2017 U.S. DISTILLERS GRAINS
EXPORTS AND IMPORTS
Statistical Summary

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U.S. exports of distillers grains (DG)—a co-product of dry mill ethanol production—totaled 11.08 million metric tons (MMT) in 2017, down 2% from 2016 and the lowest in four years. Exports were shipped to 50 countries on five continents last year, demonstrating the global reach of U.S.-produced DG.

Monthly exports in 2017 broke from normal seasonal patterns, with outbound shipments peaking early in the year rather than in the summer as usual. Monthly exports hit a high mark of 1.07 MMT in February and fell as low as 742,000 MT in May.
An estimated 29% of U.S. DG production was exported in 2017, meaning nearly one out of every three tons produced was shipped to foreign markets. That was down slightly from 30% in 2016 and the lowest rate in five years.

U.S. DG exports left the country through 19 ports of exit in 2017, with the top 10 ports by volume shown on the map. New Orleans again handled the most tonnage of outbound DG, followed by Los Angeles and Laredo (TX).
DG export volumes to the Top 10 markets in 2017 are shown in the table at left, along with a comparison to 2016 volumes. **Mexico** received 20% of 2017 exports, while **Turkey** (13%), **South Korea** (9%), **Thailand** (7%), and **Indonesia** (7%) were other top markets. Exports to **China** plunged 84% compared to 2016, while shipments to **Vietnam** sunk 73%. Both China and Vietnam ranked as Top 3 export markets in 2016.

### Top Markets for U.S. Distillers Grains Exports in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2017 Total</th>
<th>2016 Total</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>2,182</td>
<td>1,908</td>
<td>+14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1,417</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>+79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Korea</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>889</td>
<td>+11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>751</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>+104%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>+37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>+50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>2,342</td>
<td>-84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>+36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>1,156</td>
<td>-73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture
DG exports to East Asia fell dramatically, as China reduced imports from the U.S. Exports to Southeast Asia were also reduced, as Vietnam pulled back. Meanwhile, export growth was experienced in all other regions, with North America and the Middle East showing the biggest increases in DG imports from the U.S.

After serving as the top destination for U.S. DG exports five years in a row, China fell to eighth place in 2017. Just 3% of U.S. DG exports went to China in 2017, after the country accounted for 51% of the record exports experienced in 2015. The collapse in exports to China resulted from the country’s imposition of a punitive tariff on U.S. DG.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture
U.S. DISTILLERS GRAINS EXPORTS: VALUE

Total Value of U.S. Distillers Grains Exports

U.S. DG exports had a total aggregate value of $1.86 billion in 2017, down 14% from 2016 and the lowest in seven years.

Per unit values for U.S. DG exports fell to $168 per MT in 2017, down 12% from 2016 and the lowest price since 2007. Prices were down 45% from the record value of $305 per MT in 2013.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture.
The United States imported **290,000 MT** of DG in 2017, **down 12%** from the 2016 total and the lowest in nine years. U.S. DG imports were equivalent to just **2.6%** of DG exports and just **1%** of domestic DG consumption.

**Canada** was again the top supplier of U.S. DG imports in 2017, shipping **267,000 MT** to the United States. **Brazil** and **China** were the only other two DG exporters to the U.S. market in 2017.
2017 EXPORTS OF OTHER CO-PRODUCTS

Annual U.S. Corn Gluten Meal Exports

U.S. exports of corn gluten meal—a feed co-product made by ethanol wet mills—totaled 822,000 MT in 2017. Ireland, Turkey, and Israel combined to receive 73% of total U.S. CGF exports.

Annual U.S. Corn Gluten Feed Exports

U.S. exports of corn gluten feed—a feed co-product from ethanol wet mills—hit 1.18 MMT in 2017. That was up slightly from 2016 and marked a six-year high. Ireland, Turkey, and Israel combined to receive 73% of total U.S. CGF exports.

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

U.S. Co-product Export and Import 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**.