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Rice Outlook

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In this report:

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

U.S. Rice Production Forecast for 2020/21 Raised to 226.3 Million Hundredweight

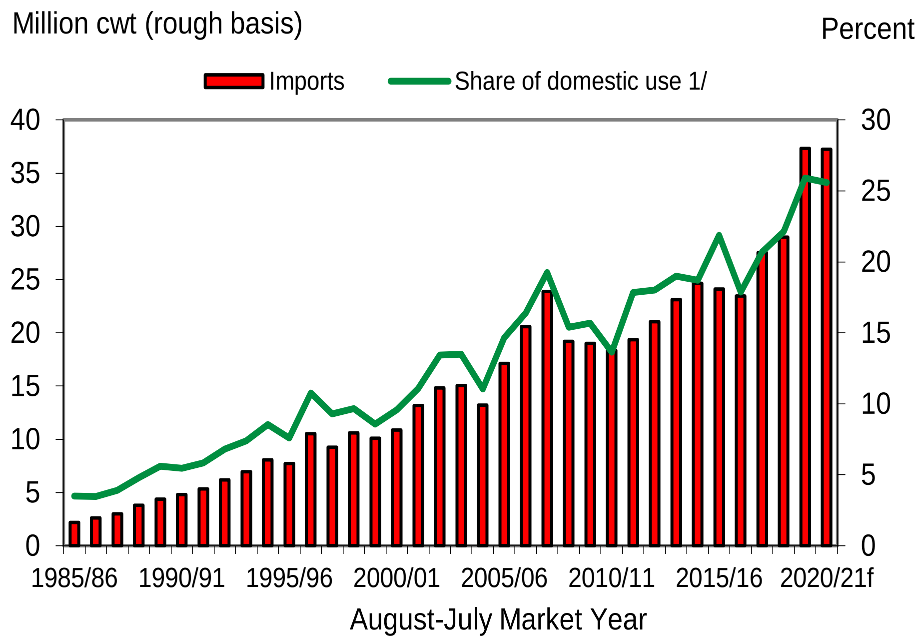
There were two supply-side revisions this month to the 2020/21 U.S. rice balance sheet. First, the crop forecast was raised 1.3 million hundredweight (cwt) to 226.3 million based on a higher yield. Production is up almost 23 percent from a year earlier. Second, imports were revised up 0.5 million cwt to 37.3 million, fractionally below the year-earlier record. These two revisions raised the 2020/21 total supply forecast 1.8 million cwt to 292.2 million, almost 10 percent larger than a year earlier. There were no revisions this month on the 2020/21 use side. Exports remain forecast at 99.0 million cwt, up 5 percent from a year earlier. Total domestic and residual use remains projected at a record 145.5 million cwt, an increase of 1 percent from 2019/20. The larger supply forecast raised ending stocks to 47.7 million cwt, 66 percent larger than a year earlier. The 2020/21 season-average farm price was raised 20 cents per cwt for both long-grain and southern medium- and short-grain, to $11.50 and $11.60 per cwt, respectively.

In the global rice market, production in 2020/21 is projected at a record 501.5 million tons (milled basis), up 1.9 million from the previous forecast. This month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) raised its 2020/21 crop forecasts for India, Pakistan, the Philippines, and the United States. The 2020/21 global consumption forecast was raised 3.0 million tons to a record 499.4 million largely due to a 2.0-million-ton increase in India's forecast to a record 106.0 million tons, fractionally above the year-earlier revised level. Global ending stocks are projected at 179.2 million tons, down 5.7 million from the previous forecast but still up 1 percent from a year earlier and the highest on record. India accounts for almost all of this month's downward revision in 2020/21 global ending stocks.

Global rice trade in 2021 is projected at 44.2 million tons, down 0.2 million from the previous forecast but up almost 3 percent from a year earlier. This month, 2021 export forecasts were lowered for Pakistan and Thailand, but raised for India. On the import side, the 2021 forecast was lowered this month for the Philippines but raised for Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia. Thailand's trading prices for most grades of regular milled white rice declined 4-5 percent over the past month, partly a response to a weaker baht. Vietnam's price quotes dropped about 2 percent, partly a response to the start of the 10th-month harvest. U.S. long-grain milled rice prices remain unchanged since early September, while prices for California's medium-grain milled rice have dropped as harvest pace in the State is well ahead of normal.

Approved by USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board

Figure 1
U.S. rice imports in 2020/21 projected near-record high



Cwt = Hundredweight. 2020/21f = forecasts. 1/ Does not include seed use.
Sources:1985/86-2017/18, *Rice Yearbook Data Set,* USDA, Economic Research Service; 2018/19-2020/21, World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board.

