



United States
Department
of Agriculture

FAU-113

May 15, 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 Surplus at \$3.3 Billion in First Half of Fiscal Year 2006

Websites

[U.S. Trade Data](#)
[FAQ & Summary Data](#)
[Articles on U.S. Trade](#)

The next release is
June 12, 2006

Approved by the World
Agricultural Outlook
Board.

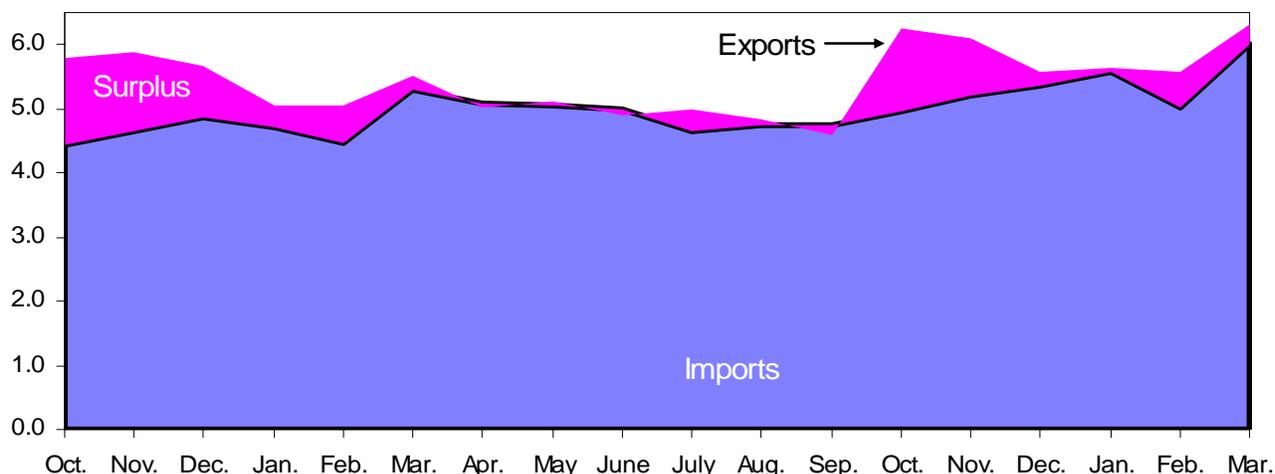
For the first half of fiscal year 2006, exports are \$2.5 billion higher than the same period in fiscal 2005; imports are \$3.7 billion higher. The trade surplus continues to shrink, falling 25 percent from the first half of fiscal 2005. From February to March, U.S. agricultural export value rose by 13 percent; imports rose by nearly 20 percent.

The value of U.S. cotton exports for the first half of fiscal 2006 are nearly 30 percent higher than during the first half of fiscal 2005. China accounts for all of the increase, offsetting declines in other major markets. Red meat exports are also 20 percent above 2005. Sugar, live animal, and vegetable oil imports saw the largest percentage growth. Fruit, vegetable, and beverage imports continued growing steadily.

Figure 1

Monthly U.S. agricultural trade, fiscal years 2005 and 2006

Billion dollars



Sources: Compiled by ERS from Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

