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Rice Outlook

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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.

India's 2021 Rice Export Forecast Raised to a Record 15.0 Million Tons

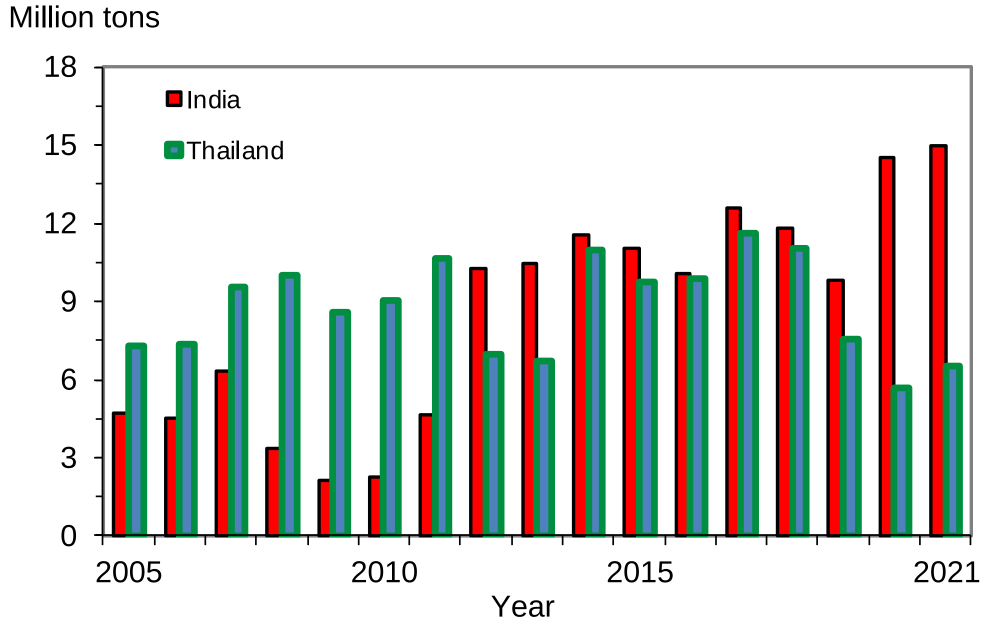
There were no supply-side revisions this month to the U.S. 2020/21 rice balance sheet. Total supplies remain forecast at 292.4 million cwt, up more than 9 percent from a year earlier and the highest since 2010/11. The larger supplies are the result of a 23-percent boost in production that more than offset a smaller carryin and a slight reduction in imports. On the use side, exports were lowered 1.0 million cwt to 93.0 million, with long-grain milled-rice accounting for all of the reduction. Domestic and residual use remains forecast at a record 160.0 million cwt. Ending stocks were raised 1.0 million cwt to 39.4 million, 38 percent larger than a year earlier. Season-average farm price forecasts for both long-grain rice and southern medium- and short-grain were raised this month, partly based on higher-than-expected prices reported by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) for December. NASS also revised 2019/20 monthly cash prices and marketings this month.

In the global rice market, world production for 2020/21 was increased 0.85 million tons to a record 504.0 million, with Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka accounting for most of the upward production revision. In contrast, 2020/21 production forecasts were lowered for Argentina, Guyana, and Nigeria. Global and domestic and residual use is forecast at a record 504.2 million tons, up 2.2 million from the previous forecast, with China accounting for the bulk of the upward revision. The 2020/21 global ending stocks forecast was lowered 1.4 million tons to 178.1 million, down 0.2 million tons from a year earlier and the first annual decline in 14 years. China and India account for the bulk of this month's downward revision in global ending stocks.

Global rice trade is projected at 46.1 million tons, up 0.5 million from the previous forecast and 3 percent larger than a year earlier. Export forecasts for 2021 were raised for Burma, India, and Vietnam, but lowered for Brazil, China, and Thailand. On the 2021 import side, forecasts were raised for Bangladesh, China, and Nigeria, but lowered for the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Thailand's export price quotes increased almost 6 percent over the past month, while Vietnam's quotes rose 2 percent. India's price quotes rose around 5 percent but remain the most competitive among the Asian exporters. U.S. prices for both Southern long-grain milled rice and California medium- and short-grain rice remain unchanged, despite the harvest late last fall of a much larger U.S. crop.