Domestic Outlook

Higher Yield Forecast Raises U.S. 2020/21 Rice Production Forecast 1.3 Million Cwt to 226.3 Million Cwt

There were several supply-side revisions to the 2020/21 U.S. rice balance sheet this month. First, USDA raised its 2020/21 U.S. rice production forecast 1.3 million cwt to 226.3 million cwt, almost 23 percent larger than a year earlier. The slight upward crop revision was largely based on a 38-pound increase in the yield forecast to 7,567 pounds per acre, more than 1 percent higher than a year earlier. In addition, the harvested area estimate was increased 3,000 acres to 2.991 million acres, with Texas accounting for all of the slight upward area revision. Rice harvested area in 2020/21 is estimated to be 21 percent higher than a year earlier, a result of rising long-grain prices and improved weather conditions in much of the South, despite several Gulf Coast hurricanes and above-normal rainfall this spring that delayed planting in the Delta. Both yield and harvested-area estimates were reported by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in its October 9 *Crop Production* report. The revised yield was based on a survey of growers conducted in late September and early October and was based on conditions as of October 1.

By class, the U.S. 2020/21 long-grain crop is projected at 170.0 million cwt, up 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 35 percent larger than a year earlier. The combined medium- and short-grain 2020/21 crop is forecast at 56.4 million cwt, up .35 million cwt from the previous forecast but almost 5 percent smaller than a year earlier.

NASS made several all-rice yield and production revisions by State this month. The 2020/21 yield forecast was raised 400 pounds per acre for Missouri and 100 pounds for California but lowered 100 pounds in Texas. These three yield revisions plus the slight increase in harvested area raised the Missouri crop forecast 5.4 percent and the California forecast more than 1 percent, and fractionally raised the Texas production forecast.

Production Projected Higher in 2020/21 in all Reported States

Harvested area is estimated to be larger than a year earlier in all six reported rice producing States, with Arkansas accounting for 61 percent of the 519,000-acre increase. At 1.44 million acres, Arkansas' 2020/21 harvested area is up 28 percent from a year earlier. Mississippi reported the largest percentage increase in harvested area, up more than 50 percent from a year earlier to 170,000 acres. In nearby Missouri, 2020/21 harvested area is estimated at 215,000 acres, up more than 24 percent from a year earlier. Harvested area in Texas is estimated to have expanded nearly 21 percent to 181,000 acres. In Louisiana, harvested area expanded 14.5 percent to 474,000 acres. Expansion in California was much smaller; at 510,000 acres, California's harvested area is up less than 3 percent from a year earlier.

Yields are projected higher than a year earlier in all reported States except Texas, although projected increases are less than 1 percent in two States. Louisiana and Missouri are the only two States reporting a substantial yield increase in 2020/21. At 6,800 pounds per acre, Louisiana's 2020/21 yield is up 6.6 percent from last year, despite impacts from Hurricane Laura. In Missouri, the 2020/21 yield is forecast at a record 7,900 pounds per acre, up more than 7 percent from a year earlier. Mississippi's 2020/21 yield of 7,400 pounds per acre is up 50 pounds from 2019/20 and is the second-highest on record for the State. California's yield—

forecast at 8,800 pounds per acre—is up 4 percent from 2019/20 but still below the 2015/16 record of 8,890 pounds. In contrast, the Texas 2020/21 yield of 6,400 pounds is nearly 13 percent below a year earlier and the lowest since 1999/2000. The Texas rice crop was adversely impacted by both Tropical Storm Hanna in late July and by Hurricane Laura in late August.

Rice production is projected to be larger than a year earlier in 2020/21 in all reported States, with most southern rice growing States reporting substantial production increases, typically due to expanded area. In 2019/20, persistent rainfall nearly all spring and into early summer resulted in historically high preventive plantings in the South, especially in the Delta, the largest growing region. In 2020/21, spring rains again delayed planting and crop progress in the Delta, though to a lesser degree than in 2019/20, but with a much smaller impact on yields and with little effect on total planted acreage.

