2026-27 CN Grain Plan

August Update

Overview:

- CN achieved a record August for Western Canadian shipments of grain and processed grain products, moving over 2.51 million metric tonnes (MMT) of shipments which exceeded the previous record by 0.17 MMT of grain.
- Over the course of the month, CN supplied 98% of planned CN-supplied hopper car orders during the weeks requested or within 24-72 hours of the end of the want weeks.
- End-to-end grain supply chain productivity remained consistent during grain shipment weeks 1-4, despite demand remaining below supply chain capacity. The industry is waiting for new crop grain deliveries to ramp up.
- More specific and comprehensive details on weekly grain supply chain performance, including detailed information on car spotting performance, can be found in our Western Canadian Grain Report and our 2025-26 Grain Plan can be found at cn.ca/grain

1. Grain Supply Chain Performance

CN achieved a record for shipments of Western Canadian grain and processed grain products for August. Total shipments reached over 2.51 MMT for the month compared to the previous August record of 2.34 MMT set in August 2020 and the three-year average of 1.80 MMT.

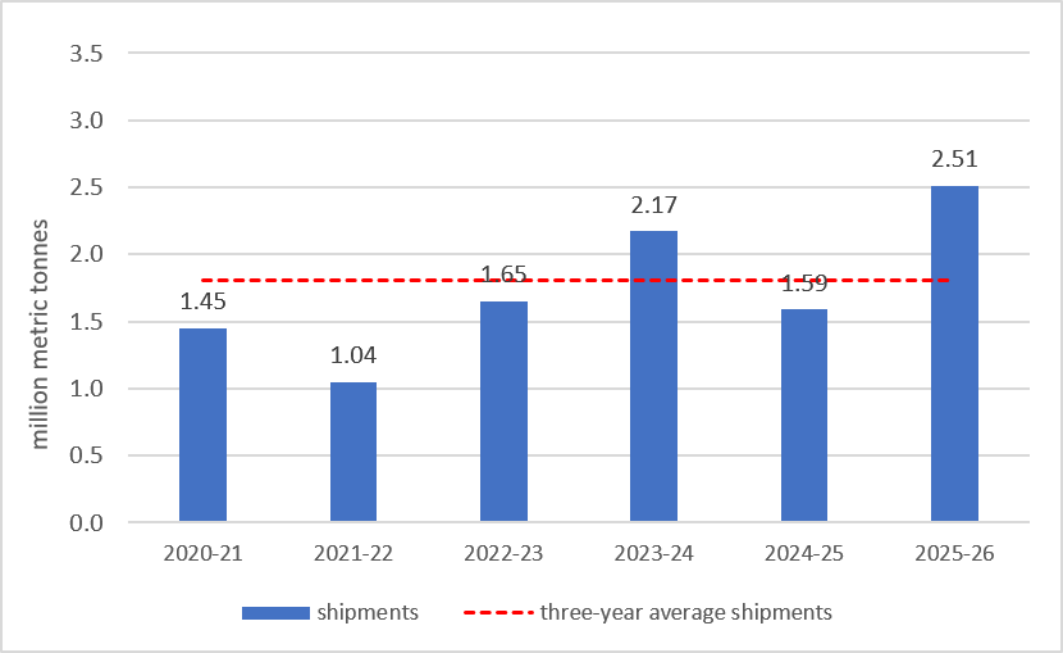


Figure 1 – Crop year to-date CN shipments of grain and processed grain products from Western Canada via carload

2. Bulk Grain Movement Demand

- Between grain shipment week 1-4, preliminary hopper car orders ranged from a low of 3,867 car orders in week 1 to a high of 5,301 car orders in week 4.
- Demand for grain movement remained below capacity during weeks 1-4, but CN could not plan all orders due to operational constraints, particularly in week 4.

3. Grain Shipment Volumes

- Weekly shipments of grain and processed grain products ranged from a low of 546,000 metric tonnes in grain shipment week 3 to a high of 602,000 metric tonnes in grain shipment week 1.

