

USDA

United States  
Department  
of Agriculture

FAU-103

July 14, 2005



Electronic Outlook Report from the Economic Research Service

www.ers.usda.gov

# U.S. Agricultural Trade Update

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## U.S. Agricultural Trade Retains Slight Surplus in May

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

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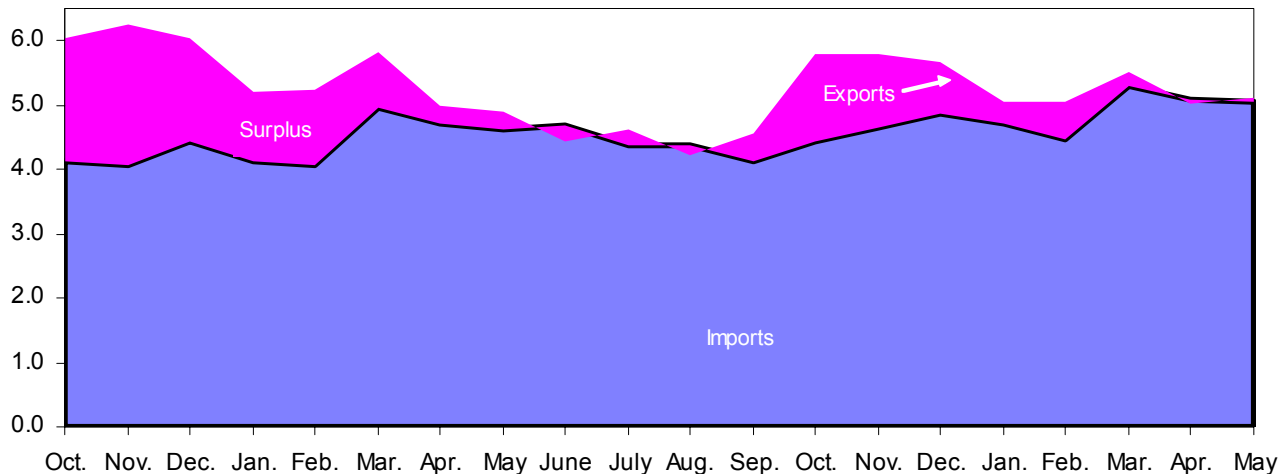
The value of agricultural exports was only slightly higher in May than in April 2005—growing roughly 1 percent. In contrast, the value of agricultural imports fell by about 1 percent over April. This leaves a modest agricultural trade surplus of \$39 million for the month of May. During May, the United States exported \$5.104 billion in agricultural products, while importing \$5.065 billion.

Year-to-date, U.S. agricultural exports are down 3 percent from the same period in 2004, imports are up 10 percent, and the trade balance is just under half the 2004 level. The value of poultry and products increased 18 percent year-to-date, corn exports are down 20 percent and cotton exports are down 29 percent. On the import side, coffee continued growing, up 31 percent year-to-date, while fruit and nut imports rose 17 percent and vegetables and preparations rose 9 percent.

