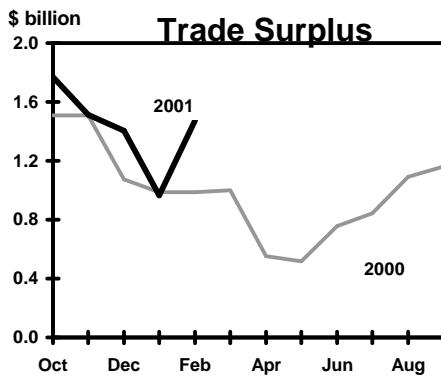


U.S. Agricultural Trade Update



Economic Research Service
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Summary—U.S. agricultural export value in the fiscal year-to-date is \$23.3 billion, \$1.2 billion ahead of last year. Although corresponding imports to date of \$16.1 billion are also up compared with fiscal 2000, the growth of exports pushed the cumulative trade balance to \$7.1 billion, \$1 billion higher than last year.

Exports—Despite the decline in volume shipped, the value of bulk commodity exports continues its month-to-month increase, posting a cumulative \$8.8 billion by February. This value is \$309 million ahead of last year, mostly accounted for by larger soybean sales. The near 600-million-ton rise in February's soybean shipments over January reflects continued strong world demand.

In value and volume, *wheat* exports are higher in October–February than the same period in 2000. The 118,200-ton rise to date in volume shipped is matched by a \$61.4-million gain in value. As wheat prices continued to inch up from last year's low levels, the previous declines in year-to-date export values turned around in February. Increased wheat demand from Indonesia and Sub-Saharan Africa is behind part of the positive change in exports to date, which was enough to offset the sharp shipment cuts to Egypt and Pakistan.

While *soybean* export prices are only marginally higher than in 1999, world demand for soybeans appears rosier as China continues to import large quantities compared with the first 5 months of fiscal 2000. Also, shipments to Mexico more than offset continued import declines from the rest of Latin America. Overall, soybeans shipped to date are 1.6 million tons and \$302 million ahead of last year. Continued high production rates in Brazil and Argentina have kept world soybean prices relatively low and contributed to U.S. sales losses in major markets, particularly the European Union (EU).

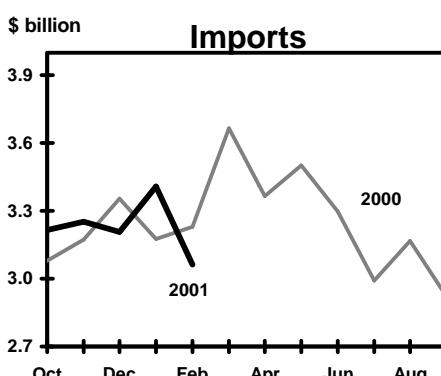
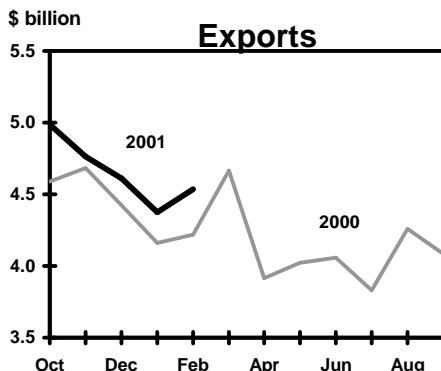
Corn exports are behind in year-to-date sales from 2000, falling by almost \$200 million to \$1.7 billion. Likewise, volume shipped plunged 2.3 million tons, an 11-percent drop thus far. While world corn production leveled off, competition for export markets has been intense. China's corn shipments to major Asian markets have supplanted U.S. sales to that region. Argentina, another large competitor, raised exports to Europe and other markets in Latin America. As a result of bountiful supply, corn prices remain about 40 percent off 1996 levels. U.S. sales

opportunities have been further limited by a strong dollar.

Although cumulative *cotton* exports are 5 percent smaller in volume than the past year, export value has climbed \$79 million, or 12 percent, thus far. The difference is accounted for by moderately higher prices over the past year. Mexico and South Korea have significantly increased imports of U.S. cotton compared with the first 5 months of fiscal 2000.

Exports of *high-value products* (HVP) have almost reached \$15 billion in the year-to-date, setting a pace that is \$900 million ahead of 2000. All major product groups are ahead of last year, led by hides and skins sales to China and South Korea. Shipments of feeds and fodders to Mexico are also up sharply. Only red meat exports, which are down \$117 million, have not kept pace as sales to Russia and Japan are more than \$200 million off last year's pace. Poultry exports have hardly budged due to weaker demand from Asia.

