



GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture



MARCH 5, 2002

Slight Drop in Diesel Fuel Prices. The average nationwide retail price of diesel fuel as of February 25 was \$1.154 per gallon, down slightly from \$1.156 per gallon on February 19, according to the Department of Energy. This is the second straight week of declining prices as abundant supplies counterbalanced concerns about potential Middle East conflicts. Fuel is one of the most important and unpredictable expenses for the trucking industry, making the price of diesel and gasoline critically important to the cost of providing transportation services.

The highest cost for fuel was in the West Coast's California area where a gallon of diesel sold for \$1.296 per gallon. The lowest price for diesel fuel was along the Gulf Coast, where the price was \$1.126 per gallon. (USDA, Transportation Services Program, John Batson, John.Batson@usda.gov)

Costly Security Measures for Truck Drivers at U.S. Ports. Ports across the country are requiring truck drivers who call at ports to present port-specific identification (ID) badges, even when the ports are located within the same State. In addition to the application process being time consuming, it costs between \$50 and \$100. Some trucking associations are advocating uniform application systems within individual States. Since drivers with prior criminal records will not qualify for the ID cards, unions fear that these new security procedures may result in many drivers losing their jobs.

In 2001, nearly 900,000 containers of agricultural products were exported through U.S. ports. The vast majority of these containers arrive at our ports via truck. The additional IDs may result in fewer truck drivers due to stringent background checks and costly application fees. This will put pressure on agricultural producers who need to get their products to the ports. (USDA, Transportation Services Program, April Taylor, April.Taylor@usda.gov)

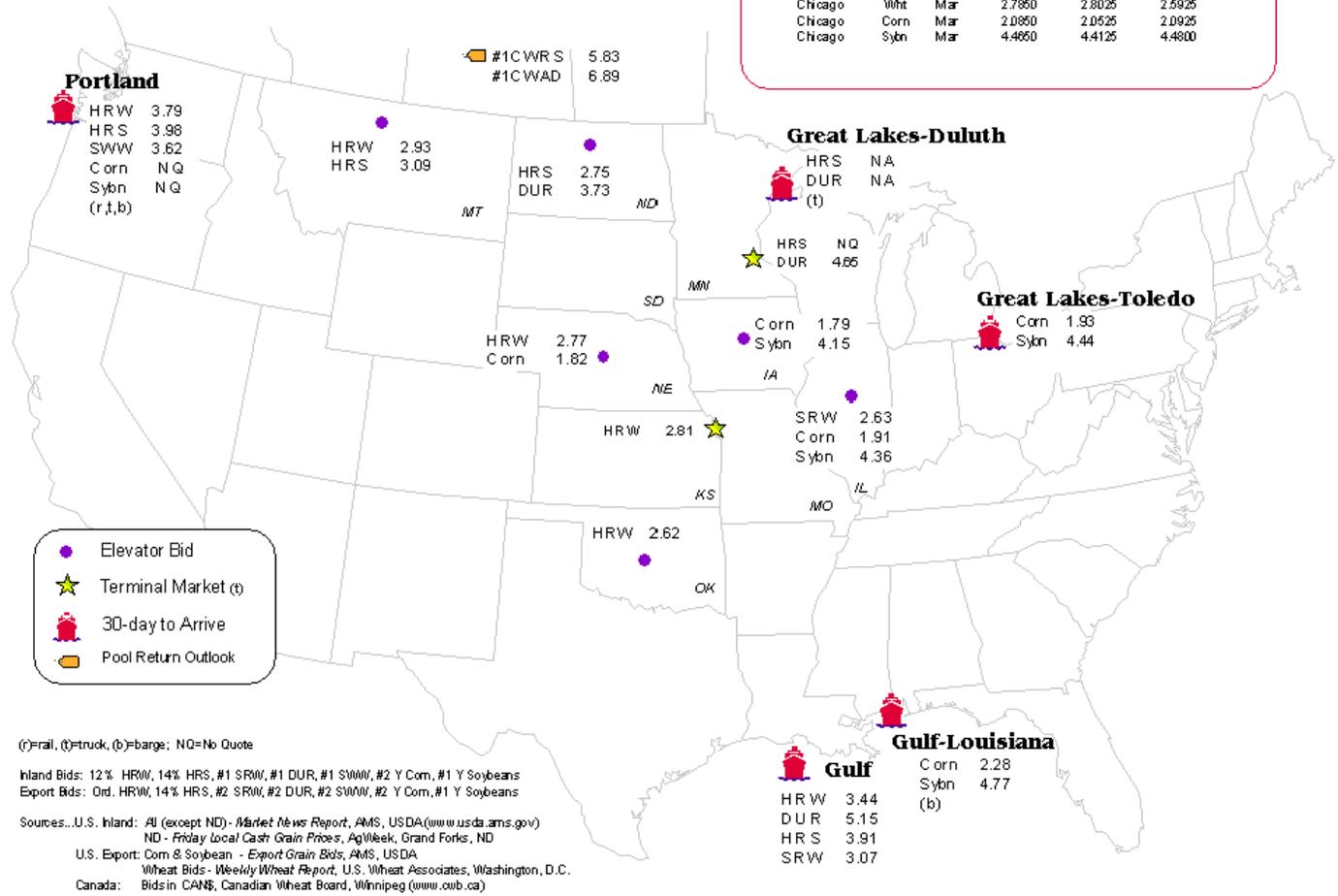
DOT Allocates \$93.3 Million for Port Security. Under the new Port Security Grants Program, DOT's Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will soon be able to assist U.S. ports in developing security assessments and improvements using \$93.3 million in congressionally appropriated funding. The funds will be distributed using an application process and will be awarded to U.S. ports based on consideration of the most urgent needs from a homeland security perspective. Two categories will be established under the program: security assessments and mitigation strategies, which will determine port vulnerabilities and identify mitigation strategies, and enhanced facility and operational security, which would include but not be limited to issues such as physical security, cargo security, and passenger security.

