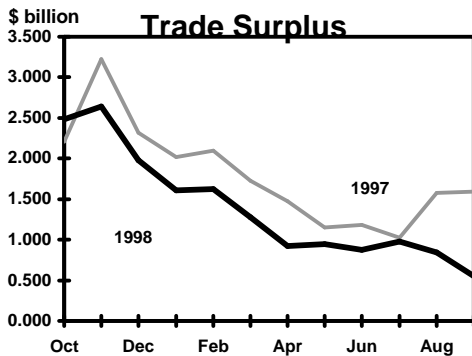


U.S. Agricultural Trade Update

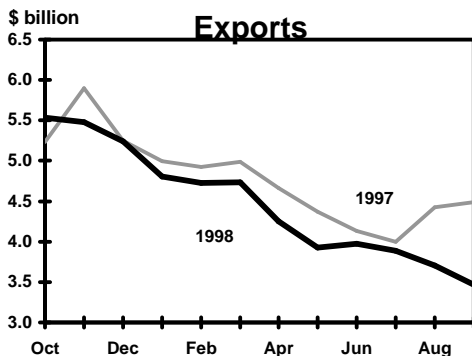
Economic Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

November 20, 1998



Summary--Fiscal 1998 exports slowed more than had been expected, declining 6 percent from fiscal 1997 to \$53.7 billion. Imports, however, rose to \$37 billion, a gain of more than 3 percent over 1997. September exports of \$3.5 billion, fell 6 percent from August 1998 and 23 percent from September 1997. At \$2.9 billion, September 1998 imports, however, were 2 percent over August and just over last September. The \$16.7 billion export surplus for fiscal 1998 is the smallest since the \$15 billion surplus in fiscal 1991.

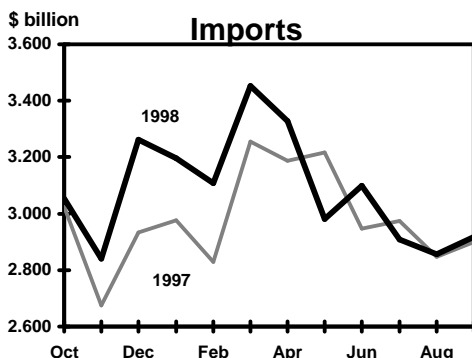
Exports--Bulk commodity exports in fiscal 1998 dropped 14 percent to \$20 billion. Most of the decline occurred in corn exports, which fell sharply in both volume and value. Lower prices also reduced the value of other bulk commodity exports, principally wheat, soybeans, and cotton.



Fiscal 1998 *corn* exports reached only \$4.3 billion and 37.7 million tons, declines of 30 and 19 percent, respectively. Lower prices, substantially reduced demand, and increased export competition all played a role.

Wheat export volume increased this year. Fiscal 1998 exports reached 25.8 million tons, a gain of 5 percent over fiscal 1997. However, stronger competition and lower prices reduced export value 9 percent to \$3.8 billion.

Exports of *soybeans* in fiscal 1998 fell 3 percent in quantity and 12 percent in value to 23.3 million tons and \$6.1 billion. Strong competition from South America helped constrain U.S. exports.



U. S. *cotton* exports declined in both value and volume. At 1.6 million tons, volume slipped less than 1 percent from fiscal 1997. But lower prices pushed value down 7 percent to \$2.5 billion.

Lower exports of *high-value products (HVP)* in September pulled fiscal 1998 HVP exports down to \$33.7 billion, just under the \$34 billion in fiscal 1997. Hides and skins show the sharpest decline, down 20 percent for the year to \$1.4 billion, mostly a result of slowed shipments to South Korea.

However, a number of commodities showed

gains. Vegetable oils, oilseed meals, and red meats showed the largest gains. Soybean oil led vegetable oil growth, rising 71 percent to \$882 million on greater sales to China and Hong Kong. Soybean meal exports rose 13 percent to \$1.9 billion, as the European Union (EU) increased its purchases. Vegetable exports reached \$4.2 billion, a 2-percent gain, and red meats also rose 2 percent to \$4.5 billion.

Imports--Growth of imports in fiscal 1998 was led by vegetables and fruits. But gains also were strong in cocoa, wine, malt beverages, and red meats. At \$3.6 billion, coffee remained the largest import; but the value of coffee imports declined in fiscal 1998, as prices fell throughout the year.

Tomatoes, potatoes, and peppers led vegetable imports, which rose 27 percent to \$2.6 billion. U.S. tomato import growth was largest from Mexico, which also accounted for about half the growth in U.S. pepper imports. U.S. potato imports came from Canada. Fruit imports rose slightly to \$2.1 billion; cocoa imports gained 20 percent, wine 16 percent, and malt beverages 14 percent in 1998. Beef and veal led the red meats, rising to \$1.8 billion, a 13-percent gain, mostly from Canada. (Carol Whitton 202-694-5287)

Major U.S. agricultural export destinations and import sources unchanged in fiscal 1998-- Despite the lower exports this year to several key markets, including Japan, the EU, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, and Russia, the same countries as in fiscal 1997 accounted for the 10 largest U.S. agricultural export destinations. Fiscal 1998 U.S. exports to three of the top 10, Canada, Mexico, and Egypt, increased. China dropped to eighth largest, while Hong Kong moved up to seventh rank.

Similarly, the 10 largest sources of U.S. agricultural imports remain the same as in fiscal 1997. However, Colombia moved up from sixth last year to fourth this year, pushing Indonesia and Brazil down to fifth and sixth, respectively. New Zealand surpassed Thailand for eighth position.

