



GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture

October 6, 1997

Dear Subscriber:

We at USDA's Transportation and Marketing Division, in collaboration with the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, have revised our longtime publication, the weekly *Grain Transportation Report*.

We have significantly changed the format and added data and information to increase the report's readability and usefulness. The revisions are based on a subscriber survey and input received from a meeting with representatives of various sectors of the grain and transportation industries.

New features include railcar auction and rail bid data, national grain bids, barge rates, tariff rail rates, and worldwide ocean freight rates. We have also included more graphs, maps, and charts to convey more information in less space.

We will continue to provide rail carload information, rail deliveries to ports, ocean grain freight rates, numbers of vessels in port, and the quantity of grain to be exported, but in a more effective manner.

The report will still be available through our Fax-back system. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this system, you may retrieve the report by dialing 202-690-1707 from the handset of your fax machine. A new report is loaded onto the system each Tuesday by 12 p.m. (ET).

Thank you for your continued interest in the *Grain Transportation Report*. The Transportation and Marketing Division strives to provide you with information to help you operate more effectively and efficiently. Whatever your affiliation with the grain industry, we hope we can keep you informed on the current status, trends, and latest developments in grain transportation.

When you've reviewed the new report, please send your comments and suggestions to:

Karl_D_Hacker@USDA.gov

or

Bill_Dunton@USDA.gov

or

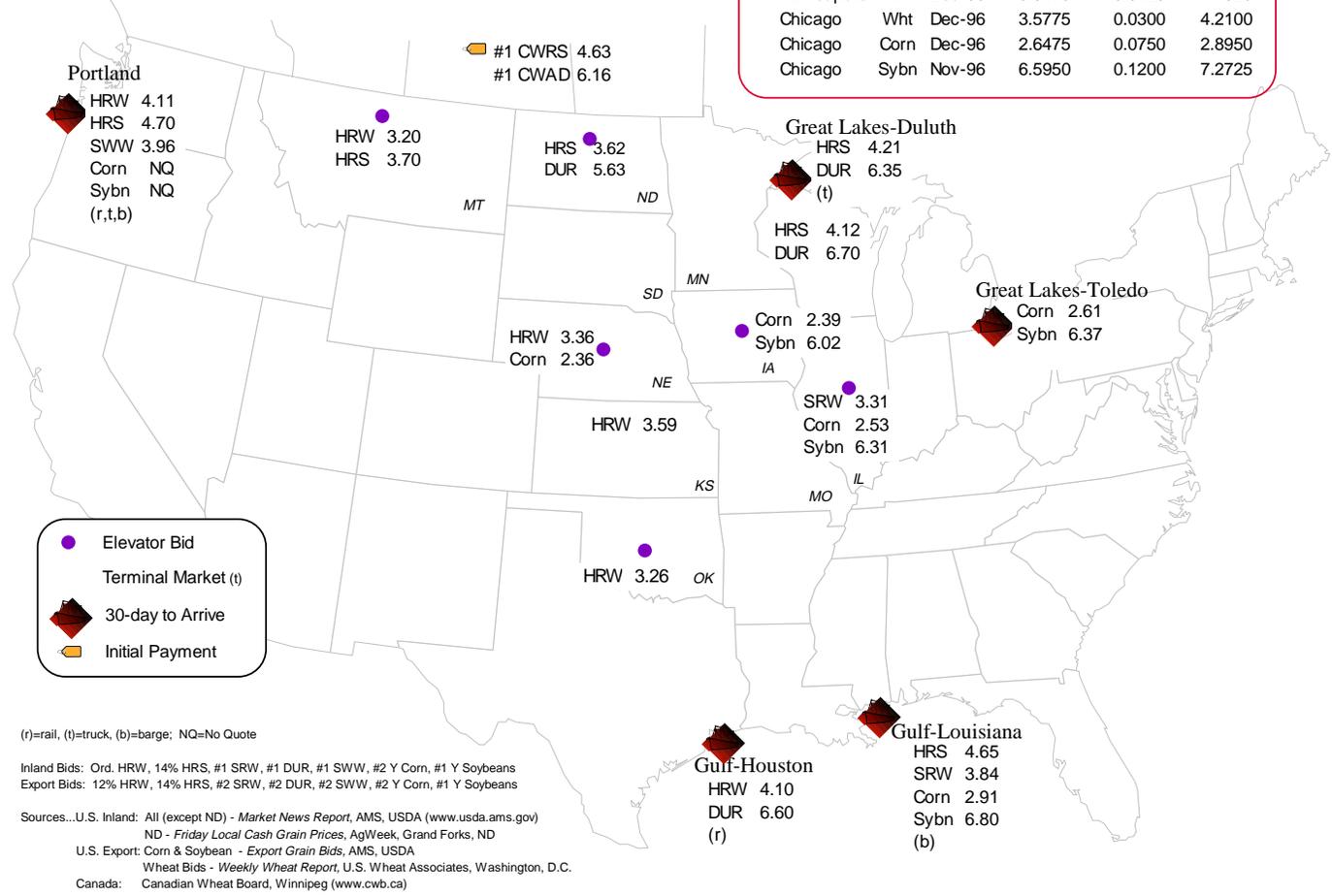
Nick_Marathon@USDA.gov

This report is prepared by Karl Hacker, Agricultural Economist, Bill Dunton, Traffic Management Specialist, Nick Marathon, and Paul Bertels, Agricultural Economists, AMS, Transportation and Marketing Division - (202)690-1303. You can retrieve this document from our Automatic Fax System by using the handset on your fax machine and dialing (202)690-1707. Reach us on the Internet at www.usda.gov/ams/grain.htm.

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Grain Bid Summary

Futures:		10/03/97	Change	10/02/97	Year Ago
Kansas City	Wht Dec-96	3.6800	0.0400	4.3450	
Minneapolis	Wht Dec-96	3.9475	0.0425	4.1825	
Chicago	Wht Dec-96	3.5775	0.0300	4.2100	
Chicago	Corn Dec-96	2.6475	0.0750	2.8950	
Chicago	Sybn Nov-96	6.5950	0.1200	7.2725	



Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings				
Delivery for:	Nov-97		Jan-98	
	Offered	% Sold	Offered	% Sold
BNSF-COT	23,546	96%	20,191	29%
UP-GCAS	5,400	100%		

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

Secondary Rail Car Market				
Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week				
	Delivery Period			
	Oct-97	Nov-97	Dec-97	Jan-98
BNSF-COT	\$278	\$215	\$163	\$160
CP-GEEP	\$169	\$109	\$117	\$125
UP-Pool	\$350	\$288	\$267	\$250

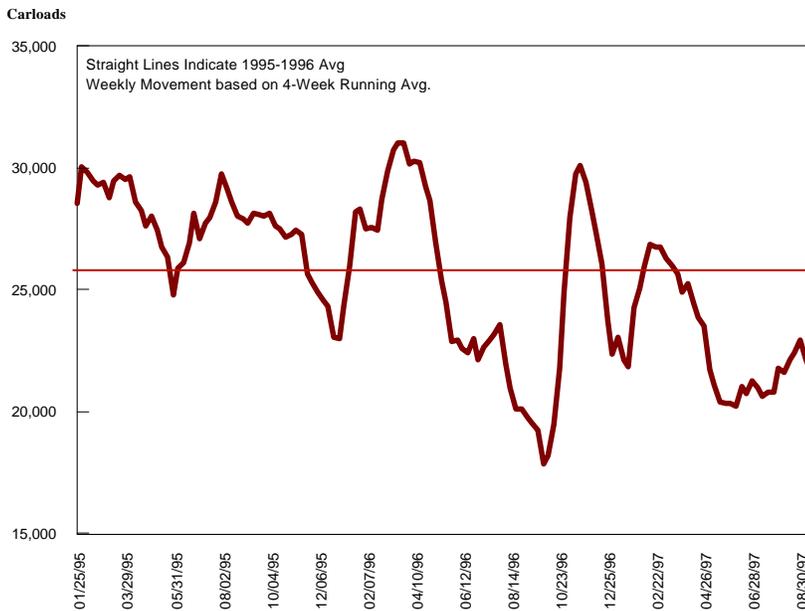
Source: TMD/ERS/USDA. Data from Atwood-Kellogg Co., Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.;
 GF=Guaranteed Freight, GEEP=Guaranteed Eqpt. Exchange, Pool=Guaranteed Pool

