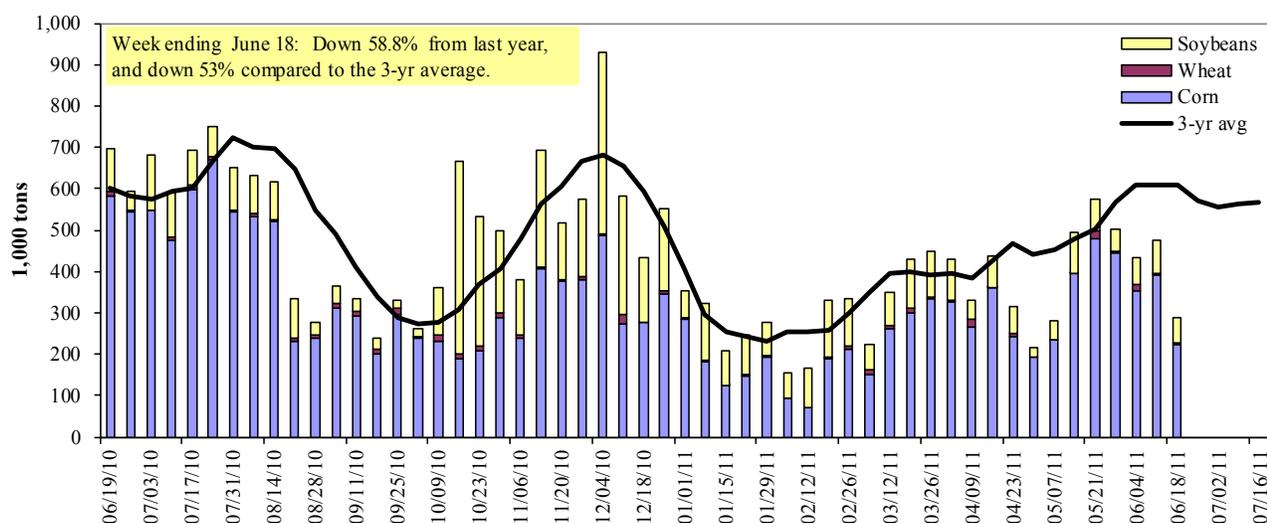


Figure 10

### Barge Movements on the Mississippi River<sup>1</sup> (Locks 27 - Granite City, IL)



<sup>1</sup> The 3-year average is a 4-week moving average.

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ([www.mvr.usace.army.mil/mvrini/omni/webtrpts/default.asp](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/mvrini/omni/webtrpts/default.asp))

Table 10

### Barge Grain Movements (1,000 tons)

Week ending 6/18/2011	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Other	Total
<b>Mississippi River</b>					
Rock Island, IL (L15)	221	2	45	0	268
Winfield, MO (L25)	155	2	36	0	193
Alton, IL (L26)	244	2	58	0	304
Granite City, IL (L27)	224	2	61	0	286
<b>Illinois River (L8)</b>	45	0	17	0	62
<b>Ohio River (L52)</b>	37	0	7	0	43
<b>Arkansas River (L1)</b>	0	15	6	0	21
Weekly total - 2011	261	17	73	0	351
Weekly total - 2010	628	36	136	17	817
2011 YTD <sup>1</sup>	8,483	560	3,657	146	12,846
2010 YTD	10,722	516	4,032	230	15,499
2011 as % of 2010 YTD	79	108	91	63	83
Last 4 weeks as % of 2010 <sup>2</sup>	61	137	82	22	66
Total 2010	22,768	1,220	10,373	481	34,841

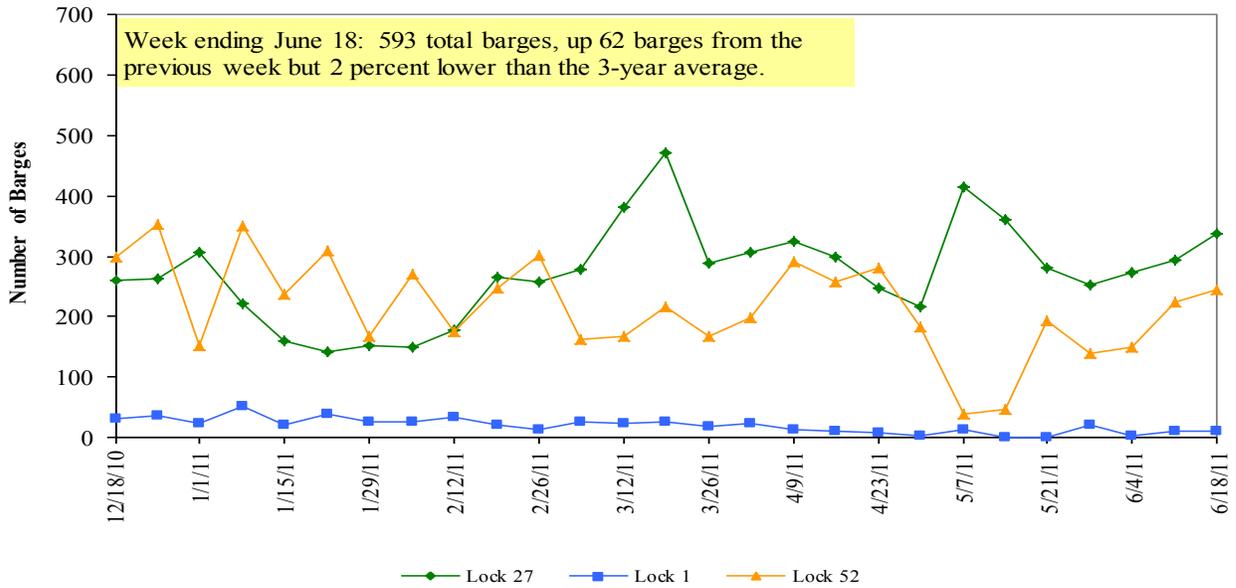
<sup>1</sup> Weekly total, YTD (year-to-date) and calendar year total includes Miss/27, Ohio/52, and Ark/1; "Other" refers to oats, barley, sorghum, and rye.