Next Update: December 22, 1998

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

Quantity and unit	October-September				September			
	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)	0	0	57,365,116	53,730,198	0	0	4,489,277	3,467,258
Animals & animal prods (NA)	0	0	11,292,010	11,067,624	0	0	957,643	776,127
Animals live - ex poultry (NA)	0	0	507,943	537,784	0	0	45,488	19,057
Cattle & calves - live (NO)	257	266	160,196	162,957	26	16	16,359	8,229
Horses, mules, burros-live (NO)	45	59	252,233	270,688	4	3	18,475	5,739
Swine - live (NO)	48	129	9,010	19,361	3	17	695	1,776
Sheep, live (NO)	985	1,109	41,143	47,437	144	10	5,900	450
Other live animals (NA)	0	0	45,361	37,341	0	0	4,059	2,863
Meats & meat prods (MT)	1,823	2,064	4,438,074	4,507,334	184	159	396,946	335,819
Beef & veal (MT)	652	708	2,390,889	2,380,903	62	60	222,205	183,302
Beef & veal - fr or froz (MT)	637	691	2,331,272	2,310,711	61	58	217,686	175,726
Beef - prep or pres (MT)	14	17	59,618	70,193	1	2	4,520	7,576
Horsemeat-fr, chill, froz (MT)	14	12	46,432	38,317	1	1	2,541	3,625
Lamb, mutton or goat-fr, ch, frz(MT)	3	2	6,707	6,422	0	0	652	293
Pork (MT)	300	395	999,752	1,066,814	25	30	83,562	73,046
Pork - fr or froz (MT)	265	350	899,982	949,445	22	26	75,089	62,620
Pork - prep or pres (MT)	36	45	99,771	117,369	3	4	8,473	10,426
Variety meats, edible offals (MT)	450	511	638,512	671,771	39	38	51,662	54,566
Other meats - fr or prep (MT)	404	435	355,780	343,107	56	30	36,324	20,988
Poultry & poultry prods (NA)	0	0	2,867,933	2,707,351	0	0	240,095	169,765
Poultry - live (NA)	56,704	58,290	114,140	116,988	6,189	5,442	10,912	8,817
Baby chicks (NO)	47,761	48,316	99,944	100,031	4,552	4,609	8,920	7,513
Other live poultry (NA)	8,943	9,974	14,196	16,958	1,637	833	1,992	1,304
Poultry meats (MT)	2,553	2,663	2,516,107	2,347,147	228	147	209,456	140,041
Chickens - fr or froz (MT)	2,200	2,343	2,007,052	1,865,347	192	121	160,095	104,414
Turkeys - fr or froz (MT)	235	203	278,698	226,539	29	15	32,042	17,027
Other poultry - fr or froz (MT)	5	6	9,135	11,332	0	1	921	854
Poultry meats - prep or pres(MT)	113	111	221,222	243,929	7	10	16,397	17,746
Feathers & downs, crude (MT)	3	3	24,084	19,173	0	0	1,495	1,101
Eggs (NA)	0	0	213,602	224,042	0	0	18,232	19,806
Dairy prods (NA)	0	0	868,740	925,058	0	0	80,342	79,330
Evap & condensed milk (MT)	10	9	6,651	7,814	1	0	585	278
Nonfat dry milk (MT)	47	89	82,113	152,854	6	10	9,814	17,092
Butter & anhyd milkfat (MT)	10	7	19,562	13,532	1	0	1,796	354
Cheese (MT)	36	37	115,996	121,318	4	3	10,989	8,795
Whey, fluid or dried (NA)	0	0	132,602	113,922	0	0	9,539	9,533
Other dairy prods (NA)	0	0	511,816	515,618	0	0	47,619	43,278
Fats, oils, & greases (MT)	1,056	1,365	542,873	655,206	99	124	47,912	55,161
Lard (MT)	70	72	40,567	36,229	7	5	4,605	2,704
Tallow - inedible (MT)	731	993	350,960	461,011	64	95	29,673	40,750
Other animal fats & oils (MT)	255	300	151,345	157,966	27	24	13,635	11,708
Hides & skins, incl furs (NA)	0	0	1,693,201	1,358,335	0	0	115,168	87,965
Bovine hides - whole (NO)	20,761	18,992	1,232,469	969,325	1,522	1,469	85,427	70,972
Other cattle hides - pieces (NA)	0	0	155,828	93,701	0	0	11,904	6,944
Calf skins, whole (PC)	2,001	1,844	42,131	36,279	63	59	1,110	1,096
Horse hides, whole (PC)	144	101	3,913	2,633	5	3	96	52
Sheep and lamb skins (PC)	0	0	27,760	24,289	0	0	3,387	462
Other hides & skins, ex furs (NA)	10,742	12,231	64,269	71,041	1,032	689	5,754	4,284
Furskins (NA)	0	0	166,831	161,065	0	0	7,490	4,155
Mink pelts (NO)	3,600	2,990	96,293	82,631	136	75	4,661	2,392
Other furskins (NA)	0	0	70,538	78,434	0	0	2,829	1,763
Wool & mohair (MT)	4	2	16,554	11,910	0	0	1,292	605
Sausage casings (MT)	13	17	56,117	61,184	1	2	4,654	5,022
Bull semen (NA)	0	0	67,710	67,555	0	0	6,164	4,860
Misc animal prods - other (NA)	0	0	232,866	235,907	0	0	19,582	18,543
Grains & feeds (MT)	95,091	87,289	16,367,522	13,960,820	8,813	7,315	1,407,016	1,027,436
Wheat, unmilled (MT)	24,526	25,791	4,117,399	3,758,840	3,194	2,456	503,029	300,519
Wheat flour (MT)	511	465	140,736	116,782	62	58	13,442	11,325
Bulqur wheat (MT)	8	3	1,865	542	0	0	0	11
Other wheat prods (MT)	66	79	60,346	77,107	6	6	5,603	6,297
Rice-paddy, milled, parb. (MT)	2,560	3,310	959,322	1,131,632	140	200	48,575	69,735
Feed grains & prods (MT)	53,796	44,564	7,166,497	5,187,463	4,403	3,623	521,127	351,966
Feed grains (MT)	53,085	43,960	6,928,307	4,990,045	4,351	3,569	500,092	334,390
Barley (MT)	1,213	1,066	168,321	141,515	304	113	36,138	11,314
Corn (MT)	46,638	37,697	6,114,384	4,261,466	3,600	3,180	414,899	295,890
Grain sorghums (MT)	5,207	5,164	641,923	582,774	444	274	48,708	26,908
Oats (MT)	26	32	3,506	4,134	2	2	339	278
Rye (MT)	1	2	172	157	0	0	8	0
Feed grain prods (MT)	711	604	238,190	197,418	52	54	21,035	17,575
Popcorn (MT)	98	100	77,056	68,463	5	8	4,483	5,179
Blended food prods (MT)	307	287	94,052	77,581	30	26	9,511	7,365
Other grain prods (MT)	924	987	1,061,986	1,121,206	71	80	90,724	95,652
Feeds & fodders, ex oilcake (MT)	12,295	11,704	2,688,263	2,421,204	901	858	210,521	179,387
Corn by-products (MT)	6,000	5,704	870,758	691,437	440	427	57,823	46,947
Alfalfa meal & cubes (MT)	276	265	48,567	43,717	21	23	3,963	3,819
Beet pulp (MT)	638	537	87,701	66,297	43	42	7,064	5,255
Citrus pulp pellets (MT)	777	663	73,955	43,487	2	1	299	256
Other feeds & fodders (MT)	4,604	4,534	1,607,282	1,576,265	394	365	141,373	123,110
Fruits & prep, ex juice (MT)	3,278	3,082	2,759,935	2,564,874	227	226	233,736	219,064
Fruits - fr (MT)	2,833	2,580	2,083,766	1,857,835	180	178	163,522	153,436
Fruits - fr - citrus (MT)	1,224	1,173	708,053	658,304	31	29	22,825	17,124
Grapefruit - fresh (MT)	484	387	240,408	189,788	8	3	4,174	1,870
Lemons & limes - fresh (MT)	124	117	123,101	86,385	5	4	8,062	3,215
Oranges & tangerines - fresh (MT)	613	667	342,412	380,828	18	22	10,538	11,942

