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Rice Outlook

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U.S. 2004/05 Ending Stocks Are Projected To Be the Largest Since 1986/87

Contents

The next release is Jan. 13, 2005

Approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board.

There were no revisions this month to the 2004/05 (August-July) U.S. rice supply and use balance sheet. U.S. rice supplies remain projected at a record 265.8 million hundredweight (cwt) (rough basis), an increase of 10 percent from a year earlier. Beginning stocks of 23.7 million cwt are 12 percent below a year earlier. Imports remain projected at 14.5 million cwt, 7 percent smaller than the year-earlier record. The 2004/05 U.S. rough rice crop remains forecast at a record 227.65 million cwt, up 14 percent, a result of larger area and a record yield.

Total U.S. rice use in 2004/05 remains projected at 224 million cwt, up 3 percent from a year earlier and the second highest on record. Total domestic and residual use is projected to increase more than 4 percent to 119 million cwt. U.S. rice exports in 2004/05 are projected at 105 million cwt (rough equivalent of both rough and milled rice exports), up more than 1 percent from a year earlier and the second largest on record. U.S. rough rice exports are projected to decline, while combined milled and brown rice exports are projected to increase.

U.S. ending stocks of all rice for 2004/05 are projected at 41.8 million cwt, up 77 percent from a year earlier and the largest since 1986/87. The 2004/05 U.S. season-average farm price (SAFP) is projected at $7.25-$7.55 per cwt, an increase of 25 cents on the low-end and 5 cents on the high-end from last month's forecast.

Global rice production in 2004/05 is projected at 398.1 million tons (milled basis), fractionally below last month's forecast but more than 2 percent larger than a year earlier. Global ending stocks for 2004/05 are projected at 71.8 million tons, 16 percent below a year earlier and the fourth consecutive year of declining global stocks. Production forecasts for 2004/05 were lowered this month for both Thailand and Cambodia due to abnormal dryness in the region.

Global rice trade for calendar year 2005 is projected at 24.5 million tons (milled basis), up 100,000 tons from last month's forecast but down almost 5 percent from a year earlier. Export forecasts for Thailand and Vietnam were raised. The 2004 global export forecast was raised 350,000 tons to 25.7 million tons.

Export prices for most grades of Thailand's milled white rice have increased $22-$27 per ton since early November, a result of higher prices for Thailand's intervention purchases, abnormal dryness in major growing areas of Thailand, and generally tight exportable supplies across much of Asia. Vietnam's prices have increased over the past month as well due to a lack of supplies until after the harvest of its winter-spring crop in February and March. U.S. prices for long grain milled rice have increased slightly from last week but are still below quotes in early November.

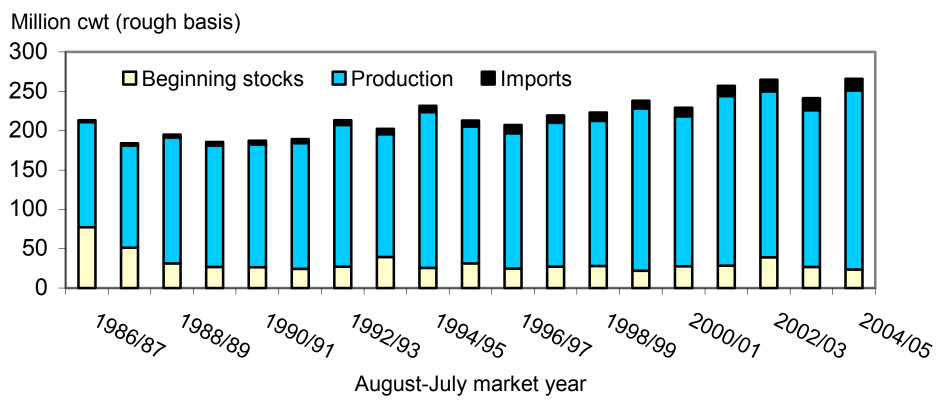
Domestic Outlook

U.S. 2004/05 Total Rice Supplies Projected At a Record 265.8 Million Cwt

There were no revisions this month to the 2004/05 (August-July) U.S. rice supply and use balance sheet. U.S. rice supplies are projected to increase 10 percent in 2004/05 to a record 265.8 million hundredweight (cwt) (rough basis), as a record harvest more than offsets a smaller carryin and a decline in imports.

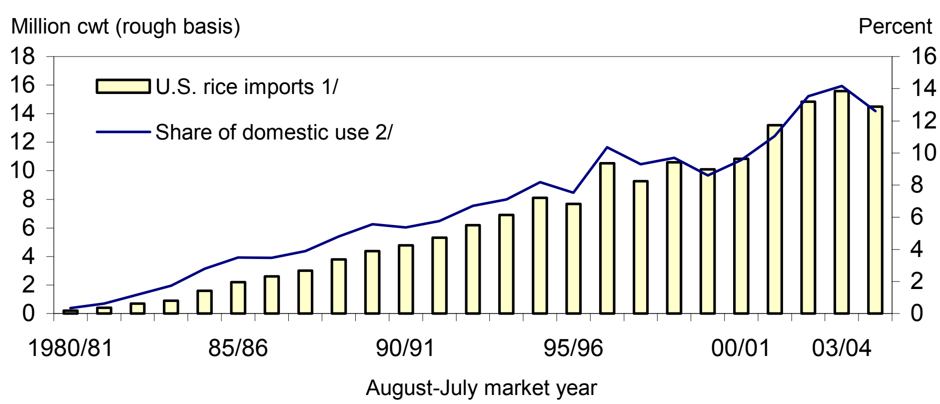
At 23.7 million cwt, beginning stocks of all rice are nearly 12 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 1999/2000. Arkansas accounts for the bulk of the decline in beginning stocks in 2004/05. Imports are projected at 14.5 million cwt, 7 percent smaller than the year-earlier record. Medium/short grain accounts for all of the projected decline in 2004/05 U.S. rice imports. Most U.S. medium/short grain imports are purchased by Puerto Rico.

Figure 1
Total U.S. rice supplies are projected at a record 265.8 million cwt in 2004/05



2004/05 are forecasts.
Source: ERS/USDA.

Figure 2
U.S. rice imports are projected to decline in 2004/05



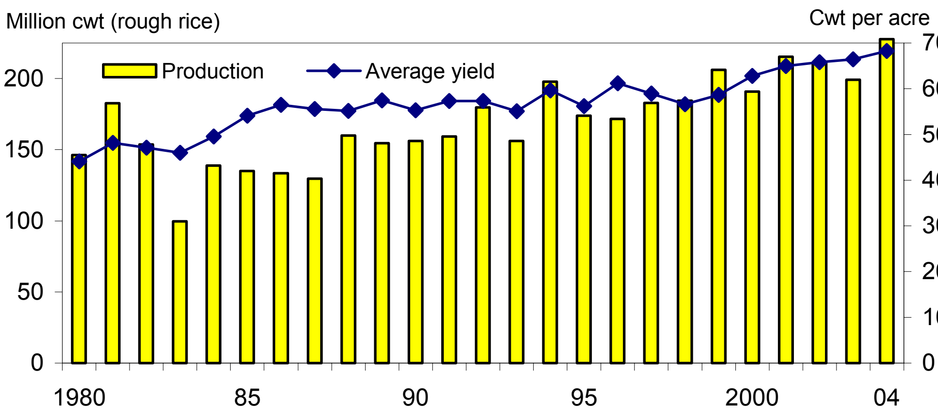
1/ Includes imports by U.S. territories. 2/ Does not include seed use.
Sources: 1980/81-2003/04, import data, Bureau of the Census. 2004/05 USDA forecasts.

