



Rice Outlook

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

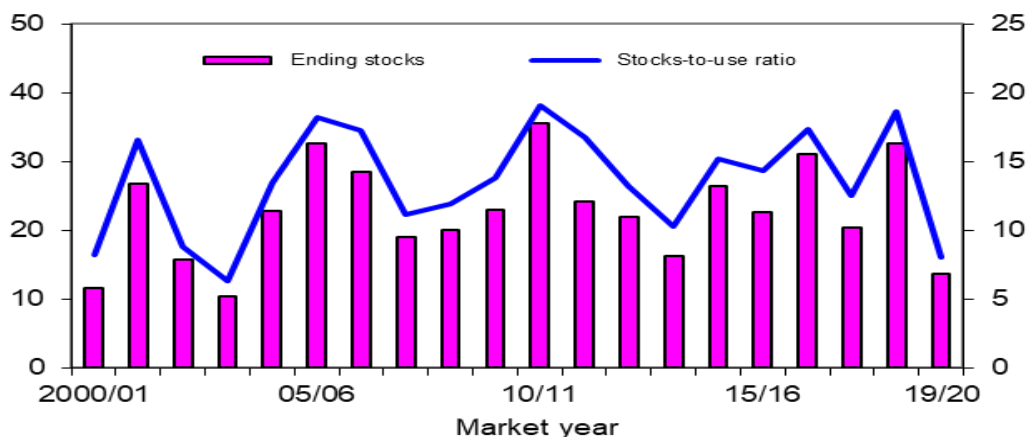
U.S. 2020/21 Rice Plantings Indicated at 2.85 Million Acres

The only revision this month to the U.S. 2019/20 rice balance sheet was a 0.5-million cwt reduction in the long-grain import forecast to 25.5 million cwt, still the highest on record. The smaller import forecast lowered the long-grain ending stocks forecast 3.5 percent to 13.7 million cwt, the lowest since 2003/04. The long-grain season-average farm price (SAFP) was raised 20 cents to \$12.20 per cwt. The California 2019/20 SAFP was also raised \$20 cents, now forecast at \$18.20 per cwt. In the global rice market, forecasts for 2019/20 production, consumption, trade, and ending stocks were all lowered this month, with Southeast Asia accounting for most of the production and export declines. Export price quotes from Thailand and the United States continue to increase, with quotes the highest for both in 7 years. Neither Vietnam nor India are currently quoting prices for exports.

U.S. long-grain ending stocks in 2019/20 are projected to be lowest since 2003/04

Million cwt (rough-rice basis)

Percent



Notes: Cwt = hundredweight. 2019/20 are forecasts.
 Sources: USDA, Economic Research Service, *Rice Yearbook Data Set*, 2000/01–2016/17, and USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*, 2017/18–2019/20.

Domestic Outlook

U.S. Rice Plantings Indicated to Rise 12 Percent in 2020/21

In March, U.S. rice growers indicated they would expand rice plantings 12 percent in 2020/21 to 2.85 million acres. Despite the intended increase, plantings would still be 3 percent below 2018/19 plantings. Long-grain accounts for almost all of the 2020/21 intended area expansion. At 2.1 million acres, U.S. long-grain plantings are indicated to be up 18 percent from a year earlier, with the expansion primarily due to rising U.S. prices, much stronger and still rising global prices, and expectations of extremely tight U.S. ending stocks in 2019/20. Almost all U.S. long-grain rice is grown in the South. Despite the intended increase, U.S. long-grain acreage is below the previous forecast of around 2.3 million acres.

In contrast, combined medium- and short-grain plantings for 2020/21 are indicated at 747,000 acres, down almost 2 percent from a year earlier, with medium grain accounting for all of the intended decline. At 41,000 acres, U.S. short-grain plantings in 2020/21 are indicated to be up 7,000 acres from a year earlier. Just 1,000 acres of short-grain rice were indicated for planting in the South in 20/21, with the remaining 40,000 acres intended for planting in California. The South accounts for most of the intended decline in medium- and short-grain plantings in 2020/21, with plantings indicated down 15,000 acres to 257,000 acres. Prices for southern medium- and short-grain rice have declined since the start of the 2019/20 market year, with global demand for southern medium- and short-grain rice extremely small to date. However, the U.S. medium- and short-grain intended plantings for 2020/21 are up almost 30,000 acres from earlier forecasts, as the indicated area decline in the South was less than expected given the falling prices and negligible global demand.