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

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	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98
Other citrus - fresh (MT)	2	1	2,133	1,302	0	0	51	97
Fruits - fr - noncitrus (MT)	1,609	1,407	1,375,713	1,199,531	149	149	140,697	136,311
Apples - fresh (MT)	690	539	412,371	327,896	27	28	18,453	17,300
Berries - fresh (MT)	69	64	122,494	118,222	5	6	13,061	12,821
Cherries - fresh (MT)	39	38	140,144	114,035	1	1	798	741
Grapes - fresh (MT)	234	217	309,727	279,173	64	49	70,972	57,827
Melons - fresh (MT)	220	211	79,289	80,716	12	23	5,250	8,339
Peaches - fresh (MT)	103	80	92,737	74,540	9	17	8,183	14,925
Pears - fresh (MT)	126	157	76,052	86,973	15	11	8,382	6,700
Plums - fresh (MT)	72	49	61,224	49,164	11	11	9,122	12,206
Other noncitrus - fresh (MT)	56	52	81,674	68,811	4	4	6,477	5,453
Fruits - dried (MT)	203	225	384,754	390,018	23	22	41,228	35,085
Raisins - dried (MT)	115	121	203,954	200,076	12	11	22,300	17,633
Prunes - dried (MT)	68	71	138,398	133,659	6	7	12,854	12,545
Other dried fruits (MT)	21	33	42,403	56,283	4	4	6,073	4,907
Fruits - canned ex juice (MT)	125	144	134,389	143,542	12	14	14,272	13,556
Fruits - froz ex juice (MT)	50	50	63,353	67,020	5	5	6,292	7,418
Other fruits - prep or pres (MT)	66	83	93,673	106,458	6	7	8,422	9,569
Fruit juices incl froz (HL)	10,455	10,658	658,290	652,983	791	869	47,863	54,933
Apple juice (HL)	511	374	59,056	46,626	29	28	2,723	3,750
Grape juice (HL)	872	811	67,951	65,693	95	72	6,886	5,492
Grapefruit juice (HL)	804	705	55,523	47,173	46	84	3,400	3,955
Orange juice (HL)	5,642	5,541	305,310	295,715	403	449	21,146	26,616
Other fruit juices (HL)	2,626	3,227	170,450	197,777	218	236	13,708	15,121
Wine (HL)	1,944	2,497	368,160	485,833	191	217	38,757	43,503
Nuts & prep (MT)	552	551	1,501,401	1,411,661	69	31	207,737	94,126
Almonds (shelled basis) (MT)	188	203	879,746	772,757	37	16	149,573	62,380
Filberts (MT)	11	20	20,745	36,716	0	0	534	398
Peanuts, shelled or prep (MT)	220	194	221,415	198,436	18	10	18,085	10,579
Pistachios (MT)	19	34	85,322	141,566	2	1	10,578	4,130
Walnuts, shelled/unshelled (MT)	81	64	195,234	153,791	9	3	20,585	7,484
Pecans, shelled or unshelled (MT)	11	12	44,501	55,474	1	1	4,539	6,362
Other nuts, shelled or prep (MT)	22	24	54,439	52,921	1	1	3,842	2,794
Vegetables & prep (NA)	0	0	4,081,011	4,167,912	0	0	309,064	295,011
Vegetables - fresh (MT)	1,776	1,755	1,000,487	1,050,101	95	94	56,307	50,554
Asparagus - fresh (MT)	15	15	50,688	45,435	0	0	864	694
Broccoli - fresh (MT)	130	127	92,215	90,866	6	6	5,054	4,981
Carrots - fresh (MT)	100	113	49,087	58,136	3	5	1,981	2,708
Cabbage - fresh (MT)	43	44	16,830	20,797	1	2	358	693
Celery - fresh (MT)	117	122	48,961	48,460	5	5	2,430	2,052
Cauliflower - fresh (MT)	88	77	57,828	55,481	4	4	2,846	2,631
Corn, sweet - fresh (MT)	48	42	21,466	18,863	1	0	540	289
Cucumbers - fresh (MT)	34	23	16,590	12,705	1	1	608	405
Garlic - fresh (MT)	8	7	13,077	10,663	1	1	2,086	1,807
Lettuce - fresh (MT)	294	304	146,612	173,694	15	17	8,644	8,519
Mushrooms - fresh (MT)	6	6	23,560	17,971	1	0	4,905	789
Onions and shallots - fresh (MT)	216	219	72,465	81,042	19	21	5,566	5,827
Peppers - fresh (MT)	62	56	52,240	56,805	2	2	1,473	1,503
Potatoes - fresh (MT)	299	296	79,753	88,267	14	11	4,360	3,155
Tomatoes - fresh (MT)	154	134	123,783	122,317	12	9	7,924	7,258
Other fresh vegetables (MT)	159	172	135,333	148,601	8	9	6,670	7,240
Vegetables - froz (MT)	580	638	463,347	488,338	46	52	34,758	40,736
Corn, sweet, frozen (MT)	65	77	56,212	63,011	7	6	5,298	4,998
Potatoes - frozen (MT)	412	444	302,976	316,494	31	36	22,083	26,492
Other frozen vegetables (MT)	102	117	104,158	108,833	8	10	7,378	9,246
Vegetables - canned (MT)	462	437	374,500	350,964	35	32	28,154	25,221
Pulses (MT)	464	616	261,913	318,994	31	52	15,807	22,218
Dried beans (MT)	345	452	207,423	259,672	21	39	11,740	17,834
Dried peas (MT)	68	115	27,649	38,416	5	11	1,807	3,138
Dried lentils (MT)	52	49	26,842	20,906	5	3	2,259	1,247
Hops, incl hop ext (MT)	11	10	100,462	89,133	1	0	8,222	4,166
Other veg - prep or pres (NA)	0	0	1,880,302	1,870,382	0	0	165,816	152,116
Oilseeds & prods (MT)	33,808	35,966	11,287,885	10,983,769	1,752	1,369	688,495	439,405
Oilcake & meal (MT)	6,671	8,666	1,794,530	1,974,755	359	296	90,316	51,040
Bran, hulls, legum. veg. (MT)	562	361	57,932	29,673	32	45	3,323	3,365
Corn oilcake & meal (MT)	122	35	15,870	3,855	16	1	1,745	80
Soybean meal (MT)	5,783	8,103	1,688,562	1,914,405	291	229	82,648	43,725
Other oilcake & meal (MT)	204	168	32,166	26,823	20	22	2,600	3,868
Oilseeds (MT)	24,735	24,251	7,875,162	6,817,706	1,212	879	468,575	240,252
Rapeseed (MT)	93	188	29,178	49,244	10	67	2,666	15,917
Safflower seeds (MT)	48	37	31,386	15,097	1	5	1,613	2,002
Soybeans (MT)	24,027	23,287	6,950,019	6,116,765	1,159	758	335,366	168,911
Sunflowerseeds (MT)	103	141	83,917	96,342	8	8	6,833	5,913
Peanuts, incl oilstock (MT)	52	37	44,680	32,900	5	1	4,287	1,293
Other oilseeds (MT)	253	418	80,633	117,705	16	28	5,093	7,444
Protein substances (MT)	159	144	655,349	389,654	13	12	112,717	38,772
Vegetable oils (MT)	2,402	3,049	1,618,193	2,191,308	181	193	129,604	148,114
Soybean oil (MT)	924	1,396	515,575	881,449	69	49	40,561	31,400
Cottonseed oil (MT)	109	94	68,288	61,554	4	4	3,257	2,546
Sunflower oil (MT)	322	370	174,200	240,626	9	10	5,689	6,251
Corn oil (MT)	448	507	291,011	374,976	55	50	35,953	40,750
Peanut oil (MT)	6	5	6,655	6,008	0	0	425	351
Rapeseed oil (MT)	133	158	75,155	99,508	9	26	5,068	14,958
Safflower oil (MT)	38	38	46,364	46,040	3	4	3,719	5,030