The 2004/05 U.S. rice crop remains forecast at a record 227.65 million cwt (rough basis), up 14 percent from a year earlier, a result of both increased plantings and a record yield. At 3.36 million acres, rice plantings are up more than 11 percent from a year earlier and are the largest since 1999/2000. The average yield is projected at 6,828 pounds per acre, up 3 percent from a year earlier and the fifth consecutive year of a record U.S. average field yield. Production is projected to be larger in 2004/05 for all three classes of rice—long, medium, and short grain.

Rice acreage is projected larger in 2004/05 in all reporting rice growing States except Mississippi where area is virtually unchanged from a year earlier. Arkansas, California, and Louisiana account for the bulk of this year's 337,000-acre increase in total rice harvested area, with California's plantings one of the highest on record. Strong prices at planting were behind the 2004 U.S. rice area expansion.

Figure 3

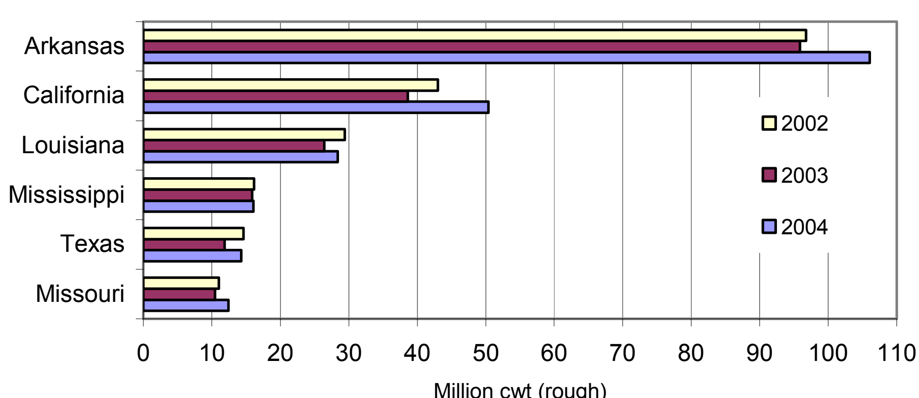
U.S. rice production is projected at a record 227.7 million cwt in 2004



2004 are forecasts.
Source: NASS/ USDA.

Figure 4

Arkansas and California are projected to produce record crops in 2004



2004 are forecasts.
Source: NASS/USDA.

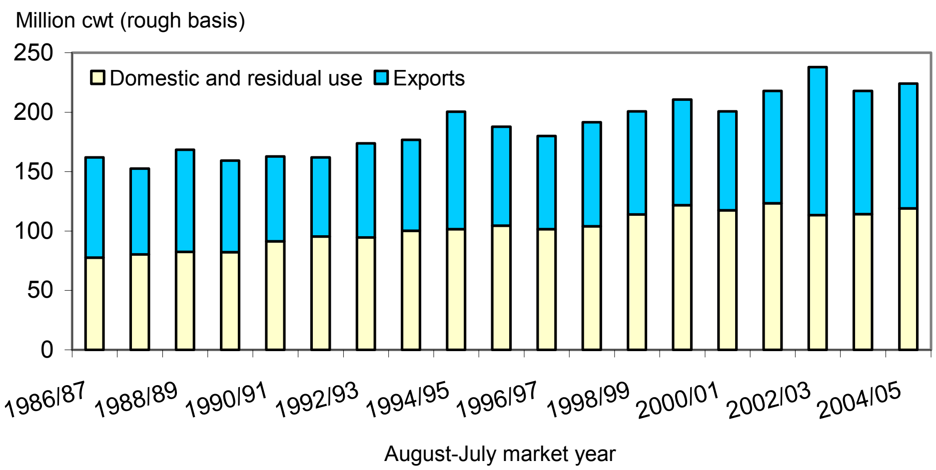
Field yields are projected higher for all reporting States in 2004 except Louisiana and Texas, with record yields projected for Arkansas, Mississippi, and Missouri. Rice production is projected larger this year in all reporting States, with record crops projected for Arkansas and California. These two States account for the bulk of the projected increase in U.S. rice production in 2004.

U.S. 2004/05 Ending Stocks Projected To Be the Largest Since 1986/87

Total U.S. rice use in 2004/05 remains projected at 224 million cwt, up 3 percent from a year earlier and the second highest on record. Total domestic use (including the residual, or unreported losses in handling, processing, and marketing plus any statistical errors) accounts for the bulk of the increase. Total domestic and residual use is projected to increase more than 4 percent to 119 million cwt. *Food, industrial, and residual use* remains projected at 115 million cwt, nearly 5 percent larger than a year earlier. Seed use is projected at 4 million cwt, down more than 3 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. rice exports in 2004/05 are projected at 105 million cwt (rough equivalent of both rough and milled rice exports), up more than 1 percent from a year earlier. Exports are second only to the record 124.6 million cwt shipped in 2002/03. A big boost in U.S. supplies, a much smaller price difference over Asian competitors, and a decline in exportable supplies in several major Asian rice exporting countries—as well as in Australia—are behind the projected increase in U.S. rice exports. By type of rice, U.S. rough rice exports are projected to decline while combined milled and brown rice exports are projected to increase. By class, a fractional decline in long grain exports is projected to be more than offset by stronger medium/short grain exports.

Figure 5
Total U.S. rice use in 2004/05 is projected to be the second highest on record



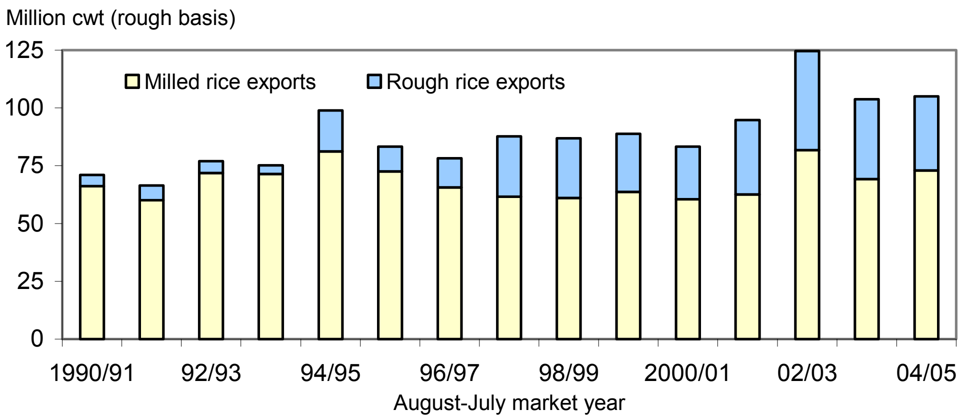
2004/05 are forecasts.
Source: ERS/USDA.

U.S. rough rice exports for 2004/05 are projected at 32 million cwt, down 7 percent from a year earlier and more than 25 percent below the 2002/03 record. Brazil accounts for most of the expected decline in U.S. rough rice exports in 2004/05. Combined milled and brown rice exports (on a rough basis) are projected at 73 million cwt, up more than 5 percent from a year earlier. Expanded exports of milled and brown rice in 2004/05 are based on expectations that the United States will increase shipments to Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, two regions where the United States typically faces stiff competition from Asian exporters.

U.S. ending stocks of all rice for 2004/05 are projected at 41.8 million cwt, up 77 percent from a year earlier and the largest since 1986/87. A carryover of this magnitude will keep U.S. rice prices under substantial downward pressure for the remainder of the 2004/05 market year. The resulting stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 18.7 percent, up from 10.9 percent a year earlier and the highest since 1992/93.