The 2020/21 intended plantings were developed by NASS from a survey of producers conducted in early March, prior to actual plantings, that asked growers how many acres of rice they intended to plant in 2020/21. Actual plantings often differ significantly from intended plantings as both weather and market conditions change. The first USDA survey of actual rice plantings for 2020/21 will be conducted in early June and will be reported in the NASS June *Acreage* scheduled for release on June 30, 2020.

Rice plantings were indicated higher than a year earlier in all reported States—although California's increase was minuscule—with Arkansas accounting for 78 percent of the 307,000-acre total U.S. expansion. At almost 1.4 million acres, Arkansas' plantings are indicated to be 21 percent higher than a year earlier, with long-grain accounting for all of the intended expansion. Medium- and short-grain acreage in Arkansas is indicated unchanged at 206,000 acres. Arkansas accounts for the bulk of the southern medium- and short-grain crop. Mississippi growers indicated the largest percentage expansion, with 2020/21 plantings indicated at 150,000 acres—all long-grain—up 28 percent from a year earlier and the highest since 2016/17. Texas growers indicated they would expand rice plantings nearly 10 percent to 172,000 acres, with long-grain accounting for all of the intended expansion and almost all of the Texas rice crop. Growers in Missouri indicated they would expand rice acreage more than 6 percent in 2020/21 to 199,000 acres, with long-grain accounting for most of the intended area expansion and the bulk of State's rice crop.

Rice growers in Louisiana indicated in March that they would expand total rice plantings more than 1 percent to 430,000 acres, with long-grain accounting for all of the 2020/21 intended expansion. In contrast, Louisiana's medium-grain intended plantings of 40,000 acres are down 15,000 acres from 2019/20. In California, growers indicated they would plant 500,000 acres of

rice in 2020/21, up just 2,000 acres from a year earlier, with short-grain accounting for all of the intended expansion. California's long-grain acreage, indicated at 10,000 acres, is unchanged from 2019/20. California medium-grain acreage is indicated at 450,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from 2019/20. Rice acreage in California remains below levels typically planted prior to the severe drought in 2014/15 and 2015/16 that sharply reduced rice plantings, with growers shifting some rice acreage to less-water-intensive crops such as almonds.

U.S. 2019/20 Long-Grain Rice Import Forecast Lowered

The only 2019/20 U.S. all-rice supply-side revision this month was a 0.5-million cwt reduction in the import forecast to 32.0 million cwt, still up more than 10 percent from a year earlier and the highest on record. Long-grain accounts for all of this month's downward revision in U.S. rice imports. At 25.5 million cwt, U.S long-grain rice imports are 0.5 million cwt below the previous forecast but still up almost 9 percent from a year earlier and the highest on record. This month's downward revision was based on smaller-than-expected deliveries in January and February—which followed December's record imports—and expectation that less restaurant use due to recent lock-downs across much of the United States in response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus this winter will not be fully offset by increased home use of these Asian varieties. Most of the imported long-grain rice consists of specific Asian varieties of jasmine and basmati rice.

As of February 2020, the United States had imported almost 475,000 tons of long-grain rice in 2019/20, up almost 13 percent from a year earlier, with Thailand accounting for most of the faster pace of long-grain imports through February. Thailand supplies more than 70 percent of the U.S. imported long-grain rice, with its premium jasmine varieties accounting for almost all its whole-kernel rice shipments to the United States. India and Pakistan together account for around 20 percent of U.S. long-grain imports, consisting almost exclusively their premium basmati varieties. In addition to these long-term suppliers of aromatic rice, Vietnam has recently started shipping much smaller amounts of fragrant rice to the United States.

The United States produces several aromatic rice varieties, many of them with taste, appearance, texture, and aroma similar to those of the specific Asian aromatic varieties currently imported. U.S. plant breeders are working to develop U.S. aromatic varieties that match the qualities desired by consumers of the imported Asia aromatic varieties.

Brazil is currently supplying much smaller quantities of long-grain non-aromatic rice to the United States, mostly broken kernels that are used in processed products. Vietnam and Thailand both ship a few thousand tons of broken kernel rice to the United States each year as well.