Figure 1

India's 2021 rice exports projected to be highest on record; Thailand's exports to increase only slightly



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

Domestic Outlook

U.S. 2020/21 Long-Grain Supplies Projected Highest Since the 2010/11 Record

There were no supply-side revisions to the 2020/21 U.S. all-rice balance sheet this month. Total U.S. supplies remain forecast at 292.4 million cwt, up more than 9 percent from a year earlier and the highest since 2016/17. Long-grain total supplies remain forecast at 217.3 million cwt, up almost 16 percent from a year earlier and the highest since the 2010/11 record of 222.2 million cwt. Combined medium- and short-grain total supplies remain forecast at 74.1 million cwt, down 5 percent from a year earlier.

All-rice production remains estimated at 227.6 million cwt, 23 percent larger than a year earlier. The production increase was primarily due to a 21-percent expansion in harvested area to 2.99 million acres. The average yield, estimated at 7,619 pounds, was 2 percent higher than a year earlier but still below the 2013/14 record of 7,694 pounds per acre.

By class, long-grain 2020/21 production remains estimated at 170.9 million cwt, 36 percent larger than the year-earlier weather-reduced crop. The larger long-grain crop was primarily due to a 33-percent expansion in harvested area to 2.30 million acres. Almost all long-grain rice is grown in the South. Combined medium- and short-grain production remains estimated at 56.7 million cwt, almost 5 percent smaller than a year earlier. The South accounted for all of the 2020/21 decline in U.S. medium- and short-grain production, a result of a 29-percent reduction in harvested area.

The 2020/21 U.S. imports remain forecast at 36.2 million, down 3 percent from the year-earlier record. U.S. long-grain imports remain projected at 29.5 million cwt, less than 1 percent smaller than the year-earlier record. The slight decrease in long-grain 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 temporary overstocking. Thailand and India account for the bulk of U.S. long-grain rice imports and most of last year's 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. Pakistan regularly ships smaller quantities of its premium basmati rice to the United States.

In December, the United States imported 91,524 tons (product-weight) of long-grain rice, up 44 percent from a month earlier and the highest since June. Brazil accounted for the largest share of the increase in long-grain imports in December, shipping 26,249 tons of broken kernel rice, up from just 73 tons in November and the highest since December 2018. Brazil is an erratic supplier of rice to the United States, often shipping broken kernels that are used in processed products. Thailand shipped 40,169 tons (including very small quantities of rice flour, groats, and meal) of long-grain rice to the United States, up 11 percent from a month earlier but well below the record levels shipped all last spring.

U.S. medium- and short-grain imports remain forecast at 6.7 million cwt, more than 11 percent smaller than the year-earlier record. The decline is based on expectations of three shipments of 21,000 tons of rice from China arriving in Puerto Rico—a U.S. territory—in 2020/21, down from four shipments in 2019/20. The first shipment in 2020/21 arrived in November. Since 2018/19, China has supplied three or four shipments of 21,000 tons of rice to the United States each market year, all to Puerto Rico. Thailand and China are the largest suppliers of medium- and short-grain rice to the United States, with Thailand's shipments mostly specialty rice classified as medium- and short-grain. China's shipments to Puerto Rico account for almost all of China's rice exports to the United States. India is now the third-largest supplier, followed by much smaller shipments from Italy and a few South American suppliers.

U.S. 2020/21 All-Rice Export Forecast Again Lowered 1.0 Million Cwt

The only revision on the use side of the 2020/21 U.S. rice balance sheet this month was a 1.0-million cwt reduction in the U.S. export forecast to 93.0 million cwt, more than 1 percent below a year earlier and the fourth consecutive month of a downward export revision. The reduction was again only for long-grain milled rice and was largely based on Census-reported monthly shipments through December, weekly shipments and sales through January 28 reported in the weekly *U.S Export Sales*, and expectations regarding shipments and sales the remainder of the market year. Through December, the U.S. Census Bureau reported total shipments of all-rice of about 1.40 million tons (product-weight), down 9 percent from a year earlier, although December 2020 shipments of more than 452,000 tons were the highest since December 2012. This followed November 2020 shipments of more than 404,000 tons, also quite large. In contrast, combined shipments for both August and September totaled just 270,000 tons, a result of very tight stocks early in 2020/21 and logistical disruptions from several Gulf Coast storms and hurricanes. Based on accumulated shipment data from *U.S. Export Sales*, the United States exported 165,000 tons of rice (product-weight) from January 1 through January 28.

