

ABC Global Update

Export Shipments Flat August – February 2013 Compared to Last Year’s Shipments

Export Shipments for August 2013-February 2014 remain flat over last year at almost 847 million pounds. The top 5 export destinations continue to be China/Hong Kong, Spain, Germany, India and the United Arab Emirates.

China/Hong Kong continues as the leading export market with 123 million pounds shipped through February 2014. This is a decrease of 31% over last year. Spain remains the second largest market with nearly 110 million pounds shipped.

	Million Lbs. Aug 2013-February 2014	% Change from Last Year
W. Europe	326,856,881	22%
Spain	109,849,530	30%
Germany	81,632,956	13%
Italy	33,292,553	59%
Netherlands	29,352,765	25%
UK	17,487,237	11%
France	14,563,431	-2%
Belgium	12,991,470	23%
Central/E. Europe	38,467,227	-11%
Russia	24,535,133	-21%
Asia-Pacific	309,246,752	-18%
China/Hong Kong	122,684,726	-31%
India	70,297,721	-29%
Japan	45,093,610	19%
South Korea	31,534,325	11%
Vietnam	13,985,221	18%
Middle East	117,096,031	13%
UAE	54,173,307	-4%
Turkey	40,297,481	42%
Total Exports	846,866,832	0%

White House Trade Agenda Highlights TPP 2014 Target

The United States is hoping to finish the 12-country Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) talks by the end of this year, according to a report that was submitted to Congress in early March.

With one year to go before the 2015 target date for doubling U.S. exports from their 2009 levels and adding up to two million additional U.S. jobs to the economy, the White House has been making a concerted push on the trade front during President Obama's second term. In particular, U.S. officials have been advocating for advances in both bilateral and regional trade deals, as well as on the multilateral stage.

Along with the U.S., the TPP talks also feature Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. The potential gains from the TPP have been estimated by the Peterson Institute for International Economics to be as high as \$223 billion in increased global income by 2025.

EU Trade Ministers Pledge TTIP Support as Talks Enter Next Stage

EU trade ministers meeting in Athens last week pledged their full support to the ongoing trade talks with the U.S., as part of a broader push on both sides to allay concerns from public interest groups over the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). With the fourth round of negotiations set to begin in less than one week, the planned agreement has received criticism from a diverse collection of groups on both sides of the Atlantic.

With both the EU and U.S. working their way out of a prolonged financial crisis, advocates for TTIP have said that the deal could provide a much-needed boost

to their economies. For instance, figures cited by the EU place the increase in the bloc's GDP at an additional 0.5 percent each year, netting an additional \$400 billion in total trade per year.

In late February, USTR Ambassador Michael Froman met with EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht to conduct a political stocktaking of the negotiations to date. After identifying key differences between their sides' positions, they urged negotiators to "step up a gear" as they kick off the next phase of the talks.

The fourth round of negotiations is scheduled to take place March 10-14 in Brussels, Belgium.

USTR Published Comment Request on PITAC; Obama Nominates Deputy USTR

On February 25, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) announced that it is establishing the Public Interest Trade Advisory Committee (PITAC) and is seeking comments on PITAC's objectives, scope of activities, as well as possible nominations for committee membership. Comments to USTR are due by March 25, 2014.

PITAC is intended to provide policy advice based on public interest on trade issues. Specifically, comments should address the scope of viewpoints to be represented in PITAC to ensure a balanced committee; the potential quality improvement of information and advice to be given to USTR; and the potential added value to such viewpoints.

In addition, stakeholders are asked to provide comments on the modifications of these objectives, activities and/or viewpoints, and any other information. For details on submitting nominations, please see the *Federal Register* [notice](#).

In related news, President Obama also [nominated](#) Robert W. Holleyman II to fill the Deputy United States Trade

Representative position, with the rank of Ambassador, at USTR. Holleyman is the CEO and founder of a cloud technology development company. He also served as Senior Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation as well as the Legislative Director and Assistant to former U.S. Senator Russell B Long.

Indonesian Parliament Passes Trade Bill Restricting Imports and Exports

On February 11, Indonesia's parliament passed a new trade law which will allow the Indonesian government to restrict exports in response to price fluctuations in global markets, as well as ensure domestic supplies of staple goods. It will also allow the government to restrict imports in order to protect and boost investment in local industries, such as manufacturing, mineral processing, and agricultural production.

It is unclear how the new Trade Law will specifically affect US agricultural exports or the U.S.' current WTO [dispute](#) with Indonesia.

At this point, the Trade Law only establishes a framework for future legislation; for the provisions of the law to be fully implemented, several government, presidential and ministerial implementing regulations still must be passed.

ABC will continue to monitor the law's implementing regulations and notify industry with updates.

U.S., Canada, and Mexico Talk Trade at Annual North American Leaders' Summit

On February 19, President Barack Obama, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper met in Mexico for a brief North American Leaders' Summit meeting. The meeting was used to discuss various issues affecting the three countries, including trade issues.

Regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the trio pledged to complete negotiations on the trade agreement, including provisions on labor and environmental safeguards.

The trio also unveiled plans to develop a regional transportation plan to boost

road, rail and shipping links between the three countries. Further details on this freight plan have yet to be announced.

Taiwan's FDA Distributes Enforcement Testing Documents

Taiwan's Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) recently distributed two documents regarding enforcement and testing for pesticide residues in agricultural products.

The letter from TFDA announces the 67 pesticides for which Taiwan will specifically test imported goods in 2014. The other document details Taiwan's multi-residue analytical testing methods. This document lists the chemicals for which the testing methods apply, including the quantitative limits associated with these methods for different commodity groups.

It is unclear whether these documents have been finalized or if they are currently in draft form. USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is seeking funding to translate the documents and encourage Taiwan to notify the WTO so that comments on these documents may be submitted.

Upcoming Travel

- **March 10-13, 2014**
Julie Adams in Brussels, Belgium for European Snacks Association meetings.
- **March 10-14, 2014**
Stacey Humble, Sudarshan Mazumdar, Dariela Roffe-Rackind, and Becky Sereno in China for agency meetings.
- **March 15-18, 2014**
Becky Sereno in South Korea for agency meetings.