CFC SOLUTIONS
Economic & Market Watch

June 2, 2025

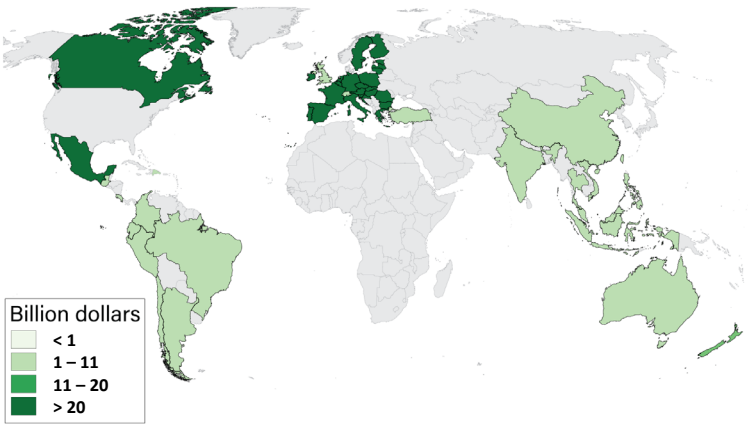
Economic & Market Watch Intelligence Brief

Briefing

- U.S. agricultural imports have more than quadrupled since 2001 (**Figure 1**). Adjusted for inflation, they have almost tripled. The most pronounced growth has been in horticultural products (fruits, vegetables, nuts and live plants). This is largely driven by seasonal domestic production being unable to meet year-round demand for fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Imported sweeteners rank highest for imports relative to U.S. consumption. Over the past decade, almost half of the sweeteners consumed in the U.S. have been imported (**Figure 2**). At the other extreme, imports supply only around 2% of U.S. feed grain consumption.
- Canada, Mexico and China are the top three export markets, together accounting for about half of U.S. agricultural exports (**Figure 3**).
- Strong export growth alongside increasing import dependence affects regions of the U.S. differently. Export-oriented U.S. commodity sectors (e.g., grains and oilseeds) benefit from increased trade as they see demand for their products rise. Conversely, increased trade creates more competition for U.S. producers in import-oriented commodity sectors (e.g., fruit and vegetables).

Chart of the Week

Top 25 US Agricultural Import Sources (2017–2021 average)



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Commentary

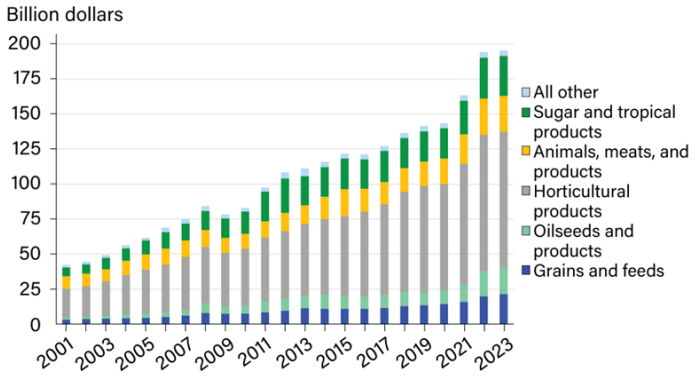
Typically, almost half of U.S. agricultural imports come from Mexico and Canada. These two countries provided $85 billion of the almost $200 billion in U.S. agricultural imports in 2023 (**Chart of the Week**). South America's role as a provider of agricultural imports has grown rapidly, with Brazil, Colombia and Peru providing around $20 billion in agricultural products in 2023. South America has emerged as a key source of off-season produce. Its location (mostly) below the equator gives it a growing season opposite to ours.

The European Union sourced over $30 billion annually in U.S. agricultural imports from 2020 through 2024, providing high-value processed and specialty products. China ranks as the fourth-largest supplier of U.S. agricultural goods, supplying processed foods and beverages alongside tropical products.