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	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98
Other veg oils & waxes (MT)	423	481	440,946	481,146	32	50	34,933	46,828
Tobacco - unmfq (MT)	238	208	1,611,617	1,447,912	11	10	94,164	76,961
Tobacco - light air-cured (MT)	65	52	497,075	423,253	2	4	17,190	29,445
Tobacco - flue cured (MT)	121	106	871,710	757,698	6	3	44,085	22,904
Other tobacco - unmfq (MT)	52	50	242,832	266,961	3	3	32,889	24,612
Cotton, ex linters (MT)	1,566	1,552	2,710,535	2,517,288	65	61	110,853	97,135
Cotton linters (MT)	82	50	26,729	20,048	6	4	2,128	1,329
Essential oils (MT)	46	46	619,388	533,004	3	4	50,318	43,563
Seeds - field & garden (MT)	1,200	816	912,863	827,255	71	25	69,735	45,346
Sugar & tropical prods (NA)	0	0	1,472,970	1,458,146	0	0	140,860	133,075
Sugar & related prods (NA)	0	0	625,815	628,616	0	0	58,965	55,137
Sugar - cane or beet (MT)	139	123	59,717	47,827	12	11	4,523	3,750
Related sugar prods (NA)	0	0	566,098	580,789	0	0	54,442	51,388
Coffee (MT)	44	44	217,053	231,648	5	5	21,157	23,077
Cocoa (MT)	37	34	79,240	73,950	3	3	6,720	6,791
Chocolate & prep (MT)	109	108	361,351	335,835	12	11	38,447	32,065
Tea & mate (MT)	19	20	88,511	84,594	2	2	6,534	7,299
Spices (MT)	26	28	57,839	67,056	2	2	4,697	5,642
Rubber - crude natural (MT)	22	21	41,118	34,776	3	2	4,245	2,904
Fibers ex cotton (MT)	2	1	2,043	1,671	0	0	95	159
Other misc veg prods (MT)	0	0	489,614	441,363	0	0	33,869	27,844
Nursery & greenhouse prods (NA)	0	0	265,439	300,521	0	0	20,829	19,913
Beverages ex juices (NA)	0	0	939,745	889,185	0	0	76,211	72,489
Selected non-ag exports (NA)	0	0	16,732,747	16,411,663	0	0	1,305,398	1,265,963
Fertilizers (MT)	0	0	3,122,303	3,092,418	1	1	197,187	229,396
Nitrogen (MT)	0	0	3,101,915	3,074,800	0	0	196,288	228,116
Phosphate (MT)	10	9	20,388	17,618	0	1	899	1,279
Fish & shellfish (MT)	0	0	2,819,544	2,331,107	0	0	246,640	234,794
Fish - fr or prep (MT)	0	0	1,606,477	1,341,290	0	0	150,906	150,763
Shellfish (MT)	0	0	784,131	635,350	0	0	61,588	52,932
Other fish prods (MT)	245	253	428,936	354,468	27	24	34,146	31,099
Ag chemicals (MT)	313	330	1,764,883	1,936,868	23	24	137,962	135,326
Fungicides (MT)	29	35	173,014	217,152	3	3	15,852	21,077
Herbicides (MT)	155	167	878,104	953,279	9	12	49,203	51,675
Insecticides (MT)	68	64	400,411	432,053	6	5	39,256	38,597
Other pesticides (MT)	61	63	313,354	334,384	6	4	33,651	23,977
Farm machinery (NA)	0	0	4,048,927	3,992,709	0	0	314,903	281,304
Tractors & self-prop mach (NO)	63	59	1,899,649	1,792,759	5	3	144,625	126,201
Other ag machinery & parts (NA)	0	0	2,149,278	2,199,950	0	0	170,279	155,103
Tobacco - mfg (NA)	0	0	4,977,090	5,058,561	0	0	408,706	385,142

