

Grain Truck and Ocean Rate Advisory: Quarterly Updates

Transportation and Marketing Programs
Transportation Services Division
www.ams.usda.gov/AgTransportation

Truck Advisory

Table 1: U.S. Grain Truck Market, 3rd Quarter 2016

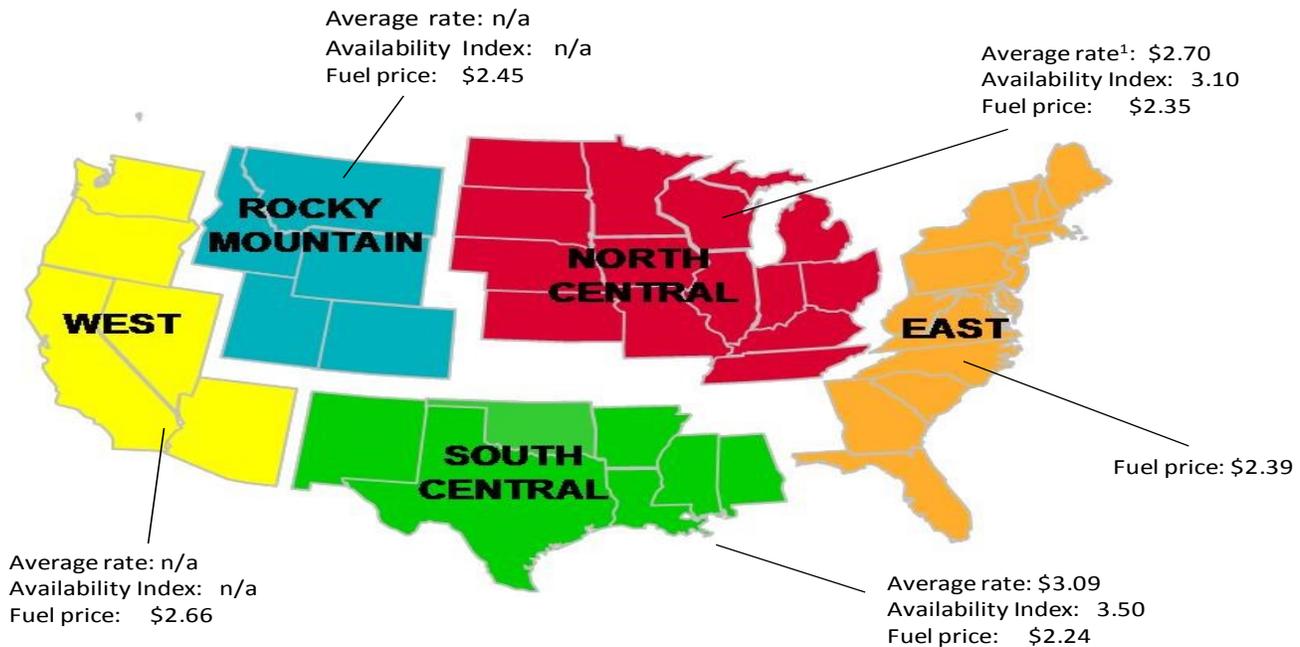
Region	25 miles	100 miles	200 miles	Truck availability	Truck usage	Future truck usage
Rate per mile, per truckload				1=Very Easy to 5=Very Difficult	1=Much Lower to 5=Much Higher	
National average²	3.28	2.82	2.50	3.10	3.30	3.50
North Central region	3.13	2.64	2.32	3.10	3.20	3.40
Rocky Mountain	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
South Central	3.68	2.88	2.71	3.50	3.50	3.50
West	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

¹Rates are based on trucks with 80,000 lb gross vehicle weight limit, and are quoted in U.S. dollar

²National average is based on rates received from various States, but not every State is represented.

