

BRANCHING OUT GLOBALLY

In 2024, the United States reaffirmed its position as the world’s ethanol powerhouse, producing 16.1 billion gallons—nearly double Brazil’s output—and maintaining its two-decade reign as the top global producer. This record production, driven by expanded capacity and low input costs, allowed the U.S. to dominate global markets with cost-competitive, cleaner-burning ethanol.

The U.S. has been a net exporter of ethanol for 15 consecutive years, as national commitments to reduce GHG emissions, improve air quality and reduce consumer fuel prices have served as critical drivers. In 2024, U.S. ethanol exports grew 35 percent to an all-time high of 1.9 billion gallons. Increased fuel ethanol exports to India, the United Kingdom, Colombia, and Canada accounted for 65 percent of that growth. Notably, exports exceeded 2023 volumes across 50 countries.

Canada accounted for over one-third of U.S. ethanol exports, with demand rising 38 percent since the 2022 implementation of its Clean Fuel Regulation. Favorable pricing and preparations for 2025 blending increases in provinces like Ontario and Quebec further amplified Canada’s import demand. The United Kingdom became the second-largest export market, with shipments surging 65 percent over 2023 levels. Ethanol consumption in the U.K. has been increasing since 2021 implementation of an E10 standard, and with recent surges closely tied to increasing Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations.

The European Union followed with a 26 percent increase in imports compared to 2023, driven by Renewable Energy Directive II requirements. Meanwhile, U.S. ethanol exports to India quadrupled to record volumes. Since imported

ethanol for transportation fuel blending is prohibited in India, U.S. ethanol has found demand in industrial applications, thereby freeing up domestic product to fulfil India’s ambitious Ethanol Blended Petrol targets.

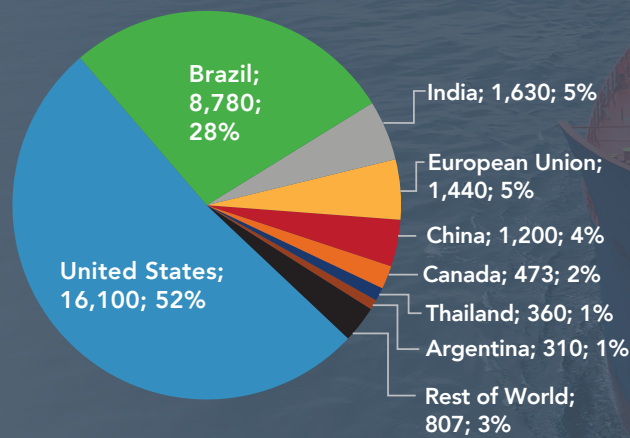
Conversely, exports to Brazil fell to historic lows. Brazil’s reinstated 18-percent tariff on U.S. ethanol, upheld in mid-2024, kept American ethanol out of this once-booming export market. U.S. ethanol exports to China were similarly limited as prohibitive tariffs continued to restrict access.

While exports soared, U.S. ethanol imports in 2024 dropped to a low of 3.5 million gallons, nearly all arriving duty-free from Brazil to take advantage of the RFS and California LCFS programs.

With strong roots in innovation and sustainability, the U.S. continues to grow as the world’s leading ethanol producer and exporter, shaping global biofuel markets through its scale and commitment to progress.

