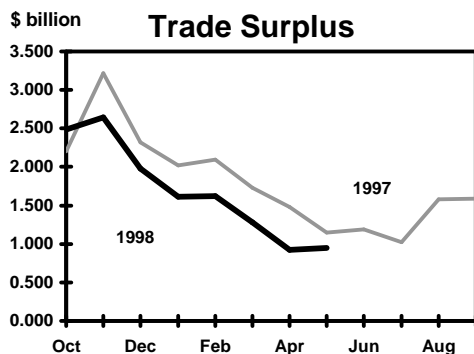


U.S. Agricultural Trade Update

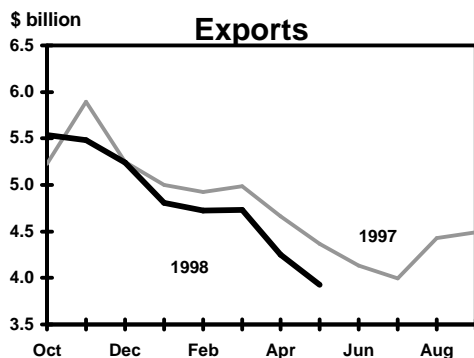
Economic Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

July 23, 1998



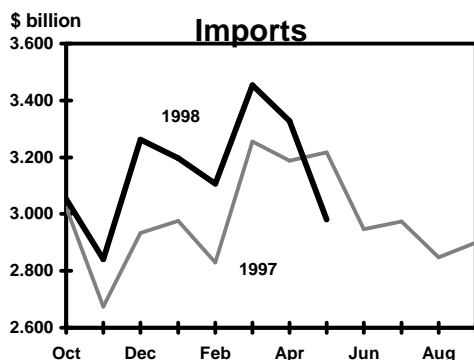
Summary--U.S. agricultural imports dropped sharply in May 1998 to \$3 billion, 7 percent below May 1997 and down 10 percent from April 1998. Despite this drop in May imports, fiscal 1998 cumulative imports of \$25.2 billion remain 4.5 percent above the first 8 months of 1997. At \$38.7 billion, however, exports in the October-May period are 4 percent below 1997. May exports dropped 10 percent from April and 8 percent from May 1997. With both exports and imports down in May, the 1998 export surplus to date remained at \$13.5 billion, 17 percent below last year.

U.S. exports of *high-value products (HVP)* remain strong, despite a drop from the previous May. Exports of vegetable oils, up 41 percent in the year-to-date to \$1.5 billion, account for much of the gain. Canada, Mexico, and the European Union (EU) are large importers of U.S. vegetable oils this year; however, most of the growth in U.S. exports has been to China and Hong Kong. The larger HVP exports, red meats and vegetables, at \$3.1 billion and \$2.9 billion, respectively, also show export growth in 1998.



Exports--At \$15.3 billion, exports of bulk commodities are 12.5 percent below fiscal 1997. Although 1998 wheat shipments are up and exports of cotton and soybeans remain about the same as in 1997, lower corn shipments pulled total bulk exports down for the year.

Imports--Growth of imports in 1998 continues to be spread across a number of products, including cocoa, up 24.4 percent to \$1.5 billion; wine, up 17.7 percent to \$1.2 billion; and vegetables, up 17.1 percent to \$3.1 billion. Coffee imports, while up 14 percent in value because of higher prices, to \$2.6 billion, are down 5 percent in quantity from last season's high. (Carol Whitton 202-694-5287)



At \$2.9 billion and 24.5 million tons in 1998 to date, U.S. *corn* exports are off 37 percent in value and 28 percent in volume. Corn shipments to Canada and Mexico increased, but exports to most other destinations dropped in part because of strong competition from other exporters.

October-May 1998 U.S. *wheat* exports equal \$2.5 billion and 16.6 million tons, up 5 percent in value and 20 percent in quantity from the first 8 months in 1997. The quantity of wheat shipped in May 1998 rose 5 percent from the previous month and 46 percent from May 1997. Egypt has taken more than 3 times as much U.S. wheat this year as it did last year.

Canada and Mexico take more U.S. exports in 1998--U.S. exports to Canada and Mexico are rising in fiscal 1998. In the first 8 months, Canada took \$4.7 billion in exports from the United States, while Mexico took \$4 billion. This already is 7 percent more than the same period in 1997 for Canada and up 18 percent for the period for Mexico. Total U.S. exports to Canada and Mexico are forecast at \$7 billion and \$6 billion, respectively, for the year, up from \$6.6 billion and \$5.1 billion for all of 1997.

Cumulative U.S. shipments of *soybeans* through May reached \$5.4 billion and 20.4 million tons compared with \$5.8 billion and 20.3 million tons at the same time last year. Both quantity and value of May exports slowed from April, as marketing of the record South American crop continued to raise competition and reduce prices.

U.S. shipments of corn to Canada and live sheep and sorghum to Mexico in October-May already exceed exports in all of 1997. Other U.S. exports to Canada that are also up compared with the same 8 months in 1997 include live poultry, fruit juices, fresh vegetables, oilseeds and products, whole bovine hides, and fruits and preparations, which rose 6-49 percent so far this year. Other U.S. exports to Mexico that are up strongly so far in 1998 include corn, soybeans, whole bovine hides, and other hides and skins.

Cotton exports for the first 8 months of 1998 equalled \$1.9 billion and 1.2 million tons. Export value fell 7 percent below 1997, but quantity is virtually unchanged year-to-year. In May, strong exporter competition continued pressuring quantity and value.

