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Rice Outlook: August 2025

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U.S. 2025/26 Rice Production Forecast Is Raised 3.5 Million Hundredweight to 208.5 Million

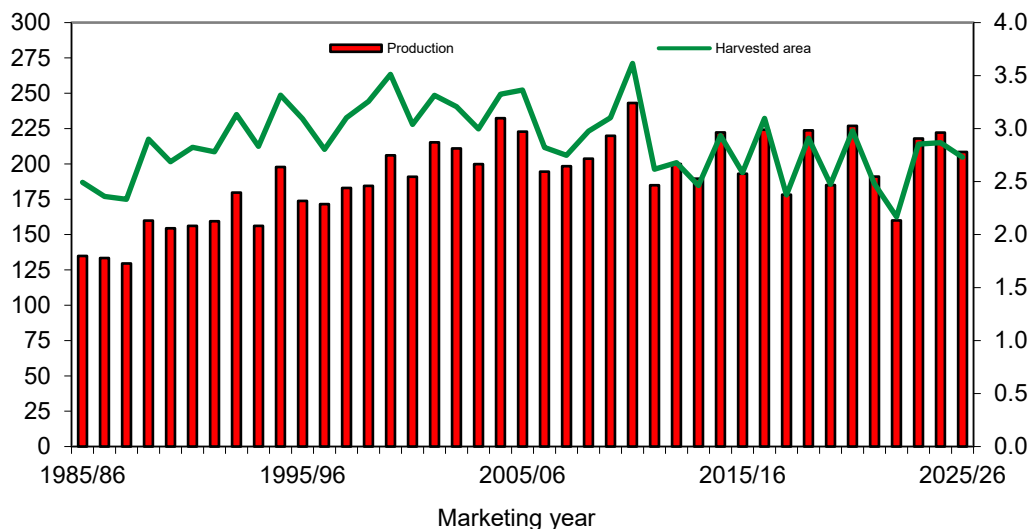
There are several supply and use revisions to the U.S. 2025/26 rice balance sheet this month. On the supply side, the production forecast is raised 3.5 million hundredweight (cwt) to 208.5 million, as an upward revision in the harvested area forecast more than offset a reduced yield. The all-rice import forecast is lowered 1.0 million cwt to 49.7 million, still 2.5 percent above a year earlier and the highest on record, with long grain accounting for all of the downward revision. On the 2025/26 use side, the all-rice domestic and residual use forecast is raised 2.0 million cwt to 167.0 million cwt, with long-grain accounting for all of the upward revision. In addition, the 2025/26 all-rice export forecast is increased 4.0 million cwt to 97.0 million, with medium- and short-grain accounting for the bulk of the upward revision.

Figure 1

U.S. rice production in 2025/26 is projected to decline 6 percent to 208.5 million cwt, largely due to a decrease in harvested area

Million cwt (rough basis)

Million acres



2025/26 forecasts. Cwt = hundredweight.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, *Rice Yearbook* dataset, 1985/86–2022/23; USDA, World

These supply and use projections yield a 2025/26 U.S. ending-stocks forecast of 44.6 million cwt, down just 0.1 million cwt from the previous forecast and nearly 12 percent below a year earlier. For 2024/25, total exports are lowered 3.5 million cwt to 90.0 million, with long-grain accounting for most of the reduction. The 2025/26 U.S. season-average farm price (SAFP) forecast for California is raised \$1.50 per cwt to \$21.00, which increased the all-rice SAFP 20 cents to \$14.20 per cwt.

In the 2025/26 world rice market, global production is projected at a record 541.5 million tons (milled basis), up 0.2 million tons from the previous forecast, with Nigeria and the United States accounting for all of the upward revision. Global rice supplies in 2025/26 are projected at a record 728.7 million tons, 0.2 million tons below the previous forecast but up 1 percent from a year earlier. Global rice consumption in 2025/26 (including a residual component) is raised almost 0.4 million tons to a record 542.0 million, mainly due to a higher forecast for Nigeria. The 2025/26 global ending stocks forecast is lowered 0.6 million tons to 186.7 million, with Burma, Cote d'Ivoire, South Korea, Laos, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam accounting for the bulk of the downward revision.

