



# Rice Outlook

Nathan Childs, coordinator  
nchilds@ers.usda.gov

### In this report:

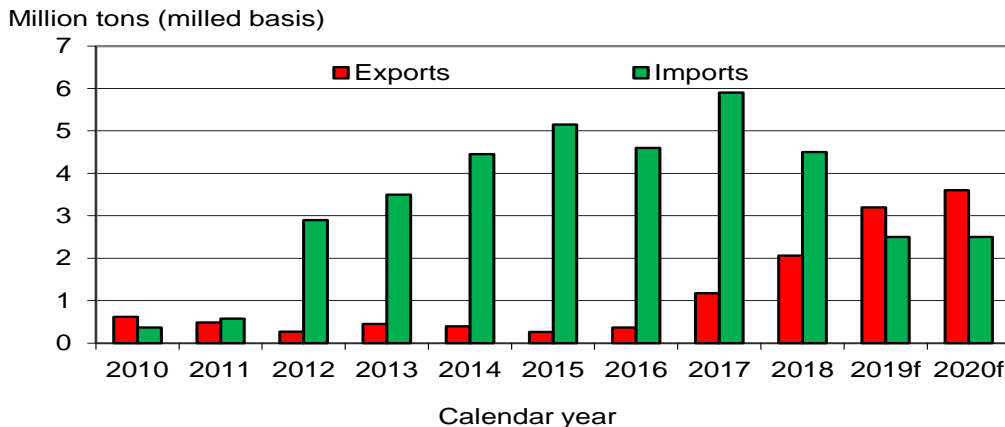
- [Domestic Outlook](#)
- [International Outlook](#)

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. 2019/20 Rice Supplies Are Forecast To Be 7 Percent Smaller Than a Year Earlier

The 2019/20 U.S. rice production forecast was lowered 0.7 million cwt this month to 187.9 million based on a lower yield. Beginning stocks and imports were unchanged. The smaller crop lowered total supplies to 262.4 million cwt, 7 percent below a year earlier. There were no revisions on the use side of the U.S. 2019/20 rice balance sheet. With slightly smaller supplies, the 2019/20 U.S. ending stocks forecast was lowered to 36.4 million cwt, 19 percent below a year earlier. The 2019/20 season-average farm price projections are unchanged from last month. The 2019/20 global production forecast of 497.8 million metric tons is nearly unchanged from October, as upward revisions almost offset reductions. Crop projections were lowered for Indonesia and the Philippines, but raised for India. The 2019/20 global ending stocks forecast was raised 2.0 million tons to a record 177.0 million, the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of increasing stocks. Global rice trade is projected to increase 3 percent in 2020, with China, India, Thailand, and the United States expected to expand exports. Thailand and Vietnam's trading prices for regular milled white rice are unchanged from last month, while U.S. price rose slightly.

Figure 1  
**China's rice exports are forecast to continue to increase in 2020**



2019f and 2020f = forecast.  
 Source: *Production, Supply, and Distribution* database, USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service.

# Domestic Outlook

---

## U.S. 2019/20 Rice Crop Forecast Lowered to 187.9 Million Cwt

The only supply-side revision to the 2019/20 U.S. rice balance sheet was a 0.7-million cwt reduction in the production forecast to 187.9 million cwt, down 16 percent from a year earlier. This month's reduction in the crop forecast was due to a slightly lower yield forecast reported by NASS in the November *Crop Production* report. At 7,587 pounds per acre, the 2019/20 U.S. average yield is down 29 pounds from the previous forecast and 104 pounds below a year earlier. Yields were lowered slightly this month for both Louisiana and California. U.S. 2019/20 harvested area remains estimated at 2.48 million acres, 15 percent below a year earlier.