To enhance port security, the American Association of Port Authorities recommends that Congress take the following steps:

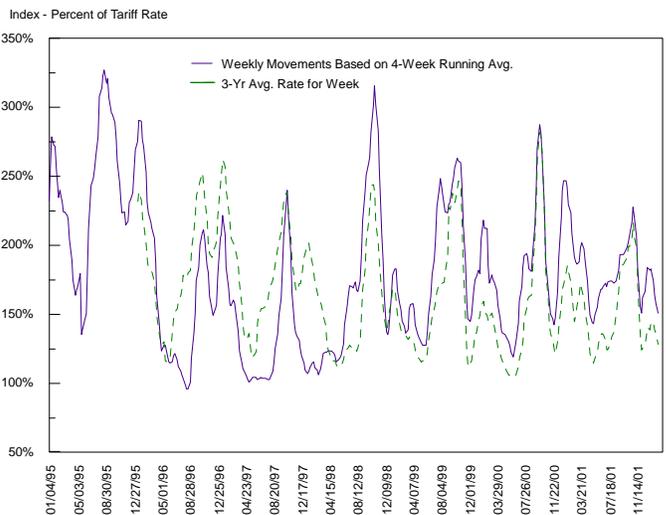
- Coordinate and plan seaport security at the local level;
- Provide Federal funds to help ports strengthen seaport security in a timely manner;
- Provide additional resources to the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Customs Service;
- Enhance communication and coordination between State and local law enforcement agencies;
- Develop appropriate programs for the purpose of training seaport security officers, with certification;
- Increase international cooperation on seaport security; and
- Establish a grant program for new technologies that would help to increase cargo inspections without slowing the movement of commerce. (*NewsEdge* 3/1/02, 3/4/02, 3/5/02)