Global rice trade in calendar year 2026 is projected at a record 62.0 million tons (milled basis), up 0.3 million tons from the previous forecast, driven by higher export forecasts for Burma and the United States. In the global rice market, reported price quotes declined over the past month for the United States, Pakistan, and Thailand but increased for Vietnam and were unchanged for Argentina and India.

U.S. 2025/26 Rice Harvested Area Forecast Raised 83,000 Acres to 2.73 Million

The U.S. 2025/26 rice production forecast is raised 3.5 million cwt to 208.5 million, still 6 percent below a year earlier (figure 1). The upward revision is due to an 83,000-acre increase in the harvested area forecast to 2.73 million acres, still 5 percent below a year earlier, more than offsetting a reduced yield. Harvested area is raised for both classes of rice. The all-rice yield of 7,636 pounds per acre is down 109 pounds from the previous forecast and 1.4 percent below a year earlier.

Revised planted area and harvested area forecasts for all rice, by class, and by State were reported by the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) on August 12 in its *Crop Production* report. In addition, the first USDA, NASS survey-based yield forecasts for all rice and by State, as well as the first State production forecasts, were reported. The revised planted area estimates are based on a review of all available data, including prevented plantings reported by the USDA, Farm Service Administration (FSA), USDA, FSA certified acreage data, and USDA, Risk Management Agency data. The revised yield is based on surveys conducted between July 25 and August 6 that asked operators what they thought their yields would be as of August 1. Harvested area is raised this month from the estimates reported in the USDA, NASS June *Acreage* report for all reported States except Arkansas, where harvested area is lowered 17,000 acres. California reported the largest harvested area increase from June, up 44,000 acres to 526,000. In addition, Mississippi's rice harvested area is increased by 31,000 acres to 160,000, the highest since 2020.

On an annual basis, rice plantings declined in 2025/26 in Arkansas, Missouri, and Texas, with Arkansas' rice plantings dropping 187,000 acres to 1.26 million acres. Rice plantings declined just 5,000 acres in Missouri and 3,000 acres in Texas. In contrast, California's rice plantings increased 62,000 acres in 2025/26 while Louisiana's plantings are up 3,000 acres and Mississippi's plantings rose 10,000 acres from a year earlier.

Average yields are projected below a year earlier in all reported States except for California and Louisiana, with the Texas yield of 7,700 pounds per acre down 12.5 percent from a year earlier. In contrast, California's yield is projected to increase 2 percent to 8,700 pounds per acre. Production is projected to decline in 2025/26 in Arkansas, Missouri, and Texas, with the Arkansas crop dropping 17.3 million cwt to 92.2 million mostly due to smaller area. In contrast, California's production is projected to increase 6.2 million cwt to 45.8 million, mostly due to expanded area, with production increases in Louisiana and Mississippi projected much smaller.

The 2025/26 long-grain crop is projected at 154.5 million cwt, 1.7 million cwt above the previous forecast but still 10 percent smaller than a year earlier. The year-to-year decline is primarily due to smaller plantings, a result of excessive rainfall and flooding in April and May in the Delta and declining prices, especially for long-grain rice, the dominant class of rice grown in the region. The medium- and short-grain crop is projected at 54.0 million cwt, 1.8 million cwt above the previous forecast and 8 percent larger than a year earlier. The year-to-year increase is a result of expanded plantings in California more than offsetting a small reduction in plantings in the South. The weather was generally favorable for rice production in California during the planting window and growers in California have fewer planting options than in the South.

For the week ending August 10, 85 percent of the U.S. 2025/26 rice crop was reported headed, 4 percentage points behind a year earlier but 5 percentage points ahead of the U.S. 5-year average. Heading was reported ahead of normal in all southern rice producing States except

Louisiana where heading was reported at the Louisiana 5-year average of 94 percent. In California, 65 percent of the crop was reported headed, down 4 percentage points from the State's 5-year average. For the week ending August 10, harvest was slightly ahead of normal in both Texas and Louisiana while harvesting had just begun in Arkansas and Mississippi but had not yet started in Missouri and California.