Imports—U.S. imports of agricultural products expanded marginally in the year-to-date. Despite a \$754-million jump in competitive imports—led by horticultural products, imports of noncompetitive commodities are down \$621 million. Depressed prices of tropical products—coffee, cocoa, rubber—account for the lower cost of imported food. Together with the dollar's high exchange value, U.S. food price inflation has been subdued, benefiting consumers. [Andy Jerardo, 202-694-5323; ajerardo@ers.usda.gov]



Largely due to NAFTA, U.S. agricultural exports have shifted toward the Western Hemisphere over the past decade. In 2000, Canada, Mexico, and the rest of Latin America accounted for 36 percent of total U.S. export value, exceeding Asia's 35 percent share and the rest of the world's 29 percent. In 1995, the Western Hemisphere's 25 percent share was far below Asia's and the rest of the world's shares. Since 1995, however, U.S. exports to markets outside the Western Hemisphere have declined sharply. Exports to East Asia, the EU, and to Eastern Europe and NIS were even lower in 2000 than in 1990. Japan remains the largest single market for U.S. farm products.

Next update: May 25, 2001

Table 1--U.S. agricultural exports: Quantity and value by commodity

Quantity and unit	October-February				February			
	Thousand units		Thousand dollars		Thousand units		Thousand dollars	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
Other veg oils & waxes (MT)	259	277	242,825	240,211	46	53	43,517	43,856
Tobacco - unmfq (MT)	80	85	554,093	551,598	23	24	136,101	140,401
Tobacco - light air-cured (MT)	10	8	81,583	67,438	3	4	22,000	29,087
Tobacco - flue cured (MT)	47	48	339,006	359,214	13	12	95,499	90,230
Other tobacco - unmfq (MT)	23	29	133,504	124,946	7	8	18,603	21,084
Cotton, ex linters (MT)	581	552	685,110	763,961	160	134	181,324	182,696
Cotton linters (MT)	28	19	9,362	7,925	8	3	3,125	1,505
Essential oils (MT)	19	22	216,376	249,418	4	4	40,707	50,279
Seeds - field & garden (MT)	338	319	418,544	376,033	98	82	83,274	85,757
Sugar & tropical prods (NA)	0	0	663,836	759,289	0	0	116,303	134,456
Sugar & related prods (NA)	0	0	254,634	267,953	0	0	47,131	48,948
Sugar - cane or beet (MT)	55	32	18,945	13,225	9	6	3,297	2,487
Related sugar prods (NA)	0	0	235,689	254,727	0	0	43,834	46,461
Coffee (MT)	25	23	104,567	101,929	4	4	18,762	19,216
Cocoa (MT)	24	22	51,952	41,627	3	3	4,981	7,406
Chocolate & prep (MT)	54	82	162,211	249,369	9	13	25,660	38,900
Tea & mate (MT)	10	13	41,613	53,783	2	2	8,247	10,545
Spices (MT)	13	14	32,308	30,527	3	3	7,438	6,967
Rubber - crude natural (MT)	10	9	15,988	13,307	2	2	3,985	2,315
Fibers ex cotton (MT)	1	1	563	795	0	0	97	159
Other misc veg prods (MT)	0	0	181,231	234,557	0	0	36,562	43,950
Nursery & greenhouse prods (NA)	0	0	134,435	129,967	0	0	23,450	23,552
Beverages ex juices (NA)	0	0	263,322	313,622	0	0	49,310	77,634
Selected non-aq exports (NA)	0	0	5,309,341	5,463,405	0	0	1,073,224	1,138,823
Fertilizers (MT)	5	14	1,052,017	906,492	1	3	197,598	183,469
Nitrogen (MT)	3	13	1,048,779	903,422	0	2	196,891	182,850
Phosphate (MT)	2	1	3,238	3,070	0	0	708	618
Fish & shellfish (MT)	0	0	1,023,270	1,077,285	0	0	153,507	212,812
Fish - fr or prep (MT)	0	0	557,517	560,070	0	0	84,774	110,254
Shellfish (MT)	0	0	347,750	373,764	0	0	52,534	51,527
Other fish prods (MT)	116	116	118,003	143,451	10	21	16,199	51,031
Ag chemicals (MT)	103	161	597,481	578,828	24	55	137,337	150,841
Funigicides (MT)	11	11	62,177	50,832	3	2	14,804	10,648
Herbicides (MT)	53	38	269,473	231,892	14	18	67,403	82,114
Insecticides (MT)	21	92	154,913	161,573	4	30	37,464	32,146
Other pesticides (MT)	19	19	110,919	134,531	4	4	17,667	25,933
Farm machinery (NA)	0	0	1,148,961	1,202,530	0	0	261,843	261,739
Tractors & self-prop mach (NO)	14	15	364,765	366,648	4	3	79,441	82,965
Other aq machinery & parts (NA)	0	0	784,196	835,882	0	0	182,401	178,774
Tobacco - mfg (NA)	0	0	1,487,611	1,698,270	0	0	322,938	329,963

Table contains preliminary data. NA = Not available. Zeros in quantity columns indicate none or less than 500 units.

