



Grain Transportation Report

A weekly publication of the Agricultural Marketing Service
www.ams.usda.gov/GTR

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September 29, 2016

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

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Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway Grain Exports Rise

During the month of August, export grain inspections for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region are up 79 percent from the previous month, and up 58 percent from the same time last year. Inspections of corn and soybeans inspected for export in the region for August are up notably from last year. Grain shipments through the Great Lakes increased mainly due to increased demand for corn from Europe and Africa, and also because of higher demand for soybeans from Canada and China. During the last 4 weeks, Great Lakes export grain inspections are 44 percent above last year and 73 percent above the 3-year average.

Wheat Inspections Rebound

For the week ending September 22, total inspections of wheat for export from all major export regions reached .921 million metric tons (mmt), up 52 percent from the past week, and 43 percent above last year. Weekly wheat inspections increased primarily to Asia, and were also the highest in 3 years. Inspections of corn increased 3 percent from the past week while soybean inspections dropped 49 percent. **Total inspections of grain** (corn, wheat, and soybeans) reached 2.63 million metric tons (mmt), down 1 percent from the previous week, up 30 percent from last year, and 49 percent above the 3-year average. Mississippi Gulf grain inspections decreased 12 percent from the previous week, but Pacific Northwest (PNW) inspections increased 43 percent. Outstanding export sales (unshipped) of grain were up for wheat and soybeans, but down for corn.

High water Conditions Delaying Upper Mississippi River Traffic

According to USDA's September 27 [Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin](#), 8 to 10 inches of rain fell in several Midwestern communities from September 20 to 23. Flood levels in parts of eastern Iowa were the second highest on record since June 2008. Runoff from the rains has raised water levels on the Upper Mississippi River and caused some disruptions in barge movements. On September 28, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a status report indicating that Mississippi River Lock 17 (New Boston, IL), Lock 18 (Gladstone, IL), and Lock 20 (Canton, MO) may close beginning on October 1-4 due to high water conditions. As of September 27, St. Louis to New Orleans barge rates for grain were 420 percent of tariff (\$16.76 per ton), 28 percent higher than last week, but 31 percent below the 3-year average. Barge rates could further increase depending upon the duration of the possible closures and high water conditions.

Snapshots by Sector

Export Sales

During the week ending September 15, **unshipped balances** of wheat, corn, and soybeans totaled 42.9 mmt, up 43 percent from the same time last year. Net weekly **wheat export sales** were .561 mmt, up 40 percent from the previous week. Net **corn export sales** were .922 mmt, up 31 percent from the previous week, and net **soybean export sales** were .876 mmt, down 14 percent from the past week.

Rail

U.S. Class I railroads originated 22,525 **grain carloads** for the week ending September 17, unchanged from the previous week, down 2 percent from last year, and up 23 percent from the 3-year average.

Average October shuttle **secondary railcar bids/offers** per car were \$1,050 above tariff for the week ending September 22, down \$238 from last week, and \$400 higher than last year. Average non-shuttle secondary railcar bids/offers were \$225 above tariff, down \$50 from last week, and \$154 higher than last year.

Barge

For the week ending September 24, **barge grain movements** totaled 444,350 tons, 15 percent lower than last week, and down 10 percent from the same period last year.

For the week ending September 24, 281 grain barges **moved down river**, down 16 percent from last week; 740 grain barges were **unloaded in New Orleans**, up 3 percent from the previous week.

Ocean

For the week ending September 22, 38 **ocean-going grain vessels** were loaded in the Gulf, 7 percent more than the same period last year. Sixty-seven vessels are expected to be loaded within the next 10 days, 10 percent more than the same period last year.

For the week ending September 22, the ocean freight rate for shipping bulk grain from the Gulf to Japan was \$30.25 per metric ton, 2 percent less than the previous week. The cost of shipping from the PNW to Japan was \$16.20 per metric ton, 2 percent less than the previous week.

Fuel

During the week ending September 26, U.S. average **diesel fuel prices** decreased 1 cent from the previous week to \$2.38 per gallon, down \$0.09 from the same week last year.

Feature Article/Calendar

Oct 4-5, 2016	Inland Waterways Users Board	Chicago, IL	http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil
October 9-11	IAOM Southeast Asia District Conference and Expo	Intercontinental Bangkok, Bangkok, Thailand	913-338-3377
Oct 18-20	Oklahoma Ag Expo 2016	Norman, OK	http://www.grains.org/
Oct 23-26	2016 AACCI Annual Meeting	Savannah International Trade & Convention Center, Savannah, GA	http://www.aaccnet.org
Oct 24-27	Export Exchange 2016	Detroit, MI	http://grains.org/
Oct 24- 27	IAOM Mideast and Africa Conference	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	http://www.iaom-mea.com/
Oct 25-27	IGP Institute Grain Milling HACCP Workshop	Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS	http://www.grains.k-state.edu/igp/
Nov 3-5	AFIA Equipment Manufacturers Conference	JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Resort & Spa, Tucson, AZ	http://www.afia.org
Nov 7-10	AgGateway Annual Conference	Renaissance Orlando at Seaworld, Orlando, FL	http://www.aggateway.org
Nov 15-17	2016 National Waterways Council Symposium	Cincinnati, OH	www.waterwayscouncil.org
Dec 11 - 13	NGFA Country Elevator Conference	Chicago, IL	https://www.ngfa.org/
Dec 13	Missouri Agribusiness Association Expo	Holiday Inn Exec. Center, Columbia, MO	573-636-6130
Jan 15-17, 2017	North Dakota Grain Dealers Association	Fargo, ND	http://www.ndgda.org
Feb 25 -28	Grain and Feed Association of Illinois Annual Convention	St. Louis, MO	https://www.ngfa.org/
Mar 2-4	Commodity Classic	San Antonio, TX	http://www.commodityclassic.com/home
Mar 19 -20	National Grain and Feed Association Convention	New Orleans, LA	https://www.ngfa.org/

Rail Transportation

Table 3

Rail Deliveries to Port (carloads)¹

For the Week Ending	Mississippi		Pacific	Atlantic &	Total	Week ending	Cross-Border Mexico ³
	Gulf	Texas Gulf	Northwest	East Gulf			
9/21/2016 ^p	656	2,490	5,607	411	9,270	9/17/2016	2,738
9/14/2016 ^r	762	2,449	7,999	173	11,919	9/10/2016	2,521
2016 YTD ^r	16,519	58,267	197,013	12,989	284,788	2016 YTD	77,754
2015 YTD ^r	13,017	44,420	147,459	15,484	220,380	2015 YTD	68,554
2016 YTD as % of 2015 YTD	127	131	134	84	129	% change YTD	113
Last 4 weeks as % of 2015 ²	2,291	203	248	183	255	Last 4wks % 2015	116
Last 4 weeks as % of 4-year avg. ²	873	149	222	177	212	Last 4wks % 4 yr	134
Total 2015	29,054	60,819	239,029	26,730	355,632	Total 2015	97,736
Total 2014	44,617	83,674	256,670	32,107	417,068	Total 2014	98,422

¹ Data is incomplete as it is voluntarily provided

² Compared with same 4-weeks in 2015 and prior 4-year average.

³ Cross-border weekly data is approximately 15 percent below the Association of American Railroads' reported weekly carloads received by Mexican railroads to reflect switching between KCSM and FerroMex.

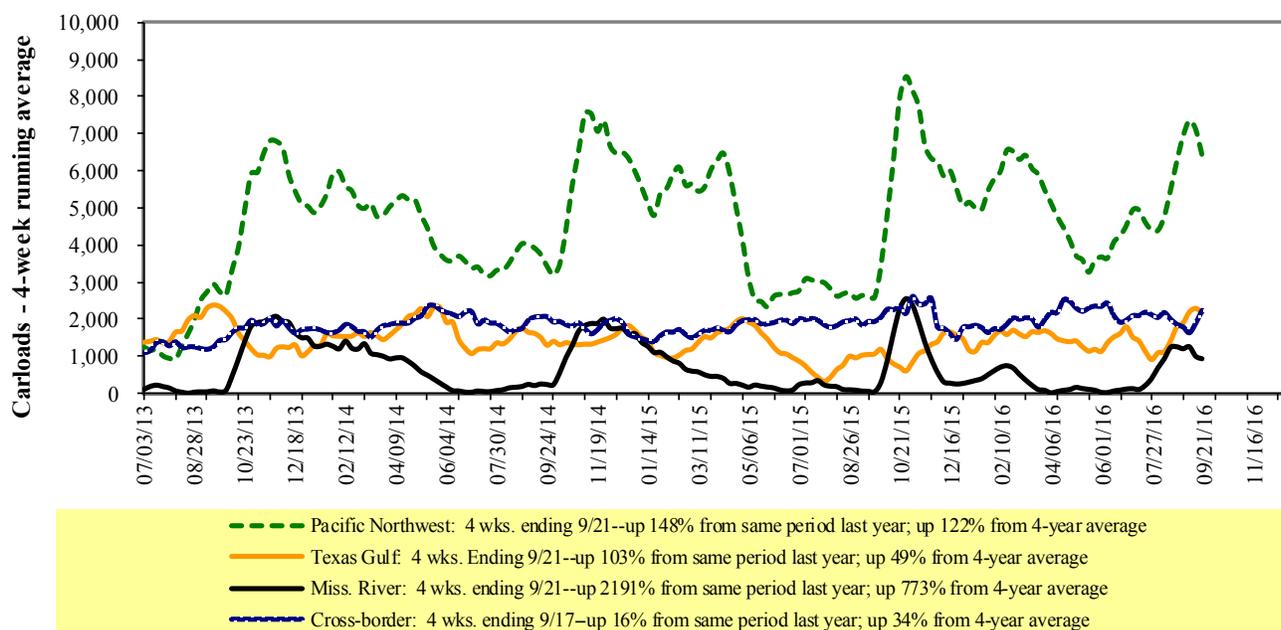
YTD = year-to-date; p = preliminary data; r = revised data; n/a = not available