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:	Dec-97	Jan -98	Feb.-98
COT/N. Wheat	\$67	\$83	\$72
COT/S. Corn	\$177	\$158	\$130
GCAS/Region 2	\$181		
GCAS/Region 4	\$208		

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

Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads



Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
9/13/97	20,539
09/20/97	21,643
09/27/97	22,168
Year to Date - 1997	890,200
Year to Date - 1996	972,100
Total 1996	1,284,527
Total 1995	1,428,694

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
09/27/97	365	1,450	1,351	2,387	9,928	664	5,996	3,742	5,832
This Week Last Year	268	1,538	940	2,247	7,109	356	4,263	3,639	5,688
1997 YTD	18,669	80,869	58,097	87,828	316,825	25,297	296,985	128,848	201,082
1996 YTD	18,314	78,719	56,525	85,063	308,744	24,789	289,568	127,031	198,475
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

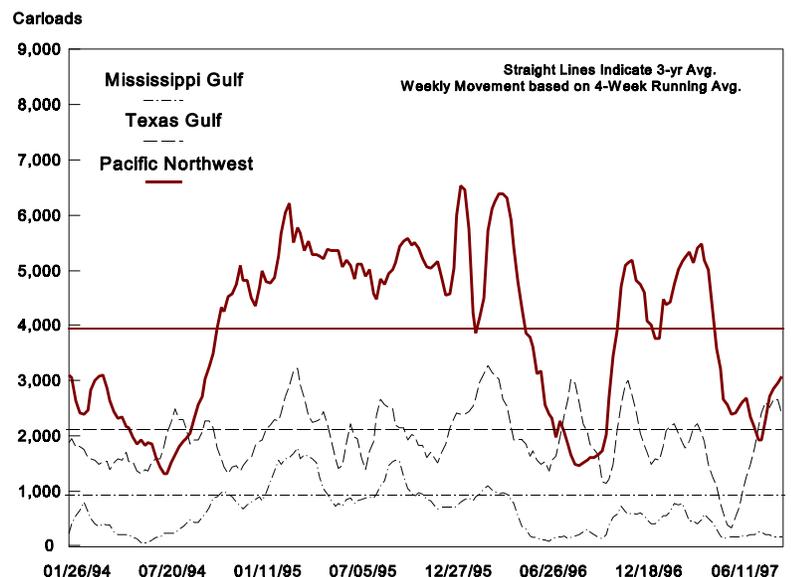
Rail Deliveries to Port

Carloads

	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
09/10/97	186	2,454	3,266	61
09/17/97	282	2,082	2,527	69
09/24/97	271	2,210	3,274	47
YTD 1997	13,507	68,298	138,634	4,653
YTD 1996	18,822	85,931	143,738	8,412
Total 1996	25,560	112,397	197,897	11,090
Total 1995	57,124	111,028	268,783	15,437

