

# 2020 U.S. ETHANOL EXPORTS & IMPORTS

## *Statistical Summary*



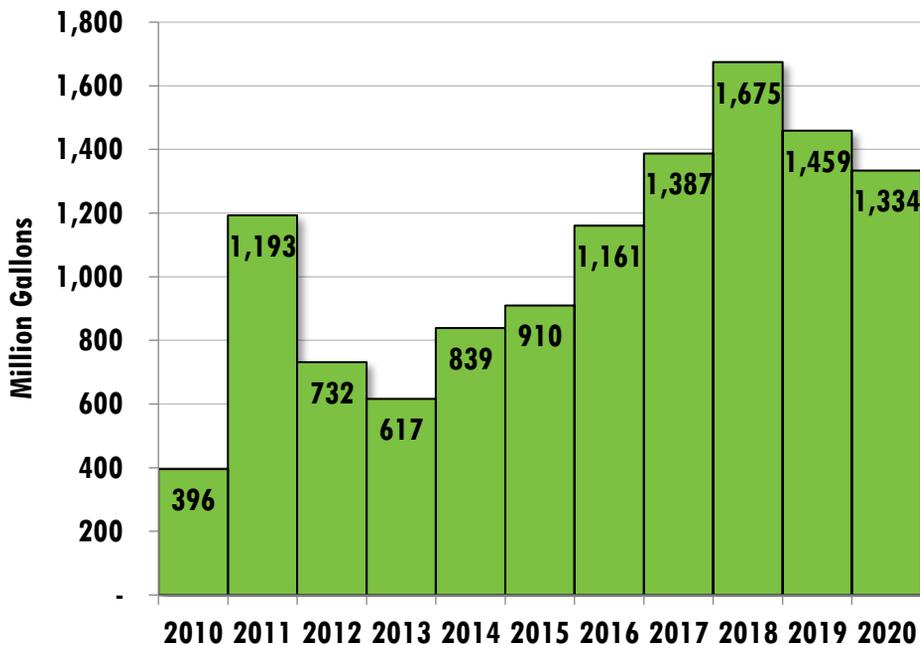
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# 2020 U.S. ETHANOL EXPORTS

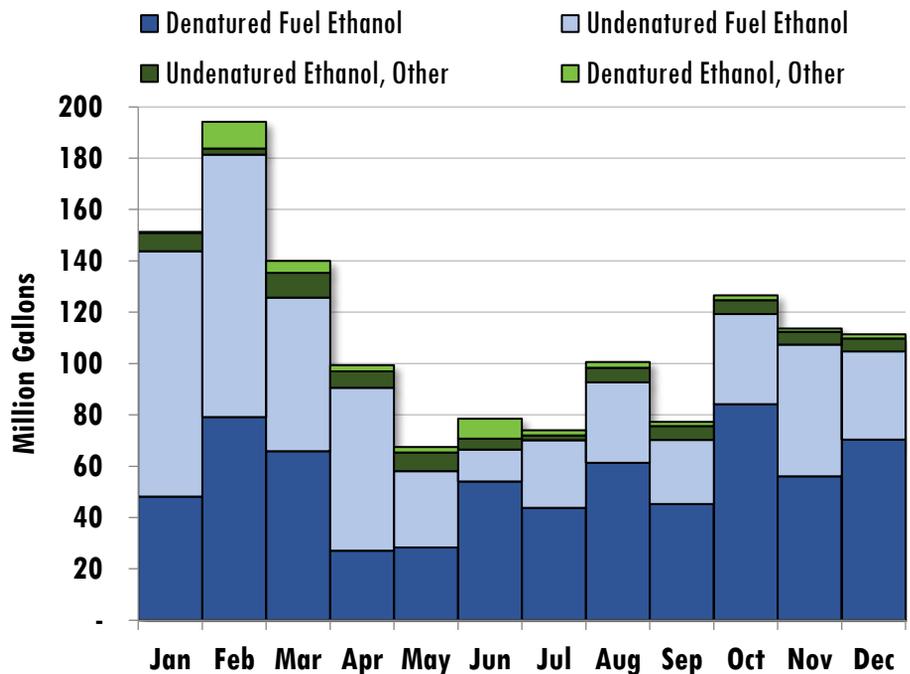
## Annual U.S. Ethanol Exports



The U.S. exported **1.33 billion gallons** of ethanol in 2020—down 9% from 2019 but still the **fourth-highest** volume on record. American-made ethanol was exported to **90 countries** on all six inhabited continents around the world.

