



Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

October 2014

a quarterly publication of the
Transportation and Marketing Programs/Transportation Services Division
www.ams.usda.gov/AgTransportation

Transportation Costs to Mexico Increased, But Transportation Costs Mixed.

The transportation costs of shipping grains to Vera Cruz, Mexico by sea declined during the second quarter, but the costs of shipping by land increased. Landed costs to Mexico were pushed up by the general increase in farm prices. The costs of shipping corn, soybeans, and wheat to Mexico during the second quarter decreased by 16 percent compared to the previous quarter (see GTR, dated 08/28/14). The cost of transporting corn and soybeans to Mexico by land increased by 2 percent, while the cost of transporting wheat increased by 5 percent.

Transportation costs for waterborne shipments of grain declined because of the decreases in barge and ocean freight rates. Barge rates fell due to a seasonal slowdown in barged grain movements during the second quarter. Ocean freight rates have been declining because demand for bulk vessels has not kept up with supply. However, the costs of transporting grains by land were pushed up by increases in rail and truck rates. Despite recent significant railroad delays in delivering grains and the resulting backlog of past-due grain railcars, second quarter rail tariff rates inched up only slightly, partly because of a modest increase in fuel surcharges. Truck rates also increased during the quarter. It is plausible that some shipments may have been diverted from rail to truck due to the inadequacy of rail service.

Although still below last year, farm prices increased for all grain types compared to the previous quarter, pushing up the landed costs. The landed costs of grains transported via the water route ranged from \$237 to \$577 per metric ton (mt) (table 1 and figure 1) and the landed costs for the land route ranged from \$278 to \$625 per mt (table 1 and figure 2). Falling or modest transportation costs and robust farm prices led to lower transportation shares of the landed costs. The transportation share of the landed costs for the water route ranged from 9 to 21 percent, and from 16 to 34 percent for the land route, slightly lower than the previous quarter (table 1).

Market Outlook: According to USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, total Mexico corn imports for marketing year 2013/14 were expected to decrease from 11.5 million metric tons (mmt) to 10.7 mmt because of higher domestic production than previously estimated (FAS, GAIN Report #MX4059). However, Mexico imported more corn from the United States during the second quarter: Mexico imported 2.7 million metric tons (mmt) of U.S. corn during April to June—127 percent more than the same period last year. Mexico also imported 0.8 mmt of wheat and 1 mmt of soybeans, 8 and 80 percent more than the same period last year. The total value of these imports is also higher than the same period last year because of the significant increase in the quantity imported. Mexico imports mostly yellow corn from the United States, which is used mainly for animal feed. The government of Mexico, through its support programs, has been encouraging corn growers to plant yellow corn instead of white corn. However, lack of high-quality seed and climatic conditions in some regions may hinder yields of yellow corn compared to the traditionally-grown white corn. Foreign Agricultural Service increased its estimate of wheat imports as the demand for wheat used for animal feed increased. Stronger incomes among Mexican consumers are boosting the consumption of vegetable oils and meats. USDA expects strong soybean imports in the future, with the United States as the main supplier (FAS, GAIN Report #MX4026). Lower ocean freight rates and the proximity of United States to Mexico have helped to maintain the competitiveness of U.S. grain exports to Mexico.



October 20, 2014

Contents

Summary: What Happened?