<sup>2</sup> As a percent of same period in 2010.

Note: Total may not add exactly, due to rounding

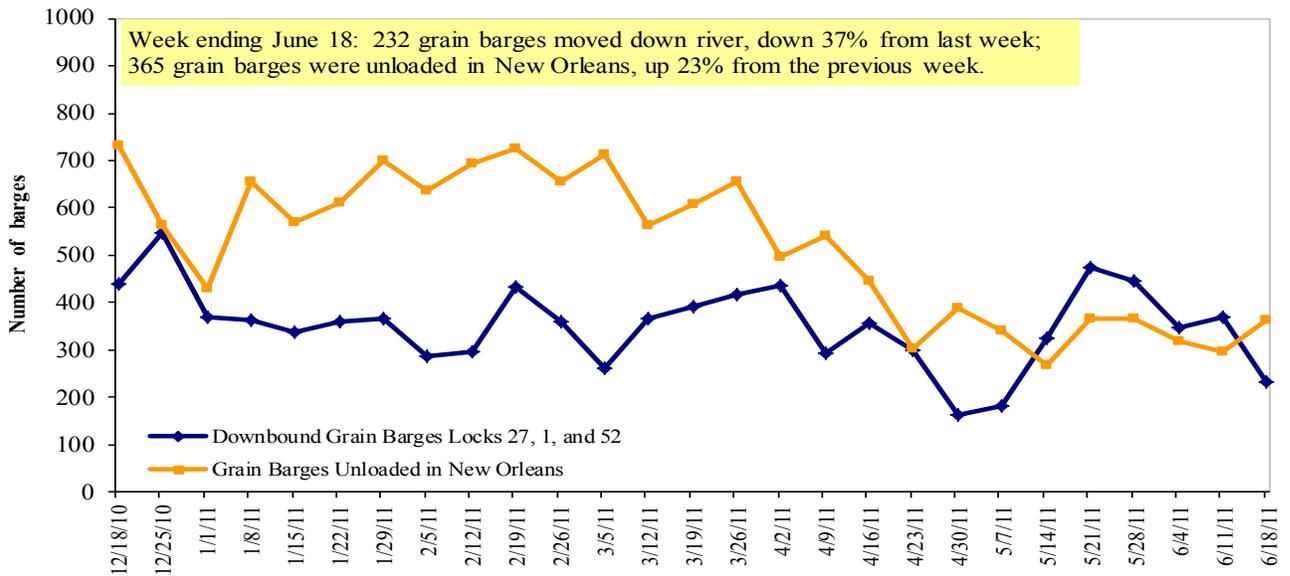
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ([www.mvr.usace.army.mil/mvrini/omni/webtrpts/default.asp](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/mvrini/omni/webtrpts/default.asp))

**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<sup>1</sup>, Week Ending 6/20/2011 (US \$/gallon)**

Region	Location	Price	Change from	
			Week ago	Year ago
I	East Coast	3.962	-0.006	0.988
	New England	4.077	-0.010	1.048
	Central Atlantic	4.074	-0.014	0.986
	Lower Atlantic	3.904	-0.001	0.983
II	Midwest <sup>2</sup>	3.904	-0.001	0.968
III	Gulf Coast <sup>3</sup>	3.896	0.000	0.988
IV	Rocky Mountain	3.959	-0.029	0.979
V	West Coast	4.156	-0.007	1.063
	California	4.236	-0.009	1.111
Total	U.S.	3.950	-0.004	0.989

