



Rice Outlook

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In this report:

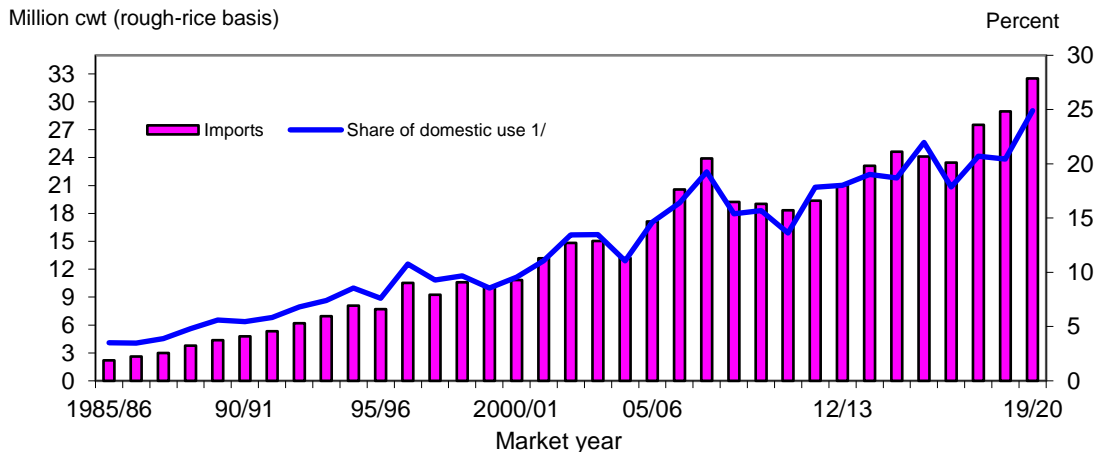
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Rice Outlook monthly tables, in Excel format, can be found on the Rice Outlook report page on USDA's Economic Research Service website.

U.S. 2019/20 Import Forecast Increased 8 Percent to a Record 32.5 Million Cwt

The largest revision this month to the 2019/20 U.S. rice balance sheet was a 2.4-million cwt increase in the import forecast to a record 32.5 million cwt, up 12 percent from 2018/19. On the use side, the total export forecast was raised 1.0 million cwt to 99.0 million cwt, with long-grain rough-rice accounting for all of the upward revision. On balance, these supply and use revisions raised the ending stocks forecast 1.4 million cwt to 30.0 million cwt. Season-average farm-price forecasts for 2019/20 were lowered for both classes of rice and in both regions. In the global rice market, the 2019/20 production forecast was lowered 0.5 million tons, while the ending stocks forecast was raised more than 1.0 million tons. The 2020 global export forecast was lowered almost 0.7 million tons to 45.3 million tons. Quotes for both Thailand and U.S. long-grain milled rice trading prices are higher than a month earlier.

U.S. rice imports are projected to be record high in 2019/20



Cwt = Hundredweight. 2019/20 are forecasts.

1/ Does not include seed use.

Sources: 1985/86-2017/18, *Rice Yearbook Data Set*, Economic Research Service, USDA; 2017/18-2019/20, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*, World Agricultural Outlook Board, USDA.

Domestic Outlook

U.S. 2019/20 Imports Projected Up 12 Percent from 2018/19

The only 2019/20 U.S. all-rice supply side revision this month was an 8-percent boost in the import forecast to 32.5 million cwt, up 3.5 million cwt from a year earlier and the highest on record. This month's substantial upward revision is based on a stronger-than-expected pace of imports through December and expectations regarding purchases the remainder of the 2019/20 market year. At 124,229 tons (product-weight), December 2019 U.S. rice imports were the highest on record and up 35 percent from the November 2019 imports and well above the previous monthly record high of 118,471 tons imported in December 2018. Through December 2019, the United States imported 448,981 tons of rice in 2019/20, up nearly 16 percent from a year earlier, with imports higher than a year earlier each month.

