



Rice Outlook: December 2021

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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.

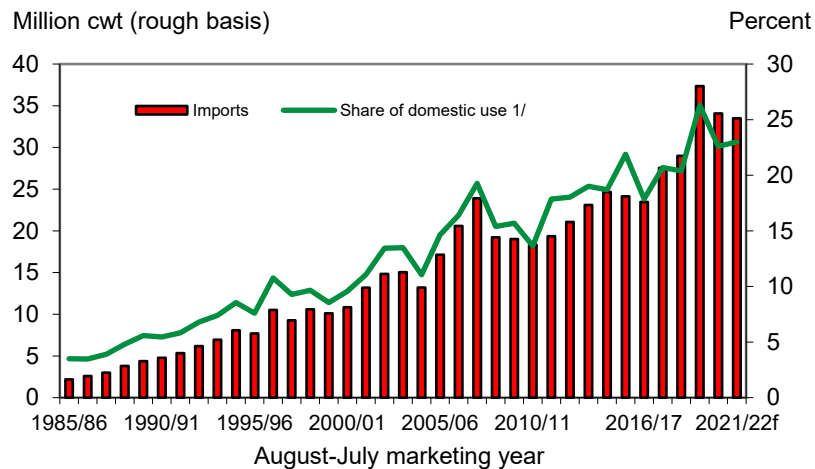
U.S. 2021/22 Export Forecast Lowered 1.0 Million Hundredweight (Cwt) to 89.0 Million

The only supply side revision this month to the U.S. 2021/22 (August-July marketing year) rice balance sheet was a 1.5-million cwt reduction in the import forecast to 33.5 million cwt, almost 2 percent below a year earlier. On the use side, the U.S. export forecast was lowered 1.0 million cwt to 89.0 million cwt, with medium- and short-grain accounting for all of the downward revision. By type, milled rice exports were reduced 2.0 million cwt to 55.0 million, the lowest since 1973/74, while rough-rice exports were raised 1.0 million cwt to 34.0 million. These supply and use revisions resulted in a 0.5-million cwt reduction in the ending stocks forecast 34.5 million. The long-grain season-average farm price (SAFP) was raised 10 cents to \$13.10 per cwt, while the southern medium- and short-grain SAFP was lowered 30 cents to \$13.70 per cwt. The 2021/22 all-rice SAFP remains forecast at \$14.80 per cwt.

Global rice production in 2021/22 is forecast at a record 510.8 million tons (milled basis), down 0.9 million tons from the previous forecast. This month, production forecasts for 2021/22 were lowered for Bangladesh, China, EU, Peru, and Thailand, but raised for Australia, Guyana, South Korea, and Russia. Global rice consumption and residual use in 2021/22 is projected to be a record 510.9 million tons, down almost 0.4 million tons from the previous forecast. Consumption and residual forecasts were lowered this month for Burma, Haiti, Iran, Peru, and Saudi Arabia. The 2021/22 global ending rice stocks forecast was lowered 1.1 million tons to 186.8 million tons, 0.1 million tons below the year-earlier record.

Global rice trade in calendar year 2022 is projected at 48.8 million tons (milled basis), up 0.1 million tons from the previous forecast but down 2 percent from the year-earlier record. Export forecasts for 2022 were raised for Burma but lowered for EU. Import forecasts for 2022 were lowered for Haiti, Iran, and the United States, but raised for Iraq, the Philippines and Peru. Over the past month, quotes for Thailand's trading prices for most grades of regularly milled white rice were either unchanged or increased up by 1 percent from a month earlier. Price quotes for India, Pakistan, and Vietnam dropped over the past month. U.S. export prices for both long-grain and California medium- and short-grain were unchanged over the past month.

Figure 1
U.S. rice imports in 2021/22 projected to decline for the second consecutive year



Cwt = Hundredweight. 2021/22f = forecasts. 1/ Does not include seed use.
 Sources: USDA, Economic Research Service, *Rice Yearbook* dataset 1985/86-2018/19;
 USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand
 Estimates*, 2019/20-2021/22.

Domestic Outlook

U.S. 2021/22 Rice Import Forecast Lowered 1.5 Million Cwt to 33.5 Million

The only supply side revision this month to the U.S. 2021/22 (August-July marketing year) rice balance sheet was a reduction in the import forecast. At 33.5 million cwt, U.S. imports are 1.5 million cwt below the previous forecast and almost 2 percent below a year earlier and the second consecutive year of a decline. This month's downward revision was based on reported monthly imports from the U.S. Bureau of the Census through October and expectations regarding purchases the remainder of the marketing year. Much of the recent and expected slower pace of imports is likely due to the continued global container shortage, historically high freight costs, and other supply chain disruptions and terminal inefficiencies. Through October, the United States imported 225,512 tons (product-weight) of rice, down almost 20 percent from a year earlier.