U.S. 2019/20 medium- and short-grain imports remain projected at a record 6.5 million cwt, 17 percent higher than a year earlier. Through February 2020, the United States imported almost 113,000 tons of medium- and short-grain rice, up nearly 6 percent from a year earlier. China shipped about 42,000 tons to the United States through February, down about 3 percent from a year earlier, with almost all of this rice shipped to Puerto Rico. Nearly all of China's rice exports to the United States are from its Government-accumulated stocks of older and typically lower-quality rice that are sold at heavily discounted prices. China returned as a major supplier to Puerto Rico late in the 2017/18 market year after nearly a decade of absence. Thailand shipped about 42,000 tons of medium- and short-grain rice to the United States through February, up 13 percent from a year earlier, with most of it a specialty rice that is classified as medium- and short-grain. Through February, India shipped more than 20,000 tons of medium- and short-grain

rice to the United States, up 16 percent from a year earlier. Italy shipped about 2,000 tons of its Arborio rice to the United States, up 12 percent from a year earlier.

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

Total U.S. supplies of rice in 2019/20 are forecast at 261.5 million cwt, down 0.5 million cwt from the previous forecast and 7 percent below a year earlier. The small downward revision this month is due to the slightly lower import forecast. The year-to-year decline in total rice supplies is due to a much smaller crop. Long-grain 2019/20 total supplies are forecast at 183.7 million cwt, down 0.5 million cwt from the previous forecast and 11 percent below a year earlier—a result of a substantially smaller crop. Medium- and short-grain supplies remain forecast at 75.7 million cwt, up 4 percent from 2018/19—mostly due to a larger carryin.

Beginning stocks of all rice for 2019/20 remain estimated at 44.9 million cwt, 53 percent larger than a year earlier. Long-grain beginning stocks remain estimated at 32.6 million cwt, more than 60 percent higher than a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain beginning stocks remain estimated at 10.2 million cwt, up 34 percent from a year earlier. Stocks of brokens—not reported by length of grain—remain estimated at 2.1 million cwt, up 46 percent from a year earlier.

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

Through April 5, plantings of the 2020/21 U.S. rice crop were slightly behind normal but about on pace with last year. For the week ending April 5, 17 percent of the U.S. 2020/21 rice crop had been planted, 2 percentage points behind the U.S. 5-year average but unchanged from a year earlier. Crop progress varied by State. In Arkansas, just 1 percent of the 2020/21 rice crop was reported planted by April 5, behind 10 percent a year earlier and behind the State's 5-year average of 12 percent. Steady rainfall in the Delta in March and early April delayed the start of plantings in much of the region. In nearby Missouri, none of the crop had been planted by April 5, leaving it behind 4 percent a year earlier and a State average of 3 percent. Planting in Mississippi's has also been delayed by rains, with just 2 percent of its 2020/21 crop planted by April 5, 9 percentage points behind both last year and the State's 5-year average.

In contrast to the Delta, plantings were ahead of normal on the Gulf Coast as favorable weather for planting arrived by mid-March. In Louisiana, 70 percent of the 2020/21 rice crop was reported planted by April 5, 6 percentage points ahead of both last year and the States 5-year average. The Texas 2020/21 rice crop was reported 73 percent planted by April 5, well ahead of 32 percent a year earlier and the Texas 5-year average of 42 percent. Planting of the

California crop does not typically begin until after mid-April. By April 5, emergence of the 2020/21 rice crop was reported only on the Gulf Coast. In Louisiana, 45 percent of the 2020/21 rice crop was reported emerged by April 5, ahead of both 33 percent last year and the State's 5-year average of 34 percent. The Texas 2020/21 rice crop was reported 47 percent emerged by April 5, well ahead of just 6 percent last year and the State's 5-year average of 17 percent.

U.S. Rice Shipments and Sales to Mexico and Nicaragua Remain Well Ahead of a Year Earlier

U.S. all-rice exports in 2019/20 remain forecast at 99.0 million cwt (rough basis), up almost 6 percent from a year earlier, with exports through February 2020 of 56.85 million cwt, up 10 percent from a year earlier. U.S. long-grain exports in 2019/20 remain forecast at 71.0 million cwt, 8 percent larger than a year earlier. Through February 2020, U.S. exports of long-grain rice totaled 41.5 million cwt, up 11.5 percent from a year earlier, with U.S. shipments well ahead of a year earlier to Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. Latin America is projected to remain the top market for U.S. long-grain rice in 2019/20, with the majority of its purchases rough rice. The Middle East and Canada are projected to account for most of the remaining U.S. long-grain exports, purchasing almost exclusively milled rice, including a small amount of brown rice sold to Canada.