The 2025/26 all-rice import forecast is lowered 1.0 million cwt to 49.7 million, still 2.5 percent above a year earlier and the highest on record. Long-grain accounts for all of the downward revision, now forecast at 43.0 million but still up more than 2 percent from a year earlier and the highest on record. The downward revision is largely based on larger U.S. supplies. The bulk of U.S. long-grain imports are expected to remain Asian aromatic varieties, primarily jasmine from Thailand and basmati from India and Pakistan. The United States also typically imports broken kernels, which are included in the long-grain total, when U.S. prices are high.

Medium- and short-grain rice imports remain forecast at 6.7 million, 3 percent above a year earlier. Thailand and India are currently the largest suppliers of medium- and short-grain rice to the United States—with China, Italy, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan shipping smaller quantities. Argentina has recently begun shipping medium- and short-grain rice to Puerto Rico, partially replacing China as a supplier to the U.S. territory.

The 2025/26 carryin is raised 3.5 million cwt to 50.5 million cwt, up 27 percent from a year earlier and the highest since 1987/88. The long-grain carryin is projected at 39.8 million cwt, up 3.0 million from the previous forecast and 106 percent larger than a year earlier and the highest since 1986/87. The medium- and short-grain carryin forecast is raised 0.5 million cwt to 9.0 million, down 52 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. 2025/26 Domestic and Residual Use and Export Forecasts Are Raised

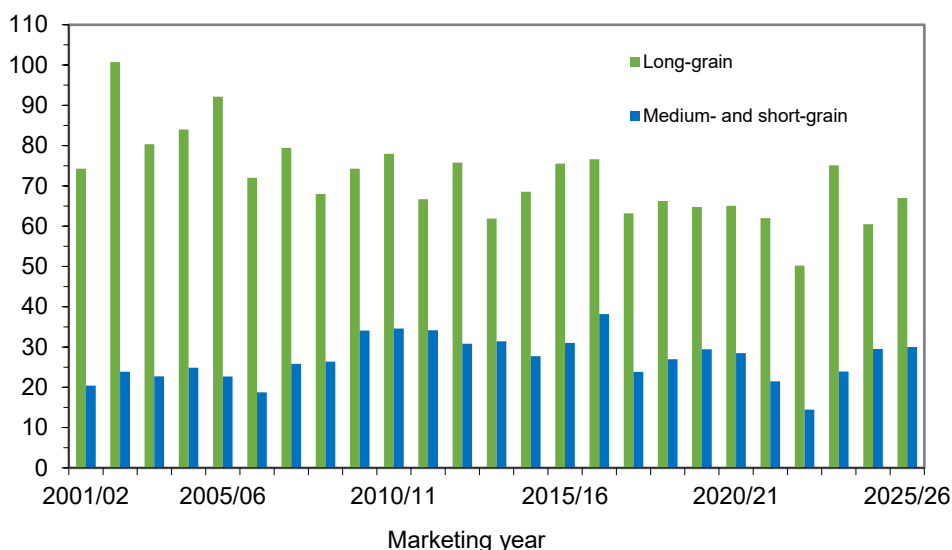
The U.S. 2025/26 all-rice domestic and residual use forecast is raised 2.0 million cwt to 167.0 million cwt, still down 3.0 million from the year-earlier record. The upward revision—all long-grain—is based on larger U.S. supplies. The long-grain domestic and residual use forecast is raised 2.0 million cwt to 135.0 million cwt, up 2.0 million from a year earlier and the highest on record. Medium- and short-grain domestic and residual use remains forecast at 32.0 million cwt, down 13.5 percent from a year earlier due to smaller supplies.

U.S. all-rice exports in 2025/26 are projected at 97.0 million cwt, up 4.0 million from last month's forecast and 8 percent above the year earlier revised forecast. The long-grain export forecast is raised 1.0 million cwt to 67.0 million, 11 percent above a year earlier (figure 2). The upward revision is based on larger U.S. supplies and the shift of about 57,000 tons of outstanding sales from 2024/25, with Iraq gaining 44,000 tons and Haiti and Nicaragua accounting for the remainder of the rollover. Medium- and short-grain exports are raised 3.0 million cwt to 30.0 million, nearly 2 percent above a year earlier. The upward revision is largely based on the shift of 51,400 tons of outstanding sales to South Korea from 2024/25 and a smaller shift of sales to Japan and Israel. In addition, sales of U.S. medium- and short-grain rice to Japan are expected to be larger in 2025/26. Japan is the largest market for U.S. medium- and short-grain rice.

