

# News Release

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## **ARTICLE EXPLORES WHETHER RISING EXPORTS CAN SUSTAIN CURRENT FARM BOOM**

Agricultural prosperity in the United States has historically been tied to exports, but can this prosperity endure? “Can Rising Exports Sustain the Farm Boom?” explores the factors that have converged to boost current U.S. agricultural exports, which rose to their highest levels in nearly three decades.

Authors Maria Akers, assistant economist, and Jason Henderson, Omaha Branch executive, find in the latest issue of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City’s *Main Street Economist* that gains came from bulk commodity exports, as well as an increase in value-added or processed agricultural goods. A weak dollar, strong global demand for agricultural products, and tight global supplies have all contributed to current export growth.

While export booms bring income gains to U.S. farmers, history has shown they can quickly fade. Akers and Henderson review the export booms and busts of the 1970s and 1990s, and the factors contributing to the rise and fall of each.

When reviewing the current outlook for agricultural exports, the authors find large uncertainties to sustaining supply conditions, including adverse weather, increased competition in global markets, the value of the dollar, and uncertain trade policies. The text of the entire article can be found on the Bank’s website at:

<http://www.kansascityfed.org/RegionalAffairs/mainstreet/mainstmain.htm>.

The Tenth Federal Reserve District encompasses Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming, northern New Mexico, and western Missouri.

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