These geographic patterns highlight multiple vulnerabilities: near-neighbor reliance exposes supply to regional shocks—such as the New World screwworm outbreak that forced a temporary halt to Mexican cattle imports in May, while dependence on seasonal production from South American and European growers strains cold-chain logistics (the process of ensuring that goods remain at the correct temperature throughout the entire supply chain).

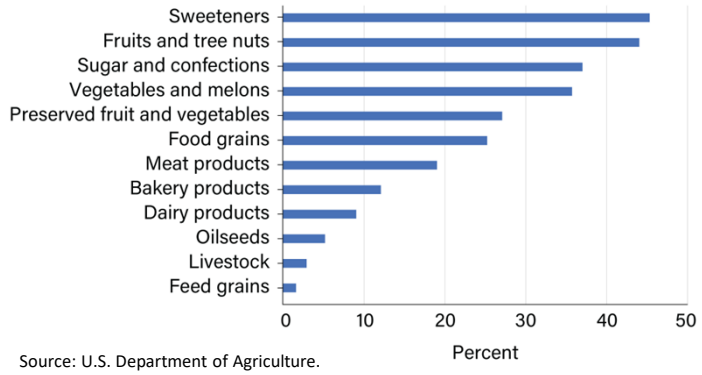
Snapshots

Figure 1. US Agricultural Imports (2001–2023)



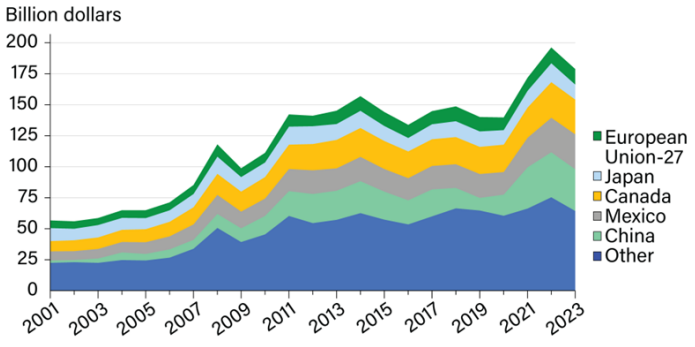
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture. Figures are not adjusted for inflation.

Figure 2. Import Share of US Food Consumption (2011–2021)



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Figure 3. Top Five Markets for US Agricultural Exports (2001–2023)



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture. Figures are not adjusted for inflation.

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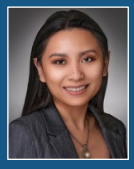
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Economic & Market Watch Dashboard

Key Indicators

INTEREST RATES[1]

	Current	2025 Q2	2025 Q3	2025 Q4	2026 Q1	2026 Q2
Fed Funds Target[2] (%)	4.50	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
SOFR (%)	4.35	4.10	3.85	3.60	3.40	3.20
2Y UST (%)	3.92	3.75	3.60	3.50	3.45	3.35
5Y UST (%)	3.99	3.85	3.80	3.75	3.70	3.65
10Y UST (%)	4.44	4.20	4.15	4.10	4.10	4.05
30Y UST (%)	4.97	4.55	4.50	4.45	4.40	4.40

ECONOMY

	Current	2025 Q2	2025 Q3	2025 Q4	2026 Q1	2026 Q2
PCE Inflation (YoY %)	2.1	2.6	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.5
CPI Inflation (YoY %)	2.3	3.2	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.8
Real GDP (QoQ %)	(0.2)	0.5	0.5	1	1.1	1.6
Unemployment (%)	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5
Consumer Spending (QoQ %)	1.2	1.5	0.7	1.2	1.6	1.8
Industrial Production (YoY %)	1.5	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.7

Equities & Currency

	Current	Year ago
DJIA	42,101	38,686
Nasdaq	19,148	16,735
S&P 500	5,912	5,278
US Dollar Index	$1,210.93	$1,251.40

