USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Grain Transportation Report

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

Contact Us

July 4, 2019

Contents

The next release is July 11, 2019

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Grain Inspections Down Despite Higher Wheat and Soybeans
For the week ending June 27, **total inspections of grain** (corn, wheat, and soybeans) for export from all major U.S. export regions reached 1.67 million metric tons (mmt). This is 7 percent lower than the previous week, 41 percent lower than last year, and 30 percent lower than the 3-year average. Inspections of wheat and soybeans increased 41 and 5 percent, respectively, from the previous week, but they were not enough to offset the 56 percent drop in corn inspections. Shipments of corn destined to Asia were significantly lower than the past week. Total grain inspections dropped 27 percent in the Pacific Northwest and 5 percent in the Mississippi Gulf from the previous week.

Grain Barge Logistics Improve as Mississippi River Recedes
As of July 3, the Mississippi River gauge at St. Louis was 37.4 feet, and forecasts for July indicate a rapid decline in river levels. The river has been declining since June 26, which has allowed barge traffic to pass upbound and downbound through St. Louis. With the opening of St. Louis (which occurs when river levels are below or near 38 feet), upbound barges have been able to travel up the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers with empty barges of all kinds. For the week ending June 29, there were 319 upbound empty barges passing through Mississippi River Locks 27. This was the highest number of empty barges since November 2018. For the same time period, there were 312 barges of corn and 209 barges of soybeans going downbound through Mississippi River Locks 27. The weekly numbers of corn and soybean barges were the highest of the year. Nearly the entire length of the Mississippi River has some types of navigation restrictions that include tow size limitations, traveling under certain bridges during daylight hours only, or taller vessels prohibited from traveling under bridges due to clearance restrictions.

June Soybean Stocks Up Significantly from 2018
Last week, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) published its quarterly (June) Grain Stocks and annual Acreage reports, which provide insight for current and upcoming grain transportation. U.S. grain stores are high, mainly due to high soybean inventories. As of June 1, 2019, national grain stocks (including barley, corn, grain sorghum, oats, soybeans, and wheat) were 8.3 billion bushels (bbu), a 6 percent increase from a year ago and 12 percent higher than the 3-year average. While June corn stocks (5.2 billion bushels) were down 2 percent (-102 million bushels) compared to 2018, soybean stocks were up 47 percent (+571 million bushels). Grain "disappearance" from December to June—a proxy for movements—was down 4 percent from last year. NASS anticipates a 2 percent increase in the area harvested for corn, but a 3 and 10 percent decline in the area harvested for wheat and soybeans, respectively. Due to excessive rainfall affecting plantings, NASS is collecting updated acreage information. Data are expected on August 12.

Snapshots by Sector

Export Sales
For the week ending June 20, **unshipped balances** of wheat, corn, and soybeans totaled 22.4 mmt. This denotes a 14 percent decrease in outstanding sales, compared to the same time last year. Net **corn export sales** reached .295 mmt, up significantly from the previous week. Net **soybean export sales** totaled .149 mmt, down 74 percent from the past week. Net weekly **wheat export sales** reached .612 mmt, up 226 percent from the previous week.

Rail
U.S. Class I railroads originated 22,794 **grain carloads** for the week ending June 22. This is a 2 percent increase from the previous week, 5 percent lower than last year, and unchanged from the 3-year average.

Average July shuttle **secondary railcar** bids/offers (per car) were $95 below tariff for the week ending June 27. This is $295 less than last week and $549 lower than last year. Average non-shuttle secondary railcar bids/offers were $125 above tariff, $17 more than last week. There were no non-shuttle bids/offers this week last year.

Barge
For the week ending June 29, **barge grain movements** totaled 739,788 tons. This is a 358 percent increase from the previous week and 20 percent lower than the same period last year.

For the week ending June 29, 469 grain barges **moved down river**. This is 378 more barges than the previous week. There were 373 grain barges **unloaded in New Orleans**, 41 percent more than the previous week.

Ocean
For the week ending June 27, 21 **ocean-going grain vessels** were loaded in the Gulf. This is 34 percent fewer than the same period last year. Forty-five vessels are expected to be loaded within the next 10 days. This is 13 percent more than the same period last year.

As of June 27, the rate for shipping a metric ton (mt) of grain from the U.S. Gulf to Japan was $43.00. This is 1 percent more than the previous week. The rate from the Pacific Northwest to Japan was $23.75 per mt; unchanged from the previous week.

Fuel
For the week ending July 1, the U.S. average **diesel fuel price** decreased 0.1 cents from the previous week, to $3.042 per gallon. This price is 19.4 cents less than the same week last year.

Preferred citation: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. *Grain Transportation Report.* July 4, 2019.
Web: **http://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS056.07-04-2019**

Feature Article/Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Phone/Website
July 11-13	Florida Feed Association Annual Meeting	Longboat Key, FL	https://floridafeed.com
July 14-18	2019 AASHTO Highway Maintenance Conference	Grand Rapids, MI	http://www.trb.org/Calendar/Blurbs/178216.aspx
July 21-26	International Wheat Congress	Saskatoon, Canada	https://2019iwc.ca/registration/
July 22-25	ISU Seed Conditioning Workshop - Soybean and Small Grain Seed Conditioning	Ames, IA	https://register.extension.iastate.edu/seedscience
July 24-26	NGFA/GJ CONVEY ’19 Conference	Kansas City, MO	https://www.ngfa.org/upcoming-events/convey/
July 25-27	International Conference on Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	Montreal, Canada	https://10times.com/international-conference-on-agric
August 7-9	Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association, 2019 Annual Seminar	New Orleans, LA	www.gicaonline.com
September 12-13	STB National Grain Car Council and TEGMA Meetings	St. Louis, MO	http://www.tegma.org/201909
September 17-19	2019 National Waterway Conference Annual Meeting	Memphis, TN	www.waterways.org
October 9-11	Pacific Northwest Waterways Assocation Annual Convention	Vancouver, WA	www.pnwa.net
October 13-16	American Association of Port Authorities Annual Convention	Norfolk, VA	www.aapa-ports.org
October 28-30	Oklahoma Agribusiness Expo	Norman, OK	https://www.oklahomaag.com/oklahoma-ag-expo.html
November 3-6	IAOM Mideast and Africa Region Conference	Dubai, UAE	http://www.iaom-mea.com
November 6-8	2019 Waterway Council Annual Meeting	Pittsburgh, PA	www.waterwayscouncil.org
November 20-21	Kansas Agribusiness Expo	Wichita, KS	https://10times.com/kansas-agri-business
December 8-10	48th Annual County Elevator Conference	Indianapolis, IN	www.ngfa.org
January 12-16	Transportation Research Board's 99th Annual Meeting	Washington, DC	http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting/AnnualMeeting.aspx
January 13-15	Michigan Agribusiness Association Meeting	Lansing, MI	517-336-0223
January 15-16	South Dakota Ag Expo	Sious Falls, SD	605-224-2445
February 16-18	Grain and Feed Association of Illinois	Springfield, IL	217-787-2417
February 20-21	USDA's 96th Agricultural Outlook Forum	Arlington, VA	https://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/

Grain Transportation Indicators

Table 1
Grain Transport Cost Indicators[1]

	Truck	Rail		Barge	Ocean	
For the week ending		Unit Train	Shuttle		Gulf	Pacific
07/03/19	204	288	217	271	192	168
06/26/19	204	287	229	257	191	168

[1]Indicator: 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)
n/a = not available
Source: Transportation & Marketing Program/AMS/USDA

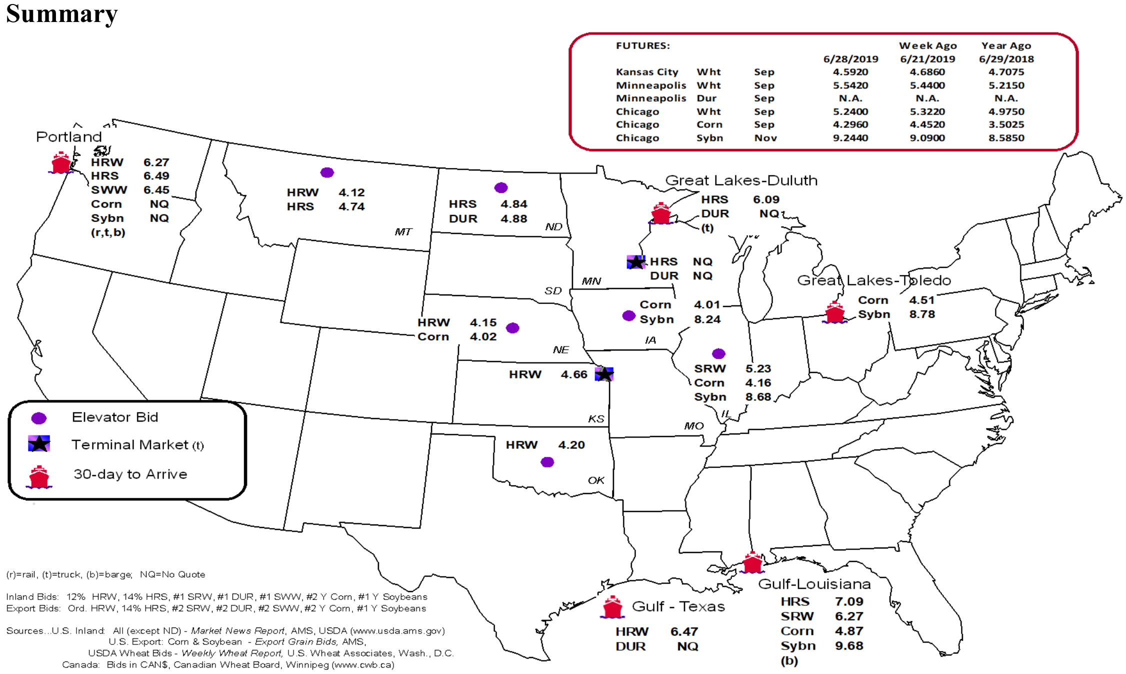
Table 2
Market Update: U.S. Origins to Export Position Price Spreads ($/bushel)

