

USDA

United States
Department
of Agriculture

FAU-115

July 13, 2006



Electronic Outlook Report from the Economic Research Service

www.ers.usda.gov

U.S. Agricultural Trade Update

Nora Brooks, coordinator

U.S. Agricultural Trade Grows From April to May

Websites

[U.S. Trade Data](#)

[FAQ & Summary Data](#)

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

The next release is

Aug. 11, 2006

Approved by the World

Agricultural Outlook

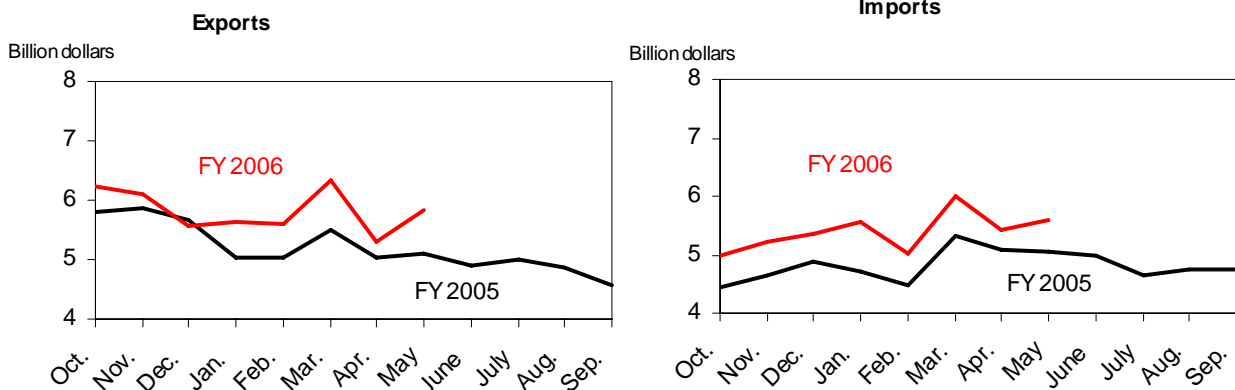
Board.

As in 2005, the value of U.S. agricultural exports grew from April to May—this year by 10 percent. Fiscal-year-to-date exports are \$46.6 billion—about \$3.5 billion higher than the same period in fiscal 2005. Year-to-date export values of cotton, red meat, corn, and fruits and nuts are all substantially higher than last year. Corn shipments to South Korea have grown monthly since January 2006, while soybean shipments to the European Union-25 have fallen just as sharply during the same time. Cotton shipments to China have declined somewhat in the past few months, but China continues to account for half of U.S. cotton shipments.

After falling by 9 percent from March to April, the value of U.S. agricultural imports rose by 3 percent from April to May. Imports are \$43.2 billion so far in fiscal 2006, up \$4.6 billion from this time during fiscal 2005. Sugar is the fastest growing import—its value has more than doubled compared with the first 8 months of fiscal 2005. Imports of vegetable oils (mostly palm and coconut oils from Asia and olive oil from the EU-25) are considerably higher so far this fiscal year compared with fiscal 2005. Fruit, vegetable, and beverage imports continued growing steadily.

