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Rice Outlook

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

U.S. Rice 2020/21 Export Forecast Lowered 2.0 Million Hundredweight to 97.0 Million

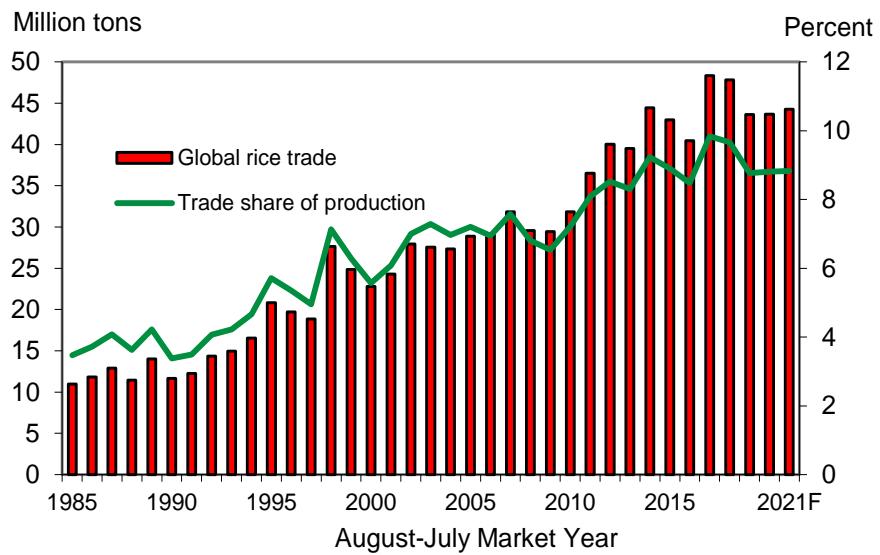
The only 2020/21 U.S. supply-side revision this month was a 0.2 million hundredweight (cwt) reduction in the production forecast to 226.1 million cwt, still 22 percent larger than a year earlier. Imports remain projected at a near-record 37.3 million cwt. On the use side, the 2020/21 export forecast was lowered 2.0 million cwt to 97.0 million cwt, with long-grain accounting for all of the downward revision. On balance, these revisions raised the ending stock forecast 1.8 million cwt to 49.5 million cwt, up 73 percent from a year earlier and the highest since 1986/87. The 2020/21 season-average farm price (SAFP) for both long-grain and Southern medium- and short-grain were raised this month. In addition, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service revised its 2019/20 monthly cash prices and marketings, resulting in revised SAFPs for medium- and short-grain rice in both regions.

In the global rice market, production forecasts for 2020/21 were lowered for Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Paraguay, but raised for Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Guyana. These revisions lowered the global production forecast 0.4 million tons to 501.1 million, still the highest on record. Global use in 2020/21 is projected at a record 499.2 million tons, down 0.2 million from the previous forecast, with projections lowered for both Bangladesh and Cambodia. Global ending stocks in 2020/21 are projected at a record 179.8 million tons, up 0.6 from the previous forecast and the 14th consecutive year of increasing stocks. China and India together account for more than 80 percent of global stocks.

Global rice trade in 2021 is projected at 44.3 million tons, fractionally above the previous forecast and 1 percent larger than a year earlier. Thailand and the United States are projected to increase exports in 2021, while India and Vietnam are expected to reduce shipments. Thailand's trading prices continue to decline as supplies from its main-crop harvest enter the market. In contrast, Vietnam's price quotes rose over the past month due to adverse impacts of several tropical storms and typhoons in October. U.S. long-grain price were unchanged, with actual shipments remaining well behind a year-earlier's pace. California prices for medium-grain milled rice for several markets have declined since early October, as the harvest of the 2020/21 crop was completed.

Figure 1

Global rice trade projected to increase in 2021, but to remain below the 2017 record



Milled basis. 2020 and 2021 are forecasts.

Source: USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, *Production, Supply, and Distribution* database.

