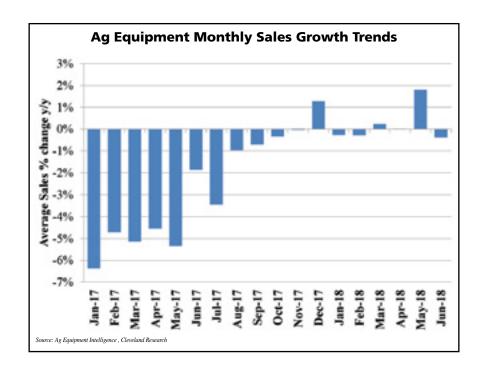
# Dealer Sentiment & Business Conditions Update

From the editors of Farm Equipment & analysts of Cleveland Research Co.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **Industry Sales Flat in June**

- ✓ Average dealer sales were reported flat year-over-year in June, falling from the 2% growth in May. A net 13% of dealers missed their sales budgets in June vs. the net 6% in May.
- ✓ A net 14% of dealers reported their <u>new equipment inventories</u> were "too high," vs. the 5% in May.
- ✓ A net 25% of dealers reported their <u>used equipment inventories</u> were "too high," similar to the previous month. Overall, inventories have come down from 2016 levels.
- ✓ Dealers reported <u>new equipment</u> pricing softening in June after several months of improvement. <u>Large tractor pricing</u> was reported down 3% year-over-year vs. down 2% in May, and <u>combine pricing</u> was reported down 5%, also deteriorating from last month.



	Results vs. Expectations														
	Jun –15	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jul–17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar–18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18
Better than expected	21%	22%	16%	16%	21%	21%	18%	21%	18%	13%	13%	11%	10%	22%	17%
In line with expectations	48%	40%	65%	48%	52%	47%	55%	60%	62%	65%	61%	60%	61%	50%	53%
Worse than expected	31%	38%	19%	36%	27%	32%	27%	20%	20%	22%	26%	29%	29%	28%	30%
Net % (Better - Worse)	-10%	-17%	-3%	-19%	-6%	-11%	-8%	1%	-1%	-9%	-13%	-18%	-18%	-6%	-13%

#### 2018 Full-Year Outlook: Sales Up 1%

- ✓ The 2018 forecast is for 1% year-over-year growth, down from the 2% forecast in April and May. A net 32% of dealers expected growth, an improvement from last month and the 16% of contacts expecting growth in 1Q.
- ✓ John Deere and Case IH dealers are the most optimistic about the year ahead, forecasting sales to be up 3%.

	Dealer Outlook — 2018												
(% chg y/y)	Jun-17	Jul–17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18
AGC0	-4%	-6%	-8%	-7%	-7%	3%	-1%	-4%	4%	0%	-2%	5%	1%
John Deere	3%	-4%	3%	1%	0%	4%	2%	4%	1%	3%	-5%	-10%	3%
New Holland	0%	-2%	-4%	-8%	-14%	2%	-2%	1%	0%	0%	3%	4%	1%
Case IH	-6%	-6%	-3%	-8%	-1%	3%	4%	0%	-4%	-5%	5%	3%	3%
Kubota	3%	11%	3%	-3%	-1%	1%	2%	1%	-1%	2%	3%	6%	2%
Shortlines/Other	0%	-3%	-1%	2%	-1%	-5%	4%	1%	-3%	3%	3%	0%	-1%
Overall	0%	-3%	-1%	-3%	-2 %	2 %	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%

#### **Dealer Optimism Drops Slightly**

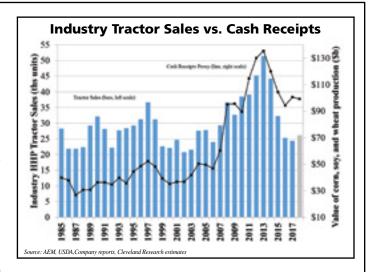
Our Dealer Optimism Index, which measures sentiment among dealers compared to the prior month, dropped to -9% in June, down further from a reading of -2% in May. Dealer optimism has fallen in the last couple months following a reading of 6% in April.

Optimism/Sentiment vs. Last Month													
	Jun-17	Jul–17	Aug-17	Sep–17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb–18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18
More Optimistic	23%	21%	23%	23%	22%	24%	28%	21%	21%	24%	26%	24%	21%
Same	58%	47%	52%	51%	56%	63%	53%	58%	58%	51%	54%	50%	48%
Less Optimistic	19%	32%	26%	26%	22%	14%	19%	21%	21%	25%	20%	26%	30%
Net % Dealer Optimism	4%	-11%	-3%	-3%	0%	10%	9%	0%	0%	-1%	6%	-2%	-9%

# **USDA Outlook for Cash Receipts**

Since 2009, the value of U.S. corn, soybeans and wheat production has correlated very closely to the annual industry sales of high horsepower tractors. This chart shows the historical relationship between the value of U.S. corn, soybeans and wheat production vs. annual industry sales of high horsepower (>100 HP) tractors.

USDA's July crop report was softer from the previous month, with 2018-19 cash receipts proxy forecast up 4% vs. up 8% in June largely driven by declines



in soybean pricing. Corn cash receipt forecasts are for 9% growth, wheat forecasts are up 14%, and soybean forecasts are down 3% year-over-year.

