



CONTENTS

CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE MARKET NEWS 1

CBOT MAY CORN FUTURES.....2

U.S. WEATHER/CROP PROGRESS 4

U.S. EXPORT STATISTICS 4

FOB..... 6

DISTILLERS DRIED GRAINS WITH SOLUBLES (DDGS) 7

COUNTRY NEWS 8

OCEAN FREIGHT MARKETS AND SPREAD 9

OCEAN FREIGHT COMMENTS 10

INTEREST RATES..... 12

CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE MARKET NEWS

Week in Review: CME Corn July Contract

\$/Bu	Monday 27 April	Tuesday 28 April	Wednesday 29 April	Thursday 30 April	Friday 1 May
Change	-0.0500	-0.0025	0.0325	-0.0150	-0.0325
Closing Price	3.6475	3.6450	3.6775	3.6675	3.6300
Factors Affecting the Market	Poor-looking charts and concerns about bird flu encouraged selling by speculators while commercial traders bought.	A drier and warmer weather forecast for the Corn Belt eliminated concerns about any lag in corn planting.	Lower prices attracted the attention of global end-users and there were continued sizable export sales of U.S. corn.	Bullish traders had little need to chase prices higher because there were enough willing sellers at the present price levels.	Bird flu had enough weight as a cause for concern that it was able to press Chicago's corn futures contracts lower this week.

For more information on the contents of this newsletter or the U.S. Grains Council, its mission and programs, please contact Manuel Sanchez or Alvaro Cordero at (202) 789-0789.

The U.S. Grains Council is a private, non-profit partnership of producers and agribusinesses committed to building and expanding international markets for U.S. barley, corn, grain sorghum and their products. The Council is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and has nine international offices that oversee programs in more than 50 countries. Financial support from our private industry members, including state checkoffs, agribusinesses, state entities and others, triggers federal matching funds from the USDA resulting in a combined program value of more than \$26 million.

Outlook: Feed grain markets presently seem to have a bearish bias. This stems from negative-looking charts that are encouraging discussion of the potential bird flu while paying less attention to factors such as larger-than-expected U.S. cattle placements on feed and growing export sales purchases at present price-levels.

Temperatures across the U.S. Corn Belt are increasing as we move into May and there is no excess moisture causing sustained delays in planting. However, the planting pace and corn emergence rate continues to lag behind the five-year average. Point being, normalcy is presently being treated as a bearish factor because of predisposed perceptions. This condition is important to note because it can result in rather fickle market action. For example, the recent sell-off in corn caused most technical indicators to turn bearish and suggest selling. However it would not take much of a rebound before the present sell off in corn contracts started to appear as the left side of an inverted head-and-shoulders chart pattern. Market commentaries could then flip and start to search for fundamental reasons why prices could go higher. The outlook is that vacillating and unpredictable price action is likely to be particularly pronounced when fundamental factors are primarily being sought to justify technical charts and the resulting trades.

CBOT JULY CORN FUTURES



Source: Prophet X

Current Market Values:

Futures Price Performance: Week Ending May 1, 2015			
Commodity	1-May	24-Apr	Net Change
Corn			
May 15	359.75	364.50	-4.75
Jul 15	363.00	369.75	-6.75
Sep 15	369.75	377.50	-7.75
Dec 15	380.25	388.25	-8.00
Soybeans			
May 15	968.50	969.75	-1.25
Jul 15	964.75	970.75	-6.00
Aug 15	959.00	966.75	-7.75
Sep 15	946.75	956.25	-9.50
Soymeal			
May 15	314.70	314.60	0.10
Jul 15	311.90	313.30	-1.40
Aug 15	310.40	312.00	-1.60
Sep 15	308.80	310.90	-2.10
Soyoil			
May 15	31.44	31.67	-0.23
Jul 15	31.58	31.86	-0.28
Aug 15	31.62	31.92	-0.30
Sep 15	31.65	31.97	-0.32
SRW			
May 15	470.00	486.00	-16.00
Jul 15	474.00	488.50	-14.50
Sep 15	482.75	498.00	-15.25
Dec 15	500.75	515.00	-14.25
HRW			
May 15	493.25	502.25	-9.00
Jul 15	500.50	507.50	-7.00
Sep 15	510.50	518.00	-7.50
Dec 15	530.00	537.25	-7.25
MGEX (HRS)			
May 15	520.25	535.00	-14.75
Jul 15	534.50	545.25	-10.75
Sep 15	545.00	554.00	-9.00
Dec 15	557.75	564.50	-6.75

