



Rice Outlook

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In this report:

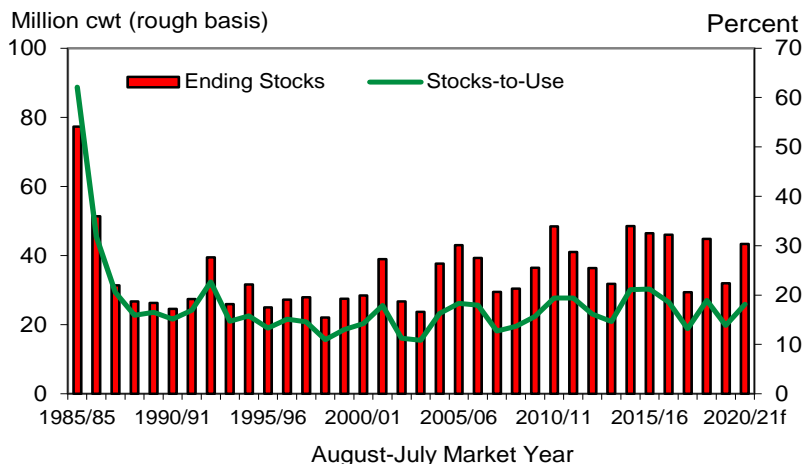
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Rice Outlook monthly tables, in excel format, can be found on the Rice Outlook report page on USDA's Economic Research Service website.

U.S. Rice Export Forecasts Lowered for Both 2019/20 and 2020/21

There were several changes this month to both the 2019/20 and 2020/21 U.S. rice balance sheets. For 2019/20, imports were raised, domestic use increased, and exports were lowered, resulting in a 1.5-million-hundredweight (cwt) increase in the ending stocks forecast. For 2020/21, carryin, imports, and domestic use were revised up, while exports were lowered slightly. On balance, these revisions resulted in a 2.5-million-cwt increase in the 2020/21 ending stocks forecast. The 2020/21 U.S. season-average farm prices were unchanged from a month earlier. In the global market, record production is projected for 2020/21 despite a reduction this month in Vietnam's crop forecast. The 2021 global rice trade forecast was lowered fractionally but is still 6 percent above a year earlier. Global ending rice stocks were revised higher and remain record high. Thailand's trading prices have declined from early May, while U.S. prices are unchanged and Vietnam's prices are up slightly.

Figure 1
U.S. rice stocks projected to increase 35 percent in 2020/21



Cwt = Hundredweight. 2019/20 and 2020/21f = forecasts.
 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

U.S. 2020/21 Total Rice Supply Forecast Raised 2.5 Million Cwt

There were two supply-side revisions this month to the 2020/21 U.S. all-rice balance sheet. First, the 2020/21 carryin was increased 1.5 million cwt to 32.0 million cwt, still down almost 29 percent from a year earlier. The increase was due to an upward revision—all for long-grain—in the 2019/20 import forecast. By class, the long-grain 2020/21 carryin was raised 1.5 million cwt to 16.2 million cwt, down 50 percent from a year earlier and second-smallest since 2004/05. In contrast, the combined medium- and short-grain 2020/21 carryin remains forecast at 13.7 million cwt, up 35 percent from a year earlier.

The 2020/21 all-rice import forecast was raised 1.0 million cwt to a record 33.6 million cwt, up just 0.1 million cwt from the 2019/20 revised import forecast. The 2020/21 import revision was also all for long-grain and was based on stronger-than-expected purchases in 2019/20 through April 2020 and expectations of continued large imports in 2020/21. Specific Asia aromatic varieties not currently grown in the United States account for virtually all of the steady expansion in U.S. long-grain imports. At 27.0 million cwt, U.S. 2020/21 long-grain imports are up 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and unchanged from the year-earlier revised record.

U.S. medium- and short-grain imports in 2020/21 remain forecast at a record 6.6 million cwt, an increase of just 0.1 million cwt from 2019/20. U.S. medium- and short-grain imports have increased sharply since 2017/18 due to continued large purchases of China's rice by Puerto Rico. This rice is sold at substantially discounted prices from multi-year Government-held stocks. Since May 2018, China has sent three or four shipments of about 21,000 tons of milled medium- and short-grain rice to the United States every 12 months. These shipments are expected to continue in 2020/21. China and Thailand each now account for about a third of total U.S. medium- and short-grain rice imports. India supplies around 15 percent, with Italy a regular supplier of smaller quantities of its Arborio rice.

