



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

January 3, 2013

Contents

Article/
Calendar

Grain
Transportation
Indicators

Rail

Barge

Truck

Exports

Ocean

Brazil

Mexico

Grain Truck/Ocean
Rate Advisory

Data Links

Specialists

Subscription
Information

The next
release is
January 10, 2013



Grain Transportation Report

A weekly publication of the
Transportation and Marketing Programs/Transportation Services Division
www.ams.usda.gov/GTR

Contact Us

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

River Levels Decline While On-going Mid-Mississippi River Rock Removal Continues

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports that based upon current river hydrographs, Mississippi River flows will sustain navigation through early January. On January 3, the Mississippi River gage at St. Louis, MO, was at -3.8 feet, with a forecast of - 5.0 feet by January 11. Contractors are continuing to remove rock formations in the six-mile stretch of the Mississippi River near Thebes, IL. The rock formations pose a threat to navigation as river levels continue to decline. Current rock removal efforts include excavating equipment, and additional rock removal procedures will include submersible jackhammers and marine blasting. The U.S. Coast Guard is providing notices to mariners about Mississippi River closures during the rock removal operations. While rock removal work is conducted, the river will be closed for 16 hours a day. Barge traffic will be allowed to pass the demolition work for 8 hours during the night.

Holiday Week Inspections Drop, Higher in the PNW; Wheat Export Sales Increase

For the week ending December 27, **total inspections of grain** (corn, wheat, soybeans) from all major export regions totaled 1.38 million metric tons (mmt), down 30 percent from the previous week but finishing the year only 11 percent below last year. PNW weekly inspections (.435 mmt) increased 9 percent, but were not enough to offset big decreases in other port regions, including a 36 percent drop in the Mississippi Gulf. Wheat export sales increased by over 1 mmt (mostly to Egypt, Nigeria, and Japan), pushing unshipped balances of wheat to 18.7 mmt, 25 percent higher than last year at this time. Soybean unshipped balances were 6 percent higher than last year at this time. Corn unshipped balances, however, were 43 percent lower than last year at this time.

Brazil Soybean Harvest in Mato Grosso Underway

On January 2, soybean harvest began near the municipality of Lucas do Rio Verdi—generally, the first to plant and harvest soybeans—in Mato Grosso, Brazil. Mato Grosso is the top soybean producing region in Brazil. When Brazil’s soybean harvest peaks during March and begins entering global markets, U.S. soybean exports tend to decrease. However, given increased global soybean demand and lower U.S. transportation costs, the landed value of U.S. soybeans tend to remain competitive with soybeans from Brazil.

Snapshots by Sector

Rail

U.S. railroads originated 20,092 **carloads of grain** during the week ending December 22, down 1 percent from last week, 6 percent from last year, and 14 percent lower than the 3-year average.

During the week ending December 27, average January non-shuttle **secondary railcar bids/offers per car** were \$12.50 above tariff, the same as last week, and \$6 higher than last year. Average shuttle bids/offers were \$60.50 above tariff, up \$22.50 from last week, and \$260.50 higher than last year.

Barge

During the week ending December 29, **barge grain movements** totaled 325,625 tons, 26 percent lower than the previous week and 28 percent lower than the same period last year.

During the week ending December 29, 199 grain barges **moved down river**, down 29.4 percent from last week; 600 grain barges were **unloaded in New Orleans** down 14 percent from the previous week.

Ocean

During the week ending December 27, 20 **ocean-going grain vessels** were loaded in the Gulf, 33 percent less than the same period last year. Fifty-four vessels are expected to be loaded within the next 10 days, 8 percent higher than the same period last year.

During the week ending December 28, the **ocean freight rate** for shipping bulk grain from the Gulf to Japan was \$44.00 per mt, 1 percent less than the previous week. The cost of shipping from the Pacific Northwest to Japan was \$24 per mt, unchanged from the previous week.

Fuel

During the week ending December 31, U.S. average **diesel fuel prices** were unchanged from the previous week, but 13.5 cents higher than the same week last year.

Feature Article/Calendar

Jan. 7, '13	Agricultural Transportation Coalition Ag Shipper Workshop	Boise, ID	www.agtrans.org
Jan. 8, '13	Agricultural Transportation Coalition Ag Shipper Workshop	Portland, OR	www.agtrans.org
Jan. 13-16, '13	American Farm Bureau Federation Meeting	Nashville, TN	202-406-3600
Jan. 13-17, '13	92nd Annual Transportation Research Board Conference	Washington, DC	www.trb.org
Jan. 16-17, '13	South Dakota Grain & Feed Association Ag Expo	Sioux Falls, SD	www.sdgfa.org
Jan. 20-22, '13	North Dakota Grain Dealers Association Convention	Fargo, ND	www.ndgfa.org
Jan. 23-24, '12	Midwest Association of Rail Shippers' Winter Meeting	Oak Brook, IL	www.mwrailshippers.com
Jan. 23-24, '13	Minnesota Grain & Feed Association Convention	St Cloud, MN	www.segfa.org
Jan. 29-31, '13	Ag Connect Expo and Summit	Kansas City, MO	agconnect.com/
Jan. 30, '13	Agricultural Transportation Coalition Ag Shipper Workshop	Fresno, CA	www.agtrans.org
Jan. 31, '13	Agricultural Transportation Coalition Ag Shipper Workshop	Sacramento, CA	www.agtrans.org
Feb. 11 - 13, '13	International Marketing Conference and Meeting	Charleston, SC	202-789-0789
Feb. 12 - 13, '13	Agribusiness Association of Iowa	Des Moines, IA	515-262-8323
Feb. 21 - 22, '13	USDA 2013 Agricultural Outlook Forum	Washington, DC	www.usda.gov/oce/forum
Feb. 28-Mar. 3, '13	Southeastern Grain & Feed Association Convention	Charleston, SC	www.waterways.org
Mar. 14, '13	Agricultural Transportation Coalition Ag Shipper Workshop	Memphis, TN	www.agtrans.org
Mar. 17-19, '13	National Grain & Feed Association Conference	San Francisco, CA	www.ngfa.org
Mar. 28-30, '13	IOAM/GEAPS Annual Great Lakes Conference	Angola, IN	www.iaom.info/
Apr. 24-26, '13	Texas Grain & Feed Association Annual Meeting and Expo	Austin, TX	www.tgfa.com
Apr. 29-May 3, '13	IOAM Annual Conference and Expo	Ontario, Canada	913-338-3377
Apr. 30-May 1, '13	Oklahoma Grain & Feed Association Convention	Oklahoma City, OK	580-233-9516
May 15-16, '13	17th Distillers Grains Symposium	Minneapolis, MN	www.distillersgrains.org/symposium
Jun 12-14, '13	Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Conference	Sunriver, OR	www.pnwgfa.org

Grain Transportation Indicators

Table 1

Grain Transport Cost Indicators¹

Week ending	Truck	Rail		Barge	Ocean	
		Unit Train	Shuttle		Gulf	Pacific
01/02/13	263	234	214	278	199	170
12/26/12	263	234	213	313	199	170

¹Indicator: Base year 2000 = 100; Weekly updates include truck = diesel (\$/gallon); rail = near-month secondary rail market bid and monthly tariff rate with fuel surcharge (\$/car); barge = Illinois River barge rate (index = percent of tariff rate); and ocean = routes to Japan (\$/metric ton)

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Table 2

Market Update: U.S. Origins to Export Position Price Spreads (\$/bushel)

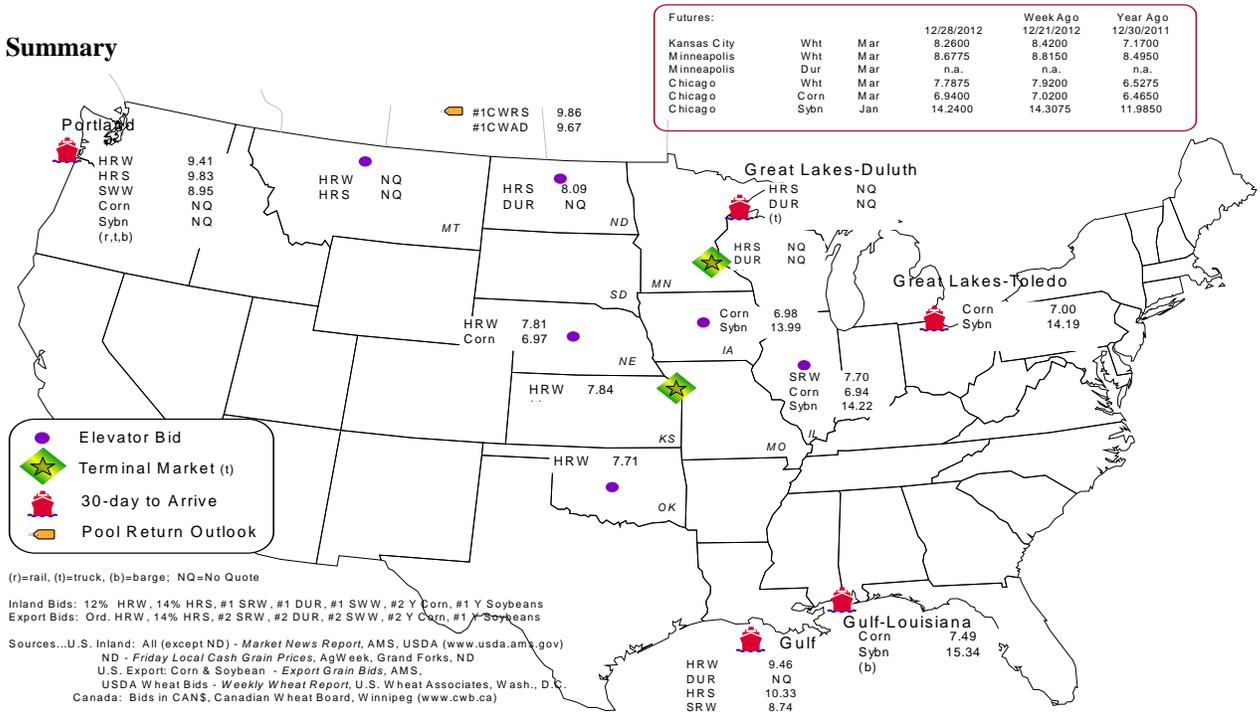
Commodity	Origin--Destination	12/27/2012	12/20/2012
Corn	IL--Gulf	-0.55	-0.55
Corn	NE--Gulf	-0.52	-0.53
Soybean	IA--Gulf	-1.35	-1.29
HRW	KS--Gulf	-1.62	-1.67
HRS	ND--Portland	-1.74	-1.60

