



Rice Outlook: April 2023
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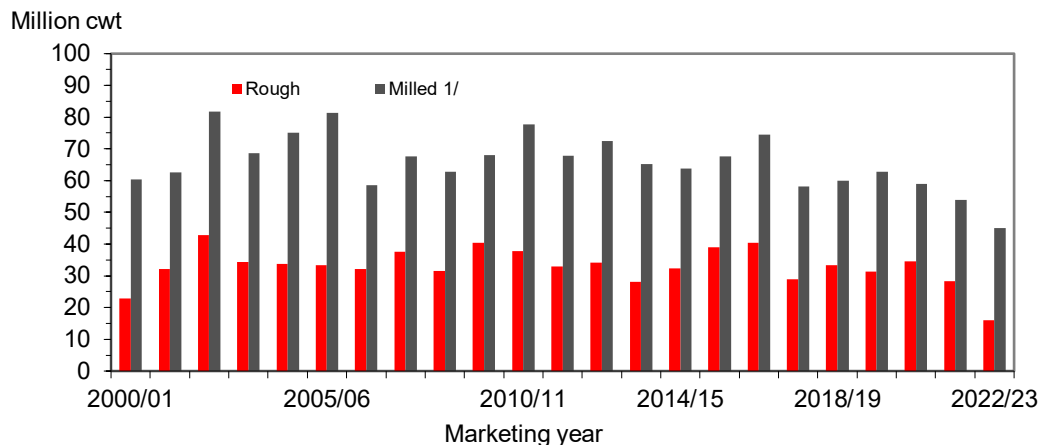
In this report:
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Rice Outlook monthly tables, in Excel format, can be found on the Rice Outlook report page on USDA's Economic Research Service website.

U.S. 2023/24 Rice Plantings Indicated at 2.58 Million Acres

Based on a survey conducted during the first two weeks of March, U.S. rice growers intend to plant 2.58 million acres of rice in 2023/24, up 16 percent from a year earlier. Plantings were indicated higher in both the South and in California. There were several revisions this month to the U.S. 2022/23 supply and use balance sheet. On the supply side, imports were lowered 2.0 million hundredweight (cwt) to 40.0 million, still a record high. On the use side, total exports were raised 2.0 million cwt to 61.0 million, with milled rice accounting for all of the increase. Rough-rice exports remain projected at 16.0 million cwt, 43 percent below a year earlier. Total domestic and residual use was increased 4.0 million cwt to 151.0 million. The increase in domestic and residual use was largely based on the August–February implied disappearance indicated by the March Rice Stocks report. These supply and use revisions resulted in an 8.0-million cwt reduction in the ending stocks forecast to 28.1 million cwt, the lowest since 2003/04. The only revision to the 2022/23 season-average farm price (SAFP) forecast was a 10-cent per cwt increase in the Southern medium- and short-grain SAFP to a near-record \$17.70 per cwt. Long-grain and the California medium- and short-grain SAFP all remain projected record-high.

Figure 1
U.S. rough-rice exports projected to decline 43 percent in 2022/23



Cwt = Hundredweight. 2022/23 are forecasts. 1/ Milled- and brown-rice exports on a rough-rice basis. Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Rice Yearbook dataset; 2000/01–2019/20; USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, 2020/21–2022/23.

Global rice production in 2022/23 is forecast at 509.4 million tons (milled basis), down 0.4 million tons from the previous estimate and 1 percent below the year-earlier record, with production forecasts lowered for Brazil, Indonesia, and Malaysia. The 2022/23 global rice consumption and residual use forecast was increased by 0.1 million tons this month to a record 520.0 million. Combined with a reduced carryin estimate, these revisions resulted in a 2.0-million-ton reduction in the 2022/23 ending stocks forecast to 171.4 million tons, the second consecutive year of a decline.

Global rice trade in calendar year 2023 was raised 0.9 million tons to 55.9 million tons, just 0.2 million below the year-earlier record, with export forecasts increased for Cambodia, Thailand, the United States, Uruguay, and Vietnam. On the 2023 import side, Indonesia's imports were boosted 1.0 million tons, while China's were lowered 0.4 million tons. Over the past month, quotes for Thailand's trading prices for most grades of nonaromatic long-grain milled rice rose 4–5 percent from a month earlier, while Vietnam's increased nearly 7 percent. U.S. long-grain and California medium-grain milled prices were unchanged over the past month, with California prices the highest on record.

Table A. U.S. all-rice supply and use at a glance, 2020/21–2022/23							
Balance sheet item	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22 Changes from previous year	2022/23 March	2022/23 April	2022/23 Changes from previous month	2022/23 Comments and analysis
Supply ----- Million hundredweight ----- August–July marketing year							
Beginning stocks	28.7	43.7	15.0	39.7	39.7	0.0	
Production	227.5	191.6	-35.9	160.4	160.4	0.0	
Imports	34.1	37.8	3.7	42.0	40.0	-2.0	Reduced based primarily on weaker-than-expected shipments of Jasmine rice from Thailand through February.
Total Supply	290.2	273.0	-17.2	242.1	240.1	-2.0	A smaller import forecast.
Demand ----- Million hundredweight ----- August–July marketing year							
Domestic and residual use	153.1	151.1	-1.9	147.0	151.0	4.0	Increased based on the August–February implied use indicated by the March 30 <i>Rice Stock</i> report.
Exports	93.5	82.2	-11.3	59.0	61.0	2.0	Higher-than-expected total shipments in February and an additional sale of long-grain milled-rice to Iraq in late March.
Rough	34.6	28.3	-6.4	16.0	16.0	0.0	
Milled	58.9	53.9	-5.0	43.0	45.0	2.0	Higher-than-expected shipments in February and an additional sale of long-grain rice to Iraq in late March.
Total use	246.6	233.3	-13.3	206.0	212.0	6.0	Higher forecasts for both domestic and residual use and for exports.
Ending stocks	43.7	39.7	-4.0	36.1	28.1	-8.0	A reduced import forecast plus stronger forecasts for both domestic and residual use and for exports.
Price ----- Dollars per hundredweight ----- August–July marketing year							
Season-average farm price (SAFP)	\$14.40	\$16.10	\$1.70	\$19.40	\$19.40	\$0.00	

Source: USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*.