Quarterly Bulk Grain and By-Products

Livestock

Fruit and Vegetables

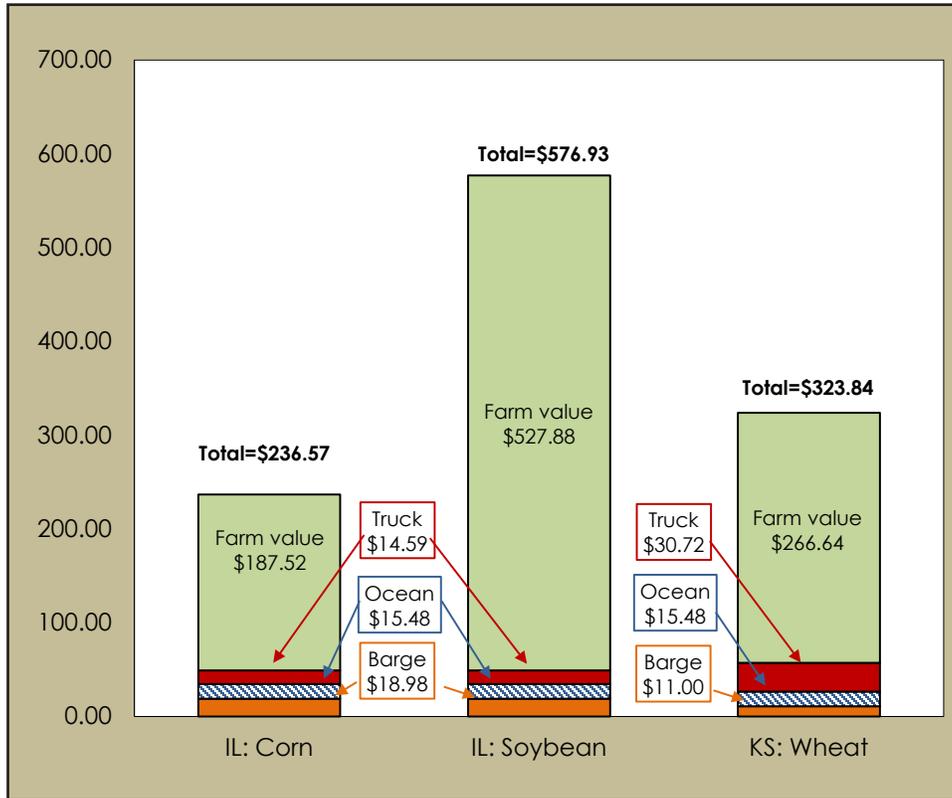
Contact Information

Subscription Information

Data Sets

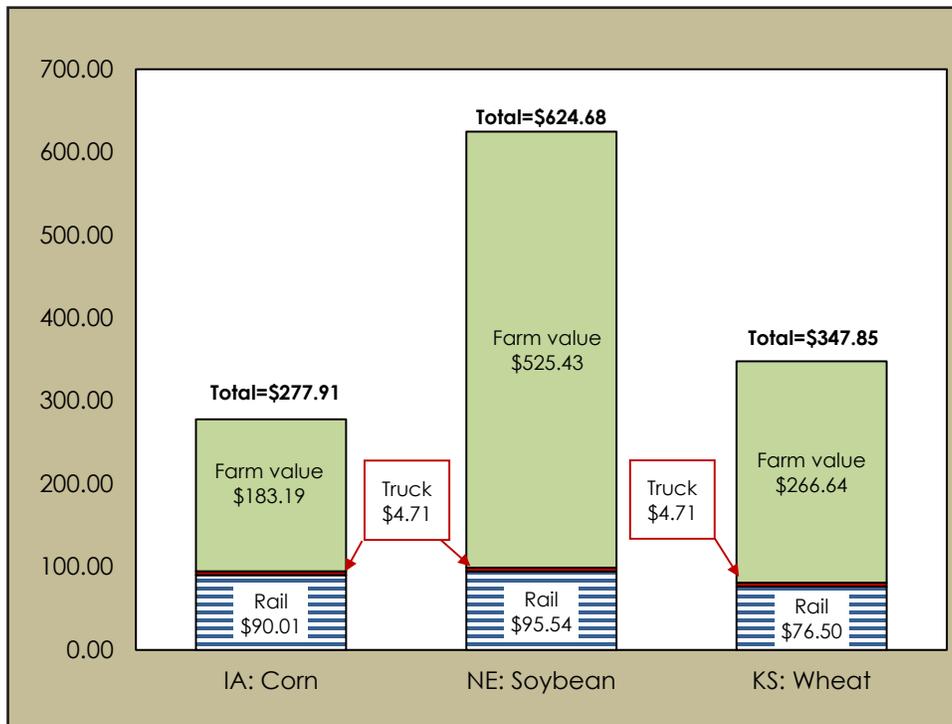


Figure 1. Water route shipment costs (\$/mt) to Veracruz, Mexico



Source: USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

Figure 2. Land route shipment costs (\$/mt) to Guadalajara, Mexico



Source: USDA Agricultural Marketing Service



Table 1. Quarterly costs of transporting U.S. grain and soybeans to Mexico

-----2014-----										
	Water route (to Veracruz)					Land route (to Guadalajara)				
	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Avg	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Avg
	US\$/metric ton					US\$/metric ton				
Corn										
Origin	IL					IA				
Truck	13.79	14.59			14.19	3.47	4.71			4.09
Rail ¹						89.33	90.01			89.67
Ocean ²	17.53	15.48			16.51					
Barge	27.06	18.98			23.02					
Total transportation cost	58.38	49.05			48.98	92.80	94.72			93.76
Farm price	175.71	187.52			181.62	175.97	183.19			179.58
Landed cost	234.09	236.57			235.33	268.77	277.91			273.34
Transport % of landed cost	24.9	20.7			20.8	34.5	34.1			34.3
Soybeans										
Origin	IL					NE				
Truck	13.79	14.59			14.19	3.47	4.71			4.09
Rail ¹						93.89	94.54			94.22
Ocean ²	17.53	15.48			16.51					
Barge	27.06	18.98			23.02					
Total transportation cost	58.38	49.05			48.98	97.36	99.25			98.31
Farm price	493.59	527.88			510.74	481.34	525.43			503.39
Landed cost	551.97	576.93			572.27	578.70	624.68			601.69
Transport % of landed cost	10.6	8.5			9.5	16.8	15.9			16.4
Wheat										
Origin	KS					KS				
Truck	29.59	30.72			30.16	3.47	4.71			4.09
Rail ¹						73.70	76.50			75.10
Ocean ²	17.53	15.48			16.51					
Barge	20.67	11.00			15.84					
Total transportation cost	67.79	57.20			62.50	77.17	81.21			90.44
Farm price	249.61	266.64			258.13	249.61	266.64			258.13
Landed cost	317.40	323.84			326.72	326.78	347.85			
Transport % of landed cost	21.4	17.7			19.5	23.6	23.3			23.5

¹Rail rates include U.S. and Mexico portions of the movement. Mexico rail rates are estimated based on actual quoted market rates. BNSF and Union Pacific quoted rail tariff rates are through rates for shuttle trains.
 Rail rates include fuel surcharges

²Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting, Inc.