Commodity	Origin--Destination	6/28/2019	6/21/2019
Corn	IL--Gulf	-0.71	-0.70
Corn	NE--Gulf	-0.85	-0.84
Soybean	IA--Gulf	-1.44	-1.36
HRW	KS--Gulf	-1.81	-1.71
HRS	ND--Portland	-1.65	-1.62

Note: nq = no quote; n/a = not available
Source: Transportation & Marketing Program/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]

For the Week Ending	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf	Total	Week ending	Cross-Border Mexico[3]
6/26/2019[p]	1,900	1,643	3,164	317	7,024	6/22/2019	3,000
6/19/2019[r]	1,477	990	4,508	519	7,494	6/15/2019	2,500
2019 YTD[r]	24,680	30,964	136,948	9,082	201,674	2019 YTD	59,217
2018 YTD[r]	10,708	31,508	173,750	11,314	227,280	2018 YTD	57,449
2019 YTD as % of 2018 YTD	230	98	79	80	89	% change YTD	103
Last 4 weeks as % of 2018[2]	474	222	59	73	86	Last 4wks % 2018	89
Last 4 weeks as % of 4-year avg.[2]	801	105	84	140	110	Last 4wks % 4 yr	107
Total 2018	22,118	46,532	310,449	21,432	400,531	Total 2018	129,116
Total 2017	28,796	75,543	287,267	21,312	412,918	Total 2017	119,661

[1] Data is incomplete as it is voluntarily provided

[2] Compared with same 4-weeks in 2018 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 Grupo Mexico.

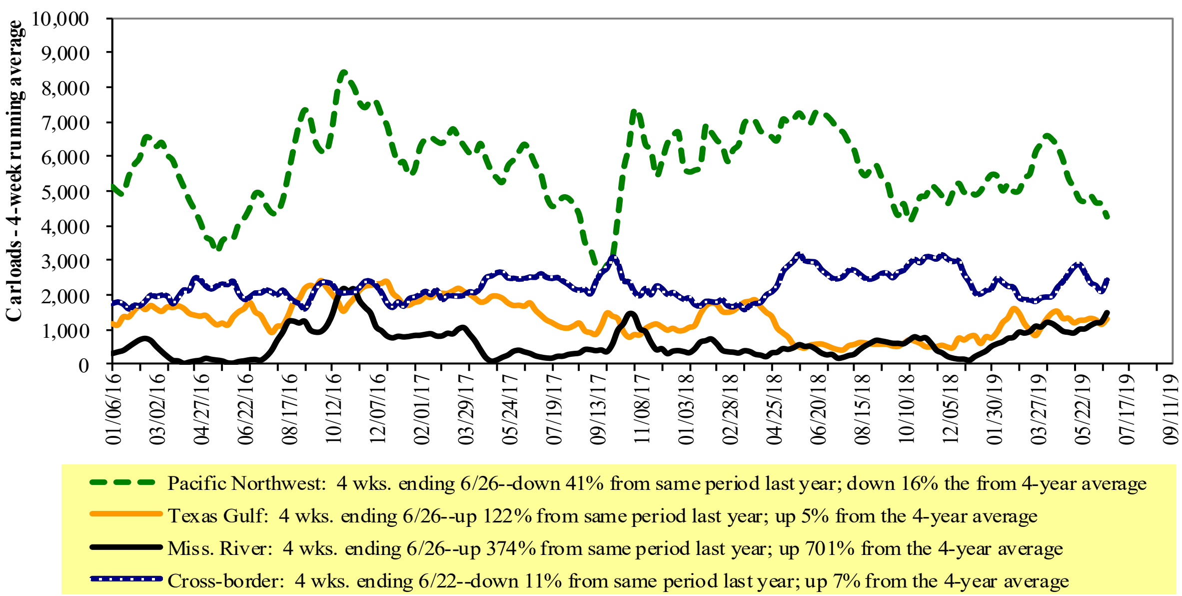
YTD = year-to-date; p = preliminary data; r = revised data; n/a = not available

Source: Transportation & Marketing Program/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 Program/AMS/USDA

Table 4

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

For the week ending: 6/22/2019	East		West			U.S. total	Canada	
	CSXT	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP		CN	CP
This week	2,077	2,850	11,655	1,170	5,042	22,794	3,751	4,617
This week last year	1,650	2,742	13,420	1,120	5,172	24,104	3,274	5,019
2019 YTD	48,272	70,840	275,434	27,993	127,650	550,189	109,422	108,293
2018 YTD	47,949	62,925	311,978	24,047	131,685	578,584	93,301	115,838
2019 YTD as % of 2018 YTD	101	113	88	116	97	95	117	93
Last 4 weeks as % of 2018*	98	112	87	111	97	94	123	91
Last 4 weeks as % of 3-yr avg.**	104	106	95	132	95	98	136	99
Total 2018	98,978	133,163	635,458	48,638	267,713	1,183,950	211,803	244,697

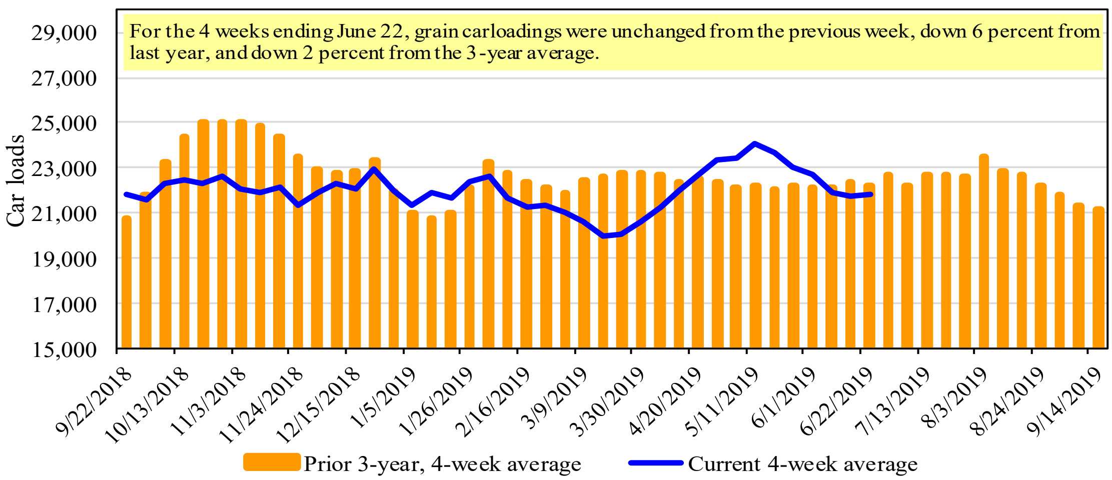
*The past 4 weeks of this year as a percent of the same 4 weeks last year.

**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 Offerings[1] ($/car)[2]

For the week ending: 6/27/2019		Delivery period							
		Jul-19	Jul-18	Aug-19	Aug-18	Sep-19	Sep-18	Oct-19	Oct-18
BNSF[3]	COT grain units	no bids	no offer	no bids	no bids	0	0	0	no bids
	COT grain single-car[5]	25	no offer	2	0	21	45	24	50
UP[4]	GCAS/Region 1	no offer	no offer	no offer	no bids	no offer	no bids	n/a	n/a
	GCAS/Region 2	no offer	no offer	no bids	10	no offer	10	n/a	n/a

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

[2]Average premium/discount to tariff, last auction

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

[4]UP - GCAS = Grain Car Allocation System

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

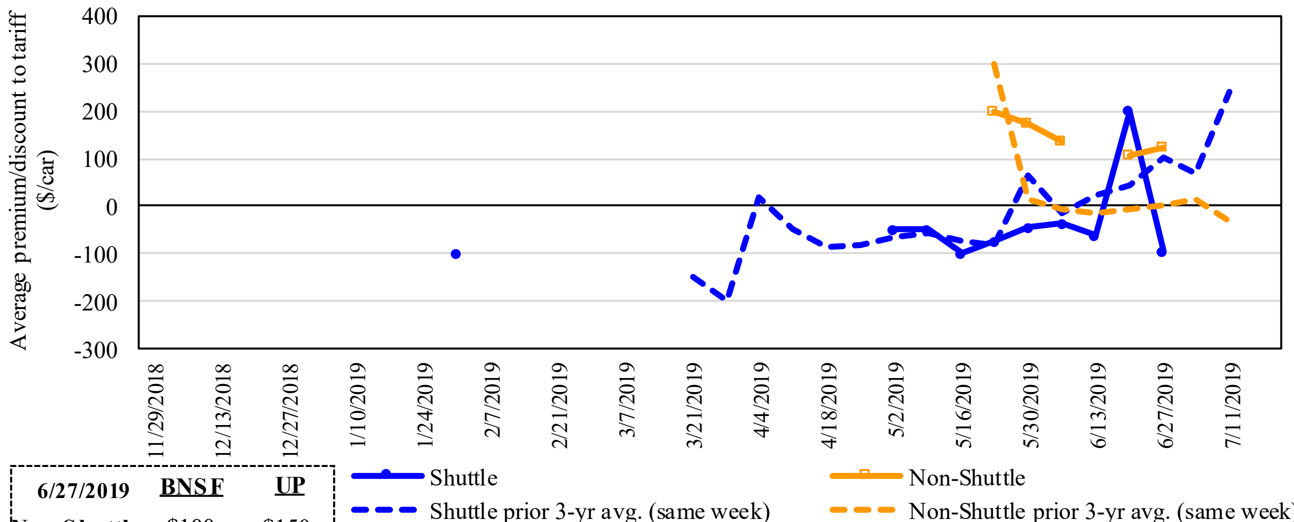
Region 2 includes: CO, IA, KS, MN, NE, WY, and Kansas City and St. Joseph, MO.

