Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade

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FY 2019 Export Forecast Reduced by $3.0 Billion to $141.5 Billion; Imports Forecast at $127.0 Billion

Fiscal year (October/September) 2019 agricultural exports are projected at $141.5 billion, down $1.9 billion from fiscal year 2018 and $3.0 billion from the August 2018 forecast, largely due to decreases in soybeans and cotton. Soybean export volumes are down because of declining Chinese purchases from the United States as a result of trade tensions, and as a record U.S. crop continues to pressure soybean prices lower. Cotton exports are down $1.0 billion from the August forecast to $5.9 billion, primarily due to slowing growth in global demand. Grain and feed exports are forecast up $700 million to $33.8 billion, driven by higher corn and wheat volumes. Livestock, dairy, and poultry exports are down $200 million to $30.1 billion. Declines in poultry and dairy products offset increases in beef and pork products. Horticultural products are unchanged at $35.3 billion. The forecast for exports to China is reduced by $3.0 billion to $9.0 billion, the lowest since fiscal 2007.

U.S. agricultural imports in fiscal year 2019 are forecast at $127.0 billion, up $500 million from the August forecast, primarily due to expected increases in horticultural, sugar, and tropical products. The U.S. agricultural trade surplus is expected to decline by $3.5 billion to $14.5 billion in fiscal 2019.

Table 1--U.S. agricultural trade, fiscal years 2013-19, year ending September 30

| Item | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | Forecast fiscal year* 2019 | |
							Aug.	Nov.
				Billion dollars				
Exports	141.1	152.3	139.8	129.6	140.2	143.4	144.5	141.5
Imports	103.9	109.3	114.2	113.0	119.1	127.6	126.5	127.0
Balance	37.3	43.1	25.5	16.6	21.1	15.8	18.0	14.5

*Reflect forecasts in the November 8, 2018, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* report.

Source: Compiled by USDA using data from U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Economic Outlook

Strong global economic growth led by thriving U.S. economy

Per capita world GDP growth is expected to be robust at 2.1 percent in 2018 and to remain healthy at 2.0 percent in 2019, led by a thriving U.S. economy. In October, the equity market selloff and volatility may have lowered confidence, but it is not yet indicative of a larger issue that would have a sizable impact on the global economy. Per capita GDP growth in the United States of 2.2 percent in 2018 is expected to be sustained in 2019. In 2018, the U.S. economy is bolstered by strong consumer spending and favorable business investment. Income growth is expected to slow during 2019 due to diminishing effects of fiscal stimulus, rising inflation, and slower economic growth outside the United States.

Prospects for the dollar's value in 2018 are mixed. After weakening during the first few months of the year, the dollar has strengthened since May, which is expected to continue into 2019 as U.S. interest rates increase relative to those in other major economies. Expectations for higher U.S. interest rates are driven by a strong U.S. economy, tightening monetary policy, and an expansionary domestic tax and spending policy. The contrast between U.S. policy and expectations of relatively looser monetary policy and neutral fiscal policy elsewhere adds additional upward pressure to the dollar, as does its role as a safe haven for investors in a time of economic uncertainty. On average, the dollar is expected to weaken slightly in 2018 relative to 2017 and then hold its value in 2019.

Brent crude spot prices are forecast to average about $73 per barrel in 2018 and $72 per barrel in 2019, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). Prices will stabilize as U.S. crude oil production continues to rise, with the EIA forecasting U.S. output at a record 12.1 million barrels per day in 2019, and as world inventories are expected to increase slightly.

Per capita GDP growth in Mexico of 1.2 percent is expected in 2018 and 2019. Business confidence has improved with the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The next step will be trilateral legislative approval, and with reduced uncertainty affecting the Mexican economy, there should be a recovery in business investment moving forward. Canadian per capita GDP growth is expected to be 1.4 percent in 2018, falling to 1.2 percent in 2019 with a slowdown in business investment and consumer spending as debt levels rise. Eurozone economic growth in 2018 is expected to be strong relative to the post-European debt

crisis era with per capita GDP growth of 1.9 percent. Growth is expected to slow to 1.6 percent in 2019 with sluggish consumer spending and exports as well as uncertainty related to Brexit.

Per capita GDP growth in Asia and Oceania is expected to be steady at 3.8 percent in 2018 and 3.7 percent in 2019. Chinese income growth of 6.2 percent in 2018 is expected to slow to 6.0 percent in 2019 with declining investment and domestic demand, as well as from effects of China's trade conflict with the United States. Strong income growth in India of 6.1 percent in 2018 reflects healthy consumption growth and infrastructure spending. India's per capita GDP growth in 2019 is expected to outpace China's at 6.2 percent, though renewed stress in the financial sector poses a risk to business investments.

Per capita GDP growth in Latin America is expected to be 0.1 percent in 2018 and 0.9 percent in 2019. Since last quarter, a currency crisis in Argentina has led to growing inflation that has now exceeded 40 percent over the past year. The restrictive monetary policy to combat these conditions will weigh on the economy into 2019, thereby limiting consumer spending and resulting in a recession during 2018 and 2019. Additionally, there is ongoing economic turmoil in Venezuela, which is expected to be in a recession until at least 2020. Brazil, meanwhile, is expected to maintain slow, steady growth as equity markets show signs of optimism.