## 2020 Monthly Ethanol Exports, by Type

Exports fell after the first quarter of 2020 due to the pandemic and trade restrictions but rebounded in the fourth quarter. Undenatured fuel ethanol accounted for **43%** of 2020 exports, while denatured fuel ethanol represented **50%**.

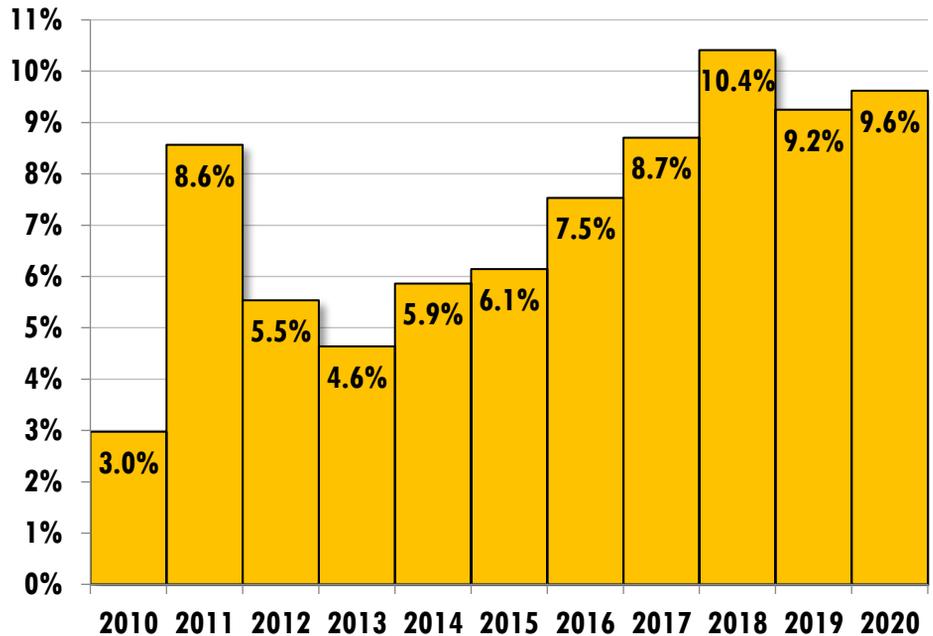


Exports designated as **industrial** (non-fuel) ethanol rose to **8%** of shipments from **5%** in 2019.