Figure 6

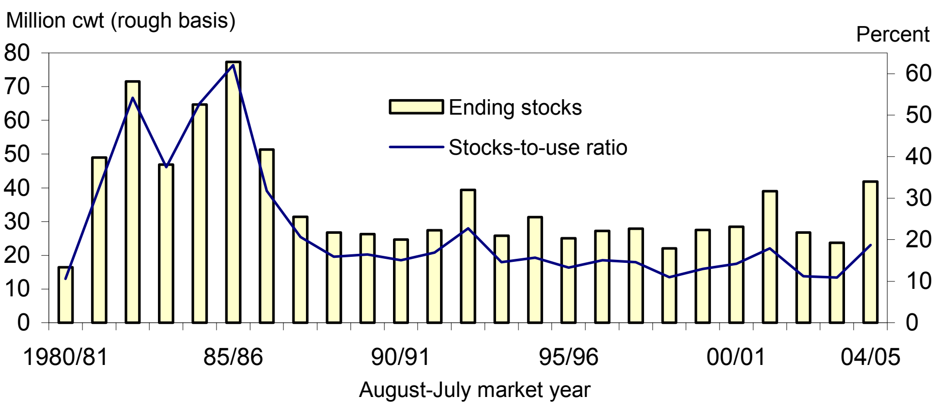
U.S. milled rice exports are projected to increase 5 percent in 2004/05



Sources: 1990/91 to 2003/04, Bureau of the Census; 2004/05 USDA projections.

Figure 7

U.S. ending stocks in 2004/05 are projected to be the highest since 1986/87



2004/05 are forecasts.

Sources: 1980/81-2003/04, NASS/USDA; 2004/05 USDA projections.

According to the *U.S. Export Sales* report (Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA), for the week ending December 2, 2004, combined outstanding sales and commercial exports of U.S. rice totaled 1.55 million tons (product-weight), 19 percent below a year earlier. Outstanding sales were reported at 599,900 tons, 24 percent below a year earlier. Exports were reported at 945,300 tons, 15 percent below a year earlier.

Commercial shipments through December 2, 2004, were behind last year's pace to Brazil, the European Union (EU), Sub-Saharan Africa, Canada, Haiti, and Mexico. Brazil accounts for the largest share of this year's slower export pace. By December 4, 2003, the United States had exported 189,100 tons of rice to Brazil, compared with just 100 tons exported to Brazil by December 2, 2004. In contrast to these markets, commercial shipments through December 2, 2004, were ahead of a year earlier's pace to Costa Rica, Nicaragua, South Korea, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan.

U.S. 2004/05 Medium/Short Grain Exports Are Forecast To Increase to Near-Record 25 Million Cwt

Total U.S. supplies of combined medium/short grain rice in 2004/05 are projected at 77.4 million cwt, 17 percent larger than a year earlier and the largest since 1983/84. In 2004/05 a larger crop and bigger carryin more than offset smaller imports. At 12.4 million cwt, 2004/05 beginning stocks of medium/short grain rice were 33 percent above a year earlier. The medium/short grain forecast crop of 60.8 million cwt is 21 percent larger than a year earlier. This year's larger crop is primarily due to record California production. In contrast, combined medium/short grain imports—projected at 4.25 million cwt—are down almost 27 percent from the 2003/04 record.

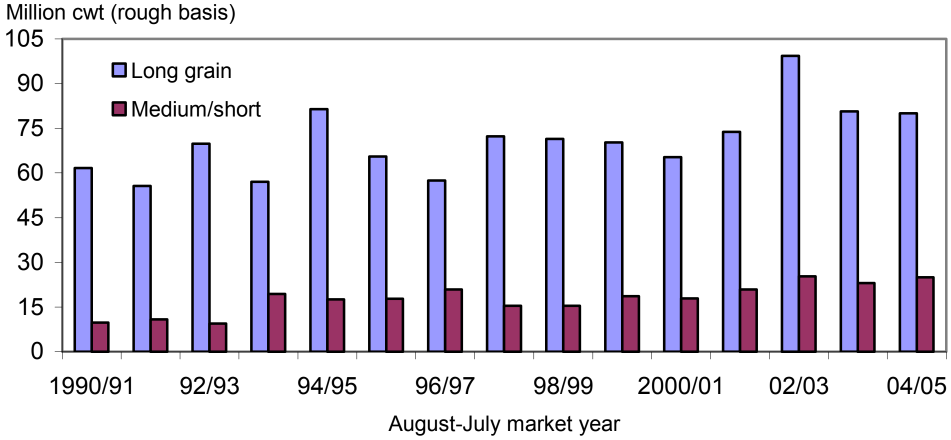
Total use of medium/short rice remains projected at 60 million cwt, 12 percent higher than a year earlier. Total domestic and residual use of medium/short grain rice is projected at 35 million cwt, 14 percent larger than a year earlier. The higher domestic use is based on expectations of greater use of medium/short grain rice in processed foods and products. Exports remain projected at a near-record 25 million cwt, 9 percent larger than a year earlier. The higher export forecast is based on near-record U.S. supplies, lower prices, and another year of tight supplies in Australia—a major U.S. competitor in the global medium/short grain market. Northeast Asia and Turkey are the largest markets for U.S. medium/short grain rice.

Ending stocks of medium/short grain rice remain projected at 17.4 million cwt, up 41 percent from a year earlier. These are the highest ending stocks of medium/short grain rice since 1986/87. The stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 29 percent, the highest since 1992/93. The combination of much larger supplies, expectations of a large carryover, and a high stocks-to-use ratio are expected to lower medium/short grain prices substantially.

Total U.S. 2004/05 long grain supplies remain projected at 187.5 million cwt, up more than 7 percent from a year earlier. A bumper crop and record imports are expected to more than offset a smaller carryin. Beginning stocks of 10.3 million cwt are 34 percent below a year earlier. The 166.9-million-cwt long grain crop is

Figure 8

Medium/short grain U.S. exports are projected to increase in 2004/05



Sources: 1990/91 to 2003/04, Bureau of the Census; 2004/05 USDA projections.

12 percent above a year earlier and the second largest on record. Long grain imports remain projected at a record 10.25 million cwt, nearly 5 percent larger than a year earlier. Nearly all U.S. long grain imports are Asian aromatic rices—jasmine rice from Thailand plus basmati rice from India and Pakistan.

Total long grain use remains projected at 164 million cwt, down fractionally from a year earlier. At 80 million cwt, long grain exports are 1 percent below a year earlier. Latin America, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East (mostly Saudi Arabia) are the top export markets for U.S. long grain rice. Total domestic and residual use of long grain rice remains projected at 84 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from a year earlier.

Ending stocks of long grain remain projected at 23.4 million cwt, 127 percent higher than a year earlier. The stocks-to-use ratio of 14.3 percent is up from 6.3 percent a year earlier. Larger supplies and expectations of a big boost in ending stocks are expected to put downward pressure on U.S. long grain prices throughout the remainder of 2004/05.

U.S. 2004/05 Season-Average Farm Price Raised to $7.25-$7.55 per Cwt

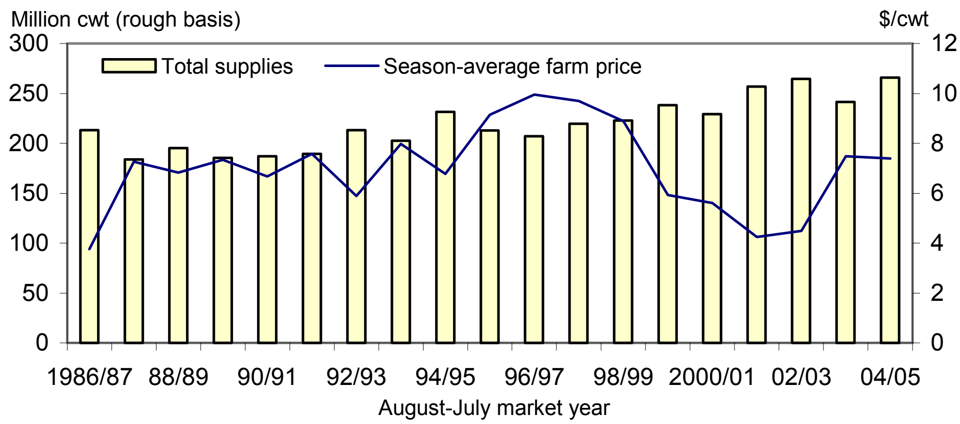
The 2004/05 U.S. season-average farm price (SAFP) is projected at $7.25-$7.55 per cwt, an increase of 25 cents on the low-end and 5 cents on the high-end from last month's forecast. The 2003/04 SAFP was $7.49. This month's increase was based on monthly reported cash prices through mid-November. Last month, USDA lowered the October price to $7.59 from a preliminary $8.24 and reported a mid-month price of $7.49 for November. Despite expectations of a record U.S. harvest, monthly reported cash prices did not start to decline until September. Prices had increased each month from March through August 2004, a result of tight supplies late in the 2003/04 market year and a lack of new-crop sales by farmers early in 2004/05.

