United States Department of Agriculture

Grain Transportation Report

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

Contact Us

July 2, 2015

Contents

The next release is July 9, 2015

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Flood Conditions Continue to Hamper Barge Traffic
Extreme rainfall events have caused flooding on much of the inland waterways and hampered barge traffic. During June, the flooding caused several lock closures on the Mississippi, Illinois, and Arkansas Rivers. During the week ending July 1, Mississippi River Locks 20, 21, 22, 24, and 25 (Clayton, MO, to Grafton, IL) were closed for a few days due to high water. St. Louis Harbor has reopened to daylight only traffic for barges greater than 600 feet. On July 1, Mississippi River levels at St. Louis rose to slightly over 38 feet (a level which procedurally prompts the Coast Guard to close the river), but a complete closure was not implemented as flood levels are forecast to recede during the upcoming weekend.

Grain Inspections Increase Slightly
For the week ending June 25, **total inspections of grain** (corn, wheat, soybeans) from all major export regions reached 1.65 million metric tons (mmt), up 3 percent from the past week, 28 percent above last year, and 19 percent above the 3-year average. Soybean inspections jumped 69 percent, wheat inspections increased 3 percent, and corn inspections decreased 8 percent from the past week. Mississippi Gulf grain inspections jumped 41 percent from the previous week as shipments to Latin America and Africa rebounded. Pacific Northwest grain inspections dropped 45 percent during the same period. Outstanding (unshipped) exports sales of wheat continued to increase from week to week, while corn and soybean sales decreased.

EPA Proposal Could Boost Ethanol Use
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is hoping to put more ethanol in gasoline despite reducing the consumption target established in a 2007 energy law. On May 29, EPA proposed requiring the use of 13.4 billion gallons of corn-based ethanol this year and 14 billion in 2016, down from the 15 billion target for both years established in 2007. EPA will finalize the targets by November 30. (Bloomberg News)

Daniel Elliott Confirmed as STB Chairman
On June 22, the Senate confirmed the nomination of Daniel Elliott for a reappointment as the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board (STB). Elliott had been Chairman since 2009 until his term expired in December 2014. Deb Miller has been the acting Chairwoman in the meantime, and Ann Begeman has continued to serve as Vice Chairwoman. Currently, the STB has only three members, but recent legislation passed by the Senate would expand the membership to five if the legislation is also approved by the House.

Snapshots by Sector

Export Sales
During the week ending June 18, **unshipped balances** of wheat, corn, and soybeans totaled 17.8 mmt, unchanged from the same time last year. Net weekly **wheat export sales** of 0.434 mmt were up 38 percent from the prior week. **Corn export sales** of 0.497 mmt were down 21 percent, and **soybean export sales** of 0.119 mmt were down 11 percent from the prior week.

Rail
U.S. Class I railroads originated 18,271 **carloads of grain** during the week ending June 20, down 10 percent from last week, up 3 percent from last year, and up 4 percent from the 3-year average.

During the week ending June 25, average July shuttle **secondary railcar bids/offers per car** were $199 below tariff, up $17 from last week and $1,149 lower than last year. Non-shuttle secondary railcar bids/offers were $25 below tariff, up $13 from last week and $363 lower than last year.

Barge
During the week ending June 27, **barge grain movements** totaled 723,133 tons—about 7 percent higher than the previous week and 3 percent lower than the same period last year.

During the week ending June 20, 473 grain barges **moved down river**, up 6 percent from last week; 564 grain barges were **unloaded in New Orleans**, down 5 percent from the previous week.

Ocean
During the week ending June 25, 31 **ocean-going grain vessels** were loaded in the Gulf, 29 percent more than the same period last year. Forty vessels are expected to be loaded within the next 10 days, 23 percent less than the same period last year.

During the week ending June 19, the ocean freight rate for shipping bulk grain from the Gulf to Japan was $32 per metric ton (mt), down 2 percent from the previous week. The cost of shipping from the PNW to Japan was $18 per mt, down 3 percent from the previous week.

Fuel
During the week ending June 29, U.S. average **diesel fuel prices** decreased 2 cents from the previous week to $2.84 per gallon—down $1.08 from the same week last year.

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Web: http://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS056.07-02-2015

Feature Article/Calendar

July 9-11, 2015	Florida Feed Association Inc.	Bonita Springs, FL	• 863-533-1535
July 12-15, 2015	Texas Seed Trade Association Annual Convention and Production & Research Conference	Austin, TX	www.texasseedtrade.com
July 13-14, 2015	Midwest Association of Rail Shippers (MARS) Summer Meeting	Lake Geneva, WI	http://www.mwrailshippers.com/
July 27-29, 2015	USGC 55th Annual Board of Delegates Meeting	Denver, CO	www.grains.org
July 27-29, 2015	International Conference on Logistics, Informatics and Service Sciences (LISS)	Barcelona, Spain	http://icir.bjtu.edu.cn/liss2015/wkf.html
July 28-30	NGFA Elevator Design Conference	Kansas City, MO	• 800-728-7511
Aug. 3-6, 2015	Grain Quality and Food Safety Conference	Manhattan, KS	• 319-230-6348
Aug. 4-5, 2015	Ag Transportation Summit: Transportation Capacity - Overcoming the Challenges	Rosemont, IL	http://www.ngfa.org/
Aug. 16-17, 2015	North American Fertilizer Transportation Forum	Vancouver, BC	http://www.cfi.ca/events/cfievents/
Aug. 17-20, 2015	IoT Evolution Connected Transportation Conference	Las Vegas, U.S.A	http://www.connectedtransportationshow.com/
Aug. 18-21, 2015	CFI's 70th Annual Conference	Vancouver, BC	http://www.cfi.ca/events/cfievents/
Sep. 9-11, 2015	2015 Midwest Specialty Grains Conference	Hilton Minneapolis Hotel.	http://www.grainconference.org/
Sep. 15 - 17, 2015	Global Grain South America 2015	São Paulo, Brazil	http://www.globalgrainevents.com/south-america/details.html
Sep. 15-17, 2015	FTR Transportation Conference	Indianapolis, IN	http://www.ftrconference.com/wp/
Sep. 20-22, 2015	Intermodal Association Expo	Orlando, FL	http://www.intermodalexpo.com
Sep. 30 - Oct. 2, 2015	10th Annual Oilseed and Grain Trade Summit	Minneapolis, MN	• 901-766-4479
Oct. 26- 28, 2015	National Advanced Biofuels Conference and Expo	Omaha, NE	• 701-746-8385
Oct. 31- Nov. 5, 2015	IAOM Mideast and Africa Conference and Expo	Dubai World Trade Center, UAE	• 98-24398767
Dec. 4, 2015	IAOM Wheat State District Meeting	Wichita, KS	• 913-338-3377
Dec. 6-8, 2015	NGFA Country Elevator Meeting	Kansas City, MO	http://www.ngfa.org/

Grain Transportation Indicators

Table 1

Grain Transport Cost Indicators[1]

	Truck	Rail		Barge	Ocean	
Week ending		Unit Train	Shuttle		Gulf	Pacific
07/01/15	191	253	204	n/a	143	128
06/24/15	192	251	202	n/a	145	131

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

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Table 2

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

Commodity	Origin--Destination	6/26/2015	6/19/2015
Corn	IL--Gulf	-0.74	-0.76
Corn	NE--Gulf	-0.78	-0.79
Soybean	IA--Gulf	-1.15	-1.16
HRW	KS--Gulf	-1.14	-1.08
HRS	ND--Portland	-1.69	-1.98

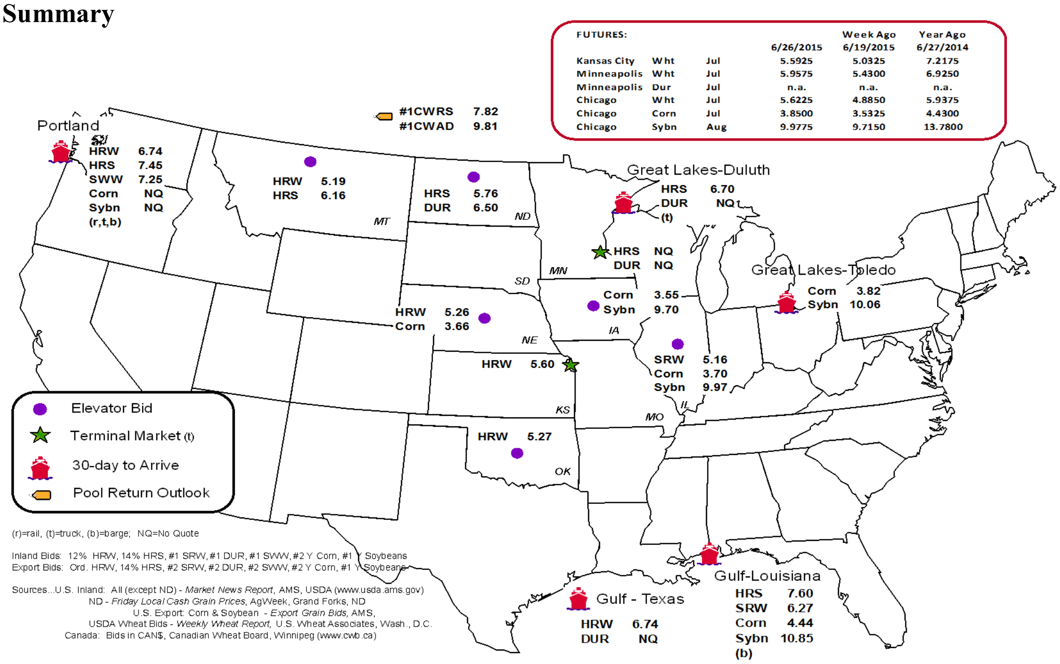
Note: nq = no quote

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

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

Figure 1

Grain bid Summary



Rail Transportation

Table 3

Rail Deliveries to Port (carloads)[1]

