

#### Agricultural Marketing Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Updated October 2021









# Transportation of U.S. Grains

## A Modal Share Analysis 1978-2019 Update



















#### **Preferred Citation**

Chang, Kuo-Liang "Matt", Peter Caffarelli, and Jesse Gastelle. Transportation of U.S. Grains: A Modal Share Analysis, October 2021. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. Web. <<u>http://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS049.10-2021</u>>

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## Transportation of U.S. Grains

### A Modal Share Analysis 1978-2019 Update

**USDA Economists** 

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Transportation Services Division USDA Agricultural Marketing Service





### Abstract ••••

This report provides a breakout by mode of corn, wheat, soybeans, sorghum, and barley movements to either domestic markets or U.S. ports for export between 1978 and 2019. It is the twelfth update of an initial modal share study completed in 1992. The purpose of this series of reports is to provide the latest information about changes and trends in the relative competitiveness and efficiency among the different transportation modes in moving grain. Estimates of the tonnages (and shares) of grain railed, barged, and trucked are developed from a variety of secondary sources. This data can be used to identify trends and implications on transportation from factors, such as changes in production volumes and commodity mix, as well as changes in the relative demand for U.S. grain for domestic purposes versus export.



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#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this analysis is to examine trends in the type of transportation used to move grains grown for the food and feed industry.<sup>1</sup> Grains produced in the United States move to domestic and foreign markets through a well-developed transportation system. Barge, rail, and truck transportation facilitate a highly competitive market that bridges the gap between U.S. grain producers and domestic and foreign consumers.

Barges, railroads, and trucks often compete head-to-head to supply transportation for grains. Despite a high degree of competition in some markets, these modes also complement each other. Before a bushel of grain reaches its final destination, it has often been transported by two or more modes. This balance between competition and integration provides grain shippers with a highly efficient, low-cost system of transportation. The competitiveness of U.S. grains in the world market and the financial well-being of U.S. grain producers depends upon this competitive balance. A highly competitive and efficient transportation system results in lower shipping costs, smaller marketing margins for middlemen, and more competitive export prices. Such efficiencies also result in lower food costs for U.S. consumers and higher market prices for U.S. producers.

This analysis of the transportation of the final movement of grain, by mode, provides information about changes in market share among the modes. Over several years, such work helps identify critical trends affecting the transportation of grain. It also provides a framework to assess public policies that influence the development and success of the Nation's transportation infrastructure. Public policies that promote an efficient grain transportation system also promote strong U.S. agricultural and rural economies.

Note to readers regarding past versions of this report: This update presents new data for 2017, 2018, and 2019 as well as minor revisions to previous years.

<sup>1</sup> For this analysis, it is assumed that corn, wheat, soybeans, sorghum, and barley represent all grain movements.



### **Methodology**

Any effort to measure tonnages of grain moved by mode of transport is limited by the absence of information on the total volume of truck movements. Accurate data exist for barge and rail freight tonnages and commodities, but not for trucks. Other analyses of grain movements have relied extensively on survey data to overcome this obstacle. This analysis uses the Waterborne Commerce Statistics of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to calculate tonnages of barged grain and uses the Carload Waybill Sample from the Surface Transportation Board to estimate the amount of railed grain. Trucking data are derived from known grain production data, as compared to the estimates of the railed and barged volumes of grain. Estimating these modal grain volumes and modal shares on an annual basis provides a data series that tracks changes in grain transportation over time.

In this analysis, the term "modal share" describes that portion of the total tonnages of grain moved by each mode of transport—barge, rail, or truck. These shares, expressed as percentages, were determined by mode for particular types of grains and movements. Grains identified for this analysis were corn, wheat, soybeans, sorghum, and barley. The 1992 and 1998 versions of this study also included rye and oats. Rye and oats were taken out of the calculations for this report because of unreliability due to small volumes, which total less than 1 percent of all grain movements. Transport modes are categorized according to the final movement going to domestic markets or ports for export.

The estimates of modal tonnages and shares are based on the amount of grain moved to commercial markets. Truck tonnages are estimated by subtracting barge and rail tonnages from total tonnages transported. Figure 1 shows how modal shares are estimated. For each crop, total movements are determined first, and then exports are subtracted from the total to get domestic movements. Total rail and barge volumes are subtracted from total movements to get truck movements. A more detailed description of the methodology is covered in Appendix A.