Table 2--Macroeconomic variables affecting U.S. agricultural exports 1/

Region/Country 3/	Real exchange rate 2/		Real GDP per capita		Share of World		Share of U.S.
	2018	2019	2018	2019	GDP	Population	Ag. exports
	Percent change		Growth rate		2014-16 Average		
World	**-1.1**	**0.1**	**2.1**	**2.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
NAFTA	**0.4**	**-1.3**	**2.0**	**1.9**	**26.4**	**6.7**	**28.3**
United States	--	--	2.2	2.2	22.4	4.5	--
Canada	0.3	0.3	1.4	1.2	2.4	0.5	16.1
Mexico	0.5	-3.4	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.7	12.2
Emerging Markets	**1.2**	**0.4**	**4.6**	**4.7**	**21.6**	**44.9**	**20.0**
Brazil	10.8	2.1	0.7	1.3	3.1	2.8	0.9
Russia	3.1	0.9	1.8	1.8	2.2	2.0	0.3
India	0.8	0.4	6.1	6.2	3.2	17.4	0.8
Indonesia	1.6	-1.6	4.3	4.3	1.3	3.6	1.7
China	0.5	0.3	6.2	6.0	11.8	19.1	16.3
Europe & Central Asia	**-3.9**	**0.1**	**2.3**	**2.0**	**28.4**	**11.5**	**10.7**
Euro Zone	-4.3	1.3	1.9	1.6	17.5	4.8	6.8
Ukraine	-11.4	-7.8	3.4	3.2	0.2	0.6	0.1
Turkey	8.4	-3.4	3.0	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.1
Asia & Oceania	**-0.5**	**1.1**	**3.8**	**3.7**	**31.5**	**54.9**	**45.9**
Japan	-1.4	0.8	1.3	1.3	7.6	1.8	8.5
South Korea	-3.2	3.1	2.2	2.2	1.7	0.7	4.5
Australia	1.2	1.1	1.9	1.4	1.8	0.3	1.1
Other SE Asia 4/	-1.5	0.1	4.3	4.2	1.5	4.1	5.2
Latin America	**-3.6**	**-2.7**	**0.1**	**0.9**	**8.0**	**8.6**	**21.5**
Argentina	15.6	8.4	-2.0	-0.5	0.7	0.6	0.1
Other S. America 5/	-3.4	-0.1	2.3	2.1	1.2	1.6	3.0
Middle East & N. Africa	**0.2**	**-2.8**	**1.4**	**1.2**	**5.2**	**6.9**	**5.3**
Sub-Saharan Africa	**-2.3**	**-0.2**	**0.7**	**0.8**	**2.2**	**13.1**	**1.3**

1/ Real values have a 2010 base year.

2/ Local currency per U.S. dollar. A negative growth rate indicates a depreciation of the dollar.

3/ Regional values for Real Exchange rates are growth in GDP-weighted average of country real exchange rate index. World real exchange rate is a U.S. agricultural exports-weighted index.

4/ Includes Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

5/ Includes Chile, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Source: Calculations and compilation by USDA, Economic Research Service using data and forecasts from Global Insight, the

IMF, and Oxford Economics.

Export Products

Fiscal year 2019 grain and feed exports are forecast at $33.8 billion, up $700 million from the August 2018 forecast, due mainly to corn and wheat. Corn is forecast at $11.8 billion, up $600 million on higher export volumes, as U.S. corn is price-competitive. Sorghum is lowered $300 million to $500 million on a slower export pace with the loss of the Chinese market. Feeds and fodders are forecast at $7.7 billion, unchanged as higher demand for distillers' dried grains with solubles is offset by a lower projection for alfalfa. Wheat is forecast at $7.5 billion, up $400 million from the August forecast on higher volumes, and nearly $2.5 billion above FY2018 levels. Unit values are lower because of strong competition in recent months, especially from Russia. However, volumes are up based on expectations of improved U.S. competitiveness later in the year, as Russia exports are forecast to slow and as Australia struggles due to drought-reduced supplies. Rice is forecast at $1.7 billion, down $100 million on lower volumes, with reduced early-season sales and shipments to Latin America.

Oilseeds and products exports are projected at $27.9 billion, down $2.3 billion from August expectations, driven by lower soybean export volumes and unit values. Record U.S. soybean production continues to pressure soybean prices lower. Declining China soybean purchases from the United States have pushed U.S. export volumes lower, and China is expected to source its soybean imports primarily from South America. Soybean meal is higher on price competitiveness and tight supplies in Argentina. The soybean oil projection remains unchanged.

The fiscal year 2019 cotton export forecast was reduced $1.0 billion to $5.9 billion. Global demand growth has tapered off, slowing the early-season export pace, but remains at a historically high level. Since August, the outlook for the U.S. crop size and quality has deteriorated due to hurricane damage in the Southeast and late-season rains in Texas. A record crop in Brazil has boosted competition, while retaliatory tariffs have limited U.S. export opportunities to China. Export volume is lowered 200,000 tons to 3.3 million.

Livestock, dairy, and poultry exports are forecast down $200 million to $30.1 billion as weaker demand for dairy, poultry and products, and hides and skins, as well as for rendered products, offsets growth in beef and pork. Beef is up $500 million largely on higher unit values, as export volumes are fractionally higher. Pork is up $100 million as strong demand in Latin America and other emerging markets supports slightly higher export volumes. Poultry and poultry products are forecast $200 million lower to $5.1 billion on weaker prices and volumes for eggs and turkey meat. Dairy product exports are lowered $300 million to $5.3 billion as export shipments for

major products such as cheese and whey lag last year's pace and global prices weaken. Hides and skins are down $100 million to $1.5 billion as prices decline and as demand remains soft.

