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# U.S. Agricultural Trade Update

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## U.S. Agricultural Trade Slows From March to April

### Websites

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Approved by the World  
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Board.

As it has every year since 1976, the value of U.S. agricultural exports fell from March to April—this year by 16 percent. Fiscal-year-to-date exports are running at nearly \$41 billion—about \$3 billion higher than the same period in fiscal 2005. Year-to-date export values of red meat, rice, corn, and fruits and nuts are all 18 percent higher than last year. Corn shipments are markedly higher to South Korea (up 50 percent in volume) while soybean shipments to the EU-25 are down 63 percent in volume from the first 7 months of fiscal 2005. Cotton shipments were down to all U.S. major markets except China and Colombia.

After rising nearly 20 percent from February to March, the value of U.S. agricultural imports fell by 9 percent from March to April. Imports are running at \$37.6 billion so far in fiscal 2006, compared with \$33.5 billion at this time during fiscal 2005. Sugar is the fastest growing import—its value has more than doubled compared with the first 7 months of fiscal 2005. Imports of vegetable oils and live animals are higher so far this fiscal year compared with fiscal 2005, despite declines from March to April. Fruit, vegetable, and beverage imports continued growing steadily.

Figure 1

### Monthly U.S. agricultural trade, 2005 and 2006

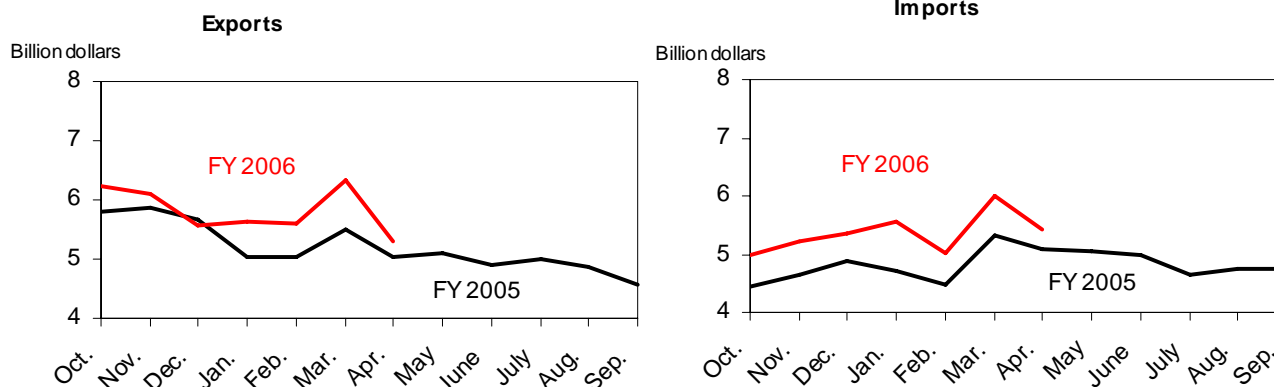


Table 1--U.S. agricultural trade, year-to-date and current months

Item	Mar.	Apr.	Change	Oct.-Apr.		Change
	2006	2006	Apr.>Mar.	2005	2006	'06>'05
	--Million dollars--		Percent	--Million dollars--		Percent
<b>Agricultural exports</b>	6,324	5,284	-16	37,968	40,763	7
Imports (c.i.f.)	6,450	5,829	-10	36,115	40,300	12
Imports (customs value)	5,994	5,431	-9	33,548	37,568	12
<b>Trade balance</b>						
Exports minus c.i.f. imports	916	-545	-160	1,854	462	-75
Exports minus customs-valued imports	330	-147	-144	4,420	3,194	-28
<b>Exports by major commodity group</b>						
Live animals	34	27	-21	411	453	10
Red meats & products	424	399	-6	2,320	2,763	19
Poultry meats & products	222	188	-15	1,592	1,670	5
Dairy products	155	159	3	1,057	978	-7
Hides & skins	213	162	-24	980	1,098	12
Animal fats & other products	75	70	-7	479	479	0
Wheat	352	321	-9	2,454	2,562	4
Rice	144	122	-16	711	842	18
Corn	520	499	-4	2,750	3,232	18
Other feed grains	70	73	4	353	399	13
Other grain products	250	245	-2	1,423	1,653	16
Animal feeds & oil meal	389	329	-15	2,373	2,538	7
Soybeans	632	284	-55	5,793	4,764	-18
Other oilseeds	103	92	-11	600	721	20
Vegetable oils	168	146	-13	1,034	1,025	-1
Fruits, nuts, & products	531	445	-16	3,397	4,024	18
Vegetables & products	523	526	1	3,252	3,573	10
Juice, wine, & beverages	216	214	-1	1,224	1,290	5
Cotton & linters	672	503	-25	2,116	2,824	33
Tobacco, unmanufactured	163	67	-59	720	782	9
Sugar & tropical products	204	177	-13	1,186	1,338	13
Other	263	237	-10	1,740	1,756	1
Total exports	6,324	5,284	-16	37,968	40,763	7
<b>Imports (customs value) by major commodity group</b>						
Live animals	265	195	-26	920	1,718	87
Red meats & products	492	386	-22	3,256	3,061	-6