By class, long-grain imports are projected at a record 26.0 million cwt, up 6 percent from the previous forecast and 11 percent higher than a year earlier. Through December 2019, the United States imported 355,004 tons of long-grain rice, up 18 percent from a year earlier. Thailand supplied 60 percent U.S. 2019/20 long-grain rice imports through December, up 27 percent from a year earlier. Most of the long-grain rice imported from Thailand is jasmine rice, a premium aromatic. Thailand also ships a much smaller amount of broken kernel rice to the United States that is included in the long-grain import category for use in various processed products. Imports from India, the second-largest supplier of long-grain imports to the United States, were reported at almost 70,000 tons through December, up more than 6 percent from a year earlier. Most of the long-grain rice imported by the United States from India is basmati rice, also a premium aromatic. Pakistan supplies a smaller amount of basmati rice to the United States. At 35,493 tons, U.S. August-December 2019 long-grain imports from Brazil were up almost 4 percent from a year earlier, with about 22,000 tons imported in December. Much of the rice imported by the United States from Brazil is broken kernels for processed uses.

U.S. 2019/20 medium- and short-grain imports are projected at a record 6.5 million cwt, up 16 percent from the previous forecast and 17 percent higher than a year earlier. Through December 2019, the United States imported almost 94,000 tons of medium- and short-grain rice, up almost 8 percent from a year earlier. China is currently the largest supplier of medium- and short-grain rice to the United States, with almost all of this rice shipped to Puerto Rico. Through December 2019, China had shipped 41,524 tons of medium- and short-grain rice to the United States, mostly to Puerto Rico, about the same level as a year earlier.

Since May 2018, China has returned as the major supplier of rice to Puerto Rico after a decade of near-absence when the U.S. supplied most of this market. In 2018/19, China supplied almost 65,000 tons of rice to the United States, with Puerto Rico taking 63,000 tons in three 21,000-ton shipments. Nearly all of China's rice exports to the U.S. are from its Government-accumulated stocks of older rice that are sold at well below current trading prices. In addition, freight costs are much lower for rice shipped from China due to provisions of the 1920 Jones Shipping Act that requires all shipments between any two U.S. ports to be on a U.S.-flagged vessel. China was a major supplier of rice to Puerto Rico from 2005/06-2007/08 prior to the U.S. regaining this market.

Through December 2019, Thailand had shipped 31,390 tons of medium- and short-grain rice to the United States in 2019/20, up more than 28 percent up from a year earlier. Most of this rice was a specialty rice that is classified as medium- and short-grain rice. In 2018/19, Thailand shipped 66,000 tons of medium- and short-grain rice to the United States, making it the largest

supplier, but just 1,000 tons more than a close number-two-China. India's August-December 2019 shipments of medium- and short-grain to the U.S. of 14,550 tons were up 16 percent from a year earlier. Italy is the only other significant supplier of medium- and short-grain rice to the United States, typically shipping around 10,000 tons annually, nearly all it premium Arborio rice.

U.S. Rice Supplies Projected To Contract 7 Percent in 2019/20

Total U.S. supplies of rice in 2019/20 are forecast at 262.0 million cwt, up 1 percent from the previous forecast but 7 percent below a year earlier. The slight upward revision this month is due to the much larger import forecast. The year-to-year decline in total rice supplies is due to a much smaller crop. Long-grain 2019/20 total supplies are forecast at 184.2 million cwt, up 1.5 million cwt from the previous forecast but 11 percent below a year earlier—a result of a substantially smaller crop. Medium- and short-grain supplies are forecast at 75.7 million cwt, up 0.9 million cwt from the previous forecast and up 4 percent from 2018/19—mostly due to a larger carryin.