Monthly prices will have to sharply decline to achieve the projected SAFP of $7.25-$7.55 per cwt. However, marketing of the 2004 crop is well behind last year's pace, which will reduce the impact of the early-season high prices on the 2004/05 SAFP. The weak marketings to-date are the result of a wait-and-see attitude among producers as buyers and sellers are waiting for more price information.

Weekly rough rice price quotes reported in the *Creed Rice Market Report* have declined from a month earlier on the Gulf Coast and in Texas, but have risen slightly in the Delta. For the week ending December 7, quotes for long grain rough rice in Texas were around $7.60 per cwt, down 30-40 cents from a month earlier. In Southwest Louisiana, long grain rough rice prices were quoted at $7.50 per cwt, a decrease of 25 cents from a month earlier. In contrast, in the Delta long grain rough rice was quoted at $6.85 per cwt, up 10 cents from a month earlier. Quotes in the Delta for southern medium grain rice remain at $6.75 per cwt. There have been virtually no rough rice price quotes for the 2004 California crop.

Figure 9

The U.S. 2004/05 season-average farm price is projected to be $7.25-$7.55



2004/05 mid-point of $7.25-$7.55 projection range.
Sources: 1986/87 to 2003/04 NASS/USDA; 2004/05 USDA projections.

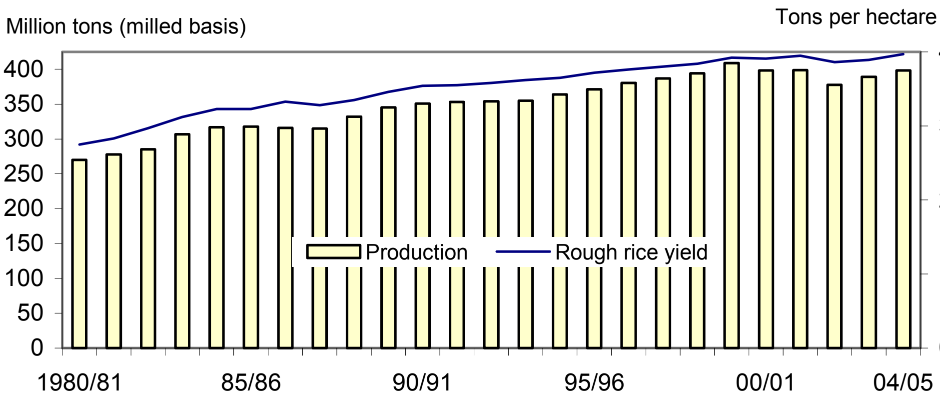
International Outlook

Production Forecasts for 2004/05 Lowered for Cambodia & Thailand

Global rice production in 2004/05 is projected at 398.1 million tons (milled basis), fractionally below last month's forecast but more than 2 percent larger than a year earlier. However, production still remains below the 1999/2000 record of 408.7 million tons. Global consumption is projected at 411.9 million tons, down slightly from both last month and the year-earlier record. Consumption forecasts for 2004/05 were lowered this month for Thailand and Cambodia.

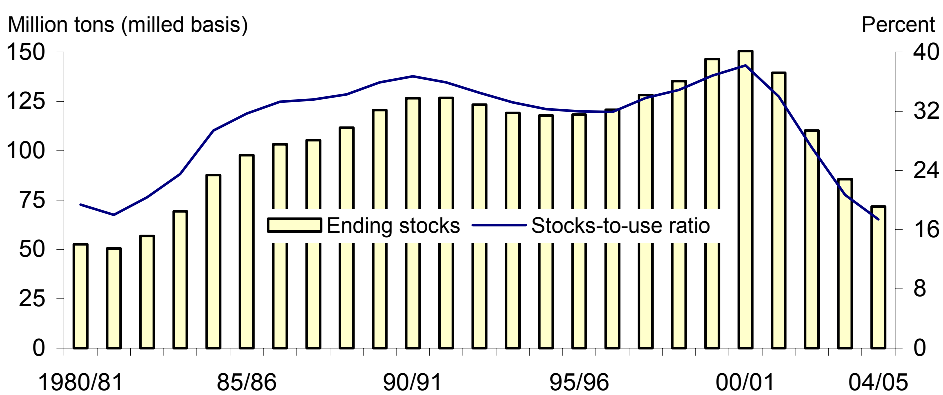
Global ending stocks for 2004/05 are projected at 71.8 million tons, up 313,000 tons from last month's forecast but 16 percent below a year earlier. Ending stocks were lowered this month for Vietnam, while raised for Thailand. Global ending stocks are the lowest since 1983/84. At 17.4 percent, the stocks-to-use ratio is the lowest since 1976/77.

Figure 10
Global rice production is projected to increase 2 percent in 2004/05



2003/04 and 2004/05 are forecasts.
Sources: Historic, FAS/USDA.

Figure 11
Global ending stocks are projected to be the smallest since 1983/84



2003/04 and 2004/05 are forecasts.
Sources: Historic estimates, FAS/USDA.

Production forecasts for 2004/05 were lowered this month for both Thailand and Cambodia. Thailand's production was lowered 200,000 tons to 17.4 million based on expectations of smaller plantings of the second or dry season crop (100 percent irrigated) resulting from abnormal dryness late in the main-crop growing season. While rainfall was plentiful in the spring and summer, the rains abruptly halted in mid-September, 3-4 weeks early. On an annual basis, Thailand's 2004/05 rough rice yield is projected lower due to the early withdrawal of the rainy season. Cambodia's 2004/05 production forecast was lowered 150,000 tons to 2.75 million based on a weaker yield. Cambodia also experienced abnormal dryness this fall and is expected to achieve a lower average yield in 2004/05.

Partially offsetting these reductions was a 150,000-ton increase in South Korea's 2004/05 production forecast to 5 million tons, a result of a higher yield. In addition, North Korea's production forecast was increased 20,000 tons to 1.54 million, also based on a higher yield. Area was actually lowered. Finally, rice production in the EU-25 was raised 26,000 tons to 1.76 million based on a higher yield. Spain—the second largest rice producing country in the EU-25—accounts for all of the increase.

On an annual basis, a big increase in rice production in 2004/05 in China, plus larger crops in Egypt, Japan, South Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines, and the United States are projected to more than offset production declines in India, Burma, Brazil, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Thailand. A 12-percent increase in China's 2004/05 crop to 126 million tons is largely due to policy changes last spring promoting increased grain production. In India, a delayed Southwest Monsoon is responsible for a nearly 5-percent drop in production to 83 million tons.