In Arkansas, 2020/21 production remains forecast at 108.1 million cwt, up 28 percent from a year earlier, almost entirely due to larger area. Louisiana's 2020/21 production remains forecast at 32.2 million cwt, up 22 percent from a year earlier, due to both expanded area and a higher yield. The Missouri 2020/21 rice crop is forecast at 17.0 million cwt, an increase of 33 percent from a year earlier, due to expanded area and a record yield. Mississippi's 2020/21 crop remains forecast at 12.6 million cwt, 51.5 percent larger than a year earlier, almost entirely due to larger area. Despite a substantial yield decline, the Texas rice crop is projected to increase 5 percent to 11.6 million cwt in 2020/21 due expanded area. Finally, at 44.9 million cwt, California's 2020/21 rice production is up 7 percent from a year earlier, the result of a 3-percent increase in harvested area and a 4-percent increase in yield.

Progress of the 2020/21 U.S. rice crop varies by region, with the Delta still behind its normal pace due to above-average rainfall this Spring and early Summer, as well as to heavy rainfall in late August and early September as Hurricane Laura moved north and east. Rice crop progress is about normal on the Gulf Coast but well ahead of normal in California, as the bulk of the Gulf Coast main crop was harvested prior to Hurricane Laura's making landfall. For the week ending October 4, 71 percent of the U.S. 2020/21 rice crop was reported harvested, 3 percentage points behind a year earlier and below the U.S. 5-year average of 78 percent. On the Gulf Coast, 96 percent of the Louisiana crop was reported harvested by October 4, unchanged from a year earlier but 2 percentage points behind the State's 5-year average. The Texas rice crop was reported completely harvested by October 4th, 2 percentage points ahead of a year earlier and 1 percentage point ahead of the Texas 5-year average.

In the Delta, 70 percent of the Arkansas 2020/21 rice crop was reported harvested by October 4, behind both 79 percent last year and the Arkansas 5-year average of 86 percent. In addition to planting delays due to rain, the Delta also received heavy rainfall and strong winds from Hurricane Laura that caused some lodging and shattering. In nearby Missouri, 56 percent of the crop was reported harvested by October 4th, well below both 79-percent harvested by that date the previous year and the Missouri 5-year average of 73 percent harvested by then. Mississippi's 2020/21 rice crop was reported 71 percent harvested by October 4th, behind both 80 percent a year ago and the Mississippi 5-year average of 86 percent. As in Arkansas and Missouri, rains delayed plantings this Spring in parts of Mississippi, and the State received heavy rainfall and winds as Hurricane Laura moved north and east after making landfall on the Gulf Coast. Finally, 50 percent of the California 2020/21 rice crop was reported harvested October 4th, well ahead of 27 percent a year earlier and the California 5-year average of 32 percent.

U.S. 2020/21 Import Forecast Revised Up Again

This month, USDA again raised its 2020/21 all-rice import forecast from the previous month, this time by 0.5 million cwt to 37.3 million cwt, just fractionally below the 2019/20 forecast ok?. The 2020/21 upward revision—all for long-grain—was largely based on strong purchases from Thailand, India, and Brazil in August and expectations that U.S. purchases from these sellers will remain strong the remainder of the market year. In August, the United States imported almost 102,000 tons (product-weight) of rice, up 33 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. long-grain imports in 2020/21 are projected at 29.5 million cwt, up 0.5 million cwt from the previous forecast but still nearly 1 percent smaller than the year-earlier record. The slight decrease in imports forecast for 2020/21 is based on much larger U.S. long-grain supplies. Thailand and India account for the bulk of U.S. long-grain rice imports and much of the recent strong growth. Nearly all of these shipments are specific Asian aromatic varieties not currently produced in the United States, with Thailand shipping its premium jasmine rice and India shipping its premium basmati. Pakistan also regularly ships smaller quantities of basmati rice to the United States, and in recent years Vietnam has begun selling jasmine rice to the United States, but in much smaller quantities than Thailand does. Brazil regularly ships nonaromatic long-grain rice to the United States, mostly whole-grain white rice but also smaller quantities of broken-kernel rice for processed uses. Brazil is now the third-largest supplier of long-grain rice to the United States, shipping a record 68,800 tons in 2019/20 and 12,500 tons in August 2020.

At a record 7.75 million cwt, the U.S. 2020/21 medium- and short-grain import forecast is up almost 3 percent larger from a year earlier, with China, Thailand, and India expected to remain the top suppliers. China is again expected to supply three or four shipments of 21,000 tons each of medium- and short-grain milled rice to Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory. All of the shipments from China are from Government-held stocks of older rice that are sold at substantial discounts. Thailand's shipments are nearly all specialty rice classified as medium- and short-grain. Italy is expected to continue shipping much smaller quantities of its premium Arborio rice, of which it has been a long-term supplier to the United States.