By class, U.S. long-grain imports are projected at 26.0 million cwt, down 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 5 percent below a year earlier and the lowest since 2018/19. Through October, the United States imported 177,740 tons of long-grain rice, down 26 percent from a year earlier. India accounts for the bulk of the year-to-year decline, with imports of just 39,851 tons through October 2021, 43 percent below a year earlier. Nearly all U.S. long-grain rice imports from India are its premium basmati rice, an aromatic. Imports from Thailand, the largest supplier of long-grain rice to the United States, were reported at 113,510 tons through October, down 3 percent from a year earlier. Almost all of the U.S. long-grain rice imports from Thailand are its premium jasmine rice, another aromatic. Imports from Pakistan through October were reported at 6,332 tons, down almost 30 percent from a year earlier. The shipments from Pakistan are almost all basmati rice.

Combined medium- and short-grain imports are projected at 7.5 million cwt, down 0.5 million cwt from the previous forecast but nearly 12 percent above a year earlier and just fractionally below the 2019/20 record of 7.586 million cwt. In October, the United States imported 7,311 tons of medium- and short-grain rice, down more than a third from a year earlier and lowest since May 2016. For the first 3 months of the 2021/22 marketing year, shipments from Thailand were down more than 10 percent from a year earlier and shipments from India were 65 percent below a year earlier. Thailand, India, and China are the largest suppliers of medium- and short-grain rice to the United States, accounting for at least 90 percent of U.S. imports. Virtually all of China's shipments go to Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory. In recent years, Puerto Rico has imported three or four shipments of 21,000 tons annually from China, a result of extremely low prices for purchases of older Government-held stocks of rice. In September, Puerto Rico imported 21,000 tons of rice from China, but imported no rice from China in October.

The 2021/22 U.S. rice production remains forecast at 193.8 million, almost 15 percent smaller than a year earlier. Harvested area declined more than 16 percent from 2020/21 to 2.5 million acres, while the average yield of 7,756 pounds per acre was the highest on record. Long-grain production remains forecast at 146.7 million, down 14 percent from a year earlier. The year-to-year decline is the result of a substantial area reduction. The area decline was due to both expectations of higher returns for soybeans and corn just prior to planting and then to excessive rainfall nearly all spring in much of the South—especially the Delta—that prevented plantings on more than 354,000 acres. Almost all long-grain rice is grown in the South. The combined

medium- and short-grain crop remains forecast at 47.1 million cwt, 17 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 2005/06. The year-to-year decline is largely due to severe drought in California, where most of the U.S. medium- and short-grain crop is grown. Arkansas and Louisiana account for most of the remaining U.S. medium- and short-grain production.

The 2021/22 U.S. all-rice carryin remains estimated at 43.7 million cwt, more than 52 percent above the year-earlier abnormally low level. The 2021/22 long-grain carryin remains estimated at 29.7 million cwt, 76 percent larger than in 2020/21. In contrast, the 2021/22 medium- and short-grain carryin remains estimated at 11.5 million cwt, 7 percent larger than a year earlier.

Total U.S. rice supplies in 2021/22 are projected at 271.0 million cwt, down 1.5 million cwt from the previous forecast and almost 7 percent below a year earlier. This downward revision in total supplies is the result of the reduced import forecast. The year-to-year decline is the result of a much smaller crop and slightly weaker imports more than offsetting a big boost in carryin. At 202.5 million cwt, U.S. 2021/22 long-grain supplies are 1.0 million cwt smaller than the previous forecast and 6 percent smaller than a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain supplies are projected at 66.0 million cwt, down 0.5 cwt from the previous forecast, 9 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 2008/09. In 2008/09, U.S. medium- and short-grain farm prices were record high.

U.S. 2021/22 Export Forecast Lowered Again

U.S. rice exports in 2021/22 are projected at 89.0 million cwt, 1.0 million cwt below the previous forecast, 5 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 2017/18. This month's downward revision was largely based on monthly U.S. Bureau of the Census trade data through October, shipment and outstanding sales data through November 25 reported in the weekly *U.S. Export Sales* report, and expectations regarding shipments and sales the remainder of the 2021/22 market year.