The 2020/21 U.S. rice crop remains projected at 216.2 million cwt, up 31.5 million cwt from a year earlier, a result of both larger area and a higher yield. The harvested area estimate of 2.81 million acres is based on the NASS March 31 *Prospective Planting* report and uses a 5-year Olympic average of planted-to-harvested ratio by class. The first survey of actual plantings of the 2020/21 U.S. rice crop will be reported by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in the June *Acreage* report, scheduled for release on June 30. The 2020/21 average rice yield remains projected at 7,699 pounds per acre, up 228 pounds from a year earlier and the highest on record. The yield is based on trend yield by class. The first survey yield forecast for the 2020/21 U.S. rice crop will be released on August 12 in the NASS *Crop Production* report.

By class, long-grain rice production in 2020/21 remains projected at 155.5 million cwt, up 24 percent from a year earlier. Almost all U.S. long-grain rice is grown in the South. The 2020/21 combined medium- and short-grain crop remains projected at 60.7 million cwt, up almost 3 percent from a year earlier and the largest since 2011/12. About 80 percent of the U.S. medium- and short-grain crop is grown in California.

Progress of the 2020/21 U.S. rice crop remains slightly behind normal in parts of the Delta, a result of persistent rain and wet conditions this Spring, similar to 2019/20 but not as severe. For the week ending June 7, 95 percent of the U.S. rice crop was reported planted, unchanged from

last year's rain-delayed crop but 3 percentage points behind the U.S. 5-year average. Progress varied by region and State. On the Gulf Coast, planting was completed in Louisiana by June 7, just 1 percentage point ahead of a year earlier and even with the State's 5-year average. Harvest should begin in Louisiana in early July. Planting was only slightly slower in Texas, with 98 percent of the crop reported planted by June 7, 1 percentage point ahead of both a year earlier and the Texas 5-year average. For both Gulf Coast States, early planting bodes well for a good yield and a successful ratoon crop.

In the Delta, the Arkansas crop was reported 93-percent planted by June 7, unchanged from a year earlier but behind the Arkansas 5-year average of 98 percent, a result of the persistent rain this Spring. Missouri's crop was reported 86-percent planted by June 7, 2 percentage points ahead of a year earlier but behind the Missouri 5-year average of 95 percent, also a result of the continued rain and wet conditions. Mississippi's crop was reported 98-percent planted by June 7, up 3 percentage points from a year earlier but unchanged from the State's 5-year average. Finally, in California, 100 percent of the rice crop was reported planted by June 6, 1 percentage point ahead of both a year earlier and the California 5-year average.

Emergence of the 2020/21 U.S. rice crop remains behind normal in much of the Delta as well, with the pace of emergence varying by State and region. For the week ending June 7, 88 percent of the U.S. 2020/21 rice crop had emerged, 4 percentage points ahead of a year earlier but behind the U.S. average of 93 percent. On the Gulf Coast, 98 percent of the Texas crop had emerged by June 7, ahead of both 91 percent a year earlier and the Texas 5-year average of 94 percent. In Louisiana, 97 percent of the crop had emerged by June 7, 1 percentage point ahead of a year earlier and 2 percentage points ahead of the Louisiana 5-year average.

In the Delta, 87 percent of the Arkansas crop had emerged by June 7, 5 percentage points ahead of the year-earlier rain-delayed crop but behind the Arkansas 5-year average of 95 percent. In nearby Missouri, 78 percent of the rice crop had emerged by June 7, just 1 percentage point ahead of last year's rain-delayed crop but well behind the Missouri 5-year average of 91 percent. Mississippi's crop was reported 89 percent emerged by June 7, 4 percentage points ahead of a year earlier but behind the Mississippi 5-year average of 93 percent. In California, 85 percent of the crop had emerged by June 7, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and 5 percentage points ahead of the California 5-year average.