#### Figure 1: Estimating modal tonnages and shares













### Table 1: Tonnages of U.S. grains transported, by type of crop and type of movement,2003-2019

~	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Sorghum	Barley	All grains
Year –			1,000	tons		
Total						
2003	235,694	64,768	73,625	10,985	5,535	390,607
2004	241,129	66,878	85,645	10,885	5,386	409,923
2005	260,160	62,372	81,925	10,293	5,334	420,085
2006	284,980	57,895	89,274	9,284	4,887	446,318
2007	290,163	67,470	88,782	11,602	5,689	463,705
2008	302,243	66,847	88,832	12,419	5,174	475,516
2009	302,403	56,895	97,860	11,319	4,685	473,163
2010	336,597	61,780	96,186	9,220	4,651	508,434
2011	321,787	68,045	93,110	7,592	4,456	494,991
2012	308,008	66,591	91,043	6,698	4,538	476,878
2013	295,060	70,691	101,639	7,800	4,648	479,839
2014 2015	350,173	62,616 57,188	115,291 117,619	12,553 13,847	4,784	<u>545,416</u> 546,776
2015	<u>353,472</u> 365,303	62,090	125,643	13,714	4,649	571,115
2010	375,957	61,132	125,645	11,873	4,365 3,799	581,014
2017	387,432	56,234	118,738	9,016	3,655	575,075
2013	377,092	65,273	118,116	9,788	3,894	574,164
Export	577,052	05,275	110,110	5,700	5,054	574,104
2003	47,607	29,406	26,597	5,546	686	109,841
2003	53,373	34,728	32,915	5,089	370	126,475
2004	50,629	30,413	28,196	5,062	839	115,140
2005	63,429	26,778	33,495	5,205	439	129,347
2000	63,438	37,058	34,765	6,326	832	142,419
2007	58,874	33,812	38,379	5,813	601	137,478
2009	52,749	25,153	44,971	4,164	132	127,169
2010	54,819	31,174	45,149	4,143	189	135,474
2011	50,371	36,540	40,958	3,728	218	131,815
2012	35,265	30,197	39,826	1,991	213	107,492
2013	26,200	36,626	49,157	2,492	217	114,692
2014	55,305	28,676	55,273	7,870	369	147,493
2015	48,923	23,933	58,268	10,595	336	142,056
2016	61,918	27,176	64,993	7,566	109	161,762
2017	57,751	30,537	63,873	6,600	146	158,908
2018	76,674	25,256	52,430	4,319	106	158,786
2019	46,435	30,386	50,460	2,942	130	130,354
Domestic						
2003	188,087	35,362	47,028	5,439	4,850	280,766
2004	187,756	32,150	52,731	5,796	5,015	283,449
2005	209,532	31,959	53,729	5,231	4,495	304,945
2006	221,551	31,117	55,779	4,078	4,447	316,971
2007	226,725	30,412	54,017	5,276	4,856	321,287
2008	243,369	33,035	50,453	6,606	4,574	338,038
2009	249,654	31,743	52,889	7,155	4,553	345,994
2010	281,777	30,607	51,036	5,077	4,462	372,960
2011	271,416	31,505	52,153	3,864	4,238	363,176
2012	272,743	37,015	51,217	4,707	4,324	370,006
2013	268,860	34,260	52,482	5,308	4,431	365,341
2014	294,868	33,940	60,018	4,682	4,414	397,923
2015	304,550	33,255	59,340	3,252	4,313	404,709
2016	303,383	34,914	60,647	6,148	4,257	409,349
2017	318,125	30,536	64,240	5,257	3,652	421,810
2018	310,758	30,978	66,307	4,697	3,549	416,289
2019	330,657	34,887	67,656	6,846	3,764	443,810