Grain Bid Summary

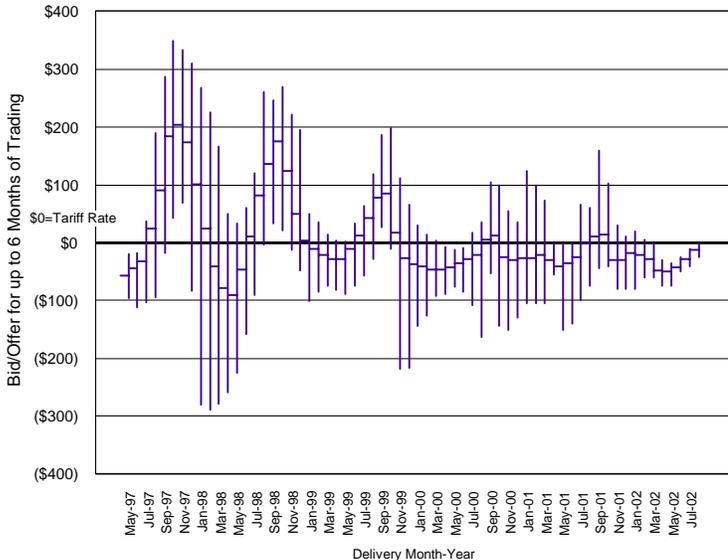
Futures:				03/01/2002	Week Ago 02/22/2002	Year Ago 03/02/2001
Kansas City	Wht	Mar	2.8675	2.8825	3.0700	
Minneapolis	Wht	Mar	2.9825	2.9700	3.1525	
Minneapolis	Dur	Mar	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Chicago	Wht	Mar	2.7850	2.8025	2.5925	
Chicago	Corn	Mar	2.0850	2.0525	2.0925	
Chicago	Sybn	Mar	4.4650	4.4125	4.4800	



Spot Barge Rate - Illinois River



Secondary Rail Market Bids



Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings				
Delivery for:	Apr-02		May-02	
	Offered	% Sold	Offered	% Sold
BNSF-COT	12,966	7%	12,735	6%
UP-GCAS	5,400	10%	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			
	Mar-02	Apr-02	May-02	Jun-02
BNSF-GF	\$(3)	\$(29)	\$(35)	\$(18)
UP-Pool	\$(11)	\$(41)	\$(50)	\$(37)

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:	Apr-02	May-02	Jun-02
COT/N. Grain	no bid	no bid	no bid
COT/S. Grain	\$0	no bid	no bid
GCAS/Region 2	no bid	no bid	no bid
GCAS/Region 4	no bid	no bid	no bid

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/Cash Basis Values

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

Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	Rate	
			Futures	Cash
03/01/02	St. Louis	Mar	0	125
		May	136	130
		Jul	0	145
		Sept	0	185
		Nov	0	0
	Illinois River	Mar	0	145
		May	0	143
		Jul	0	165
		Sept	0	205
		Nov	0	0

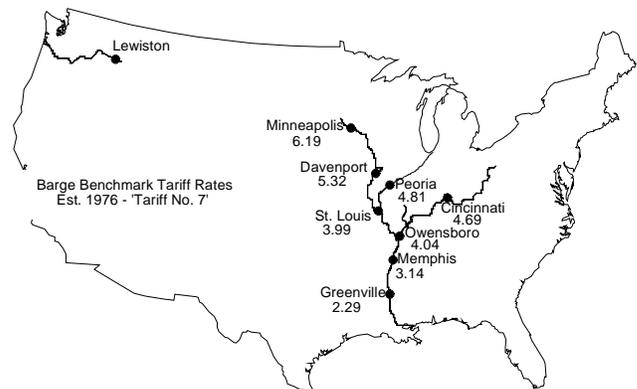
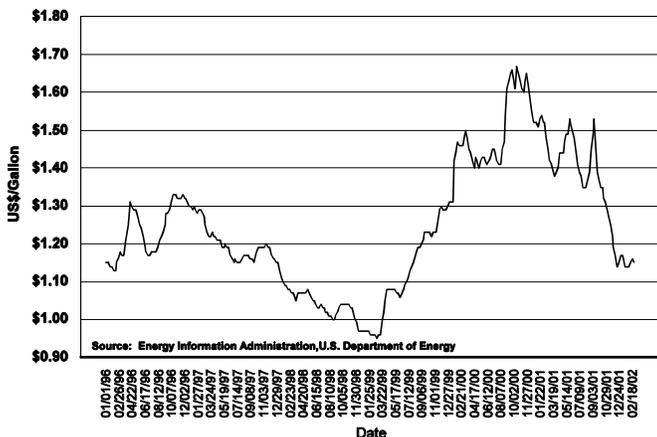
Source: St. Louis Merchants Exchange

