

Grain Truck and Ocean Rate Advisory: Quarterly Updates

Transportation and Marketing Programs
Transportation Services Division
www.ams.usda.gov/AgTransportation

Truck Advisory

Table 1: U.S. Grain Truck Market, 1st Quarter 2019

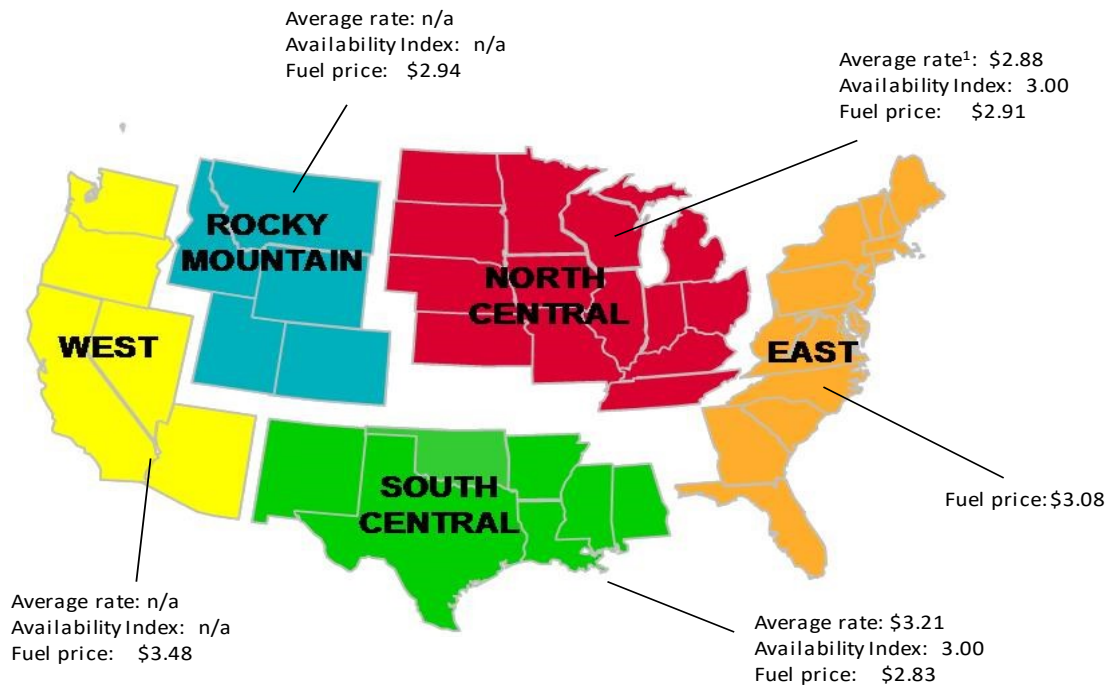
	25 miles	100 miles	200 miles	Truck availability	Truck usage	Future truck usage
					Quarterly Index	
					1=Very Easy to 5=Very Difficult	1=Much Lower to 5=Much Higher
National average²	4.01	2.54	2.25	3.00	3.40	3.60
North Central region	4.36	2.19	2.10	3.00	3.20	3.30
Rocky Mountain	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
South Central	3.50	3.07	3.06	3.00	3.80	4.00
West	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

¹Rates are based on trucks with 80,000 lb gross vehicle weight limit, and are quoted in U.S. dollar

²National average is based on rates received from various States, but not every State is represented.

Source: Transportation and Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 1: U.S. Grain Truck Market, 1st Quarter 2019



¹Average rate per loaded mile, based on truck rates for trips of 25, 100, and 200 miles

Note: Fuel prices are a quarterly average (unit per gallon)