Figure 1

Monthly U.S. agricultural trade, 2005 and 2006



Source: Compiled by ERS using data from 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
	2006	2006	May>Apr.	2005	2006	'06>'05
	--Million dollars--		Percent	--Million dollars--		Percent
Agricultural exports	5,284	5,837	10	43,073	46,600	8
Imports (c.i.f.)	5,829	5,951	2	41,515	46,251	11
Imports (customs value)	5,431	5,589	3	38,613	43,157	12
Trade balance						
Exports minus c.i.f. imports	-545	-114	-79	1,557	349	-78
Exports minus customs-valued imports	-147	248	-269	4,460	3,443	-23
Exports by major commodity group						
Live animals	27	27	-1	434	480	11
Red meats & products	399	468	17	2,723	3,231	19
Poultry meats & products	188	221	17	1,855	1,891	2
Dairy products	159	183	15	1,198	1,162	-3
Hides & skins	162	196	21	1,139	1,295	14
Animal fats & other products	70	75	8	545	554	2
Wheat	321	343	7	2,780	2,905	4
Rice	122	100	-18	831	942	13
Corn	499	604	21	3,139	3,836	22
Other feed grains	73	56	-24	404	455	13
Other grain products	245	275	12	1,644	1,928	17
Animal feeds & oil meal	329	385	17	2,702	2,922	8
Soybeans	284	312	10	6,152	5,075	-18
Other oilseeds	92	89	-4	686	809	18
Vegetable oils	146	138	-5	1,179	1,163	-1
Fruits, nuts, & products	445	535	20	3,900	4,559	17
Vegetables & products	526	558	6	3,747	4,130	10
Juice, wine, & beverages	214	254	19	1,413	1,544	9
Cotton & linters	503	503	0	2,471	3,327	35
Tobacco, unmanufactured	67	80	19	807	862	7
Sugar & tropical products	177	208	18	1,367	1,546	13
Other	237	227	-4	1,957	1,983	1
Total exports	5,284	5,837	10	43,073	46,600	8
Imports (customs value) by major commodity group						
Live animals	195	148	-24	1,041	1,866	79
Red meats & products	386	420	9	3,770	3,481	-8
Poultry meats & products	33	34	4	229	244	7
Dairy products	202	208	3	1,780	1,819	2
Other animal products	75	78	5	580	614	6
Grains, feeds, & oil meal	399	430	8	3,026	3,386	12
Fruits, juices, & nuts	829	728	-12	5,493	5,940	8
Vegetables & preparations	691	662	-4	5,355	5,855	9
Oilseeds	31	36	17	258	237	-8
Vegetable oils	254	265	4	1,488	1,873	26
Wine	335	373	11	2,413	2,638	9
Malt beverages	311	330	6	1,873	2,160	15
Coffee	253	315	24	1,820	2,061	13
Cocoa	192	192	0	1,823	1,753	-4
Rubber, natural	143	233	63	996	1,296	30
Sugar, cane & beet	107	127	19	388	905	133
Sugar products	125	151	21	1,029	1,081	5
Tobacco, unmanufactured	65	86	32	388	530	37
Other	803	773	-4	4,864	5,419	11
Total imports	5,431	5,589	3	38,613	43,157	12

Preliminary data.

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

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

Commodity	Oct.-May 2005	Oct.-May 2006	May 2006
	Metric tons		
Wheat			
Japan	1,990,866	1,952,414	334,302
Iraq	233,006	1,889,176	197,565
Nigeria	1,648,049	1,794,992	205,489
Mexico	1,973,156	1,592,962	187,675
Philippines	1,193,399	1,124,720	171,357
Egypt	966,518	770,210	57,500
Venezuela	540,929	758,729	141,295
South Korea	810,258	722,032	85,805
China (Taiwan)	710,894	624,064	42,524
European Union-25	700,400	611,847	34,349
World	17,187,211	17,316,259	1,963,181
Corn			
Japan	10,185,406	10,754,052	1,273,460
Mexico	4,312,633	4,504,680	522,920
China (Taiwan)	2,972,906	3,280,102	371,320
South Korea	1,088,677	3,214,507	837,522
Egypt	2,362,597	2,209,447	321,263
Colombia	1,375,292	1,895,146	260,965
Canada	1,565,381	1,126,572	166,101
Algeria	645,233	880,028	162,612
Morocco	573,370	716,872	192,535
Dominican Republic	621,805	674,476	73,954
World	30,440,019	35,194,986	5,346,771
Soybeans			
China (Mainland)	10,851,751	9,121,774	238,972
Mexico	2,389,704	2,455,551	296,860
Japan	2,262,670	2,319,002	287,198
European Union-25	4,459,562	1,633,227	1,496
China (Taiwan)	1,432,386	1,216,169	72,961
Indonesia	865,447	930,093	200,800
Egypt	281,414	494,696	0
South Korea	575,616	414,843	36
Turkey	444,388	385,312	40,290
Canada	287,258	254,883	17,589
World	26,398,915	21,095,808	1,264,818
Cotton			
China (Mainland)	455,418	1,399,291	215,647
Turkey	300,165	248,682	38,879
Mexico	217,929	179,506	34,781
Indonesia	185,518	124,053	14,775
China (Taiwan)	114,434	79,781	13,669
Thailand	150,165	76,997	12,212
South Korea	115,189	67,622	9,890
Pakistan	125,011	53,092	8,623
Colombia	19,711	39,818	5,716
Brazil	18,505	39,457	10,245
World	2,094,388	2,594,554	399,265

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

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

Contacts and Links

Contact Information

Nora Brooks 202-694-5211 nbrooks@ers.usda.gov

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).

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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and, where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

E-mail Notification

Readers of ERS outlook reports have two ways they can receive an e-mail notice about release of reports and associated data.

- Receive timely notification (soon after the report is posted on the web) via USDA's Economics, Statistics and Market Information System (which is housed at Cornell University's Mann Library). Go to http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/es_netid.html and follow the instructions to receive e-mail notices about ERS, Agricultural Marketing Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board products.

- Receive weekly notification (on Friday afternoon) via the ERS website. Go to <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Updates/> and follow the instructions to receive notices about ERS outlook reports, Amber Waves magazine, and other reports and data products on specific topics. ERS also offers RSS (really simple syndication) feeds for all ERS products. Go to <http://www.ers.usda.gov/rss/> to get started.