Domestic Outlook

Slight Yield Reduction Lowers U.S. 2020/21 Rice Production Forecast 0.2 Million Cwt to 226.1 Million Cwt

There was only one supply-side revision to the 2020/21 all-rice U.S. rice balance sheet this month: the 2020/21 U.S. rice production forecast was lowered 0.2 million cwt to 226.1 million cwt due to a slightly smaller production forecast for Missouri, a result of a reduced yield. Missouri's yield forecast was lowered 100 pounds per acre to 7,800 pounds, still the highest on record for Missouri and one of the highest reported for a southern rice growing State. The U.S. 2020/21 average rice yield was lowered 7 pounds per acre to 7,560 pounds, 89 pounds above a year earlier.

Total rice U.S. production in 2020/21 is forecast to be 22 percent larger than a year earlier, mostly due to a 21-percent increase in harvested area. The increase is a result of rising long-grain prices in 2019/20 and improved weather conditions in much of the South, despite several late-season Gulf Coast hurricanes and above-normal rainfall this spring that delayed planting in the Delta. The Delta also received substantial rainfall and wind around harvest time from the several hurricanes, which further stretched the harvest period in some Delta States. Both yield and harvested-area estimates were reported by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in its November 10 *Crop Production* report. The revised U.S. and State yields were based on a survey of growers conducted in late October and early November and was based on conditions as of November 1.

By class, the U.S. 2020/21 long-grain crop is projected at 169.8 million cwt, down 0.16 million cwt from the previous forecast but 35 percent larger than a year earlier. The combined medium- and short-grain 2020/21 crop is forecast at 56.3 million cwt, down .05 million cwt from the previous forecast and almost 5 percent smaller than a year earlier.

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 to 2.99 million acres. 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, with Louisiana and Missouri the only two States reporting a substantial yield increase in 2020/21. 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.

Harvest of the 2020/21 U.S. rice crop is now nearly complete in all States, although a few areas in the Delta were still harvesting rice and some of the Texas ratoon crop (a partial second crop) is still being harvested as well. Progress of the Delta rice crop was behind its normal pace all season due to above-average rainfall this Spring and early Summer—as well as to heavy rainfall, often with heavy winds, during much of the harvest period from remnants of several Gulf Coast hurricanes. Rice crop progress for the main crop (non-ratoon crop) was nearly normal on the Gulf Coast, as much of the Gulf Coast's main crop was harvested before Hurricanes Laura, Beta, Delta, and Zeta made landfall. However, in both Gulf Coasts, the hurricanes likely impacted ratoon crop area and yields, as some fields were rutted during the remaining main crop harvest and the later hurricanes arrived during the ratoon crop harvest. Rain and winds around harvest often cause the rice to lodge (the stem to bend over) and can cause the grains to shatter.

For the week ending November 1, 96 percent of the U.S. 2020/21 rice crop was reported harvested, 2 percentage points behind a year earlier and 3 percentage points behind the U.S. 5-year average of 99 percent. On the Gulf Coast, 100 percent of both the Louisiana and Texas crop were reported harvested by November 1, unchanged from a year earlier or each State's 5-year average. In the Delta, 95 percent of the Arkansas 2020/21 rice crop was reported harvested by November 1, slightly behind both 98 percent last year and the Arkansas 5-year average of 99 percent. In nearby Missouri, 91 percent of the crop was reported harvested by November 1, below both the 95-percent harvested by that date the previous year and the Missouri 5-year average of 97 percent harvested by then. Mississippi's 2020/21 rice crop was reported 96-percent harvested by November 1, behind both 98 percent a year ago and the Mississippi 5-year average of 99 percent. Finally, 97 percent of the California 2020/21 rice crop was reported harvested November 1, slightly behind 98 percent a year earlier and unchanged from the California 5-year average of 97 percent.

U.S. 2020/21 Imports Remain Forecast Near Record-High

U.S. rice imports in 2020/21 remain forecast at a near-record 37.3 million cwt, just fractionally below the 2019/20 record. The 2020/21 robust import forecast is based on expectations that the recent record and near-record level of monthly purchases from Asia will continue during most of the 2020/21 market year. In April, imports from Thailand and India soared to record levels and remained elevated through July before dropping slightly in August and returning to a more normal level in September.

