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U.S. Agricultural Trade Update

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U.S. Agricultural Exports Surge in October; Imports Slightly Higher

Websites

- [U.S. Trade Data](#)
- [FAQ & Summary Data](#)
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The next release is
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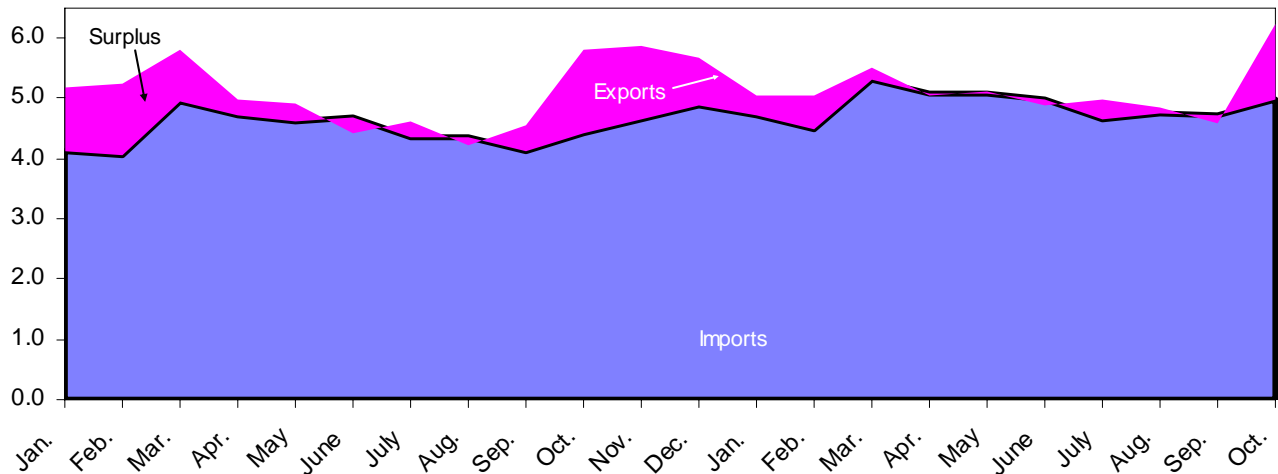
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U.S. agricultural exports rose by \$1.6 billion from September to October while imports rose by only \$200 million. Year-to-date exports, at \$51.3 billion, are \$1.5 billion higher than the same period in 2004. Imports are \$4.3 billion higher at \$48.7 billion. While still maintaining a trade surplus, that surplus has shrunk from \$5.4 billion for the first 10 months of calendar year 2004 to \$2.6 billion for the same period in 2005.

Most of the surge in export value can be attributed to soybeans, fruits, and nuts. The volume of soybean exports was substantially higher in October than in September as U.S. soybeans replaced South American exports. China imported nearly 2 million metric tons of soybeans in October—nearly half of all U.S. soybean exports. On the import side, most of the increase can be attributed to vegetables, fruits, juices, nuts, and wine.