The 2020/21 U.S. carryin remains estimated at 28.7 million cwt, 36.1 percent below a year earlier. By class, the long-grain carryin remains estimated at 16.9 million cwt, 48 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 2004/05. The combined medium- and short-grain carryin is estimated at 10.7 million cwt, 5 percent larger than a year earlier.

U.S. Makes First Rice Sales to Brazil Since 2010

In early September, the United States sold 30,000 tons of long-grain rough rice to Brazil, the first significant rice sale there since September 2010. By October 1, 2020, the United States had sold 113,300 tons of rice—all rough—to Brazil, making it the largest buyer of U.S. long-grain rough rice after Mexico. Despite the recent large sales to Brazil, actual U.S. rice exports through October 1 have been well below a year earlier, with accumulated exports of all-rice through October 1 reported in the weekly *U.S. Export Sales* at 220,200 tons, down 67 percent from a year earlier. In September, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that just 129,900 tons (product-weight) of rice were exported, the lowest monthly shipment since February 1992. U.S. rice supplies of both long-grain rice and California medium- and short-grain rice were extremely tight the last few months of the 2019/20 market year. In addition, the harvest pace of the 2020/21 crop is behind normal in the Delta mostly due to delayed planting.

Total U.S. rice exports in 2020/21 remain projected at 99.0 million cwt, 5 percent larger than a year earlier and the highest since 2016/17. Long-grain exports remain projected at 71.0 million cwt, 10 percent larger than a year earlier. The year-to-year increase in U.S. long-grain exports is based on larger supplies and expectations of more competitive U.S. prices with South American exporters. In addition to large U.S. sales to Brazil early in the 2020/21 marketing year, a current extremely tight supply situation will exist in the MERCOSUR rice exporting countries until their spring 2021 harvest is complete, likely boosting U.S. sales to Latin America over the next several months. Latin America is expected to remain the top market for U.S. rice 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 U.S. sales to Jordan, Canada, and Mexico. Additional sales to North Africa and the Middle East are unlikely given U.S. prices compared with other suppliers, especially China. California is expected to again account for the bulk of U.S. medium- and short-grain exports, with any exports from the U.S. South again expected to be very small.

By type, U.S. rough-rice exports are projected at 36.0 million cwt, 15 percent above 2019/20. The increase is based on larger supplies and lower expected prices, with Brazil accounting for most of the increase. Almost all of the rough rice is expected to be sold to Latin American buyers, primarily to Mexico, Central America, and South America. The bulk of these shipments will be long-grain rice. U.S. milled-rice exports in 2020/21 remain projected at 63.0 million cwt, nearly unchanged from 2019/20. Northeast Asia, Haiti, Canada, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia are expected to remain the largest commercial markets for U.S. milled rice. Mexico and the EU typically import much smaller quantities of U.S. milled rice.

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

Total use of U.S. rice in 2020/21 remains projected at 244.5 million cwt, almost 3 percent larger than a year earlier. Long-grain total use remains projected at 182.0 million cwt, more than 6 percent larger than a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain total use in 2020/21 remains forecast at 62.5 million cwt, down almost 7 percent from a year earlier.

The above supply and use projections yield a 2020/21 ending stocks forecast of 47.7 million cwt, up 1.8 million cwt from the previous forecast and 65 percent larger than a year earlier. The 2020/21 U.S. rice stocks-to-use ratio of 19.5 is up from the abnormally low 12.0 percent in 2019/20. By class, long-grain ending stocks in 2020/21 are projected at 34.4 million cwt, up 1.6 million cwt from the previous forecast and 103 percent higher than in 2019/20. The long-grain stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 18.9 percent, well above the abnormally low 9.9 percent a year earlier. Medium- and short-grain ending stocks are projected at 12.3 million cwt, up 0.34 million cwt from the previous forecast and 15 percent larger than a year earlier. The medium- and short-grain stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 19.7 percent, up from 16.0 percent from a year earlier.

There were several revisions this month to the 2020/21 season-average farm-price forecasts (SAFP). First, the long-grain 2020/21 SAFP forecast was raised 20 cents to $11.50 per cwt, largely based on higher-than-expected NASS reported cash prices reported in August. The long-grain 2020/21 SAFP is 50 cents below the 2019/20 SAFP of $12.00. The year-to-year decline is based on larger projected U.S. rice supplies and expectations that U.S. farm prices will start to drop soon after harvest is complete across most of the South by late October. The 2020/21 southern medium- and short-grain SAFP is projected at $11.60 per cwt, also up 20 cents from the previous forecast but unchanged from the 2019/20 SAFP. Few, if any, exports of southern medium- and short-grain rice are projected for 2020/21, continuing the quite-low level of exports reported in 2019/20 when North Africa and the Middle East bought almost no U.S. southern rice.