Horticultural products are unchanged at $35.3 billion. Whole and processed tree nuts are unchanged at $9.1 billion, with a majority of shipments destined for Europe and Asia. Fresh fruit and vegetables are forecast unchanged at $7.4 billion, with top markets including Canada, Europe, and South Korea. Processed fruit and vegetables are unchanged at $7.2 billion.

Table 3--U.S. agricultural exports: Value and volume by commodity, 2015-2019

Commodity	Fiscal year				Forecast for fiscal year 2019	
	2015	2016	2017	2018	Aug.	Nov.
VALUE	--- Billion dollars ---					
Grains and feeds 1/	31.798	29.633	30.289	31.229	33.1	33.8
Wheat 2/	5.914	5.136	6.200	5.058	7.1	7.5
Rice	2.051	1.854	1.728	1.654	1.8	1.7
Coarse grains 3/	11.276	10.977	11.010	12.506	12.0	12.4
Corn	8.797	9.130	9.664	11.271	11.2	11.8
Feeds and fodders	8.107	7.432	7.164	7.836	7.7	7.7
Oilseeds and products	31.675	29.470	32.696	31.490	30.2	27.9
Soybeans	21.620	20.429	23.803	21.601	21.0	18.7
Soybean meal 4/	5.243	4.168	3.887	5.064	4.4	4.5
Soybean oil	0.773	0.843	0.953	0.897	0.8	0.8
Livestock, poultry, and dairy	29.252	25.530	28.876	30.531	30.3	30.1
Livestock products	18.215	16.443	18.645	19.692	19.4	19.6
Beef and veal 5/	5.850	5.197	6.173	7.322	7.1	7.6
Pork 5/	4.976	4.737	5.227	5.431	5.1	5.2
Beef and pork variety meats 5/	1.532	1.587	1.802	1.631	1.5	1.5
Hides, skins, and furs	2.626	1.888	1.931	1.579	1.6	1.5
Poultry and products	5.480	4.551	4.906	5.251	5.3	5.1
Broiler meat 5/6/	3.359	2.780	3.017	3.237	3.3	3.2
Dairy products	5.557	4.536	5.324	5.588	5.6	5.3
Tobacco, unmanufactured	1.250	1.042	1.029	1.098	1.0	1.0
Cotton	4.133	3.443	5.850	6.620	6.9	5.9
Seeds	1.570	1.591	1.733	1.836	1.8	1.8
Horticultural products 7/	33.989	32.866	33.852	34.560	35.3	35.3
Fruits and vegetables, fresh	7.197	6.997	7.203	7.286	7.4	7.4
Fruits and vegetables, processed	7.382	7.386	7.415	7.025	7.2	7.2
Tree nuts, whole and processed	8.811	7.549	8.120	8.761	9.1	9.1
Sugar and tropical products 8/	6.076	6.019	5.843	5.988	5.9	5.9
Major bulk products 9/	46.244	42.881	49.620	48.537	49.9	47.2
Total	139.757	129.603	140.184	143.367	144.5	141.5
VOLUME	--- Million metric tons ---					
Wheat 2/	21.398	22.538	28.080	21.018	27.9	30.5
Rice	3.989	3.824	4.004	3.068	3.6	3.4
Coarse grains 3/	56.699	59.498	62.029	69.008	63.6	65.1
Corn	46.758	51.031	55.492	63.505	59.0	62.0
Feeds and fodders	21.589	22.194	21.689	22.112	22.0	22.0
Soybeans	50.368	54.269	59.677	56.717	56.1	51.7
Soybean meal 4/	11.891	10.844	10.505	13.450	12.1	12.5
Soybean oil	0.914	1.017	1.159	1.110	1.0	1.0
Beef and veal 5/	0.774	0.802	0.934	1.037	1.1	1.1
Pork 5/	1.690	1.733	1.880	1.982	2.1	2.1
Beef and pork variety meats 5/	0.695	0.765	0.842	0.732	0.7	0.7
Broiler meat 5/6/	2.995	2.912	3.050	3.168	3.2	3.2
Tobacco, unmanufactured	0.177	0.156	0.150	0.156	0.2	0.2
Cotton	2.514	2.191	3.278	3.649	3.5	3.3
Major bulk products 9/	135.145	142.475	157.217	153.615	154.9	154.2

Total may not add due to rounding.

1/ Includes corn gluten feed and meal and processed grain products. 2/ Excludes wheat flour. 3/ Includes corn, barley, sorghum,

oats, and rye. 4/ Includes soy flours made from protein meals. 5/ Includes chilled, frozen,

and processed meats. 6/ Includes only federally inspected product. 7/ Includes food preparations, essential oils and wine.

8/ Includes coffee and cocoa products, tea, and spices. 9/ Includes wheat, rice, coarse grains, soybeans, cotton, and

unmanufactured tobacco.

Source: Compiled by USDA using data from Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.

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USDA, Economic Research Service

Regional Exports

Outlook for Fiscal 2019

Agricultural exports in fiscal 2019 are forecast at $141.5 billion, $3.0 billion lower than the August forecast, as a result of reduced export prospects in China.

Asia

The forecast for China is lowered $3.0 billion to $9.0 billion, as continued trade tensions limit U.S. export opportunities for many products, most notably soybeans. China is expected to source most of its soybean imports from countries other than the United States.

Exports to Japan are raised $200 million to $12.6 billion on strong demand for beef. The forecast for South Korea is up $300 million to $8.2 billion as demand for beef and corn is expected to be robust. Taiwan is forecast $100 million higher to $3.8 billion—the same amount the United States exported in fiscal 2018—on expectations of steady demand for bulk commodities such as soybeans and corn.