Beginning stocks for 2019/20 remain estimated at 44.9 million cwt, 53 percent larger than a year earlier. Long-grain beginning stocks remain estimated at 32.6 million cwt, more than 60 percent higher than a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain beginning stocks remain estimated at 10.2 million cwt, up 34 percent from a year earlier. Stocks of broken—reported by length of grain—remain estimated at 2.1 million cwt, up 46 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. 2019/20 production remains estimated at 184.7 million cwt, 17.5 percent smaller than the 2018/19 crop. Most of the production decline was the result of a 15-percent reduction in harvested area, largely caused by excessive rainfall nearly all spring across most of the South that led to historically high preventive plantings in the region. The average yield of 7,471 pounds per acre was down almost 3 percent from a year earlier, largely a result of the excessive rainfall in the South that delayed plantings and then hampered operations during much of the summer. California's plantings were delayed by rain as well, a factor behind weaker yields in the State, although most of the California rice crop was planted despite the delay. By class, the 2019/20 U.S. long-grain crop remains estimated at 125.6 million cwt, 23 percent smaller than a year earlier and the smallest since 2011/12. The 2019/20 combined U.S. medium- and short-grain crop remains estimated at 59.1 million cwt, down 2 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. 2019/20 Long-Grain Export Forecast Raised 1.0 Million Cwt to 71.0 Million Cwt

The U.S. all-rice export forecast was raised 1.0 million cwt to 99.0 million cwt, up almost 6 percent from a year earlier. This month's upward revision in exports is based on a high level of outstanding sales on the books as of late January, especially to Haiti, Mexico, and Central America, a strong pace of total shipments reported by the U.S. Census Bureau through December, and expectations regarding shipments and sales the remainder of the 2019/20 market year. The pace of U.S. shipments through December indicates even higher U.S. exports than currently forecast. However, a tightening of U.S. supplies later in the 2019/20 market year and projections for rising U.S. prices are expected to eventually slow the pace of U.S. exports in 2019/20.

Long-grain U.S. exports in 2019/20 are forecast at 71.0 million cwt, up 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 8 percent larger than a year earlier. This is the second consecutive month of a 1.0-million cwt upward revision in the U.S. long-grain export forecast. Through December 2019, U.S. exports of long-grain rice totaled 31.0 million cwt (rough-basis), up 9 percent from a year earlier, with U.S. shipments well ahead of a year earlier to Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. Mexico is the largest market for U.S. long-grain rough-rice exports, accounting for almost half of U.S. shipments. Haiti is the largest market for U.S. long-grain milled rice exports. Nicaragua has recently returned as a major buyer of U.S. long-grain rough rice after almost a decade of weak or negligible purchases of U.S. rice. Although U.S. August-December 2019 shipments to Venezuela were up 149 percent from a year earlier, the level of these shipments was well below levels reported for the same period from 2014-2017. Latin America is projected to remain the top market for U.S. long-grain rice in 2019/20, with the majority of the U.S. sales rough rice. The Middle East and Canada are projected to account for most of the remaining U.S. long-grain exports, purchasing almost exclusively milled rice, including a small amount of brown rice sold to Canada.

U.S. medium- and short-grain exports in 2019/20 remain projected at 28.0 million cwt, up just 0.2 million cwt from 2018/19. The extremely small year-to-year projected increase in U.S. medium- and short-grain exports is based on expectation of another consecutive year of few sales outside the three Northeast Asia buyers—Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan—and Jordan, Mexico, and Canada. All imports of rice by the three Northeast Asian countries are made as part of their World Trade Organization agreements. These three Northeast Asian countries account for the bulk of U.S. medium- and short-grain rice exports, with California supplying almost all of this rice. The U.S. has sold almost no rice to North Africa in 2019/20 and through January 30 had shipped only a small amount of rice to Turkey—previously a major market for U.S. medium- and short-grain rice, mostly rough rice. The South typically accounts for the bulk of U.S. sales to North Africa and typically supplies some of the shipments to Turkey. California supplies most of the U.S. rice to Jordan, which takes only milled rice.