Southbound Barge Freight Spot Rates

	2/27/02	2/20/02	Mar '02	May '02
Twin Cities	0	0	0	183
Mid-Mississippi	0	0	156	150
Illinois River	141	146	146	140
St. Louis	118	121	120	120
Lower Ohio	120	123	123	124
Cairo-Memphis	111	114	116	114

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA
 nq=no quote;

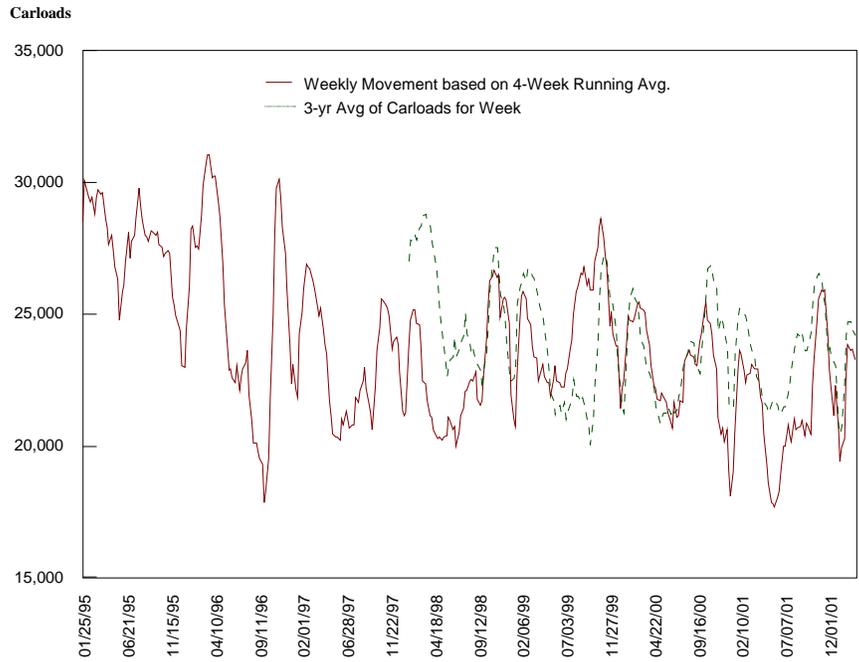
Weekly Retail Diesel (Road) Prices (Including Taxes)



Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads

Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
2/9/02	23,065
02/16/02	24,395
02/23/02	22,187
Year to Date - 2002	183,286
Year to Date - 2001	203,999
Total 2001	1,117,601
Total 2000	1,188,917

Source: Association of American Railroads



Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin

Grain Carloads Originated

	East				West			Canada	
	Conrail	CSXT	IC	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP	CN	CP
02/23/02	0	3,095	0	2,754	7,922	795	7,621	4,018	3,419
This Week Last Year	0	3,852	0	3,097	9,026	593	6,148	4,629	5,820
2002 YTD	0	25,246	0	25,065	68,552	5,810	54,458	32,509	30,125
2001 YTD	0	27,546	0	25,808	71,905	4,031	51,811	38,441	40,968
2001 Total	0	151,864	0	163,018	428,603	26,330	347,156	254,982	232,461
2000 Total	0	147,708	70,155	153,905	425,849	26,515	364,785	160,749	239,670