Note: nq = no quote

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

The **grain bid summary** illustrates the market relationships for commodities. Positive and negative adjustments in differential between terminal and futures markets, and the relationship to inland market points, are indicators of changes in fundamental market supply and demand. The map may be used to monitor market and time differentials.

Figure 1
Grain bid Summary



Rail Transportation

Table 3

Rail Deliveries to Port (carloads)¹

Week ending	Mississippi		Pacific	Atlantic &	Total	Week ending	Cross-Border Mexico ³
	Gulf	Texas Gulf	Northwest	East Gulf			
12/26/2012 ^p	1,402	279	3,821	803	6,305	12/22/12	1,187
12/19/2012 ^r	1,448	854	3,950	743	6,995	12/15/12	964
2012 YTD ^r	22,604	40,526	199,419	24,659	287,208	2012 YTD	92,008
2011 YTD ^r	27,358	77,515	191,187	24,088	320,148	2011 YTD	96,414
2012 YTD as % of 2011 YTD	83	52	104	102	90	% change YTD	95
Last 4 weeks as % of 2011 ²	1,820	117	69	183	103	Last 4wks % 2011	60
Last 4 weeks as % of 4-year avg. ²	179	59	87	130	97	Last 4wks % 4 yr	74
Total 2011	27,358	77,515	191,187	24,088	320,148	Total 2011	97,118
Total 2010	33,971	83,492	177,896	32,780	328,139	Total 2010	90,175

¹ Data is incomplete as it is voluntarily provided

² Compared with same 4-weeks in 2011 and prior 4-year average.

³ Cross-border weekly data is approximately 15 percent below weekly AAR carloads received by Mexican railroads to reflect within switching between KCSM and FerroMe

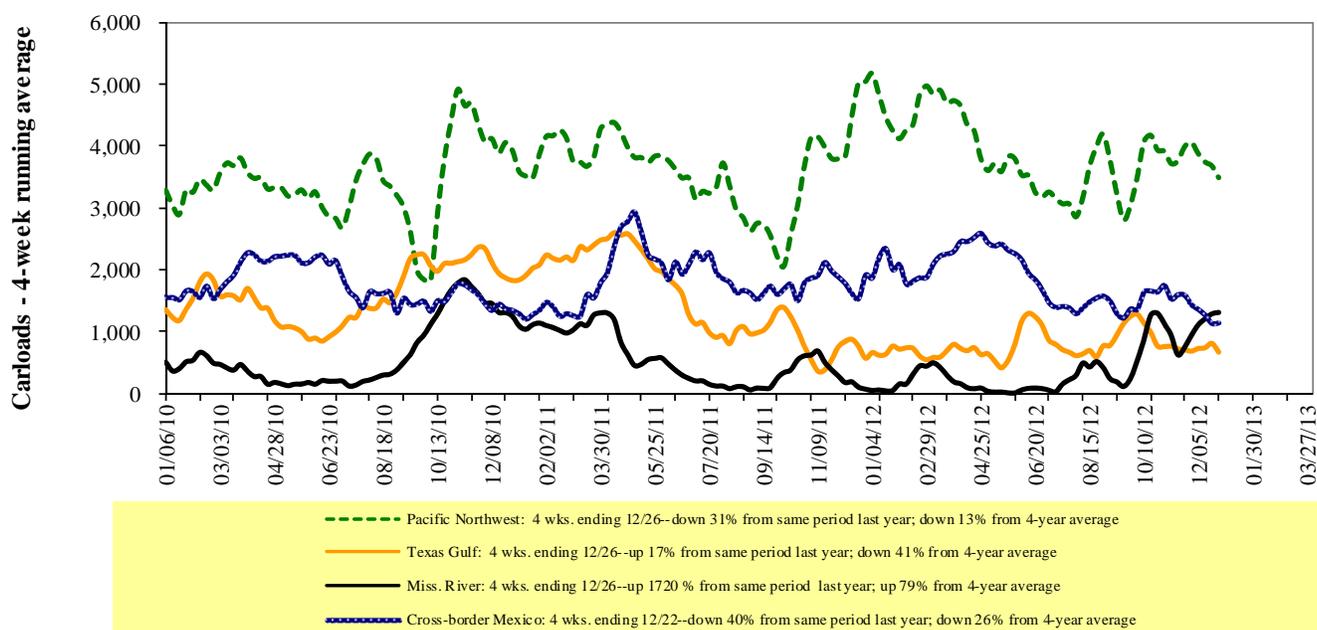
YTD = year-to-date; p = preliminary data; r = revised data; YTD PNW carloads includes revisions back to August 2011 ; n/a = not available

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Railroads originate approximately 29 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

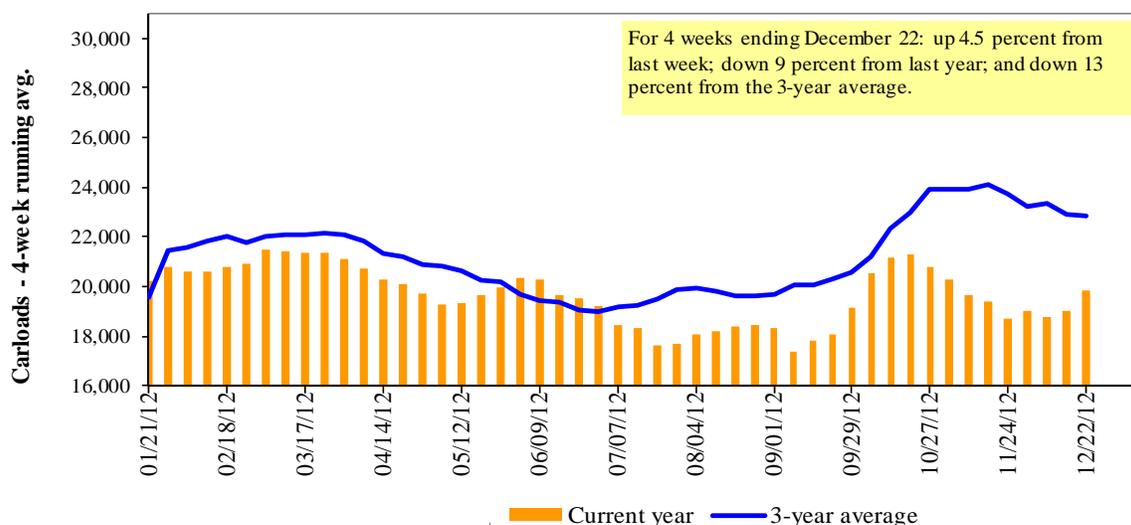
Table 4

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

Week ending	East		West			U.S. total	Canada	
	CSXT	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP		CN	CP
12/22/12	1,540	2,838	10,857	561	4,296	20,092	3,895	6,202
This week last year	2,646	2,946	10,322	442	5,049	21,405	4,021	5,664
2012 YTD	84,404	143,453	508,136	26,627	241,423	1,004,043	200,482	261,918
2011 YTD	96,625	148,452	537,249	34,280	288,195	1,104,801	197,378	266,187
2012 YTD as % of 2011 YTD	87	97	95	78	84	91	102	98
Last 4 weeks as % of 2011 ¹	79	102	93	117	83	91	97	105
Last 4 weeks as % of 3-yr avg. ¹	77	95	95	86	77	89	104	117
Total 2011	98,506	150,869	546,090	34,683	292,401	1,122,549	200,610	269,399

¹As a percent of the same period in 2009 and 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

Week ending	Delivery period							
	Jan-13	Jan-12	Feb-13	Feb-12	Mar-13	Mar-12	Apr-13	Apr-12
12/27/2012								
BNSF ³								
COT grain units	1	0	1	no bids	1	no bids	no bids	no bids
COT grain single-car ⁵	6 . . 11	0 . . 10	0 . . 10	10	0 . . 1	no bids	0	no bids
UP ⁴								
GCAS/Region 1	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	no bids	n/a	n/a
GCAS/Region 2	no bids	1	no bids	no bids	no bids	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.

