2026-27 CN Grain Plan

September Update

Overview:

- CN achieved its second best ever September for Western Canadian shipments of grain and processed grain products, at 2.82 million metric tonnes (MMT).
- Over the course of the month, CN supplied 99% 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 5-8, despite demand remaining below supply chain capacity. New crop grain deliveries started to ramp up at the end of the month, increasing availability of grain supplies.
- 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 its second best ever September for shipments of Western Canadian grain and processed grain products. Total shipments reached 2.82 MMT for the month compared to the previous September record of 2.91 MMT set in September 2025 and the three-year average of 2.80 MMT. Crop year to-date, CN is on record pace for Western Canadian grain movement, with shipments to-date of over 5.3 MMT compared to the previous record crop year to-date of 5.0 MMT and the three-year average of 4.60 MMT.

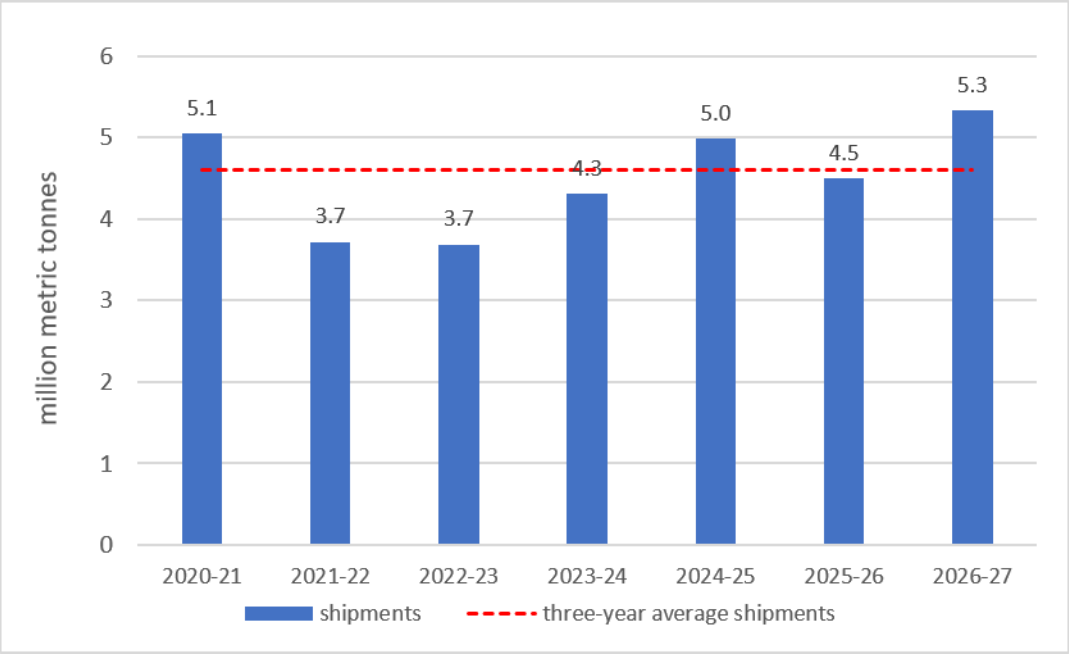


Figure 1 – Crop year to-date CN shipments of grain and processed grain products from Western Canada via carload

2. Bulk Grain Movement Demand

- Between grain shipment week 5-8, preliminary hopper car orders ranged from a low of 4,290 car orders in week 5 to a high of 6,265 car orders in week 8.
- Demand for grain movement remained well below maximum sustainable supply chain capacity for most of the month. Customer car order cancellations were well above average given the challenges that harvest delays and associated crop quality impacts presented for grain companies in managing their grain shipment programs.

3. Grain Shipment Volumes

- Weekly shipments of grain and processed grain products ranged from a low of 571,000 metric tonnes in grain shipment week 5 to a high of 756,000 metric tonnes in grain shipment week 8.