Next Update: August 20, 1998

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

Quantity and unit	October-May				May			
	Thousand units		Thousand dollars		Thousand units		Thousand dollars	
	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98
Total agricultural exports (NA)	--	--	40,318,655	38,704,484	--	--	4,366,279	3,927,601
Animals & animal prods (NA)	--	--	7,422,300	7,603,861	--	--	952,909	916,905
Animals live - ex poultry (NA)	--	--	340,134	424,336	--	--	25,102	29,359
Cattle & calves - live (NO)	156	193	98,311	124,281	18	22	10,780	13,542
Horses, mules, burros-live (NO)	28	44	183,437	218,162	3	4	8,068	9,775
Swine - live (NO)	37	68	6,687	13,298	6	9	1,175	1,352
Sheep, live (NO)	524	1,020	22,051	43,312	52	32	2,301	1,737
Other live animals (NA)	--	--	29,648	25,283	--	--	2,778	2,953
Meats & meat prods (MT)	1,162	1,388	2,845,561	3,071,515	147	175	381,685	387,784
Beef & veal (MT)	405	464	1,512,031	1,617,979	56	60	205,288	204,691
Beef & veal - fr or froz (MT)	396	453	1,472,446	1,573,324	55	59	199,427	198,859
Beef - prep or pres (MT)	9	11	39,585	44,655	1	1	5,861	5,832
Horsemeat-fr, chill, froz (MT)	10	8	33,770	26,033	1	1	3,613	3,214
Lamb, mutton or goat-fr,ch,frz(M	2	2	4,533	4,954	0	0	549	419
Pork (MT)	192	267	633,652	740,172	30	37	97,388	95,495
Pork - fr or froz (MT)	167	238	564,076	661,152	26	34	87,480	86,328
Pork - prep or pres (MT)	25	29	69,576	79,020	4	4	9,908	9,167
Variety meats, edible offals (MT)	295	347	431,031	443,392	35	44	52,488	58,240
Other meats - fr or prep (MT)	259	299	230,544	238,985	25	32	22,358	25,724
Poultry & poultry prods (NA)	--	--	1,937,265	1,843,562	--	--	238,695	241,081
Poultry - live (NA)	--	--	72,856	80,971	--	--	11,468	10,544
Baby chicks (NO)	31,640	31,969	64,787	69,056	4,848	4,506	10,327	9,251
Other live poultry (NA)	--	--	8,069	11,915	--	--	1,141	1,293
Poultry meats (MT)	1,653	1,818	1,697,688	1,591,509	217	252	207,712	211,956
Chickens - fr or froz (MT)	1,433	1,606	1,367,254	1,267,740	189	225	168,590	174,395
Turkeys - fr or froz (MT)	141	137	176,337	153,292	20	18	23,030	18,401
Other poultry - fr or froz (MT)	3	4	5,802	7,314	0	1	613	1,034
Poultry meats - prep or pres(M	76	71	148,295	163,163	7	9	15,480	18,127
Feathers & downs, crude (MT)	2	2	17,509	15,011	0	0	2,432	1,542
Eggs (NA)	--	--	149,212	156,071	--	--	17,082	17,038
Dairy prods (NA)	--	--	531,462	642,822	--	--	78,294	69,920
Evap & condensed milk (MT)	6	7	4,095	5,749	1	1	605	391
Nonfat dry milk (MT)	19	63	31,579	107,398	5	4	7,350	5,872
Butter & anhyd milkfat (MT)	6	6	11,095	12,086	0	0	826	598
Cheese (MT)	23	26	74,673	83,775	3	3	8,967	9,536
Whey, fluid or dried (NA)	--	--	90,180	77,677	--	--	11,540	9,951
Other dairy prods (NA)	--	--	319,839	356,137	--	--	49,006	43,571

Fats, oils, & greases (MT)	696	841	365,768	417,889	90	103	45,465	48,079
Lard (MT)	47	49	26,980	25,009	7	5	3,655	2,539
Tallow - inedible (MT)	479	589	237,032	284,688	65	77	29,730	34,837
Other animal fats & oils (MT)	170	203	101,756	108,193	18	21	12,080	10,703
Hides & skins, incl furs (NA)	--	--	1,151,739	953,561	--	--	148,877	108,992
Bovine hides - whole (NO)	13,713	12,740	828,450	668,752	1,731	1,613	106,505	78,860
Other cattle hides - pieces (NA)	--	--	106,649	66,231	--	--	13,474	4,683
Calf skins, whole (PC)	1,490	1,488	31,703	29,232	149	185	4,245	3,879
Horse hides, whole (PC)	101	82	2,998	2,234	11	4	322	145
Sheep and lamb skins (PC)	1,591	1,470	17,127	16,499	217	114	2,384	1,321
Other hides & skins, ex furs (NA)	--	--	42,074	51,519	--	--	5,978	5,269
Furskins (NA)	--	--	122,739	119,094	--	--	15,970	14,836
Mink pelts (NO)	2,649	2,148	65,054	56,974	398	263	8,716	6,907
Other furskins (NA)	--	--	57,685	62,120	--	--	7,253	7,929
Wool & mohair (MT)	3	1	10,792	7,730	1	0	2,320	665
Sausage casings (MT)	8	11	37,031	41,872	1	1	5,851	5,470
Bull semen (NA)	--	--	44,264	47,883	--	--	5,851	7,124
Misc animal prods - other (NA)	--	--	158,284	152,691	--	--	20,771	18,430
Grains & feeds (MT)	64,315	57,993	11,311,556	9,629,343	6,203	6,496	1,121,944	1,034,492
Wheat, unmilled (MT)	13,790	16,560	2,423,281	2,547,378	1,261	1,845	221,399	269,464
Wheat flour (MT)	326	294	92,531	78,288	41	18	11,732	5,196
Bulgur wheat (MT)	4	3	1,072	490	1	1	257	102
Other wheat prods (MT)	40	51	37,310	50,396	6	7	5,621	7,553
Rice-paddy, milled, parb. (MT)	1,889	2,290	724,111	803,002	154	232	63,659	70,610
Feed grains & prods (MT)	38,971	29,983	5,366,370	3,650,436	3,596	3,337	481,774	387,560
Feed grains (MT)	38,494	29,593	5,207,689	3,523,399	3,515	3,288	456,172	371,941
Barley (MT)	379	783	66,780	108,161	26	7	4,658	1,273
Corn (MT)	34,071	24,510	4,627,974	2,921,261	3,127	2,871	407,556	325,977
Grain sorghums (MT)	4,025	4,276	510,485	491,027	360	408	43,629	44,414
Oats (MT)	17	22	2,337	2,829	2	2	330	272
Rye (MT)	1	1	113	121	0	0	0	5
Feed grain prods (MT)	478	390	158,680	127,038	81	49	25,602	15,619
Popcorn (MT)	72	69	56,808	47,900	7	8	6,124	5,769
Blended food prods (MT)	209	177	62,047	47,143	37	34	10,897	8,491
Other grain prods (MT)	632	627	712,949	737,353	95	70	94,915	90,168
Feeds & fodders, ex oilcake (MT)	8,381	7,940	1,835,077	1,666,957	1,004	943	225,567	189,579
Corn by-products (MT)	3,938	3,756	596,044	479,576	466	404	68,215	46,503
Alfalfa meal & cubes (MT)	191	173	32,508	29,574	26	18	3,992	3,029
Beet pulp (MT)	463	405	61,387	49,584	38	58	5,280	7,450
Citrus pulp pellets (MT)	688	552	65,806	34,414	94	108	8,860	7,069
Other feeds & fodders (MT)	3,100	3,055	1,079,333	1,073,809	380	356	139,220	125,528
Fruits & prep, ex juice (MT)	2,176	2,098	1,729,922	1,650,816	292	246	265,077	210,390