Crop conditions for 2020/21 are much improved from a year earlier in most States, mostly due to more favorable weather in most areas, despite the persistent rainfall in parts of the Delta. For the week ending June 7, 70 percent of the U.S. 2020/21 rice crop was rated in good or excellent condition, compared with 61 percent a year earlier. In Arkansas, 64 percent of the 2020/21 crop was rated in good or excellent condition for the week ending June 7, up from 56 percent a year earlier. In nearby Missouri, 54 percent of the 2020/21 rice crop was rated in good or excellent condition, up from 48 percent a year earlier. In contrast, 56 percent of Mississippi's 2020/21 rice crop was rated good or excellent, down from 63 percent a year earlier. In Louisiana, 83 percent of the 2020/21 rice crop was rated in good or excellent condition, up from 68 percent a year earlier. Similarly, in Texas, 62 percent of the 2020/21 rice crop was rated in good or excellent condition for the week ending June 7, well above just 35 percent a year earlier. Finally, in California 85 percent of the 2020/21 rice was rated in good or excellent condition, unchanged from a year earlier.

This month's upward revision in both carryin and imports boosted the 2020/21 U.S. total rice supply forecast 2.5 million cwt to 281.8 million cwt, 7 percent larger than in 2019/20. The expectation of larger supplies in 2020/21 is the result of a 17-percent increase in production more than offsetting a substantial decline in carryin, with imports just fractionally higher. At

198.7 million cwt, the 2020/21 long-grain total supply forecast is up 2.5 million cwt from the previous forecast and more than 7 percent larger than in 2019/20. A much larger crop and slightly increased imports more than offset a substantial decline in carryin. Combined medium- and short-grain total supplies remain forecast at 81.1 million cwt, also up 7 percent from 2019/20, mostly due to a larger carryin, with expected increases in production and imports much smaller.

2020/21 U.S. Export Forecast Lowered; Domestic Use Raised

Total use of U.S. rice in 2020/21 is projected at 238.5 million cwt, up 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 3 percent larger than the year-earlier revised level, with forecasts for both exports and domestic and residual use projected to be higher in 2020/21. Long-grain total use is projected at 176.0 million cwt, an increase of 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 4 percent larger than the year-earlier revised forecast. Medium- and short-grain total use in 2020/21 remains forecast at 62.5 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from a year earlier.

Total domestic and residual use in 2020/21 is projected at 139.5 million cwt, up 2.0 million cwt from the previous forecast, more than 3 percent larger than a year earlier and the second highest on record. This month's upward revision in the total domestic and residual use forecast was primarily based on the higher import forecast. The year-to-year increase in total domestic and residual use is primarily based on increased supplies of rice in 2020/21 and expectations of greater post-harvest losses associated with a larger crop. By class, long-grain domestic and residual use is projected at 105.0 million cwt, up 2.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 4 percent larger than a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain domestic and residual use remains projected at 34.5 million cwt, up almost 1.5 percent from 2019/20.

Total U.S. rice exports in 2020/21 are projected at 99.0 million cwt, down 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast but still 3 percent larger than the year-earlier revised estimate. Long-grain accounts for all of the expected increase in U.S. exports in 2020/21. At 71.0 million cwt, the U.S. 2020/21 long-grain export forecast is down 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast but still up more than 4 percent from the year-earlier revised level. This month's slight reduction in the 2020/21 long-grain export forecast is based on expectations of continued strong competition from South American exporters in Latin American markets. Latin America is the largest market for U.S. long-grain rice. On an annual basis, the expected increase in long-grain exports is based on larger U.S. supplies and lower projected U.S. long-grain prices. Similar to recent years, the United States is expected to ship little rice to Sub-Saharan Africa beyond food aid shipments—which account for less than 3 percent of total U.S. rice exports—and is likely to continue to sell almost no long-grain rice to Asia. U.S. prices are too high for these two price-sensitive markets.

U.S. medium- and short-grain rice exports in 2020/21 remain projected at 28.0 million cwt, unchanged from 2019/20. The United States is expected to again export little rice beyond its current six core markets. First, the three major buyers in Northeast—Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan, whose purchases are all made as part of World Trade Organization agreements—are expected to again account for around two-thirds of U.S. medium- and short-grain exports (on a rough basis). Jordan typically imports around 3 million cwt, all milled rice. Mexico typically purchases a small amount of U.S. medium-grain rough rice. Canada is also regular buyer of relatively small quantities U.S. medium-grain milled rice. Turkey, once a large regular buyer of U.S. medium- and short-grain rice, returned as small buyer of U.S. rice in 2019/20, purchasing less than a million cwt of California rough rice. Little, if any, growth in U.S. exports of medium- and short-grain exports to Turkey is expected in 2020/21.