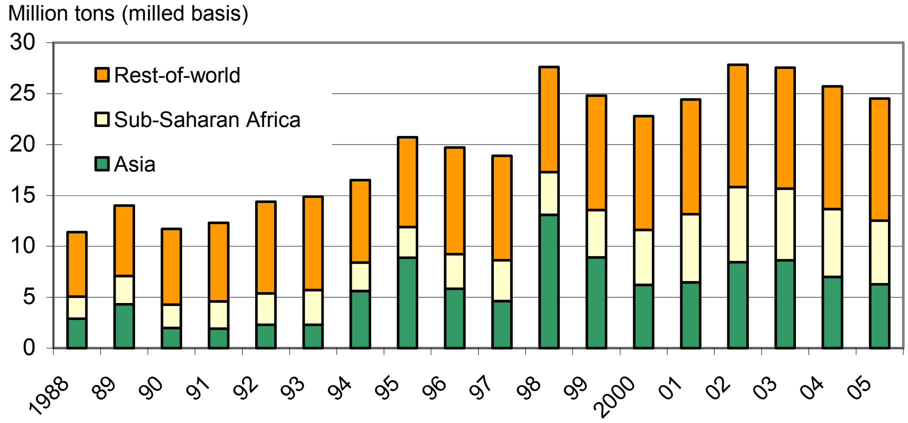
There were two minor production revisions for 2003/04. First, North Korea's production estimate was lowered 40,000 tons to 1.46 million based on a weaker yield. And second, Thailand's 2003/04 production estimate was increased 11,000 tons to 18.01 million based on a higher yield. Area was actually lowered. For 2003/04, global production remains estimated at 389.1 million tons, nearly 3 percent larger than a year earlier.

Export Projections for 2004 and 2005 Raised for Thailand and Vietnam; Cut for Australia

Global rice trade for calendar year 2005 is projected at 24.5 million tons (milled basis), up 100,000 tons from last month's forecast but down almost 5 percent from a year earlier. This is the third consecutive year of declining global rice trade. Trade remains below the 2002 record of 27.9 million tons. Weaker trade in 2004 and 2005 is primarily due to record and near-record crops in several large rice importing countries—primarily Indonesia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Nigeria.

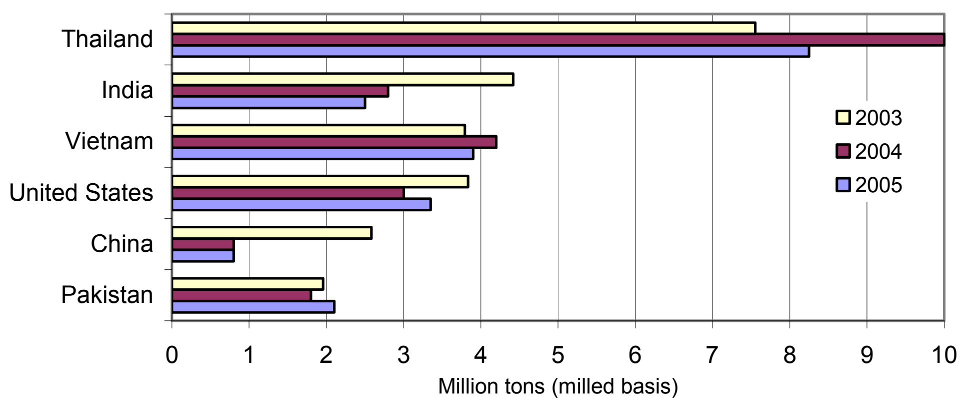
There were two 2005 export revisions this month. First, Vietnam's exports were raised 150,000 tons to 3.9 million based on tight supplies in other Asian exporting countries. Second, Australia's export forecast was lowered 50,000 tons to 250,000 tons based on tight supplies. On the import side, Ghana's 2005 import forecast was raised 50,000 tons to 350,000 based on tight domestic supplies and stronger 2004 imports.

Figure 12
Global rice imports are projected to drop 4 percent in 2005



2004 and 2005 are forecasts.
Source: FAS/USDA.

Figure 13
Thailand, Vietnam, and India are projected to export less rice in 2005

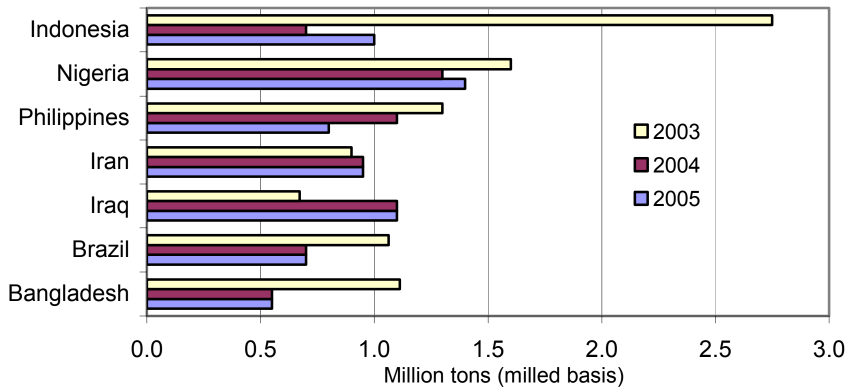


These six countries account for more than 85 percent of global rice exports. 2004 and 2005 are projections.
Source: FAS/USDA.

For 2004, global rice trade is projected at 25.7 million tons, up 350,000 from last month's forecast but almost 7 percent below a year earlier. On the export side, Thailand's 2004 exports were raised 200,000 tons to a record 10 million (the largest amount of rice exported by any country). Vietnam's exports were raised 200,000 tons to 4.2 million—the second highest on record for Vietnam. In contrast, Australia's export forecast was reduced 50,000 tons to 225,000. All three revisions were based on shipment pace.

On the import side, Ghana's imports were raised 100,000 tons to 400,000; Kenya's imports were increased 75,000 tons to 250,000; and Malaysia's imports were increased 75,000 tons to a record 800,000. Smaller increases were made for

Figure 14
Indonesia's imports in 2004 and 2005 are projected well below the 2003 level



2004 and 2005 are projections. These six countries account for about 25 percent of global rice imports.
Source: FAS/USDA.

Mozambique, Senegal, Guinea, and Angola. Partially offsetting the upward revisions was a 100,000-ton reduction in Indonesia's 2004 import forecast to 700,000 tons, the smallest since 1992. Indonesia currently has an import ban in place.

International Trading Prices Continue To Increase

Export prices for most grades of Thailand's milled white rice have increased $22-$27 per ton since early November. Prices are up 17 percent since early August and are the highest since February 1999. The price increases this fall are due to higher prices for Thailand's intervention purchases of its 2004/05 main-crop, an early withdrawal of the rainy season in major rice growing areas in Thailand, and generally tight exportable supplies across much of Asia. Thailand's 2004/05 intervention purchases of rough rice from its main-season crop began on November 1.

Prices for Thailand's 100 percent Grade B (FOB vessel, Bangkok) were quoted at $284 per ton for the week ending December 6, up $27 from a month earlier. Prices for Thailand's 5 percent brokens were quoted at $279 per ton, also up $27 from early November. Prices for Thailand's low-quality (100 percent brokens) A-1 Special were quoted at $225 per ton for the week ending December 6, up $22 from a month earlier.

Like regular milled rice, price quotes for Thailand's parboiled rice have increased since early November. For the week ending December 6, prices for Thailand's 100 percent Grade B parboiled rice were quoted at $283 per ton, up $24 from a month earlier. Prices for India's 5 percent parboiled rice are about $12 per ton lower than Thailand's. Price quotes for Thailand are from the U.S. agricultural counselor in Bangkok.

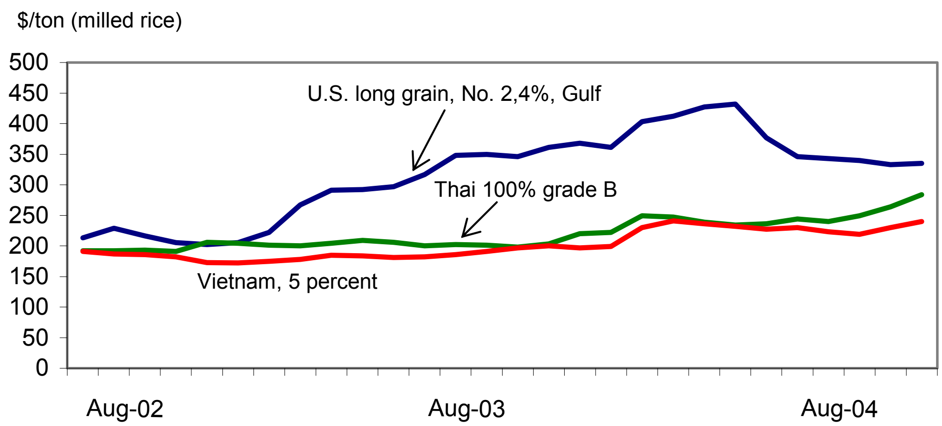
Vietnam's prices have increased over the past month as well due to a lack of supplies until after the harvest of its winter-spring crop in February and March. Price quotes for Vietnam's 5 percent brokens (FOB vessel, Ho Chi Minh City) were reported in the *Creed Rice Market Report* at $240 per ton for the week ending December 7, up $11 from a month earlier and the highest since April. Vietnam's rice is currently selling at a $35-$40 per ton discount to Thailand for similar grades of rice.