Table B. U.S. rice supply and use at a glance, by class, 2021/22 and 2022/23							
Balance sheet item	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22 Changes from previous year	2022/23 March	2022/23 April	2022/23 Changes from previous month	2022/23 Comments and analysis
LONG-GRAIN							
Supply ----- Million hundredweight ----- August–July marketing year							
Carryin	16.9	29.7	12.8	24.6	24.6	0.0	
Production	170.8	144.6	-26.2	128.2	128.2	0.0	
Imports	27.4	30.7	3.3	33.0	31.0	-2.0	Weaker-than-expected pace of imports of Jasmine rice from Thailand through February.
Total supply	215.1	205.0	-10.1	185.8	183.8	-2.0	A smaller import forecast.
Demand ----- Million hundredweight ----- August–July marketing year							
Domestic and residual use	120.3	119.7	-0.6	117.0	119.0	2.0	A higher August-March implied use indicated by the March 1 rice stocks report by NASS.
Exports	65.0	60.6	-4.4	45.0	47.0	2.0	Larger-than-expected shipments in February and an additional sale of milled rice to Iraq in late March.
Total use	185.3	180.3	-5.0	162.0	166.0	4.0	Larger forecasts for both domestic and residual use and for exports.
Ending stocks	29.7	24.6	-5.1	23.8	17.8	-6.0	A smaller import forecast plus larger forecasts for both domestic and residual use and exports.
Price 1/ ----- Dollars per hundredweight -----							
Season-average farm price (SAFP)	\$12.60	\$13.60	\$1.00	\$16.90	\$16.90	\$0.00	

Continued--

Table B. U.S. rice supply and use at a glance, by class, 2021/22 and 2022/23--Continued

Balance sheet item	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22 Changes from previous year	2022/23 March	2022/23 April	2022/23 Changes from previous month	2022/23 Comments and analysis
MEDIUM- AND SHORT-GRAIN							
Supply ----- Million hundredweight ----- August–July marketing year							
Carryin	10.7	11.5	0.7	13.0	13.0	0.0	
Production	56.7	47.0	-9.7	32.2	32.2	0.0	
Imports	6.7	7.1	0.4	9.0	9.0	0.0	
Total Supply	72.7	66.0	-6.7	54.3	54.3	0.0	
Demand ----- Million hundredweight ----- August–July marketing year							
Domestic and residual use	32.8	31.4	-1.4	30.0	32.0	2.0	A higher August-March implied use indicated by the March 1 rice stocks report by NASS.
Exports	28.5	21.5	-6.9	14.0	14.0	0.0	
Total use	61.2	53.0	-8.3	44.0	46.0	2.0	A larger domestic and residual use forecast.
Ending stocks	11.5	13.0	1.6	10.3	8.3	-2.0	A larger domestic and residual use forecast.
Price 1/ ----- Dollars per hundredweight ----- August–July marketing year							
Southern medium- and short-grain	\$13.00	\$13.90	\$0.90	\$17.60	\$17.70	\$0.10	Slightly higher than expected reported cash prices through February and expectations regarding farm prices and marketings for the remainder of the market year.
California medium- and short-grain	\$22.60	\$31.90	\$9.30	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$0.00	
U.S. medium- and short-grain	\$20.10	\$26.40	\$6.30	\$29.20	\$29.20	\$0.00	

1/ Season-average farm price.

Source: USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*.

Table C. U.S. rice planted area, by State and U.S. total

State and U.S. total	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 1/	Change from previous year	
						Quantity	Percent
Planted area	----- 1,000 acres -----						
Long-grain:							
Arkansas	955	1,325	1,095	1,000	1,140	140	14.0
California	10	12	7	7	7	-	0.0
Louisiana	370	430	380	370	390	20	5.4
Mississippi	115	165	105	85	100	15	17.6
Missouri	180	220	195	150	190	40	26.7
Texas	153	180	188	190	130	(60)	-31.6
U.S. total	1,783	2,332	1,970	1,802	1,957	155	8.6
South	1,773	2,320	1,963	1,795	1,950	155	8.6
Medium-grain:							
Arkansas	205	135	115	105	160	55	52.4
California	460	465	365	220	365	145	65.9
Louisiana	55	50	40	55	60	5	9.1
Mississippi	2	1	-	-	-	-	--
Missouri	7	8	4	5	5	-	0.0
Texas	4	4	2	5	3	(2)	-40.0
U.S. total	733	663	526	390	593	203	52.1
South	273	198	161	170	228	58	34.1
Short-grain:							
Arkansas	1	1	1	1	1	-	0.0
California	33	40	35	29	32	3	10.3
U.S. total	34	41	36	30	33	3	10.0
South	1	1	1	1	1	-	0.0
All rice:							
Arkansas	1,161	1,461	1,211	1,106	1,301	195	17.6
California	503	517	407	256	404	148	57.8
Louisiana	425	480	420	425	450	25	5.9
Mississippi	117	166	105	85	100	15	17.6
Missouri	187	228	199	155	195	40	25.8
Texas	157	184	190	195	133	(62)	-31.8
U.S. total	2,550	3,036	2,532	2,222	2,583	361	16.2
South	2,047	2,519	2,125	1,966	2,179	213	10.8

-- = Not applicable.

