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Rice Outlook

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In this report:

Rice Outlook monthly tables, in Excel format, can be found on the Rice Outlook report page on USDA's Economic Research Service website.

U.S. Rice 2020/21 Export Forecast Lowered 2.0 Million Hundredweight to 95.0 Million

The only supply-side revision this month to the U.S. 2020/21 rice balance sheet was a 0.75-million hundredweight (cwt) reduction in the all-rice import forecast to 36.5, down 2.2 percent from the year-earlier record. All of the downward revision was for medium- and short-grain rice. On the use side, the total export forecast was reduced 2.0 million cwt to 95.0 million cwt, still up almost 1 percent from a year earlier. Both rough-rice and milled-rice exports were lowered 1.0 million cwt, with long-grain accounting for all of the downward revision by class. These supply-and-use revisions resulted in a 1.25-million cwt increase in the 2020/21 ending stocks forecast to 50.8 million cwt, the highest since 1986/87. The season-average farm-price forecast was raised 20 cents for medium- and short-grain rice in both regions and was increased 10 cents for long-grain rice.

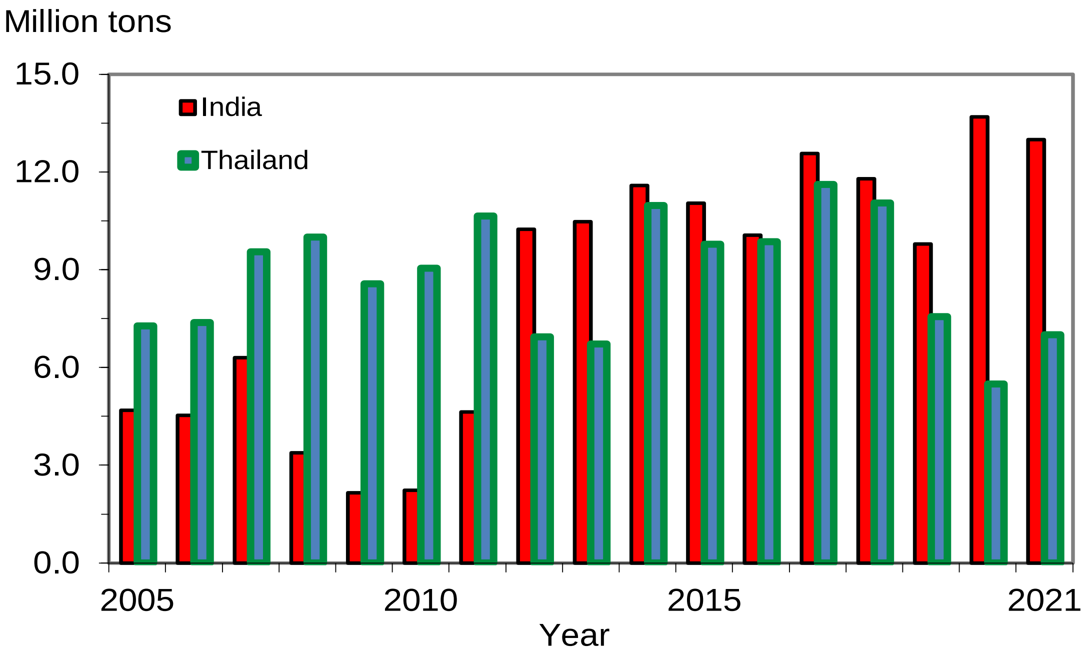
Global rice production in 2020/21 is projected at a record 501.2 million tons (milled basis), up 0.1 percent from the previous forecast and 1 percent above a year earlier. This month, production forecasts were raised for Australia, Guyana, Nepal, and Peru, but lowered for Cuba, Honduras, Nicaragua, and South Korea. Global rice consumption in 2020/21 is forecast at a record 500.4 million tons, up 1.2 million tons from the previous forecast. The 2020/21 global ending stocks forecast was lowered 0.8 million tons to 179.0 million, still the highest on record and the 14th consecutive year of increasing global ending stocks.

Global rice trade in 2021 is projected at 44.8 million tons (milled basis), up 1.2 percent from the previous forecast and 1.5 percent larger than a year earlier. Export forecasts were raised this month for Australia, Brazil, and India, but lowered for Pakistan. On the 2021 import side, forecasts were raised this month for Afghanistan, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Nigeria, and Saudi Arabia, but lowered for Australia and Ecuador.

