



U.S. Agricultural Trade Update

Carol Whitton, Coordinator

April 2003 U.S. Agricultural Export Surplus Drops to Lowest Level Since May-July 1986

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

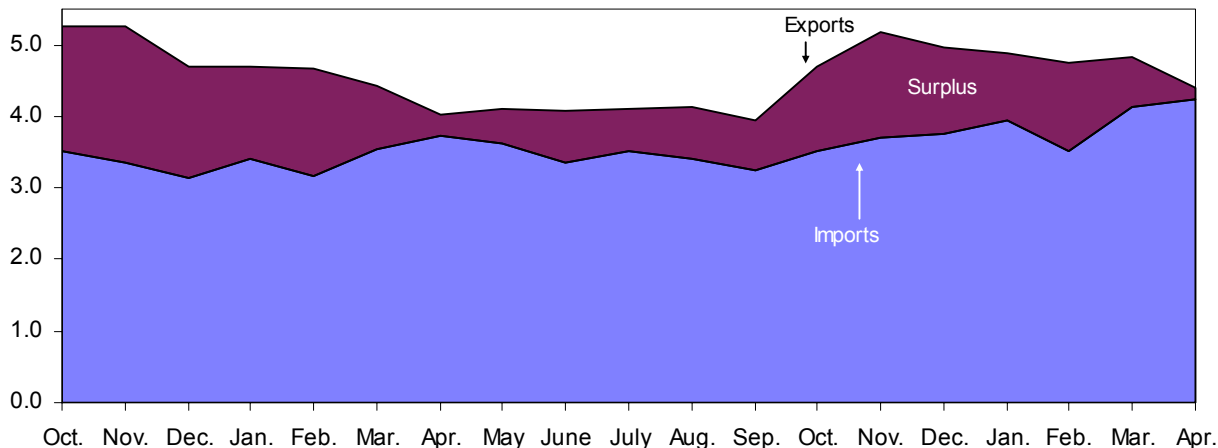
Next release is
July 14, 2003

Approved by the
World Agricultural
Outlook Board

In April, a large month-to-month drop in U.S. agricultural exports, coupled with continued modest import growth, reduced the monthly agricultural export surplus to just \$138 million. This is the lowest monthly agricultural export surplus since May-July 1986 when there was actually a monthly deficit in 2 of those 3 months. This sharp decline in the monthly surplus pulls the October-April surplus down to just \$6.1 billion, 34 percent less than at the same time last year. Increased export competition from initial marketing of the record South American soybean crop, along with reduced wheat exports, are largely responsible.

The \$32.9 billion in U.S. agricultural exports is unchanged from last year, while cumulative imports remain above last year at \$26.8 billion, a 12-percent gain.

Figure 1
Monthly U.S. agricultural trade, fiscal year 2002 and year-to-date 2003
 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	Mar.	Apr.	Change	Oct.-Apr.		Change
	2003	2003	Apr.>Mar.	2002	2003	'03>'02
	--Million dollars--		Percent	--Million dollars--		Percent
Agricultural exports	4,826	4,389	-9	32,949	32,869	0
Imports (c.i.f.)	4,491	4,593	2	25,827	29,021	12
Imports (customs value)	4,140	4,251	3	23,843	26,816	12
Trade balance						
Exports minus c.i.f. imports	335	-204	-161	7,122	3,849	-46
Exports minus customs-valued imports	685	138	-80	9,105	6,054	-34
Exports by major commodity group						
Live animals	30	28	-9	600	360	-40
Red meats & products	443	432	-2	2,965	2,991	1
Poultry meats & products	161	136	-16	1,335	1,080	-19
Dairy products	80	79	-1	634	576	-9
Hides & skins	155	154	-1	1,014	1,018	0
Animal fats & other products	77	70	-9	426	487	14
Wheat	296	242	-18	2,071	1,166	-44
Rice	105	82	-22	457	583	27
Corn	379	362	-4	2,562	2,672	4
Other feed grains	79	104	32	656	623	-5
Other grain products	169	182	7	1,180	1,234	5
Animal feeds & oil meal	354	293	-17	2,424	2,359	-3
Soybeans	583	423	-28	4,236	5,347	26
Other oilseeds	59	50	-16	847	446	-47
Vegetable oils	171	150	-12	979	1,032	5
Fruits, nuts, & products	349	300	-14	2,436	2,560	5
Vegetables & products	396	410	4	2,648	2,689	2
Juice, wine, & beverages	187	175	-7	1,097	1,145	4
Cotton & linters	338	321	-5	1,328	1,549	17
Tobacco, unmanufactured	75	83	11	829	695	-16
Sugar & tropical products	151	150	-1	960	1,017	6
Other	224	213	-5	1,467	1,501	2
Total Exports	4,826	4,389	-9	32,949	32,869	0
Imports (customs value) by major commodity group						
Live animals	165	166	1	1,373	1,283	-7
Red meats & products	387	402	4	2,360	2,475	5
Poultry meats & products	19	24	26	162	152	-6
Dairy products	184	176	-4	1,062	1,080	2
Other animal products	65	67	3	429	456	6
Grains, feeds, & oil meal	331	332	0	2,141	2,370	11
Fruits, juices, & nuts	606	569	-6	3,409	3,665	8
Vegetables & preparations	634	555	-13	3,361	3,883	16
Oilseeds	20	24	17	128	143	12
Vegetable oils	142	145	2	706	905	28
Wine	269	292	9	1,409	1,808	28
Malt beverages	220	247	13	1,362	1,393	2
Coffee	171	172	1	862	1,101	28
Cocoa	219	174	-21	974	1,328	36
Rubber, natural	98	98	0	319	588	84
Sugar, cane & beet	45	72	62	291	343	18
Sugar products	120	133	11	630	822	30
Tobacco, unmanufactured	55	60	10	422	352	-17
Other tropical products	147	215	47	967	1,066	10
Other competitive products	245	328	34	1,472	1,604	9
Total Imports	4,140	4,251	3	23,843	26,816	12