Source: Transportation & Marketing Division/AMS/USDA
YTD-Year-to-Date

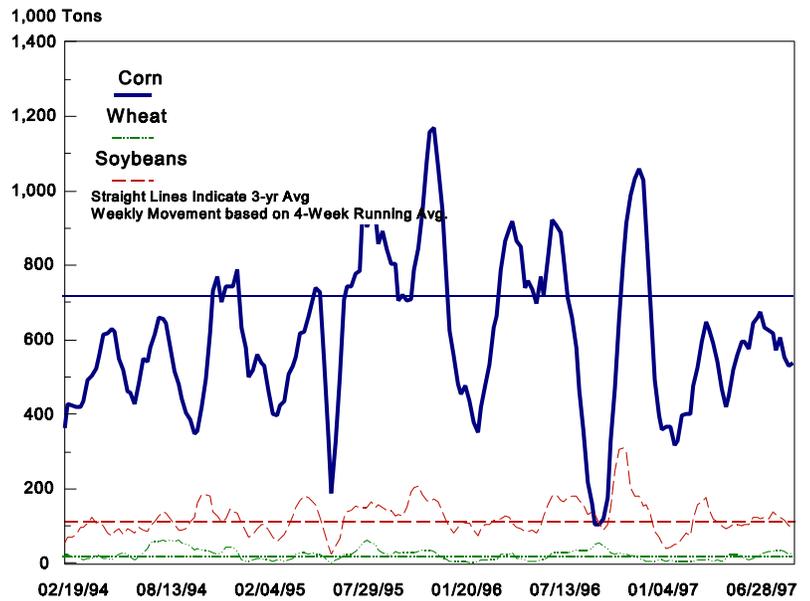
Rail Deliveries to Port



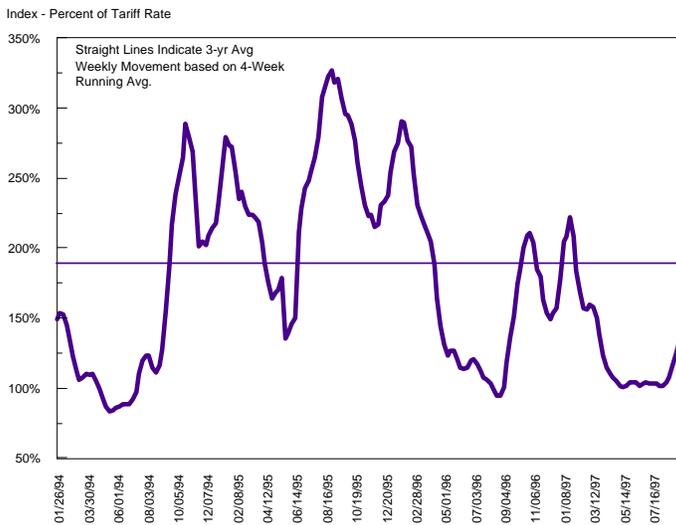
Barge Grain Movements				
for week ending 9/27/97				
	Corn	Wheat	Sybn	Total
	1,000 Tons			
Mississippi River				
Rock Island, IL (L 15)	158	54	6	219
Winfield, MO (L 25)	276	53	36	367
Alton, IL (L 26)	266	58	57	382
Granite City, IL (L 27)	281	73	62	417
Illinois River (L 8)	28	0	11	39
Ohio River(L 52)	17	22	6	100
Arkansas River (L 1)	0	48	0	48
1997 YTD	20,969	2,086	5,032	30,457
1996 YTD	23,983	1,921	5,306	34,188
Total 1996	34,210	2,348	8,297	48,963
Total 1995	38,327	2,388	7,877	54,433

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

Barge Movements - Lock 27



Spot Barge Rate - Illinois River



Southbound Barge Freight Spot Rates

	10/1/97	9/24/97	Nov-97	Jan-98
Twin Cities	260	218	269	nq
Mid-Mississippi	244	198	210	nq
Illinois River	229	180	188	200
St. Louis-Cairo	208	208	163	118
Lower Ohio	238	238	184	133
Cairo-Memphis	196	196	155	113