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Railroads originate approximately 24 percent of U.S. grain shipments. Trends in these loadings are indicative of market conditions and expectations.

Figure 2

Rail Deliveries to Port



Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Table 4

Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin (grain carloads originated)

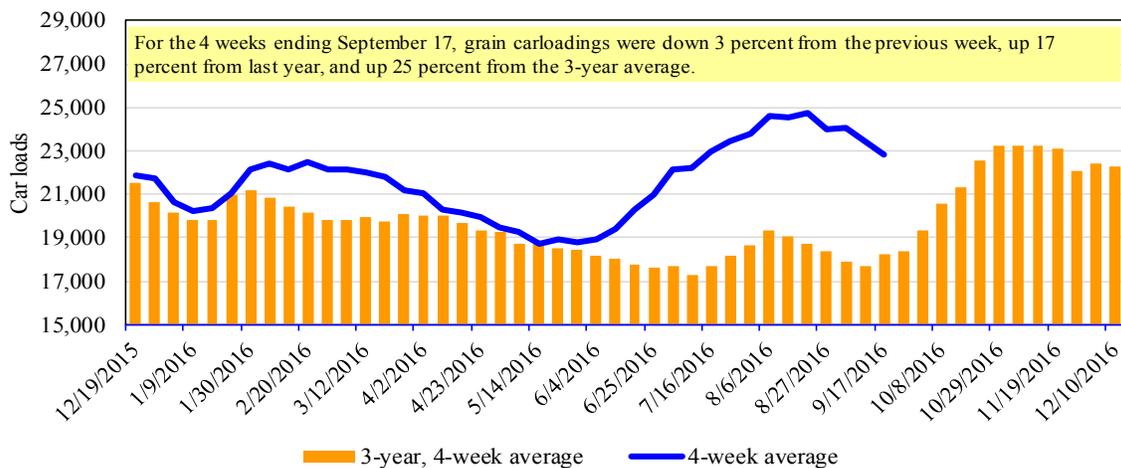
For the week ending:	East		West			U.S. total	Canada	
	CSXT	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP		CN	CP
9/17/2016								
This week	1,214	2,118	11,435	973	6,785	22,525	3,471	4,783
This week last year	1,638	2,434	12,043	1,336	5,526	22,977	3,590	4,510
2016 YTD	61,737	101,146	407,162	30,956	203,457	804,458	122,803	161,726
2015 YTD	71,864	106,626	364,697	32,796	188,348	764,331	146,838	165,348
2016 YTD as % of 2015 YTD	86	95	112	94	108	105	84	98
Last 4 weeks as % of 2015*	95	98	123	72	131	117	98	97
Last 4 weeks as % of 3-yr avg.**	101	121	129	80	134	125	88	95
Total 2015	104,039	149,043	536,173	45,445	267,720	1,102,420	211,868	236,263

*The past 4 weeks of this year as a percent of the same 4 weeks last year.

**The past 4 weeks as a percent of the same period from the prior 3-year average. YTD = year-to-date.

Source: Association of American Railroads (www.aar.org)

Figure 3

Total Weekly U.S. Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings

Source: Association of American Railroads

Table 5

Railcar Auction Offerings¹ (\$/car)²

For the week ending:		<u>Delivery period</u>							
9/22/2016		Oct-16	Oct-15	Nov-16	Nov-15	Dec-16	Dec-15	Jan-17	Jan-16
BNSF ³	COT grain units	30	no bids	no offer	0	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids
	COT grain single-car ⁵	61	0-7	51	0	no bids	0	23	no bids
UP ⁴	GCAS/Region 1	no offer	10	no offer	no bids	no offer	no bids	n/a	n/a
	GCAS/Region 2	no offer	29	no offer	10	no offer	no bids	n/a	n/a

¹Auction offerings are for single-car and unit train shipments only.

²Average premium/discount to tariff, last auction

³BNSF - COT = Certificate of Transportation; north grain and south grain bids were combined effective the week ending 6/24/06.

⁴UP - GCAS = Grain Car Allocation System

Region 1 includes: AR, IL, LA, MO, NM, OK, TX, WI, and Duluth, MN.

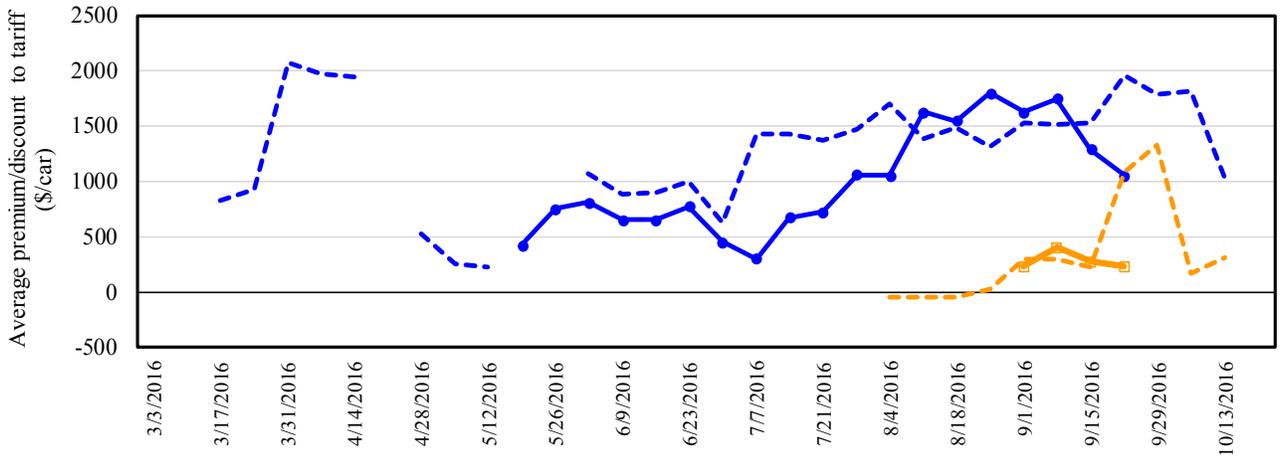
Region 2 includes: CO, IA, KS, MN, NE, WY, and Kansas City and St. Joseph, MO.

⁵Range is shown because average is not available. Not available = n/a.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA.

The **secondary rail market** information reflects trade values for service that was originally purchased from the railroad carrier as some form of guaranteed freight. The **auction and secondary rail** values are indicators of rail service quality and demand/supply.