2024 GLOBAL FUEL ETHANOL PRODUCTION BY COUNTRY

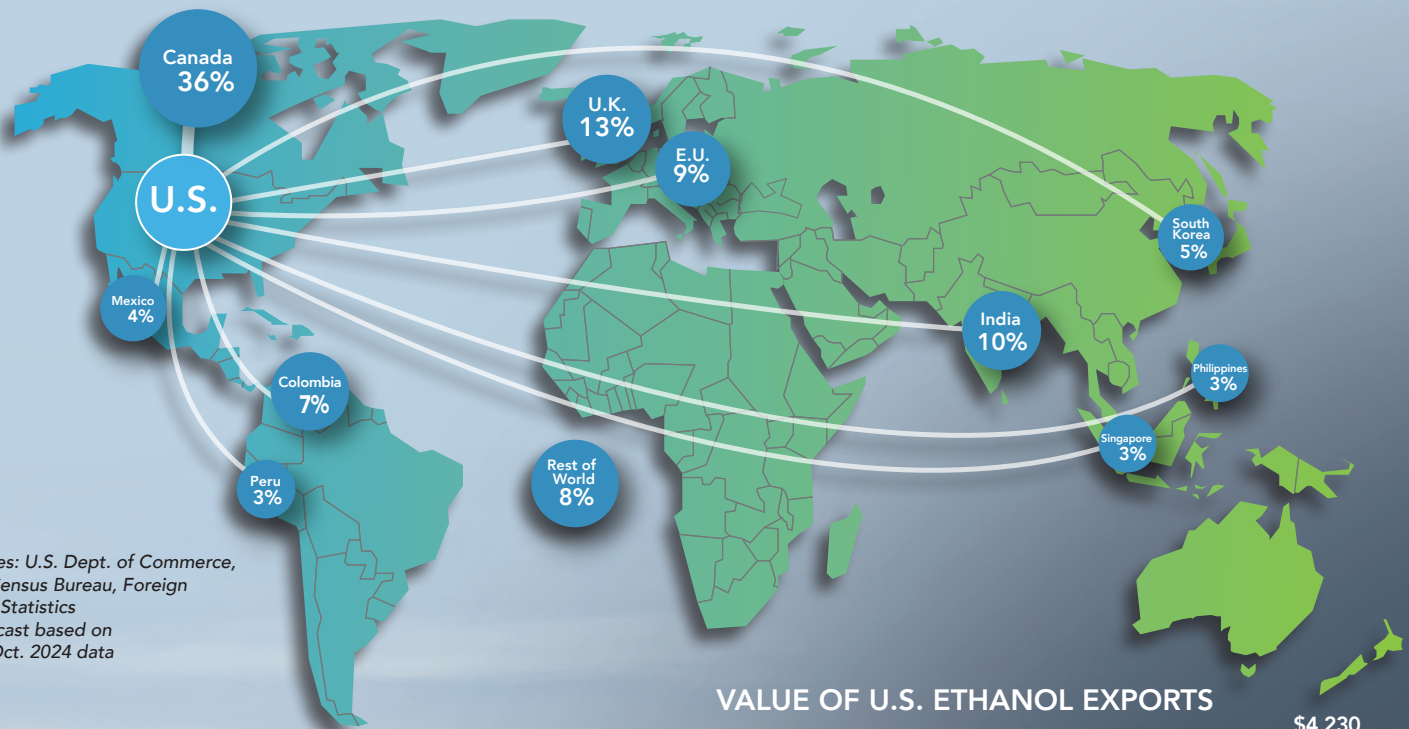
Country; million gallons; share of global production



Source: RFA analysis of public and private data sources

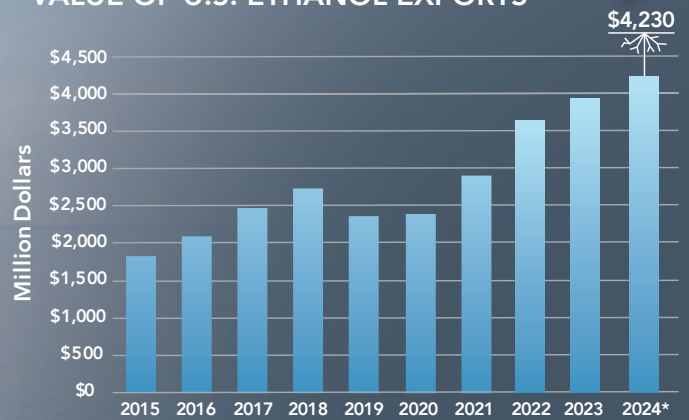


TOP DESTINATIONS FOR U.S. ETHANOL EXPORTS



Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics
*Forecast based on Jan.-Oct. 2024 data

VALUE OF U.S. ETHANOL EXPORTS



Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics
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U.S. ETHANOL EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