Figure 2

U.S. long-grain rice exports are projected to increase 11 percent in 2025/26; medium- and short-grain exports to increase 2 percent 1/

Million cwt



Cwt = hundredweight. 2024/25 and 2025/26 are forecasts. 1/ Milled-, brown-, and rough-rice exports on a rough-rice basis.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Rice Yearbook dataset, 2000/01–2022/23; USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*, 2023/24–2025/26.

By type, U.S. 2025/26 milled-rice exports are raised 3.0 million cwt to 65.0 million, up 4.0 million cwt from the year-earlier revised forecast, with Northeast Asia and Iraq accounting for most of the upward revision. Rough-rice exports are raised 1.0 million cwt to 32.0 million, 3.0 million cwt above the year-earlier revised forecast, with Latin America accounting for all of the upward revision.

These supply and use projections yield a 2025/26 ending-stocks forecast of 44.6 million cwt, down just 0.1 million cwt from the previous forecast and nearly 12 percent below a year earlier. Long-grain ending stocks are raised 0.7 million cwt to 35.3 million cwt, still down 11 percent from a year earlier. Medium- and short-grain ending are lowered 0.7 million cwt to 7.7 million, 14.5 percent below a year earlier.

U.S. 2024/25 Long-Grain and Medium- and Short-Grain Export Forecasts Lowered

There are no supply side revisions to the 2024/25 U.S. rice balance sheet this month. On the 2024/25 use side, total exports are lowered 3.5 million cwt to 90.0 million, 9 percent below a year earlier. Export revisions for 2024/25 are based on U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census shipment estimates for August–June, commercial sales and shipment data reported by USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in its weekly *U.S. Export Sales* report through July 31, and any announced food-aid donations expected to ship in July 2025. A major factor contributing to the decrease in the 2024/25 U.S. exports forecast is the large shift—

around 120,000 tons—of outstanding sales to the 2025/26 market year from the 2024/25 market year that were reported by USDA, FAS in its July 17 *U.S. Exports Sales* report.

By class, U.S. 2024/25 long-grain exports are lowered 3.0 million cwt to 60.5 million, 19.5 percent below a year earlier. The downward revision is largely based on weaker-than-expected reported shipments of long-grain rough rice to Latin America, the top market for U.S. long-grain rice, and the shift to 2025/26 of 44,000 tons of outstanding sales of long-grain milled rice to Iraq as well as the shift of smaller outstanding sales to Haiti and Nicaragua. Medium- and short-grain exports for 2024/25 are lowered 0.5 million cwt to 29.5 million, still up 23 percent from a year earlier due to larger shipments to Northeast Asia. The downward revision was largely driven by the rollover to 2025/26 of outstanding sales of 51,400 tons to South Korea, 8,400 tons to Japan, and 2,600 tons to Israel.

By type, U.S. 2024/25 milled-rice exports are lowered 1.0 million cwt to 61.0 million, still 8 percent larger than a year earlier, with Northeast Asia and the Middle East accounting for most of the expected year-to-year increase. Rough-rice exports are reduced 2.5 million cwt to 29.0 million, 32 percent below a year earlier. Weaker sales to several key markets in Latin America, especially Mexico and Venezuela, account for nearly all of the projected decline in U.S. rough-rice exports in 2024/25.

The weaker exports raised the 2024/25 ending stocks forecast 3.5 million cwt to 50.5 million, up 27 percent from a year earlier and the highest since 1986/87. The 2024/25 long-grain ending stocks forecast is increased 3.0 million cwt to 39.8 million, 106 percent above a year earlier and the largest since 1985/86. The medium- and short-grain ending stocks forecast is raised 0.5 million cwt to 9.0 million, still 52 percent below a year earlier.