Figure 5: U.S. grain modal shares, 1978-2019





#### Table 2: Tonnages and modal shares for all U.S. grains, 2003–2019

Year &	Mode of transport								
type of	Ra	il	Bar	ge	Truck				
movement	1,000 tons	Percent	1,000 tons	Percent	1,000 tons	Percent			
Total									
2003	130,356	33	68,396	18	191,855	49			
2004	136,317	33	67,274	16	206,333	50			
2005	141,130	34	57,668	14	221,287	53			
2006	158,287	35	60,484	14	227,547	51			
2007	152,423	33	65,750	14	245,533	53			
2008	149,061	31	56,118	12	270,337	57			
2009	142,663	30	62,689	13	267,812	57			
2010	151,251	30	65,428	13	291,754	57			
2011	138,159	28	59,789	12	297,042	60			
2012	125,993	26	60,426	13	290,459	61			
2013	115,107	24	56,764	12	307,967	64			
2014	132,234	24	74,966	14	338,216	62			
2015	135,734	25	72,063	13	338,979	62			
2016	141,140	25	81,235	14	348,740	61			
2017	135,128	23	77,412	13	368,474	63			
2018	132,604	23	77,156	13	365,315	64			
2010	126,505	22	64,405	11	383,254	67			
	120,303		07,703	11	505,254	07			
Export	44 79 4				<b>_</b>				
2003	41,784	38	62,776	57	5,282	5			
2004	48,015	38	61,729	49	16,730	13			
2005	53,797	47	52,981	46	8,361	7			
2006	59,673	46	56,617	44	13,057	10			
2007	61,366	43	61,613	43	19,440	14			
2008	67,300	49	51,765	38	18,413	13			
2009	59,077	46	59,095	46	8,997	7			
2010	67,409	50	61,371	45	6,694	5			
2011	53,092	40	55,877	42	22,845	17			
2012	41,471	39	55,603	52	9,798	9			
2013	39,984	35	51,854	45	22,660	20			
2014	52,500	36	71,045	48	23,948	16			
2015	49,182	35	68,157	48	24,729	17			
2016	63,014	39	77,253	48	21,499	13			
2017	58,705	37	73,426	46	27,074	17			
2018	57,065	36	73,718	46	28,003	18			
2019	50,037	38	61,814	47	18,503	14			
Domestic			· · · ·						
2003	88,572	32	5,620	2	186,574	66			
2003	88,302	31	5,544	2	189,602	67			
2004	87,332	29	4,686	2	212,926	70			
2005	98,614	31	3,867	1	212,920	68			
2008	91,057	28	4,137	1	226,093	70			
2007	81,761	20	4,137	1	251,924	75			
2008	83,586	24 24	3,594	1	251,924	75			
2009	83,843	24	4,057	1	238,814	75			
2010				<u> </u>	285,060				
	85,067	<u>23</u> 23	3,912			75 76			
2012	84,523		4,823	1	280,660				
2013	75,123	21	4,910	1	285,307	78			
2014	79,734	20	3,921	1	314,269	79			
2015	86,552	21	3,907	1	314,250	78			
2016	78,126	19	3,982	1	327,241	80			
2017	76,423	18	3,986	1	341,400	81			
2018	75,539	18	3,438	1	337,313	81			
2019	76,468	17	2,592	1	364,751	82			



#### Table 3: Modal Share Summary: 2019 and 5-year average, percent\*

Mode/		Corn Wheat		Soybeans			All grains					
Year	Exports	Domestic	All corn	Exports	Domestic	All wheat	Exports	Domestic	All soybeans	Exports	Domestic	All grains
Rail												
2019	33	15	17	60	49	54	29	12	20	38	17	22
5-yr avg	34	16	19	57	54	56	27	14	20	37	19	24
Barge												
2019	48	0	6	28	1	14	62	2	27	47	1	11
5-yr avg	53	0	9	31	1	15	54	3	27	47	1	13
Truck												
2019	19	85	77	11	50	32	9	86	53	14	82	67
5-yr avg	13	84	73	12	44	29	19	84	53	16	80	63

\*Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.



### **Corn Modal Shares**

#### Table 4: Tonnages and modal shares for U.S. corn, 2003–2019

Year &	Mode of transport								
type of	Ra	il	Bar	ge	Truck				
movement	1,000 tons	Percent	1,000 tons	Percent	1,000 tons	Percent			
Total									
2003	69,775	30	36,488	15	129,431	55			
2004	74,766	31	37,302	15	129,062	54			
2005	75,261	29	31,739	12	153,161	59			
2006	87,314	31	34,587	12	163,079	57			
2007	78,650	27	37,407	13	174,106	60			
2008	75,652	25	30,088	10	196,503	65			
2009	69,803	23	32,147	11	200,453	66			
2010	74,909	22	33,134	10	228,553	68			
2011	72,059	22	29,434	9	220,294	68			
2012	64,514	21	22,331	7	221,162	72			
2013	53,808	18	18,421	6	222,832	76			
2014	66,701	19	35,072	10	248,400	71			
2015	69,153	20	30,572	9	253,747	72			
2016	69,839	19	35,729	10	259,735	71			
2017	67,278	18	32,815	9	275,864	73			
2018	78,696	20	37,555	10	271,181	70			
2019	64,720	17	23,130	6	289,243	77			
Export	T		- I I		1				
2003	13,207	28	32,872	69	1,528	3			
2004	16,055	30	33,974	64	3,344	6			
2005	18,380	36	28,778	57	3,472	7			
2006	24,735	39	31,941	50	6,753	11			
2007	20,478	32	34,689	55	8,270	13			
2008	24,615	42	27,457	47	6,802	12			
2009	19,801	38	30,013	57	2,936	6			
2010	22,070	40	31,174	57	1,575	3			
2011	17,237	34	27,331	54	5,802	12			
2012	10,108	29	19,825	56	5,332	15			
2013	7,034	27	16,019	61	3,147	12			
2014	14,822	27	33,624	61	6,859	12			
2015	14,116	29	29,256	60	5,551	11			
2016	21,582	35	34,187	55	6,151	10			
2017	18,523	32	31,213	54	8,096	14			
2018 2019	30,369	40 33	36,356	47 48	9,949	<u>13</u> 19			
	15,539		22,068	40	8,829	19			
Domestic	EC ECO	20	2 616	2	127.002	60			
2003	56,568	<u> </u>	3,616	2	127,903	68			
2004	56,711	27	3,328		125,717 149,689	<u>67</u> 71			
2005 2006	56,881 62,579	27	2,961 2,646	<u> </u>	149,689	71 71			
2008	58,171	28	2,040	1	165,836	73			
2007	51,037	20	2,718	1	189,701	73 78			
2008	50,002	20	2,031	1	189,701	78			
2009	52,839	19	1,960	1	226,978	81			
2010	54,822	20	2,102	1	214,492	79			
2011	54,406	20	2,506	1	215,830	79			
2012	46,774	17	2,402	1	219,685	82			
2013	51,879	18	1,448	0	241,541	82			
2014	55,037	18	1,317	0	248,196	81			
2015	48,258	16	1,542	1	253,584	84			
2010	48,755	15	1,602	1	267,768	84			
2018	48,327	16	1,199	0	261,232	84			
2010	49,181	15	1,062	0	280,414	85			