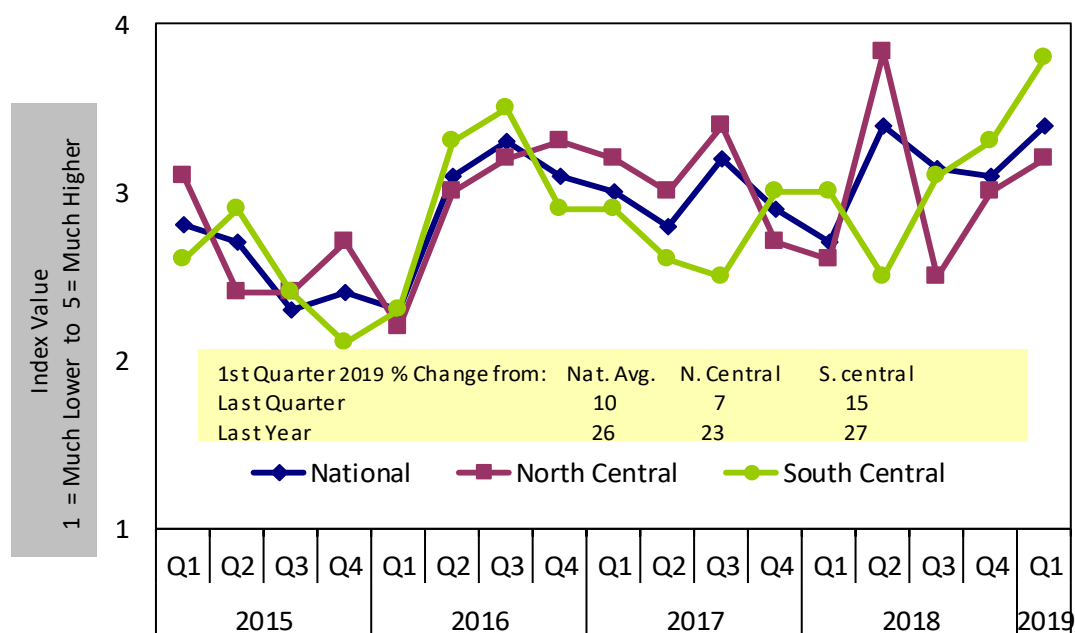
Fuel Price Data Source: Energy Information Administration U.S. Department of Energy, www.eia.doe.gov

Truck Usage

Table 2: Regional Truck Usage Index

Current Truck Usage 1 = Much Lower to 5 = Much Higher					Future Truck Usage 1 = Much Lower to 5 = Much Higher			
2017	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr
National	3.00	3.00	3.20	2.90	3.00	2.60	3.40	3.30
North Central	3.20	3.00	3.40	2.70	3.20	2.80	3.40	3.20
Rocky Mountain	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
South Central	2.90	2.70	2.50	3.00	2.80	2.50	3.00	3.40
West	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2018	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr
National	2.70	3.40	3.14	3.10	3.00	3.60	3.60	3.10
North Central	2.60	3.83	2.50	3.00	3.10	4.00	3.00	3.10
Rocky Mountain	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
South Central	3.00	2.50	3.10	3.30	2.50	2.50	3.50	3.00
West	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2019	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr
National	3.40				3.60			
North Central	3.20				3.30			
Rocky Mountain	NA				NA			
South Central	3.80				4.00			
West	NA				NA			