*Price unit: Cents and quarter-cents/bu (5,000 bu)

U.S. WEATHER/CROP PROGRESS

U.S. Crop Planting Progress				
Commodity	26-Apr-15	Last Week	Last Year	2010-14 Average
Corn	19%	9%	17%	25%
Sorghum	24%	19%	26%	25%
Barley	56%	43%	32%	35%

Source: USDA

U.S. Drought Monitor Weather Forecast: For the upcoming period of May1-May 4, much of the contiguous United States is expected to receive little, if any, precipitation. Fairly localized exceptions may include Virginia and West Virginia and parts of the Corn Belt, where 0.5-2.0 inches is predicted.

For the 10-day period, there are elevated odds of above-median precipitation across most areas between the Rockies and Appalachians, as well as for southern Florida. There are elevated odds of below-median precipitation for much of the Pacific Northwest and part of the Southeast. Follow this link to view current U.S. and international weather patterns and the future outlook: [Weather and Crop Bulletin](#).

U.S. EXPORT STATISTICS

Export Sales and Exports: Week Ending April 23, 2015					
Commodity	Gross Sales (MT)	Exports (MT)	YTD Exports (000MT)	YTD Bookings (000MT)	% Change YTD Bookings
Wheat	121,300	606,600	20,481.4	23,226.4	-26%
Corn	1,149,100	1,269,300	26,841.8	40,316.8	-8%
Sorghum	6,200	160,700	5,913.9	8,072.6	110%
Barley	6,000	100	126.3	146.2	-19%

Source: USDA, World Perspectives, Inc.

Corn: Net sales of 832,500 MT for delivery in 2014/15 were down 4 percent from the previous week, but up 33 percent from the prior four-week average. Increases were reported for Japan (353,500 MT, including 131,700 MT switched from unknown destinations and decreases of 90,100 MT), Saudi Arabia (146,000 MT, including 136,000 MT switched from unknown destinations), Mexico (89,300 MT, including 35,800 MT switched from Colombia and decreases of 48,800 MT), South Korea (66,100 MT), Colombia (27,100 MT, including 45,000 MT switched from unknown destinations and decreases of 7,600 MT) and the Dominican Republic (26,700 MT, including 23,500 MT switched from unknown destinations). Decreases were reported for Nicaragua (400 MT). Net sales of 113,300 MT for 2015/16 were reported for Japan (100,300 MT), unknown destinations (12,400 MT) and Nicaragua (500 MT). Exports of 1,269,300 MT were up 22 percent from the previous week and 35 percent from the prior four-week average. The primary destinations were Mexico (341,000 MT), Japan (179,200 MT), Saudi Arabia (146,000 MT), South Korea (132,300 MT) and Colombia (119,500 MT).

Barley: Net sales of 6,000 MT for 2014/15 were reported for Japan. Exports of 100 MT were reported to South Korea.

Sorghum: Net sales of 6,200 MT for 2014/15 resulted as increases for China (64,200 MT, including 58,000 MT switched from unknown destinations), were partially offset by decreases for unknown destinations (58,000 MT). Net sales of 273,000 MT for 2015/16 were reported for China (218,000 MT) and unknown destinations (55,000 MT). Exports of 160,700 MT were down 26 percent from the previous week and 30 percent from the prior four-week average. The destination was China.

U.S. Export Inspections: Week Ending April 23, 2015					
Commodity (MT)	Export Inspections		Current Market YTD	Previous YTD	YTD as Percent of Previous
	Current Week	Previous Week			
Corn	1,293,996	1,071,311	26,535,900	27,992,714	95%
Sorghum	108,489	218,219	6,449,340	2,933,667	220%
Soybeans	311,622	148,184	45,802,514	41,353,670	111%
Wheat	543,929	609,603	20,763,776	28,438,394	73%
Barley	24	271	162,538	159,687	102%

Source: USDA/AMS. *Marketing Year is June 1-May 31 for wheat and barley and Sept. 1-Aug. 31 for corn, sorghum and soybeans. Week-to-week reports will vary due to exporter reported corrections and cancellations to previous week's reports.