Source: Association of American Railroads

Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments

February 2002

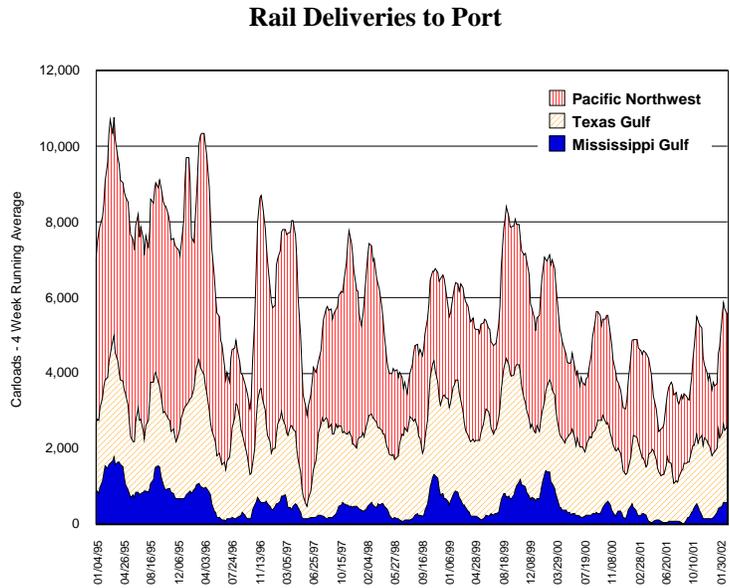
Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
03/04/02	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,050	\$22.60	\$0.62
03/04/02	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,877	\$42.74	\$1.16
03/04/02	46540	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,650	\$18.19	\$0.50
03/04/02	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$4,347	\$47.92	\$1.30
03/04/02	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$4,005	\$44.15	\$1.20
03/04/02	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
03/04/02	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$2,700	\$29.76	\$0.76
03/04/02	31040	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
03/04/02	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
03/04/02	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
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

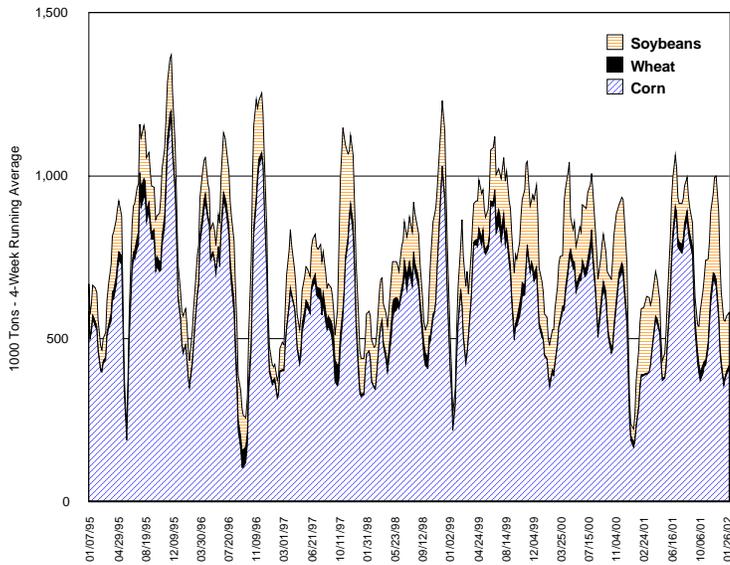
Rail Deliveries to Port Carloads				
	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
01/23/02	382*	1,578	2,110	965
01/30/02	673*	2,764*	2,495	873
02/06/02	287*	1,328	3,484	663
02/13/02	640*	2,078	4,316	497
02/20/02	758*	2,058	2,523	603
02/27/02	609*	2,165	2,518	875
YTD 2002	3,946*	16,047*	20,947	6,749
YTD 2001	3,019	12,185	19,533	6,892
Total 2000	25,675	105,308	129,464	14,816
Total 1999	30,038	132,069	161,492	14,446

Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA



(*) Incomplete Data
 (**) Revised Data

Barge Movements - Locks 27



Barge Grain Movements for week ending 2/23/02				
	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
	1,000 Tons			
Mississippi River				
Rock Island, IL (L15)	0	0	0	0
Winfield, MO (L25)	0	0	0	0
Alton, IL (L26)	432	8	89	531
Granite City, IL (L27)	451	6	90	549
Illinois River (L8)	349	6	79	436
Ohio (L52)	93	10	42	159
Arkansas (L1)	0	28	10	38
2002 YTD	4,408	259	1,954	6,983
2001 YTD	3,607	293	1,700	6,006
Total 2001	31,878	2,679	10,616	47,091
Total 2000	33,482	2,518	10,327	48,247

Miss YTD: Calendar year totals include Miss/27, Ohio/52 and Ark/1.
 Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers; L15 & L25 closed for winter.

