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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. 2021/22 Rice Production Projected at 203.6 Million Hundredweight

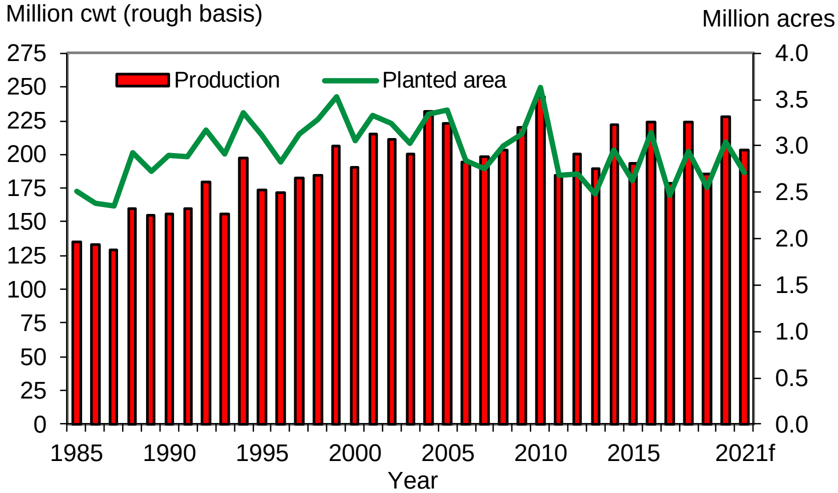
This month, USDA released its first *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* reported projections for the 2021/22 U.S. rice balance sheet and for the global rice market. For the United States, production is projected at 203.6 million cwt, down almost 11 percent from a year earlier, a result of smaller plantings. Carryin is projected at 42.9 million cwt, up nearly 50 percent from 2020/11. Imports are projected at a record 38.5 million cwt, up nearly 8 percent from a year earlier. Together, these forecasts yield a total supply forecast of 285.0 million cwt, down 2 percent from 2020/21. On the use side, both exports and domestic use are projected to be smaller in 2021/22 than a year earlier, with exports forecast to drop 3 percent to 88.0 million cwt and combined domestic and residual use to decline more than 1 percent to 156.0 million cwt. On balance, these supply and use forecasts result in an ending stocks forecast of 41.0 million cwt, 2 percent smaller than a year earlier. Season-average farm prices (SAFP) are projected to be higher in 2021/22 than a year earlier for both classes of rice, with the all-rice SAFP projected to increase 30 cents per cwt to $14.20.

In the global 2021/22 rice market, production is projected to increase 1.9 million tons to a record 505.4 million tons, with Bangladesh, China, South Korea, and Taiwan accounting for most of the expected increase. Global domestic and residual use is projected at a record 513.3 million tons, up 7.9 million tons from a year earlier, with China and India accounting for the bulk of the expected increase. Global ending stocks are projected to decline 7.9 million tons to 168.0 million tons, with China and India accounting for most of the projected decline in global ending stocks in 2021/22.

Global rice trade is projected to expand 0.1 million tons in 2022 to 46.4 million tons, with Thailand accounting for the bulk of the export expansion while India's exports are projected to decline. Trading prices for most grades of Thailand's regularly milled white rice (nonaromatic, parboiled, or other specialty rice) are nearly unchanged from early April. Price quotes for Vietnam's rice are unchanged from a month earlier as well, after dropping in mid- and late April as the last of the spring crop was harvested. U.S. trading prices for long-grain milled rice increased slightly over the past month, partly a response to rising prices of most other U.S. agricultural commodities.

Figure 1

U.S. rice production in 2021 is projected to decrease almost 11 percent



Cwt = Hundredweight. 2021f = forecasts.

Sources: 1985-2018, *Rice Yearbook Data Set,* USDA, Economic Research Service; 2019-2021, USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*.

Domestic Outlook

U.S. 2021/22 Rice Crop Projected at 203.6 Million Cwt

The first *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* (WASDE forecast) released for the 2021/22 U.S. rice crop reports all-rice production) at 203.6 million cwt, down almost 11 percent from a year earlier but still well above the 2019/20 rice crop. The 24.0-million cwt projected production decline is the result of an 11-percent reduction in harvested area to 2.66 million acres. The harvested area estimate is derived from the intended plantings that were reported in the NASS March 30 *Perspective Plantings* using a 5-year Olympic average of abandonment. The first survey-based estimate of 2021/22 actual plantings will be released by NASS in its June 30 *Acreage* report.

The projected yield of 7,651 pounds is 32 pounds above a year earlier and is the third highest all-rice yield on record. The all-rice yield was developed by forecasting yields by class using 20-year trends, calculating production by class, and then dividing total production—the sum of production by class—by the estimated all-rice harvested area. The first survey-based forecast of the 2021/22 all-rice U.S. yield and all-rice yields by State will be released by NASS in its August 12 *Crop Production* report. Yields by class and by State will be reported by NASS in its January 2022 *Crop Production Annual Summary*.

By class, the 2021/22 U.S. long-grain crop is forecast at 152.3 million cwt, down 11 percent from a year earlier. The decline is the result of an area reduction, partly due to rising prices for corn and soybeans, the main alternative crop in the Delta. Almost all U.S. long-grain rice is produced in the South, with Arkansas typically accounting for more than 55 percent of the total U.S. long-grain crop. The 2021/22 U.S. medium- and short-grain crop is forecast at 51.3 million cwt, down nearly 10 percent from a year earlier. Much of the expected decline in the U.S. medium- and short-grain crop is due to a substantial reduction in plantings in California caused by reduced irrigation supplies. This is due to extremely low precipitation this fall and a below average snow-pack in the Sierras this winter. This has caused well below-normal reservoir levels for both Lake Shasta and Lake Oroville.

According to NASS, planting of the 2021/22 U.S. rice crop is close to complete on the Gulf Coast and well underway in the Delta despite a slow start. For the week ending May 9, 74 percent of the U.S. rice crop was reported planted, 7 percentage points ahead of a year earlier and 3 percentage points ahead of the U.S. 5-year average. On the Gulf Coast, the Louisiana crop is reported 87 percent planted, unchanged from a year earlier but 5 percentage points behind the State's 5-year average. The Texas 2021/22 rice crop was reported 92 percent planted by May 9, slightly behind the 95 percent reported as planted a year earlier but 5 percentage points ahead of the Texas 5-year average. For growers on the Gulf Coast, early planting bodes well for harvesting a partial second—or ratoon—crop from the stubble remaining in the field after the harvest of the main crop.

In the Delta, 77 percent of the Arkansas 2021/22 crop was reported planted by May 9, up from 64 percent from a year earlier but unchanged from the State's 5-year average. Missouri's' crop was reported 72 percent planted by May 9, up from just 49 percent planted a year earlier and ahead of the State's 5-year average of 68 percent. Plantings in Mississippi were reported 78 percent complete for the week ending May 9, well ahead of the 54 percent reported as planted a year earlier and ahead of the State's 5-year average of 69 percent. Finally, in California, 50 percent of the 2021/22 rice crop was reported as planted May 9, behind last year by 8 percentage points but well ahead of the State's 5-year average of 30 percent.