Thailand's trading prices for nonaromatic rice rose 7.5-8.5 percent over the past month, mostly due a stronger currency and recent inquires for purchases. In contrast, Vietnam's price quotes dropped slightly on weak demand due to noncompetitive prices, with Thailand's price quotes well below Vietnam's quotes. India's prices remain the most competitive among the Asian exporters, a major factor behind India's record exports this year. U.S. export prices for both classes of rice are virtually unchanged from a month earlier.

Figure 1

India's 2021 rice exports projected second highest on record; Thailand's exports to only partially recover



Notes: Rice exports are reported on a milled basis. 2020 and 2021 are forecasts.
Source: USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, *Production, Supply, and Distribution* database.

Domestic Outlook

U.S. 2020/21 Rice Import Forecast Lowered 0.75 Million Cwt to 36.5 Million Cwt

There was only one supply-side revision to the 2020/21 U.S. all-rice balance sheet this month: the 2020/21 import forecast was reduced by 0.75 million cwt to 36.5 million, down more than 2 percent from the year-earlier record. All of the downward import revision was for medium- and short-grain rice, now forecast at 7.0 million cwt, almost 10 percent below the previous forecast and more than 7 percent smaller than the year-earlier record. This month's downward revision was based on expectations of smaller shipments from China to Puerto Rico in 2020/21. In 2019/20, China supplied four shipments of 21,000 tons each to Puerto Rico. Through October 2020, no shipment had arrived in Puerto Rico from China. Puerto Rica is still expected to receive three shipments of medium- and short-grain rice from China in 2020/21. Since 2018/19, China has supplied three or four shipments of 21,000 tons to Puerto Rico each market year, typically one every 3 or 4 months.

India and Thailand are expected to account for most of the remaining U.S. medium- and short-grain rice imports, shipping specialty rice classified as medium- and short-grain. Through October, India's shipments to the United States of 18,1000 tons were up 93 percent from a year earlier, while shipments from Thailand of 17,100 tons were down almost 1 percent. In addition to these three main suppliers, Italy regularly ships much smaller quantities of its premium Arborio rice to the United States.

U.S. long-grain imports in 2020/21 remain projected at 29.5 million cwt, less than 1 percent smaller than the year-earlier record. The slight decrease in imports forecast for 2020/21 is based on much larger U.S. long-grain supplies and the record pace of purchases all last spring and summer that may have resulted in some stocking. Thailand and India account for the bulk of U.S. long-grain rice imports and much of the recent strong growth. Nearly all of these shipments are specific Asian aromatic varieties not currently produced in the United States, with Thailand shipping its premium jasmine rice and India shipping its premium basmati rice. Through October, Thailand had shipped more than 117,000 tons (including very small quantities of rice flour, groats, and meal) of long-grain rice to United States, down less than 1 percent from a year earlier, while India shipped more than 70,000 tons, up about 67 percent from a year earlier.

Pakistan also regularly ships smaller quantities of basmati rice to the United States, and in recent years Vietnam has begun selling jasmine rice to the United States, but in much smaller quantities than Thailand does. Brazil regularly ships nonaromatic long-grain rice to the United States, both whole-grain white rice and broken-kernel rice for processed uses. Through October, Brazil had shipped almost 19,000 tons of rice to the United States, up 74 percent from a year earlier, with Brazil shipping more than 12,500 tons to the United States in October. Finally, Mexico has shipped about 3,100 tons of broken-kernel rice to the United States through October, up 973 percent from a year earlier, with most of these shipments occurring in August and September, a period of extremely tight U.S. long-grain supplies.

Total rice U.S. production in 2020/21 remains forecast at 226.1 million cwt, 22 percent larger than a year earlier, mostly due to a 21-percent increase in harvested area. The increase is a result of rising long-grain prices in 2019/20 and improved weather conditions in much of the South, despite several late-season Gulf Coast hurricanes and above-normal rainfall this spring that delayed planting in the Delta. The Delta also received substantial rainfall and heavy winds around harvest time from the several hurricanes, which further stretched the harvest period in some Delta States. The entire U.S. 2020/21 rice crop has been harvested except for an extremely small area of the ratoon crop still being harvested on the Gulf Coast. This year's ratoon crop harvest was delayed by weather.

