

U.S.–Morocco Trade Relations: A Growing Partnership

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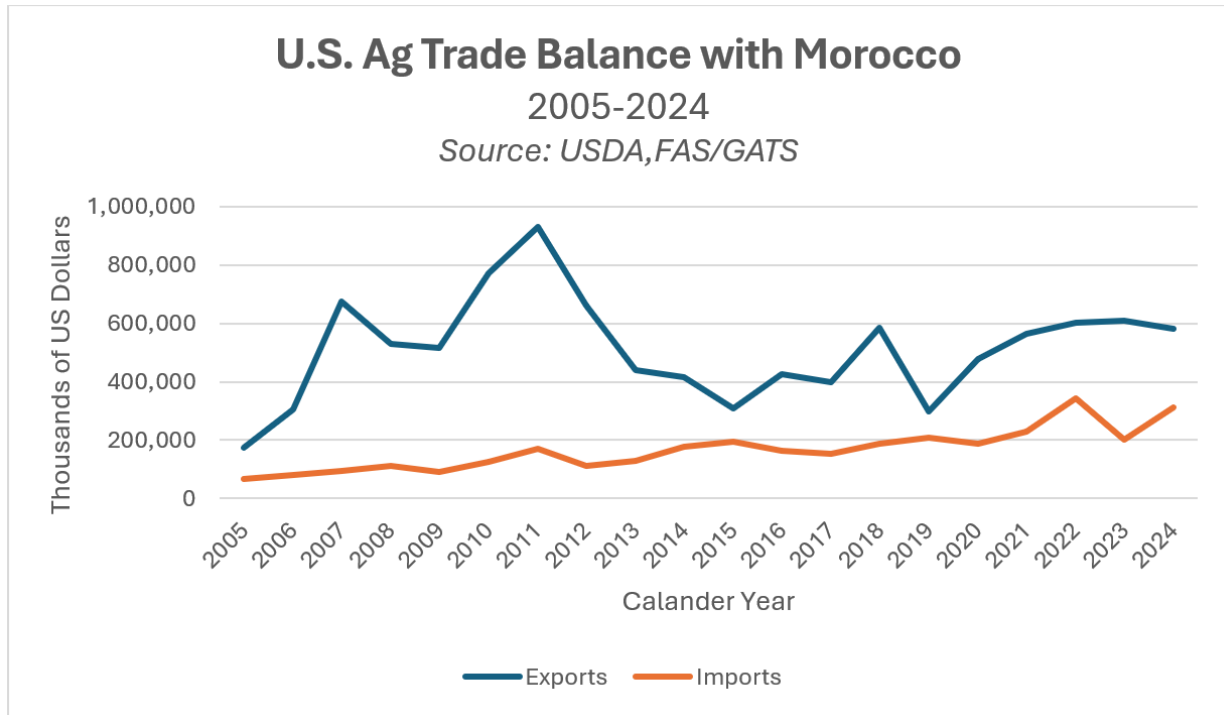


Morocco is proving to be one of the most promising emerging U.S. export markets, thanks to its location, trade policies, and growing economy. Sitting along both the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts — and close to Europe and the Middle East — Morocco is a natural trade hub and a gateway to other African markets. It has also become the second-largest African market for U.S. agricultural exports, after Egypt.

A big part of this story is the U.S.–Morocco Free Trade Agreement (MAFTA), which went into effect in 2006. Since then, barriers to trade have steadily fallen away, giving U.S. exporters greater opportunities to compete. Most tariffs on U.S. ag products have been phased out, and the U.S. has maintained a steady trade surplus with Morocco ever since.

Of course, Morocco does plenty of business with the European Union — its largest partner by far. Roughly 60% of Morocco's ag exports and more than 40% of its imports involve the EU. But U.S. exports are carving out more space each year.

According to USDA, U.S. agricultural exports to Morocco reached about \$581 million in 2024, with soybean meal, soybeans, tree nuts, corn, distillers' grains, dairy, and forest products leading the way. Morocco's exports to the U.S. are smaller by comparison — about \$313 million — and include horticultural products, fishery items, sunflower seeds, and sugar.



U.S. Soy's Role

When it comes to soy, Morocco is a unique market. It imports across the entire soy complex: soybeans, soybean meal, oil, and hulls. And thanks to the duty-free advantage under MAFTA, the U.S. consistently supplies the largest share of both soybeans and soybean meal.

In the 2023/24 marketing year, Morocco ranked as the 11th largest importer of U.S. soybean meal in the world, purchasing about 464,000 metric tons of meal and 21,000 metric tons of soybeans. That translated into a 79% U.S. market share — a major advantage, since Morocco has no domestic crush facilities and depends entirely on imports for soybean meal.

These imports are directly linked to Morocco's poultry sector — the backbone of its animal protein supply. Poultry accounts for nearly 60% of total meat consumption in the country, and production continues to grow by about 3–4% per year. Soybean meal is at the center of poultry feed, which means U.S. Soy is helping meet Morocco's rising demand for affordable, high-quality protein.

A Long-Term Investment

The U.S. Soy industry has been steadily building its relationship with Morocco for three decades. That commitment has led to stronger partnerships and new opportunities for collaboration. A few highlights include:

- In 2017, the Moroccan Federation of Poultry Associations (FISA) formally endorsed the U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol (SSAP).
- In 2019, USSEC launched the first Soy Excellence Center (SEC) in the MENA region, based in Cairo but serving Morocco as well. In just five years, more than 22,000 participants have been trained in areas like poultry, feed, aquaculture, water quality, and biosecurity.
- In December 2024, USSEC and FISA signed a new Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration in feed and poultry production, while advancing innovation and sustainability.

These investments reinforce trust and position U.S. Soy as a long-term partner in Morocco's agricultural development.



On December 3, 2024, USSEC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Moroccan Federation of Poultry Associations during a USDA-led agribusiness trade mission to Morocco.

Looking Ahead

The future looks bright for U.S.–Morocco trade relations, and especially for soy. A few factors stand out:

- Morocco has a stable political and business environment.
- Infrastructure and shipping networks are reliable and continue to improve.
- Market access for U.S. Soy is stable, with no barriers in place.
- Rising incomes and urbanization are fueling demand for poultry and animal protein.
- The U.S. currently accounts for just 7% of Morocco's total ag imports — leaving significant room to grow.
- Morocco's role as a regional hub extends opportunities across North and West Africa.

With its competitive trade advantages, reliable supply, consistent quality, and strong in-country partnerships, U.S. Soy is well positioned to continue playing a central role in Morocco's growth story.

From free trade benefits to deep partnerships, Morocco offers real opportunity. U.S. Soy will remain a trusted partner on this journey — delivering value for U.S. farmers, industry partners, and consumers alike.