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 September 1998

	metric tons				metric tons		
	Oct-Sep 1997	Oct-Sep 1998	Sep 1998		Oct-Sep 1997	Oct-Sep 1998	Sep 1998
Wheat				Corn			
Egypt	2,931,360	3,894,655	506,070	Japan	15,482,206	13,994,377	1,030,519
Japan	2,962,692	3,113,931	305,642	Mexico	3,140,779	4,372,646	485,871
Pakistan	2,399,878	1,645,936	50,000	Taiwan	5,609,276	3,487,662	173,940
Philippines	1,783,484	1,550,643	81,458	South Korea	5,451,908	3,363,604	176,607
Mexico	1,214,719	1,495,831	140,465	Egypt	2,364,152	1,950,940	359,251
South Korea	1,426,675	1,366,393	116,417	Canada	879,393	1,397,433	99,210
European Union	1,181,656	1,108,819	157,548	Colombia	1,330,748	1,096,750	118,764
Taiwan	914,771	968,595	82,319	Saudi Arabia	1,024,836	928,078	67,721
Nigeria	570,986	901,487	88,665	Algeria	929,038	828,947	73,181
Iraq	220,772	761,876	0	Venezuela	730,427	651,172	48,610
World	24,525,587	25,791,041	2,455,753	World	46,637,867	37,696,712	3,179,760
Soybeans				Cotton			
European Union	8,747,363	7,720,947	51,030	Mexico	190,899	324,260	21,379
Japan	3,663,308	3,504,843	166,397	South Korea	129,497	161,860	8,361
Mexico	2,637,846	3,077,666	181,106	China	375,538	144,601	649
China	1,594,338	1,567,388	89,446	Japan	139,156	142,351	3,725
Taiwan	1,901,887	1,565,743	10,500	Turkey	91,930	133,666	3,717
South Korea	1,384,340	1,184,879	120,806	Indonesia	133,541	97,841	4,100
Indonesia	683,964	822,617	56,800	Taiwan	60,329	75,521	408
Brazil	190,698	807,638	0	European Union	56,238	63,904	1,532
Argentina	0	511,617	0	Canada	53,158	62,007	3,869
Thailand	465,216	453,304	0	Thailand	43,299	48,081	1,011
World	24,027,202	23,286,550	758,182	World	1,566,314	1,551,899	61,055

