



# GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

February 23, 1998



## UPCOMING EVENTS...

Mar. 1-3	The Canadian Wheat Board Grain World '98	Winnipeg, Canada	(204) 983-6346
Mar. 1-3	Freight Car Forum -American Short Line and Regional Railroad Assoc.	Tampa, FL	(202) 628-4500
Mar. 8-10	102 <sup>nd</sup> Annual National Grain and Feed Assoc.Convention	Orlando, FL	www.ngfa.org (202) 289-0873
Mar. 9-10	National Waterways Conference on FY 1999 Civil Works Funding	Washington, DC	www.waterways.org
May 4-6	American Feed Industry Assn. Annual Convention	Dallas, TX	(703) 524-0810
June 1-3	National Corn Growers Association & Corn Refiners Association- Corn Utilization & Technology	St. Louis, MO	(202) 331-1634

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<b>Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings</b>				
Delivery for:	Apr-98		May-98	
	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
<b>BNSF-COT</b>	19,891	10%	21,529	5%
<b>UP-GCAS</b>	5,400	0%	5,400	0%

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA; www.bnsf.com; www.uprr.com

<b>Secondary Rail Car Market</b>				
Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week				
	<b>Delivery Period</b>			
	Mar-98	Apr-98	May-98	Jun-98
BNSF-COT	\$(278)	\$(231)	\$(210)	\$(133)
CP-GEEP	\$(158)	\$(149)	\$(112)	\$(100)
UP-Pool		\$(121)	\$(121)	\$(80)

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from Atwood/ConAgra., Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.;

GF=Guaranteed Freight, GEEP=Guaranteed Eqpt. Exchange, Pool=Guaranteed Pool

*note... bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices, missing value=No Bid Quoted*

<b>Railroad Car 'Auction' Results</b>			
Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Auction			
Delivery for:	Apr-98	Jun-98	Jul-98
COT/N. Wheat	no bid	no bid	no bid
COT/S. Corn	no bid	no bid	no bid
GCAS/Region 2	no bid		
GCAS/Region 4	no bid		

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from [www.bnsf.com](http://www.bnsf.com), [www.uprr.com](http://www.uprr.com), (COT=Certificate of Transportation; GCAS=Grain Car Allocation System)

**Southbound Barge Freight Contract Rates\***

Index=Percent of Tariff, Based on 1976 Tariff Benchmark Rate

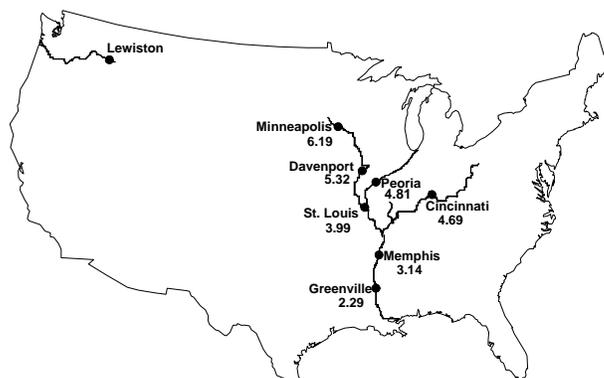
Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	Rate
2/13/98	no trades reported		

<b>Southbound Barge Freight Rates</b>				
	2/18/98	2/11/98	Mar-98	May-98
Twin Cities	nq	nq	149	140
Mid-Mississippi	nq	nq	126	118
Illinois River	102	107	110	111
St. Louis-Cairo	83	86	92	93
Lower Ohio	100	106	104	105
Cairo-Memphis	83	86	86	88

