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U.S. Agricultural Trade Update

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Agricultural Exports and Imports Decline in April

Websites

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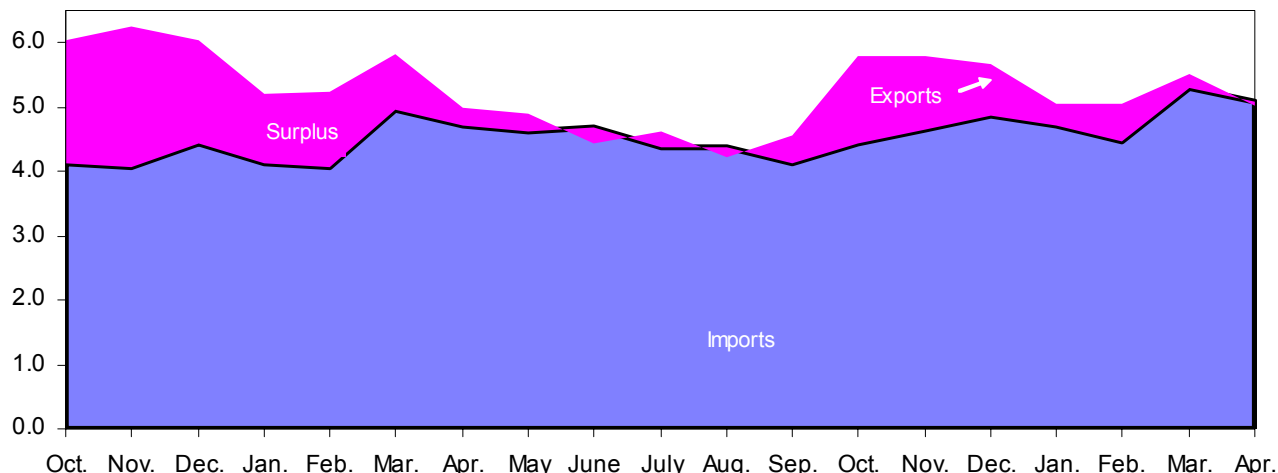
The value of agricultural trade was lower in April than in March 2005. However, the drop in exports was about twice the drop in imports, leaving an agricultural trade deficit of \$35 million for April. The United States exported \$5.035 billion in agricultural products, while importing \$5.07 billion.

Year-to-date, U.S. agricultural exports are down 4 percent from the same period in 2004, imports are up 10 percent, and the trade balance is about half the 2004 level. The value of poultry and products increased 16 percent year-to-date with more than half the value going to Latin America, Canada, and Mexico. The volume of soybeans exported was lower overall, although exports to China and Taiwan (who account for nearly half the volume) were higher. Roughly one-third of U.S. imports come from Canada and Mexico, while one-fourth of our imports originate in the European Union.

Figure 1

Monthly U.S. agricultural trade, fiscal years 2004 and 2005

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
	2005	2005	Apr.>Mar.	2004	2005	'05>'04
	--Million dollars--		Percent	--Million dollars--		Percent
Agricultural exports	5,504	5,035	-9	39,567	37,978	-4
Imports (c.i.f.)	5,713	5,444	-5	32,830	36,115	10
Imports (customs value)	5,306	5,070	-4	30,530	33,545	10
Trade balance						
Exports minus c.i.f. imports	-209	-409	96	6,737	1,863	-72
Exports minus customs-valued imports	198	-35	-118	9,038	4,433	-51
Exports by major commodity group						
Live animals	48	26	-44	340	411	21
Red meats & products	337	359	7	2,316	2,319	0
Poultry meats & products	210	246	17	1,371	1,591	16
Dairy products	167	134	-20	706	1,060	50
Hides & skins	175	137	-22	1,027	981	-5
Animal fats & other products	67	77	15	523	479	-8
Wheat	345	346	0	2,926	2,457	-16
Rice	129	120	-6	808	718	-11
Corn	380	366	-4	3,390	2,754	-19
Other feed grains	54	50	-7	434	354	-18
Other grain products	209	216	4	1,367	1,421	4
Animal feeds & oil meal	367	351	-4	2,451	2,373	-3
Soybeans	679	480	-29	6,506	5,797	-11
Other oilseeds	100	88	-12	585	600	3
Vegetable oils	137	131	-4	901	1,033	15
Fruits, nuts, & products	482	426	-12	3,091	3,397	10
Vegetables & products	497	496	0	3,063	3,252	6
Juice, wine, & beverages	171	172	1	1,177	1,223	4
Cotton & linters	428	319	-25	3,001	2,111	-30
Tobacco, unmanufactured	93	71	-24	751	720	-4
Sugar & tropical products	168	181	8	1,078	1,187	10
Other	262	242	-8	1,755	1,741	-1
Total exports	5,504	5,035	-9	39,567	37,978	-4
Imports (customs value) by major commodity group						
Live animals	123	124	1	858	919	7
Red meats & products	510	511	0	3,121	3,255	4
Poultry meats & products	32	29	-9	193	200	4
Dairy products	278	227	-18	1,266	1,582	25
Other animal products	75	69	-8	452	510	13
Grains, feeds, & oil meal	372	359	-4	2,607	2,660	2
Fruits, juices, & nuts	758	731	-4	4,049	4,741	17
Vegetables & preparations	717	674	-6	4,348	4,717	8
Oilseeds	43	36	-16	186	225	21
Vegetable oils	201	200	-1	1,151	1,256	9
Wine	317	290	-8	1,906	2,101	10
Malt beverages	266	286	7	1,510	1,591	5
Coffee	274	272	-1	1,171	1,542	32
Cocoa	300	227	-24	1,576	1,600	2
Rubber, natural	121	144	19	732	893	22
Sugar, cane & beet	75	58	-23	294	341	16
Sugar products	129	127	-2	881	895	2
Tobacco, unmanufactured	69	18	-74	449	340	-24
Other	646	688	6	3,778	4,175	11
Total imports	5,306	5,070	-4	30,530	33,545	10