U.S. 2019/20 rough rice exports are forecast at 37.0 million cwt, up 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 12 percent larger than a year earlier. This month's upward revision in rough-rice exports was largely based on stronger-than-expected shipments and outstanding sales to Mexico and Central America. Long-grain shipments to Latin America account for the bulk of U.S. rough rice exports, with Mexico and Central America the top markets. Through January 30, Mexico was the only market for medium- and short-grain rough rice exports in 2019/20, with total commitments of U.S. medium- and short-grain rough rice to Mexico totaling 35,300 tons, well below the 1.1-million tons of total commitments of long-grain rough-rice reported by the weekly *U.S. Export Sales* report. Mexico is typically a small buyer of medium- and short-grain rough rice, with long-grain its dominant purchase. Although the United States sold 41,500 tons of medium- and short-grain rough rice to Libya in 2018/19, to date there been only minuscule U.S. sales of rice to Libya in the 2019/20 market year.

U.S. 2019/20 milled-rice exports (combined milled and brown rice exports on a rough basis) remain projected at 62.0 million cwt, more than 2 percent above 2018/19. Haiti and Japan—the two largest export markets for U.S. milled-rice—account for most of the expected increase in 2019/20 milled-rice exports, with Japan's increase largely due to a slightly larger than normal carryover of sales from 2018/19. U.S. exports to Saudi Arabia through December were about 25 percent ahead of a year earlier. U.S. sales to Sub-Saharan Africa are projected to remain quite small as the U.S. is not price-competitive in this huge and fast-growing global rice market.

Total domestic and residual use of rice for 2019/20 remains forecast at 133.0 million cwt, 7.5 percent below the year-earlier record and the smallest since 2015/16. Long-grain domestic and

residual use is projected at 99.0 million cwt, down 9 percent from a year earlier. The projected decline in long-grain domestic and residual use from the previous year is primarily based on a much smaller crop that would indicate a smaller residual component that accounts for post-harvest losses. Medium- and short-grain domestic and residual use in 2019/20 remains forecast at 34.0 million cwt, more than 2 percent below a year earlier.

U.S. Long-Grain Ending Stocks Projected Lowest Since 2003/04

These U.S. supply and use revisions resulted in a 1.4-million cwt increase in the 2019/20 ending stocks forecast to 30.0 million cwt, 33 percent below a year earlier. The 2019/20 U.S. ending stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 12.9 percent, the lowest since 2007/08. Long-grain 2019/20 ending stocks are projected at 14.2 million cwt, up 0.5 million cwt from the previous forecast but 56 percent below a year earlier. These are the lowest ending long-grain stocks since 2003/04. The long-grain 2019/20 ending stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 8.4 percent, well below 18.7 percent in 2018/19. For medium- and short-grain rice, 2019/20 ending stocks are projected at 13.7 million cwt, up 0.9 million cwt from the previous forecast and 35 percent larger than a year earlier. The medium- and short-grain ending stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 22.2 percent, up from 16.3 percent in 2018/19 but still below the abnormally large levels reported for 2014/15 and 2015/16.

This month, NASS reported revised monthly cash prices and marketings for market year (August-July) 2018/19 and for August-November 2019 in its January *Prices* report. These revisions resulted in revised 2018/19 season-average farm-price (SAFP) estimates for California medium- and short-grain rice, U.S. medium- and short-grain rice, and for U.S. all rice. First, the California medium- and short-grain SAFP was raised \$1.10 per cwt to \$21.10, up \$1.00 from 2017/18. The California medium- and short-grain SAFP is often revised up due to the pooling method of payment utilized by California cooperatives whereby producers receive a partial payment at the time of sale and the full payment after all the milled rice from that crop is sold. For this reason, the California medium- and short-grain SAFP revisions are typically larger than revisions for Southern medium- and short-grain or for Southern long-grain. Second, the U.S. 2018/19 medium- and short-grain SAFP was raised 90 cents to \$18.50 per cwt, an increase of \$1.50 from 2017/18. Third, the 2018/19 all-rice SAFP was raised 30 cents per cwt to \$12.60, down 30 cents from 2017/18.