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA  
nq- no quote

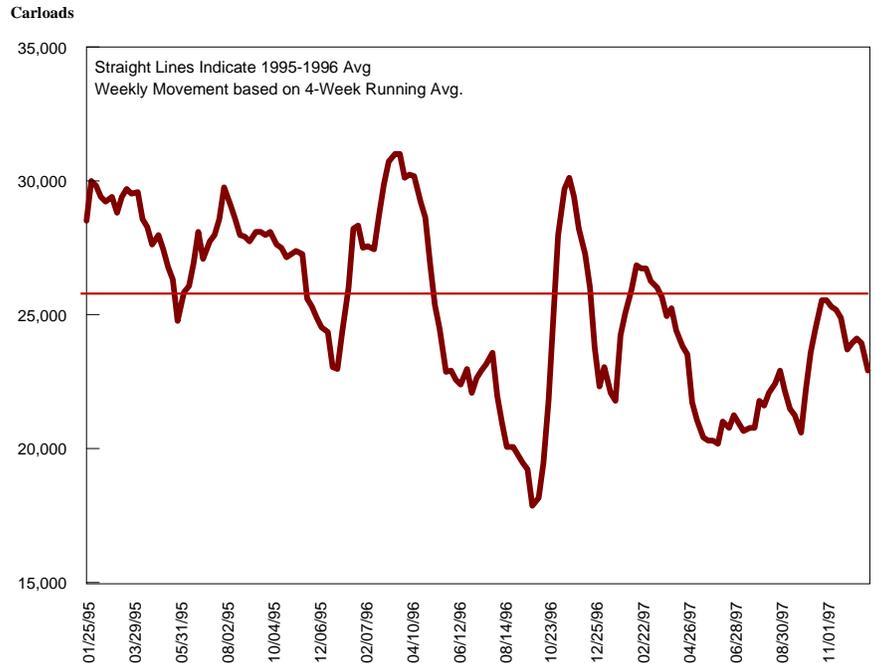
\* Merchants Exchange of St. Louis Daily Barge Call Session

**Barge Benchmark Tariff Rates  
Est. 1976 - 'Tariff No. 7'**



**Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads**

<b>Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings</b>	
Week Ending:	Carloads
1/31/98	24,320
2/7/98	26,434
2/14/98	24,600
Year to Date - 1998	150,039
Year to Date - 1997	150,499
Total 1997	1,199,995
Total 1996	1,235,123
Source: American Association of Railroads	



**Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin**

Carloads

			<u>East</u>		<u>West</u>			<u>Canada</u>	
	Conrail	CSXT	IC	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP	CN	CP
02/14/98	782	2,892	1,236	2,640	9,786	712	6,552	2,918	3,980
This Week Last Year	597	3,035	1,923	2,880	8,722	717	9,246	3,121	3,362
1998 YTD	5,007	16,185	7,533	16,064	57,973	4,237	43,040	17,153	24,399
1997 YTD	2,941	14,831	11,097	17,424	49,731	3,772	50,073	15,231	21,927
1996 Total	31,733	111,509	48,695	131,568	432,687	30,009	439,865	129,714	181,387
1995 Total	37,851	133,755	61,612	139,043	410,274	34,393	447,786		

