



# Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report

a quarterly publication of the Agricultural Marketing Service  
[www.ams.usda.gov/services/transportation-analysis](http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/transportation-analysis)

## CONTENTS

Summary: What Happened?	1
Quarterly Bulk Grain and Soybeans	5
Subscription Information	13
Related Websites	13
Data Sets	13



Fourth Quarter 2020  
(October, November, December)  
Published May 2021

## CONTACT INFORMATION

[Surajudeen Olowolayemo](#), Coordinator/  
Ocean Bulk Shipments

[Jesse Gastelle](#), Rail/Fruit and  
Vegetables Analyst

[April Taylor](#), Container Shipments/  
Fruit and Vegetables Analyst

## SUMMARY: WHAT HAPPENED?

### Better Farm Prices Pushed Up Landed Costs for Grain to Mexico in Fourth Quarter 2020

Mexico is the leading importer of U.S. corn (see [February 11, 2021 GTR, table 13](#)), second largest importer of U.S. soybeans (see [February 11, 2021 GTR, table 14](#)) and largest importer of U.S. wheat (see [February 11, 2021 GTR, table 15](#)). As of January 28, 2021, Mexico's total commitments were 11.08 million metric tons (mmt) of U.S. corn, 3.96 mmt of U.S. soybeans, and 2.95 mmt of U.S. wheat. Given Mexico's prominence as a destination for U.S. grain exports, low transportation costs and landed costs to Mexico are critical to the competitiveness of U.S. grain.

U.S. grain is transported to Mexico either by cross-border land movements or by seaborne movements to Mexican ports for inland distribution. This article examines the costs of transporting U.S. grain to Mexico over land to Guadalajara (land route) and by water to Veracruz (water route), tracking changes over time (see table 1).

**Quarter-to-quarter transportation costs.** From third to fourth quarter 2020 (quarter to quarter), total costs of shipping U.S. corn and soybeans to Mexico via the water route rose mainly because of higher barge rates, while higher truck rates pushed up the cost of shipping wheat by the water route.<sup>1</sup> For the land route, a decrease in rail (public tariff plus fuel surcharge) costs offset the increase in the truck rates. Thus, land-route transportation costs—of which rail rates comprise a large majority—did not change. Barge rates rose partly in response to strong demand and unstable supply of barges for grain exports in the fourth quarter ([GTR, January 28, 2021](#)). Exports out of the Mississippi Gulf have been at record levels (see [February 11, 2021 GTR table 16](#)). At the same time, low water levels in the Lower Mississippi River forced the barge industry to restrict drafts and tow sizes, which delayed departures and lengthened transit times. Some shippers might also have had difficulties positioning empty barges as scheduled.

**Year-to-year transportation costs.** From fourth quarter 2019 to fourth quarter 2020 (year to year), the total costs of shipping U.S. corn and soybeans to Mexico by the water route increased because of higher barge rates. Meanwhile, lower rail tariff rates pushed down costs of shipping wheat to Mexico by the water route. Similarly, the costs of shipping all grain (corn, soybeans, and wheat) to Mexico by the land route fell with declining rail tariff rates.

<sup>1</sup>Water routes typically involve truck transportation to barge to oceangoing vessel, or truck to rail to oceangoing vessel.



# Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report



**Quarter-to-quarter landed costs.** From quarter to quarter, landed costs increased for all grains shipped via both routes. For all waterborne grain, landed costs rose because of higher transport costs and higher farm values (table 1 and fig. 1). For all grain via the land route, higher farm values were the main drivers of higher landed costs (table 1 and fig. 2). The transportation share of landed costs ranged from 12 percent to 26 percent for the water route and from 22 percent to 40 percent for the land route (see table 1).

**Year-to-year landed costs.** From year to year, landed costs increased for waterborne corn and soybeans because of higher transportation costs and farm values. For waterborne wheat and all grains shipped by land routes, higher farm values mainly drove rising landed costs.

**U.S. Exports to Mexico:** According to USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service, Mexico imported 3.44 mmt of U.S. corn, 1.43 mmt of U.S. soybeans, and 0.67 mmt of U.S. wheat in fourth quarter 2020. Quarter to quarter, these imports amounted to 6 percent more corn and 37 percent more soybeans, but 7 percent less wheat. Year to year, U.S. inspections for export to Mexico rose by 12 percent for corn and 10 percent for soybeans, while falling 22 percent for wheat.