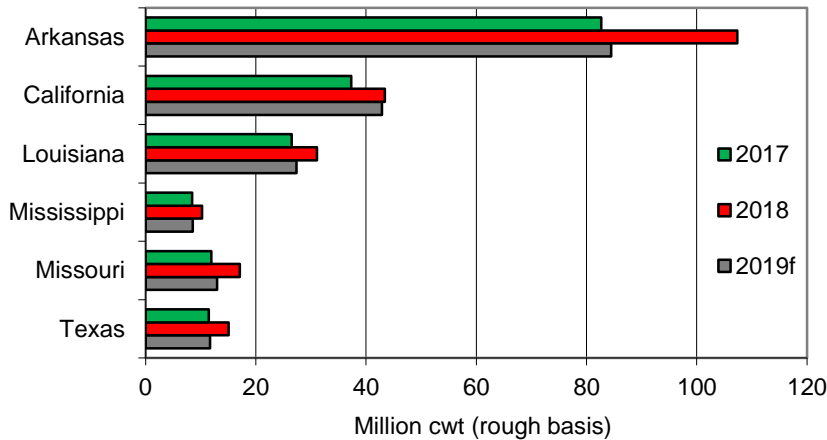
By class, the 2019/20 U.S. long-grain production forecast was lowered 0.5 million to 127.1 million cwt, down 22.5 percent from a year earlier. This substantial reduction in the long-grain crop is primarily due to lower area largely resulting from persistent and heavy rainfall during most of the planting season in much of the South—especially in the Delta. Nearly all U.S. long-grain rice is grown in the South, with the Delta the largest producing region. The 2019/20 combined U.S. medium- and short-grain production forecast was lowered 0.2 million cwt to 60.9 million cwt, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Harvested area in 2019/20 is estimated to be lower than a year earlier in all reported rice producing States, with Arkansas accounting for 69 percent of the 438,000-acre decline. At 1.13 million acres, rice harvested area in Arkansas is estimated to be 21 percent below a year earlier. Yields are anticipated to be below 2018/19 in all reported States except California and Mississippi, where yields are projected up 1 percent and unchanged in those States, respectively. Louisiana's yields are projected to drop the most in 2019/20, projected down more than 7 percent from the previous year. The Arkansas 2019/20 yield is projected to be down just 20 pounds per acre from a year earlier. Rice production in 2019/20 is projected to be smaller than a year earlier in all reported U.S. rice producing States, with Arkansas accounting for 64 percent of the 36.3-million cwt projected U.S. decline. Production is projected to drop 21-24 percent in Arkansas, Missouri, and Texas, 12-17 percent in Louisiana and Mississippi, and just 1 percent in California.

Except for small areas in the upper Delta, harvest of the 2019/20 spring-planted rice crop is virtually complete across most of the South. In Southwest Louisiana and Texas, harvest of the ratoon crop—a partial second crop harvest from the stubble remaining in the field after the harvest of the main crop—continues. The impact on yields and quality on the unharvested rice in the South by the recent abnormally cold weather—including frost in some areas—is unknown. Although planting in California was delayed by an unusually cold and wet late-May, conditions during the summer were quite favorable for producing rice, with the harvest pace slightly ahead of normal by late October. Except for small areas of late-planted rice, harvest of the 2019/20 California rice crop is virtually complete.

Figure 2

**Rice production is projected to be smaller in 2019 in all reported rice producing States 1/**



2019f = forecasts. 1/ These 6 States account for more than 99 percent of U.S. rice production. Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Quick Stat data base.

## U.S. 2019/20 Total Rice Supplies Projected To Be 7 Percent Smaller than a Year Earlier

The forecasts for beginning stocks and imports were not revised this month. Beginning stocks for 2019/20 remain estimated at 44.9 million cwt, 53 percent larger than a year earlier. Long-grain beginning stocks remain estimated at 32.6 million cwt, more than 60 percent higher than a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain beginning stocks remain estimated at 10.2 million cwt, up 34 percent from a year earlier. Stocks of broken—reported by length of grain—remain estimated at 2.1 million cwt, up 46 percent from a year earlier.

