

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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China Agricultural Trade Report in 2012

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Agriculture in the Economy

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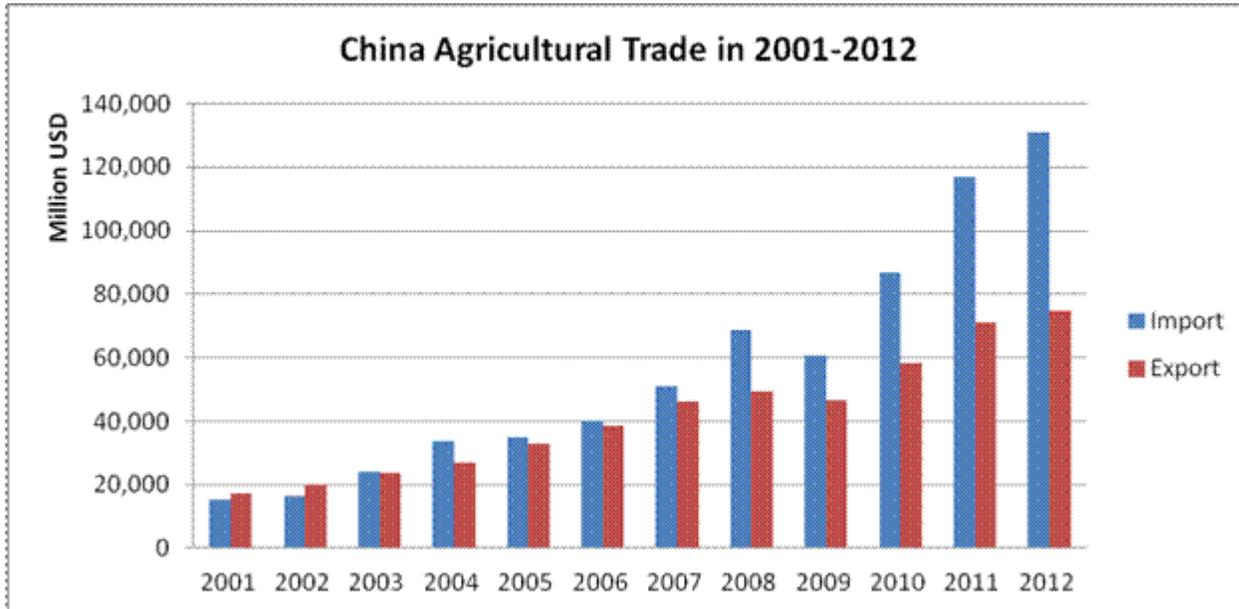
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Report Highlights:

According to China Customs data, China's total agricultural trade, including fish and forestry, increased by more than nine percent in 2012 to top \$205.6 billion. While agricultural exports rose a moderate five percent year on year to \$74.8 billion, strong import momentum of \$130.8 billion resulted in an agriculture trade deficit of \$56 billion, nearly 20 percent higher from the previous year.

China-U.S. agriculture trade reached \$40.4 billion in 2012, up more than 17 percent from the previous year. China's statistics indicate that agricultural imports from the United States rose to a record \$30 billion, with exports to the United States of \$10 billion. Soybeans, cotton, and corn were the top three United States agricultural imports to China in 2012.

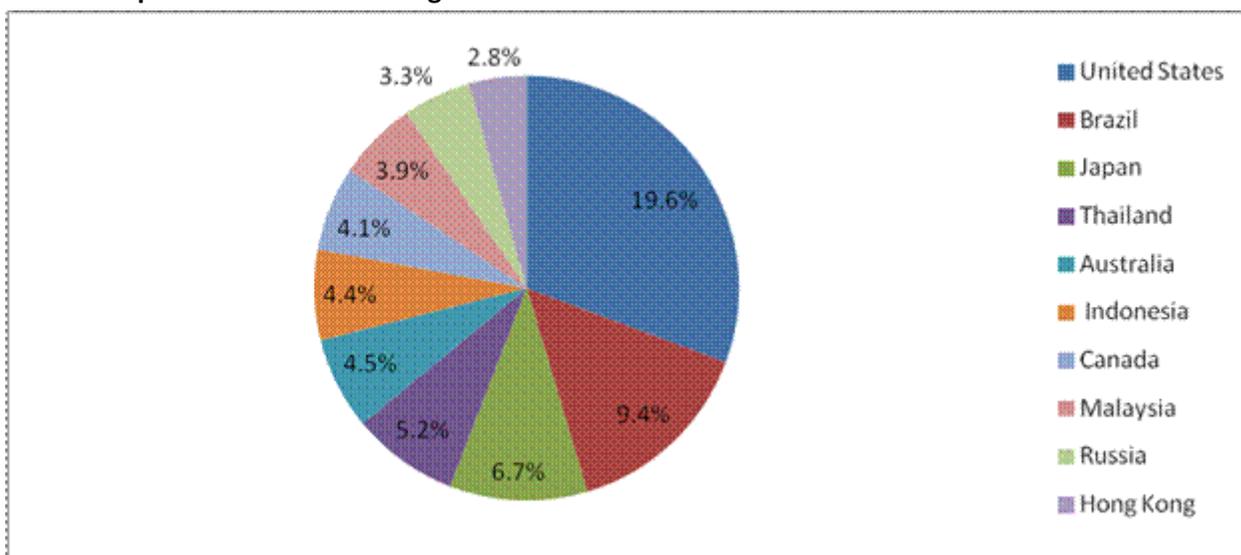
General Information:



Source: China Customs

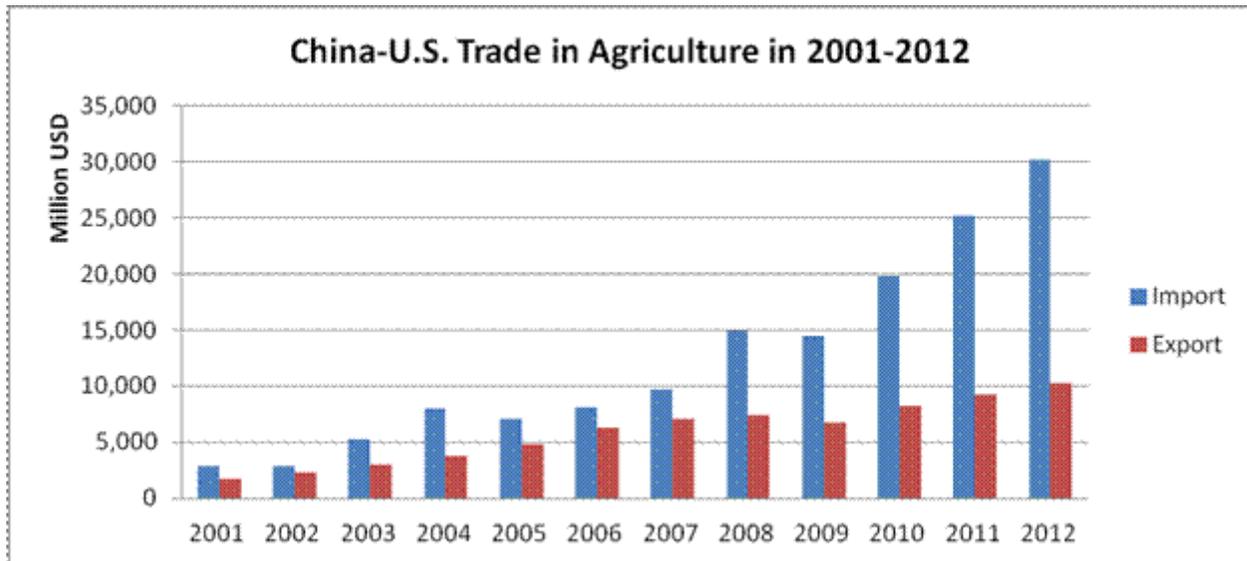
- China’s total agricultural trade (including fish and forestry) reached \$205.6 billion in 2012, up 9.3 percent on a yearly basis.
- China maintained strong import momentum in agriculture with total import value reaching \$130.8 billion, an increase of nearly 12 percent from the previous year.
- Agricultural exports increased by a moderate five percent year on year to \$74.8 billion.
- The trade deficit in agriculture expanded to \$56 billion, a 20 percent rise from 2011.