Fruits - fr (MT)	1,893	1,774	1,292,621	1,186,972	258	206	211,860	154,038
Fruits - fr - citrus (MT)	1,018	964	570,403	535,801	122	112	67,536	66,338
Grapefruit - fresh (MT)	439	356	217,732	171,486	33	18	15,312	9,158
Lemons & limes - fresh (MT)	91	90	81,037	65,661	11	9	8,528	6,199
Oranges & tangerines - fresh (l	487	517	269,784	297,596	79	85	43,595	50,938
Other citrus - fresh (MT)	2	1	1,850	1,058	0	0	101	43
Fruits - fr - noncitrus (MT)	875	810	722,218	651,172	135	93	144,324	87,700
Apples - fresh (MT)	513	405	308,710	247,864	57	40	32,599	24,225
Berries - fresh (MT)	42	33	65,650	61,142	10	8	14,065	12,441
Cherries - fresh (MT)	14	9	55,879	23,365	10	4	51,964	18,503
Grapes - fresh (MT)	88	129	134,242	164,875	4	3	9,194	5,689
Melons - fresh (MT)	71	65	31,568	31,345	30	24	10,208	10,134
Peaches - fresh (MT)	14	8	14,342	8,782	11	4	11,094	4,747
Pears - fresh (MT)	92	127	56,048	68,790	5	6	3,074	3,753
Plums - fresh (MT)	4	4	4,799	4,429	2	1	1,848	824
Other noncitrus - fresh (MT)	36	30	50,979	40,580	7	5	10,278	7,382
Fruits - dried (MT)	133	150	253,529	263,991	13	20	28,301	33,798
Raisins - dried (MT)	76	80	132,283	134,198	7	11	12,226	17,043
Prunes - dried (MT)	45	49	94,113	92,461	6	6	12,844	12,120
Other dried fruits (MT)	12	21	27,133	37,332	1	3	3,231	4,635
Fruits - canned ex juice (MT)	85	98	90,026	96,058	12	12	12,224	11,458
Fruits - froz ex juice (MT)	23	23	31,710	34,111	4	3	5,330	4,566
Other fruits - prep or pres (MT)	42	54	62,036	69,684	5	5	7,362	6,531
Fruit juices incl froz (HL)	6,813	6,301	437,489	402,476	1,257	900	67,236	56,083
Apple juice (HL)	375	278	44,333	33,130	39	29	5,162	4,017
Grape juice (HL)	567	543	43,756	42,343	78	70	6,364	6,783
Grapefruit juice (HL)	521	429	37,571	30,693	99	53	6,603	4,243
Orange juice (HL)	3,728	3,037	205,603	172,649	827	479	35,723	24,434
Other fruit juices (HL)	1,621	2,015	106,226	123,661	214	269	13,384	16,606
Wine (HL)	1,205	1,602	223,648	306,917	186	238	34,881	46,534
Nuts & prep (MT)	376	407	1,043,051	1,007,197	35	37	82,572	98,150
Almonds (shelled basis) (MT)	122	137	594,849	516,185	8	15	44,478	56,569
Filberts (MT)	10	18	18,786	32,551	0	0	873	819
Peanuts, shelled or prep (MT)	143	144	143,081	144,354	21	15	20,927	15,411
Pistachios (MT)	13	27	57,822	113,019	1	2	3,657	9,088
Walnuts, shelled/unshelled (MT)	67	54	162,189	128,095	2	3	4,650	9,183
Pecans, shelled or unshelled (MT)	6	7	26,813	34,043	1	1	2,726	3,533
Other nuts, shelled or prep (MT)	16	19	39,512	38,949	2	2	5,261	3,546
Vegetables & prep (NA)	--	--	2,760,510	2,873,188	--	--	367,285	382,517
Vegetables - fresh (MT)	1,170	1,208	684,763	766,880	199	211	102,584	120,864
Asparagus - fresh (MT)	13	14	42,272	39,572	2	2	6,339	5,389
Broccoli - fresh (MT)	92	94	63,467	67,441	13	14	8,663	9,685