USDA Grain Inspections for Export Report: Week Ending April 23, 2015						
Last Week	YC	% of Total	WC	% of Total	Sorghum	% of Total
Gulf	780,967	63%	56,374	94%	108,489	100%
PNW	230,967	19%	366	1%	0	0%
Lakes	51,657	4%	0	0%	0	0%
Atlantic	16,499	1%	0	0%	0	0%
Interior Export Rail	153,673	12%	3,493	6%	0	0%
Total (Metric Tons)	1,233,763	100%	60,233	100%	108,489	100%
White Corn Shipments by Country (MT)			53,735	to Mexico		
			6,132	to Colombia		
			366	to Korea		
Total White Corn (MT)			60,233			
Sorghum Shipments by Country (MT)					108,489	to China
Total Sorghum (MT)					108,489	

Source: USDA, World Perspectives, Inc.



FOB

Yellow Corn (USD/MT FOB Vessel)				
YC FOB Vessel Max. 15.0% Moisture	GULF		PNW	
	Basis (#2 YC)	Flat Price (#2 YC)	Basis (#2 YC)	Flat Price (#2 YC)
LH May	+0.75 N	\$172.43	-	-
FH June	+0.73 N	\$171.64	+0.91 N	\$178.73
June	+0.72 N	\$171.25	+0.91 N	\$178.73
July	+0.68 N	\$169.68	+0.91 N	\$178.73

#2 White Corn (U.S. \$/MT FOB Vessel)			
Max. 15.0% Moisture	May	June	July
Gulf	\$200	\$200	\$200

Sorghum (USD/MT FOB Vessel)				
#2 YGS FOB Vessel Max 14.0% Moisture	NOLA		TEXAS	
	Basis	Flat Price	Basis	Flat Price
May	+3.10 K	\$263.67	+3.10 K	\$263.67
July	+2.50 Z	\$243.98	+2.50 Z	\$243.98
August	+2.50 Z	\$243.98	+2.30 Z	\$236.11

Barley: Feed Barley (FOB USD/MT)			
	May	June	July
FOB PNW	\$240	\$240	\$240

Corn Gluten Feed Pellets (CGFP) (FOB Vessel U.S. \$/MT)			
	May	June	July
New Orleans	\$147.50	\$147.50	\$142.50
Quantity 5,000 MT			
Corn Gluten Meal (CGM) (FOB Vessel U.S. \$/MT)			
Bulk 60% Pro.	May	June	July
New Orleans	\$689	\$689	\$684
*5-10,000 MT Minimum			

*All prices are market estimates.

DDGS Price Table: May 1, 2015 (USD/MT) (Quantity, availability, payment and delivery terms vary)			
Delivery Point Quality Min. 35% Pro-fat combined	May	Jun.	Jul.
Barge CIF New Orleans	224	223	220
FOB Vessel GULF	233	232	230
Rail delivered PNW	243	243	242
Rail delivered California	241	240	236
Mid-Bridge Laredo, TX	243	242	242
40 ft. Containers to South Korea (Busan)	287	286	284
40 ft. Containers to Taiwan (Kaohsiung)	288	285	283
40 ft. Containers to Philippines (Manila)	307	304	302
40 ft. Containers to Indonesia (Jakarta)	303	301	299
40 ft. Containers to Malaysia (Port Kelang)	304	302	301
40 ft. Containers to Vietnam (HCMC)	303	302	300
40 ft. Containers to Japan (Yokohama)	298	296	293
40 ft. containers to Thailand (LCMB)	295	294	292
40 ft. Containers to Shanghai, China	286	284	281
KC & Elwood, IL Rail Yard (delivered Ramp)	223	221	220

Source: WPI, *Prices are based on offer indications only; terms of delivery, payment and quality may vary from one supplier to another, impacting the actual value of the price.

DISTILLERS DRIED GRAINS WITH SOLUBLES (DDGS)

DDGS Comments: Many Asian buyers were out of the market this week because of May Day celebrations, though some have noticed that spot bulk rates for DDGS declined by about \$17/MT. Near-term bulk rates for domestic buyers in the South declined by more than \$13/MT and by about \$10/MT for rail-delivered DDGS to the U.S. West Coast. Near-term rates for containerized DDGS declined this week by an additional \$5/MT and by about \$7-9/MT for June and July. Domestic DDGS rates for June and July are also averaging about \$1-3/MT lower.