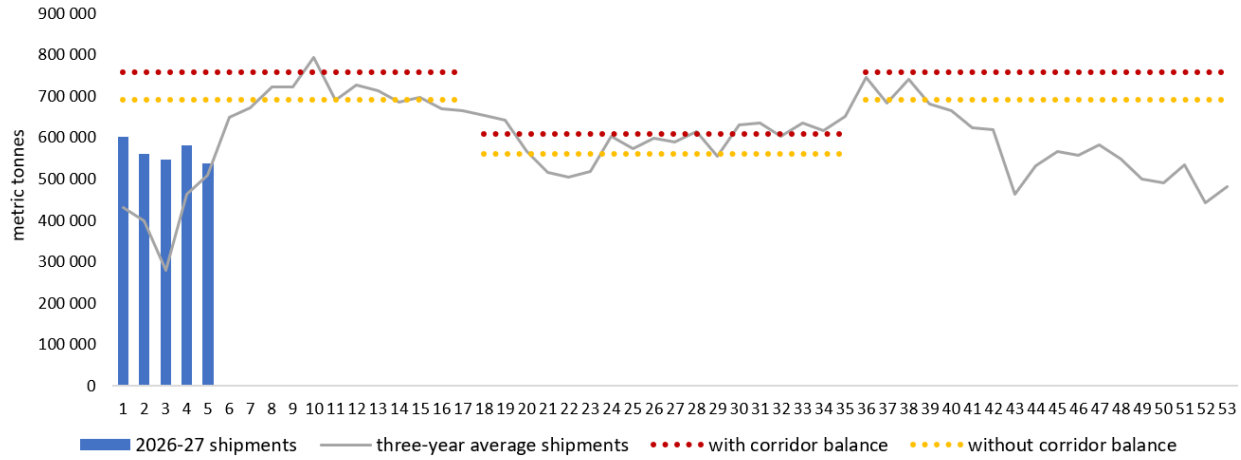


Figure 2 – Weekly CN shipments of Western Canadian grain and processed products versus maximum end-to-end sustainable grain supply chain capacity on CN

4. 2026-27 Grain Supply Chain Scorecard

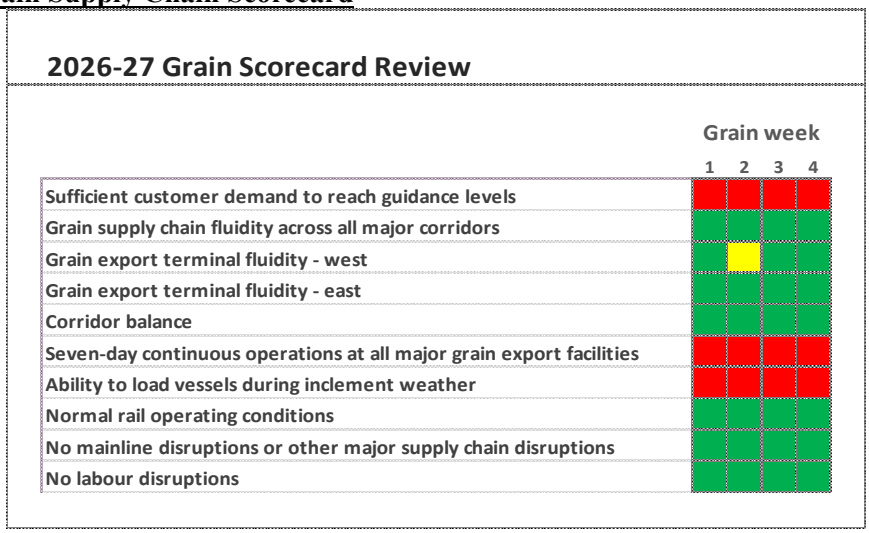


Figure 3 – CN weekly 2026-27 crop year grain supply chain scorecard

- End-to-end grain supply chain productivity remained consistent throughout August. Demand remained below supply chain capacity during the month as the industry awaited a ramp-up in new-crop grain deliveries.
- Grain shipments experienced only minimal disruption during annual maintenance activities at two North Shore Vancouver terminals in August, which temporarily reduced unloading capacity.

5. Planned CN-Supplied Order fulfillment Summary

- During grain shipment weeks 1-4, average order fulfillment represented 84% of planned CN-supplied hopper car orders during the want week, and 98% of planned CN-supplied hopper car orders during the week requested or within 24-72 hours of the end of the week.