Carrots - fresh (MT)	70	80	34,005	40,791	19	17	7,500	7,422
Cabbage - fresh (MT)	32	34	12,994	17,340	7	7	2,156	2,783
Celery - fresh (MT)	84	91	34,139	37,111	11	12	4,774	4,726
Cauliflower - fresh (MT)	66	57	42,525	42,313	11	8	6,321	6,562
Corn, sweet - fresh (MT)	34	26	13,063	12,888	11	13	3,508	5,905
Cucumbers - fresh (MT)	21	17	11,002	9,212	3	3	1,605	1,579
Garlic - fresh (MT)	5	5	7,989	6,676	0	0	538	538
Lettuce - fresh (MT)	219	232	106,750	136,524	32	36	13,508	20,674
Mushrooms - fresh (MT)	4	5	17,200	16,185	0	0	870	612
Onions and shallots - fresh (MT)	137	148	46,806	55,403	14	17	5,244	6,768
Peppers - fresh (MT)	44	39	36,977	41,643	7	7	6,307	6,660
Potatoes - fresh (MT)	138	147	37,055	49,299	39	45	9,901	14,739
Tomatoes - fresh (MT)	88	86	76,967	80,789	13	12	11,896	12,477
Other fresh vegetables (MT)	121	134	101,553	113,694	16	16	13,455	14,347
Vegetables - froz (MT)	385	417	310,228	319,544	50	53	41,394	40,015
Corn, sweet, frozen (MT)	43	54	37,491	44,046	7	7	5,737	5,662
Potatoes - frozen (MT)	274	286	200,876	202,040	34	36	25,585	25,318
Other frozen vegetables (MT)	68	77	71,861	73,458	9	10	10,072	9,035
Vegetables - canned (MT)	309	304	252,820	242,950	47	38	37,459	32,799
Pulses (MT)	315	407	178,751	211,545	41	48	23,220	25,589
Dried beans (MT)	231	299	140,125	171,457	30	37	18,102	21,779
Dried peas (MT)	47	77	19,074	26,076	6	8	2,570	2,744
Dried lentils (MT)	37	31	19,552	14,012	5	3	2,548	1,066
Hops, incl hop ext (MT)	9	8	74,586	67,420	1	1	6,558	6,018
Other veg - prep or pres (NA)	--	--	1,259,360	1,264,850	--	--	156,071	157,231
Oilseeds & prods (MT)	27,747	30,287	8,865,644	9,100,329	1,720	1,626	634,313	511,629
Oilcake & meal (MT)	5,273	7,087	1,421,615	1,678,580	386	598	105,758	117,178
Bran, hulls, legum. veg. (MT)	390	218	41,844	18,828	65	31	6,085	2,647
Corn oilcake & meal (MT)	80	31	10,987	3,487	16	1	2,250	76
Soybean meal (MT)	4,666	6,712	1,346,533	1,636,582	288	555	94,868	112,571
Other oilcake & meal (MT)	137	126	22,251	19,683	16	11	2,555	1,883
Oilseeds (MT)	20,842	21,035	6,362,255	5,898,527	1,187	832	419,638	245,061
Rapeseed (MT)	70	102	22,635	28,274	2	15	694	4,795
Safflower seeds (MT)	45	21	27,470	8,807	15	0	8,904	30
Soybeans (MT)	20,337	20,385	5,829,060	5,417,065	1,111	754	361,175	194,068
Sunflowerseeds (MT)	72	90	57,787	65,305	9	8	7,202	6,669
Peanuts, incl oilstock (MT)	36	31	31,414	27,552	3	3	2,982	2,345
Other oilseeds (MT)	175	312	55,880	89,026	32	41	8,607	9,597
Protein substances (MT)	108	95	338,010	262,499	14	11	30,072	27,557
Vegetable oils (MT)	1,632	2,164	1,081,774	1,523,221	147	196	108,917	149,390
Soybean oil (MT)	673	1,037	370,957	650,490	13	67	8,115	46,785
Cottonseed oil (MT)	78	67	47,656	42,508	14	9	8,049	6,597

Sunflower oil (MT)	198	315	106,826	199,527	18	36	9,774	25,228
Corn oil (MT)	293	327	187,818	230,229	48	34	31,081	24,496
Peanut oil (MT)	4	4	4,545	4,757	2	0	2,426	269
Rapeseed oil (MT)	84	91	47,452	56,998	10	2	6,465	1,427
Safflower oil (MT)	24	23	28,619	27,665	4	4	4,879	4,129
Other veg oils & waxes (MT)	279	301	287,901	311,046	38	43	38,129	40,459
Tobacco - unmfng (MT)	192	162	1,251,658	1,104,023	32	20	226,462	148,814
Tobacco - light air-cured (MT)	50	38	373,362	302,808	12	8	95,949	69,390
Tobacco - flue cured (MT)	100	86	712,698	607,197	16	8	108,675	59,748
Other tobacco - unmfng (MT)	42	38	165,598	194,017	4	4	21,839	19,676
Cotton, ex linters (MT)	1,161	1,154	2,028,918	1,895,800	137	104	230,015	159,913
Cotton linters (MT)	57	37	18,563	15,393	8	2	2,381	898
Essential oils (MT)	32	30	428,762	350,453	4	4	49,823	48,743
Seeds - field & garden (MT)	959	677	708,361	674,059	104	84	55,213	47,790
Sugar & tropical prods (NA)	--	--	959,917	968,557	--	--	121,592	117,327
Sugar & related prods (NA)	--	--	407,137	410,848	--	--	55,580	53,530
Sugar - cane or beet (MT)	97	86	43,194	33,587	10	8	3,964	2,701
Related sugar prods (NA)	--	--	363,943	377,261	--	--	51,616	50,829
Coffee (MT)	28	27	133,562	149,592	3	4	17,617	19,513
Cocoa (MT)	25	22	51,998	49,440	3	2	5,588	5,060
Chocolate & prep (MT)	72	73	242,142	233,070	8	9	26,750	24,193
Tea & mate (MT)	13	13	60,212	57,029	2	1	7,194	6,330
Spices (MT)	18	18	38,193	44,779	2	2	4,475	5,408
Rubber - crude natural (MT)	13	13	25,598	22,582	3	2	4,216	3,112
Fibers ex cotton (MT)	1	1	1,075	1,217	0	0	171	180
Other misc veg prods (MT)	41	43	335,553	328,058	7	6	44,379	37,447
Nursery & greenhouse prods (NA)	--	--	194,042	227,377	--	--	24,531	27,991
Beverages ex juices (NA)	--	--	598,761	566,638	--	--	85,666	81,979
Selected non-ag exports (NA)	--	--	11,127,058	10,791,119	--	--	1,493,191	1,372,514
Fertilizers (MT)	14	13	2,063,428	1,840,987	2	2	290,963	226,209
Nitrogen (MT)	7	7	2,048,835	1,829,210	1	1	288,604	224,064
Phosphate (MT)	7	6	14,593	11,777	1	1	2,360	2,145
Fish & shellfish (MT)	740	599	1,850,337	1,489,855	116	63	210,142	131,789
Fish - fr or prep (MT)	438	373	965,842	797,973	70	45	138,515	83,707
Shellfish (MT)	141	74	577,319	463,940	14	6	46,064	31,228
Other fish prods (MT)	161	152	307,175	227,942	32	11	25,562	16,855
Ag chemicals (MT)	212	217	1,166,019	1,336,581	27	31	170,713	204,259
Fungicides (MT)	20	24	113,164	142,766	2	3	14,983	17,679
Herbicides (MT)	106	109	585,960	677,029	13	16	99,989	113,499
Insecticides (MT)	46	42	260,348	282,553	6	6	32,513	44,032
Other pesticides (MT)	40	43	206,547	234,233	5	6	23,228	29,049
Farm machinery (NA)	--	--	2,687,057	2,726,267	--	--	376,522	333,351