U.S. prices for long grain milled rice have increased slightly from last week but are still below quotes in early November. For the week ending December 7, prices for high quality U.S. southern long grain (No. 2, 4 percent brokens, bagged, FAS vessel, Gulf Coast port) were quoted at $320 per ton, up $6 from late November but down $5 from a month earlier. U.S. price quotes have dropped almost $100 per ton since early June. U.S. prices (FOB vessel) are about $51 per ton above prices for comparable grades of Thailand's rice, down from almost $200 last spring. U.S. rice is typically competitive with Thailand's rice with a $35-$50 per ton difference.

Price quotes for 2004-crop California medium grain rice (package quality, bagged, FOB truck, California mill) were reported at $474 per ton for the week ending December 7, unchanged from a month earlier but down $11 from early October. The California 2004 harvest is projected to have been the largest on record. In both the text and tables of this report, export price quotes for U.S. long and medium grain rice are from the weekly *Creed Rice Market Report*.

Figure 15

The U.S. price difference over Thailand has narrowed to $51 per ton



Monthly prices simple average of weekly quotes. All prices quoted "free-on-board" vessel at local port.
Sources: Thai price quotes, U.S. Ag Counselor, Bangkok; U.S. and Vietnam's price quotes, *Creed Rice Market Report* .

Contacts and Links

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Data

Monthly tables from *Rice Outlook* are available in Excel (.xls) spreadsheets at http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Rice/Data/data.htm. These tables contain the latest data on production, use, prices, and trade.

Recent Reports

China: A Study of Dynamic Growth. China's rapid economic growth has been driven by high rates of investment, gains in productivity, and liberalized foreign trade and investment. China's growth is likely to continue, but the Chinese economy faces some possibly unsustainable pressures. The report is available at http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/WRS0408/

Rice Sector Policies in Japan provides a detailed description and analysis of policies used by Japan to support its rice producers. The report is available at http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/rcs/mar03/rcs030301/.

Related Websites

Rice Briefing Room, http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Rice
WASDE, http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/reports/waobr/wasde-bb/
Grain Circular, http://www.fas.usda.gov/grain_arc.html

Table 1--U.S. rice supply and use 1/

Item	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05 2/
TOTAL RICE						
Area			Million acres			
Planted	3.531	3.060	3.334	3.240	3.022	3.364
Harvested	3.512	3.039	3.314	3.207	2.997	3.334
			Pounds per harvested acre			
Yield	5,866	6,281	6,496	6,578	6,645	6,828
			Million cwt			
Beginning stocks	22.1	27.5	28.5	39.0	26.8	23.7
Production	206.0	190.9	215.3	211.0	199.2	227.7
Imports	10.1	10.9	13.2	14.8	15.6	14.5
Total supply	238.2	229.2	256.9	264.8	241.5	265.8
Food, industrial, & residual 3/	118.1	113.4	119.3	109.7	110.0	115.0
Seed	3.8	4.1	4.0	3.7	4.2	4.0
Total domestic use	121.9	117.5	123.3	113.4	114.1	119.0
Exports	88.8	83.2	94.7	124.6	103.7	105.0
Rough	25.2	22.8	32.2	42.8	34.4	32.0
Milled 4/	63.6	60.4	62.5	81.8	69.3	73.0
Total use	210.7	200.7	218.0	238.0	217.8	224.0
Ending stocks	27.5	28.5	39.0	26.8	23.7	41.8
			Percent			
Stocks-to-use ratio	13.0	14.2	17.9	11.2	10.9	18.7
			$/cwt			
Average farm price 5/	5.93	5.61	4.25	4.49	7.49	7.25 to 7.55
			Percent			
Average milling rate	69.6	68.6	68.8	68.3	70.8	70.0

1/ August-July market year; rough equivalent. 2/ Projected. 3/ Residual includes unreported use, processing losses, and estimating errors. 4/ Rough rice equivalent. 5/ Market year weighted average.
Source: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, WAOB, USDA.
Updated December 13, 2004.

Table 2--U.S. rice supply and use, by class 1/

Item	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05 2/
LONG GRAIN						
			Million acres			
Planted	2.731	2.206	2.713	2.537	2.332	
Harvested	2.718	2.189	2.697	2.512	2.310	
			Pounds per harvested acre			
Yield	5,587	5,882	6,213	6,260	6,451	
			Million cwt			
Beginning stocks	14.1	15.6	11.6	26.8	15.7	10.3
Production	151.9	128.8	167.6	157.2	149.0	166.9
Imports	7.6	8.8	9.2	10.0	9.8	10.3
Total supply	173.5	153.1	188.3	194.1	174.5	187.4
Domestic use 3/	87.6	76.2	87.7	79.1	83.4	84.0
Exports	70.3	65.3	73.8	99.3	80.7	80.0
Total use	157.9	141.5	161.6	178.4	164.2	164.0
Ending stocks	15.6	11.6	26.8	15.7	10.3	23.4
			Percent			
Stocks-to-use ratio	9.9	8.2	16.6	8.8	6.3	14.3
MEDIUM & SHORT GRAIN						
			Million acres			
Planted	0.800	0.854	0.621	0.703	0.690	
Harvested	0.794	0.850	0.617	0.695	0.687	
			Pounds per harvested acre			
Yield	6,822	7,308	7,733	7,729	7,299	
			Million cwt			
Beginning stocks	6.8	10.4	15.6	10.7	9.3	12.4
Production	54.2	62.1	47.7	53.7	50.1	60.8
Imports	2.5	2.1	4.0	4.8	5.8	4.3
Total supply 4/	63.3	74.8	67.1	68.9	66.0	77.4
Domestic use 3/	34.3	41.3	35.5	34.3	30.7	35.0
Exports	18.6	17.9	20.9	25.3	23.0	25.0
Total use	52.9	59.2	56.4	59.6	53.7	60.0
Ending stocks	10.4	15.6	10.7	9.3	12.4	17.4
			Percent			
Stocks-to-use ratio	19.7	26.3	18.9	15.6	23.0	29.0
Ending stocks difference 1/	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.0	1.0

1/ Stock totals by type omit brokens, which are included in total stocks for all types of rice in table 1.
2/ Projected. 3/ Includes residual. 4/ Accounts for the difference in beginning and ending stocks of brokens. Thus, total supply of medium/short grain may not equal the sum of beginning stocks, production, and imports.
Source: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, WAOB, USDA.
Updated December 13, 2004.