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

Source: Transportation & Marketing Program/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 July 2019, Secondary Market

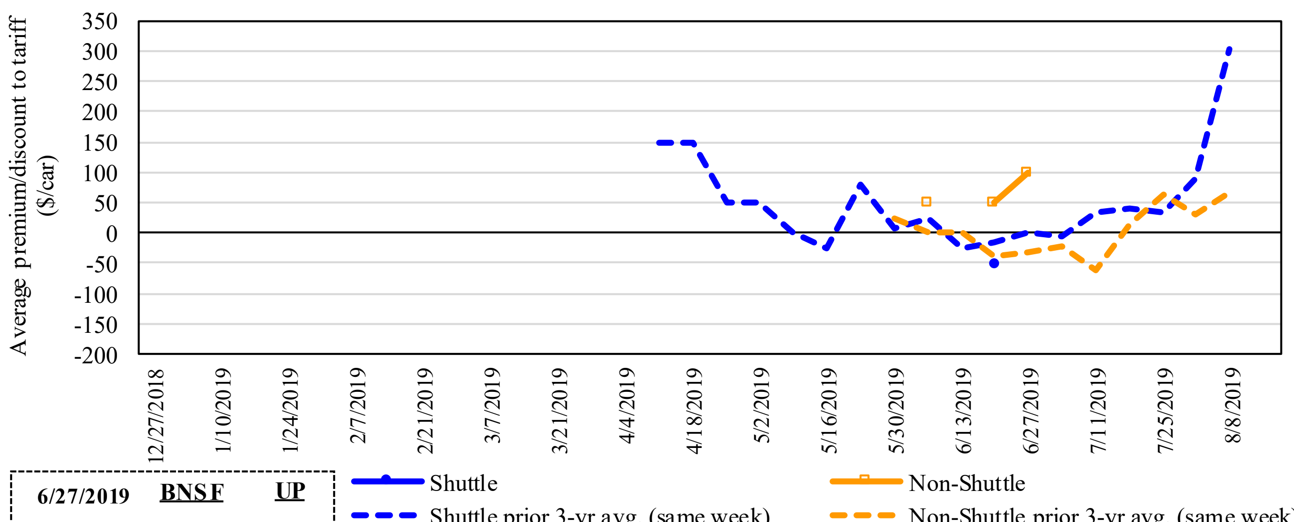


6/27/2019	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	$100	$150
Shuttle	-$125	-$66

Average Non-shuttle bids/offers rose $17 this week, and are $75 below the peak.
Average Shuttle bids/offers fell $295 this week and are $295 below the peak.

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

Figure 5
Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in August 2019, Secondary Market



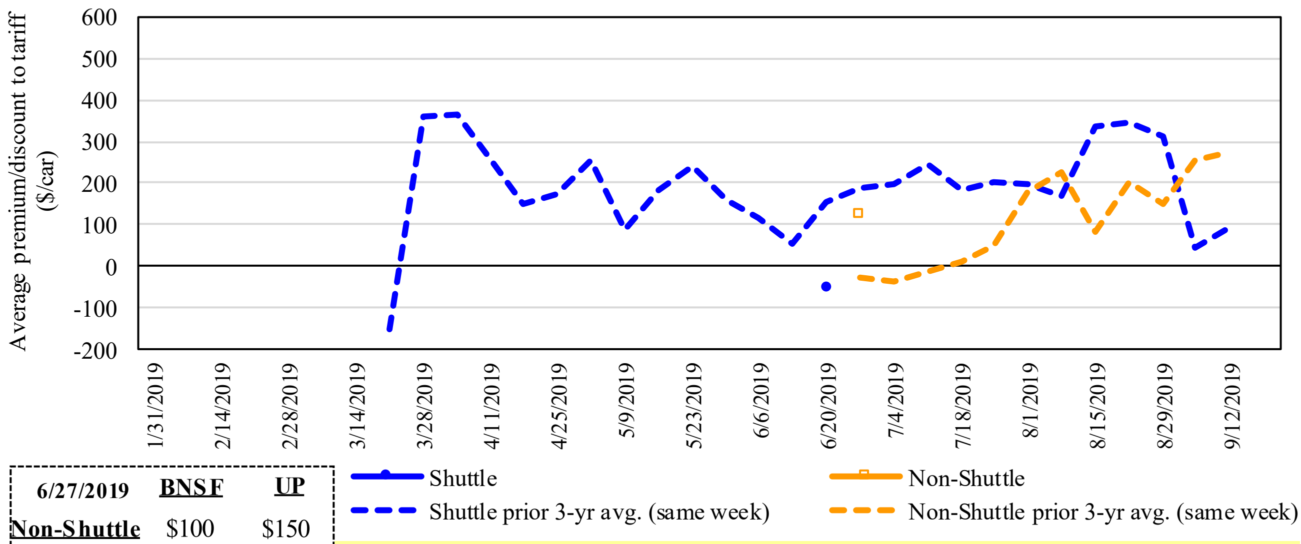
6/27/2019	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	$50	$150
Shuttle	n/a	n/a

Average Non-shuttle bids/offers rose $50 this week, and are at the peak.
There were no Shuttle bids/offers this week.

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

Figure 6

Bids/Offers for Railcars to be Delivered in September 2019, Secondary Market



6/27/2019	BNSF	UP
Non-Shuttle	$100	$150
Shuttle	n/a	n/a

There were no Non-Shuttle bids/offers last week. Average Non-Shuttle bids/offers this week are at the peak.
There were no Shuttle bids/offers this week.

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

Table 6

Weekly Secondary Railcar Market ($/car)[1]

	For the week ending: 6/27/2019	Delivery period					
		Jul-19	**Aug-19**	**Sep-19**	**Oct-19**	**Nov-19**	**Dec-19**
Non-shuttle	**BNSF-GF**	**100**	**50**	**100**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	83	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2018	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	UP-Pool	**150**	**150**	**150**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	(50)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2018	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shuttle	**BNSF-GF**	**(125)**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	(450)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2018	(783)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	UP-Pool	**(66)**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**(100)**	**n/a**	**n/a**
	Change from last week	(141)	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a
	Change from same week 2018	(316)	n/a	n/a	(950)	n/a	n/a

[1]Average 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

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

Source: Transportation and Marketing Program/AMS/USDA

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 Shipments[1]

July, 2019	Origin region[3]	Destination region[3]	Tariff rate/car	Fuel surcharge per car	Tariff plus surcharge per: metric ton	Tariff plus surcharge per: bushel[2]	Percent change Y/Y[4]
Unit train							
Wheat	Wichita, KS	St. Louis, MO	$3,983	$111	$40.66	$1.11	0
	Grand Forks, ND	Duluth-Superior, MN	$4,268	$0	$42.38	$1.15	3
	Wichita, KS	Los Angeles, CA	$7,240	$0	$71.90	$1.96	1
	Wichita, KS	New Orleans, LA	$4,525	$196	$46.88	$1.28	-1
	Sioux Falls, SD	Galveston-Houston, TX	$6,976	$0	$69.28	$1.89	1
	Northwest KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	$4,801	$215	$49.81	$1.36	0
	Amarillo, TX	Los Angeles, CA	$5,121	$299	$53.82	$1.46	0
Corn	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$4,000	$221	$41.92	$1.06	1
	Toledo, OH	Raleigh, NC	$6,581	$0	$65.35	$1.66	4
	Des Moines, IA	Davenport, IA	$2,258	$47	$22.89	$0.58	0
	Indianapolis, IN	Atlanta, GA	$5,646	$0	$56.07	$1.42	4
	Indianapolis, IN	Knoxville, TN	$4,704	$0	$46.71	$1.19	4
	Des Moines, IA	Little Rock, AR	$3,860	$138	$39.70	$1.01	7
	Des Moines, IA	Los Angeles, CA	$5,720	$401	$60.79	$1.54	7
Soybeans	Minneapolis, MN	New Orleans, LA	$3,631	$216	$38.20	$1.04	-12
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	$5,459	$0	$54.21	$1.48	3
	Indianapolis, IN	Raleigh, NC	$6,698	$0	$66.51	$1.81	4
	Indianapolis, IN	Huntsville, AL	$4,937	$0	$49.03	$1.33	4
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$4,745	$221	$49.32	$1.34	0
Shuttle Train							
Wheat	Great Falls, MT	Portland, OR	$4,078	$0	$40.50	$1.10	3
	Wichita, KS	Galveston-Houston, TX	$4,361	$0	$43.31	$1.18	2
	Chicago, IL	Albany, NY	$5,896	$0	$58.55	$1.59	4
	Grand Forks, ND	Portland, OR	$5,736	$0	$56.96	$1.55	2
	Grand Forks, ND	Galveston-Houston, TX	$6,056	$0	$60.14	$1.64	2
	Northwest KS	Portland, OR	$6,012	$352	$63.20	$1.72	1
Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$5,180	$0	$51.44	$1.31	4
	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	$5,140	$0	$51.04	$1.30	4
	Champaign-Urbana, IL	New Orleans, LA	$3,800	$221	$39.93	$1.01	1
	Lincoln, NE	Galveston-Houston, TX	$3,880	$0	$38.53	$0.98	5
	Des Moines, IA	Amarillo, TX	$4,060	$173	$42.04	$1.07	2
	Minneapolis, MN	Tacoma, WA	$5,180	$0	$51.44	$1.31	4
	Council Bluffs, IA	Stockton, CA	$5,000	$0	$49.65	$1.26	4
Soybeans	Sioux Falls, SD	Tacoma, WA	$5,750	$0	$57.10	$1.55	3
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	$5,800	$0	$57.60	$1.57	3
	Fargo, ND	Tacoma, WA	$5,650	$0	$56.11	$1.53	3
	Council Bluffs, IA	New Orleans, LA	$4,775	$255	$49.95	$1.36	0
	Toledo, OH	Huntsville, AL	$4,634	$0	$46.02	$1.25	6
	Grand Island, NE	Portland, OR	$5,710	$360	$60.28	$1.64	0

