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Outlook



U.S. Agricultural Trade Update

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The 2002 U.S. Agricultural Export Surplus Declined Further in April, Pulling the Surplus Below 2001

Web Sites

- [U.S. Trade Data](#)
- [FAQ U.S. Trade](#)
- [Summary Trade Data](#)
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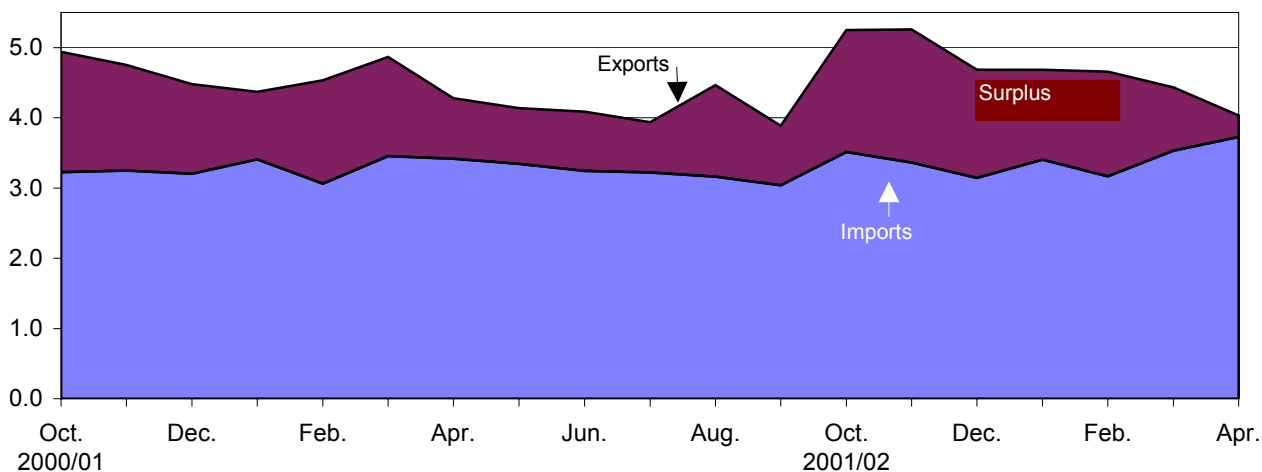
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A \$400-million decrease in U.S. agricultural exports in April compared with March, sharply reduced October-April 2002 export growth. Fiscal 2002 exports are \$33 billion, just 2.4 percent more than in the same period of 2001. In contrast, cumulative U.S. agricultural imports continued increasing in April, rising nearly \$200 million to equal \$23.9 billion. Although the U.S. agricultural export surplus increased fractionally month-to-month (fig. 1), growth in the surplus shrank dramatically from a year earlier. At \$9.15 billion, the cumulative U.S. agricultural export surplus now is just under the \$9.21 billion surplus of the same period in 2001.

Bulk exports, such as cotton and soybeans, are up 7 percent in volume and 8 percent in value in 2002. But, high-value product exports, although growing much more slowly, account for \$27 billion of the \$33 billion in export value in the year to date.

Figure 1
Monthly U.S. agricultural trade, fiscal year 2001 and year-to-date 2002
Billion dollars



Sources: Economic Research Service, USDA and Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

