USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Electronic Outlook Report from the
Economic Research Service and Foreign Agricultural Service

www.ers.usda.gov
www.fas.usda.gov

AES-52

Nov. 22, 2006

Outlook

Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade

FY 2007 U.S. Agricultural Exports Revised to a Record $77 Billion; Import Forecast Set at $69 Billion

Contents

Tables

Web Sites

U.S. Trade Data
FAQ & Summary Data
Articles on U.S. Trade

The next release is March 1, 2007

Approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board, the Economic Research Service, and the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Fiscal 2007 agricultural exports are forecast at a record $77 billion, up $5 billion from the August forecast, and $8.3 from fiscal 2006. Corn exports are raised $2.1 billion from August to a near-record $8.9 billion on higher prices due to continued strong demand and tightening domestic supply. The U.S. corn crop is estimated slightly smaller. Domestic use for ethanol and overseas demand for feed use remains strong. Wheat exports are raised $340 million on tighter world supply and reduced competition from Australia. Soybean exports are raised $900 million, and soybean meal and oil are also increased on higher expected unit values and volumes. The improved outlook for the soybean complex reflects higher prices, record crushing, slowed production growth in South America, a record U.S. crop, and strong demand from China. China replaces the EU-25 as the fourth largest market for U.S. agricultural exports largely due to sales prospects for soybeans. Livestock product exports to all destinations are raised $800 million.

Fiscal 2007 agricultural imports are forecast at a record $69 billion, up $500 million from the August forecast. Though record high, the rate of import growth is the slowest since 2003, the result of a weaker dollar, stable livestock trade, and a slower rate of growth for sugar and tropical products. Fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, wine and beer, beef and pork, grain-based snack foods and confectioneries will continue to account for over half of the growth in 2007.

Table 1--U.S. agricultural trade, fiscal years 2002-2007, year ending September 30

Item	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Forecast Fiscal 2007	
						Aug.	Nov.
Exports	53.3	56.0	62.4	62.5	68.7	72.0	77.0
Imports	41.0	45.7	52.7	57.7	64.0	68.5	69.0
Balance	12.3	10.3	9.7	4.8	4.7	3.5	8.0

Reflects forecasts in the November 9, 2006, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* report.

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Economic Outlook

U.S. real gross domestic product (GDP) grew above trend, at 3.3 percent in 2006. Growth is expected to slow in 2007 to 3 percent. World GDP growth, estimated at 3.8 percent in 2006, is slated to slow to 3.3 percent in 2007. Overall world growth comes from continuing strong economic performances in Asia, the Transition Economies (such as Russia, Poland, and Ukraine), and the Western Hemisphere in 2007. Slow growth in Europe and Japan in 2007 will also slow world growth. High oil prices will keep U.S. farm fuel and fertilizer costs high in 2007, although lower than in 2006.

Risks From Energy Prices Fall, but Dollar Risk Remains

Even as world growth slows, the chance of a sharper slowdown has declined. The risk to continuing strong world growth from crude oil and other industrial commodity prices has ebbed, as oil and material input prices fell in the last quarter of 2006. Although energy prices are expected to remain high and to continue to put pressure on farm fuel and fertilizer costs, they have had only a modest impact on growth. As inflation has slowed, the risk of central banks raising interest rates sharply to slow future inflation has fallen. The world economy has responded to high input prices with minimal disruption. Financial markets have discounted the possibility of sharply higher inflation, so long-term bond yields remain relatively low. The one big risk remaining is to the dollar. In the context of Chinese currency appreciation, the dollar's future becomes quite uncertain.

West Texas Intermediate Crude oil briefly exceeded $77 per barrel, but has fallen to $58. Crude prices in 2007 are expected to be down modestly from 2006. Due to fast growth in India and China, non-energy raw material prices soared this summer before dropping this fall. October 2006's CRB industrial raw material price index is up 17 percent from October 2005, pressuring inflation in 2007.

Developed Economies

U.S. interest rates moved up in 2006. Short-term rates rose due to Federal Reserve Board tightening through the late summer. Treasury bill yields rose to almost 5 percent, while long-term Treasury bond rates rose more modestly to slightly below 4.7 percent. Rising long-term rates reflect a higher inflation risk premium from oil and materials price inflation and higher short-term rates. Ample foreign savings to fund the U.S. trade deficit have limited the rise in long-term rates. With taming of inflationary pressures, the Federal Reserve Board is not expected to boost short-term interest rates in 2007. In 2006, consumer price index (CPI) inflation rose 3.1 percent, partly as a result of energy price increases, and is expected to hit 2.5 percent in 2007. In 2006, the dollar depreciated against the Canadian dollar, the euro, the yen, the yuan, and Brazil's real. It was flat against the Mexican peso and appreciated against the Argentine peso.

Canadian GDP growth of 2.6 percent is slated for 2007, down from 3 percent in 2006. The U.S. dollar is expected to appreciate against the Canadian dollar in 2007. Falling industrial commodity and energy prices and maturing investment prospects will modestly reverse the Canadian dollar's near-record strength of 2006. Canada will retain its large trade surplus with the United States.

Japan's GDP is expected to grow 2.5 percent in 2007. The yen is expected to depreciate against the dollar in 2007, despite Japan's perennial high trade surplus with the United States and the tighter Japanese monetary policy expected in 2007.

The European Union-25 (EU-25) is expected to grow 2 percent in 2007. The dollar should depreciate modestly against the euro in 2007. The U.S. trade deficit with Europe in 2007 is expected to shrink, as the euro will still be relatively strong.

World Growth Prospects for 2007 Highly Dependent on China

China's growth has been central to robust world economic growth. In 2007, China is expected to grow 10 percent, following 11 percent in 2006. Chinese exports and investment grew 27 percent in the first three quarters of 2006. China's imports in the first 9 months of 2006 grew 22 percent, supporting solid world growth and high oil, industrial materials, and commodity prices. As China has instituted a more flexible exchange rate regime, the dollar is expected to depreciate modestly against the yuan in 2007, given the large trade surplus China has with the United States.

Developing Economies

Economic growth in developing countries in 2007 is expected to slow to 6 percent, down from 6.5 percent in 2006. Developing Asia is the fastest growing region. Growth in Asia is likely to exceed 7 percent in 2007, down from 7.5 percent in 2006. India's GDP grew nearly 9 percent in 2006, led by export growth. In the second quarter, exports grew 29 percent, led by a 169 percent growth in financial services exports. GDP growth is expected to reach 7 percent in 2007. Growth in South Korea and Southeast Asia will be 5.5 percent—the same as in 2006. Asian currencies should continue to strengthen against the dollar.