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

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

[3] Regional economic areas are defined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

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

Sources: www.bnsf.com, www.cn.ca, www.csx.com, www.up.com

Table 8

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

Date: July, 2019					Tariff plus surcharge per:		Percent change[4]
Commodity	Origin state	Destination region	Tariff rate/car[1]	Fuel surcharge per car[2]	metric ton[3]	bushel[3]	Y/Y
Wheat	MT	Chihuahua, CI	$7,284	$0	$74.43	$2.02	-2
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	$6,775	$153	$70.79	$1.92	0
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	$7,534	$614	$83.25	$2.26	6
	TX	Salinas Victoria, NL	$4,329	$93	$45.18	$1.23	1
Corn	IA	Guadalajara, JA	$8,828	$528	$95.60	$2.43	8
	SD	Celaya, GJ	$8,140	$0	$83.17	$2.11	6
	NE	Queretaro, QA	$8,207	$317	$87.09	$2.21	2
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	$6,905	$0	$70.55	$1.79	2
	MO	Tlalnepantla, EM	$7,573	$309	$80.54	$2.04	2
	SD	Torreon, CU	$7,690	$0	$78.57	$1.99	5
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	$8,497	$499	$91.91	$2.50	7
	NE	Guadalajara, JA	$8,982	$524	$97.12	$2.64	5
	IA	El Castillo, JA	$9,110	$0	$93.08	$2.53	2
	KS	Torreon, CU	$7,814	$366	$83.58	$2.27	6
Sorghum	NE	Celaya, GJ	$7,925	$472	$85.79	$2.18	10
	KS	Queretaro, QA	$8,000	$191	$83.70	$2.12	2
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	$6,633	$154	$69.34	$1.76	3
	NE	Torreon, CU	$7,390	$339	$78.97	$2.00	10

[1]Rates 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.

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

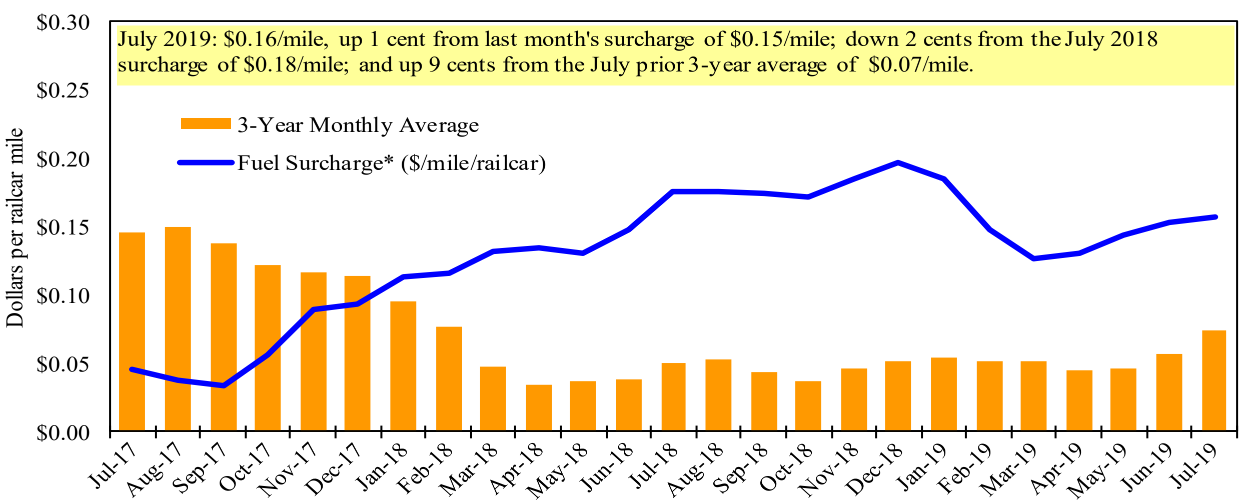
[3]Approximate load per car = 97.87 metric tons: Corn & Sorghum 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

[4]Percentage change calculated using tariff rate plus fuel surchage

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

Figure 7

Railroad Fuel Surcharges, North American Weighted Average[1]



[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.

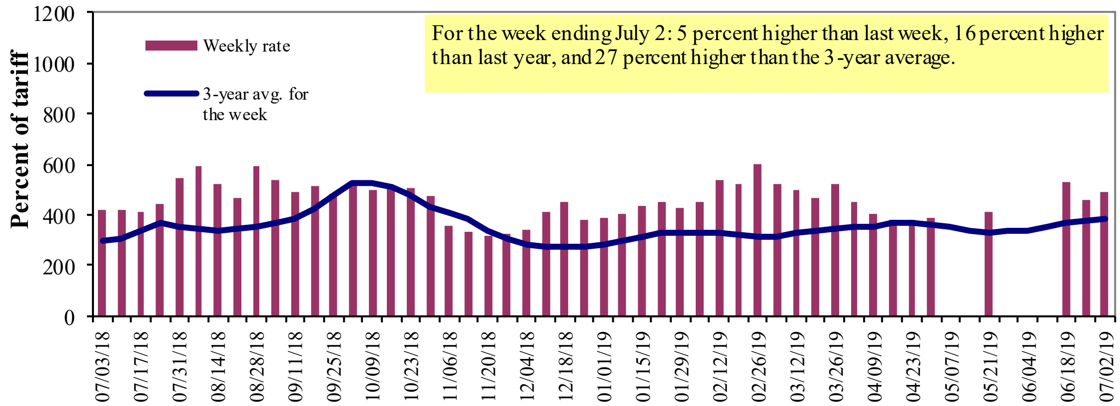
**CSX strike price changed from $2.00/gal. to $3.75/gal. starting January 1, 2015.

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]



[1]Rate = percent of 1976 tariff benchmark index (1976 = 100 percent); [2]4-week moving average of the 3-year average.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Program/AMS/USDA

Table 9

Weekly Barge Freight Rates: Southbound Only

		Twin Cities	Mid-Mississippi	Lower Illinois River	St. Louis	Cincinnati	Lower Ohio	Cairo-Memphis
Rate[1]	7/2/2019	463	488	488	300	275	275	280
	6/25/2019	475	463	463	-	275	275	278
$/ton	7/2/2019	28.66	25.96	22.64	11.97	12.90	11.11	8.79
	6/25/2019	29.40	24.63	21.48	-	12.90	11.11	8.73
Current week % change from the same week:								
	Last year	-1	16	16	-6	-19	-19	4
	3-year avg. [2]	6	26	27	8	-2	-3	17
Rate[1]	August	425	405	408	290	275	275	275
	October	430	418	400	328	400	400	318

[1]Rate = percent of 1976 tariff benchmark index (1976 = 100 percent); [2]4-week moving average; ton = 2,000 pounds; "-" n/a due to closure

* - Current weekly rate is a nominal value, reflecting the anticipation of improved navigation conditions

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 9
Benchmark tariff rates

Calculating barge rate per ton:
(Rate * 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.