Source: Transportation and Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 1: U.S. Grain Truck Market, 3rd Quarter 2016



¹Average rate per loaded mile, based on truck rates for trips of 25, 100, and 200 miles

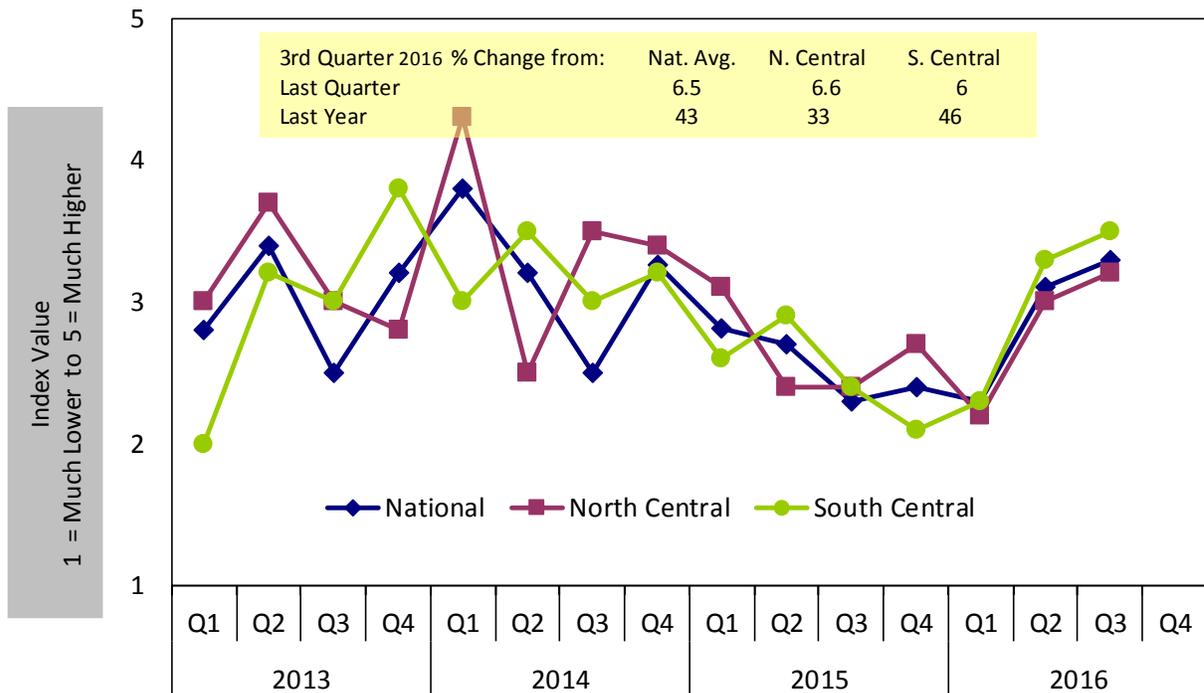
Note: Fuel prices are a quarterly average (unit per gallon)

Fuel Price Data Source: Energy Information Administration U.S. Department of Energy, www.eia.doe.gov

Truck Usage

Table 2: Regional Truck Usage Index

Current Truck Usage 1 = Much Lower to 5 = Much Higher					Future Truck Usage 1 = Much Lower to 5 = Much Higher			
2014	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr
National	3.80	3.20	2.50	3.26	3.60	2.40	3.00	2.73
North Central	4.30	2.50	3.50	3.40	4.00	2.40	4.00	2.83
Rocky Mountain	3.20	2.20	3.00	3.00	2.40	2.40	2.50	3.00
South Central	3.00	3.50	3.00	3.20	3.00	2.60	1.00	2.80
West	3.00	3.20	3.00	2.00	3.00	2.20	3.00	1.50
2015	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr
National	2.81	2.70	2.30	2.40	3.27	3.30	3.30	2.60
North Central	3.10	2.40	2.40	2.70	2.60	3.80	3.50	2.80
Rocky Mountain	3.00	2.00	2.20	2.30	3.00	3.00	2.80	2.50
South Central	2.60	2.90	2.40	2.10	3.60	2.40	3.40	2.00
West	2.90	2.90	NA	NA	3.40	2.90	NA	NA
2016	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr
National	2.30	3.10	3.30		2.40	3.30	3.50	
North Central	2.20	3.00	3.20		2.40	3.50	3.40	
Rocky Mountain	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA	
South Central	2.30	3.30	3.50		2.50	4.00	3.50	
West	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA	