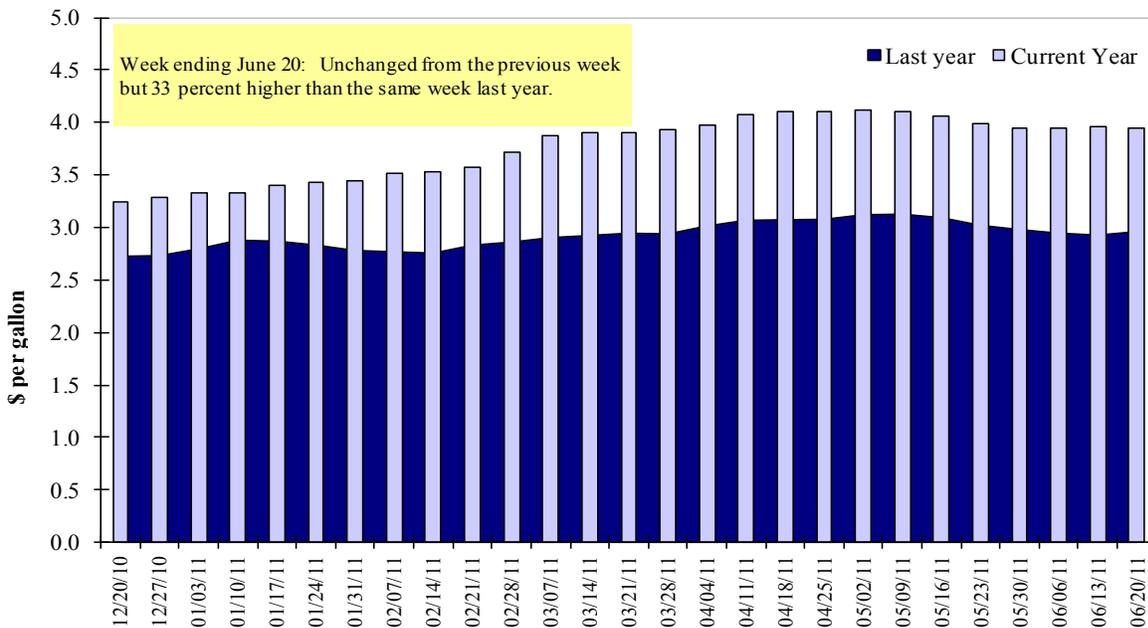
<sup>1</sup>Diesel fuel prices include all taxes. Prices represent an average of all types of diesel fuel.

<sup>2</sup>Same as North Central <sup>3</sup>Same as South Central

Source: Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy ([www.eia.doe.gov](http://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)

Week ending	Wheat						Corn	Soybeans	Total
	HRW	SRW	HRS	SWW	DUR	All wheat			
<b>Export Balances<sup>1</sup></b>									
6/8/2011	2,155	722	2,075	1,207	143	6,301	9,407	4,223	19,931
This week year ago	1,878	485	995	992	243	4,592	10,386	2,071	17,049
<b>Cumulative exports-marketing year<sup>2</sup></b>									
2010/11 YTD	360	74	158	178	23	793	34,692	37,634	73,119
2009/10 YTD	206	79	121	98	36	540	36,547	36,643	73,730
YTD 2010/11 as % of 2009/10	175	94	131	182	64	147	95	103	99
Last 4 wks as % of same period 2009/10	83	76	114	82	42	66	100	185	101
2009/10 Total	8,458	2,733	5,329	3,897	983	21,400	47,700	39,285	108,385
2008/09 Total	11,244	5,100	5,408	3,420	454	25,626	44,650	33,705	103,981

<sup>1</sup> Current unshipped export sales to date

<sup>2</sup> Shipped export sales to date; the 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 Importers<sup>1</sup> of U.S. Corn

Week ending 06/09/11	Total Commitments <sup>2</sup>			% change current MY from last MY	Exports <sup>3</sup> 2009/10
	2011/12 Next MY	2010/11 Current MY	2009/10 Last MY		
		- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
Japan	818	13,646	13,673	(0.2)	14,343
Mexico	1,789	6,639	7,761	(14)	7,999
Korea	1	5,427	7,572	(28)	7,562
Taiwan	0	2,455	2,925	(16)	2,949
Egypt	40	2,742	2,335	17	2,935
<b>Top 5 importers</b>	<b>2,648</b>	<b>30,909</b>	<b>34,266</b>	<b>(10)</b>	<b>35,788</b>
<b>Total US corn export sales</b>	<b>4,470</b>	<b>44,098</b>	<b>46,934</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>50,460</b>
% of Projected	10%	91%	93%		
Change from Last Week	599	296	1,090		
<b>Top 5 importers' share of U.S. corn export sales</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>73%</b>		
<b>USDA forecast, June 2011</b>	<b>45,720</b>	<b>48,260</b>	<b>50,460</b>	<b>(4)</b>	
<b>Corn Use for Ethanol USDA forecast, Ethanol June 2011</b>	<b>128,270</b>	<b>127,000</b>	<b>116,027</b>	<b>9</b>	

(n) indicates negative number.