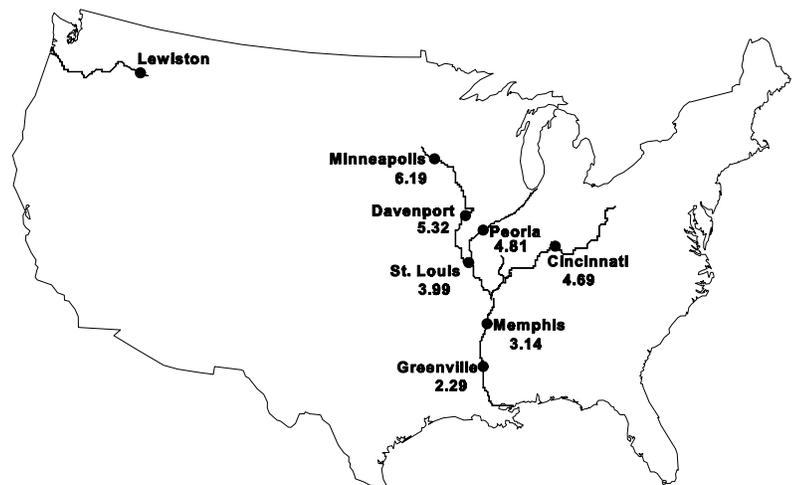
Source: Transportation & Marketing Division/AMS/USDA
nq- not quote

Southbound Barge Freight Contract Rates*

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

Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	Rate
9/3/97	Mid-Miss	April 98	160

* Merchants Exchange of St. Louis Daily Barge Call Session



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

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

	<u>Wheat</u>						<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soybean</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<i>HRW</i>	<i>SRW</i>	<i>HRS</i>	<i>SWW</i>	<i>DUR</i>	<i>All</i>			
Unshipped Exports-Crop Year									
09/26/97	2,040	835	945	658	442	4,920	7,693	9,804	22,417
This Week Year Ago	1,245	513	1,615	720	205	4,297	14,714	5,382	24,393
Cumulative Exports-Crop Year									
96/97 YTD	3,481	2,287	2,288	1,800	391	10,247	2,910	678	13,835
95/96 YTD	3,999	2,883	2,607	2,007	346	11,842	1,860	1,001	14,703
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: Federal Grain Inspection Service YTD-Year-to-Date (ffas.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>
09/18/97	214	111	0	176	812	144	151	8	0
1997 YTD **	7,936	7,757	939	4,385	20,584	10,461	3,541	958	428
1996 YTD **	9,713	7,345	1,379	5,840	25,352	10,764	6,362	694	386
% of Last Year	82%	106%	68%	75%	81%	97%	56%	138%	111%
1996 Total	12,803	10,550	1,820	7,207	36,634	17,687	7,766	1,226	772

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

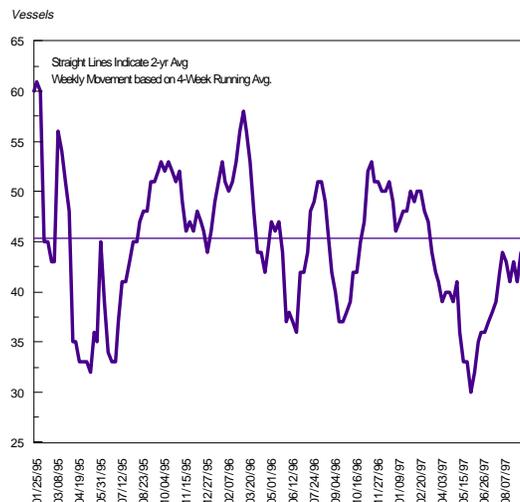
Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections

1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Durum</u>	<u>Barley</u>
Vancouver	1,250	144	197
Prince Rupert	561	0	71
Prairie Direct	209	57	31
Thunder Bay	130	185	63
St. Lawrence	1,027	246	0
1997 YTD Exports	3,177	632	362
1996 YTD Exports	1,703	722	274
% of Last Year	187%	88%	132%