Long-grain exports in 2021/22 are projected at 64.0 million cwt, unchanged from the previous forecast but nearly 2 percent smaller than a year earlier. The year-to-year decline is primarily based on smaller supplies and higher U.S. prices. Through October, the United States exported 584,974 tons of long-grain rice, up almost 64 percent from the year-earlier's abnormally low level but 16 percent below the first 3 months of the 2019/20 market year. Shipments to Haiti, the top market for U.S. long-grain milled rice exports, were well below typical levels over the past decade for the first 3 months of the market year, mostly due to reduced rice imports by Haiti this year. Based on data reported in *U.S. Export Sales*, long-grain shipments and outstanding sales to Colombia and Venezuela were well behind a year earlier through November 25. In contrast, shipments and outstanding sales were well ahead of a year earlier through November 25 to El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, and somewhat ahead to Mexico, the largest market for U.S. long-grain rice. Mexico imports mostly rough rice.

By spring 2022, the United States is expected to face stronger competition from South American long-grain suppliers in key Latin American markets, largely offsetting the impact of the large sales to Iraq in early August 2021. Most South American exporters are expected to harvest larger crops next spring compared with their 2020/21 crops, which in several countries were adversely impacted by drought.

Combined medium- and short-grain exports in 2021/22 are projected at 25.0 million cwt, down 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 13 percent below 2020/21. According to *U.S. Export Sales*, through November 25, shipments of medium- and short-grain rice were more than

20 percent behind a year-earlier's pace and outstanding sales were down almost 33 percent. Combined shipments and outstanding sales through November 25 were well behind a year earlier to both Japan and South Korea, the two largest markets for U.S. medium- and short-grain rice.

The year-to-year decline in exports is based on expectation of few sales outside the core U.S. markets in Northeast Asia where the bulk of U.S. medium- and short-grain exports are shipped: Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. U.S. medium- and short-grain sales to the Middle East are expected to be lower than in 2020/21, with Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Israel again the main buyers in the region. The United States is not expected to sell any rice to North Africa. The tighter U.S. supplies of medium- and short-grain rice are expected to reduce exportable sales and boost U.S. trading prices. In addition, by late spring 2022, Australia is expected to be in position to increase its exports due to a strong area expansion in 2021/22, partly a response to higher expected global trading prices for medium-grain rice. Australia is expected to increase its market share in Northeast Asia and Oceania. China is expected to again have abundant supplies of extremely low-priced Government-held stocks of medium- and short-grain rice available for export, with North Africa, the Middle East, and Oceania major markets for China's medium- and short-grain exports.

By type, U.S. rough-rice exports in 2021/22 are projected at 34.0 million cwt, up 1.0 million from the previous forecast but down almost 2 percent from a year earlier. Based on data from the weekly *U.S. Export Sales* through November 25, combined U.S. rough-rice shipments and outstanding sales were well ahead of a year earlier to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, and somewhat ahead to Mexico. Almost all U.S. rough-rice exports are currently shipped to Latin America. Long-grain accounts for the vast majority of U.S. rough-rice exports.

Milled-rice exports (milled-and brown-rice exports on a rough-rice basis) are projected at 55.0 million cwt, down 2.0 million from the previous forecast, 7 percent below a year earlier, and the lowest since 1973/74. The monthly revision was largely based on expectations of weaker U.S. sales to Haiti—the largest market for U.S. milled rice—and a reduced U.S. medium- and short-grain export forecast.

The United States is expected to make few sales of milled rice beyond Northeast Asia, Haiti, Canada, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. However, Mexico, although primarily a rough-rice market, regularly imports small quantities of U.S. milled rice. Exports of U.S. milled-rice are limited by cheaper rice from Asia, as well as by growing competition from several South American exporters.

Total domestic and residual use in 2021/22 remains projected at 147.5 million cwt, more than percent smaller than the year-earlier record. The year-to-year projected reduction is based on smaller U.S. supplies—primarily a much smaller crop, which implies smaller post-harvest losses in marketing and milling. Long-grain domestic and residual use remains projected at 115.0 million cwt, more than 4 percent below the year-earlier record. Combined medium- and short-grain domestic and residual use remains projected at 32.5 million cwt, fractionally larger than a year earlier.

Total use of all-rice in 2021/22 is projected at 236.5 million cwt, down 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast—a result of a weaker export forecast—and 4 percent smaller than a year earlier. Both exports and combined domestic and residual use are expected to be smaller than a year earlier in 2021/22. Long-grain total use remains projected at 179.0 million cwt, more than 3 percent smaller than a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain total use is forecast at 57.5 million cwt, down 1.0 million from the previous forecast and 6 percent below 2020/21.