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

<sup>2</sup>Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report.

<sup>3</sup>FAS Marketing Year Final Reports - www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/myfi\_rpt.htm.

Table 14

**Top 5 Importers<sup>1</sup> of U.S. Soybeans**

Week Ending 06/09/2011	Total Commitments <sup>2</sup>			% change current MY from last MY	Exports <sup>3</sup> 2009/10
	2011/12 Next MY	2010/11 Current MY	2009/10 Last MY		
	- 1,000 mt -				- 1,000 mt -
China	5,958	25,604	22,135	16	22,454
Mexico	89	3,024	3,030	(0)	3,276
Japan	120	2,162	2,243	(4)	2,347
EU-25	60	2,599	2,698	(4)	2,647
Taiwan	0	0	1,549	(100)	1,556
<b>Top 5 importers</b>	<b>6,227</b>	<b>33,388</b>	<b>31,654</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>32,280</b>
<b>Total US soybean export sales</b>	<b>6,796</b>	<b>41,857</b>	<b>38,714</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>40,850</b>
% of Projected	16%	99%	95%		
Change from last week	6	179	(136)		
<b>Top 5 importers' share of U.S. soybean export sales</b>	92%	80%	82%		
<b>USDA forecast, June 2011</b>	<b>41,910</b>	<b>42,180</b>	<b>40,850</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>Soybean Use for Biodiesel USDA forecast, June 2011</b>	<b>8,393</b>	<b>5,755</b>	<b>4,031</b>	<b>43</b>	

(n) indicates negative number.

<sup>1</sup>Based on FAS 2008/09 Marketing Year Ranking Reports - www.fas.usda.gov; Marketing year (MY) = Sep 1 - Aug 31.<sup>2</sup>Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report.<sup>3</sup>FAS Marketing Year Final Reports - www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/myfi\_rpt.htm.

Table 15

**Top 10 Importers<sup>1</sup> of All U.S. Wheat**

Week Ending 06/09/2011	Total Commitments <sup>2</sup>		% change current MY from last MY	Exports <sup>3</sup> 2010/11
	2011/12 Current MY	2010/11 Last MY		
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
Nigeria	695	816	(15)	3,233
Japan	974	585	66	3,148
Mexico	660	640	3	2,601
Philippines	886	683	30	1,518
Korea	155	411	(62)	1,111
Peru	239	216	11	923
Taiwan	231	103	124	913
Colombia	218	145	50	783
Indonesia	200	81	147	781
Yemen	163	0		659
<b>Top 10 importers</b>	<b>4,419</b>	<b>3,681</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15,670</b>
<b>Total US wheat export sales</b>	<b>7,094</b>	<b>5,133</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33,439</b>
% of Projected	25%	15%		
Change from last week	455	960		
<b>Top 10 importers' share of U.S. wheat export sales</b>	62%	72%		
<b>USDA forecast, June 2011</b>	<b>28,580</b>	<b>35,240</b>	<b>(19)</b>	

(n) indicates negative number.

<sup>1</sup>Modified from the FAS 2010/11 Marketing Year Ranking Reports - www.fas.usda.gov; Marketing year = Jun 1 - May 31.<sup>2</sup>Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report.<sup>3</sup>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	Week ending 06/16/11	Previous Week <sup>1</sup>	Current Week as % of Previous	2011 YTD <sup>1</sup>	2010 YTD <sup>1</sup>	2011 YTD as % of 2010 YTD	Last 4-weeks as % of		Total <sup>1</sup> 2010
							2010	3-yr. avg.	
<b>Pacific Northwest</b>									
Wheat	310	226	137	6,980	4,941	141	150	151	11,062
Corn	311	280	111	4,522	4,519	100	148	117	9,950
Soybeans	0	66	0	3,161	4,386	72	109	87	10,191
<b>Total</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>14,663</b>	<b>13,846</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>31,203</b>
<b>Mississippi Gulf</b>									
Wheat	106	85	125	2,559	1,794	143	102	98	4,199
Corn	556	417	133	12,322	13,706	90	75	84	29,794
Soybeans	81	82	99	9,557	8,717	110	87	57	22,519
<b>Total</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>24,438</b>	<b>24,216</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>56,512</b>
<b>Texas Gulf</b>									
Wheat	114	296	38	6,838	3,480	196	252	168	9,339
Corn	41	53	77	719	920	78	288	272	1,859
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	763	667	114	n/a	n/a	1,916
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>8,320</b>	<b>5,067</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>13,115</b>
<b>Great Lakes</b>									
Wheat	31	33	92	564	217	259	313	684	1,897
Corn	0	0	n/a	8	31	27	n/a	52	119
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	22	0	n/a	n/a	122	655
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>2,672</b>
<b>Atlantic</b>									
Wheat	4	1	623	524	127	413	22	19	343
Corn	4	0	n/a	166	176	94	328	231	469
Soybeans	11	3	369	428	691	62	219	206	1,417
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>2,229</b>
<b>U.S. total from ports<sup>2</sup></b>									
Wheat	564	640	88	17,464	10,559	165	169	151	26,839
Corn	912	750	122	17,737	19,352	92	95	96	42,192
Soybeans	92	151	61	13,931	14,461	96	98	67	36,699
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,567</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>49,133</b>	<b>44,372</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>105,730</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Total includes only port regions shown above