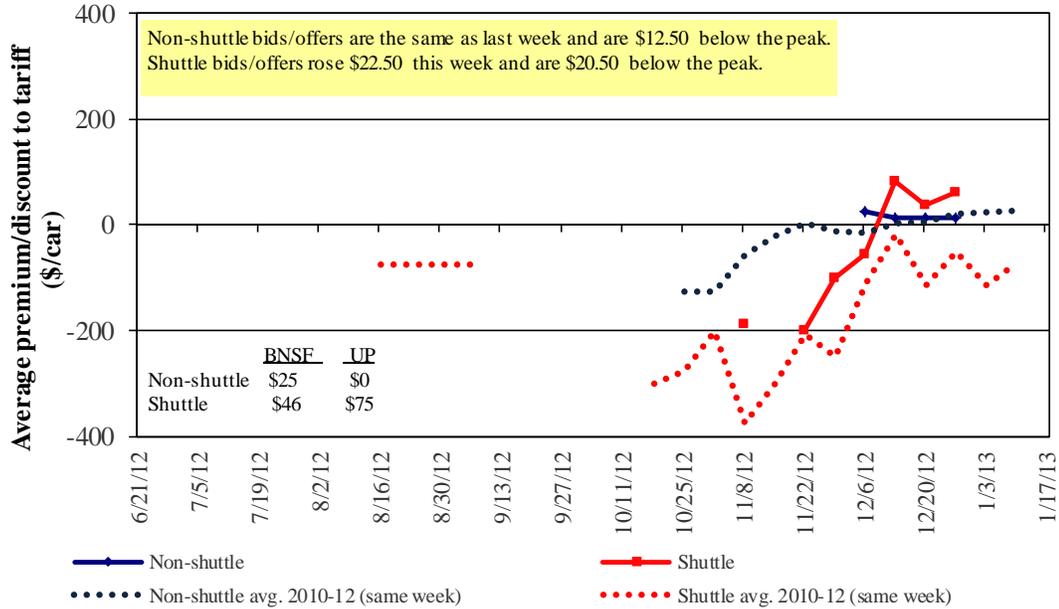
⁵Range is shown because average is not available. Not available = n/a.

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 January 2013, Secondary Market

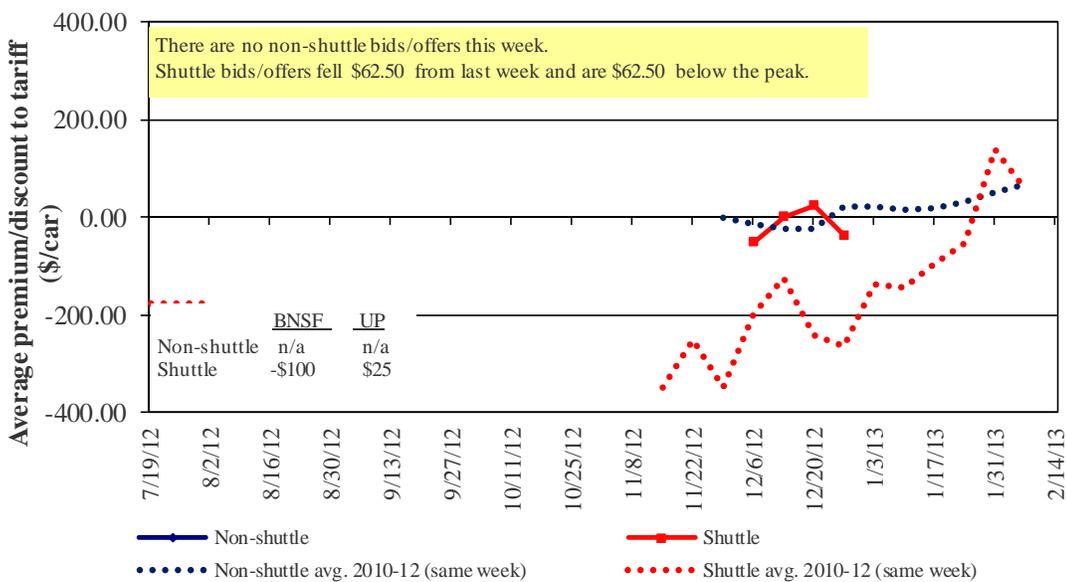


Non-shuttle bids include unit-train and single-car bids. n/a = not available.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 5

Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in February 2013, Secondary Market

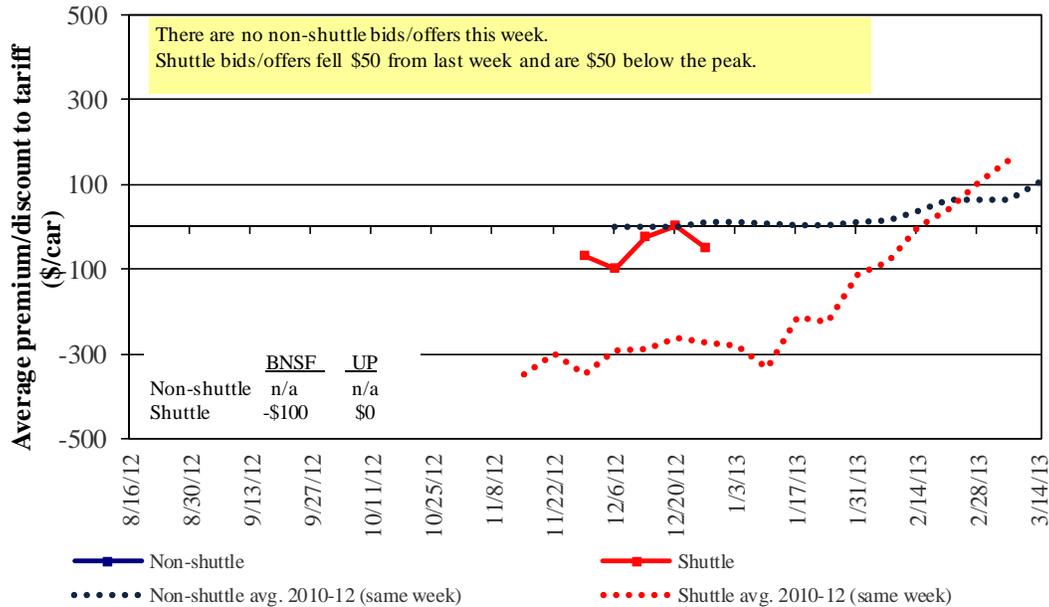


Non-shuttle bids include unit-train and single-car bids. n/a = not available.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 6

Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in March 2013, Secondary Market



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

Week ending	Delivery period					
	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13
12/27/2012						
Non-shuttle						
BNSF-GF	25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from last week	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from same week 2011	25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UP-Pool	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from last week	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from same week 2011	(13)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shuttle²						
BNSF-GF	46	(100)	(100)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from last week	33	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from same week 2011	396	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UP-Pool	75	25	-	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from last week	12	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from same week 2011	125	238	250	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

² Shuttle bids are a new data series; prior to this we provided only non-shuttle rates.

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 Atwood/ConAgra, Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.