By type, U.S. rough-rice exports are projected at 36.0 million cwt, down 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast but up 2.0 million from the revised 2019/20 level. Most of the rough rice is expected to be sold to Latin American buyers, primarily Mexico, Central America, and northern South America. The bulk of these shipments will be rough rice. Milled-rice exports in 2020/21 remain projected at 63.0 million cwt, up 1.0 million cwt from 2019/20. Northeast Asia, Haiti, Canada, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia are expected to remain the largest markets for U.S. milled rice.

The above supply and use projections yield a 2020/21 ending stocks forecast of 43.3 million cwt, up 1.5 million cwt from the previous forecast and 35 percent larger than the year-earlier revised level. The 2020/21 stocks-to-use ratio of 18.2 percent is well above a revised abnormally low 13.9 percent for 2019/20. By class, long-grain ending stocks in 2020/21 are projected at 22.7 million cwt, up 1.5 million cwt from the previous forecast and 40 percent higher than this year's unusually low level. The long-grain stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 12.9 percent, well above the abnormally low 9.6 percent a year earlier. In contrast, medium- and short-grain ending stocks are projected to increase 35 percent in 2020/21 to 18.6 million cwt, unchanged from the previous forecast. The medium- and short-grain stocks-to-use ratio remains projected at 29.7 percent, up from 22.2 percent a year earlier and the highest since 2015/16.

U.S. 2019/20 Import Forecast Increased, Export Forecast Lowered, Domestic and Residual Use Forecast Raised

There were several revisions this month to the 2019/20 U.S. rice balance sheet, with revisions for both all rice and long-grain. On the supply side, the all-rice import forecast was raised 1.5 million cwt to 33.5 million cwt, up 17 percent from a year earlier. The substantial upward revision was based on monthly Census imports through April and expectations regarding imports the remainder of the 2019/20 market year. In April, the United States imported a record 136,993 tons of rice (product-weight), up 65 percent from a month earlier. Thailand supplied more than 82,000 tons of rice in April, a record as well. The long-grain import forecast was raised 1.5 million cwt to a record 27.0 million cwt. In April, the United States imported almost 99,000 tons of long-grain rice, a record high, with Thailand supplying nearly 71,000 tons, also a record high. Almost all of Thailand's long-grain exports to the United States are of its premium jasmine variety, an aromatic rice.

On the 2019/20 use side, the all-rice total domestic and residual use forecast was raised 2.0 million cwt to 135.0 million cwt, still 6 percent below a year earlier. The upward revision was based on the higher import forecast. The long-grain domestic and residual use forecast was raised 2.0 million cwt to 101.0 million cwt, still 7 percent below a year earlier.

The 2019/20 all-rice export forecast was lowered 2.0 million cwt to 96.0 million cwt, still almost 3 percent larger than a year earlier. The downward revision this month was based on Census export data through April, data from the weekly *U.S. Export Sales* report through May 28, and expectations regarding sales and shipments the remainder of the market year. In addition, U.S. prices are uncompetitive with South American exporters, as U.S. prices have remained firm in the face of extremely tight supplies as the market year comes to a close.

On balance, these supply and use revisions resulted in a 1.5-million-cwt increase in the 2019/20 ending stocks forecast to 32.0 million cwt, still nearly 29 percent below a year earlier. All of the revision in stocks was for long-grain stocks, which were raised 1.5 million cwt to 16.2 million cwt, 50 percent below a year earlier and the second-smallest since 2003/04.

There were no changes this month to the 2020/21 season-average farm-price forecasts (SAFP). The long-grain 2020/21 SAFP remains projected at \$11.80 per cwt in 2020/21, down 30 cents from the revised 2019/20 SAFP of \$12.10. The decline in the long-grain SAFP that is projected for 2020/21 is based on larger U.S. supplies and lower global trading prices as restrictions and logistical limitations resulting from the COVID-19 ease. The 2020/21 southern medium- and short-grain SAFP remains projected at \$11.80 per cwt, up 10 cents from the revised 2019/20 SAFP. Little, if any, increase in exports of southern medium- and short-grain rice is projected for 2020/21, continuing the quite low level of 2019/20 exports, with North Africa and the Middle East not buying U.S. southern rice.