Ocean Freight Rates: Ocean freight rates for shipping bulk grains to Mexico declined during the first quarter, compared to the previous quarter, and also less than the same period a year ago and the 4-year averages. The cost of shipping a metric ton (mt) of grain from the U.S. Gulf to Veracruz, Mexico, in a 25,000 ton-capacity vessel averaged \$17.48 per mt during the quarter—13 percent less than the previous quarter, 11 and 18 percent less than the same period last year and the 4-year average, respectively. The cost of shipping in a 35–40,000 ton-capacity vessel averaged \$15.48 per mt—12 percent less than the previous quarter and the same period last year and 20 percent less than the 4-year average. Ocean freight rates declined during the first quarter as lackluster demand and excess vessel supply continued to push down ocean freight rates for shipping bulk commodities, including grains (see [GTR](#), dated 7/24/14).

Rail Rates: During the second quarter of 2014, following a record harvest that decreased grain prices, railroads transported 30,029 carloads of grain and oilseeds to Mexico, up 19 percent from the first quarter 2014 and 6 percent from the prior 3-year average.

Overall rail transportation costs (tariff rates plus fuel surcharges) increased 0.9 percent from the first quarter 2014 and 0.6 percent from the second quarter 2013. Tariff rail rates per grain car were \$6,789, up 0.2 percent from the first quarter and 1.0 percent from the second quarter 2013. Fuel surcharges per railcar, at \$645, were up 8.3 percent from the first quarter 2013, but down 3.8 percent from the second quarter 2013.

Fruit and Vegetables

Total reported shipments of fruits and vegetables from Mexico during the 2nd quarter of 2014 increased 6 percent from the same quarter in 2013, with the sum of the top five commodities also increasing 6 percent from last year. Shipments of seedless watermelons increased a notable 20 percent to 330,000 tons, marking the largest quarterly shipment on record. Shipments of Mexican watermelons typically peak in the second quarter of each year as warmer temperatures increase demand. Mexican watermelons are ready to ship while U.S. production is still underway in the Southern United States.

Truck rates for shipments between 501 and 1,500 miles through the Texas border crossings averaged \$2.52 per mile, up 9 percent from last quarter and 8 percent higher than the same quarter last year. Rates for shipments between 501 and 1,500 miles through the Arizona border crossings averaged \$2.69 per mile, up 10 percent from last quarter and 4 percent higher than the same quarter last year. Diesel fuel prices for border crossings through Texas averaged \$3.80 per gallon, 1 cent higher than the previous quarter, and 1 percent higher than the same quarter in 2013. Diesel fuel prices for border crossings through Arizona averaged \$3.93 per gallon, 1 cent higher than the previous quarter and 1 percent higher than the same period in 2013. Truck availability was mostly adequate at Nogales with a slight shortage running for 4 weeks beginning in mid-April. There was generally a slight shortage for most of the quarter at the Texas border.



Livestock

Total cross-border livestock exports from the United States to Mexico during the second quarter of 2014 were 4 percent greater than during the second quarter of 2013. The rise is due to a large increase in beef cattle (breeding males and females) that went from 559 to 897 head of cattle. The total increase is also due to a big upsurge in breeding female hogs—from 622 to 3,061, or an increase of 392 percent from last quarter. Exotic animal are showing a large cross-border increase. Their numbers went from 38 animals last quarter to 192 in the 2nd quarter of 2014. This category includes circus animals such as zebras, elephants, and yaks, etc. and animals not included in any other category such as white tail deer, etc. (AMS, Market News).

Horses continue to be the largest livestock exported to Mexico from the U.S. Horses crossing the border have increased 15 percent compared to last quarter and 5 percent compared to the same quarter last year. During the 2nd quarter of 2014, the majority of horse border crossings still go through El Paso and Presidio in Texas.