Table 2--Top 10 U.S. export markets in fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and February 2001 (metric tons)

Wheat	Oct-Feb	Oct-Feb	Feb 2001	Corn	Oct-Feb	Oct-Feb	Feb 2001
	1999/2000	2000/2001			1999/2000	2000/2001	
Egypt	2,217,736	1,702,742	411,077	Japan	6,283,102	5,814,004	1,123,439
Japan	1,295,883	1,448,010	290,152	China (Taiwan)	2,207,166	1,921,266	400,714
Mexico	868,670	853,385	188,229	Mexico	1,340,004	1,686,941	347,428
Philippines	756,511	814,274	212,166	Egypt	1,777,766	1,499,340	385,810
South Korea	640,825	547,720	85,483	Canada	378,783	947,734	133,272
Nigeria	455,485	487,320	68,446	South Korea	1,442,306	812,320	150,564
Indonesia	73,382	460,193	141,640	Algeria	392,718	666,161	214,228
European Union	614,452	350,740	51,149	Colombia	800,749	629,873	91,835
Venezuela	189,181	306,863	59,567	Saudi Arabia	568,794	541,503	89,903
China (Taiwan)	409,796	295,827	36,523	Israel	312,370	393,126	43,950
World	10,968,765	11,086,979	2,312,304	World	20,544,058	18,212,635	3,616,319
Soybeans	Oct-Feb	Oct-Feb	Feb 2001	Cotton	Oct-Feb	Oct-Feb	Feb 2001
	1999/2000	2000/2001			1999/2000	2000/2001	
European Union	6,031,562	5,145,895	1,222,875	Mexico	129,908	154,211	36,032
China (Mainland)	1,467,236	3,387,082	966,174	Turkey	62,615	62,463	8,030
Japan	1,844,073	1,718,919	257,959	South Korea	32,140	47,361	12,498
Mexico	1,480,864	1,641,971	246,872	Indonesia	59,100	44,382	14,163
China (Taiwan)	896,805	818,422	160,270	Japan	37,877	32,742	7,144
Thailand	567,632	537,985	110,466	China (Taiwan)	46,510	30,243	8,992
South Korea	642,163	535,289	159,632	Canada	23,366	29,531	5,472
Indonesia	513,962	522,101	149,823	Hong Kong	27,415	24,369	11,508
Israel	241,849	233,481	23	European Union	11,942	16,615	3,727
Canada	204,754	170,432	33,325	Thailand	25,568	16,155	4,933
World	14,771,821	16,343,488	3,463,503	World	581,382	551,892	133,615