U.S. Ending Stocks Projection for 2021/22 Lowered

The above supply and use revisions result in a 2021/22 ending stocks forecast of 34.5 million cwt, down 0.5 million cwt from the previous forecast and 21 percent less than a year earlier. The all-rice stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 14.6 percent, down from 17.7 percent a year earlier. Long-grain ending stocks are projected at 23.5 million cwt, down 1.0 million from the previous forecast and 21 percent below a year earlier. The long-grain stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 13.1 percent, down from 16.0 percent a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain ending stocks are projected at 8.5 million cwt, up 0.5 million cwt from the previous forecast but 25 percent smaller than a year earlier. The 2021/22 medium- and short-grain stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 14.9 percent, down from 18.7 percent a year earlier.

There were several revisions this month to the 2021/22 season-average farm price (SAFP) forecasts. The revisions were based on USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service's monthly reported cash prices and marketings through October and expectations regarding prices and marketings the remainder of the market year. The 2021/22 long-grain SAFP was raised 10 cents to \$13.10 per cwt, up 50 cents from a year earlier. The southern medium- and short-grain SAFP forecast was lowered 30 cents to \$13.70 per cwt, still up \$0.60 from 2020/21 and the highest since 2014/15. The California medium- and short-grain 2021/22 SAFP remains forecast at \$23.00, up \$2.10 from 2020/21 and the highest since the 2008/09 record of \$27.40 per cwt. The U.S. 2021/22 medium- and short-grain SAFP forecast was lowered 10 cents to \$20.00 per cwt, still \$1.20 higher than a year earlier. The 2021/22 U.S. all-rice SAFP remains forecast at \$14.80 per cwt, up \$0.80 from a year earlier.

International Outlook

Production Forecasts for 2021/22 lowered for Bangladesh, Peru, and Thailand, but Raised for Australia and South Korea

Global rice production in 2021/22 is forecast at a record 510.8 million tons (milled basis), down 0.9 million tons from the previous forecast but 3.6 million tons larger than a year earlier. Production forecasts for 2021/22 were lowered this month for Bangladesh, China, EU, Peru, and Thailand, but raised for Australia, Guyana, South Korea, and Russia.

On an annual basis, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, India, Laos, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Paraguay, Senegal, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Tanzania, Thailand, and Uganda account for the bulk of the projected global production increase in 2021/22, with Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, and Thailand showing the largest year-to-year production increases. In contrast, crops are projected to be smaller than a year earlier in Colombia, Egypt, EU, Guyana, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, North Korea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Turkey, the United States, Uruguay, and Vietnam. The United States and Egypt are projected to show the largest production declines in 2021/22.

Global rice consumption and residual use in 2021/22 is projected to be a record 510.9 million tons, down almost 0.4 million tons from the previous forecast but nearly 8.9 million tons larger than a year earlier. Consumption and residual forecasts were lowered this month for Burma, Haiti, Iran, Peru, and Saudi Arabia. In contrast, domestic and residual use forecasts were raised this month for Afghanistan and the Philippines, with the Philippine consumption and residual forecast raised 0.3 million tons to a record 14.85 million tons.

On a year-to-year basis, Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Nepal, the Philippines, and Thailand account for the bulk of the expected increase in global consumption and residual use in 2021/22. In contrast, consumption and residual use is projected to decline in 2021/22 in Egypt, Japan, South Korea, the United States, and Vietnam. The decline in the two Northeast Asian countries is due to continued long-term shifts in diet away from rice to a more a Western diet and to a declining population in Japan and only negligible population growth in South Korea. Egypt's decline is based a much smaller crop and resulting tighter supplies, despite record imports. The projected decline in the United States is based on a much smaller crop, which indicates a smaller residual use that includes post-harvest losses. Vietnam's reduction is based on smaller supplies.

In 2021/22, global ending rice stocks are forecast at 186.8 million tons, more than 1.1 million below the previous forecast and more than 0.1 million tons below the year-earlier record. Ending stocks forecasts were lowered this month for Bangladesh, Burma, Egypt, Haiti, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the United States. Bangladesh's ending stocks were lowered 450,000 tons to 1.8 million due to a smaller crop. Burma's ending stocks were lowered 150,000 tons to 1.3 million largely due to upward revisions for both 2021 and 2022 exports. These ending stock reductions were partially offset by upward revisions in ending stocks for Australia, Iraq, South Korea, Laos, and Russia.