Figure 3. Livestock Border Crossing to Mexico during the 2nd quarter 2014

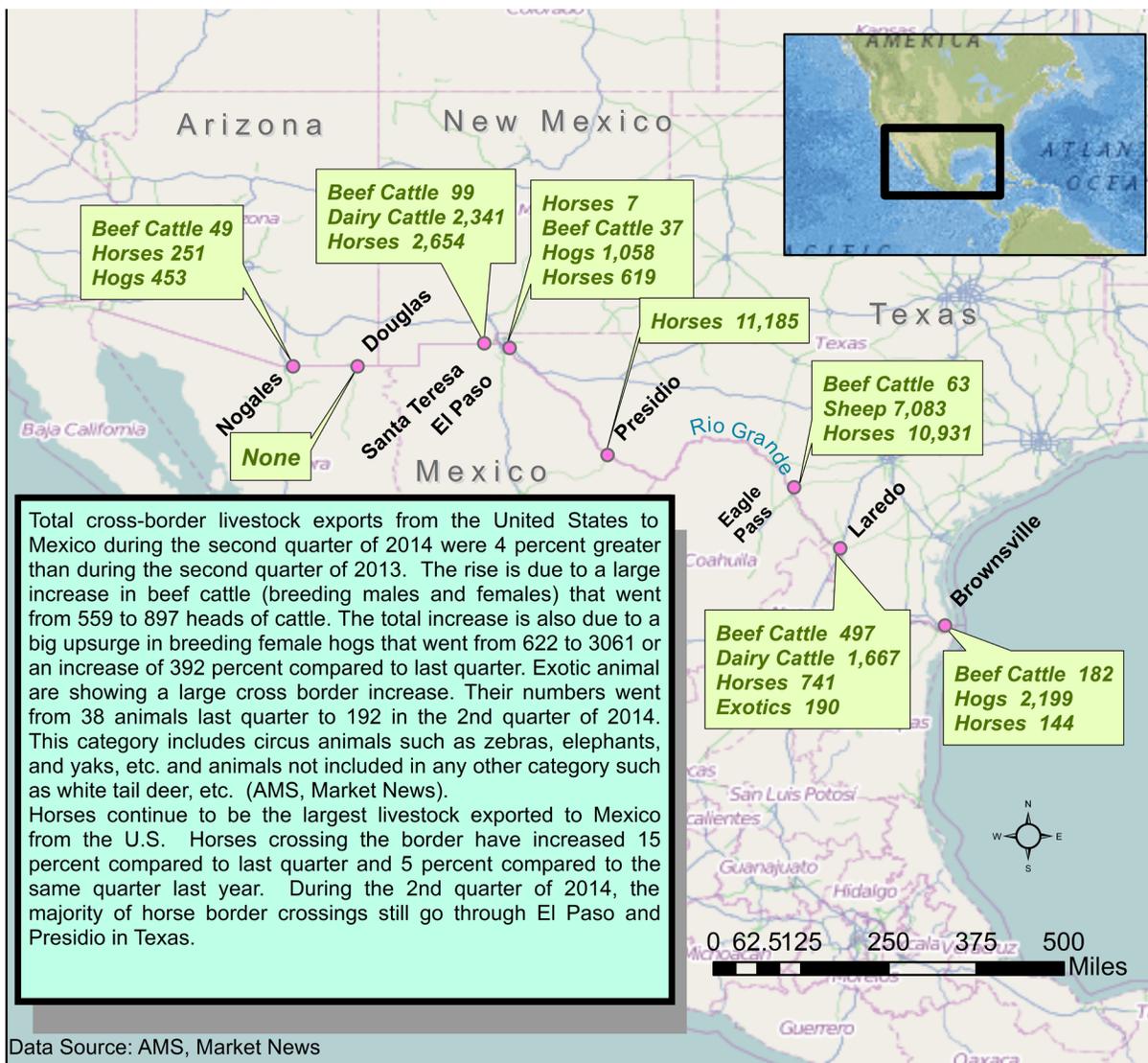




Table 2. Quarterly tariff rail rates for U.S. bulk grain shipments to Mexico (US\$/car), 2014

Commodity	Origin state	Destination	Tariff rate/car ¹				Fuel surcharge per car ²					
			1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Avg	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Avg
Wheat	MT	Chihuahua, CI	6,360	6,360			6,360	557	606			582
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	6,156	6,192			6,174	677	736			706
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	6,559	6,777			6,668	654	711			682
	TX	Salinas Victoria, NL	2,898	3,737			3,317	255	277			266
Corn	IA	Guadalajara, JA	7,974	7,974			7,974	769	836			803
	SD	Penjamo, GJ	7,656	7,656			7,656	729	793			761
	NE	Queretaro, QA	7,317	7,341			7,329	683	742			713
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	5,880	5,880			5,880	554	602			578
	MO	Tlalnepantla, EM	6,755	6,779			6,767	664	721			693
	SD	Torreon, CU	6,722	6,722			6,722	611	664			637
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	7,868	7,868			7,868	649	705			677
	NE	Guadalajara, JA	8,447	8,447			8,447	742	806			774
	IA	El Castillo, JA	8,855	8,855			8,855	725	788			756
	KS	Torreon, CU	6,864	6,864			6,864	460	500			480
Sorghum	TX	Guadalajara, JA	6,953	6,953			6,953	475	516			495
	NE	Penjamo, GJ	7,212	7,212			7,212	662	719			691
	KS	Queretaro, QA	6,650	6,650			6,650	416	452			434
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	5,368	5,368			5,368	487	529			508
	NE	Torreon, CU	6,243	6,243			6,243	544	591			567

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.

²Approximate load per car = 97.87 mt: corn & sorghum 56 lbs/bu, wheat & soybeans 60 lbs/bu

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



Table 3. Quarterly tariff plus fuel surcharge rail rates for U.S. bulk grain shipments to Mexico, 2014

			Tariff ¹ plus fuel surcharge per:									
			US\$/metric ton					US\$/bushel ²				
Commodity	Origin State	Destination	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Avg	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Avg
Wheat	MT	Chihuahua, CI	70.68	71.17			70.93	1.92	1.94			1.93
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	69.82	70.79			70.30	1.90	1.92			1.91
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	73.70	76.50			75.10	2.01	2.08			2.04
	TX	Salinas Victoria, NL	32.21	41.02			36.61	0.88	1.12			1.00
Corn	IA	Guadalajara, JA	89.33	90.01			89.67	2.27	2.28			2.28
	SD	Penjamo, GJ	85.68	86.32			86.00	2.18	2.19			2.18
	NE	Queretaro, QA	81.74	82.59			82.17	2.08	2.10			2.09
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	65.74	66.23			65.99	1.67	1.68			1.68
	MO	Tlalnepanitla, EM	75.80	76.64			76.22	1.93	1.94			1.94
	SD	Torreon, CU	74.92	75.46			75.19	1.90	1.92			1.91
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	87.02	87.59			87.30	2.37	2.38			2.37
	NE	Guadalajara, JA	93.89	94.54			94.22	2.55	2.57			2.56
	IA	Penjamo (Celaya), GJ	97.88	98.52			98.20	2.66	2.68			2.67
	KS	Torreon, CU	74.83	75.24			75.04	2.04	2.05			2.04
Sorghum	TX	Guadalajara, JA	75.89	76.31			76.10	1.93	1.94			1.93
	NE	Penjamo, GJ	80.45	81.04			80.74	2.04	2.06			2.05
	KS	Queretaro, QA	72.19	72.56			72.38	1.83	1.84			1.84
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	59.82	60.25			60.04	1.52	1.53			1.52
	NE	Torreon, CU	69.34	69.82			69.58	1.76	1.77			1.77

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.