Figure 6: U.S. corn domestic shipments by mode, 2003–2019

Figure 7: U.S. corn export shipments by mode, 2003-2019





### Wheat Modal Shares

#### Table 5: Tonnages and modal shares for U.S. wheat, 2003-2019

Year &				Mode of t	ransport			
type of		Ra	il	Bar	ge	Truck		
move	ment	1,000 tons	Percent	1,000 tons	Percent	1,000 tons	Percent	
Total								
	2003	36,900	57	10,180	16	17,688	27	
	2004	40,924	61	11,937	18	14,017	21	
	2005	44,180	71	8,668	14	9,524	15	
	2006	44,735	77	8,767	15	4,393	8	
	2007	47,777	71	10,515	16	9,178	14	
	2008	45,670	68	8,872	13	12,305	18	
	2009	41,094	72	8,462	15	7,339	13	
	2010	44,017	71	8,471	14	9,293	15	
	2011	43,417	64	9,844	14	14,784	22	
	2012	35,025	53	10,814	16	20,753	31	
	2013	36,290	51	15,170	21	19,232	27	
	2014	33,527	54	10,055	16	19,034	30	
	2015	32,388	57	9,112	16	15,688	27	
	2016	34,522	56	8,445	14	19,123	31	
	2017	35,917	59	9,279	15	15,936	26	
	2018	29,758	53	9,020	16	17,457	31	
	2019	35,565	54	8,876	14	20,832	32	
Export		· · ·		· · · ·		· · ·		
	2003	18,348	62	9,726	33	1,332	5	
	2004	21,439	62	11,370	33	1,919	6	
	2005	22,120	73	8,294	27	0	0	
	2006	18,212	68	8,566	32	0	0	
	2007	24,749	67	10,229	28	2,080	6	
	2008	24,509	72	8,428	25	875	3	
	2009	17,117	68	7,970	32	66	0	
	2010	22,369	72	8,013	26	792	3	
	2011	22,820	62	9,333	26	4,387	12	
	2012	16,474	55	10,126	34	3,597	12	
	2013	18,034	49	14,519	40	4,073	11	
	2014	15,710	55	9,437	33	3,529	12	
	2015	12,508	52	8,411	35	3,015	13	
	2016	16,728	62	7,887	29	2,562	9	
	2017	18,490	60	8,824	29	3,283	11	
	2018	13,052	52	8,628	34	3,577	14	
	2019	18,372	60	8,584	28	3,430	11	
Domes						07.00		
	2003	18,552	52	454	1	16,356	46	
	2003	19,485	61	566	2	12,099	38	
	2005	22,060	69	375	1	9,524	30	
	2005	26,524	85	200	1	4,393	14	
	2000	23,028	76	286	1	7,098	23	
	2007	21,161	64	444	1	11,430	35	
	2000	23,977	76	493	2	7,273	23	
	2009	21,647	70	458	1	8,501	28	
	2010	20,596	65	511	2	10,397	33	
	2011	18,551	50	688	2	17,776	48	
	2012	18,255	53	651	2	15,354	45	
	2013	17,818	52	617	2	15,505	46	
	2014	19,881	60	701	2	12,673	38	
	2015	17,794	51	558	2	16,561	47	
	2010	17,427	57	456	1	12,652	41	
	2017	16,706	54	392	1	13,880	45	
	2018	17,192	49	292	1	17,402	50	