The six major economies in Latin America—Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Chile—are growing rapidly. The region is projected to grow over 4 percent in 2007, below the 5 percent of 2006. Growth in Brazil is 3.5 percent in 2006, rising to 4.1 percent in 2007. Growth in Argentina is likely to slow from over 8 percent in 2006 to 5 percent in 2007. Depreciation of the peso will keep Argentina a strong agricultural export competitor through 2007. Mexico's GDP growth is expected to slow to 4 percent in 2007, down from 5 percent in 2006. Colombia's GDP growth is expected to slow from 5 percent in 2006 to 4 percent in 2007. Chile, which has followed a strong export-oriented policy, is projected to continue strong GDP growth of 5.5 percent into 2007. The major currencies of this region, except the Argentine peso, should appreciate relative to the dollar in 2007.

GDP growth rates continue to be substantial for most countries of the former Soviet Union. While Africa's growth has improved markedly in recent years, to an average rate exceeding 4 percent, growth varies considerably among countries there.

Exchange Rates

As the dollar appreciates against the yen, and weakens against developing nations' currencies and the Euro in 2007, the farm trade-weighted dollar should fall modestly in 2007, continuing to support U.S. farm and manufacturing exports.

Export Products

The fiscal 2007 forecast for grain and feed exports is $22.1 billion, up $3.1 billion from the August estimate and $3.8 billion higher than fiscal 2006. This improved outlook for the year is largely due to higher expected unit values for corn. Corn export volume is adjusted up somewhat from August to 55.5 million tons, but still remains slightly lower than the previous year due to tighter U.S. supplies. With increased demand for available supplies, fiscal 2007 corn export unit value is raised sharply from August and is forecast to jump from $110 per ton in 2006 to $160 per ton in 2007, boosting export value by $2.7 billion to a near-record $8.9 billion in fiscal 2007. The estimate for the U.S. corn crop is slightly smaller than in August, and down 3 percent from 2005/06. In external markets, demand remains strong, and limited competition from China and Argentina means that the outlook for U.S. corn shipments to South Korea and other Asian markets is good. For sorghum exports, a high unit value and slightly higher volume boosts value about $150 million to an estimated $700 million in fiscal 2007.

The forecast for 2007 wheat exports is raised 1 million tons and $300 million since August to 26 million tons valued at $4.9 billion. Lower world production and tightening world supplies since August raise expected export unit value to $190 per ton for fiscal 2007, up from the previous years' $172 per ton. Despite the smaller U.S. crop relative to last year, shipments are expected to increase in fiscal 2007 due to less competition from Australia where drought has decimated the crop. The rice export forecast is increased 200,000 tons from the August estimate to 3.7 million tons, but the value remains unchanged at $1.3 billion due to lower unit values. A downward revision in export unit values is expected to result in stronger sales to Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. The higher export forecast is based on larger U.S. supplies, verified by the August Rice Stocks Report, and a forecast lower unit value.

The fiscal 2007 forecast for oilseeds and products is $12.4 billion, up $1.3 billion from the August estimate and $1.7 billion higher than the previous year. The improved outlook is due to higher volumes and unit values for soybeans and soybean meal and oil. Soybeans are raised to 31.2 million tons, valued at $7.8 billion. An expected record 2006/07 U.S. soybean crop, combined with a relatively small increase in South American production, should raise the U.S. share of world trade. The soybean meal forecast was raised because of recent sales increases to Mexico and other markets. Prospects for U.S. soybean oil are bright, with strong and rising demand for vegetable oils for food and biodiesel markets.

The fiscal 2007 cotton export forecast remains unchanged at 3.5 million tons. Despite a slight downward revision in export unit value since August, lowering export value by $100 million, export value remains a record $5 billion. Price expectations for fiscal 2007 are down somewhat from August, mainly due to larger crops in the major producing countries of China, India, and the United States.

The forecast for fiscal 2007 exports of livestock, poultry, and dairy products is increased to a record $14.2 billion, up $800 million from the August forecast. Volume and unit value revisions for beef, pork, and cattle hides account for most of the increase since August. Beef exports are forecast to rise more than $200 million to $1.9 billion due to an 8-percent increase in volume to 475,000 tons, primarily due to increased shipments to Mexico and Canada. Beef exports are also raised because in September 2006 South Korea agreed to accept U.S. boneless beef from animals under 30 months of age. But uncertainty over the rules governing the handling of restricted materials is hindering shipments. A modest increase for pork exports to $2.5 billion is forecast based on higher unit values. U.S. pork prices remain attractive, the dollar remains competitive, and continued sales growth to Russia and Mexico is expected. The broiler meat export forecast is reduced from August as unit values and volumes are expected to be slightly lower. Dairy export value is raised slightly due to higher expected prices.

The forecast for U.S. horticultural products remains unchanged from August at a record $18.4 billion, up $1.7 billion from the previous year. A competitive U.S. dollar, strong foreign demand, and high prices for many products support this outlook. A little less than half the expected gain is due to increased sales of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables and tree nuts. The remainder is due to increased sales of wine and various miscellaneous food preparations. With three-fourths of U.S. horticultural exports shipped to Canada, Japan, the EU-25, and Mexico, these four markets are again expected to account for most of the increase in 2007.

Fresh fruits and vegetables are forecast to reach a record $4.7 billion, up slightly from the August estimate and $200 million over 2006. California, the major supplier of fresh produce, had adverse weather early in 2006 and a hot summer. However, those developments should only slightly impact export volumes and unit values. Normal apple and grape crops, two major exports, are expected. The fiscal 2007 export forecast for citrus, set at $700 million, calls for some increase over 2006. An improved outlook for grapefruit is largely offset by reduced prospects for California oranges. Florida's 2006/07 grapefruit crop escaped hurricane damage this year, and a 35-percent increase over last year's crop is expected. California's 2006/07 orange crop is forecast 20 percent lower due to a long, wet spring that contributed to the lowest fruit set in 5 years.

Processed fruit and vegetable exports remain unchanged at a record $4.1 billion in fiscal 2007, up $200 million from 2006. Fruit juices are forecast at $1 billion, up 12 percent for the year on higher prices. Frozen vegetables should show increased sales to Japan, Canada, and Mexico. Dried fruit exports to Japan have shown recent weakness, but should be offset by growth to Europe. Whole and processed tree nuts are down slightly from the August estimate, but are still up $400 million for the year to a record $3.3 billion. Most of this increase is due to higher volumes for almonds and walnuts. Export unit values are expected to remain high, although somewhat lower than last year's values.