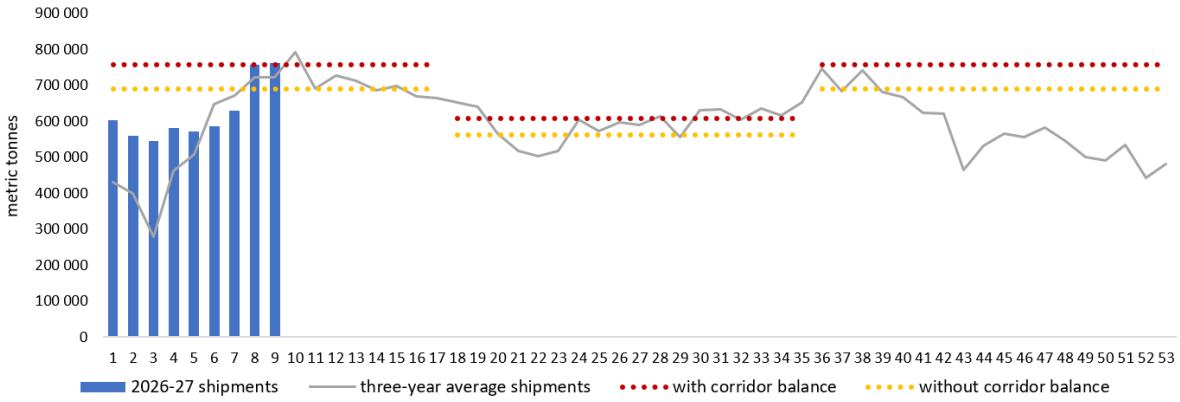


Figure 2 – Weekly CN shipments of Western Canadian grain and processed products versus maximum end-to-end sustainable grain supply chain capacity on CN

4. 2026-27 Grain Supply Chain Scorecard

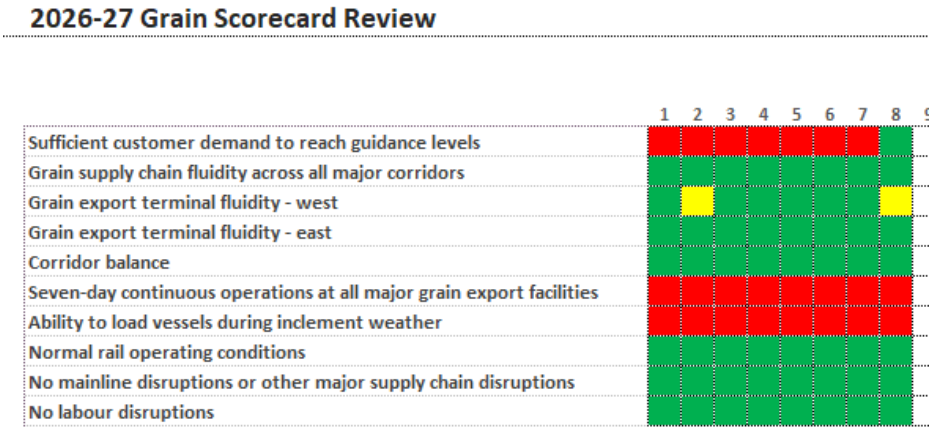


Figure 3 – CN weekly 2026-27 crop year grain supply chain scorecard

- End-to-end grain supply chain productivity remained consistent throughout September. Demand remained below supply chain capacity during the month as grain companies waited for grain deliveries to ramp up.

- Farmers continued to experience harvest delays as poor weather limited progress. The delays resulted in some order cancellations by customers and translated into overall demand for grain movement remaining below maximum sustainable supply chain capacity levels for the month.

5. Planned CN-Supplied Order fulfillment Summary

- During grain shipment weeks 5-8, average order fulfillment represented 89% of planned CN-supplied hopper car orders during the want week, and 99% of planned CN-supplied hopper car orders during the week requested or within 24-72 hours of the end of the week.