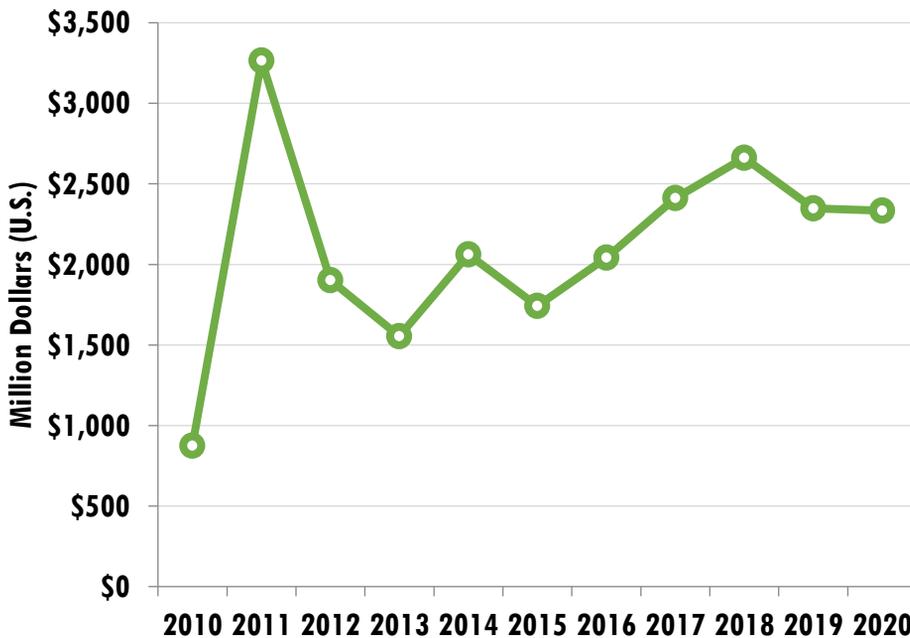
# 2020 U.S. ETHANOL EXPORTS

## Export Share of U.S. Ethanol Production

9.6% of the ethanol produced in the U.S. in 2020 was exported—the second-highest share on record.



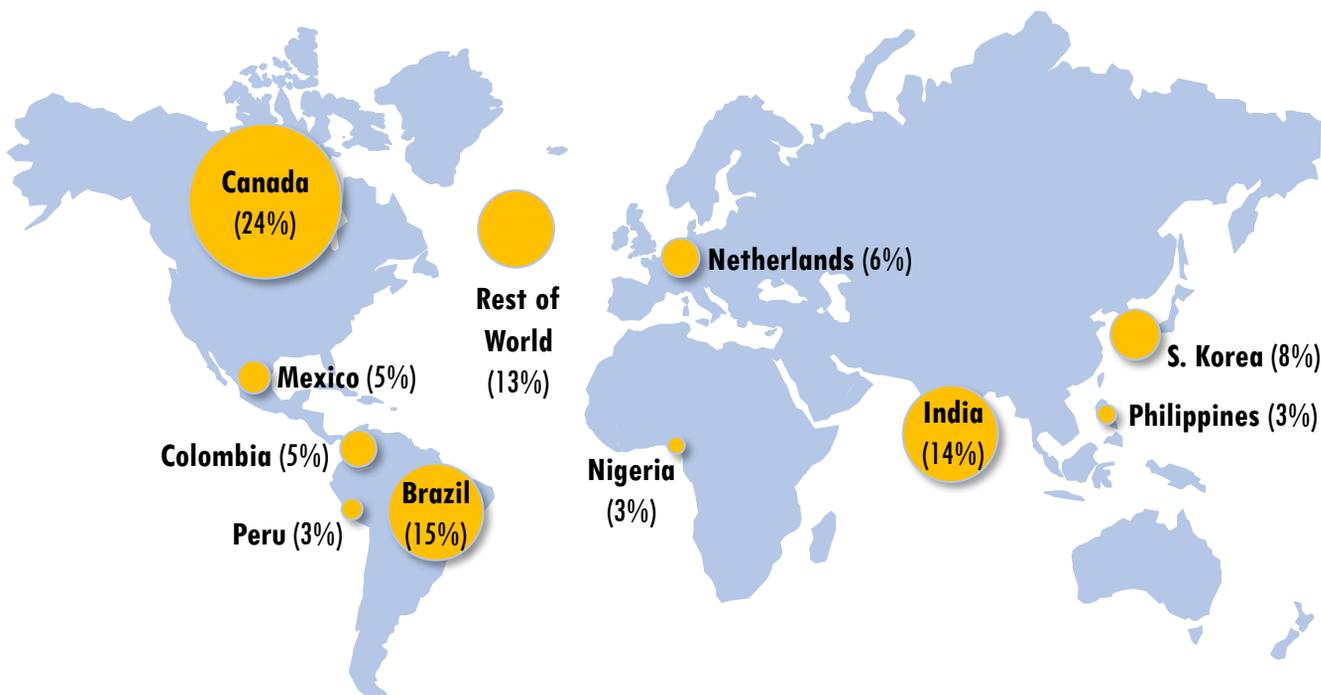
## Value of U.S. Ethanol Exports



The value of U.S. ethanol exports was relatively stable at **\$2.33 billion** in 2020, the **fifth-highest** ever. Exports remain a key revenue generator for the industry.