1/ Intended plantings only. Based on a survey of producers conducted during the first 2 weeks of March 2023.

These six States account for almost 100 percent of U.S. rice acreage and production. Production and yield are rough basis.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service; USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Growers Indicate a 16-Percent Expansion in Rice Plantings

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) *Prospective Plantings* report, U.S. rice farmers intend to plant 2.58 million acres of rice in 2023/24, up 16 percent from a year earlier. Long-grain plantings were indicated at 1.96 million acres, up almost 9 percent from a year earlier but still slightly below the 1.97 million planted in 2021/22. The reported expansion is the result of record and near-record prices, generally lower input costs, and expectations of a return to normal weather this year in the South after above-normal rainfall last spring prevented plantings in some areas, mostly in the Arkansas, Mississippi, and Missouri.

Combined medium- and short-grain plantings are indicated at 626,000 acres, up 49 percent from a year earlier. Medium- and short-grain plantings were indicated higher in both California and the South. The strong expansion in medium- and short-grain plantings is driven by record-high prices in California and near-record high prices in the South, as well as abundant rainfall and snow this winter in California that has restored reservoirs to normal or above-normal levels after 2 years of severe drought.

U.S. growers indicated expanded rice plantings in all reported States except Texas, where plantings are indicated to decline by 32 percent. The Texas area decline is attributable to water restrictions imposed by the Lower Colorado River Authority. A drought that began in the summer of 2022 resulted in the restrictions which severely limited agricultural customers access to water from Highland Lakes. Arkansas growers indicated the largest expansion in area, up 195,000 acres, with both long- and medium-grain plantings indicated higher. California growers reported the largest percentage area expansion, up 58 percent, with medium- and short-grain accounting for nearly all of the intended expansion.

The rice planting intentions are based on a survey of growers conducted by NASS during the first 2 weeks of March that asked growers how much rice they intend to plant in 2023/24. The first NASS survey of actual 2023/24 rice plantings will be conducted in early June, with the results released in the June 30 NASS *Acreage* report. Actual plantings often differ from planting intentions due to factors such as shifts in market prices and variations in weather and soil moisture.

Planting progress for the 2023/24 U.S. rice crop is slightly ahead of a year earlier and the U.S. 5-year average. Planting is well advanced on the Gulf Coast and has recently started in the Delta but has yet to begin in California. The regional staggering of rice plantings is typical for early April. On the Gulf Coast, the planting pace in Louisiana for the week ending April 9 was ahead of both a year earlier and the State's 5-year average, while the pace of plantings in Texas was behind for both measures.

Table D - Weekly crop progress				
State	Week ending April 9, 2023	Previous week	A year earlier	State and U.S. 2018–2022 average
Rice planted				
----- Percent -----				
Arkansas	12	5	4	9
California	0	0	0	0
Louisiana	74	68	62	70
Mississippi	8	1	6	10
Missouri	1	0	1	4
Texas	49	35	58	62
U.S. total	22	17	16	20
Rice headed				
----- Percent -----				
Arkansas	1	0	0	0
California	0	0	0	0
Louisiana	63	49	48	51
Mississippi	0	0	1	2
Missouri	0	0	0	0
Texas	27	18	24	37
U.S. total	13	10	9	11
These 6 States account for almost 100 percent of U.S. rice acreage.				
Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service; USDA, Economic Research Service.				

U.S. 2022/23 Import Forecast Lowered 2.0 Million Cwt

There were no revisions this month to the 2022/23 U.S. rice production or beginning stocks estimates. However, the 2022/23 import forecast was again lowered, this month by 2.0 million cwt to 40.0 million, still 6 percent above a year earlier and the highest on record. The downward revision was largely based on the delivery pace through February reported by the U.S. Census Bureau and expectations regarding purchases for the remainder of the market year.

Long-grain accounted for all of this month's downward revision in U.S. rice imports. At 31.0 million cwt, U.S. long-grain imports are 2.0 million cwt below the previous forecast but still 1 percent above a year earlier and the highest on record. In February, the United States imported almost 73,000 tons of long-grain rice, more than 27 percent below a month earlier and 2 percent below a year earlier. Thailand and India account for the bulk of the month-to-month decline in

reported long-grain imports. Both Asian exporters ship almost exclusively aromatic rice to the United States. Despite the February declines, imports of long-grain rice through February are still above a year earlier from both sources, with shipments from Thailand up 6 percent and those from India up 42 percent from a year earlier.

Medium- and short-grain imports remain forecast at a record 9.0 million cwt, up 27 percent from a year earlier. Most of the projected increase is due to a second consecutive year of a weak harvest in California. To date, Australia has supplied most of the rice that has offset the smaller California crop. China continues to supply rice to Puerto Rico, shipping 21,000-ton shipments in September, January, and February. At least one more 21,000-ton shipment from China to Puerto Rico is expected in 2022/23. China, Thailand, and India supply the bulk of U.S. medium- and short-grain rice, with the rice originating from Thailand a specialty rice classified as medium- and short-grain. Italy regularly supplies much smaller quantities of its *arborio* rice.

Total U.S. rice supplies in 2022/23 are now forecast at 240.1 million cwt, 2.0 million cwt below the previous forecast and 12 percent below a year earlier. These are the smallest total U.S. rice supplies since 2003/04. Long-grain supplies are projected at 183.8 million cwt, 2.0 million below the previous forecast and 10 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 2017/18. Medium- and short-grain supplies remain projected at 54.3 million cwt, 18 percent smaller than a year earlier and the lowest since 1988/89.