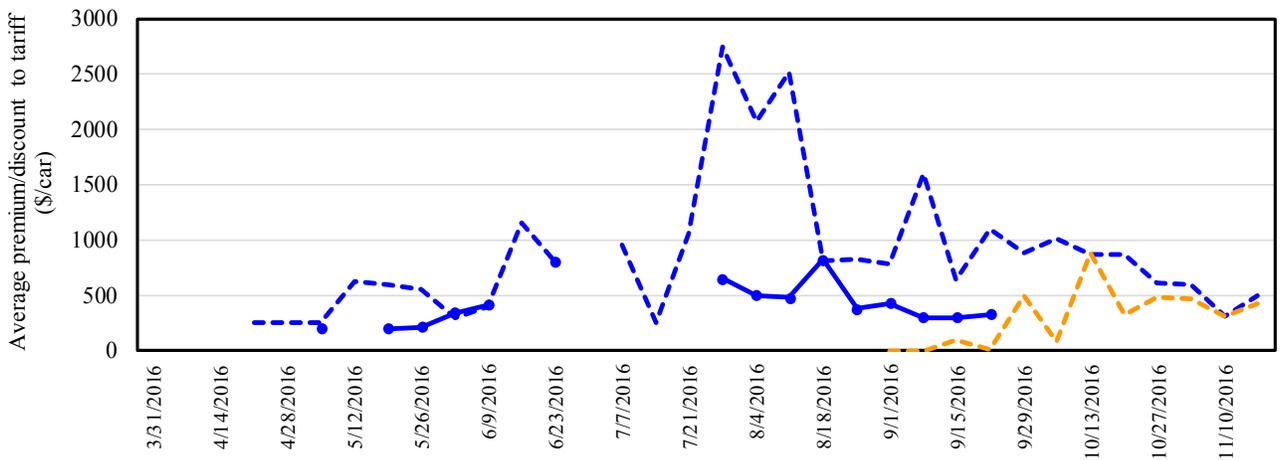
Figure 4
Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in October 2016, Secondary Market



9/22/2016	BNSF	UP	Shuttle	Non-Shuttle
Non-Shuttle	\$200	\$250	Shuttle prior 3-yr avg. (same week)	Non-Shuttle prior 3-yr avg. (same week)
Shuttle	\$1,350	\$750	Average Non-shuttle bids/offers fell \$50 this week, and are \$175 below the peak. Average Shuttle bids/offers fell \$238 this week and are \$750 below the peak.	

Non-shuttle bids include unit-train and single-car bids. n/a = not available.
 Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 5
Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in November 2016, Secondary Market

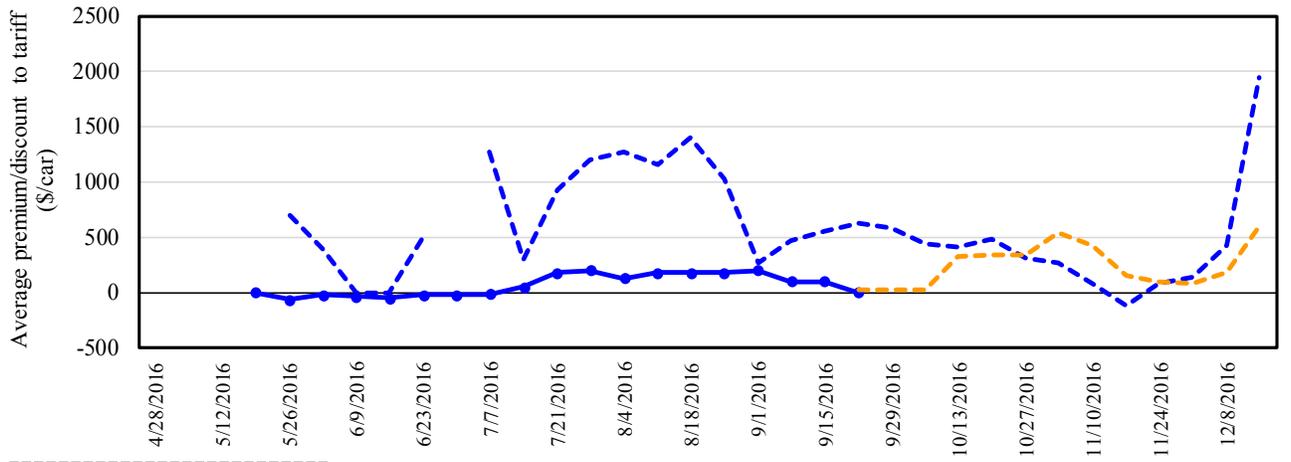


9/22/2016	BNSF	UP	Shuttle	Non-Shuttle
Non-Shuttle	n/a	n/a	Shuttle prior 3-yr avg. (same week)	Non-Shuttle prior 3-yr avg. (same week)
Shuttle	\$500	\$150	There were no Non-Shuttle bids/offers this week. Average Shuttle bids/offers rose \$25 this week and are \$500 below the peak.	

Non-shuttle bids include unit-train and single-car bids. n/a = not available.
 Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 6

Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in December 2016, Secondary Market



9/22/2016	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	n/a	\$0

—●— Shuttle
- - - Shuttle prior 3-yr avg. (same week)
—■— Non-Shuttle
- - - Non-Shuttle prior 3-yr avg. (same week)

There were no Non-Shuttle bids/offers this week.
 Average Shuttle bids/offers fell \$100 this week and are \$200 below the peak.

Non-shuttle bids include unit-train and single-car bids. n/a = not available.
 Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Table 6

Weekly Secondary Railcar Market (\$/car)¹

For the week ending:		Delivery period					
		9/22/2016	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17
Non-shuttle	BNSF-GF	200	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from last week	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2015	160	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	UP-Pool	250	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from last week	(100)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2015	147	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	BNSF-GF	1350	500	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from last week	(225)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2015	500	546	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	UP-Pool	750	150	0	(50)	n/a	n/a
	Change from last week	(250)	(150)	(100)	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2015	300	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

¹Average premium/discount to tariff, \$/car-last week

Note: Bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices,

n/a = not available; GF = guaranteed freight; Pool = guaranteed pool

Sources: Transportation and Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Data from James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.

The **tariff rail rate** is the base price of freight rail service, and together with **fuel surcharges** and any **auction and secondary rail** values constitute the full cost of shipping by rail. Typically, auction and secondary rail values are a small fraction of the full cost of shipping by rail relative to the tariff rate. High auction and secondary rail values, during times of high rail demand or short supply, can exceed the cost of the tariff rate plus fuel surcharge.

Table 7

Tariff Rail Rates for Unit and Shuttle Train Shipments¹

Effective date:		Origin region*	Destination region*	Tariff rate/car	Fuel surcharge per car	Tariff plus surcharge per:		Percent change Y/Y ³
9/1/2016	metric ton					bushel ²		
Unit train								
Wheat	Wichita, KS	St. Louis, MO	\$3,605	\$35	\$36.15	\$0.98	-1	
	Grand Forks, ND	Duluth-Superior, MN	\$4,143	-\$6	\$41.08	\$1.12	15	
	Wichita, KS	Los Angeles, CA	\$6,950	-\$31	\$68.71	\$1.87	-2	
	Wichita, KS	New Orleans, LA	\$4,243	\$62	\$42.75	\$1.16	-1	
	Sioux Falls, SD	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$6,486	-\$25	\$64.16	\$1.75	-2	
	Northwest KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$4,511	\$68	\$45.47	\$1.24	-1	
	Amarillo, TX	Los Angeles, CA	\$4,710	\$95	\$47.72	\$1.30	-2	
Corn	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	\$3,681	\$70	\$37.25	\$0.95	8	
	Toledo, OH	Raleigh, NC	\$6,061	\$0	\$60.19	\$1.53	9	
	Des Moines, IA	Davenport, IA	\$2,168	\$15	\$21.68	\$0.55	-1	
	Indianapolis, IN	Atlanta, GA	\$5,004	\$0	\$49.69	\$1.26	5	
	Indianapolis, IN	Knoxville, TN	\$4,311	\$0	\$42.81	\$1.09	5	
Soybeans	Des Moines, IA	Little Rock, AR	\$3,444	\$44	\$34.64	\$0.88	3	
	Des Moines, IA	Los Angeles, CA	\$5,052	\$128	\$51.44	\$1.31	1	
	Minneapolis, MN	New Orleans, LA	\$3,799	\$30	\$38.02	\$1.03	-4	
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	\$5,051	\$0	\$50.16	\$1.37	8	
	Indianapolis, IN	Raleigh, NC	\$6,178	\$0	\$61.35	\$1.67	10	
Indianapolis, IN	Huntsville, AL	\$4,529	\$0	\$44.98	\$1.22	4		
Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	\$4,395	\$70	\$44.34	\$1.21	9		
Shuttle Train								
Wheat	Great Falls, MT	Portland, OR	\$3,953	-\$18	\$39.08	\$1.06	-2	
	Wichita, KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$3,871	-\$14	\$38.30	\$1.04	-3	
	Chicago, IL	Albany, NY	\$5,492	\$0	\$54.54	\$1.48	16	
	Grand Forks, ND	Portland, OR	\$5,611	-\$30	\$55.42	\$1.51	-3	
	Grand Forks, ND	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$5,931	-\$32	\$58.58	\$1.59	-11	
	Northwest KS	Portland, OR	\$5,478	\$112	\$55.51	\$1.51	-2	
	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$5,000	-\$37	\$49.28	\$1.25	-7
Sioux Falls, SD		Tacoma, WA	\$4,960	-\$34	\$48.92	\$1.24	-6	
Champaign-Urbana, IL		New Orleans, LA	\$3,481	\$70	\$35.27	\$0.90	8	
Lincoln, NE		Galveston-Houston, TX	\$3,600	-\$20	\$35.55	\$0.90	-3	
Des Moines, IA		Amarillo, TX	\$3,795	\$55	\$38.23	\$0.97	3	
Minneapolis, MN		Tacoma, WA	\$5,000	-\$37	\$49.29	\$1.25	-7	
Council Bluffs, IA		Stockton, CA	\$4,640	-\$38	\$45.70	\$1.16	-3	
Soybeans	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	\$5,490	-\$34	\$54.18	\$1.47	-6	
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$5,510	-\$37	\$54.35	\$1.48	-7	
	Fargo, ND	Tacoma, WA	\$5,380	-\$30	\$53.13	\$1.45	-6	
	Council Bluffs, IA	New Orleans, LA	\$4,425	\$81	\$44.75	\$1.22	-2	
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	\$4,226	\$0	\$41.97	\$1.14	10	
Grand Island, NE	Portland, OR	\$5,360	\$115	\$54.37	\$1.48	-2		

¹A unit train refers to shipments of at least 25 cars. Shuttle train rates are available for qualified shipments of 75-120 cars that meet railroad efficiency requirements.