Table 2--U.S. agricultural exports: Value and volume by commodity, 2003-2007

Commodity	2003	2004	2005	2006	Forecast Fiscal 2007 Aug.	Forecast Fiscal 2007 Nov.
VALUE			*Billion dollars*			
Grains and feeds 1/	14.596	17.848	15.989	18.337	19.0	22.1
Wheat 2/	3.909	5.095	4.252	4.320	4.6	4.9
Rice	0.930	1.203	1.240	1.304	1.3	1.3
Coarse grains 3/	5.147	6.611	5.316	6.822	7.4	9.6
Corn	4.534	5.984	4.742	6.199	6.8	8.9
Feeds and fodders	2.588	2.678	2.718	3.090	3.1	3.1
Oilseeds and products 4/	10.180	11.194	11.001	10.693	11.1	12.4
Soybeans	6.514	7.463	6.980	6.382	6.9	7.8
Soybean meal 5/	1.198	1.308	1.475	1.603	1.5	1.7
Soybean oil	0.558	0.288	0.351	0.311	0.3	0.4
Livestock, poultry, and dairy	11.950	10.838	12.158	13.397	13.4	14.2
Livestock products	8.867	7.043	7.443	8.646	8.6	9.3
Beef and veal 6/	3.027	1.129	0.832	1.409	1.7	1.9
Pork 6/	1.357	1.700	2.239	2.405	2.2	2.5
Beef and pork variety meats 6/	0.790	0.579	0.688	0.762	0.8	0.8
Hides, skins, and furs	1.785	1.763	1.748	1.978	1.8	2.0
Poultry and products	2.104	2.519	3.029	2.986	3.2	3.1
Broiler meat 6/ 7/	1.370	1.692	2.041	1.930	2.1	2.0
Dairy products	0.979	1.276	1.686	1.766	1.7	1.8
Tobacco, unmanufactured	1.001	1.050	0.988	1.058	1.1	1.1
Cotton	2.841	4.508	3.869	4.664	5.1	5.0
Seeds	0.812	0.875	0.926	0.886	0.9	0.9
Horticultural products 8/	12.168	13.580	14.875	16.665	18.4	18.4
Fruits and vegetables, fresh	3.507	3.697	4.126	4.472	4.6	4.7
Fruits and vegetables, processed 8/	3.055	3.310	3.493	3.919	4.1	4.1
Tree nuts, whole and processed	1.490	1.887	2.429	2.926	3.4	3.3
Sugar and tropical products 9/	2.452	2.490	2.700	3.008	3.1	3.2
Major bulk products 10/	20.342	25.929	22.644	24.550	26.4	29.7
Total 11/	56.014	62.409	62.516	68.721	72.0	77.0
VOLUME			*Million metric tons*			
Wheat 2/	24.295	31.179	26.505	25.164	25.0	26.0
Rice	4.478	3.699	4.258	4.055	3.5	3.7
Coarse grains 3/	46.055	53.770	50.538	61.467	59.2	60.3
Corn	40.780	48.724	45.262	56.134	54.5	55.5
Feeds and fodders	11.814	11.647	11.008	11.729	11.8	11.7
Soybeans	28.507	24.487	29.504	26.616	29.7	31.2
Soybean meal 5/	5.728	4.690	6.659	7.316	7.0	7.7
Soybean oil	1.027	0.425	0.600	0.523	0.5	0.6
Beef and veal 6/	0.864	0.293	0.204	0.348	0.4	0.5
Pork 6/	0.562	0.689	0.883	0.987	1.1	1.0
Beef and pork variety meats 6/	0.564	0.432	0.481	0.489	0.6	0.5
Broiler meat 6/ 7/	2.158	2.121	2.439	2.348	2.5	2.5
Tobacco, unmanufactured	0.150	0.163	0.152	0.169	0.2	0.2
Cotton	2.487	2.965	3.349	3.678	3.5	3.5
Major bulk products 10/	105.972	116.263	114.306	121.149	121.1	124.9

Total may not add due to rounding.

For August 2006 and future forecasts, pulses have been subtracted from grain and feed and added to processed vegetables. This change has also been incorporated into historic data shown in this table. 1/ Includes corn gluten feed and meal, and processed grain products. 2/ Excludes wheat flour. 3/ Includes corn, barley, sorghum, oats, and rye. 4/ Excludes corn gluten feed and meal. 5/ Includes soy flours made from protein meals. 6/ Includes chilled, frozen, and processed meats. 7/ Includes only federally inspected product. 8/ Includes juices. 9/ Includes coffee and cocoa products, tea, and spices. 10/ Includes wheat, rice, coarse grains, soybeans, cotton, and unmanufactured tobacco. 11/ Includes cotton linters.

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Regional Exports

Fiscal 2007 exports are forecast to be $8.3 billion above fiscal 2006. Nearly all the increase is in East Asia, Canada, and Mexico. China continues its rapid expansion, and will grow faster than either Canada or Mexico. U.S. agricultural exports to China are forecast to rise $1.8 billion to a record $8.5 billion.

As the top destination, U.S. exports to Canada are estimated at $13.2 billion. U.S. exports to Mexico are estimated to rise to $11.9 billion. Japan and China remain the third- and fourth-largest export destinations, with their forecasts rising to $9.1 billion and $8.5 billion, respectively. The export forecast for the EU-25 is $7.2 billion.

The forecasts for Canada and Mexico for fiscal 2007 are increased dramatically due to higher feed grain prices and higher oilseed sales.

Exports to Asia are increased $2 billion from the August forecast for fiscal 2007, $3.3 billion over fiscal 2006 levels. This is primarily due to surging value of corn Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea, and continued strong sales of soybeans and hides and skins to China. Resumption of beef trade to key Asian markets also explains part of the increase.

Fiscal 2007 exports to South America are forecast up $400 million from fiscal 2006. Higher corn values underpin this increase. Exports to Colombia are forecast to exceed $1 million in 2007.

Exports to Europe/Eurasia are expected to remain flat in 2007. Expected lower soybean sales generally offset increases for tree nuts and fruit juices.
Demand for wheat and tree nut exports is up slightly. Exports to the EU-25 rise slightly to $7.2 billion. Russia declines slightly to $1.1 billion.

Exports to the Middle East are up slightly from fiscal 2006 to $3.3 billion as grain prices have risen sharply. The fiscal 2007 forecast for Africa is raised because of higher coarse grain exports to Sub-Saharan Africa and corn exports to Egypt.