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, December 2021						
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 2021/22						
Australia	650	74	97.0	↑	↑	Raised the production forecast based on a higher harvested area estimate. At 90,000 hectares, rice harvested area is up 10,000 hectares from the previous forecast and 96 percent larger than a year earlier. The upward revision was based on information reported in November by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences and on improved water allocations.
Bangladesh	35,500	-750	2.6	↓	↑	Lowered the production forecast based on a 255,000-hectare reduction in total harvested area to 11.42 million hectares, 80,000 hectares below a year earlier. Harvested area was lowered for the summer harvested <i>aus</i> crop due to a late start to the Southwest Monsoon, which prevented some farmers from planting. The fall harvested <i>aman</i> crop's harvested area was lowered due to flooding that submerged the standing rice plant. Data and information for these revisions were provided by the U.S. Agricultural Office in Dhaka.
China	148,990	-10	0.5	↓	↑	Lowered the production forecast based on a slightly lower harvested-area estimate. The total rice harvested-area estimate was lowered 79,000 hectares to 29.291 million hectares, 155,000 below a year earlier. The revised yield of 7.11 tons per hectare is virtually unchanged from the previous forecast but is 1 percent above a year earlier and the highest on record. The revised production and area data are from the Government of China's National Statistics Bureau.
European Union	1,854	-40	-5.0	↓	↓	Lowered the production forecast based on reduced crop forecasts for France, Greece, Italy, and Spain that more than offset a higher crop forecast for Portugal. Spain's production forecast was lowered due to drought. Italy's production forecast was reduced based on early-season dryness.
Guyana	643	6	-6.5	↑	↓	Production forecast was lowered based on a reduced harvested-area estimate. Harvested area was lowered 15,000 hectares to 160,000, more than 14 percent below a year earlier. The revised data are from the Guyana Bureau of Statistics.
South Korea	3,882	66	10.7	↑	↑	Raised the production forecast based on a higher yield. At 7.12 tons per hectare, the average yield is up 10 percent from a year earlier and the highest on record. The record yield is due to favorable weather during the heading, flowering, and harvest stages. The revisions were based on data provided by Statistics Korea.
Peru	2,235	-115	-0.7	↓	↓	Lowered the production forecast based on a 20,000-hectare reduction in harvested area to 410,000 hectares, 2 percent below a year earlier. The area revision was based on information from the Government of Peru's Ministry of Agriculture.
Russia	725	25	-2.3	↑	↓	Production forecast was raised based on a higher yield. At 6.03 tons per hectare, the average yield is up more than 3 percent from a year earlier and the highest on record. The revisions were based on information from the Government of Russia's Ministry of Agriculture.
Thailand	19,300	-200	2.3	↓	↑	Lowered the production forecast based on a 100,000-hectare reduction in the harvested-area estimate to 10.4 million hectares. The reduced harvested-area estimate was due to floods across numerous provinces in September and October that negatively affected crops just as they were reaching the harvest stage. Information and data for these revisions were provided by the U.S. Agricultural Office in Bangkok.
Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, December 2021—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
1,000 metric tons (milled basis)						
Rice production in 2020/21						
European Union	1,951	-2	2.0	↓	↑	Lowered the crop estimate based on reduced production forecasts for Portugal, Romania, and Spain that more than offset an upward revision for Greece.
Vietnam	27,344	-94	0.9	↓	↑	Production forecast was lowered based on a 30,000-hectare reduction in harvested area to 7.33 million hectares, almost 1 percent below a year earlier and the sixth consecutive year of an area decline. Harvested area was reduced for the main autumn crop as farmers switched from rice to either vegetables or fruit or to aquaculture. Data and information for these revisions were provided by the U.S. Agricultural Office in Hanoi.

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

Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 metric tons), December 2021						
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, 2022						
Afghanistan	350	30	2.9	↑	↑	Raised the import forecast based on expectations that the recent stronger pace of purchases from Pakistan will continue in 2022. Although wheat is the primary food staple in Afghanistan, global rice prices have increased less than wheat prices, which has favored rice imports.
Haiti	490	-35	16.7	↓	↑	Lowered the import forecast based on expectations that the recent slowdown in purchases will continue in 2022. The United States supplies the bulk of Haiti's rice imports.
Hong Kong	310	-10	6.9	↓	↑	Reduced the import forecast based on expectations that the recent slowdown in the purchase pace will continue in 2022.
Iran	1,200	-50	41.2	↓	↑	Lowered the import forecast slightly based on the recent sluggish pace of purchases from the top-supplier India.
Iraq	1,250	50	0.0	↑	→	Raised the import forecast based on expectations that the recent stronger-than-expected pace of purchases will continue in 2022.
Peru	320	20	33.3	↑	↑	Import forecast was raised based on a smaller crop.
Philippines	2,400	200	-7.7	↑	↓	Raised the import forecast based on expectations that the recent stronger-than-expected pace of purchases in late 2021 will continue in 2022.
United States	1,100	-50	-2.2	↓	↓	Lowered the import forecast based on the expectation that the recent slowdown in purchases will continue in 2022. The slowdown is likely due to historically high freight costs, the global container shortage, and other supply chain disruptions.