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

Quantity and unit	October-September				September			
	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)	0	0	35,798,347	37,003,620	0	0	2,900,290	2,917,341
Noncompetitive ag imports (NA)	0	0	9,107,175	9,238,740	0	0	726,246	684,063
Bananas & plantains (MT)	3,950	4,175	1,218,448	1,213,972	339	330	96,639	102,394
Coffee, incl prods (MT)	1,212	1,155	3,697,791	3,586,798	73	88	266,735	214,128
Cocoa & prods (MT)	767	875	1,413,736	1,700,812	64	72	133,012	143,276
Tea (MT)	136	150	203,848	256,398	8	8	14,759	15,437
Spices (MT)	159	155	410,403	469,231	15	16	42,296	44,823
Rubber & allied gums - crude (MT)	1,075	1,162	1,314,793	1,027,251	90	126	96,846	92,403
Silk - raw (MT)	0	0	3,295	417	0	0	0	10
Wool, unmfq - carpet (MT)	12	13	36,344	33,008	1	1	2,742	2,261
Fibers, excl cotton (MT)	103	102	45,898	44,950	8	7	3,409	3,087
Essential oils (NA)	0	0	340,613	366,197	0	0	29,344	27,357
Drugs - crude natural (MT)	69	78	422,005	539,704	7	4	40,466	38,887
Competitive ag imports (NA)	0	0	26,691,172	27,764,880	0	0	2,174,043	2,233,278
Animals & prods (NA)	0	0	6,426,267	6,813,776	0	0	557,102	567,074
Animals-live, ex poultry (NO)	0	0	1,525,159	1,669,552	0	0	150,872	149,139
Cattle and calves (NO)	1,920	2,043	1,060,617	1,144,070	172	146	112,752	103,227
Horses, mules, burros (NO)	24	42	137,980	178,908	3	4	12,763	24,000
Swine (NO)	3,003	4,040	297,721	316,274	248	340	23,569	19,755
Sheep, live (NO)	42	51	5,782	6,276	1	2	119	200
Other live animals (NO)	0	0	23,059	24,023	0	0	1,668	1,958
Meats & prods, ex poultry (MT)	0	0	2,582,727	2,717,895	0	0	215,018	224,370
Beef & veal (MT)	785	857	1,552,455	1,761,115	62	70	129,767	143,518
Beef & veal - fr or froz (MT)	720	794	1,350,610	1,550,139	58	64	115,230	122,814
Beef & veal - prep or pres (MT)	64	63	201,845	210,976	4	6	14,537	20,705
Pork (MT)	260	271	766,193	686,236	23	26	65,722	58,840
Pork - fr or froz (MT)	190	202	497,129	446,960	17	19	43,614	37,409
Pork - prep or pres (MT)	70	69	269,064	239,276	6	7	22,108	21,430
Mutton, goat & lamb (MT)	37	47	140,735	159,829	2	3	8,712	11,828
Mutton goat & lamb-fr/frz (MT)	0	3	0	15,469	0	1	0	7,713
Horsemeat - fr or froz (MT)	0	0	11	50	0	0	11	20
Variety meats - fr or froz (MT)	43	44	73,761	64,477	5	4	6,556	5,848
Other meats - fr or froz (MT)	3	2	19,460	17,496	0	0	1,467	2,053
Other meats & prods (MT)	12	9	30,113	28,693	1	1	2,783	2,263
Poultry and prods (NA)	0	0	186,386	206,912	0	0	17,524	15,419
Poultry - live (NA)	9,056	11,831	22,440	21,614	940	995	2,290	1,866
Poultry meat (MT)	6	8	20,446	25,965	1	1	2,257	2,340
Eggs (NA)	0	0	19,773	14,999	0	0	1,333	1,035
Feathers & down - crude (MT)	21	26	123,727	144,333	2	2	11,644	10,178
Dairy products (NA)	0	0	1,272,917	1,368,213	0	0	110,243	119,817
Milk & cream, fr or dried (MT)	0	0	22,138	31,140	0	0	1,252	2,575
Butter & butterfat mixtures (MT)	11	28	18,456	55,432	1	3	2,056	7,074
Cheese (MT)	149	155	575,960	588,801	12	14	46,917	53,378
Casein & mixtures (MT)	105	108	461,438	453,810	10	8	43,058	31,769
Other dairy prods (NA)	0	0	194,925	239,030	0	0	16,960	25,021
Fats, oils, & greases (MT)	76	80	57,596	59,235	7	7	4,867	4,558
Hides & skins (NA)	0	0	209,787	184,293	0	0	12,360	10,822
Sheep & lamb skins (MT)	3	2	11,806	7,970	0	0	928	468
Other hides & skins (NA)	0	0	120,195	106,490	0	0	9,002	8,684
Furskins (NA)	6,183	5,311	77,786	69,833	441	543	2,431	1,670
Wool - unmfq, apparel grades (MT)	25	32	94,759	118,344	2	1	6,510	2,369
Sausage casings (MT)	15	15	69,362	76,405	1	1	5,101	4,575
Bull semen (NA)	0	0	9,486	11,456	0	0	1,035	1,437
Misc animal prods (NA)	0	0	418,088	401,470	0	0	33,572	34,568
Grains & feeds (MT)	0	0	2,940,657	2,919,119	0	0	269,905	263,772
Wheat, ex seed (MT)	2,185	2,002	354,560	302,330	117	130	18,803	14,964
Corn, unmilled (MT)	285	126	36,326	16,973	35	13	3,006	1,587
Oats, unmilled (MT)	1,961	1,942	256,781	204,727	265	368	33,837	31,038
Barley, unmilled (MT)	887	748	132,057	100,590	31	25	4,208	2,990
Rice (MT)	324	284	199,150	186,365	24	19	18,751	11,806
Biscuits & wafers (MT)	277	314	640,795	716,591	29	34	73,570	84,911
Pasta & noodles (MT)	268	307	257,051	283,281	20	20	19,283	18,899
Other grains & preps (NA)	0	0	569,107	601,979	0	0	52,859	59,577
Feeds & fodders, ex oilcake (MT)	1,451	1,329	494,831	506,283	104	94	45,588	37,999
Fruits & preps (MT)	2,968	3,170	2,007,313	2,125,375	132	122	94,101	95,907
Fruits - fr or froz (MT)	2,328	2,569	1,368,450	1,525,090	76	78	37,006	49,776
Apples, fresh (MT)	169	157	82,736	77,650	7	5	1,974	2,947
Avocados (MT)	28	40	25,993	42,897	5	11	4,932	11,484
Berries, excl strawberries (MT)	61	57	86,821	79,078	5	4	6,140	5,980
Citrus, fresh (MT)	246	273	109,980	135,133	20	16	5,149	6,106
Grapes, fresh (MT)	352	420	386,183	440,659	1	3	361	1,022
Kiwi fruit, fresh (MT)	38	42	23,524	30,472	2	5	1,454	3,980
Mangoes (MT)	195	193	125,863	128,870	4	4	2,304	2,803
Melons (MT)	782	862	229,267	252,849	2	0	500	166
Peaches (MT)	42	34	32,901	26,643	0	0	233	119
Pears (MT)	79	68	50,306	46,518	0	0	265	726
Pineapples, fresh or frozen (MT)	174	258	77,698	86,650	21	23	8,496	8,493
Plums (MT)	23	20	21,023	17,738	0	0	27	23
Strawberries, fresh or froz (MT)	43	50	47,050	87,282	1	0	625	281
Other fruits, fresh or froz (MT)	99	95	69,105	72,652	7	7	4,545	5,647
Fruits - prep or pres (MT)	640	601	638,863	600,284	57	44	57,095	46,131
Pineapples - canned or prep (MT)	294	252	206,618	183,139	30	15	21,427	10,697
Other fruits - prep or pres (MT)	346	349	432,246	417,145	27	29	35,668	35,434
Fruit juices (HL)	29,829	26,577	912,523	668,841	1,708	1,822	48,297	44,394