Exports to Southeast Asia and South Asia are unchanged from August.

Western Hemisphere

The forecasts for Canada and Mexico are unchanged from August at $21.5 billion and $19.7 billion, respectively.

Europe, Africa, and the Middle East

Exports to Europe are unchanged at $14.6 billion. Exports to the European Union (EU) are forecast at $13.4 billion, the same as in August but $700 million higher than fiscal 2018.

The forecast for Africa remains at $5.4 billion, and exports to the Middle East are unchanged at $6.0 billion.

Table 4--U.S. agricultural exports: Value by region, 2015-2019 1/

Country and region	Fiscal year				Share of 2018 total	Forecast Fiscal year 2019	
	2015	2016	2017	2018		Aug.	Nov.
VALUE	-- $ Billion --				*Percent*	-- $ Billion --	
Asia	60.743	54.781	63.179	62.902	43.9	60.2	57.8
East Asia	47.967	42.047	47.966	44.894	31.3	40.6	38.2
Japan	11.693	10.601	11.830	12.605	8.8	12.4	12.6
China	22.608	19.168	21.841	16.309	11.4	12.0	9.0
Hong Kong	3.933	3.504	4.043	4.200	2.9	4.6	4.6
Taiwan	3.293	3.072	3.398	3.793	2.6	3.7	3.8
South Korea	6.422	5.693	6.847	7.977	5.6	7.9	8.2
Southeast Asia	10.630	10.262	11.808	13.926	9.7	15.2	15.2
Indonesia	2.442	2.376	2.968	3.096	2.2	3.5	3.5
Philippines	2.417	2.470	2.628	2.831	2.0	3.0	3.0
Malaysia	0.862	0.798	0.903	0.962	0.7	1.3	1.3
Thailand	1.713	1.465	1.782	2.149	1.5	2.6	2.6
Vietnam	2.406	2.354	2.559	3.897	2.7	4.2	4.2
South Asia	2.146	2.471	3.406	4.082	2.8	4.4	4.4
India	1.109	1.233	1.504	1.575	1.1	1.7	1.7
Western Hemisphere	53.735	51.459	52.881	54.038	37.7	55.6	55.6
North America	39.426	38.009	39.050	39.414	27.5	41.2	41.2
Canada	21.421	20.392	20.442	20.569	14.3	21.5	21.5
Mexico	18.005	17.618	18.608	18.845	13.1	19.7	19.7
Caribbean	3.367	3.280	3.520	3.603	2.5	3.5	3.5
Dominican Republic	1.179	1.109	1.232	1.276	0.9	1.2	1.2
Central America	3.823	3.784	3.786	4.052	2.8	4.0	4.0
South America	7.119	6.385	6.526	6.969	4.9	6.8	6.8
Brazil	0.778	0.802	0.725	0.586	0.4	0.6	0.6
Colombia	2.583	2.257	2.551	2.757	1.9	3.0	3.0
Peru	1.247	1.138	1.188	1.326	0.9	1.3	1.3
Venezuela	0.897	0.653	0.441	0.350	0.2	0.3	0.3
Europe/Eurasia	13.606	12.816	12.560	13.737	9.6	14.6	14.6
European Union-28 2/	12.309	11.665	11.552	12.724	8.9	13.4	13.4
Other Europe 3/	0.663	0.613	0.621	0.557	0.4	0.7	0.7
FSU-12 4/	0.634	0.538	0.387	0.456	0.3	0.5	0.5
Russia	0.406	0.370	0.189	0.211	0.1	0.2	0.2
Middle East	5.824	5.468	6.070	6.315	4.4	6.0	6.0
Turkey	1.573	1.384	1.711	1.681	1.2	1.5	1.5
Saudi Arabia	1.269	1.293	1.588	1.335	0.9	1.4	1.4
Africa	3.772	3.257	3.602	4.338	3.0	5.4	5.4
North Africa	1.860	1.605	1.715	2.740	1.9	3.6	3.6
Egypt	1.092	0.744	0.772	1.695	1.2	2.3	2.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	1.912	1.652	1.887	1.598	1.1	1.8	1.8
Nigeria	0.684	0.397	0.501	0.338	0.2	0.5	0.5
Oceania	2.076	1.823	1.890	2.037	1.4	2.1	2.1
Transshipments via Canada 5/	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	139.757	129.603	140.184	143.367	100.0	144.5	141.5

Total may not add due to rounding.

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

2/ The former EU-25 plus Romania and Bulgaria, w hich acceded in January 2007, and Croatia in July 2013.

3/ Major countries include Sw itzerland, Norw ay, Iceland, and former Yugoslav states.

4/ The former 15 Republics of the Soviet Union minus the 3 Baltic Republics.

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

Source: Compiled by USDA using data from Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Import Products

Agricultural imports in fiscal year 2019 are forecast to increase to $127.0 billion, $500 million above the August forecast but $600 million below the total value of imports in fiscal year 2018. The expected increases in imports of horticultural products, sugar and tropical products, and grains and feed more than offset the expected decreases in livestock, dairy, and poultry products and in oilseeds and oilseed products.

Horticultural product imports are increased $400 million from the previous forecast in fiscal year 2019 to $62.1 billion, $1.1 billion below the fiscal year 2018 total. Processed fruit imports are raised $100 million from the August forecast due to a combination of increased imports of fruit juices and higher unit values for processed products. The increase in processed fruit is offset by fresh fruit imports, which are expected to be $100 million less than previously expected, based on lower unit values. The forecast for malt beer has been increased by $100 million as the trend of rising volumes of imports is expected to continue. Essential oil imports are forecast to increase by $100 million from the previous forecast, due to increased demand that is reflected both in rising unit values and slightly increasing volumes.