Source: Transportation and Marketing Programs, AMS/USDA

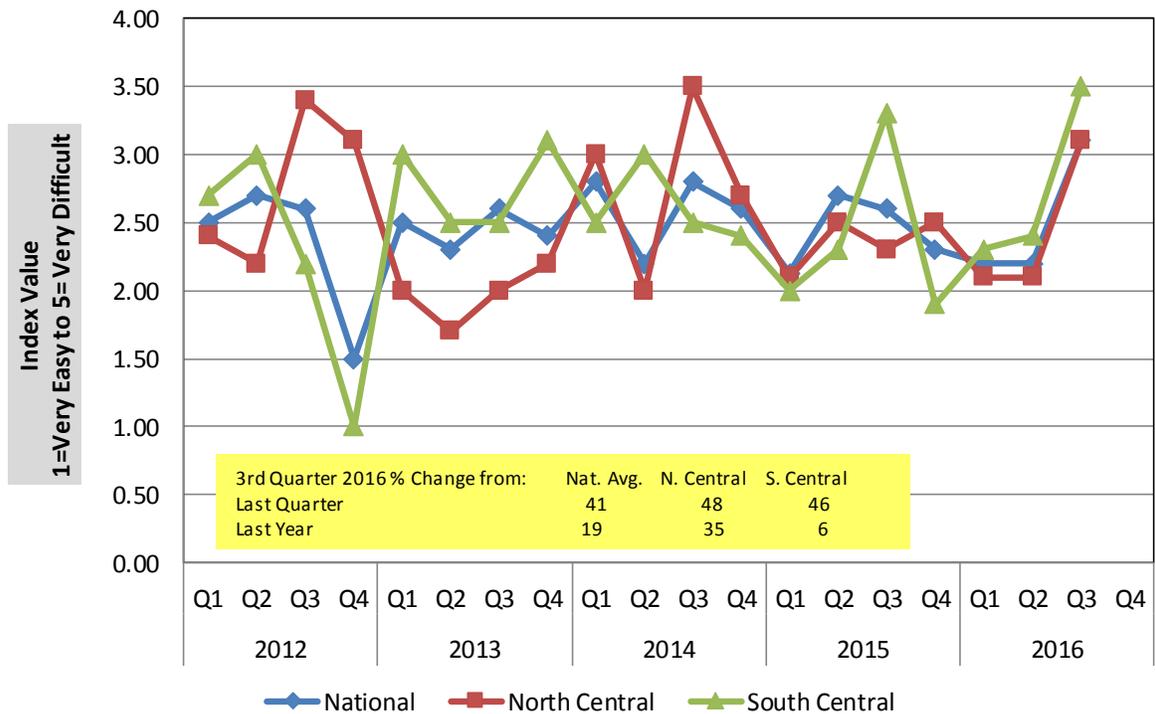
Truck Availability

Table 3: Quarterly National Truck Availability Index

Region	1= Very Easy 5=Very Difficult		Current qtr as % change from		
	3rd Quarter 2016	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Last Year	Previous Qtr	Same Qtr Last Year
National	3.10	2.20	2.60	41	19
North Central	3.10	2.10	2.30	48	35
South Central	3.50	2.40	3.30	46	6

The truck availability index tracks the trends in perceived ease of hiring a truck as reported by grain elevators.

