2025-26

CN Grain Plan

JULY 2026 UPDATE

Overview:

- CN achieved a record June for Western Canadian shipments of grain and processed grain products, moving over 2.67 million metric tonnes (MMT) of shipments compared to the previous record of 2.61 MMT set in May 2020. This result marked the ninth month this crop year where CN has set a record for monthly grain shipment volumes.
- Over the course of the month, CN supplied 91% 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 44-47, despite brief network disruptions and congestion at the Thunder Bay and North Shore Vancouver terminals.
- 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.

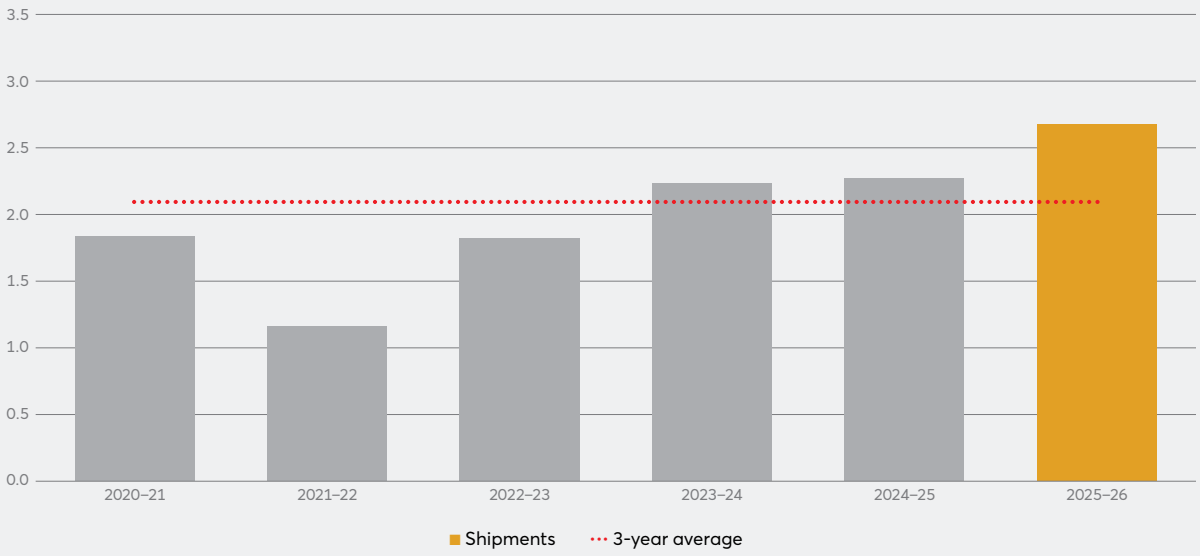
Grain Supply Chain Performance

CN achieved a record for shipments of Western Canadian grain and processed grain products for June. Total shipments reached over 2.67 MMT for the month compared to the previous June record of 2.62 MMT set in June 2020. Crop year to-date, CN has shipped a record 31.3 MMT of grain and processed grain products compared to 29.2 MMT for the same period the year prior and the three-year average of 27.4 MMT.

FIGURE 1

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

million metric tonnes



Bulk Grain Movement Demand

Between grain shipment week 44-47, preliminary hopper car orders ranged from a low of 4,931 car orders in week 44 to a high of 5,750 car orders in week 46.

Demand for grain movement was aligned with maximum sustainable end-to-end supply chain capacity during grain shipment weeks 45 and 46, while demand remained below capacity during weeks 44 and 47. CN was able to accept and plan all customer orders throughout weeks 44-47.

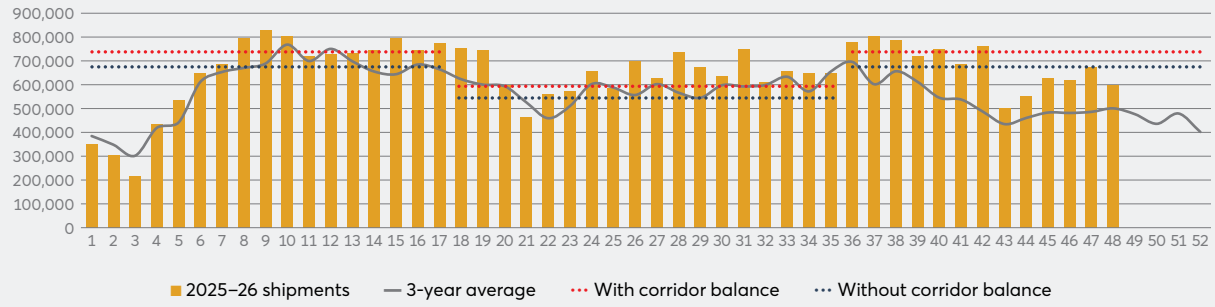
Grain Shipment Volumes

Weekly shipments of grain and processed grain products ranged from a low of 547,000 metric tonnes in grain shipment week 44 to a high of 675,000 metric tonnes in grain shipment week 47.

FIGURE 2

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

tonnage shipped (metric tonnes)



2025–26 Grain Supply Chain Scorecard

Activity	Grain Week 27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
Sufficient customer demand to reach guidance levels																					
Grain supply chain fluidity across all major corridors																					
Grain export terminal fluidity – west																					
Grain export terminal fluidity – east																					
Corridor balance																					
Seven-day continuous operations at all major grain export facilities																					
Ability to load vessels during inclement weather																					
Normal rail operating conditions																					
No mainline disruptions or other major supply chain disruptions																					
No labour disruptions																					

End-to-end grain supply chain productivity remained consistent throughout June. Producer deliveries were constrained during weeks 44 and 45 as seeding activity continued across Western Canada, resulting in reduced grain availability and customer order cancellations. With the gradual wind-down of seeding operations, customer demand strengthened through the remainder of the month as the pace of grain deliveries increased.

In grain shipment week 46, a significant number of orders planned for the Vancouver corridor were cancelled by one specific customer due to a vessel mechanical issue. Supply chain performance remained largely fluid across major corridors; however, congestion at a Thunder Bay terminal during weeks 45 through 47 required CN to hold back select trains to manage inbound traffic.

During grain shipment week 47, CN moved 653,000 metric tonnes of grain and processed grain products, 35% above the three-year average. However, vessel delays at a North Shore Vancouver terminal resulted in additional order cancellations, while heavy rainfall in Vancouver delayed vessel loading, creating terminal space constraints and reducing unload capacity. A brief network outage on CN's Albreda Subdivision also adversely impacted traffic flows to and from Prince Rupert.

Planned CN-Supplied Order Fulfillment Summary

During grain shipment weeks 44-47, average order fulfillment represented 86% of planned CN-supplied hopper car orders during the want week, and 91% of planned CN-supplied hopper car orders during the week requested or within 24-72 hours of the end of the week.