U.S. long-grain imports in 2020/21 remain projected at 29.5 million cwt, less than 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 resulting in reduced imports of brokens and any non-aromatic long-grain rice. 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 rice. In August and September, the United States imported around 35,000 tons and 38,000 tons, respectively, of long-grain rice—nearly all jasmine—from Thailand, down from about 45,000 tons in July. India's long-grain shipments—nearly all basmati—were around 23,700 tons and 21,400 in August and September, respectively, down from a record 28,500 in July but still above historic levels.

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. Similar to Thailand and India, Pakistan's shipments jumped to record levels from April through July before declining slightly in August and returning to a more normal level of 2,400 pounds in September. 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 was the third-largest supplier of long-grain rice to the United States in 2019/20, shipping a record 68,800 tons. Brazil shipped 12,500 tons in August, but Brazil's imports dropped to just 2,900 pounds in September, the smallest since April.

At a record 7.75 million cwt, the U.S. 2020/21 medium- and short-grain import forecast is up almost 3 percent from a year earlier, with China, Thailand, and India expected to remain the top suppliers. In 2020/21, China is expected to supply at least three shipments of 21,000 tons each of medium- and short-grain milled rice to Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory. Through September, China had not yet shipped any rice Puerto Rico in 2020/21. 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 regular 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. 2020/21 All-Rice Export Forecast Lowered 2 Million Cwt

Total U.S. rice exports in 2020/21 are projected at 97.0 million cwt, down 2.0 million cwt from the previous forecast but 3 percent larger than a year earlier. The decline was all for long-grain rice. This month's downward revision was based on Census-reported monthly shipments through September, weekly shipments and sales through October 29 reported in the weekly *U.S. Export Sales*, and expectations regarding shipments and sales the remainder of the market year. U.S. Census reported total shipments of all rice at 129,900 tons (product-weight) in August, the lowest reported monthly shipments since January 1992 when around 116,000 tons were reported. The 140,000 tons reported shipped by Census in September was only slightly higher than August and was one of the lowest reported in nearly 30 years. Tight ending stocks in 2019/20, a delayed harvest in the Delta, and logistical disruptions from several Gulf Coast storms and hurricanes are major factors behind the slow export pace early in the 2020/21 market year.

Long-grain exports are projected at 69.0 million cwt, 2.0 million less than the previous forecast but 7 percent larger than a year earlier. Since mid-September, the U.S. has sold about 118,000 tons of rough rice to Brazil—not a typical buyer of U.S. rice—a major factor in the expected year-to-year increase. In contrast, sales to traditional Latin American buyers, especially Brazil and Haiti, are well behind a year-earlier's pace. The year-to-year increase in U.S. long-grain exports is based on larger U.S. supplies and expectations of more competitive U.S. prices with South American exporters. In addition to the recent 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 at least until their spring 2021 harvest and is expected to boost 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, with much of it sold as unmilled or rough rice. U.S. long-grain shipments to the Middle East are projected to be little changed from a year earlier, with Iraq and Saudi Arabia remaining the top buyers and taking only fully milled rice.

U.S. medium- and short-grain rice exports in 2020/21 remain projected at 28.0 million cwt, down 5 percent from a year earlier. The United States is expected to make few, if any, sales beyond its regular sales to Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan as part of each importer's World Trade Organization commitments and its smaller regular sales to Jordan, Canada, and Mexico. 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 35.0 million cwt, down 1.0 million from the previous forecast but 12 percent above 2019/20. The downward revision was based on the slow pace of shipments and sales to traditional Latin American markets early in the market year. The year-to-year increase is based on larger U.S. 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 are projected at 62.0 million cwt, also down 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 1.5 percent below a year ago. Sales to Haiti, the largest export market for long-grain milled U.S. rice, are well behind a year-earlier's pace. 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 remains 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.