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

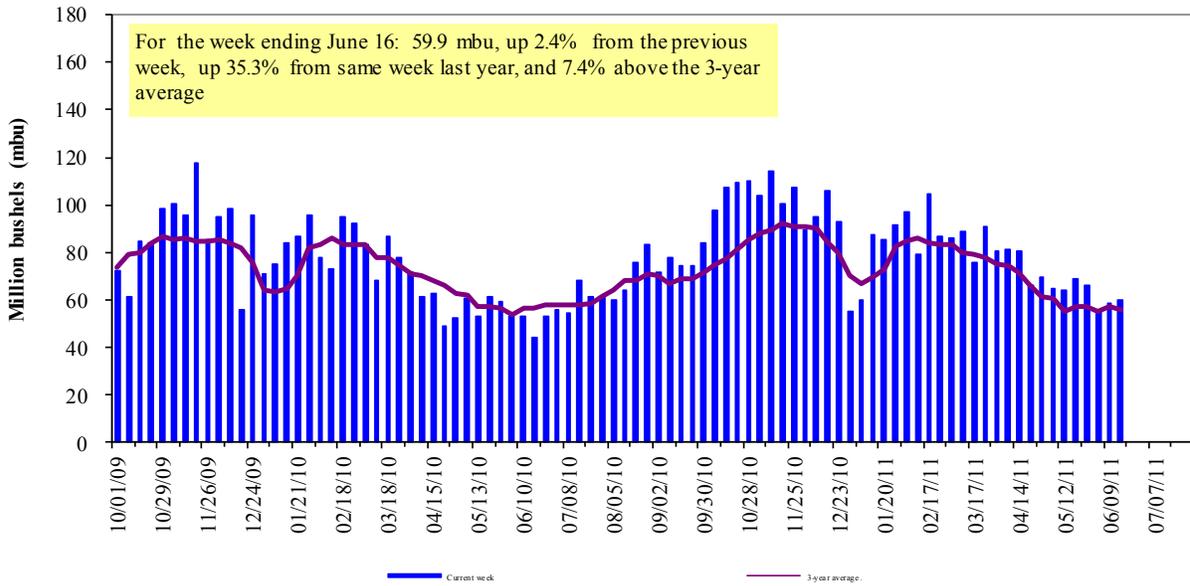
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The United States exports approximately one-quarter of the grain it produces. On average, this includes nearly 45 percent of U.S.-grown wheat, 35 percent of U.S.-grown soybeans, and 20 percent of the U.S.-grown corn. Approximately 61 percent of the U.S. export grain shipments departed through the U.S. Gulf region in 2010.

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Figure 14

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

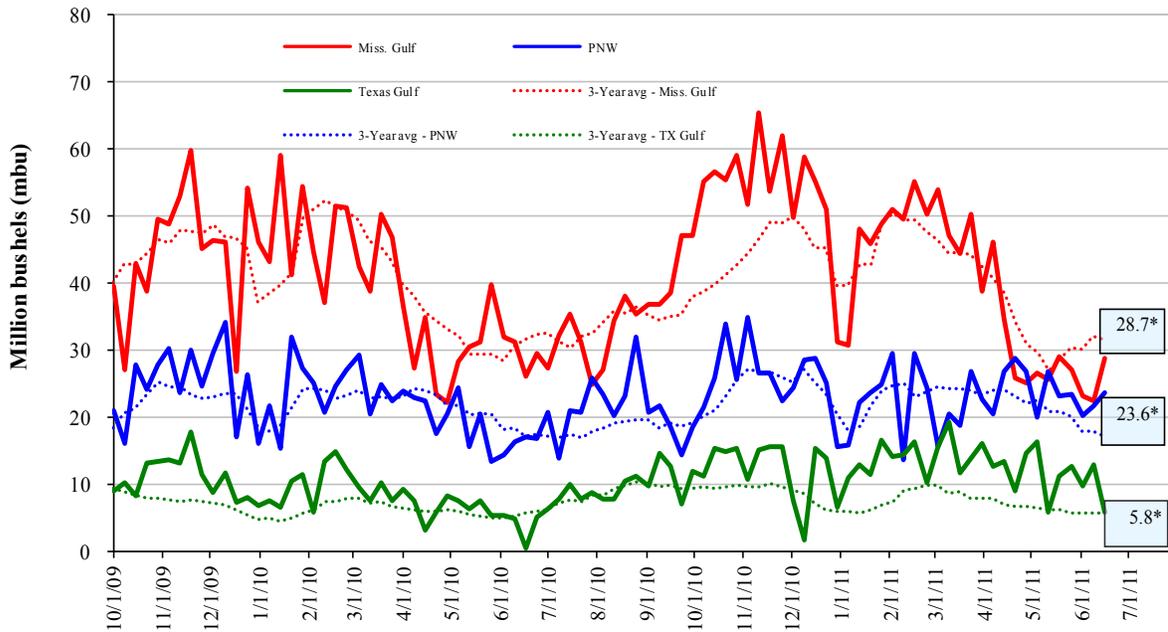


Source: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration/USDA (www.gipsa.usda.gov)