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

Gulf Region Vessels Loaded - Past 7 Days-

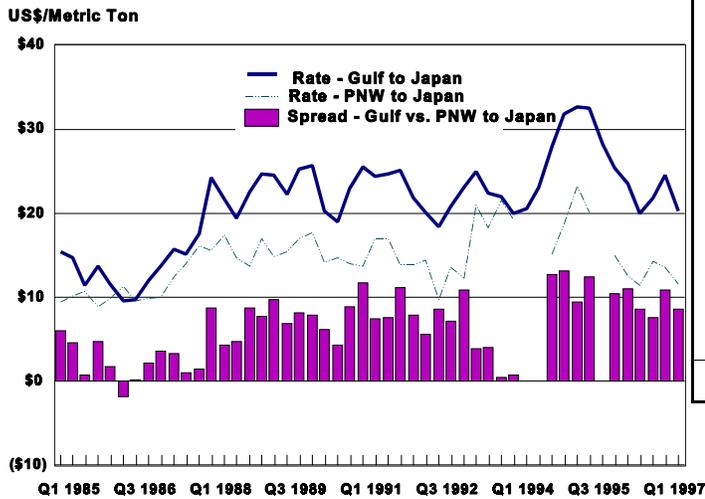


Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels

	<u>Gulf</u>			<u>Pacific Northwest</u>			<u>Vancouver, B.C.</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>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>
	09/18/97	35	56	64	0	0	0	0	0
09/25/97	52	48	56	0	0	0	0	0	0
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						

Source: Transportation & Marketing Division/AMS/USDA

Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates



Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates

Weighted Average Rates, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis

	1996 1 st Qtr	1997 1 st Qtr	% Change		1996 1 st Qtr	1997 1 st Qtr	% Change
Gulf to				Pacific NW to			
Japan	\$25.09	\$24.52	-2%	Japan	\$14.09	\$13.61	-3%
Korea	\$23.63			Korea	\$12.94	\$12.06	-7%
Taiwan	\$23.81	\$23.54	-1%	Taiwan	\$14.31	\$15.06	5%
Rotterdam	\$11.53	\$11.78	2%				
N. Africa	\$18.91	\$21.86	16%	Argentina to			
Venezuela	\$17.06	\$16.24	-5%	Japan	\$24.47	\$34.70	42%
Mexico	\$22.18	\$10.83	-51%	Rotterdam	\$22.18	\$15.62	-30%

Source: TMD/AMS/USDA metric ton = 2,204.62 pounds

Ocean Freight Rates

Export Region	Import Region	Month	Vessel Size (deadwt. tons)	Freight Rate \$/ long ton
Lakes	Spain	October	23,000	\$23.00
Lakes	Italy	October	22,000	\$24.00
Lakes	Tunisia	October	25,000	\$25.00
Gulf	Morocco	October	30,000	\$11.75
Gulf	Rotterdam	October	35,000	\$11.60
Gulf	Japan	October	54,000	\$22.00
Gulf	Taiwan	October	54,000	\$21.90

Source: Maritime Research Inc. long ton = 2,240 pounds

Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments
October 1997

Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
05/24/97	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,588	\$23.48	\$0.78
10/02/97	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,241	\$38.48	\$1.27
09/25/97	46531	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,350	\$12.25	\$0.41
08/15/96	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$3,491	\$31.68	\$1.05
07/13/97	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$3,205	\$29.08	\$0.96
09/16/97	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,865	\$22.87	\$0.80
09/16/97	33110	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,500	\$11.97	\$0.42
10/01/97	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$2,600	\$20.75	\$0.73
09/16/97	31030	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,915	\$23.26	\$0.82
09/13/97	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,980	\$27.04	\$0.89
09/13/97	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,680	\$24.32	\$0.80

Approximate Load/Car = 100 tons

*Est. with Wheat=60 lb/bu; Corn=56 lb/bu; Soybean=60 lb/bu

Source: www.bnsf.com