**Ocean Freight Rates:** Ocean freight rates for shipping bulk grains to Mexico remained relatively stable during the fourth quarter, compared to the previous quarter, decreased from a year earlier, and increased above the 4-year average. In the fourth quarter, the cost of shipping a metric ton (mt) of grain, via 25,000 ton-capacity vessels from the U.S. Gulf to Veracruz, Mexico, averaged \$17.40 per mt. This was just 1 percent more than the previous quarter, 3 percent less than the same period last year, and 3 percent above the prior 4-year average. The cost of shipping in a 35,000-40,000 ton-capacity vessel averaged \$14.43 per mt. This was unchanged from the previous quarter, 6-percent decrease from the same quarter last year, and 1-percent decrease from the prior 4-year average. Dry bulk trade, including grain, remained strong during the quarter, supporting the rates.

**Railroad:** In fourth quarter 2020, railroads transported 36,045 carloads of grain and oilseeds to Mexico, down 9 percent quarter to quarter, and down 13 percent year to year. Tariff rail rates per grain car averaged \$7,684, unchanged quarter to quarter and year to year, but up 2 percent from the prior-3-year average. Fuel surcharges per railcar averaged \$125, down 14 percent quarter to quarter, down 48 percent year to year, and down 35 percent from the prior-3-year average. Overall, rail transportation costs (tariff rates plus fuel surcharges) were unchanged quarter to quarter and down 2 percent year to year, but up 1 percent from the prior-3-year average.

## Fruit and Vegetables

In fourth quarter 2020, total reported shipments of fruits and vegetables from Mexico were 2.68 million tons, a 15-percent increase from year to year. The sum of the top five commodities increased by 143,000 tons, or 15 percent. At 319,000 tons—a 9-percent increase from year to year—avocados were the largest reported refrigerated truck import from Mexico by volume.

Truck rates for shipments crossing the Arizona border into Mexico and traveling 501-1,500 miles averaged \$2.81 per mile, up 30 percent quarter to quarter and 27 percent year to year. Rates for shipments crossing the Texas-Mexico border and traveling 501-1,500 miles averaged \$2.88 per mile, up 22 percent quarter to quarter and 29 percent year to year.

Diesel fuel prices for Texas-Mexico border crossings averaged \$2.22 per gallon for the quarter. Diesel fuel prices for Arizona-Mexico border crossings averaged \$2.65 per gallon. Truck availability in Arizona fluctuated throughout the quarter between adequate and shortage conditions. On average, conditions fell into the slight shortage category. Similarly, truck availability in Texas fluctuated from adequate to shortage throughout the quarter also averaging in the slight shortage category.



# Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report



**Table 1. Quarterly costs of transporting U.S. grain and soybeans to Mexico**

	2020									
	Water route (to Veracruz)					Land route (to Guadalajara)				
	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Avg.	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Avg.
	US\$/metric ton					US\$/metric ton				
<b>Corn</b>										
<b>Origin</b>	<b>IL</b>					<b>IA</b>				
Truck	10.70	9.70	12.38	11.38	11.04	4.62	3.83	3.93	4.85	4.31
Rail <sup>1</sup>						96.35	94.48	94.63	94.04	94.88
Barge	15.55	14.53	21.58*	25.88	18.65					
Ocean <sup>2</sup>	13.64	12.41	14.39	14.43	13.72					
Total transportation cost	39.89	36.64	48.35	51.69	44.14	100.97	98.31	98.56	98.89	99.18
Farm price <sup>3</sup>	138.05	126.11	128.34	147.50	135.00	146.45	124.80	126.11	150.65	137.00
Landed cost <sup>4</sup>	177.94	162.75	176.69	199.19	179.14	247.42	223.11	224.67	249.54	236.19
Transport % of landed cost	22.4	22.5	27.4	26.0	24.6	40.8	44.1	43.9	39.6	42.0
<b>Soybeans</b>										
<b>Origin</b>	<b>IL</b>					<b>NE</b>				
Truck	10.70	9.70	12.38	11.38	11.04	4.62	3.83	3.93	4.85	4.31
Rail <sup>1</sup>						98.97	97.15	97.11	96.55	97.45
Barge	15.55	14.53	21.58*	25.88	18.65					
Ocean <sup>2</sup>	13.64	12.41	14.39	14.43	13.72					
Total transportation cost	39.89	36.64	48.35	51.69	44.14	103.59	100.98	101.04	101.40	101.75
Farm price <sup>3</sup>	325.55	309.87	331.06	370.25	334.18	307.30	295.05	312.81	368.05	320.80
Landed cost <sup>4</sup>	365.44	346.51	379.41	421.94	378.33	410.89	396.03	413.85	469.45	422.56
Transport % of landed cost	10.9	10.6	12.7	12.3	11.6	25.2	25.5	24.4	21.6	24.2
<b>Wheat</b>										
<b>Origin</b>	<b>KS</b>					<b>KS</b>				
Truck	4.62	3.83	3.93	4.85	4.31	4.62	3.83	3.93	4.85	4.31
Rail <sup>1</sup>	43.31	43.31	42.07	42.07	42.69	83.27	81.10	81.17	80.17	81.43
Ocean <sup>2</sup>	13.64	12.41	14.39	14.43	13.72					
Total transportation cost	61.57	59.55	60.39	61.35	60.72	87.89	84.93	85.10	85.02	85.74
Farm price <sup>3</sup>	160.81	162.65	158.37	193.39	168.81	160.81	162.65	158.37	193.39	168.81
Landed cost <sup>4</sup>	222.38	222.20	218.76	254.74	229.52	248.70	247.58	243.47	278.41	254.54
Transport % of landed cost	27.7	26.8	27.6	24.1	26.5	35.3	34.3	35.0	30.5	33.8

