



GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture

July 06, 1998



Upcoming Events...

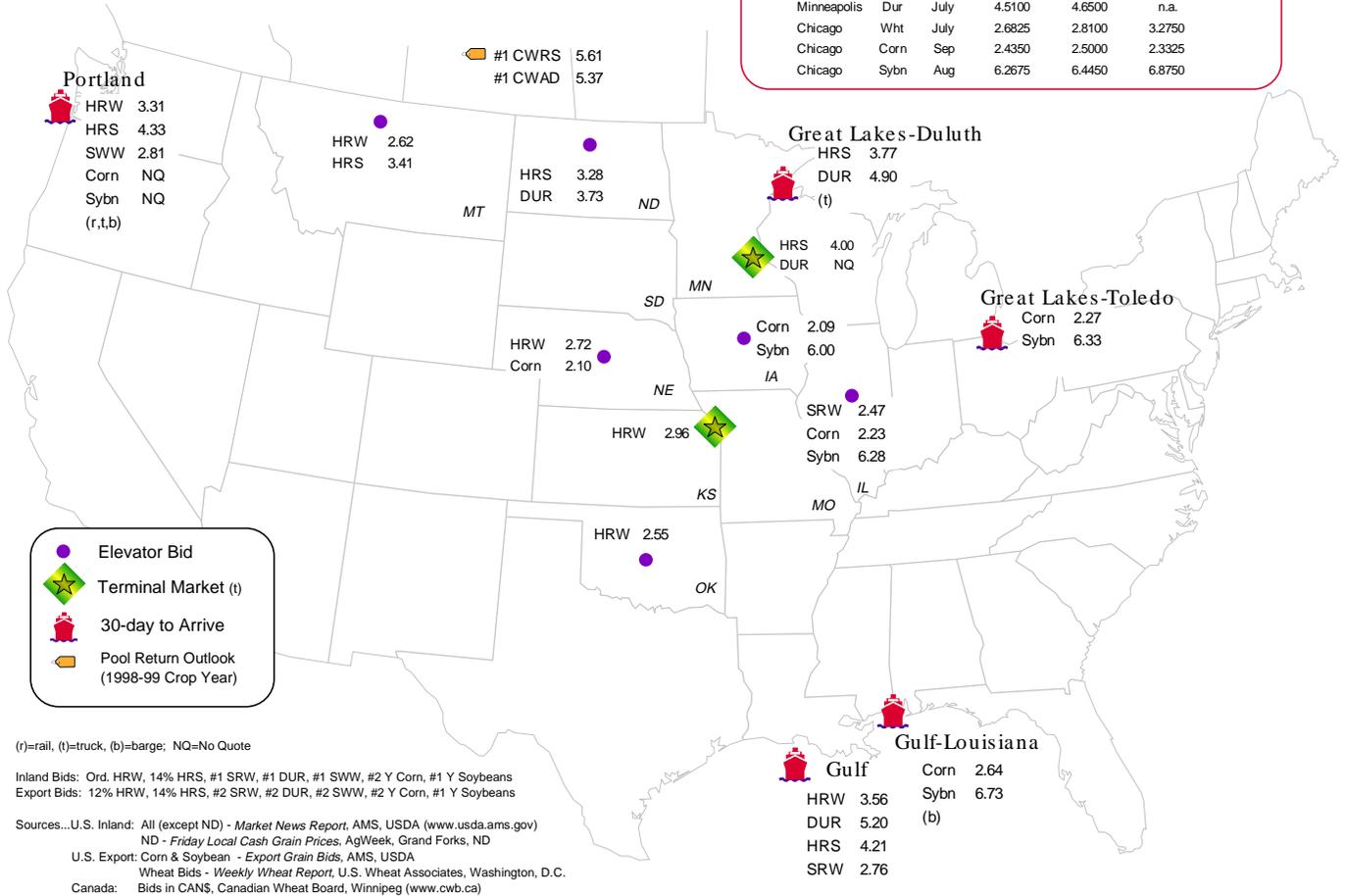
July 8	Transportation Research Forum Forum on Rail Regulation	Washington, DC	Jack Ventura 202-565-1548
July 12-14	69 th Annual Canadian Feed Industry Assn. Meeting & Convention	Ottawa, Ontario	cfia@cfia-aciaa.ca www.cfia-aciaa.ca
July 19-22	38 th Annual U.S. Feed Grains Council Board of Directors Mtg.	Minneapolis, MN	202-789-0789
July 19-22	Transportation Research Board Annual Ports, Waterways International Trade Conference	Seattle, WA	202-334-2167 phone 202-334-2030 fax
July 27-28	Agricultural Marketing Service/USDA National Summit on Agricultural Transportation	Kansas City, MO	202-690-3616
August 26-28	American Feed Industry Association VIV/AFIA Feed '98	Sao Paulo, Brazil	Rex Runyon 703-524-0810
Sept. 23-26	National Waterways Conference Annual Meeting	New Orleans, LA	goudied@waterways.org
Oct. 4-6	American Short Line Railroad Assn. Annual Meeting	Atlanta, GA	404-521-0000
Oct. 5-9	American Assn. of Port Authorities 87 th Annual Convention	Houston, TX	Elana Foster 703-706-4717
Oct. 29-31	Transportation Research Forum	Philadelphia, PA	215-884-7500 www.utexas.edu/dept/ctr/trf
Nov. 3-5	Logistics Canada Expo	Toronto, Canada	416-491-7565 www.logistics.canada?????
Dec. 7-8	National Conference For Agribusiness Purdue University	West Lafayette, IN	Shari Wall 765-494-4325