#### Figure 9: U.S. wheat export shipments by mode, 2003-2019



### Soybean Modal Shares

#### Table 6: Tonnages and modal shares for U.S. soybeans, 2003-2019

Year & type of movement         Mode of transport           I,000 tons         Rail         Barge           I,000 tons         Percent         I,000 tons         Percent           Z003         17,735         24         20,167         27           2004         15,029         18         17,053         20           Z005         16,141         20         16,332         20           Z006         19,862         22         16,221         18           Z007         19,478         22         16,327         18           Z008         20,899         24         16,326         18           Z009         25,745         26         21,569         22           Z010         26,778         28         23,472         24           Z011         19,055         20         19,962         21           Z012         23,281         26         26,604         29           Z013         21,591         21         22,399         22           Z014         24,472         21         28,590         25	Tru           1,000 tons           35,723           53,564           49,452           53,191           52,976           51,607           50,546           45,935           54,093           41,158	ck Percent 49 63 60 60 60 60 58 52 48
movement1,000 tonsPercent1,000 tonsPercentTotal200317,7352420,16727200415,0291817,05320200516,1412016,33220200619,8622216,22118200719,4782216,32718200820,8992416,32618200925,7452621,56922201026,7782823,47224201119,0552019,96221201223,2812626,60429201321,5912122,39922201424,4722128,59025	<b>1,000 tons</b> 35,723           53,564           49,452           53,191           52,976           51,607           50,546           45,935           54,093           41,158	49         63           60         60           60         58           52         52
Total $2003$ $17,735$ $24$ $20,167$ $27$ $2004$ $15,029$ $18$ $17,053$ $20$ $2005$ $16,141$ $20$ $16,332$ $20$ $2006$ $19,862$ $22$ $16,221$ $18$ $2007$ $19,478$ $22$ $16,327$ $18$ $2008$ $20,899$ $24$ $16,326$ $18$ $2009$ $25,745$ $26$ $21,569$ $22$ $2010$ $26,778$ $28$ $23,472$ $24$ $2011$ $19,055$ $20$ $19,962$ $21$ $2012$ $23,281$ $26$ $26,604$ $29$ $2013$ $21,591$ $21$ $22,399$ $22$ $2014$ $24,472$ $21$ $28,590$ $25$	35,723 53,564 49,452 53,191 52,976 51,607 50,546 45,935 54,093 41,158	49 63 60 60 60 58 52
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	53,564 49,452 53,191 52,976 51,607 50,546 45,935 54,093 41,158	63 60 60 58 52
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	53,564 49,452 53,191 52,976 51,607 50,546 45,935 54,093 41,158	63 60 60 58 52
200516,1412016,33220200619,8622216,22118200719,4782216,32718200820,8992416,32618200925,7452621,56922201026,7782823,47224201119,0552019,96221201223,2812626,60429201321,5912122,39922201424,4722128,59025	49,452 53,191 52,976 51,607 50,546 45,935 54,093 41,158	60 60 60 58 52
200619,8622216,22118200719,4782216,32718200820,8992416,32618200925,7452621,56922201026,7782823,47224201119,0552019,96221201223,2812626,60429201321,5912122,39922201424,4722128,59025	53,191 52,976 51,607 50,546 45,935 54,093 41,158	60 60 58 52
200719,4782216,32718200820,8992416,32618200925,7452621,56922201026,7782823,47224201119,0552019,96221201223,2812626,60429201321,5912122,39922201424,4722128,59025	52,976 51,607 50,546 45,935 54,093 41,158	60 58 52
200820,8992416,32618200925,7452621,56922201026,7782823,47224201119,0552019,96221201223,2812626,60429201321,5912122,39922201424,4722128,59025	51,607 50,546 45,935 54,093 41,158	52
200925,7452621,56922201026,7782823,47224201119,0552019,96221201223,2812626,60429201321,5912122,39922201424,4722128,59025	50,546 45,935 54,093 41,158	52
201119,0552019,96221201223,2812626,60429201321,5912122,39922201424,4722128,59025	54,093 41,158	48
201223,2812626,60429201321,5912122,39922201424,4722128,59025	41,158	
2013         21,591         21         22,399         22           2014         24,472         21         28,590         25		58
2014 24,472 21 28,590 25		45
2014 24,472 21 28,590 25	57,648	57
	62,229	54
2015 25,239 21 30,131 26	62,250	53
2016 29,315 23 36,825 29	59,503	47
2017 25,305 20 35,235 27	67,712	53
2018 18,653 16 30,538 26	69,547	59
2019 23,083 20 32,384 27	62,649	53
Export		
2003 7,964 30 18,632 70	0	0
2004 8,496 26 15,412 47	9,007	27
2005 10,676 38 15,030 53	2,490	9
2006 13,541 40 15,240 45	4,714	14
2007 12,524 36 15,242 44	6,999	20
2008 14,492 38 15,089 39	8,798	23
2009 19,694 44 20,634 46	4,644	10
2010 20,484 45 21,864 48	2,801	6
2011 12,041 29 18,793 46	10,124	25
2012 14,598 37 25,124 63	104	0
2013 14,426 29 20,611 42	14,119	29
<u>2014</u> 17,231 31 26,791 48	11,251	20
2015         16,168         28         28,296         49           2016         49         20         20         54	13,814	24
<u>2016</u> <u>19,693</u> <u>30</u> <u>34,968</u> <u>54</u>	10,334	16
<u>2017</u> 17,255 27 33,308 52	13,449	21
<u>2018</u> 10,402 20 28,695 55	13,334	25
2019 14,819 29 31,149 62	4,491	9
Domestic           2002         0.771         21         1.525         2	25 722	76
2003         9,771         21         1,535         3           2004         6,533         12         1,641         3	35,723	<u>76</u> 84
2004         6,533         12         1,641         3           2005         5,465         10         1,302         2	44,556	<u> </u>
2005 5,465 10 1,502 2 2006 6,321 11 982 2	48,476	87
2006 0,321 11 982 2 2007 6,953 13 1,086 2	48,478	87 85
2007 0,933 13 1,086 2 2008 6,407 13 1,237 2	42,809	85
2009 6,051 11 936 2	42,809	87
2009 0,031 11 938 2 2010 6,294 12 1,608 3	43,134	85
2011 7,015 13 1,169 2	43,969	84
2012 8,683 17 1,480 3	41,054	80
2013 7,165 14 1,788 3	43,529	83
2014 7,241 12 1,799 3	50,978	85
2015 9,070 15 1,834 3	48,436	82
2016 9,622 16 1,857 3	49,169	81
2017 8,050 13 1,927 3	54,263	84
2017         0,050         15         1,527         5           2018         8,251         12         1,843         3	56,213	85
2019 8,264 12 1,235 2	58,157	86