The California 2020/21 (October-September) medium- and short-grain SAFP remains projected at $18.80 per cwt, 10 cents above the 2019/20 SAFP of $18.70. The U.S. medium- and short-grain 2020/21 SAFP is projected at $16.50 per cwt, up 10 cents from the previous forecast but unchanged from the 2019/20 SAFP. The 2020/21 all-rice SAFP is projected at $12.80 per cwt, up 20 cents from the previous forecast but 40 cents below the 2019/20 all-rice SAFP. Except for California, rice SAFPs are reported on an August-July market year.

International Outlook

Rice Production Forecasts for 2020/21 Raised for India, Pakistan, the Philippines, and the United States

Global rice production in 2020/21 is forecast at 501.5 million tons (milled basis), up 1.9 million tons from the previous forecast and up more than 1 percent from a year earlier and the highest on record. Global harvested area in 2020/21 is forecast at 162.3 million hectares, nearly unchanged from the previous forecast but up more than 1 percent from a year earlier.

Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Pakistan, Sub-Saharan Africa, Thailand, and the United States are expected to produce more rice in 2020/21 than a year earlier, with India's crop projected to increase 1.6 million tons, the U.S. crop projected to rise 1.3 million tons, and Thailand's crop to be up 0.95 million tons from 2019/20. These three production expansions are primarily due to increased harvested area. In contrast, Afghanistan, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Iraq, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam are projected to harvest smaller crops in 2020/21.

Global rice consumption and residual use in 2020/21 is projected at a record 499.4 million tons, up 3.0 million tons from the previous forecast and almost 1 percent larger than a year earlier. India accounts for the bulk of this month's upward revision in global consumption and residual use. At 106.0 million tons, India's 2020/21 consumption and residual use is up 2.0 million from the previous forecast and fractionally higher than the year-earlier revised level. The upward revisions are based on the Government of India's sharp increase--beginning in March 2020—in its distribution of wheat and rice to the roughly 800 million citizens eligible to receive subsidized rations through its Targeted Public Distribution System and related programs.

On an annual basis, China accounts for most of the expected increase in global rice consumption and residual use in 2020/21, with much of China's growth accounted for by increased industrial uses of rice. Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, EU, the Philippines, the United States, and Vietnam are also expected to increase consumption and residual use of rice in 2020/21. In contrast, consumption and residual use is projected to decline in 2020/21 in Japan, South Korea, and Nigeria, with the declines in Japan and South Korea the result of long-term, income-driven diet diversification.

This month, USDA lowered its global ending stocks forecast for 2020/21 by 5.7 million tons to 179.2 million tons, still more than 1 percent larger than a year earlier. These are the highest ending stocks on record and 2020/21 will be the 14th consecutive year of increasing global rice stocks. India accounts for most of this month's downward revision in global ending stocks. At 31.5 million tons, India's 2020/21 ending stocks are 6.5 million tons below the previous forecast but up 1.5 million tons from the year-earlier revised forecast. On an annual basis, India and the United States are expected to account for the bulk of the increase in global ending rice stocks in 2020/21. China is projected to account for 65 percent of global ending stocks and India for 18 percent in 2020/21. The global ending stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 35.9 percent, up slightly from 35.8 percent in 2019/20 but still below the 2000/01 record of 37.3 percent.