The 2019/20 U.S. all-rice import forecast remains at a record 29.6 million cwt, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Through September 2019, total imports on a product-weight basis were reported at 164,800 tons, up 21 percent from a year earlier. Long-grain imports in 2019/20 remain forecast at a record 24.0 million cwt, up 2.5 percent from a year earlier. Aromatic varieties from Thailand, India, Pakistan, and Vietnam are expected to account for the bulk of U.S. long-grain rice imports in 2019/20. Through September 2019, the U.S. imported 123,898 tons of long-grain rice, up 25 percent from September 2018, with jasmine rice from Thailand accounting for most of the increase. Imports of basmati rice from India and Pakistan were also larger than a year earlier through September.

U.S. medium- and short-grain imports remain forecast at 5.6 million cwt, fractionally above a year earlier. The medium- and short-grain import forecast assumes continued large purchases by Puerto Rico of rice from China in 2019/20. In 2018/19, Puerto Rico made three purchases of around 21,000 tons of rice from China. Through September 2019, the U.S. imported 40,901 tons of medium- and short-grain rice, up 9.4 percent from a year earlier. China, Thailand, and India are currently the largest suppliers of medium- and short-grain rice to the United States, with China now the largest supplier. In September 2019, Puerto Rico imported almost 21,000 tons of medium- and short-grain rice from China—the first shipment in 2019/20—and about the same amount as imported in September 2018. Shipments through September 2019 from both Thailand and India were higher than a year earlier.

In total, the November production revision resulted in a 0.7-million cwt decrease in the 2019/20 total U.S. supply forecast to 262.4 million cwt, 7 percent below a year earlier. The long-grain 2019/20 total supply forecast was decreased 0.5 million cwt to 183.7 million cwt, almost 12 percent below a year

earlier—a result of a much smaller crop. The medium- and short-grain supply forecast was reduced 0.2 million cwt to 76.7 million cwt, up 5 percent from a 2018/19—mostly due to a large carryin.

## U.S. Medium- and Short-Grain Exports Are Projected To Increase 4 Percent in 2019/20

There were no revisions this month on the use side forecasts of the 2019/20 U.S. rice balance sheet. Total domestic and residual use for 2019/20 remains at 131.0 million cwt, 9 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 2015/16. Long-grain domestic and residual use in 2019/20 remains forecast at 98.0 million cwt, more than 10 percent smaller than a year earlier. The substantial projected decline in long-grain domestic and residual use from the previous year is based on much smaller supplies. Medium- and short-grain domestic and residual use in 2019/20 remains forecast at 33.0 million cwt, 5 percent below a year earlier. The current forecast for medium- and short-grain domestic and residual use is nearly equal to the recent 5-year average.

All-rice exports for 2019/20 remain forecast at 95.0 million cwt, just 1.5 percent above a year earlier. Long-grain exports in 2019/20 remain forecast at 66.0 million cwt, nearly unchanged from a year earlier, despite an abnormally large carryover of outstanding sales from 2018/19. Mexico, Iraq, and Haiti account for the bulk of the abnormally large carryover of long-grain sales at the start of the 2019/20 market year. Latin America is projected to remain the top market for U.S. long-grain rice in 2019/20. The Middle East and Canada are projected to account for most of the remaining U.S. long-grain exports, with sales to Sub-Saharan Africa expected to remain small.

Through October 31, 2019, total commitments (sum of accumulated exports and outstanding sales) of long-grain rice to Mexico were reported in the weekly *U.S. Export Sales* at 416,600 tons, up 55 percent from a year earlier. Total commitments of long-grain rice (almost all rough-rice) to Nicaragua through October 31 were reported at 105,100 tons, up from just 800 tons a year earlier. Once a top market for U.S. rice, Nicaragua had been purchasing an increasing share of its rice imports from lower priced suppliers from South America since 2010/11. The U.S. has just returned as the number one supplier of rice to Nicaragua in 2019/20. Total commitments of long-grain rice through October 31, 2019 to Iraq of 154,000 tons are up 27 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. medium- and short-grain exports in 2019/20 remain projected at 29.0 million cwt, up 4 percent from 2018/19. A large carryin of outstanding sales to Japan from the 2018/19 market and a likely increase in sales to North Africa are behind expectations for larger exports. Northeast Asia (primarily Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan) is expected to remain the top market for U.S. medium- and short-grain exports. All imports of rice by these three countries are made as part of World Trade Organization agreements.

