



# Rice Outlook

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

## U.S. Rice 2020/21 Crop Estimate Raised to 227.6 Million Hundredweight

There were two small supply-side revisions to the U.S. 2020/21 rice balance sheet this month. First, the production estimate was raised 1.5 million hundredweight (cwt) to 227.6 million. Second, the import forecast was lowered 0.3 million cwt to 36.2 million, with medium- and short-grain accounting for all of the reduction. On the use side, total domestic and residual use was raised 14.5 million cwt to a record 160.0 million, with long-grain accounting for the bulk of the substantial upward revision. In addition, total exports were lowered 1.0 million cwt to 94.0 million, with rough-rice exports raised 1.0 million cwt and milled-rice exports lowered 2.0 million cwt. These supply and use revisions resulted in a 12.4-million cwt reduction in the 2020/21 ending stocks forecast to 38.4 million cwt. The tighter supplies were partly responsible for upward revisions in both the long-grain and medium- and short-grain season-average farm prices.

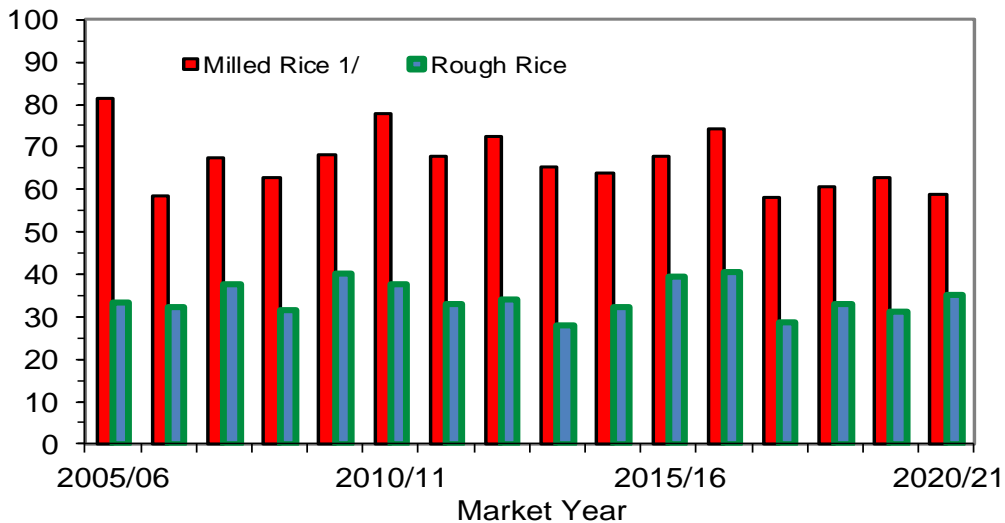
In the global rice market, 2020/21 production was revised up 2.0 million tons to a record 503.2 million tons, with production forecasts raised for Cambodia, China, the Philippines, Tanzania, and the United States, but lowered for Peru. The 2020/21 global consumption and residual use forecast was increased 1.5 million tons to a record 502.0 million tons, with forecasts raised for Bangladesh, China, the United States, and Vietnam. The 2020/21 global ending stocks forecast was raised 0.5 million tons to 179.5 million tons, also a record, with Bangladesh and China accounting for much of the increased stocks forecast.

Global rice trade in calendar year 2021 is forecast at 45.6 million tons, up 0.8 million from the previous forecast and 2 percent larger than a year earlier. India accounts for most of the upward revision in the global export forecast, while Bangladesh accounts for most of the upward revision in global imports, with India expected to supply most of Bangladesh's increased imports. Thailand's prices rose over the past month, mostly due to its rising currency value. Vietnam's trading prices also rose, a result of tight supplies until the next harvest begins in February. Although India's prices rose slightly over the past month, India remains the most competitively priced global supplier. South American prices were unchanged over the past month and were very similar to U.S. prices, which were also unchanged.

Figure 1

**U.S. rough rice exports are projected to increase 12 percent in 2020/21 and milled rice exports to decline 6 percent**

Million cwt (rough-basis)



Cwt - Hundredweight. 2020/21 forecasts.

1/ Milled and brown rice exports converted to a rough-rice basis.

Sources: 2005/06-2017/18, Rice Yearbook Data Set, USDA, Economic Research Service; 2018/19-2020/21, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*, USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board.