There were several revisions to the 2019/20 U.S. SAFP forecasts this month, primarily based on reported monthly cash prices through December 2019 and expectations regarding prices the remainder of the market year. First, the 2019/20 U.S. long-grain SAFP forecast was lowered 20 cents per cwt to \$12.00, still \$1.20 above 2018/19. The higher expected long-grain SAFP in 2019/20 is largely based on much tighter U.S. supplies. Second, the southern 2019/20 medium- and short-grain SAFP was lowered 10 cents to \$12.10 per cwt, 20 cents below a year earlier. U.S. exports and sales of southern medium- and short-grain have been very weak thus far in the market year. Third, the California medium- and short-grain 2019/20 SAFP was lowered 30 cents per cwt to \$18.00, a decline of \$3.10 from the revised 2018/19 SAFP. Fourth, the 2019/20 U.S. medium- and short-grain SAFP was lowered 20 cents per cwt to \$16.10, down \$2.40 from the revised 2018/19 SAFP. Finally, the all-rice 2019/20 SAFP was lowered 20 cents to \$13.00 per cwt, a decline of 40 cents from a year earlier.

International Outlook

Sri Lanka's 2019/20 Rice Production Forecast Lowered, Guyana's Raised

Global rice production in 2019/20 is forecast at 496.2 million tons (milled basis), down 0.5 million tons from the previous forecast and 3.0 million tons below the year-earlier record. Sri Lanka accounts for the bulk of this month's downward revision in global production. Production forecasts were also lowered this month for the European Union and several countries in Latin America. On an annual basis, rice production in 2019/20 is projected to be smaller than a year earlier in Australia, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States, and Venezuela. China, India, Thailand, and the United States account for the bulk of the expected decline in global rice production in 2019/20. In contrast, in 2019/20 Argentina, Bangladesh, Burma, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Guyana, Iraq, Japan, Laos, Madagascar, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Sierra Leone, and Vietnam are projected to harvest larger crops than in 2018/19.

Global rice consumption and residual use is projected to be a record 493.1 million tons in 2019/20, down almost 0.8 million tons from the January forecast and almost 6.4 million tons larger than a year earlier. China, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua account for most of this month's downward revision in global consumption and residual use. In contrast, the EU's 2019/20 consumption and residual use forecast was raised to another record. On an annual basis, rice consumption and residual use is projected to be higher than a year earlier in Bangladesh, China, India, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Nigeria's 2019/20 consumption and residual use remains forecast at a record 7.0 million tons. In contrast, rice consumption is expected to continue to decline in Japan and South Korea due to diet diversification. U.S. consumption and residual use is projected to decline 7.5 percent in 2019/20 due to smaller supplies. Thailand's consumption and residual use is expected to drop slightly in 2019/20, also due to smaller supplies.

Global rice trade in 2020 is projected at 45.3 million tons, down 0.7 million tons from the previous forecast but 1.6 million tons above the revised 2019 estimate. Despite the expected increase in global rice trade in 2020, global rice trade remains well below the 2017 record of 48.1 million tons, largely due to much smaller imports by Bangladesh, China, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka. This month's downward revision in 2020 global exports is the result of reduced forecasts for China, India, and Paraguay more than offsetting a slightly stronger U.S. export forecast. On an annual basis, expanded 2020 exports from Burma, Cambodia, China, Egypt, India, the United States, and Vietnam are projected to more than offset reduced shipments from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, South Korea, Pakistan, Paraguay, and Thailand.