For the week ending May 9, 52 percent of the U.S. rice crop had emerged, up from just 41 percent a year earlier but still 5 percentage points behind the U.S. 5-year average. On the Gulf Coast, 80 percent of the Louisiana rice crop was reported emerged by May 9, down 2 percentage points from a year earlier and 6 percentage points behind the State's 5-year average. The Texas rice crop was reported 77 percent emerged by May 9, well behind 90 percent reported a year earlier and 3 percentage points behind the State average.

In the Delta, 54 percent of the Arkansas rice crop had emerged by May 9, well ahead of the 39 percent reported as emerged a year earlier and 5 percentage points behind a year earlier. The Missouri crop was reported 62 percent emerged by May 9, well ahead of just 29 percent reported as emerged a year earlier and ahead of the State's 5-year average of 47 percent. In Mississippi, 56 percent of the rice crop had emerged by May 9, well ahead of just 28 percent emerged a year earlier and ahead of the State's 5-year average of 48 percent. In 2020/21, continued rainfall nearly all spring delayed plantings and crop progress in much of the Delta. Finally, 10 percent of California's rice crop was reported as emerged by May 9, ahead of both 4 percent a year earlier and the California 5-year average of 3 percent.

U.S. 2021/22 Total Supplies Projected To Drop 2 Percent

In 2021/22, total U.S. rice supplies are projected at 285.0 million cwt, a decline of 2 percent from a year earlier as a much smaller crop is projected to more than offset a big boost in carryin and record imports. At 214.1 million cwt, U.S. 2021/22 long-grain supplies are projected to be more than 1 percent smaller than a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain supplies of 69.9 million cwt are projected to be almost 6 percent smaller than a year earlier and the smallest since 2017/18.

The U.S. 2021/22 all-rice carryin is projected at 42.9 million cwt, 49 percent larger than a year earlier. The long-grain 2021/22 carryin is projected at 30.8 million cwt, up 82 percent from the year-earlier abnormally small level. Combined medium- and short-grain carryin is projected at 11.1 million cwt, up 4 percent from a year earlier.

Total U.S. rice imports in 2021/22 are forecast at a record 38.5 million cwt, up nearly 8 percent from a year earlier. By class, U.S. long grain imports are projected at a record 31.0 million cwt, up 7 percent from a year earlier. Specific Asian aromatic varieties not currently grown in the United States—primarily jasmine rice from Southeast Asia and basmati rice from South Asia—are expected to again account for the bulk of U.S. long-grain imports. Thailand is the largest supplier of long-grain rice to the United States, with its premium-quality jasmine the majority of its long-grain shipments to the United States. Vietnam ships a much smaller quantity of jasmine rice to the United States. India is typically the second-largest supplier of long-grain rice to the United States, with its premium-quality basmati the bulk of these shipments. Pakistan regularly ships smaller amounts of basmati rice to the United States and is typically the fourth-largest supplier. Brazil is typically the third-largest supplier of long-grain rice to the United States, shipping both whole grain and broken kernel rice.

Medium- and short-grain imports are projected at a near-record 7.5 million cwt in 2021/22, up 12 percent from a year earlier. Much of the increase is due to the timing of the shipments from China to Puerto Rico, a U.S territory. China typically supplies 3 or 4 shipments of 21,000 tons of low-priced, older-crop rice to Puerto Rico each market year. China is the second-largest supplier of medium- and short-grain rice to the United States, with Thailand the largest supplier.

India is the third-largest supplier of medium- and short-grain rice to the United States. Together, these three suppliers account for 90 percent or more of U.S. medium- and short-grain imports. Italy, Japan, Spain, and Argentina supply most of the remaining U.S. medium- and short-grain imports.

U.S. All-Rice Exports Projected To Drop 3 Percent in 2021/22

Total use of all rice in 2021/22 is projected at 244.0 million cwt, a 2-percent reduction from a year earlier, with both exports and combined domestic and residual use projected smaller in 2021/22. Long-grain total use is projected at 182.0 million cwt, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain total use is forecast at 62.0 million cwt, a drop of less than 2 percent from 2020/21.

U.S. exports of all rice in 2021/22 are projected at 88.0 million cwt, down more than 3 percent from a year earlier and the lowest since 2017/18. The decline in exports is based on smaller supplies and less-competitive prices. Long-grain exports in 2021/22 are projected at 61.0 million cwt, down more than 3 percent from a year earlier and the lowest since 1996/97. The United States is expected to face stronger competition from South American suppliers in key Latin American markets in 2021/22. Most South American exporters are expected to harvest larger crops next spring compared with 2020/21 crops, which in several countries, were adversely impacted by drought.

Combined medium- and short-grain exports are projected at 27.0 million cwt, down 1.0 million cwt from this year. The slight reduction is based on a continued decline in U.S. sales outside its core markets in North East Asia—where the bulk of U.S. medium- and short-grain exports are shipped—and smaller regular sales to Jordan, Canada, and Mexico. U.S. medium- and short-grain sales to North Africa and the Middle have declined in recent years, with no growth expected in 2021/22. In addition, by late spring in 2022, Australia is expected to be in position to increase its exports due to a projected strong production recovery from 2 years of drought.

By type, U.S. rough-rice exports are projected at 33.0 million cwt, down 1.0 million cwt from a year earlier. The U.S. is expected to lose some sales in Latin America to South American exporters. Almost all U.S. rough-rice exports are shipped to Latin America. Milled-rice exports (milled and brown rice exports on a rough-rice basis) are projected at 55.0 million cwt, down 2.0 million cwt from a year earlier and the lowest since 1973/74. The United States is expected to make few sales of milled rice beyond its core markets of North East Asia, Haiti, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Mexico. Although primarily a rough-rice market, Mexico regularly imports much smaller quantities of milled rice. U.S. milled-rice exports are limited by much lower priced rice from Asia as well as growing competition from several South American exporters.

Total domestic and residual use in 2021/22 is projected at 156.0 million cwt, down 2.0 million from the year-earlier record. The slight decline is based on a smaller crop, which indicates reduced post-harvest losses compared with 2020/21. Long-grain domestic and residual use is projected at 121.0 million cwt, down 2.0 million cwt from this year but still the second-highest on record. Combined medium- and short-grain domestic and residual use is projected at 35.0 million cwt, unchanged from a year earlier.

The above supply and use projections result in a 2021/22 ending stocks forecast of 41.0 million cwt, down more than 4 percent from a year earlier. The all-rice stocks-to-use ratio is projected at

16.8 percent, down from 17.3 percent a year earlier. Long-grain ending stocks are projected at 31.1 million cwt, up more than 4 percent from a year earlier and the highest since 2018/19. The long-grain stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 17.6 percent, up from 16.5 percent a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain ending stocks are projected at 7.9 million cwt, down 29 percent from a year earlier and the lowest since 2017/18. The medium- and short-grain stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 12.7 percent, down substantially from 17.7 percent a year earlier.