Note: 3-year average consists of 4-week running average

Figure 15

**U.S. Grain Inspections: U.S. Gulf and PNW<sup>1</sup> (wheat, corn, and soybeans)**



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

June 16 % change from:	MS Gulf	TX Gulf	U.S. Gulf	PNW
Last week	up 28	down 55	down 3	up 9
Last year (same week)	up 10	up 1006	up 29	up 38
3-yr avg. (4-wk mov. avg.)	down 9.3	up 0.1	down 8	up 34

# Ocean Transportation

Table 17

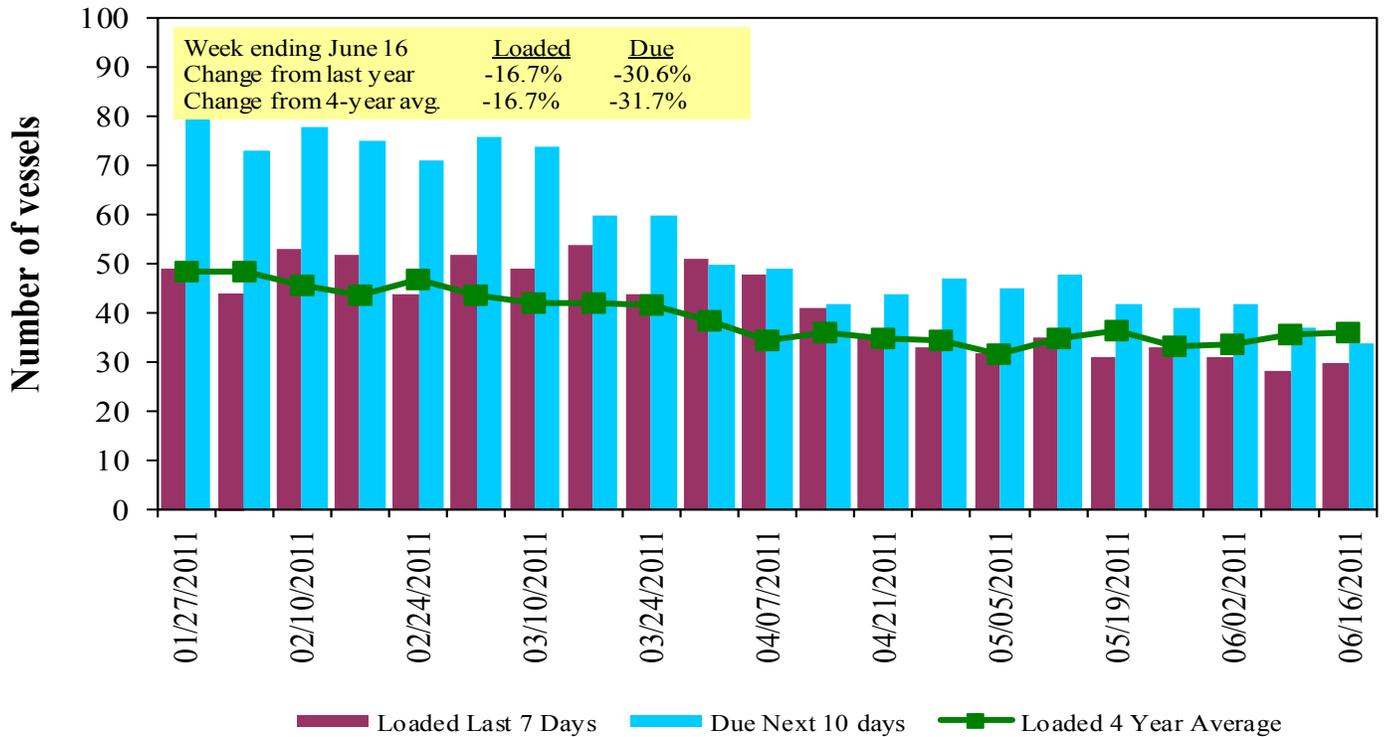
**Weekly Port Region Grain Ocean Vessel Activity (number of vessels)**

Date	Gulf			Pacific Northwest	Vancouver B.C.
	In port	Loaded 7-days	Due next 10-days	In port	In port
6/16/2011	23	30	34	17	11
6/9/2011	23	28	37	19	13
2010 range	(15..69)	(30..57)	(33..84)	(4..24)	(2..20)
2010 avg.	41	42	58	12	11