U.S. imports of sugar and tropical products are forecast to reach $23.8 billion in fiscal year 2019, a $200 million upward adjustment from the previous forecast and $800 million above fiscal year 2018. Sweeteners and their products are expected to be worth $4.9 billion, $100 million above the last forecast. These value increases are due to higher expected shipments of confectionery items and organic sugar. The value of cocoa product imports is projected to remain at $4.8 billion as decreased imports of cocoa beans are offset by increased shipments of processed cocoa products.

Imports of livestock, dairy, and poultry products in fiscal year 2019 are forecast down $200 million, compared to the August forecast, to $17.0 billion. Beef imports are down by $300 million on a marginal decline in volumes and a significant decline in unit values. Imports of pork are forecast $100 million lower. Imports of dairy products are raised by $100 million as domestic demand for imported products is expected to remain stable at last year's level.

Imports of grains and feed products are forecast to be $100 million higher than the previous forecast and to equal $12.5 billion due to projected increases in U.S. demand for bulk items. Specifically, wheat is expected to be up slightly due to the higher than expected pace of spring and durum wheat imports, largely from Canada. Total oilseeds and oilseed products imports were adjusted downward by $100 million due to reduced volumes of vegetable oil imports.

Table 5--U.S. agricultural imports: Value and volume by commodity, fiscal years 2015-19

Commodity	Fiscal year				Forecast Fiscal year 2019	
	2015	2016	2017	2018	Aug.	Nov.
VALUE			-- $ Billion --			
Livestock, dairy, & poultry	19.458	16.580	16.114	17.066	17.2	17.0
Livestock and meats	15.154	12.360	12.126	12.896	13.1	12.8
Cattle and calves	2.640	1.687	1.487	1.564	1.6	1.6
Swine	0.370	0.334	0.323	0.315	0.3	0.3
Beef and veal	7.208	5.379	5.122	5.592	5.7	5.4
Pork	1.708	1.706	1.770	1.723	1.7	1.6
Dairy products	3.491	3.355	3.243	3.391	3.3	3.4
Cheese	1.314	1.275	1.167	1.280	1.3	1.3
Grains and feed	10.924	10.925	11.340	12.824	12.4	12.5
Grain products	6.881	7.289	7.765	8.586	8.5	8.5
Oilseeds and products	8.750	8.445	9.303	9.694	9.8	9.7
Vegetable oils	5.351	5.407	6.243	6.298	6.7	6.6
Horticulture products	49.822	53.076	56.754	63.209	61.7	62.1
Fruits, fresh	10.184	11.227	12.686	13.107	13.2	13.1
Fruits, processed	5.138	5.122	5.120	5.692	5.5	5.6
Fruit juices	1.839	1.761	1.937	2.168	2.1	2.2
Nuts, whole and processed	2.587	2.607	3.197	3.349	3.4	3.4
Vegetables, fresh	6.905	7.998	7.691	8.361	8.3	8.3
Vegetables, processed	4.458	4.649	5.045	5.380	5.4	5.4
Wine	5.511	5.623	6.068	6.438	6.6	6.6
Malt beer	4.363	4.812	4.968	5.350	5.5	5.6
Essential oils	3.347	3.359	3.559	4.223	4.1	4.2
Cut flowers & nursery stock	1.734	1.813	1.913	2.027	2.0	2.0
Sugar & tropical products	23.532	22.192	23.861	23.017	23.6	23.8
Sweeteners & products	4.876	4.646	4.655	4.732	4.8	4.9
Confections	1.643	1.734	1.769	1.897	1.8	1.9
Cocoa and products	4.703	4.880	5.157	4.561	4.8	4.8
Coffee and products	6.400	5.934	6.617	6.088	6.6	6.6
Rubber, natural	1.575	1.306	1.700	1.583	1.7	1.7
Other imports 1/	1.748	1.810	1.716	1.745	1.8	1.8
Total agricultural imports	114.234	113.028	119.087	127.555	126.5	127.0
VOLUME			--- Million metric tons ---			
Wine 2/	1.166	1.199	1.287	1.271	1.4	1.4
Malt beer 2/	3.557	3.858	3.973	4.180	4.1	4.2
Fruit juices 2/	4.516	4.513	4.638	5.183	5.1	5.2
Cattle and calves 3/	2.292	1.711	1.746	1.860	2.0	2.0
Swine 3/	5.493	5.764	5.616	5.362	5.4	5.3
Beef and veal	1.195	1.004	1.004	1.020	1.0	1.0
Pork	0.492	0.492	0.488	0.478	0.5	0.5
Fruits, fresh	11.187	11.641	12.181	12.383	12.6	12.6
Fruits, processed	1.879	1.899	1.811	1.923	2.0	1.9
Vegetables, fresh	6.497	7.180	7.359	7.859	7.9	7.9
Vegetables, processed	3.457	3.599	3.819	4.109	4.1	4.1
Vegetable oils	4.410	4.692	4.922	4.984	5.7	5.5
Cocoa and products	1.293	1.299	1.495	1.339	1.3	1.3
Coffee and products	1.533	1.638	1.691	1.607	1.5	1.5

Totals may not add due to rounding.

1/ Largely tobacco and planting seeds. 2/ Billion liters. 3/ Million head.