For 2025/26, the season-average farm price (SAFP) forecast for California is raised \$1.50 per cwt to \$21.00, up \$1.00 from a year earlier. The upward revision is based on a tighter ending stocks forecast. The higher California medium- and short-grain SAFP raised the U.S. medium- and short-grain SAFP \$1.00 per cwt to \$18.60, still down 30 cents from a year earlier. The higher U.S. medium- and short-grain SAFP raised the U.S. 2025/26 all-rice SAFP 20 cents to \$14.20 per cwt, still 90 cents below a year earlier.

International Outlook

Production Forecasts for 2025/26 Raised for Nigeria and the United States; Lowered for South Korea and Cote d'Ivoire

Global rice production in 2025/26 is projected at a record high of 541.5 million tons (milled basis), up 0.2 million tons from the previous forecast, overtaking the 2024/25 production estimate which was lowered 0.7 million tons this month (table B). Increases in 2025/26 production forecasts for Nigeria and the United States more than offset decreases for Cote d'Ivoire, South Korea, and Uzbekistan (table A).

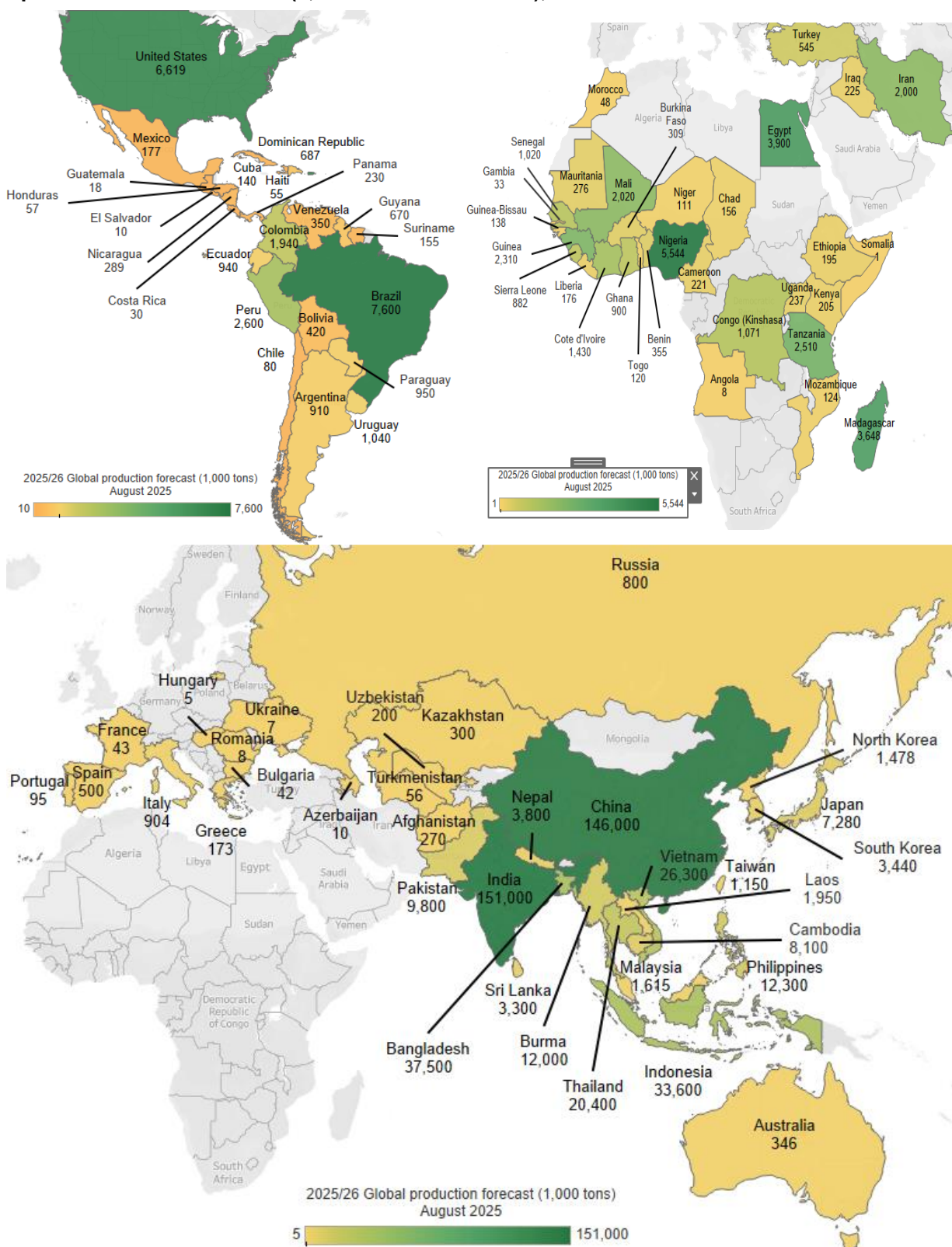
On a year-to-year basis, 2025/26 global rice production is slightly higher as larger crops in several major producers, including Bangladesh, China, and India, more than offset smaller crops in Brazil, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam. India and China are projected to remain the top two rice-producing countries, accounting for more than half of global rice output (map 1). The 2024/25 global production forecast is reduced 0.7 million tons to 540.8 million, now the second largest on record, with Indonesia accounting for the bulk of the downward revision.