Season-Average Farm Prices Projected Higher in 2021/22 for Both Classes of Rice

Tighter supplies of both long-grain and combined medium-and short-grain rice are projected to push U.S. rice prices higher in 2021/22. For long-grain, the 2021/22 season-average farm price (SAFP) is projected at $12.80 per cwt, up 20 cents from a revised $12.60 in 2020/21. The 2020/21 long-grain SAFP was raised 10 cents from the previous forecast this month. The southern medium- and short-grain SAFP is forecast at $13.20 per cwt, up 20 cents from the revised 2020/21 SAFP. The 2020/21 southern medium- and short-grain SAFP was raised 10 cents to $13.00 per cwt. These two 2020/21 SAFP revisions were based on NASS-reported prices and marketings through March and expectations regarding prices and marketings through July. Rice prices are increasing along with prices for corn and soybeans, although at a much lower rate to date, despite large U.S. supplies of rice and expectations of a large carryout.

The California medium- and short-grain 2021/21 SAFP is forecast at $21.00 per cwt, up $1.30 from the revised 2020/21 SAFP. The 2020/21 California medium- and short-grain SAFP was raised 40 cents per cwt based on NASS-reported prices and marketings from October-March and expectations regarding prices and marketings from April through September when the California market year ends. These two regional SAFPs resulted in a U.S. 2021/22 medium- and short-grain SAFP of $18.50 per cwt, up 90 cents from the year-earlier revised SAFP. The 2020/21 medium- and short-grain SAFP was raised 30 cents per cwt to $17.60 based on the upward revision in both the California and southern medium- and short-grain SAFP. The U.S. all-rice SAFP is projected at $14.20 per cwt, up 30 cents from the year-earlier revised SAFP of $13.90. The 2020/21 all-rice SAFP was raised 20 cents to $13.90 per cwt based on higher forecasts for both the long-grain SAFP and medium- and short-grain SAFP.

U.S. 2020/21 Supply and Use Projections Are Unchanged

There were no supply and use revisions to the 2020/21 U.S. rice balance sheet this month. On the use side, total imports remain forecast at 35.7 million cwt, a 4-percent decline from the year-earlier near-record. In March, the United States imported 110,747 tons of rice (product-weight), up 65 percent from a month earlier and the highest since July 2020. Thailand, China, and India account for most of the month-to-month increase in U.S. rice imports in March. Through March 2021, the United States imported 733,543 tons of rice (including flour, groats and meal) in 2020/21, up 9 percent from a year earlier.

By class, long-grain imports remain forecast at 29.0 million cwt, down almost 3 percent from a year earlier. The United States imported 78,235 tons of long-grain rice in March, up 35 percent from a month earlier and the highest since December. Shipments from both Thailand and India in March were up sharply from a month earlier. Through March, the United States had imported 597,893 tons of long-grain rice in 2020/21, up 9 percent from a year earlier. In 2019/20, U.S.

long-grain imports were record or near-record high each month from April to June. In 2020/21, U.S. long-grain imports are not expected to reach these same levels during the latter months of the market year.

Medium- and short-grain imports remain projected at 6.7 million cwt, down 11 percent from a year earlier. The decline is based on the timing of the 21,000-ton shipments from China to Puerto Rico. In 2019/20, China supplied four shipments to Puerto Rico, with the fourth arriving in July. In 2020/21, China is expected to supply three shipments to Puerto Rico based on the timing of the first two shipments that arrived in November and March. Through March, the United States imported 135,650 tons of medium- and short-grain rice, up 9 percent from a year earlier. Thailand and India account for most of the stronger U.S. imports thus far in 2020/21, with imports from China about the same as in the previous year.

U.S. rice exports in 2020/21 remain forecast at 91.0 million cwt, down more than 3 percent from a year earlier. The year-to-year decline is largely due to uncompetitive U.S. prices in many markets and continued movement of South American rice into key U.S. Latin American markets. Through March, the U.S. had exported 2.22 million tons of rice, down 6 percent from a year earlier.

Long-grain exports remain projected at 63.0 million cwt, down 2.5 percent from a year earlier. Through March, the United States had exported 1.60 million tons of long-grain rice, down 11 percent from a year earlier. Although the United States made an unexpected large sale totally 120,000 tons to Brazil early in the 2020/21 market year, it has yet to sell any rice to Iraq this market year and further sales to Brazil are unlikely. However, food aid donations are sharply ahead of a year earlier, partly due to the April 14 tender for 78,640 tons of long-grain milled rice to be shipped bulk to West Africa. Even prior to this large bulk tender, total announced food aid tenders—all much smaller—were well ahead of a year earlier. In fact, total announced food aid tenders through early May 2021 already exceed total food aid shipments for any full market year after 2003/04. U.S. sales to Venezuela, all rough rice and commercial, are up sharply from a year earlier, partly offsetting weaker U.S. sales to several Latin American markets.

Combined medium- and short-grain exports in 2020/21 remain projected at 28.0 million cwt, down more than 5 percent from a year earlier. The decline is based on few, if any, sales outside the core U.S. markets of Northeast Asia, Jordan, and Canada. Low-priced medium- and short-grain rice from China now supplies many of the former U.S. markets in North Africa and the Middle East. Through March, the United States ?? had exported 574,877 tons of medium- and short-grain rice, nearly unchanged from a year earlier.

International Outlook

Rice Production in 2021/22 Projected To Increase 1.9 Million Tons to a Record 505.4 Million

Global rice production in 2021/22 is forecast at a record 505.4 million tons (milled basis), up 1.9 million tons from a year earlier. Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, Cote d'Ivoire, South Korea, Paraguay, Taiwan, and Thailand account for the bulk of the projected production increase in 2021/22. In contrast, crops are projected to be smaller than a year earlier in Colombia, Ecuador, India, Iraq, Madagascar, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, the United States, and Vietnam, with India and the United States expected to show the largest production declines.

The 2020/21 global rice production forecast was lowered 0.6 million tons this month to 503.5 million tons, still 1 percent above a year earlier. Production forecasts were lowered for Angola, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Laos, Mali, Mozambique, Paraguay, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda. In contrast, 2020/21 production projections were raised this month for Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Sierra Leonne. On an annual basis, Australia, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the United States account for the bulk of the expected global production increase in 2020/21.

Global rice consumption and residual use in 2021/22 is projected to be a record 513.3 million tons, 7.9 million tons larger than a year earlier. On an annual basis, China accounts for the bulk of the projected increase in global consumption and residual use in 2021/22, with total use expected to increase 5.8 million tons to a record 156.0 million tons. Industrial and feed uses account for nearly all of China's projected increase in consumption and residual use in 2021/22. Bangladesh, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand are also projected to increase consumption and residual use in 2021/22. In contrast, consumption and residual use is projected to decline in 2021/22 in Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, and the United States, with declines in both South Korea and Japan a result of long-term diet diversification and negligible population growth or a slow population decline.

