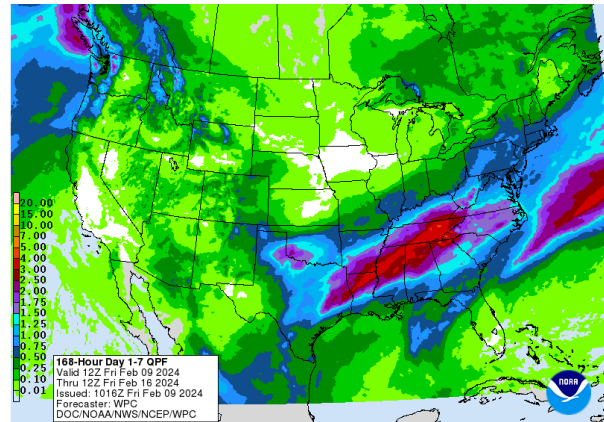


Weather

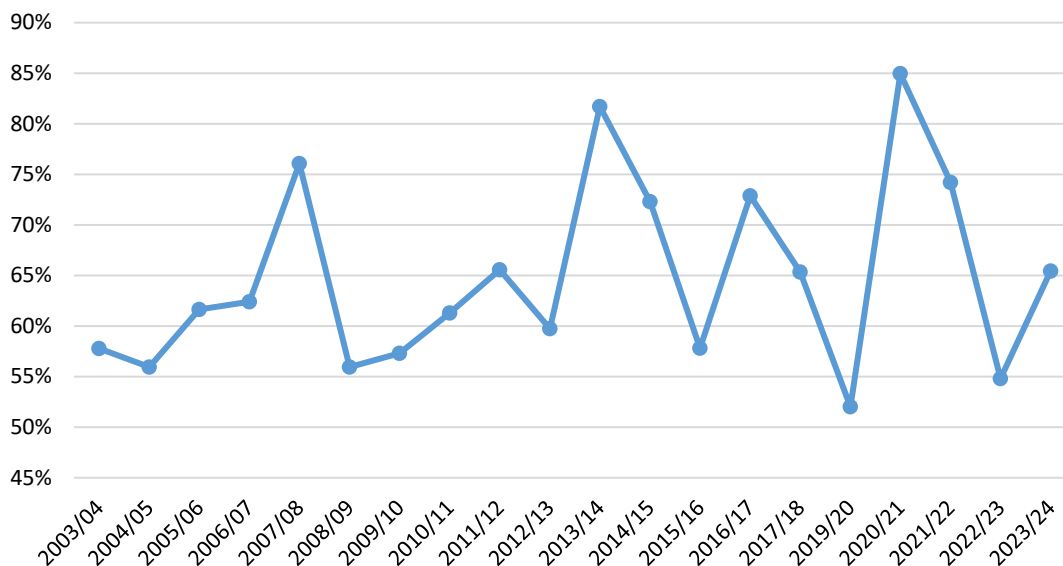
No changes. Near to slightly above normal in northern Brazil over the next two weeks. Limited rainfall in southern Brazil through the weekend but we should start to see better rainfall totals next week. Week 2 totals should be near to maybe slightly above normal. Argentina has seen some big rains over the past 24 hours and this kicks off what should be an active two week period for rainfall chances. 15-day rainfall totals should range between 3-5" in key growing areas. The US precipitation outlook is shown at the right. Note some additional rainfall for portions of the Southern Plains.