This report is prepared by Karl Hacker and Karla Martin, Agricultural Economists, Transportation & Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA (202) 690-1304. Report design by Kimberly Vachal, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University. You can retrieve this document from our Automatic Fax System by using the handset on your fax machine and dialing (202) 690-1707. This report can be found on the Internet at www.usda.gov/ams/tmd/grain.htm. E-mail comments to Nick_Marathon@USDA.gov.

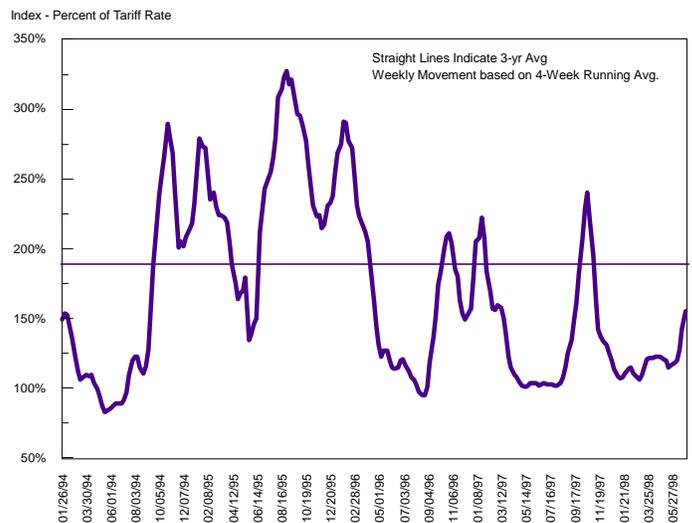
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Grain Bid Summary

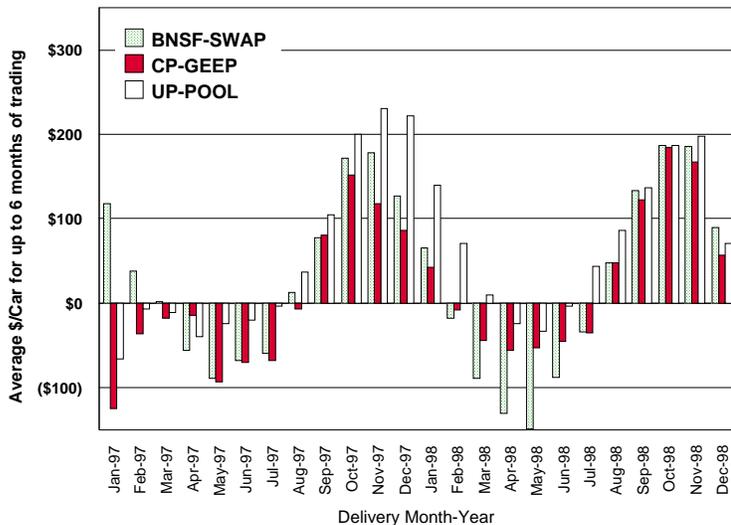
Futures:				Week Ago	Year Ago
			07/02/98	06/26/98	07/03/98
Kansas City	Wht	July	2.9200	3.1000	3.2500
Minneapolis	Wht	July	3.5025	3.5650	3.6500
Minneapolis	Dur	July	4.5100	4.6500	n.a.
Chicago	Wht	July	2.6825	2.8100	3.2750
Chicago	Corn	Sep	2.4350	2.5000	2.3325
Chicago	Sybn	Aug	6.2675	6.4450	6.8750



Spot Barge Rate - Illinois River



Secondary Rail Market Bids



See the Grain Trax page at www.ugpti.org for more graphs of rail premiums.

Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings				
Delivery for:	Aug-98		Oct-98	
	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
BNSF-COT	6,508	81%	5,645	52%
UP-GCAS	5,400	84%	5,400	0%

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

Secondary Rail Car Market				
Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week				
	Delivery Period			
	Jul-98	Aug-98	Sep-98	Oct-98
BNSF-COT	\$7	\$51	\$116	\$163
CP-GEEP	\$1	\$27	\$80	\$125
UP-Pool	\$96	\$109	\$126	\$145

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

Railroad Car 'Auction' Results			
Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Auction			
Delivery for:	Aug-98	Oct-98	Nov-98
COT/N. Grain	\$11	\$197	\$179
COT/S. Grain	\$50	\$220	\$183
GCAS/Region 2	\$76	no offer	no offer
GCAS/Region 4	no offer	no offer	no offer

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

Southbound Barge Freight Nominal Values*

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

Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	Rate
7/2/98	Ohio River	twk	140

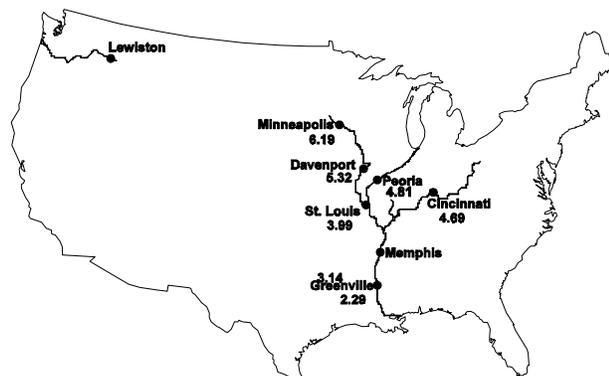
*Summary Of Daily Barge Trades Reported To St. Louis Merchants Exchange.

twk=this week
nwk=next week

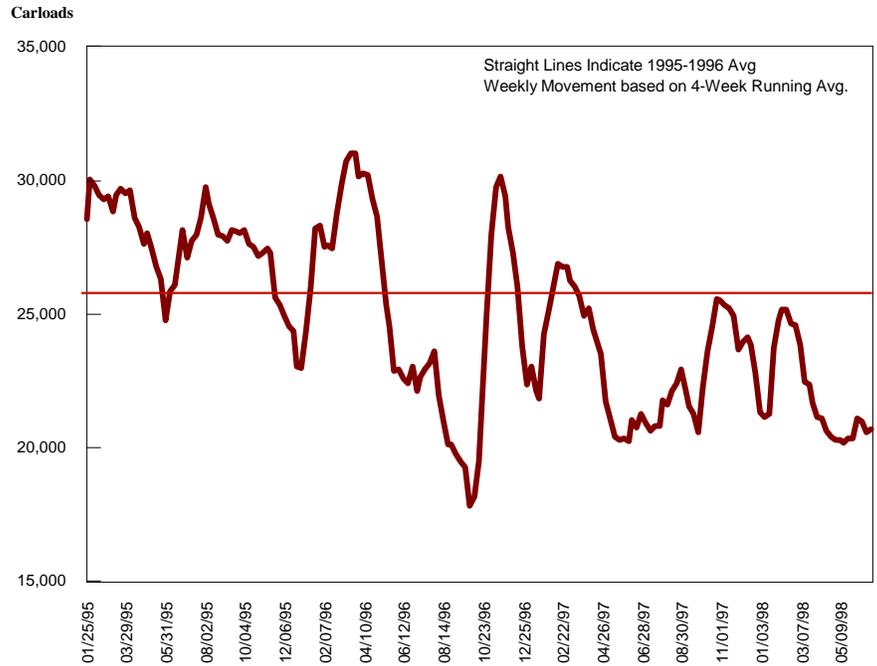
Southbound Barge Freight Spot Rates				
	7/2/98	6/24/98	Aug'98	Oct'98
Twin Cities	210	217	210	270
Mid-Mississippi	175	178	170	235
Illinois River	170	173	170	230
St. Louis-Cairo	135	142	130	205
Lower Ohio	140	128	140	230
Cairo-Memphis	130	127	130	205