Long-grain exports are projected at 65.0 million cwt, 1.0 million less than the previous forecast but nearly unchanged from a year earlier. Sales to several traditional Latin American buyers—especially Mexico and Haiti, both large buyers—remain well behind their year-earlier pace, although the United States has shipped 120,200 tons of long-grain rough rice to Brazil in 2020/21. Brazil is not a typical buyer of U.S. rice. In addition, through January 28, the United States had sold almost 156,000 tons of long-grain rough-rice to Venezuela, well ahead of about 55,000 tons a year earlier. In contrast, U.S. long-grain shipments to the Middle East are well behind a year earlier, mostly due to lack of any sales to Iraq thus far 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 smaller regular sales to Jordan, Canada, and Mexico. 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 again be very small.

By type, U.S. rough-rice exports are projected at 35.0 million cwt, 12 percent above 2019/20. Sales to number one rough-rice buyer Mexico remain well behind a year earlier. The year-to-year increase is based on much larger U.S. supplies and more competitive U.S. prices, with Brazil and Venezuela 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 and countries in Central and South America. The bulk of these shipments will be long-grain rice.

U.S. milled-rice exports in 2020/21 are projected at 58.0 million cwt, down another 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast, 8 percent below a year ago and the smallest since 1975/76. Sales to Haiti, the largest export market for U.S. long-grain milled rice, remain well behind the year-earlier pace. Iraq has yet to purchase any U.S. rice in 2020/21. Northeast Asia and Haiti are expected to remain the largest commercial markets for U.S. milled rice.

Total domestic and residual use of rice in 2020/21 remains projected at a record 160.0 million cwt, 11 percent larger than a year earlier. The substantial increase is primarily based on the implied use from August to November indicated by the December 1 rice stocks reported by NASS. The implied use for August-November of all-rice was a record 99.3 million cwt, about 10 million cwt higher than the previous record reported for 2018/19. By class, long-grain domestic and residual use remains forecast at a record 125 million cwt, 17 percent larger than a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain domestic and residual use remains projected at 35.0 million cwt, down 8 percent from a year earlier.

The above supply and use projections yield a 2020/21 ending stocks forecast of 39.4 million cwt, up 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 38 percent larger than a year earlier. The 2020/21 U.S. rice stocks-to-use ratio of 15.6 percent is well above the abnormally low 12.0 percent in 2019/20. By class, long-grain ending stocks in 2020/21 are projected at 27.3 million cwt, up 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 61 percent higher than in 2019/20. The long-grain stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 14.4 percent, well above the abnormally low 9.9 percent a year earlier. Medium- and short-grain ending stocks remain projected at 11.1 million cwt, 4 percent larger than a year earlier. The medium- and short-grain stocks-to-use ratio remains projected at 17.7 percent, up from 15.9 percent a year earlier.

U.S. 2020/21 season-average farm-price forecasts (SAFP) were again raised this month for both long-grain rice and southern medium- and short-grain, primarily based on the NASS-reported monthly cash prices through December and expectations regarding prices and marketings the remainder of the market year. The long-grain 2020/21 SAFP forecast was raised 20 cents to $12.20 per cwt, up 20 cents from a year earlier despite much larger supplies. The 2020/21 southern medium- and short-grain SAFP is projected at $12.50 per cwt, also up 20 cents from the previous forecast and up 90 cents from the 2019/20 SAFP. The year-to-year expected increase is likely due to a smaller crop in 2020/21 than a year earlier.