In 2021/22, global ending stocks are forecast at 168.0 million tons, down 7.9 million tons from a year earlier and the second consecutive year of declining global ending stocks. China and India account for the bulk of the projected decline in global ending stocks in 2021/22, with China's stocks expected to drop 6.7 million tons to 108.7 million tons and India's to drop 2.0 million tons to 26.4 million. Stocks are also projected to decline in 2021/22 in Bangladesh, Egypt, the Philippines, the United States, and Vietnam. In contrast, ending stocks are projected to increase in 2021/22 in Australia, Indonesia, South Korea, Pakistan, and Thailand. The 2021/22 global stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 32.7 percent, down from 34.8 percent in 2020/21.

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, May 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 2021/22						
Argentina	840	- -	4.2	- -	↑	Production expansion is based on a 7,000-hectare increase in harvested area to 190,000 hectares. This is the largest area since 2017/18, a result of rising world prices in 2020 and 2021 and expectations of favorable weather. The average yield of 6.80 tons per hectare is fractionally above a year earlier but below the 2005/06 record of 6.95 tons.
Australia	504	- -	32.6	- -	↑	The projected increase in production is based on a 20,000-hectare boost in harvested area to 70,000 hectares, the highest since 2016/17 but well below the record 177,000 hectares harvested in 2000/01. The projected area expansion is based on a wetter-than-average December-February, subsequent replenishment of reservoirs that were sharply reduced after 2 years of severe drought, and expected higher global trading prices for medium- and short-grain rice--which accounts for the bulk of Australia's rice production. The average yield of 10.0 tons per hectare is 5.3 percent below a year earlier and is based on a long-term trend.
Bangladesh	35,330	- -	2.1	- -	↑	The production recovery is based on an expected 150,000-hectare expansion in total harvested area to 11.65 million hectares and an almost 1-percent increase in the average yield to 4.55 tons per hectare, unchanged from the 2019/20 record. The boro crop--harvested this April-May and the largest of Bangladesh's three annual rice crops--is expected to account for more than half the total projected production increase in 2021/22, with larger crops projected in 2021/22 for both the aus and aman crops as well. Despite the expected substantial expansion, total harvested area remains below the 2019/20 record of 11.83 million tons, with production also projected below the 2019/20 record of 35.85 million tons.
Bolivia	400	- -	5.3	- -	↑	Expanded production based on a 3,000-hectare increase in harvested area to a record 188,000 hectares and a 3.6-percent rise in the yield to 3.09 tons per hectare.
Brazil	7,650	- -	1.4	- -	↑	Expectation of increased rice production in 2021/22 is based on a 30,000-hectare expansion in harvested area to 1.74 million hectares, the highest since 2017/18 but still well below the record 6.0 million hectares harvested in 1975/76. The area expansion is based on higher expected prices, a favorable export outlook, and a recent tightening of the domestic supply situation. The average yield of 6.47 tons per hectare--fractionally below a year earlier--is based on trend.
Burma	12,800	- -	1.6	- -	↑	Increased rice production in 2021/22 is based on a 0.1-million hectare expansion in harvested area to 7.0 million hectares, still below the 2017/18 record of 7.1 million hectares. The average yield of 2.86 tons per hectare is virtually unchanged from a year earlier. After adverse weather impacted the last 2 rice-growing seasons, expectations of a normal monsoon in 2021 support a rebound in plantings to normal levels. Despite the recent rainfall deficits, yields were maintained in 2019/20 and 2020/21 due to shifts to shorter season varieties, along with drought-tolerant varieties. The February military coup and resulting instability is currently not seen as a hinderance to the farming sector, as disruptions are localized and mostly in the urban areas.
Cambodia	5,900	- -	2.0	- -	↑	Record rice production is projected for 2021/22 based on a 35,000-hectare expansion in harvested area to a record 3.3 million hectares and almost a 1-percent increase in the average yield to a record 2.93 tons per hectare. Cambodia's rice production is predominantly rainfed. Assuming a normal monsoon, harvested area of the wet season crop is projected to continue the near-steady growth that returned in 2003/04 after three decades of decline and stagnation due to political instability.
China	149,000	- -	0.5	- -	↑	The slight increase in production is based on a 0.7-percent rise in the average yield to a record 7.10 tons per hectare. In contrast, at 30.0 million hectares, harvested area is forecast to be down 76,000 hectares from a year earlier. Precipitation and soil-moisture conditions were favorable for planting the early double-crop and the single-season crop. Planting of the late double-crop will begin in July. The Government of China has announced that it wants grain production to remain stable or increase, and to achieve this goal it is encouraging a return to double-cropping. The Government has announced that minimum producer support prices will continue in major grain-producing regions.
Colombia	1,800	- -	-10.4	- -	↓	Production is projected to decline 10.4 percent due to a 45,000-hectare decline in harvested area to 550,000 hectares and a 3.1-percent decline in the average yield to 4.81 tons per hectare. The substantial area decline is based on low producer prices, a result of record supplies.
Cote d'Ivoire	1,200	- -	24.7	- -	↑	The substantial crop recovery is due to a 115,000-hectare increase in harvested area to 750,000 hectares and an almost 6-percent boost in the average yield to 2.46 tons per hectare. These area and yield projections assume a return to more normal weather conditions and increased public and private investment toward boosting productivity.
Ecuador	929	- -	-9.2	- -	↓	Production is expected to decline based on both an area reduction--down 6.1 percent to 310,000 hectares--and a weaker yield, down 3.3 percent to 4.76 tons per hectare. Area is projected lower due to weaker prices. Yields are projected lower due to below average rainfall in key growing coastal areas.
Egypt	4,000	- -	0.0	- -	→	Egypt's rice-harvested area and average yield are projected to be unchanged from 2020/21. Despite the announcement by Egypt's Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of total allotted rice cultivated area of slightly more than 451,000 hectares, rice-harvested area is projected to remain at 0.7 million hectares as growers typically find that rice remains quite profitable even after paying the penalty for planting outside the Government allotment.