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

Quantity and unit	October-September				September			
	Thousand units		Thousand dollars		Thousand units		Thousand dollars	
	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98
Apple juice (HL)	10,850	10,168	354,632	228,735	371	816	11,520	14,659
Grape juice (HL)	2,433	1,280	95,051	57,562	228	55	8,524	2,938
Grapefruit juice (HL)	9	8	395	449	0	1	24	33
Lemon juice (HL)	375	424	9,901	7,939	18	32	550	534
Lime juice (HL)	141	160	2,777	3,438	3	4	125	89
Orange juice (HL)	11,168	10,632	240,060	211,366	738	635	13,952	15,532
Pineapple juice (HL)	3,035	2,387	88,786	72,599	263	151	7,350	4,178
Other fruit juice (HL)	1,818	1,518	120,921	86,752	87	127	6,253	6,430
Nuts & preps (MT)	203	236	547,385	642,967	16	21	44,826	55,443
Brazil nuts (MT)	10	11	23,656	25,298	1	1	2,740	2,000
Cashew nuts (MT)	63	74	292,315	339,441	5	6	24,810	29,847
Chestnuts (MT)	4	5	10,559	11,700	0	0	203	521
Coconut meat (MT)	70	78	70,905	65,757	7	8	6,204	7,119
Filberts (MT)	4	5	15,417	20,638	0	0	510	1,597
Macademia nuts (MT)	3	3	26,057	31,085	0	1	4,632	5,201
Pecans (MT)	20	24	39,667	71,298	0	1	1,164	4,334
Pistachio nuts (MT)	1	0	3,624	1,279	0	0	113	52
Other nuts (MT)	29	36	65,185	76,471	2	3	4,451	4,771
Vegetables & preps (NA)	0	0	3,603,720	4,249,182	0	0	237,664	277,349
Vegetables - fr or froz (MT)	3,269	3,786	2,014,538	2,552,127	187	203	108,433	133,071
Tomatoes (MT)	743	857	611,612	735,180	28	34	21,591	30,701
Asparagus, fresh or frozen (MT)	40	48	68,610	90,522	3	4	5,989	6,421
Beans, fresh or frozen (MT)	28	29	32,668	32,011	1	1	825	1,283
Cabbage (MT)	29	50	5,932	14,171	3	4	602	1,212
Carrots, fresh or frozen (MT)	101	98	23,866	26,748	10	8	2,428	2,071
Cauliflower & broccoli, fr/fz (MT)	226	232	133,472	141,397	26	20	14,631	12,382
Celery, fresh (MT)	28	45	7,796	11,333	2	2	656	400
Cucumbers (MT)	302	328	100,823	154,634	5	6	3,023	3,379
Eggplant (MT)	28	38	19,356	30,088	0	0	24	45
Endive, fresh (MT)	2	3	4,375	5,843	0	0	412	376
Garlic (MT)	18	30	20,661	36,021	0	1	548	1,435
Lettuce (MT)	29	26	13,663	14,793	4	3	2,028	1,087
Okra, fresh or frozen (MT)	33	24	13,631	11,309	4	1	1,435	435
Onions (MT)	264	261	129,257	154,363	7	10	5,193	4,668
Peas, incl chickpeas (MT)	37	39	34,710	45,691	3	3	2,126	2,832
Peppers (MT)	284	320	251,908	343,606	22	28	12,195	20,823
Potatoes, fresh or frozen (MT)	615	854	230,427	330,758	45	51	17,725	24,422
Radishes, fresh (MT)	13	17	5,698	12,124	0	0	45	318
Squash (MT)	141	158	87,857	104,933	1	2	548	1,056
Other veas - fr or froz (MT)	309	330	218,217	256,601	22	25	16,409	17,726
Vegetables-prep/pres (NA)	0	0	1,589,181	1,697,055	0	0	129,231	144,279
Bamboo shoots, preserved (MT)	27	30	24,292	23,198	3	4	2,531	2,942
Bean cake, miso (MT)	10	7	24,809	17,446	1	0	1,942	983
Cucumbers, preserved (MT)	34	39	19,274	21,655	2	2	1,577	1,658
Garlic, dried (MT)	7	13	3,310	5,734	1	3	261	1,309
Olives - prep or pres (MT)	76	84	181,239	177,029	5	6	11,072	11,778
Mushrooms, canned (MT)	67	62	118,324	105,703	5	3	8,368	6,613
Mushrooms, dried (MT)	2	2	19,411	18,469	0	0	936	945
Onions, preserved (MT)	2	2	3,049	3,727	0	0	186	117
Hops, incl extract (MT)	6	5	39,175	30,192	0	0	9	24
Artichokes - prep (MT)	29	38	44,069	71,159	2	3	3,323	5,965
Asparagus - prep (MT)	1	1	1,636	1,990	0	0	185	154
Tomatoes, incl paste & sauce (MT)	106	106	95,711	89,447	9	9	7,760	8,286
Waterchestnuts (MT)	36	35	27,403	20,857	3	2	1,934	1,341
Beans & peas, dried (MT)	71	65	43,046	38,594	6	7	3,522	3,770
Mustard (MT)	15	15	17,924	17,261	1	1	1,662	1,249
Peppers & pimentos, prep (MT)	16	20	19,544	24,017	2	2	2,304	2,531
Soy sauce (MT)	37	38	37,367	39,231	3	3	3,127	3,241
Starches, excl wheat & corn (MT)	158	162	98,843	109,737	12	16	8,520	10,745
Soups & sauces (MT)	98	120	201,316	227,808	11	13	21,240	22,296
Vinegar (HL)	263	303	37,181	38,524	19	26	2,611	3,124
Yeasts (MT)	54	53	61,476	59,407	4	4	4,867	5,349
Other vegetables-prep/pres (NA)	0	0	470,783	555,867	0	0	41,293	49,856
Sugar & related prods (NA)	0	0	1,869,367	1,674,703	0	0	218,406	205,343
Sugar - cane & beet (MT)	2,938	2,170	1,012,748	758,459	445	329	138,238	121,524
Molasses (HL)	10,882	10,478	95,289	80,360	1,027	1,015	7,024	5,510
Confectionery prods (MT)	232	259	514,510	601,674	24	26	51,824	58,342
Other sugar & related prods (MT)	323	427	246,820	234,210	36	40	21,321	19,966
Spices (MT)	31	38	52,054	52,907	3	5	3,787	4,889
Tobacco - unmfq (MT)	337	241	1,179,094	821,971	32	23	112,436	65,005
Tobacco - filler (MT)	282	190	1,111,346	758,895	26	16	108,415	60,717
Tobacco - scrap (MT)	52	48	30,399	19,614	6	6	1,735	2,014
Other tobacco (MT)	3	3	37,350	43,462	0	0	2,285	2,274
Beverages, ex fruit juices (HL)	0	0	3,246,879	3,705,464	0	0	286,625	320,245
Wine (HL)	4,302	4,263	1,625,026	1,824,900	381	313	142,942	142,694
Malt beverages (HL)	16,124	18,696	1,443,326	1,677,002	1,411	1,753	127,977	159,080
Other beverages (HL)	0	0	178,527	203,562	0	0	15,707	18,471
Oilseeds & prods (MT)	3,780	4,314	2,247,648	2,242,597	306	381	163,073	200,326
Oilseeds & oilnuts (MT)	985	1,028	373,954	370,778	48	54	17,461	17,690
Flaxseed (MT)	230	217	65,804	62,171	11	6	3,039	1,719
Mustard seeds (MT)	62	59	26,269	22,089	6	4	2,288	1,320
Rapeseed (MT)	285	362	92,536	112,703	21	6	6,017	1,413
Sesameseed (MT)	40	45	44,815	48,524	3	3	3,452	3,087
Soybeans (MT)	243	149	75,609	41,884	1	14	537	3,289