# 2020 ETHANOL EXPORTS: TOP MARKETS

## Top Markets for U.S. Ethanol Exports in 2020



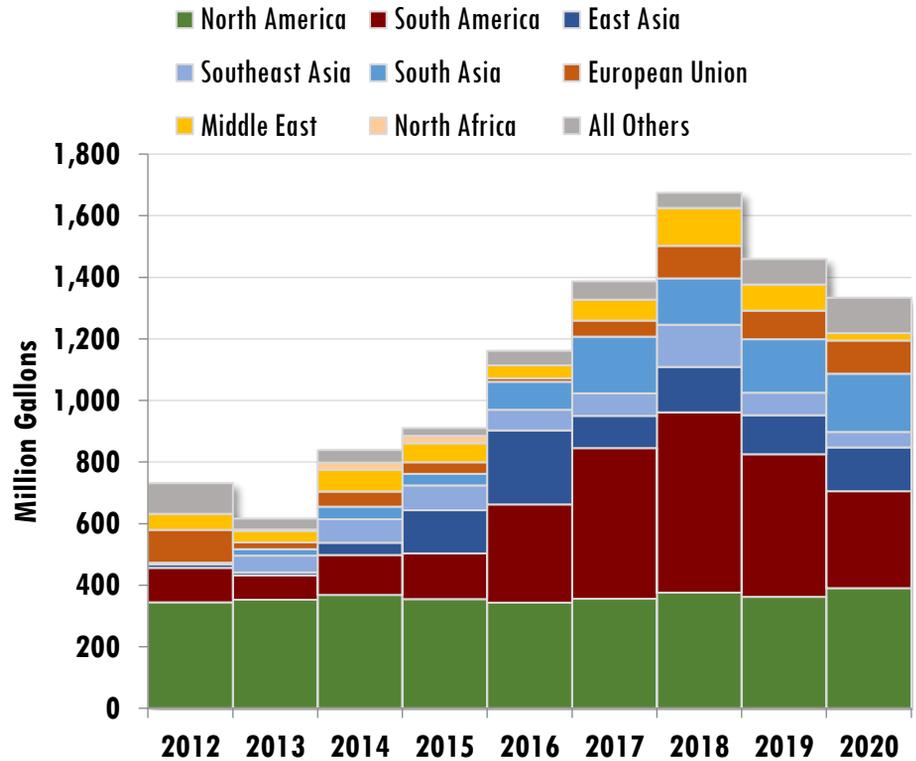
2020 ethanol export volumes to the Top 10 markets are shown in the table below, along with a comparison to 2019 volumes. All figures are shown in millions of gallons, unless otherwise noted.

Country	Den. Fuel	Und. Fuel	Den. Other	Und. Other	2020 Total	2019 Total	Change
<b>Canada</b>	296.3	3.5	13.7	12.9	326.4	330.7	-1.3%
<b>Brazil</b>	-	199.8	-	-	199.8	332.3	-39.9%
<b>India</b>	64.2	107.6	17.8	-	189.6	173.8	+9.1%
<b>South Korea</b>	79.5	20.3	1.4	4.6	105.8	121.3	-12.8%
<b>Netherlands</b>	43.6	33.8	-	-	77.5	51.7	+49.8%
<b>Colombia</b>	54.9	12.7	0.1	2.8	70.5	83.2	-15.3%
<b>Mexico</b>	8.1	47.4	3.3	5.3	64.0	31.4	+103.7%
<b>Philippines</b>	7.4	38.7	-	-	46.1	66.1	-30.3%
<b>Peru</b>	40.8	3.0	-	-	43.8	47.6	-7.9%
<b>Nigeria</b>	-	13.4	-	23.8	37.2	22.0	+69.4%

