2017 U.S. ETHANOL EXPORTS AND IMPORTS
Statistical Summary

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2017 U.S. ETHANOL EXPORTS

The U.S. exported 1.37 billion gallons of ethanol in 2017—up 17% from 2016 and the highest annual total on record. American-made ethanol was exported to more than 60 countries on all six inhabited continents around the world in 2017.

Undenatured ethanol for fuel use accounted for 60% of total exports in 2017. Meanwhile, denatured ethanol for fuel use made up 36%. Denatured and undenatured ethanol for non-fuel industrial uses accounted for the remaining 4%.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture
An estimated 8.7% of total U.S. ethanol production was exported in 2017, meaning one out of every 11 gallons produced was exported. That’s the highest share in history, barely edging out 2011.

U.S. ethanol exports were valued at $2.4 billion in 2017, up 16% from 2016 and the second-highest on record.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture
2017 ETHANOL EXPORTS: TOP MARKETS

Top Markets for U.S. Ethanol Exports in 2017

2017 ethanol export volumes to the Top 10 markets are shown in the table below, along with a comparison to 2016 volumes. All figures shown in millions of gallons, unless otherwise noted.

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>440.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>445.7</td>
<td>279.1</td>
<td>+60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>315.9</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>328.0</td>
<td>311.6</td>
<td>+5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>140.6</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>172.7</td>
<td>91.4</td>
<td>+89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>57.6</td>
<td>+15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>43.4</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>+3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. Arab Emir</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>+77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>43.4</td>
<td>-17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>+256%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>+1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>+173%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture
Exports to South America boomed in 2017, driven by record exports to Brazil. Led by India, exports to South Asia also increased. Meanwhile, exports to East Asia dropped as shipments to China collapsed. Buoyed by Canada, exports to North America remained remarkably steady.

Ethanol exports to the EU have never recovered after collapsing in 2013 due to the imposition of an ethanol import tariff. New import duties also caused shipments to China to fall in 2017. Meanwhile, exports to Brazil and India surged in 2017.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture
The U.S. set a new record for net exports in 2017, edging out 2016’s total. The U.S. extended its streak as a net exporter of ethanol to eight years.

Roughly two-thirds of U.S. ethanol exports departed through the Gulf in 2017, up modestly from 2016. Meanwhile, 16% of exports went through Great Lakes ports, 8% went through Pembina (ND), 6% went out of the Pacific-Northwest, and 2% exited through New York Harbor.

Annual U.S. Net Ethanol Exports

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Dept. of Commerce, Dept. of Agriculture, and U.S. International Trade Commission
In 2017, the U.S. imported just 77 million gallons of fuel ethanol, more than double the 2016 total but still well below historical levels. Annual U.S. ethanol imports have averaged just 72 million gallons annually over the past four years.

More than 99% of 2017 fuel ethanol imports came from Brazil. Nearly all of the ethanol imports occurred during the November timeframe.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture
2017 U.S. ETHANOL IMPORTS

Imports accounted for less than 1% of U.S. ethanol consumption for the fourth year in a row. Ethanol import reliance is down dramatically from the 2005-2008 timeframe, when imports typically accounted for 5-10% of U.S. consumption.

California ports received 94% of U.S. fuel ethanol imports in 2017, compared to 99% in 2016 and just 38% in 2015. Miami was the only other major port of entry for fuel ethanol imports in 2017, bringing in nearly 6%. Historical import hubs like Tampa and Houston recorded no fuel ethanol imports in 2017.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Dept. of Commerce, Dept. of Agriculture, and U.S. International Trade Commission
ABOUT THE DATA IN THIS REPORT

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 just 5% of the 2017 U.S. exports discussed in this report.

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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


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

This report was prepared by Geoff Cooper, who may be contacted at gcooper@ethanolrfa.org or 636.594.2284.