²Approximate load per car = 111 short tons (100.7 metric tons): corn 56 lbs./bu., wheat & soybeans 60 lbs./bu.

³Percentage change year over year calculated using tariff rate plus fuel surcharge

Sources: www.bnsf.com, www.cpr.ca, www.csx.com, www.uprr.com

*Regional economic areas defined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

Table 8

Tariff Rail Rates for U.S. Bulk Grain Shipments to Mexico

Commodity	Origin state	Destination region	Tariff rate/car ¹	Fuel surcharge per car ²	Tariff plus surcharge per:		Percent change ⁴ Y/Y
					metric ton ³	bushel ³	
Wheat	MT	Chihuahua, CI	\$7,459	\$0	\$76.21	\$2.07	-4
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	\$6,514	\$49	\$67.05	\$1.82	-5
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	\$6,995	\$102	\$72.51	\$1.97	-4
	TX	Salinas Victoria, NL	\$4,142	\$28	\$42.61	\$1.16	0
Corn	IA	Guadalajara, JA	\$8,137	\$97	\$84.13	\$2.14	-5
	SD	Celaya, GJ	\$7,480	\$0	\$76.43	\$1.94	-6
	NE	Querretaro, QA	\$7,879	\$92	\$81.44	\$2.07	1
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	\$6,545	\$0	\$66.87	\$1.70	6
	MO	Tlalhepantla, EM	\$7,238	\$89	\$74.87	\$1.90	2
	SD	Torreon, CU	\$7,080	\$0	\$72.34	\$1.84	-2
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	\$8,652	\$98	\$89.40	\$2.43	2
	NE	Guadalajara, JA	\$9,142	\$103	\$94.46	\$2.57	1
	IA	El Castillo, JA	\$9,470	\$0	\$96.76	\$2.63	0
	KS	Torreon, CU	\$7,439	\$75	\$76.77	\$2.09	2
Sorghum	NE	Celaya, GJ	\$7,344	\$91	\$75.96	\$1.93	-2
	KS	Querretaro, QA	\$7,563	\$61	\$77.89	\$1.98	-1
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	\$6,168	\$49	\$63.52	\$1.61	3
	NE	Torreon, CU	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0

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.

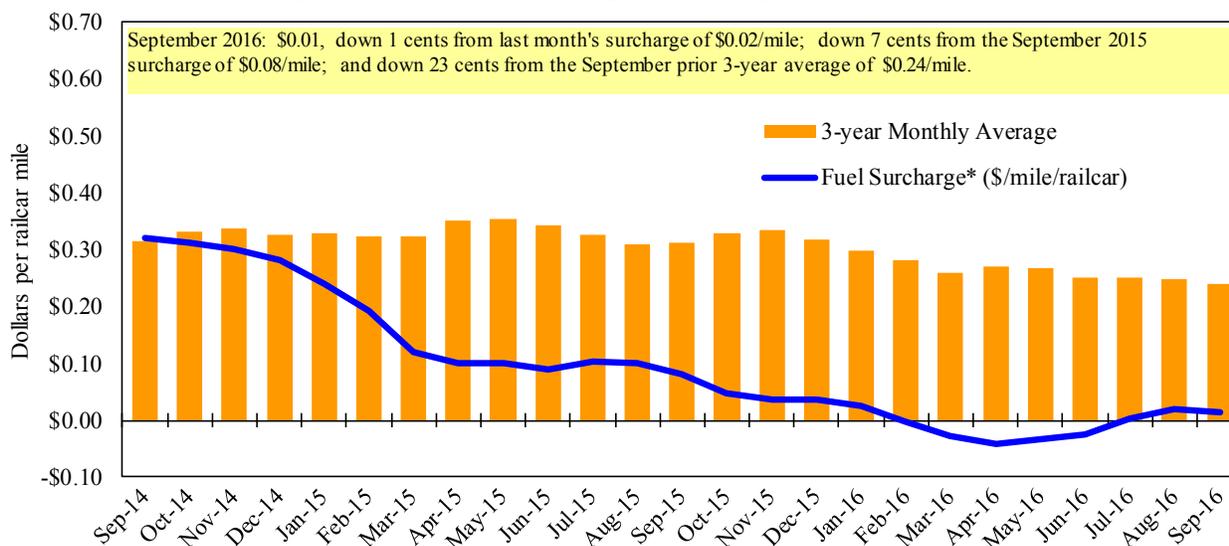
²Fuel surcharge adjusted to reflect the change in Ferrocarril Mexicano, S.A. de C.V railroad fuel surcharge policy as of 10/01/2009

³Approximate load per car = 97.87 metric tons: Corn & Sorghum 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

⁴Percentage change calculated using tariff rate plus fuel surcharge

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

Figure 7

Railroad Fuel Surcharges, North American Weighted Average¹

¹ Weighted by each Class I railroad's proportion of grain traffic for the prior year.

* Beginning January 2009, the Canadian Pacific fuel surcharge is computed by a monthly average of the bi-weekly fuel surcharge.

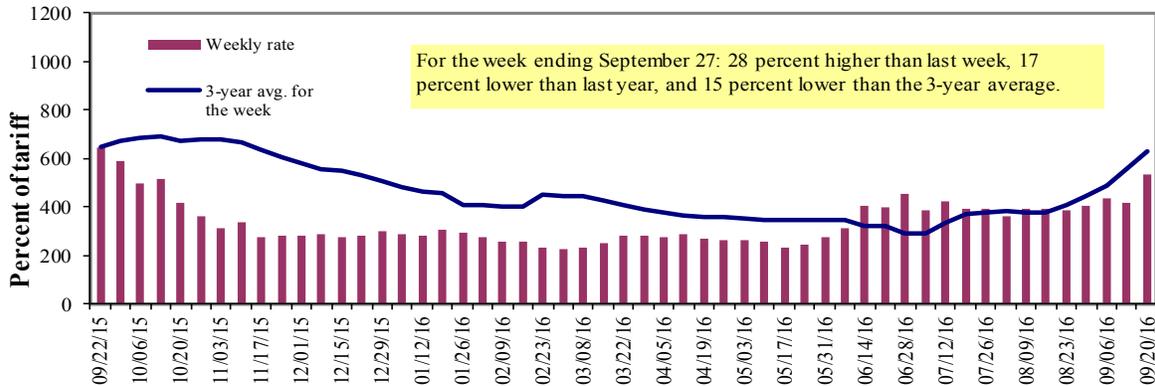
**CSX strike price changed from \$2.00/gal. to \$3.75/gal. starting January 1, 2015.

