U.S. exports of distillers grains (DG)—a co-product of dry mill ethanol production—set a new record of 12.56 million metric tons (MMT) in 2015, up 11% from 2014 and more than double the amount exported in 2009. U.S. exports shipped to 45 countries on five continents last year, demonstrating the global reach of American-made DG.

Monthly exports in 2015 followed normal seasonal patterns, with outbound shipments peaking in the summer months and receding in the winter. A new monthly export record of 1.37 MMT was established in July.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture
An estimated 34% of U.S. DG production was exported in 2015, meaning one out of every three tons produced was shipped to foreign markets. This was up slightly from 32% in 2014 and 30% in 2013.

U.S. DG exports were valued at $2.94 billion in 2015, down 1% from 2014 but triple the value of 2009 exports. Export prices averaged $234 per MT, down 11% from the 2014 average price of $263 per MT.
Top Markets for U.S. Distillers Grains Exports in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2015 Total Thousand MT</th>
<th>2014 Total Thousand MT</th>
<th>Change %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>6,297</td>
<td>4,332</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>1,649</td>
<td>1,578</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Korea</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>-102%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>-25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>-134%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DG export volumes to the Top 10 markets in 2015 are shown in the table at left, along with a comparison to 2014 volumes. **China received exactly 50%** of 2015 exports, while **Mexico (13%), Vietnam (5%), and South Korea (5%)** were other top markets. Five of the top 10 markets experienced growth over 2014 levels, while the other five saw slippage.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture
Increased demand in **East and Southeast Asia** continued to fuel growth in DG exports in 2015. Meanwhile, demand in North America and the European Union has **rebounded slightly** from the lows experienced in 2013.

While China remained the top market for U.S. DG exports in 2015, it also remained the most **volatile**. China’s initiation of a second anti-dumping investigation against U.S. DG in late 2015 led to a decline in exports and put a **cloud of uncertainty** over the future of U.S. exports to the world’s second-largest economy.
U.S. livestock and poultry feeders imported **427,400 MT** of DG in 2015, **down 5%** from the 2014 record import total. U.S. DG imports were equivalent to just **3%** of DG exports.

**Canada** was again the top supplier of U.S. DG imports in 2015, shipping **401,552 MT** to the United States. **China** and **Brazil** were the only other two DG exporters to the U.S. market in 2015.

**Sources:** U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture
U.S. exports of corn gluten feed (CGF)—a co-product from wet mill ethanol production—continued to trend lower in 2015. CGF exports were down 20%, hitting the lowest point of the past decade. Ireland was the top market, receiving 28% of total U.S. CGF exports.

U.S. exports of corn gluten meal (CGM)—a co-product from wet mill ethanol production—fell 14% in 2015. Egypt was the top destination for U.S. CGM, receiving 24% total U.S. exports.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture, and U.S. International Trade Commission
CO-PRODUCT PRICES AND IMPACT ON CORN EXPORTS

When co-product exports are appropriately considered, total exports of corn and corn-derived co-products have remained relatively stable over the past decade, with the exception of the drought years of 2012-13.

Prices for all co-product exports receded in 2015, following corn lower. Still DG maintained a premium to corn in export markets for the third year in a row.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Energy Information Administration
ABOUT THE DATA IN THIS REPORT

U.S. Co-product Export and Imports Data

• The export and import data in this report include products classified under the following Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) codes:
  • 2303300000: Brewing or distilling dregs and waste (Distillers Grains)
  • 2303100010: Residues of starch manufacture and similar residues: Corn gluten feed
  • 2303100020: Residues of starch manufacture and similar residues: Corn gluten meal

Sources


The Renewable Fuels Association publishes monthly summaries of export and import data for both ethanol and distillers grains on its award-winning E-Blog.

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