U.S. medium- and short-grain exports in 2019/20 remain projected at 28.0 million cwt, up just 0.2 million cwt from 2018/19. The extremely small year-to-year projected increase in U.S. medium- and short-grain exports is based on expectation of another consecutive year of few sales outside the three Northeast Asia buyers—Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan—and to Jordan, Mexico, and Canada. All imports of rice by the three Northeast Asian countries are made as part of their World Trade Organization agreements. These three Asian countries account for the bulk of U.S. medium- and short-grain rice exports, with California supplying almost all of this rice. The United States has sold almost no rice to North Africa in 2019/20, although it did sell 25,000 tons to Turkey—all California rough rice—in February, the first sale anywhere near this size since May 2017. The South typically accounts for the bulk of U.S. sales to North Africa and sometimes supplies rice to Turkey. California supplies most of the U.S. rice to Jordan, which takes only milled rice.

U.S. 2019/20 rough-rice exports remain forecast at 37.0 million cwt, 12 percent larger than a year earlier. Through February 2020, the U.S. had exported 19.3 million cwt of rough rice, 12 percent ahead of a year earlier. U.S. 2019/20 milled-rice exports (combined milled and brown rice exports on a rough basis) remain projected at 62.0 million cwt, more than 2 percent above 2018/19. Haiti and Japan—the two largest export markets for U.S. milled-rice—account for most of the expected increase in 2019/20 milled-rice exports, with Japan's increase largely due to a slightly larger than normal carryover of sales from 2018/19. U.S. sales to Sub-Saharan Africa are projected to remain quite small as the U.S. is not price-competitive in this huge and fast-growing global rice market.

Total domestic and residual use of rice in the United States for 2019/20 remains forecast at 133.0 million cwt, 7.5 percent below the year-earlier record and the smallest since 2015/16. Long-grain domestic and residual use remains projected at 99.0 million cwt, down 9 percent from a year earlier. The projected decline in long-grain domestic and residual use from the previous year is primarily based on a much smaller crop, which would indicate a smaller residual component that accounts for post-harvest losses. Medium- and short-grain domestic and residual use in 2019/20 remains forecast at 34.0 million cwt, more than 2 percent below a year earlier.

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

The slightly lower U.S. import forecast resulted in a 0.5-million cwt decrease in the 2019/20 ending stocks forecast to 29.5 million cwt, 34 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 2003/04. The 2019/20 U.S. ending stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 12.7 percent, the lowest since 2007/08. Long-grain 2019/20 ending stocks are projected at 13.7 million cwt, down 0.5 million cwt from the previous forecast and 58 percent below a year earlier, the lowest since 2003/04. The long-grain 2019/20 ending stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 8.1 percent, well below 18.7 percent in 2018/19 and the lowest since 2003/04. For medium- and short-grain rice, 2019/20 ending stocks remain projected at 13.7 million cwt, 35 percent larger than a year earlier. The medium- and short-grain ending stocks-to-use ratio remains projected at 22.2 percent, up from 16.3 percent in 2018/19 but still below the abnormally large levels reported for 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Based on data reported in the March *Rice Stocks*, U.S. rice stocks on March 1, 2020, are estimated at 93.6 million cwt (combined rough- and milled-rice stocks on a rough-rice basis), down almost 15 percent from a year earlier. By class, long-grain ending stocks on March 1 are estimated at 55.6 million cwt, down almost 25 percent from a year earlier. In contrast, combined medium- and short-grain ending stocks on March 1 of 35.3 million cwt were up 4 percent from a year earlier. Stocks of brokens—not classified by grain length—are estimated at 2.7 million cwt, up 36 percent from a year earlier.

Rice stocks on March 1, 2020 were lower than a year earlier in all reported States. Arkansas held about half of all stocks of U.S. rice on March 1, 2020, with its rice stocks estimated at 46.6 million cwt, down 14.5 percent from a year earlier. California's March 1 rice stocks of 28.1 million cwt were 4 percent below a year earlier. In Texas, March 1 rice stocks are estimated at 5.7 million cwt, a decline of 10 percent from March 1, 2019. Louisiana's March 1 estimated rice stocks of 5.3 million cwt were 44 percent smaller than a year earlier. Missouri's March 1 rice stocks are estimated at 4.6 million cwt, a decline of 24 percent from a year earlier. Finally, Mississippi's March 1 rice stocks of 1.7 million cwt were 46 percent below a year earlier.