By class, the U.S. 2020/21 long-grain crop remains projected at 169.8 million cwt, 35 percent larger than a year earlier. The combined medium- and short-grain 2020/21 crop remains forecast at 56.3 million cwt, almost 5 percent smaller than a year earlier.

U.S. 2020/21 All-Rice Export Forecast Lowered 2 Million Cwt for Second Consecutive Month

Total U.S. rice exports in 2020/21 are projected at 95.0 million cwt, down 2.0 million cwt from the previous forecast but still almost 1 percent larger than a year earlier. The reduction was again all for long-grain rice. This month's downward revision was based on Census-reported monthly shipments through October, weekly shipments and sales through November 26 reported in the weekly *U.S Export Sales*, and expectations regarding shipments and sales the remainder of the market year. Through October, U.S. Census reported total shipments of all rice at 500,756 tons (product-weight), down 43 percent from a year earlier. Tight ending stocks in 2019/20, a delayed harvest in much of the Delta, and logistical disruptions from several Gulf Coast storms and hurricanes are major factors behind the abnormally slow export pace early in the 2020/21 market year. However, based on accumulated shipment data from *U.S. Export Sales*, the U.S. exported more than 442,000 tons of rice (product-weight) from October 29 through November 26, an extremely rapid pace.

Long-grain exports are projected at 67.0 million cwt, 2.0 million less than the previous forecast but still almost 4 percent larger than a year earlier. Since mid-September, the United States has sold about 120,000 tons of rough rice to Brazil, not a typical buyer of U.S. rice—a major factor in the expected year-to-year increase. In contrast, sales to several traditional Latin American (including the Caribbean) buyers, especially Mexico and Haiti, are well behind the year-earlier pace. The year-to-year projected increase in U.S. long-grain exports is based on larger U.S. supplies and expectations of more competitive U.S. prices compared with South American exporters. In addition to the large U.S. sales to Brazil early in the 2020/21 marketing year, a current extremely tight supply situation will exist in the MERCOSUR rice exporting countries, at least until after their spring 2021 harvest, and is expected to boost U.S. sales to Latin America by early 2021. Latin America is expected to remain the top market for U.S. rice in 2020/21, with much of it sold as unmilled or rough rice. Through November 26, the United States had not sold or shipped any rice to Iraq; In 2019/20, it shipped 154,500 tons of rice to Iraq, down just 1,000 tons from a year earlier. The current long-grain export forecast is based on the assumption that the United States will export rice to Iraq in 2020/21.

U.S. medium- and short-grain rice exports in 2020/21 remain projected at 28.0 million cwt, down 5 percent from a year earlier. The United States is expected to make few, if any, sales beyond its regular sales to Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan as part of each importer's World Trade Organization commitments and its relatively smaller regular sales to Jordan, Canada, and Mexico. Additional sales to North Africa and the Middle East are unlikely given U.S. prices compared with other suppliers, especially China. In addition, by late spring 2021, Australia is expected to be shipping substantially more rice, further reducing the possibility of additional U.S. sales late in the 2020/21 market year. California is expected to again account for the bulk of

U.S. medium- and short-grain exports, with any exports from the U.S. South again expected to be very small.

By type, U.S. rough-rice exports are projected at 34.0 million cwt, down another 1.0 million from the previous forecast but still 9 percent above 2019/20. The downward revision was based on the extremely slow pace of shipments and sales to traditional Latin American markets during the first 4 months of the market year. The year-to-year increase is based on larger U.S. supplies and lower expected U.S. prices, with Brazil accounting for most of the increase. Almost all of the rough rice exported is expected to be sold to Latin American buyers, primarily to Mexico, Central America, and South America. The bulk of these shipments will be long-grain rice.

U.S. milled-rice exports in 2020/21 are projected at 61.0 million cwt, also down another 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 3 percent below a year ago. Sales to Haiti, the largest export market for U.S. long-grain milled rice, are well behind the year-earlier pace. Iraq has yet to purchase any U.S. rice. Northeast Asia, Haiti, Canada, and Saudi Arabia are expected to remain the largest commercial markets for U.S. milled rice. Iraq is expected to eventually purchase U.S. milled rice in 2020/21. Mexico and the EU typically import much smaller quantities of U.S. milled rice.