# Domestic Outlook

## U.S. 2020/21 Rice Production Estimate Raised 1.5 Million Cwt to 227.6 Million Cwt

There were several supply-side revisions to the 2020/21 U.S. all-rice balance sheet this month. First, the production estimate was raised almost 1.5 million cwt to 227.6 million, 23 percent larger than a year earlier. The upward revision was the result of a 59-pound per acre increase in the average yield to 7,619 pounds, 2 percent higher than a year earlier but still below the 2013/14 record of 7,694 pounds per acre. The Texas yield was revised up 21.5 percent this month, and yield estimates for Louisiana and Mississippi were raised slightly. In contrast, Missouri's yield was lowered almost 8 percent.

Total harvested area was lowered 4,000 acres to 2.99 million acres, still almost 21 percent larger than a year earlier. Slight reductions in harvested area estimates this month for Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas more than offset a 4,000-acre increase in California's harvested area. All U.S. production revisions this month are from the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) *Crop Production 2020 Summary* that was released on January 12.

By class, long-grain 2020/21 production is estimated at 170.9 million cwt, up 1.1 million from the previous forecast and 36 percent larger than the year-earlier weather-reduced crop. Combined medium- and short-grain production is estimated at 56.7 million cwt, 0.4 million cwt above the previous estimate but still almost 5 percent smaller than a year earlier.

Harvested area was larger than a year earlier in all reported States, with Arkansas accounting for 62 percent of the 510,000-acre expansion. At 1.44 million acres, Arkansas' harvested area is up 28 percent from a year earlier. All of the area expansion was for long-grain rice—the dominate class of rice grown in Arkansas; the State's medium- and short-grain harvested area dropped 34 percent, a result of extremely weak export demand and resulting low prices for U.S. medium- and short-grain rice at planting. Mississippi's 2020/21 harvested area expanded 46 percent to 165,000 acres. The State produces almost exclusively long-grain rice. In Missouri, which also produces mostly long-grain rice, total rice harvested area increased 24 percent to 214,000 acres. Like Arkansas, all area expansion in 2020/21 was for long-grain rice in Mississippi and Missouri. In 2019/20, all three Delta rice growing States reported record preventive plantings due to excessive rainfall all spring. Although above-normal rainfall again delayed plantings and crop progress in the Delta, the impact was much less severe than in 2019/20, and this was a major factor—along with higher long-grain prices at planting—behind the strong area recovery.

On the Gulf Coast, Louisiana's 2020/21 rice harvested area increased nearly 15 percent to 474,000 acres in 2020/21, with long-grain accounting for all of the expansion. Louisiana's medium- and short-grain harvested area dropped 7.5 percent. As in Arkansas, long-grain is now the dominate class of rice grown in Louisiana. Texas growers increased harvested rice area 19 percent to 179,000 acres, with long-grain accounting for all of the increase and the bulk of the Texas rice crop. California's harvested rice area increased just 3 percent to 514,000 acres in 2020/21, as conditions there were generally quite favorable to growing rice. In 2019/20, California's rice acreage was reduced slightly due to early-season rainfall.

Average yields were higher than a year earlier in all reported States except for Missouri, although Arkansas' yield was up only slightly. Texas reported the largest yield increase, with the average yield rising 11 percent to a near-record 8,150 pounds per acre. In nearby Louisiana, the average yield increased by 7 percent to 6,820 pounds per acre, still well below the 2013/14 record of 7,380 pounds per acre. Although the Gulf Coast was impacted by three tropical storms or hurricanes this summer and fall, the timing of the landfalls resulted in little field damage to the first crop. However, the storms substantially delayed the ratoon or second crop progress and harvest and caused damage to some rice storage and processing facilities.

In the Delta, Mississippi's yield of 7,420 pounds per acre was up 1 percent from 2019/20 and even with the 2014/15 record. Arkansas' yield increased just 20 pounds per acre to 7,500 pounds, just 60 pounds below the 2013/14 and 2014/15 record. In contrast, Missouri's 2020/21 yield declined almost 2 percent to 7,250 pounds per acre. Although weather conditions improved in the Delta in 2020/21, continued rainfall during much of the spring delayed plantings and crop progress. Improved weather later in an abnormally long growing season benefited yields, offsetting some of the adverse effects of delayed plantings and a late harvest.

