

REPORT ON GRAIN TRUCK DEMAND

February 5, 2009

The link below will take you to this week's USDA Grain Transportation Report which features the weekly highlights and an article on increased truck activity and tight truck availability during the 3rd quarter.

Below is the main text of the article. The whole article along with many figures can be seen on the website.

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Increased Truck Activity and Tight Truck Availability During 3rd Quarter

Each quarter, the Transportation Services Division of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Services, funds an analysis grain truck industry conducted by the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute at North Dakota State University.

The study is designed to provide information – by 5 broad regions of the country – on truck availability, anticipated future truck activity, fuel prices, and rates. The data compiled from the quarterly survey is used for our Grain Market Advisory (GTAD), which can be found by clicking on "Quarterly Updates" at the following link:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/GTR>.

For the 3rd quarter of 2008, the GTAD shows an increase in overall trucking activity compared to the 2nd quarter. Major elevators in the truck grain-hauling market rated the level of trucking activity higher during the 3rd quarter—3.10, compared to 2.80 during the previous quarter (see table).

There was particularly strong demand for trucking in the South Central region where elevators rated the level of trucking activity at 3.20 during the 3rd quarter compared to 2.60 during the 2nd quarter. However, increased activity often results in increased difficulty in finding available trucks. During the 3rd quarter elevators rated the ease of hiring (truck availability) at 3.55 compared to 3.20 during the 2nd quarter. A higher rating indicates a relative difficulty hiring, or truck availability. The difficulty of hiring a truck was more evident in Corn Belt regions (North Central) where the elevators rated truck availability as 3.70, compared to 3.20 during the 2nd quarter. This increase is probably due to increased demand during the harvest season.

Link to full report:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5075210&acct=graintransrpt>

You may also access the latest report and the archive and other related reports at:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/GTR>

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AgTransportation>