The California 2020/21 (October-September) medium- and short-grain SAFP remains projected at $19.00 per cwt, $2.60 below the revised 2019/20 SAFP of $21.60. The U.S. medium- and short-grain 2020/21 SAFP is projected at $16.90 per cwt, unchanged from the previous forecast but $1.30 below the revised 2019/20 SAFP of $18.20. The 2020/21 all-rice SAFP is projected at $13.40 per cwt, up 20 cents from the previous forecast but still 20 cents below the revised 2019/20 all-rice SAFP. Except for California, rice SAFPs are reported on an August-July market year.

In late January, NASS revised monthly cash prices and marketing for 2019/20 and for August-November 2020 for all rice and by class. The revised 2019/20 prices and marketings resulted in a $1.00 increase in the California medium- and short-grain price SAFP to $21.60 per cwt, which raised the U.S. medium- and short-grain SAFP 40 cents to $18.20 per cwt. The 2019/20 all-rice SAFP was raised 10 cents to $13.60 per cwt. The long-grain 2019/20 SAFP of $12.00 per cwt was not revised.

International Outlook

Rice Production Forecasts for 2020/21 Raised for Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka; Lowered for Nigeria

Global rice production in 2020/21 is forecast at 504.0 million tons (milled basis), up 0.85 million tons from the previous forecast and up more than 1 percent from a year earlier and the highest on record. The largest upward production revisions were made for Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka, with smaller increases for Kazakhstan and Panama. These five upward production revisions were partially offset by a substantial reduction in Nigeria's production forecast and smaller crop reductions for Argentina and Guyana.

On an annual basis, Australia, Burma, China, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the United States account for the bulk of the projected production increase in 2020/21. In contrast, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Madagascar, Nigeria, Paraguay, and South Korea are projected to harvest significantly weaker crops in 2020/21, with smaller reductions projected for Iraq and Taiwan.

Global rice consumption and residual use in 2020/21 is projected to be a record 504.2 million tons, up 2.2 million tons from the previous forecast and 8.4 million tons larger than a year earlier. China's consumption and residual use was again raised, this month by 1.5 million tons to a record 149.0 million, with expanded feed use of rice accounting for all of this month's upward revision. Smaller upward revisions were made for Brazil, Indonesia, Nepal, and Thailand. In contrast, consumption and residual use forecasts were lowered this month for North Korea, Pakistan, and Vietnam.

On an annual basis, China accounts for the bulk of the projected increase in global consumption and residual use in 2020/21, with use expected to increase 3.8 million tons. Industrial and feed uses account for nearly all of China's projected increase in consumption and residual use in 2020/21. Bangladesh, Burma, EU, India, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and the United States are also projected to increase consumption and residual use in 2020/21. In contrast, consumption and residual use is projected to decline in 2020/21 in Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, and Nigeria, with declines in both South Korea and Japan a result of long-term diet diversification and negligible population growth or slow population decline.

This month, USDA lowered its global ending stocks forecast for 2020/21 by 1.4 million tons to 178.1 million tons, down 0.2 million tons from a year earlier and the first decline in 14 years. China and India account for the bulk of this month's downward revision in global ending stocks. India's ending stocks were lowered 1.2 million tons—a result of a larger export forecast—to 28.7 million tons, 1.0 million tons below the year-earlier record. China's 2020/21 ending stocks were lowered 0.8 million tons—mostly due to larger domestic use—to 116.2 million, 0.3 million tons below the year earlier record. Ending stocks forecasts were also lowered this month for Brazil, Burma, Iraq, and Vietnam. In contrast, ending stocks forecasts were raised this month for Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and the United States.