Table 7

Tariff Rail Rates for Unit and Shuttle Train Shipments¹

Effective date:				Fuel	Tariff plus surcharge per:		Percent
1/1/2013	Origin region*	Destination region*	Tariff rate/car	surcharge per car	metric ton	bushe ^l ²	change Y/Y ³
Unit train							
Wheat	Wichita, KS	St. Louis, MO	\$3,144	\$197	\$33.18	\$0.90	5
	Grand Forks, ND	Duluth-Superior, MN	\$3,543	\$113	\$36.31	\$0.99	14
	Wichita, KS	Los Angeles, CA	\$6,026	\$581	\$65.61	\$1.79	5
	Wichita, KS	New Orleans, LA	\$3,645	\$347	\$39.64	\$1.08	4
	Sioux Falls, SD	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$5,573	\$477	\$60.08	\$1.64	3
	Northwest KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$3,912	\$380	\$42.62	\$1.16	4
	Amarillo, TX	Los Angeles, CA	\$4,112	\$529	\$46.09	\$1.25	4
Corn	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	\$3,110	\$392	\$34.78	\$0.95	2
	Toledo, OH	Raleigh, NC	\$4,508	\$442	\$49.15	\$1.34	13
	Des Moines, IA	Davenport, IA	\$2,006	\$83	\$20.75	\$0.56	4
	Indianapolis, IN	Atlanta, GA	\$3,920	\$332	\$42.22	\$1.15	15
	Indianapolis, IN	Knoxville, TN	\$3,354	\$213	\$35.42	\$0.96	17
Soybeans	Des Moines, IA	Little Rock, AR	\$3,154	\$244	\$33.75	\$0.92	3
	Des Moines, IA	Los Angeles, CA	\$5,065	\$711	\$57.36	\$1.56	2
	Minneapolis, MN	New Orleans, LA	\$3,674	\$425	\$40.70	\$1.11	5
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	\$3,575	\$314	\$38.62	\$1.05	2
	Indianapolis, IN	Raleigh, NC	\$4,578	\$445	\$49.88	\$1.36	3
	Indianapolis, IN	Huntsville, AL	\$3,267	\$213	\$34.55	\$0.94	2
Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	\$3,599	\$392	\$39.64	\$1.08	5	
Shuttle Train							
Wheat	Great Falls, MT	Portland, OR	\$4,639	\$334	\$49.39	\$1.34	40
	Wichita, KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$3,634	\$260	\$38.67	\$1.05	15
	Chicago, IL	Albany, NY	\$3,771	\$414	\$41.56	\$1.13	3
	Grand Forks, ND	Portland, OR	\$5,061	\$578	\$55.99	\$1.52	7
	Grand Forks, ND	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$6,082	\$602	\$66.37	\$1.81	6
	Northwest KS	Portland, OR	\$4,880	\$624	\$54.65	\$1.49	3
Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,800	\$703	\$54.65	\$1.49	0
	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	\$4,760	\$644	\$53.67	\$1.46	0
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	\$2,929	\$392	\$32.98	\$0.90	2
	Lincoln, NE	Galveston-Houston, TX	\$3,310	\$375	\$36.60	\$1.00	0
	Des Moines, IA	Amarillo, TX	\$3,510	\$307	\$37.90	\$1.03	2
	Minneapolis, MN	Tacoma, WA	\$4,800	\$698	\$54.59	\$1.49	0
Soybeans	Council Bluffs, IA	Stockton, CA	\$4,200	\$722	\$48.87	\$1.33	0
	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	\$5,320	\$644	\$59.23	\$1.61	5
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$5,330	\$703	\$59.91	\$1.63	6
	Fargo, ND	Tacoma, WA	\$5,230	\$573	\$57.62	\$1.57	6
	Council Bluffs, IA	New Orleans, LA	\$3,950	\$452	\$43.72	\$1.19	6
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	\$2,750	\$314	\$30.42	\$0.83	3
Grand Island, NE	Portland, OR	\$4,960	\$638	\$55.60	\$1.51	9	

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		Percent change Y/Y ⁴	
				surcharge per car ²	Tariff plus surcharge per: metric ton ³ bushel ³		
Wheat	MT	Chihuahua, CI	\$6,762	\$611	\$75.34	\$2.05	-12
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	\$6,552	\$742	\$74.53	\$2.03	-2
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	\$7,444	\$717	\$83.39	\$2.27	-2
	TX	Salinas Victoria, NL	\$3,553	\$280	\$39.16	\$1.06	-3
Corn	IA	Guadalajara, JA	\$7,699	\$843	\$87.28	\$2.21	-1
	SD	Celaya, GJ ⁵	\$7,356	\$800	\$83.33	\$2.11	n/a
	NE	Queretaro, QA	\$7,153	\$749	\$80.74	\$2.05	1
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	\$5,700	\$608	\$64.45	\$1.64	1
	MO	Tlalnepantla, EM	\$6,592	\$728	\$74.79	\$1.90	4
	SD	Torreon, CU	\$6,522	\$670	\$73.48	\$1.86	0
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	\$7,580	\$711	\$84.72	\$2.30	6
	NE	Guadalajara, JA	\$8,134	\$814	\$91.42	\$2.49	1
	IA	El Castillo, JA	\$8,555	\$795	\$95.53	\$2.60	4
	KS	Torreon, CU	\$6,651	\$505	\$73.11	\$1.99	2
Sorghum	TX	Guadalajara, JA	\$6,464	\$520	\$71.36	\$1.81	-2
	NE	Celaya, GJ ⁵	\$6,997	\$726	\$78.90	\$2.00	n/a
	KS	Queretaro, QA	\$6,815	\$456	\$74.29	\$1.89	5
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	\$5,438	\$534	\$61.01	\$1.55	6
	NE	Torreon, CU	\$6,153	\$596	\$68.96	\$1.75	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

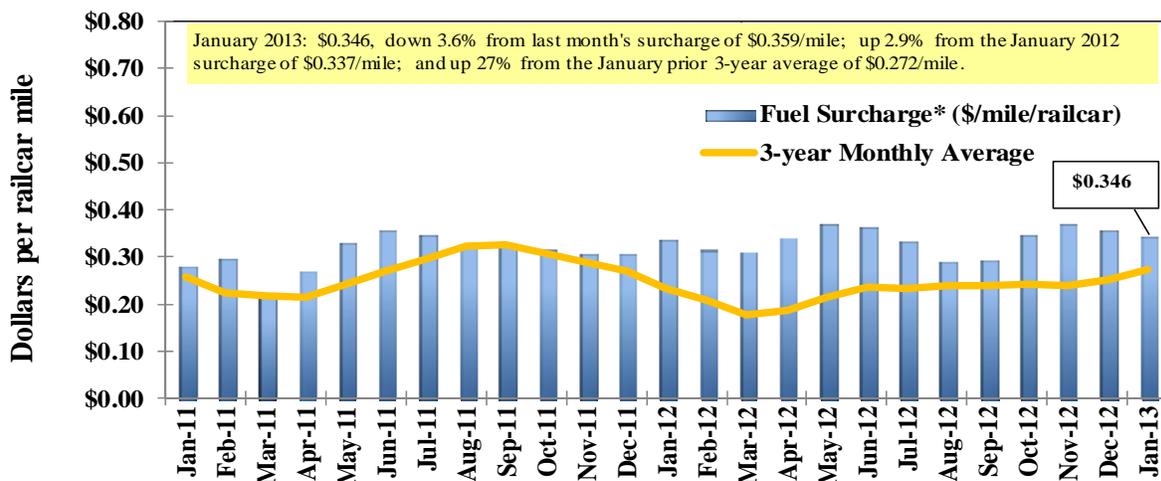
³Approximate load per car = 97.87 metric tons: Corn & Sorghum 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

⁴Percentage change year over year calculated using tariff rate plus fuel surcharge

⁵Beginning 11/1/12, Celaya, GJ, replaced Penjamo, GJ, as the destination.

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.

* Mileage-based fuel surcharges for March and April 2007 are estimated. Beginning January 2009, the Canadian Pacific fuel surcharge is computed by a monthly average of the bi-weekly fuel surcharge.

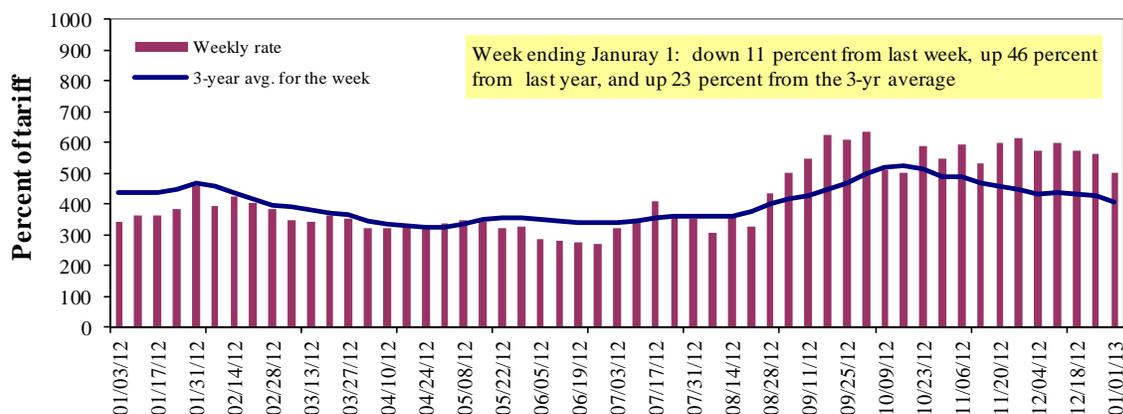
** BNSF strike price (diesel price when fuel surcharges begin) changed from \$1.25/gal. to \$2.50/gal starting March 1, 2011. As a result, the weighted average fuel surcharge for March 2011 was \$0.227/mile instead of \$0.331/mile.