Continued--

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, May 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
1,000 metric tons (milled basis)						
Rice production in 2021/22						
EU	1,990	- -	1.4	- -	↑	The slight production increase is based on a 17,000-ton projected increase in Italy's rice production to 1.049 million tons, along with smaller production increases for Bulgaria, Greece, and Hungary more than offsetting crop reductions projected for France, Portugal, Romania, and Spain. Italy accounts for more than half of the rice produced in the EU.
Ghana	600	- -	5.3	- -	↑	Crop projected to be larger in 2021/21 due to a 15,000-hectare increase in harvested area to 275,000 hectares. At 3.16 tons per hectare, the average yield is 0.4 percent below a year earlier.
Guinea	1,650	- -	8.7	- -	↑	The production increase is based on an almost 14-percent area expansion to a near-record 1.9 million hectares, which more than offsets a 4.4-percent decline in the average yield to 1.32 tons per hectare.
Guyana	725	- -	5.4	- -	↑	Production is projected record high based on a 3.7-percent yield boost to a near-record 5.87 tons per hectare and a 3,000-hectare expansion in harvested area to a near-record 190,000 hectares. The slight area expansion is based on higher prices. The projected higher yields are the result of better crop management and superior varieties.
India	120,000	- -	-0.8	- -	↓	The small expected drop in rice production in 2021/22 is based on a slightly lower yield. At 4.09 tons per hectare, the trend-based yield is nearly 1 percent below the year-earlier record. Harvested area of 44.0 million hectares is unchanged from 2020/21.The area and yield forecasts for 2021/22 assume a normal monsoon. Production in 2021/22 would be the second-highest on record.
Indonesia	35,300	- -	0.3	- -	↑	The slight production expansion is based on a fractionally higher yield. Area harvested is expected to remain stable at 11.8 million hectares as arable land suitable for rice production has essentially plateaued. Area, yield, and production are all projected to be below-record in 2021/22 .
Iran	2,000	- -	0.0	- -	→	Production is projected to be unchanged from a year earlier, with harvested area projected to remain at 575,000 hectares and average yield at 5.27 tons per hectare. Area, yield, and production are all projected to remain below record.
Iraq	250	- -	-18.0	- -	↓	Iraq's rice production is projected to decline in 2021/22 due to weaker rainfall across the region this spring that is expected to lower both area and yield from a year earlier. At 85,000 hectares, harvested area is 15,000 hectares below a year earlier and 25,000 hectares below the 2019/20 near-term record. This is the second consecutive year of declining rice production in Iraq, with production forecast to be 28 percent below the 2019/20 record of 347,000 tons.
Japan	7,580	- -	0.2	- -	↑	The fractional increase in rice production projected for 2021/22 is solely due to a slightly higher projected yield. At 6.83 tons per acre, the average yield is projected to be up 0.7 percent from a year earlier but still below the 2016/17 record of 6.94 tons per hectare. Harvested area is projected to decline 8,000 hectares to 1.525 million hectare, primarily a result of the Government's rice area diversions program. Harvested area is projected to be lower than any estimate reported since 1900. Harvested area in Japan has dropped 48 percent since 1970/71, primarily a result of the Government area diversion programs that are largely driven by declining per capita consumption caused by diet diversification.
South Korea	3,770	- -	7.5	- -	↑	Production is projected to increase based on a return to trend yield. Area is projected to continue its 33-year decline, dropping to .723 million hectares, the smallest area reported since 1900. The long-term area decline is due to state-sponsored area diversion programs and conversion of rice land to nonagricultural uses. Despite the projected 3,000-hectare decline, Government policy to reduce rice area is not having a large impact. Most farmers still prefer rice to other crops due to the price support program. Reduction in rice area is likely to remain small due to continued high Government support prices.
Laos	1,950	- -	2.6	- -	↑	Near-record production is based on a 10,000-hectare expansion in harvested area to a near-record 970,000 hectares and a slightly higher yield based on normal weather conditions. Yields have improved over recent years due to the use of higher yielding varieties and increased use of irrigation. Although mechanization remains quite limited, it is becoming more common in major rice-producing provinces.
Madagascar	2,304	- -	-10.0	- -	↓	Production is projected to be smaller than a year earlier due to drought in the southern growing areas that is expected to reduce the country's average yield 10 percent to 2.57 tons per hectare. Rainfall in the north, where most of the crop is produced, has been normal. Harvested area is projected at 1.4 million hectares, unchanged from a year earlier.
Malaysia	1,800	- -	0.0	- -	→	Both area and yield are projected unchanged from a year earlier, with harvested area forecast to remain at 680,000 hectares, 20,000 hectares below the 2019/20 record. The recent area decline is due to land scarcity and strong competition with other crops that has encouraged farmers to switch area to more profitable crops such as palm oil. Support programs by the Government of Malaysia have been initiated to increase rice planting, however, farmers have yet to adopt these programs on a widespread scale. The 2021/22 projected yield of 4.07 tons per hectare is unchanged from the year-earlier record.
Mexico	224	- -	13.7	- -	↑	Production is projected to increase in 2021/22 based on a 6-percent expansion in harvested area to 50,000 hectares--the highest since 2009/10--and a 7-percent increase in the average yield to a near-record 6.52 tons per hectare. The 2021/22 crop is projected to be the largest since 1999/2000.The projected area expansion is largely based on Government support received by producers through guaranteed prices. The yield increase is largely due to expanded plantings of certified long-grain seeds and the use of new cultivation technologies.
Nepal	3,700	- -	0.1	- -	↑	Fractional increase in production is due to a 5,000-hectare expansion in harvested area 1.475 million hectares more than offsetting a slightly lower trend-based yield. Production is projected to be the second highest on record.
Nigeria	5,000	- -	2.2	- -	↑	Rice production is projected to be record high in 2021/22 due to a 50,000-hectare increase in harvested area to a record 3.65 million hectares and a fractionally higher yield. Nigerian farmers are increasingly moving from a single-season rice crop to multiple crops per year. Dry season production outperforms wet season production because water levels can be controlled. Wet season farming, which relies on natural flooding, is thus susceptible to floods or protracted drought that can adversely impact production. The prospects of multiple crops per year is contributing to increased rice production in Nigeria. In addition, the Government of Nigeria (GON) is providing farmers improved rice seeds and seedlings, as well as developing better rice farming practices. The GON has prioritized providing improved seeds as key to increasing rice production.