Week ending	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf	Total	Week ending	Cross-Border Mexico[3]
6/24/2015[p]	213	985	2,707	219	4,124	6/20/2015	1,724
6/17/2015[r]	115	992	3,112	404	4,623	6/13/2015	1,799
2015 YTD[r]	11,026	34,113	111,364	13,113	169,616	2015 YTD	43,438
2014 YTD[r]	20,268	43,349	119,563	15,727	198,907	2014 YTD	47,458
2015 YTD as % of 2014 YTD	54	79	93	83	85	% change YTD	92
Last 4 weeks as % of 2014[2]	143	67	73	92	73	Last 4wks % 2014	91
Last 4 weeks as % of 4-year avg.[2]	70	71	96	132	89	Last 4wks % 4 yr	109
Total 2014	44,621	83,674	256,670	32,107	417,072	Total 2014	96,467
Total 2013	31,646	71,388	168,826	25,176	297,036	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.

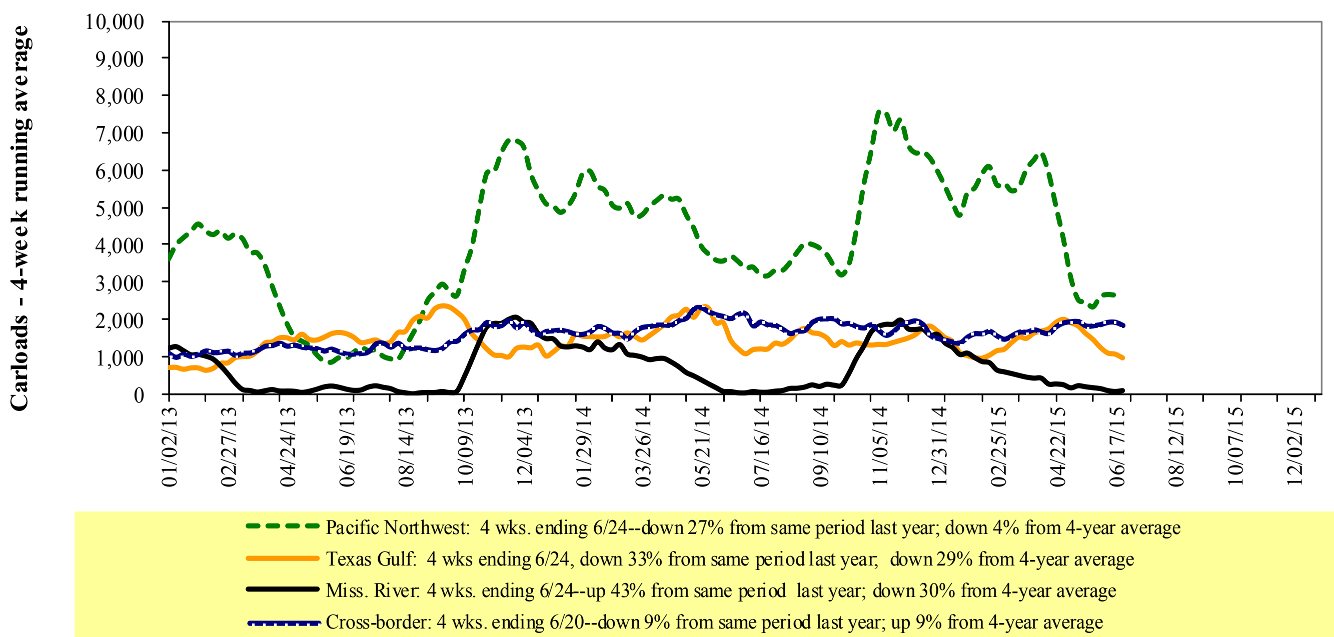
YTD = year-to-date; p = preliminary data; r = revised data; n/a = not available

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)

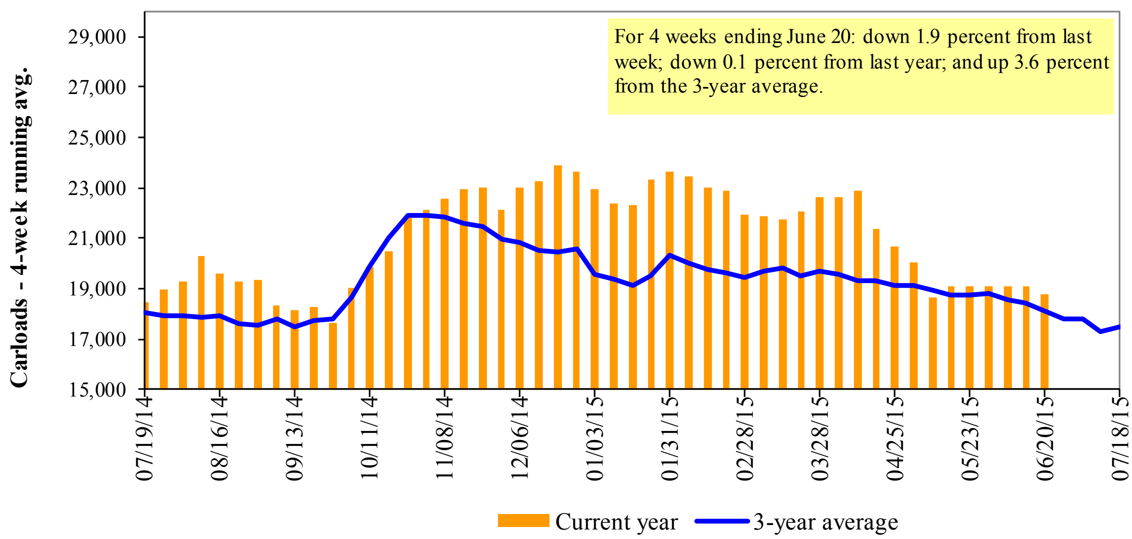
	East		West			U.S. total	Canada	
Week ending	**CSXT**	**NS**	**BNSF**	**KCS**	**UP**		**CN**	**CP**
06/20/15	1,721	2,918	7,620	994	5,018	18,271	4,597	4,548
This week last year	2,111	2,425	7,429	717	4,995	17,677	4,500	4,761
2015 YTD	49,417	73,568	238,478	21,207	124,248	506,918	99,741	104,997
2014 YTD	45,566	71,268	212,492	21,054	137,631	488,011	105,919	126,930
2015 YTD as % of 2014 YTD	108	103	112	101	90	104	94	83
Last 4 weeks as % of 2014[1]	96	109	100	140	90	100	90	84
Last 4 weeks as % of 3-yr avg.[2]	109	111	100	165	98	104	119	102
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.

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]

Week ending	**Delivery period**							
6/25/2015	**Jul-15**	**Jul-14**	**Aug-15**	**Aug-14**	**Sep-15**	**Sep-14**	**Oct-15**	**Oct-14**
BNSF[3]								
COT grain units	0	no offer	no bids	no offer	no bids	no offer	18	no offer
COT grain single-car[5]	0 . . 3	no offer	no bids	no offer	0	no offer	1	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

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

[4]UP - GCAS = Grain Car Allocation System

Region 1 includes: AR, IL, LA, MO, NM, OK, TX, WI, and Duluth, MN.