Sources: www.bnsf.com, www.cn.ca, www.cpr.ca, www.csx.com, www.kcsi.com, www.nscorp.com, www.uprr.com

Barge Transportation

Figure 8

Illinois River Barge Freight Rate^{1,2}



¹Rate = percent of 1976 tariff benchmark index (1976 = 100 percent); ²4-week moving average of the 3-year average.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Table 9

Weekly Barge Freight Rates: Southbound Only

		Twin Cities	Mid-Mississippi	Lower Illinois River	St. Louis	Cincinnati	Lower Ohio	Cairo-Memphis
Rate¹	9/27/2016	550	538	535	420	525	525	400
	9/20/2016	473	443	418	313	430	430	313
\$/ton	9/27/2016	34.05	28.62	24.82	16.76	24.62	21.21	12.56
	9/20/2016	29.28	23.57	19.40	12.49	20.17	17.37	9.83
Current week % change from the same week:								
	Last year	-9	-15	-17	-21	-26	-26	-25
	3-year avg. ²	-7	-12	-15	-31	-22	-22	-34
Rate¹	October	600	575	575	463	550	550	438
	December	-	-	413	330	363	363	290

¹Rate = percent of 1976 tariff benchmark index (1976 = 100 percent); ²4-week moving average; ton = 2,000 pounds; - closed for winter

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 9

Benchmark tariff rates

Calculating barge rate per ton:

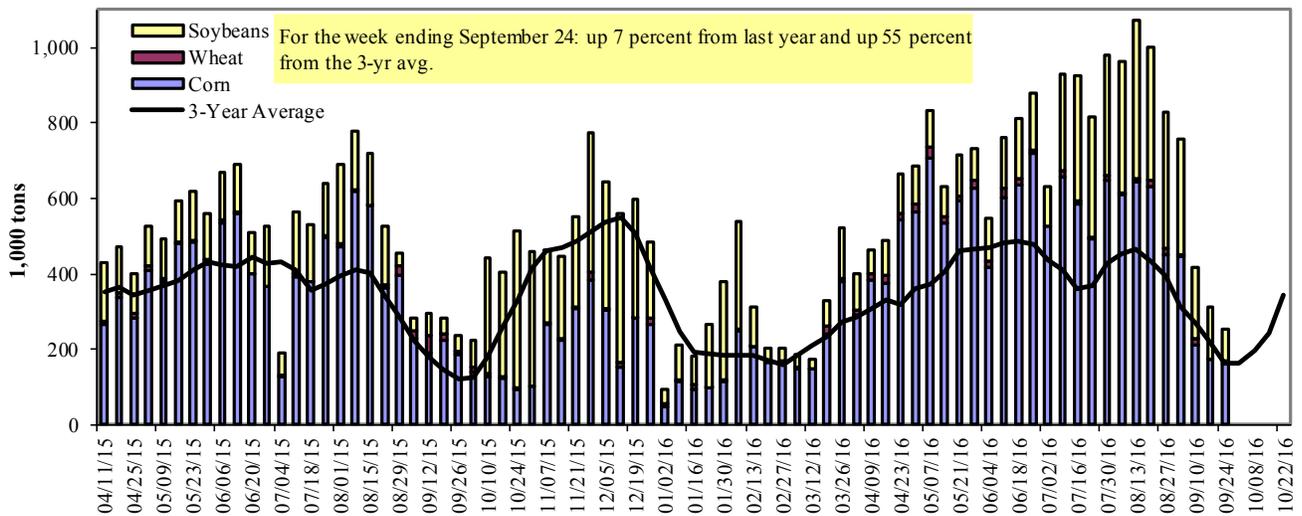
$$(\text{Rate} * 1976 \text{ tariff benchmark rate per ton})/100$$

Select applicable index from market quotes included in tables on this page. The 1976 benchmark rates per ton are provided in map.



Figure 10

Barge Movements on the Mississippi River¹ (Locks 27 - Granite City, IL)



¹ The 3-year average is a 4-week moving average.

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Table 10

Barge Grain Movements (1,000 tons)

For the week ending 9/24/2016	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Other	Total
Mississippi River					
Rock Island, IL (L15)	60	11	39	6	117
Winfield, MO (L25)	94	3	61	5	163
Alton, IL (L26)	185	6	92	5	287
Granite City, IL (L27)	162	8	84	5	259
Illinois River (L8)	46	0	16	0	62
Ohio River (L52)	115	0	21	2	138
Arkansas River (L1)	1	24	21	1	48
Weekly total - 2016	279	32	126	8	444
Weekly total - 2015	228	41	208	16	492
2016 YTD ¹	18,541	1,703	9,029	265	29,538
2015 YTD	15,290	1,491	6,986	212	23,980
2016 as % of 2015 YTD	121	114	129	125	123
Last 4 weeks as % of 2015 ²	137	69	200	154	146
Total 2015	19,215	1,686	14,191	359	35,451

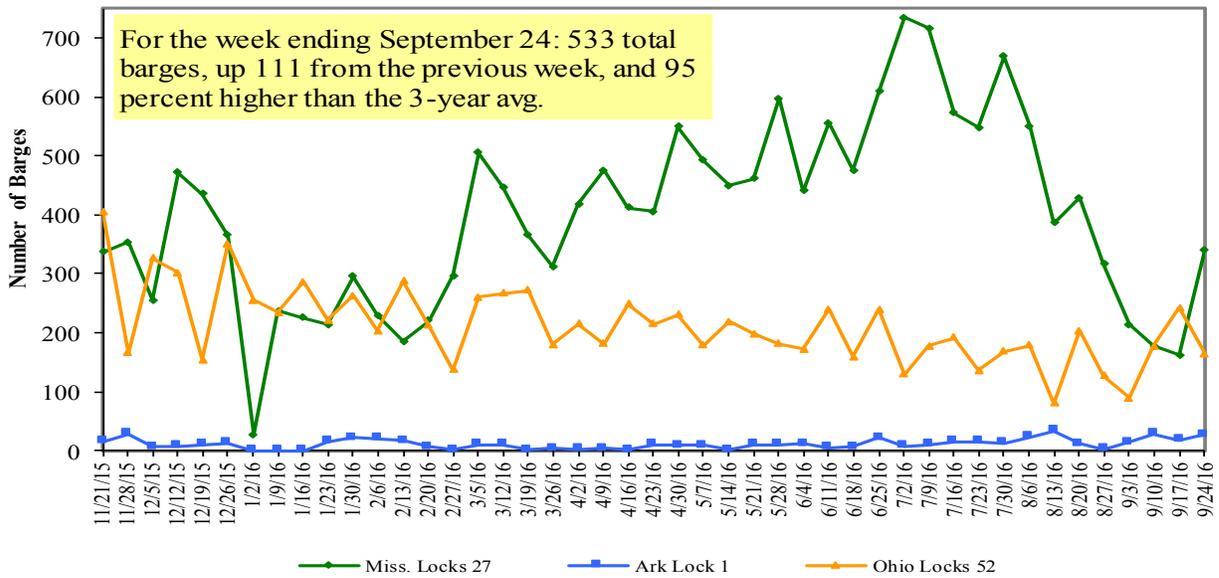
¹ Weekly total, YTD (year-to-date) and calendar year total includes Miss/27, Ohio/52, and Ark/1; "Other" refers to oats, barley, sorghum, and rye.

² As a percent of same period in 2015.

Note: Total may not add exactly, due to rounding

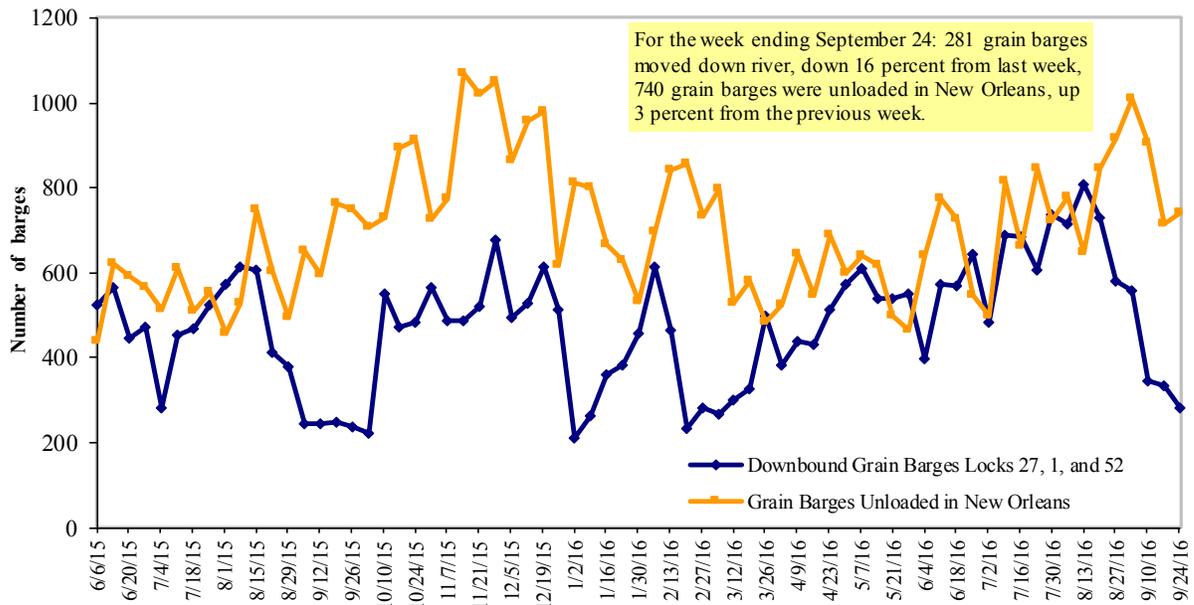
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Figure 11
Upbound Empty Barges Transiting Mississippi River Locks 27, Arkansas River Lock and Dam 1, and Ohio River Locks and Dam 52



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Figure 12
Grain Barges for Export in New Orleans Region



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and GIPSA

Truck Transportation

The **weekly diesel price** provides a proxy for trends in U.S. truck rates as diesel fuel is a significant expense for truck grain movements.