The above supply and use projections yield a 2020/21 ending stocks forecast of 49.5 million cwt, up 1.8 million cwt from the previous forecast and 73 percent larger than a year earlier. These are the largest U.S. all-rice ending stocks since 1986/87. The 2020/21 U.S. rice stocks-to-use ratio of 20.4 is up from the abnormally low 12.0 percent in 2019/20. By class, long-grain ending stocks in 2020/21 are projected at 36.2 million cwt, up 1.8 million cwt from the previous forecast and 114 percent higher than in 2019/20. These are the largest long-grain ending stocks since 1985/86. The long-grain stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 20.1 percent, well above the abnormally low 9.9 percent a year earlier. Medium- and short-grain ending stocks remain projected at 12.3 million cwt, almost 15 percent larger than a year earlier. The medium- and short-grain stocks-to-use ratio remains projected at 19.7 percent, up from 16.0 percent from a year earlier.

There were several revisions this month to the 2020/21 U.S. season-average farm-price forecasts (SAFP). First, the long-grain 2020/21 SAFP forecast was raised 20 cents to \$11.70 per cwt, largely based on higher-than-expected NASS-reported cash prices through September. The long-grain 2020/21 SAFP is 30 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 continue to drop as the bumper crop that was just harvested makes its way into commercial channels. The 2020/21 southern medium- and short-grain SAFP is projected at \$11.80 per cwt, also up 20 cents from the previous forecast and up 20 cents from the 2019/20 SAFP.

The California 2020/21 (October-September) medium- and short-grain SAFP remains projected at \$18.80 per cwt, \$1.80 below the 2019/20 revised SAFP of \$20.60. The U.S. medium- and short-grain 2020/21 SAFP is projected at \$16.60 per cwt, up 10 cents from the previous forecast but \$1.20 below the revised 2019/20 SAFP. The 2020/21 all-rice SAFP is projected at \$12.90 per cwt, up 10 cents from the previous forecast but 60 cents below the 2019/20 revised all-rice SAFP. Except for California, rice SAFPs are reported on an August-July market year.

In late October, NASS reported revised monthly cash prices and marketings for 2019/20 for all rice and by class and region. These revisions resulted in changes to some SAFPs. The 2019/20 California medium- and short-grain SAFP was raised \$1.90 to \$20.60 per cwt. This increased the U.S. medium- and short-grain SAFP \$1.30 to \$17.80 and raised the all rice SAFP 30 cents to \$13.50. The long-grain and Southern medium- and short-grain SAFPs were unchanged from the previous estimates.

International Outlook

Rice Production Forecasts for 2020/21 Lowered for Bangladesh and Paraguay, Raised for Colombia and Guyana

Global rice production in 2020/21 is forecast at 501.1 million tons (milled basis), down 0.4 million tons from the previous forecast but up 1 percent from a year earlier and the highest on record. Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Burma, China, Colombia, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Laos, Mexico, South Korea, Pakistan, Panama, Sub-Saharan Africa, Thailand, and the United States are each expected to produce more rice in 2020/21 than a year earlier. India's crop is projected to increase almost 1.6 million tons to a record 120.0 million tons, the U.S. crop is projected to rise more than 1.3 million tons, Thailand's crop is projected to be up nearly 0.95 million tons from the 2019/20 drought-reduced crop, and Indonesia's production is projected to rise 0.9 million tons. These four substantial production increases are primarily due to expanded harvested area. Australia's 2020/21 production forecast of 0.3 million tons is up 0.26 million from the 2019/20 drought-reduced harvest, a result of partial area recovery. Pakistan's 2020/21 production forecast of a record 7.6 million tons is up 0.4 million tons from last year, a result of a higher yield.

In contrast, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Egypt, EU, Iraq, Madagascar, Nepal, Paraguay, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Venezuela, and Vietnam are projected to harvest smaller crops in 2020/21. Bangladesh's crop is 0.55 million tons smaller in 2020/21 due to heavy flooding in the spring and summer. A 0.30 million-ton reduction is projected for Egypt's rice crop due to stricter enforcement of area restrictions by the Government. Reduced harvested area is responsible for a projected 0.23-million ton drop in the Philippine rice production in 2020/21, the third consecutive area decline. Production is projected to decline 0.12 million tons in both Brazil and Paraguay in 2020/21, a result of weaker yields. Much of southern South America is experiencing severe drought. Vietnam's 2020/21 production is projected to drop 0.15 million tons as area continues to decline. Vietnam, like much of mainland Southeast Asia, experienced a weak start to the rainy season that was followed by severe flooding in many areas in October due to several strong tropical storms and typhoons.