<sup>1</sup>Rail rates include U.S. and Mexico portions of the movement. Mexico rail rates are estimated based on actual quoted market rates. BNSF and Union Pacific quoted rail tariff rates are through rates for shuttle trains. Rail rates include fuel surcharges, but do not include the cost of purchasing empty rail cars in the secondary market, which could exceed the rail tariff rate plus the fuel surcharge shown in the table.

<sup>2</sup>Source for ocean rates: O'Neil Commodity Consulting, Inc.

<sup>3</sup>Source for farm rates: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

\*Due to the closure of several lock and dam facilities on Illinois River between July 1 and October 27, 2020, mid-Mississippi barge rate was substituted for Illinois rate as the benchmark for calculating cost index during the closures.

<sup>4</sup>Landed cost is total transportation cost plus the farm price.

Note: Total may not add exactly because of rounding.

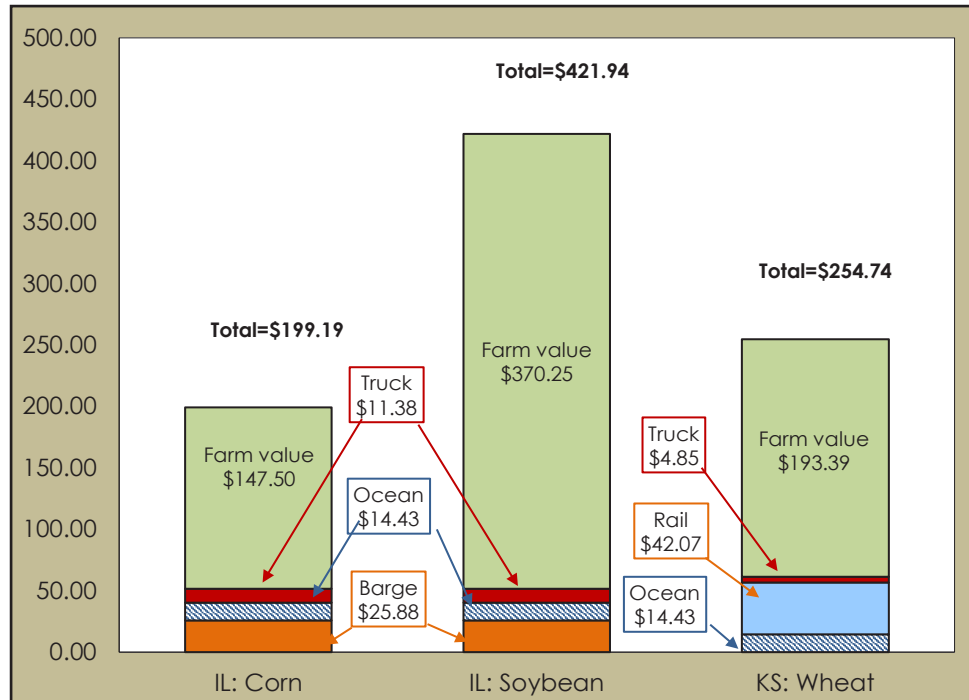
Source: Compiled by the USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.



# Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report

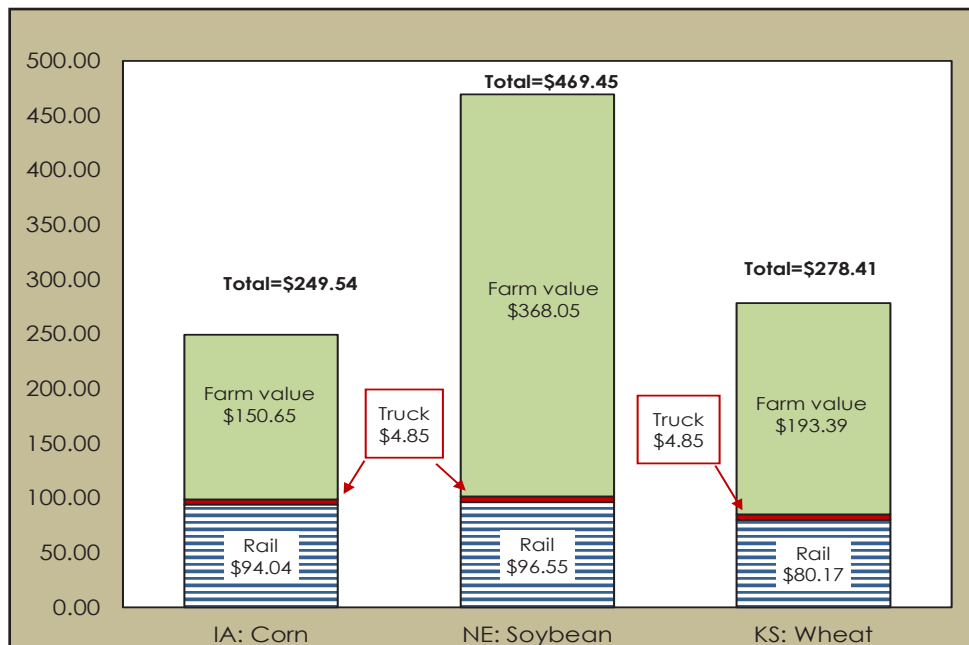


**Figure 1. Water route shipment costs (\$/mt) to Veracruz, Mexico**



Note: IL = Illinois; KS = Kansas  
 Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service

**Figure 2. Land route shipment costs (\$/mt) to Guadalajara, Mexico**



Note: IA = Iowa; NE = Nebraska; KS = Kansas  
 Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service



# Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report



## QUARTERLY BULK GRAIN AND SOYBEANS

**Table 2. Quarterly tariff rail rates for U.S. bulk grain shipments to Mexico (US\$/car), 2020**

Commodity	Origin State	Destination	Tariff rate/car <sup>1</sup>					Fuel surcharge per car <sup>2</sup>				
			1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Avg	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Avg
Wheat	MT	Chihuahua, CI	7,509	7,509	7,426	7,384	7,457	0	0	0	0	0
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	6,775	6,775	6,733	6,713	6,749	137	88	46	46	80
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	7,534	7,534	7,492	7,471	7,507	616	404	453	375	462
	TX	Salinas Victoria, NL	4,329	4,329	4,329	4,341	4,332	83	53	28	28	48
Corn	IA	Guadalajara, JA	8,902	8,902	8,902	8,902	8,902	527	345	359	302	383
	SD	Celaya, GJ	8,140	8,140	8,140	8,140	8,140	0	0	0	0	0
	NE	Queretaro, QA	8,278	8,278	8,278	8,300	8,284	284	181	92	92	162
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	6,905	6,905	6,905	6,905	6,905	0	0	0	0	0
	MO	Tlalnepantla, EM	7,643	7,643	7,643	7,665	7,648	277	176	90	90	158
	SD	Torreon, CU	7,690	7,690	7,690	7,690	7,690	0	0	0	0	0
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	8,547	8,547	8,538	8,547	8,544	493	322	338	285	359
	NE	Guadalajara, JA	9,172	9,172	9,158	9,157	9,164	515	337	346	293	372
	IA	El Castillo, JA	9,490	9,490	9,463	9,410	9,463	0	0	0	0	0
	KS	Torreon, CU	7,964	7,964	7,972	8,014	7,978	356	233	227	194	253
Sorghum	NE	Celaya, GJ	7,772	7,772	7,772	7,772	7,772	467	305	309	261	335
	KS	Queretaro, QA	8,108	8,108	8,108	8,108	8,108	171	110	58	58	99
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	6,713	6,713	6,713	6,713	6,713	137	88	47	47	80
	NE	Torreon, CU	7,157	7,092	7,092	7,092	7,108	331	213	200	172	229

<sup>1</sup>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. The cost of obtaining empty grain cars in the Secondary Grain Car markets, which in times of high demand may exceed the tariff rate plus fuel surcharge, is not included.

<sup>2</sup>Approximate load per car = 97.87 mt: corn & sorghum 56 lbs/bu, wheat & soybeans 60 lbs/bu

Sources: [www.bnsf.com](http://www.bnsf.com); [www.uprr.com](http://www.uprr.com); [www.kcsouthern.com](http://www.kcsouthern.com)



# Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report



**Table 3. Quarterly tariff rail rates plus fuel surcharges for U.S. bulk grain shipments to Mexico, 2020**

			Tariff <sup>1</sup> plus fuel surcharge per:									
			US\$/metric ton					US\$/bushel <sup>2</sup>				
Commodity	Origin State	Destination	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Avg	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Avg
Wheat	MT	Chihuahua, CI	76.72	76.72	75.87	75.45	76.19	2.09	2.09	2.06	2.05	2.07
	OK	Cuautitlan, EM	70.63	70.13	69.27	69.06	69.77	1.92	1.91	1.88	1.88	1.90
	KS	Guadalajara, JA	83.27	81.10	81.17	80.17	81.43	2.26	2.21	2.21	2.18	2.21
	TX	Salinas Victoria, NL	45.08	44.77	44.51	44.64	44.75	1.23	1.22	1.21	1.21	1.22
Corn	IA	Guadalajara, JA	96.35	94.48	94.63	94.04	94.87	2.44	2.40	2.40	2.39	2.41
	SD	Celaya, GJ	83.17	83.17	83.17	83.17	83.17	2.11	2.11	2.11	2.11	2.11
	NE	Queretaro, QA	87.49	86.43	85.53	85.75	86.30	2.22	2.19	2.17	2.18	2.19
	SD	Salinas Victoria, NL	70.55	70.55	70.55	70.55	70.55	1.79	1.79	1.79	1.79	1.79
	MO	Tlalnepantla, EM	80.93	79.89	79.01	79.23	79.77	2.05	2.03	2.01	2.01	2.02
	SD	Torreon, CU	78.57	78.57	78.57	78.57	78.57	1.99	1.99	1.99	1.99	1.99
Soybeans	MO	Bojay (Tula), HG	92.36	90.62	90.69	90.23	90.98	2.51	2.46	2.47	2.45	2.47
	NE	Guadalajara, JA	98.97	97.15	97.11	96.55	97.44	2.69	2.64	2.64	2.62	2.65
	IA	El Castillo, JA	96.97	96.97	96.69	96.15	96.69	2.64	2.64	2.63	2.61	2.63
	KS	Torreon, CU	85.01	83.75	83.77	83.86	84.10	2.31	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.29
Sorghum	NE	Celaya, GJ	84.18	82.53	82.56	82.07	82.84	2.14	2.09	2.10	2.08	2.10
	KS	Queretaro, QA	84.59	83.97	83.43	83.43	83.85	2.15	2.13	2.12	2.12	2.13
	NE	Salinas Victoria, NL	69.99	69.49	69.06	69.06	69.40	1.78	1.76	1.75	1.75	1.76
	NE	Torreon, CU	76.51	74.64	74.51	74.22	74.97	1.94	1.89	1.89	1.88	1.90

<sup>1</sup>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. The cost of obtaining empty grain cars in the Secondary Grain Car markets, which in times of high demand may exceed the tariff rate plus fuel surcharge, is not included.

<sup>2</sup>Approximate load per car = 97.87 mt: corn & sorghum 56 lbs/bu, wheat & soybeans 60 lbs/bu

Sources: [www.bnsf.com](http://www.bnsf.com); [www.uprr.com](http://www.uprr.com); [www.kcsouthern.com](http://www.kcsouthern.com)



# Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report



**Table 4. Quarterly exports of U.S. distillers' dried grains with soluble (DDGS) to Mexico\***

Year	Thousand metric tons				
	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Total
2010	439	399	424	383	1,645
2011	506	430	476	369	1,781
2012	426	388	352	332	1,498
2013	284	329	290	381	1,285
2014	356	420	366	435	1,577
2015	497	276	413	463	1,649
2016	483	467	470	490	1,910
2017	604	475	551	551	2,181
2018	516	516	514	467	2,013
2019	410	574	475	491	1,950
2020	526	344	396	476	1,742

\*Data are for brewers' and distillers' dregs and waste, of which Distillers' Dried Grains with Soluble is a principal component.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service (ERS), Feed grains database



# Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report



**Table 5. Quarterly ocean freight rate for bulk grain shipments from the U.S. Gulf to Veracruz, Mexico**

US\$/metric ton					
Vessel capacity (metric ton)	1st qtr 2012	2nd qtr 2012	3rd qtr 2012	4th qtr 2012	Average
25,000	20.28	20.79	20.68	18.73	20.12
35-40,000	18.37	18.62	18.53	16.73	18.06
Vessel capacity (metric ton)	1st qtr 2013	2nd qtr 2013	3rd qtr 2013	4th qtr 2013	Average
25,000	20.19	19.59	20.47	20.01	20.07
35-40,000	17.89	17.58	17.85	17.13	17.61
Vessel capacity (metric ton)	1st qtr 2014	2nd qtr 2014	3rd qtr 2014	4th qtr 2014	Average
25,000	20.08	17.48	15.75	16.32	17.41
35-40,000	17.53	15.48	13.56	13.96	15.13
Vessel capacity (metric ton)	1st qtr 2015	2nd qtr 2015	3rd qtr 2015	4th qtr 2015	Average
25,000	13.67	14.23	14.59	13.95	14.11
35-40,000	11.63	11.89	12.85	12.12	12.12
Vessel capacity (metric ton)	1st qtr 2016	2nd qtr 2016	3rd qtr 2016	4th qtr 2016	Average
25,000	12.34	13.47	15.00	14.85	13.92
35-40,000	10.44	11.65	13.20	13.26	12.14
Vessel capacity (metric ton)	1st qtr 2017	2nd qtr 2017	3rd qtr 2017	4th qtr 2017	Average
25,000	16.03	14.85	15.16	16.69	15.68
35-40,000	14.27	12.95	12.98	14.26	13.62
Vessel capacity (metric ton)	1st qtr 2018	2nd qtr 2018	3rd qtr 2018	4th qtr 2018	Average
25,000	16.11	16.20	16.68	17.94	16.73
35-40,000	13.97	14.07	14.68	15.63	14.59
Vessel capacity (metric ton)	1st qtr 2019	2nd qtr 2019	3rd qtr 2019	4th qtr 2019	Average
25,000	16.37	16.65	18.27	17.98	17.32
35-40,000	13.89	14.01	15.50	15.23	14.66
Vessel capacity (metric ton)	1st qtr 2020	2nd qtr 2020	3rd qtr 2020	4th qtr 2020	Average
25,000	16.37	15.31	17.20	17.40	16.57
35-40,000	13.64	12.41	14.39	14.43	13.72

Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting





# Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report



## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE

**Table 6. Fruit and vegetable truck rates for shipments between 501 to 1,500 miles crossing the U.S.-Mexico border**

US\$/mile					
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2012	2nd qtr 2012	3rd qtr 2012	4th qtr 2012	Average
Nogales, Arizona	2.00	2.57	1.84	1.92	2.08
Pharr, Texas	1.97	2.26	1.89	2.09	2.05
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2013	2nd qtr 2013	3rd qtr 2013	4th qtr 2013	Average
Nogales, Arizona	2.34	2.59	1.63	2.33	2.22
Pharr, Texas	2.15	2.33	2.02	2.01	2.13
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2014	2nd qtr 2014	3rd qtr 2014	4th qtr 2014	Average
Nogales, Arizona	2.46	2.69	1.74	2.31	2.30
Pharr, Texas	2.32	2.53	2.12	2.13	2.28
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2015	2nd qtr 2015	3rd qtr 2015	4th qtr 2015	Average
Nogales, Arizona	2.41	2.49	2.71	2.51	2.53
Pharr, Texas	2.26	2.23	2.50	2.27	2.32
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2016	2nd qtr 2016	3rd qtr 2016	4th qtr 2016	Average
Nogales, Arizona	2.31	2.43	2.53	2.65	2.48
Pharr, Texas	2.98	2.17	2.24	2.34	2.43
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2017	2nd qtr 2017	3rd qtr 2017	4th qtr 2017	Average
Nogales, Arizona	2.05	2.32	2.45	2.38	2.30
Pharr, Texas	2.16	2.21	2.00	2.36	2.18
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2018	2nd qtr 2018	3rd qtr 2018	4th qtr 2018	Average
Nogales, Arizona	2.92	3.21	2.75	2.47	2.84
Pharr, Texas	2.95	3.13	2.27	2.34	2.67
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2019	2nd qtr 2019	3rd qtr 2019	4th qtr 2019	Average
Nogales, Arizona	2.52	2.7	2.52	2.21	2.49
Pharr, Texas	2.45	2.28	2.04	2.23	2.25
Origin/border crossing	1st qtr 2020	2nd qtr 2020	3rd qtr 2020	4th qtr 2020	Average
Nogales, Arizona	2.53	2.55	2.16	2.81	2.51
Pharr, Texas	2.49	2.25	2.35	2.88	2.49

Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Specialty Crops Program, Market News Division



# Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report



**Table 7. Quarterly U.S.-Mexico border crossing fresh fruit and vegetables truck availability**

4th quarter 2020														
Legend:	1 = Surplus	2 = Slight surplus	3 = Adequate	4 = Slight shortage	5 = Shortage									
Truck availability														
Mexico border crossings/month		October				November				December				
Week ending		10/6	10/13	10/20	10/27	11/3	11/10	11/17	11/24	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22	12/29
Through Nogales, AZ	Tomatoes, Squash, Cucumbers, Mangoes, Honeydew, Watermelons, Mixed Fruits, Vegetables	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	3	3	4	5	5
Through TX	Vegetables, Limes, Mangoes, Onions, Tomatoes, Broccoli, Mixed Fruits	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	3	3	5	5

Note: NA = not available.

Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Specialty Crop Program, Market News Division, Fruit and Vegetable Truck Rate Report

**Table 8. Top ten commodities shipped by truck to the U.S. from Mexico, 2020 (1,000 metric tons)**

Commodity	4th qtr 2020	Rank
Avocados	320	1
Cucumbers	237	2
Tomatoes	227	3
Squash	170	4
Peppers, other	169	5
Tomatoes, plum type	168	6
Limes	155	7
Watermelon, seedless	133	8
Peppers, bell type	132	9
Broccoli	93	10

Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Specialty Crops Program, Market News Division



# Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report



**Table 9. Top five commodities shipped by truck to the U.S. from Mexico (10,000 lbs)**

Commodity	1st qtr 2013	2nd qtr 2013	3rd qtr 2013	4th qtr 2013	Total 2013
Tomatoes (all varieties)	88,753	75,505	43,373	52,154	259,785
Peppers (all varieties)	55,952	35,111	27,341	51,481	169,885
Avocados	38,933	26,387	15,049	30,766	111,135
Cucumbers	38,877	30,555	11,592	31,523	112,547
Onions (dry and green)	24,818	22,138	7,584	8,070	62,610
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>247,333</b>	<b>189,696</b>	<b>104,939</b>	<b>173,994</b>	<b>715,962</b>
Other	206,944	271,688	126,051	168,680	773,363
<b>Total</b>	<b>454,277</b>	<b>461,384</b>	<b>230,990</b>	<b>342,674</b>	<b>1,489,325</b>
Commodity	1st qtr 2014	2nd qtr 2014	3rd qtr 2014	4th qtr 2014	Total 2014
Tomatoes (all varieties)	102,223	75,885	41,364	59,367	278,839
Peppers (all varieties)	61,170	32,403	28,315	49,764	171,652
Cucumbers	25,327	8,7584	3,815	20,131	136,857
Avocados	37,704	25,948	26,937	39,197	129,786
Squash	4,7115	30,353	12,534	37,227	127,229
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>273,539</b>	<b>252,173</b>	<b>112,965</b>	<b>205,686</b>	<b>844,363</b>
Other	218,822	231,589	126,002	166,317	742,730
<b>Total</b>	<b>492,361</b>	<b>483,762</b>	<b>238,967</b>	<b>372,003</b>	<b>1,587,093</b>
Commodity	1st qtr 2015	2nd qtr 2015	3rd qtr 2015	4th qtr 2015	Total 2015
Tomatoes (all varieties)	97,953	71,449	45,992	65,381	280,775
Peppers (all varieties)	44,215	37,154	43,044	49,722	174,135
Cucumbers	59,876	33,752	30,679	47,396	171,703
Avocados	23,537	95,273	7,213	23,195	149,218
Squash	49,684	33,603	15,717	37,875	136,879
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>275,265</b>	<b>271,231</b>	<b>142,645</b>	<b>223,569</b>	<b>912,710</b>
Other	232,251	250,443	138,828	185,012	806,534
<b>Total</b>	<b>507,516</b>	<b>521,674</b>	<b>281,473</b>	<b>408,581</b>	<b>1,719,244</b>
Commodity	1st qtr 2016	2nd qtr 2016	3rd qtr 2016	4th qtr 2016	Total 2016
Tomatoes (all varieties)	131,455	89,313	51,983	66,534	339,285
Peppers (all varieties)	61,450	40,970	33,631	65,270	201,321
Cucumbers	60,241	37,679	34,993	40,457	173,370
Avocados	21,726	85,723	7,560	33,670	148,679
Squash	48,999	32,842	14,670	39,803	136,314
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>323,871</b>	<b>286,527</b>	<b>142,837</b>	<b>245,734</b>	<b>998,969</b>
Other	270,078	265,393	157,375	201,602	894,448
<b>Total</b>	<b>593,949</b>	<b>551,920</b>	<b>300,212</b>	<b>447,336</b>	<b>1,893,417</b>

Source: Data is obtained from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) through USDA, AMS, Market News

