

2025–2026 CN Grain Plan

MARCH 2026 UPDATE

Overview

- CN achieved a record February for Western Canadian shipments of grain and processed grain products, recording over 2.68 million metric tonnes (MMT) of shipments compared to the previous record of 2.57 MMT. The February result marked the fifth month so far this crop year where CN has set a new record for monthly grain shipment volumes.
- CN supplied 98% of planned CN-supplied hopper car orders during the week requested or within 24-72 hours of the end of the want week
- End-to-end grain supply chain productivity was consistent in grain shipment weeks 27-30 despite the impacts of winter weather as well as specific rail disruptions that impacted network productivity.
- 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 www.cn.ca/grain

Grain Supply Chain Performance

CN achieved a record for shipments of Western Canadian grain and processed grain products for February. Total shipments reached over 2.68 MMT for the month compared to the previous February record of 2.57 MMT set in February 2024. Crop year to-date, CN has shipped a record 19.5 MMT of grain and processed grain products compared to 18.5 MMT for the same period the year prior and the three-year average of 17.6 MMT.

FIGURE 1
Crop year to-date shipments of grain and processed grain products from western Canada on CN via carload
million metric tonnes



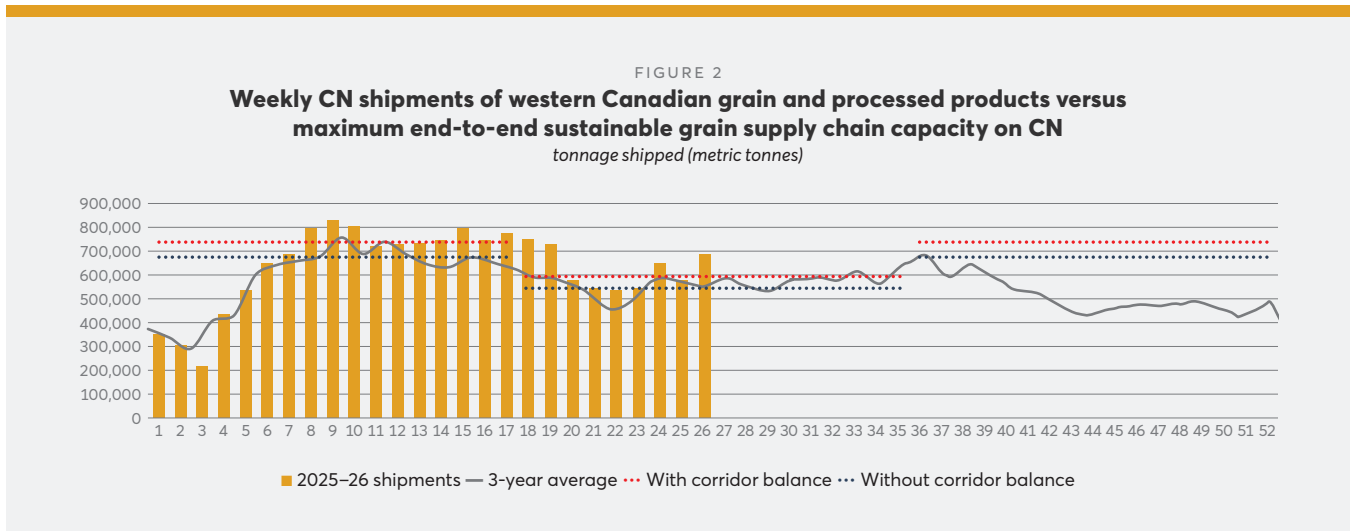
Bulk Grain Movement Demand

Between grain shipment week 27-30, preliminary hopper car orders ranged from a low of 4,725 car orders in week 27 to a high of 5,213 car orders in week 30.

Demand for grain movement exceeded maximum sustainable end-to-end supply chain capacity guidance during February. However, CN was able to accept and plan all customer orders.

Grain Shipment Volumes

Weekly shipments of grain and processed grain products ranged from a low of 622,000 metric tonnes in grain shipment week 30 to a high of 741,000 metric tonnes in grain shipment week 28.



2025-26 Grain Supply Chain Scorecard

Activity	Grain Week																														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
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 was consistent in weeks 27-30 despite the impacts of winter weather as well as specific rail disruptions that impacted network productivity.



Train length restrictions were in place in the Prairies February 16-28, with CN Tier 2 train length restrictions in place for one day in that timeframe. In addition, train length restrictions were in place from Winnipeg to Toronto and Winnipeg to Chicago in the first, third, and fourth weeks of the month, further reducing network velocity. When temperatures reach minus 25 degrees Celsius, train length restrictions are implemented to maintain safe rail operations. All trains must be compliant with train length restrictions before the trains enter the area in which train length restrictions are in place. Train length restrictions during these conditions are also required per Transport Canada regulations.

Train length restrictions require more resources to move the same volume of rail traffic and reduce CN rail network fluidity and velocity. CN experienced significant reductions in velocity in Western Canada at times in February due to the impacts of cold weather on CN's operations. Full details on winter operations and train length restrictions are contained in [2025-26 Winter Plan](#).

In grain shipment week 27, one Vancouver terminal continued to face challenges with productivity and unloading efficiency. The company required CN to increase spacing between trains to minimize congestion. Additionally, traffic was regulated at a South Shore Vancouver terminal given continued heavy order volumes and backlogs. A derailment on CN's Edson subdivision impacted spotting performance. However, recovery progressed well with quick returns of empty hoppers to the country once track was safely reopened.

Grain shipment weeks 28 and 29 saw no significant issues last week, although cold weather across parts of the network in week 29 reduced fluidity and required CN to employ its train length restrictions to safely move traffic to destination.

Grain shipment week 30 saw cold weather across parts of western Canada reduce fluidity and create gaps in the pipeline to port, causing delays for cars arriving at port early in the week and for empty cars returning to the country. Additionally, repairs on the Second Narrows Bridge required CN to intermittently hold back traffic, further reducing fluidity in and out of North Shore Vancouver.

Planned CN-Supplied Order Fulfillment Summary

During grain shipment weeks 27-30, average order fulfillment represented 81% 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.