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

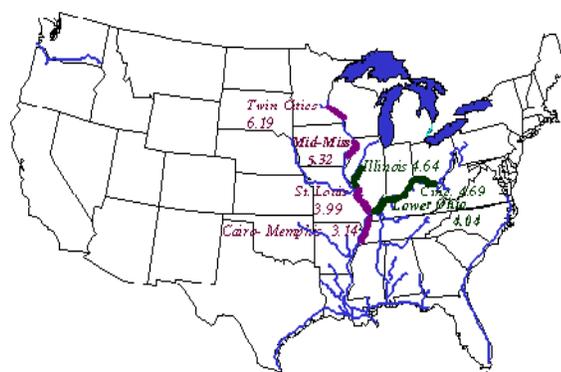
Weekly Barge Freight Rates: Southbound Only

		Twin Cities	Mid-Mississippi	Lower Illinois River	St. Louis	Cincinnati	Lower Ohio	Cairo-Memphis
Rate¹	1/1/2013	-	-	500	450	350	350	250
	12/25/2012	-	-	563	500	413	413	313
\$/ton	1/1/2013	-	-	23.20	17.96	16.42	14.14	7.85
	12/25/2012	-	-	26.12	19.95	19.37	16.69	9.83
Current week % change from the same week:								
	Last year	-	-	46	81	4	4	9
	3-year avg. ²	-	-	23	49	-2	-2	-8
Rate¹	February	-	-	463	388	350	350	250
	April	413	363	358	293	358	358	238

¹Rate = percent of 1976 tariff benchmark index (1976 = 100 percent); ²4-week moving average; ton = 2,000 pounds; - closed for winter or no rates

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 9
Benchmark tariff rates



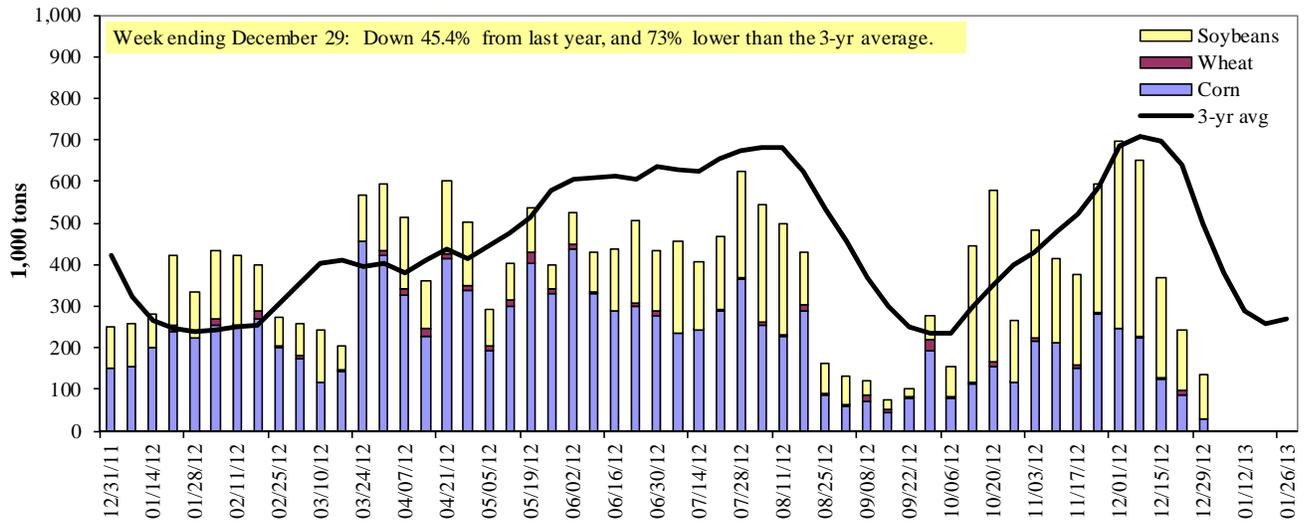
Calculating barge rate per ton:

(Index * 1976 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 (see figure 9).

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)

Week ending 12/29/2012	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Other	Total
Mississippi River					
Rock Island, IL (L15)	0	0	0	0	0
Winfield, MO (L25)	2	0	24	0	26
Alton, IL (L26)	22	0	118	0	140
Granite City, IL (L27)	28	0	108	0	136
Illinois River (L8)	24	0	79	0	103
Ohio River (L52)	31	11	138	0	180
Arkansas River (L1)	0	3	7	0	10
Weekly total - 2012	59	13	253	0	326
Weekly total - 2011	233	22	197	0	452
2012 YTD ¹	14,837	1,794	12,663	229	29,523
2011 YTD	19,921	1,460	8,553	422	30,356
2012 as % of 2011 YTD	74	123	148	54	97
Last 4 weeks as % of 2011 ²	38	42	120	20	70
Total 2011	19,921	1,460	8,553	422	30,356

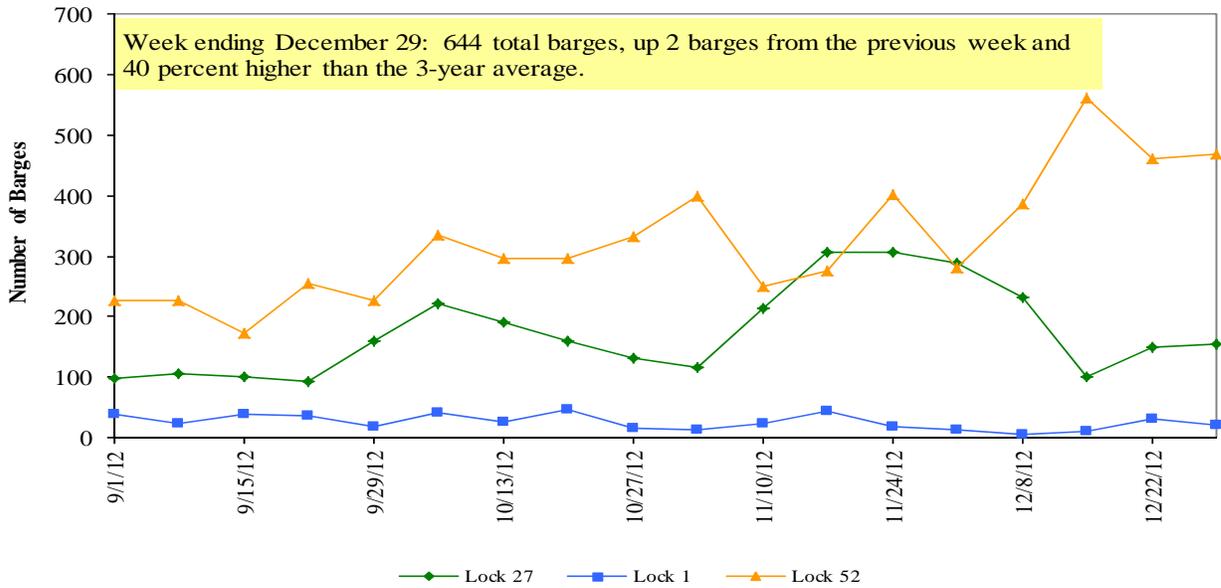
¹ Weekly total, YTD (year-to-date) and calendar year total includes Miss/27, Ohio/52, and Ark/1; "Other" refers to oats, barley, sorghum, and rye.

² As a percent of same period in 2011.

Note: Total may not add exactly, due to rounding

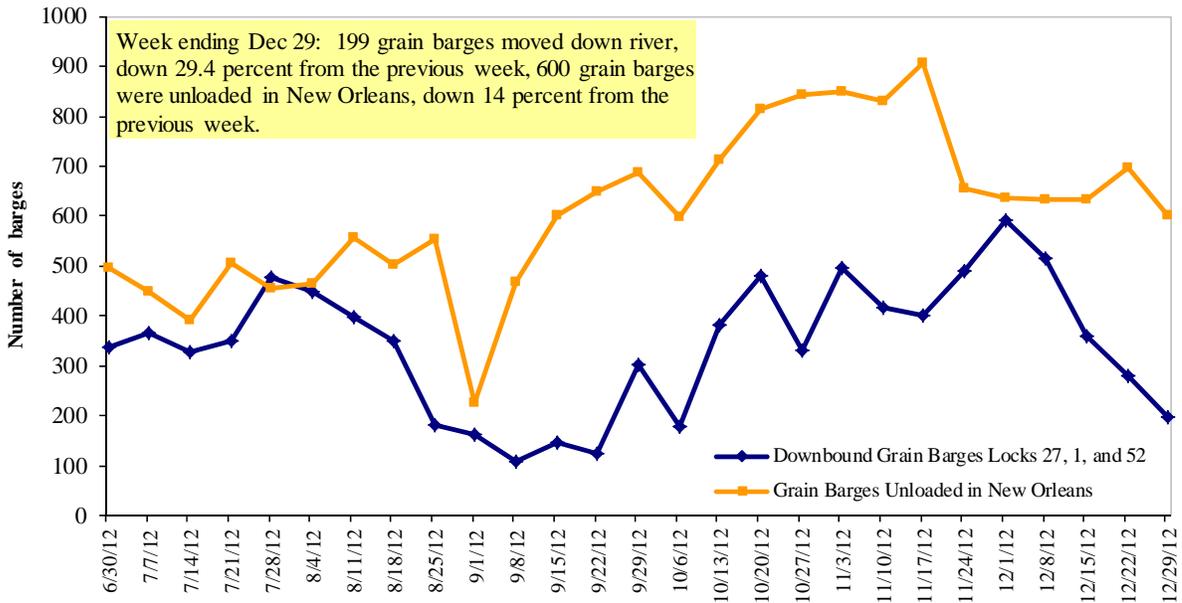
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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 12/31/2012 (US \$/gallon)

Region	Location	Price	Change from	
			Week ago	Year ago
I	East Coast	4.006	0.000	0.162
	New England	4.154	0.001	0.181
	Central Atlantic	4.105	-0.007	0.173
	Lower Atlantic	3.904	0.005	0.150
II	Midwest ²	3.885	-0.008	0.202
III	Gulf Coast ³	3.830	-0.003	0.121
IV	Rocky Mountain	3.746	-0.045	-0.090
V	West Coast	3.991	0.002	0.012
	West Coast less California	3.928	0.013	0.028
	California	4.045	-0.007	-0.001
Total	U.S.	3.918	-0.005	0.135