Figure 2: National Truck Usage, 1st Quarter 2019



Source: Transportation and Marketing Programs, AMS/USDA

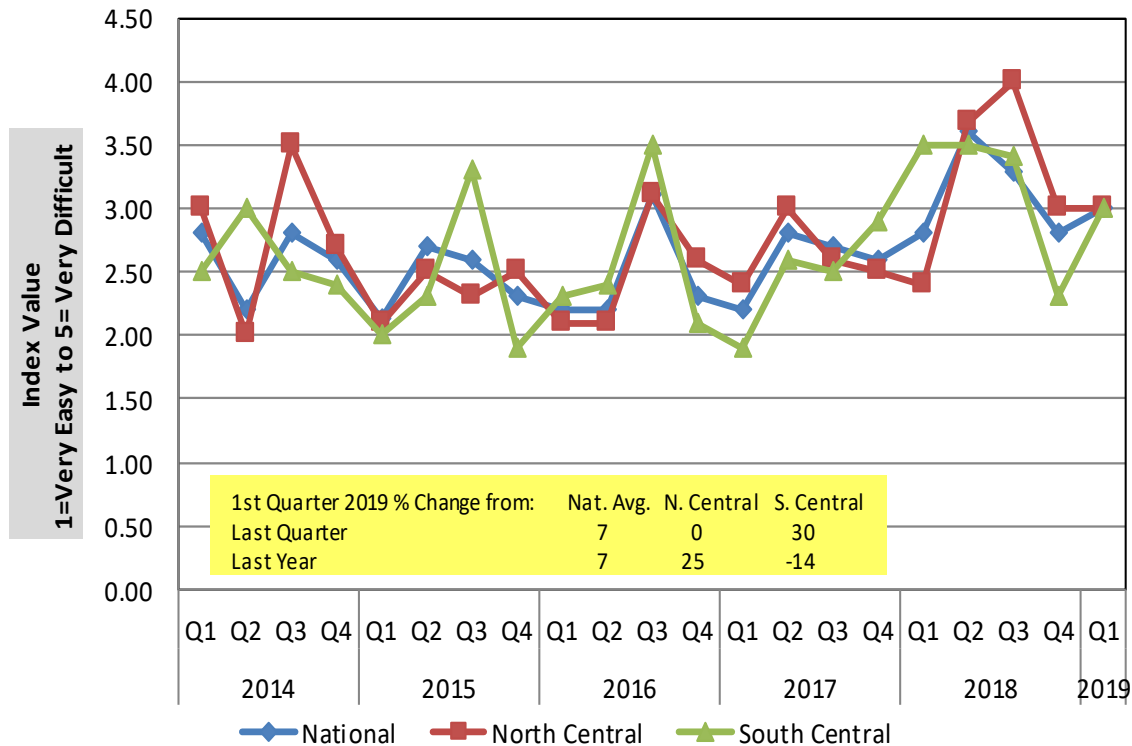
Truck Availability

Table 3: Quarterly National Truck Availability Index

Region	1= Very Easy	5=Very Difficult		Current qtr as % change from	
	1st Quarter 2019	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Last Year	Previous Qtr	Same Qtr Last Year
National	3.00	2.80	2.80	7	7
North Central	3.00	3.00	2.40	0	25
South Central	3.00	2.30	3.50	30	-14

The truck availability index tracks the trends in perceived ease of hiring a truck as reported by grain elevators.

Figure 3: National Truck Availability



Truck Rates

Table 4 : Average Grain Truck Rates for Short and Long Hauls, 1st Quarter 2019 (\$/mile per truckload)

Region	25 miles	100 miles	200 miles	% increase from:					
				Last qtr			Same qtr Last year		
				25 mi	100 mi	200 mi	25 mi	100 mi	200 mi
National Average	\$4.01	\$2.54	\$2.25	-18.7%	-17.3%	-25.2%	-16.3%	-24.9%	-28.6%
North Central	\$4.36	\$2.19	\$2.10	-16.0%	-27.5%	-31.8%	-11.6%	-36.7%	-36.2%
Rocky Mountain	NA	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Central	\$3.50	\$3.07	\$3.06	-19.2%	-3.2%	5.9%	-17.1%	-5.8%	0.0%
West	NA	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	-	-