Rice production was higher than a year earlier in all reported States, with Arkansas accounting for 56 percent of the 42.5-million cwt production increase. At 108.1 million cwt, the Arkansas rice crop is up 28 percent from a year earlier and the largest since 2014/15. The substantial increase was almost totally due to expanded area. Mississippi's production rose 47 percent to 12.2 million cwt, mostly due to greater area. At 15.5 million cwt, Missouri's production was up 22 percent from a year earlier, totally due to larger area. On the Gulf Coast, production in Texas rose 32 percent to 14.6 million cwt, a result of expanded area and a higher yield. The Louisiana crop increased 22 percent to 32.3 million cwt, a result of both larger plantings and a higher yield. Louisiana's production is slightly below the 2010/11 record of 32.6 million cwt. Finally, the California crop of 44.8 million cwt was up 6 percent, a result of expanded area and a higher yield.

## U.S. Import Forecast for 2020/21 Lowered Slightly

The 2020/21 U.S. import forecast was again reduced, this month by 0.3 million cwt to 36.2 million, down 3 percent from the year-earlier record. All of the downward import revision was again for medium- and short-grain rice, now forecast at 6.7 million cwt, down more than 4 percent from the previous forecast and more than 11 percent smaller than the year-earlier record.

This month's downward import revision was primarily based on smaller-than-expected shipments from Thailand through November and expectations that this slower pace will continue. Through November, medium- and short-grain imports from Thailand were down 17 percent from a year earlier. Shipments from China, destined for Puerto Rico, were about even with a year earlier, while shipments from India were well ahead of last year's pace. Thailand and China are the largest suppliers of medium- and short-grain rice to the United States, including China's shipments to Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory. India is now the third-largest supplier, followed by much smaller shipments from Italy. China is expected to ship three 21,000-ton shipments to Puerto Rico in 2020/21; the first shipment arrived in November.

U.S. long-grain imports in 2020/21 remain projected at 29.5 million cwt, less than 1 percent smaller than the year-earlier record. The slight decrease in imports forecast for 2020/21 is based on much larger U.S. long-grain supplies and the record pace of purchases all last spring and summer that may have resulted in some overstocking. Thailand and India account for the

bulk of U.S. long-grain rice imports and most of last year's strong growth. Nearly all of these shipments are specific Asian aromatic varieties not currently produced in the United States, with Thailand shipping its premium jasmine rice and India shipping its premium basmati rice. Through November, Thailand had shipped more than 153,000 tons (including very small quantities of rice flour, groats, and meal) of long-grain rice to U.S., down 5 percent from a year earlier, while India shipped almost 88,000 tons, up 52 percent from a year earlier. Pakistan also regularly ships smaller quantities of basmati rice to the United States, and in recent years Vietnam has begun selling jasmine rice to the United States, but in much smaller quantities than Thailand does.

## U.S. 2020/21 All-Rice Export Forecast Lowered 1.0 Million Cwt to 94.0 Million

Total U.S. rice exports in 2020/21 are projected at 94.0 million cwt, down another 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and fractionally below a year earlier, despite this year's much larger supplies. The reduction was again only for long-grain rice. This month's downward revision was largely based on Census-reported monthly shipments through November, weekly shipments and sales through December 31 reported in the weekly *U.S. Export Sales*, and expectations regarding shipments and sales the remainder of the market year. Through November, the U.S. Census reported total shipments of all-rice of about 952,000 tons (product-weight), down 18 percent from a year earlier, although November shipments of more than 404,000 tons were robust. Very tight stocks early in 2020/21, a delayed harvest in the Delta, and logistical disruptions from several Gulf Coast storms and hurricanes were major factors behind the abnormally slow export pace early in the 2020/21 market year. Based on accumulated shipment data from *U.S. Export Sales*, the United States exported more than 439,000 tons of rice (product-weight) from December 3 through December 31, an extremely rapid pace.

Long-grain exports are projected at 66.0 million cwt, 1.0 million less than the previous forecast but still 2 percent larger than a year earlier. Beginning in mid-September, the United States sold around 120,000 tons of rough rice to Brazil—not a typical buyer of U.S. rice—a major factor in the expected small year-to-year increase. In contrast, sales to several traditional Latin American buyers, especially Mexico and Haiti, remain well behind the year-earlier pace. The year-to-year increase in U.S. long-grain exports is based on larger U.S. supplies and expectations of more competitive U.S. prices compared with South American exporters. Latin America is expected to remain the top market for U.S. rice in 2020/21, with much of it sold as unmilled or rough rice.

U.S. medium- and short-grain rice exports in 2020/21 remain projected at 28.0 million cwt, down 5 percent from a year earlier. The United States is expected to make few, if any, sales beyond its regular sales to Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan as part of each importer's World Trade Organization commitments and its smaller regular sales to Jordan, Canada, and Mexico. California is expected to again account for the bulk of U.S. medium- and short-grain exports, with any exports from the U.S. South again expected to again be very small.