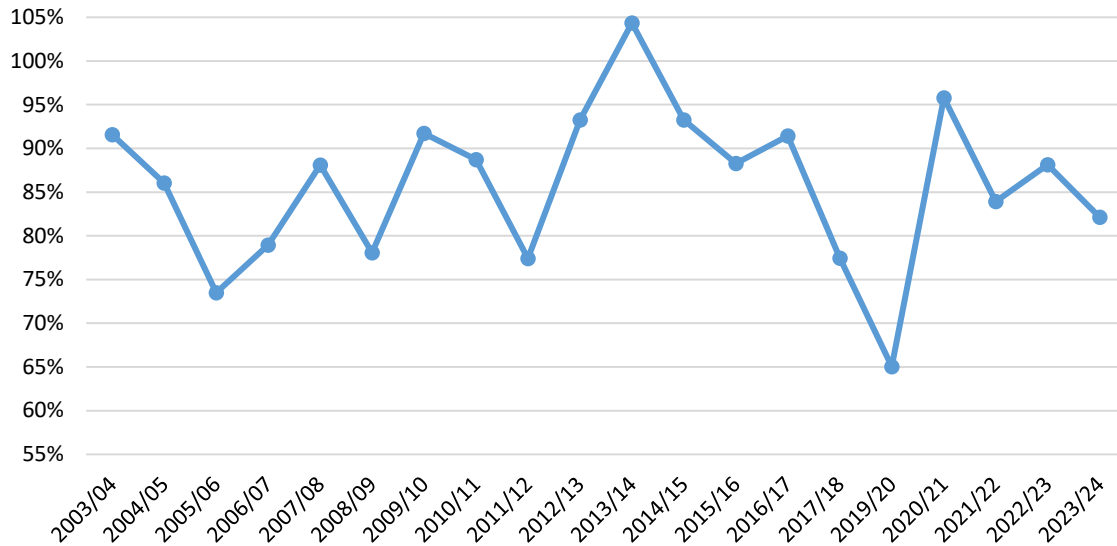
Crops

Just a quick word on the pace of corn and soybean export commitments. We’re about halfway through the marketing year, so it isn’t a bad time to compare commitments vs. the latest WASDE projection to see how things are lining up. The charts below take Feb 1 export commitments vs. the Feb WASDE. In the case of corn, at roughly 65% of the WASDE projection we’re about average for this time of year. At 82% in soybeans, we’re a little below average for this time of year. This really doesn’t tell you much about where the WASDE projection will go in the future, but it does imply (to me) that WASDE’s current soybean projection is a bit optimistic based on the level of current commitments. My bias is to expect no change to the corn figure in the months ahead, but ongoing declines in soybeans. Thoughts appreciated.

Feb 1 Export Commitments vs. Feb WASDE Projection
Corn



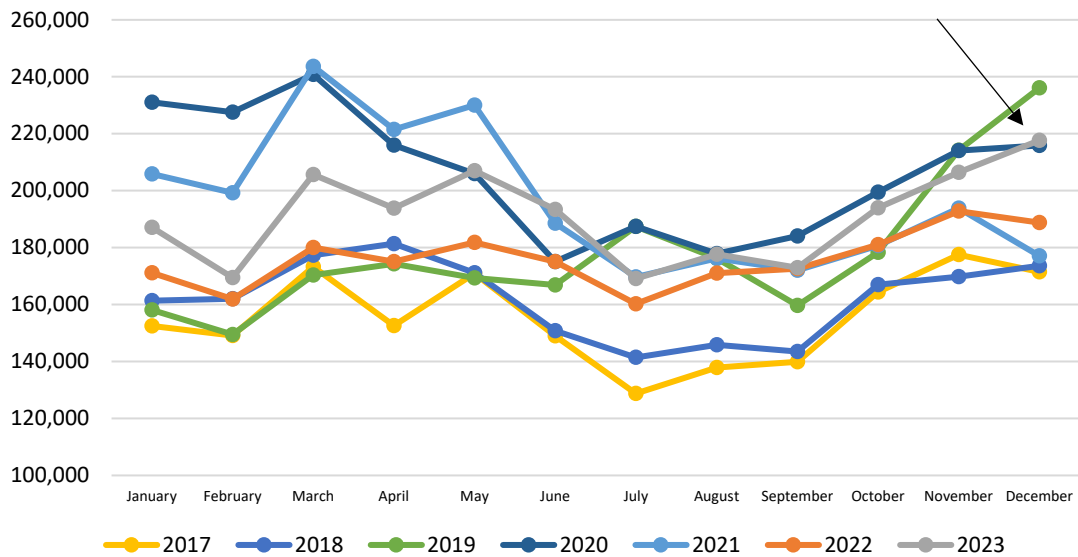
Feb 1 Export Commitments vs. Feb WASDE Projection
Soybeans