Table 1--U.S. agricultural trade, year-to-date and current months

Item	March	April	Change	Oct.-Apr.		Change
	2002	2002	Apr.>Mar.	2001	2002	'02>'01
	--Million dollars--		Percent	--Million dollars--		Percent
Agricultural exports	4,436	4,035	-9	32,223	33,002	2
Imports (c.i.f.)	3,828	4,030	5	25,023	25,827	3
Imports (customs value)	3,530	3,726	6	23,011	23,852	4
Trade Balance						
Exports minus c.i.f. imports	608	5	-99	7,199	7,176	0
Exports minus customs-valued imports	906	309	-66	9,212	9,151	-1
Exports by major commodity group						
Live animals	34	33	-1	611	600	-2
Red meats & products	397	392	-1	2,987	2,968	-1
Poultry meats & products	158	131	-17	1,328	1,336	1
Dairy products	82	93	14	644	637	-1
Hides & skins	164	137	-16	1,083	1,022	-6
Animal fats & other products	62	59	-5	417	427	3
Wheat	284	299	5	1,937	2,084	8
Rice	70	86	23	521	457	-12
Corn	427	372	-13	2,551	2,565	1
Other feed grains	47	73	56	595	658	11
Other grain products	164	161	-2	1,067	1,182	11
Animal feeds & oil meal	376	282	-25	2,568	2,427	-6
Soybeans	334	240	-28	4,118	4,238	3
Other oilseeds	103	79	-24	648	846	30
Vegetable oils	134	122	-9	704	984	40
Fruits, nuts, & products	340	296	-13	2,404	2,446	2
Vegetables & products	396	383	-3	2,679	2,648	-1
Juice, wine, & beverages	184	194	5	1,150	1,099	-4
Cotton & linters	211	202	-4	1,140	1,328	16
Tobacco, unmanufactured	97	78	-19	776	829	7
Sugar & tropical products	124	118	-5	1,040	960	-8
Other	248	230	-7	1,382	1,467	6
Total Exports	4,436	4,035	-9	32,223	33,002	2
Imports (customs value) by major commodity group						
Live animals	196	181	-7	1,427	1,373	-4
Red meats & products	355	388	9	2,245	2,361	5
Poultry meats & products	20	28	36	127	162	27
Dairy products	143	152	7	941	1,063	13
Other animal products	61	60	0	456	430	-6
Grains, feeds, & oil meal	278	277	0	1,944	2,143	10
Fruits, juices, & nuts	543	553	2	3,249	3,409	5
Vegetables & preparations	536	508	-5	3,229	3,363	4
Oilseeds	15	48	216	150	128	-15
Vegetable oils	101	109	8	750	705	-6
Wine	195	218	11	1,313	1,410	7
Malt beverages	227	244	8	1,227	1,362	11
Coffee	131	142	9	1,056	863	-18
Cocoa	126	111	-11	794	974	23
Rubber, natural	43	52	19	410	319	-22
Sugar, cane & beet	27	49	78	280	289	3
Sugar products	96	110	14	614	631	3
Tobacco, unmanufactured	78	46	-41	369	426	15
Other tropical products	123	167	36	973	968	-1
Other competitive products	238	283	19	1,457	1,473	1
Total Imports	3,530	3,726	6	23,011	23,852	4

Preliminary data. Sources: Economic Research Service, USDA and Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Table 2--Top 10 U.S. export markets in October- April of fiscal years 2001 and 2002 and April 2002

	Oct.-Apr. 2001	Oct.-Apr. 2002	Apr. 2002		Oct.-Apr. 2001	Oct.-Apr. 2002	Apr. 2002
Wheat	Metric tons			Corn	Metric tons		
Egypt	2,390,141	2,412,425	590,168	Japan	8,344,475	8,368,068	1,451,067
Japan	1,865,747	2,034,471	238,589	China (Taiwan)	2,956,712	2,735,278	339,715
Mexico	1,218,392	1,381,998	187,040	Mexico	3,737,129	2,524,302	380,599
Nigeria	719,633	1,079,389	222,812	Egypt	1,792,384	2,204,257	299,786
European Union	586,505	878,794	182,583	Canada	1,340,087	1,960,044	303,294
Philippines	1,131,323	832,402	64,400	Colombia	930,572	982,285	183,321
South Korea	864,475	766,992	119,393	Algeria	779,652	867,719	32,996
China (Taiwan)	537,138	575,190	36,641	South Korea	1,430,767	674,045	58,104
Israel	319,036	410,194	89,204	Dominican Repub	589,366	606,753	84,203
Yemen (Sana), En	280,275	342,210	33,000	Israel	478,604	500,119	71,986
World	15,192,661	15,540,997	2,278,098	World	26,828,955	26,998,758	3,958,513
Soybeans	Metric tons			Cotton	Metric tons		
European Union	5,723,175	6,774,965	21,003	Turkey	81,199	235,415	42,153
China (Mainland)	5,220,968	3,927,453	0	Mexico	208,298	155,995	27,520
Mexico	2,301,758	2,573,871	307,005	India	10,457	132,193	11,444
Japan	2,383,372	2,448,032	251,909	Indonesia	75,385	130,798	23,011
China (Taiwan)	1,248,676	1,384,963	104,866	Thailand	28,512	101,598	13,270
Indonesia	706,812	768,962	158,710	China (Taiwan)	51,579	98,527	14,713
South Korea	761,829	755,628	69,771	South Korea	70,573	85,818	11,065
Thailand	627,186	679,804	120	Pakistan	11,098	75,890	7,199
Canada	226,133	636,995	92,742	Japan	46,995	50,942	7,767
Israel	383,940	426,490	32,468	Bangladesh	18,405	47,607	7,005
World	21,566,890	23,112,321	1,243,373	World	827,016	1,394,634	211,332

Sources: Economic Research Service, USDA and Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.

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Trade Information

Monthly and year-to-date U.S. agricultural trade (FATUS and HTS) data are on the Foreign Agriculture Service's web site <http://www.fas.usda.gov/ustrade/>. Click on FATUS imports or FATUS exports. Select commodity and country. On right, choose ending year. Click dropdown boxes for other options—format, quantity, or value, etc. Submit.

Frequently asked questions and answers and summary FATUS data tables are at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/fatus>.

For articles and general information about agricultural trade see <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/agtrade>.

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