Figure 10: U.S. soybean domestic shipments by mode, 2003-2019



Figure 11: U.S. soybean export shipments by mode, 2003-2019

# Sorghum Modal Shares

#### Table 7: Tonnages and modal shares for U.S. sorghum, 2003-2019

Year &	Mode of transport								
type of	Rail Barge Truck								
movement	1,000 tons	Percent	1,000 tons	Percent	1,000 tons	Percent			
Total	1,000 tons	rereent	1,000 tons	rereent	1,000 (0113	rereent			
2003	2,121	19	1,365	12	7,500	68			
2003	2,334	21	852	8	7,698	71			
2005	2,366	23	721	7	7,206	70			
2006	3,407	37	730	8	5,147	55			
2007	3,490	30	1,252	11	6,859	59			
2008	3,779	30	634	5	8,006	64			
2009	3,218	28	442	4	7,660	68			
2010	2,886	31	315	3	6,019	65			
2011	1,078	14	427	6	6,087	80			
2012	653	10	577	9	5,468	82			
2013	667	9	691	9	6,441	83			
2014	4,873	39	1,046	8	6,633	53			
2015	6,361	46	2,139	15	5,347	39			
2016	5,127	37	225	2	8,362	61			
2017	4,518	38	74	1	7,281	61			
2018	3,257	36	43	0	5,716	63			
2019	1,567	16	15	0	8,206	84			
Export	1 7(2	22	1 202	25	2 4 2 1	4.4			
2003 2004	<u>1,763</u> 1,776	<u>32</u> 35	1,362 852	<u>25</u> 17	2,421	44 48			
2004	1,776	38	721	17	2,460	48 47			
2005	2,886	55	721	14	1,590	31			
2000	2,989	47	1,246	20	2,091	33			
2007	3,253	56	622	11	1,938	33			
2008	2,372	57	440	11	1,352	32			
2005	2,307	56	309	7	1,526	37			
2010	776	21	420	11	2,532	68			
2012	120	6	485	24	1,386	70			
2013	316	13	660	26	1,515	61			
2014	4,528	58	1,033	13	2,309	29			
2015	6,117	58	2,130	20	2,349	22			
2016	4,903	65	212	3	2,451	32			
2017	4,297	65	74	1	2,245	34			
2018	3,137	73	40	1	1,143	26			
2019	1,177	40	13	0	1,753	60			
Domestic									
2003	358	7	3	0	5,078	93			
2004	558	10	0	0	5,238	90			
2005	425	8	0	0	4,806	92			
2006	521	13	0	0	3,557	87			
2007	502	10	6	0	4,769	90			
2008	527	8	11	0	6,068	92			
2009	846	12	2	0	6,307	88			
2010	579	11	5	0	4,493	88			
2011	302	8	7	0	3,555	92			
2012	534	11	92	2	4,082	87			
2013	351	7	31	1	4,926	93			
2014	345	7	13	0	4,324	92 92			
2015 2016	244 224	8 4	9	0	2,999	92			
2016	224	4 4	0	0	5,911 5,035	96			
2017	120	3				96 97			
2018	390	6	4	0 0	4,574 6,454	97 94			