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

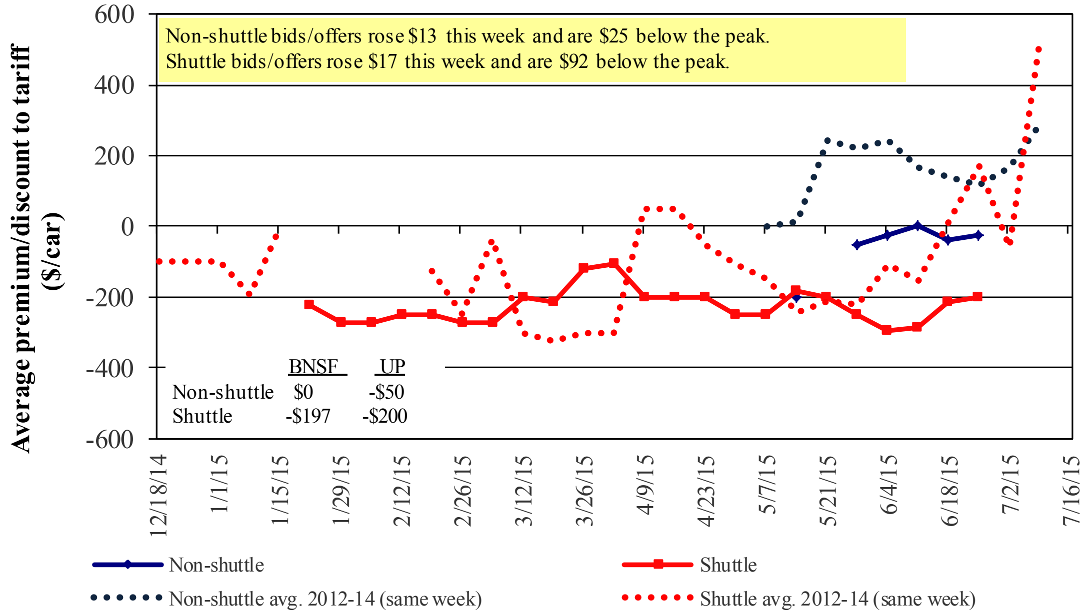
[5]Range is shown because average is not available. Not available = n/a.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA.

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

Figure 4

Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in July 2015, Secondary Market

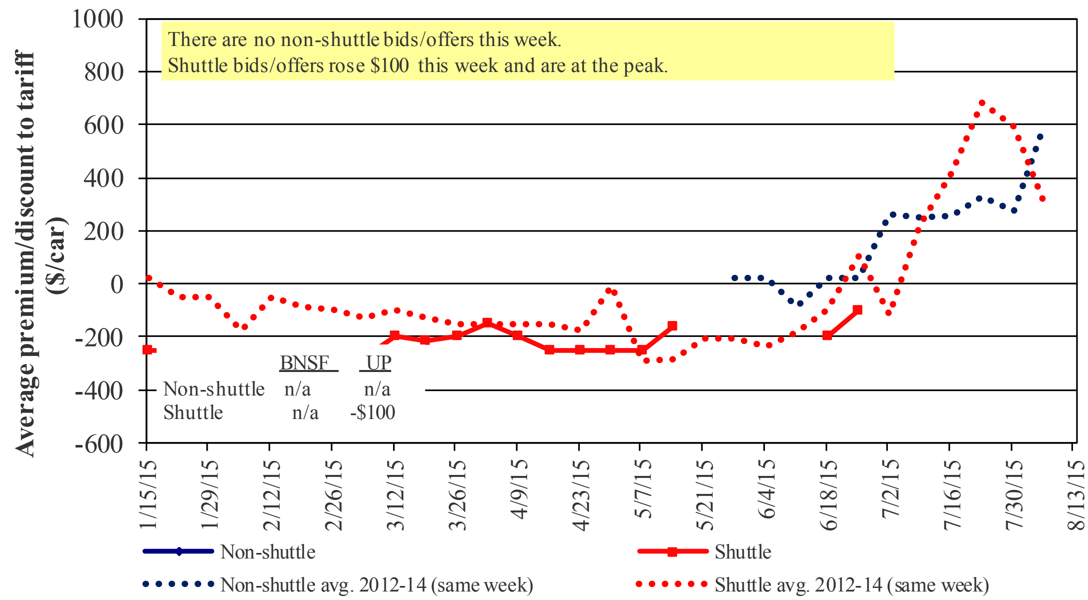


Non-shuttle bids include unit-train and single-car bids. n/a = not available.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 5

Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in August 2015, Secondary Market

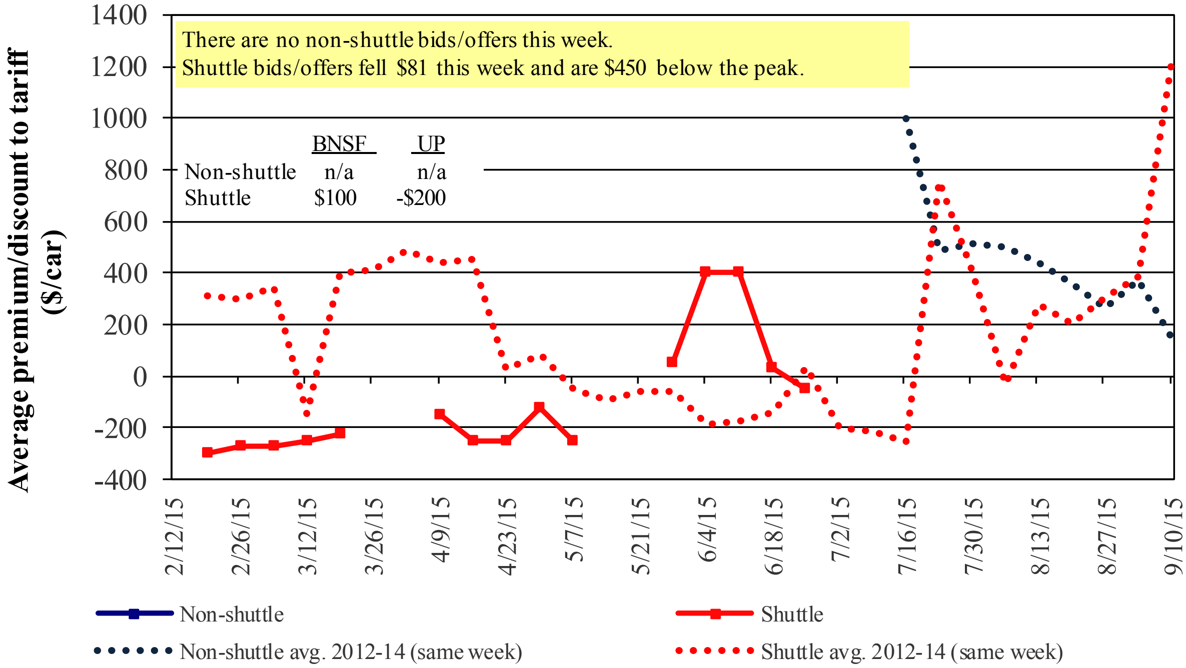


Non-shuttle bids include unit-train and single-car bids. n/a = not available.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 6

Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in September 2015, 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 Railcar Market ($/car)[1]

Week ending	Delivery period					
6/25/2015	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15
Non-shuttle						
BNSF-GF	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from last week	38	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from same week 2014	(600)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UP-Pool	(50)	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 2014	(125)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shuttle[2]						
BNSF-GF	(197)	n/a	100	800	n/a	n/a
Change from last week	(16)	n/a	(200)	-	n/a	n/a
Change from same week 2014	(1,697)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UP-Pool	(200)	(100)	(200)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from last week	50	100	38	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from same week 2014	(600)	(500)	(600)	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