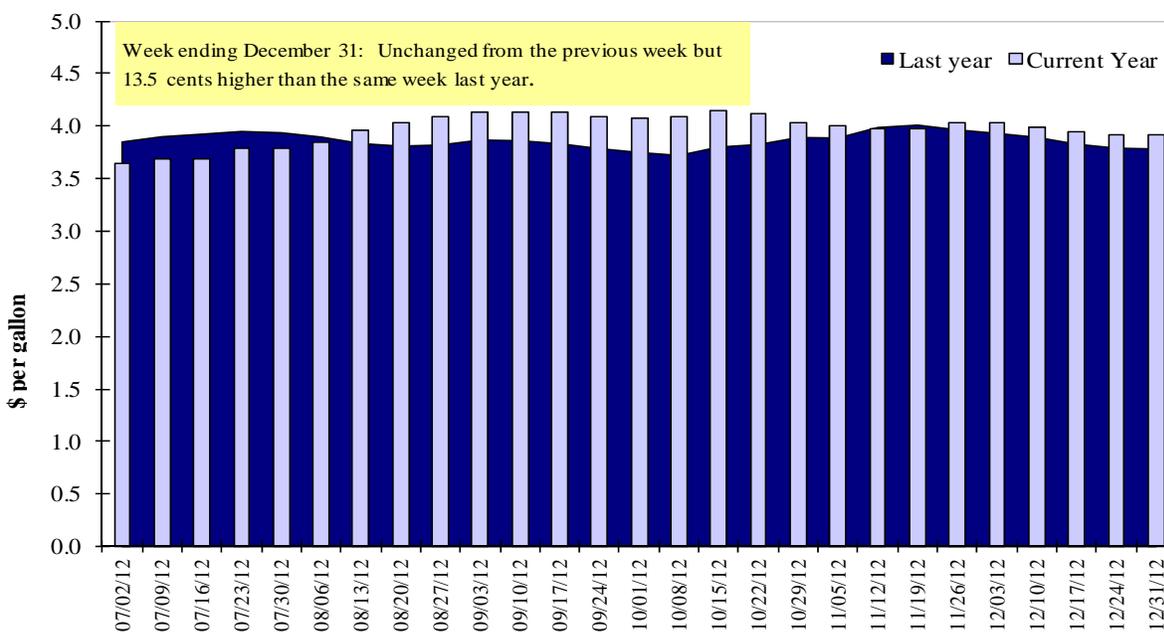
¹Diesel fuel prices include all taxes. Prices represent an average of all types of diesel fuel.

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)

Week ending	Wheat						Corn	Soybeans	Total
	HRW	SRW	HRS	SWW	DUR	All wheat			
Export Balances¹									
12/20/2012	1,716	1,190	1,220	1,257	107	5,490	6,329	10,368	22,187
This week year ago	1,368	688	1,182	1,082	55	4,375	11,177	9,779	25,331
Cumulative exports-marketing year²									
2012/13 YTD	5,332	1,752	1,752	2,475	318	13,187	6,378	20,062	39,626
2011/12 YTD	6,070	1,958	1,958	2,780	347	15,076	13,195	14,060	42,331
YTD 2012/13 as % of 2011/12	88	89	89	89	92	87	48	143	94
Last 4 wks as % of same period 2011/12	108	102	105	107	133	106	57	118	89
2011/12 Total	9,904	4,319	6,312	5,601	491	26,627	37,900	36,727	101,254
2010/11 Total	15,837	2,828	8,623	4,717	979	32,984	44,569	39,753	117,306

¹ Current unshipped export sales to date

² Shipped export sales to date; new marketing year begins 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

Week ending 12/20/12	Total Commitments ²		% change current MY from last MY	Exports ³ 2011/12
	2012/13 Current MY	2011/12 Last MY		
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
Japan	4,094	6,127	(33)	12,367
Mexico	2,910	5,496	(47)	9,617
China	1,359	3,025	(55)	5,414
Korea	422	2,404	(82)	3,639
Venezuela	277	261	6	1,332
Top 5 importers	9,062	17,312	(48)	32,369
Total US corn export sales	12,707	24,372	(48)	39,180
% of Projected	44%	62%		
Change from prior week	104	319		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. corn export sales	71%	71%		83%
USDA forecast, December 2012	29,210	39,180	(25)	
Corn Use for Ethanol USDA forecast, Ethanol December 2012	114,300	127,000	(10)	

(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/>

³ FAS Marketing Year Final Reports - www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/myfi_rpt.htm (Carry-over plus Accumulated Exports)

Table 14

Top 5 Importers¹ of U.S. Soybeans

Week Ending 12/20/2012	Total Commitments ²		% change current MY from last MY	Exports ³ 2011/12
	2012/13 Current MY	2011/12 Last MY		
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
China	18,693	16,808	11	24,602
Mexico	1,281	1,407	(9)	3,180
Japan	1,039	1,046	(1)	1,891
Indonesia	713	650	10	1,741
Egypt	414	363	14	1,292
Top 5 importers	22,140	20,274	9	32,706
Total US soybean export sales	30,430	23,838	28	37,060
% of Projected	83%	64%		
Change from prior week	87	663		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. soybean export sales	73%	85%		
USDA forecast, December 2012	36,610	37,060	(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/³FAS 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

Week Ending 12/20/2012	Total Commitments ²		% change current MY from last MY	Exports ³ 2011/12
	2012/13 Current MY	2011/12 Last MY		
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
Japan	2,643	2,461	7	3,512
Mexico	2,285	2,629	(13)	3,496
Nigeria	2,166	2,348	(8)	3,248
Philippines	1,563	1,713	(9)	2,039
Korea	1,241	1,083	15	1,983
Egypt	848	247	244	950
Taiwan	730	620	18	888
Indonesia	368	524	(30)	830
Venezuela	532	487	9	594
Iraq	209	572	(63)	572
Top 10 importers	12,585	12,682	(1)	18,111
Total US wheat export sales	18,676	19,451	(4)	28,560
% of Projected	65%	68%		
Change from prior week	1,009	431		
Top 10 importers' share of U.S. wheat export sales	67%	65%		63%
USDA forecast, December 2012	28,580	28,560	0.1	

(n) indicates negative number.

¹Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports - www.fas.usda.gov; Marketing year = Jun 1 - May 31.²Cumulative Exports (shipped) + Outstanding Sales (unshipped), FAS Weekly Export Sales Report, or Export Sales Query--http://www.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/³FAS 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	Week ending 12/27/12	Previous Week ¹	Current Week as % of Previous	2012 YTD ¹	2011 YTD ¹	2012 YTD as % of 2011 YTD	Last 4-weeks as % of		Total ¹ 2011
							2011	3-yr. avg.	
Pacific Northwest									
Wheat	53	160	33	12,558	13,995	90	70	80	13,995
Corn	57	110	52	5,512	9,198	60	22	26	9,198
Soybeans	326	130	250	10,347	7,321	141	100	81	7,321
Total	436	401	109	28,417	30,513	93	61	63	30,513
Mississippi Gulf									
Wheat	68	102	67	5,457	5,031	108	136	109	5,031
Corn	119	206	58	18,068	26,267	69	41	43	26,267
Soybeans	543	831	65	24,616	19,262	128	137	112	19,262
Total	731	1,139	64	48,142	50,560	95	92	84	50,560
Texas Gulf									
Wheat	78	100	78	5,912	10,837	55	106	87	10,837
Corn	0	0	n/a	336	1,021	33	0	0	1,021
Soybeans	0	52	0	626	926	68	286	70	926
Total	78	153	51	6,874	12,784	54	111	73	12,784
Interior									
Wheat	12	15	79	1,190	1,110	107	137	95	1,110
Corn	27	37	74	6,077	7,509	81	86	30	7,509
Soybeans	36	93	39	4,200	4,273	98	32	88	4,273
Total	75	145	52	11,467	12,892	89	89	56	12,892
Great Lakes									
Wheat	0	38	0	481	1,038	46	52	54	1,038
Corn	0	0	n/a	56	178	31	0	0	178
Soybeans	25	73	35	708	382	185	122	169	382
Total	25	110	23	1,245	1,598	78	91	104	1,598
Atlantic									
Wheat	0	0	n/a	341	686	50	n/a	0	686
Corn	0	0	n/a	143	295	49	17	28	295
Soybeans	48	58	82	1,461	1,042	140	152	123	1,042
Total	48	58	82	1,944	2,022	96	137	113	2,022
U.S. total from ports²									
Wheat	212	415	51	25,939	32,697	79	86	85	32,697
Corn	204	353	58	30,192	44,466	68	32	36	44,466
Soybeans	978	1,237	79	41,958	33,205	126	126	103	33,205
Total	1,393	2,005	69	98,089	110,369	89	80	76	110,369

¹ Data includes revisions from prior weeks; some regional totals may not add exactly due to rounding.