Tractors & self-prop mach (NO)	42	42	1,236,614	1,187,759	8	7	191,495	147,474
Other ag machinery & parts (NA)	--	--	1,450,443	1,538,508	--	--	185,027	185,877
Tobacco - mfg (NA)	--	--	3,360,218	3,397,428	--	--	444,851	476,906

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

Table 2- Leading markets in fiscal 1997 and 1998 and May 1998

	metric tons				metric tons		
	Oct-May 1997	Oct-May 1998	May 1998		Oct-May 1997	Oct-May 1998	May 1998
Wheat				Corn			
Egypt	622,815	2,585,866	176,026	Japan	10,731,728	9,526,766	1,089,891
Japan	2,108,997	2,315,653	308,973	Mexico	2,135,667	2,754,933	383,821
Pakistan	1,521,925	1,301,750	0	Taiwan	3,993,567	2,609,078	218,042
South Korea	934,950	953,854	116,401	South Korea	4,623,289	1,982,214	362,122
Philippines	1,176,361	851,031	120,841	Egypt	1,586,660	962,135	12,949
Mexico	848,350	789,492	110,712	Canada	633,841	944,732	166,838
Taiwan	599,750	687,706	127,368	Colombia	842,068	682,298	40,772
European Union	461,084	643,486	109,231	Saudi Arabia	710,880	605,789	32,560
Iraq	15,933	517,941	0	Algeria	574,488	531,601	31,498
Israel	382,820	498,952	88,867	Dominican Republic	498,750	407,428	35,270
World	13,790,328	16,560,175	1,844,544	World	34,012,890	24,510,352	2,870,900
Soybeans				Cotton			
European Union	7,109,525	6,937,012	19,653	China	309,523	136,766	1,870
Japan	2,911,964	2,728,426	190,829	Japan	111,677	108,184	9,339
Mexico	1,880,581	2,137,817	235,849	Indonesia	105,393	76,155	4,305
Taiwan	1,725,846	1,499,447	19,094	Mexico	104,251	185,593	24,865
China	1,471,638	1,382,419	0	South Korea	99,121	122,387	16,568
South Korea	1,135,427	923,993	125,144	Turkey	58,985	94,826	11,150
Brazil	190,698	638,038	0	Taiwan	46,153	64,867	5,205
Argentina	0	511,617	0	European Union	42,361	54,010	3,559
Indonesia	544,668	502,857	0	Canada	36,816	40,669	4,989
Thailand	383,716	409,309	33,600	Thailand	35,956	40,697	2,107
World	20,337,161	20,385,231	753,972	World	1,161,038	1,154,163	103,845

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

Quantity and unit	October-May				May			
	Thousand units		Thousand dollars		Thousand units		Thousand dollars	
	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98
Total agricultural imports (NA)	--	--	24,127,679	25,224,484	--	--	3,216,820	2,981,388
Noncompetitive ag imports (NA)	--	--	5,985,116	6,460,721	--	--	852,572	737,412
Bananas & plantains (MT)	2,601	2,795	809,473	797,287	345	356	113,088	107,158
Coffee, incl prods (MT)	843	797	2,317,869	2,633,559	108	98	382,307	299,620
Cocoa & prods (MT)	543	612	958,895	1,192,841	64	55	111,392	102,821
Tea (MT)	92	98	134,610	171,711	13	17	18,403	27,370
Spices (MT)	106	99	261,253	299,750	14	12	36,177	38,190
Rubber & allied gums - crude (MT)	746	739	940,656	693,791	96	100	118,882	85,302
Silk - raw (MT)	0	0	2,991	350	0	0	105	20
Wool, unmfng - carpet (MT)	9	8	26,067	21,606	1	1	3,061	2,924
Fibers, excl cotton (MT)	71	67	32,119	30,321	11	8	4,083	3,413
Essential oils (NA)	--	--	229,110	250,577	--	--	26,131	26,368
Drugs - crude natural (MT)	41	53	272,074	368,927	5	5	38,944	44,227
Competitive ag imports (NA)	--	--	18,142,563	18,763,762	--	--	2,364,248	2,243,976
Animals & prods (NA)	--	--	4,317,554	4,488,407	--	--	583,921	528,240
Animals-live, ex poultry (NO)	3,488	4,264	1,035,009	1,164,554	466	513	137,015	132,834
Cattle and calves (NO)	1,374	1,546	710,590	798,479	172	174	99,121	95,367
Horses, mules, burros (NO)	17	32	102,321	125,987	2	3	8,853	7,717
Swine (NO)	2,038	2,623	201,100	217,845	290	333	27,085	27,512
Sheep, live (NO)	37	44	5,076	5,566	1	2	122	137
Other live animals (NO)	23	20	15,922	16,677	1	1	1,835	2,101
Meats & prods, ex poultry (MT)	748	774	1,698,007	1,748,925	114	94	256,672	209,328
Beef & veal (MT)	509	534	998,986	1,112,971	86	67	173,135	139,782
Beef & veal - fr or froz (MT)	466	495	866,637	983,124	79	62	153,272	124,095
Beef & veal - prep or pres (MT)	43	39	132,349	129,847	7	5	19,864	15,687
Pork (MT)	175	172	518,211	452,013	20	19	60,338	48,093
Pork - fr or froz (MT)	127	128	331,633	293,461	15	13	39,807	29,968
Pork - prep or pres (MT)	49	44	186,579	158,551	5	5	20,531	18,124
Mutton goat & lamb-fr/frz (MT)	27	32	98,534	111,110	3	4	13,471	13,307
Horsemeat - fr or froz (MT)	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0
Variety meats - fr or froz (MT)	27	28	47,987	41,306	4	4	6,237	5,391
Other meats - fr or froz (MT)	2	2	14,403	12,303	0	0	1,190	793
Other meats & prods (MT)	7	7	19,887	19,217	1	1	2,300	1,961
Poultry and prods (NA)	--	--	123,252	136,136	--	--	17,614	15,993
Poultry - live (NA)	--	--	13,745	13,462	--	--	2,316	1,537
Poultry meat (MT)	4	5	13,583	17,533	0	1	1,518	1,602
Eggs (NA)	--	--	14,085	10,314	--	--	1,853	801