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

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Regional Imports

Regional imports from the Western Hemisphere are projected to increase by $300 million from the previous forecast to a record $70.1 billion. Mexico is expected to remain the largest foreign supplier of agricultural goods to the United States, with Canada remaining the third-largest. Mexico's projected sales total is now $25.6 billion, $200 million above the August forecast, due to increases in expected imports of horticultural products and confections. The forecast value of Canadian agricultural products sold to the United States is boosted $100 million to $23.6 billion, with upward adjustments to U.S. imports of confections and wheat more than offsetting reductions to vegetable oil.

Imports from South America in fiscal year 2019 are projected to drop $100 million from the August forecast to $14.2 billion. Imports from Peru are expected to decrease $100 million from the previous forecast due to lower expected sales of horticultural products such as fresh fruits. However, the Caribbean region's growth in miscellaneous horticultural product shipments motivate a $100 million upward adjustment from the previous forecast.

Fiscal year 2019 imports from the EU are projected to increase to $23.8 billion, a $100 million rise, due to increased U.S. demand for differentiated horticultural products like essential oils. Therefore, the group of member states is expected to remain the second-largest foreign supplier of agricultural products to the United States.

Imports from Asia are forecast down $100 million from the previous projection to $21.3 billion. These adjusted expectations are due in part to decreases in supplies from Southeast Asia, specifically a $200 million drop in forecast imports from Singapore due to an expected slowing of prepared beverage shipments.

In fiscal year 2019, imports from Africa are expected to be worth $2.9 billion, a drop of $100 million due to lower shipments of cocoa beans from the Ivory Coast. Imports from Oceania and the Middle East are expected to remain unchanged.

Table 6--U.S. agricultural imports: Value by region, fiscal years 2015-19

Region and country	Fiscal year				Forecast Fiscal year 2019	
	2015	2016	2017	2018	Aug.	Nov.
	-- $ Billion --					
VALUE						
Western Hemisphere	62.452	63.120	65.937	68.901	69.8	70.1
Canada	22.391	21.428	21.960	22.964	23.5	23.6
Mexico	20.680	22.507	24.071	25.660	25.4	25.6
Central America	5.050	5.097	5.454	5.460	5.5	5.5
Costa Rica	1.503	1.596	1.606	1.639	1.7	1.7
Guatemala	1.944	1.877	2.097	2.132	2.1	2.1
Other Central America	1.602	1.624	1.750	1.689	1.7	1.7
Caribbean	0.580	0.564	0.587	0.713	0.6	0.7
South America	13.752	13.524	13.866	14.104	14.3	14.2
Argentina	1.457	1.418	1.367	1.415	1.4	1.4
Brazil	3.534	3.302	3.320	3.382	3.5	3.5
Chile	2.808	3.022	2.990	3.040	3.0	3.0
Colombia	2.472	2.292	2.591	2.570	2.6	2.6
Peru	1.589	1.742	1.977	2.169	2.2	2.1
Other South America	1.890	1.748	1.622	1.528	1.6	1.6
Europe and Eurasia	21.158	21.939	22.809	25.260	25.3	25.3
European Union-28	19.708	20.410	21.361	23.713	23.7	23.8
Other Europe	1.450	1.529	1.447	1.547	1.5	1.5
Asia	18.739	17.565	19.705	22.482	21.4	21.3
East Asia	5.799	5.799	6.125	6.568	6.4	6.4
China	4.330	4.258	4.474	4.775	4.6	4.6
Other East Asia	1.468	1.541	1.651	1.793	1.8	1.8
Southeast Asia	9.668	9.370	10.732	12.889	12.1	11.9
Indonesia	2.912	2.803	3.590	3.481	3.6	3.6
Malaysia	1.251	1.064	0.965	0.999	1.0	1.0
Thailand	2.293	2.297	2.387	2.638	2.5	2.5
Vietnam	1.877	1.996	2.400	2.383	2.5	2.5
Other Southeast Asia	1.335	1.210	1.390	3.389	2.3	2.1
South Asia	3.273	2.397	2.848	3.024	2.9	2.9
India	2.952	2.096	2.526	2.662	2.6	2.6
Oceania	7.766	6.052	5.797	5.954	6.1	6.1
Australia	4.653	3.367	3.094	3.261	3.4	3.4
New Zealand	2.996	2.574	2.585	2.586	2.7	2.7
Africa	2.706	2.748	3.292	3.252	3.0	2.9
Sub-Sahara	2.223	2.334	2.934	2.702	2.6	2.5
Ivory Coast	0.918	1.005	1.185	0.853	1.1	1.0
Middle East	1.161	1.444	1.366	1.488	1.5	1.5
Turkey	0.736	0.983	0.888	0.987	1.0	1.0
World total	114.234	113.028	119.087	127.555	126.5	127.0

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Sources: USDA, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.