Source: American Association of Railroads

**Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments**

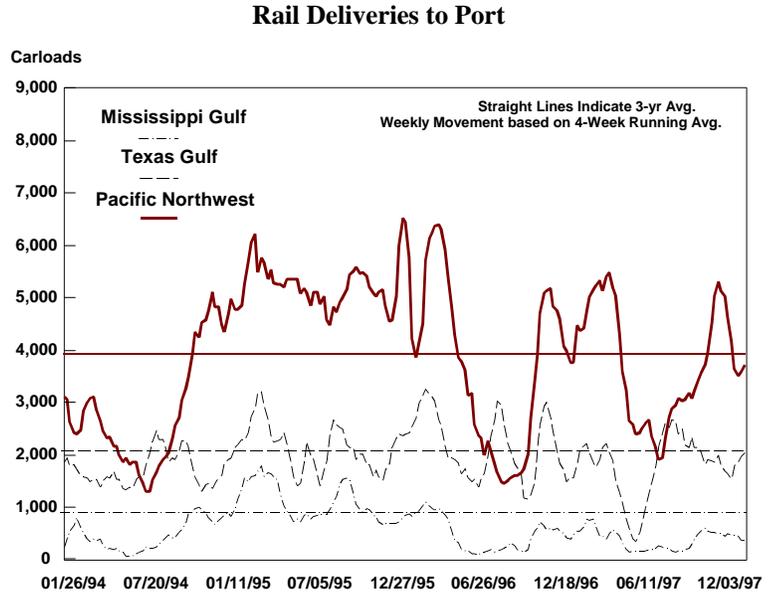
February 1998

Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
01/17/98	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,050	\$18.60	\$0.62
11/06/97	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,027	\$36.54	\$1.21
11/17/97	46531	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,450	\$13.16	\$0.44
01/13/98	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$3,812	\$34.59	\$1.14
01/13/98	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$3,505	\$31.81	\$1.05
09/16/97	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,865	\$22.87	\$0.80
01/15/98	33111	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,450	\$11.57	\$0.41
10/01/97	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$2,600	\$20.75	\$0.73
09/16/97	31040	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,485	\$19.83	\$0.70
11/16/97	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,080	\$27.95	\$0.92
11/16/97	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,780	\$25.23	\$0.83

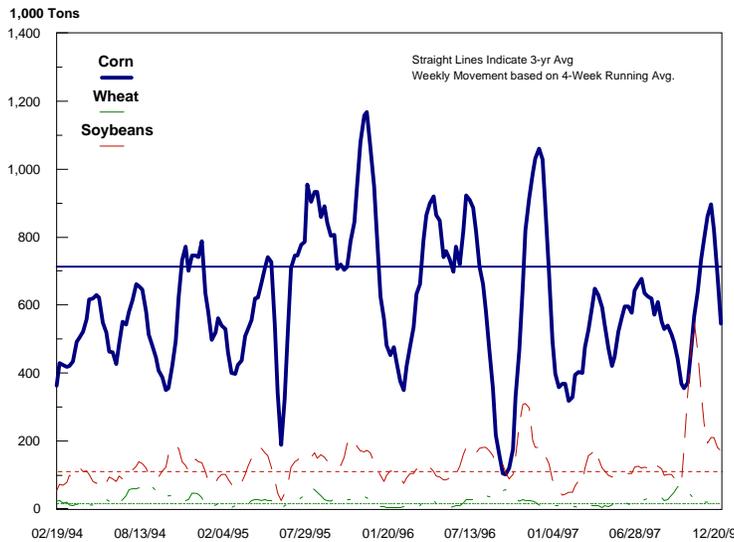
Source: www.bnsf.com

Approximate load per car = 100 tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

Rail Deliveries to Port				
Carloads				
	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
1/28/98	212	2,180	4,712	918
2/4/98	601	2,582	4,253	562
2/11/98	668	2,310	3,600	400
YTD 1998	2,620	12,855	25,281	2,356
YTD 1997	3,565	11,957	26,955	1,391
Total 1997	20,152	93,265	194,905	9,147
Total 1996	25,899	113,804	199,709	11,304
Total 1995				



Barge Movements - Locks 27



Barge Grain Movements				
for week ending 02/14/98				
	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
	1,000 Tons			
<b>Mississippi River</b>				
Rock Island, IL(L15)				closed for winter
Winfield, MO (L25)				closed for repairs
Alton, IL (MP-L26)	406	3	89	498
Granite City, IL (L27)	403	6	89	498
<b>Ill. River (L8)</b>	375	3	72	450
<b>Ohio (L52)</b>	33	0	44	159
<b>Arkansas (L1)</b>	0	12	21	33
1998 YTD	2,993	125	1,123	4,929
1997 YTD	2,883	163	809	4,762
Total 1997	29,685	2,689	9,584	45,315
Total 1996	34,210	2,348	8,297	48,963

Miss YTD: Calendar year totals include Miss/27, Ohio/52 and Ark/1.  
Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

**U.S. Export Balances\*** (1,000 Metric Tons)

	HRW	SRW	HRS	Wheat		All	Corn	Soybean	Total
				SWW	DUR				
Unshipped Exports-Crop Year									
02/12/98	1,408	374	880	522	129	3,313	6,662	3,326	13,301
This Week Year Ago	726	172	983	513	193	2,580	9,402	4,000	15,982
Cumulative Exports-Crop Year									
97/98 YTD	7,211	4,151	4,512	4,279	981	21,134	17,196	17,063	55,393
96/97 YTD	6,038	3,415	5,840	4,375	649	20,317	22,365	15,668	58,350
95/96 Total	9,867	6,792	8,918	6,443	897	32,917	55,769	23,550	112,236
94/95 Total	10,157	5,453	7,686	5,837	893	30,026	54,742	23,410	108,178