The California 2020/21 medium- and short-grain SAFP remains projected at \$18.00 per cwt, down 10 cents from the revised 2019/20 SAFP. Both production and export of California medium- and short-grain rice are projected to be similar to the 2019/20 levels, with plantings indicated up slightly. In the global medium- and short-grain market, Australia is expected to increase exports next spring due to a projected crop recovery, likely pressuring prices lower toward the end of the 2020/21 market year. The U.S. medium- and short-grain 2020/21 SAFP is projected at \$16.00 per cwt, down 10 cents from the revised 2019/20 SAFP. The 2020/21 all-rice SAFP remains projected at \$12.90 per cwt, down 20 cents from the revised 2019/20 all-rice SAFP.

There were small revisions this month to the 2019/20 U.S. SAFP for each class of rice and for all rice. The revisions were primarily based on NASS-reported cash prices through April and expectations regarding prices the remainder of the 2019/20 market year. The long-grain 2019/20 SAFP was raised 10 cents to \$12.10 per cwt, the southern medium- and short-grain SAFP was reduced 10 cents to \$11.70 per cwt, and the California 2019/20 SAFP was raised 10 cents to \$18.10 per cwt. These revisions raised the U.S. 2019/20 medium- and short-grain SAFP 10 cents to \$16.10 per cwt and raised the all-rice 2019/20 SAFP 10 cents to \$13.10 per cwt.

International Outlook

Global Rice Production Forecasts for 2020/21 Raised for Brazil and Nigeria; Lowered for Vietnam

Global rice production in 2020/21 is forecast at 502.1 million tons (milled basis), up 0.1 million tons from the previous forecast, up 1.6 percent from a year earlier and the highest on record. The projected annual increase is the result of expanded area, with 2020/21 global rice-harvested area projected at 162.9 million hectares, the second-highest on record. Burma, China, India, Indonesia, Thailand, and the United States account for the bulk of the 2020/21 expected harvested-area expansion. In contrast, Brazil and the Philippines are projected to harvest less area in 2020/21, with Brazil's rice sector continuing its 40-year area decline and its area projected to be the lowest in more than 90 years. Despite this year's projected increase, there has been no upward trend in global rice-harvested area since 2013/14.

China, Indonesia, Thailand, and the United States are expected to show the largest production increases in 2020/21, with China's and Thailand's crops increasing 2.3 million tons and 2.4 million tons, respectively. Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan are expected to harvest significantly larger crops as well. India's production is projected to increase slightly to a new record of 118.0 million tons. In contrast, Brazil, Colombia, Guinea, the Philippines, 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 498.0 million tons, down 0.1 million tons from the previous forecast but up almost 2 percent from a year earlier. This month, downward revisions in 2020/21 consumption and residual use for the Philippines and Vietnam barely offset higher forecasts for China, Nigeria, and the United States. On an annual basis, China and India account for most of the expected increase in global consumption and residual use in 2020/21, with much of China's growth accounted for by increased industrial uses of rice. Bangladesh, Burma, Egypt, EU, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, and the United States are also projected 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 diet diversification.

With production exceeding use by 4.1 million tons, global ending stocks in 2020/21 are projected to increase more than 2 percent from a year earlier to a record 185.3 million tons, up 1.2 million tons from the previous forecast. This is the 14th consecutive year of increasing global rice stocks. Ending stocks forecasts were raised this month for China, the Philippines, Thailand, and the United States. On an annual basis, China, India, and the United States account for the bulk of the expected increase in global ending stocks in 2020/21, with India's ending stocks projected to increase 3.0 million tons. China's 2020/21 rice ending stocks are projected at a record 117.5 million tons and India's at a record 38.0 million tons, accounting for 63 percent and almost 21 percent, respectively, of global ending stocks. U.S. ending stocks are projected to increase 35 percent to almost 1.4 million tons. The global ending stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 37.2 percent, up slightly from 37.0 percent in 2019/20 but still fractionally below the 2000/01 record of 37.3 percent.