By type, U.S. rough-rice exports are projected at 35.0 million cwt, up 1.0 million from the previous forecast and 12 percent above 2019/20. The upward revision was based on unexpected shipments of about 81,000 tons to Venezuela in November and December. Sales to number one rough-rice buyer Mexico remain well behind a year earlier. The year-to-year increase is based on larger U.S. supplies and lower expected prices, with Brazil accounting for most of the increase. Almost all of the rough rice exported is expected to be sold to Latin American buyers, primarily to Mexico, Central America, and South America. The bulk of these shipments will be long-grain rice.

U.S. milled-rice exports in 2020/21 are projected at 59.0 million cwt, down another 2.0 million cwt from the previous forecast, 6 percent below a year ago and the smallest since 2017/18. Sales to Haiti, the largest export market for U.S. long-grain milled rice, remain well behind the year-earlier pace. Iraq has yet to purchase any U.S. rice in 2020/21. Northeast Asia and Haiti are expected to remain the largest commercial markets for U.S. milled rice.

## U.S. Domestic and Residual Use Boosted Record-High Based on Smaller-than-Expected December 1 Rice Stocks

Total domestic and residual use of rice in 2020/21 is projected at a record 160.0 million cwt, up 14.5 million cwt from the previous forecast and 11 percent larger than a year earlier. The substantial upward revision was primarily based on the implied use from August to November indicated by the December 1 rice stocks reported by NASS. The December 1 stocks were significantly lower than previously estimated by USDA. The implied use for August-November of all-rice is a record 99.3 million cwt, about 10.0 million cwt higher than the previous record reported for 2017/18. By class, long-grain domestic and residual use was boosted to a record 125 million cwt, up 14.0 million from the previous forecast and 17 percent larger than a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain domestic and residual use is projected at 35.0 million cwt, up 0.5 million cwt from the previous forecast but down 8 percent from a year earlier.

Based on data reported in NASS' December 1 *Rice Stocks*, total U.S. stocks of rice (rough- and milled-rice stocks converted to a rough basis) are estimated at 142.8 million cwt, up 8.4 percent from a year earlier. Long-grain stocks on December 1 are estimated at 95.9 million cwt, up more than 17 percent from a year earlier. At 42.35 million cwt, U.S. medium-grain stocks on December 1 were 7 percent below a year earlier, with stocks nearly unchanged in California but stocks in the South down more than 32 percent, mostly a result of a smaller crop. Short-grain stocks on December 1 are estimated at almost 3.0 million cwt, up 18 percent from a year earlier. Most short-grain rice is grown in California. Stocks of broken kernel rice, not reported by class, are estimated at 1.6 million cwt, down 7 percent from a year earlier.

By State, Arkansas' December 1 rice stocks of 68.2 million cwt were up 12 percent from a year earlier. In Louisiana, rice stocks on December 1 are estimated at 14.4 million cwt, an increase of more than 22 percent from a year earlier. Mississippi's December 1 rice stocks of 4.8 million cwt were up 26 percent from a year earlier. At 6.8 million cwt, Missouri's December 1 rice stocks were up 11 percent from a year earlier. California's December 1 rice stocks of 40.2 million cwt were almost 2 percent larger than a year earlier. In contrast, Texas' December 1 rice stocks of 7.3 million cwt were 12 percent below a year earlier.

The above supply and use projections yield a 2020/21 ending stocks forecast of 38.4 million cwt, down 12.3 million cwt from the previous forecast but still 34 percent larger than a year earlier. The 2020/21 U.S. rice stocks-to-use ratio of 15.1 percent is well below the previous forecast of 21.1 percent but still up from the abnormally low 12.0 percent in 2019/20. By class, long-grain ending stocks in 2020/21 are projected at 26.3 million cwt, down 11.9 million cwt from the previous forecast but still 55 percent higher than in 2019/20. The long-grain stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 13.8 percent, well below 21.5 percent forecast last month but above the abnormally low 9.9 percent a year earlier. Medium- and short-grain ending stocks are projected at 11.1 million cwt, down 0.4 million cwt from the previous forecast but still 4 percent larger than a year earlier. The medium- and short-grain stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 17.7 percent, up from 16.0 percent a year earlier.