Global rice consumption and residual use in 2020/21 is projected at a record 499.2 million tons, down 0.2 million tons from the previous forecast but still almost 1 percent larger than a year earlier. Bangladesh accounts for the bulk of this month's downward revision in global consumption and residual use, a result of a reduced production forecast. Cambodia's consumption and residual use was lowered slightly, partly due to a smaller production forecast. China's projected 2020/21 consumption and residual use of a record 146.5 million tons 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 feed and industrial uses of rice. India's domestic and residual is projected at a record 106.0 million tons, fractionally above the 2019/20 elevated level. In both 2019/20 and 2020/21, India's consumption and residual use has been supported by the Government's food-grain pandemic-relief program that provides subsidized wheat and rice rations to around 800 million people. The program began in March 2020. Despite this month's downward revision, Bangladesh's consumption and residual use of rice of 35.8 million tons remains the highest on record. The U.S. domestic and residual use in 2020/21 is projected to increase, as well, to a record 4.6 million tons.

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, November 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						
Bangladesh	35,300	-697	-1.5	⬇️	⬇️	Bangladesh received extremely heavy rainfall during the summer that started in June with the onset of the 2020 Southwest Monsoon. The rainfall caused severe flooding that hindered the summer harvesting of the aus crop and prevented and delayed planting of the fall-harvested aman crop. Total harvested area was lowered 100,000 hectares to 11.7 million hectares. The 2020/21 yield forecast was lowered slightly to 4.53 tons per hectare, down more than 0.4 percent from 2019/20. Bangladesh's 2020/21 rice crop was already adversely impacted in May by <i>Cyclone Amphan</i> .
Cambodia	5,710	-70	-0.5	⬇️	⬇️	Seasonal rainfall was lower than average in the central part of Cambodia, which lowered harvested area for the main season crop. The main crop area was further reduced by late-season rainfall during harvest.
Colombia	1,900	224	8.6	⬆️	⬆️	Growers expanded area--especially dryland rice area in the east--due to higher rice prices and expectations of good rainfall this winter.
Dominican Republic	650	90	1.6	⬆️	⬆️	Upward crop revision is based on a 30,000-hectare increase in harvested area to a near-record 195,000 hectares that offset a downward revision in the expected yield. Both area and yield revisions for 2020/21 were based on revised estimates for 2018/19 and 2019/20. The 2020/21 crop is the highest on record. The projected yield is up slightly from 2019/20.
European Union	1,975	-10	-0.5	⬇️	⬇️	A 13,000-ton drop in Portugal's 2020/21 rice production forecast was not fully offset by slightly higher production forecasts for Spain, France, and Greece.
Guyana	710	28	4.0	⬆️	⬆️	The Guyana Rice Association reported a strong first crop harvest of 543,000 tons and indicated a bumper second crop as well. Harvested area was raised to a record 182,000 hectares. Production is forecast to be record high as well.
South Korea	3,850	-7	2.8	⬇️	⬆️	Production revision based on data from Korea Statistics. Harvested area was lowered 2,000 hectares to 726,000 and the yield was raised more than 3 percent to 7.07 tons per hectare. Rice harvested area peaked in South Korea in 1987/88 at 1.26 million hectares. The substantial long-term area decline is largely due to Government area diversion programs.
Paraguay	670	-38	-15.7	⬇️	⬇️	Production forecast reduced due to a lower yield caused by severe drought in the region. At 5.71 tons per hectare, the average yield is down 15 percent from a year earlier and the lowest since 2011/12 when a severe drought sharply lowered Paraguay's production.
Taiwan	1,225	89	-2.3	⬆️	⬇️	The 2020/21 production forecast was revised slightly based on recently released historical data for 2000/01-2019/20 reported by the Council of Agriculture and reported in the <i>Agricultural Statistics Yearbook</i> . Similar to Japan and South Korea, rice area has been on a long-term decline in Taiwan largely due to Government area diversion programs.
United States	7,180	-6	22.4	⬇️	⬆️	Production forecast was lowered fractionally based on a slightly smaller yield for Missouri reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Production is projected to be up more than 22 percent from a year earlier mostly due to a substantial area expansion in the South.
Venezuela	130	25	-7.1	⬆️	⬇️	Increase in supplies of fertilizer provided by the Government boosted the yield forecast to 3.49 tons per hectare, up slightly from the year-earlier revised level but well below the 2009/11 record of 5.26 tons per hectare. Despite the increase in fertilizer use, Venezuela remains critically short of inputs and the harvested area of 55,000 hectares is the lowest since 1960/61.
Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, November 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						
Dominican Republic	640	90	-0.5	⬆️	⬇️	Production estimate was raised based on a 30,000-hectare increase in harvested area to a near-record 195,000 hectares that more than offset a reduced yield estimate. The 2019/20 yield was lowered to 4.9 tons per hectare. Revisions are based on Government of the Dominican Republic data.
European Union	1,984	5	1.0	⬆️	⬆️	Upward revisions in production estimates for Bulgaria, Greece, and Spain more than offset a reduced production estimate for Portugal.
Paraguay	790	86	14.0	⬆️	⬆️	Production estimate was raised to a record high based on an 18,000-hectare increase in harvested area to a record 176,000 hectares. The yield was raised slightly to 6.7 tons per acre, matching the previous record highs achieved in 2013/14 and 2014/15.
Taiwan	1,254	72	-8.1	⬆️	⬇️	Upward production revision based on data from Taiwan's Council of Agriculture and on data reported in the <i>Agricultural Statistics Yearbook</i> . Most of the year-to-year production decline was due to a weaker yield. In 2019, much of Taiwan received substantial rainfall around harvest-time from typhoons.
Venezuela	140	25	-17.6	⬆️	⬇️	Production estimate raised based on a higher yield that was due to fertilizer provided by the Government. In 2019/20, harvested area declined almost 19 percent to 60,000 hectares, the fifth consecutive year of a decline. The substantial area decline was primarily due to a lack of inputs and credit.