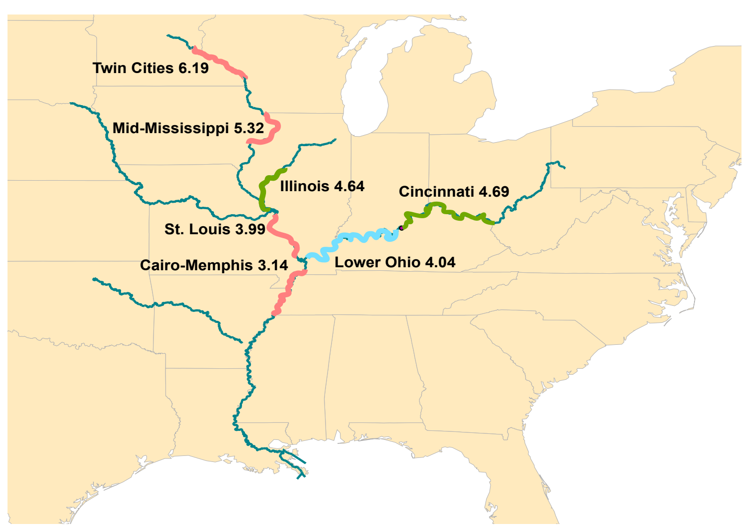
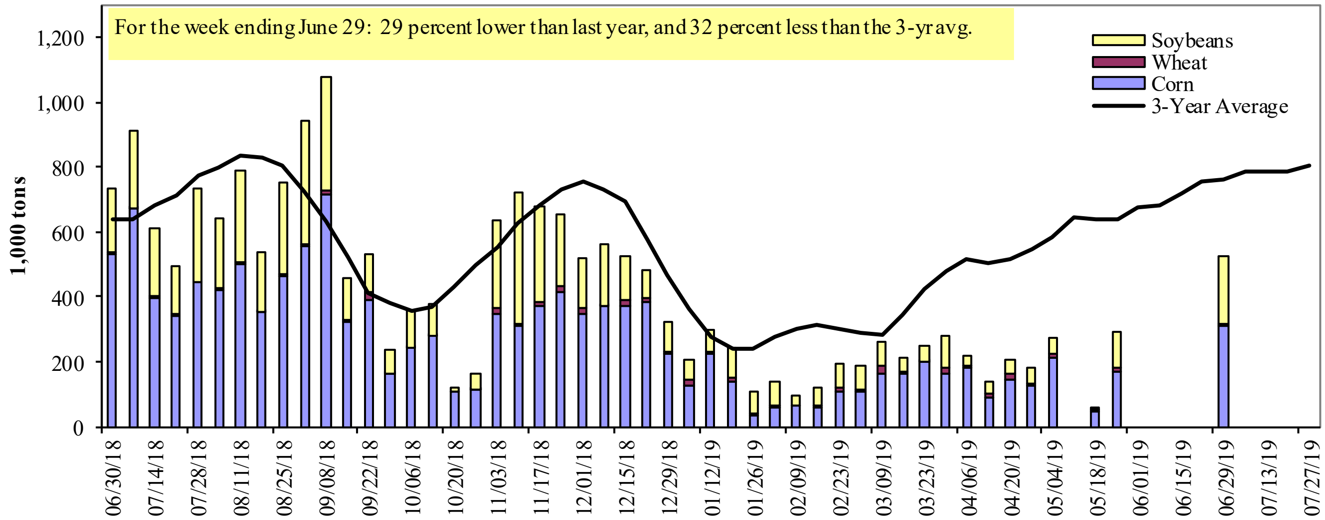


Figure 10

Barge Movements on the Mississippi River[1] (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 06/29/2019	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Other	Total
Mississippi River					
Rock Island, IL (L15)	16	0	30	0	46
Winfield, MO (L25)	132	3	118	2	255
Alton, IL (L26)	298	5	188	2	491
Granite City, IL (L27)	312	3	209	2	526
Illinois River (LAGRANGE)	58	0	27	0	85
Ohio River (OLMSTED)	67	14	112	0	193
Arkansas River (L1)	0	3	17	1	21
Weekly total - 2019	379	20	337	3	740
Weekly total - 2018	617	61	249	2	929
2019 YTD[1]	5,974	919	4,534	74	11,502
2018 YTD[1]	11,822	813	5,690	66	18,391
2019 as % of 2018 YTD	51	113	80	111	63
Last 4 weeks as % of 2018[2]	27	40	56	69	35
Total 2018	23,349	1,674	12,819	133	37,975

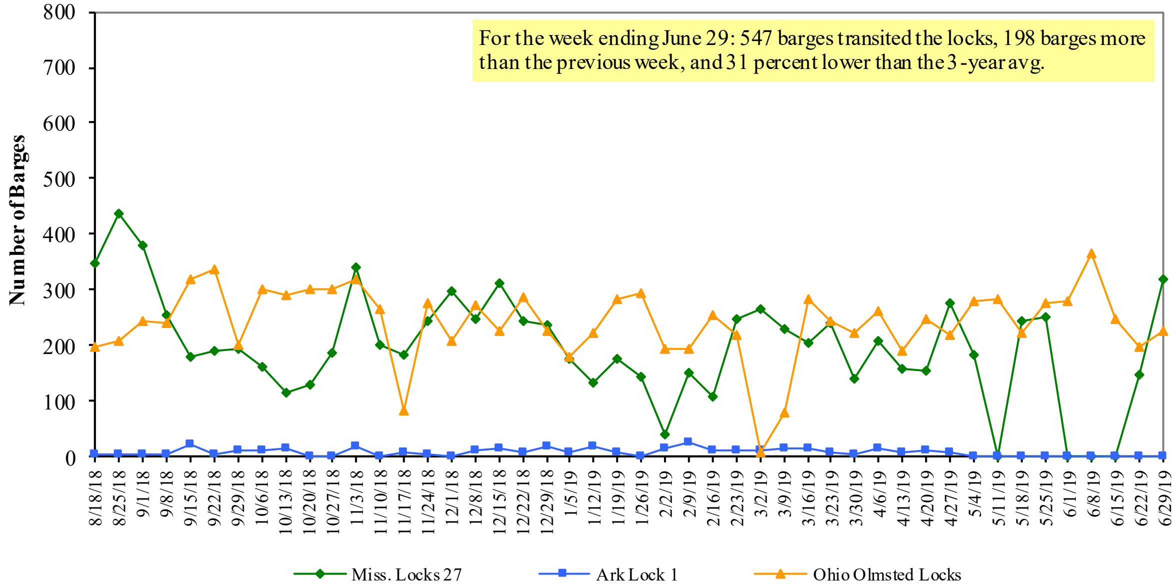
[1] Weekly total, YTD (year-to-date) and calendar year total includes Miss/27, Ohio/OLMSTED, and Ark/1; "Other" refers to oats, barley, sorghum, and rye.

[2] As a percent of same period in 2018.

Note: 1. Total may not add exactly, due to rounding.
2. Starting from 11/24/2018, weekly movement through Ohio 52 is replaced by Olmsted.

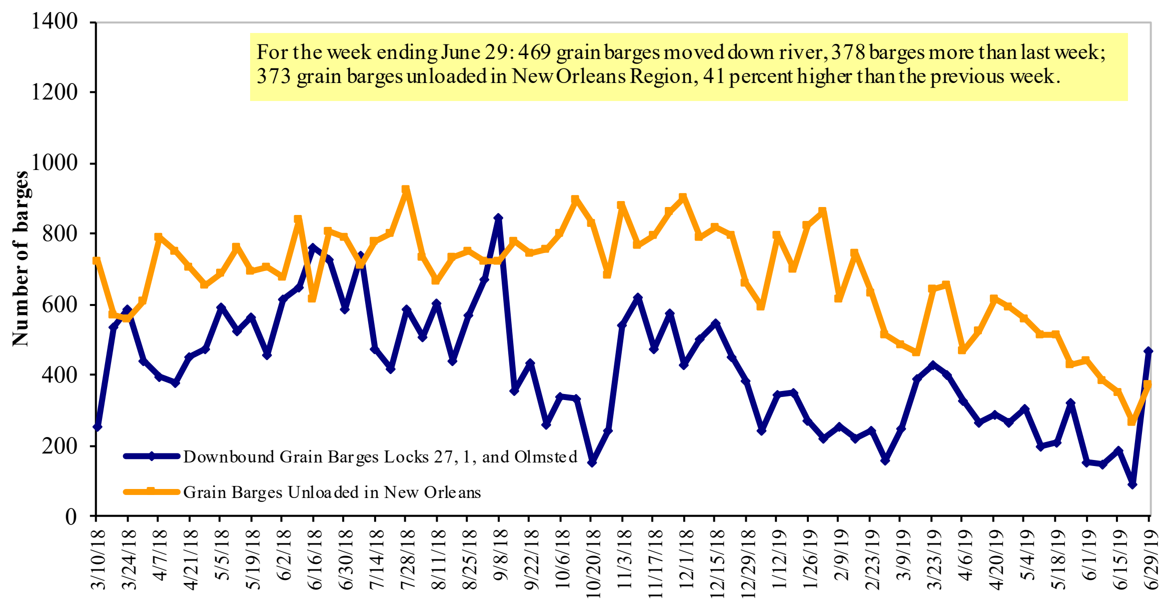
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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



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 AMS FGIS

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 Prices, Week Ending 7/1/2019 (US $/gallon)