Continued--

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, May 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
1,000 metric tons (milled basis)						
Rice production in 2021/22						
Pakistan	8,200	- -	1.2	- -	↑	Projected record production is based on expectations of another year of area expansion, with harvested area estimated at a record 3.3 million hectares, up 0.1 million hectares from 2020/21. The average yield--based on trend--is projected to decline almost 2 percent from 2020/21 to 3.73 tons per hectare.
Paraguay	787	- -	27.8	- -	↑	Near-record production in 2021/22 is based on a 13-percent expansion in harvested area to 175,000 hectares and a more than 13-percent boost in yield to a record 6.71 tons per hectare. Paraguay's 2021/22 harvested area and yield are projected to strongly rebound from the 2020/21 drought-reduced crop that cut production 22 percent.
Peru	2,350	- -	4.4	- -	↑	Projected production expansion is the result of a 10,000-hectare increase in harvested area to a near-record 430,000 hectares and a 2-percent rise in the yield to 7.92 tons per hectare. The area expansion is based on higher farm prices.
Philippines	12,300	- -	-0.8	- -	↓	The projected slight decline in production is based on a 50,000-hectare reduction in harvested area to 4.75 million hectares, a result of lower farm prices resulting from record and near-record low-priced imports from 2018-2020 and Government efforts to encourage farmers to switch area away from rice. To offset the impact of the low-priced imports, Philippine farmers are receiving Government support to increase yields. However, any potential rice area expansion is quite limited, and continued area diversification away from rice is expected as the Government is supporting rice growers to switch area to higher valued commercial crops. The 2021/22 projected yield of 4.11 tons is the highest on record, although up just 0.2 percent from a year earlier. The yield forecast assumes normal weather and a continuation of Government programs aimed at increasing self-sufficiency.
Sierra Leone	964	- -	0.6	- -	↑	A record rice harvest is projected for Sierra Leone in 2021/22 due to a 10,000-hectare expansion in harvested area to a record 820,000 hectares. The projected yield of 1.87 tons per hectare is fractionally below the year-earlier record. The favorable area and yield outlook are due to above-average rainfall this spring and expectations of+H39 continued above-average rainfall this summer leading up to the onset of the harvest in late September and early October.
Sri Lanka	3,210	- -	-7.0	- -	↓	Production is projected to drop due to a 90,000-hectare reduction in harvested area to 1.0 million hectares, despite a higher yield. Area is down slightly due to more profitable planting options such as vegetables. The average yield is projected higher in 2021/22 based on more favorable weather and the expansion of Government-backed water irrigation initiatives aimed at increasing rice production. The drop in acreage in 2021/2022 is attributed to some rice area being shifted to other crops such as vegetables.
Taiwan	1,150	- -	27.8	- -	↑	A strong recovery from the drought that reduced the 2019/20 and 2020/21 crops is projected based on a 25-percent expansion in harvested area to 250,000 acres and a 2.2 percent increase in the average yield to 6.57 tons per hectare. The first crop was planted in late-February and March; the second crop will be planted in August-September. The Government of Taiwan provides subsidies to rice farmers to fallow land or who only grow one crop a year.
Tanzania	2,310	- -	2.9	- -	↑	Tanzania is projected to produce a record rice crop in 2021/22 due to a higher yield. At 3.18 tons per hectare, the average yield is up almost 3 percent from a year earlier. Harvested area is estimated at 1.1 million hectares, unchanged from an earlier record.
Thailand	19,500	- -	3.6	- -	↑	Production is projected to partially recover from 2 years of drought-reduced crops due to above-normal rainfall in this spring, which will support expanded area for the main (or wet) season crop to be harvested in late 2021 and early 2022 and refill reservoirs for expanded plantings of the second (or dry) season crop to be harvested in the spring and summer of 2022. Main season plantings are expected to return to normal levels. Dry season plantings are expected to partially recover to near-normal levels.
United States	6,464	- -	-10.9	- -	↓	A smaller rice crop in 2021/22 is projected for the United States due to an expected 10.5-percent reduction in harvested area to 1.077 million hectares. The area decline in the South is primarily due to high prices for soybeans and corn, the major competing crops in the Delta. In California, area is projected lower than in 2020/21 due to a lack of water for irrigation caused by well-below-average precipitation during the 2020/21 rainy season, which resulted in much-reduced snow-melt from the Sierra Nevada. Reservoir levels are half or less their normal levels in Northern California. The U.S. average yield of 8.58 tons per hectare is up 0.4 percent from 2020/21.
Uruguay	940	- -	9.6	- -	↑	The strong production expansion is based on a 9.2-percent increase in harvested area to 155,000 hectares and a fractionally higher average yield. The area expansion is based on higher prices and expected stronger exports. The projected yield of 8.66 tons per hectare is the second-highest on record. Despite the projected increases, harvested area remains below the 1998/99 record of 208,000 hectares and production below the 2010/11 record of 1.15 million tons. Uruguay typically exports at least 90 percent of its crop.
Vietnam	26,900	- -	-0.7	- -	↓	Rice production in Vietnam is projected to decline slightly in 2021/22 due to a 50,000-hectare reduction in harvested area to 7.3 million hectares, the lowest since 2006/07 and the fifth consecutive year of declining rice area in Vietnam. Rice area continues trending downward as growers shift area to higher profit crops and urbanization+H48 becomes more prevalent. Saltwater intrusion and weaker flows from the Mekong River are also factors behind the declining rice area in Vietnam. The average yield of 5.9 tons per hectare is unchanged from the year-earlier record. Yields are expected to remain record high due to expanded use of higher yielding varieties and improved farm management.

Continued--

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, May 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 2020/21						
Argentina	806	31	1.4	↑	↑	Production estimate was raised based on a 3,000-hectare increase in harvested area to 183,000 hectares and a 2-percent increase in the average yield to 6.78 tons per hectare, up 2.5 percent from a year earlier. In December 2020, late in the planting season, rains refilled water reservoirs in Corrientes, which along with stronger prices, encouraged some producers to plant later than normal. The revised data are from Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture.
Bangladesh	34,600	-200	-3.5	↓	↓	Crop estimate was lowered based in information from the U.S. Agricultural Office in Dhaka reporting reduced harvested area and yields for the aman crop that was harvested last fall. The aman crop was 2.1 million tons smaller than a year earlier, a result of excessive rainfall during the normal planting months of July and August that both delayed and prevented plantings. The aman harvested area was down 0.28 million hectares from a year earlier.
Bolivia	380	-10	13.1	↓	↑	Production estimate was lowered based on a 5.2-percent drop in the average yield to 2.98 tons per hectare. The harvested area estimate was raised 5,000 hectares to a near-record 185,000 hectares. The revised data were reported by the Bolivian Ministry of Agriculture.
Brazil	7,548	68	-0.7	↑	↓	Production estimate was increased based on a higher yield reported by the Government of Brazil. Harvested area was actually lowered 10,000 hectares to 1.71 million hectares.
Cambodia	5,783	-57	0.7	↓	↑	Lowered the 2020/21 production estimate based on a 35,000-hectare reduction in harvested area to 3.265 million hectares. The wet season crop was damaged more than previously estimated by severe flooding in October 2020. The average yield remains estimated at 2.9 tons per hectare, up just 0.5 percent from a year earlier.
Cote d'Ivoire	962	-438	-21.5	↓	↓	Production estimate was sharply lowered due to a 240,000-ton reduction in the harvested area estimate to 635,000 hectares, more than 15 percent below a year earlier and the lowest since 2011/12. The average yield was reduced 5 percent to 2.33 tons per hectare. The area decline in 2020/21 was largely due to COVID-19 related disruptions to supply chains and transportation resources across the country that delayed or prevented plantings. Yields were low in 2020/21 due to a limited availability of certified seeds of improved varieties
Guinea	1,518	-198	-11.5	↓	↓	Substantial reduction in the 2020/21 production estimate is due to a 253,000-hectare drop in harvested area to 1.672 million hectares, 13 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 2016/17. The revised data are from Guinea's Ministry of Agriculture.
Laos	1,900	-100	18.8	↓	↑	Reduced the crop estimate due to a 20,000-hectare reduction in harvested area to 960,000 hectares and a 3-percent reduction in the average yield to 3.14 tons per hectare. Erratic and below-normal rainfall in the northern growing region adversely impacted harvested area and yields of the wet season crop. The northern region produces about 20 percent Laos' annual rice crop.
Nigeria	4,890	165	-3.0	↑	↓	Production estimate was raised due to a 350,000-hectare increase in the harvested area estimate to 3.60 million hectares, up 3 percent from a year earlier and second only to the 2021/22 projected record of 3.65 million hectares. Part of the increase in harvested was due to expanded multiple season plantings of rice instead of the traditional one crop per year farming. The Government of Nigeria has been promoting rice production in recent years to reduce imports.
Pakistan	8,100	500	12.5	↑	↑	Raised the 2020/21 production estimate based on a 0.2-million ton increase in harvested area to 3.2 million hectares, up nearly 7 percent from a year earlier and the fourth consecutive year of expanded rice area. The average yield was raised to 3.8 tons per hectare.
Paraguay	616	-54	-22.0	↓	↓	Production estimate was lowered based on a 20,000-hectare reduction in harvested area to 155,000 hectares, the lowest since 2017/18. Paraguay's 2020/21 rice crop was adversely impacted by severe drought.
Tanzania	2,244	-66	-2.1	↓	↓	Reduced crop estimate based on a 150,000-hectare reduction in harvested area to 1.1 million hectares. The yield was raised more than 10-percent to 3.09 tons per hectare, still 6 percent below a year earlier.