U.S. 2019/20 rough rice exports remain forecast at 33.0 million cwt, nearly unchanged from a year earlier. Long-grain shipments to Latin America account for the bulk of U.S. rough rice exports, with Mexico and Central America the top markets. For more than half a decade, the United States had lost market share in these markets to South American exporters, with relative prices a major factor. In 2018/19, the United States regained some market share in Mexico and in 2019/20 it has returned as the major supplier to Nicaragua. Through October 31, 2019, total commitments of U.S. long-grain rough-rice to Mexico totaled 403,500 tons, up 66 percent from a year earlier.

Currently, Libya and Mexico are the only markets for medium- and short-grain rough rice exports. Through October 31, 2019, total commitments of U.S. medium- and short-grain rough rice to Mexico totaled 30,700 tons, up from just 5,000 tons a year earlier. Mexico is typically a small buyer of medium- and short-grain rough rice, with long-grain the dominant purchase. To date, there have no U.S. sales of

medium- and short-grain rough rice to Libya in the 2019/20 market year. However, in 2018/19 the United States sold 41,500 tons of medium- and short-grain rough rice to Libya. Prior to 2017/18, Turkey was a regular large buyer of U.S. medium- and short-grain rough rice, but it has not made any purchases since and is not expected to return as a buyer in 2019/20.

U.S. 2019/20 milled rice exports (combined milled and brown rice exports on a milled basis) remain projected at 62.0 million cwt, 2 percent above 2018/19. Haiti and Japan—the two largest markets for U.S. milled rice—are expected to account for most of the increase in U.S. milled rice exports in 2019/20, with Japan's increase due to carryover of sales from 2018/19. Through October 31, 2019, total commitments to Japan were reported at 205,500 tons, up 112 percent from a year earlier. For Haiti, total commitments through October 31, 2019 were reported at 175,300 tons, up almost 2 percent from a year earlier. U.S. sales to Sub-Saharan Africa are projected to remain quite small as the U.S. is not price competitive in this huge and growing market.

The larger November production forecast resulted in a 2-percent decrease in projected 2019/20 U.S. ending stocks to 36.4 million cwt, 18 percent below a year earlier. The 2019/20 stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 16.1 percent, down from 18.9 percent a year earlier. The long-grain ending stocks forecast was lowered 0.4 million cwt to 19.7 million cwt this month, almost 40 percent smaller than a year earlier. The long-grain stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 12.0 percent, down from 18.6 percent in 2018/19 and the smallest since 2013/14. The medium- and short-grain ending stocks forecast was lowered 0.2 million cwt to 14.7 million cwt, up 44 percent from a year earlier. The medium- and short-grain stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 23.6 percent, well above 16.3 percent in 2018/19.

## California 2018/19 Season-Average Farm Price Raised \$2.00 to \$20.00 per Cwt

In October, NASS reported revised U.S. monthly cash prices and marketings for the 2018/19 market year and for August 2019. These revisions resulted in revised 2018/19 season-average farm prices (SAFP) for California medium- and short-grain, U.S. medium- and short-grain, and for all-rice. The long-grain 2018/19 SAFP remains estimated at \$10.80 per cwt, down 70 cents from a year earlier. The 2018/19 southern medium- and short-grain price remains estimated at \$12.30 per cwt, up 60 cents from a year earlier. The 2018/19 California medium- and short-grain SAFP was raised \$2.00 per cwt to \$20.00 per cwt, still down 10 cents from 2017/18. The higher California SAFP boosted the U.S. 2018/19 medium- and short-grain SAFP \$1.30 per cwt to \$17.60, up 60 cents from 2017/18 due to greater marketings of California rice and a higher southern medium- and short-grain price in 2018/19. These revisions resulted in a 30-cent increase in the 2018/19 all-rice SAFP to \$12.30 per cwt, down 60 cents from a year earlier, as lower long-grain prices in 2018/19 offset the higher average U.S. medium- and short-grain price.