Table 3--U.S. agricultural exports: Value by region, 2003-2007

Country and region 1/	2003	2004	2005	2006	Forecast Fiscal 2007 Aug.	Forecast Fiscal 2007 Nov.
			Billion dollars			
Asia	21.665	24.356	22.521	25.013	26.3	28.3
East Asia	18.079	20.570	18.385	20.898	22.2	24.7
Japan	8.813	8.532	7.847	8.193	8.3	9.1
China	3.484	6.096	5.254	6.657	7.5	8.5
Hong Kong	1.060	0.992	0.885	0.912	1.0	1.0
Taiwan	1.946	2.142	2.198	2.410	2.5	2.7
South Korea	2.761	2.778	2.187	2.712	2.5	3.4
Southeast Asia	2.944	3.123	3.439	3.438	3.5	2.9
Indonesia	0.918	0.978	0.983	1.047	0.9	1.1
Philippines	0.653	0.685	0.836	0.828	0.8	0.8
Malaysia	0.380	0.377	0.382	0.431	0.5	0.5
Thailand	0.627	0.679	0.762	0.640	0.6	0.5
South Asia	0.643	0.663	0.697	0.676	0.6	0.7
Western Hemisphere	21.534	23.274	24.833	28.102	30.2	32.2
North America	16.756	18.030	19.641	22.003	23.7	25.1
Canada	9.134	9.608	10.386	11.599	12.4	13.2
Mexico	7.621	8.422	9.253	10.404	11.3	11.9
Caribbean	1.526	1.844	1.861	2.053	2.2	2.3
Central America	1.347	1.397	1.519	1.756	1.9	2.1
South America	1.905	2.003	1.812	2.290	2.4	2.7
Brazil	0.361	0.326	0.222	0.281	0.3	0.4
Colombia	0.524	0.601	0.601	0.794	0.9	1.1
Venezuela	0.388	0.391	0.351	0.442	0.6	0.6
Europe/Eurasia	7.399	8.235	8.649	8.622	8.3	8.7
European Union-25 2/	6.317	6.804	6.961	7.057	6.6	7.2
Other Europe 3/	0.422	0.427	0.469	0.457	0.6	0.5
FSU-12 4/	0.660	1.004	1.218	1.108	1.1	1.0
Russia	0.501	0.736	0.918	0.921	1.0	0.9
Middle East	2.388	2.744	2.866	3.058	3.2	3.3
Turkey	0.877	0.916	1.011	1.009	1.0	1.0
Saudi Arabia	0.322	0.351	0.342	0.435	0.5	0.6
Africa	2.256	2.993	2.672	3.060	3.2	3.6
North Africa	1.204	1.634	1.281	1.613	1.6	2.0
Egypt	0.832	0.977	0.809	0.955	1.0	1.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	1.052	1.360	1.391	1.448	1.6	1.5
Oceania	0.590	0.585	0.734	0.735	0.7	0.8
Transshipments via Canada 5/	0.181	0.222	0.242	0.131	0.1	0.1
Total	56.014	62.409	62.516	68.721	72.0	77.0

Total may not add due to rounding.

1/ Projections are based primarily on trend or recent average growth analysis.

2/ The former EU-15 plus 10 new states that acceded in May 2004.

3/ Major countries include Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Bulgaria, Romania, and former Yugoslav states.

4/ The former 15 Republics of the Soviet Union minus the three Baltic Republics.

5/ Transshipments through Canada have not been allocated to final destination but are included in the total.

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Import Products

U.S. agricultural imports expanded 11 percent, or by $6.3 billion, in fiscal year 2006 to $64 billion, the fourth year of double-digit growth that began in 2003. Import value has grown 12 percent on average from 2003 to 2006, roughly twice the historical rate. From $39 billion in 2001, imports of farm commodities and products jumped by $25 billion in 5 years, an average gain of $5 billion per year. The corresponding import volume (based on weight) increased 22.5 percent from 2001 to 2006, or an average 4.5 percent per year. Thus, import prices, as represented by unit values, have advanced by 41.5 percent since 2001, or 8.3 percent per year on average (excluding liquid imports and counted items). This import price inflation is attributed to the dollar's exchange rate depreciation, increased production and transport costs brought on by higher oil and energy prices, and greater food import demand by Americans.

The import forecast for fiscal 2007 is $69 billion, up $500 million from the initial estimate in August, and $5 billion more than in 2006. The largest gain from 2006—by $600 million—is for imported livestock products, largely beef and pork. Besides these items, forecasts are adjusted upward by $100 million each for vegetable oils, processed vegetables, cocoa, coffee, and rubber. Items with lower estimates than in August are essential oils, malt beer, and "other" imports for a total reduction of $400 million.

The higher estimate for beef and veal imports is due to higher import values and greater volume compared with the previous forecast. In addition, drought conditions in Australia are expected to result in increased Australian beef exports, including more shipments to the United States. The value of cattle and calf imports is raised due to higher U.S. feeder cattle prices and increased shipments from Canada and Mexico. The value of swine and pork imports are little changed from the August forecast. The higher animal import unit values are partly an exchange-rate effect from the appreciation of the Canadian dollar (vs. the U.S. dollar) that started in 2002.

The initial (August) import forecasts for dairy products, grains and feeds, and grain products are unchanged. Among these items, only grain products and feeds and fodders expanded from 2006. Imported vegetable oils also gain in forecast value, partly due to higher import unit values as well as larger import volume. The mass switch by U.S. food manufacturers to unsaturated oils with no transfat is projected to raise import demand for rapeseed and olive oil (compared with their August forecasts). Like grain products, vegetable oil imports are expected up by $200 million from 2006.

A $300-million downward adjustment in horticulture imports—from $31.5 billion in August to $31.2 billion in November—is precipitated by lower-than-expected 2006 values for essential oils and malt beer. After jumping to $2.5 billion in 2006 from only $945 million in 2003, imported essential oils appear to be leveling off after the initial shipment surges from Ireland. With respect to beer, the dry U.S. weather and heat waves in 2006 boosted demand for light lagers, primarily from Mexico. In 2007, however, more normal weather and the dollar's depreciation since 2002 are expected to limit beer imports. Nevertheless, the $3.5 billion forecast for 2007 is $125 million more than beer imports in 2006. By volume, beer imports are anticipated to rise by 200 million liters to 3.4 billion liters in 2007.