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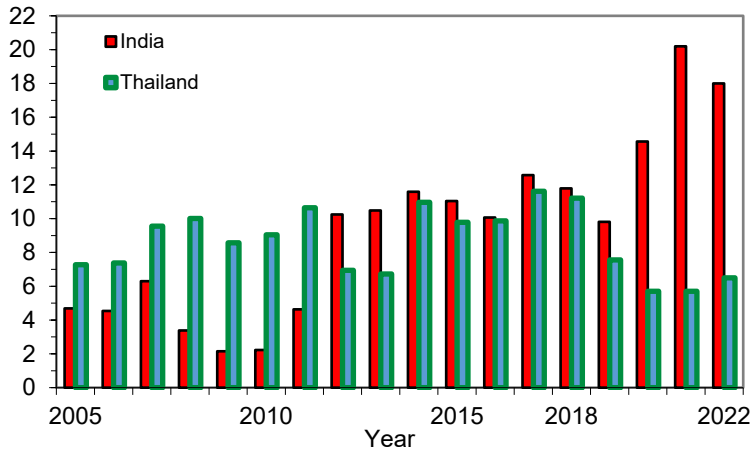
Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 metric tons), December 2021-- <i>Continued</i>						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Rice importers, 2021						
Afghanistan	340	20	4.0	↑	↑	Raised the import forecast based on the shipment pace through November. Pakistan is the major supplier.
Australia	200	-20	-27.50	↓	↓	Lowered the import forecast based on the recent slower-than-expected pace of purchases.
Bangladesh	2,650	150	1315.0	↑	↑	Raised the import forecast to a record high based on stronger-than-expected purchases, with imports exceeding 2.5 million tons through October. India supplies the bulk of Bangladesh's rice imports.
Belarus	25	-3	-13.8	↓	↓	Lowered the import forecast based on the recent slower-than-expected pace of purchases.
Brazil	700	-30	-17.9	↓	↓	Import forecast was reduced based on smaller-than-expected purchases from Uruguay and Argentina.
Cambodia	30	5	200.0	↑	↑	Raised the import forecast based on the recent faster-than-expected pace of purchases.
Egypt	320	-80	3.6	↓	↑	Reduced the import forecast based on a recent slower-than-expected pace of purchases from top-supplier China.
Haiti	420	-90	-22.9	↓	↓	Lowered the import forecast based on a recent slower-than-expected pace of purchases from the United States, which supplies the bulk of Haiti's rice imports.
Hong Kong	290	-40	-7.3	↓	↓	Lowered the import forecast based on a recent slower-than-expected pace of purchases.
Iran	850	-100	-24.4	↓	↓	Lowered the import forecast based on a sluggish pace of purchases from top-supplier India.
Iraq	1,250	100	28.9	↑	↑	Raised the import forecast based on continued strong purchases from India and new purchases from Thailand.
Kazakhstan	150	20	72.4	↑	↑	Raised the import forecast based on a stronger-than-expected pace of purchases in recent months.
Kuwait	225	-25	-7.8	↓	↓	Lowered the import forecast based on a recent slower-than-expected pace of purchases.
Madagascar	650	125	44.4	↑	↑	Raised the import forecast based on a faster-than-expected pace of purchases through October. India is the major supplier, while Pakistan is a sporadic supplier.
Peru	240	-40	-22.6	↓	↓	Lowered the import forecast based on a recent slower-than-expected pace of purchases. Brazil and Uruguay supply most of Peru's rice imports.
Philippines	2,600	300	6.1	↑	↑	Raised the import forecast based on a stronger-than-expected pace of purchases and large imports from Vietnam in September and October, months when buying typically slows down.
Qatar	160	-40	-29.5	↓	↓	Lowered the import forecast based on a recent slower-than-expected pace of purchases.
Russia	190	-10	-15.2	↓	↓	Lowered the import forecast based on a recent slower-than-expected pace of purchases.
Saudi Arabia	1,300	-200	-19.4	↓	↓	Lowered the import forecast based on a recent slower-than-expected pace of purchases. India is the largest supplier of rice to Saudi Arabia. The United States and Pakistan supply much smaller quantities.
Turkey	370	-60	-30.2	↓	↓	Lowered the import forecast based on a recent slower-than-expected pace of purchases. China is currently the largest supplier of rice to Turkey, followed by Russia and India.