[2]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 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: 7/1/2015	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	$81	$36.60	$1.00	3
	Grand Forks, ND	Duluth-Superior, MN	$4,143	$30	$41.44	$1.13	13
	Wichita, KS	Los Angeles, CA	$6,950	$153	$70.54	$1.92	4
	Wichita, KS	New Orleans, LA	$4,243	$142	$43.55	$1.19	1
	Sioux Falls, SD	Galveston-Houston, TX	$6,486	$126	$65.66	$1.79	5
	Northwest KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	$4,511	$156	$46.35	$1.26	0
	Amarillo, TX	Los Angeles, CA	$4,710	$217	$48.93	$1.33	-1
Corn	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$3,328	$161	$34.65	$0.88	-2
	Toledo, OH	Raleigh, NC	$5,555	$199	$57.14	$1.45	13
	Des Moines, IA	Davenport, IA	$2,168	$34	$21.87	$0.56	2
	Indianapolis, IN	Atlanta, GA	$4,761	$150	$48.76	$1.24	12
	Indianapolis, IN	Knoxville, TN	$4,104	$96	$41.71	$1.06	14
	Des Moines, IA	Little Rock, AR	$3,308	$100	$33.84	$0.86	-1
	Des Moines, IA	Los Angeles, CA	$4,852	$292	$51.08	$1.30	-13
Soybeans	Minneapolis, MN	New Orleans, LA	$3,719	$149	$38.41	$1.05	1
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	$4,676	$141	$47.84	$1.30	21
	Indianapolis, IN	Raleigh, NC	$5,625	$201	$57.85	$1.57	12
	Indianapolis, IN	Huntsville, AL	$4,368	$96	$44.33	$1.21	25
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$3,974	$161	$41.06	$1.12	0
Shuttle Train							
Wheat	Great Falls, MT	Portland, OR	$3,953	$88	$40.13	$1.09	1
	Wichita, KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	$3,919	$69	$39.60	$1.08	7
	Chicago, IL	Albany, NY	$4,723	$187	$48.76	$1.33	13
	Grand Forks, ND	Portland, OR	$5,611	$152	$57.23	$1.56	1
	Grand Forks, ND	Galveston-Houston, TX	$6,532	$158	$66.44	$1.81	0
	Northwest KS	Portland, OR	$5,478	$256	$56.94	$1.55	-2
Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$5,180	$185	$53.28	$1.35	-6
	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	$5,130	$170	$52.63	$1.34	-5
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$3,147	$161	$32.85	$0.83	-2
	Lincoln, NE	Galveston-Houston, TX	$3,610	$99	$36.83	$0.94	-4
	Des Moines, IA	Amarillo, TX	$3,690	$126	$37.89	$0.96	-2
	Minneapolis, MN	Tacoma, WA	$5,180	$184	$53.26	$1.35	-6
	Council Bluffs, IA	Stockton, CA	$4,600	$190	$47.57	$1.21	-6
Soybeans	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	$5,690	$170	$58.19	$1.58	-5
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$5,710	$185	$58.54	$1.59	-5
	Fargo, ND	Tacoma, WA	$5,580	$151	$56.91	$1.55	-4
	Council Bluffs, IA	New Orleans, LA	$4,425	$186	$45.79	$1.25	0
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	$3,851	$141	$39.65	$1.08	26
	Grand Island, NE	Portland, OR	$5,360	$262	$55.83	$1.52	-2

[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: 7/1/2015				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	$7,599	$161	$79.29	$2.16	10
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	$6,714	$195	$70.59	$1.92	-2
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	$7,159	$189	$75.07	$2.04	-3
	TX	Salinas Victoria, NL	$4,086	$74	$42.50	$1.16	2
Corn	IA	Guadalajara, JA	$8,427	$222	$88.37	$2.24	-2
	SD	Celaya, GJ	$7,780	$210	$81.64	$2.07	-5
	NE	Queretaro, QA	$7,618	$197	$79.86	$2.03	-3
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	$6,035	$160	$63.30	$1.61	-4
	MO	Tlalnepantla, EM	$6,963	$192	$73.11	$1.86	-4
	SD	Torreon, CU	$7,050	$176	$73.83	$1.87	-2
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	$8,365	$187	$87.38	$2.38	0
	NE	Guadalajara, JA	$8,929	$214	$93.42	$2.54	-1
	IA	El Castillo, JA	$9,270	$209	$96.85	$2.63	-2
	KS	Torreon, CU	$7,226	$133	$75.19	$2.04	0
Sorghum	TX	Guadalajara, JA	$7,150	$137	$74.45	$1.89	-2
	NE	Celaya, GJ	$7,404	$191	$77.60	$1.97	-4
	KS	Queretaro, QA	$7,255	$120	$75.35	$1.91	4
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	$5,883	$141	$61.54	$1.56	2
	NE	Torreon, CU	$6,662	$157	$69.67	$1.77	0

[1]Rates are based upon published tariff rates for high-capacity shuttle trains. Shuttle trains are available for qualified shipments of 75--110 cars that meet railroad efficiency requirements.

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

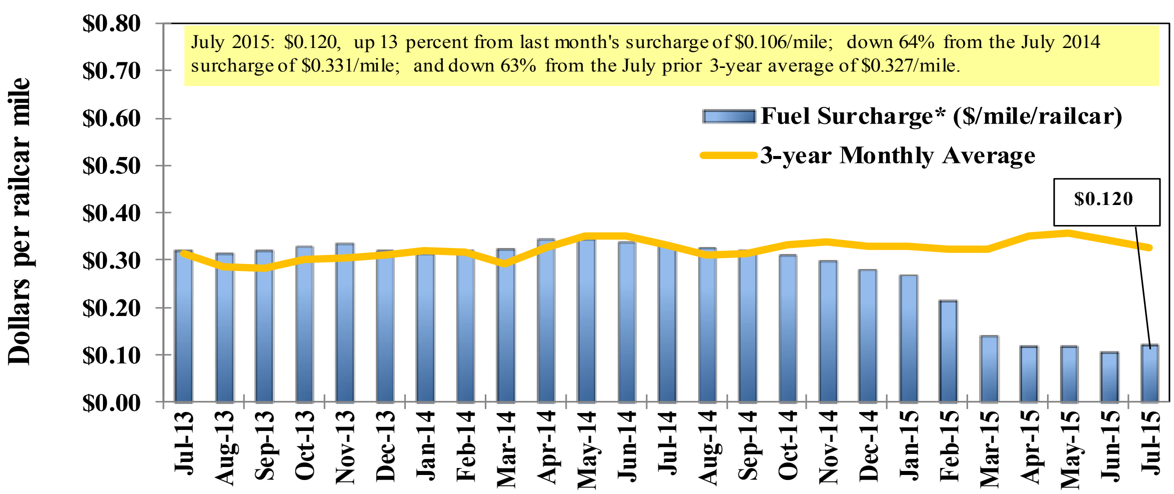
[3]Approximate load per car = 97.87 metric tons: Corn & Sorghum 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

[4]Percentage change 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.

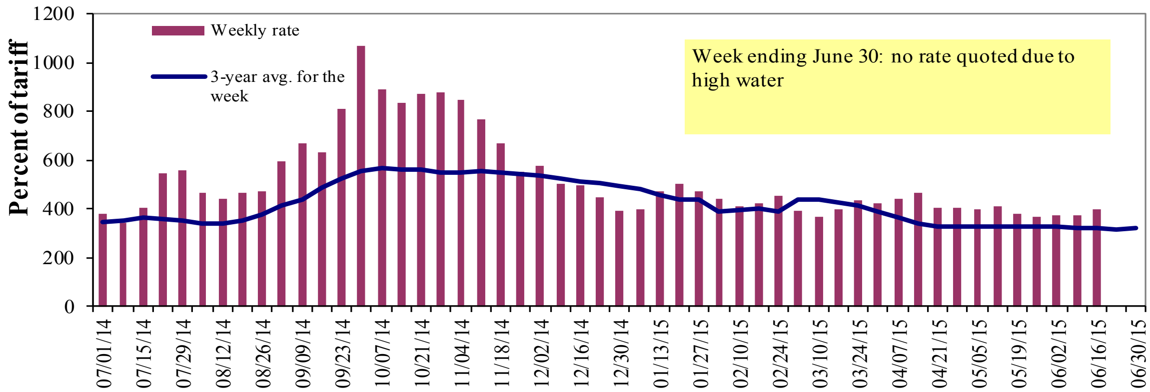
* Mileage-based fuel surcharges for March and April 2007 are estimated. Beginning January 2009, the Canadian Pacific fuel surcharge is computed by a monthly average of the bi-weekly fuel surcharge.

** 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.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]	6/30/2015	552	460	-	358	350	350	273
	6/23/2015	538	460	-	358	350	350	273
$/ton	6/30/2015	34.17	24.47	-	14.28	16.42	14.14	8.57
	6/23/2015	33.30	24.47	-	14.28	16.42	14.14	8.57
Current week % change from the same week:								
	Last year	-	-	-	27	45	45	23
	3-year avg. [2]	38	51	-	38	52	52	30
Rate[1]	August	513	463	457	375	458	458	342
	October	700	697	697	645	717	717	607

[1]Rate = percent of 1976 tariff benchmark index (1976 = 100 percent); [2]4-week moving average; ton = 2,000 pounds; missing data due to flooding
Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