U.S. 2022/23 Rice Export Forecast Raised

After several consecutive months of reductions, the U.S. 2022/23 all-rice export forecast was raised this month by 2.0 million cwt to 61.0 million cwt, still down 26 percent from a year earlier and the lowest since 1985/86. The upward revision was primarily based on larger-than-expected shipments reported for February by the U.S. Census Bureau and an additional sale of 80,000 tons of long-grain milled-rice to Iraq in late March.

U.S. long-grain exports are projected at 47.0 million cwt, up 2.0 million from the previous forecast but still more than 22 percent below a year earlier and the lowest since 1985/86. In February, U.S. long-grain shipments were larger-than-expected to Mexico, as well as strong to Colombia, Haiti, and Iraq. On an annual basis, U.S. long-grain exports are limited by near-record U.S. trading prices, tighter U.S. supplies this year, and strong price competition from South American exporters in several key U.S. Latin American markets.

U.S. medium- and short-grain exports remain forecast at 14.0 million cwt, 35 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 1992/93. The extremely weak medium- and short-grain export forecast is based on the big drop in California's rice production in 2022/23 due to drought and resulting record-high farm and trading prices.

The U.S. 2022/23 milled-rice export forecast was raised 2.0 million cwt to 45.0 million cwt, still 16.5 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 1965/66. Northeast Asia, the Middle East, and Canada are the top markets for U.S. milled rice exports. U.S. long-grain milled-rice exports are limited by high prices compared with those of suppliers in both South America and Asia. U.S. medium- and short-grain milled-rice exports are further limited by extremely tight supplies of California rice, a result of severe drought that has boosted U.S.

U.S. rough-rice exports remain forecast at 16.0 million cwt, 43 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 1996/97. For the week ending March 30, the USDA Foreign Agricultural

Service's *U.S. Export Sales* reported U.S. sales and shipments of rough-rice well behind a year-earlier to Mexico and Central America, the top markets for U.S. rough rice, with South American exporters accounting for nearly all of the lost U.S. market share in these markets. Long-grain accounts for the bulk of U.S. rough-rice exports.

All-rice total domestic and residual use in 2022/23 is forecast at 151.0 million cwt, up 4.0 million from the previous forecast but virtually unchanged from a year earlier. The upward revision was based on the August–February implied disappearance indicated by the March 1 stocks reported in the NASS March *Rice Stocks*. Domestic and residual use was raised by 2.0 million cwt for both classes of rice.

Based on the NASS-reported stocks of rice, U.S. rice stocks (rough- and milled-rice stocks on a rough-rice basis) on March 1 are estimated at 82.7 million cwt, 16 percent below a year earlier. The estimated stocks were below expected levels, indicating stronger use. Long-grain stocks are estimated at 57.65 million cwt, down 10 percent from a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain stocks on March 1 are estimated at 22.9 million cwt, down 29 percent from a year earlier. Stocks of broken kernel rice—not classified by grain size—were estimated at 2.2 million cwt (rough-basis), almost 1 percent below a year earlier.

By State, California's rice stocks on March 1 are estimated at 19.6 million cwt (rough- and milled-rice stocks on a rough-rice basis), 28 percent below a year earlier. California reported the largest decline in rice stock level—down 7.7 million cwt, followed by Arkansas which reported a 6.0-million cwt reduction from a year earlier to 46.2 million cwt.

These supply and use revisions resulted in an 8.0-million cwt reduction in the all-rice ending stocks forecast to 28.1 million cwt, 29 percent below a year earlier and the lowest since 2003/04. Long-grain ending stocks of 17.8 million cwt are also the lowest since 2003/04. Medium- and short-grain ending stocks of 8.3 million cwt are the lowest since 2017/18.

The only revision this month to the 2022/23 U.S. season-average farm price (SAFP) forecasts was a 10-cent per cwt increase in the southern medium- and short-grain SAFP to \$17.70 per cwt, up 27 percent from a year earlier and the second-highest on record. SAFP forecasts for all-rice, long-grain, California medium- and short-grain, and U.S. medium- and short-grain are all projected to be record-high in 2022/23.

International Outlook

Rice Production Forecasts for 2022/23 Lowered for Brazil, Indonesia, Iraq, and Malaysia, but Raised for Bangladesh

Global rice production in 2022/23 is forecast at 509.4 million tons (milled basis), down 0.4 million tons from the previous estimate and 1 percent below the year-earlier record and the first year-to-year decline since 2015/16. This month, downward production revisions for Argentina, Brazil, Indonesia, Iraq, and Malaysia more than offset increased production forecasts for Bangladesh, the European Union, Japan, and Russia. A smaller carryin estimate lowered the 2022/23 global total supply forecast 1.9 million tons from the previous forecast to 691.4 million tons, more than 1 percent below the year-earlier record and the first decline in global rice supplies since 2004/05. Production revisions by country for 2022/23 are reported in Table E.

On an annual basis, the decline in global rice production in 2022/23 is largely the result of production declines in Australia, Brazil, China, the European Union, Ghana, Iraq, Japan, South Korea, Nigeria, the Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, the United States, and Uruguay. Most of these production declines are due to adverse weather, although Sri Lanka's reduction is primarily the result of a severe input shortage. Brazil, South Korea, and Japan have experienced a long-term decline in rice area, with the East Asian decline due to diet diversification. Drought reduced rice production in California, China, the European Union, and Iraq, while rice crops in Australia, Ghana, and Nigeria were adversely impacted by flooding. A lack of rainfall reduced harvests in much of southern South America. Map 1 reports global 2022/23 rice production by country and Map 2 reports 2022/23 annual percent change in rice production by country.

The 2022/23 global rice consumption and residual use forecast was increased by 0.1 million tons this month to a record 520.0 million, up 0.9 million tons from a year earlier. Consumption and residual use forecasts were raised this month for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iraq, the Philippines, Turkey, and the United States, but lowered for Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mali, Thailand, and Vietnam.