There were several upward revisions to the 2019/20 U.S. season-average farm-price (SAFP) forecasts this month, primarily based on reported monthly cash prices through February 2020 and expectations regarding U.S. and global prices the remainder of the market year. First, the 2019/20 U.S. long-grain SAFP forecast was raised 20 cents per cwt to \$12.20, \$1.40 above 2018/19. The higher expected long-grain SAFP in 2019/20 is largely based on much tighter U.S. supplies and recent increases in global trading prices. Second, the California medium- and short-grain 2019/20 SAFP was also raised 20 cent per cwt to \$18.20, still \$2.90 below the 2018/19 SAFP. The upward revision in the California medium- and short-grain 2019/20 SAFP increased the 2019/20 U.S. medium- and short-grain 20 cents to \$16.20, down \$2.30 from the 2018/19 SAFP. On balance, these revisions by class raised the all-rice 2019/20 SAFP 20 cents to \$13.20 per cwt, an increase of 60 cents from a year earlier.

International Outlook

Production Forecasts for 2019/20 Lowered for Burma, Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam

This month, USDA lowered its 2019/20 global production forecast 3.2 million tons to 496.1 million tons, slightly more than half a percent below the 2018/19 record global rice crop. Southeast Asian exporters account for more than 80 percent of the projected production decline in 2019/20, a result of regional drought. These crop reductions in Southeast Asia have been a factor behind a reduced forecast for 2020 global rice exports. Crop projections for 2019/20 were also lowered in Central America and the Caribbean due to drought.

Global rice consumption and residual use in 2019/20 is projected at 490.2 million tons, down 2.1 million from the previous forecast and almost 1 percent below the year-earlier record. Brazil, Burma, Japan, South Korea, Nigeria, and Thailand account for most of this month's downward revision in global consumption and residual use, with Nigeria's consumption and residual use lowered 300,000 tons to 6.3 million due to much lower supplies. South Korea's consumption and residual use was lowered 0.35 million tons to 4.1 million tons, the lowest since 1968/69, based on recommendations from the U.S. Agricultural Office in Seoul. On an annual basis, rice consumption and residual use are projected to be higher than a year earlier in Bangladesh, Burma, China, Egypt, India, the Philippines, and Vietnam. In contrast, rice consumption is expected to continue to decline in Japan and South Korea due to diet diversification. U.S. consumption and residual use is projected to decline 7.5 percent in 2019/20 due to smaller supplies.

Global rice trade in 2020 is projected at 42.8 million tons, down almost 2 percent from the previous forecast and 5 percent below the revised 2019 estimate. This is the third consecutive year of declining global rice trade, with weaker imports by Bangladesh, China, and Nigeria major factors. Global exports in 2020 are further being limited by export bans and restrictions recently enacted by several Southeast Asian exporting countries to ensure adequate supplies for their domestic market amid the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. These exporters have also seen their supplies tighten due to the adverse impacts of severe drought on their rice production. Although India, the world's largest exporter, has not banned exports, its 21-day lockdown that began on March 25 and the resulting labor shortage, which has hindered the movement of rice to ports and onto ships, has also halted traders from signing new contracts.

