

Shipments of Grain by Rail in Georgia

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This summary of grain shipments by rail in Georgia is drawn from *State Grain Rail Statistical Summary*,¹ a report that describes the grain and oilseed shipped by rail in the United States from 2006 to 2010. The full report collects information on rail shipments from each State and to each State and examines some of the factors that influence the amount of grain grown and used. It examines rail shipments, rail receipts, grain and oilseed production, animal and poultry production, grain and oilseed exports, and grain and oilseed rail rates per ton-mile to explain the variations between States in shipments of these commodities.

Georgia ranks 22nd among the grain and oilseed producing States, with a 2006–2010 average yearly production of 188 million bushels (mbu).

In the years 2006 to 2010, peanuts comprised 45 percent of Georgia crops, corn 23 percent, cottonseed 20 percent, wheat 6 percent, soybeans 5 percent, and sorghum and oats each made up 1 percent.

Nationally, Georgia is ranked ninth in animal and poultry production, averaging 17.6 million Grain Consuming Animal Units (GCAU)² from 2006 to 2010.

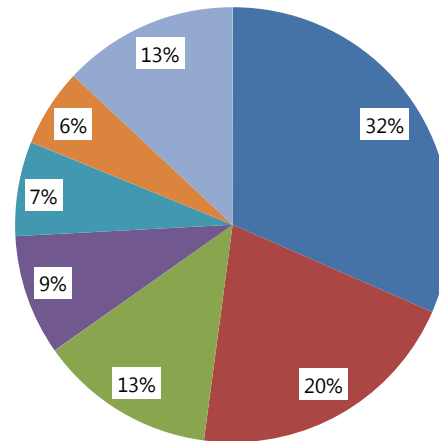
For each year from 2006 to 2010, an average of 339,000 metric tons of grain and oilseeds were inspected for export from Georgia.

1 Available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS066.06-2013>

2 A standard unit used to compare the feed needs of different livestock and poultry.

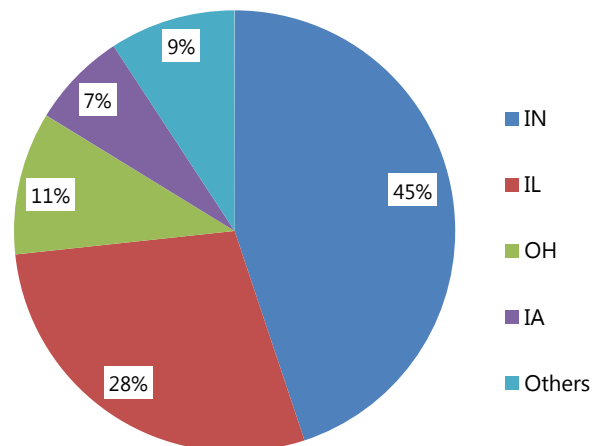
Figure 1. Business Economic Areas Receiving Georgia Corn by Rail, 2006–2010

- Montgomery, AL
- Atlanta, GA-AL-NC
- Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL
- Columbia, SC
- Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC
- Others



Source: USDA analysis of Surface Transportation Board Confidential Waybill Samples

Figure 2. Sources of Georgia Rail Corn Receipts, 2006–2010



Source: USDA analysis of Surface Transportation Board Confidential Waybill Samples

During the crop marketing years from 2001 to 2004, railroad originations of grain and oilseeds averaged a market share of 20.2 percent, dropping to an average of 19.6 percent during 2007 to 2010.

During the period 2006 to 2010, Georgia shipped 137,000 tons of corn by rail, down 79.5 percent from 668,000 tons from 1996 to 2000. (fig. 1)