-continued on page 12-



# Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report



Commodity	1st qtr 2017	2nd qtr 2017	3rd qtr 2017	4th qtr 2017	Total 2017
Tomatoes (all varieties)	107,852	82,194	49,088	73,166	312,300
Peppers (all varieties)	67,566	38,714	31,137	59,172	196,589
Cucumbers	49,565	36,996	32,133	47,015	165,709
Avocados	47,336	32,892	16,064	44,415	140,707
Squash	31,890	68,086	5,264	33,293	138,533
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>304,209</b>	<b>258,882</b>	<b>133,686</b>	<b>257,061</b>	<b>953,838</b>
Other	291,177	291,747	170,323	205,516	958,763
<b>Total</b>	<b>595,386</b>	<b>550,629</b>	<b>304,009</b>	<b>462,577</b>	<b>1,912,601</b>
Commodity	1st qtr 2018	2nd qtr 2018	3rd qtr 2018	4th qtr 2018	Total 2018
Tomatoes (all varieties)	105,364	79,851	49,278	62,478	296,971
Peppers (all varieties)	74,252	46,390	35,103	57,726	213,471
Cucumbers	55,189	49,914	35,246	49,781	190,130
Avocados	51,964	36,452	14,131	43,288	145,835
Squash	28,829	75,429	6,062	27,782	138,102
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>315,598</b>	<b>288,036</b>	<b>139,820</b>	<b>241,055</b>	<b>984,509</b>
Other	296,266	281,580	156,781	205,426	940,053
<b>Total</b>	<b>611,864</b>	<b>569,616</b>	<b>296,601</b>	<b>446,481</b>	<b>1,924,562</b>
Commodity	1st qtr 2019	2nd qtr 2019	3rd qtr 2019	4th qtr 2019	Total 2019
Tomatoes (all varieties)	95,760	78,123	55,836	69,366	299,085
Peppers (all varieties)	65,865	45,479	38,006	56,847	206,197
Cucumbers	57,162	25,622	42,135	58,520	183,439
Avocados	24,868	88,165	11,138	30,506	154,677
Squash	48,614	34,729	18,919	41,334	143,596
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>292,269</b>	<b>272,118</b>	<b>166,034</b>	<b>256,573</b>	<b>986,994</b>
Other	272,760	262,948	182,481	213,013	931,202
<b>Total</b>	<b>565,029</b>	<b>535,066</b>	<b>348,515</b>	<b>469,586</b>	<b>1,918,196</b>
Commodity	1st qtr 2020	2nd qtr 2020	3rd qtr 2020	4th qtr 2020	Total 2020
Tomatoes (all varieties)	105,181	82,796	66,804	83,797	334,784
Peppers (all varieties)	72,764	47,080	39,078	60,235	217,633
Cucumbers	58,796	48,461	45,480	63,907	217,195
Avocados	51,075	71,858	12,878	47,328	154,587
Squash	33,236	3,6687	20,722	38,603	150,683
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>32,1052</b>	<b>28,6882</b>	<b>184,962</b>	<b>293,870</b>	<b>1,074,882</b>
Other	287,121	304,600	191,721	241,370	1,028,093
<b>Total</b>	<b>608,173</b>	<b>591,482</b>	<b>376,683</b>	<b>535,240</b>	<b>2,102,975</b>

Source: Data is obtained from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) through USDA, AMS, Market News



# Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report



## Subscription Information:

Please sign up by entering your email address at the following link and selecting your preference to receive Transportation Research and Analysis:

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAMS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USDAAMS\\_177](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAMS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDAAMS_177).

## Related Websites:

- [U.S. Grain and Soybean Exports to Mexico — A Modal Share Transportation Analysis \(PDF\)](#)
- [Grain Transportation Report](#)
- [Agricultural Refrigerated Truck Quarterly](#)

## Data Sets (all XLS files):

- [Figure 1: Water route shipment costs \(\\$/mt\) to Veracruz, Mexico](#)
- [Figure 2: Land route shipment costs \(\\$/mt\) to Guadalajara, Mexico](#)
- [Table 1: Quarterly costs of transporting U.S. grain and soybeans to Mexico](#)
- [Table 2: Quarterly tariff rail rates for U.S. bulk grain shipments to Mexico \(US\\$/car\), 2020](#)
- [Table 3: Quarterly tariff rail rates plus fuel surcharge for U.S. bulk grain shipments to Mexico, 2020](#)
- [Table 4: Quarterly exports of U.S. Distillers' Dried Grains with Soluble \(DDGS\) to Mexico](#)
- [Table 5: Quarterly ocean freight rate for bulk shipments from the U.S. Gulf to Veracruz, Mexico](#)
- [Table 6: Fruit and vegetable truck rates for shipments between 501 and 1,500 miles crossing the U.S.-Mexico border](#)
- [Table 7: Quarterly U.S.-Mexico border crossing fresh fruit and vegetables truck availability](#)
- [Table 8: Top ten commodities shipped by truck to the U.S. from Mexico, 2020 \(1,000 metric tons\)](#)
- [Table 9: Top five commodities shipped by truck to the U.S. from Mexico \(10,000 lbs\)](#)

## **Preferred Citation:**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. *Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report*. May 2021. Web. <<http://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS054.05-2021>>

## **Photo Credit:** USDA

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

For assistance with accessibility issues related to this document, please email [sharonc.williams@usda.gov](mailto:sharonc.williams@usda.gov).