Imported wine is expected to climb by $400 million to $4.4 billion in 2007 as more mid-priced varieties, such as those from Australia, are shipped in. Australia apparently has a large surplus of wine. The volume of imported French wine is also growing by double-digit rates. The other strong horticulture drivers are fresh fruits and vegetables. While a large portion of fresh produce is imported to supply the off-season months for domestic produce, fruits such as avocados, pineapples, and mangos are increasingly consumed year-round, much like bananas, apples, and grapes. Fresh vegetables, including salad greens, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and specialty vegetables, are also in demand year-round. Thus, the search for these vegetables extends to farther and more diversified sources.

Among sugar and tropical imports, cocoa, coffee, and rubber show firmer prices that boost their import values in 2007. In volume, however, most tropical imports are not expected to increase significantly based on modest gains in 2006. Sugar imports are projected to climb by $400 million from 2006, largely because of the maximum 500,000 metric tons (raw value) of Mexican sugar newly allowed into the U.S. duty-free through December 2007. In exchange, the U.S. can ship high fructose corn syrup duty-free to Mexico during the same period. Under NAFTA provisions, all duties and quotas on sugar and corn syrup shipped between the U.S. and Mexico are scheduled to be eliminated in January 2008.

U.S. imports of confectionery products—$1.3 billion worth are expected in 2007—are up from $1.17 billion in 2006. The drivers for this growth are more shipments from Mexico, China, and Canada. The gain in import value derives largely from higher prices, as volume is relatively stable. These imported confections will face stiffer competition from U.S. confectionery manufacturers as more sugar enters from Mexico and because sugar prices have fallen in 2006.

Table 4--U.S. agricultural imports: Value and volume by commodity, fiscal years 2003-2007

Commodity	2003	2004	2005	2006	Forecast fiscal 2007 Aug.	Forecast fiscal 2007 Nov.
VALUE			*Billion dollars*			
Livestock, dairy, and poultry	8.605	10.350	11.051	11.527	11.4	12.0
Livestock and meats	0.000	7.664	8.165	8.509	8.4	9.0
Cattle and calves	1.087	0.582	0.714	1.602	1.3	1.6
Swine	0.343	0.496	0.590	0.580	0.5	0.5
Beef and veal	2.393	3.511	3.779	3.254	3.3	3.6
Pork	1.172	1.355	1.327	1.263	1.3	1.3
Dairy products	1.843	2.281	2.508	2.610	2.6	2.6
Cheese	0.821	0.971	1.015	0.994	1.0	1.0
Grains and feed	3.819	4.077	4.326	4.929	5.2	5.2
Grain products	2.664	2.915	3.173	3.434	3.6	3.6
Oilseeds and products	2.042	2.910	2.969	3.466	3.4	3.5
Vegetable oils	1.331	1.943	2.025	2.437	2.5	2.6
Horticulture products	20.996	23.929	26.879	29.189	31.5	31.2
Fruits, fresh	3.469	3.750	4.219	4.689	5.0	5.0
Fruits, processed	1.848	1.969	2.343	2.603	2.8	2.8
Fruit juices	0.779	0.785	1.005	1.056	1.1	1.1
Nuts and preparations	0.680	0.917	1.155	1.070	1.1	1.1
Vegetables, fresh	2.879	3.118	3.518	3.979	4.3	4.3
Vegetables, processed	2.118	2.451	2.621	2.755	2.8	2.9
Wine	3.227	3.345	3.720	4.043	4.4	4.4
Malt beer	2.576	2.789	2.978	3.375	3.6	3.5
Essential oils	0.945	1.908	2.435	2.469	2.7	2.5
Cut flowers & nursery stock	1.214	1.360	1.374	1.423	1.5	1.5
Sugar & tropical products	9.108	10.173	11.354	13.560	15.1	15.3
Cane and beet sugar	0.584	0.568	0.713	1.403	1.8	1.8
Confections 1/	1.048	1.150	1.161	1.169	1.3	1.3
Cocoa and chocolate 1/	2.254	2.552	2.593	2.631	2.6	2.7
Coffee beans & products	1.949	2.163	2.830	3.205	3.3	3.4
Rubber, natural	1.032	1.331	1.506	1.950	2.1	2.3
Other imports 2/	1.115	1.217	1.157	1.354	1.7	1.6
Total agricultural imports	45.686	52.656	57.736	64.025	68.5	69.0
VOLUME			*Million metric tons*			
Wine 3/	0.640	0.647	0.721	0.783	0.9	0.9
Malt beer 3/	2.683	2.820	2.913	3.223	3.3	3.4
Cattle and calves 4/	2.029	1.473	1.495	2.397	2.1	2.2
Swine 4/	6.802	8.589	8.079	8.613	9.0	8.9
Beef and veal, fresh	0.948	1.165	1.219	1.027	1.1	1.1
Pork, fresh	0.512	0.489	0.438	0.437	0.5	0.5
Fruits, fresh	7.612	7.533	7.996	8.008	8.4	8.3
Fruits, processed 5/	1.041	1.076	1.196	1.329	1.3	1.4
Vegetables, fresh	3.585	3.559	3.758	4.076	4.3	4.3
Vegetables, processed 5/	2.433	2.705	2.765	2.763	2.8	2.8
Vegetable oils	1.621	2.021	1.977	2.505	2.5	2.6
Cocoa and chocolate	0.966	1.192	1.220	1.263	1.3	1.3
Coffee beans	1.293	1.263	1.274	1.296	1.4	1.3
Rubber, natural	1.161	1.093	1.187	1.069	0.8	1.1

1/ Confections are consumer-ready products that contain sugar. Cocoa and chocolate are intermediate products.

2/ Tobacco, planting seeds, and cotton. 3/ Liquid volume is in billion liters. 4/ Million head; includes bison. 5/ Excludes juices.

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Regional Imports

Although U.S. avocado imports dropped in 2006 due to a bumper crop in California, avocados from Mexico, Chile, and the Dominican Republic are expected to continue growing in value and volume in 2007 and beyond. Outside of Latin America, only minimal amounts of avocados from New Zealand reach the U.S. Another tropical fruit—mangos—are supplied largely from Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, and Brazil. The variety of mango species shipped is also increasing to cater to different tastes of consumers. The largest supplier of U.S. pineapples is Costa Rica, which specializes in small- to medium-sized fruit. For strawberries, Mexico dominates the U.S. import market, but also competes with fruit from California and Florida.