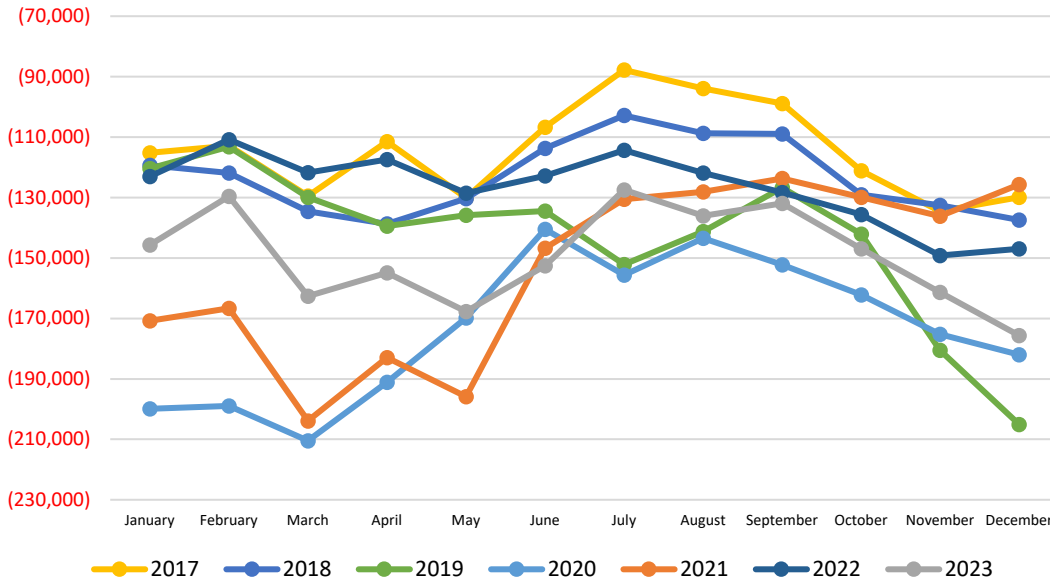
Livestock

We're looking at Census pork trade numbers this morning. Pork trade has been doing much better than beef recently. The first chart below shows the monthly totals over the past couple of years. December exports totaled roughly 217k mt, which is up substantially from last year's total of roughly 189k mt. As you can see, this is the second largest December export total in several years...not too dissimilar from the ASF-related surge in 2019. The second chart shows net trade. While not running quite at the level of the ASF-influenced years, net trade is still very strong for pork.