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, April 2020						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation and comments on revisions and year-to-year change
1,000 metric tons (milled basis)						
Rice production in 2019/20						
Burma	12,700	-600	-3.8%	↓	↓	Insufficient rainfall led to reduced plantings for both the wet season and dry season crops. Low reservoir levels led to government-imposed water restrictions that resulted in farmers planting less water-intensive crops.
Cambodia	5,200	-488	-9.4%	↓	↓	Reduced both area and yield due to regional drought.
Colombia	1,750	110	2.9%	↑	↑	Both area and yield were raised based on information from the U.S. Agricultural Office in Bogota.
Dominican Republic	550	-10	-3.5%	↓	↓	Expect a slightly lower yield due to drought.
Ethiopia	91	--	-3.2%	--	↓	Added to database this month.
EU	1,985	17	0.4%	↑	↑	EU production estimate raised due to a higher yield reported for Italy, the largest producer in the EU.
Japan	761	-189	-0.6%	↓	↓	Reduced area slightly and lowered the yield based on information from the U.S. Agricultural Office in Tokyo.
Laos	1,950	-100	16.1%	↓	↑	Slight reduction in area and yield due to regional drought.
Nicaragua	249	-15	-17.0%	↓	↓	Slight reduction in area and yield due to regional drought.
Philippines	11,400	-600	-2.8%	↓	↓	Low prices have encouraged farmers to shift land to more profitable crops. The low prices have also prevented farmers from utilizing the best management practices which has reduced yields.
Thailand	18,000	-500	-11.5%	↓	↓	Severe drought has led to more stringent restrictions on use of irrigation water that has reduced the total dry season crop by 48 percent from a year earlier. Supplies of water in major reservoirs are 60 percent of the levels reported a year ago.
Venezuela	115	-13	-32.4%	↓	↓	Area was reduced to 60,000 hectares based on information from the U.S. Agricultural Office in Caracas. The yield was actually raised due to more fertilizer provided by the government.
Vietnam	27,369	-931	10.0%	↓	↑	The rainy season was short and below average and the upstream flow of water from the Mekong River was below average. These factors resulted in depleted supplies of water for irrigation, soil moisture deficits, and saltwater intrusion in the lower Mekong River Delta.
Rice production in 2018/19						
Burma	13,200	25	0.0%	↑	→	Revision based on yearend data. Crop estimate was increased based on a slightly higher yield. The area estimate was fractionally lowered.
Colombia	1,700	9	-3.6%	↑	↓	Area raised slightly and yield lowered fractionally based on information from the U.S. Agricultural Office in Caracas.
Cuba	299	-26	13.7%	↓	↑	Lowered both area and yield based on revised data from the Government of Cuba.
Ethiopia	94	--	8.0%	--	↑	Added to database this month.
EU	1,977	19	-2.6%			Production and yield raised slightly due to a larger crop in Italy.
Vietnam	27,344	-423	-1.1%	↓	↓	Production lowered based on a smaller area estimate reported by the Government of Vietnam. Area declined due to concerns over water availability and some area shifted to more profitable crops

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

Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 MT), April 2020.						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of month-to-month change in forecast
Rice importers, 2020						
Brazil	850	-50	23.0%	↓	↑	Import forecast lowered based on a weaker currency and increased reliance on domestic supplies.
Colombia	200	20	5.3%	↑	↑	Greater consumption due to migrants from Venezuela.
Côte d'Ivoire	1,350	-100	-3.6%	↓	↓	Higher Asian prices and a distribution of import flow from Vietnam.
Cuba	500	-100	9.4%	↓	↑	Expect disruption of imports from main-supplier Vietnam.
Dominican Republic	35	5	45.8%	↑	↑	Reduction based on import data to date.
Ethiopia	500	--	-3.8%	--	↓	Added to database this month.
Ghana	900	-50	0.0%	↓	→	Import forecast lowered based on Vietnam's export ban. Ghana is a big importer of fragrant rice.
Kazakhstan	105	-20	-25.0%	↓	↓	Expect some disruption of trade flows.
Nigeria	1,200	-300	-33.3%	↓	↓	Import forecast lowered based on higher global trading prices and reduced purchasing power caused by declining oil prices. These are the lowest imports since 1999.
Oman	220	-55	0.0%	↓	→	Reduced the consumption forecast.
Russia	200	-30	-12.7%	↓	↓	Expect reduced imports from India.
Saudi Arabia	1,100	-350	-22.8%	↓	↓	Expect fewer visitors during hajj and umrah as well as fewer public gatherings.
Senegal	1,000	-50	0.0%	↓	→	Higher global prices and challenges to logistics.
South Africa	1,000	-50	3.5%	↓	↑	Tighter global exportable supplies of parboiled rice.
United Arab Emirates	875	-50	2.9%	↓	↑	Postponement of the World Expo and other large events as well as fewer tourists.
Rice importers, 2019						
Brazil	691	-79	28.7%	↓	↑	Yearend trade data.
Cuba	457	-3	-8.4%	↓	↓	Yearend trade data.
Ethiopia	520	--	-13.3%	--	↓	Added to database this month.
Ghana	900	-50	8.4%	↓	↑	Yearend trade data.
South Korea	297	5	-21.2%	↑	↓	Yearend trade data.
Panama	63	-17	-50.4%	↓	↓	Revision based on supplier data.
Vietnam	500	100	0.0%	↑	→	Yearend trade data.