Asia is fast becoming a significant source of fresh and frozen vegetables. Specialty vegetables are demanded by Asian Americans, much as tropical fruits are favored by Latin Americans. While Mexico and Canada are the principal suppliers of fresh and frozen vegetables to the U.S., tomatoes, green beans, and bell peppers from Europe also compete in the market. These foreign sources can supply fresh vegetables to the U.S. year-round because of their extensive use of greenhouses and other covered protection for crops.

Table 5--U.S. agricultural imports: Value by region, fiscal years 2003-2007

Region and country	2003	2004	2005	2006	Forecast fiscal 2007 Aug.	Forecast fiscal 2007 Nov.	Share of total
				Billion dollars			*Percent*
Western Hemisphere	23.976	26.845	29.856	33.744	37.0	37.4	54.2
Canada	10.252	11.275	11.817	13.204	14.4	14.6	21.2
Mexico	5.995	7.023	8.095	9.314	10.2	10.3	14.9
Central America	2.106	2.247	2.465	2.848	3.1	3.2	4.6
Costa Rica	0.845	0.899	0.880	1.157	1.3	1.4	2.0
Guatemala	0.772	0.779	0.895	0.936	1.0	1.0	1.4
Other Central America	0.489	0.569	0.691	0.755	0.8	0.8	1.2
Caribbean	0.377	0.363	0.359	0.443	0.4	0.5	0.7
South America	5.247	5.936	7.120	7.935	8.9	8.8	12.8
Brazil	1.465	1.637	1.839	2.195	2.5	2.5	3.6
Chile	1.200	1.314	1.531	1.714	1.9	1.9	2.8
Colombia	1.031	1.133	1.382	1.452	1.6	1.6	2.3
Other South America	1.551	1.853	2.369	2.573	2.9	2.8	4.1
Europe and Eurasia	10.658	12.499	13.701	14.513	15.0	15.0	21.8
European Union-25	10.302	12.062	13.235	14.038	14.6	14.6	21.2
Other Europe	0.314	0.377	0.420	0.424	0.4	0.4	0.5
Asia	5.998	7.336	8.030	9.420	10.1	10.1	14.6
East Asia	1.952	2.475	2.663	3.028	3.3	3.3	4.7
China	1.184	1.571	1.791	2.105	2.3	2.3	3.3
Other East Asia	0.767	0.904	0.872	0.924	1.0	1.0	1.4
Southeast Asia	3.282	3.977	4.383	5.277	5.7	5.7	8.2
Indonesia	1.158	1.445	1.606	2.030	2.3	2.3	3.3
Thailand	0.889	1.025	1.086	1.276	1.3	1.3	1.8
Other Southeast Asia	1.235	1.507	1.691	1.971	2.2	2.2	3.1
South Asia	0.765	0.884	0.984	1.115	1.2	1.2	1.7
India	0.692	0.810	0.902	1.012	1.1	1.1	1.6
Oceania	3.318	4.035	4.177	4.232	4.3	4.3	6.2
Australia	1.976	2.387	2.488	2.434	2.6	2.5	3.6
New Zealand	1.288	1.573	1.618	1.705	1.6	1.8	2.6
Africa	1.198	1.348	1.330	1.406	1.4	1.5	2.2
Sub-Sahara	1.072	1.196	1.205	1.207	1.2	1.2	1.7
Ivory Coast	0.440	0.497	0.565	0.460	0.5	0.5	0.7
Middle East	0.536	0.593	0.641	0.710	0.9	0.8	1.2
Turkey	0.313	0.352	0.361	0.429	0.6	0.5	0.7
World total 1/	45.686	52.656	57.736	64.025	68.5	69.0	100.0

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: www.FAS.USDA.gov/ustrade.

Reliability Tables

Table 6--Reliability of quarterly U.S. export projections, by commodity and quarter

Commodity	Average absolute forecast errors Fiscal 2000-06: Aug 1/	Nov	Feb	May	Aug 2/	Forecast accuracy Fiscal 2000-06: Aug	Nov	Feb	May	Aug	Forecast accuracy
	Percent					"X" if error ≤ 5%					Percent
Export value											
Grains and feeds	8	9	6	2	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Wheat (and flour)	10	8	4	4	3	-	-	X	X	X	60
Rice	13	12	10	5	5	-	-	-	X	X	40
Coarse grains	17	16	9	3	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Corn	17	17	9	3	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Feeds and fodders	12	8	7	5	3	-	-	-	X	X	40
Oilseeds and products	6	7	5	2	2	-	-	X	X	X	60
Soybeans	10	9	6	4	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Soybean meal	13	12	12	8	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Soybean oil	27	30	9	5	12	-	-	-	X	-	20
Livestock products	11	9	5	2	2	-	-	X	X	X	60
Beef, pork, and variety meats	16	17	5	3	2	-	-	X	X	X	60
Hides, skins, and furs	13	11	14	5	3	-	-	-	X	X	40
Poultry and products	12	10	9	4	3	-	-	-	X	X	40
Broiler (poultry) meat	17	17	15	6	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Dairy products	16	13	9	8	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Tobacco, unmanufactured	9	7	9	8	6	-	-	-	-	-	0
Cotton and linters	12	9	6	5	3	-	-	-	X	X	40
Planting seeds	10	12	12	8	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Horticultural products	4	4	2	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Fruits and preparations	4	4	4	3	3	X	X	X	X	X	100
Vegetables and preparations	4	3	3	3	2	X	X	X	X	X	100
Tree nuts and preparations	16	10	7	5	6	-	-	-	X	-	20
Sugar and tropical products	9	9	7	4	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Major bulk products	4	7	7	5	4	X	-	-	X	X	60
Total agricultural exports	5	4	3	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Average error & accuracy	13	11	7	4	3	17%	17%	34%	79%	86%	47
Export volume											
Wheat	9	7	5	3	3	-	-	X	X	X	60
Rice	11	10	9	4	3	-	-	-	X	X	40
Coarse grains	11	11	8	5	3	-	-	-	X	X	40
Corn	11	11	9	5	3	-	-	-	X	X	40
Feeds and fodders	7	10	5	5	2	-	-	X	X	X	60
Oilseeds and products	8	7	4	2	1	-	-	X	X	X	60
Soybeans	9	7	5	3	2	-	-	X	X	X	60
Soybean meal	17	8	9	5	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Soybean oil	22	15	5	1	5	-	-	X	X	X	60
Beef, pork, and variety meats	13	13	7	3	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Broiler (poultry) meat	14	13	11	3	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Tobacco, unmanufactured	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Cotton and linters	11	6	5	5	5	-	-	X	X	X	60
Horticultural products	4	3	3	3	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Sugar and tropical products	6	6	5	2	0	-	-	X	X	X	60
Major bulk products	4	4	4	2	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Average error & accuracy	12	9	6	3	2	15%	25%	60%	100%	95%	59

1/ Forecast made for following fiscal year--15 months out. 2/ Forecast made for current fiscal year with 3 months remaining in current fiscal year.