DDGS merchandisers are being forced to reduce price offers to Asian buyers due to competition from falling soymeal prices from South America and weaker corn prices in the U.S. Corn Belt. DDGS prices are being adjusted lower so as not to be priced out of feeding rations. The majority of DDGS merchandisers seem able and willing to price competitively in order to maintain market share.

Certain end-users of DDGS tend to have a price level in mind that will enable them to lock in a favorable profit margin at their feeding operations. Others seemingly desire to purchase at the absolute lowest price for the season, though successfully accomplishing that feat may be particularly difficult this year because current price weakness is occurring so early and may not last.

Favorable weather for planting encouraged corn futures contracts to decline sharply this past week, but the planting pace is still not yet 50 percent complete and rains are expected to return to the Corn Belt next week. The majority of DDGS merchandisers seem to recognize that corn futures contracts could easily rebound above the lows of this week. That fact makes it difficult for them to offer even lower prices one or two month out unless there is a formal agreement and some sort of down payment. Many buyers seem to understand this fact and may return in greater force next week, particularly if Chicago corn futures contracts firm up.

Ethanol Comments: U.S. ethanol imports fell back to zero for the week-ending March 24, after momentarily bouncing to an average daily rate of 53,000 barrels per day (bpd) the prior week. This is favorable news for U.S. ethanol producers because the United States overtook Brazil in 2014 as the world's largest ethanol exporter. Six percent of U.S. ethanol was exported in 2014 and it was valued at more than \$2 billion dollars.

Total U.S. ethanol stocks declined to 20.8 million barrels from the prior-week's level of 21.3 million barrels. This decline is partly due to increased usage and a reduced average daily production rate of 921,000 bpd, which is below the prior week's average daily rate of 930,000 bpd.

Declining stocks and weaker corn prices enabled the differential to improve between the spot market price for corn and the prices for ethanol and DDGS. However, the differential may weaken if DDGS prices continue the sharp declines of the past two weeks (Please see DDGS discussion). The differential between the price of corn and the spot price of corn and co-products improved in the following in primary regions of the Corn Belt for the week ending May 1, 2015:

- Illinois differential is \$2.52 per bushel in comparison to \$2.40 the prior week and \$3.67 a year ago.
- Iowa differential is \$2.23 per bushel in comparison to \$2.11 the prior week and \$3.28 a year ago.
- Nebraska differential is \$2.11 per bushel in comparison to \$1.95 the prior week and \$3.07 a year ago.
- South Dakota differential is \$2.49 per bushel in comparison to \$2.31 the prior week and \$3.69 a year ago.

COUNTRY NEWS

Africa: The FAO is predicting that the corn harvest for southern Africa is likely to fall by 26 percent from 2014 totals due to erratic precipitation, according to Bloomberg News. Corn production for the region is forecast at 21.1 MMT, which is 15 percent below the five-year average. South Africa, the continent's largest corn producer, has been particularly hard hit by drought this year and is expecting a 32 percent reduction in its 2015 harvest. South African corn imports for this year through April 30 are expected to increase to 1.8 MMT, which is twice the amount imported last year and a third higher than average.

Argentina: The grain hub of Rosario was shut down this week as port-worker unions are striking to receive higher wages, according to Reuters. These strikes have threatened to slow Argentine grain exports should they persist without resolution. This action has caused all 25 ports that make up the Gran Rosario hub to shut down. Workers have threatened to strike indefinitely if a deal is not reached by Monday night.

Indonesia: Indonesia is set to reduce its corn imports to 3 MMT, which is down slightly from 3.1 MMT last year, in an effort by the government to incentivize self-sufficiency in domestic food production, reports Reuters.

However, Indonesian demand for corn has grown over the past several years and Desianto Utomo of the Indonesian Feedmills Association has voiced concern with the reduction, stating that Indonesia “should be importing 3.5 MMT.” The country’s 32 feedmills can handle 21.5 MMT (24 MMT by the end of 2015) annually, but are currently running at only 75-80 percent capacity.