China’s Top 10 Trade Partners in Agriculture and Value Share in 2012



Source: China Customs

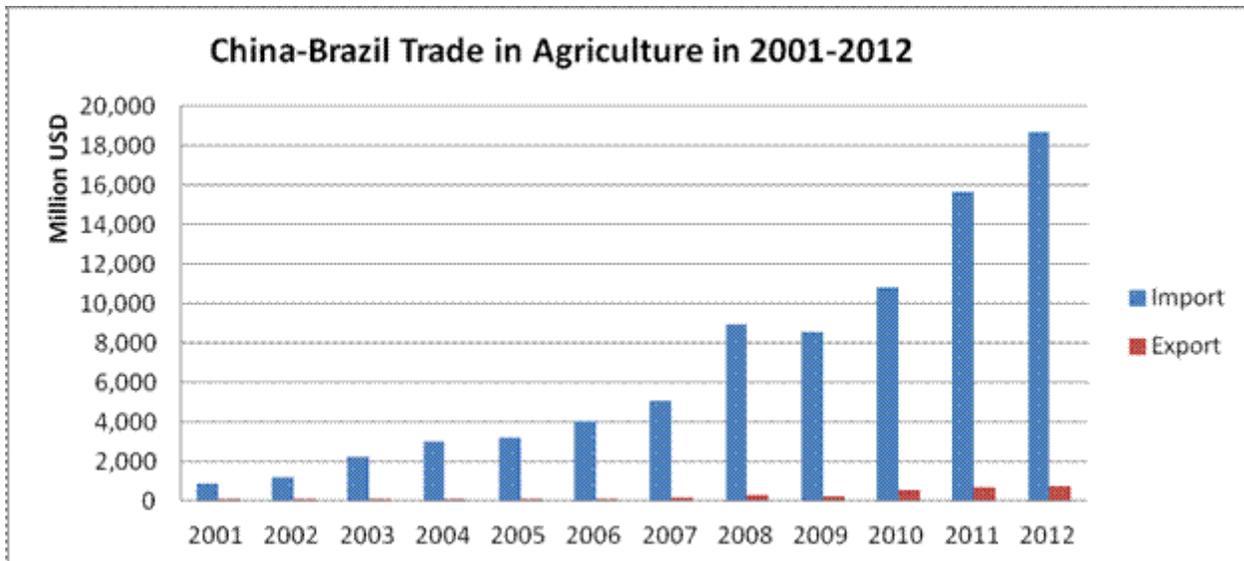
Key trading partners:



Source: China Customs

The United States is China's largest agriculture trading partner. The total China-United States trade in agriculture reached \$40.4 billion in 2012, up more than 17 percent from the previous year. China remained the largest export market for United States agricultural products and the United States was the second largest export destination for China-origin agricultural commodities.

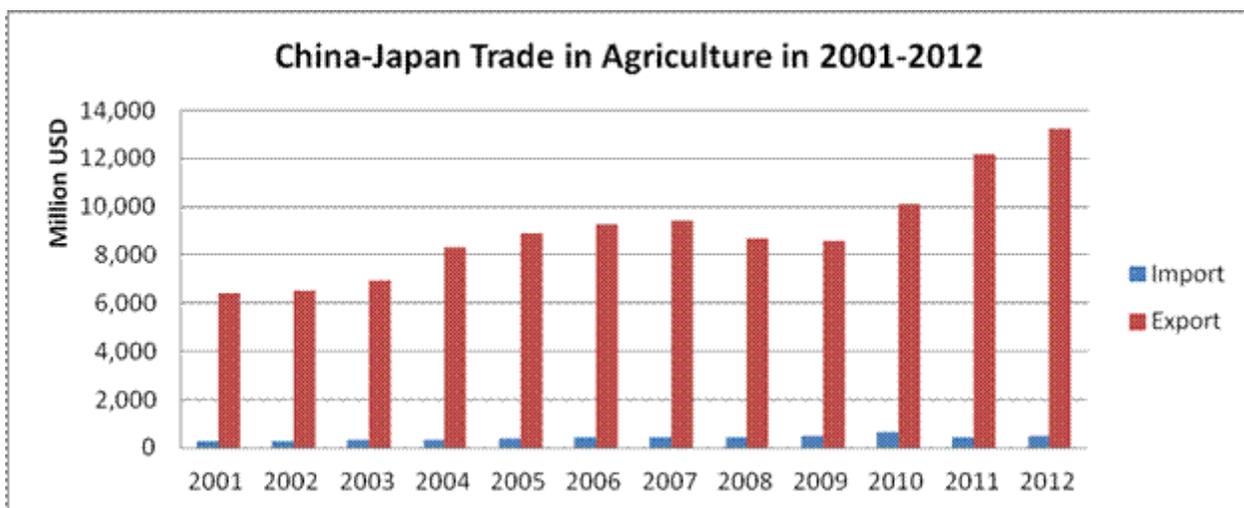
- In 2012, China's agricultural imports from the United States continued an upward trend to reach a record \$30 billion, representing an increase of nearly 20 percent on a yearly basis. The import value has more than doubled since 2009. Soybeans, cotton, and corn were the top three agricultural commodities imported from the United States.
- China's agricultural exports to the United States increased to \$10 billion, up nearly 11 percent year-on-year. Plywood, apple juice, and pet food were the top three agricultural exports to the United States.