Table 11

Retail on-Highway Diesel Prices¹, Week Ending 09/26/2016 (US \$/gallon)

Region	Location	Price	Change from	
			Week ago	Year ago
I	East Coast	2.393	0.002	-0.141
	New England	2.398	-0.007	-0.192
	Central Atlantic	2.489	0.004	-0.158
	Lower Atlantic	2.318	0.002	-0.119
II	Midwest ²	2.359	-0.007	-0.075
III	Gulf Coast ³	2.230	-0.012	-0.093
IV	Rocky Mountain	2.465	-0.017	-0.021
V	West Coast	2.640	-0.012	-0.052
	West Coast less California	2.515	-0.009	-0.026
	California	2.739	-0.015	-0.076
Total	U.S.	2.382	-0.007	-0.094

¹Diesel fuel prices include all taxes. Prices represent an average of all types of diesel fuel.

²Same as North Central ³Same as South Central

Source: Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy (www.eia.doe.gov)

Figure 13

Weekly Diesel Fuel Prices, U.S. Average



Source: Retail On-Highway Diesel Prices, Energy Information Administration, Dept. of Energy

Grain Exports

Table 12

U.S. Export Balances and Cumulative Exports (1,000 metric tons)

For the week ending	Wheat						Corn	Soybeans	Total
	HRW	SRW	HRS	SWW	DUR	All wheat			
Export Balances¹									
9/15/2016	2,149	547	1,672	906	78	5,351	15,187	22,402	42,940
This week year ago	1,154	620	1,690	903	153	4,519	7,896	17,551	29,966
Cumulative exports-marketing year²									
2016/17 YTD	3,510	672	2,534	1,277	125	8,119	2,781	2,018	12,918
2015/16 YTD	1,900	1,366	1,817	1,029	348	6,459	1,869	592	8,920
YTD 2016/17 as % of 2015/16	185	49	139	124	36	126	149	341	145
Last 4 wks as % of same period 2015/16	190	89	100	106	57	121	163	100	120
2015/16 Total	5,538	3,057	6,285	3,551	670	19,101	45,564	49,821	114,487
2014/15 Total	7,009	3,654	7,250	3,758	665	22,336	45,205	49,614	117,155

¹ Current unshipped (outstanding) export sales to date

² Shipped export sales to date; new marketing year now in effect for wheat; new marketing year now in effect for corn and soybeans

Note: YTD = year-to-date. Marketing Year: wheat = 6/01-5/31, corn & soybeans = 9/01-8/31

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service/USDA (www.fas.usda.gov)

Table 13

Top 5 Importers¹ of U.S. Corn

For the week ending 9/15/2016	Total Commitments ²		% change current MY from last MY	Exports ³ 3-year avg 2013-2015
	2016/17 Current MY	2015/16 Last MY		
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
Japan	2,412	1,682	43	10,997
Mexico	4,639	3,721	25	11,542
Korea	974	123	691	3,933
Colombia	815	740	10	3,994
Taiwan	628	193	225	1,991
Top 5 Importers	9,467	6,460	47	32,457
Total US corn export sales	17,968	9,766	84	47,026
% of Projected	32%	20%		
Change from prior week	922	426		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. corn export sales	53%	66%		69%
USDA forecast, September 2016	55,344	48,728	14	
Corn Use for Ethanol USDA forecast, September 2016	133,985	132,080	1	

(n) indicates negative number.

¹Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports - www.fas.usda.gov; Marketing year (MY) = Sep 1 - Aug 31.

²Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report, or Export Sales Query--
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/>. Total commitments change from prior week could include revisions from previous
Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report, or Export Sales Query--
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/>

³FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports - <http://apps.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/myrkaug.htm>; 3-yr average

Table 14

Top 5 Importers¹ of U.S. Soybeans

For the week ending 9/15/2016	Total Commitments ²		% change current MY from last MY	Exports ³ 3-yr avg. 2013-2015
	2016/17 Current MY	2015/16 Last MY		
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
China	10,306	7,290	41	29,033
Mexico	1,133	1,000	13	3,295
Indonesia	257	179	44	2,065
Japan	563	794	(29)	1,994
Taiwan	471	320	47	1,226
Top 5 importers	12,730	9,583	33	37,614
Total US soybean export sales	24,421	18,142	35	39,169
% of Projected	45%	34%		
Change from prior week	876	1,231		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. soybean export sales	52%	53%		96%
USDA forecast, September 2016	54,087	52,861	2	

(n) indicates negative number.

¹ Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports - www.fas.usda.gov; Marketing year (MY) = Sep 1 - Aug 31.² Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report, or Export Sales Query--
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/>. Total commitments change from prior week could include revisions from previous week's³ FAS Marketing Year Final Reports - www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/myfi_rpt.htm. (Carryover plus Accumulated Exports)

Table 15

Top 10 Importers¹ of All U.S. Wheat

For the week ending 9/15/2016	Total Commitments ²		% change current MY from last MY	Exports ³ 3-yr avg 2013-2015
	2016/17 Current MY	2015/16 Last MY		
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
Japan	1,177	1,108	6	2,743
Mexico	1,287	1,116	15	2,660
Nigeria	606	923	(34)	1,978
Philippines	1,378	1,071	29	2,156
Brazil	895	292	207	2,076
Korea	673	567	19	1,170
Taiwan	432	507	(15)	1,005
Indonesia	458	120	282	776
Colombia	416	337	23	679
Thailand	260	141	85	618
Top 10 importers	7,321	6,040	21	15,861
Total US wheat export sales	13,470	10,979	23	24,485
% of Projected	52%	52%		
Change from prior week	561	283		
Top 10 importers' share of U.S. wheat export sales	54%	55%		65%
USDA forecast, September 2016	25,886	21,117	23	

(n) indicates negative number.

¹ Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports - www.fas.usda.gov; Marketing year = Jun 1 - May 31.² Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report, or Export Sales Query--
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/>. Total commitments change from prior week could include revisions from the previous week's outstanding and/or accumulated sales³ FAS Marketing Year Final Reports - www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/myfi_rpt.htm.

Table 16

Grain Inspections for Export by U.S. Port Region (1,000 metric tons)

Port Regions	For the Week Ending 09/22/16	Previous Week*	Current Week as % of Previous	2016 YTD*	2015 YTD*	2016 YTD as % of 2015 YTD	Last 4-weeks as % of:		2015 Total*
							Last Year	Prior 3-yr. avg.	
Pacific Northwest									
Wheat	455	274	166	9,613	8,307	116	117	103	10,985
Corn	315	264	120	9,832	6,935	142	343	444	7,232
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	5,263	4,087	129	n/a	8272	11,809
Total	771	538	143	24,709	19,329	128	194	188	30,027
Mississippi Gulf									
Wheat	104	12	841	2,825	3,602	78	60	48	4,504
Corn	752	650	116	23,744	22,203	107	146	152	26,701
Soybeans	375	737	51	17,614	13,646	129	216	259	29,593
Total	1,232	1,399	88	44,183	39,450	112	157	163	60,797
Texas Gulf									
Wheat	281	241	116	4,047	2,967	136	260	145	3,724
Corn	113	109	103	1,293	511	253	329	577	596
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	92	210	44	n/a	0	864
Total	393	351	112	5,432	3,688	147	277	184	5,184
Interior									
Wheat	32	66	48	1,065	1,112	96	122	118	1,388
Corn	112	209	54	5,247	4,676	112	98	123	6,201
Soybeans	27	23	114	2,848	2,232	128	91	144	3,518
Total	170	298	57	9,161	8,019	114	101	124	11,106
Great Lakes									
Wheat	49	11	450	726	727	100	125	139	997
Corn	3	0	n/a	452	454	99	194	284	485
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	159	89	180	n/a	n/a	733
Total	52	11	478	1,337	1,270	105	144	173	2,216
Atlantic									
Wheat	0	0	n/a	200	474	42	4	2	520
Corn	12	36	33	97	152	63	118	90	277
Soybeans	2	35	5	1,088	997	109	641	1129	2,053
Total	14	71	19	1,385	1,623	85	122	90	2,850
U.S. total from ports**									
Wheat	921	604	152	18,476	17,189	107	120	97	22,118
Corn	1,307	1,267	103	40,666	34,932	116	171	194	41,492
Soybeans	404	796	51	27,066	21,259	127	220	270	48,570
Total	2,632	2,667	99	86,207	73,380	117	164	165	112,180

* Data includes revisions from prior weeks; some regional totals may not add exactly due to rounding.