There were no changes to the 2019/20 SAFP forecasts this month. The 2019/20 U.S. long-grain SAFP remains at \$11.80 per cwt, up \$1.00 from a year earlier, a result of much tighter supplies. The 2019/20 southern medium- and short-grain SAFP remains forecast at \$12.30 per cwt, unchanged from a year earlier, with little change in production projected. The California 2019/20 SAFP remains forecast at \$18.50 per cwt, down \$1.50 from the 2018/19 revised SAFP. Although the 2019/20 California rice crop is projected to be down 1 percent from a year earlier, the October 1, 2019, reported California rice stocks (combined stocks of milled and rough rice on a rough basis) of 3.6 million cwt were 65 percent larger than a year earlier. The U.S. 2019/20 medium- and short-grain SAFP remains forecast at \$16.50 per cwt, down \$1.10 from the year-earlier revised SAFP. The 2019/20 all-rice SAFP remains forecast at \$13.00 per cwt, up 70 cents from the year earlier revised SAFP.

# International Outlook

---

## Production Forecasts for 2019/20 Raised for India, Lowered for Indonesia and the Philippines

Global rice production in 2019/20 is forecast at 497.8 million tons (milled basis), nearly unchanged from the previous forecast but 1.6 million tons below the year-earlier record. In 2019/20, global harvested area is projected to drop about 1.0 million hectares to 162.5 million hectares, while the global average yield of a record 4.58 tons per hectare (rough basis) is up fractionally from a year earlier.

On an annual basis, smaller projected crops for Bolivia, China, Cuba, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Taiwan, and the United States more than offset larger expected crops in Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, EU, Guyana, Iraq, Japan, Laos, Madagascar, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

China and India are projected to show the largest production declines in 2019/20, with China's production expected to drop 2.5 million tons and India's to drop 1.4 million tons. Harvested area is estimated lower for both countries. These are the two largest rice producing countries in the world and account for more than half of global rice production. U.S. production in 2019/20 is projected to decline almost 1.2 million tons, mostly due to much lower harvested area in the southern growing region. Egypt is expected to show the largest production increase in 2019/20, with production up 1.5 million tons due to a substantial area expansion caused by a relaxation of government imposed area constraints.