Table 7--Reliability of quarterly U.S. export value projections, by country and quarter

Country/region	Average absolute forecast errors Fiscal 2000-06					Forecast accuracy Fiscal 2000-06					Forecast accuracy
	Aug 1/	Nov	Feb	May	Aug 2/	Aug	Nov	Feb	May	Aug	
	Percent					"X" if error ≤ 5%					Percent
Export value											
Asia	- - -	7	6	2	2	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
East Asia	- - -	10	11	4	1	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Japan	- - -	6	5	2	2	- - -	-	X	X	X	75
China	- - -	23	22	8	5	- - -	-	-	-	X	25
Hong Kong	- - -	8	8	5	1	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Taiwan	- - -	7	7	4	3	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
South Korea	- - -	8	8	4	3	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Southeast Asia	- - -	9	6	7	4	- - -	-	-	-	X	25
Indonesia	- - -	13	9	5	3	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Philippines	- - -	14	13	9	6	- - -	-	-	-	-	0
Malaysia	- - -	4	4	7	4	- - -	X	X	-	X	75
Thailand	- - -	16	16	7	5	- - -	-	-	-	X	25
South Asia	- - -	23	21	16	8	- - -	-	-	-	-	0
Western Hemisphere	- - -	4	2	1	1	- - -	X	X	X	X	100
North America	- - -	8	5	2	1	- - -	-	X	X	X	75
Canada	- - -	3	3	1	1	- - -	X	X	X	X	100
Mexico	- - -	7	6	2	1	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Caribbean	- - -	10	8	5	4	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Central America	- - -	7	5	5	2	- - -	-	X	X	X	75
South America	- - -	8	8	6	3	- - -	-	-	-	X	25
Brazil	- - -	20	32	5	10	- - -	-	-	X	-	25
Colombia	- - -	9	10	0	0	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Venezuela	- - -	15	12	0	7	- - -	-	-	X	-	25
Other Latin America	- - -	8	8	0	5	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Europe and Eurasia	- - -	11	8	4	4	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
European Union-25	- - -	5	4	4	4	- - -	X	X	X	X	100
Other Europe	- - -	13	10	13	6	- - -	-	-	-	-	0
FSU-12	- - -	24	23	13	13	- - -	-	-	-	-	0
Russia	- - -	26	28	16	12	- - -	-	-	-	-	0
Middle East	- - -	11	8	5	5	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Turkey	- - -	18	12	8	7	- - -	-	-	-	-	0
Saudi Arabia	- - -	7	12	5	8	- - -	-	-	X	-	25
Africa	- - -	10	9	7	7	- - -	-	-	-	-	0
North Africa	- - -	10	11	5	7	- - -	-	-	X	-	25
Egypt	- - -	10	12	10	12	- - -	-	-	-	-	0
Sub-Sahara	- - -	12	12	12	7	- - -	-	-	-	-	0
Oceania	- - -	16	14	6	6	- - -	-	-	-	-	0
Transshipments	- - -	24	19	0	12	- - -	-	-	X	-	25
Average error & accuracy	- - -	12	11	6	5	- - -	11%	18%	61%	61%	38

1/ Forecast made for following fiscal year--15 months out. 2/ Forecast made for current fiscal year with 3 months remaining in current fiscal year. - - - = No forecast available.

Table 8--Reliaiblity of quarterly U.S. import projections, by commodity and quarter

Commodity	Average absolute forecast errors Fiscal 2000-06					Forecast accuracy Fiscal 2000-06					Forecast accuracy
	Aug 1/	Nov	Feb	May	Aug 2/	Aug	Nov	Feb	May	Aug	
	Percent					"X" if error ≤ 5%					Percent
Import value											
Animals and products	10	7	7	6	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Live animals, except poultry	19	17	18	9	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Red meat and products	11	8	8	5	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Beef and veal (WASDE)	15	10	10	12	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Pork (WASDE)	4	4	12	4	0	X	X	-	X	X	80
Dairy products	9	8	5	5	1	-	-	X	X	X	60
Grains and feeds	5	5	3	2	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Grain products	2	2	1	1	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Oilseeds and products	13	12	7	7	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Vegetable oils	19	19	8	13	4	-	-	-	-	X	20
Horticulture products	5	4	3	2	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Fruits and preps., and juices	4	4	6	6	3	X	X	-	-	X	60
Fruits, fresh or frozen	16	14	9	7	1	-	-	-	-	X	20
Fruits, prep.or pres.,& juices	7	9	6	4	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Nuts and preparations	22	17	14	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	0
Vegetables and preparations	7	5	5	1	1	-	X	X	X	X	80
Vegetables, fresh or frozen	3	3	7	2	1	X	X	-	X	X	80
Vegetables, prep.or pres.	2	1	2	1	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Wine	5	4	3	2	3	X	X	X	X	X	100
Malt beverages	3	3	6	4	1	X	X	-	X	X	80
Essential oils	8	6	4	6	4	-	-	X	-	X	40
Nursery stock and cut flowers	7	5	6	0	0	-	X	-	X	X	60
Sugar and related products	11	11	9	5	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Cocoa and products	14	11	10	1	3	-	-	-	X	X	40
Coffee and products	17	17	14	4	3	-	-	-	X	X	40
Natural rubber and gums	21	16	22	10	8	-	-	-	-	-	0
Spices, natural drugs, tea	13	7	9	11	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Total agricultural imports	5	4	3	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Average error & accuracy	10	8	8	6	2	34%	43%	34%	60%	91%	53
Import volume											
Wine (HL)	8	7	4	1	1	-	-	X	X	X	60
Malt beverages (HL)	5	4	4	2	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Wine & malt beverages (HL)	3	2	3	2	7	X	X	X	X	-	80
Cattle and calves	7	9	29	15	10	-	-	-	-	-	0
Beef and veal	20	20	5	5	5	-	-	X	X	X	60
Dairy products	33	33	29	17	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Grains and products	8	5	4	3	2	-	X	X	X	X	80
Fruits and preparations	3	3	2	4	2	X	X	X	X	X	100
Fruits, fresh or frozen	4	4	3	2	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Nuts and preparations	20	13	17	11	7	-	-	-	-	-	0
Vegetables, fresh or frozen	3	3	3	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Vegetable oils	11	10	7	6	4	-	-	-	-	X	20
Sugar and related products	23	25	17	8	11	-	-	-	-	-	0
Cocoa and products	11	10	12	5	5	-	-	-	X	X	40
Coffee and products	10	7	7	3	4	-	-	-	X	X	40
Average error & accuracy	11	10	9	6	4	23%	27%	38%	62%	69%	44

1/ Forecast made for following fiscal year--15 months out. 2/ Forecast made for current fiscal year with 3 months remaining in current fiscal year. - - - = No forecast available.