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Reliability Tables

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

Commodity	Average absolute forecast errors Fiscal 2018					Forecast accuracy Fiscal 2018					Forecast accuracy 1/
	Aug	Nov	Feb	May	Aug	Aug	Nov	Feb	May	Aug	
Export value				*Percent*				*"X" if error ≤ 5%*			*Percent*
Grains and feeds	9	6	5	0	1	-	-	X	X	X	60
Wheat	27	25	17	15	13	-	-	-	-	-	0
Rice	1	15	15	14	4	X	-	-	-	X	40
Coarse grains	29	25	18	9	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Corn	29	25	20	9	1	-	-	-	-	X	20
Feeds and fodders	10	4	4	3	3	-	X	X	X	X	80
Oilseeds and products	5	5	1	0	0	X	-	X	X	X	80
Soybeans	11	12	2	1	1	-	-	X	X	X	60
Soybean meal	20	21	21	11	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Soybean oil	3	11	22	0	1	X	-	-	X	X	60
Livestock, poultry, and dairy	3	3	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Livestock products	4	3	1	1	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Beef and veal	17	14	8	9	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Pork	1	4	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Beef and pork variety meats	17	10	17	10	1	-	-	-	-	X	20
Hides, skins, and furs	27	27	27	14	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Poultry and products	7	5	5	5	0	-	X	X	-	X	60
Broiler meat	9	7	4	5	0	-	-	X	X	X	60
Dairy products	2	0	0	4	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Tobacco, unmanufactured	9	9	9	9	9	-	-	-	-	-	0
Cotton	32	27	18	6	4	-	-	-	-	X	20
Planting seeds	2	2	2	2	2	X	X	X	X	X	100
Horticultural products	0	0	0	0	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Fruits and vegetables, fresh	4	4	4	4	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Fruits and veget., processed	7	7	7	7	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Tree nuts	3	3	3	3	2	X	X	X	X	X	100
Sugar and tropical products	3	3	3	3	3	X	X	X	X	X	100
Major bulk products	4	2	5	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Total agricultural exports	3	2	3	1	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Average error & accuracy	10	10	8	5	2	48%	45%	59%	59%	93%	61
Export volume											
Wheat	20	26	18	13	13	-	-	-	-	-	0
Rice	27	24	17	14	4	-	-	-	-	X	20
Coarse grains	24	22	15	8	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Corn	26	24	19	10	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Feeds and fodders	1	3	3	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Soybeans	7	8	1	1	0	-	-	X	X	X	60
Soybean meal	17	17	17	14	5	-	-	-	-	X	20
Soybean oil	10	10	19	10	1	-	-	-	-	X	20
Beef and veal	8	4	4	3	1	-	X	X	X	X	80
Pork	0	1	1	2	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Beef and pork variety meats	23	23	23	9	1	-	-	-	-	X	20
Broiler meat	0	2	1	0	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Tobacco, unmanufactured	4	28	28	28	28	X	-	-	-	-	20
Cotton	15	12	12	4	4	-	-	-	X	X	40
Major bulk products	5	3	4	2	1	-	X	X	X	X	80
Average error & accuracy	13	14	12	8	4	27%	33%	40%	47%	87%	47

1/ Percent of forecasts with errors less than or equal to 5 percent, as denoted by an X

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Table 8--Reliability of quarterly U.S. export projections, by country and quarter

Country/region	Average absolute forecast errors Fiscal 2018					Forecast accuracy Fiscal 2018					Forecast accuracy 1/
	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May	Aug.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May	Aug.	Percent
Export value			*Percent*					*"X" if error ≤ 5%*			
Asia	2	2	2	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
East Asia	6	6	5	7	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Japan	12	12	9	6	5	-	-	-	-	X	20
China	39	39	32	32	17	-	-	-	-	-	0
Hong Kong	10	10	2	2	2	-	-	X	X	X	60
Taiwan	13	13	13	13	8	-	-	-	-	-	0
South Korea	16	16	16	14	7	-	-	-	-	-	0
Southeast Asia	21	18	18	14	5	-	-	-	-	-	0
Indonesia	6	6	6	6	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Philippines	12	12	12	8	5	-	-	-	-	X	20
Malaysia	6	6	6	6	4	-	-	-	-	X	20
Thailand	21	21	21	12	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Vietnam	38	28	28	20	8	-	-	-	-	-	0
South Asia	27	27	27	14	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
India	5	5	5	8	8	1	X	X	-	-	60
Western Hemisphere	0	0	0	0	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
North America	1	3	3	3	3	X	X	X	X	X	100
Canada	3	3	3	3	3	X	X	X	X	X	100
Mexico	0	2	2	3	3	X	X	X	X	X	100
Caribbean	3	3	3	3	3	X	X	X	X	X	100
Dominican Republic	6	6	6	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	0
Central America	6	6	6	6	1	-	-	-	-	X	20
South America	7	7	11	14	8	-	-	-	-	-	0
Brazil	71	71	19	15	15	-	-	-	-	-	0
Colombia	9	9	9	9	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Peru	17	17	17	17	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Venezuela	14	14	14	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	0
Europe and Eurasia	7	7	7	5	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
European Union-28	7	7	7	6	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Other Europe	26	26	26	26	8	-	-	-	-	-	0
FSU-12	34	34	34	12	10	-	-	-	-	-	0
Russia	5	5	5	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	0
Middle East	8	8	8	3	3	-	-	-	X	X	40
Turkey	17	17	17	1	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Saudi Arabia	5	5	5	5	5	X	X	X	X	X	100
Africa	17	17	17	12	4	-	-	-	-	X	20
North Africa	34	34	34	23	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Egypt	53	53	53	35	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Sub-Saharan Africa	13	13	13	13	6	-	-	-	-	-	0
Nigeria	48	48	48	48	18	-	- -	-	-		0
Oceania	7	7	7	7	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Average error and accuracy	16	16	14	11	5	20%	20%	22%	27%	63%	30

1/ Percent of forecasts with errors less than or equal to 5 percent, as denoted by an X