Figure 12: U.S. sorghum domestic shipments by mode, 2003–2019







### **Barley Modal Shares**

#### Table 8: Tonnages and modal shares for U.S. barley, 2003-2019

Year &		Mode of transport								
type of		Ra	il	Bar		Tru	ck			
moveme		1,000 tons	Percent	1,000 tons	Percent	1,000 tons	Percent			
Total										
	003	3,826	69	196	4	1,513	27			
	004	3,264	61	130	2	1,991	37			
	005	3,182	60	207	4	1,944	36			
	006	2,969	61	179	4	1,738	36			
	007	3,028	53	247	4	2,413	42			
20	008	3,061	59	198	4	1,916	37			
20	009	2,803	60	68	1	1,814	39			
	010	2,661	57	36	1	1,954	42			
	)11	2,550	57	123	3	1,784	40			
	)12	2,520	56	100	2	1,918	42			
	013	2,751	59	83	2	1,814	39			
	)14	2,660	56	203	4	1,921	40			
	)15	2,593	56	109	2	1,947	42			
	016	2,337	54	12	0	2,016	46			
	017	2,109	56	9	0	1,681	44			
	018	2,240	61	0	0	1,414	39			
	019	1,570	40	0	0	2,324	60			
Export										
	003	502	73	183	27	0	0			
	004	249	67	121	33	0	0			
	005	680	81	159	19	0	0			
	006	299	68	140	32	0	0			
	007	626	75	206	25	0	0			
	800	432	72	168	28	0	0			
	009	93	70 94	39 11	<u> </u>	0	0			
	010 011	178 218	<u> </u>	0	0	0	0			
	)12	171	80	42	20	0	0			
	)12	171	80	42	20	0	0			
	)14	210	57	160	43	0	0			
	)14	272	81	64	19	0	0			
	)10	109	100	04	0	0	0			
	)17	109	95	7	5	0	0			
	)18	106	100	0	0	0	0			
	)19	130	100	0	0	0	0			
Domestic		100	100							
	003	3,323	69	13	0	1,513	31			
	004	3,015	60	9	0	1,991	40			
	005	2,502	56	48	1	1,944	43			
	006	2,670	60	39	1	1,738	39			
	007	2,402	49	41	1	2,413	50			
	008	2,629	57	29	1	1,916	42			
	009	2,711	60	29	1	1,814	40			
	010	2,483	56	26	1	1,954	44			
	011	2,332	55	123	3	1,784	42			
20	)12	2,349	54	58	1	1,918	44			
	)13	2,578	58	39	1	1,814	41			
20	)14	2,450	56	43	1	1,921	44			
	015	2,320	54	45	1	1,947	45			
	016	2,229	52	12	0	2,016	47			
	017	1,969	54	2	0	1,681	46			
	)18	2,134	60	0	0	1,414	40			
20	)19	1,441	38	0	0	2,324	62			





Figure 14: U.S. barley domestic shipments by mode, 2003–2019







### Appendix A: Modal Share Methodology

Modal shares are calculated for all grains and each grain type, based on the estimated modal tonnages. These modal shares are determined for total, export, and domestic movements.

**Total Tonnages.** The approach used to estimate modal tonnages and shares requires that total tonnages of grain transported to market be determined. It is also necessary to determine the portions of total tonnages transported to domestic and export markets. Total tonnages are defined as total disappearance minus grain that was grown and used on-farm. Total disappearance for this study is calculated using the ERS *Wheat Outlook, Feed Outlook,* and *Oil Crop Outlook* reports. These reports include marketing year supply and disappearance tables that list domestic use and exports. The *Oil Crop Outlook* lists these numbers by marketing year. The other two reports break the numbers down on a quarterly basis. To get disappearance numbers by calendar year, monthly totals are calculated from the marketing year data and added together into respective calendar year totals.