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, June 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						
Brazil	7,208	340	-2.8%	↑	↓	The 2020/21 yield forecast was raised based on a higher reported yield by the Government of Brazil for the recently harvested 2019/20 crop. The 2020/21 harvested area estimate remains the lowest since the late 1920s.
Burma	13,100	0	3.1%	→	↑	Rice production is projected to increase in 2020/21 based on an expected 2.9-percent expansion in harvested area to 7.1 million hectares, matching the 2018/19 record. The area expansion is based on favorable weather so far in 2020/21. The 2019/20 rice crop was adversely impacted by drought and low reservoir levels.
China	149,000	0	1.5%	→	↑	Record rice production is projected based on the Government of China's encouragement of growers to expand double-cropping of rice in the South to ensure adequate supplies for domestic use. This is a reversal of its previous policy that discouraged double-cropping due to the low-quality of the early indica rice. At 30.2 million hectares, China's 2020/21 total rice-harvested area is projected to be up 1.7 percent from 2019/20.
Nigeria	5,040	79	0.0%	↑	→	Yield forecast raised to match revised 2019/20 yield. Harvested area and production are unchanged from the 2019/20 revised record highs.
Paraguay	708	11	0.6%	↑	↑	Production revised up to a record high based on a higher yield forecast. The 2020/21 harvested area forecast was lowered slightly.
Thailand	20,400	0	13.3%	→	↑	Production is projected to be record high based on expected increased wet-season plantings to be followed by a normal dry season area. The average total yield is projected to be up 3.5 percent from 2019/20. In 2019/20, dry season plantings were sharply reduced due to drought and reduced reservoir levels.
United States	6,864	0	17.1%	→	↑	Rising prices at planting time and expectations of normal weather are projected to boost plantings 13.6-percent from last year. The area estimate is based on a survey of farmers' intended plantings conducted in March. The 2019/20 crop reported record preventive plantings due to excessive springtime rainfall in much of the South. The 2020/21 all-rice yield is projected to be up more than 3 percent from last year based on 20-year trends by class and assuming normal weather.
Vietnam	27,200	-300	-0.6%	↓	↓	The 2020/21 production forecast was lowered based on a smaller harvested area estimate. The area estimate was lowered based on Government efforts to encourage crop diversification, more profitable planting options for some growers, and concerns over adequate water for irrigation.

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, June 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						
Brazil	7,412	272	3.8%	↑	↑	Production estimate raised based on a record yield reported by the Government statistical agency. Area continued its near 40-year decline.
India	117,939	-61	-0.1%	↓	↓	The 2019/20 total production estimate was revised down based on the Government of India's May 15 release of its Third Advance Estimate that indicated slightly smaller harvested area. The average yield was raised to a record 4.06 tons per hectare (rough-rice basis). The Government of India reported a near-record kharif crop of 101.7 million tons and a record rabi crop of 16.2 million tons.
Mexico	169	-6	-10.1%	↓	↓	The 2019/20 production estimate was lowered slightly due to a smaller harvested area. The year-to-year decline is also the result of a decline in harvested area.
Nigeria	5,040	328	11.1%	↑	↑	The 2019/20 production estimate was revised up based on FAO data indicating a larger harvested area and a higher yield. Both area and production were the highest on record. The average yield is a near-record.

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), June 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 year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Rice importers, 2021						
Brazil	800	-100	6.7%	↓	↑	Import forecast revised down based on a larger crop forecast and the increased price of imports due to a weaker Brazilian currency.
United States	1,090	-10	1.9%	↓	↑	Record imports in 2021 are revised based on expectations of continued growth in imports of fragrant rice from Asia and steady imports of medium-grain rice from China by Puerto Rico. The slight downward revision this month is based the timing of 2020/21 market year record imports.

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Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 MT), June 2020.--Continued						
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 year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Rice importers, 2020						
Brazil	750	-100	8.5%	↓	↑	Downward revision in imports is based on larger production in 2019/20 and higher prices for imports due to a weaker Brazilian currency.
Cuba	450	-20	-1.5%	↓	↓	Import forecast was lowered based on delivery pace.
Ethiopia	560	60	7.7%	↑	↑	Upward revision in imports is based on a stronger-than-expected pace through April.
Indonesia	800	-200	33.3%	↓	↑	Import forecast is lowered based on a weaker-than-expected pace-to-date and little interest by the National Food Logistics Agency (BULOG) in importing rice. BULOG is responsible for managing food security, buffer stocks, and price stabilization.
United States	1,070	45	9.1%	↑	↑	Record imports in April and expectations of continued long-term growth in imports of Asian aromatic varieties.

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

Global rice trade in 2021 is projected at 45.0 million tons (milled basis), down 0.23 million tons from the previous forecast but up 6 percent from a year earlier. Global trade remains below the 2017 record of 48.1 million tons. Thailand is expected to account for the largest share of the total export increase, with exports increasing 2.0 million tons to 9.0 million tons. Australia, Cambodia, China, India, and the United States are also projected to increase exports in 2021. On the 2021 import side, the Philippine imports are forecast to increase 800,000 tons and imports are projected to increase 200,000 tons each for Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Smaller import increases in 2021 are projected for Brazil and Guinea. These 2021 import increases are expected to be partially offset by reduced imports in 2021 by China, Indonesia, and South Korea, with Indonesia's imports projected to decline 0.4 million tons.