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, October 2020						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation and comments on year-to-year change or month-to-month revision
1,000 metric tons (milled basis)						
Rice production in 2020/21						
Angola	38	10	35.7	↑	↑	Production increase is mostly due to a record yield forecast. Harvested area was raised 5,000 hectares to 35,000 hectares based on improved weather. Angola's 2019/20 crop was impacted by severe drought. Despite the upward revisions, both area and production remain below record.
Brazil	7,480	136	-1.6	↑	↓	Both harvested area and yield forecasts were raised this month, with the yield revision based on trend. High prices and very tight domestic rice supplies are expected to boost this year's plantings. This is the first increase in Brazil's rice area since 2013/14.
Burkina-Faso	260	26	6.1	↑	↑	Production forecast raised due to a higher yield. The revised yield is based on trend and favorable weather. Harvested area, forecast at 170,000 hectares, is unchanged from the year earlier record.
Burma	12,900	-100	1.6	↓	↑	Reduced harvested area 50,000 hectares to 7.0 million, still up 100,000 hectares from the 2019/20 drought-reduced level. Although rains have partially rebounded from early-season dryness, rainfall still remains below average in the Delta Region, Burma's main rice growing region.
Egypt	4,000	-300	-7.0	↓	↓	Downward revision in production is due to a 60,000-hectare reduction in the harvested area estimate to 700,000 hectares, also down 60,000 from a year earlier. The reduced area estimate is based on stricter Government enforcement of fines for planting outside of the allocated area. Despite stricter enforcement, rice farming is quite profitable and most growers typically plant outside of their allocation despite fines.
Guinea	1,716	172	2,1			Production forecast raised due to a higher yield. The revised yield forecast is based on trend. Both the production forecast and harvested area--estimated of 1.9 million hectares--are the highest on record.
India	120,000	1,000	1.3	↑	↑	The higher production forecast is due to a revised yield. The yield was raised based on trend. Harvested area remains estimated at 44.5 million hectares, up 1.6 percent from a year earlier. This is the fifth consecutive year of record rice production for India. The 2020 Southwest Monsoon was quite favorable to rice production.
Japan	7,620	-30	0.1	↓	↑	Reduced the production forecast due to a 5,000-hectare drop in the harvested area estimate to 1.54 million hectares, the lowest in more than six decades. Rice harvested area in Japan has dropped by 54 percent since 1969/70, a result of Government-sponsored area diversion programs that began in 1971.
Liberia	170	12	0.0	↑	→	Revised production up due to a higher yield forecast based on trend.
Mali	2,150	89	3.4	↑	↑	Crop revised to a record high due to a stronger yield forecast. Yield revised up based on trend. Harvested area of 930,000 hectares is the highest on record and double 2010/11 harvested area.
Mauritania	225	45	-1.3	↑	↓	Production forecast raised based on a revised trend yield.
Mozambique	229	104	31.1	↑	↑	Production forecast raised based on a revised trend yield.
Pakistan	7,600	100	5.6	↑	↑	Upward production revision is due to a higher yield forecast. The record rainfall and heavy flooding experienced by Sindh province this summer did not damage the rice crop as much as previously expected. Pakistan's rice production is the highest on record. At 3.0 million hectares, harvested area is unchanged from the year earlier record.
Philippines	11,700	700	-1.9	↑	↓	Production forecast raised based on Government of the Philippines data indicating larger-than-expected July-September production. Total 2020/21 harvested area was raised 100,000 hectares to 4.55 million, with the yield raised to 4.08 tons per acre, unchanged from the year earlier record. Despite this month's upward revision, harvested area is more than 2 percent below a year earlier and the third consecutive year of decline. Since 2018/19, the Government has encouraged producers to shift area to other crops.
Senegal	789	-27	0.5	↓	↑	Production forecast lowered due to a revised trend yield. Harvested area was raised slightly. Senegal's 2020/21 rice production is projected to be the highest on record and more than double the size of the 2014/15 crop.
Sierra Leone	819	-126	5.7	↓	↑	Reduced production forecast based on a lower trend yield. Harvested area of 800,000 hectares is unchanged from the year earlier record.
Tanzania	2,112	42	3.2	↑	↑	Crop forecast revised up due to a higher trend yield. At 1.25 million hectares, harvested area is the highest on record. Rice production in Tanzania has increased sharply over past decade and is up 60 percent since 2010/11.
United States	7,186	43	22.5	↑	↑	A slightly higher yield forecast reported by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service raised the crop forecast 0.6 percent. Yields were raised in both California and parts of the South. The harvested estimate area was raised slightly. The year-to-year production increase is mostly due to a 21-percent area expansion to 1.21 million hectares.