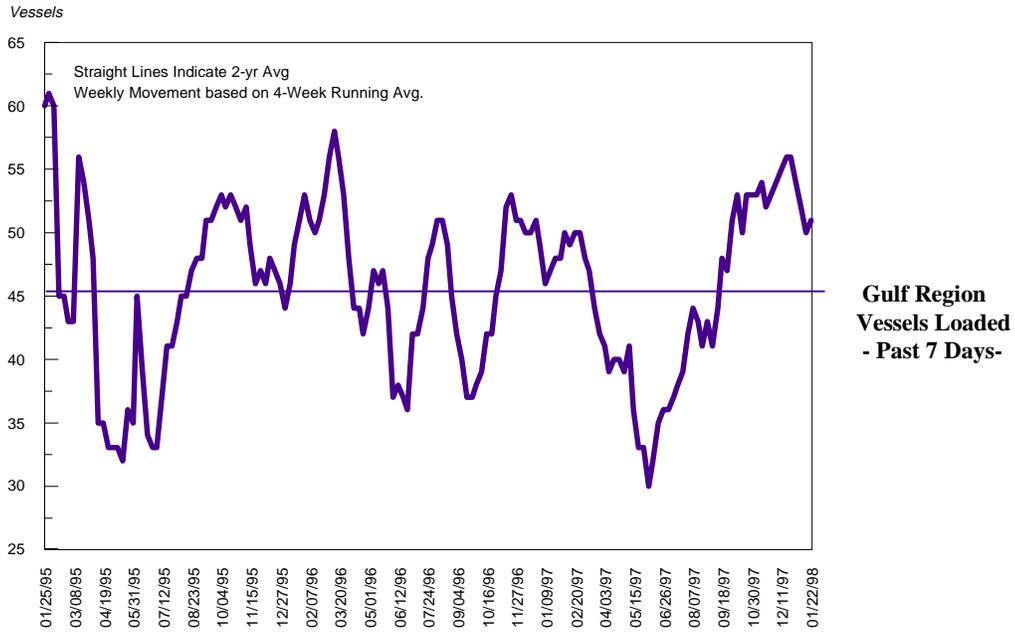
Source: Foreign Agricultural Service YTD-Year-to-Date (fas.usda.gov) Crop Year: Wheat=5/31-6/01, Corn & Soybeans=9/01-8/31

<b>Select U.S. Port Regions - Grain Inspections for Export - 1,000 Metric Tons</b>									
	Pacific Region			Mississippi Gulf			Texas Gulf		
	Wheat	Corn	Soybean	Wheat	Corn	Soybean	Wheat	Corn	Soybean
02/19/98	159	149	0	231	586	455	53	0	55
1998 YTD **	1,611	1,198	102	1,190	4,358	3,783	936	0	392
1997 YTD **	1,841	1,824	395	435	5,653	4,669	449	573	292
% of Last Year	88%	66%	26%	274%	77%	81%	209%	0%	134%
1997 Total	11,156	9,728	1,764	6,349	28,183	18,658	5,106	1,001	1,014

Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service \*Year Ago-This Week a Year Ago \*\* YTD-Year-to-Date

<b>Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections</b>			
1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year			
	Wheat	Durum	Barley
Week Ended: 2/13/98			
Vancouver	3,858	687	658
Prince Rupert	2,386	0	299
Prairie Direct	634	199	207
Thunder Bay	300	267	208
St. Lawrence	2,844	159	8
1997 YTD Exports	10,022	1,312	1,380
1996 YTD Exports	6,944	2,243	1,973
% of Last Year	144%	58%	70%