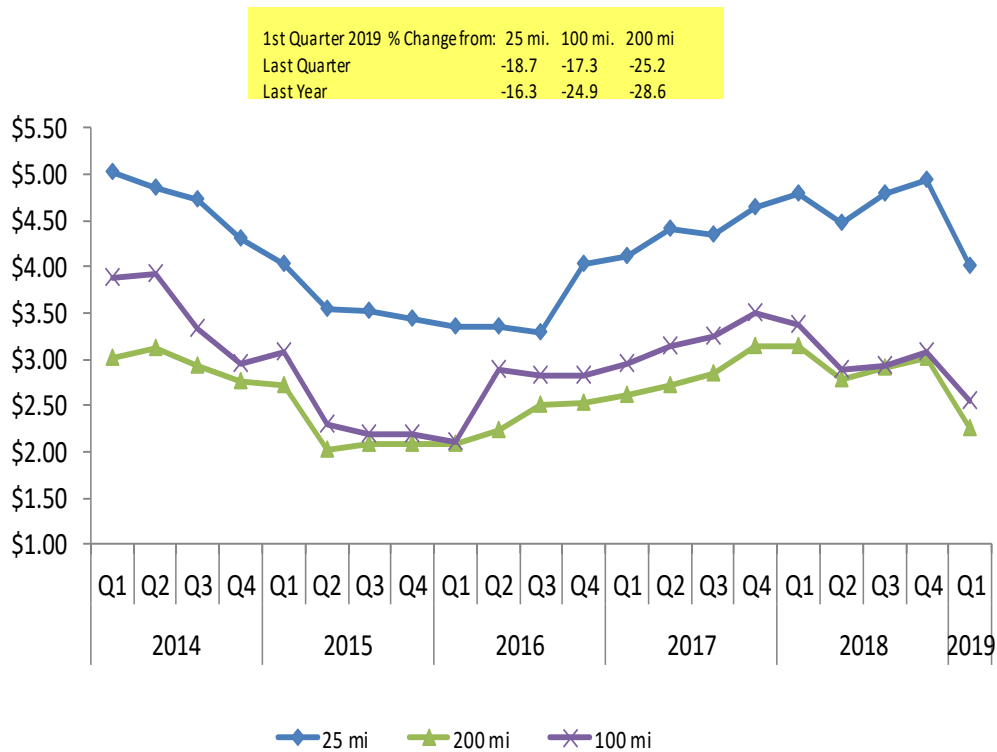
NA: data not available

Rates are based on trucks with 80,000 lbs gross vehicle weight limit

Source: Transportation and Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

A truck is assumed to carry 55,000 lbs or 25 metric tons of grain. Rates per metric ton per mile can be calculated from rates per truckload.

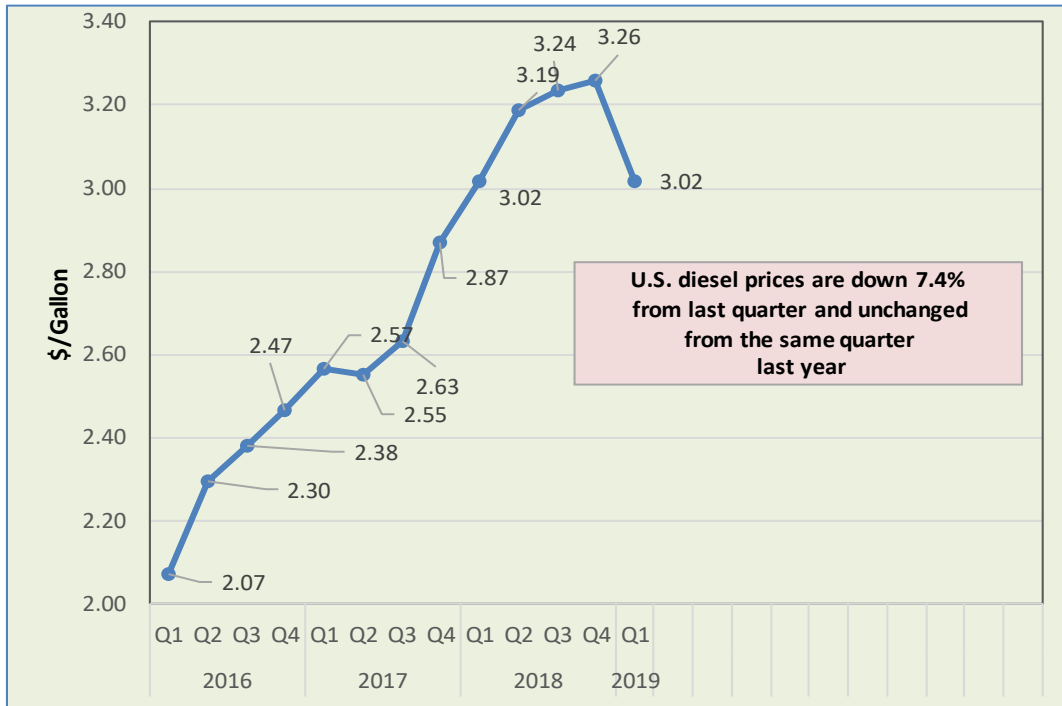
Figure 4: National Average Truck Rates by Trip Distance



U.S. Diesel Fuel Prices

The **diesel fuel price** provides a proxy for trends in U.S. truck rates. Diesel fuel is a significant expense for grain movements.