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

Quantity and unit	October-September				September			
	Thousand units		Thousand dollars		Thousand units		Thousand dollars	
	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98
Sunflower seeds (MT)	18	29	5,997	9,441	1	1	337	357
Other oilseeds & oilnuts (MT)	106	167	62,925	73,967	4	21	1,791	6,506
Oils & waxes-vegetable (MT)	1,828	2,010	1,693,012	1,684,285	160	214	128,270	167,948
Castor oil (MT)	34	54	25,266	40,039	5	10	4,018	7,418
Coconut oil (MT)	539	653	378,955	361,177	55	80	32,580	51,842
Cottonseed oil (MT)	0	0	94	56	0	0	0	0
Olive oil (MT)	148	161	440,154	355,521	11	10	25,369	20,730
Palm oil (MT)	146	128	63,192	59,440	11	23	3,822	11,928
Palm kernel oil (MT)	178	163	135,005	110,778	15	17	11,063	12,192
Peanut oil (MT)	7	20	6,503	19,700	0	12	169	11,349
Rapeseed oil (MT)	502	503	309,315	336,084	40	37	24,064	23,834
Soybean oil (MT)	24	27	15,888	18,631	2	3	1,217	1,961
Sesame oil (MT)	7	7	20,123	20,128	1	1	1,505	1,790
Other vegetable oils (MT)	243	293	298,516	362,729	21	20	24,462	24,903
Oilcake & meal (MT)	967	1,277	180,682	187,534	98	113	17,342	14,688
Cotton, excl linters (MT)	12	3	17,138	3,494	0	0	132	211
Cotton linters (MT)	15	7	16,756	7,552	1	0	1,278	131
Seeds - field & garden (MT)	223	254	357,128	418,968	12	10	23,228	22,923
Cut flowers (NA)	0	0	572,926	630,067	0	0	39,734	37,123
Nursery stock, bulbs, etc. (NA)	0	0	401,235	451,900	0	0	48,015	49,966
Other vegetable prods (MT)	0	0	293,083	345,959	0	0	25,435	27,044
Selected non-ag imports (NA)	0	0	14,278,338	15,797,150	0	0	1,268,663	1,180,510
Fertilizers (MT)	22,348	24,941	2,405,736	2,439,972	2,031	2,123	198,142	210,962
Potassium (MT)	8,456	9,925	553,065	783,285	753	932	50,235	83,230
Nitrogen (MT)	7,986	8,346	1,386,567	1,161,083	716	719	107,466	94,873
Phosphate (MT)	5,889	6,660	462,553	491,779	562	471	40,263	32,623
Fish (MT)	0	0	7,384,692	8,216,490	0	0	781,049	670,939
Fish fresh or prep (MT)	0	0	3,109,836	3,340,596	0	0	274,461	287,203
Shellfish (MT)	473	534	4,186,351	4,799,939	53	44	500,925	377,700
Fish prods, other (MT)	89	65	88,505	75,954	5	6	5,664	6,036
Aq chemicals (MT)	104	119	997,803	1,102,319	5	3	34,454	46,217
Fungicides (MT)	33	36	128,612	147,926	2	1	5,919	4,578
Herbicides (MT)	24	22	333,681	325,085	0	0	6,236	13,653
Insecticides (MT)	14	19	176,943	261,318	0	1	4,980	11,058
Other pesticides (MT)	33	42	358,567	367,989	2	1	17,319	16,928
Farm machinery (NA)	0	0	3,080,307	3,566,115	0	0	210,920	224,211
Tractors & self-prop mach (NO)	3,407	5,708	1,628,157	1,953,874	300	615	112,553	123,592
Other ag mach & parts (NA)	0	0	1,452,151	1,612,242	0	0	98,367	100,619
Tobacco - mfg (NA)	11	14	409,800	472,255	1	1	44,098	28,181

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	Jul	Aug	Sep	YTD	% chng	1997/98
Agricultural exports	3,884	3,704	3,467	53,730	-6	
Imports (c.i.f.)	3,327	3,058	3,129	39,830	3	
Imports (Customs value)	2,908	2,857	2,917	37,004	3	
Trade Balance:						
Exports less c.i.f. imports	557	645	338	13,900	-26	
Exports less Customs-valued imports	976	847	550	16,727	-22	
Preliminary data.						

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

Commodity group	Jul	Aug	Sep	YTD	% chng
Total	3,884	3,704	3,467	53,730	-6
Live animals	39	50	28	655	5
Meat & poultry	594	539	476	6,854	-1
Dairy prod & eqqs	85	79	99	1,149	6
Animal fats	60	63	55	655	21
Hides & skins	101	96	88	1,358	-20
Wheat	311	335	301	3,759	-9
Rice	71	72	70	1,132	18
Corn	347	346	296	4,261	-30
Other feed grains	31	33	39	729	-10
Animal feeds	294	247	230	4,396	-2
Soybeans	197	171	169	6,117	-12
Vegetable oils	168	172	148	2,191	35
Fruits & nuts	403	384	368	4,630	-6
Vegetables	328	300	295	4,168	2
Cotton & linters	197	137	98	2,537	-7
Tobacco, unmfq.	61	97	77	1,448	-10
Seeds & nursery	54	55	65	1,128	-4
Preliminary data.					

Table 6--Top 10 U.S. export destinations & import sources

Country	FY 1997	FY 1998	Country	FY 1997	FY 1998
Exports	Billion \$		Imports	Billion \$	
Japan	10.713	9.459	Canada	7.293	7.794
European Union	8.997	8.508	European Union	6.943	7.295
Canada	6.620	7.022	Mexico	3.941	4.669
Mexico	5.077	5.956	Colombia	1.349	1.360
South Korea	3.293	2.245	Indonesia	1.591	1.360
Taiwan	2.588	1.971	Brazil	1.517	1.207
Hong Kong	1.640	1.568	Australia	0.928	1.103
China	1.774	1.514	New Zealand	0.850	0.909
Russia	1.281	1.103	Thailand	0.897	0.760
Egypt	0.928	0.939	Chile	0.755	0.756
Preliminary data.					

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

Commodity group	Jul	Aug	Sep	YTD	% chng
Total	2,908	2,857	2,917	37,004	3
Live animals	103	136	151	1,691	9
Meat & poultry	247	237	227	2,744	5
Dairy prod & eqqs	151	131	121	1,383	7
Grains & feeds	234	252	15	306	-18
Fruits & nuts	349	347	169	2,993	1
Vegetables	298	266	133	2,552	27
Vegetable oils	129	129	7	40	58
Wine	141	147	159	1,677	16
Malt beverages	183	156	18	204	14
Coffee	239	232	214	3,587	-3
Cocoa	124	123	143	1,701	20
Rubber, natural	79	83	92	1,027	-22
Cane & beet sugar	73	71	6	80	-16
Tobacco, unmfq.	90	76	61	759	-32
Seeds & flowers	74	111	114	1,428	13
Preliminary data.					