Total domestic and residual use of rice in 2020/21 remains projected at a record 145.5 million cwt, 1 percent larger than a year earlier. By class, long-grain domestic and residual use remains projected at a record 111.0 million cwt, 4 percent above a year earlier, primarily due to larger supplies. Combined medium- and short-grain domestic and residual use remains projected at 34.5 million cwt, down 8 percent from a year earlier.

The above supply and use projections yield a 2020/21 ending stocks forecast of 50.8 million cwt, up 1.25 million cwt from the previous forecast and 77 percent larger than a year earlier. These are the largest U.S. all-rice ending stocks since 1986/87. The 2020/21 U.S. rice stocks-to-use ratio of 21.1 percent is up from the abnormally low 12.0 percent in 2019/20. By class, long-grain ending stocks in 2020/21 are projected at 38.2 million cwt, up 2.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 126 percent higher than in 2019/20. These are the largest long-grain ending stocks since 1985/86. The long-grain stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 21.5 percent, well above the abnormally low 9.9 percent a year earlier. Medium- and short-grain ending stocks are projected at 11.5 million cwt, down 0.75 million cwt from the previous forecast but almost 8 percent larger than a year earlier. The medium- and short-grain stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 18.5 percent, up from 16.0 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. 2020/21 season-average farm-price forecasts (SAFP) were raised slightly this month for both classes of rice and in both regions. The long-grain 2020/21 SAFP forecast was raised 10 cents to $11.80 per cwt, largely based on higher-than-expected NASS-reported cash prices through October and expectations regarding prices and marketings the remainder of the market year. The long-grain 2020/21 SAFP is 20 cents below the 2019/20 SAFP of $12.00, despite much larger supplies. The 2020/21 southern medium- and short-grain SAFP is projected at $12.00 per cwt, up 20 cents from the previous forecast and up 40 cents from the 2019/20 SAFP. The year-to-year expected increase is likely due to smaller supplies, as exports are expected to again be very weak.

The California 2020/21 (October-September) medium- and short-grain SAFP is projected at $19.00 per cwt, up 20 cents from the previous forecast but $1.60 below the 2019/20 SAFP of $20.60. The U.S. medium- and short-grain 2020/21 SAFP is projected at $16.80 per cwt, up 20 cents from the previous forecast but $1.00 below the 2019/20 SAFP. The 2020/21 all-rice SAFP is projected at $13.10 per cwt, up 20 cents from the previous forecast but still 40 cents below the 2019/20 all-rice SAFP. Except for California, rice SAFPs are reported on an August-July market year.

International Outlook

Rice Production Forecasts for 2020/21 Raised for Australia, Nepal, and Peru; Lowered for South Korea and Honduras

Global rice production in 2020/21 is forecast at 501.2 million tons (milled basis), up 0.1 million tons from the previous forecast, 1 percent above a year earlier and the highest on record. Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Burma, China, Colombia, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Laos, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, Sub-Saharan Africa, Thailand, and the United States are each expected to produce more rice in 2020/21 than a year earlier. India's crop is projected to increase almost 1.6 million tons to a record 120.0 million tons, the U.S. crop is projected to rise more than 1.3 million tons, Thailand's crop is projected to be up nearly 0.95 million tons from the 2019/20 sharply-reduced, drought-impacted crop, and Indonesia's production is projected to rise 0.9 million tons. These four large production increases are due to expanded harvested area.

Australia's 2020/21 production forecast of 0.61 million tons is up almost 0.57 million from the 2019/20 drought-reduced harvest, a result of a substantial area recovery. Pakistan's 2020/21 production forecast of a record 7.6 million tons is up 0.4 million tons from last year, a result of a higher yield. China's forecast production of 147.0 million tons is up just 0.3 million from a year earlier, a result of slightly larger harvested area. Despite this year's slight increase, China's rice production remains below the 2017/18 record of 148.9 million tons, mostly due to smaller area.