²Approximate load per car = 97.87 mt; corn & sorghum 56 lbs/bu, wheat & soybeans 60 lbs/bu

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



Table 4. Quarterly exports of U.S. Distillers' Dried Grains with Soluble (DDGS) to Mexico*

Year	Thousand metric tons				
	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Total
2009	316	377	371	395	1,459
2010	439	399	424	383	1,645
2011	506	430	476	369	1,781
2012	426	388	352	332	1,498
2013	284	329	290	381	1,285
2014	356	420			776

*Data are for brewers' and distillers' dregs and waste of which Distillers' Dried Grains with Soluble is a principal component. On November 2, 2010, data was revised.
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service (ERS), Feed grains database

Table 5. Quarterly ocean freight rate for bulk shipments from the U.S. Gulf to Veracruz, Mexico (US\$/metric ton)

Vessel capacity (metric ton)	1st qtr 2009	2nd qtr 2009	3rd qtr 2009	4th qtr 2009	Average
25,000	13.58	17.53	19.86	22.65	18.41
35-40,000	11.46	15.46	17.78	20.22	16.23
Vessel capacity (metric ton)	1st qtr 2010	2nd qtr 2010	3rd qtr 2010	4th qtr 2010	Average
25,000	23.04	23.83	24.33	21.89	23.27
35-40,000	20.75	22.34	21.64	19.83	21.14
Vessel capacity (metric ton)	1st qtr 2011	2nd qtr 2011	3rd qtr 2011	4th qtr 2011	Average
25,000	21.71	21.13	21.96	23.29	22.02
35-40,000	18.75	18.86	19.89	21.21	19.68
Vessel capacity (metric ton)	1st qtr 2012	2nd qtr 2012	3rd qtr 2012	4th qtr 2012	Average
25,000	20.28	20.79	20.68	18.73	20.12
35-40,000	18.37	18.62	18.53	16.73	18.06
Vessel capacity (metric ton)	1st qtr 2013	2nd qtr 2013	3rd qtr 2013	4th qtr 2013	Average
25,000	20.19	19.59	20.47	20.01	20.07
35-40,000	17.89	17.58	17.85	17.13	17.61
Vessel capacity (metric ton)	1st qtr 2014	2nd qtr 2014	3rd qtr 2014	4th qtr 2014	Average
25,000	20.08	17.48			18.78
35-40,000	17.53	15.48			16.51

Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting



Table 6. U.S. livestock exports to Mexico by border crossing* (head) April-June 2014

Border Crossing	NM	AZ	TX	Total
Beef cattle				
Slaughter	0	0	0	0
Breeding males	72	33	285	390
Breeding females	27	16	464	507
Total beef	99	49	749	897
Hogs				
Slaughter	0	0	0	0
Breeding males	0	0	649	649
Breeding females	0	453	2,608	3,061
Total hogs	0	453	3,257	3,710
Sheep				
Slaughter lambs	0	0	0	0
Slaughter ewes	0	0	7,083	7,083
Breeding males	0	0	0	0
Breeding females	0	0	0	0
Total sheep	0	0	7,083	7,083
Dairy cattle				
Breeding males	0	0	3	3
Breeding females	2,341	0	1,701	4,042
Total dairy	2,341	0	1,704	4,045
Goats				
Angora	0	0	0	0
Spanish	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total goats	0	0	0	0
Horses				
Slaughter	2,332	0	22,664	24,996
Breeding males	118	96	368	582
Breeding females	166	119	424	709
Geldings	38	36	158	232
Burro/mule/pony	0	0	201	201
Total horses	2,654	251	23,815	26,720
Exotics**	0	0	192	192
Grand total	5,094	753	36,800	42,647

*Weekly AMS data will not necessarily sum to the total U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census data

**Refer to animals that are not included in other categories such as zebras, deer, elephants, and yaks.

Source: Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Livestock and Seed Programs



Table 7. Fruit and vegetable truck rates for shipments between 500 and 1,500 miles crossing the U.S.-Mexico border* (US\$/mile)

Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2007	2nd qtr 2007	3rd qtr 2007	4th qtr 2007	Average
Nogales, Arizona	1.77	2.03	2.36	1.99	2.04
Pharr, Texas	1.58	1.91	1.76	1.68	1.74
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2008	2nd qtr 2008	3rd qtr 2008	4th qtr 2008	Average
Nogales, Arizona	2.06	2.35	2.06	2.18	2.16
Pharr, Texas	1.78	2.21	1.91	1.74	1.91
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2009	2nd qtr 2009	3rd qtr 2009	4th qtr 2009	Average
Nogales, Arizona	1.93	1.74	1.26	1.86	1.70
Pharr, Texas	1.61	1.61	1.38	1.42	1.50
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2010	2nd qtr 2010	3rd qtr 2010	4th qtr 2010	Average
Nogales, Arizona	1.97	2.09	1.65	1.89	1.90
Pharr, Texas	1.60	1.86	1.53	1.58	1.64
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2011	2nd qtr 2011	3rd qtr 2011	4th qtr 2011	Average
Nogales, Arizona	1.87	2.38	1.85	1.80	1.97
Pharr, Texas	1.84	2.12	1.77	1.87	1.90
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2012	2nd qtr 2012	3rd qtr 2012	4th qtr 2012	Average
Nogales, Arizona	2.00	2.57	1.84	1.92	2.08
Pharr, Texas	1.97	2.26	1.89	2.09	2.05
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2013	2nd qtr 2013	3rd qtr 2013	4th qtr 2013	Average
Nogales, Arizona	2.34	2.59	1.63	2.33	2.22
Pharr, Texas	2.15	2.33	2.02	2.01	2.13
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2014	2nd qtr 2014	3rd qtr 2014	4th qtr 2014	Average
Nogales, Arizona	2.46	2.69			2.58
Pharr, Texas	2.32	2.53			2.43