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

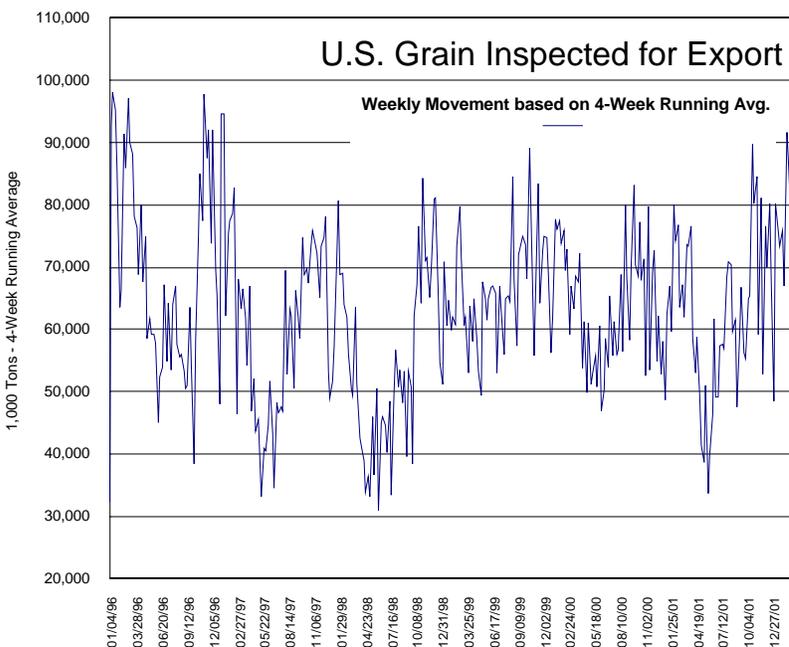
	HRW	SRW	HRS	Wheat SWW	DUR	All	Corn	Soybean	Total
<u>Unshipped Exports-Crop Year</u>									
02/21/02	1,279	736	891	493	140	3,539	8,654	4,625	16,818
This Week Year Ago	1,176	404	866	941	174	3,560	7,303	5,753	16,616
<u>Cumulative Exports-Crop Year</u>									
00/01 YTD	6,266	4,070	4,062	2,417	951	17,767	20,187	20,235	58,189
99/00 YTD	7,056	3,417	4,229	3,737	867	19,305	21,745	17,713	58,763
97/98 Total	9,858	4,710	6,305	5,413	1,232	27,518	37,220	24,516	89,254
96/97 Total	7,387	3,645	7,864	6,105	963	25,965	44,476	24,501	94,942

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service YTD-Year-to-Date (www.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>		
	Wheat	Corn	Soybean	Wheat	Corn	Soybean	Wheat	Corn	Soybean
02/28/02	83	242	83	139	1,117	239	89	8	7
2001 YTD	1,468	929	728	815	5,727	5,424	940	14	596
2000 YTD	1,670	754	688	917	4,757	3,868	954	98	382
% of Last Year	15%	15%	43%	12%	16%	30%	14%	3%	59%
1998 Total	10,838	4,373	651	5,048	31,330	14,917	7,270	562	1,392