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, February 2021

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						
Argentina	775	-44	-2.5	↓	↓	Production forecast was lowered this month based on a smaller harvested-area estimate reported by the Ministry of Agriculture. Harvested area for 2020/21 is estimated at 180,000 hectares, down 10,000 hectares from both the previous forecast and a year earlier. Both harvested area and average yields are below a year earlier, primarily due to abnormally dry weather during planting that was followed by a generally hot and dry December. Area, yield, and production estimates now match recommendations from the U.S. Agricultural Office in Buenos Aires.
Guyana	688	-24	0.7	↓	↑	Crop forecast was lowered slightly based on data reported by the Guyana Rice Producers Association for both the 2020/21 first and second crop, with first-crop yields off slightly, although both crops were bumper. The all-rice average-yield estimate was lowered 6 percent to 5.66 tons per hectare, 4 percent below a year earlier. In contrast, total harvested area was raised 5,000 hectares to 187,000 hectares, up 9,000 hectares from a year earlier but still below the 2015/16 record of 191,000 hectares. Production in 2020/21 now matches the 2015/16 record high.
Indonesia	35,500	600	2.3	↑	↑	Higher production forecast this month is due to a larger harvested-area estimate. At 11.8 million hectares, harvested area in 2020/21 is up 0.2 million hectares from both the previous forecast and the year-earlier revised level. The higher area estimate was based on an early start to the rainy season last fall promoting a solid main-season harvest this spring. The average yield of 4.74 tons per hectare is unchanged from the previous forecast, but slightly higher than a year earlier.
Kazakhstan	362	12	-0.8	↑	↓	Production forecast was revised up based on the Government of Kazakhstan's data reporting slightly larger harvested area and a higher yield. Despite this month's revisions, area and production remain well below record levels achieved in the late 1980s and early 1990s.
Nigeria	4,725	-315	-6.3	↓	↓	Lower production forecast is due to a 0.25-million hectare reduction in harvested area to 3.25 million hectares, down 7.1 percent from a year earlier and the smallest harvested area since 2015/16. The lower area was primarily due to flooding in August and COVID-19 restrictions. The 2020/21 average yield forecast was raised 1 percent to 2.31 hectares per ton, the highest on record.
Panama	205	12	-11.3	↑	↓	Higher production forecast is based on a 5,000-hectare increase in harvested area to 85,000 hectares, still almost 10 percent below a year earlier. The year-to-year area decline is largely due to drought across much of the country during the second half of 2020. The revised harvested-area estimate was reported by the Government of Panama.
Philippines	12,200	200	2.3	↑	↑	The 2020/21 production forecast was revised up based on the Government of the Philippines reporting a higher-than-expected October-December production estimate that resulted in a record July-December rough-rice production of 10.9 million tons (or 6.9 million tons milled basis). The record July-December production was partly a result of various Government support programs designed to encourage expanded production, and occurred even with COVID-19 limitations and several typhoons. Total harvested area was raised 50,000 hectares to 4.7 million hectares, the first increase since 2017/18. Despite this month's upward revisions, both area and production remain below the 2017/18 records.
Sri Lanka	3,450	412	7.6	↑	↑	Production forecast was boosted to a record-high based on a larger planted area estimate reported by the Government of Sri Lanka in mid-January for the maha crop that is currently being harvested. The total harvested area estimate of 1.09 million hectares is up 115,000 hectares from the previous estimate, up 4 percent from a year earlier, and just 9,000 hectares below the 2015/16 record. The 2020/21 yala crop of 1.924 million tons (rough-basis) that was harvested August-October 2020 was up 27 percent from a year earlier, a result of expanded area. The maha crop, harvested late-January-April, is forecast at 3.076 million tons, down 4 percent from the year-earlier record, a result of a weaker yield, with harvested area up 4 percent. The 2020/21 Sri Lanka rice area expansion was due to subsidized seeds and fertilizer, free irrigation water, good prices, and adequate rainfall for both crops.

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, February 2021--*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						
Indonesia	34,700	700	1.5	↑	↑	Upward revision in the production estimate is based on data from the Government of Indonesia's National Statistics Agency reporting a larger harvested area. At 11.6 million hectares, harvested area in 2019/20 was up 0.4 million hectares from the previous estimate and 0.1 million hectares above a year earlier. The average yield of 4.71 hectares is down 1.5 percent from the previous estimate.
Mexico	175	3	-6.9	↑	↓	Slight increase in production estimate is based on a 2-percent increase in the average yield to 6.54 tons per hectare, the highest on record. Both harvested area and production remain well below record, with the record harvested area of 214,000 hectares achieved in 1975/76 and the record production of 498,000 tons reported in 1985/86. Mexico currently imports about 85 percent of its annual rice consumption, with the United States the largest supplier.
Spain	555	-12	-3.1	↓	↓	Crop estimate was lowered due to a 1,000-hectare reduction in harvested area to 103,000 hectares and a 1.2-percent reduction in the average yield to 7.65 tons per hectare. Revisions are from the Government of Spain's Ministry of Agriculture.
Sri Lanka	3,207	77	2.4	↑	↑	Production estimate was revised up based on data reported by the Government of Sri Lanka area for both the yala and maha crop. While total harvested area was lowered 2,000 hectares to 973,000 hectares, the average yield was raised nearly 3 percent to record 4.85 tons per hectare. The 2019/20 maha crop, harvested late-January-April, was reported at a record 3.197 million tons (rough basis).