The only revision this month to the 2019/20 rice balance sheet was a 0.43-million cwt increase in production to 185.1 million cwt, a result of a fractionally larger yield and a slightly larger harvested area estimate. All of the upward revision in production was for medium- and short-grain rice. The larger crop estimate was offset by raising the domestic and residual use estimate for both all-rice and combined medium- and short-grain rice.

U.S. 2020/21 season-average farm-price forecasts (SAFP) were raised this month for both long-grain rice and southern medium- and short-grain, primarily based on the NASS reported monthly cash prices through November, expectations regarding prices and marketings the remainder of the market year, tighter-than-expected December 1 rice stocks, and, for long-grain, much smaller projected ending stocks. The long-grain 2020/21 SAFP forecast was raised 10 cents to \$12.00 per cwt, unchanged from a year earlier despite much larger supplies. The 2020/21 southern medium- and short-grain SAFP is projected at \$12.30 per cwt, up 30 cents from the previous forecast and up 70 cents from the 2019/20 SAFP. The year-to-year expected increase is likely due to a smaller crop in 2020/21 than a year earlier.

The California 2020/21 (October-September) medium- and short-grain SAFP remains projected at \$19.00 per cwt, \$1.60 below the 2019/20 SAFP of \$20.60. The U.S. medium- and short-grain 2020/21 SAFP is projected at \$16.90 per cwt, up 10 cents from the previous forecast but 90 cents below the 2019/20 SAFP. The 2020/21 all-rice SAFP is projected at \$13.20 per cwt, up 10 cents from the previous forecast but still 30 cents below the 2019/20 all-rice SAFP. Except for California, rice SAFP are reported on an August-July market year.

# International Outlook

## Rice Production Forecasts for 2020/21 Raised for Cambodia, China, the Philippines, Tanzania, and the United States

Global rice production in 2020/21 is forecast at 503.2 million tons (milled basis), up 2.0 million tons from the previous forecast and up more than 1 percent from a year earlier and the highest on record. China accounts for the largest share of this month's upward revision in global production. The only significant crop reduction this was for Peru. On an annual basis, Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand, and the United States account for the bulk of the projected production increase. In contrast, Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Paraguay, and South Korea are projected to harvest significantly smaller crops, with lesser reductions projected for Argentina and Uruguay.

Global rice consumption and residual use in 2020/21 is projected to be a record 502.0 million tons, up 1.5 million tons from the previous forecast and more than 1 percent larger than a year earlier. China's consumption and residual use forecast was raised 1.0 million tons to a record 147.5 million, and the U.S. consumption and residual use was raised almost .05 million tons to a record 5.1 million. Smaller upward revisions were made for Bangladesh and Vietnam. On an annual basis, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, China, EU, India, the Philippines, and the United States account for most of the projected increase in global consumption and residual use in 2020/21, with China and the United States again showing the largest increases.

This month, USDA raised its global ending stocks forecast for 2020/21 by 0.5 million tons to 179.5 million tons, up 1.2 million tons from a year earlier and the highest ending stocks on record. In addition, 2020/21 will be the 14th consecutive year of increasing global rice ending stocks. China accounts for the bulk of this month's upward revision in global ending stocks, with its 2020/21 ending stocks forecast raised 1.0 million tons to a record 117.0 million tons. The upward revision was based on a larger China crop. Bangladesh's ending stocks were raised 0.4 million tons to 1.9 million tons due to much larger expected imports. In contrast, the U.S. ending stocks forecast was lowered 0.4 million tons to 1.2 million tons, a result of a much larger domestic and residual use forecast.

On an annual basis, China, India, and the United States are expected to account for the bulk of the increase in global ending rice stocks in 2020/21, with China's and India's stocks projected record high. China is projected to account for 65 percent of global ending stocks and India for 17 percent in 2020/21. The global ending stocks-to-use ratio is forecast at 35.8 percent, fractionally below 2019/20 and still slightly below the 2000/01 record of 37.3 percent.



Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, January 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)						
<b>Rice production in 2020/21</b>						
Cambodia	5,840	130	1.7	↑	↑	Despite heavy rainfall and flash flooding in October and early November, most growers were able to replant and the weather was generally favorable the remainder of the season, resulting in a record wet season harvest. The wet-season crop typically accounts for more than 80 percent of Cambodia's total production. Both total production and harvested area are projected record high in 2020/21.
China	148,300	1,300	1.1	↑	↑	Crop forecast was raised based on December data from China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) that reported a larger area estimate. At 30.08 million hectares, China's 2020/21 harvested area is up 0.3 million hectares from the previous forecast and 1.3 percent above a year earlier. In August, NBS reported an Early Rice Crop of 27.3 million tons, up nearly 4 percent from a year earlier, a result of a 6.8-percent expansion in harvested area. Yields on the Early Crop were down about 3 percent due to heavy rainfall and flooding during the summer. Despite this month's upward revision, China's total rice production is still forecast below the 2015/16 record of 148.5 million tons.
Panama	193	12	-16.5	↑	↓	Upward revision in the production forecast is based on historic area, yield, and production data reported by the Government of Panama. This data resulted in USDA revisions for 2015/16-2019/20. For 2020/21, harvested area was raised 5,000 hectares to 80,000 hectares, still 14,000 hectares below the revised 2019/20 estimate. The projected yield of 3.71 tons per hectares is unchanged from the previous forecast.
Peru	2,200	-146	-0.1	↓	↓	Revised production forecast is based on the latest estimates reported by Peru's Ministry of Agriculture. Harvested area was lowered 9,000 hectares to 412,000 hectares, and the yield was reduced 4 percent to 7.74 tons per hectare.
Philippines	12,000	300	0.6	↑	↑	The total production forecast was boosted to a near-record high based on the Philippines Statistical Authority's reporting of a 15-percent year-to-year increase in July-September 2020 production and a preliminary estimate for October-December 2020 production indicating a slight year-to-year increase. Although neither quarter's crops are record high, total production for the first 6 months of the July-June 2020/21 market year is record high. Northwest Luzon reported early season dryness, but rainfall from the Southwest Monsoon improved by fall, supporting high yields. Total rice production in the Philippines is projected to be the second highest on record, with the average yield a record high. The Government of the Philippines is actively supporting increased rice production through its Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, which supports improved seeds, machinery, farm credit, and extension service.
Russia	741	21	3.6	↑	↑	Raised the production forecast based on a higher yield reported by the Government of Russia. This is the largest rice production since 1988/89, with the yield of 5.85 tons per hectare the highest on record.
Tanzania	2,310	198	0.7	↑	↑	Production forecast was raised to a record-high based on revised historic area, yield, and production data reported by Tanzania's Ministry of Agriculture for 2014/15-2018/19. The harvested area estimate of 1.25 million hectares is unchanged from the previous estimate and remains 50,000 hectares above a year earlier and is the highest on record. The average yield of 2.8 tons per hectare is up 9 percent from the previous forecast but is still 3 percent lower than the year-earlier revised record.
United States	7,226	46	23.0	↑	↑	The slightly larger production forecast is due to a 1.9-percent increase in the average yield to 8.54 tons per hectare. Harvested area was actually lowered 1,000 hectares to 1.209 million hectares. Texas accounted for most of the yield increase, while Missouri's yield was lowered slightly. Mississippi accounted for most of the slight harvested area reduction. All production revisions are from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service's January 12 <i>Crop Production 2020 Summary</i> .
Vietnam	2,710	100	0.0	↑	→	Despite a small reduction in the harvested area estimate, the total production forecast was actually raised slightly due to a higher average yield, now projected at a near-record 5.87 tons per hectare. Drought and salt-water intrusion, especially in the Mekong River Delta, reduced harvested area of the Tenth Month crop (harvested October-November), and heavy rainfall and flooding then delayed some planting of the Spring crop (harvested February-March), the largest and highest yielding of Vietnam's 3 annual rice crops. Vietnam's rice harvested area has declined almost 6 percent since the 2014/15 record of 7.82 million hectares, as growers have shifted to less water-intensive crops. Reduced water flows from the Mekong River and resulting salt-water intrusion are major reasons for the steady rice area decline in Vietnam.

Continued--

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, January 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
<b>Rice production in 2019/20</b>						
Panama	231	18	5.0	↑	↑	Production revised up based on a larger area and higher yield reported by the Government of Panama. Production in 2019/20 was the highest since the 2003/04 record of 262,000 tons.
Tanzania	2,293	247	1.7	↑	↑	Crop revised higher based on a record yield reported by the Government of Tanzania in its most recent <i>AGSTATS For Food Security Report</i> . Production is the second highest on record. The average yield of 2.92 tons per hectare is the highest on record.
United States	5,877	13	-17.3	↑	↓	The small increase in production is due to a 2,000-hectare increase in harvested area to 1.002 million hectares and a slight increase in the average yield. California medium- and short-grain accounted for all of the production revision. All production revisions are from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service's January 12 <i>Crop Production 2020 Summary</i> .
Vietnam	27,100	-50	-0.9	↓	↓	Production forecast was lowered slightly based on a 90,000-hectare reduction in total harvested area to 7.38 million hectares, the smallest harvested area since 2008/09. Harvested area was reported smaller than a year earlier for all three of Vietnam's annual rice crops--the Tenth Month (or Winter) Crop, the Spring Crop, and the Summer-Autumn Crop. Much of mainland Southeast Asia experienced drought and a delayed start and early withdrawal of the 2019 rainy season. The average yield of 5.88 tons per hectare is the highest on record, with yields above a year earlier for all three crops.