Figure 1

Monthly U.S. agricultural trade, calendar 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	Sept.	Oct.	Change	Jan.-Oct.		Change
	2005	2005	Oct.>Sept.	2004	2005	'05>'04
	--Million dollars--		Percent	--Million dollars--		Percent
Agricultural exports	4,581	6,246	36	49,824	51,281	3
Imports (c.i.f.)	5,047	5,302	5	47,649	52,190	10
Imports (customs value)	4,730	4,970	5	44,436	48,706	10
Trade balance						
Exports minus c.i.f. imports	-466	944	-302	2,176	-909	60
Exports minus customs-valued imports	-149	1,276	-956	5,388	2,575	-52
Exports by major commodity group						
Live animals	35	185	434	279	464	66
Red meats & products	321	364	13	2,554	3,464	36
Poultry meats & products	243	327	35	2,041	2,510	23
Dairy products	134	130	-3	1,179	1,412	20
Hides & skins	147	141	-4	1,491	1,493	0
Animal fats & other products	68	76	12	786	692	-12
Wheat	443	450	1	4,372	3,591	-18
Rice	92	101	9	977	1,081	11
Corn	352	497	41	4,945	3,889	-21
Other feed grains	45	63	40	487	505	4
Other grain products	227	233	3	2,011	2,219	10
Animal feeds & oil meal	318	352	11	3,081	3,310	7
Soybeans	216	911	322	4,650	4,859	5
Other oilseeds	91	124	36	768	871	13
Vegetable oils	117	141	20	1,334	1,332	0
Fruits, nuts, & products	517	746	44	4,358	5,011	15
Vegetables & products	455	501	10	4,370	4,697	7
Juice, wine, & beverages	186	177	-5	1,803	1,777	-1
Cotton & linters	125	177	42	3,698	3,341	-10
Tobacco, unmanufactured	58	94	63	851	760	-11
Sugar & tropical products	186	213	14	1,581	1,779	12
Other	204	243	20	2,206	2,224	1
Total exports	4,581	6,246	36	49,824	51,281	3
Imports (customs value) by major commodity group						
Live animals	214	265	24	1,043	1,423	36
Red meats & products	431	427	-1	4,695	4,693	0
Poultry meats & products	23	26	11	316	288	-9
Dairy products	212	235	11	1,965	2,186	11
Other animal products	65	70	8	678	705	4
Grains, feeds, & oil meal	427	468	10	3,821	3,878	1
Fruits, juices, & nuts	492	549	12	5,703	6,622	16
Vegetables & preparations	544	605	11	5,744	6,173	7
Oilseeds	14	23	59	293	301	2
Vegetable oils	227	205	-9	1,993	2,053	3
Wine	325	386	19	2,751	3,055	11
Malt beverages	270	262	-3	2,330	2,614	12
Coffee	224	228	2	1,872	2,498	33
Cocoa	204	211	3	2,094	2,251	8
Rubber, natural	151	134	-11	1,246	1,264	1
Sugar, cane & beet	114	111	-2	471	691	47
Sugar products	141	145	3	1,287	1,342	4
Tobacco, unmanufactured	47	36	-23	583	517	-11
Other	605	583	-4	5,552	6,151	11
Total imports	4,730	4,970	5	44,436	48,706	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,
January-October 2004 and 2005 and October 2005

Commodity	Jan.-Oct. 2004	Jan.-Oct. 2005	Oct. 2005
	Metric tons		
Wheat			
Nigeria	2,004,272	2,862,933	341,417
Japan	2,643,783	2,516,443	247,668
Mexico	2,202,727	2,292,068	208,726
Philippines	1,066,995	1,455,414	97,063
Egypt	2,607,725	1,125,590	230,586
European Union-25	831,532	1,096,889	180,862
South Korea	1,181,998	957,874	81,082
Iraq	294,417	881,062	259,555
China (Taiwan)	890,212	811,257	111,543
Venezuela	518,558	798,257	116,759
World	26,640,321	22,349,573	2,748,028
Corn			
Japan	12,702,226	12,566,024	1,543,255
Mexico	3,754,108	4,254,926	729,366
China (Taiwan)	3,639,883	3,750,274	479,213
Egypt	2,630,126	3,301,241	423,531
South Korea	4,060,425	1,809,448	165,130
Colombia	1,464,439	1,749,391	268,188
Canada	1,526,600	1,696,307	201,823
Syria	696,085	1,082,640	72,108
Dominican Republic	624,373	821,738	40,355
Algeria	886,979	801,986	208,555
World	39,526,542	36,899,962	4,823,770
Soybeans			
China (Mainland)	5,495,390	6,805,371	1,888,416
Mexico	2,338,311	2,977,003	534,893
Japan	2,460,570	2,322,622	322,202
European Union-25	1,568,981	1,967,157	150,658
China (Taiwan)	713,004	1,296,220	146,759
Indonesia	722,135	933,555	204,448
South Korea	696,798	480,035	320
Turkey	142,132	313,286	36,757
Canada	431,631	288,533	27,186
Egypt	43,907	260,236	118,891
World	15,993,816	19,523,273	3,895,724
Cotton			
China (Mainland)	818,421	1,024,917	66,815
Turkey	282,789	425,246	26,755
Mexico	302,946	295,271	17,175
Indonesia	160,092	204,557	5,856
Thailand	95,985	146,226	5,752
China (Taiwan)	79,935	142,970	3,075
South Korea	76,190	110,897	5,740
Pakistan	105,850	109,092	2,547
Hong Kong	36,329	55,963	609
Japan	42,650	50,110	1,643
World	2,449,764	2,944,801	155,492

1/ 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.

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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>.

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).

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.

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