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

This month, USDA raised its global ending stocks forecast for 2020/21 by 0.6 million tons to 179.8 million tons, up more than 1 percent from 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. This month, ending stocks forecasts were raised for Colombia, EU, Iraq, Paraguay, Syria, Turkey, the United States, and Vietnam, but lowered for Cambodia and India. 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 17 percent in 2020/21. The global ending stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 36.0 percent, nearly unchanged from 2019/20 but still below the 2000/01 record of 37.3 percent.

Thailand and the United States Are Projected To Increase Exports in 2021, India Projected To Ship Less Rice

Global rice trade in 2021 is projected at 44.3 million tons (milled basis), up just 40,000 tons from the previous forecast and more than 1 percent larger than a year earlier. This month, increased export forecast for Turkey, Cambodia, and the EU more than offset a reduced forecast for China and Uruguay, with China's exports reduced 0.20 million tons. On the 2021 import side, a 220,000-ton increase in Turkey's import forecast plus smaller import increases for the EU and Kuwait more than offset a reduced import forecast this month for Colombia. Turkey's substantial boost in imports is based on revised Turkish trade data since 2013 that now includes shipments entering and exiting custom warehouses and free trade zones that were previously not included. 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.

On an annual basis, in 2021, Thailand is expected to expand exports the most, increasing shipments 1.5 million tons from this year's abnormally low level, partly a result of some crop recovery. In addition, Australia, Cambodia, Pakistan, and the United States are projected to increase exports in 2021, with U.S. exports projected to rise 0.15 million tons to 3.05 million tons. In contrast, Argentina, Brazil, Burma, India, Paraguay, Syria, Taiwan, and Vietnam are expected to export less rice, with India's exports expected to drop 0.5 million tons to 12.5 million from the 2020 calendar year record. Paraguay's exports are projected to drop 0.18 million tons to 0.62 million, mostly due to projections for a drought-reduced crop in 2020/21 and current tight supplies.