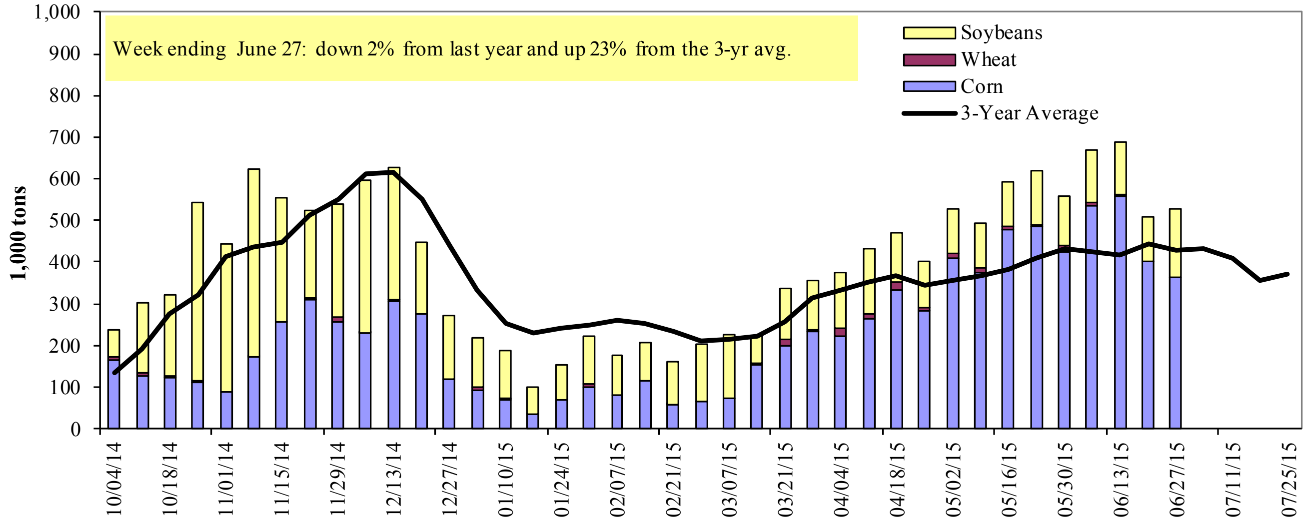
Figure 9
Benchmark tariff rates

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

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

Figure 10

Barge Movements on the Mississippi River[1] (Locks 27 - Granite City, IL)



[1] The 3-year average is a 4-week moving average.

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Table 10

Barge Grain Movements (1,000 tons)

Week ending 06/27/2015	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Other	Total
Mississippi River					
Rock Island, IL (L15)	199	2	61	10	271
Winfield, MO (L25)	267	0	102	14	384
Alton, IL (L26)	378	0	179	16	573
Granite City, IL (L27)	365	0	161	14	540
Illinois River (L8)	5	0	0	0	5
Ohio River (L52)	85	75	23	0	183
Arkansas River (L1)	0	0	0	0	0
Weekly total - 2015	450	75	184	14	723
Weekly total - 2014	599	64	82	1	746
2015 YTD[1]	10,314	684	5,208	121	16,327
2014 YTD	11,374	961	4,304	107	16,745
2015 as % of 2014 YTD	91	71	121	113	98
Last 4 weeks as % of 2014[2]	91	71	205	169	102
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.

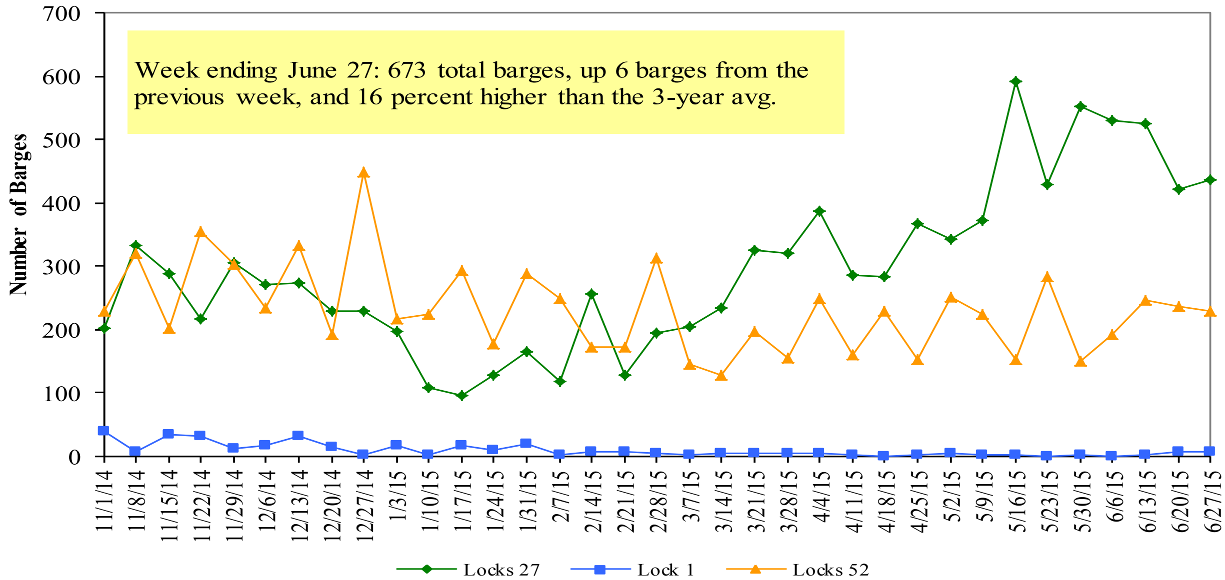
[2] As a percent of same period in 2014.

Note: Total may not add exactly, due to rounding

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Figure 11

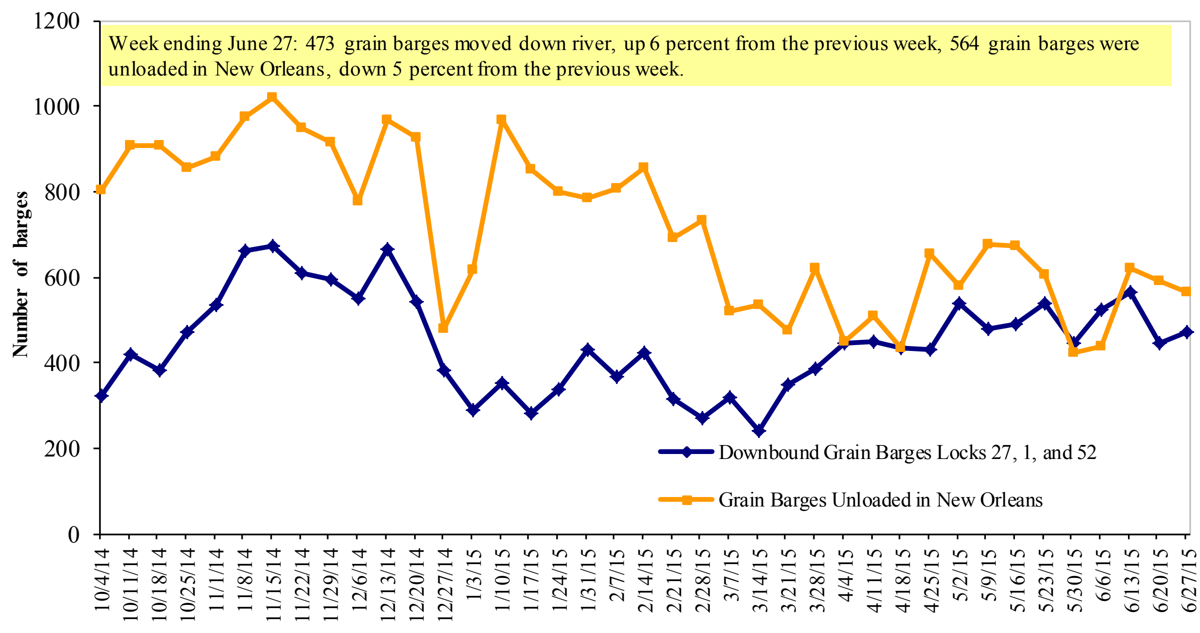
Upbound Empty Barges Transiting Mississippi River Locks 27, Arkansas River Lock and Dam 1, and Ohio River Locks and Dam 52



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 6/29/2014 (US $/gallon)

Region	Location	Price	Change from Week ago	Change from Year ago
I	East Coast	2.954	-0.005	-1.029
	New England	3.071	-0.014	-1.036
	Central Atlantic	3.094	-0.008	-0.979
	Lower Atlantic	2.823	-0.001	-1.064
II	Midwest[2]	2.731	-0.015	-1.138
III	Gulf Coast[3]	2.730	-0.025	-1.086
IV	Rocky Mountain	2.776	-0.023	-1.141
V	West Coast	3.068	-0.029	-1.005
	West Coast less California	2.978	-0.029	-1.016
	California	3.141	-0.029	-0.997
Total	U.S.	2.843	-0.016	-1.077