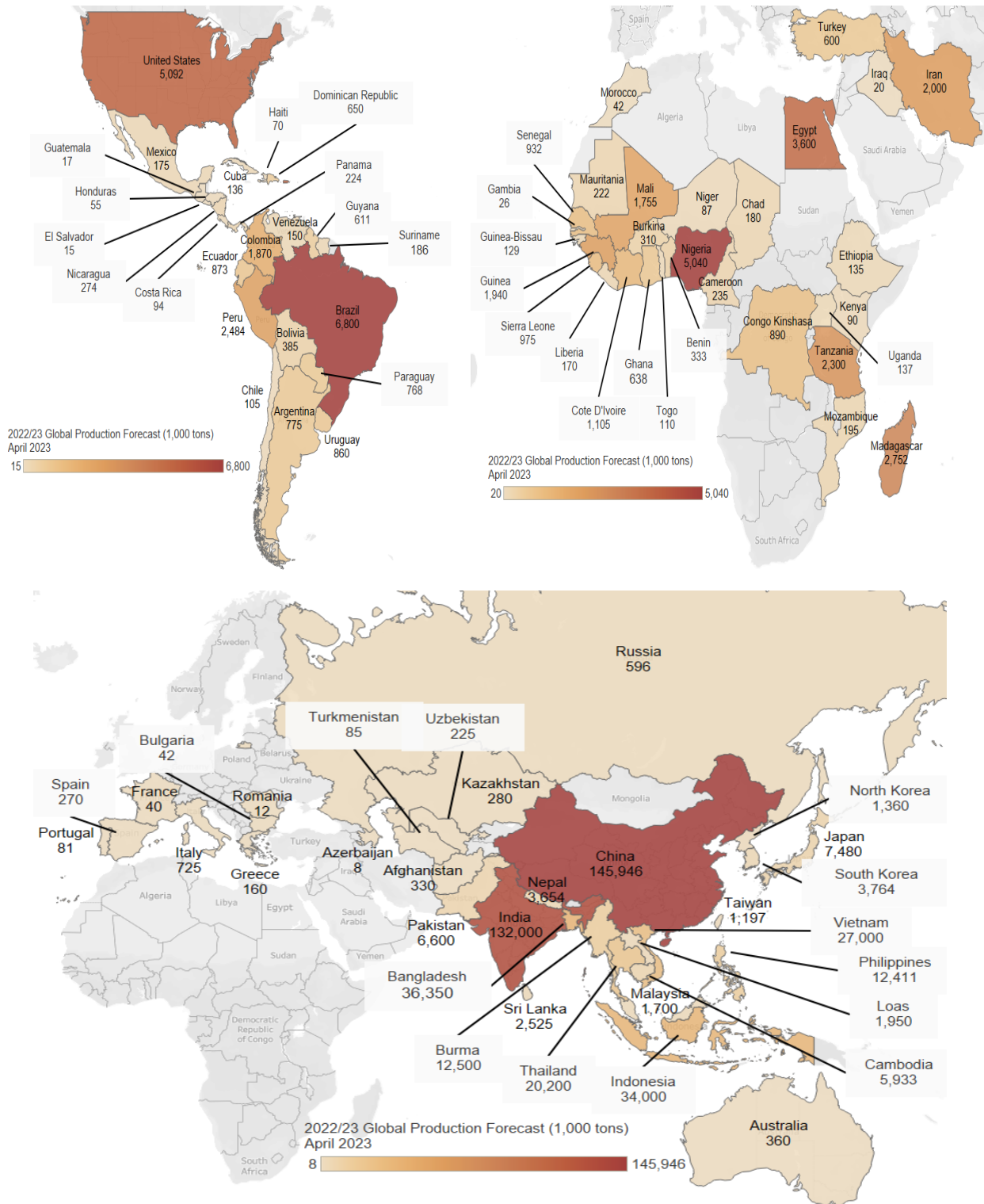
This month, the 2022/23 global ending rice stocks forecast was lowered almost 2 million tons to 171.4 million tons, 6 percent below the year-earlier revised estimate and the second consecutive year of a decline. Global ending stocks in 2022/23 are forecast to be the lowest since 2017/18. Cambodia, China, Ecuador, Iraq, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United States, Uruguay, and Vietnam account for the bulk of this month's reduction in global rice ending stocks. On an annual basis, Brazil, Burma, China, India, Pakistan, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam account for the bulk of the projected decline in global rice ending stocks in 2022/23, with China and India experiencing the largest reductions.

For the Philippines, ending stocks and consumption and residual estimates were revised from 2014/15 to 2022/23 based on market research conducted by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) that indicated higher annual rice consumption and tighter stocks. More detail on the revisions to the Philippines' long-term stocks and consumption estimates are provided in the FAS April 2023 *Grain: World Markets and Trade*.