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

**Figure 16**

**U.S. Gulf<sup>1</sup> Vessel Loading Activity**

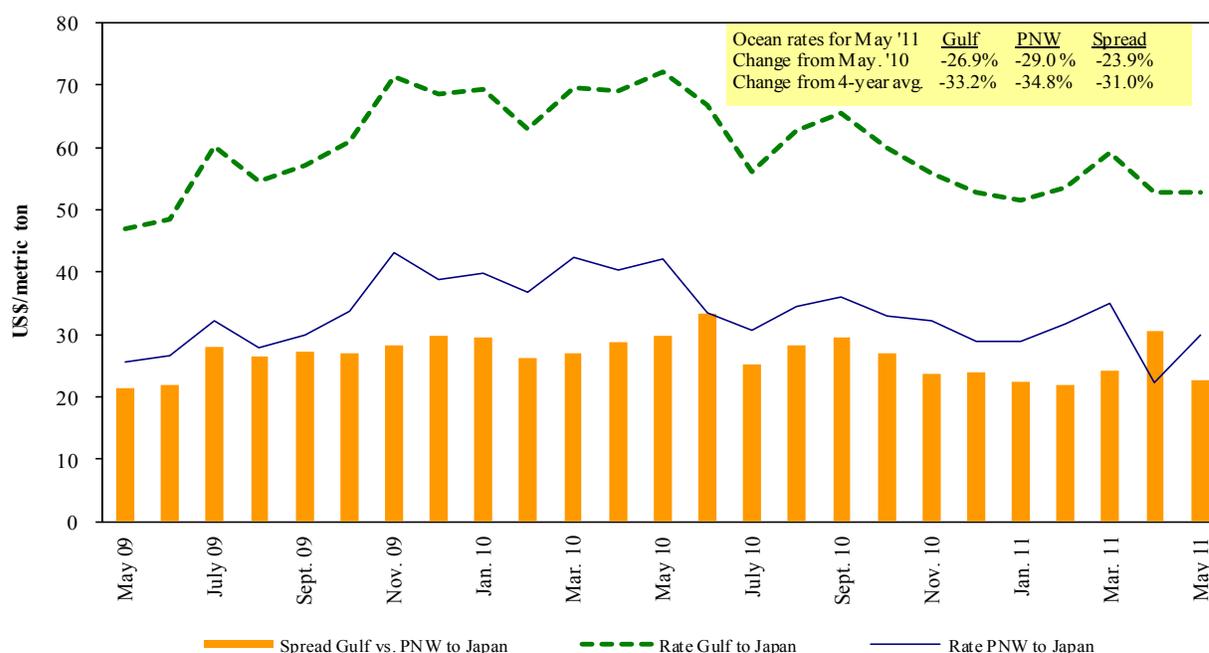


Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Gulf includes Mississippi, Texas, and East Gulf.

Figure 17

## Grain Vessel Rates, U.S. to Japan



Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

Table 18

## Ocean Freight Rates For Selected Shipments, Week Ending 06/18/2011

Export region	Import region	Grain types	Loading date	Volume loads (metric tons)	Freight rate (US\$/metric ton)
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	May 1/10	55,000	56.00
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Mar 20/29	52,000	52.00
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Mar 8/15	55,000	53.60
U.S. Gulf	Egypt	Grain	May 1/10	60,000	28.50
U.S. Gulf	Japan	Heavy Grain	June 1/12	54,000	52.50
U.S. Gulf	Isreal	Wheat	May 20/30	50,000	36.00
U.S. Gulf	Nigeria	Wheat	Apr 17/23	25,000	46.50
U.S. Gulf	Djibouti <sup>1</sup>	Wheat	Mar 31/Apr 9	17,260	129.95
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	May 18/27	60,000	49.50
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	April 5/15	60,000	51.00
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	April 1/15	55,000	47.00
Brazil	Turkey	Heavy Grain	May 20/30	50,000	32.00
River Plate	Algeria	Corn	Juli 1/10	25,000	42.90
River Plate	Algeria	Corn	June 15/25	25,000	42.75
River Plate	Algeria	Corn	May 15/25	25,000	42.25
River Plate	Algeria	Corn	Apr 15/25	25,000	41.50
River Plate	Algeria	Corn	April 15/25	30,000	41.50
River Plate	Morocco	Heavy Grain	Apr 25/28	2,500	44.50
River Plate	Spain	Maize	May 16/18	25,000	44.00
River Plate	Spain	Corn	Apr 24/25	2,500	46.00
Ukraine	Spain Med	Corn	May 20/24	25,000	18.00