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

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



Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads



Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
6/13/98	19,924
6/20/98	19,652
6/27/98	21,216
Year to Date - 1998	550,800
Year to Date - 1997	588,562
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
06/27/98	587	2,193	1,711	2,217	7,014	555	6,939	1,275	3,593
This Week Last Year	366	2,071	1,362	2,187	6,686	526	7,262	3,543	6,380
1998 YTD	16,831	60,363	36,394	63,493	199,673	16,091	157,955	59,934	102,369
1997 YTD	12,687	59,142	40,016	61,249	196,446	17,332	197,721	76,792	119,683
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

July 1998

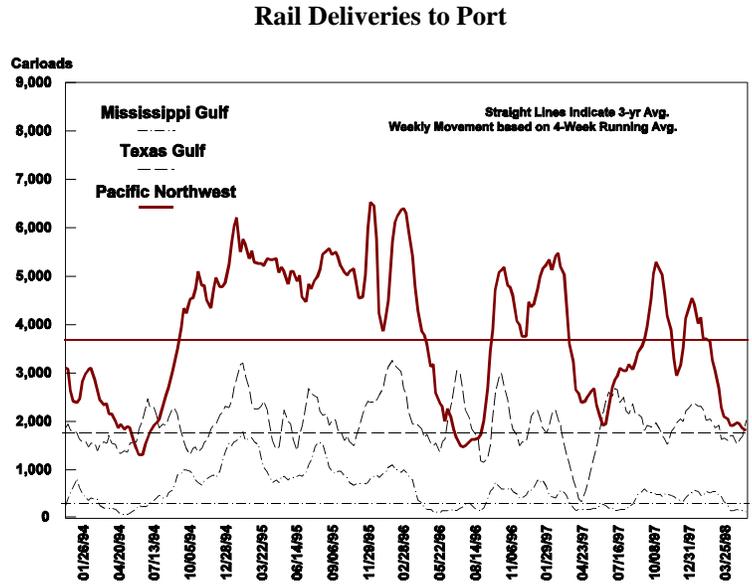
Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
05/01/98	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,050	\$18.60	\$0.62
05/01/98	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,027	\$36.54	\$1.21
05/01/98	46540	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,450	\$13.16	\$0.44
05/01/98	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$3,812	\$34.59	\$1.14
05/01/98	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$3,505	\$31.81	\$1.05
05/01/98	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,865	\$22.87	\$0.80
05/01/98	33111	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,600	\$12.77	\$0.45
05/01/98	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$2,600	\$20.75	\$0.73
05/01/98	31040	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,485	\$19.83	\$0.70
05/01/98	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,080	\$27.95	\$0.92
05/01/98	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,780	\$25.23	\$0.83

Source: www.bnsf.com

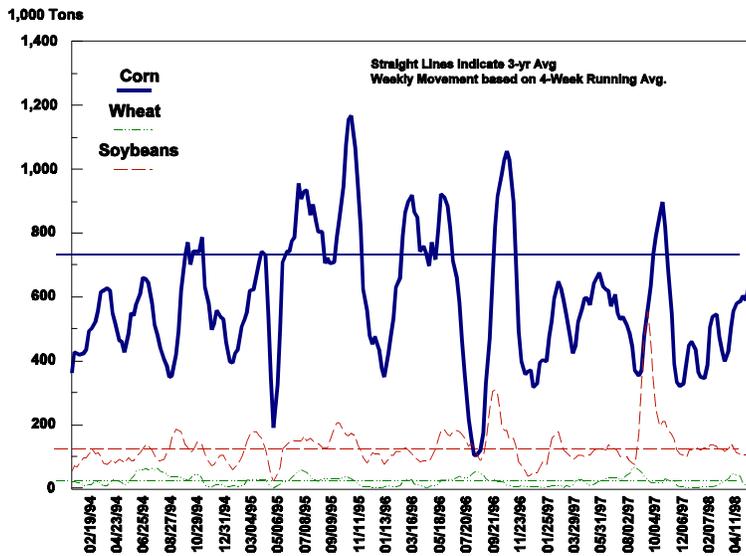
Approximate load per car = 100 tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