*Voluntarily reported to AMS, Market News
 Source: Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Fruit and Vegetable Programs



Table 8. Quarterly U.S.-Mexico border crossing fresh fruit and vegetables truck availability, 2nd quarter, 2014

Legend:		Truck availability												
1 = Surplus	2 = Slight Surplus													
3 = Adequate	4 = Slight Shortage													
5 = Shortage														
Mexico border crossings/month		April					May				June			
Week		4/1	4/8	4/15	4/22	4/29	5/6	5/13	5/20	5/27	6/3	6/10	6/17	6/24
Through Nogales, AZ	Mangoes, Melons, Mixed Vegetables, Tomatoes	3	3	5	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Through TX	Carrots, Citrus, Mangoes, Mixed Fruit and Veg, Onions, Tomatoes	4	4	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	4

Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Market News Branch, *Fruit and Vegetable Truck Rate Report*

Table 9. Top ten commodities shipped to the U.S. from Mexico (10,000 lbs)

Commodity	2nd qtr 2014	Rank
WATERMELONS, SEEDLESS	65,927	1
TOMATOES, PLUM TYPE	37,502	2
TOMATOES	36,248	3
CUCUMBERS	30,978	4
GRAPES	29,640	5
MANGOES	29,223	6
AVOCADOS	26,363	7
ONIONS DRY	22,793	8
WATERMELONS	22,226	9
LIMES	20,374	10

Source: USDA, AMS, Market News



Table 10. Top five commodities shipped to the U.S. from Mexico (10,000 lbs.)

Commodity	1st qtr 2009	2nd qtr 2009	3rd qtr 2009	4th qtr 2009	Total 2009
Tomatoes (all varieties)	62,337	64,976	21,173	44,530	193,016
Peppers (all varieties)	43,303	23,396	21,903	33,946	122,548
Watermelon	21,643	64,976	1,949	21,428	109,996
Limes	17,499	21,253	23,706	19,829	82,287
Cucumbers	32,819	20,464	8,059	29,719	91,061
Subtotal	177,601	195,065	76,790	149,452	598,908
Other	181,069	143,027	80,567	129,714	534,377
Total	181,069	338,092	157,357	279,166	955,684
Commodity	1st qtr 2010	2nd qtr 2010	3rd qtr 2010	4th qtr 2010	Total 2010
Tomatoes (all varieties)	113,379	77,048	34,226	43,291	267,944
Peppers (all varieties)	52,381	29,135	18,481	33,718	133,715
Cucumbers	39,925	23,695	9,314	30,169	103,103
Squash	24,242	12,827	2,852	19,740	59,661
Avocados	20,065	15,120	8,696	17,242	61,123
Subtotal	249,992	157,825	73,569	144,160	625,546
Other	178,749	264,046	116,397	133,112	692,304
Total	428,741	421,871	189,966	277,272	1,317,850
Commodity	1st qtr 2011	2nd qtr 2011	3rd qtr 2011	4th qtr 2011	Total 2011
Tomatoes (all varieties)	93,831	61,825	40,136	40,329	236,121
Peppers (all varieties)	49,137	27,150	21,775	30,018	128,080
Cucumbers	31,749	27,481	9,879	22,275	91,384
Onions (dry and green)	30,159	20,994	6,747	7,090	64,990
Watermelon	25,181	66,908	3,082	14,777	109,948
Subtotal	230,057	204,358	81,619	114,489	630,523
Other	181,726	199,596	109,240	103,717	594,279
Total	411,783	403,954	190,859	218,206	1,224,802

Source: Data is obtained from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) through USDA, AMS, Market News

-continued on next page-



**Table 10. Top five commodities shipped to the U.S. from Mexico (10,000 lbs.)
-continued-**

Commodity	1st qtr 2012	2nd qtr 2012	3rd qtr 2012	4th qtr 2012	Total 2012
Tomatoes (all varieties)	99,264	69,282	41,120	57,099	266,765
Peppers (all varieties)	56,506	33,399	25,990	33,073	148,968
Cucumbers	42,668	25,798	11,919	30,383	110,768
Onions (dry and green)	29,949	20,020	8,122	8,744	66,835
Squash	26,776	16,033	3,401	19,556	65,766
Subtotal	255,163	164,532	90,552	148,855	659,102
Other	200,550	256,945	122,889	190,616	771,000
Total	455,713	421,477	213,441	339,471	1,430,102
Commodity	1st qtr 2013	2nd qtr 2013	3rd qtr 2013	4th qtr 2013	Total 2013
Tomatoes (all varieties)	88,753	75,505	43,373	52,154	259,785
Peppers (all varieties)	55,952	35,111	27,341	51,481	169,885
Avocadoes	38,933	26,387	15,049	30,766	111,135
Cucumbers	38,877	30,555	11,592	31,523	112,547
Onions (dry and green)	24,818	22,138	7,584	8,070	62,610
Subtotal	247,333	189,696	104,939	173,994	715,962
Other	206,944	271,688	126,051	168,680	773,363
Total	454,277	461,384	230,990	342,674	1,489,325
Commodity	1st qtr 2014	2nd qtr 2014	3rd qtr 2014	4th qtr 2014	Total 2014
Tomatoes (all varieties)	102,175	77,596			179,771
Peppers (all varieties)	62,356	33,083			95,439
Cucumbers	47,565	30,978			78,543
Avocadoes	37,085	26,363			63,448
Squash	29,622	16,334			45,956
Subtotal	278,803	184,354			463,157
Other	214,020	306,544			520,564
Total	492,823	490,898			983,721