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

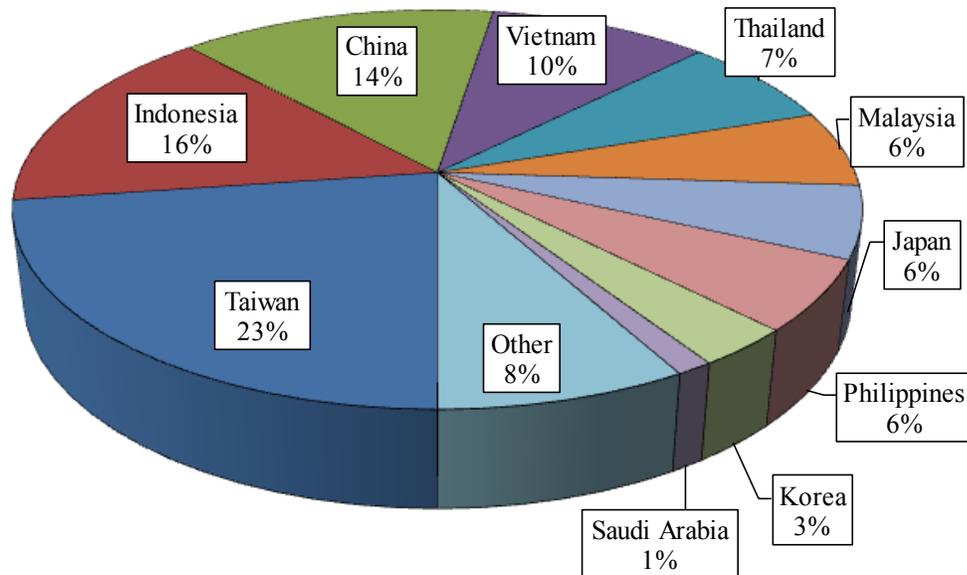
<sup>1</sup>75 percent of food aid from the United States is required to be shipped on U.S.-flag vessels.

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

In 2010, containers were used to transport 5 percent of total U.S. waterborne grain exports, and 7 percent of U.S. grain exports to Asia. Asia is the top destination for U.S. containerized grain exports—94 percent in 2010.

Figure 18

**Top 10 Destination Markets for U.S. Containerized Grain Exports, February 2011**

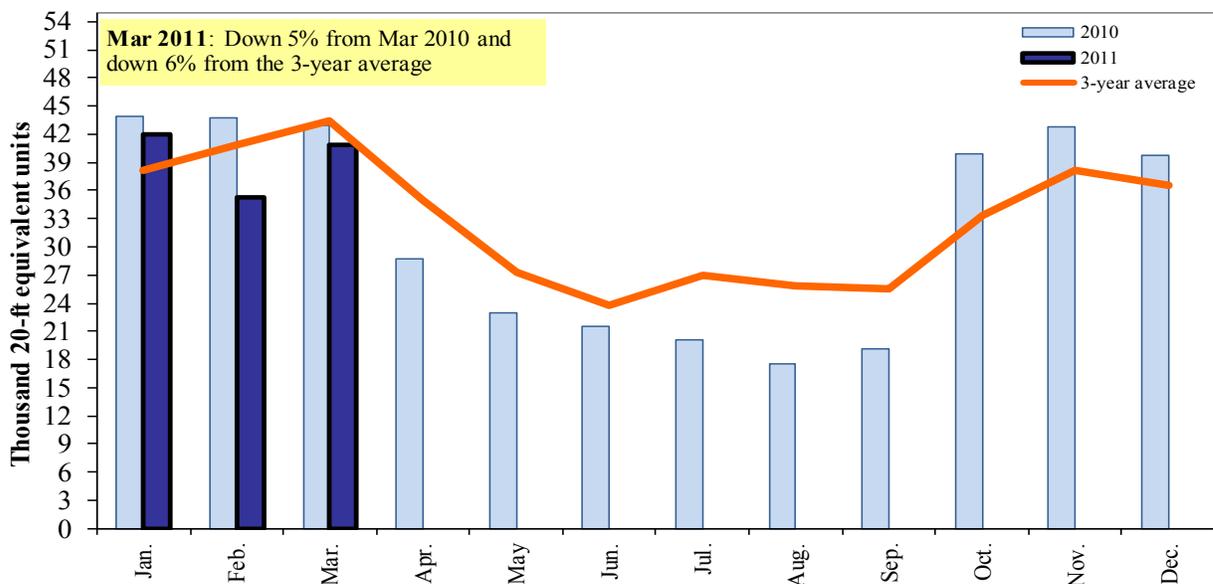


Source: USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service/Transportation Services Division analysis of Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS) data

Note: The following Harmonized Tariff Codes are used to calculate containerized grains movements (recently added codes are highlighted in bold type): 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 (recently added codes are highlighted in bold type): 100190, 100200, 100300, 100400, 100590, 100700, 110100, 230310, 110220, 110290, 120100, 230210, 230990, **230330**, and **120810**.

# Contacts and Links

## Coordinators

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