## Export Forecasts for 2020 Lowered for Burma, Cambodia, and Thailand But Raised for India and Vietnam

Global rice trade in 2020 is projected at 46.2 million tons, down 0.1 million tons from the previous forecast, but 3 percent above the revised 2019 forecast. Despite the expected increase in 2020, global rice trade remains well below the 2017 record of 48.1 million tons, largely due to much smaller imports by Bangladesh, China, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka. The decline in global rice trade in these three countries since 2017 has been partially offset by steady import growth by the Philippines and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, November 2019						
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 revisions and year-to-year change
1,000 metric tons (milled basis)						
<b>Rice production in 2020</b>						
Bangladesh	35,500	0	1.4%	→	↑	Projected annual increase to a record high is due to the reported harvest of a record boro crop this spring.
China	146,000	0	-1.7%	→	↓	The small expected production decline in 2019/20 is based on reduced harvested area and a lower yield. The lower area is partly due to government supply-side structural reforms that are encouraging farmers to shift rice area to soybeans. Adverse weather also reduced early indica rice area and yields.
Congo, D.R.	252	63	0.0%	↑	→	Harvested area forecast was raised 33 percent.
Egypt	4,300	0	53.6%	→	↑	The increase in production in 2019/20 is due to a 65-percent expansion in harvested to 760,000 hectares, a result of relaxed enforcement of Government-imposed area restrictions. In 2018/19, these restrictions were enforced, resulting in a 39-percent area reduction and a 35-percent drop in production.
India	115,000	1,000	-1.2%	↑	↓	The upward revision is based on the Government of India's reported kharif crop harvest and expectations of larger plantings for the second season rabi crop. The year-to-year production decline is due an expected 1.0-million hectare drop in total harvested area.
Indonesia	36,500	-900	-0.5%	↓	↓	Delayed onset of the monsoon has led to severe drought across most of Java, Bali, and Nusa Tenggara that has prevented the planting of the main season crop. Reservoir levels are below normal as well. The downward revision was primarily due to a reduced harvested area forecast. A slight year-to-year decline in production is projected due to smaller harvested area.
Mozambique	228,000	-32	-31.1%	↓	↓	Downward revision based on a normal yield.
Peru	2,150	-50	0.0%	↓	→	Downward revision based on a 20,000-hectare reduction in harvested area to 415,000 hectares.
Philippines	12,000	-200	2.3%	↓	↑	Production forecast is revised down due to a 150,00-hectare drop in harvested area to 4.7 million hectares, a response to lower rice prices and more profitable planting options. Production is still expected to be larger than in 2018/19 due to a higher yield.
Senegal	816,000	136,000	0.0%	↑	→	The much higher production forecast is due to a revised 2019/20 yield. The 2018/19 yield was also raised.
United States	5,967	-22	-16.2%	↓	↓	The downward revision in production is due to a smaller yield. On an annual basis, the substantial drop in production is the result of a big drop in harvested area in the southern growing region, mostly due to adverse weather during the planting season.
<b>Rice production in 2019</b>						
Colombia	1,691	51	-4.1%	↑	↓	Upward production revision is based on a reported record yield.
Congo, D.R.	252	63	0.0%	↑	→	Upward production revision is based on a 135,000-hectare increase in harvested area to 550,000 hectares.
Guinea	1,544	44	6.4%	↑	↑	The upward revision in production is based on a reported higher yield.
Mozambique	331	63	27.3%	↑	↑	Both the monthly revision and year-to-year increase are due to a much higher yield.
Senegal	816	170	9.1%	↑	↑	The upward revision in production is based on slightly more area and a much higher yield.

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

Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 MT), November 2019						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of month-to-month change in forecast
Rice importers, 2020						
Benin	635	-90	10	↓	↑	Slower expected growth in domestic use.
China	2,500	-600	0	↓	→	A slower pace of imports in 2019.
Cote d'Ivoire	1,500	-100	100	↓	↑	A slower pace of imports in 2019.
Cuba	600	100	50	↑	↑	Expectations of increased imports from Vietnam.
Gambia	260	40	30	↑	↑	Continued growth in imports from Southeast Asia.
Indonesia	1,400	800	1,000	↑	↑	Recent trade agreement with India and a smaller crop.
Jordan	250	45	20	↑	↑	Stronger pace of imports in 2019.
Mozambique	730	30	110	↑	↑	Smaller production forecast for 2019/20.
Nigeria	1,800	-400	0	↓	→	Recent closure to trade of the border with Benin.
Peru	350	50	70	↑	↑	Smaller 2019/20 production forecast.
Philippines	2,500	-200	-500	↓	↓	Recent policies announced by the Government to protect farmers from lower priced imports.
Senegal	1,200	-100	50	↓	↑	Upward revision in the 2019/20 production forecast.
Rice importers, 2019						
Bangladesh	100	-200	-1,300	↓	↓	Slower than expected pace of imports through late summer.
Benin	625	-75	0	↓	→	Reduced forecast for consumption growth.
China	2,500	-650	-2,000	↓	↓	Slower than expected pace of imports through September.
Cote d'Ivoire	1,400	-200	-100	↓	↓	Slower than expected pace of imports through September.
Cuba	550	50	51	↑	↑	Larger than expected purchases from Vietnam.
Gambia	230	30	0	↑	→	Larger than expected imports from Southeast Asia.
Jordan	230	30	40	↑	↑	Stronger than expected pace of imports through August.
Mozambique	620	-55	70	↓	↑	Upward revision in the 2018/19 production estimate.
Nigeria	1,800	-300	-300	↓	↓	Recent closure to trade of the border with Benin.
Philippines	3,000	-100	500	↓	↑	Impact of recently announced policies to protect farmers from lower priced imports.
Senegal	1,150	-50	50	↓	↑	Larger production forecast.
Turkey	200	20	-60	↑	↓	Increasing imports to stabilize domestic prices.
Table C - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 MT), November 2019						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of month-to-month change in forecast
Rice exporters, 2020						
Argentina	330	30	-20	↑	↓	Recent reduction in rice export tax.
Burma	2,500	-125	100	↓	↑	Reduced expectations regarding exports to China.
Cambodia	1,400	100	50	↑	↑	Expectations of increased exports to China, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Australia.
India	12,000	200	1,000	↑	↑	Expected recovery from the 2019 export slowdown.
Thailand	8,500	-500	300	↓	↑	Expected continuation of uncompetitive prices and a strong baht.
Vietnam	6,750	200	50	↑	↑	Prices expected to remain competitive and will likely increase exports to China, Iraq, and the Philippines.
Rice exporters, 2019						
Argentina	350	10	59	↑	↑	Recent reduction in export tax.
Burma	2,400	-200	-350	↓	↓	Decreased exports to China.
Cambodia	1,350	150	50	↑	↑	Increased exports to China, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Australia have more than offset reduced sales to EU.
India	11,000	-800	-791	↓	↓	Recent slowdown in non-basmati exports.
Thailand	8,200	-500	-2,856	↓	↓	Slow pace of exports to date and uncompetitive prices.
Vietnam	6,700	200	110	↑	↑	Competitive prices have boosted rice sales to China, Iraq, and the Philippines.