Source: China Customs

Brazil was China’s second largest trading partner in agriculture, with total agricultural trade reaching \$19.4 billion in 2012, up nearly 19 percent from the previous year.

- In 2012, China’s agricultural imports from Brazil jumped more than 19 percent year on year to \$18.7 billion. The main import commodities included soybeans, soybean oil, and cane sugar. Brazil was China’s second largest supplier of agricultural goods.
- China’s agricultural exports to Brazil increased by more than 7 percent year on year to \$734 million. The top three export commodities were pulses, frozen Alaska pollock fillets, and garlic.



Source: China Customs

Japan was China’s third largest trading partner in agriculture. The total China-Japan agriculture trade reached \$ 13.7 billion in 2012, an increase of 8.6 percent from the previous year.

- In 2012, China's agricultural exports to Japan rose by 8.7 percent year on year to \$13.2 billion. The top export commodities included prepared/preserved chicken meat, prepared/preserved eels, and frozen fish fillets. Japan was China's largest export market for agricultural products.
- China's imports of agricultural goods from Japan increased by 6.5 percent year on year to \$469 million. The main import commodities included food preparations, frozen/dried/salted scallops, and odoriferous substances for food/drink.

ASEAN countries, such as Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia were also major agriculture trading partners with China.

Thailand (China's 4th largest trade partner):

- Total China-Thailand trade in agriculture increased by 3.6 percent year on year to \$10.8 billion in 2012.
- China's agricultural imports from Thailand increased by 1.0 percent year on year to \$8.6 billion. The main import commodities included rubber, cassava, and non-coniferous wood.
- Agricultural exports to Thailand increased by 15 percent to \$ 2.2 billion. The main export commodities included grapes, apples, and mandarins/tangerines.

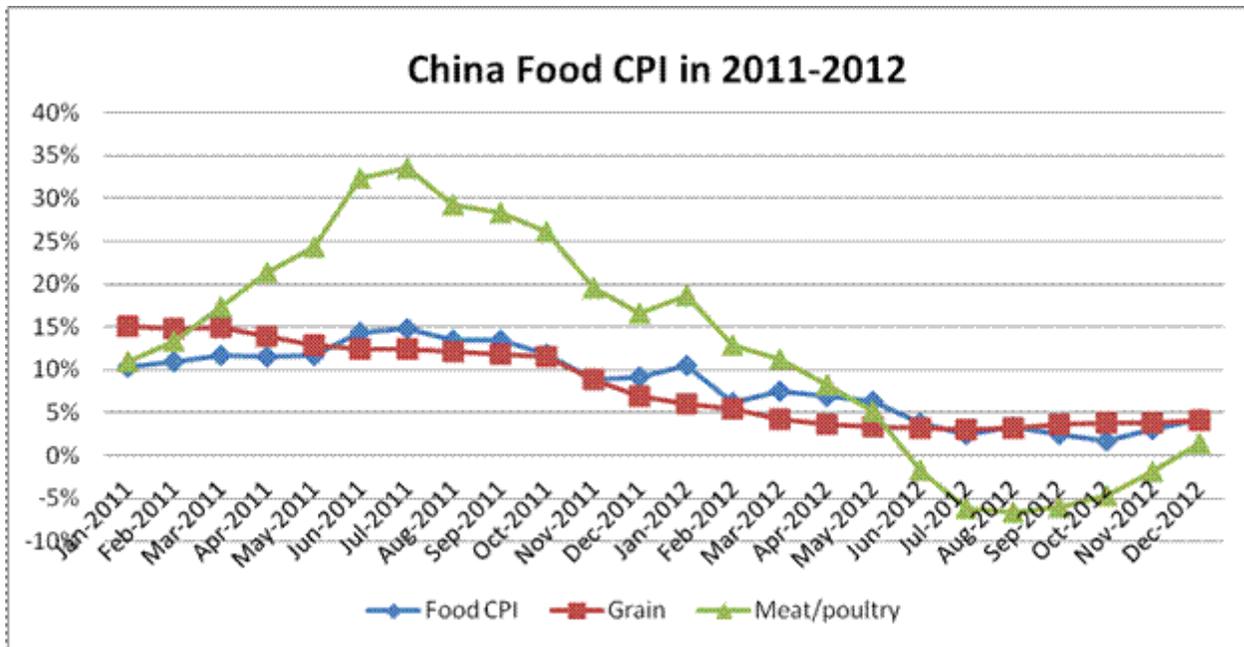
Indonesia (China's 6th largest trade partner):