Figure 5: U.S. Average On-Highway Diesel Fuel Prices



Source: Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy

Table 5: 1st Quarter 2019 Average Diesel Fuel Prices (All Types - \$/Gallon)

Location	Price	Change From	
		Last Quarter	Same Qtr Last Year
East Coast	3.08	-0.19	0.02
New England	3.19	-0.13	0.07
Central Atlantic	3.26	-0.18	0.01
Lower Atlantic	2.93	-0.21	0.02
Midwest	2.91	-0.28	-0.05
Gulf Coast	2.83	-0.21	0.01
Rocky Mountain	2.94	-0.38	0.03
West Coast	3.48	-0.27	0.07
California	3.76	-0.23	0.10
U.S.	3.02	-0.24	0.00

Source: Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy

Ocean Rates

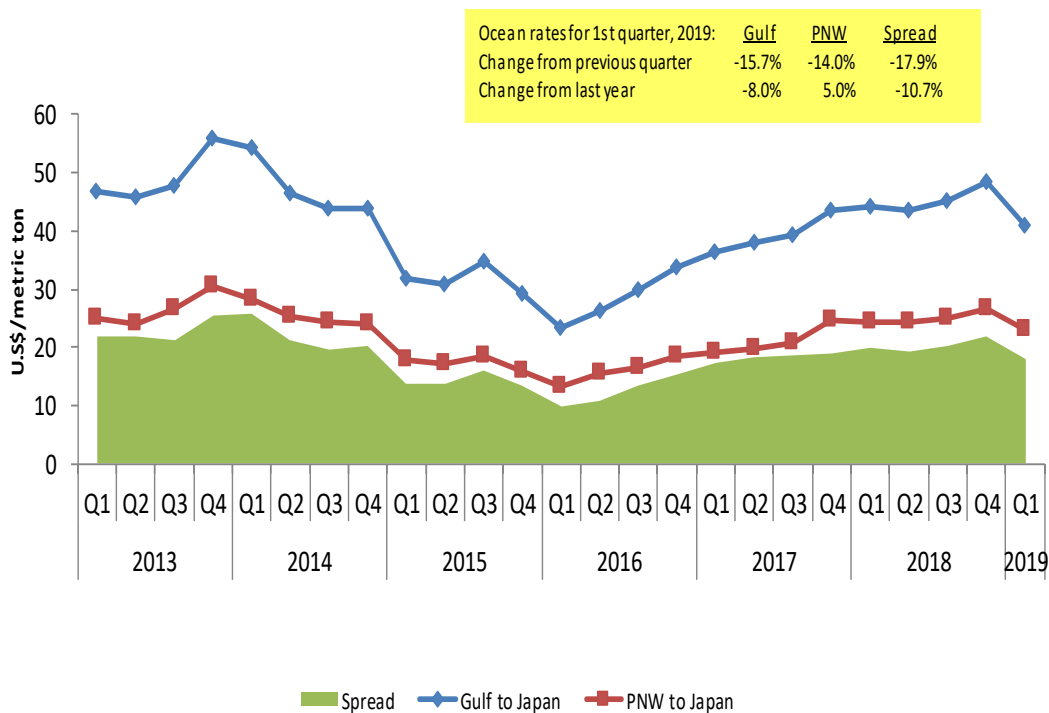
Table 6: Ocean Shipping Rates for Bulk Grain (\$/metric ton)

Gulf to										
Country	1st Qtr 2018	2nd Qtr 2018	3rd Qtr 2018	4th Qtr 2018	Average	1st Qtr 2019	2nd Qtr 2019	3rd Qtr 2019	4th Qtr 2019	Average
Japan	44.27	43.68	45.13	48.46	45.39	40.85				
Rotterdam	16.82	20.67	21.06	20.83	19.85	16.73				
China	43.41	42.69	44.05	47.52	44.42	39.61				
Mexico	13.97	14.07	14.68	15.63	14.59	13.89				
Colombia: Atlantic Port (East)	19.77	19.64	20.02	21.28	20.18	19.75				
Colombia: Pacific Ports (West)	28.01	28.15	28.64	29.95	28.69	29.38				

PNW to										
Country	1st Qtr 2018	2nd Qtr 2018	3rd Qtr 2018	4th Qtr 2018	Average	1st Qtr 2019	2nd Qtr 2019	3rd Qtr 2018 9	4th Qtr 2019	Average
Japan	24.25	24.37	24.97	26.69	25.07	22.98				
China	23.40	23.72	24.26	25.97	24.34	22.44				

Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

Figure 6: Grain Vessel Rates and Spread, U.S. to Japan



Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

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