Feathers & down - crude (MT)	14	17	81,839	94,827	2	3	11,927	12,054
Dairy products (NA)	--	--	856,873	841,672	--	--	98,607	105,954
Milk & cream, fr or dried (MT)	83	71	15,397	20,594	9	3	1,875	1,574
Butter & butterfat mixtures (MT)	6	7	9,534	14,299	2	1	2,567	2,453
Cheese (MT)	102	98	399,067	378,459	10	13	41,928	47,240
Casein & mixtures (MT)	67	68	299,802	281,818	8	8	35,025	34,609
Other dairy prods (NA)	--	--	133,073	146,503	--	--	17,211	20,078
Fats, oils, & greases (MT)	48	53	37,165	40,177	6	7	4,871	4,973
Hides & skins (NA)	--	--	157,740	137,458	--	--	15,384	12,389
Sheep & lamb skins (MT)	2	2	7,935	5,511	0	0	915	404
Other hides & skins (NA)	--	--	84,512	73,831	--	--	10,081	9,283
Furskins (NA)	--	--	65,293	58,116	--	--	4,388	2,703
Wool - unmfng, apparel grades (MT)	19	27	70,082	100,497	2	2	8,628	7,130
Sausage casings (MT)	10	10	46,898	50,898	1	1	7,249	6,675
Bull semen (NA)	--	--	7,138	7,304	--	--	942	1,302
Misc animal prods (NA)	--	--	285,389	260,785	--	--	36,940	31,662
Grains & feeds (MT)	5,789	5,191	1,965,073	1,961,231	754	596	250,005	224,748
Wheat, ex seed (MT)	1,585	1,377	259,169	223,416	239	184	39,606	27,811
Corn, unmilled (MT)	156	66	21,574	9,913	22	11	2,854	1,541
Oats, unmilled (MT)	1,369	1,097	180,842	129,757	115	48	14,794	5,276
Barley, unmilled (MT)	587	566	89,924	78,024	126	119	18,197	13,524
Rice (MT)	233	208	133,380	135,362	20	21	15,017	14,865
Biscuits & wafers (MT)	177	203	403,358	459,691	21	25	44,994	51,312
Pasta & noodles (MT)	183	209	175,695	193,280	26	26	24,543	24,262
Other grains & preps (NA)	--	--	376,016	389,008	--	--	49,370	48,899
Feeds & fodders, ex oilcake (MT)	969	912	325,115	342,780	118	98	40,629	37,258
Fruits & preps (MT)	2,268	2,402	1,495,558	1,520,648	326	354	200,187	203,200
Fruits - fr or froz (MT)	1,855	1,982	1,081,107	1,101,149	269	302	144,280	153,678
Apples, fresh (MT)	106	100	50,160	48,332	22	24	11,682	13,736
Avocados (MT)	21	22	19,070	25,328	0	0	180	344
Berries, excl strawberries (MT)	42	37	57,646	48,594	3	3	5,392	4,361
Citrus, fresh (MT)	148	166	66,911	77,671	16	18	3,064	5,146
Grapes, fresh (MT)	306	339	330,414	320,019	32	26	41,507	26,822
Kiwi fruit, fresh (MT)	25	19	16,919	13,566	6	6	3,175	3,387
Mangoes (MT)	96	86	74,544	65,912	34	37	22,474	24,779
Melons (MT)	758	826	223,394	242,483	109	136	30,138	43,434
Peaches (MT)	41	34	32,599	26,360	0	0	0	14
Pears (MT)	74	61	48,133	42,256	17	13	9,915	7,401
Pineapples, fresh or frozen (MT)	110	173	51,277	57,919	17	24	7,492	7,281
Plums (MT)	23	19	20,883	17,672	0	0	0	15
Strawberries, fresh or froz (MT)	38	38	42,714	72,515	4	7	3,101	10,886
Other fruits, fresh or froz (MT)	68	61	46,443	42,521	9	9	6,161	6,073

Fruits - prep or pres (MT)	413	420	414,451	419,498	57	52	55,907	49,521
Pineapples - canned or prep (MT)	182	182	127,055	133,295	24	23	17,278	16,097
Other fruits - prep or pres (MT)	230	238	287,396	286,204	32	29	38,628	33,425
Fruit juices (HL)	21,034	17,692	651,920	456,188	2,793	2,089	86,945	51,820
Apple juice (HL)	7,794	6,089	264,717	153,432	1,196	802	36,953	17,564
Grape juice (HL)	1,107	992	44,716	43,089	226	92	9,786	3,971
Grapefruit juice (HL)	7	5	294	297	1	1	40	35
Lemon juice (HL)	154	250	4,333	4,513	9	37	228	553
Lime juice (HL)	69	90	1,594	1,638	7	11	140	178
Orange juice (HL)	8,513	7,636	188,027	143,162	849	813	17,895	17,153
Pineapple juice (HL)	2,113	1,684	62,016	52,344	263	169	8,261	5,302
Other fruit juice (HL)	1,277	947	86,223	57,713	243	166	13,643	7,062
Nuts & preps (MT)	139	159	363,019	424,825	15	16	43,679	39,627
Brazil nuts (MT)	5	7	12,457	17,012	1	1	2,104	1,653
Cashew nuts (MT)	40	46	188,308	205,654	6	5	25,765	23,377
Chestnuts (MT)	4	4	10,140	11,008	0	0	60	31
Coconut meat (MT)	45	49	46,454	40,561	5	4	4,894	3,747
Filberts (MT)	3	3	12,126	14,741	0	0	973	848
Macademia nuts (MT)	1	2	11,623	18,269	0	0	2,203	1,079
Pecans (MT)	18	21	31,908	56,148	0	1	1,731	4,121
Pistachio nuts (MT)	1	0	2,075	1,047	0	0	486	37
Other nuts (MT)	21	27	47,929	60,387	2	4	5,462	4,733
Vegetables & preps (NA)	--	--	2,629,276	3,078,578	--	--	294,264	347,123
Vegetables - fr or froz (MT)	2,570	2,970	1,560,217	1,955,023	242	281	155,223	202,628
Tomatoes (MT)	592	654	482,329	555,164	59	82	50,304	66,622
Asparagus, fresh or frozen (MT)	27	36	49,448	71,339	0	0	530	676
Beans, fresh or frozen (MT)	24	24	28,915	26,563	1	1	1,135	1,869
Cabbage (MT)	19	36	3,711	9,314	1	2	173	574
Carrots, fresh or frozen (MT)	71	75	16,987	20,291	5	4	981	1,353
Cauliflower & broccoli, fr/fz (MT)	158	166	93,866	98,714	9	11	5,265	7,111
Celery, fresh (MT)	24	40	6,367	10,077	2	5	669	1,584
Cucumbers (MT)	276	291	86,751	133,678	20	20	8,967	11,317
Eggplant (MT)	28	37	18,890	29,250	1	3	1,049	3,514
Endive, fresh (MT)	1	2	2,907	4,296	0	0	450	569
Garlic (MT)	12	17	13,786	20,198	4	5	3,798	5,033
Lettuce (MT)	10	15	5,623	10,190	0	1	167	660
Okra, fresh or frozen (MT)	10	12	5,493	6,756	2	4	929	1,585
Onions (MT)	231	219	106,335	130,806	23	21	12,184	13,323
Peas, incl chickpeas (MT)	28	28	26,820	33,562	3	3	2,975	2,886
Peppers (MT)	219	240	201,739	255,983	19	22	21,337	30,205
Potatoes, fresh or frozen (MT)	471	682	164,857	243,803	56	61	21,218	27,428
Radishes, fresh (MT)	12	15	5,398	10,689	0	1	67	269