Table E. Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, April 2023						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from previous month	Percent change from previous year	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation and comments on month-to-month change
Rice production in 2022/23, 1,000 metric tons (milled basis)						
Argentina	775	-25	-1.9	↓	↓	Reduced the production forecast based on expectations of a slightly smaller harvested area and a weaker yield resulting from less-than-normal water available for irrigation due to well below average rainfall. Harvest is currently underway.
Bangladesh	36,350	500	1.4	↑	↑	Raised the total crop forecast to a record-high based on a larger-than-expected harvest of the monsoon-season <i>aman</i> crop that was harvested last fall, with both harvested area and yield slightly larger for the <i>aman</i> crop than previously estimated.
Brazil	6,800	-136	-7.3	↓	↓	Reduced the production forecast based on a weaker yield reported by the Government of Brazil in early March. The weaker yield forecast is the result of insufficient December-January rainfall. Brazil's production is the smallest since 1997/98. The bulk of Brazil's rice crop, which is located mostly in the southeast, will be harvested this spring.
European Union	1,336	64	-22.9	↑	↓	Raised the production estimate based on larger crop estimates for Bulgaria, France, Italy, and Portugal that more than offset reduced estimates for Greece, Romania, and Spain, with Italy--the largest EU rice producer--accounting for the bulk of the upward revision. Despite the upward revision, EU rice production is the smallest since the mid-1990s, a result of insufficient irrigation water caused by a lack of rainfall.
Indonesia	34,000	-600	-1.2	↓	↓	Reduced the crop forecast based on slightly lower harvested area and yield forecasts recommended by the U.S. Agricultural Office in Jakarta. The lower yield forecast is due to reduced fertilizer application.
Iraq	20	-220	-92.0	↓	↓	Substantial crop reduction is due to the impact of persistent drought over the past few years that has resulted in sharp Government limits on rice cultivation. Harvested area is estimated at 8,000 hectares, down 91 percent from a year earlier.
Japan	7,480	30	-2.0	↑	↓	Raised the crop estimated based on a slightly higher yield reported by the Government of Japan. Harvested area was lowered fractionally. Despite the upward revision, the average yield is 0.5 percent below a year earlier due to a lack of sunshine during the summer and persistent rains during grain filling periods in major rice producing regions such as Niigata Prefecture.
Malaysia	1,700	-100	1.4	↓	↑	Lowered the production forecast based on a smaller harvested area estimate. Harvested area was lowered 25,000 hectares to 655,000 due to adverse weather during the growing season, as well as salt-water intrusion in some areas.
Russia	596	76	-14.7	↑	↓	Raised the crop estimate based on a larger harvested area estimate reported by the Government of Russia.

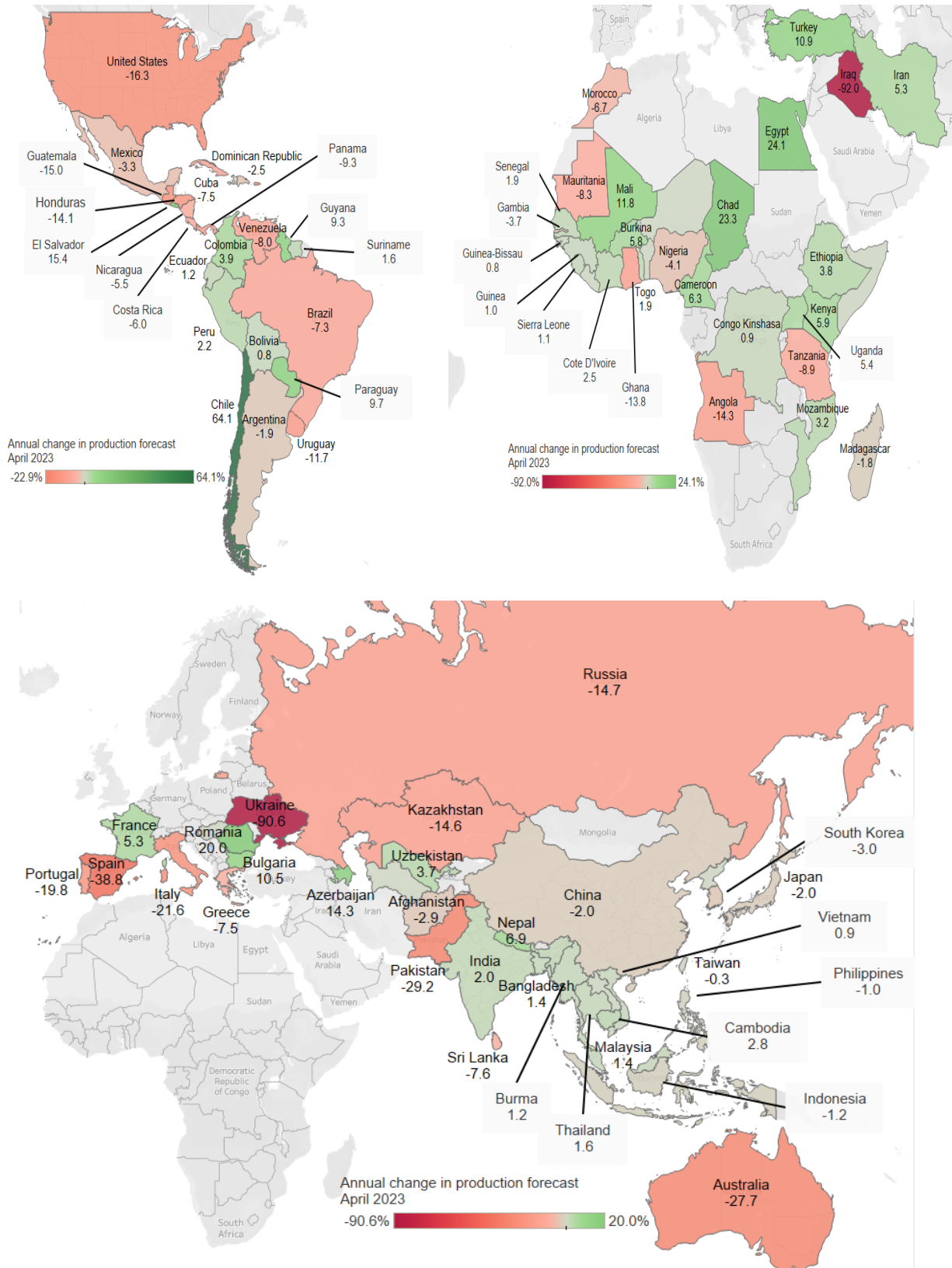
Source: Created by USDA, Economic Research Service with data from USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, Production, Supply, and Distribution database.