Table C - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 MT), June 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 year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Rice exporters, 2021						
Argentina	280	-20	-6.7%	↓	↓	Export forecast lowered based on a reduced import forecast for Brazil, a major buyer of Argentina's rice.
Brazil	550	50	-8.3%	↑	↓	Export forecast raised based on larger supplies.
Paraguay	600	-10	5.3%	↓	↑	Export forecast lowered based on a reduced import forecast for Brazil, a major buyer of Paraguay's rice.
United States	3,150	-50	1.6%	↓	↑	Export forecast lowered based on expectations of continued strong competition from South American exporters.
Vietnam	6,400	-200	-4.5%	↓	↓	Export forecast lowered based on a smaller crop.
Table C - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 MT), June 2020.--Continued						
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 year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Rice exports, 2020						
Argentina	300	-30	-22.7%	↓	↓	Export forecast lowered based on expected weaker imports by Brazil, a major buyer of Argentina's rice.
Australia	50	20	-62.7%	↑	↓	Slower-than-expected export pace through April.
Brazil	600	100	-37.1%	↑	↓	A stronger-than-expected pace of shipments to date and a larger crop.
China	3,000	-100	10.3%	↓	↑	Export forecast lowered based on a slower-than-expected pace through April.
Paraguay	570	-30	-17.3%	↓	↓	Export forecast lowered based on expected weaker imports by Brazil, a major buyer of Paraguay's rice.
Thailand	7,000	-500	-7.4%	↓	↓	Export forecast lowered based on uncompetitive prices, increased competition from Southeast Asian exporters, and reduced demand for parboiled rice from West Africa.
United States	3,100	-75	-1.1%	↓	↓	Increased competition from South America exporters, especially in Latin America markets.
Vietnam	6,700	200	1.8%	↑	↑	Export forecast revised up based on a stronger-than-expected shipment pace to date and uncompetitive Thai prices.

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

Trading prices for most grades of Thailand's regularly milled non-aromatic white rice declined 5-6 percent from early May as Vietnam was increasing its sales after ending its remaining export restrictions in early May. However, after dropping through mid-May, Thailand's prices started rising again due to tight domestic supplies and the fulfilment of previously contracted sales of white rice to Asia and West Africa. Thailand's prices remain well above competitor levels, making Thailand an uncompetitive source in 2020. Thailand's 100-percent Grade B long-grain milled rice for export was quoted at \$516 per ton for the week ending June 8, down \$30 from the week ending May 4. Prices for Thailand's premium jasmine rice (an aromatic rice)—quoted at \$1,055 per ton for the week ending June 8—were down \$60 from the week ending May 4.

The Government of Vietnam ended all export restrictions in early May as supplies were adequate for domestic use despite continued concerns over the COVID-19 virus. For the week ending June 9, Vietnam's 5-percent broken kernels long-grain milled rice were quoted at \$475 per ton, up \$5 from the week ending May 5. Quoted prices from South American exporters for most grades of rice were unchanged from a month earlier. The major South American

exporters—located in the southern half of the continent—completed their 2019/20 harvest last month.

U.S. trading prices for long-grain milled rice were unchanged over the past month, as supplies of exportable rice have tightened and new sales were light. 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 \$675 per ton for the week ending June 9. U.S. prices for Latin American milled rice markets—Haiti, Colombia, and Mexico—remain quoted at \$605 per ton for the week ending June 9. These are the highest U.S. long-grain prices in more than 7 years. U.S. long-grain milled rice prices are largely being supported by dwindling U.S. supplies prior to the onset of the 2020/21 harvest in early July on the Gulf Coast. The U.S. price difference over Thailand’s long-grain milled rice is currently \$159 per ton, up from \$129 per ton a month earlier.

Quotes for California Number 1 Grade, 4-percent broken kernels for the week ending June 9 were \$938 per ton (free on board at a domestic mill, Mediterranean specifications), unchanged from a month earlier. For delivery to the Port of Oakland, California medium-grain milled rice (Korean specifications) prices were quoted at \$975 per ton for the week ending June 9, also unchanged from a month earlier. For listings of trading prices by exporter and grade of rice, see Table 9 in the Excel file.

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