In contrast, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Egypt, EU, Iraq, South Korea, Madagascar, Paraguay, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Venezuela, and Vietnam are projected to harvest smaller crops in 2020/21. Bangladesh's crop is 0.55 million tons smaller in 2020/21 due to heavy flooding in the spring and summer. A 0.30-million-ton reduction is projected for Egypt's rice crop due to stricter enforcement of Government area limitations. Reduced harvested area is responsible for a projected 0.23-million ton drop in the Philippines rice production in 2020/21, the third consecutive area decline. Production is projected to decline 0.12 million tons in both Brazil and Paraguay in 2020/21, a result of weaker yields. Much of southern South America has been in severe drought since last spring. Vietnam's 2020/21 production is projected to drop 0.15 million tons as area continues to decline. Vietnam, like much of mainland Southeast Asia, experienced a weak start to the rainy season this year that was followed by severe flooding in many areas in October from several strong tropical storms and typhoons. Salt-water intrusion and weaker water-flows from the Mekong River have also reduced Vietnam's rice area.

Global rice consumption and residual use in 2020/21 is projected to be a record 500.4 million tons, up 1.2 million tons from the previous forecast and more than 1 percent larger than a year earlier. Nigeria and Saudi Arabia account for most of this month's upward revision in global consumption and residual use, a result of larger imports. Nepal's and Australia's consumption and residual use forecasts were raised slightly, mostly due to larger crops. China's projected 2020/21 consumption and residual use of a record 146.5 million tons accounts for most of the expected increase in global rice consumption and residual use in 2020/21, with much of China's growth accounted for by increased feed and industrial uses of rice. India's domestic and residual use is projected at a record 106.0 million tons, fractionally above the 2019/20 elevated level. In both 2019/20 and 2020/21, India's consumption and residual use has been supported

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, December 2020

Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation and comments on year-to-year change or month-to-month revision
1,000 metric tons (milled basis)						
Rice production in 2020/21						
Australia	605	305	1492.1	↑	↑	Substantial increase in production is due to a 40,000-hectare increase in harvested area to 80,000 hectares, a result of plentiful rainfall and replenished reservoirs.
Cuba	255	-5	3.2	↓	↑	Production forecast was lowered slightly based on heavy rains from Tropical Storm *Eta* that reduced harvested area 3,000 hectares to 112,000 hectares. *Eta* made landfall on Cuba on November 8.
Guyana	712	2	4.2	↑	↑	The slight upward crop revision was based on data from the Guyana Rice Development Board reporting both a record yield for all rice and record total production for 2020/21. The harvest of the second crop was completed in late November.
Honduras	59	-11	18.0	↓	↑	Production forecast was lowered based on torrential rainfall from Tropical Storms *Eta* (which made landfall on November 4 and from *Iota* (which made landfall on November 17) across much of Honduras that reduced harvested area 4,000 hectares to 22,000 hectares. The rains were most severe in eastern and northern Honduras. Harvested area is the lowest since 2013/14.
South Korea	3,507	-343	-6.3	↓	↓	The crop estimate was reduced based on a lower yield reported by *Korea Statistics*. Production is down 6.3 percent from the 2019/20 crop due to consecutive typhoons and a longer monsoon season that reduced sunshine during the grain-heading and flowering stages from early July through early August. This is the smallest rice crop for South Korea since 1968/69. At 726,000 hectares, harvested area is down 4,000 hectares from a year earlier and the lowest in more than 60 years.
Nepal	3,690	21	0.0	↑	→	Production forecast was revised up based on a higher yield. Harvested area was actually lowered 20,000 hectares to 1.47 million hectares. Despite this month's upward crop revision, rice production remains slightly below the 2018/19 record of 3.74 million tons. The average yield of 3.78 tons per hectare is the second highset on record, a result of a favorable monsoon and adundant farm labor. A shortage of furtilizer was largely responsible for the slight decline in the yield from the 2019/20 record.
Nicaragua	272	-8	9.2	↓	↑	Reduced the production forecast due to damage from Tropical Storms *Eta* and *Iota* that both struck in November. The heavy rainfall reduced the harvested area estimate by 3,000 hectares to 97,000 hectares.
Peru	2,346	131	6.6	↑	↑	Raised production forecast based on a revised yield. At 8.08 tons per hactare, the 2020/21 yield is the second highest on record.
Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, December 2020--continued						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation and comments on year-to-year change or month-to-month revision
Rice production in 2019/20						
Australia	53	-1	-20.8	↓	↓	The slight crop reduction is based on revised harvested area and yield estimates reported by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences.
Dominican Republic	643	3	0.0	↑	→	Revision based on slightly larger harvested area and higher yield estimates reported by the Ministry of Agriculure.
Guinea	1,715	35	11.1	↑	↑	Production estimate was revised up to a near-record high based on data from the Government of Guinea reporting larger harvested area. At 1.924 million hectares, harvested area is the highest on record.