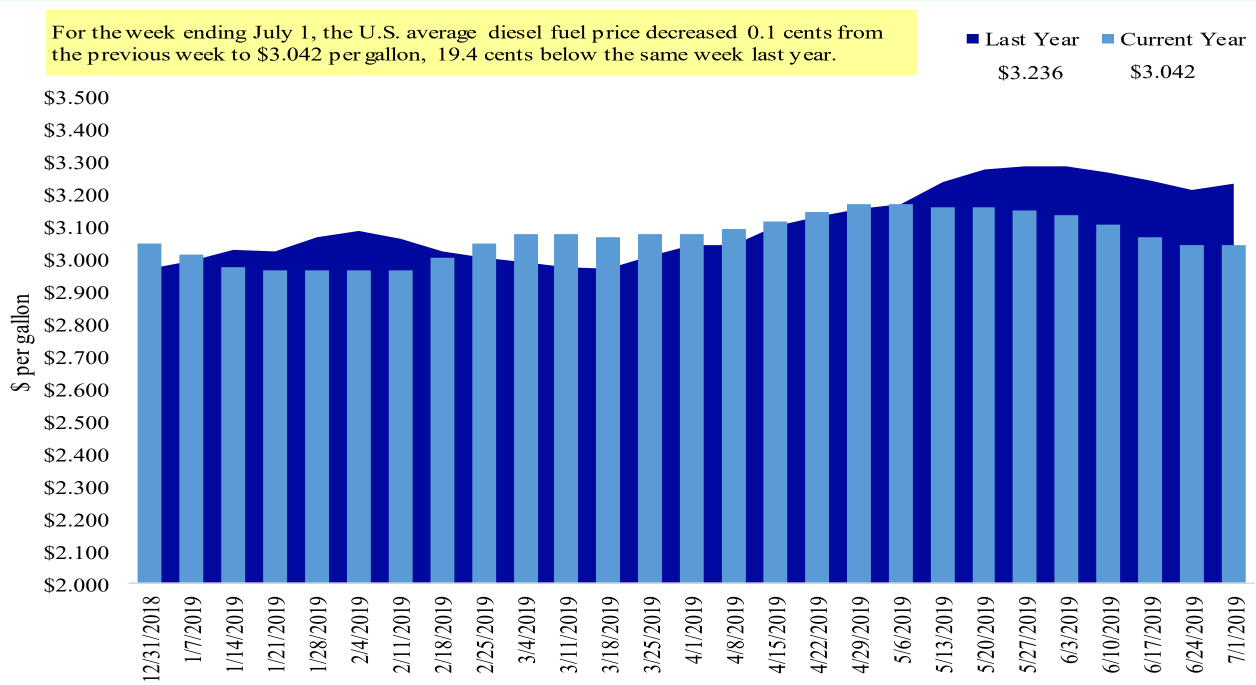
Region	Location	Price	Change from Week ago	Change from Year ago
I	East Coast	3.080	0.001	-0.146
	New England	3.135	-0.001	-0.147
	Central Atlantic	3.270	0.012	-0.120
	Lower Atlantic	2.941	-0.005	-0.161
II	Midwest	2.924	-0.002	-0.247
III	Gulf Coast	2.803	0.006	-0.199
IV	Rocky Mountain	2.998	-0.032	-0.360
V	West Coast	3.628	-0.003	-0.118
	West Coast less California	3.205	-0.001	-0.270
	California	3.963	-0.005	0.003
Total	U.S.	3.042	-0.001	-0.194

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

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)

	Wheat						Corn	Soybeans	Total
For the week ending	HRW	SRW	HRS	SWW	DUR	All wheat			
Export Balances[1]									
6/20/2019	2,134	946	1,394	1,070	174	5,718	6,144	10,544	22,406
This week year ago	1,067	500	1,550	1,216	126	4,458	13,601	8,116	26,175
Cumulative exports-marketing year[2]									
2018/19 YTD	688	52	298	138	55	1,230	42,596	37,114	80,940
2017/18 YTD	265	160	298	369	2	1,094	43,651	48,615	93,360
YTD 2018/19 as % of 2017/18	260	32	100	37	3,406	112	98	76	87
Last 4 wks as % of same period 2017/18	176	141	72	67	113	105	51	138	87
2017/18 Total	9,150	2,343	5,689	4,854	384	22,419	57,209	56,214	135,842
2016/17 Total	11,096	2,285	7,923	4,254	484	26,042	41,864	51,156	119,062

[1] Current unshipped (outstanding) export sales to date

[2] Shipped export sales to date; new marketing year now in effect for wheat

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 Importers[1] of U.S. Corn

For the week ending 6/20/2019	Total Commitments[2]			% change current MY from last MY	Exports[3] 3-year avg 2015-2017
	2019/20 Next MY	2018/19 Current MY	2017/18 Last MY		
		- 1,000 mt -			
Mexico	1,926	15,159	14,418	5	13,691
Japan	540	11,888	10,940	9	11,247
Korea	0	3,694	5,228	(29)	4,754
Colombia	24	4,581	4,362	5	4,678
Peru	0	1,992	3,002	(34)	2,975
Top 5 Importers	**2,490**	**37,314**	**37,951**	**(2)**	**37,344**
Total US corn export sales	**2,179**	**48,740**	**57,253**	**(15)**	**53,184**
% of Projected	4%	87%	92%		
Change from prior week[2]	**(890)**	**295**	**850**		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. corn export sales	114%	77%	66%		70%
USDA forecast, June 2019	**54,707**	**55,980**	**62,036**	**(10)**	
Corn Use for Ethanol USDA forecast, June 2019	**139,700**	**138,430**	**142,367**	**(3)**	

(n) indicates negative number.

[1]Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports for 2017/18 - 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 (net sales) from prior week could include revisions from previous week's outstanding sales or accumulated sales.

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

Table 14

Top 5 Importers[1] of U.S. Soybeans

For the week ending 6/20/2019	Total Commitments[2] 2019/20 Next MY	2018/19 Current MY	2017/18 Last MY	% change current MY from last MY	Exports[3] 3-yr avg. 2015-2017
		- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
China	126	13,716	28,492	(52)	31,228
Mexico	597	4,830	4,248	14	3,716
Indonesia	8	2,091	2,332	(10)	2,250
Japan	110	2,420	2,171	11	2,145
Netherlands	0	1,990	1,936	3	2,209
Top 5 importers	**841**	**25,047**	**39,178**	**(36)**	**41,549**
Total US soybean export sales	**2,314**	**47,659**	**56,730**	**(16)**	**55,113**
% of Projected	4%	103%	98%		
Change from prior week[2]	**320**	**149**	**358**		
Top 5 importers' share of U.S. soybean export sales	36%	53%	69%		**75%**
USDA forecast, June 2019	**53,134**	**46,322**	**58,011**	**80**	

(n) indicates negative number.

[1]Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports for 2017/18 - 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/. The total commitments change (net sales) from prior week could include reivisions from previous week's outstanding sales and/or accumulated sales

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

Table 15

Top 10 Importers[1] of All U.S. Wheat

For the week ending 6/20/2019	Total Commitments[2] 2019/20 Current MY	2018/19 Last MY	% change current MY from last MY	Exports[3] 3-yr avg 2015-2017
	- 1,000 mt -			- 1,000 mt -
Mexico	792	396	100	2,781
Japan	563	770	(27)	2,649
Philippines	743	677	10	2,441
Korea	300	467	(36)	1,257
Nigeria	481	143	237	1,254
Indonesia	218	104	110	1,076
Taiwan	245	181	35	1,066
China	0	0	n/a	944
Colombia	7	156	(96)	714
Thailand	198	314	(37)	618
Top 10 importers	**3,547**	**3,206**	11	**14,800**
Total US wheat export sales	**6,948**	**5,552**	**25**	**22,869**
% of Projected	27%	23%		
Change from prior week[2]	**612**	**564**		
Top 10 importers' share of U.S. wheat export sales	51%	58%		65%
USDA forecast, June 2019	**25,886**	**24,550**	**5**	

(n) indicates negative number.

[1] Based on FAS Marketing Year Ranking Reports for 2017/18 - 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 (net sales) from prior week could include revisions from the previous week's outstanding and/or accumulated sales

[3] 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 06/27/19	Previous Week*	Current Week as % of Previous	2019 YTD*	2018 YTD*	2019 YTD as % of 2018 YTD	Last 4-weeks as % of: Last Year	Last 4-weeks as % of: Prior 3-yr. avg.	2018 Total*
Pacific Northwest									
Wheat	254	268	95	6,886	6,137	112	88	74	13,315
Corn	0	154	0	6,211	11,357	55	24	32	20,024
Soybeans	207	214	97	4,956	5,166	96	165	281	7,719
Total	**461**	**635**	**73**	**18,052**	**22,660**	**80**	**62**	**72**	**41,058**
Mississippi Gulf									
Wheat	161	5	n/a	2,663	2,099	127	83	81	3,896
Corn	83	322	26	12,631	17,807	71	38	41	33,735
Soybeans	369	317	116	11,811	11,707	101	94	153	28,124
Total	**613**	**645**	**95**	**27,105**	**31,613**	**86**	**58**	**70**	**65,755**
Texas Gulf									
Wheat	159	151	105	3,630	1,898	191	507	126	3,198
Corn	0	0	n/a	362	375	96	81	47	730
Soybeans	0	0	n/a	0	67	0	0	0	69
Total	**159**	**151**	**105**	**3,993**	**2,340**	**171**	**299**	**113**	**3,997**
Interior									
Wheat	45	10	465	849	756	112	202	148	1,614
Corn	184	121	152	3,753	4,377	86	82	89	8,650
Soybeans	157	104	151	3,307	3,298	100	96	123	6,729
Total	**386**	**235**	**164**	**7,909**	**8,431**	**94**	**93**	**105**	**16,993**
Great Lakes									
Wheat	23	23	100	454	256	178	294	127	894
Corn	0	0	n/a	0	233	0	0	0	404
Soybeans	20	24	85	189	227	83	68	179	1,192
Total	**43**	**46**	**92**	**643**	**715**	**90**	**72**	**93**	**2,491**
Atlantic									
Wheat	0	0	n/a	32	64	51	n/a	0	69
Corn	0	10	0	85	67	126	n/a	n/a	138
Soybeans	4	59	6	656	1,145	57	39	90	2,047
Total	**4**	**69**	**5**	**773**	**1,276**	**61**	**44**	**102**	**2,253**
U.S. total from ports*									
Wheat	641	456	141	14,514	11,209	129	128	91	22,986
Corn	268	607	44	23,041	34,218	67	39	45	63,682
Soybeans	757	719	105	20,920	21,609	97	99	162	45,879
Total	**1,666**	**1,782**	**93**	**58,475**	**67,036**	**87**	**69**	**79**	**132,547**