- Total China-Indonesia trade in agriculture dropped by 1.0 percent year on year to nearly \$9.0 billion in 2012.
- China's agricultural imports from Indonesia dropped by 2.5 percent to \$6.9 billion. The primary import commodities included palm oil, rubber, and edible fats/oil.
- Agricultural exports to Indonesia decreased by 11 percent year on year to \$2.0 billion. The top export commodities included garlic, tobacco, and mandarins/tangerines.

Malaysia (China's 8th largest trade partner):

- Total China-Malaysian trade in agriculture dropped by 16 percent year on year to nearly \$8.0 billion in 2012.
- China's agricultural imports from Malaysia dropped by 22 percent year on year to \$5.7 billion. The main import commodities included palm oil, rubber, and palm kernel/babassu oil.
- Agricultural exports to Malaysia increased by 2.7 percent year on year to \$2.3 billion. The main export commodities included frozen shrimps and prawns, mandarins/tangerines, and prepared/preserved shrimps and prawns.

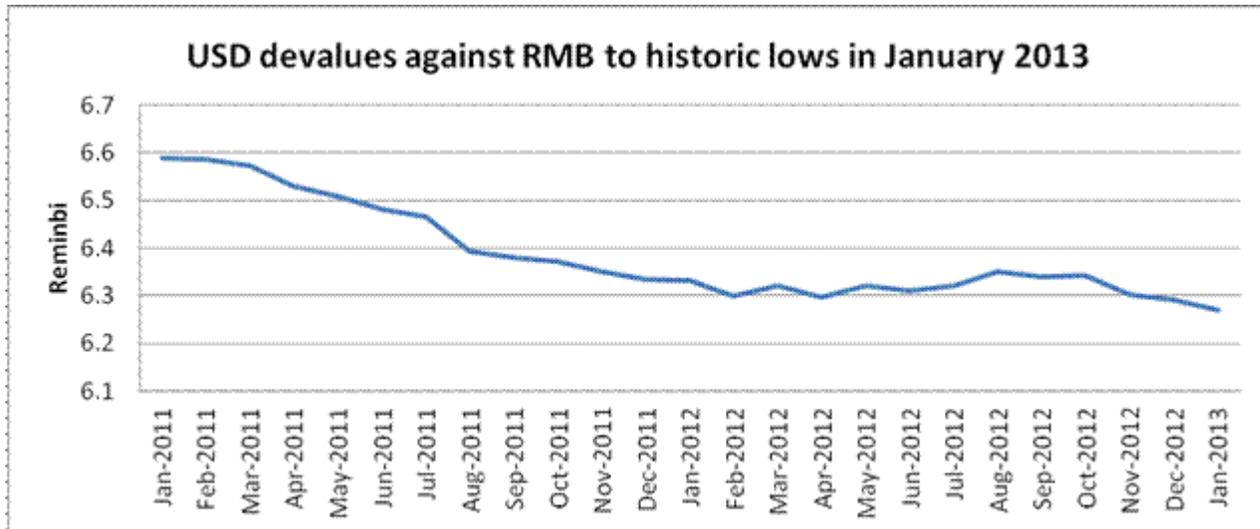
Food Price Inflation:



Source: China National Statistics Bureau

Driven largely by weakening economic performance, China’s food Consumer Price Index (CPI) continued to decline after peaking in July 2011.

Currency Exchange: US Dollars vs Chinese Reminbi:



Source: the People’s Bank of China

The Chinese currency has appreciated nearly 5.0 percent against the US dollar since January 2011.