Table 3--U.S. monthly average farm prices and marketings

Month	2004/05 $/cwt	2004/05 1,000 cwt	2003/04 $/cwt	2003/04 1,000 cwt	2002/03 $/cwt	2002/03 1,000 cwt
August	8.85	9,003	5.47	9,681	3.94	10,892
September	8.38	14,197	6.18	15,963	4.09	12,313
October	7.59	13,422	6.44	19,247	4.03	14,429
November	7.49 1/	12,207 2/	6.99	11,750	4.24	12,338
December			7.57	16,424	4.46	15,059
January			8.19	19,884	4.66	19,860
February			7.74	12,921	4.24	13,141
March			8.01	14,046	4.31	14,553
April			8.13	11,891	4.61	14,502
May			8.27	10,473	4.84	10,113
June			8.69	10,277	5.43	9,691
July			8.79	9,202	5.31	11,755
Average 2/	8.03 3/ $7.25-$7.55 4/	12,207	7.49	13,480	4.49	13,221
Total 5/		48,829		161,759		158,646

1/ Mid-month estimate. 2/ Average of previous months. 3/ Price is market year weighted average;
2004/05 is weighted average through current month only. 4/ USDA season-average farm price forecast.
5/ Total volume marketed; 2004/05 is through current month only.
Source: Monthly cash price and marketings, Agricultural Prices, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.
Last updated December 13, 2004.

Table 4--USDA-calculated world market rice prices (rough basis)

	2004/05			2003/04			2002/03		
Month	Long	Medium	Short	Long	Medium	Short	Long	Medium	Short
					$/cwt				
August	5.91	5.40	5.47	4.02	3.79	3.85	3.32	2.99	3.00
September	5.98	5.46	5.54	3.94	3.72	3.77	3.29	2.96	2.97
October	5.94	5.42	5.50	3.96	3.74	3.79	3.28	2.95	2.96
November	6.13	5.61	5.69	4.03	3.80	3.86	3.24	2.91	2.92
December 1/	6.40	5.79	5.87	4.15	3.93	3.98	3.22	2.93	2.94
January				4.14	3.92	3.97	3.29	2.96	2.98
February				4.40	4.22	4.23	3.40	3.01	3.03
March				4.91	4.72	4.74	3.36	2.97	2.99
April				5.56	5.35	5.38	3.29	2.91	2.93
May				5.87	5.64	5.67	3.32	2.92	2.94
June				5.86	5.64	5.67	3.60	3.21	3.24
July				5.96	5.73	5.77	3.82	3.43	3.45
Average 2/	6.07	5.54	5.61	4.73	4.52	4.56	3.37	3.01	3.03

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Simple average of weekly announced adjusted world market price.
Source: Farm Service Agency, USDA.
Last updated December 13, 2004.

Table 5--U.S. rice exports 1/

Country or region	2004/05 as of 12/2/04	2003/04 as of 12/4/03	2003/04 Market year	2002/03 Market year	2001/02 Market year	2000/01 Market year
			1,000 metric tons			
European Union 25	149.8	151.7	259.6	385.2	336.3	363.5
Other Europe	19.5	13.2	14.6	25.8	14.6	13.2
Turkey	1.8	61.5	59.6	209.9	141.3	170.8
Former Soviet Union	1.0	0.7	1.8	55.7	59.7	0.7
NORTHEAST ASIA	219.2	258.0	507.0	532.6	379.4	296.4
Japan	91.6	139.7	355.9	387.8	349.3	296.4
South Korea	45.0	55.1	55.2	40.1	30.1	0.0
Taiwan	82.6	63.2	95.9	104.7	0.0	0.0
OTHER ASIA & MIDDLE EAST	206.9	163.8	247.1	312.2	238.2	318.1
Indonesia	0.1	0.3	0.6	90.7	0.2	23.2
Jordan	46.0	1.5	17.9	18.7	23.7	13.7
Philippines	58.2	117.8	117.8	38.3	35.8	104.4
Saudi Arabia	55.3	30.3	80.8	115.7	101.0	140.1
AFRICA	45.9	50.5	72.0	219.3	181.2	181.6
Algeria	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.0	16.3	3.0
Cote d'Ivoire	3.0	0.3	0.8	29.9	13.7	12.3
Ghana	26.9	17.3	38.1	70.5	77.4	72.6
Liberia	8.2	10.8	10.7	8.9	8.0	9.3
South Africa	0.0	18.1	18.1	74.8	54.7	57.0
WESTERN HEMISPHERE	901.2	1,202.7	2,173.9	2,336.4	1,936.3	1,305.3
Brazil	0.1	224.5	221.1	327.0	0.2	2.0
Costa Rica	60.9	0.4	134.3	161.3	160.7	81.6
Canada	101.5	95.2	153.1	157.1	105.5	99.8
Colombia	0.7	0.4	5.1	1.9	1.4	17.2
Cuba	10.1	15.0	113.5	118.6	71.6	0.0
Dominican Republic	0.6	0.1	59.6	0.0	1.0	56.0
Guatemala	7.7	63.0	70.0	53.6	76.2	35.6
Haiti	99.7	183.4	283.4	297.6	249.7	157.9
Honduras	44.4	50.2	133.2	128.7	163.1	105.6
Jamaica	44.8	41.4	56.2	58.7	19.4	31.5
Leeward & Windward Is.	7.1	3.8	8.9	7.4	7.2	4.2
Mexico	343.4	376.1	677.7	694.7	740.3	582.6
Nicaragua	106.8	28.4	112.1	118.0	156.7	85.2
Panama	9.1	0.2	0.2	8.5	38.9	2.3
Peru	22.4	4.2	4.6	1.3	0.7	1.0
El Salvador	33.2	54.8	61.4	74.2	93.5	40.4
Trinidad	0.7	12.5	25.1	22.7	15.6	9.0
Venezuela	0.1	38.9	39.0	56.2	0.2	0.2
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	1,545.2	1,901.9	3,335.8	4,077.1	3,269.0	2,650.8

1/ Columns labeled "Market year" are total August-July exports reported in *U.S. Export Sales*. Columns labeled "as of" are combined exports and outstanding sales at a particular date. *U.S. Export Sales* reports on a product-weight basis. Food donations are not included in *U.S. Export Sales*.
Source: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.
Last updated December 13, 2004.

Table 6--U.S., Thailand, and Vietnam milled rice export price quotes

Month or marketing year 1/	United States 2/ Long grain Milled 3/	United States 2/ Long grain Rough 4/	United States 2/ Medium grain Milled 5/	Thailand 6/ 100% Grade B	Thailand 6/ 5% Parboiled	Thailand 6/ 15% Brokens	Thailand 6/ 35% Brokens	Thailand 6/ A.1 7/ Special	Vietnam 8/ 5% Brokens
	$ / metric ton 9/								
1998/99	366	215	486	284	276	261	236	217	257
1999/2000	270	148	453	231	242	209	185	160	202
2000/01	275	157	304	184	187	167	149	132	165
2001/02	207	107	285	191	202	160	149	141	176
Aug. 2002	201	100	265	197	195	183	171	148	190
Sep. 2002	198	97	268	192	194	179	169	149	191
Oct. 2002	214	93	276	192	195	179	171	157	187
Nov. 2002	201	102	283	193	196	180	173	158	186
Dec. 2002	190	108	287	191	190	180	171	154	182
Jan. 2003	187	108	309	206	196	193	182	152	173
Feb. 2003	190	109	318	204	196	191	179	150	172
Mar. 2003	207	113	329	201	193	188	177	146	175
Apr. 2003	252	143	350	200	191	186	175	141	178
May 2003	276	168	358	204	193	189	177	143	185
June 2003	277	165	397	209	200	195	183	151	184
July 2003	282	168	478	206	203	190	179	151	181
2002/03	223	123	327	199	195	186	175	150	182
Aug. 2003	302	175	518	200	199	185	175	150	182
Sep. 2003	333	179	518	202	203	187	177	155	186
Oct. 2003	335	175	502	201	204	187	178	157	191
Nov. 2003	331	185	535	198	201	185	176	158	197
Dec. 2003	346	205	551	203	198	189	181	162	200
Jan. 2004	353	205	551	220	209	204	195	171	197
Feb. 2004	346	195	570	222	215	207	197	183	199
Mar. 2004	388	225	558	249	247	236	227	212	230
Apr. 2004	397	228	540	247	253	234	226	215	241
May 2004	412	258	540	239	252	226	220	213	236
June 2004	417	250	529	234	244	222	217	212	232
July 2004	362	194	482	236	240	225	219	210	227
2003/04	360	206	533	221	222	207	199	183	210
Aug. 2004	331	185	445	244	253	233	225	212	230
Sep. 2004	328	188	468	240	251	229	222	206	223
Oct. 2004	325	179	480	249	254	237	227	201	219
Nov. 2004	318	181	474	264	264	252	241	212	230
Dec. 2004 10/	320	185	474	284	283	271	259	225	240
2004/05 10/	324	184	468	256	261	244	235	211	228

N/A = Not available.