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	Apr.	May	Change	Oct.-May		Change
	2005	2005	May>Apr.	2004	2005	'05>'04
	--Million dollars--		Percent	--Million dollars--		Percent
<b>Agricultural exports</b>	5,035	5,104	1	44,476	43,082	-3
Imports (c.i.f.)	5,444	5,400	-1	37,756	41,515	10
Imports (customs value)	5,070	5,065	0	35,146	38,609	10
<b>Trade balance</b>						
Exports minus c.i.f. imports	-409	-296	-28	6,720	1,567	-77
Exports minus customs-valued imports	-35	39	-212	9,330	4,473	-52
<b>Exports by major commodity group</b>						
Live animals	26	23	-14	361	434	20
Red meats & products	359	403	12	2,587	2,722	5
Poultry meats & products	246	263	7	1,565	1,854	18
Dairy products	134	141	5	817	1,201	47
Hides & skins	137	159	16	1,187	1,140	-4
Animal fats & other products	77	66	-14	606	545	-10
Wheat	346	326	-6	3,358	2,783	-17
Rice	120	120	-1	918	838	-9
Corn	366	388	6	3,913	3,142	-20
Other feed grains	50	50	0	467	404	-13
Other grain products	216	221	2	1,572	1,642	4
Animal feeds & oil meal	351	328	-6	2,764	2,701	-2
Soybeans	480	359	-25	6,707	6,156	-8
Other oilseeds	88	87	-1	661	686	4
Vegetable oils	131	145	11	1,047	1,178	12
Fruits, nuts, & products	426	503	18	3,523	3,899	11
Vegetables & products	496	495	0	3,519	3,748	6
Juice, wine, & beverages	172	189	9	1,372	1,411	3
Cotton & linters	319	355	11	3,485	2,466	-29
Tobacco, unmanufactured	71	87	22	810	807	0
Sugar & tropical products	181	181	0	1,240	1,367	10
Other	242	217	-11	1,997	1,957	-2
Total exports	5,035	5,104	1	44,476	43,082	-3
<b>Imports (customs value) by major commodity group</b>						
Live animals	124	121	-2	951	1,041	9
Red meats & products	511	514	1	3,566	3,769	6
Poultry meats & products	29	30	3	227	229	1
Dairy products	227	199	-12	1,509	1,781	18
Other animal products	69	70	1	515	580	13
Grains, feeds, & oil meal	359	366	2	2,977	3,026	2
Fruits, juices, & nuts	731	749	2	4,701	5,490	17
Vegetables & preparations	674	635	-6	4,896	5,353	9
Oilseeds	36	33	-9	223	258	16
Vegetable oils	200	232	16	1,344	1,489	11
Wine	290	311	7	2,182	2,412	11
Malt beverages	286	282	-1	1,774	1,873	6
Coffee	272	278	2	1,384	1,820	31
Cocoa	227	223	-2	1,776	1,823	3
Rubber, natural	144	103	-29	875	996	14
Sugar, cane & beet	58	48	-17	354	388	10
Sugar products	127	133	5	999	1,028	3
Tobacco, unmanufactured	18	47	161	506	388	-23
Other	688	691	0	4,388	4,866	11
Total imports	5,070	5,065	0	35,146	38,609	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-May 2004 and 2005 and May 2005

Commodity	Oct.-May 2004	Oct.-May 2005	May 2005
	Metric tons		
<b>Wheat</b>			
Japan	2,112,513	1,990,866	206,303
Mexico	1,955,817	1,973,156	147,851
Nigeria	1,382,009	1,648,049	238,502
Philippines	656,427	1,193,399	216,439
Egypt	2,700,212	966,518	0
South Korea	1,009,324	810,258	128,485
China (Taiwan)	741,018	710,894	95,313
European Union-25	1,003,439	700,400	140,647
China (Mainland)	993,325	618,852	55,777
Venezuela	405,035	540,929	48,758
World	20,361,591	17,206,932	2,026,635
<b>Corn</b>			
Japan	10,203,560	10,203,531	1,138,157
Mexico	4,246,748	4,347,976	492,156
China (Taiwan)	3,245,625	2,972,906	459,549
Egypt	2,054,608	2,362,597	350,473
Canada	1,158,048	1,564,804	165,144
Colombia	1,217,614	1,375,292	180,949
South Korea	1,834,927	1,088,677	139,919
Syria	388,280	818,362	211,950
Algeria	890,010	645,233	79,367
Dominican Republic	518,486	621,805	42,195
World	31,853,606	30,476,467	3,710,196
<b>Soybeans</b>			
China (Mainland)	8,127,772	10,851,751	260,505
European Union-25	2,876,505	4,481,562	27,084
Mexico	2,494,353	2,389,704	279,107
Japan	2,628,358	2,262,652	234,132
China (Taiwan)	1,136,901	1,430,120	171,979
Indonesia	933,931	865,447	93,230
South Korea	873,149	575,616	78,484
Thailand	378,438	550,929	0
Turkey	254,303	444,388	48,949
Canada	419,695	287,216	30,600
World	21,776,357	26,418,589	1,349,277
<b>Cotton</b>			
China (Mainland)	971,155	454,385	120,912
Turkey	222,702	300,165	32,567
Mexico	195,504	217,906	29,975
Indonesia	123,224	185,229	19,379
Thailand	77,236	150,164	20,008
Pakistan	85,593	123,798	12,686
South Korea	70,915	114,960	9,889
China (Taiwan)	51,591	113,602	14,092
Japan	41,285	51,030	4,482
Canada	41,731	42,722	4,436
World	2,212,803	2,090,206	308,941

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 web site <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 are 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/ustrade.asp>), import programs (<http://www.fas.usda.gov/importprograms.asp>), and exporter services ([http://www.fas.usda.gov/agx/exporter\\_assistance.asp](http://www.fas.usda.gov/agx/exporter_assistance.asp)).

U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC), <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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