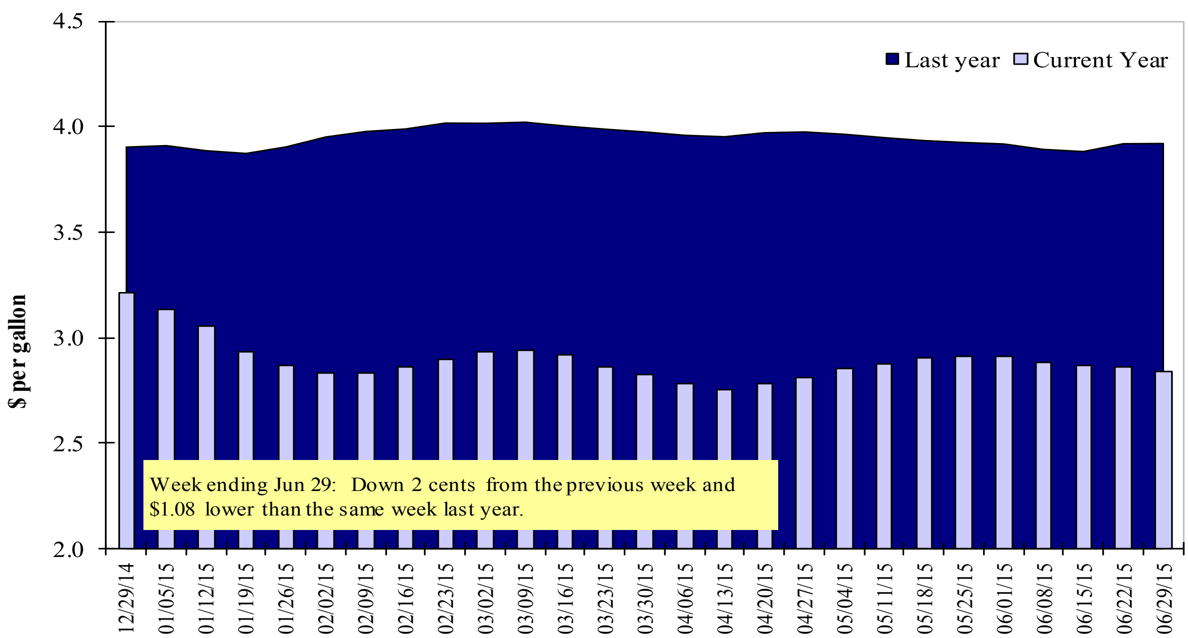
[1]Diesel fuel prices include all taxes. Prices represent an average of all types of diesel fuel.

[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
Week ending	HRW	SRW	HRS	SWW	DUR	All wheat			
Export Balances[1]									
6/18/2015	1,376	939	1,406	820	176	4,717	9,889	3,147	17,753
This week year ago	1,591	1,084	2,063	941	143	5,822	9,871	2,109	17,802
Cumulative exports-marketing year[2]									
2014/15 YTD	287	122	175	123	58	765	35,191	47,368	83,324
2013/14 YTD	535	130	515	256	4	1,439	37,052	43,367	81,858
YTD 2014/15 as % of 2013/14	54	94	34	48	1,450	53	95	109	102
Last 4 wks as % of same period 2013/14	69	68	52	71	102	64	108	157	99
2013/14 Total	11,465	7,307	6,338	4,367	486	29,963	46,868	44,478	121,309
2012/13 Total	10,019	5,039	5,825	4,619	591	26,093	17,980	36,220	80,293

[1] Current unshipped export sales to date

[2] Shipped export sales to date; new marketing year 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[1] of U.S. Corn

Week ending 06/18/2015	Total Commitments[2]			% change	Exports[3]
	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	current MY	3-year avg
	Next MY	Current MY	Last MY	from last MY	2011-2013
		- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
Japan	586	10,985	10,712	3	10,079
Mexico	1,344	10,361	10,247	1	8,145
Korea	0	3,408	4,094	(17)	2,965
Colombia	0	4,067	3,093	31	3,461
Taiwan	0	1,975	1,834	8	1,238
Top 5 Importers	**1,930**	**30,796**	**29,981**	**3**	**25,887**
Total US corn export sales	**2,830**	**45,080**	**46,922**	**(4)**	**34,445**
% of Projected	6%	97%	96%		
Change from prior week	**298**	**497**	**255**		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. corn export sales	68%	68%	64%		75%
USDA forecast, June 2015	**48,260**	**46,360**	**48,700**	**(5)**	
Corn Use for Ethanol USDA forecast, June 2015	**132,080**	**131,445**	**130,404**	**1**	

(n) indicates negative number.

[1]Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports - www.fas.usda.gov; Marketing year (MY) = Sep 1 - Aug 31.

[2]Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report, or Export Sales Query--http://www.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/

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

Table 14

Top 5 Importers[1] of U.S. Soybeans

Week Ending 06/18/2015	Total Commitments[2] 2015/16 Next MY	2014/15 Current MY	2013/14 Last MY	% change current MY from last MY	Exports[3] 3-yr avg. 2011-13
		- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
China	2,490	30,049	27,599	9	24,211
Mexico	437	3,341	3,278	2	2,971
Indonesia	0	1,706	2,268	(25)	1,895
Japan	205	2,014	1,867	8	1,750
Taiwan	31	1,257	1,185	6	1,055
Top 5 importers	**3,162**	**38,366**	**36,197**	**6**	**31,882**
Total US soybean export sales	**6,016**	**50,515**	**45,475**	**11**	**39,169**
% of Projected	12%	103%	101%		
Change from prior week	203	119	317		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. soybean export sales	53%	76%	80%		**81%**
USDA forecast, June 2015	**48,310**	**49,260**	**44,820**	**10**	

(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

Week Ending 06/18/2015	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	349	734	(52)	3,113
Mexico	540	899	(40)	2,807
Nigeria	597	429	39	2,512
Philippines	349	586	(40)	2,105
Brazil	143	761	(81)	2,091
Korea	376	395	(5)	1,273
Taiwan	288	164	76	1,007
Indonesia	46	258	(82)	751
Colombia	107	149	(28)	662
Thailand	84	98		618
Top 10 importers	**2,794**	**4,373**	**(36)**	**16,939**
Total US wheat export sales	**5,482**	**7,261**	**(25)**	**26,361**
% of Projected	22%	31%		
Change from prior week	434	(359)		
Top 10 importers' share of U.S. wheat export sales	51%	60%		64%
USDA forecast, June 2015	**25,170**	**23,270**	**8**	

(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	Week ending 06/25/15	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	154	139	111	5,419	6,512	83	56	77	12,436
Corn	117	354	33	4,725	4,376	108	80	144	7,781
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	4,054	4,486	90	76	7	12,887
Total	**272**	**493**	**55**	**14,198**	**15,375**	**92**	**68**	**95**	**33,104**
Mississippi Gulf									
Wheat	48	55	88	1,952	2,196	89	58	45	4,495
Corn	723	584	124	14,992	16,394	91	99	158	30,912
Soybeans	259	91	286	10,694	10,112	106	211	194	29,087
Total	**1,030**	**729**	**141**	**27,638**	**28,703**	**96**	**106**	**140**	**64,495**
Texas Gulf									
Wheat	53	26	203	1,947	3,374	58	52	37	6,120
Corn	32	0	n/a	301	346	87	137	278	580
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	210	257	82	n/a	0	949
Total	**85**	**26**	**327**	**2,458**	**3,977**	**62**	**62**	**47**	**7,649**
Interior									
Wheat	43	23	187	660	615	107	75	126	1,400
Corn	134	121	111	2,985	2,721	110	61	144	5,677
Soybeans	46	80	58	1,708	2,003	85	94	102	4,312
Total	**223**	**224**	**100**	**5,353**	**5,340**	**100**	**177**	**129**	**11,389**
Great Lakes									
Wheat	0	38	0	236	239	99	35	82	935
Corn	0	27	0	137	41	330	n/a	0	288
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	66	51	130	0	0	988
Total	**0**	**65**	**0**	**439**	**331**	**133**	**51**	**88**	**2,211**
Atlantic									
Wheat	35	44	79	272	154	176	171	229	553
Corn	5	10	45	77	372	21	15	67	816
Soybeans	4	13	28	914	986	93	249	165	2,119
Total	**43**	**67**	**65**	**1,264**	**1,512**	**84**	**75**	**164**	**3,487**
U.S. total from ports[2]									
Wheat	333	324	103	10,486	13,091	80	61	61	25,939
Corn	1,011	1,096	92	23,217	24,251	96	94	154	46,054
Soybeans	309	183	169	17,647	17,897	99	164	125	50,342
Total	**1,653**	**1,603**	**103**	**51,350**	**55,238**	**93**	**89**	**112**	**122,335**