In 2021, imports are projected to increase for Cote d'Ivoire, Iran, Iraq, Madagascar, the Philippines, and the United Arab Emirates, with imports by the UAE expected to increase 0.2 million tons to a record 1.2 million tons. U.S. rice imports are projected at record 1.2 million tons in 2021, up just 15,000 tons from 2020. In contrast, imports in 2021 are projected to fall for Australia, Brazil, China, Guatemala, Mexico, and Turkey.

Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 metric tons), November 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						
Colombia	250	-30	0.0	⬇️	➡️	Reduced 2021 import forecast based on a larger crop.
European Union	2,450	100	2.1	⬆️	⬆️	Expect the current record pace of imports to continue with a slight increase in 2021, reaching a new record.
Kuwait	250	15	4.2	⬆️	⬆️	Expect the revised 2020 stronger import pace to continue.
Turkey	450	220	-10.0	⬆️	⬇️	Sharply raised 2021 import forecast based on back-year trade data reported by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK). The revised trade data, which begins in 2013, now includes trade entering and exiting customs warehouses and free trade zones. This data was previously not included in annual estimates. Most imports reported in the revised trade data were from China.

Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 metric tons), November 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						
Colombia	250	-50	31.6	⬇️	⬆️	Import estimate was lowered based on a recent slowdown in imports after a temporary increase caused by COVID-19.
European Union	2,400	100	11.2	⬆️	⬆️	Imports continue at a record pace.
Israel	160	20	27.0	⬆️	⬆️	Import forecast raised to a record high based on a faster-than-expected pace of purchases from India, Thailand, and the United States. Domestic use was raised to a record 160,000 tons, largely due to COVID-19 buying.
South Korea	450	-25	51.5	⬇️	⬆️	Reduced the 2020 import forecast based on purchase-pace to-date. Despite a weak level of purchases in 2019, there has been no pickup in purchase pace yet in 2020. All of South Korea's rice imports are purchased as part its World Trade Organization commitments. South Korea's current WTO fiscal year commitments are about 409,000 tons per year.
Kuwait	240	10	-4.8	⬆️	⬇️	Import forecast raised based on new export data from Turkey.
Nigeria	1,200	200	-33.3	⬆️	⬇️	Import forecast revised up based on higher-than-expected shipments of parboiled rice from India to the region.
Saudi Arabia	1,400	50	-1.8	⬆️	⬇️	Faster-than-expected pace of imports from India.
Syria	200	20	17.6	⬆️	⬆️	Import forecast increased based on recent reports that the Government of Syria is seeking 40,000 tons of rice from China and revised export data from Turkey.
Turkey	500	230	2.2	⬆️	⬆️	Sharply raised 2020 import forecast based on trade data reported by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK). The revised trade data, which begins in 2013, now includes trade entering and exiting customs warehouses and free trade zones. This data was previously not included in annual data. China accounts for most of the additional imports.

