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U.S. Agricultural Trade Update

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Following Monthly Declines Since February, the U.S. Farm Trade Surplus Increased in May as Exports Rose and Imports Fell

Web Sites

- [U.S. Trade Data](#)
- [FAQ U.S. Trade](#)
- [Summary Trade Data](#)
- [Articles on Trade](#)

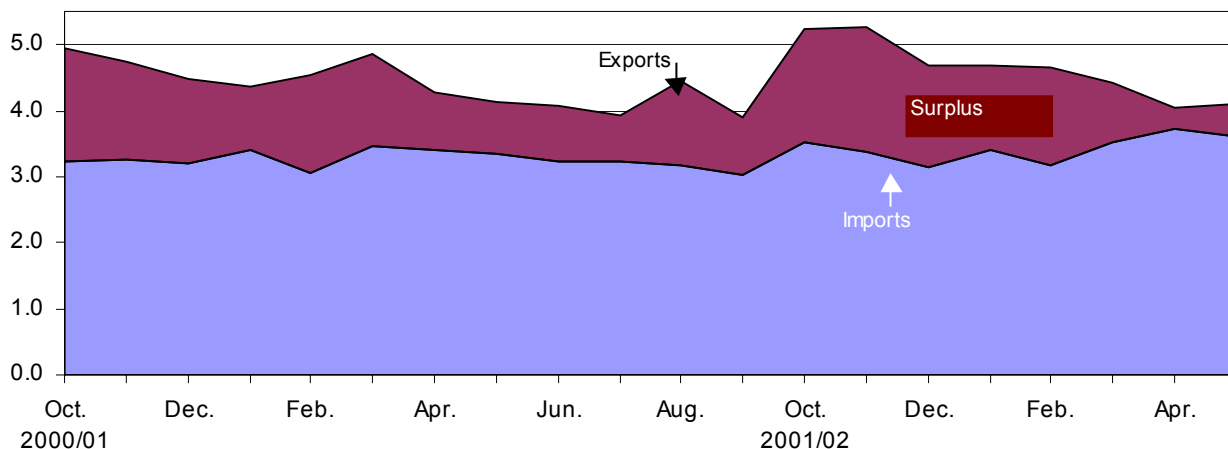
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Approved by the
World Agricultural
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A \$62-million rise in U.S. agricultural exports in May from April raised the October-May 2002 export value to \$37 billion, \$730 million over the same period in 2001. Although imports in May are down from April, year-to-date imports are up \$1.1 billion from 2001. The cumulative farm trade surplus of \$9.6 billion, despite help from a wider surplus in May than April, remains below 2001's \$10 billion.

Bulk exports, led by soybeans and cotton, are already more than \$13 billion through May, compared with only \$12.6 billion last year. Bulk volume is also up, by about the same growth as value. High-value exports, on the other hand, are only incrementally larger than in 2001, as declines in livestock products and feeds and fodders offset much of the gain from vegetable oils.