Preliminary data.

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

Table 2--Top 10 U.S. export markets for wheat, corn, soybeans, and cotton,
October-April 2004 and 2005 and April 2005

Commodity	Oct.-Apr. 2004	Oct.-Apr. 2005	Apr. 2005
	Metric tons		
Wheat			
Mexico	1,509,818	1,596,514	264,281
Japan	1,536,544	1,398,678	203,678
Nigeria	1,005,328	1,194,343	261,369
Egypt	2,391,587	908,168	9,617
Philippines	509,081	832,798	178,332
South Korea	701,022	592,686	93,852
China (Taiwan)	490,122	569,299	86,900
China (Mainland)	258,240	562,441	854
Venezuela	322,491	422,742	69,636
European Union-25	788,322	374,744	25,837
World	15,068,806	12,984,988	2,084,481
Corn			
Japan	7,675,792	7,711,514	1,307,116
Mexico	3,315,248	3,233,738	461,296
China (Taiwan)	2,506,712	2,285,205	396,930
Egypt	1,713,706	1,706,978	314,236
Canada	1,014,093	1,189,944	167,196
Colombia	1,000,566	1,035,567	240,490
South Korea	1,196,782	935,113	61,000
Algeria	681,731	544,336	67,815
Syria	388,280	509,544	70,542
Dominican Republic	384,445	498,827	73,657
World	24,806,705	23,239,550	3,599,121
Soybeans			
China (Mainland)	8,127,772	9,940,268	1,003,967
European Union-25	2,818,877	4,453,770	338,420
Japan	2,216,355	1,820,331	331,035
Mexico	1,985,736	1,762,320	346,539
China (Taiwan)	1,089,704	1,052,267	150,174
Indonesia	864,150	646,846	96,070
Thailand	378,248	549,834	2,015
South Korea	799,531	449,504	169,647
Turkey	254,283	351,925	30,589
Egypt	71,025	264,481	35,875
World	20,452,090	23,294,812	2,624,356
Cotton			
China (Mainland)	724,033	262,273	86,112
Turkey	144,107	230,819	60,819
Mexico	133,188	157,498	31,470
Indonesia	91,114	138,847	35,748
Thailand	54,581	108,577	25,077
South Korea	53,137	93,121	20,247
Pakistan	73,736	92,574	28,299
China (Taiwan)	35,569	86,102	20,981
Japan	30,495	41,861	9,211
Canada	30,972	32,726	3,807
World	1,594,982	1,496,642	377,629

European Union-25 includes the former EU-15 plus 10 new countries which acceded in May 2004.

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

Contacts and Links

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Data

Monthly and year-to-date U.S. agricultural trade (FATUS and HTS) data are on USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service website <http://www.fas.usda.gov/ustrade/>. Click on FATUS imports or FATUS exports.

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

Related Websites

Articles and general information about U.S. agricultural trade are at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/agtrade>.

Information on specific agricultural commodities, exchange rates, macroeconomics, WTO, and trade-related topics is in other ERS briefing rooms at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/>.

The Foreign Agriculture Service of USDA provides additional information on U.S. agricultural trade policy (<http://www.fas.usda.gov/trade.html>), import programs (<http://www.fas.usda.gov/import.html>), and exporter services (<http://www.fas.usda.gov/agexport/exporter.html>).

U.S. International Trade Commission, <http://dataweb.usitc.gov/>, is the source for U.S. HTS trade data by Customs District and month. USITC also provides information on U.S. tariffs and the U.S. HTS import classifications.

Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, <http://www.census.gov/ftp/pub/foreign-trade/www/>, provides a description of and guide to total U.S. trade, as well as the U.S. HTS export classifications (Schedule B), and much other information about U.S. trade data.

Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, <http://www.ustr.gov/>, provides information on U.S. trade negotiations and enforcement issues.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, <http://www.fao.org/>, provides global agricultural trade by country.

World Trade Organization, <http://www.wto.org/>, provides information on international trade and regulations.

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