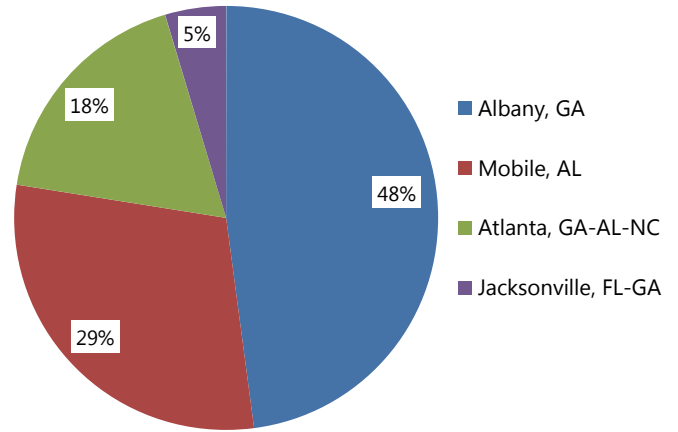
Georgia received a total of 23.5 million tons of corn by rail during the 2006–2010 marketing years, up 6.7 percent from 22 million tons during the 1996–2000 marketing years. (fig. 2)

From 2006 to 2010, Georgia shipped 69,000 tons of soybeans by rail, down 73.9 percent from 262,000 tons shipped in the period 1996 to 2000. (fig. 3)

Georgia received a total of 7.7 million tons of soybeans by rail during the 2006–2010 marketing years, up 8.5 percent from 7.1 million tons during the 1996–2000 marketing years. (fig. 4)

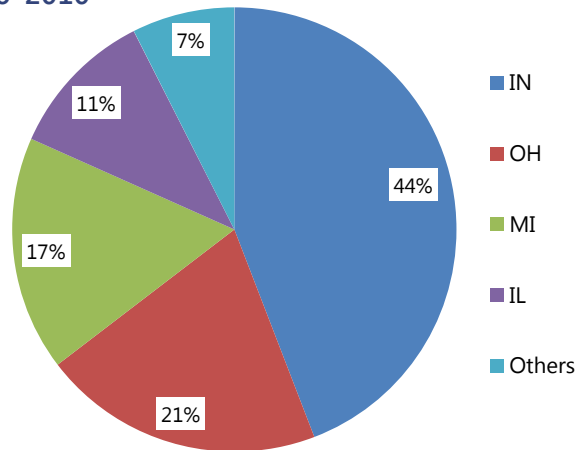
In the years 2006–2010, 598,000 tons of wheat were shipped by rail from Georgia, a 23.3-percent decrease from 781,000 tons from 1996 to 2000. (fig. 5)

Figure 3. Business Economic Areas Receiving Georgia Soybeans by Rail, 2006–2010



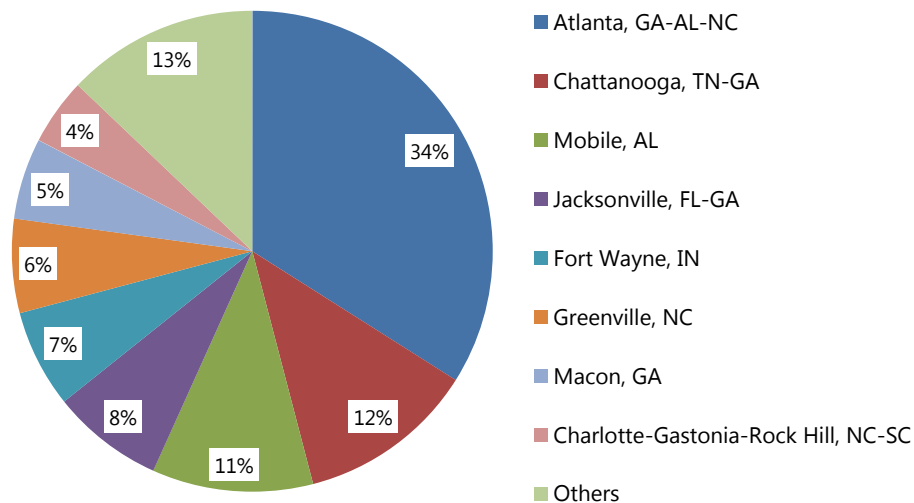
Source: USDA analysis of Surface Transportation Board Confidential Waybill Samples

Figure 4. Sources of Georgia Rail Soybean Receipts, 2006–2010



Source: USDA analysis of Surface Transportation Board Confidential Waybill Samples

