The U.S. exported 1.47 billion gallons of ethanol in 2019—down 13% from 2018 but still the second-highest annual volume on record. American-made ethanol was exported to more than 70 countries on all six inhabited continents around the world.

Undenatured ethanol for fuel use accounted for 51% of total exports in 2019. Denatured ethanol for fuel use represented 44%. Denatured and undenatured ethanol for non-fuel industrial uses made up the remaining 5%.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture
9.3% of the ethanol produced in the U.S. in 2019 was exported—the second-highest share ever.

U.S. ethanol exports were valued at $2.42 billion in 2019, the third-highest on record. Exports have become an increasingly important component of industry revenues.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture
2019 ethanol export volumes to the Top 10 markets are shown in the table below, along with a comparison to 2018 volumes. All figures shown in millions of gallons, unless otherwise noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>336.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>339.9</td>
<td>499.6</td>
<td>-32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>314.3</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>330.0</td>
<td>347.1</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>40.2</td>
<td>126.6</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>182.3</td>
<td>155.6</td>
<td>+17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>62.1</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>107.5</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>+25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>59.6</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>80.3</td>
<td>49.3</td>
<td>+63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>-15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>47.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>72.9</td>
<td>-27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>47.5</td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>+25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>+9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture
South America remained the largest regional destination for U.S. exports in 2019, despite a reduction in shipments to Brazil. Exports to other North American countries, mainly Canada, continued to be strong. Shipments to South Asia, predominantly India, grew by 17%.

A decline in shipments to Brazil, due in part to the continuation of a tariff rate quota and imposition of further restrictions, was the main cause of lower U.S. exports. Shipments to China were negligible, due to high tariffs implemented during the trade conflict. EU antidumping duties were allowed to expire, but flows exhibited only slight growth.

**Sources:** U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture
Net exports of ethanol receded in 2019, due to a moderate decline in exports and a significant rise in imports. Still, the U.S. was a net exporter for a tenth straight year.

More than two-thirds of U.S. ethanol exports departed via the Gulf of Mexico in 2019, nearly the same as in 2018. Great Lakes ports remained significant points of exit, as did the Pacific Northwest and Pembina, ND.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Dept. of Commerce, Dept. of Agriculture, and U.S. International Trade Commission
2019 U.S. ETHANOL IMPORTS

U.S. imports of fuel ethanol more than doubled to 204 million gallons in 2019, as Brazilian ethanol benefited from high prices of California Low Carbon Fuel Standard credits as well as a widening price spread between advanced and conventional biofuel RINs used for RFS compliance—a divergence exacerbated by small refinery exemptions.

Approximately 99% of 2019 fuel ethanol imports came from Brazil. Shipments accelerated after the EPA announced a new round of small refinery exemptions from the RFS in August.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture
2019 U.S. ETHANOL IMPORTS

Imports accounted for just over 1% of the ethanol consumed in the U.S. in 2019, the highest level since 2013. Still, ethanol import reliance is down considerably from the 2005-2008 timeframe, when imports typically accounted for 5-10% of U.S. consumption.

Top Ports of Entry for 2019 U.S. Ethanol Imports

California ports received nearly 100% of the fuel ethanol imported into the U.S. in 2019, driven by the state’s Low Carbon Fuel Standard.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Dept. of Commerce, Dept. of Agriculture, and U.S. International Trade Commission
ABOUT THE DATA IN THIS REPORT

U.S. Ethanol Export Data

- The export data in this report includes exports classified under the following Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) codes:
  - 2207200010: Ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength: For fuel use
  - 2207106010: Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80 percent vol. or higher: For non-beverage purposes: For fuel use
  - 2207200090: Ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength: Other
  - 2207106090: Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80 percent vol. or higher: For non-beverage purposes: Other

- 2207200090 and 2207106090 are included in this report because there is some anecdotal evidence that exports of ethanol intended for fuel use are sometimes classified under these codes. In any case, ethanol classified under these codes represented just 5% of the 2019 U.S. exports discussed in this report.

U.S. Ethanol Import Data

- The import data in this report includes imports classified under the following Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) codes:
  - 2207200010: Ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength: For fuel use
  - 2207106010: Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80 percent vol. or higher: For non-beverage purposes: For fuel use

Sources


The Renewable Fuels Association publishes monthly summaries of export and import data for ethanol and distillers dried grains in its Trade Monitor.

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