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

Little Change Projected in Global Trade in 2022; India and Thailand Projected Largest Exporters, China Top Importer

Global rice trade in calendar year 2022 is projected at 46.4 million tons (milled basis), up 0.1 million tons from a year earlier but well below the record 48.4 million tons shipped in 2017. On an annual basis, in 2022 exports are projected to increase from Australia, Burma, Cambodia, EU, Paraguay, Thailand, and Uruguay, with Thailand's exports projected to increase the most, up 0.5 million tons to 6.5 million. In contrast, exports in 2022 are projected to decline for India, the United States, and Vietnam, with India's exports expected to drop 0.8 million tons to 15.0 million tons, still the second-highest on record.

On a year-to-year basis, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Madagascar, Nigeria, and the Philippines account for most of the expected increase in global imports. These expected increases are offset by projected reductions for Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, South America, and the United Arab Emirates, with imports by Bangladesh projected to drop 0.8 million tons to 0.5 million.

Trading prices for most grades of Thailand's regularly milled white rice (nonaromatic, parboiled, or other specialty rice) are nearly unchanged from early April, although prices did drop in late April due to harvesting of the dry season crop before rising in early May, mostly due to a stronger Thai currency. Thailand's 100-percent Grade B long-grain milled rice for export was quoted at $490 per ton for the week ending May 10, unchanged from the week ending April 5. Prices for Thailand's 5-percent brokens parboiled rice—a specialty rice—were quoted at $481 per ton for the week ending May 10, up $8 from the week ending April 5. Prices for Thailand's jasmine rice—a premium aromatic—were quoted at $715 per ton for the week ending May 10, down $59 from the week ending April 5 and the lowest since June 2017.

Price quotes for Vietnam's rice are unchanged from a month earlier as well, after dropping in mid- and late April as the last of the spring crop was harvested. The spring crop is the largest of Vietnam's three annual rice crops, with much of it exported. For the week ending May 11, prices for Vietnam's 5-percent broken-kernel long-grain milled rice were quoted at $495 per ton, unchanged from the week ending April 6. Vietnam's rice now sells at around a $10 premium 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 $395 per ton (bulk) for the week ending May 11, down $15 from the week ending April 6.

Prices quotes from Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay for their 5-percent broken-kernel long-grain milled rice were unchanged from a month earlier, with U.S. prices currently quoted about the same as quotes for similar quality shipments from Uruguay—currently quoted at $620 per ton—and Argentina—currently quoted at $600 per ton. The major South American exporters, located in the southern half of the continent, begin their harvests between late February and early April, depending on their distance from the equator. Harvests should be complete by the end of May for most of these exporters.

Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 metric tons), May 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, 2022						
Bangladesh	500	- -	-61.5	- -	↓	Imports are projected to decline substantially in 2022 due to a larger rice crop.
Benin	540	- -	-1.8	- -	↓	The projected slight decline in imports is based on a larger crop and only slight growth in consumption.
Brazil	700	- -	-14.6	- -	↓	Weaker imports are based on expectations of a larger rice crop.
Burkina-Faso	600	- -	0.0	- -	→	Production is projected to remain record high; consumption growth expected modest.
Cameroon	575	- -	0.0	- -	→	Both production and consumption are projected to be unchanged from 2020/21.
China	2,600	- -	-10.3	- -	↓	Decline in imports is based on a record crop in 2021/22 and extremely large stocks.
Cote d'Ivoire	1,250	- -	4.2	- -	↑	Imports are projected to increase in 2022 based on declining production in 2019/20 and 2020/21.
EU	2,100	- -	7.7	- -	↑	Record imports are based on an increasing population and only slight growth in production.
Ghana	950	- -	0.0	- -	→	Imports are projected to remain record high due to strong consumption growth.
Guinea	725	- -	3.6	- -	↑	Larger import forecast for 2022 is based on strong consumption growth.
Indonesia	600	- -	-14.3	- -	↓	Imports are projected to decline due to a larger crop and declining consumption.
Iran	1,300	- -	8.3	- -	↑	Rising imports are based on Iran's inability to increase production and rising consumption, as well as stronger demand for imported basmati rice.
Iraq	1,150	- -	15.0	- -	↑	Big boost in imports is based on a second consecutive year of declining production caused by limited supplies of irrigation water.
Kenya	650	- -	8.3	- -	↑	Record imports are based on rising consumption and stagnant production. Imports typically account for more than 90 percent of domestic use.
Madagascar	650	- -	23.8	- -	↑	Imports are projected record high based on expectations of a smaller crop.
Malaysia	1,100	- -	0.0	- -	→	Imports projected steady based on stagnant production and little change in consumption.
Mexico	800	- -	0.0	- -	→	Imports are projected unchanged from 2021 due to a larger crop projected for 2021/22.
Mozambique	675	- -	3.8	- -	↑	Rising imports are projected based on rapidly increasing consumption and only a small expansion in production.
Nepal	1,000	- -	5.3	- -	↑	Record imports are based on strong population growth and only a slight increase in production. Nepal was nearly self-sufficient in rice until 2005.
Nigeria	2,000	- -	11.1	- -	↑	Despite forecast for a record rice crop in 2021/22, imports are projected to increase in 2022 due to rapidly rising population and record consumption.
Philippines	2,100	- -	5.0	- -	↑	Imports are projected to expand in 2022 due to an expected slight decline in production.
Saudi Arabia	1,400	- -	-6.7	- -	↓	The forecast for reduced imports in 2022 is based on ample stocks going into the 2021/22 market year. Consumption growth has stalled recently due to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's February 3 ban on tourists entering the Kingdom from 20 listed countries--including the United States--due to COVID-19 concerns. Saudi Arabia does not grow rice.
Senegal	1,250	- -	8.7	- -	↑	Projected record imports are based on continued growth in consumption--fueled by strong population growth--and expectations of only a small increase in production. Senegal is the top global import market for broken kernel rice.
Somalia	525	- -	5.0	- -	↑	Continued strong growth in imports is based on rising consumption and only negligible rice production.
South Africa	1,000	- -	-4.8	- -	↓	Imports are projected to drop based on adequate supplies and only slow growth in consumption. South Africa does not grow rice.
United Arab Emirates	900	- -	-10.0	- -	↓	Imports are projected to decline based on adequate supplies.The UAE does not produce rice.
United Kingdom	650	- -	1.6	- -	↑	Slight increase in imports is based on an increasing population. The UK does not grow rice.
United States	1,200	- -	2.1	- -	↑	Near-record imports in 2022 are based continued growth in demand for specific long-grain Asian aromatic varieties and continued purchases of low-priced medium- and short-grain rice from China by Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory.
Yemen	540	- -	2.9	- -	↑	Imports are projected to increased based on rising demand. Yemen does not produce rice.