Table 9--Reliability of quarterly U.S. import value projections, by country and quarter

Country/region	Average absolute forecast errors Fiscal 2000-06					Forecast accuracy Fiscal 2000-06					Forecast accuracy
	Aug 1/	Nov	Feb	May	Aug 2/	Aug	Nov	Feb	May	Aug	
	Percent					"X" if error ≤ 5%					Percent
Import value											
Western Hemisphere	- - -	4	2	2	1	- - -	X	X	X	X	100
Canada	- - -	6	4	4	1	- - -	-	X	X	X	75
Mexico	- - -	5	5	3	1	- - -	X	X	X	X	100
Central America	- - -	3	6	3	1	- - -	X	-	X	X	75
Costa Rica	- - -	9	7	1	0	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Guatemala	- - -	11	11	11	0	- - -	-	-	-	X	25
Other Central America	- - -	0	0	6	6	- - -	X	X	-	-	50
Caribbean	- - -	5	12	12	8	- - -	X	-	-	-	25
South America	- - -	5	3	3	2	- - -	X	X	X	X	100
Brazil	- - -	13	12	6	3	- - -	-	-	-	X	25
Chile	- - -	2	6	5	1	- - -	X	-	X	X	75
Colombia	- - -	6	5	0	2	- - -	-	X	X	X	75
Other South America	- - -	8	4	3	3	- - -	-	X	X	X	75
Europe and Eurasia	- - -	7	5	3	2	- - -	-	X	X	X	75
European Union-25	- - -	6	4	4	2	- - -	-	X	X	X	75
Other Europe	- - -	31	24	15	13	- - -	-	-	-	-	0
FSU-12	- - -	0	0	0	0	- - -	X	X	X	X	100
Asia	- - -	8	7	3	1	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
East Asia	- - -	3	2	0	2	- - -	X	X	X	X	100
China	- - -	6	3	1	2	- - -	-	X	X	X	75
Other East Asia	- - -	7	11	4	4	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Southeast Asia	- - -	13	11	3	3	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Indonesia	- - -	13	14	4	2	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Thailand	- - -	7	10	8	3	- - -	-	-	-	X	25
Other Southeast Asia	- - -	5	8	0	0	- - -	X	-	X	X	75
South Asia	- - -	8	12	6	3	- - -	-	-	-	X	25
India	- - -	9	7	7	5	- - -	-	-	-	X	25
Oceania	- - -	7	8	3	2	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Australia	- - -	9	8	3	3	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
New Zealand	- - -	7	11	6	4	- - -	-	-	-	X	25
Africa	- - -	9	14	3	6	- - -	-	-	X	-	25
Sub-Sahara	- - -	0	29	0	4	- - -	X	-	X	X	75
Ivory Coast	- - -	21	24	6	3	- - -	-	-	-	X	25
Middle East	- - -	8	14	0	5	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Turkey	- - -	12	17	0	4	- - -	-	-	X	X	50
Average error & accuracy	- - -	8	9	4	3	- - -	31%	34%	71%	89%	56

1/ Forecast made for following fiscal year--15 months out. 2/ Forecast made for current fiscal year with 3 months remaining in current fiscal year. - - - = No forecast available.

Contact Information

Coordinators (area code 202)
Exports: Nora Brooks/ERS, 694-5211, nbrooks@ers.usda.gov
Ernest Carter/FAS, 720-2922, ecarter@fas.usda.gov

Imports: Andy Jerardo/ERS, 694-5266, ajerardo@ers.usda.gov
Ernest Carter/FAS, 720-2922, ecarter@fas.usda.gov

Commodity Specialist Contacts (area code 202)
Grains and Feeds: Richard O'Meara/FAS, 720-4933
Coarse Grains: Richard O'Meara/FAS, 720-4933
Wheat: Levin Flake/FAS, 720-4258
Rice: Nathan Childs/ERS, 694-5292
Rob Miller/FAS, 720-8398
Oilseeds: Mark Ash/ERS, 694-5289
Bill George/FAS, 720-6234
Cotton: James Johnson/FAS, 690-1546
Steve MacDonald/ERS, 694-5305
Tobacco & Planting Seeds: James Johnson/FAS, 690-1546
Livestock, Poultry & Dairy Products: Claire Mezoughem/FAS, 720-7715
Beef & Cattle: Mayra Caldera/FAS, 720-2235
Monte Vandeveer/ERS, 694-5158
Pork & Hogs: Julie Morin/FAS, 720-4185
Mildred Haley/ERS, 694-5176
Poultry: Dave Harvey/ERS, 694-5177
Michelle DeGraaf/FAS, 720-7285
Animal Fats & Other Live Animals: Claire Mezoughem/FAS, 720-7715
Dairy Products: Paul Kiendl/FAS, 720-8870
Horticultural & Tropical Products: Tom St. Clair/FAS, 720-2974
Fruits & Preparations
Deciduous Fresh Fruit: Heather Vethuis/FAS, 720-9792
Fresh Citrus and Juices: Debbie Pumphrey/FAS, 720-8899
Other Fruits: Tom St. Clair/FAS, 720-2974
Vegetables & Preparations: Shari Kosco/FAS, 720-2083
Tree Nuts, Nursery/Cut Flowers: Tom St. Clair/FAS, 720-2974
Wine: Dorsey Luchok/FAS, 720-3083
Beer: Mariano Beillard/FAS, 720-9899
Essential Oils: Debbie Pumphrey/FAS, 720-8899
Sugar and Tropical Products: Bob Knapp/FAS, 720-4620

Macroeconomics: Matt Shane/ERS, 694-5282
David Torgerson/ERS, 694-5334

Agency Contact Information
Foreign Agricultural Service homepage: http://www.fas.usda.gov/
Economic Research Service homepage: http://www.ers.usda.gov/

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/MannUsda/aboutEmailService.do 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.