Map 1: Production forecasts (milled basis) 2022/23



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

Map 2: Annual percent change in production forecasts 2022/23



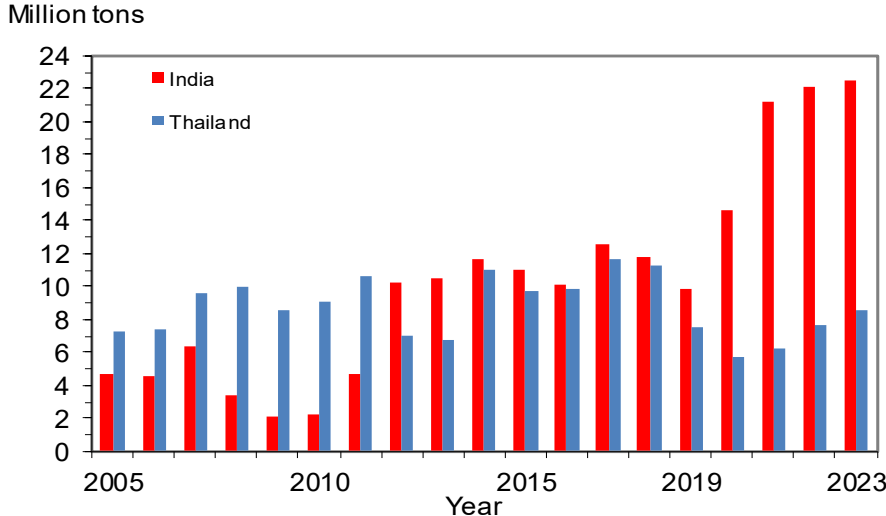
Source: Created by USDA, Economic Research Service with data from USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, *Production, Supply, and Distribution* database.

Export Forecasts for 2023 Raised for Cambodia, Thailand, the United States, Uruguay, and Vietnam

Global rice trade in calendar year 2023 was raised 0.9 million tons to 55.9 million tons, just 0.2 million below the year-earlier record. On an annual basis, weaker shipments from Argentina, Brazil, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, Paraguay, Tanzania, the United States, and Uruguay more than offset expanded shipments from Australia, Burma, China, Guyana, India, Thailand, and Vietnam. At a record 22.5 million tons, India’s 2023 rice exports are up 2 percent from a year earlier and exceed the combined shipments of the next three largest exporters—Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam. India’s prices are the most competitive among global suppliers and its total supply of rice is near-record high. See Figure 2 for 2005-2023 annual rice shipments from India and Thailand, the two largest rice exporting countries.

On the global import side, projections for reduced imports in 2023 for Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, China, Costa Rica, Cote d’Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, Guinea, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam more than offset expectations for increased purchases in 2023 from Brazil, Burkina-Faso, the European Union, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia, North Korea, Kuwait, Libya, Nepal, Niger, Peru, South Africa, Syria, Togo, and Venezuela. U.S. rice imports in 2023 are projected to decline 1 percent from the year-earlier record to 1.3 million tons, with the United States remaining the largest importer in the Western Hemisphere.

Figure 2
India's 2023 rice exports projected record high; Thailand's 2023 exports projected to increase 11 percent



Notes: Rice exports are reported on a milled basis; 2023 are forecasts.
 Source: USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, *Production, Supply, and Distribution* database.

Table F. Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 metric tons), April 2023						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from previous month	Percent change from previous year	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of month-to-month change
Rice importers, 2023						
Afghanistan	475	25	2.8	↑	↑	Raised the import forecast to a record-high based on a larger domestic use forecast.
Bangladesh	800	200	-15.8	↑	↓	Import forecast raised based on a stronger-than-expected pace of purchases through February.
China	5,100	-400	-171	↓	↓	Lowered the import forecast based on higher prices for imports, India's ban on exports of broken kernel rice, and China's import purchase-pace to date.
Ecuador	50	-50	25.0	↓	↑	Lowered the import forecast based on expected weaker formal purchases, with regular informal purchases from Peru remaining about 40,000 tons annually.
Indonesia	1,750	1,000	144.8	↑	↑	Big boost in import forecast is based on the Government of Indonesia's decision to raise stocks to a more normal level.
Iraq	2,000	400	-5.8	↑	↓	Near-record imports are based on a much smaller crop estimate and a recent strong pace of purchases, with Thailand, India, and the United States top suppliers.
Jordan	225	5	0.0	↑	→	Raised the import forecast based on recent stronger-than-expected purchases, with Russia now supplying some imports.
Malaysia	1,250	50	0.8	↑	↑	Increased the import forecast based on reduced crop estimates for 2021/22 and 2022/23.
Mali	400	-200	0.0	↓	→	Lowered the import forecast based on weaker-than-expected purchases in 2022.
Sri Lanka	450	-150	-42.5	↓	↓	Reduced the import forecast based on lower domestic rice prices, an improved fertilizer supply situation, and the announcement in early December of the requirement of a Government license to import rice.
United States	1,300	-75	-1.1	↓	↓	Reduced the import forecast based on weaker-than-expected imports since last fall, especially for Thailand's jasmine rice, the dominant type and source of U.S. rice imports.

Continued--

Table F - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 metric tons), April 2023-- <i>continued</i>						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from previous month	Percent change from previous year	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of month-to-month change
Rice importers, 2022						
Afghanistan	462	12	42.2	↑	↑	Raised the import estimate to a near-record high based on yearend trade data.
Ecuador	40	-10	-20.0	↓	↓	Lowered the import forecast based on yearend trade data indicating weaker-than-expected shipments from formal (not neighboring Peru) sources.
Indonesia	715	15	10.0	↑	↑	Raised the import estimate based on yearend trade data.
Jordan	225	5	7.1	↑	↑	Raised the import estimate based on yearend trade data, with Russia now supplying some rice imports.
Mali	400	-200	33.3	↓	↑	Reduced the import estimate based on Government of Mali trade data.
Oman	252	7	26.0	↑	↑	Raised the import estimate based on yearend trade data.