OCEAN FREIGHT MARKETS AND SPREAD

Bulk Freight Indices for HSS — Heavy Grain, Sorghum and Soybeans*			
Route and Vessel Size	Current Week (USD/MT)	Change from Previous Report	Remarks
55,000 U.S. Gulf-Japan	\$30.75	Down \$0.25	Handymax at \$31.50/MT
55,000 U.S. PNW-Japan	\$17.00	Unchanged	Handymax at \$18.00/MT
55,000 U.S. Gulf-China	\$29.50	Unchanged	North China
PNW to China	\$16.00	Down \$0.25	
25,000 U.S. Gulf-Veracruz, México	\$14.50	Unchanged	3,000 MT daily discharge rate
35-40,000 U.S. Gulf-Veracruz, México	\$12.00	Unchanged	Deep draft and 8,000 MT per day discharge rate.
25/35,000 U.S. Gulf-East Coast Colombia, from Argentina	\$12.75 \$24.00	Unchanged Unchanged	West Coast Colombia at \$20.00
36-40,000 U.S. Gulf-Guatemala	\$20.25	Unchanged	Acajutla/Quetzal - 8,000 out
25-30,000 U.S. Gulf-Algeria	\$28.50	Unchanged	8,000 MT daily discharge
25-30,000 U.S. Gulf-Morocco	\$30.00		3,000 MT daily discharge
25-30,000 U.S. Gulf-Egypt	\$27.50	Unchanged	5,000 discharge rate
PNW to Egypt	\$24.00 \$23.50		55,000 -60,000 MT St. Lawrence to Egypt \$24.00
60-70,000 U.S. Gulf-Europe-Rotterdam	\$14.00	Unchanged	Handymax at +\$1.50 more
Brazil, Santos-China	\$25.00	Up \$0.50	54-58,000 Supramax- Panamax
	\$22.75	Up \$0.25	
60-66,000 Post Panamax			
56-60,000 Argentina-China Upriver with Top-Off	\$31.00	Up \$0.50	—

Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

*Numbers for this table based on previous night's closing values.

OCEAN FREIGHT COMMENTS

Transportation and Export Report: Jay O'Neil, O'Neil Commodity Consulting: Ocean freight markets are still steaming in circles. The attempted rally of last week was short lived as things settled back this week. The incremental moves of this market are quite small. No excitement yet.

Baltic Panamax Dry-Bulk Indices				
May 1, 2015*	This Week	Last Week	Difference	Percent Change
Route				
P2A: Gulf/Atlantic – Japan	10,595	10,250	345	3.4%
P3A: PNW/Pacific– Japan	4,429	4,343	86	2.0%

Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

*Prices reflect the week of April 23

Below is a recent history of freight values for Capesize vessels of iron ore from Western Australia to South China:

Week of May 1, 2015	
Four weeks ago:	\$4.20-\$4.50
Three weeks ago:	\$4.45-\$4.75
Two weeks ago:	\$4.30-\$4.35
One week ago:	\$4.35-\$4.50
This week	\$4.40-\$4.50

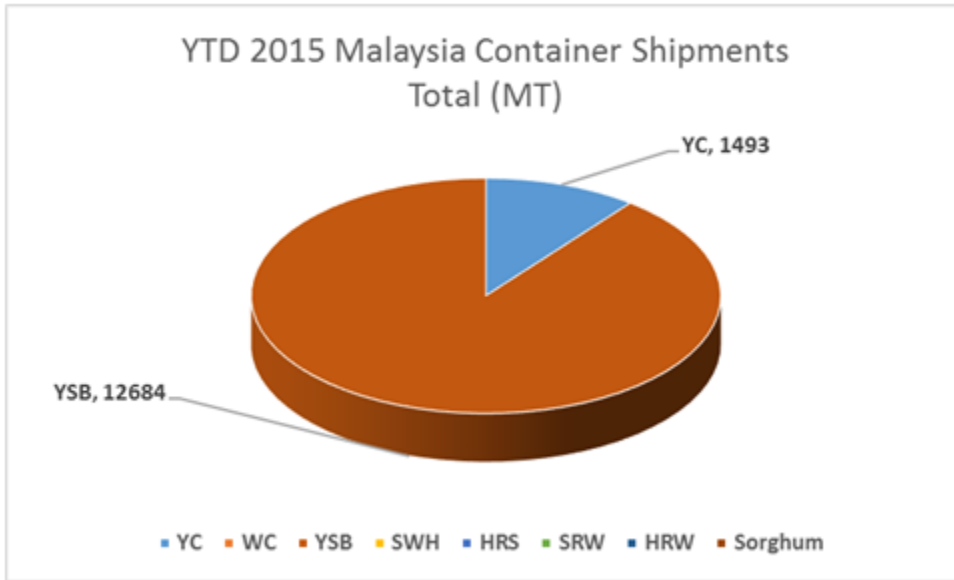
Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