Source:

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



On an annual basis, expanded 2020 exports from Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam are projected to more than offset reduced shipments from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, South Korea, Pakistan, and Paraguay. China's exports continue the rapid pace of expansion that began in 2017 with substantial amounts of rice now shipped to Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, and the Middle East. Thailand continues to lose market share in Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and China largely due to uncompetitive prices. India's exports have declined since the 2017 record mostly due to sharply reduced sales to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, as both countries now import only small quantities of rice. Vietnam's exports continue their slow, but steady expansion since 2017 due to very competitive prices and ample supplies.

For 2020, imports are projected to increase for Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States; with Brazil and Indonesia projected to show the largest increase. Partially offsetting these expected import increases are projected reductions for Bangladesh, Egypt, EU, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Laos, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Venezuela. Egypt, Laos, and the Philippines are projected to experience the largest import slowdown in 2020. Nigeria's 2020 imports are projected at 1.8 million tons, unchanged from 2019 but 0.3 million below 2018 imports. China's imports have declined sharply from the 2017 record of 5.9 million tons as China attempts to reduce its huge stocks of rice. See table B below for more detail.

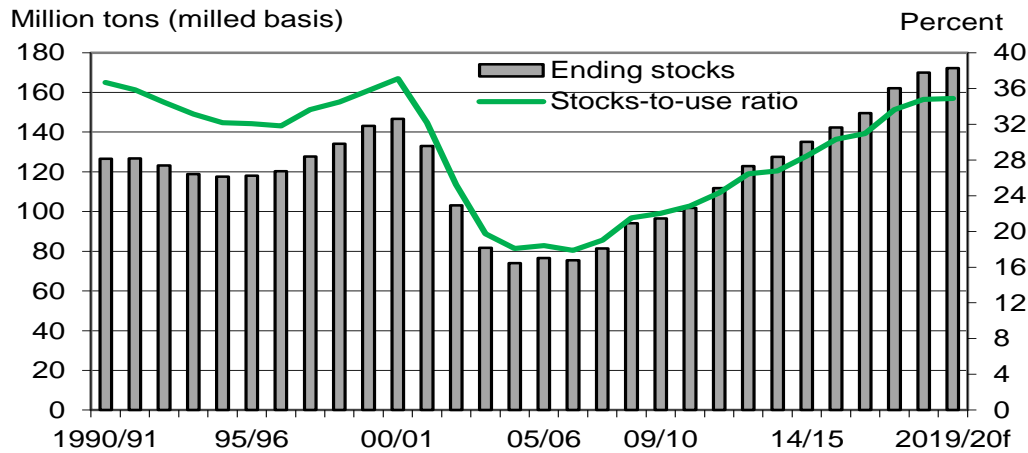
Global rice consumption and residual is projected to be a record 494.0 million tons in 2019/20, down 0.5 million tons from the October forecast but 5.4 million tons above a year earlier. The Philippines and Nigeria account for most of this month's downward revision in 2019/20 global rice consumption and residual. On an annual basis, rice consumption and residual use is projected to be higher than a year earlier in Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, and Vietnam. In contrast, rice consumption is expected to continue to decline in Japan and South Korea due to diet diversification. U.S. consumption and residual is projected to decline in 2019/20 due to smaller supplies.