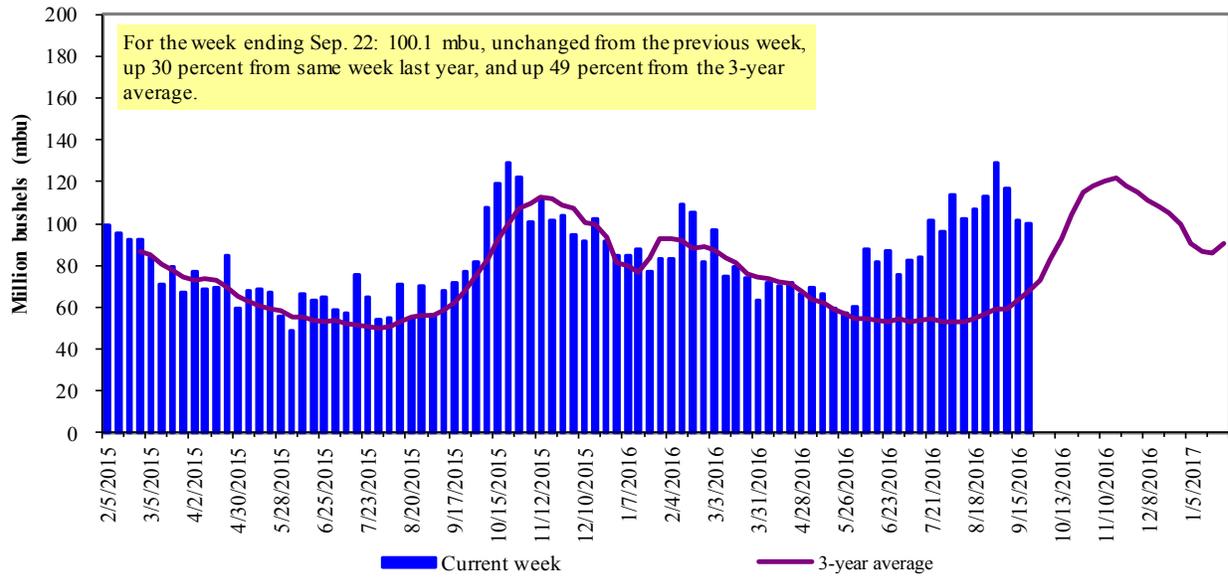
**Total only includes regions shown above

Source: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration/USDA (www.gipsa.usda.gov); YTD= year-to-date; n/a = not applicable

The United States exports approximately one-quarter of the grain it produces. On average, this includes nearly 45 percent of U.S.-grown wheat, 35 percent of U.S.-grown soybeans, and 20 percent of the U.S.-grown corn. Approximately 59 percent of the U.S. export grain shipments departed through the U.S. Gulf region in 2015.

Figure 14

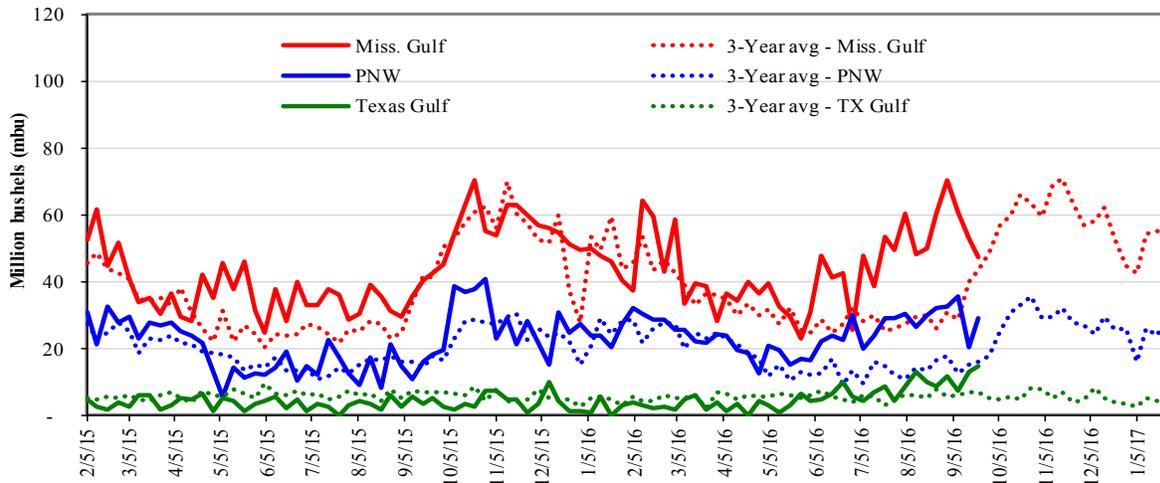
U.S. grain inspected for export (wheat, corn, and soybeans)



Source: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration/USDA (www.gipsa.usda.gov)
 Note: 3-year average consists of 4-week running average

Figure 15

U.S. Grain Inspections: U.S. Gulf and PNW¹ (wheat, corn, and soybeans)



Week ending 09/22/16 inspections (mbu):		Percent change from:				
Mississippi Gulf:	47.2	Last Week:	MS Gulf	TX Gulf	U.S. Gulf	PNW
PNW:	29.1	Last Year (same week):	down 11	up 12	down 7	up 43
Texas Gulf:	14.7	3-yr avg. (4-wk. mov. Avg):	up 33	up 135	up 48	up 90

Source: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration/USDA (www.gipsa.usda.gov)

Ocean Transportation

Table 17

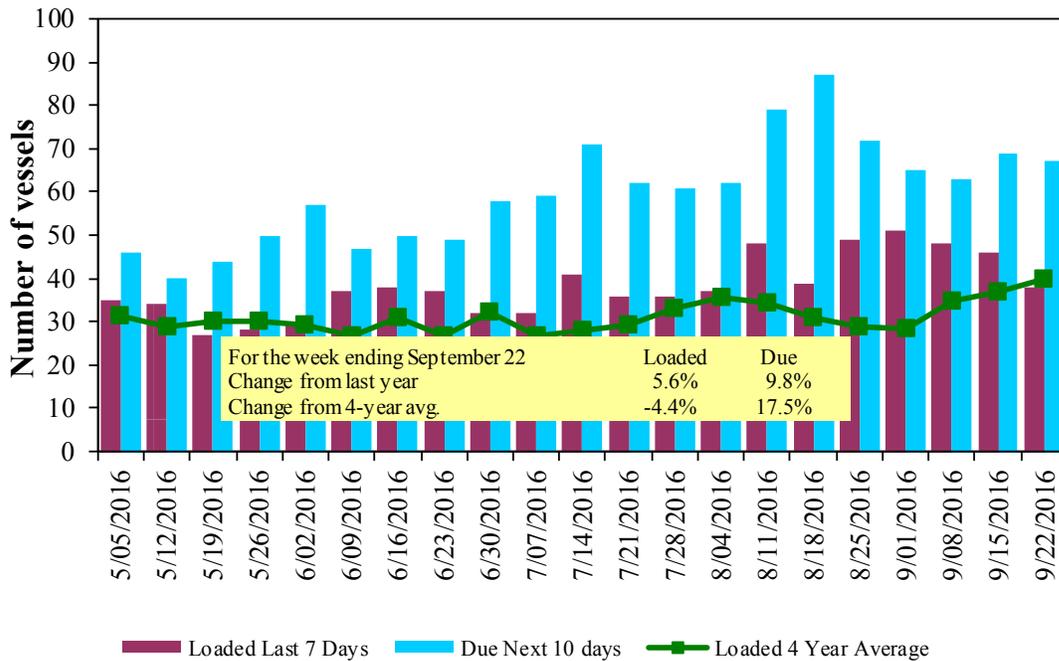
Weekly Port Region Grain Ocean Vessel Activity (number of vessels)

Date	Gulf			Pacific Northwest	Vancouver B.C.
	In port	Loaded 7-days	Due next 10-days	In port	In port
9/22/2016	52	38	67	13	n/a
9/15/2016	39	46	69	8	n/a
2015 range	(25..54)	(28..54)	(36..80)	(3..26)	n/a
2015 avg.	42	38	56	11	n/a