Rail Deliveries to Port				
Carloads				
	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
06/10/98	67	1,924	1,738	145
06/17/98	71	2,120	1,691	35
06/24/98	86	2,643	1,543	46
YTD 1998	8,983	49,281	73,893	5,995
YTD 1997	10,493	36,504	102,230	3,136
Total 1997	20,152	93,265	195,953	9,147
Total 1996	25,899	113,804	199,709	11,304

Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA



Barge Movements - Locks 27



Barge Grain Movements				
for week ending 06/13/98				
	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
1,000 Tons				
Mississippi River				
Rock Island, IL (L15)	385	17	33	435
Winfield, MO (L25)	455	43	59	557
Alton, IL (L26)	768	48	134	950
Granite City, IL (L27)	719	48	144	911
Illinois River (L8)	217	1	52	270
Ohio (L52)	26	3	10	69
Arkansas (L1)	3	44	0	47
1998 YTD	12,950	914	3,894	19,424
1997 YTD	13,840	727	3,555	19,999
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)

	<i>HRW</i>	<i>SRW</i>	<i>HRS</i>	<u>Wheat</u>		<i>All</i>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soybean</u>	<u>Total</u>
				<i>SWW</i>	<i>DUR</i>				
<u>Unshipped Exports-Crop Year</u>									
06/25/98	1,698	229	937	593	254	3,710	6,235	1,945	11,890
This Week Year Ago	2,081	1,048	955	781	371	5,236	9,166	4,545	18,947
<u>Cumulative Exports-Crop Year</u>									
97/98 YTD	683	152	430	171	32	1,468	29,928	22,898	54,294
96/97 YTD	452	78	503	366	75	1,473	37,731	22,768	61,972
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

Select U.S. Port Regions - Grain Inspections for Export - 1,000 Metric Tons

	<u>Pacific Region</u>			<u>Mississippi Gulf</u>			<u>Texas Gulf</u>		
	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>
07/02/98	129	0	0	70	668	136	146	11	0
1998 YTD **	4,743	3,128	402	2,585	13,691	7,529	3,250	201	580
1997 YTD **	5,786	5,917	914	1,907	14,736	8,747	1,419	944	422
% of Last Year	82%	53%	44%	136%	93%	86%	229%	21%	137%
1997 Total	11,156	9,728	1,764	6,349	28,183	18,658	5,106	1,001	1,014

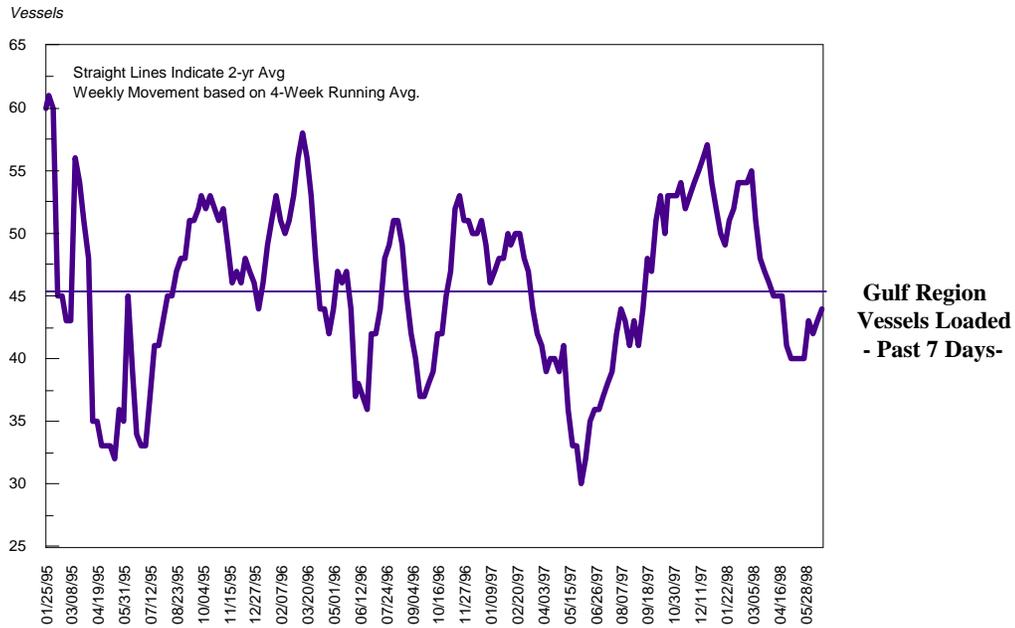
Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service *Year Ago-This Week a Year Ago ** YTD-Year-to-Date

Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections

1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

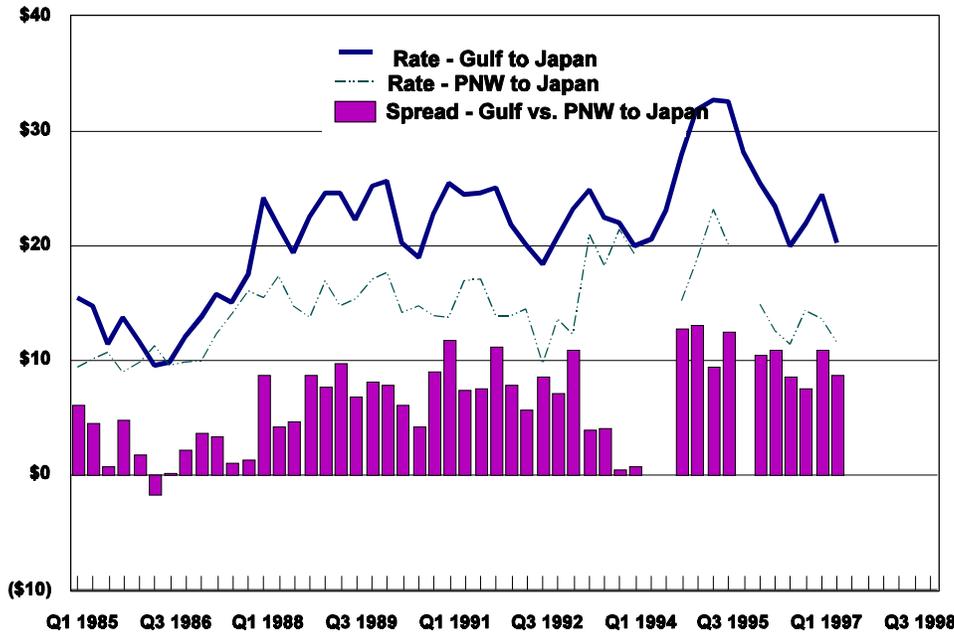
	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Durum</u>	<u>Barley</u>
Week Ended: 06/25/98			
Vancouver	5,987	1,206	998
Prince Rupert	3,720	31	392
Prairie Direct	1,019	356	432
Thunder Bay	552	319	303
St. Lawrence	3,361	2,018	7
1997 YTD Exports	14,639	3,930	2,132
1996 YTD Exports	13,082	3,640	3,153
% of Last Year	112%	108%	68%

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



Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels									
	Gulf			Pacific Northwest			Vancouver, B.C.		
	<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>
06/25/98	27	40	59	7			10	5	5
07/02/98	29	47	58	6			4	9	2
1997 Range	(11..52)	(25..61)	(31..89)						
1996 Range	(17..46)	(38..61)	(27..88)						
1997 Avg	33	45	58						
1996 Avg	38	46	62						
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										
		1998	1997	%		1998	1997	%		
		1 st Qtr	1 st Qtr	Change		1 st Qtr	1 st Qtr	Change		
Gulf to	Japan	\$18.24	\$25.29	-28%	Pacific NW to	Japan	\$10.08	\$15.08	-33%	
	Mexico	\$12.15	\$17.99	-32%		Red Sea/ Arabian Sea	\$20.17			
	Venezuela	\$11.13	\$16.73	-33%		Argentina to	N. Europe	\$12.32	\$17.98	-31%
	N. Europe	\$9.85	\$12.60	-22%			Japan	\$20.93	\$33.64	-38%
	N. Africa	\$14.65	\$18.84	-22%						

Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA

Ocean Freight Rates					
Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Volume Loaded (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Ton)
St Lawrence	So. Africa	Wheat	July	34,000	\$14.50
Gulf	Algeria	Heavy Grains	July	25,000	\$16.00-16.75
Gulf	Cigading (Indonesia)	Grains/Heavy Grains	July	34,500-60,000	\$17.39
Gulf	Denmark	Grains	July	24,000	\$10.10
Gulf	Taiwan	Heavy Grains	July	57,000	\$13.25
Gulf	Japan	Soybeans	July	40,000	\$12.50
Gulf	Japan	Heavy Grains	July/August	40,000-54,000	\$13.00-14.75
River Plate/So. Brazil	China	Grains	July	50,000	\$14.00-18.00
Ilichevsk (Ukraine)	So. Korea	Wheat	July	55,000	\$12.25

Source: Maritime Research Inc.