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

Commodity	Average absolute forecast errors Fiscal 2018					Forecast accuracy Fiscal 2018					Forecast accuracy 1/
	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May	Aug.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May	Aug.	
Import value			*Percent*					*"X" if error ≤ 5%*			*Percent*
Livestock, poultry, and dairy	11	7	7	3	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Livestock and meats	14	8	8	4	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Cattle and calves	20	5	1	1	5	-	X	X	X	X	80
Swine	5	5	5	5	5	X	X	X	X	X	100
Beef and veal	16	12	11	11	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Pork	13	7	7	4	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Dairy products	6	6	6	3	0	-	-	-	X	X	40
Cheese	9	2	2	2	2	-	X	X	X	X	80
Grains and feed	13	12	10	7	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Grain products	10	10	9	8	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Oilseeds and products	9	9	7	3	0	-	-	-	X	X	40
Vegetable oils	5	5	3	2	2	X	X	X	X	X	100
Horticulture products	12	12	11	8	5	-	-	-	-	X	20
Fruits, fresh	7	5	6	3	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Fruits, preserved	9	9	9	7	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Fruit juices	17	17	12	8	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Nuts and preparations	7	4	4	4	1	-	X	X	X	X	80
Vegetables, fresh	7	8	6	4	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Vegetables, processed	5	5	5	3	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Wine	7	7	7	4	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Malt beer	8	8	7	5	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Essential oils	17	17	15	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	0
Cut flowers and nursery stock	6	6	6	1	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Sugar and tropical products	1	1	2	2	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Sweeteners and products	1	1	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Confections	10	10	10	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	0
Cocoa and products	16	14	10	5	1	-	-	-	-	X	20
Coffee beans and products	3	5	7	7	5	X	-	-	-	-	20
Natural rubber	1	1	14	14	7	X	X	-	-	-	40
Other imports	3	3	3	3	3	X	X	X	X	X	100
Total agricultural imports	9	8	7	5	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Average error and accuracy	9	7	7	5	2	23%	29%	26%	65%	87%	46
Import volume											
Wine (HL)	2	2	2	2	2	X	X	X	X	X	100
Malt beer (HL)	7	7	4	4	4	-	-	X	X	X	60
Fruit juices (HL)	13	13	9	5	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Cattle and calves	15	1	1	1	1	-	X	X	X	X	80
Swine	10	4	4	4	1	-	X	X	X	X	80
Beef and veal	12	2	2	2	2	-	X	X	X	X	80
Pork	16	5	5	5	5	-	X	X	X	X	80
Fruits--fresh	2	1	2	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Fruits--processed	1	1	1	1	4	X	X	X	X	X	100
Vegetables--fresh	6	7	5	2	1	-	-	X	X	X	60
Vegetables--processed	5	5	5	5	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Vegetable oils	2	2	10	12	10	X	X	-	-	-	40
Cocoa and products	12	12	5	3	10	-	-	X	X	-	40
Coffee beans and products	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Average error and accuracy	7	5	4	3	3	36%	64%	79%	79%	86%	69

1/ Percent of forecasts with errors less than or equal to 5 percent, as denoted by an X

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Table 10--Reliability of quarterly U.S. import projections, by country and quarter

Country/region	Average absolute forecast errors Fiscal 2018					Forecast accuracy Fiscal 2018					Forecast accuracy 1/
	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May	Aug.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May	Aug.	
Import value			*Percent*					*"X" if error ≤ 5%*			*Percent*
Western Hemisphere	7	5	3	1	0	-	-	X	X	X	60
Canada	5	2	1	1	2	-	X	X	X	X	80
Mexico	10	8	6	4	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Central America	3	1	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Costa Rica	2	2	2	4	4	X	X	X	X	X	100
Guatemala	6	2	2	2	2	-	X	X	X	X	80
Other Central America	1	1	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Caribbean	16	16	16	16	16	-	-	-	-	-	0
South America	6	6	6	4	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Argentina	8	8	8	8	1		-	-	-	X	20
Brazil	5	5	5	2	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Chile	1	5	8	8	5	X	X	-	-	X	60
Colombia	11	7	3	3	3	-	-	X	X	X	60
Peru	12	12	12	8	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Other South America	5	5	5	5	5	X	X	X	X	X	100
Europe and Eurasia	10	10	7	5	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
European Union-27	11	11	8	6	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Other Europe	3	3	3	3	3	X	X	X	X	X	100
Asia	18	17	15	11	5	-	-	-	-	-	0
East Asia	9	9	9	6	4	-	-	-	-	X	20
China	8	8	8	6	4	-	-	-	-	X	20
Other East Asia	11	11	11	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	0
Southeast Asia	22	21	19	15	6	-	-	-	-	-	0
Indonesia	8	8	2	1	1	-	-	X	X	X	60
Malaysia	10	10	10	0	0		-	-	X	X	40
Thailand	13	9	9	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	0
Vietnam	3	1	1	1	5	X	X	X	X	X	100
Other Southeast Asia	62	62	62	56	26	-	-	-	-	-	0
South Asia	17	17	14	7	4	-	-	-	-	X	20
India	17	17	14	6	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Oceania	9	6	3	1	2	-	-	X	X	X	60
Australia	8	5	2	1	4	-	X	X	X	X	80
New Zealand	7	3	1	1	4	-	X	X	X	X	80
Africa	8	8	14	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	0
Sub-Saharan Africa	4	4	11	11	11	X	X	-	-	-	40
Ivory Coast	41	41	17	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	0
Middle East	6	6	6	1	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Turkey	9	9	9	1	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Average error & accuracy	11	10	9	6	4	21%	32%	37%	55%	76%	44

1/ Percent of forecasts with errors less than or equal to 5 percent, as denoted by an X

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