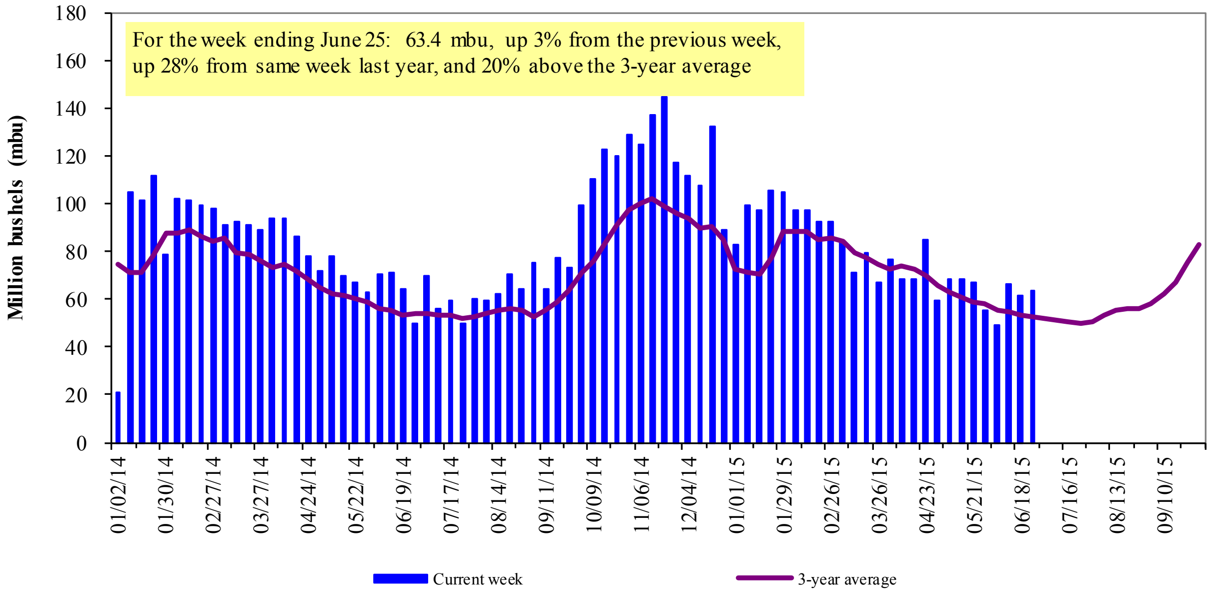
[1] Data includes revisions from prior weeks; some regional totals may not add exactly due to rounding.

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)

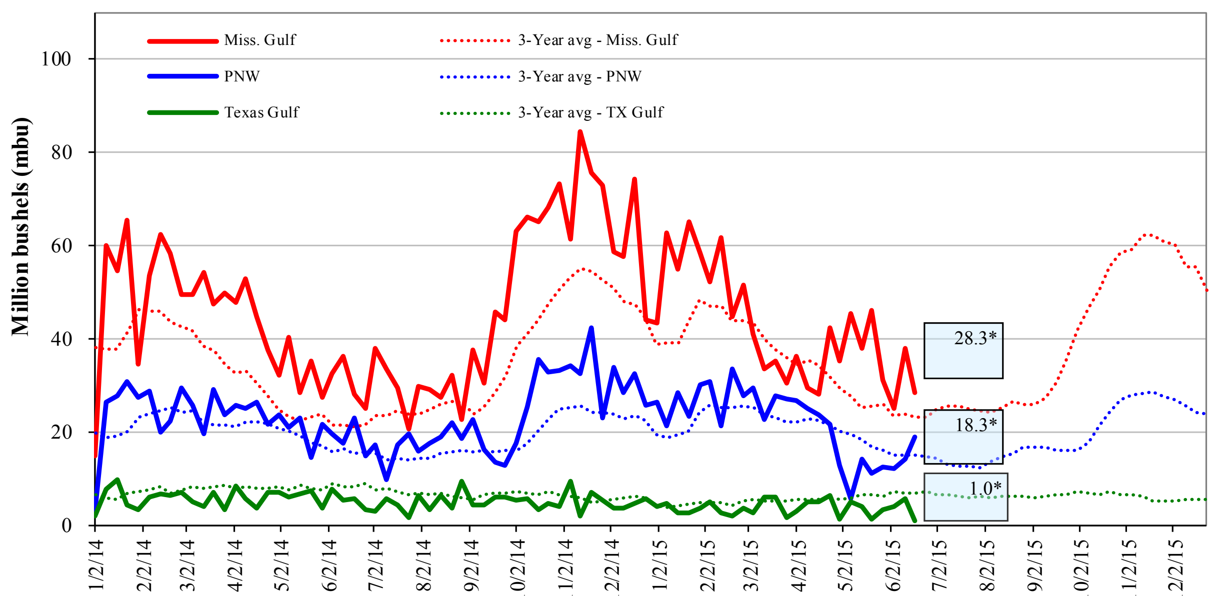


Source: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration/USDA (www.gipsa.usda.gov)

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.

June 25: % change from:	MS Gulf	TX Gulf	U.S. Gulf	PNW
Last week	up 40	up 235	up 47	down 46
Last year (same week)	up 58	down 6	up 51	down 31
3-yr avg. (4-wk mov. avg.	up 71	down 57	up 40	down 23

Ocean Transportation

Table 17

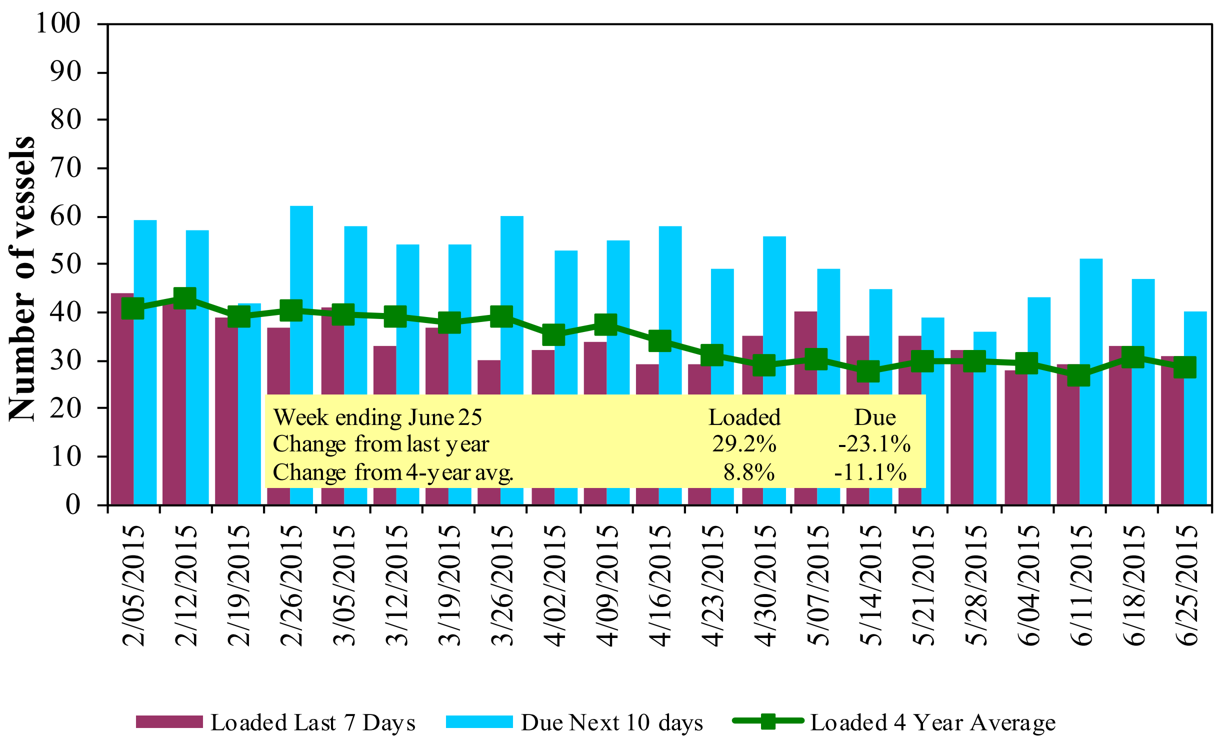
Weekly Port Region Grain Ocean Vessel Activity (number of vessels)

	Gulf			Pacific Northwest	Vancouver B.C.
Date	In port	Loaded 7-days	Due next 10-days	In port	In port
6/25/2015	39	31	40	9	n/a
6/18/2015	33	33	47	8	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