Source: Data is obtained from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) through USDA, AMS, Market News



Table 11. Top ten U.S. containerized agricultural exports to Mexico*, 2013

1st qtr	Commodity	Quantity (mt)	# of TEUs**	Percentage share	Rank
	Dextrose, glucose	6,740	244	36	1
	Tobacco products	2,585	264	14	2
	Dairy products	1,760	104	9	3
	Frozen fish	1,463	125	8	4
	Grocery items	1,071	162	6	5
	Wine	973	66	5	6
	Vegetables	777	72	4	7
	Bitters, brandy, cognac	598	66	3	8
	Cheese, edam, gouda	504	32	3	9
	Tomatoes, prepared	298	52	2	10
Subtotal		16,768	1,189	89	
Other		2,001	209	11	
Total Exports		18,769	1,398	100	
2nd qtr	Commodity	Quantity (mt)	# of TEUs**	Percentage share	Rank
	Dextrose, glucose	4,864	163	24	1
	Dairy products	2,807	240	14	2
	Grocery items	2,541	327	13	3
	Cheese, edam, gouda	1,386	80	7	4
	Frozen fish	1,281	116	6	5
	Vegetables	852	81	4	6
	Tobacco products	654	78	3	7
	Bitters, brandy, cognac	646	63	3	8
	Meat	501	49	3	9
	Wine	475	32	2	10
Subtotal		16,009	1,229	80	
Other		3,894	480	20	
Total Exports		19,902	1,709	100	

*PIERS data will not necessarily sum to the total U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census data
 **Twenty Foot Equivalent Unit (TEU) is a 20-foot shipping container
 Source: Port Import Export Reporting Services (PIERS), 2013



**Table 11. Top ten U.S. containerized agricultural exports to Mexico*, 2013
-continued-**

3rd qtr	Commodity	Quantity (mt)	# of TEUs**	Percentage share	Rank
	Grocery items	3,210	327	22	1
	Beer, ale	1,627	148	11	2
	Vegetables	1,233	100	8	3
	Fruit	1,122	113	8	4
	Meat	873	175	6	5
	Poultry	757	64	5	6
	Dairy products	636	41	4	7
	Cheese	491	45	3	8
	Candy, confections	486	46	3	9
	Wine	398	31	3	10
Subtotal		10,832	1,091	73	
Other		3,908	367	27	
Total Exports		14,739	1,458	100	
4th qtr	Commodity	Quantity (mt)	# of TEUs**	Percentage share	Rank
	Tobacco products	3,305	336	22	1
	Grocery items	1,782	171	12	2
	Rice	1,198	74	8	3
	Vegetables	1,171	77	8	4
	Soybeans	931	59	6	5
	Dairy products	672	40	5	6
	Wine	525	36	4	7
	Edible nuts	493	58	3	8
	Frozen fish	432	38	3	9
	Tomatoes, prepared	415	22	3	10
Subtotal		10,924	912	74	
Other		3,780	395	26	
Total Exports		14,704	1,307	100	

*PIERS data will not necessarily sum to the total U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census data

**Twenty Foot Equivalent Unit (TEU) is a 20-foot shipping container

Source: Port Import Export Reporting Services (PIERS), 2013



Table 12. U.S. agricultural container exports to Mexico by port*, 2012-2013

Mexican Port	2012 4th qtr	2013 4th qtr	% Change	YTD 2012	YTD 2013	% Change
	# of TEUs**			# of TEUs**		
Altamira	175	339	94	497	731	47
ST Tomas Point	0	209	-	2	209	-
Progreso	147	197	34	348	890	156
Manzanillo	221	145	-34	654	1,741	166
Puerto Morelos	142	116	-18	488	506	4
Subtotal	684	1,006	47	1,989	4,077	105
Other	687	301	-56	2,460	1,559	-37
Total Exports	1,372	1,307	-5	4,450	5,636	27

*PIERS data will not necessarily sum to the total U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census data

**Twenty Foot Equivalent Unit (TEU) is a 20-foot shipping container

Source: Port Import Export Reporting Services (PIERS), 2012 and 2013

Table 13. Top five U.S. bulk agricultural exports to Mexico*, 2012-2013

Mexican port	2011	2012	Percentage share	Rank
	Quantity (mt)			
Bulk grains	3,598,594	1,636,315	39	1
Bread, cereal, flour	2,053,790	1,238,291	30	2
Soybeans	1,336,725	761,382	18	3
Rice	500,311	183,200	4	4
Animal feed	141,753	62,361	2	5
Subtotal	7,631,172	3,881,549	93	
Other	776,585	275,168	7	
Total Exports	8,407,757	4,156,717	100	

*PIERS data will not necessarily sum to the total U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census data