Squash (MT)	133	148	84,020	99,757	7	8	3,409	5,141
Other vegs - fr or froz (MT)	226	235	155,974	184,594	28	27	19,617	20,911
Vegetables-prep/pres (NA)	--	--	1,069,060	1,123,554	--	--	139,041	144,495
Bamboo shoots, preserved (MT)	20	19	17,866	14,884	1	2	1,529	1,343
Bean cake, miso (MT)	7	5	16,877	12,783	1	1	2,044	1,081
Cucumbers, preserved (MT)	27	29	14,154	14,694	2	2	1,203	1,515
Garlic, dried (MT)	5	7	2,513	3,044	1	1	277	390
Olives - prep or pres (MT)	49	56	121,425	120,545	8	6	17,503	12,291
Mushrooms, canned (MT)	46	48	79,487	77,412	6	5	10,313	8,159
Mushrooms, dried (MT)	1	1	13,648	13,809	0	0	2,251	1,905
Onions, preserved (MT)	1	1	2,045	2,670	0	0	519	439
Hops, incl extract (MT)	5	4	33,565	25,863	0	1	1,409	4,642
Artichokes - prep (MT)	17	20	25,830	34,933	3	6	4,352	11,377
Asparagus - prep (MT)	1	1	1,098	938	0	0	121	40
Tomatoes, incl paste & sauce (MT)	78	71	69,691	58,060	13	11	10,468	8,732
Waterchestnuts (MT)	22	23	18,266	14,177	4	4	2,955	2,112
Beans & peas, dried (MT)	50	45	30,692	26,477	7	6	4,771	3,210
Mustard (MT)	10	9	12,209	10,801	1	1	1,651	1,442
Peppers & pimentos, prep (MT)	10	12	12,310	14,232	1	2	1,306	1,891
Soy sauce (MT)	25	26	25,337	27,084	3	3	3,093	3,440
Starches, excl wheat & corn (MT)	99	108	62,332	71,230	13	14	7,544	8,542
Soups & sauces (MT)	64	80	132,748	151,632	8	8	15,403	15,349
Vinegar (HL)	245	293	23,932	24,525	37	43	3,737	2,993
Yeasts (MT)	36	35	41,704	38,273	5	5	5,142	4,968
Other vegetables-prep/pres (NA)	--	--	311,331	365,486	--	--	41,452	48,635
Sugar & related prods (NA)	--	--	1,153,142	987,512	--	--	177,780	146,709
Sugar - cane & beet (MT)	1,721	1,158	601,475	400,767	281	208	99,445	69,737
Molasses (HL)	7,300	7,689	65,642	59,378	1,506	915	13,160	7,525
Confectionery prods (MT)	143	159	321,025	373,195	20	21	44,967	48,459
Other sugar & related prods (MT)	198	278	165,001	154,171	26	38	20,208	20,987
Spices (MT)	20	21	34,668	33,734	3	5	6,376	6,320
Tobacco - unmfng (MT)	230	159	808,473	573,259	25	13	91,643	27,608
Tobacco - filler (MT)	196	133	764,855	532,425	22	6	87,453	19,433
Tobacco - scrap (MT)	33	24	23,035	10,907	2	7	983	2,685
Other tobacco (MT)	2	2	20,583	29,927	0	0	3,207	5,490
Beverages, ex fruit juices (HL)	14,645	16,025	2,058,966	2,367,501	2,406	2,303	300,059	308,507
Wine (HL)	2,726	2,968	1,060,438	1,247,930	379	356	132,673	137,373
Malt beverages (HL)	9,871	11,036	884,905	994,854	1,717	1,702	149,706	152,384
Other beverages (HL)	2,048	2,020	113,624	124,716	310	245	17,681	18,750
Oilseeds & prods (MT)	2,372	2,964	1,498,507	1,519,069	269	339	174,908	182,669
Oilseeds & oilnuts (MT)	551	732	230,722	267,048	56	91	21,449	36,343
Flaxseed (MT)	159	174	45,658	48,965	21	26	5,905	7,700