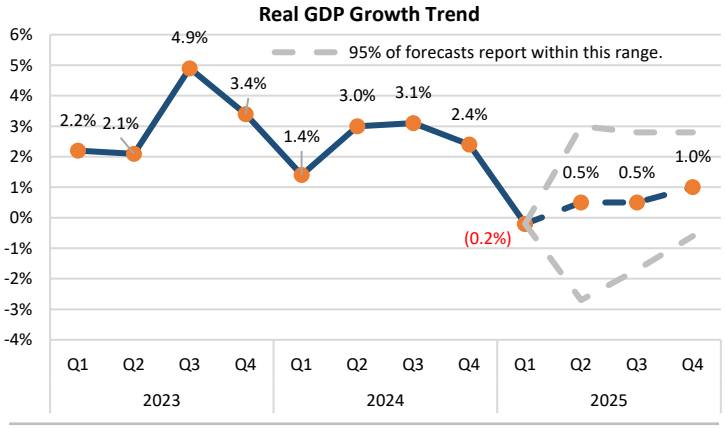
Commodities

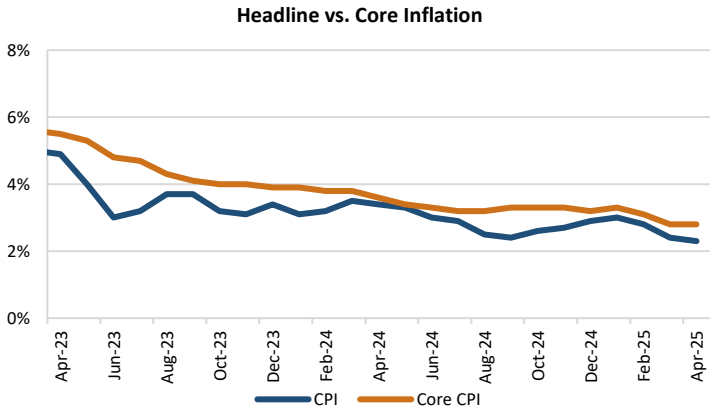
	Current	Year ago
Crude Oil (Per Barrel)	$63.56	$76.99
Natural Gas (Per MMBtu)	$3.72	$2.59
Coal (Per Short Ton)	$14.30	$13.65
Gold (Per Ounce)	$3,355.00	$2,322.90
Corn (Per Bushel)	$4.48	$4.46
Soybean (Per Bushel)	$1,039.50	$1,205.00

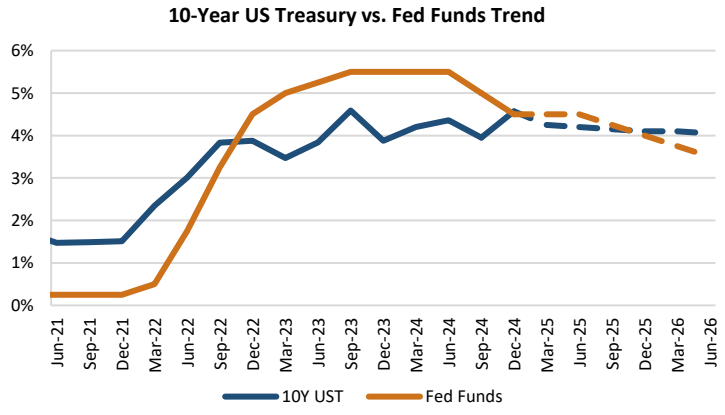
Industry

	Current	Year ago
Natural Gas Storage (Billion Cubic Feet)	2,476	2,900
U.S. Daily Power Consumption (MWh)	11,261,522	11,388,124
World Container Index (Per 40ft)	$2,508	$4,226

Forecasts







[1] *Unless otherwise indicated, forecasts are from the Blue Chip Professional Forecasters.*
[2] *Target rate forecast is based on futures market contracts.*

Source: Blue Chip Financial Forecasts, Trading Economics, Moody's Analytics, Statista, Trading Economics, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Energy Information Administration, U.S. Treasury Department, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, University of Michigan, The Conference Board.

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