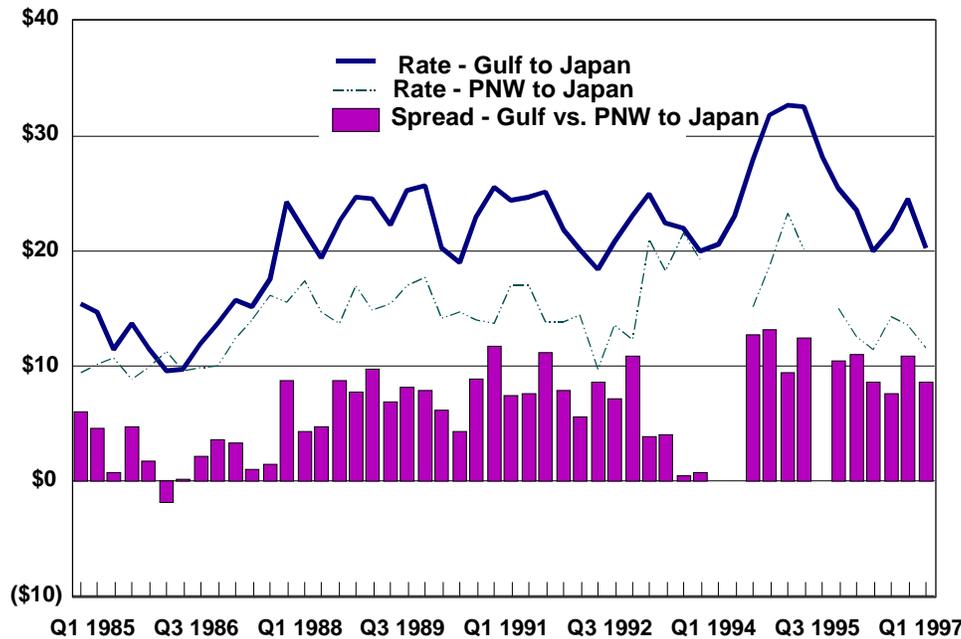
Source: Canadian Grains Commission \*Year Ago-This Week a Year Ago \*\* YTD-Year-to-Date Crop Year 8/1-7/31



<b>Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels</b>									
	<b>Gulf</b>			<b>Pacific Northwest</b>			<b>Vancouver, B.C.</b>		
	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>
02/12/98	62	56	58				11	13	8
02/19/98	56	57	66				16	7	4
1996 Range	(17..46)	(38..61)	(27..88)						
1995 Range	(11..67)	(22..64)	(31..90)						
1996 Avg	37	46	62						
1995 Avg	31	45	60						
1995 Avg	31	46	61						

Source: Transportation & Marketing - AMS - USDA

US\$/Metric Ton



Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates

Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates							
Weighted Average Rates & Vessel Size, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis							
	1997 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	1996 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	% Change		1997 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	1996 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	% Change
<b>Gulf to</b>				<b>Pacific NW to</b>			
Japan	\$22.01	\$22.64	-3%	Japan	\$13.34	\$14.66	-9%
Mexico	\$13.97	\$14.96	-7%	Red Sea/ Arabian Sea	\$20.18	\$22.74	-11%
Venezuela	\$13.59	\$12.62	8%				
N. Europe	\$11.34	\$13.28	-15%	<b>Argentina to</b>			
N. Africa	\$14.80	\$15.87	-7%	N. Europe	\$16.12	\$18.15	-11%
				Japan	\$23.23	\$30.37	14%

Source: Transportation & Marketing - AMS - USDA

Ocean Freight Rates					
Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Vessel Size (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Ton)
Gulf	Taiwan	Heavy Grains/Corn	February/March	54,000	\$16.50-\$16.75
Gulf	Japan	Heavy Grains	February/March	54,000	\$17.00-\$18.00
Gulf	China	Soybeans	February	55,000	\$16.30
Gulf	Belgium	Heavy Grains	February	57,000	\$7.75
Gulf	South Korea	Meals	Spot	45,000	\$19.50
Gulf	Barcelona	Heavy Grains	February	35,000	\$9.50
Paranagua (Brazil)	Northern Europe	Grains/Heavy Grains	February/March	30,000-52,000	\$9.50-\$13.50
South Brazil	China	Meals	March	50,000	\$21.50
River Plate (Argentina)	Lisbon/Denmark	Grains	March	30,000	\$15.75
Brazil	Spain	Grains	March	29,000	\$11.50

Source: Maritime Research Inc.