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

On an annual basis, ending stocks are projected to be smaller in 2020/21 in China, Egypt, EU, India, South Korea, Nigeria, and Vietnam, with India's stocks projected to drop 1.0 million tons, as result record domestic use and exports. In contrast, ending stocks are projected to be larger in 2020/21 in Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the United States. Except for Bangladesh, these stock increases are mostly due to larger crops. The 2020/21 global stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 35.3 percent, down from 36.0 percent in 2019/20 and below the 2000/01 record of 37.1 percent.

India's 2021 Rice Export Forecast Boosted to a Record 15.0 Million Tons; Thailand's Lowered to 6.5 Million Tons

Global rice trade in calendar year 2021 is projected at 46.1 million tons (milled basis), up 0.5 million tons from the previous forecast and almost 3 percent larger than a year earlier. This month, export forecasts were raised for Burma, India, and Vietnam, with India's export forecast raised 1.0 million tons to a record 15.0 million tons, the largest amount of rice exported by any one country. These upward export revisions were partly offset by reductions for Brazil, China, and Thailand, with Thailand's export forecast lowered 0.5 million tons to 6.5 million tons.

On an annual basis, in 2021, Thailand is expected to expand exports the most, increasing shipments 0.83 million tons above 2020's abnormally low level, partly a result of some crop recovery due to a more normal monsoon. India's exports are projected increase 0.44 million tons, a result of huge supplies and very competitive prices. In addition, Australia, Burma, Cambodia, Pakistan, the United States, and Vietnam are projected to increase exports in 2021. In contrast, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Taiwan, and Uruguay are expected to export less rice.

The largest 2021 import revisions were a 0.6-million ton increase in China's imports to 2.8 million tons, a 0.3-million ton increase in Bangladesh's to 1.3 million, and a 0.3-million ton increase in Nigeria's to 1.8 million tons. Import forecast were also raised this month for Brazil, Nepal, and Venezuela. These upward revisions were partially offset by reductions North Korea, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines. On a year-to-year basis, Bangladesh, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, North Korea, the United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam account for the bulk of the expected import growth. Australia, the Philippines, and China are expected to show the largest drop in imports in 2021, mostly due to larger crops in 2020/21.

Trading prices for most grades of Thailand's regularly milled white rice (nonaromatic) increased nearly 6 percent over the past month, mostly due to continued strengthening of its currency. Thailand's 100-percent Grade B long-grain milled rice for export was quoted at $552 per ton for the week ending February 1, up $30 from the week ending January 4. Prices for Thailand's 5-percent brokens parboiled rice were quoted at $542 per ton for the week ending February 1, up $29 from the week ending January 4. Prices for Thailand's jasmine rice—a premium aromatic—remain quoted at $830 per ton for the week ending February 1, up $18 from the week ending January 4.

Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 metric tons), February 2021.