Mustard seeds (MT)	46	43	18,779	16,214	3	5	1,701	1,812
Rapeseed (MT)	206	278	68,998	88,189	16	35	5,168	11,175
Sesameseed (MT)	26	30	30,484	32,276	4	5	3,631	5,002
Soybeans (MT)	40	93	13,721	25,866	8	11	2,851	3,038
Sunflower seeds (MT)	11	23	3,706	7,103	2	2	573	568
Other oilseeds & oilnuts (MT)	63	90	49,375	48,436	2	9	1,620	7,047
Oils & waxes-vegetable (MT)	1,217	1,362	1,154,046	1,120,793	136	146	138,254	132,354
Castor oil (MT)	18	27	12,945	20,515	0	0	162	80
Coconut oil (MT)	359	467	266,135	244,266	42	28	31,152	15,949
Cottonseed oil (MT)	0	0	45	56	0	0	0	0
Olive oil (MT)	90	104	297,475	239,717	16	14	42,763	29,483
Palm oil (MT)	105	91	45,867	40,309	7	11	3,133	5,535
Palm kernel oil (MT)	125	111	95,092	74,310	6	17	5,153	11,484
Peanut oil (MT)	1	2	1,875	2,456	0	0	73	116
Rapeseed oil (MT)	332	343	207,193	228,284	41	47	25,555	33,092
Soybean oil (MT)	15	18	10,375	11,962	3	2	2,235	1,253
Sesame oil (MT)	5	5	13,537	13,693	1	1	1,577	1,936
Other vegetable oils (MT)	167	194	203,506	245,224	20	26	26,451	33,426
Oilcake & meal (MT)	604	870	113,739	131,227	77	101	15,204	13,972
Cotton, excl linters (MT)	11	2	16,442	3,162	0	2	171	2,788
Cotton linters (MT)	11	6	11,571	7,222	2	0	1,740	186
Seeds - field & garden (MT)	183	215	268,879	329,201	23	26	28,473	35,329
Cut flowers (NA)	--	--	417,271	484,306	--	--	58,785	56,972
Nursery stock, bulbs, etc. (NA)	--	--	267,655	306,587	--	--	40,672	49,054
Other vegetable prods (MT)	1,142	68	184,587	222,332	10	12	24,642	33,076
Selected non-ag imports (NA)	--	--	9,492,096	10,789,559	--	--	1,239,107	1,342,156
Fertilizers (MT)	15,915	17,813	1,739,982	1,712,953	2,241	2,125	218,368	213,740
Potassium (MT)	6,391	7,265	417,953	548,990	933	790	61,262	64,763
Nitrogen (MT)	5,713	5,834	1,018,383	804,998	735	751	108,323	109,496
Phosphate (MT)	3,796	4,707	301,090	356,446	572	582	48,567	38,972
Fish (MT)	988	1,052	4,624,652	5,374,492	131	139	592,679	681,902
Fish fresh or prep (MT)	648	672	2,031,694	2,191,310	84	87	269,722	283,680
Shellfish (MT)	291	343	2,538,653	3,132,221	35	44	311,416	392,740
Fish prods, other (MT)	49	37	54,305	50,960	12	8	11,541	5,482
Ag chemicals (MT)	82	92	810,049	870,765	10	11	89,887	89,271
Fungicides (MT)	25	24	95,463	102,265	4	4	16,435	12,579
Herbicides (MT)	21	20	285,138	269,302	2	3	24,603	29,370
Insecticides (MT)	9	15	140,153	198,170	2	2	19,291	26,680
Other pesticides (MT)	26	34	289,295	301,028	2	2	29,558	20,642
Farm machinery (NA)	--	--	2,072,204	2,508,774	--	--	296,873	321,696
Tractors & self-prop mach (NO)	2,356	3,390	1,081,121	1,395,223	289	599	156,464	178,112
Other ag mach & parts (NA)	--	--	991,083	1,113,551	--	--	140,410	143,584

Tobacco - mfg (NA)

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--

245,210

322,576

--

--

41,300

35,547

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

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

Item	Mar	Apr	May	YTD	% chng 1997/98
Agricultural exports	4,733	4,249	3,928	38,704	-4
Imports (c.i.f.)	3,748	3,609	3,209	27,200	4
Imports (Customs value)	3,453	3,328	2,981	25,224	5
Trade Balance:					
Exports less c.i.f. imports	985	641	718	11,505	-19
Exports less Customs valued imports	1,280	922	946	13,480	-17

Preliminary data.

Table 6--Quantity of Major U.S. Exports to Canada & Mexico

Country & commodity	unit	Oct-May	Oct-May	Oct-May	1998 > 1997
		1996	1997	1998	
		Thousands			
CANADA					
Poultry - live	NO	13,703	17,750	22,666	128%
Fruit juices, including frozen	HL	10,343	13,971	17,043	122%
Corn	MT	3,360	3,779	5,622	149%
Vegetables - fresh	MT	1,643	1,757	1,980	113%
Oilseeds & products	MT	1,217	1,575	1,938	123%
Bovine Hides - whole	PC	430	767	1,085	142%
Fruits & preparations, excld juice	MT	898	1,010	1,072	106%
MEXICO					
Corn	MT	4,378	2,136	2,755	129%
Grain Sorghums	MT	912	1,690	2,571	152%
Soybeans	MT	1,601	1,881	2,138	114%
Bovine Hides - whole	PC	1,180	1,425	2,109	148%
Poultry - live	NO	4,499	3,940	1,884	48%
Other Hides & Skins, excld furs	PC	660	1,080	1,402	130%
Sheep - live	NO	131	54	1,007	196%
Wheat, unmilled	MT	923	848	789	93%

Preliminary data.

NO = number, PC = pieces, MT = metric tons, HL = hectoliters

Table 5--U.S. agricultural exports (\$ million)

Commodity group	Mar	Apr	May	YTD	% chng
Total	4,733	4,249	3,928	38,704	-4
Live animals	39	55	40	505	22
Meat & poultry	582	586	600	4,663	3
Dairy prod & eqqs	115	101	87	799	17
Animal fats	64	57	48	418	14
Hides & skins	151	118	109	954	-17
Wheat	268	262	269	2,547	5
Rice	120	92	71	803	11
Corn	394	316	326	2,921	-37
Other feed grains	82	49	46	602	4
Animal feeds	459	378	307	3,346	3
Soybeans	401	251	194	5,417	-7
Vegetable oils	186	174	149	1,523	41
Fruits & nuts	371	349	365	3,060	-5
Vegetables	369	376	383	2,873	4
Cotton & linters	309	234	161	1,911	-7
Tobacco, unmfq.	158	199	149	1,104	-12
Seeds & nursery	115	91	76	901	0

Preliminary data.

Table 7--U.S. agricultural imports, customs value (\$ mil.)

Commodity group	Mar	Apr	May	YTD	% chng
Total	3,453	3,328	2,981	25,224	5
Live animals	151	152	134	1,178	12
Meat & poultry	241	222	211	1,766	3
Dairy prod & eqqs	101	104	107	852	-2
Grains & feeds	262	245	239	2,092	1
Fruits & nuts	489	434	402	3,199	-4
Vegetables	483	430	347	3,079	17
Vegetable oils	148	146	132	1,121	-3
Wine	165	157	137	1,248	18
Malt beverages	134	136	152	995	12
Coffee	376	319	300	2,634	14
Cocoa	165	130	103	1,193	24
Rubber, natural	95	81	85	694	-26
Cane & beet sugar	31	65	70	401	-33
Tobacco, unmfq.	52	68	28	573	-29
Seeds & flowers	139	222	141	1,120	17

Preliminary data.