1/ Simple average of weekly quotes. 2/ All U.S. price quotes are from the weekly Creed Rice Market Report. 3/ Number 2, 4-percent brokens, FAS vessel, Gulf Coast. 4/ Bulk, FOB vessel, New Orleans, Louisiana. 5/ Package quality, FOB truck, California mill. 6/ Nominal price quotes, FOB vessel, Bangkok, long grain, U.S. Agricultural counselor, Bangkok. 7/ 100 percent brokens. 8/ FOB vessel, Ho Chi Minh City, long grain, Creed Rice Market Report. 9/ All milled rice quotes are for 50-kilogram bags. Rough rice price quotes are for bulk shipments. 10/ Preliminary.

Last updated December 13, 2004.

Table 7--Global rice production, major producers and monthly revisions

	2003/04 1/			2004/05 1/			
	November	December	Monthly change	November	December	Monthly change	Annual change
	1,000 metric tons						
Argentina	640	640	0	637	637	0	-3
Australia	383	383	0	400	400	0	17
Bangladesh	26,152	26,152	0	25,500	25,500	0	-652
Brazil	8,708	8,708	0	7,900	7,900	0	-808
Burma	10,730	10,730	0	10,150	10,150	0	-580
Cambodia	2,960	2,960	0	2,900	2,750	-150	-210
China	112,462	112,462	0	126,000	126,000	0	13,538
Colombia	1,367	1,367	0	1,385	1,385	0	18
Egypt	4,030	4,030	0	4,225	4,225	0	195
EU-25	1,692	1,692	0	1,738	1,764	26	72
India	87,000	87,000	0	83,000	83,000	0	-4,000
Indonesia	35,024	35,024	0	34,991	34,991	0	-33
Iran	2,180	2,180	0	2,200	2,200	0	20
Japan	7,091	7,091	0	7,950	7,950	0	859
Korea, South	4,450	4,451	1	4,850	5,000	150	549
Korea, North	1,500	1,460	-40	1,520	1,540	20	80
Laos	1,560	1,560	0	1,500	1,500	0	-60
Madagascar	1,824	1,824	0	1,696	1,696	0	-128
Malaysia	1,500	1,500	0	1,450	1,450	0	-50
Nepal	2,500	2,500	0	2,500	2,500	0	0
Nigeria	2,200	2,200	0	2,300	2,300	0	100
Pakistan	4,900	4,900	0	5,000	5,000	0	100
Peru	1,200	1,200	0	1,300	1,300	0	100
Philippines	9,000	9,000	0	9,200	9,200	0	200
Sri Lanka	1,900	1,900	0	2,000	2,000	0	100
Taiwan	1,164	1,164	0	1,027	1,027	0	-137
Thailand	18,000	18,011	11	17,600	17,400	-200	-611
Uruguay	887	887	0	847	847	0	-40
Vietnam	21,968	21,968	0	21,500	21,500	0	-468
United States	6,396	6,396	0	7,228	7,228	0	832
Others	7,769	7,769	0	7,759	7,759	0	-10
World total	389,137	389,109	-28	398,253	398,099	-154	8,990

1/ Projected.

Source: Global production projections are provided monthly by USDA's Interagency Commodity Estimates Committee.

Last updated December 14, 2004.

Table 8--Global rice trade, calendar years 2004 and 2005; major exporters and monthly revisions

	2004 1/			2005 1/			
	November	December	Monthly change	November	December	Monthly change	Annual change
	1,000 metric tons (milled basis)						
Exporters:							
Argentina	250	250	0	400	400	0	150
Australia	275	225	-50	300	250	-50	25
Brazil	50	50	0	25	25	0	-25
Burma	100	100	0	400	400	0	300
China	800	800	0	800	800	0	0
Egypt	700	700	0	700	700	0	0
India	2,800	2,800	0	2,500	2,500	0	-300
Pakistan	1,800	1,800	0	2,100	2,100	0	300
Thailand	9,800	10,000	200	8,250	8,250	0	-1,750
Uruguay	700	700	0	800	800	0	100
Vietnam	4,000	4,200	200	3,750	3,900	150	-300
European Union	225	225	0	300	300	0	75
Others	578	578	0	686	686	0	108
United States	3,300	3,300	0	3,400	3,400	0	100
World total	25,378	25,728	350	24,411	24,511	100	-1,217

All trade data are reported on a calendar year basis.
1/ Projected.
Source: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.
Last updated December 14, 2004.

Table 9--Global rice trade, calendar years 2004 and 2005; major importers and monthly revisions

	2004 1/			2005 1/			
	November	December	Monthly change	November	December	Monthly change	Annual change
	1,000 metric tons (milled basis)						
Importers:							
Angola	150	200	50	125	125	0	-75
Bangladesh	550	550	0	550	550	0	0
Brazil	700	700	0	700	700	0	0
Canada	250	250	0	250	250	0	0
China	1,100	1,100	0	600	600	0	-500
Colombia	60	60	0	100	100	0	40
Costa Rica	125	125	0	100	100	0	-25
Cote d'Ivoire	750	750	0	650	650	0	-100
Cuba	650	650	0	700	700	0	50
Dominican Republic	125	125	0	75	75	0	-50
El Salvador	75	75	0	75	75	0	0
Ghana	300	400	100	300	350	50	-50
Guinea	300	350	50	300	300	0	-50
Haiti	250	250	0	300	300	0	50
Honduras	100	100	0	100	100	0	0
Indonesia	800	700	-100	1,000	1,000	0	300
Iran	950	950	0	950	950	0	0
Iraq	1,100	1,100	0	1,100	1,100	0	0
Jamaica	50	50	0	50	50	0	0
Japan	650	650	0	650	650	0	0
Kenya	175	250	75	175	175	0	-75
Korea, North	600	600	0	500	500	0	-100
Korea, South	210	210	0	210	210	0	0
Madagascar	100	100	0	200	200	0	100
Malaysia	725	800	75	550	550	0	-250
Mexico	525	525	0	550	550	0	25
Mozambique	200	250	50	200	200	0	-50
Nigeria	1,300	1,300	0	1,400	1,400	0	100
Nicaragua	100	100	0	100	100	0	0
Peru	80	80	0	70	70	0	-10
Philippines	1,100	1,100	0	800	800	0	-300
Russia	350	350	0	350	350	0	0
Saudi Arabia	1,350	1,350	0	1,100	1,100	0	-250
Senegal	750	800	50	750	750	0	-50
Singapore	375	375	0	375	375	0	0
South Africa	800	800	0	650	650	0	-150
Sri Lanka	100	100	0	100	100	0	0
Syria	170	170	0	190	190	0	20
Taiwan	125	125	0	125	125	0	0
Turkey	150	150	0	250	250	0	100
Uzbekistan	25	25	0	25	25	0	0
UAE	80	80	0	80	80	0	0
Yemen	250	250	0	250	250	0	0
EU-25	1,000	1,000	0	1,050	1,050	0	50
Other Europe	215	215	0	220	220	0	5
United States	500	500	0	460	460	0	-40
Other 2/	4,988	4,988	0	5,006	5,056	50	68
World total	25,378	25,728	350	24,411	24,511	100	-1,217

All trade data are reported on a calendar year basis.
1/ Projected. 2/ Includes countries not listed separately as well as imports not assigned a specific destination.
Source: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.
Last updated December 14, 2004.