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, 2021						
Bangladesh	1,300	300	6400.0	↑	↑	Import forecast was boosted on announced Government tenders and approved private tenders for January-March 2021. In late December, the Government of Bangladesh lowered its import tariff on rice to 25 percent from 62.5 percent. Rice production in Bangladesh in 2020/21 dropped nearly 2 percent from a year earlier due to flooding, a major factor behind the much stronger import forecast for 2021.
Brazil	850	50	-3.0	↑	↓	Import forecast was raised based on tighter-than-expected supplies going into the 2020/21 market year.
China	2,800	600	-3.4	↑	↓	Substantial boost in the import forecast is based on the recent strong pace of imports and expectations of continued large purchases from Burma.
Honduras	150	-10	0.0	↓	→	Reduced import forecast based on a slower-than-expected recent pace of purchases.
Iraq	1,000	-150	3.1	↓	↑	Reduced import forecast based on larger-than-expected beginning stocks and a slower import pace since October.
Israel	150	15	-12.3	↑	↓	Import forecast raised based on a stronger-than-expected pace of purchases in recent months. Although imports are projected to decline in 2021, these are still the second-highest on record.
North Korea	150	-70	368.8	↓	↑	Reduced import forecast based on declining consumption.
Nepal	900	100	-7.7	↑	↓	Raised import forecast based on expected continued large purchases from India. Imports in 2021 are second only to the 2020 revised record of 975,000 tons. Rice consumption in Nepal has shown strong growth since 2018/19.
Nigeria	1,800	300	26.8	↑	↑	Strong increase in the 2021 import forecast is based on a smaller crop, recent sales from India to neighboring countries that are expected to go to Nigeria, and a somewhat more open border.
Peru	330	-10	6.5	↓	↑	Import forecast reduced slightly based on adequate supplies.
Philippines	2,200	-100	-10.2	↓	↓	Reduced import forecast based on a larger crop.
Sri Lanka	20	-30	0.0	↓	→	Import forecast lowered based on much larger production.
Venezuela	480	30	-8.6	↑	↓	Import forecast raised based on strong purchases thus far in 2021.

Continued--

Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 metric tons), February 2021--*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						
Angola	500	20	11.1	↑	↑	Import forecast raised based on near-yearend trade data.
Australia	290	-10	36.8	↓	↑	Import forecast lowered slightly based on a slower-than-expected pace of imports through November and expectations regarding imports in December.
Bangladesh	20	-60	-75.0	↓	↓	Lowered imports based on yearend trade data.
Brazil	876	26	26.8	↑	↑	Raised imports based on yearend trade data.
Canada	460	35	9.3	↑	↑	Raised imports to a record high based on yearend trade data.
Chile	198	-2	28.6	↓	↑	Lowered imports slightly based on yearend trade data. Imports in 2020 are the highest on record.
China	2,900	600	3.6	↑	↑	Sharply raised imports based on larger-than-expected purchases from Burma and Pakistan in the fourth quarter.
Cuba	510	40	11.6	↑	↑	Raised import forecast based on near-yearend trade data.
Gambia	225	-25	32.4	↓	↑	Lowered imports based on yearend trade data.
Honduras	150	-20	15.4	↓	↑	Import forecast lowered based on near-yearend trade data.
Iran	1,125	-75	-19.6	↓	↓	Imports lowered based on yearend trade data.
Iraq	970	-130	-23.2	↓	↓	Imports lowered based on yearend trade data.
Israel	171	11	35.7	↑	↑	Imports raised to record high based on yearend trade data.
Korea, North	32	-168	84.0	↓	↑	Yearend trade data indicated fewer imports from China.
Korea, South	465	15	56.6	↑	↑	Import forecast raised based on yearend trade data.
Kuwait	244	4	-3.2	↑	↓	Import forecast raised slightly based on yearend trade data.
Libya	90	-50	-52.6	↓	↓	Import forecast lowered based on yearend trade data.
Mexico	820	-30	12.3	↓	↑	Lowered import forecast based on an expected slowdown in imports from the United States, Mexico's number one supplier.
Nepal	975	125	57.3	↑	↑	Import forecast raised based on near-final yearend trade data.
Nigeria	1,600	200	-11.1	↑	↓	Imports raised based on strong sales to neighboring countries from India that are expected to eventually go to Nigeria and a more open border.
Peru	310	10	6.2	↑	↑	Import forecast raised based on near-yearend trade data.
Philippines	2,450	150	-15.5	↑	↓	Import forecast raised based on near-yearend data, with December trade data missing only from Burma. Reported imports in December were much larger than expected.
Saudi Arabia	1,615	115	13.3	↑	↑	Import forecast raised to record-high based on near-yearend trade data.
Switzerland	123	3	2.5	↑	↑	Import forecast raised slightly based on yearend trade data.
Taiwan	100	-10	-9.1	↓	↓	Imports lowered based on yearend trade data.
Ukraine	115	10	42.0	↑	↑	Imports raised based on yearend trade data.
United States	1,210	25	23.3	↑	↑	Import forecast raised based on yearend trade data reporting stronger-than-expected imports in December. Imports of rice by the United States totaled 102,078 tons in December, the largest since July. The December imports included 26,250 tons of broken kernel rice from Brazil.
Venezuela	525	75	1.9	↑	↑	Raised imports based on larger shipments from Guyana.