Source: Created by USDA, Economic Research Service with data from USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, Production, Supply and Distribution Database.

by the Government's food-grain pandemic-relief program that provides subsidized wheat and rice rations to around 800 million people. The program began in March 2020. Despite a smaller crop in 2020/21, Bangladesh's consumption and residual use of rice of 35.8 million tons is up 0.3 million from 2019/20 and is the highest on record. The U.S. domestic and residual use in 2020/21 is projected to increase, as well, to a record 4.6 million tons, partly due to larger supplies.

This month, USDA lowered its global ending stocks forecast for 2020/21 by 0.8 million tons to 179.0 million tons, up less than 0.8 million tons from a year earlier but still the highest ending stocks on record. In addition, 2020/21 will be the 14th consecutive year of increasing global rice ending stocks. India accounts for the bulk of this month's reduction in global ending stocks, with India's 2020/21 ending stocks forecast lowered 1.0 million tons to 30.2 million tons, still the highest on record. The downward revision was based on larger projected exports for both 2020 and 2021. Ending stocks forecasts were also lowered this month for South Korea due to smaller production, for Brazil due to stronger exports, and for the Philippines as a result of a reduced import forecast. In contrast, Australia's 2020/21 ending stocks forecast was raised 0.2 million tons due to a much larger crop and Pakistan's was raised 0.3 million tons due to weaker exports.

On an annual basis, India and the United States are expected to account for the bulk of the increase in global ending rice stocks in 2020/21. China is projected to account for 65 percent of global ending stocks and India for 17 percent in 2020/21. The global ending stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 35.8 percent, fractionally below 2019/20 and still below the 2000/01 record of 37.3 percent.

India's 2020 Rice Export Forecast Boosted to a record 13.7 Million Tons; India's 2021 Exports Raised to 13.0 Million Tons

Global rice trade in 2021 is projected at 44.8 million tons (milled basis), up 0.5 million tons from the previous forecast and 1.5 percent larger than a year earlier. This month, increased export forecasts for Australia, Brazil, and India more than offset a reduced export forecast for Pakistan, with India's exports raised 0.5 million tons. For 2020, India's export forecast was raised to a record 13.7 million tons, the largest amount of rice ever exported by a single country. India has abundant supplies, and its exports are very competitively priced.

On the 2021 import side, upward revisions for Afghanistan, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Nigeria, and Saudi Arabia more than offset reduced forecasts for Australia and Ecuador. Despite the projected trade expansion in 2021, global trade remains well below the 2017 record of 48.1 million tons, with sharp reductions in imports by Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka since 2017 major factors for weaker trade.

On an annual basis, in 2021, Thailand is expected to expand exports the most, increasing shipments 1.5 million tons from this year's abnormally low level, partly a result of some crop recovery due to a more normal monsoon. In addition, Australia, Cambodia, Pakistan, the United States, and Vietnam are projected to increase exports in 2021, with U.S. exports projected to rise 0.15 million tons to 3.05 million tons and Australia's to expand 110.000 tons. In contrast, Argentina, Brazil, Burma, India, Paraguay, Taiwan, and Uruguay are expected to export less rice, with India's exports expected to drop 0.7 million tons to 13.0 million, still the second-highest on record, as India's supplies are projected to remain abundant and prices competitive.

Paraguay’s exports are projected to drop 0.18 million tons to 0.62 million in 2021, mostly due to projections for a drought-reduced crop in 2020/21 and current tight supplies.