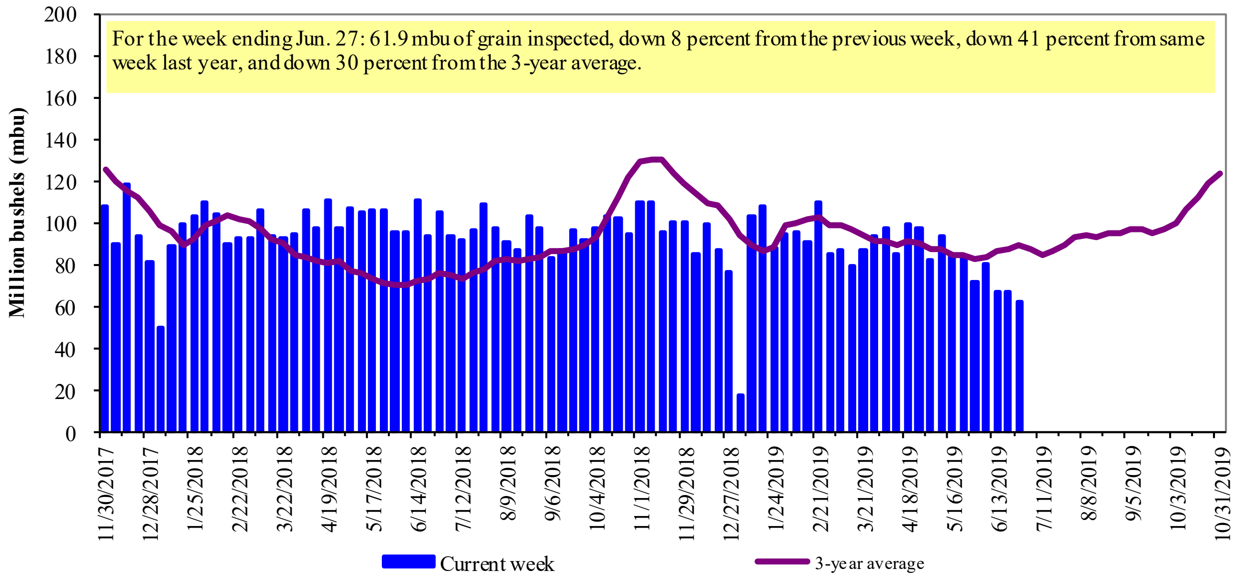
*Data includes revisions from prior weeks; some regional totals may not add exactly due to rounding.

Source: USDA/Federal Grain Inspection Service (www.gipsa.usda.gov/fgis); 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, 50 percent of U.S.-grown soybeans, and 20 percent of the U.S.-grown corn. Approximately 53 percent of the U.S. export grain shipments departed through the U.S. Gulf region in 2018.

Figure 14

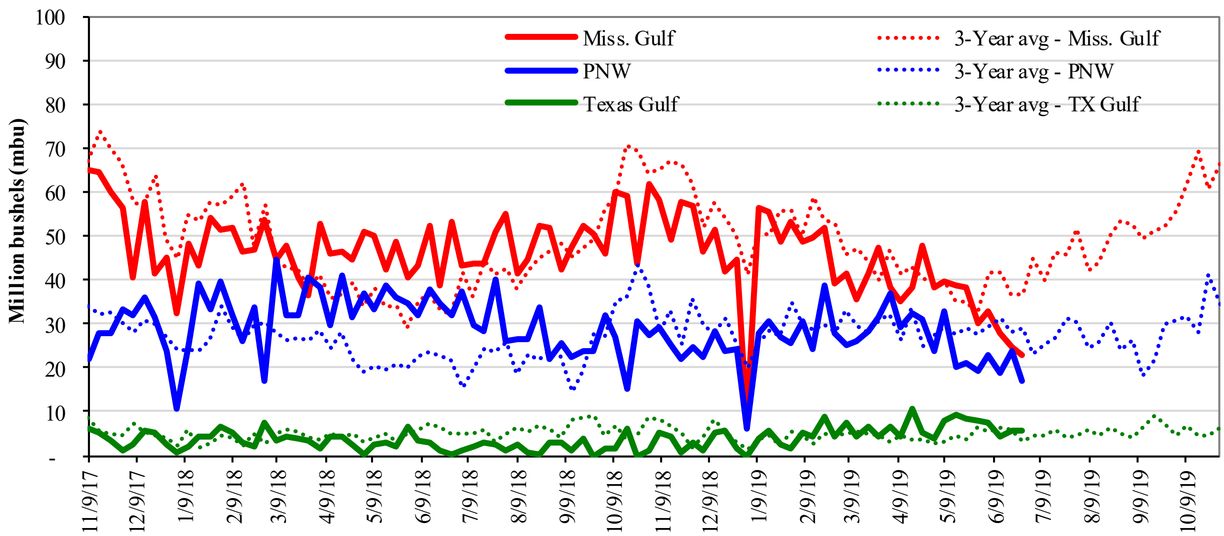
U.S. grain inspected for export (wheat, corn, and soybeans)



Source: USDA/Federal Grain Inspection Service (www.gipsa.usda.gov/fgis)
Note: 3-year average consists of 4-week running average

Figure 15

U.S. Grain Inspections: U.S. Gulf and PNW[1] (wheat, corn, and soybeans)



Week ending 06/27/19 inspections (mbu):		Percent change from:	MS Gulf	TX Gulf	U.S. Gulf	PNW
Mississippi Gulf:	22.8	Last Week:	down 7	up 5	down 5	down 29
PNW:	17.0	Last Year (same week):	down 57	up 1736	down 47	down 47
Texas Gulf:	5.8	3-yr avg. (4-wk. mov. Avg):	down 42	up 12	down 36	down 42

Source: USDA/Federal Grain Inspection Service (www.gipsa.usda.gov/fgis)

Ocean Transportation

Table 17

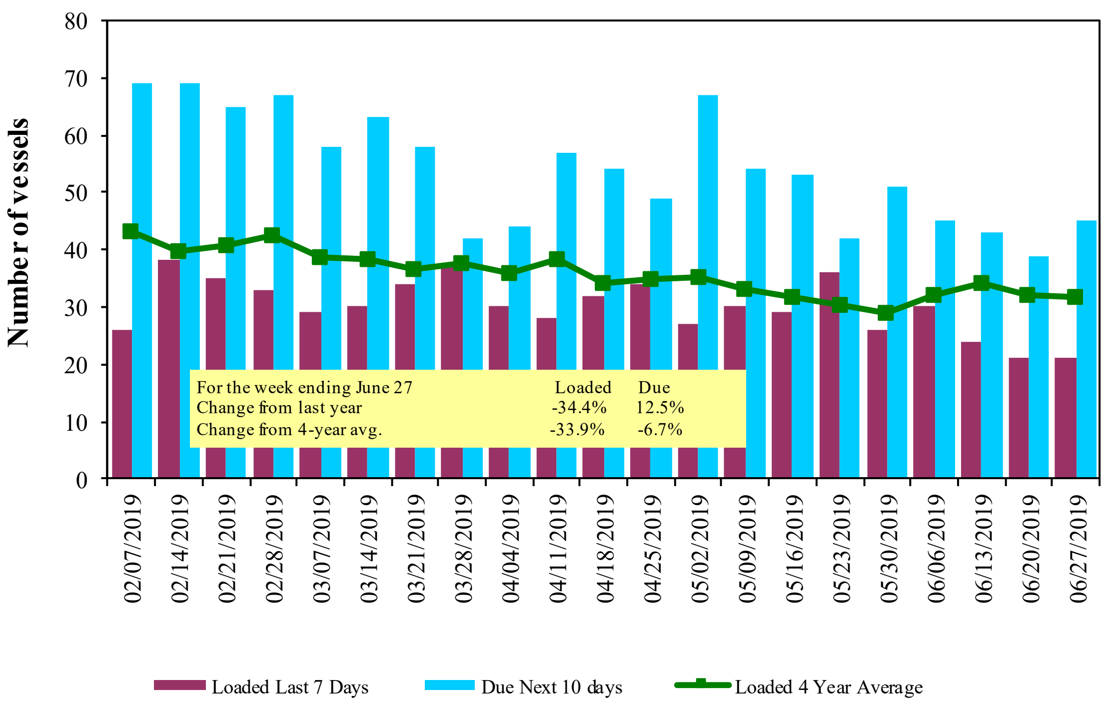
Weekly Port Region Grain Ocean Vessel Activity (number of vessels)

	Gulf			Pacific Northwest
Date	In port	Loaded 7-days	Due next 10-days	In port
6/27/2019	56	21	45	14
6/20/2019	55	21	39	13
2018 range	(23..88)	(24..41)	(38..67)	(4..30)
2018 avg.	40	34	54	17