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 16

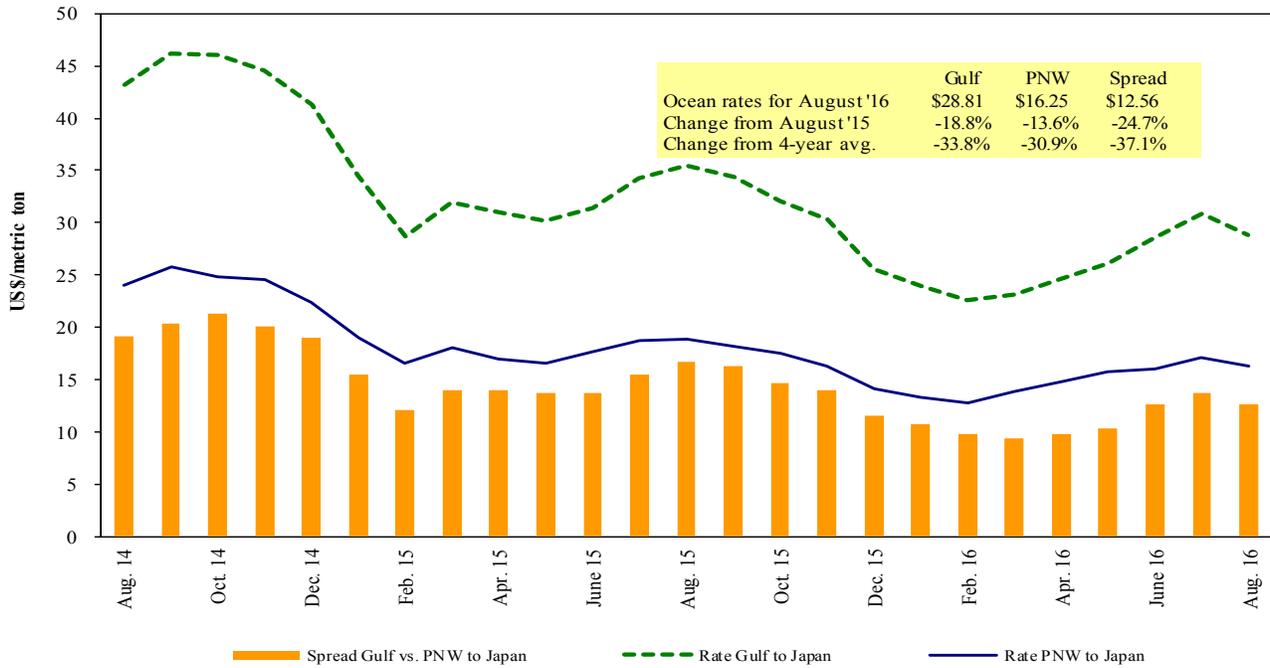
U.S. Gulf Vessel Loading Activity



Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 17

Grain Vessel Rates, U.S. to Japan



Data Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

Table 18

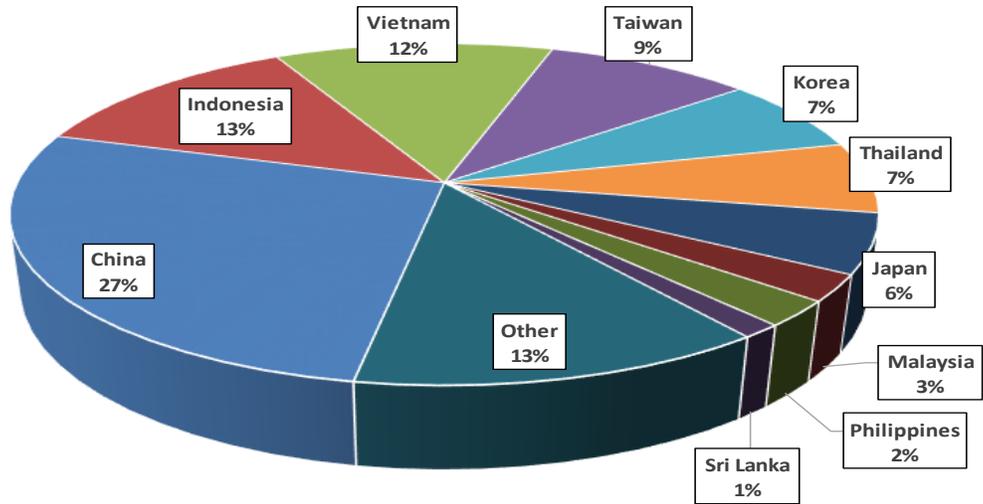
Ocean Freight Rates For Selected Shipments, Week Ending 09/24/2016

Export region	Import region	Grain types	Loading date	Volume loads (metric tons)	Freight rate (US\$/metric ton)
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Oct 10/20	60,000	28.25
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Sep 20/25	60,000	27.75
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Sep 1/10	60,000	27.00
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Aug 25/Sep 5	66,000	26.25
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Aug 24/30	60,000	26.40
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Aug 16/26	60,000	26.00
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Aug 15/25	60,000	26.75
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Aug 10/20	60,000	26.25
U.S. Gulf	South Africa	Sorghum ¹	Sep 15/25	20,000	63.50
U.S. Gulf	Djibouti	Wheat ¹	Aug 22/31	47,720	46.48
PNW	Japan	Heavy Grain	Aug 1/10	58,000	19.80
PNW	Japan	Heavy Grain	Jul 20/30	60,000	16.50
PNW	Taiwan	Wheat ¹	Sep 8/22	54,000	21.10
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Aug 18/25	60,000	18.60
Brazil	Japan	Heavy Grain	Sep 1/30	62,000	19.00
Brazil	Malaysia	Heavy Grain	Sep 1/30	65,000	17.00
River Plate	Algeria	Corn	Sep 24/28	40,000	19.50
Romania	France	Heavy Grain	Aug 5/9	55,000	8.50
Ukraine	Morroceo	Heavy Grain	Aug 29/Sep 3	30,000	16.00

Rates shown are for metric ton (2,204.62 lbs. = 1 metric ton), F.O.B., except where otherwise indicates; op = option

In 2014, containers were used to transport 7 percent of total U.S. waterborne grain exports. Approximately 63 percent of U.S. waterborne grain exports in 2014 went to Asia, of which 11 percent were moved in containers. Approximately 95 percent of U.S. waterborne containerized grain exports were destined for Asia.

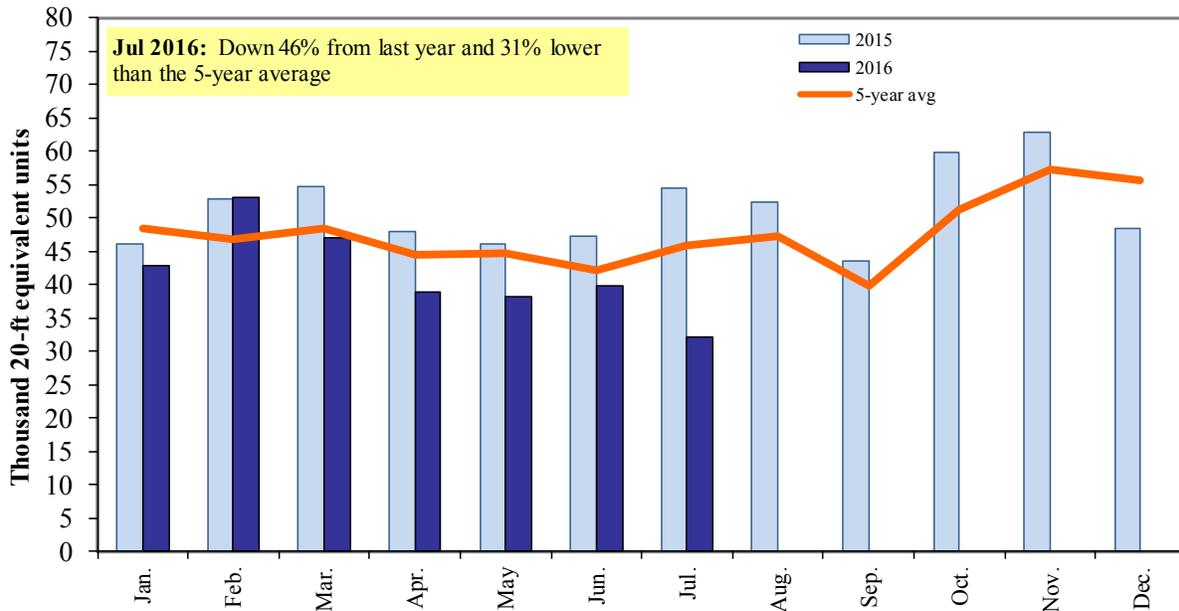
Figure 18
Top 10 Destination Markets for U.S. Containerized Grain Exports, January-July 2016



Source: USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service/Transportation Services Division analysis of Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS) data

Note: The following Harmonized Tariff Codes are used to calculate containerized grains movements: 100190, 100200, 100300, 100400, 100590, 100700, 110100, 230310, 110220, 110290, 120100, 230210, 230990, 230330, and 120810.

Figure 19
Monthly Shipments of Containerized Grain to Asia



Source: USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service/Transportation Services Division analysis of Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS) data.

Note: The following Harmonized Tariff Codes are used to calculate containerized grains movements: 100190, 100200, 100300, 100400, 100590, 100700, 110100, 230310, 110220, 110290, 120100, 230210, 230990, 230330, and 120810.

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