Table 3--U.S. agricultural imports: Quantity and value by commodity

Quantity and unit	October-February				February			
	Thousand units		Thousand dollars		Thousand units		Thousand dollars	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
Palm oil (MT)	74	79	24,158	24,682	18	19	5,237	6,359
Palm kernel oil (MT)	87	83	59,431	40,040	20	18	14,162	7,887
Peanut oil (MT)	1	22	1,245	14,799	0	0	195	201
Rapeseed oil (MT)	223	224	104,564	85,727	38	39	17,031	14,412
Soybean oil (MT)	16	13	7,861	5,866	2	2	1,200	974
Sesame oil (MT)	4	4	11,188	11,242	1	1	2,144	1,774
Other vegetable oils (MT)	70	86	87,314	101,622	17	18	17,982	20,039
Oilcake & meal (MT)	503	578	61,329	74,232	105	119	13,000	13,210
Cotton, excl linters (MT)	6	1	11,120	2,721	2	0	3,864	0
Cotton linters (MT)	5	17	902	6,200	1	4	173	1,927
Seeds - field & garden (MT)	225	103	154,552	142,007	74	22	35,044	30,537
Cut flowers (NA)	0	0	287,213	268,134	0	0	82,154	82,795
Nursery stock, bulbs, etc. (NA)	0	0	226,804	240,841	0	0	42,003	43,347
Other vegetable prods (MT)	0	0	130,505	108,845	0	0	22,158	22,621
Selected non-ag imports (NA)	0	0	6,908,055	7,907,980	0	0	1,322,083	1,562,263
Fertilizers (MT)	11,003	13,221	1,132,986	1,671,573	2,297	3,218	251,323	426,650
Potassium (MT)	4,031	4,085	312,790	324,764	862	730	66,587	57,906
Nitrogen (MT)	4,231	6,188	541,354	958,055	847	1,839	117,575	292,925
Phosphate (MT)	2,738	2,945	276,082	385,781	586	648	66,258	74,816
Fish (MT)	0	0	3,873,895	4,199,660	0	0	602,778	607,525
Fish fresh or prep (MT)	0	0	1,582,905	1,561,415	0	0	290,272	263,651
Shellfish (MT)	247	260	2,263,896	2,602,958	35	37	308,818	339,264
Fish prods, other (MT)	17	20	27,094	35,288	3	3	3,687	4,610
Aq chemicals (MT)	55	60	358,501	476,069	13	20	99,067	178,472
Fungicides (MT)	13	11	55,214	62,250	4	3	15,909	25,023
Herbicides (MT)	14	23	92,038	188,331	2	11	31,988	78,483
Insecticides (MT)	10	8	54,937	96,909	3	2	25,645	41,556
Other pesticides (MT)	18	18	156,312	128,579	4	4	25,525	33,410
Farm machinery (NA)	0	0	1,350,687	1,362,165	0	0	329,197	320,610
Tractors & self-prop mach (NO)	4,355	3,668	658,551	637,037	712	604	166,456	159,563
Other ag mach & parts (NA)	0	0	692,136	725,128	0	0	162,741	161,048
Tobacco - mfg (NA)	8	7	191,985	198,514	1	1	39,718	29,005

Table contains preliminary data. NA = Not available. Zeros in quantity columns indicate none or less than 500 units.

Table 4--Summary of U.S. agricultural trade (million \$)

Item	Jan.	Feb.	Year-to-date	% Change
Exports	4,373	4,536	23,273	5
Imports (c.i.f.)	3,721	3,721	17,566	1
Imports (customs value)	3,407	3,063	16,144	1
Trade Balance:				
Exports less c.i.f. imports	652	815	5,708	22
Exports less customs-val. imports	966	1,474	7,130	18
Exports by major commodity group				
Live animals	55	39	521	22
Meat & poultry	616	567	3,046	-3
Dairy prod & eggs	98	91	549	12
Hides & skins	143	154	726	42
Wheat	220	304	1,404	5
Rice	100	54	371	-25
Corn	328	353	1,709	-10
Other feed grains	79	75	358	15
Animal feeds	399	394	1,822	14
Soybeans	573	655	3,116	11
Vegetable oils	101	103	526	-19
Fruits & nuts	322	327	2,049	11
Vegetables	364	347	1,918	3
Cotton & linters	173	184	772	11
Tobacco, unmf.	115	140	552	0
Seeds & nursery	103	109	506	-8

Imports customs value by major commodity group

Live animals	179	150	1,010	25
Meat & poultry	363	305	1,585	11
Dairy prod. & eqas	133	116	700	2
Grains & feeds	278	230	1,419	5
Fruits & nuts	509	452	2,236	1
Vegetables	525	468	2,216	9
Vegetable oils	112	108	562	-3
Wine	151	136	955	0
Malt beverages	169	159	810	12
Coffee	153	136	741	-39
Cocoa	133	129	592	-14
Rubber, natural	58	49	291	-12
Cane & beet sugar	51	52	232	37
Tobacco, unmfa.	73	69	265	-1
Seeds & flowers	131	157	651	-3

Table 5--Total U.S. agricultural exports

	CY1990	CY1995	CY2000
Item		billion \$	
Central Am./Carib.	1.5	2.2	2.5
South America	1.1	2.3	1.7
East Euro., NIS	2.8	1.6	1.0
Middle East	1.9	2.5	2.4
Africa	1.9	3.1	2.3
South, S.E. Asia	1.9	4.1	3.1
East Asia	7.9	7.9	5.9
Japan	8.1	11.2	9.3
Canada	4.2	5.8	7.6
Mexico	2.6	3.5	6.5
European Union	7.1	8.7	6.3
TOTAL	39.5	56.3	51.6
Percent shares:			
West. Hemisphere	24	25	36
Asia	45	41	35
Rest of the world	31	34	29

NIS: Newly Independent States (of former Soviet Union)

Preliminary data.