Figure 5. Business Economic Areas Receiving Georgia Wheat by Rail, 2006–2010



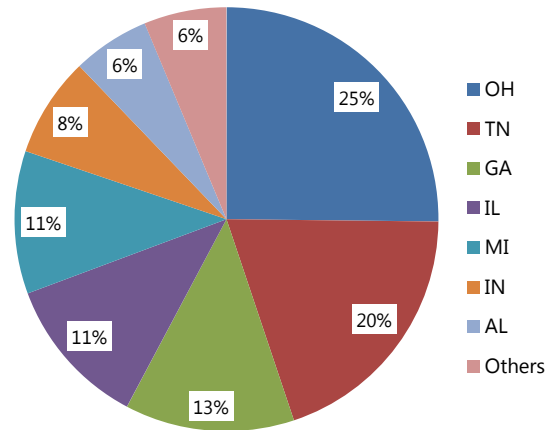
Source: USDA analysis of Surface Transportation Board Confidential Waybill Samples

Georgia received a total of 2.2 million tons of wheat by rail during the 2006–2010 marketing years, down 19.8 percent from 2.8 million tons during the 1996–2000 marketing years. (fig. 6)

Ninety percent of the grain car shipments originating in Georgia from 2006 to 2010 were 1–5 cars in size, 8 percent were 6–49 cars, and the remaining 2 percent of shipments were 50–74 cars long. (fig. 7)

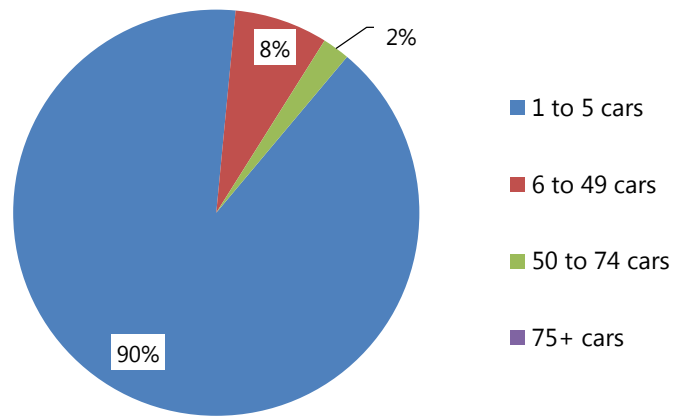
Average tariff rail rates for shipments originating in Georgia were 4.4 cents per ton-mile from 2006 to 2010. Rates ranged from 2.93 cents per ton-mile in 2003 to 5.01 cents in 2008. Rates increased 16 percent from 2005 to 2010. (fig. 8)