U.S. – Asia Market Spreads					
May 1, 2015*	PNW	Gulf	Bushel Spread	MT Spread	Advantage
# 2 Corn	0.91	0.65	0.26	\$10.24	PNW
Soybeans	1.20	0.78	0.42	\$16.53	Gulf
Ocean Freight	\$16.50	\$29.50	0.33-0.35	(\$13.00)	May

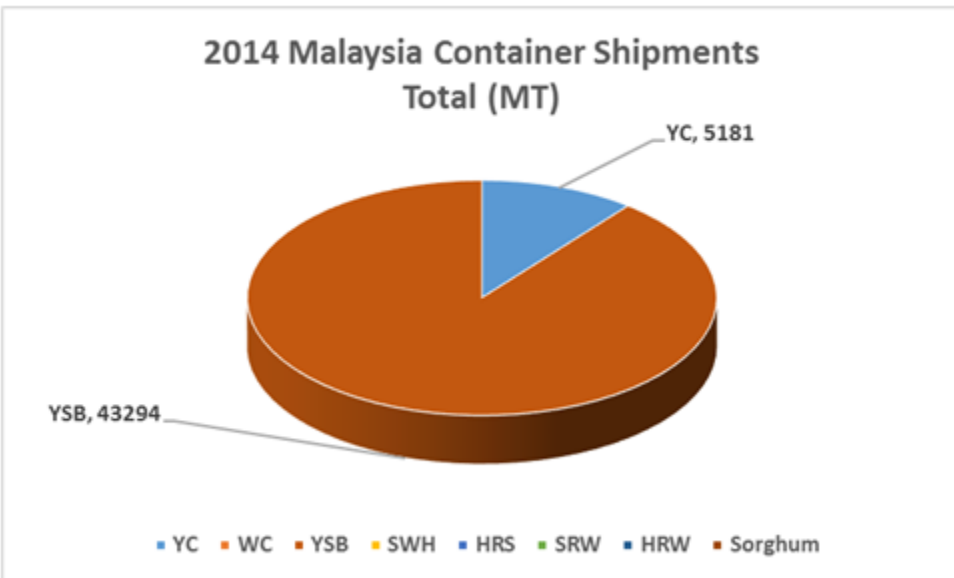
Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

*Prices reflect the week of April 23

The charts below represent January-December 2014 annual totals versus year-to-date 2015 container shipments to Malaysia.



Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting



Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

International Freight Rates for Feed Grains – Select Routes Estimated Spot Price (\$/MT) (Week Ending April 17)								
Commodity	Origins	China	Japan	Korea	Colombia	Morocco	Egypt	Saudi Arabia
Corn (Yellow)	Argentina	\$29	\$32	\$30	\$25	\$26	\$24	-
	Brazil	\$22	\$25	\$23	\$21	\$20	\$18	-
Corn (White)	Argentina	\$29	\$32	\$30	\$25	\$26	\$24	-
	Brazil	\$22	\$25	\$23	\$21	\$20	\$18	-
Barley	Argentina	\$29	\$32	\$30	\$25	\$26	\$24	-
	Brazil	\$22	\$25	\$23	\$21	\$20	\$18	-
Sorghum	Argentina	\$29	\$32	\$30	\$25	\$26	\$24	-
	Brazil	\$22	\$25	\$23	\$21	\$20	\$18	-

Note: Bid-ask spreads can vary in width and initial offers may be higher on less active routes.

Source: World Perspectives, Inc.

INTEREST RATES

Interest Rates (%): April 29, 2015			
	Current Week	Last Week	Last Month
U.S. Prime	3.25	3.25	3.25
LIBOR (6 month)	0.41	0.41	0.40
LIBOR (1 year)	0.71	0.69	0.70

Source: www.bankrate.com