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

## India's 2020 Rice Export Forecast Boosted to a Record 14.4 Million Tons; India's 2021 Exports Raised to 14.0 Million Tons

Global rice trade in 2021 is projected at 45.6 million tons (milled basis), up 0.8 million tons from the previous forecast and 2.1 percent larger than a year earlier. This month, increased export forecasts for Cambodia and India more than offset a reduced export forecast for China and for Peru, with India's exports raised 1.0 million tons to 14.0 million. For 2020, India's export forecast was raised 0.7 million tons to a record 14.4 million tons, the largest amount of rice ever exported by a single country. India has abundant supplies from consecutive bumper harvests, and its exports are very competitively priced. India has recently gained rainy market share in West Africa at the expense of traditional suppliers Thailand and Vietnam and has recently increased sales to Malaysia and Singapore, also formerly supplied by regional exporters. Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen remain large and growing markets for India's exporters. Growth of sales to Iraq—mostly of basmati rice—has been especially strong this year. The only significant 2021 export reductions this month were for China and Peru.

On an annual basis, in 2021, Thailand is expected to expand exports the most, increasing shipments 1.5 million tons to 7.0 million tons from this year's abnormally low level, partly a result of some crop recovery due to a more normal monsoon. In addition, Australia, Cambodia, China, Pakistan, the United States, and Vietnam are projected to increase exports in 2021, with U.S. exports projected to rise 0.15 million tons to 3.05 million tons and Australia's to expand 110,000 tons. In contrast, Argentina, Brazil, Burma, India, Paraguay, Taiwan, and Uruguay are expected to export less rice, with India's exports expected to drop 0.4 million tons to 14.0 million, still the second highest on record, as India's supplies are projected to remain abundant and prices competitive. The expected decline among the South American exporters is due drought in the region that has reduced expectations regarding 2020/21 production levels.

Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 metric tons), January 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, 2021						
Bangladesh	1,000	900	1150.0	↑	↑	Import forecast sharply raised this month based on current high domestic rice prices, a substantially reduced import tariff, and several recent rice tenders by the Government of Bangladesh. In addition, numerous news sources have reported that Bangladesh may purchase 1 to 2 millions tons of rice for food security needs in response to weather-reduced 2020/21 rice production and resulting tight domestic supplies.
Philippines	2,300	-300	0.0	↓	→	Import forecast lowered based on a larger crop, a slower pace of issuance of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) import clearance permits, and the tightening of the time between the issuance of the SPS import clearance permit and the actual shipment.
Sierra Leone	450	50	2.3	↑	↑	Import forecast raised based on larger domestic use.
Tanzania	150	-40	0.0	↓	→	Expect demand for imported rice expected to remain low in 2021.
Vietnam	500	100	0.0	↑	→	Upward import revision based on the recent Government of Vietnam's announcement that it will import 100,000 tons of broken kernel rice from India for use in brewing beer. India's prices are very low.

Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 metric tons), January 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 of year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Rice importers, 2020						
Peru	300	-30	2.7	↓	↑	Import forecast was lowered based on weaker domestic use.
Russia	220	20	-3.9	↑	↓	Revision based on year-end trade data.
Sierra Leone	440	80	33.3	↑	↑	Import forecast raised based on larger-than-expected purchases from China.
Sri Lanka	20	-30	-16.7	↓	↓	Downward revision based on a lower-than-expected pace of imports to-date.
Ukraine	105	5	29.6	↑	↑	Revision based on near-final trade data.

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

The largest 2021 import revisions were a 0.9-million ton increase in Bangladesh's imports to 1.0 million tons and a 0.1-million ton increase in Vietnam's to 0.5 million. These upward revisions were partially offset by a 0.3-million ton reduction in the Philippines' import forecast, a result of a larger crop. On a year-to-year basis, Bangladesh, Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam account for the bulk of the expected import growth. Australia and China are expected to show the largest drop in imports in 2021, mostly due to larger crops in 2020/21.