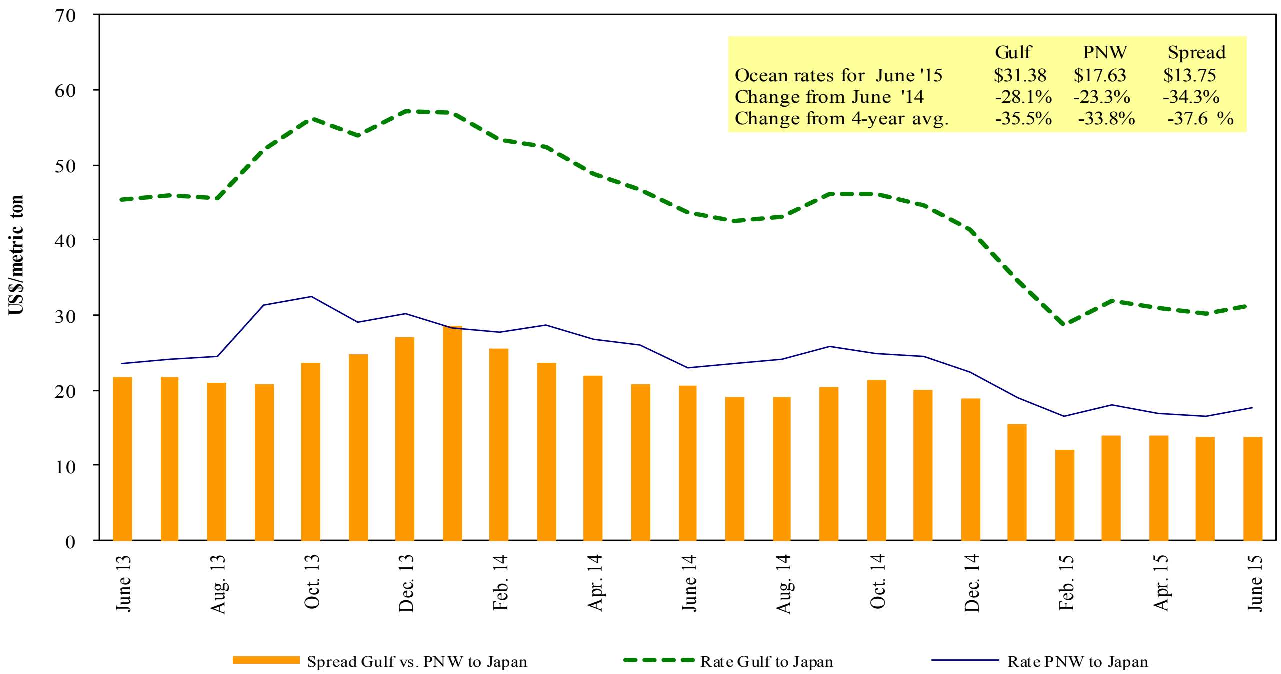
U.S. Gulf[1] Vessel Loading Activity



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

Ocean Freight Rates For Selected Shipments, Week Ending 6/27/2015

Export region	Import region	Grain types	Loading date	Volume loads (metric tons)	Freight rate (US$/metric ton)
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Jul 10/15	53,000	31.75
U.S. Gulf	China	Grain	Jun 1/10	50,000	35.75
U.S. Gulf	El Salvador[1]	Wheat	May 2/Jun 1	18,700	85.02
PNW	China	Heavy Grain	Jun 1/10	60,000	14.00
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Jul 10/15	60,000	24.75
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Jul 1/10	60,000	22.75
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Jun 25/30	60,000	26.00
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Jun 20/30	60,000	21.50
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Jun 20/30	60,000	21.75
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Jun 10/20	60,000	22.25
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Jun 10/19	60,000	22.00
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Jun 1/30	60,000	22.75
Brazil	China	Grain	Jun 15/25	60,000	21.65
Brazil	Egypt Med	Corn	Jul 5/15	50,000	19.50
Canada	China	Heavy Grain	Jun 1/10	60,000	14.00
River Plate	South Africa	Corn	Jul 1/10	25,000	24.25
River Plate	Vietnam	Corn	Jun 13/18	60,000	30.00
Thailand	Senegal	Rice Bggd	Jun 11/16	23,000	34.00
Uruguay	Syria	Soybean Meal	Jun 10/15	26,000	38.80

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

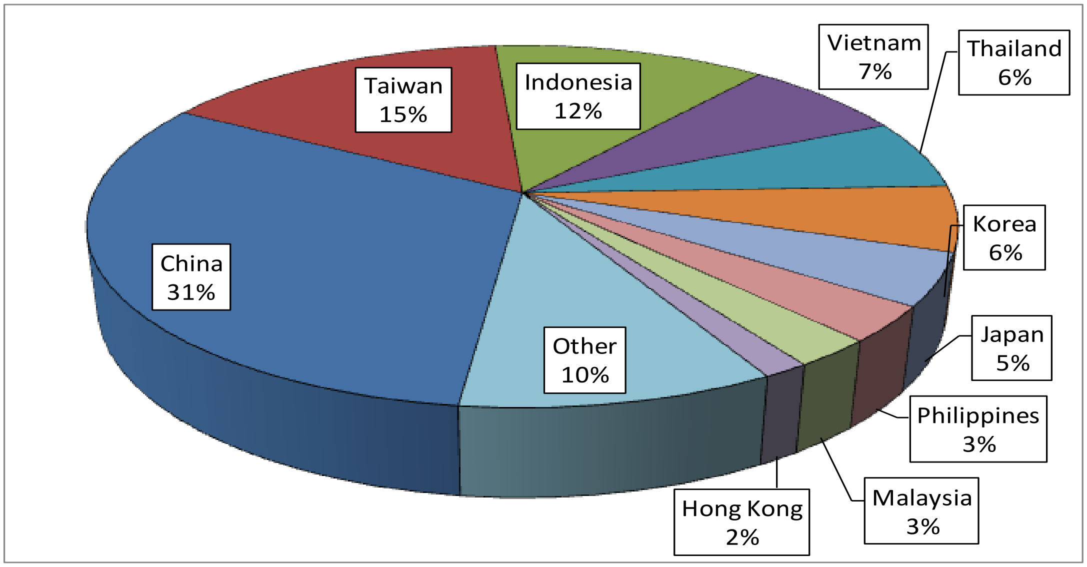
[1] 50 percent of food aid from the United States is required to be shipped on U.S.-flag vessels.

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

In 2013, containers were used to transport 10 percent of total U.S. waterborne grain exports, up 2 percentage points from 2012. Approximately 61 percent of U.S. waterborne grain exports in 2013 went to Asia, of which 16 percent were moved in containers. Asia is the top destination for U.S. containerized grain exports—97 percent in 2013.

Figure 18

Top 10 Destination Markets for U.S. Containerized Grain Exports, January-December 2014

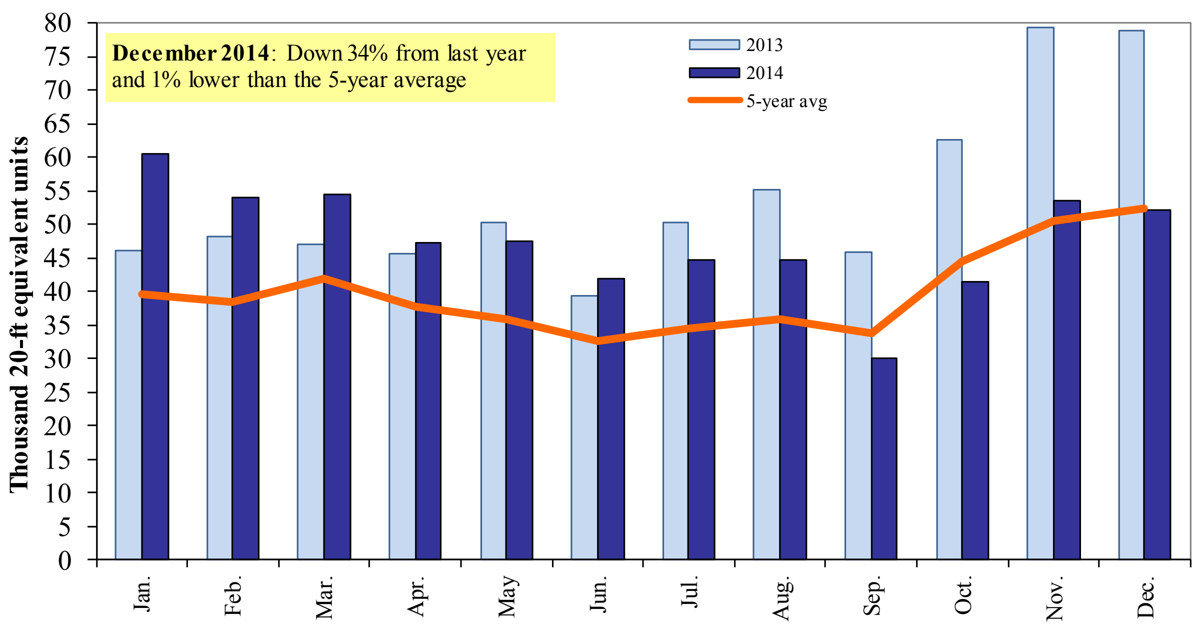


Source: USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service/Transportation Services Division analysis of Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS) data

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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