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

Figure 2

India's 2021 rice exports projected to be a record 20.2 million tons; Thailand's 2021 exports projected lowest since 1997

Million tons



Notes: Rice exports are reported on a milled basis; 2021 and 2022 are forecasts.
Source: USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, *Production, Supply, and Distribution* database.

Table C - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 metric tons), December 2021.						
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, 2022						
Australia	270	10	350.0	↑	↑	Raised the export forecast based on a larger crop and expectations of less competition from the United States in the global medium- and short-grain market.
Burma	1,900	100	5.6	↑	↑	Export forecast raised based on expectation that with the border with China recently opened, exports will resume their previous level.
European Union	440	-35	-2.2	↓	↓	Lowered exports based on a smaller crop in 2021/22.
Malaysia	50	20	-37.5	↑	↓	Raised the export forecast based on a stronger-than-expected pace of shipments to Indonesia, Malaysia's primary buyer.
Russia	150	10	7.1	↑	↑	Increased the export forecast based on a larger crop.
Rice exporters, 2021						
Burma	1,800	150	-21.7	↑	↓	Export forecast was raised based on stronger-than-expected demand and the recent reopening of the border with China.
India	20,200	200	38.6	↑	↑	Raised the export forecast to a record high based on a stronger-than-expected pace of shipments through October, with 17.8 million tons shipped the first 10 months of 2021.
Laos	50	-50	-46.8	↓	↓	Reduced the export forecast based on slower-than-expected shipments to China thus far in 2021.
Malaysia	80	20	166.7	↑	↑	Export forecast was raised based on stronger-than-expected shipments to date to Indonesia, Malaysia's top export market.
Paraguay	620	20	-22.8	↑	↓	Raised the export forecast based on a stronger-than-expected pace of shipments through October. Brazil is Paraguay's number 1 export market, currently followed by Chile.
Thailand	5,700	100	-0.1	↑	↓	Export forecast was raised based on stronger-than-expected shipments to Iraq, West Africa, South Africa, and China.

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

China accounts for the bulk of the expected decline in global ending rice stocks in 2021/22. At 113.0 million tons, China's ending stocks are 3.5 million below the year-earlier record. U.S. ending stocks are projected to decline 0.3 million tons to 1.1 million. In contrast, India's ending stocks are projected to increase 2.5 million tons to a record 38.5 million. In 2021/22, China is projected to account for 60 percent and India for almost 21 percent of global ending rice stocks. The 2021/22 global stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 36.6 percent, down from the record 37.2 percent in 2020/21.

Philippines' 2021 and 2022 Import Forecasts Raised

Global rice trade in calendar year 2022 is projected at 48.8 million tons (milled basis), up just 0.1 million tons from the previous forecast but down 2 percent from the year-earlier record. Much of the expected year-to-year decline in global trade is the result of weaker imports of

Indian rice by Bangladesh and Vietnam. India's 2022 exports are projected to drop 2.2 million tons from the 2021 record to 18.0 million, still the second-highest on record. Cambodia's exports are projected to drop 0.3 million tons from the 2021 record to 1.4 million tons, and China's exports are projected to decline 0.2 million tons to 2.1 million tons. U.S. exports are forecast to drop 0.1 million tons in 2022 to 2.85 million tons due to tighter supplies and resulting higher prices. These declines in exports in 2022 are expected to be partially offset by increased exports from Australia, Brazil, Burma, Pakistan, Paraguay, Thailand, Uruguay, and Vietnam, with Thailand's exports projected to increase the most, up 0.8 million tons to 6.5 million. Australia's exports are projected to increase 210,000 tons to 260,000 tons based on an expected recovery from drought. Brazil's exports are projected to increase 250,000 tons to 1.05 million based on larger supplies.

On the global 2022 import side, Bangladesh's imports are projected to drop almost 2.1 million tons to 0.6 million due to a larger crop, despite this month's downward revision in Bangladesh's production. Vietnam's imports are projected to decline 1.15 million tons to a more typical 0.50 million from this year's abnormally high record of almost 1.7 million tons. The bulk of Vietnam's imports are typically border shipments from Cambodia, with Vietnam taking mostly rough rice. This year, Vietnam has imported large quantities of broken-kernel rice from India for feed use, food processing, and beer. These purchases are not expected to continue in 2022. Imports are also projected to decline in 2022 for Australia, Brazil, the Philippines, South Korea, Senegal, South Africa, United States, and Venezuela.