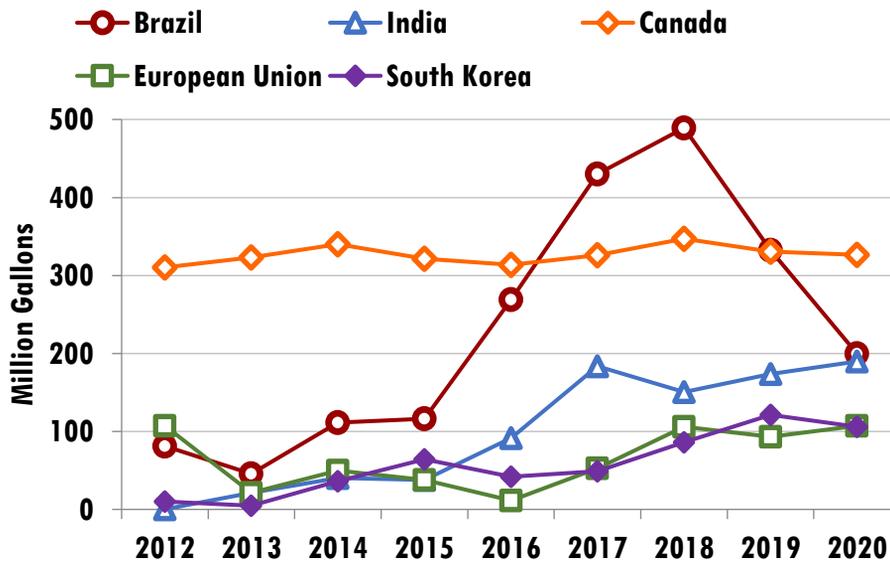
# U.S. ETHANOL EXPORTS: SHIFTING MARKETS

## U.S. Exports by Region

**North America** recaptured its former position as the **largest regional destination** for U.S. exports in 2020, based on stable exports to Canada and a doubling of shipments to Mexico. Exports to **South Asia** (predominantly India) and **East Asia** grew. However, shipments to **South America**, **Southeast Asia** and the **Middle East** declined significantly.



## Volatility in Major U.S. Ethanol Export Markets

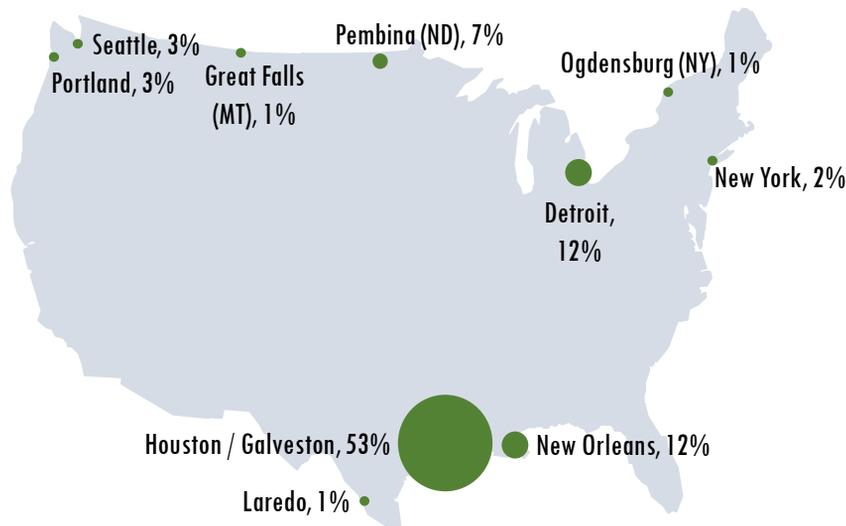


Note: European Union excludes the United Kingdom.