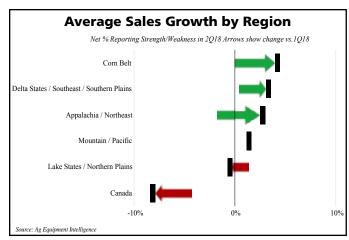
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DEALER SENTIMENTS & BUSINESS CONDITIONS UPDATE is a joint project of the editors of *Ag Equipment Intelligence* and research team at the Cleveland Research Co. DEALER SENTIMENTS & BUSINESS CONDITIONS UPDATE is published monthly by Lessiter Media, 16655 W. Wisconsin Ave., Brookfield, WI 53005. and distributed to subscribers of *Ag Equipment Intelligence* as well as to dealers participating in the survey.

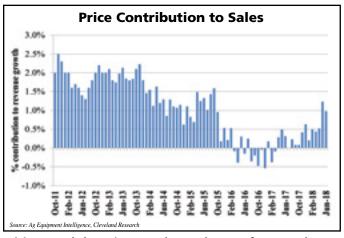
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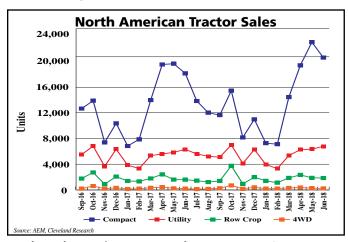
# **NEW EQUIPMENT TRENDS**



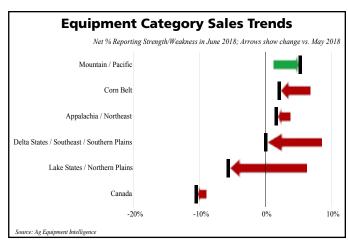
Sales trends by region declined in 5 of the 6 regions in June vs. improvement in half of the regions in 2Q. The Corn Belt was the strongest region in 2Q and showed the greatest improvement from 1Q. Canada was the weakest region in both June and 2Q.



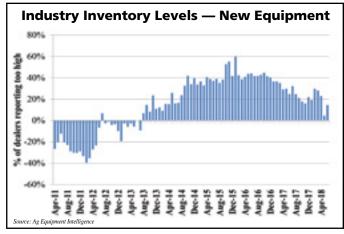
Pricing trends have improved over the past few months. Commentary suggests dealers continue to receive price increases from manufacturers in the 2-5% range due to steel surcharges.



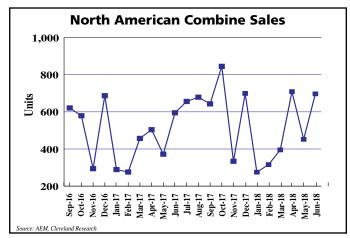
Total North American tractor sales were up 12% year-overyear in June, with 4WD tractor sales up 28%. Row-crop tractor unit sales were up 17%, <40 horsepower tractors were up 15% and utility tractors were up 4%.



Sales by product category was mixed in June and 2Q following overall sequential improvement in 1Q. 4WD tractors showed the greatest improvement from 1Q while tillage tools showed the greatest sequential declines. More than half of equipment categories decline in June, but large equipment showed the greatest improvement.

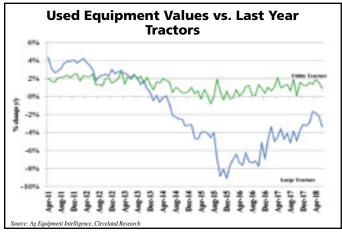


New equipment inventory levels were higher in June with a net 14% of dealers reporting inventories too high (30% too high, 54% in line, 16% too low) vs the 5% in May.

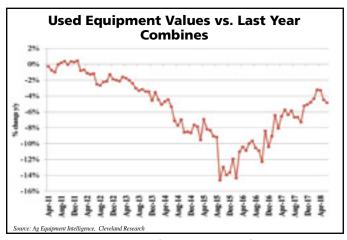


Total North American combine sales were up 18% in June vs. an increase of 22% year-over-year in May.

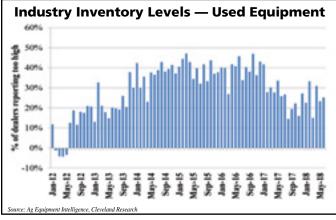
# **USED EQUIPMENT TRENDS**



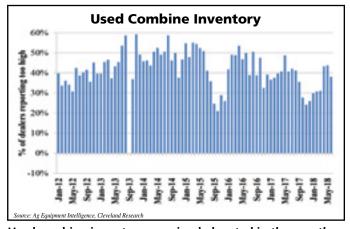
Large tractors were reported down 3% year-over-year vs. down 2% in May, and used combine prices were reported down 5%, also deteriorating from last month.



Used equipment pricing softened in June after several months of improvement.

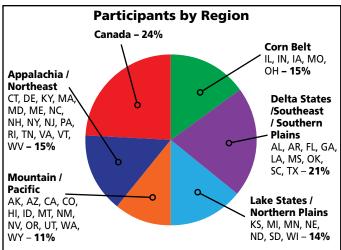


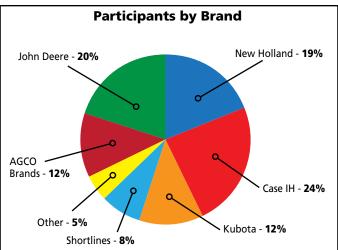
Used inventory levels were reported as "too high" by a net 25% of dealers in June (37% too high, 51% about right, 12% too low), similar to the 23% in May and the 26% average in 2017.



Used combine inventory remained elevated in the month with a net 38% of dealers reporting inventories as too high in June, a slight improvement from the net 44% of May and about the same as the 37% average in 2017.

### **JULY 2018 SURVEY RESPONDENTS**





The July survey had about 100 respondents representing combined annual revenues of roughly \$4 billion. By brand, 24% of respondents were Case IH dealers, 20% John Deere, 19% New Holland, 12% AGCO, 12% Kubota, and 13% were Shortline/Other dealers.