Global rice supplies in 2025/26 are projected at a record 728.7 million tons, 0.2 million tons below the previous forecast but 1 percent larger than a year earlier and the third consecutive year with an increase. The downward revision in supplies is mainly due to reduced beginning estimates stocks for Burma, Laos, Nigeria, Thailand, and Vietnam more than offsetting increases for India, the European Union, and the United States.

Global rice consumption in 2025/26 (including a residual component that accounts for post harvests losses) is raised almost 0.4 million tons to a record 542.0 million, mainly due to a 0.3 million ton upward revision to a record 8.4 million for Nigeria. In contrast, the consumption forecast for Indonesia, currently the fourth largest rice-consuming country, is lowered 0.2 million tons to 35.3 million mainly due to diet diversification to flour-based food. The 2025/26 record global consumption forecast is largely driven by expected record consumption in several major rice-consuming countries including Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Global ending stocks in 2025/26 are projected at 186.7 million tons, down 0.6 million tons from the previous forecast and 0.5 million tons below a year earlier. Burma, Cote d'Ivoire, South Korea, Laos, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam account for the bulk of the downward revision in global ending stocks, more than offsetting the upward revisions for Bangladesh, India, and Indonesia. China and India together account for about 80 percent of global ending stocks, partly due to government stockholding programs.