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

Item	Feb.	Mar.	Change	Oct.-Mar.		Change
	2006	2006	Mar.>Feb.	2005	2006	'06>'05
	--Million dollars--		Percent	--Million dollars--		Percent
Agricultural exports	5,589	6,324	13	32,933	35,479	8
Imports (c.i.f.)	5,408	6,450	19	30,671	34,471	12
Imports (customs value)	5,030	5,994	19	28,478	32,138	13
Trade balance						
Exports minus c.i.f. imports	181	-126	-170	2,263	1,008	-55
Exports minus customs-valued imports	559	330	-41	4,455	3,341	-25
Exports by major commodity group						
Live animals	27	34	25	385	426	11
Red meats & products	364	424	16	1,961	2,364	21
Poultry meats & products	208	222	7	1,347	1,482	10
Dairy products	146	155	6	923	819	-11
Hides & skins	153	213	39	843	936	11
Animal fats & other products	58	75	28	402	409	2
Wheat	325	352	8	2,108	2,241	6
Rice	135	144	7	591	720	22
Corn	390	520	33	2,385	2,732	15
Other feed grains	59	70	19	303	326	8
Other grain products	218	250	15	1,207	1,408	17
Animal feeds & oil meal	387	389	0	2,022	2,208	9
Soybeans	730	632	-13	5,313	4,480	-16
Other oilseeds	100	103	3	512	629	23
Vegetable oils	128	168	31	903	879	-3
Fruits, nuts, & products	467	531	14	2,971	3,579	20
Vegetables & products	468	523	12	2,756	3,047	11
Juice, wine, & beverages	170	216	27	1,052	1,076	2
Cotton & linters	501	672	34	1,798	2,321	29
Tobacco, unmanufactured	128	163	28	649	715	10
Sugar & tropical products	178	204	15	1,006	1,162	16
Other	248	263	6	1,498	1,519	1
Total exports	5,589	6,324	13	32,933	35,479	8
Imports (customs value) by major commodity group						
Live animals	234	265	13	796	1,523	91
Red meats & products	387	492	27	2,745	2,675	-3
Poultry meats & products	25	27	8	171	177	4
Dairy products	174	226	30	1,354	1,409	4
Other animal products	65	77	17	441	461	5
Grains, feeds, & oil meal	389	439	13	2,301	2,557	11
Fruits, juices, & nuts	761	876	15	4,013	4,382	9
Vegetables & preparations	778	777	0	4,046	4,502	11
Oilseeds	27	38	39	189	170	-10
Vegetable oils	211	285	35	1,056	1,354	28
Wine	236	325	38	1,812	1,930	6
Malt beverages	240	303	26	1,305	1,518	16
Coffee	238	310	31	1,270	1,492	18
Cocoa	207	219	6	1,373	1,369	0
Rubber, natural	126	183	46	750	920	23
Sugar, cane & beet	66	195	195	283	671	137
Sugar products	122	132	8	768	806	5
Tobacco, unmanufactured	96	85	-11	322	378	17
Other	647	738	14	3,484	3,843	10
Total imports	5,030	5,994	19	28,478	32,138	13

Preliminary data.

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

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

Commodity	Oct.-Mar. 2005	Oct.-Mar. 2006	Mar. 2006
	Metric tons		
Wheat			
Iraq	57,393	1,489,042	150,407
Japan	1,398,678	1,375,425	140,282
Nigeria	1,194,343	1,365,057	317,753
Mexico	1,596,514	1,276,158	210,976
Philippines	832,798	826,393	203,176
Egypt	908,168	645,052	57,917
South Korea	592,686	566,617	96,107
Venezuela	422,742	561,501	101,446
China (Taiwan)	569,299	496,106	119,348
European Union-25	374,744	491,212	39,305
World	12,965,267	13,475,985	2,021,244
Corn			
Japan	7,693,389	8,269,257	1,569,952
Mexico	3,198,395	3,301,706	727,993
China (Taiwan)	2,285,205	2,521,485	326,733
Egypt	1,706,978	1,730,033	165,990
South Korea	935,113	1,619,421	538,086
Colombia	1,035,567	1,517,293	322,182
Canada	1,190,521	849,698	97,906
Algeria	544,336	623,497	68,920
Dominican Republic	498,827	534,261	123,974
Morocco	449,269	484,064	25,143
World	23,203,102	25,471,047	4,615,273
Soybeans			
China (Mainland)	9,940,268	8,632,074	1,254,303
Japan	1,820,349	1,811,098	311,233
Mexico	1,762,320	1,806,868	285,575
European Union-25	4,431,770	1,605,671	68,454
China (Taiwan)	1,054,533	1,062,299	142,185
Indonesia	646,846	662,015	88,397
Egypt	264,481	484,614	92,834
South Korea	449,504	388,558	82,022
Turkey	351,925	304,475	89,939
Canada	224,500	219,809	25,103
World	23,275,138	18,649,862	2,601,603
Cotton			
China (Mainland)	263,306	945,309	300,583
Turkey	230,819	180,972	30,781
Mexico	157,521	119,270	24,773
Indonesia	139,136	90,879	23,195
Thailand	108,578	53,738	13,637
China (Taiwan)	86,935	53,516	18,339
South Korea	93,350	47,851	9,139
Pakistan	93,787	40,730	10,516
Colombia	14,690	29,611	3,694
Japan	41,956	28,594	7,354
World	1,500,824	1,796,173	499,883

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

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

Contacts and Links

Contact Information

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

Subscription Information

Subscribe to ERS' e-mail notification service at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/updates/> to receive timely notification of newsletter availability. Printed copies can be purchased from the USDA Order Desk by calling 1-800-999-6779.

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_s_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.

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.