Poultry meats & products	27	33	24	200	210	5
Dairy products	226	202	-11	1,581	1,611	2
Other animal products	77	75	-3	510	536	5
Grains, feeds, & oil meal	439	399	-9	2,660	2,956	11
Fruits, juices, & nuts	876	829	-5	4,744	5,212	10
Vegetables & preparations	777	691	-11	4,719	5,193	10
Oilseeds	38	31	-19	225	201	-11
Vegetable oils	285	254	-11	1,256	1,608	28
Wine	325	335	3	2,102	2,265	8
Malt beverages	303	311	3	1,591	1,829	15
Coffee	310	253	-18	1,542	1,746	13
Cocoa	219	192	-12	1,600	1,561	-2
Rubber, natural	183	143	-22	893	1,063	19
Sugar, cane & beet	195	107	-45	341	778	128
Sugar products	132	125	-6	896	930	4
Tobacco, unmanufactured	85	65	-23	340	444	30
Other	738	803	9	4,172	4,647	11
Total imports	5,994	5,431	-9	33,548	37,568	12

Preliminary data.

Sources: Compiled by ERS from Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Table 2--Top 10 U.S. export markets for wheat, corn, soybeans, and cotton,  
October-April 2005 and 2006 and April 2006

Commodity	Oct.-Apr. 2005	Oct.-Apr. 2006	Apr. 2006
	Metric tons		
<b>Wheat</b>			
Iraq	114,918	1,691,611	202,569
Japan	1,784,563	1,618,112	242,687
Nigeria	1,409,547	1,589,503	224,446
Mexico	1,825,305	1,405,287	129,129
Philippines	976,960	953,363	126,970
Egypt	966,518	712,710	67,658
South Korea	681,773	636,227	69,610
Venezuela	492,171	617,434	55,933
China (Taiwan)	615,581	581,540	85,434
European Union-25	559,753	577,498	86,286
World	15,160,576	15,353,078	1,877,093
<b>Corn</b>			
Japan	9,047,249	9,480,592	1,211,335
Mexico	3,820,477	3,981,760	680,054
China (Taiwan)	2,513,357	2,908,782	387,297
South Korea	948,758	2,376,985	757,564
Egypt	2,012,124	1,888,184	158,151
Colombia	1,194,343	1,634,181	116,888
Canada	1,400,237	960,471	110,773
Algeria	565,866	717,416	93,919
Dominican Republic	579,610	600,522	66,261
Morocco	487,164	524,337	40,273
World	26,729,823	29,848,215	4,377,168
<b>Soybeans</b>			
China (Mainland)	10,591,246	8,882,802	250,728
Mexico	2,110,597	2,158,691	351,823
Japan	2,028,538	2,031,804	220,706
European Union-25	4,432,478	1,631,731	26,060
China (Taiwan)	1,260,407	1,143,208	80,909
Indonesia	772,217	729,293	67,278
Egypt	272,581	494,696	10,082
South Korea	497,132	414,807	26,249
Turkey	395,439	345,022	40,547
Canada	256,658	237,294	17,485
World	25,049,638	19,830,990	1,181,128
<b>Cotton</b>			
China (Mainland)	334,506	1,183,644	238,335
Turkey	267,598	209,803	28,831
Mexico	187,954	144,725	25,455
Indonesia	166,139	109,277	18,398
China (Taiwan)	100,342	66,112	12,596
Thailand	130,157	64,785	11,046
South Korea	105,301	57,733	9,882
Pakistan	112,325	44,469	3,739
Colombia	15,070	34,101	4,490
Japan	46,644	31,771	3,177
World	1,785,447	2,195,289	399,117

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

Sources: Compiled by ERS from Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.

## Contacts and Links

### Contact Information

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### New table format coming in August

Beginning in August, the tables in this report will be reformatted to provide additional commodity and country detail. This change reflects the rapid change in trade values in general and the changing composition of commodity trade. We will also include special articles to highlight issues as they arise.

### 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](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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