Continued--

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

Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation and comments on year-to-year change or month-to-month revision
Rice production in 2019/20						
Argentina	795	15	2.7	↑	↑	Raised the yield slightly, but reduced harvested area 2,000 hectares to 185,000 hectares. All revisions are based on Ministry of Agriculture year-end data.
Brazil	7,602	41	6.5	↑	↑	The area estimate was raised 5,000 hectares to 1.665 million based on data reported by the Government of Brazil. This is still the lowest area in at least 90 years.
Cote d'Ivoire	1,250	-150	-4.1	↓	↓	Lowered production estimate due to a large reduction in area. At 740,000 hectares, 2019/20 harvested area is 160,000 hectares below the previous estimate. The area estimate was lowered based on adverse weather in some regions and competition for land from more profitable crops.
Guinea-Bissau	112	-9	5.7	↓	↑	Crop estimate revised down based on a lower reported yield.
Liberia	170	12	4.3	↑	↑	Crop estimate revised up based on a higher reported yield.
Mali	2,080	19	1.0	↑	↑	Crop estimate raised due to a higher reported yield. Harvested area was lowered 40,000 hectares to 910,000.
Mauritania	228	48	24.6	↑	↑	Crop estimate revised up based on a higher reported yield.
Mexico	172	3	-8.5	↑	↓	Harvested area was raised 1,000 hectares to 39,000.
Mozambique	228	33	-31.1	↑	↓	Production estimate was raised based on a higher reported yield.
Sierra Leone	775	-170	-15.8	↓	↓	Crop estimate was lowered due to a sharp drop in the reported yield. Much of the country experienced severe flooding from torrential rains during the summer of 2019.
Togo	97	6	2.1	↑	↑	Production estimate revised up based on a slightly higher reported yield.

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

Global Rice Trade Projected To Increase 3 Percent in 2021

Global rice trade in 2021 is projected at 44.2 million tons (milled basis), down 0.2 million tons from the previous forecast but more than 3 percent larger than a year earlier. This month, reduced export forecast for Thailand and Pakistan more than offset a stronger forecast for India. On the 2021 import side, a 400,000-ton reduction in the Philippines import forecast more than offset higher import forecasts this month for Saudi Arabi and Sri Lanka. Despite the projected expansion in 2021, global trade remains well below the 2017 record of 48.1 million tons, with sharp reductions in imports by Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka since 2017 major factors for this long-term decline.

In 2021, Thailand is expected to expand exports the most, increasing shipments 1.5 million tons. In addition, Australia, Cambodia, India, and Pakistan are projected to increase exports in 2021. In contrast, Argentina, Brazil, Burma, Paraguay, and Vietnam are expected to export less

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

Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Rice importers, 2021						
Burkina-Faso	600	-20	0.0	↓	→	Raised production forecast.
Gambia	250	50	0.0	↑	→	Recent strong import pace is expected to continue.
Guinea-Bissau	620	-30	3.3	↓	↑	Adequate domestic rice supplies.
Iraq	1,150	50	4.5	↑	↑	Tighter domestic rice supplies.
Mali	300	-50	0.0	↓	→	The 2019/20 crop was larger than previously estimated.
Mairitania	70	-40	16.7	↓	↑	Production is projected higher.
Mozambique	650	-50	0.0	↓	→	Production is projected higher.
Philippines	2,600	-400	4.0	↓	↑	Raised the production forecast.
Saudi Arabia	1,350	50	0.0	↑	→	Adverse impact on tourism from COVID-19 disruption has been less than previously expected.
Senegal	1,175	100	2.2	↑	↑	Lower crop forecast.
Sri Lanka	50	30	0.0	↑	→	Recent announcement by the Government of Sri Lanka that it will import 100,000 tons of rice to build up buffer stocks.

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

Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Rice importers, 2020						
Algeria	130	30	2.4	↑	↑	Upward import revision based on recent large purchases.
Brazil	850	50	23.0	↑	↑	In September, the Government of Brazil opened a 400,000-ton duty-free import quota through December 2020 for rough or milled rice. In addition, demand for rice remains strong and supplies are very tight.
Cote d'Ivoire	1,100	100	-18.5	↑	↓	The 2019/20 crop was much smaller than previously estimated and August imports were quite high.
Egypt	280	-70	-57.9	↓	↓	Per capita demand has declined and purchases from China have slowed.
Gambia	250	50	47.1	↑	↑	Stronger-than-expected pace of imports to date.
Guatemala	150	30	50.0	↑	↑	A stronger-than-expected import pace and the announcement by the Government of Guatemala to open a duty-free import quota for rice to support take-home rations for its COVID-19 food aid program.
Guinea	600	50	13.2	↑	↑	Larger-than-expected imports from India, and to a lesser degree, from China.
Honduras	170	15	30.8	↑	↑	Larger-than-expected imports through the first half of the year, especially from the United States and Brazil.
Mauritania	60	-40	-25.0	↓	↓	A larger crop and smaller-than-expected purchases to date.
Mexico	850	50	16.4	↑	↑	A stronger-than-expected pace of imports to date and the recent openning of a 30,000-ton duty-free quota for paddy rice through December 2020 from any source.
Philippines	2,500	-100	-13.8	↓	↓	A larger 2020/21 crop forecast.
Saudi Arabia	1,350	50	-5.3	↑	↓	Greater than expected imports from India to date. The adverse impact of tourism from COVID-19 disruptions has been less than previously expected.
Senegal	1,150	150	15.0	↑	↑	Larger-than-expected imports from India and Brazil. Import pace is back to normal after slowing down due to COVID-19 distruptions.
Somalia	475	25	5.6	↑	↑	Larger-than-expected imports from India.
Sri Lanka	50	30	108.3	↑	↑	Recent announcement by the Government of Sri Lanka that it will import 100,000 tons of rice to build buffer stocks.