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

Table C - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 MT), April 2020						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of month-to-month change in forecast
Rice exporters, 2020						
Burma	2,200	-500	-18.5%	↓	↓	Reduced exports based on a smaller crop, the suspension of the issuing of new export licenses, and the limit of exports to just 100,000 tons per month.
Cambodia	900	-500	-33.3%	↓	↓	Reduced exports based on a smaller crop and the ban on exports of paddy rice and regular milled white rice that began on April 5.
Colombia	40	40	3900.0%	↑	↑	Export forecast now accounts for unofficial shipments to Venezuela.
Kazakhstan	100	-10	13.6%	↓	↑	Reduced exports based on the Eurasian Economic Union ban on rice exports, although some rice can move within the customs union.
Russia	100	-40	-34.6%	↓	↓	Reduced exports based on the Eurasian Economic Union ban on rice exports, although some rice can move within the customs union.
South Africa	115	-10	3.6%	↓	↑	Reduced exports based on slower shipments to neighboring countries. Export forecast is now more in line with prior years.
Vietnam	6,300	-700	-8.0%	↓	↓	Export forecast lowered due to a smaller crop forecast and the export ban announced last month.
Rice exports, 2019						
Burma	2,700	200	-1.8%	↑	↓	Raised export estimate based on Government yearend trade data.
Japan	67	7	11.7%	↑	↑	Export estimate raised based on yearend trade data.
Laos	81	31	-3.6%	↑	↓	Increase in exports based on a higher derived estimate of shipments to China.

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

Global ending rice stocks in 2019/20 are projected at a record 181.6 million tons, down 0.7 million tons from the previous forecast but up 5.9 million tons from a year earlier. This is the 13th consecutive year of increasing global ending stocks, with China accounting for about 65 percent of the total and India 19 percent. Ending stocks forecasts for 2019/20 were lowered this month for Brazil, Ghana, Laos, the Philippines, Senegal, the United States, and Vietnam, with the Philippines accounting for the bulk of the downward revision in the 2019/20 global ending stocks forecast. On an annual basis, China and India account for most of the projected increase in global ending stocks in 2019/20. The global stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 37.0 percent in 2019/20, up from 36.1 percent a year earlier but still fractionally below the 2000/01 record of 37.3 percent.

Trading prices for most grades of Thailand's regularly milled nonaromatic white rice rose 29-30 percent from early March, mostly due to concerns over a sharply reduced second crop harvest this spring and early summer and increased panic buying from importers, as other regional exporters have either banned new contracts or have enforced lockdowns that have effectively halted new sales. Thailand's quoted prices are now the highest since September 2012, with -

Thailand's top competitors Vietnam and India currently not quoting prices. Thailand's 100-percent Grade B long-grain milled rice for export were quoted at \$582 per ton for the week ending April 6, up from \$481 for the week ending March 9. Prices for Thailand's premium jasmine rice—quoted at \$1,099 per ton for the week ending April 6—were up from \$973 for the week ending March 9.

The Government of Vietnam halted the making of new export contracts effective on March 25, with no price quotes since. For the week ending March 23, Vietnam's 5-percent broken kernels long-grain milled rice were quoted at \$430 per ton, up from \$381 a month earlier. Quoted prices from Uruguay are up slightly from a month earlier, while export prices from Argentina and Paraguay are virtually unchanged from a month earlier. The South American harvest began in late March in the southern part of the continent that accounts for the bulk of the region's exports.

U.S. trading prices for long-grain rice continued to increase over the past month, with prices for U.S. long-grain milled rice, Number 2 Grade, 4-percent broken kernels (free on board a vessel at a Gulf port, Iraq specifications) currently quoted at \$665 per ton, up \$50 from the week ending March 10. U.S. prices for Latin American milled markets—Haiti, Colombia, and Mexico—were quoted at \$595 per ton for the week ending April 7, up \$25 from the week ending March 10. These are the highest U.S. prices in at least 7 years. U.S. long-grain milled rice prices are currently being supported by continued large sales to Haiti, expectations of much tighter U.S. supplies later this market year, and higher and rising global trading prices. The U.S. price difference over Thailand's long-grain milled rice is currently \$83 per ton, down from \$134 per ton a month earlier. The U.S. price difference over South American exporters increased \$40-\$50 per ton over the past month for several sources and varieties.

Quotes for California Number 1 Grade, 4-percent broken kernels for the week ending April 7 were \$860 per ton (free on board at a domestic mill), up \$10 from the week ending March 10. For delivery at the Port of Oakland, California medium-grain milled rice was quoted at \$975 per ton for the week ending April 7, up \$40 from the week ending March 10. For listings of trading prices by exporter and grade of rice, see Table 9 in the Excel file.

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