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 16

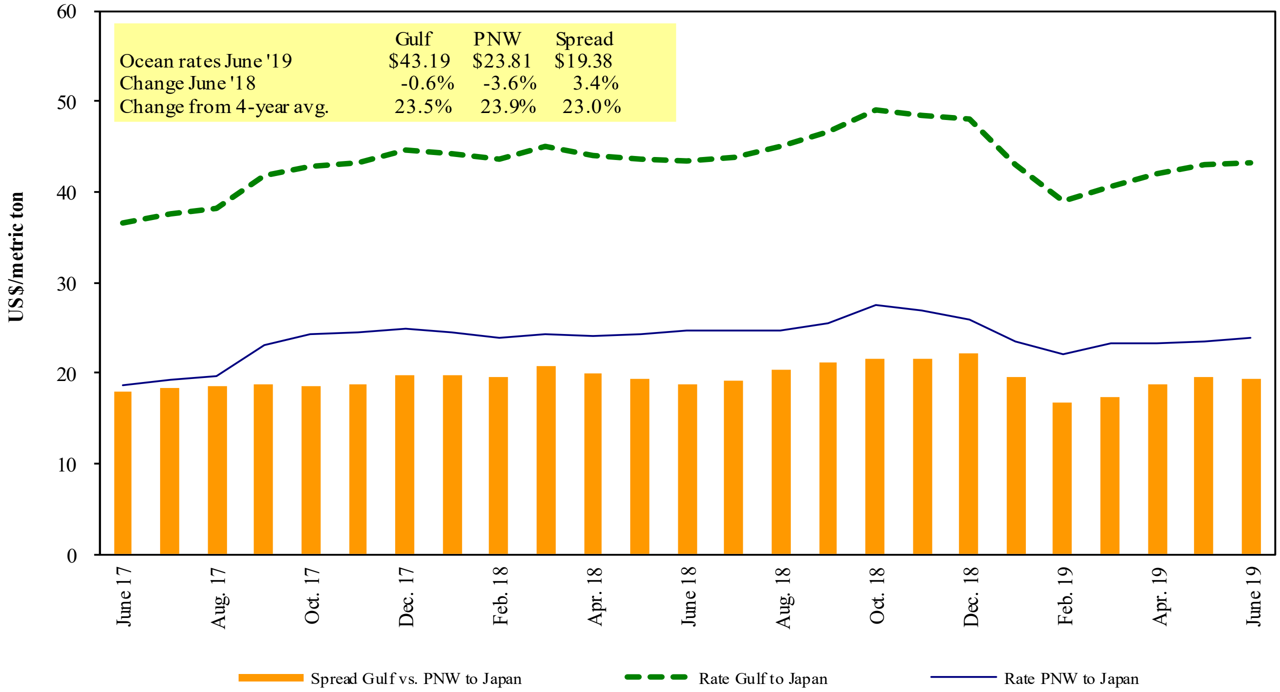
U.S. Gulf Vessel Loading Activity



Source:Transportation & Marketing Program/AMS/USDA
[1]U.S. Gulf includes Mississippi, Texas, and East Gulf.

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 06/29/2019

Export region	Import region	Grain types	Loading date	Volume loads (metric tons)	Freight rate (US$/metric ton)
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Jun 1/30	63,000	42.00
U.S. Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Mar 15/Apr 15	63,000	40.00
U.S. Gulf	Durban	Sorghum	Jul 19/29	11,000	145.22*
PNW	China	Heavy Grain	Mar 2/18	60,000	27.50
PNW	Yemen	Wheat	Jul 16/26	29,200	71.00*
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Jun 10/20	65,000	33.00
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Apr 20/May 5	63,000	33.00
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Apr 15/30	63,000	32.50
Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	Mar 3/11	63,000	27.50
River Plate	China	Heavy Grain	Apr 21/30	65,000	37.85

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

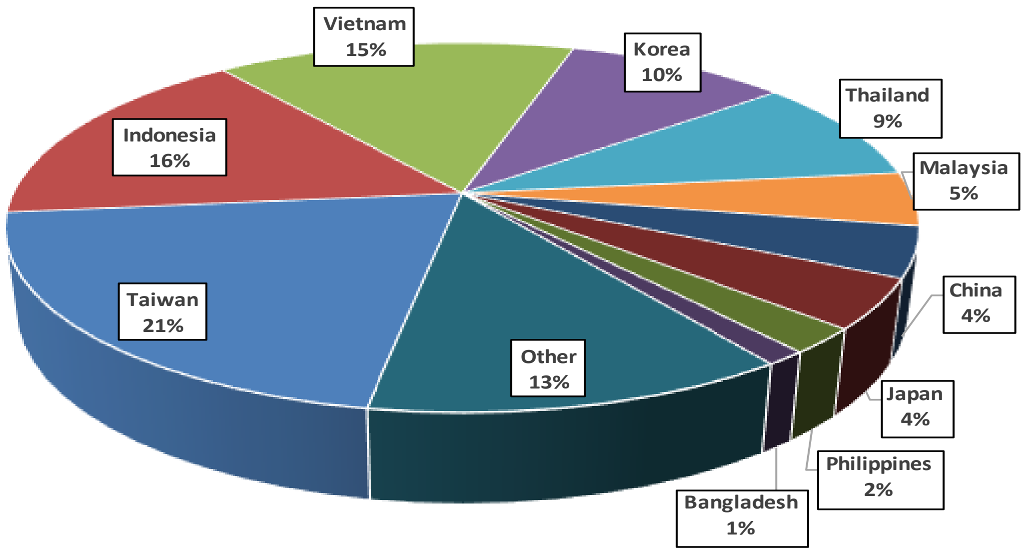
*50 percent of food aid from the United States is required to be shipped on U.S.-flag vessels.

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

In 2017, containers were used to transport 7 percent of total U.S. waterborne grain exports. Approximately 62 percent of U.S. waterborne grain exports in 2017 went to Asia, of which 10 percent were moved in containers. Approximately 93 percent of U.S. waterborne containerized grain exports were destined for Asia.

Figure 18

Top 10 Destination Markets for U.S. Containerized Grain Exports, 2018

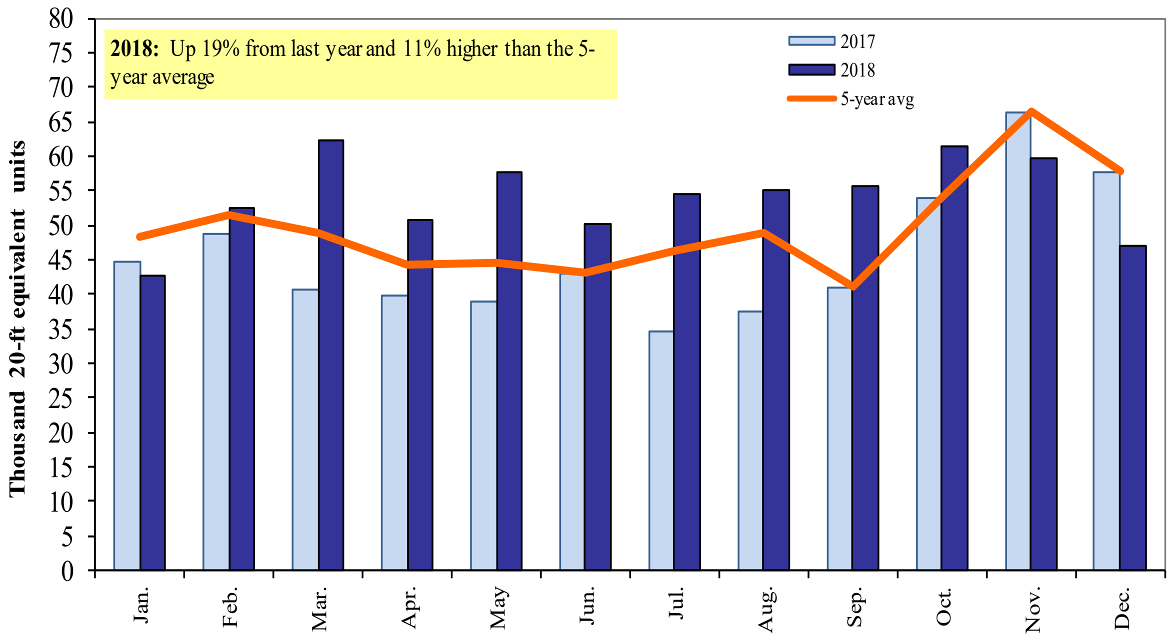


Service (PIERS) data

Note: The following Harmonized Tariff Codes are used to calculate containerized grains movements: 1001, 100190, 1002, 1003 100300, 1004, 100400, 1005, 100590, 1007, 100700, 1102, 110100, 230310, 110220, 110290, 1201, 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, 110220, 110290, 120100, 120810, 230210, 230310, 230330, and 230990.

Contacts and Links

Coordinators		
Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0119
Kuo-Liang (Matt) Chang	matt.chang@usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0299
Weekly Highlight Editors		
Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0119
April Taylor	april.taylor@usda.gov	(202) 720 - 7880
Nicholas Marathon	nick.marathon@usda.gov	(202) 690 - 4430
Grain Transportation Indicators		
Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0119
Rail Transportation		
Johnny Hill	johnny.hill@usda.gov	(202) 690 - 3295
Jesse Gastelle	jesse.gastelle@usda.gov	(202) 690 - 1144
Peter Caffarelli	petera.caffarelli@usda.gov	(202) 690 - 3244
Barge Transportation		
Nicholas Marathon	nick.marathon@usda.gov	(202) 690 - 4430
April Taylor	april.taylor@usda.gov	(202) 720 - 7880
Kuo-Liang (Matt) Chang	matt.chang@usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0299
Truck Transportation		
April Taylor	april.taylor@usda.gov	(202) 720 - 7880
Grain Exports		
Johnny Hill	johnny.hill@usda.gov	(202) 690 - 3295
Ocean Transportation		
Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo (Freight rates and vessels)	surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov	(202) 720 - 0119
April Taylor (Container movements)	april.taylor@usda.gov	(202) 720 - 7880

Subscription Information: Send relevant information to **GTRContactUs@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.* July 4, 2019. Web: **http://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS056.07-04-2019**