Map 1: Production forecasts (1,000 tons milled basis), 2025/26



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

Table A. Global rice production, selected monthly revisions, August 2025						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from previous month	Percent change from previous year	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation and comments on month-to-month changes
Rice production in 2025/26, 1,000 metric tons (milled basis)						
Cote d'Ivoire	1,430	-130	-4.7	↓	↓	Lowered based on a reduced yield forecast. At 2.72 tons per hectare, the yield is 8 percent below the previous forecast and 7 percent below a year earlier. Harvested area remains forecast at 810,000 hectares, up 2.5 percent from a year earlier.
South Korea	3,440	-100	-4.0	↓	↓	Reduced based on a smaller harvested area estimate reported by the Government of the Republic of Korea. At 660,000 hectares, harvested area is 22,000 hectares below the previous forecast and more than 5 percent below a year earlier and the lowest since at least 1948 when the Republic of Korea was founded. The long-term decline in rice area is largely due to government programs designed to shift rice area to alternative crops as rice consumption continues to decline. The average yield of 6.91 tons per hectare is virtually unchanged from the previous forecast but is nearly 1 percent above a year earlier.
Nigeria	5,544	315	-3.8	↑	↓	Raised based on a much higher harvested area estimate. At 4.5 million hectares, harvested area is up 1.0 million hectares from the previous estimate but is unchanged from the year earlier revised estimate. This month, Nigeria's harvested area estimates are revised for 2013/14–2025/26, largely based on data reported by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.
United States	6,619	110	-6.2	↑	↓	Raised based on a higher harvested area estimate that more than offset lower yield forecast. Harvested area is raised 34,000 hectares to 1.105 million, still 5 percent below a year earlier. In contrast, the average yield is lowered more than 1 percent to 8.56 tons per hectare, 1.5 percent below a year earlier. Both the revised harvested area and yield forecasts are reported by the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service in its <i>Crop Production</i> report that was released on August 12.
Rice production in 2024/25, 1,000 metric tons (milled basis)						
Cote d'Ivoire	1,500	-47	14.7	↓	↑	Lowered based on a reduced yield forecast. At 2.92 tons per hectare, the yield is 3 percent below the previous forecast but still 6 percent above a year earlier and the highest on record. Harvested area remains forecast at 790,000 hectares, up 8 percent from a year earlier.
Indonesia	34,100	-500	3.3	↓	↑	Reduced based on a weaker yield caused by excessive rainfall in May–June 2025 that adversely impacted the second crop. The second crop accounts for around 35 percent of Indonesia's total rice production and is mostly irrigated. Indonesia's average rice yield is lowered 1.4 percent to 4.71 tons per hectare, slightly below a year earlier. Harvested area remains estimated at 11.4 million hectares, up 3.6 percent from a year earlier.
Pakistan	9,720	-30	-1.5	↓	↓	Reduced based on a slightly lower yield reported by the Government of Pakistan. The average yield is lowered fractionally to 3.74 tons per hectare, 8 percent below the year earlier record high. The yield decline in 2024/25 was due to fluctuating weather patterns, reduced water availability, and input constraints. Harvested area remains estimated at a record 3.9 million hectares, 7 percent larger than a year earlier.
Peru	2,457	-93	5.7	↓	↑	Lowered based on a reduced yield estimate. At 8.21 tons per hectare, the average yield is 4.5 percent below the previous estimate but still more than 1 percent above a year earlier. In contrast, harvested area is raised 4,000 hectares to a record 434,000, 4 percent larger than a year earlier. The revisions are based on data from Peru's Ministry of Agriculture.
Philippines	12,370	20	0.4	↑	↑	Raised based on a revised April–June 2025 production estimate of 4.378 million tons (rough-rice basis) reported by the Government of the Philippines. The second-quarter production was up 14 percent from a year earlier. The 2024/25 Philippines' total harvested area estimate is raised 1,000 hectares to 4.701 million hectares and the average yield is increased fractionally to a record 4.18 tons per hectare.
Sri Lanka	3,125	-25	1.3	↓	↑	Lowered based on the Government of Sri Lanka's reporting of the <i>maha</i> crop, harvested February–April 2025, at 2.62 million tons (rough-rice basis), down 4 percent from a year earlier. The production decline was due to flooding in November and below average rainfall in December and February. The <i>yaha</i> crop, harvested August–September 2024, was reported by the Government of Sri Lanka at 1.976 million tons. Sri Lanka's 2024/25 all-rice average yield is lowered almost 1 percent to 4.18 tons per hectare, still 5 percent above a year earlier.

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

Table B. Global rice balance sheet for 2023/24–2025/26 (in million metric tons, milled basis)

Balance sheet item	2023/24 August	2024/25 July	2024/25 August	2024/25 change from previous month	Percent change from previous year	2025/26 July	2025/26 August	2025/26 change from previous month
Supply								
Beginning stocks	180.5	180.7	179.3	-1.4	-0.7	187.6	187.2	-0.4
Production	523.8	541.5	540.8	-0.7	3.2	541.3	541.5	0.2
Total supply	704.3	722.2	720.1	-2.1	2.2	728.9	728.7	-0.2
Trade year imports 1/	60.0	61.2	62.0	0.9	3.5	61.7	62.0	0.3
Demand								
Consumption and residual use 2/	525.0	533.7	532.9	-0.8	1.5	541.6	542.0	0.4
Trade year exports	60.0	61.2	62.0	0.9	3.5	61.7	62.0	0.3
Ending stocks	179.3	187.6	187.2	-0.4	4.4	187.3	186.7	-0.6
Trade year 2024/25 is calendar year 2025. 1/ Includes imports not assigned to a specific country. 2/ Global consumption and residual use includes the difference between global exports and global imports. Source: USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, <i>Production, Supply, and Distribution</i> database.								