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, February 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 revisions and year-to-year change
1,000 metric tons (milled basis)						
Rice production in 2019/20						
Costa Rica	101	-9	0.0%	↓	→	Reduced area and yield due to lack of rainfall at the time of planting and germination of the second crop.
European Union	1,968	-35	0.5%	↓	↑	EU production estimate lowered due to a smaller estimate for the Italian rice crop. The downward revision was due to a lower yield.
Guyana	683	20	8.9%	↑	↑	Production revised up to near-record high based on slightly more area and a record yield reported by the Guyana Rice Development Board. Rainfall was plentiful in the second and third quarters and farmers benefited from improved pesticide and disease control and from better water management.
Mexico	175	-25	-7.9%	↓	↓	Area and yield were lowered based on smaller area and yield estimates resulting from drought or dry conditions in key growing States.
Nicaragua	264	-16	-12.0%	↓	↓	Production forecast lowered due to very late summer rains. Like much of Central America, Nicaragua has experienced a long-term drought.
Paraguay	657	-46	1.5%	↓	↑	Lowered area slightly and yield reduced from the previous forecast.
Sri Lanka	2,720	-340	-13.1%	↓	↓	Area and yield are reduced for the maha crop, which is currently being harvested, based on recently released Government of Sri Lanka data. The maha area is down from last year's level primarily due to excessive rainfall at planting last fall. The maha crop is the larger of the two crops harvested each year.
Rice production in 2018/19						
Cambodia	5,742	109	3.4%	↑	↑	Raised production estimate based on a higher area estimate. The average yield was raised slightly. Production was record high.
European Union	1,958	2	-3.5%	↑	↓	EU rice production estimate was raised due to a slightly larger harvest in Hungary.
Paraguay	647	-90	7.7%	↓	↑	Reduced both area and yield based on data from the Government of Paraguay.

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

Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 MT), February 2020.						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of month-to-month change in forecast
Rice importers, 2020						
Egypt	200	-100	-71.4%	↓	↓	Slow buying from main supplier China in late 2019 and a recent announcement that the country has sufficient stocks of rice.
European Union	2,200	150	2.3%	↑	↑	Expectations of another year of record consumption and robust import in 2019. Imports are record high.
Guinea	650	-250	30.0%	↓	↑	A large downward revision for 2019 imports.
Iran	1,050	-100	-12.5%	↓	↓	Sufficient supplies.
Kenya	700	-100	21.7%	↓	↑	Expectations of reduced cross-country shipments of imported rice to other African markets.
North Korea	200	140	0.0%	↑	→	Expect continued large donations from China.
Philippines	2,500	-200	-13.8%	↓	↓	A slowdown in imports in late 2019.
United States	1,025	70	4.5%	↑	↑	Expectations of continued large purchases from South and Southeast Asia and more purchases of rice from China by Puerto Rico. Imports are record high.
Rice importers, 2019						
China	2,600	200	-42.2%	↑	↓	Stronger imports from Laos and Cambodia in 2019.
Cuba	460	-90	-7.8%	↓	↓	Yearend final data.
Egypt	700	-200	204.3%	↓	↑	Yearend final data.
Guinea	500	-350	-42.2%	↓	↓	Lower imports throughout the year from Burma and China.
Indonesia	500	200	-78.7%	↑	↓	Near-final 2019 import data indicates stronger buying from Burma and other sources in Asia.
Kenya	575	-175	-4.2%	↓	↓	Reduced cross-country shipments of imported rice to other African markets.
North Korea	200	100	354.5%	↑	↑	Larger-than-expected donations from China.
South Korea	292	-118	-24.4%	↓	↓	Yearend final data.
Nepal	600	-150	-14.3%	↓	↓	Smaller purchases from India and a larger crop.
Philippines	2,900	-300	16.0%	↓	↑	A slow down in imports in late 2019.
Sierra Leone	330	120	-5.7%	↑	↓	A slow down in imports in late 2019.
United States	981	56	7.1%	↑	↑	Yearend final data.
Yemen	540	80	3.8%	↑	↑	Yearend final data.