Figure 3: National Truck Availability



Truck Rates

Table 4 : Average Grain Truck Rates for Short and Long Hauls, 3rd Quarter 2016 (\$/mile per truckload)

Region	25 miles	100 miles	200 miles	% increase from:					
				Last qtr			Same qtr Last year		
				25 mi	100 mi	200 mi	25 mi	100 mi	200 mi
National Average	\$3.28	\$2.82	\$2.50	-2.4%	-2.1%	11.6%	-7.1%	29.4%	20.2%
North Central	\$3.13	\$2.64	\$2.32	-9.0%	-12.6%	0.4%	-14.2%	24.5%	21.5%
Rocky Mountain	NA	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Central	\$3.68	\$2.88	\$2.71	21.1%	4.3%	23.2%	34.3%	14.3%	26.6%
West	NA	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	-	-

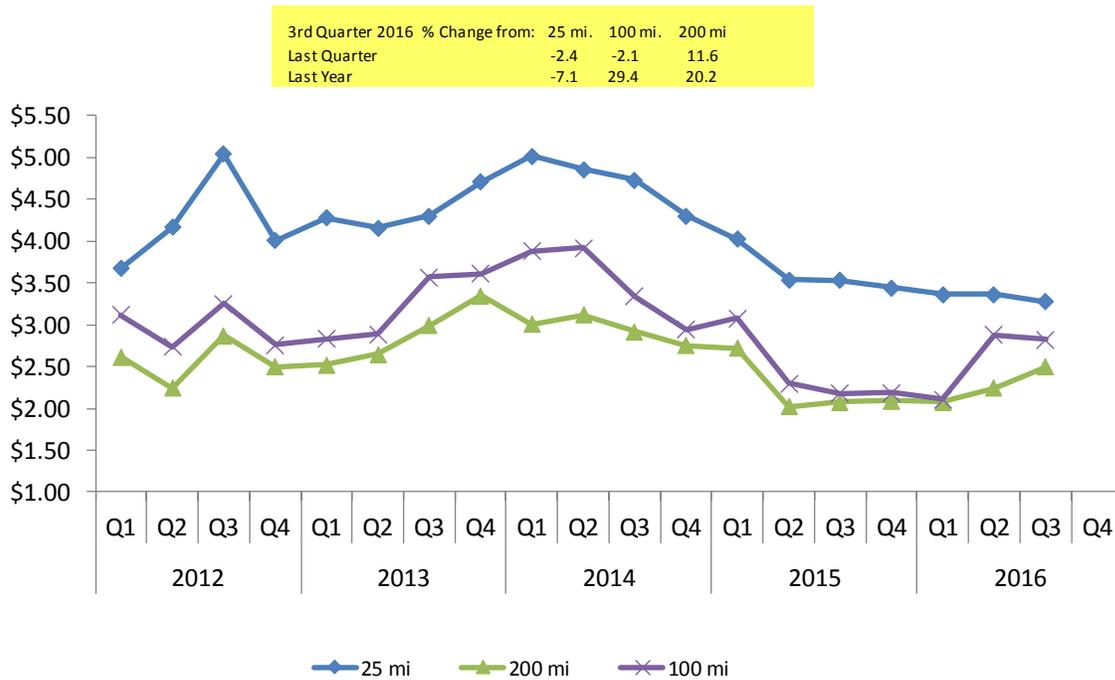
n/a: data not available

Rates are based on trucks with 80,000 lbs gross vehicle weight limit

Source: Transportation and Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

A truck is assumed to carry 55,000 lbs or 25 metric tons of grain. Rates per metric ton per mile can be calculated from rates per truckload.

Figure 4: National Average Truck Rates by Trip Distance



U.S. Diesel Fuel Prices

The **diesel fuel price** provides a proxy for trends in U.S. truck rates. Diesel fuel is a significant expense for grain movements.