Figure 6. Sources of Georgia Rail Wheat Receipts, 2006–2010



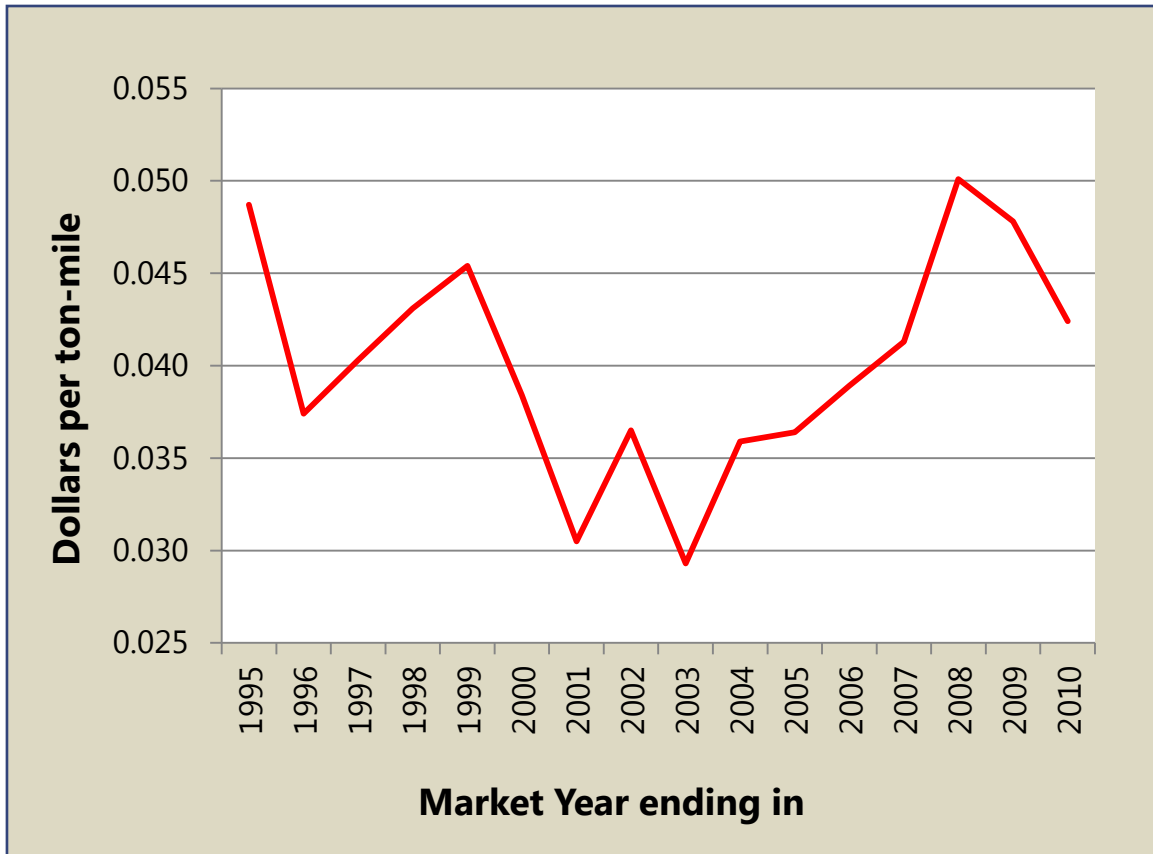
Source: USDA analysis of Surface Transportation Board Confidential Waybill Samples

Figure 7. Georgia Grain Originations by Shipment Size



Source: USDA analysis of Surface Transportation Board Confidential Waybill Samples

Figure 8. Average Georgia Rail Tariff Rates



Source: USDA analysis of Surface Transportation Board Confidential Waybill Samples

Table 1. Georgia Grain and Oilseed Production and Rail Shipments, 2006-2010

	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat	Total Grain and Oilseeds	GCAUs*
Average Yearly Production	42.62 mbu†	9.58 mbu	10.60 mbu	188.02 mbu	17,605,968
Average Yearly Exports (metric tons)	50,039	159,188	41,479	338,546	-
Total Rail Receipts (tons)	23,445,971	7,709,596	2,204,669	-	-
Total Rail Shipments (tons)	136,852	68,544	598,409	-	-

* Grain Consuming Animal Units

† Million bushels

Data and Methodology

Data from the Surface Transportation Board's Confidential Waybill Samples over the period 1996-2010 were analyzed to measure grain and oilseed shipments by rail. The data were aggregated and sorted by a number of characteristics, the major categories being shipment origin, destination, and type of grain or oilseed. This information was then organized by both origin and destination State. The data were also sorted by shipment size for each State, showing the relative frequencies of grain and oilseed shipments of different sizes. Data having less than 30 observations are excluded, as are States having data for only 1 or 2 years of the 5-year period. Despite these precautions, States with relatively low volumes are more subject to year-to-year variation than are States with higher volumes because of the number of available observations used to calculate totals. This is a result of the sampling techniques used in the Waybill Samples. Thus, higher volumes are less likely to suffer from sampling limitations and be more representative of actual rail movements for any given year than are lower volumes.

GCAUs were calculated for each State using information on animal populations and the corresponding levels of feed necessary to maintain the populations. These calculations included meat and poultry for consumption and production purposes. Cows, sheep, turkeys, hogs, and chickens were included.

The export inspection numbers in this report were taken from USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration grain and oilseed export inspections at U.S. ports exporting grain and oilseeds in bulk. Grain and oilseed production levels by State were also calculated.

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