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), November 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						
Cambodia	1,400	100	3.7	▲	▲	Expect fewer COVID-19 export restrictions than existed in early 2020. Exports in 2021 are projected to be the highest on record.
China	2,700	-200	0.0	▼	➡	Expect stronger domestic demand for low-priced rice for feed use and ethanol.
European Union	315	15	1.6	▲	▲	Recent stronger-than-expected demand from Turkey and other nearby markets.
Turkey	200	175	-11.1	▲	▼	Upward revision in 2021 export forecast based on back-year revisions since 2013 that now include trade entering or exiting custom warehouse and free trade zones. This data was not previously included in import and export estimates.
United States	3,050	-50	5.2	▼	▲	Recent slower pace of shipments and a weaker 2020/21 market year forecast.
Uruguay	820	-30	-1.8	▼	▼	Export forecast lowered based on a 2017/18 production revision that tightened supplies.
Table C - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 metric tons), November 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						
Australia	40	-20	-70.1	▼	▼	Exports from January through August were very small. Supplies of rice in Australia are currently extremely tight.
Cambodia	1,350	150	0.0	▲	➡	Export pace remains strong. While white rice exports were restricted March-April due COVID-19 food security concerns, fragrant rice exports remained very strong.
China	2,700	-200	-0.7	▼	▼	Reduced export forecast due to a recent slowdown in the pace of shipments.
European Union	310	10	5.4	▲	▲	Stronger-than-expected demand so far this year from Turkey and other nearby markets.
India	1,300	800	32.8	▲	▲	Stronger-than-expected pace of sales to Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. Exports in 2020 are projected to be record high.
Paraguay	800	100	16.1	▲	▲	Export forecast raised based on upward revision in productions since 2017/18 and a stronger-than-expected pace of shipments to Brazil.
Taiwan	150	20	64.8	▲	▲	Increased exports to former Australian markets in Oceania.
Turkey	225	200	11.4	▲	▲	Upward revision in 2020 export forecast based on more complete trade data reported by the Turkish Statistical Institute that includes trade entering or exiting custom warehouses and free trade zones. This data was not previously included in annual import and export estimates. The additional shipments were primarily to Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, and Syria.
United States	2,900	-200	-7.6	▼	▼	Sales were extremely weak from June through mid-September. Shipments were very weak from June through mid-September as well. In summer 2020, U.S. supplies were quite tight, sharply limiting any new sales. Since August, in addition to a delayed harvest in much of the Delta, several hurricane's caused logistical disruptions on the Gulf Coast, including port facilities, that limited shipments.
Uruguay	835	-15	-3.2	▼	▼	Export forecast lowered based on a 2017/18 production revision that tightened supplies.
Vietnam	6,400	-200	-2.8	▼	▼	Current uncompetitive prices are deterring new sales, with many importers shifting to India to buy rice. In addition, several tropical storms and typhoons struck Vietnam in October, causing severe flooding and logistical problems that hindered exporting rice.

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 white rice declined by 4-5 percent over the past month, a result of a lack of new sales and the recent arrival of supplies from the main-crop harvest on the market. Thailand's 100-percent Grade B long-grain milled rice for export was quoted at \$459 per ton for the week ending November 9, down \$21 from the week ending October 5. Prices for Thailand's 5-percent brokens parboiled rice were quoted at \$454 per ton for the week ending November 9, also down \$21 from the week ending October 5. Prices for Thailand's jasmine rice—a premium aromatic—were quoted at \$768 per ton for the

week ending November 9, down \$80 per ton from the week ending October 5, with harvest nearly complete.

In contrast, price quotes for Vietnam's rice increased over the past month, mostly due to logistical disruptions and supply concerns caused by several tropical storms and cyclones that struck in October and caused widespread flooding. For the week ending November 10, prices for Vietnam's 5-percent broken kernel long-grain milled rice (from the already harvested autumn crop) were quoted at \$505 per ton, up \$40 from the week ending October 6. Vietnam's rice now sells at a substantial premium to Thailand's rice, an unusual and unsustainable situation. Prices quotes from Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay for higher grades of long-grain milled rice were unchanged from a month earlier. U.S. prices are now quite competitive with these exporters as U.S. prices are currently quoted at a discount. The major South American exporters—located in the southern half of the continent—completed their 2019/20 harvest in late May and currently have only 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 limited as supplies from the 2019/20 crop have all been sold and the 2020/21 harvest in the Delta was 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 November 10, unchanged from the week ending October 6. U.S. prices for Latin American milled-rice markets—Haiti, Colombia, and Mexico—remain quoted at \$550 per ton for the week ending November 10, also unchanged from the week ending October 6.

In contrast, milled rice prices in California declined over the past month, partly due to the 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 November 10 were quoted at \$835 per ton (free on board at a domestic mill, Mediterranean specifications), down \$15 from the week ending October 6. For delivery to the Port of Oakland, California, medium-grain milled rice (Korean specifications) prices remain quoted at \$940 per ton for the week ending November 10, unchanged from the week ending October 6. For listings of trading prices by exporter and grade of rice, see Table 9 in the Excel file.

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