**Total Export.** Total exports are calculated using export numbers reported in the ERS *Outlook* reports.

**Total Domestic.** Total domestic tonnages are estimated by subtracting total export tonnages from total disappearance.

**Grown and Used-on-Farm Totals.** Grown and used-on-farm data are provided by ERS. These data are reported in percentages by year and commodity. Production numbers for each commodity are multiplied by the grown and used-on-farm percentages. Those numbers are then subtracted from total disappearance to get total transported grain tonnages. Grain grown and used on-farm must be deducted from total disappearance because it generates no commercial transportation demand.

**Rail Total.** Annual rail movements come from the STB Master Carload Waybill Sample. STB's Waybill Sample is a stratified sample of carload waybills for terminated shipments by railroad carriers. The STB collects operating statistics on U.S. railroads, which can be used to estimate rail traffic volumes and railroad characteristics. Total tonnages are calculated using the billed weight in tons from the Waybill Sample and multiplying it by an expansion factor to estimate the tonnages for all grain movements by all railroads. Movements that originated and terminated in the same five-digit, Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) region are assumed to be short hauls, which would be double-counted and, thus, were deleted.

Some grain is moved by a combination of rail and barge. Since this represents a relatively small amount of grain, these movements are not included in the rail calculations. Instead, they are counted in the barge movements—the final mode used to transport the grain. There are other instances in which grain shipments are rebilled from one railroad to another at terminal markets. Such a movement would be considered a double-count of grain movements. An attempt is made to minimize the rebilled movements. Again, as with the rail-to-barge movements, these types of shipments represent a small portion of total rail shipments.

**Rail Export.** Export regions are defined by five-digit FIPS codes and are listed in Appendix B. The regions chosen are based on methodology from the 1998 modal share report as those regions with ports in the Pacific Northwest, Atlantic Coast, and Gulf of Mexico. Rail exports to the Great Lakes are determined from grain delivery information at Duluth-Superior, MN, and Toledo, OH. Total tonnages exported are then calculated using the designated export regions. Movements that originated and terminated in the same five-digit FIPS region are assumed to be short hauls, which would be double-counted and, thus, were deleted.



**Rail Domestic.** Domestic rail tonnages are estimated by subtracting export grain tonnages moved by rail from total grain tonnages moved by rail.

**Barge Total.** Annual barge movement data, which are collected and compiled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, are obtained from *Waterborne Commerce of the United States.* The categories used to calculate modal shares for barge are river shipping range (origin) and river receiving range (destination). Total movements are determined by summing the total of all receiving ranges. As explained in the Rail Total section above, when barge and rail are used in combination to ship grain, with barge being the final mode in the transportation route, only the barge movement is included.

**Barge Export.** The following river receiving ranges are used to find barge export movements: Atlantic, Pacific, Central Gulf, East Gulf, and West Gulf. Any movement that is received into a port in the defined regions is determined to be an export movement. The receiving ranges are based on the 1998 report's methodology. For that report, export barge modal shares were calculated using barge export tonnages based on internal grain and oilseed receipts reported on the inland waterways. Movements were defined as those to: 1) Kalama and Vancouver, WA, and Portland, OR, on the Columbia-Snake River system; 2) Baton Rouge through New Orleans, LA, to the mouth of the passes on the Mississippi River system; 3) Lake Charles, LA, on the Calcasieu River; 4) Mobile, AL, on the Tennessee-Tombigbee River system; 5) Pascagoula, MS, on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway; 6) Beaumont and Port Arthur, TX; 7) Galveston Bay (including Houston), TX; 8) Corpus Christi, TX, and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway ports between Corpus Christi and the Mexican border; and 9) Hampton Roads and Norfolk, VA, on the Chesapeake Bay.

**Barge Domestic.** Domestic barge movements are calculated by subtracting export barge movements from total barge movements.

**Truck Total.** Total truck tonnages are estimated by subtracting total rail and total barge from total disappearance. The method for estimating truck grain tonnages and modal shares assumes that all barge and rail tonnages represent "long-haul" movements. "Short-haul" movements (farm-to-elevator) that originate on the farm are almost exclusively done by truck. Such farm-to-elevator movements are considered gathering movements. Unlike barge or rail movements that typically end at the point of domestic consumption or export, these truck movements represent only the first and shortest segment of the entire shipping route for grain.

**Truck Export.** Truck export tonnages are estimated by subtracting rail export and barge export tonnages from total export tonnages.

**Truck Domestic.** Domestic truck tonnages are estimated by subtracting domestic rail and domestic barge tonnages from total domestic tonnages.

## Appendix B: FIPS Regions Included in Rail Export Tonnages