In 2021, imports are projected to increase for Cote d’Ivoire, EU, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Madagascar, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates, with imports by the Philippines increasing 0.3 million tons to a near-record 2.6 million tons and the UAE expected to increase 0.2 million tons to a record 1.2 million tons. U.S. rice imports are projected at a record 1.2 million tons in 2021, up just 15,000 tons from 2020. In contrast, imports in 2021 are projected to fall for Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, Guatemala, Guinea, Malaysia, Mexico, and Nepal, with Australia’s imports projected to decline 130,000 tons due to a much larger crop.

Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 metric tons), December 2020.

Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Afghanistan	320	50	3.2	↑	↑	Import forecast for 2021 was raised to reflect the recent trend of stronger purchases from Pakistan.
Australia	170	-50	-43.3	↓	↓	Lowered import forecast to pre-drought level based on a much larger 2020/21 crop forecast. Although production is forecast to be much larger in 2020/21, Australia is expected to continue importing Asian aromatic varieties and other nonaromatic long-grain varieties.
Ecuador	50	-30	-37.5	↓	↓	Updating of recent border trade with Peru indicates smaller total imports in 2021.
Guatemala	125	17	-16.7	↑	↓	Consumption forecasts for both 2019/20 and 2020/21 were revised to reflect more even annual consumption growth, which indicates the need for larger imports in 2021.
Guinea	650	30	-7.1	↑	↓	Guinea is expected to increase imports from India.
Honduras	160	10	-5.9	↑	↓	Import forecast raised based on crop damage from Tropical Storms *Eta* and *Iota* .
Nigeria	1,500	300	7.1	↑	↑	The higher import forecast is based on larger expected consumption. Consumption forecasts for both 2019/20 and 2020/21 were raised this month based on stronger-than-expected imports in 2020 through October.
Saudi Arabia	1,500	150	0.0	↑	→	Import forecast raised based on stronger-than-expected imports from India in 2020, with the stronger pace expected to continue. The 2020/21 consumption forecast was increased to reflect the larger imports. Saudi Arabia produces no rice.

Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 metric tons), November 2020.--Continued

Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Rice importers, 2020						
Afghanistan	310	80	40.9	↑	↑	Recent larger-than-expected imports from Pakistan.
Costa Rica	160	-15	33.3	↓	↑	Slower-than-expected pace of purchases.
Egypt	300	20	-54.9	↑	↓	Recent pace of purchases has been higher than expected.
Guinea	700	100	32.1	↑	↑	Import revised up based on final 2019/20 market year trade data reporting larger-than-expected imports.
Iran	1,150	50	-17.9	↑	↓	Stronger-than-expected imports from India.
Malaysia	1,150	50	15.0	↑	↑	Stronger-than-expected imports from India.
Morocco	60	15	50.0	↑	↑	Stronger-than-expected imports from India and Thailand.
Nepal	850	50	37.1	↑	↑	Import forecast raised based on a stronger-than-expected pace of imports of low-priced rice from India thus far in 2020. These are the highest calendar year rice imports on record for Nepal. Consumption forecasts were raised for both 2019/20 and 2020/21.
Nigeria	1,400	200	-22.1	↑	↓	Imports of parboiled rice from India by West African buyers have been much larger than expected.
Philippines	2,300	-200	-20.7	↓	↓	The Government of the Philippines announced in November that it would issue no more rice import permits in 2020.
Saudi Arabia	1,500	100	5.3	↑	↑	Stronger than expected imports from India. Consumption forecasts for 2019/20 and 2020/21 were increased as tourism did not decline as much as previously expected.

Source: Created by USDA, Economic Research Service with data from USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, Production, Supply and Distribution Database.

Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Table C - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 metric tons), December 2020.--Continued						
Rice exporters, 2021						
Australia	150	30	275.0	↑	↑	Export forecast raised based on a much larger 2020/21 rice production forecast. However, exports are not projected to return to pre-drought levels due to competition from China in key markets.
Brazil	1,000	100	-23.1	↑	↓	Expect the recent trend of strong exports to continue in 2021.
India	13,000	500	-5.1	↑	↓	Expect the recent trend of a stronger pace of exports to continue in 2021.
Pakistan	4,000	-100	2.6	↓	↑	Expect continued strong competition from India in 2021.
Table C - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 metric tons), December 2020.--*Continued*						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Rice exports, 2020						
Brazil	1,300	100	36.3	↑	↑	Export forecast raised based on stronger-than-expected shipments through October. These are the highest calendar year rice exports on record for Brazil.
India	13,700	700	39.9	↑	↑	Recent pace of exports has been much faster than expected. Prices are very competitive and logistics have improved since August. Exports were at a record pace August-October.
Pakistan	3,900	-100	-14.3	↓	↓	Slower-than-expected pace of shipments due to strong competition from India.
Taiwan	180	30	97.8	↑	↑	Export pace has been stronger than expected, with Taiwan now a net-exporter of rice. China is Taiwan's largest export market. Taiwan is also now shipping rice to Papua New Guinea and is a steady supplier of small quantities of rice to Haiti, Honduras, and Nicaragua. These are the largest exports for Taiwan since 1995.
Uruguay	950	115	17.4	↑	↑	Shipments to Peru and Brazil have been stronger than expected.
Vietnam	6,200	-200	-5.8	↓	↓	Shipment pace has been slower than expected. Also, prices are uncompetitive with other Asian exporters and the Government of the Philippines announced in November that that it would issue no more import permits until 2021. The Philippines are a major market for Vietnam's rice exports.

Source: Created by USDA, Economic Research Service with data from USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, Production, Supply and Distribution Database.

Trading prices for most grades of Thailand's regularly milled white rice (nonaromatic) increased by 7.5-8.5 percent over the past month, mostly due to a stronger currency and some new inquiries by buyers given Vietnam's much higher prices. Thailand's 100-percent Grade B long-grain milled rice for export was quoted at $497 per ton for the week ending December 7, up $38 from the week ending November 9. Prices for Thailand's 5-percent brokens parboiled rice were quoted at $487 per ton for the week ending December 7, up $33 from the week ending November 9. Harvest of the main-season (non-aromatic) crop began early this month. Prices for Thailand's jasmine rice—a premium aromatic—were quoted at $818 per ton for the week ending December 7, up $50 per ton from the week ending November 9, with the jasmine harvest already completed.

In contrast, price quotes for Vietnam's rice declined slightly over the past month, mostly due to weak demand resulting from uncompetitive prices and the announcement by the Government of the Philippines that it will not issue any more import permits until 2021. Vietnam is a major supplier of rice to the Philippines. For the week ending December 8, prices for Vietnam's 5-percent broken kernel long-grain milled rice (from the autumn crop harvested late summer and early fall) were quoted at $498 per ton, down $7 from the week ending November 10. Vietnam's rice now sells at a substantial premium to Thailand's rice, an unusual and unsustainable situation. India's prices remain the most competitive among Asian sellers, with India's 5-percent broken nonparboiled white rice quoted at $360 per ton for the week ending December 8, up $10 from the week ending November 10.

Price quotes from Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay for higher grades of long-grain milled rice (5 percent brokens) were unchanged from a month earlier, while price quotes from Argentina and Paraguay for lower quality shipments (7.5 percent brokens) declined $20 per ton over the past month. U.S. prices are currently quoted about the same as quotes for similar quality shipments from Uruguay and Argentina. The major South American exporters—located in the southern half of the continent—completed their 2019/20 harvest in late May and currently have only very small supplies of exportable rice, a major factor in the large increase in their prices in late summer.

U.S. trading prices for long-grain milled rice were unchanged over the past month, despite the almost completed full harvest of the 2020/21 crop. Prices for U.S. long-grain milled rice, Number 2 Grade, 4-percent broken kernels (free on board a vessel at a Gulf port, Iraq specifications) remain quoted at $625 per ton for the week ending December 8, unchanged since early August. U.S prices for Latin American milled-rice markets—Haiti, Colombia, and Mexico—remain quoted at $550 per ton for the week ending December 8, also unchanged since early August.

Milled rice prices in California were mostly unchanged over the past month as well. Quotes for California Number 1 Grade, 4-percent broken kernels for the week ending December 8 remained quoted at $835 per ton (free on board at a domestic mill, Mediterranean specifications), unchanged since late October. For delivery to the Port of Oakland, California, medium-grain milled rice (Korean specifications) prices remain quoted at $940 per ton for the week ending December 8, unchanged since early October. For listings of trading prices by exporter and grade of rice, see Table 9 in the Excel file.

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