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

Table C - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 MT), February 2020						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of month-to-month change in forecast
Rice exporters, 2020						
China	3,400	-100	25.0%	↓	↑	Reduced to show more reasonable year-to-year growth.
India	11,500	-500	15.0%	↓	↑	Based on reduced exports in 2019.
Paraguay	600	-100	-12.9%	↓	↓	Smaller crop projection for both 2018/19 and 2019/20.
United States	3,225	50	2.9%	↑	↑	Expect a continuation of the strong export pace achieved in the last quarter of 2019 and a current high volume of outstanding sales that have not yet been shipped.
Rice exports, 2019						
China	2,720	-280	32.1%	↓	↑	Yearend final import data.
India	10,000	-600	-15.2%	↓	↓	Near-final 2019 import data.
Thailand	7,562	-338	-31.6%	↓	↓	Yearend final import data.
United States	3,135	85	12.8%	↑	↑	Yearend final import data.

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

Global Ending Stocks Projected Record High in 2019/20; Thailand's Prices Rise then Drop, U.S. Prices Increase

Global ending stocks in 2019/20 are projected at a record 178.1 million tons, up 1.0 million tons from the previous forecast and up 3.1 million tons from a year earlier. This is the 13th consecutive year of increasing global ending stocks. China and India account for most of this month's upward revision in the 2019/20 global ending stocks forecast, with both countries' stocks projected to be record high. In contrast, the U.S. 2019/20 ending stocks forecast was raised 5 percent. On an annual basis, China, India, and the Philippines account for most of the projected increase in global ending stocks in 2019/20. The global stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 36.1 percent in 2019/20, nearly unchanged from a year earlier but still below the 2000/01 record of 37.3 percent.

Trading prices for most grades of Thailand's regularly milled nonaromatic white rice rose about 6 percent in mid-January, mostly due to concerns over an expected sharply reduced second crop harvest this spring and early summer and a strong baht. However, prices dropped in late January and early February due to a weaker baht and are currently about 2 percent above prices in early January. Despite the small price decline since late January, Thailand's prices remain uncompetitive with both India and Vietnam. Thailand's 100-percent Grade B long-grain milled rice for export were quoted at \$436 per ton for the week ending February 3, up from \$428 for the week ending January 6 but below the \$455 reported for the week ending January 20.

Prices for Thailand's premium aromatic rice—quoted at \$1,113 per ton—are unchanged from a month earlier.

Vietnam's 5-percent broken kernels long-grain milled rice is currently quoted at \$350 per ton, up just \$3 from the beginning of January. Vietnam's prices are currently more than \$75 below prices for comparable grades of Thailand's rice, up from \$71 a month earlier, making Vietnam an even more price-competitive supplier. Quoted prices from South American exporters are virtually unchanged from a month earlier. The South American harvest should begin by early April in the southern part of the continent that accounts for the bulk of the region's exports.

U.S. trading prices for long-grain rice continued to increase over the past month, with 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 terms and specifications) currently quoted at \$595 per ton, up \$25 from early January. U.S. prices for Latin American milled markets—Haiti, Colombia, and Mexico—were quoted at \$550 per ton, up \$30 from a month earlier. U.S. long-grain milled rice prices are currently being supported by continued large sales to Haiti and expectations of much tighter U.S. supplies later this market year. The U.S. price difference over Thailand's long-grain milled rice is currently \$159 per ton, up \$17 per ton from a month earlier. The U.S. price difference over South American exporters increased about \$25 per ton over the past month for several sources and varieties.

Quotes for California Number 1 Grade, 4-percent broken kernels for the week ending February 5th remain quoted at \$825 per ton (free on board at a domestic mill), unchanged from a month earlier. For delivery at the Port of Oakland, California medium-grain milled rice was quoted at \$935 per ton for the week ending February 5th, also unchanged from a month earlier. For listings of trading prices by exporter and grade of rice, see Table 9 in the Excel file.

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