Continued--

Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 metric tons), May 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, 2021						
Benin	550	-75	4.8	↓	↑	Subtracted imported parboiled rice shipments that were destined for transshipment.
Brazil	820	-30	-3.9	↓	↓	Imports are lowered based on a larger crop.
China	2,900	0	-9.4	→	↓	Annual decline is based on purchases-to-date, a bumper crop, and the Government's goal of reducing excessive grain stocks.
Ethiopia	750	170	7.1	↑	↑	The 2021 import forecast was raised based on a large upward revision in 2020 imports. The 2020 import revision was based on export data from India.
EU	1,950	-500	-2.2	↓	↓	The big downward revision is largely based on the subtraction of imports by the UK.
Guinea	700	50	4.5	↑	↑	Import forecast was raised based on a smaller crop and the purchase-pace to date.
Kenya	600	-30	0.0	↓	→	Import forecast revised down based on a slower-than-expected pace of purchases to date.
Madagascar	525	55	16.7	↑	↑	Import forecast raised based on a smaller 2021/22 crop forecast.
Nepal	950	50	-2.1	↑	↓	Raised the import forecast based on a strong pace of imports to date and rising consumption due to strong population growth.
Senegal	1,150	25	9.5	↑	↑	Import forecast raised based on strong population growth.
Venezuela	550	70	3.8	↑	↑	Import forecast raised based on a strong pace of deliveries to date.

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), May 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, 2022						
Argentina	340	- -	-2.9	- -	↓	Slight drop in exports in 2022 is based on tighter supplies.
Australia	230	- -	53.3	- -	↑	Big boost in exports is based on an expected strong crop recovery in 2021/22.
Brazil	900	- -	0.0	- -	→	Exports are projected to remain strong mostly due to a weak currency.
Burma	2,100	- -	5.0	- -	↑	Exports are projected to increase due to a larger crop and expected continuation of border trade with China and expansion to other markets as logistical challenges are expected to ease in the coming year.
Cambodia	1,500	- -	7.1	- -	↑	Exports of fragrant rice to the EU are projected to remain strong and informal trade with neighboring countries is likely to continue.
China	2,300	- -	0.0	- -	→	China' s 2022 export are projected unchanged due to ample supplies and expected continued availability of older-crop rice at very competitive prices via government auctions. However, expansion of shipments by several Southeast Asian exporters will prevent growth of China's rice exports in 2022.
EU	550	- -	10.0	- -	↑	A larger medium-grain crop is expected to boost exports, with the U.K. now the largest export market for EU rice.
India	15,000	- -	-5.1	- -	↓	Exports are projected to decline due to slightly lower supplies and expectations of increasing price competitiveness from other major suppliers.
Pakistan	4,300	- -	0.0	- -	→	Exports are projected to remain strong based on a record crop and competitive prices.
Paraguay	700	- -	20.7	- -	↑	Export expansion is based on a strong crop recovery from drought.
Thailand	6,500	- -	8.3	- -	↑	Increased exports are based on a partial crop recovery and an ample carryin that are expected to improve Thailand's price competitiveness.
United States	2,850	- -	-1.7	- -	↓	Weaker exports in 2022 are expected due to a smaller crop and higher projected prices.
Uruguay	850	- -	9.0	- -	↑	Exports are expected to increase in 2022 due to a larger crop.
Vietnam	6,300	- -	-1.6	- -	↓	Vietnam's exports are projected to decline in 2022 due to a slightly smaller crop and greater competition from Thailand.

Table C - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 metric tons), May 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, 2021						
Argentina	350	50	4.5	↑	↑	Export forecast was raised based on a slightly larger crop and larger-than-expected exports in March.
Burma	2,000	-100	-13.0	↓	↓	Export forecast was lowered based on disruptions that resulted from the military coup on February 1.
Cambodia	1,400	-50	3.7	↓	↑	Reduced export forecast is based on a smaller crop estimate for 2020/21.
EU	500	185	-1.2	↑	↓	The large upward revision is the result of including shipments to the UK as EU exports. The UK is the largest export market for EU rice.
India	15,800	300	8.5	↑	↑	Export forecast was raised to a record-high based on competitive prices, shipment pace to date, and huge supplies.
Pakistan	4,300	300	9.3	↑	↑	The upward revision in the export forecast is based on a stronger-than-expected shipment pace to date, competitive prices, and large supplies.
Paraguay	580	-40	-27.8	↓	↓	Reduced the export forecast based on a smaller 2020/21 crop estimate.
Thailand	6,000	-200	5.2	↓	↑	Export forecast was lowered based on a very weak pace of sales to date and uncompetitive prices.
United States	2,900	-100	1.2	↓	↑	The 2021 export forecast was reduced based on a slower-than-expected pace of shipments and sales through late April and continued uncompetitive prices.

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

U.S. trading prices for long-grain milled rice increased slightly over the past month, partly a response to rising prices for most other U.S. agricultural commodities. 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 $630 per ton for the week ending May 11, up $5 from the week ending April 6. U.S prices for Latin American milled-rice markets—Haiti, Colombia, and Mexico—remain quoted at $555 per ton for the week ending May 11, also up $5 from the week ending April 6.

In contrast, milled rice prices in California were unchanged over the past month. Quotes for California Number 1 Grade, 4-percent broken kernels for the week ending May 11 were quoted at $945 per ton (free on board at a domestic mill, Mediterranean specifications), unchanged since early April. For delivery to the Port of Oakland, California, medium-grain milled rice (Korean specifications) prices were quoted at $1,000 per ton for the week ending May 11, unchanged since March 9. For listings of trading prices by exporter and grade of rice, see table 9 in the Excel file.

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