The main cause of the decline in U.S. exports was a 40% drop in shipments to **Brazil**, which resulted from the pandemic, uncertainty over the status of the tariff rate quota, and the eventual imposition of a tariff. Shipments to **India** were a bright spot, growing by 9% as industrial alcohol was in demand.

# TOP EXPORT HUBS AND NET EXPORTS

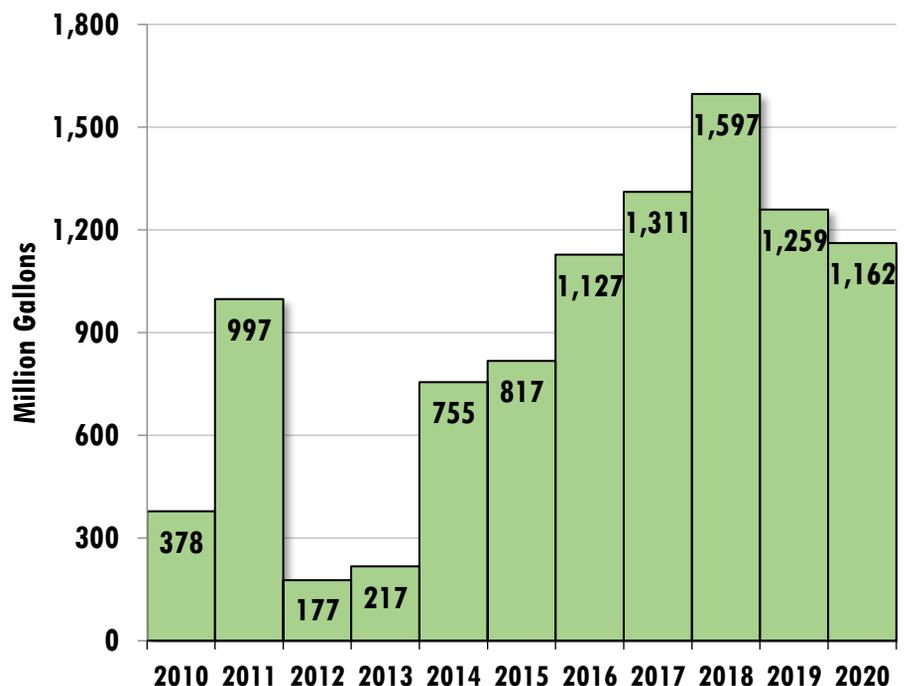
## Top Ports of Exit for 2020 U.S. Ethanol Exports



**Two-thirds** of U.S. ethanol exports departed via the **Gulf of Mexico** in 2020. The **Great Lakes** and **Northern Tier** were significant points of exit, with additional volumes shipped from **Pacific Northwest** ports.