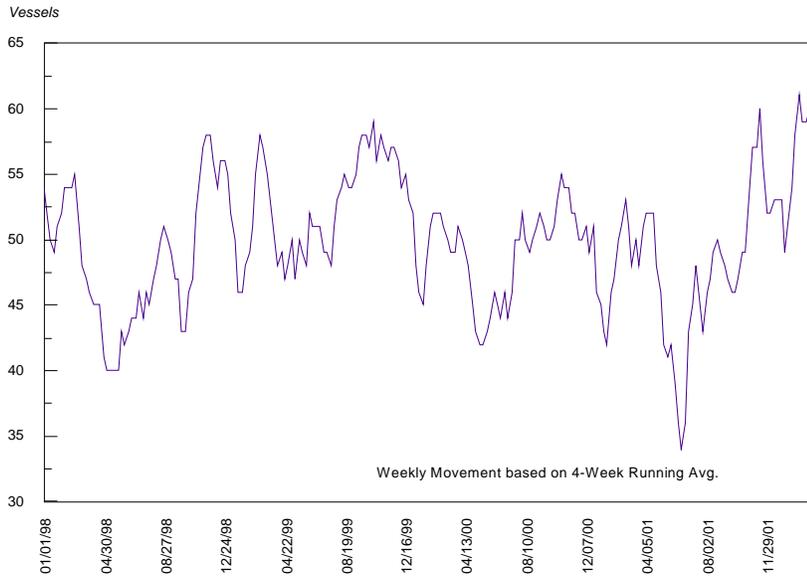
Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service YTD-Year-to-Date



Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections
1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

	Wheat	Durum	Barley
Week Ended: 02/28/02			
Vancouver	3,941	222	343
Prince Rupert	603	0	0
Prairie Direct	833	274	193
Thunder Bay	294	191	45
St. Lawrence	1,711	1,097	0
2001 YTD Exports	7,382	1,784	581
2000 YTD Exports	7,187	1,915	1,018
% of Last Year	103%	93%	57%

Source: Canadian Grains Commission, Crop year 8/1-7/31



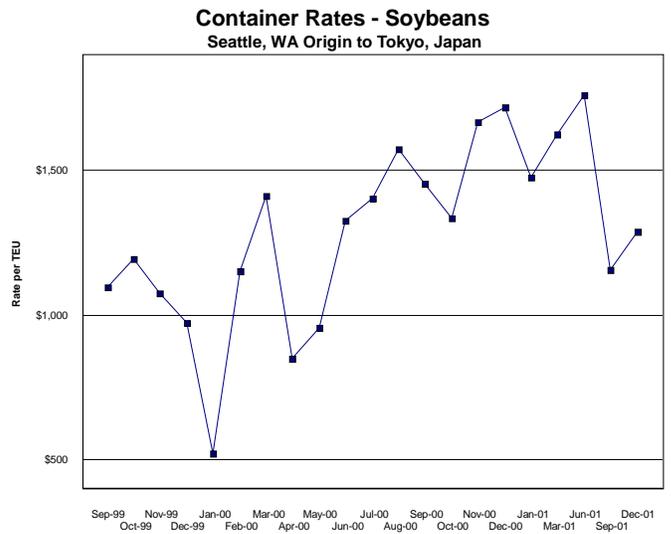
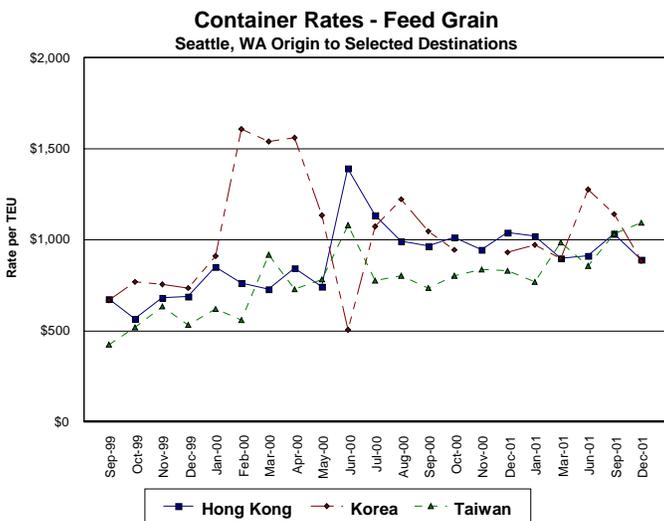
**Gulf Region
Vessels Loaded
- Past 7 Days-**