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), October 2020

Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Rice exporters, 2021						
India	12,500	500	2.5	↑	↑	A fifth consecutive year of record production and low prices relative to other Asian exporters.
Pakistan	4,100	-200	2.5	↓	↑	Production was reduced slightly and prices are expected to remain higher than prices for India's rice.
Thailand	7,000	-500	27.3	↓	↑	A weaker pace of shipments in 2020 and expectations of continued uncompetitive prices.

Table C - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 metric tons), October 2020.--*Continued*

Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Rice exports, 2020						
Argentina	315	15	-18.8	↑	↓	Stronger-than-expected pace of exports to date.
Burma	2,300	100	-14.8	↑	↓	Stronger-than-expected shipments to China, EU, and Africa.
India	12,200	1200	24.6	↑	↑	The very strong export pace reported for July is projected to continue due to low prices and an imporoved logistical situation.
Pakistan	4,000	-400	-12.1	↓	↓	Recently released trade data for 2019/20 indicate weaker exports. Pakistan's prices remain above India's and COVID-19 has caused some logistical disruptions.
Thailand	5,500	-1000	27.3	↓	↑	The August shipment pace was very weak as Thailand's prices are uncompetitive with other Asian sources.
United States	3,100	50	-1.2	↑	↓	Large recent sales of rough rice to Brazil and Mexico's August announcement that it was opening a 30,000-ton duty free import quota for rice through December 2020 from any source.

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

rice in 2021, with Brazil's and Vietnam's exports expected to decline 0.3 million tons. On the 2021 import side, imports are projected to increase for Cote d'Ivoire, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates. These 2021 import increases are expected to be partially offset by reduced imports by Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Mexico, and Turkey.

Trading prices for most grades of Thailand's regularly milled white rice declined by 4-5 percent over the past month, a result of a lack of new sales, a weakening Thai baht, and expectations Sthat the main harvest for nonaromatic rice will begin next month. Thailand's 100-percent Grade B long-grain milled rice for export was quoted at $480 per ton for the week ending October 5, down $20 from the week ending September 7. Prices for Thailand's 5-percent brokens parboiled rice were quoted at $475 per ton for the week ending October 5, down $25 from the week ending September 7. Prices for Thailand's jasmine rice—a premium aromatic—were quoted at $848 per ton for the week ending October 5, down 8 percent from the week ending September 7, as harvest began this month.

Price quotes for Vietnam's rice have also decreased over the past month as new sales have been weak and the 10th-month crop harvest has begun. For the week ending October 6, prices for Vietnam's 5-percent broken kernel long-grain milled rice (from the recently harvested autumn crop) were quoted at $465 per ton, down $10 from the week ending September 8. Prices quotes from Uruguay for higher grades of long-grain milled rice were up $85-$95 per ton from a month earlier, while quotes from most other South American sources were up more than $100 per ton. The major South American exporters—located in the southern half of the continent—completed their 2019/20 harvest in late May and currently have very small supplies of exportable rice, a major factor in the recent large increase in their prices.

U.S. trading prices for long-grain milled rice were unchanged over the past month, with supplies of exportable rice still extremely small as supplies from the 2019/20 crop have nearly all been sold and the 2020/21 harvest in the Delta is delayed. 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 October 6, unchanged from the week ending September 8. U.S prices for Latin American milled-rice markets—Haiti, Colombia, and Mexico—remain quoted at $550 per ton for the week ending October 6, also unchanged from the week ending September 8.

In contrast, milled rice prices in California declined over the past month, partly due to the early harvest of a crop projected to be up 7 percent from 2019/20. Quotes for California Number 1 Grade, 4-percent broken kernels for the week ending October 6 were quoted at $850 per ton (free on board at a domestic mill, Mediterranean specifications), down $55 from the week ending September 8. For delivery to the Port of Oakland, California medium-grain milled rice (Korean specifications) prices were quoted at $940 per ton for the week ending October 6, down $35 from the week ending September 8. For listings of trading prices by exporter and grade of rice, see Table 9 in the Excel file.

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