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 metric tons), February 2021.

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 exporters, 2021						
Brazil	900	-100	-27.4	↓	↓	Export forecast lowered based on a slower-than-expected shipment pace in recent months and a much tighter supply situation.
Burma	2,400	200	9.1	↑	↑	Expect increased exports to China in 2021.
China	2,300	-200	1.5	↓	↑	Reduced export forecast based on a weaker-than-expected pace of sales thus far in 2021, higher export prices, and greater use of old-crop rice for domestic feed use.
India	1,500	1,000	3.0	↑	↑	Raised export forecast to record high based on expected stronger purchases by Bangladesh and Nigeria. India has more-than-adequate supplies to expand exports, and India's prices are very competitive.
Thailand	6,500	-500	14.6	↓	↑	Export forecast was lowered based on limited container availability and continued high prices.
Vietnam	6,400	100	3.8	↑	↑	Higher export forecast is based on expected larger shipments to China in 2021.

Table C - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 metric tons), February 2021--*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						
Australia	42	2	-68.7	↑	↓	Export estimate raised based on yearend trade data.
Brazil	1,240	-60	30.0	↓	↑	Export estimate lowered based on yearend trade data.
Burma	2,200	-100	-18.5	↓	↓	Export estimate lowered based on yearend trade data.
China	2,264	-135	-16.7	↓	↓	Export estimate lowered based on yearend trade data.
India	14,560	160	48.7	↓	↑	Export estimate raised based on yearend trade data.
Paraguay	803	3	16.5	↑	↑	Export estimate raised slightly based on yearend trade data.
Russia	125	5	-18.3	↑	↓	Export estimate raised slightly based on yearend trade data.
Taiwan	220	40	141.8	↑	↑	Export estimate raised based on yearend trade data.
Thailand	5,670	170	-25.0	↑	↓	Export estimate raised based on yearend trade data.
United States	2,865	-35	-8.7	↓	↓	Export estimate lowered based on yearend trade data.
Uruguay	960	10	18.7	↑	↑	Export estimate raised based on yearend trade data.
Vietnam	6,167	67	-6.3	↑	↓	Export estimate raised based on yearend trade data.

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

Price quotes for Vietnam's rice increased over the past month as well, mostly due to tight supplies until the harvest of the spring crop begins later this month. For the week ending February 2, prices for Vietnam's 5-percent broken-kernel long-grain milled rice (from the autumn crop that was harvested late summer and early fall) were quoted at $525 per ton, up $10 from the week ending January 5 and highest since September 2008. Vietnam's rice now sells at a around a $17 discount to comparable grades of Thailand's rice. India's prices remain the most competitive among Asian sellers, with India's 5-percent broken non-parboiled white rice quoted at $390 per ton for the week ending February 2, up $20 from the week ending January 5.

Prices quotes from Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay for their higher grades of long-grain milled rice (5 percent brokens) were unchanged from a month earlier, with U.S. prices currently quoted about the same as quotes for similar quality shipments from Uruguay—quoted at $620 per ton—and Argentina—quoted at $600 per ton. Prices for lower quality shipments with 7.5 percent broken kernels increased $30 per ton over the past month for both Uruguay and Argentina. The major South American exporters—located in the southern half of the continent—are expected to begin their harvests between late February and early April. Production is projected to be smaller than a year earlier for Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay.

U.S. trading prices for long-grain milled rice were unchanged over the past month, despite a bumper 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 February 2, 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 February 2, 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 February 2 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 February 2, 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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