Source: Port Import Export Reporting Services (PIERS), 2012 and 2013



Table 14. U.S. bulk agricultural exports to Mexico by receiving port*, 2012-2013

Mexican port	2012	2013	Percentage share	Rank
	Quantity (mt)			
Veracruz	5,416,205	2,674,038	64	1
Progreso	1,268,496	648,799	16	2
Coatzacoalcos	788,679	315,780	8	3
Tuxpan	473,021	299,345	7	4
Altamira	106,574	161,702	4	5
Subtotal	7,946,400	4,099,666	99	
Other	261,002	57,051	1	
Total Exports	8,207,402	4,156,717	100	

*PIERS data will not necessarily sum to the total U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census data
 Source: Port Import Export Reporting Services (PIERS), 2012 and 2013

Table 15. Top ten U.S. agricultural container exports to Mexico*, 2012-2013

Commodity	2012	2013	Percentage share	Rank
	# of TEUs**			
Dextrose, glucose	696	407	17	1
Grocery items	481	839	11	2
Tobacco products	463	686	10	3
Dairy products	337	423	9	4
Vegetables	255	328	6	5
Frozen fish	163	323	5	6
Cheese	120	167	4	7
Wine	123	163	3	8
Meat	78	288	3	9
Fruit	362	200	3	10
Subtotal	3,078	3,824	72	
Other	1,372	1,812	28	
Total Exports	4,450	5,636	100	

*PIERS data will not necessarily sum to the total U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census data
 **Twenty Foot Equivalent Unit (TEU) is a 20-foot shipping container
 Source: Port Import Export Reporting Services (PIERS), 2012 and 2013



Table 16. U.S. agricultural container exports to Mexico by port*, 2012-2013

Mexican Port	2012	2013	Percentage share	Rank
	# of TEUs**			
Manzanillo	654	1,741	31	1
Progreso	348	890	16	2
Altamira	497	731	13	3
Puerto Morelos	488	506	9	4
Merida	728	341	6	5
Subtotal	2,715	4,209	75	
Other	1,735	1,426	25	
Total	4,450	5,636	100	

*PIERS data will not necessarily sum to the total U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census data
 **Twenty Foot Equivalent Unit (TEU) is a 20-foot shipping container
 Source: Port Import Export Reporting Services (PIERS), 2012 and 2013



Contact Information:

Surajudeen Olowolayemo
Agricultural Economist,
Coordinator/Ocean Bulk Shipments Analyst

surajudeen.olowolayemo@ams.usda.gov

Adam Sparger
Economist
Co-Coordinator/Fruit and Vegetable Analyst

adam.sparger@ams.usda.gov

Pierre Bahizi
Economist
Livestock Analyst

pierre.bahizi@ams.usda.gov

Marvin Prater
Economist
Rail Analyst

marvin.prater@ams.usda.gov

April Taylor
Economist
Container Shipments Analyst

april.taylor@ams.usda.gov

Jessica E. Ladd
Graphic Analyst

jessica.ladd@ams.usda.gov

Subscription Information: Send e-mail address to GTRContactUs@usda.gov for an electronic copy.

Related Websites:

- ◆ [U.S. Grain and Soybean Exports to Mexico — A Modal Share Transportation Analysis \(PDF\)](#)
- ◆ [Grain Transportation Report](#)
- ◆ [Agricultural Refrigerated Truck Quarterly](#)

Preferred Citation:

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Reports. October 2014. Web. <<http://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS054.10-2014>>



Data Sets:

- ◆ Figure 1: Water route shipment costs to Veracruz, Mexico
- ◆ Figure 2: Land route shipment costs to Guadalajara, Mexico
- ◆ Figure 3: Livestock Border Crossing to Mexico during the 2nd quarter 2014

- ◆ Table 1: Quarterly costs of transporting U.S. grain and soybeans to Mexico
- ◆ Table 2: Quarterly tariff rail rates for U.S. bulk grain shipments to Mexico (US\$/car), 2014
- ◆ Table 3: Quarterly tariff plus fuel surcharge rail rates for U.S. bulk grain shipments to Mexico, 2014
- ◆ Table 4: Quarterly exports of U.S. Distillers' Dried Grains with Soluable (DDGS) to Mexico
- ◆ Table 5: Quarterly ocean freight rate for bulk shipments from the U.S. Gulf to Veracruz, Mexico (US\$/metric ton)
- ◆ Table 6: U.S. livestock exports to Mexico by border crossing* (head) April-June 2014
- ◆ Table 7: Fruit and vegetable truck rates for shipments between 500 and 1,500 miles crossing the U.S.-Mexico border (US\$/mile)
- ◆ Table 8: Quarterly U.S.-Mexico border crossing fresh fruit and vegetables truck availability, 2nd quarter, 2014
- ◆ Table 9: Top ten commodities shipped to the U.S. from Mexico (10,000 lbs)
- ◆ Table 10: Top five commodities shipped to the U.S. from Mexico (10,000 lbs.)
- ◆ Table 11: Top ten U.S. containerized agricultural exports to Mexico*, 2013
- ◆ Table 12: U.S. agricultural container exports to Mexico by port*, 2012-2013
- ◆ Table 13: Top five U.S. bulk agricultural exports to Mexico*, 2012-2013
- ◆ Table 14: U.S. bulk agricultural exports to Mexico by receiving port*, 2012-2013
- ◆ Table 15: Top ten U.S. agricultural container exports to Mexico*, 2012-2013
- ◆ Table 16: U.S. agricultural container exports to Mexico by port*, 2012-2013

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.