Table C - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 metric tons), January 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, 2021						
Cambodia	1,450	50	7.4	↑	↑	Export forecast raised based on a larger crop.
China	2,500	-200	4.2	↓	↑	Expect continued strong competition from lower-priced rice from India, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.
India	14,000	1,000	-2.8	↑	↓	Expect larger sales to Bangladesh given this month's substantial upward revision in Bangladesh's 2021 import forecast. India is expected to remain the lowest-priced Asian exporter in 2021.
Peru	50	-50	-50.0	↓	↓	Export forecast lowered based on a smaller crop.
Russia	140	20	16.7	↑	↑	Upward revision in the export forecast based on a larger crop and the recent trend in annual exports.
Ukraine	3	3	0.0	↑	→	Export raised based on a larger crop.
Table C - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 metric tons), January 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 of year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Rice exports, 2020						
Argentina	335	20	-13.7	↑	↓	Export forecast raised based on near-final trade data.
China	2,400	-300	-11.8	↓	↓	Reduction based on near-final trade data. Shipments to Egypt slowed and several Sub-Saharan African buyers switched to lower-priced rice from India.
India	14,400	700	47.1	↑	↑	Upward revision based on January-November trade data and an estimate of 1.4 million tons shipped in December.
Russia	120	20	-218.0	↓	↓	Revised export forecast based on near-final 2020 trade data.
Sri Lanka	8	3	60.0	↑	↑	Upward revision based on larger-than-expected shipments to both the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates.
Ukraine	3	3	-50.0	↑	↓	Revision based on near-final trade data.
Vietnam	6,100	-100	-7.3	↓	↓	The 2020 export forecast was lowered based on trade data through November, a shipping container shortage, very high prices for Vietnam's rice, and preliminary estimates of just 400,000 tons of rice shipped in December.

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

Trading prices for most grades of Thailand's regularly milled white rice (nonaromatic) increased by around 5 percent over the past month, mostly due to its continued strong currency, currently at a 7-year high to the dollar. Thailand's 100-percent Grade B long-grain milled rice for export was quoted at \$522 per ton for the week ending January 4, up \$25 from the week ending December 7. Prices for Thailand's 5-percent broken parboiled rice were quoted at \$513 per ton for the week ending January 4, up \$26 from the week ending December 7. Prices for Thailand's jasmine rice—a premium aromatic—remain quoted at \$818 per ton.

Price quotes for Vietnam's rice increased over the past month as well, mostly due to tight supplies until the harvest of the spring crop begins in February. For the week ending January 5, prices for Vietnam's 5-percent broken kernel long-grain milled rice (from the autumn crop that was harvested late summer and early fall) were quoted at \$515 per ton, up \$17 from the week ending December 8 and highest since December 2011. Vietnam's rice now sells at about the same price as comparable grades of Thailand's rice. India's prices remain the most competitive among Asian sellers, with India's 5-percent broken nonparboiled white rice quoted at \$370 per ton for the week ending January 5, up \$10 from the week ending December 8.

Prices quotes from Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay for their higher grades of long-grain milled rice (5 percent broken) were unchanged from a month earlier. U.S. prices are currently quoted about the same as quotes for similar quality shipments from Uruguay—quoted at \$620 per ton—and Argentina—quoted at \$600 per ton. The major South American exporters—located in the southern half of the continent—completed their 2019/20 harvest in late May and currently have only very small supplies of exportable rice.

U.S. trading prices for long-grain milled rice were also unchanged over the past month, despite the completed full harvest of a bumper 2020/21 crop. Prices for U.S. long-grain milled rice, Number 2 Grade, 4-percent broken kernels (free on board a vessel at a Gulf port, Iraq specifications) remain quoted at \$625 per ton for the week ending December 8, unchanged since early August. U.S. prices for Latin American milled-rice markets—Haiti, Colombia, and Mexico—remain quoted at \$550 per ton for the week ending December 8, also unchanged since early August.

Milled rice prices in California were mostly unchanged over the past month as well. Quotes for California Number 1 Grade, 4-percent broken kernels for the week ending January 5 remained quoted at \$835 per ton (free on board at a domestic mill, Mediterranean specifications), unchanged since late October. For delivery to the Port of Oakland, California, medium-grain milled rice (Korean specifications) prices remain quoted at \$940 per ton for the week ending January 5, unchanged since early October. For listings of trading prices by exporter and grade of rice, see Table 9 in the Excel file.

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