Table 1: China’s Top 10 Agricultural Import Origins in 2012

Rank	Country (region)	Import value (USD)	% share in 2012
1	United States	30,149,501,986	23.1

2	Brazil	18,671,956,242	14.3
3	Thailand	8,569,791,557	6.6
4	Australia	7,757,073,770	5.9
5	Canada	7,011,477,832	5.4
6	Indonesia	6,920,123,417	5.3
7	Malaysia	5,691,025,312	4.4
8	Argentina	5,109,992,283	3.9
9	New Zealand	5,076,761,099	3.9
10	Russia	4,270,832,447	3.3

Source: China Customs

Table 2: China's Top 10 Agricultural Export Destinations in 2012

Rank	Country (region)	Export value (USD)	% share in 2012
1	Japan	13,234,440,230	17.7
2	United States	10,224,659,322	13.7
3	Hong Kong	5,711,343,743	7.6
4	South Korea	4,525,987,602	6.1
5	Russia	2,452,853,881	3.3
6	Germany	2,341,433,943	3.1
7	Malaysia	2,295,386,592	3.1
8	Thailand	2,199,555,441	2.9
9	Vietnam	2,179,318,499	2.9
10	Indonesia	2,037,463,402	2.7

Source: China Customs

Table 3: China's Top 10 Agricultural Imports in 2012

Rank	Commodity	Tariff (MFN)	Value (USD)	% Share	Largest supplier	% Share
1	Soybeans	3%	34,927,413,481	26.7	United States	44
2	Cotton	1% (TRQ), 40%(MFN)	11,807,741,726	9.0	United States	31
3	Palm oil, refined	9%	6,452,537,917	4.9	Malaysia	54
4	Natural rubber (TSNR)	20%	5,338,795,487	4.1	Thailand	46
5	Coniferous wood, rough	0	3,746,159,901	2.9	Russia	37
6	Coniferous wood, sawn/sliced	0	2,851,370,902	2.2	Canada	43
7	Non-coniferous wood, rough	0	2,569,810,802	2.0	Papua New Guinea	18
8	Wool	1% (TRQ), 38% (MFN)	2,397,368,602	1.8	Australia	79
9	Soybean oil, crude	9%	2,272,164,489	1.7	Brazil	50
10	Whole hides and skins	5%-8.4%	2,221,422,358	1.7	United States	55

Source: China Customs

Table 4: China's Top 10 Agricultural Exports in 2012

Rank	Commodity	Value (USD)	% share	Largest buyer	% share
1	Plywood	2,735,526,122	3.7	United States	23
2	Prefabricated buildings	1,628,240,687	2.2	Australia	17
3	Wood articles	1,602,810,776	2.1	United States	23
4	Garlic	1,387,665,145	1.9	Indonesia	24
5	Prepared/preserved chicken meat/offal	1,205,268,800	1.6	Japan	88
6	Cuttle fish & squid, frozen	1,174,633,309	1.6	Japan	17
7	Apple juice concentrate	1,129,078,189	1.5	United States	50
8	Frozen fish	1,111,313,252	1.5	South Korea	33
9	Animal (not fish) guts, bladders, stomachs and parts	1,099,917,229	1.5	Germany	24
10	Eels, prepared/preserved	1,039,981,130	1.4	Japan	51

Source: China Customs

Table 5: China's Top 10 Agricultural Imports from the U.S. in 2012

Rank	Commodity	Import value (USD)	% share in 2012
1	Soybeans	15,374,245,007	51
2	Cotton	3,686,912,845	12
3	Corn	1,658,078,380	5.5
4	Whole hides & skins	1,219,662,125	4.1
5	Brewing or distilling dregs and waste	772,640,553	2.6
6	Offal of swine, frozen	744,934,317	2.5
7	Coniferous wood in the rough	601,260,893	2.0
8	Oak wood, sawn or sliced	321,966,477	1.1
9	Soybean oil	261,700,355	0.9
10	Non-coniferous wood, sawn or sliced	246,808,907	0.8

Source: China Customs

Table 6: China's Top 10 Agricultural Exports to the U.S. in 2012

Rank	Commodity	Export value (USD)	% share in 2012
1	Plywood	621,825,329	6.1
2	Apple juice	561,410,242	5.5
3	Dog and cat food	466,909,575	4.6
4	Tilapia fillets, frozen	444,084,806	4.3
5	Articles of wood	371,703,216	3.6
6	Plywood, veneer panels & similar lam wood	252,368,029	2.5
7	Canned citrus	233,420,925	2.3

8	Pacific, Atlantic and Danube salmon fillets, frozen	216,142,721	2.1
9	Fish, prepared/preserved	194,316,886	1.9
10	Wooden frames paintings, photographs, mirrors	188,192,661	1.8

Source: China Customs