US Total Pork Exports

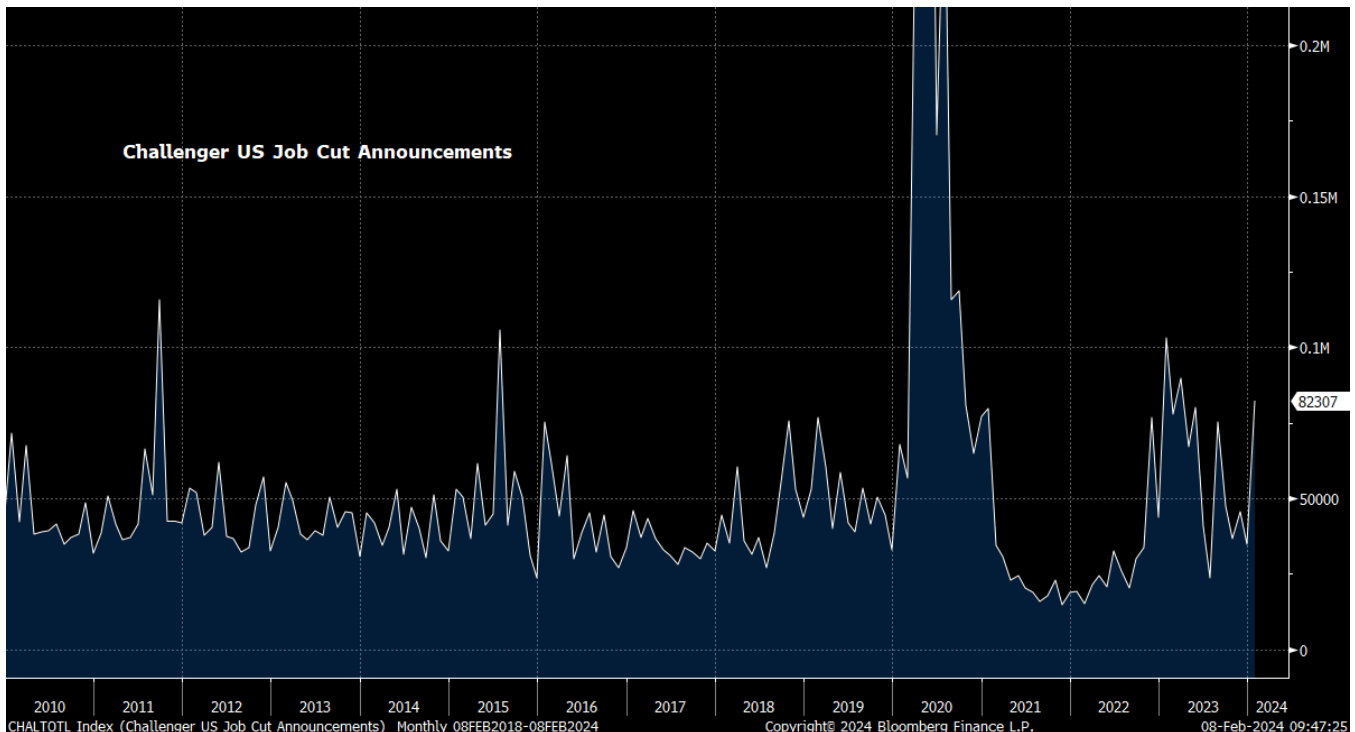


US Pork Net Trade



Financials

I'm completely uninspired and uncertain of what to write about, so here is a worthless chart that probably has no predictive value. This simply shows monthly layoff totals. I do find it interesting that 2023, and now to start 2024, has seen some elevated readings...but obviously it doesn't matter since somehow we keep adding jobs.

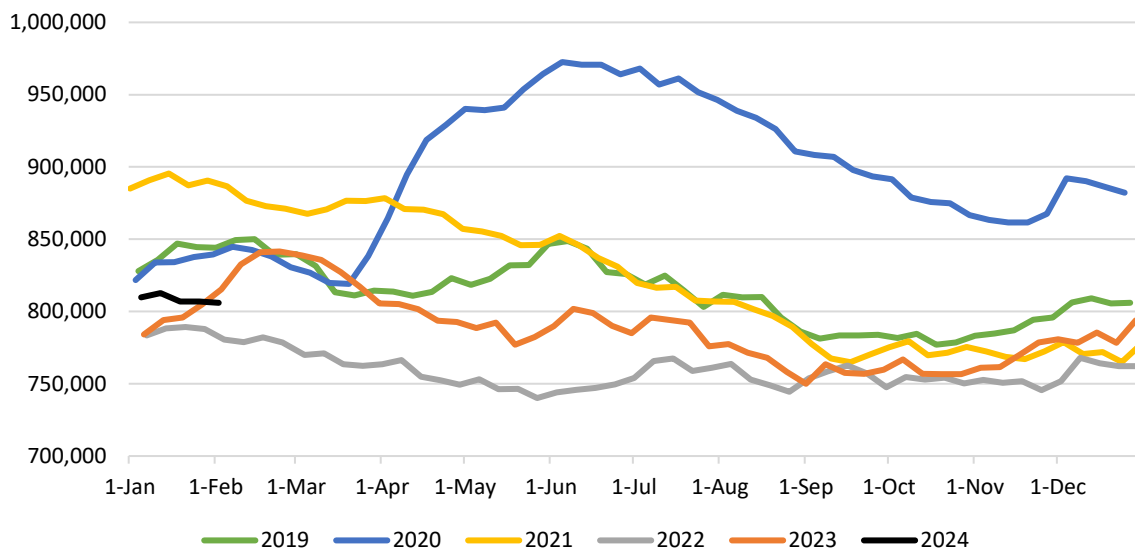


I'm not exactly sure when, but at some point today we'll get revisions to the prior year's CPI numbers. While this would normally go unnoticed, it might stir up some headlines today with the obvious focus on inflation lately.

Energy

I still don't want to make too much out of recent EIA inventory numbers because I do believe the cold weather will create some volatility in the stats. However, as I was surfing through charts and numbers yesterday, I did notice this and thought it was worth a quick mention. The chart takes the combined inventory levels of crude oil (excluding SPR), gasoline, and distillates. I simply found it interesting that we've moved below year ago levels. This is the first time we've been below a year-ago level since early fall. These inventories typically decline into the fall, due to peak gasoline consumption during the summer, so if inventories have peaked already for the year...that is worth noting. However, like I said, I do think recent numbers should be taken lightly due to the impact of the cold weather. Something to keep an eye on going forward....

**Combined Petroleum Inventories
 Crude Oil (ex-SPR), Gasoline, Distillates**



Today's Calendar (all times Central)

- At some point today we'll get revisions to old CPI data...not sure what time

Thanks for reading.
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