Figure2: U.S. Average On-Highway Diesel Fuel Prices



Source: Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy

Table 5: 3rd Quarter 2016 Average Diesel Fuel Prices (All Types - \$/Gallon)

Location	Price	Change From	
		Last Quarter	Same Qtr Last Year
East Coast	2.39	0.06	-0.32
New England	2.41	0.04	-0.40
Central Atlantic	2.48	0.05	-0.35
Lower Atlantic	2.31	0.06	-0.29
Midwest	2.35	0.09	-0.20
Gulf Coast	2.24	0.07	-0.25
Rocky Mountain	2.45	0.15	-0.19
West Coast	2.66	0.12	-0.19
California	2.76	0.13	-0.20
U.S.	2.38	0.08	-0.25

Source: Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy

Ocean Rates

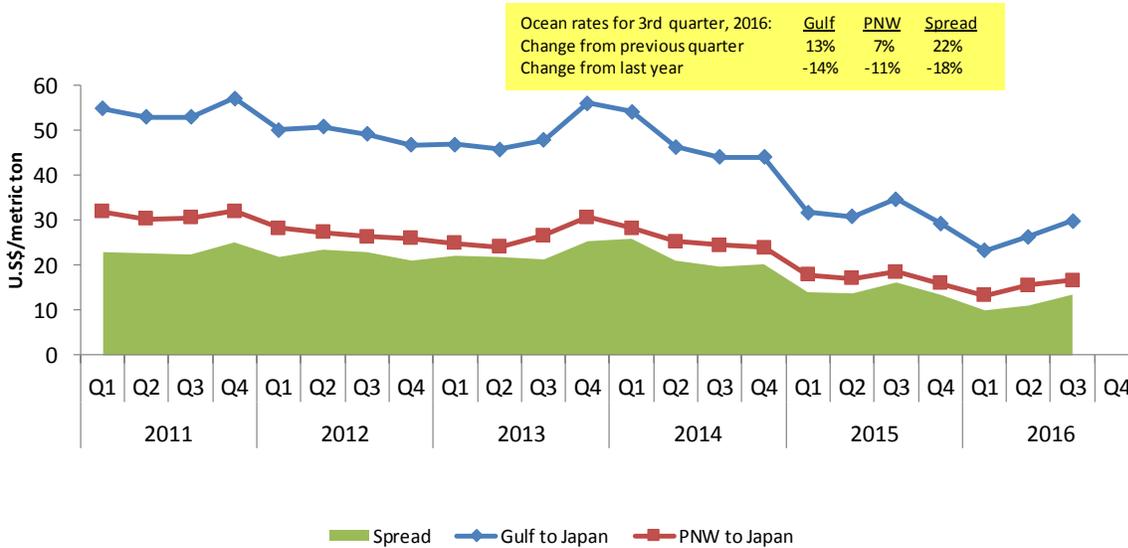
Table 6: Ocean Shipping Rates for Bulk Grain (\$/metric ton)

Gulf to										
Country	1st Qtr 2015	2nd Qtr 2015	3rd Qtr 2015	4th Qtr 2015	Average	1 st Qtr 2016	2 nd Qtr 2016	3 rd Qtr 2016	4 th Qtr 2016	Average
Japan	31.71	30.86	34.71	29.31	31.65	23.22	26.40	29.93		26.52
Rotterdam	14.03	13.95	15.48	13.81	14.32	11.65	13.72	15.10		13.49
China	30.41	29.54	32.65	27.77	30.09	21.34	24.37	28.27		24.66
Mexico	11.63	11.89	12.85	12.12	12.12	10.44	11.65	13.20		11.76
Colombia: Atlantic Port (East)	14.71	13.10	15.70	15.55	14.77	13.19	14.24	16.23		14.55
Colombia: Pacific Ports (West)	22.83	20.63	23.71	22.07	22.31	19.90	20.64	22.72		21.09

PNW to										
Country	1st Qtr 2015	2nd Qtr 2015	3rd Qtr 2015	4th Qtr 2015	Average	1st Qtr 2016	2nd Qtr 2016	3rd Qtr 2016	4th Qtr 2016	Average
Japan	17.83	17.04	18.57	15.97	17.35	13.30	15.50	16.61		15.14
China	16.7	16.17	17.57	14.90	16.33	12.30	14.26	15.53		14.03

Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

Figure 6: Grain Vessel Rates and Spread, U.S. to Japan



Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

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Related Websites

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[Mexico Transport Cost Indicator Report](#)

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[Agricultural Refrigerated Truck Quarterly](#)

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