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 2002 and 2003 and April 2003

	Oct.-Apr. 2002	Oct.-Apr. 2003	Apr. 2003		Oct.-Apr. 2002	Oct.-Apr. 2003	Apr. 2003
Wheat				Corn			
	Metric tons				Metric tons		
Dominican Rep.	187,191	7,863,349	0	Japan	8,368,068	8,719,050	1,176,710
Kenya	20,000	6,492,140	0	Mexico	2,524,302	3,519,293	368,750
Japan	1,993,271	1,813,939	309,493	China (Taiwan)	2,716,378	2,695,590	398,162
Mexico	1,380,474	1,519,930	186,175	Canada	1,960,139	2,305,875	388,953
Philippines	832,402	892,833	52,163	Egypt	2,246,348	1,066,674	156,337
Nigeria	1,079,389	845,979	137,751	Colombia	982,285	960,021	83,915
Egypt	2,412,425	841,119	58,552	Dominican Rep.	606,753	615,426	120,509
South Korea	766,992	758,424	108,212	Algeria	867,719	583,812	32,999
China (Taiwan)	575,190	580,518	86,303	Costa Rica	272,016	301,408	38,078
European Union	878,794	427,053	50,977	Venezuela	104,413	275,105	0
World	15,426,705	972,224,712	1,517,653	World	26,972,767	23,692,025	3,248,254
Soybeans	Oct.-Apr. 2002	Oct.-Apr. 2003	Apr. 2003	Cotton	Oct.-Apr. 2002	Oct.-Apr. 2003	Apr. 2003
	Metric tons				Metric tons		
China (Mainland)	3,927,453	7,553,775	358,940	China (Mainland)	26,681	258,651	78,772
European Union	6,774,965	4,957,180	201,258	Turkey	235,415	188,843	32,407
Mexico	2,573,871	2,574,023	426,586	Mexico	155,885	188,552	28,334
Japan	2,447,989	2,505,468	379,556	Indonesia	130,765	99,513	18,687
China (Taiwan)	1,372,363	1,156,356	51,708	Thailand	101,598	71,507	14,304
Indonesia	768,962	810,378	87,573	China (Taiwan)	98,527	70,743	9,807
South Korea	755,628	713,782	80,491	Pakistan	75,870	59,618	21,673
Thailand	679,804	566,182	20	Hong Kong	45,070	53,163	12,743
Canada	637,663	443,533	79,537	Brazil	5,959	48,274	3,807
Israel	426,490	260,670	8,679	South Korea	85,818	46,745	7,952
World	23,108,358	23,698,307	1,805,773	World	1,394,418	1,383,688	275,240

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

Contact Information

Carol Whitton 202-694-5293 cwhitton@ers.usda.gov
 Alberto Jerardo 202-694-5266 ajerardo@ers.usda.gov

Trade Information

Monthly and year-to-date U.S. agricultural trade (FATUS and HTS) data are on the Foreign Agricultural 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>.

Subscription Information

Subscribe to the ERS e-mail notification service at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/updates/> to receive timely notification of newsletter availability. Printed copies can be purchased from the USDA Order Desk by calling 1-800-999-6779 (specify the issue number or series SUB-FAU-4030).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.