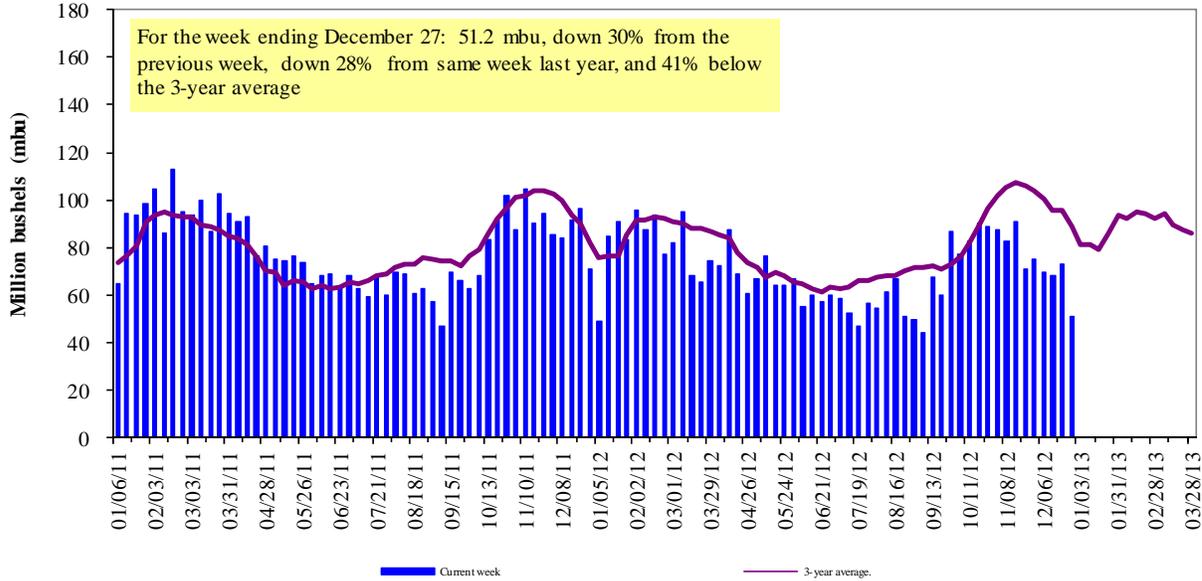
² Total includes only port regions shown above; Interior land-based shipments now included.

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 2011.

Figure 14

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

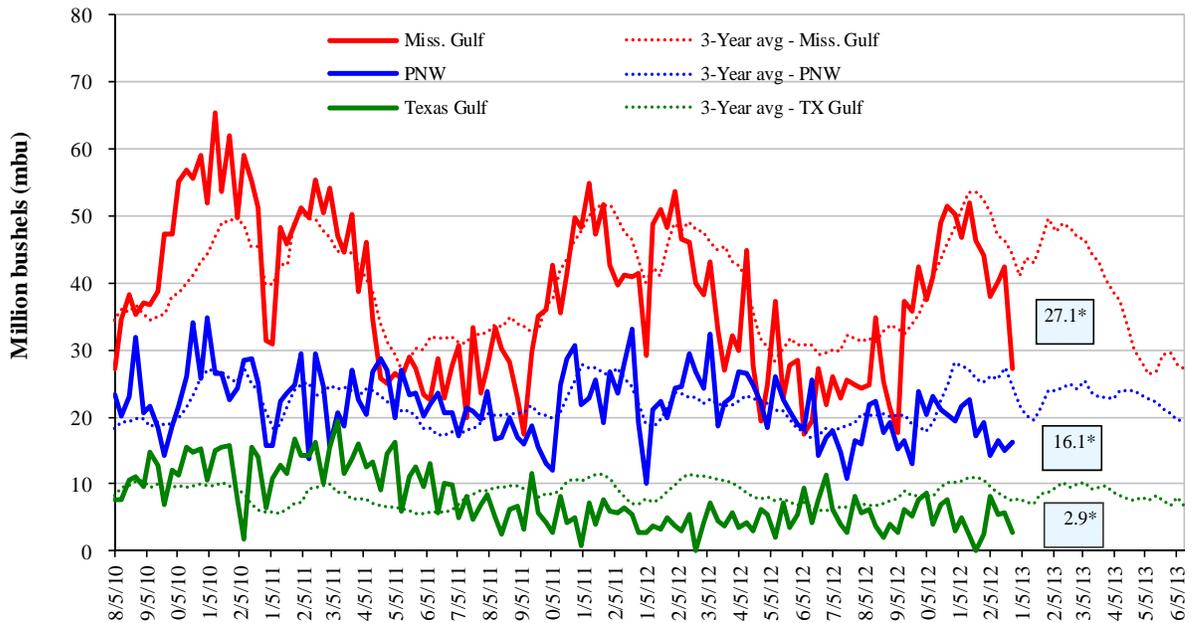


Source: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration/USDA (www.gipsa.usda.gov)

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)



Source: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration/USDA (www.gipsa.usda.gov); *mbu, this week.

<u>December 27 % change from:</u>	<u>MSGulf</u>	<u>TX Gulf</u>	<u>U.S. Gulf</u>	<u>PNW</u>
Last week	down 36	down 49	down 37	up 8
Last year (same week)	down 34	up 2	down 32	down 16
3-yr avg. (4-wk mov. avg.)	down 39	down 63	down 43	down 5

Ocean Transportation

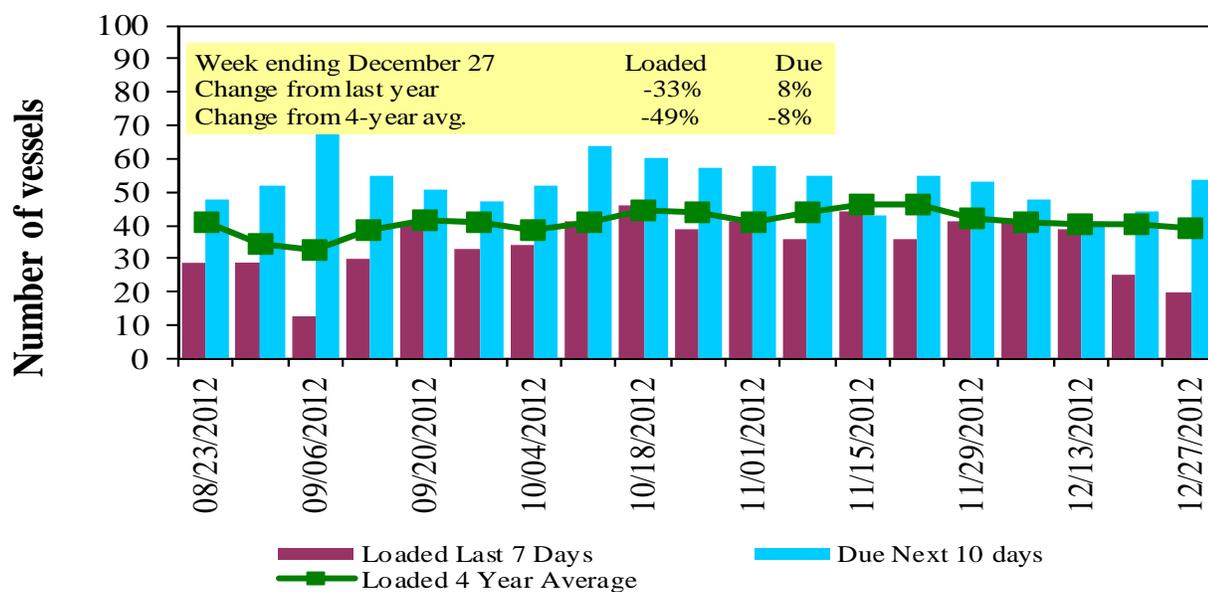
Table 17

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
12/27/2012	29	20	54	20	n/a
12/20/2012	39	25	44	15	n/a
2011 range	(14..65)	(28..54)	(34..83)	(5..25)	(1..20)
2011 avg.	31	38	53	15	12

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

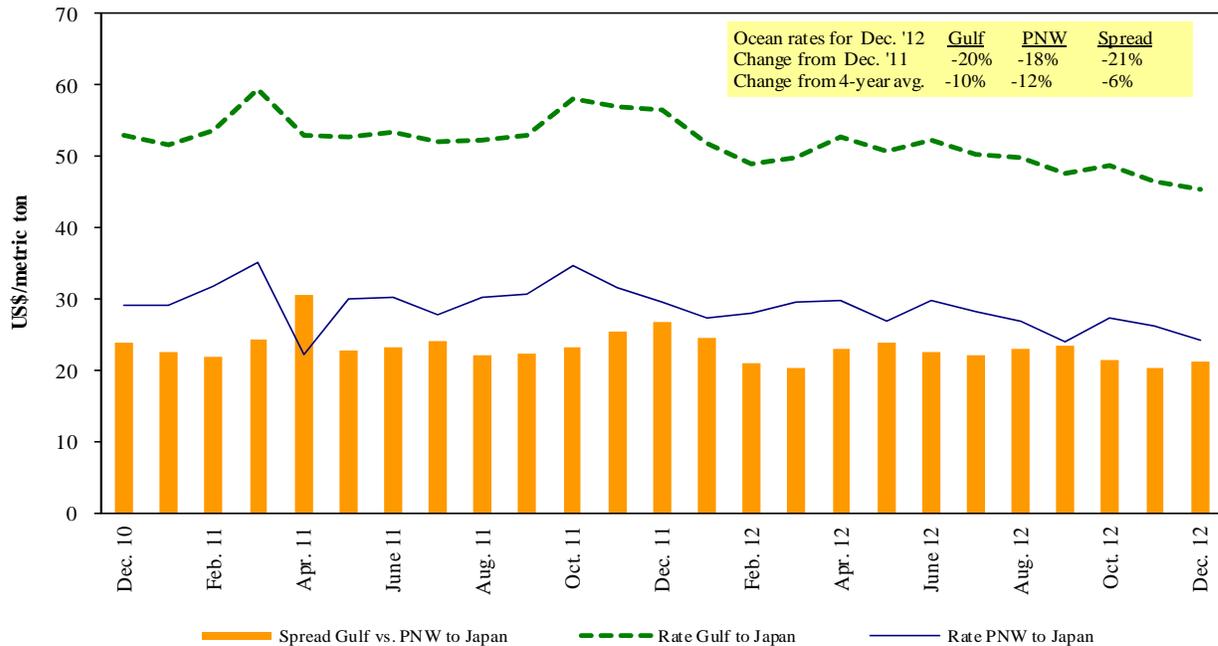
Figure 16
U.S. Gulf^d Vessel Loading Activity



Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 17

Grain Vessel Rates, U.S. to Japan



Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

Table 18

Ocean Freight Rates For Selected Shipments, Week Ending 12/27/2012

Export region	Import region	Grain types	Loading date	Volume loads (metric tons)	Freight rate (US\$/metric ton)
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Dec 5/10	55,000	42.50
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Nov 20/30	55,000	43.00
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Nov 15/25	55,000	49.00
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Nov 10/20	55,000	46.00
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Nov 9/19	55,000	48.00
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Nov 5/10	55,000	46.00
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Oct 20/30	55,000	43.75
Black Sea	Spain Mediterranean	Heavy Grain	Nov 30/Dec 3	50,000	11.00
Brazil	Portugal	Heavy Grain	Dec 10/20	60,000	19.50
Brazil	Portugal	Heavy Grain	Nov 10/20	60,000	15.50
France	Algeria	Wheat	Nov 2/7	25,000	22.00
India	S.Korea	Wheat	Oct5/15	55,000	15.00
River Plate	Tunisia	Heavy Grain	Oct 5/15	30,000	28.50
River Plate	Algeria	Wheat	Nov 7/9	40,000	25.00
Ukraine	Rotterdam	Rapeseed	Dec 8/17	60,000	14.80
Ukraine	S. Arabia	Barley	Oct 25/30	56,500	25.25

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

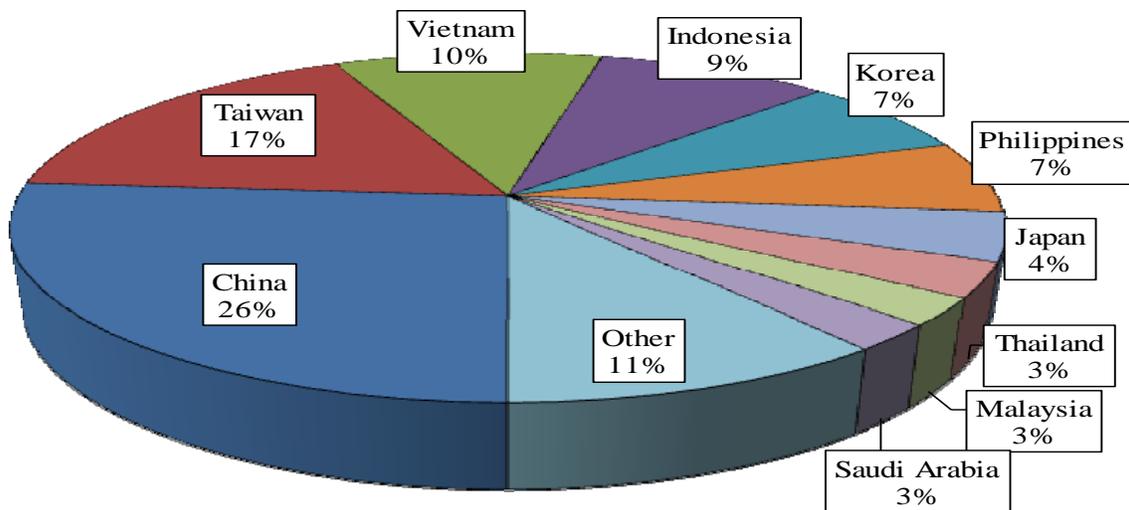
¹50 percent of food aid from the United States is required to be shipped on U.S.-flag vessels.

Source: Maritime Research Inc. (www.maritime-research.com)

In 2011, containers were used to transport 7 percent of total U.S. waterborne grain exports, up 2 percentage points from 2010. Approximately 11 percent of U.S. waterborne grain exports in 2011 went to Asia in containers, up 4 percentage points from 2010. Asia is the top destination for U.S. containerized grain exports—96 percent in 2011.

Figure 18

Top 10 Destination Markets for U.S. Containerized Grain Exports, September 2012

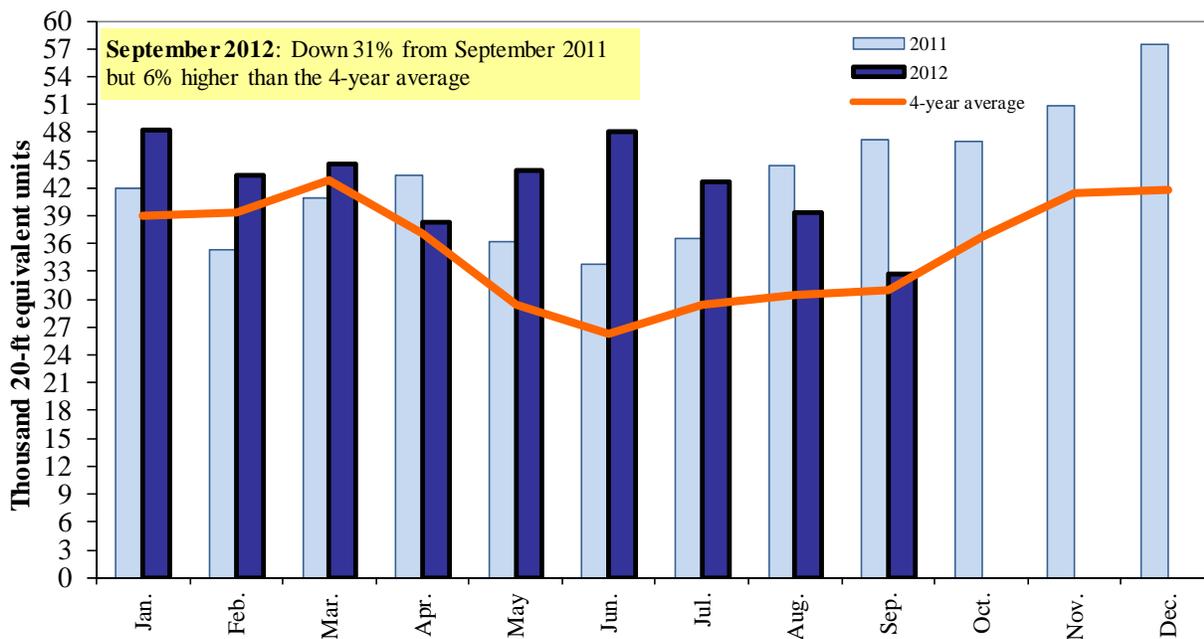


Source: USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service/Transportation Services Division analysis of Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS) data

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.

Contacts and Links

Coordinators

Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0119
Pierre Bahizi	pierre.bahizi@ams.usda.gov	(202) 690 - 0992
Adam Sparger	adam.sparger@ams.usda.gov	(202) 205 - 8701

Weekly Highlight Editors

Marina Denicoff	marina.denicoff@ams.usda.gov	(202) 690 - 3244
Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0119
April Taylor	april.taylor@ams.usda.gov	(202) 295 - 7374
Nicholas Marathon	nick.marathon@ams.usda.gov	(202) 690 - 4430

Grain Transportation Indicators

Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0119
-------------------------------	--	------------------

Rail Transportation

Marvin Prater	marvin.prater@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0299
Johnny Hill	johnny.hill@ams.usda.gov	(202) 690 - 3295
Adam Sparger	adam.sparger@ams.usda.gov	(202) 205 - 8701

Barge Transportation

Nicholas Marathon	nick.marathon@ams.usda.gov	(202) 690 - 4430
April Taylor	april.taylor@ams.usda.gov	(202) 295 - 7374

Truck Transportation

April Taylor	april.taylor@ams.usda.gov	(202) 295 - 7374
--------------	--	------------------

Grain Exports

Johnny Hill	johnny.hill@ams.usda.gov	(202) 690 - 3295
Marina Denicoff	marina.denicoff@ams.usda.gov	(202) 690 - 3244

Ocean Transportation

Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo (Freight rates and vessels)	surajudeen.olowolayemo@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0119
April Taylor (Container movements)	april.taylor@ams.usda.gov	(202) 295 - 7374

Economics Assistants

Daniel O'Neil, Jr.	daniel.oneil@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0194
Joyce Zhang	joyce.zhang@ams.usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0194

Subscription Information: Send relevant information to GTRContactUs@ams.usda.gov for an electronic copy (*printed copies are also available upon request*).

Preferred citation: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. *Grain Transportation Report*. January 3, 2013. Web: <http://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS056.01-03-2013>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).