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	April	May	Change	Oct.-May		Change
	2002	2002	May>Apr.	2001	2002	'02>'01
	--Million dollars--		Percent	--Million dollars--		Percent
Agricultural exports	4,035	4,097	2	36,316	37,046	2
Imports (c.i.f.)	4,030	3,889	-4	28,633	29,716	4
Imports (customs value)	3,726	3,614	-3	26,349	27,457	4
Trade Balance						
Exports minus c.i.f. imports	5	208	4,423	7,683	7,330	-5
Exports minus customs-valued imports	309	483	56	9,967	9,589	-4
Exports by major commodity group						
Live animals	33	41	24	651	641	-2
Red meats & products	392	448	14	3,454	3,413	-1
Poultry meats & products	131	176	35	1,541	1,511	-2
Dairy products	93	84	-10	752	718	-5
Hides & skins	137	151	10	1,251	1,165	-7
Animal fats & other products	59	55	-7	474	482	2
Wheat	299	208	-30	2,190	2,280	4
Rice	86	54	-37	543	512	-6
Corn	372	382	3	2,817	2,944	5
Other feed grains	73	70	-5	687	726	6
Other grain products	161	170	6	1,219	1,350	11
Animal feeds & oil meal	282	281	-1	2,912	2,705	-7
Soybeans	240	242	1	4,301	4,479	4
Other oilseeds	79	82	4	743	929	25
Vegetable oils	122	113	-8	804	1,092	36
Fruits, nuts, & products	296	336	13	2,736	2,771	1
Vegetables & products	383	418	9	3,085	3,066	-1
Juice, wine, & beverages	194	193	-1	1,339	1,290	-4
Cotton & linters	202	180	-11	1,327	1,508	14
Tobacco, unmanufactured	78	117	49	881	946	7
Sugar & tropical products	118	134	13	1,206	1,095	-9
Other	230	189	-18	1,551	1,656	7
Total Exports	4,035	4,097	2	36,316	37,046	2
Imports (customs value) by major commodity group						
Live animals	181	135	-25	1,596	1,508	-5
Red meats & products	388	397	2	2,583	2,757	7
Poultry meats & products	28	25	-8	154	187	22
Dairy products	152	161	6	1,091	1,223	12
Other animal products	60	62	3	522	492	-6
Grains, feeds, & oil meal	277	272	-2	2,204	2,413	9
Fruits, juices, & nuts	553	537	-3	3,689	3,946	7
Vegetables & preparations	508	459	-10	3,674	3,822	4
Oilseeds	48	15	-68	177	143	-19
Vegetable oils	109	112	3	845	818	-3
Wine	218	223	2	1,489	1,632	10
Malt beverages	244	251	3	1,462	1,613	10
Coffee	142	151	6	1,212	1,014	-16
Cocoa	111	129	16	902	1,103	22
Rubber, natural	52	66	27	463	385	-17
Sugar, cane & beet	49	41	-17	312	332	6
Sugar products	110	109	-1	702	739	5
Tobacco, unmanufactured	46	74	61	433	496	15
Other tropical products	167	146	-13	1,126	1,113	-1
Other competitive products	283	247	-13	1,714	1,719	0

A special article, "The Import Share of U.S.-Consumed Food Continues To Rise," was recently released and is available in the U.S. Agricultural Trade briefing room: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/agtrade/>, numbered FAU66-01.

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

Wheat	Oct.-May 2001	Oct.-May 2002	May 2002	Corn	Oct.-May 2001	Oct.-May 2002	May 2002
	Metric tons				Metric tons		
Egypt	2,500,986	2,701,480	289,055	Japan	9,395,262	9,645,907	1,277,839
Japan	2,188,884	2,198,283	205,012	China (Taiwan)	3,255,536	3,082,456	366,078
Mexico	1,379,848	1,495,826	113,828	Mexico	4,040,593	2,861,200	336,898
Nigeria	846,589	1,240,769	161,380	Egypt	1,929,308	2,776,843	530,495
European Union	641,743	971,767	92,973	Canada	1,583,764	2,213,583	253,444
Philippines	1,288,460	964,527	132,125	Colombia	1,038,812	1,118,815	136,530
South Korea	981,991	846,095	79,103	Algeria	826,597	1,063,094	195,375
China (Taiwan)	685,098	614,448	39,258	South Korea	1,483,953	790,268	93,723
Israel	380,309	410,194	0	Turkey	298,527	709,235	267,705
Yemen (Sana), En	320,475	375,210	33,000	Dominican Reput	655,015	697,517	90,764
World	17,095,479	17,014,736	1,586,507	World	29,720,000	31,100,622	4,127,855

Soybeans	Oct.-May 2001	Oct.-May 2002	May 2002	Cotton	Oct.-May 2001	Oct.-May 2002	May 2002
	Metric tons				Metric tons		
European Union	5,678,298	6,786,766	11,801	Turkey	95,676	265,563	30,148
China (Mainland)	5,220,968	3,951,163	23,710	Mexico	237,689	189,676	33,790
Mexico	2,604,790	2,803,738	229,867	Indonesia	88,235	146,616	15,851
Japan	2,681,235	2,697,257	249,268	India	28,244	142,870	10,677
China (Taiwan)	1,343,095	1,605,493	233,130	China (Taiwan)	61,284	115,340	16,813
Indonesia	822,173	945,539	176,577	Thailand	33,346	110,465	8,867
South Korea	821,173	850,425	94,797	South Korea	79,220	93,999	8,181
Thailand	627,287	679,804	0	Pakistan	18,939	80,873	5,003
Canada	258,158	678,600	40,937	Japan	53,745	58,308	7,366
Israel	421,038	477,387	50,897	Hong Kong	46,363	55,851	10,781
World	22,546,203	24,348,631	1,240,273	World	978,875	1,588,872	194,454

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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