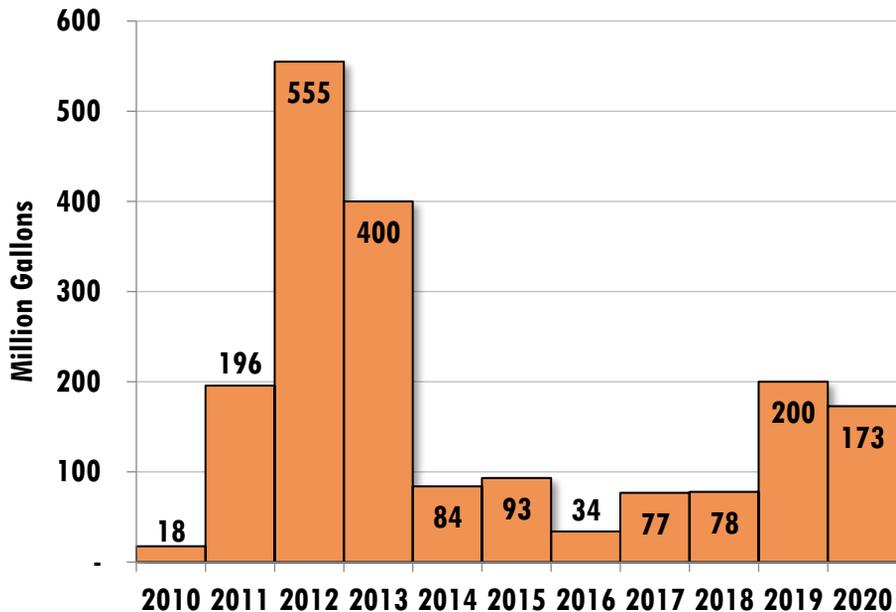
## Annual U.S. Net Ethanol Exports

**Net exports of ethanol receded in 2020** due to the decline in exports. Still, the U.S. was a **net exporter for the 11<sup>th</sup> straight year.**



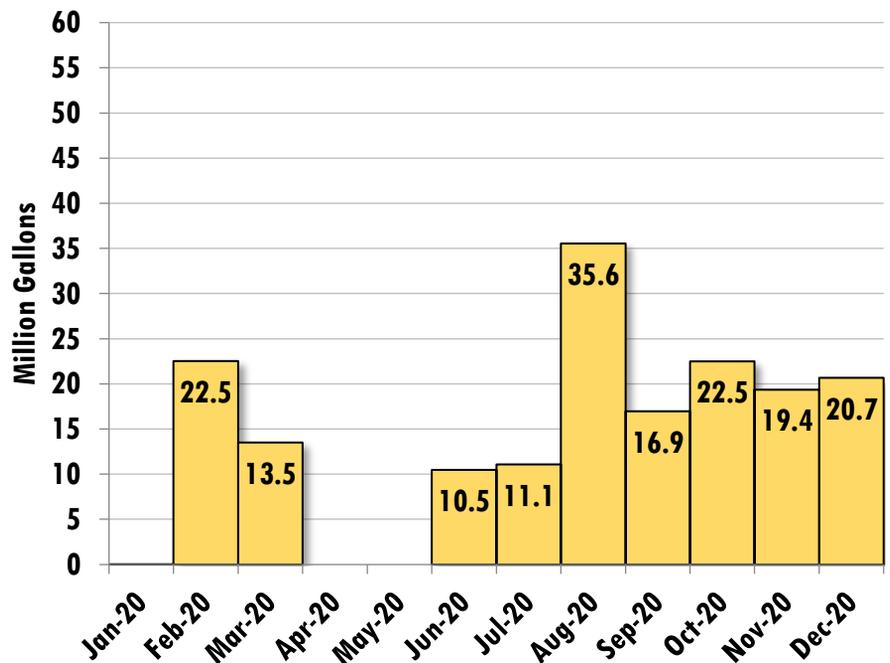
# 2020 U.S. ETHANOL IMPORTS

## Annual U.S. Fuel Ethanol Imports



U.S. imports of fuel ethanol receded to **173 million gallons** in 2020 but remained elevated compared to recent years.

