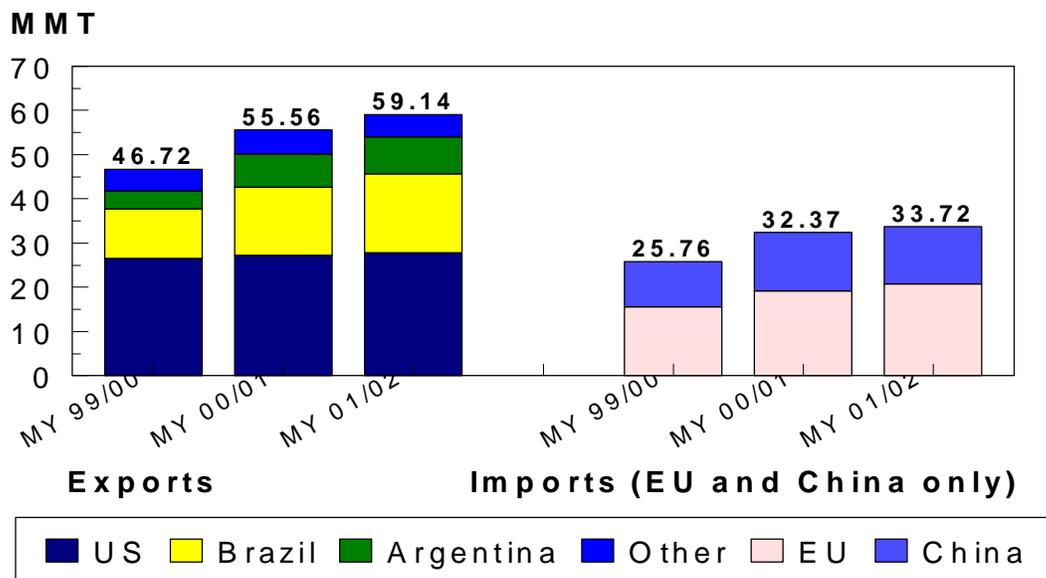




Oilseeds: World Markets and Trade

Global Soybean Exports Remain at Record Levels, EU and China are Major Destinations.



Global soybean exports for MY 2001/02, already forecast at record levels, are expected to remain strong despite potentially restrictive biotech regulations in China, the world's largest single-country importer of soybeans. At the end of February, the United States had already exported 2.4 million tons more soybeans than it had in the same period in MY 2000/01, with over half of this increase in exports going to the EU and China. The increase in U.S. exports to China in the first half of MY 2001/02 came as traders attempted to front-load soybean shipments into China to meet the March 20th cut-off date for China's new biotechnology regulations. Yet soybean exports to China have slowed in recent weeks as traders sort through the new regulations. As a result, China's soybean import estimate for MY 2001/02 is reduced from 13.5 million tons last month to 13.0 million tons this month, versus 13.2 million tons in MY 2000/01. However, growing soybean imports by the EU will more than offset the decrease in China's imports. Soybean imports by the EU in MY 2001/02 are estimated at 20.7 million tons, versus last month's 19.9 million ton estimate and last year's imports of 19.1 million tons. Brazil's and Argentina's soybean exports are also expected to remain strong.