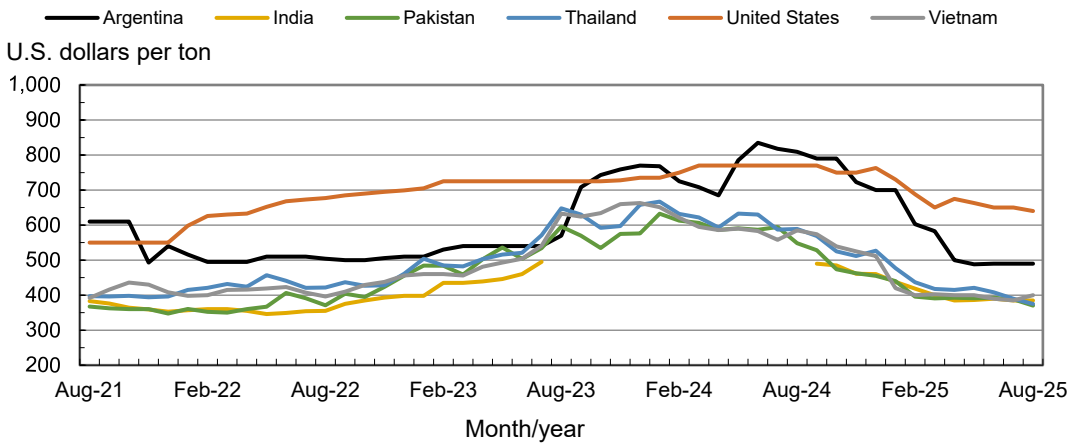
Global 2026 Trade Forecast Raised Based On Larger Exports from Burma and the United States

Global rice trade in calendar year 2026 is projected at a record 62.0 million tons (milled basis), up 0.3 million tons from the previous forecast and just 1,000 tons larger than the previous year. Burma's 2026 export forecast is raised 200,000 tons to 1.8 million based on the strong pace of exports to its primary markets of Bangladesh, China, and the European Union and competitive prices. The U.S. export forecast is increased 100,000 tons to 3.1 million due to larger supplies and the expectation of larger exports of medium- and short-grain rice to Japan. On the 2026 global rice import side, forecasts are raised this month for Nicaragua and Ukraine, but are lowered for Angola, Benin, Togo, and the United States. For more detailed information on export and import revisions for 2025 and 2026, see the August 2025 USDA, FAS, *Grain: World Markets and Trade* report that was released on August 12.

In the global rice market, reported price quotes declined over the past month for the United States, Pakistan, and Thailand, increased for Vietnam, and were unchanged for Argentina and India (figure 3). For the week ending August 5, U.S. quotes for the No. 2, 4-percent broken for Latin American markets fell \$10 per ton from the week ending July 8 to \$640 largely due to weak sales to major markets in Latin America. Pakistani quotes for 5-percent broken declined \$30 per ton to \$370 on reduced buying interest from key markets in Africa. Quotes for Thailand's 100-percent Grade B dropped \$12 per ton to \$375 to be more price competitive in markets in Asia. In contrast, Vietnamese quotes for 5-percent broken increased \$20 per ton to \$400 due to large sales to the Philippines and Africa. Quotes for 5-percent broken were unchanged over the past month for India (remaining at \$385 per ton) and Argentina (remaining at \$490 per ton).

Figure 3

Rice trading prices from the United States, Pakistan, and Thailand declined over the past month; prices from Vietnam rose



Note: August 2025 runs through August 5 only. No India quotes from late July 2023 through late September 2024 due to an export ban. All prices free on board local port. Monthly average of weekly long-grain, milled-rice price quotes. Quotes used: Argentina, 5-percent broken; India, 5-percent broken, container since February 2021, bulk prior months; Pakistan, 5-percent broken; Thailand, 100-percent Grade B; United States, No. 2, 4-percent broken, for Latin American markets; Vietnam, 5-percent broken. Source: Thailand: through July 2024, *Rice Price*, U.S. Embassy, Bangkok, beginning August 2024, *Creed Rice Market Report*; Argentina, India, Pakistan, United States, and Vietnam prices: *Creed Rice Market Report*.

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