In contrast, imports are projected to increase in 2022 for Angola, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, EU, Gambia, Haiti, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, North Korea, Kuwait, Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Togo, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. Egypt is expected to show the largest import growth in 2022, with its imports projected to increase 480,000 tons to a record 0.8 million due to a much smaller crop. China is expected to remain the largest rice importer in 2022, taking 4.5 million tons, unchanged from the 2021 revised forecast.

The global rice trade forecast for 2021 was raised more than 0.4 million tons to 49.8 million, up 4.6 million tons from a year earlier and the highest on record. India accounts for the bulk of the expected export increase in 2021, with exports rising 5.6 million tons to a record 20.2 million. On the 2021 import side, Bangladesh's imports are projected to increase to a record 2.65 million tons from just 20,000 tons in 2020, China's imports to expand 1.3 million tons to 4.5 million, and Vietnam's to rise 1.25 million tons to a record 1.65 million tons.

Over the past month, quotes for Thailand's trading prices for most grades of regularly milled white rice (excluding aromatic rice and broken) were either unchanged or increased up to 1 percent from a month earlier, mostly due to new inquiries from international buyers as Thailand's export prices remain at a discount to Vietnam's prices, encouraging buyer interest. Thailand's 100-percent Grade B long-grain milled rice for export was quoted at \$395 per ton for the week ending December 6, up \$4 from the week ending November 1. Prices for Thailand's 5-percent broken parboiled rice—a specialty rice—were quoted at \$383 per ton for the week ending December 6, unchanged from the week ending November 1. Prices for Thailand's jasmine rice—a premium aromatic—were quoted at \$648 per ton for the week ending December 6, also unchanged from the week ending November 1.

Price quotes for Vietnam's rice for the late-autumn crop have declined from a month earlier, as demand from the Philippines—Vietnam's top rice export market—had declined due to the suspension of phytosanitary permits in November for importation of Vietnam's rice. For the week ending December 7, prices for Vietnam's 5-percent broken-kernel long-grain milled rice

were quoted at \$410 per ton, down \$25 from the week ending November 2. Vietnam's quotes are currently the highest among the Asian exporters for comparable grades and quality.

Pakistan's price quotes for 5-percent broken rice decreased \$10 per ton from the week ending November 2 to \$350 for the week ending December 7. India's 5-percent broken nonparboiled white rice was quoted at \$340 per ton (bulk) for the week ending December 7, down \$10 from the week ending November 2. India remains the most competitively priced rice exporter in Asia.

Price quotes from most South American exporters either increased from a month earlier or were unchanged. Uruguay's generic 5-percent broken-kernel long-grain milled rice was quoted at \$545 per ton for the week ending December 7, unchanged from the week ending November 2. The price quote is \$5 below the current U.S. price for long-grain milled rice for Latin American markets. Price quotes for higher priced nongeneric shipments from Uruguay were also unchanged over the past month. Argentina's 5-percent brokens were quoted at \$540 per ton for the week ending December 7, up \$30 from the week ending November 2. Prices for Brazil's generic 5-percent broken-kernel rice were quoted at \$475 per ton for the week ending December 7, up \$35 from the week ending November 2.

U.S. trading prices for long-grain milled rice were unchanged over the past month. Prices for U.S. long-grain milled rice, Number 2 Grade, 4-percent broken kernels (free on board a vessel at a Gulf port, Iraqi specifications) remain quoted at \$600 per ton for the week ending December 7, unchanged since the week ending July 20. U.S. prices for Latin American milled-rice markets—Haiti, Colombia, and Mexico—remain quoted at \$550 per ton for the week of December 7, unchanged since the week ending August 3. In contrast to the milled-rice prices, U.S. rough-rice long-grain export price quotes increased from \$340 per ton from the week ending November 2 to \$360 per ton for the week ending November 23. For the week ending December 7, long-grain rough-rice export prices were reported at \$345 per ton.

Milled-rice prices in California were unchanged over the past month. Prices for California Number 1 Grade, 4-percent broken kernels for the week ending December 7 remain quoted at \$1,125 per ton (free on board at a domestic mill, Mediterranean specifications), unchanged since early September. These are the highest prices since June 2009. Prices for delivery to the Port of Oakland, California, medium-grain milled-rice (Korean specifications) remain quoted at \$1,240 per ton for the week ending December 7, unchanged since the week ending October 19. For listings of trading prices by exporter and grade of rice, see table 9 in the Excel file.

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