	Gulf			Pacific Northwest			Vancouver, B.C.		
	In Port	Loaded	Due Next	In Port	Loaded	Due Next	In Port	Loaded	Due Next
		7-Days	10-Days		7-Days	10-Days		7-Days	10-Days
02/21/02	57	65	72	8	3		10	8	5
02/28/02	51	66	73	5	4		11	14	2
1999 Range	(14..47)	(39..65)	(34..80)	(6..18)			(2..20)	(2..15)	(0..9)
1998 Range	(19..62)	(34..64)	(40..93)				(1..19)	(3..14)	(0..10)
1999 Avg	32	52	65				9	9	3
1998 Avg	40	48	61				10	9	3
1997 Avg	33	45	58						

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/ USDA

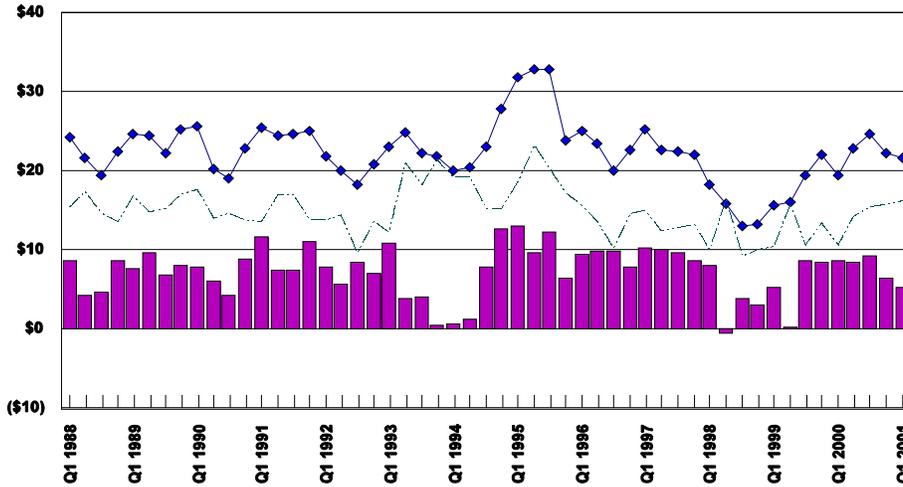
Container Ocean Freight Rates

Monthly Weighted Averages Based on Shipping Line Monthly Mkt. Share



- ◆ Rate - Gulf to Japan
- Rate - PNW to Japan
- Spread - Gulf vs. PNW to Japan

US\$/Metric Ton



Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates

Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates

Average Rates & Percentage Changes, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis

	2001 4 th Qtr	2000 4 th Qtr	% Change		2001 4 th Qtr	2000 4 th Qtr	% Change
Gulf to				Pacific NW to			
Japan	\$16.25	\$22.38	-27%	Japan	\$9.64	\$15.87	-39%
Mexico		\$13.39	-	Red Sea/ Arabian Sea		\$26.70	-
Venezuela		\$13.29	-				
N. Europe	\$11.73	\$14.96	-22%	Argentina to			
N. Africa	\$16.98	\$22.26	-24%	Med. Sea	\$17.47		-
Med. Sea	\$10.58	\$15.19	-30%	N. Europe	\$16.22	\$18.97	-14%
				Japan	\$26.33		-

Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA; (*) rates shown are for metric ton (2,204.62 lbs.=one metric ton)

Ocean Freight Rates (Select Locations) - week ending 3/2/02

Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Volume Loaded (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Ton)
Albany	Casablanca	Heavy Grain	Feb 22/28	25,000	\$15.25
Gulf	Egypt	Heavy Grain	Feb 27/28	55,000	\$10.75
Gulf	Egypt	Heavy Grain	Mar 10/20	60,000	\$10.75
Gulf	Algeria	Maize	Mar 1/10	25,000	\$15.00
Gulf	Algeria	Maize	Feb 27/Mar 5	25,000	\$16.50
N. Pacific	Taiwan	Heavy Grain	Mar 15/22	54,000	\$11.00
River Plate	Spain	Soybean Pellets	Mar 1/5	25,000	\$16.80
River Plate	Syria	Heavy Grain	Mar 10/20	35,000	\$22.00
Ukraine	Spain	Wheat	Mar 1/10	50000/60000	\$6.90

Source: Maritime Research Inc.; rates shown are for long ton (2,240 lbs.=one long ton), F.O.B., except where otherwise indicated; op=option