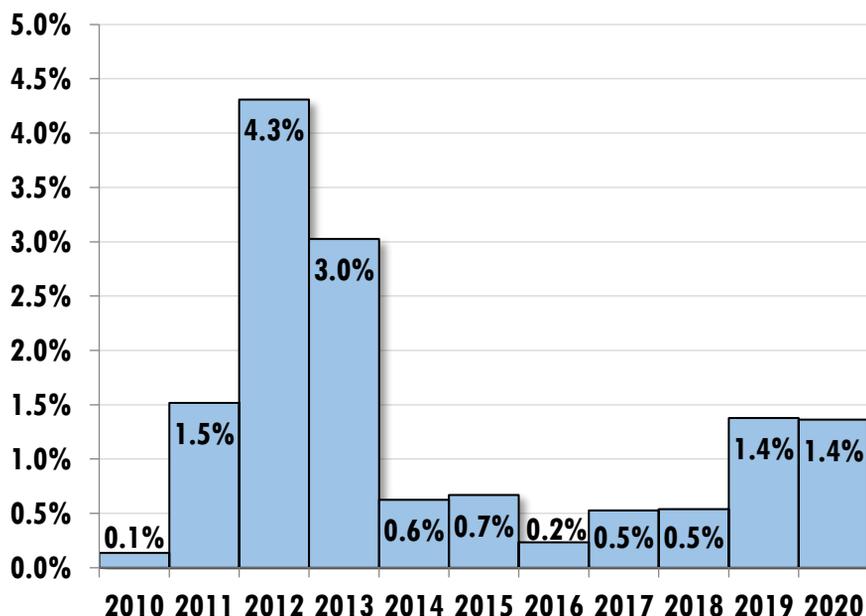
## 2020 Monthly Ethanol Imports



**Virtually all** of fuel ethanol imports came from **Brazil**, which again benefited from high prices of California Low Carbon Fuel Standard credits and the price spread between advanced and conventional biofuel RINs used for RFS compliance. Additionally, Brazil's currency depreciated significantly.

# 2020 U.S. ETHANOL IMPORTS

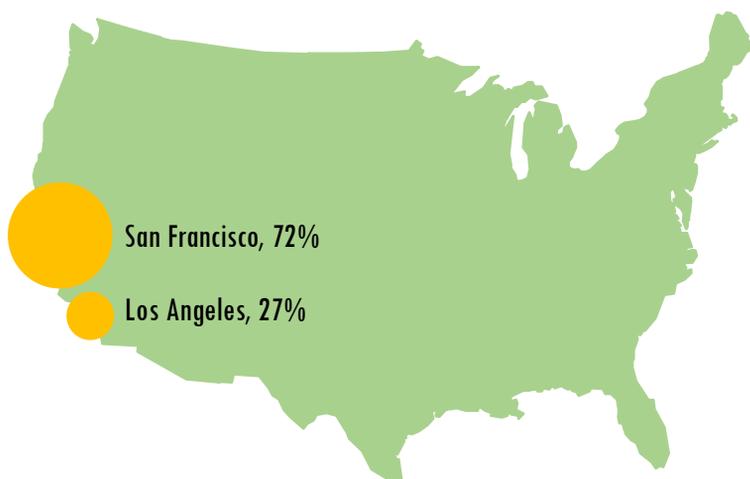
**U.S. Ethanol Imports:  
Share of Total U.S. Ethanol Consumption**



For the second straight year, imports accounted for **just over 1%** of the ethanol consumed in the U.S.—higher than in recent years but lower than in 2012 and 2013.

**Top Ports of Entry for 2020 U.S. Ethanol Imports**

**California** ports received **99%** of the fuel ethanol imported into the U.S. in 2020, driven by the state's Low Carbon Fuel Standard.



# ABOUT THE DATA IN THIS REPORT

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## U.S. Ethanol Export Data

- The export data in this report includes exports classified under the following Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) codes:
  - **2207200010**: Ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength: For fuel use
  - **2207106010**: Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80 percent vol. or higher: For non-beverage purposes: For fuel use
  - **2207200090**: Ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength: Other
  - **2207106090**: Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80 percent vol. or higher: For non-beverage purposes: Other
- 2207200090 and 2207106090 are included in this report because there is some anecdotal evidence that exports of ethanol intended for fuel use are sometimes classified under these codes. In any case, ethanol classified under these codes represented 8% of the 2019 U.S. exports discussed in this report.

## U.S. Ethanol Import Data

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  - **2207200010**: Ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength: For fuel use
  - **2207106010**: Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80 percent vol. or higher: For non-beverage purposes: For fuel use

## Sources

- All data in this report comes from the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. International Trade Commission, and U.S. Energy Information Administration

The Renewable Fuels Association publishes **monthly** summaries of export and import data for ethanol and distillers dried grains in its [Trade Monitor](#).

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