Global ending stocks in 2019/20 are projected at a record 177.0 million tons, up 2.0 million tons from the previous forecast and up almost 3.8 million tons from a year earlier. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of increasing global ending stocks. India and Thailand account for most of this month's upward revision in global ending stocks. On an annual basis, China, India, the Philippines, and Thailand account for most of the projected increase in global ending stocks. The global stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 35.8 percent, up from 35.5 percent a year earlier but still below the 2000/01 record of 37.3 percent.

Trading prices for most grades of Thailand's non-aromatic rice were unchanged over the past month, while prices for Thailand's premium aromatic rice decreased more than 9 percent. A relatively strong baht is maintaining Thailand's export prices despite the start of the main season harvest in a couple of weeks. Harvest of the jasmine crop began in early October and is already depressing prices. Thailand's 100 percent Grade B long-grain milled rice for export remains quoted at \$407 per ton. Vietnam's trading prices are unchanged from a month earlier as well, with Vietnam's 5 percent broken kernels long-grain milled rice currently quoted at \$350 per ton. Vietnam's prices remain steady despite weaker demand from the Philippines and China—both top markets for Vietnam. Vietnam's prices are currently almost \$50 below prices for comparable grades of Thailand's rice, making Vietnam a price-competitive supplier.

Figure 3

**Global rice ending stocks in 2019/20 are projected to increase for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year**



2019/20f = forecasts.

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

U.S. trading prices for long-grain rice are up \$5 per ton from a month earlier, with prices for U.S. long-grain milled rice, Number 2 Grade, 4 percent broken kernels (free on board a vessel at a Gulf port) currently quoted at \$560 per ton. U.S. long-grain milled prices are currently being supported by large sales to Iraq early in the market year and a substantial reduction in the U.S. crop projection reported in September. The U.S. price difference over Thailand’s long-grain milled rice increased \$5 to \$153 per ton in early November, the highest since December 2018. In contrast to long-grain milled-rice prices, quotes for U.S. medium-grain milled-rice have declined \$15 per ton since early October, with California Number 1 Grade, 4 percent broken kernels (free on board at a domestic mill) quoted at \$810 per ton. For listings of trading prices by exporter and grade of rice, see Table 9 in the Excel file.

---

# Contacts & Additional Information

---

Contact		E-mail
Nathan Childs	(202) 694-5292	Nathan.Childs@usda.gov

---

## Suggested Citation

Childs, Nathan, *Rice Outlook*, RCS-19K, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, November 13, 2019.

Use of commercial and trade names does not imply approval or constitute endorsement by USDA.

To ensure the quality of its research reports and satisfy government-wide standards, ERS requires that all research reports with substantively new material be reviewed by qualified technical research peers. This technical peer review process, coordinated by ERS' Peer Review Coordinating Council, allows experts who possess the technical background, perspective, and expertise to provide an objective and meaningful assessment of the output's substantive content and clarity of communication during the publication's review.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.