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

Table G - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 metric tons), April 2023						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from previous month	Percent change from previous year	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of month-to-month change in forecast
Rice exporters, 2023						
Cambodia	1,700	100	0.0	↑	→	Export forecast raised based on larger expected sales of unmilled rice to Vietnam.
Ecuador	25	-25	-44.4	↓	↓	Lowered the export forecast to a more normal level based on a trade dispute with top-buyer Colombia.
Malaysia	100	50	-13.0	↑	↓	Raised the export forecast based on larger expected sales to top-buyer Indonesia in 2023.
Russia	100	30	0.0	↑	→	Increased the export forecast based on a recent stronger-than-expected pace of sales.
Thailand	8,500	300	10.6	↑	↑	Export forecast was raised based on larger expected sales to Indonesia in 2023.
United States	2,050	50	-6.0	↑	↓	Increased the export forecast based on larger-than-expected shipments in February and a large reported sale of long-grain milled rice to Iraq in late March.
Uruguay	870	70	-13.3	↑	↓	Export forecast increased based on recent stronger-than-expected sales to top-buyer Brazil.
Vietnam	7,100	300	0.7	↑	↑	Raised the export forecast based on larger expected sales to Indonesia in 2023.

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

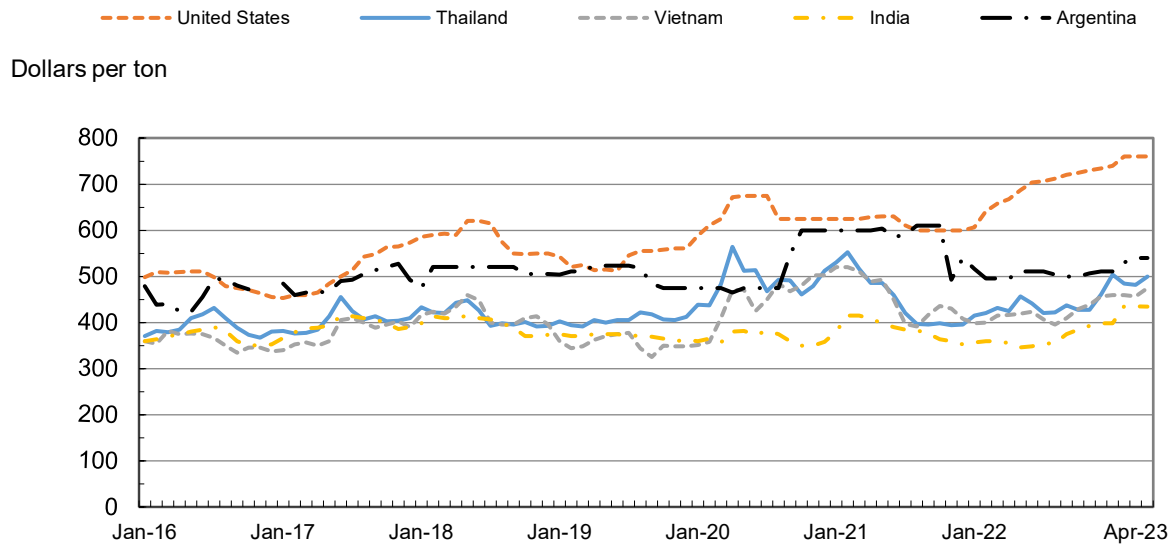
Over the past month, quotes for Thailand's trading prices for most grades of regular (neither parboiled nor aromatic) whole-grain milled rice rose 4–5 percent from a month earlier, mostly due to an increase in the value of the Thai baht and inquirers from foreign buyers. For the week ending April 4, Thailand's 100-percent Grade B long-grain milled rice for export was quoted at \$499 per ton, up \$26 from the week ending March 7. Price quotes for Vietnam's winter–spring crop currently being harvested for the week ending April 4 were quoted at \$475 per ton, up \$30 from the week ending March 7 and the highest since May 2021. Vietnam's prices have risen on greater demand from traditional buyers such as the Philippines, Indonesia, and China.

India's price quotes for 5-percent broken-kernel rice were reported at \$434 (nominal price quote only, an indicative price) for the week ending April 4, and are virtually unchanged since late January. India remains the most competitively priced source of Asian rice (Figure 3). Argentina's 5-percent broken kernels were quoted at \$540 per ton for the week ending April 4, unchanged from early March.

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 (Iraqi specifications) remain quoted at \$760 per ton for the week ending April 4, unchanged since late January and the highest since early October 2008. U.S. price quotes for Latin American markets were also

unchanged since late January, quoted at \$725 per ton for the week ending April 4. Milled-rice nominal price quotes (no actual offers or sales) for California medium-grain Number 1 Grade, 4-percent broken, remain at \$1,650 per ton (free on board at a domestic mill) for the week ending February 7, unchanged since late December and the highest on record for this specification. For listings of trading prices by exporter and grade of rice, see Appendix Table 10 in the Excel file.

Figure 3
India's trading prices remain the lowest among major exporters



April 2023 = First week only. Notes: Free on Board local port. Monthly average of weekly price quotes. Quotes used: Thailand, 100-percent grade B; India, 5-percent broken, container since February 2021, bulk prior months; Vietnam, 5-percent broken; Argentina, 5-percent broken; United States, No. 2, 4-percent broken. Sources: Thailand: *Rice Price*, U.S. Embassy, Bangkok; United States, India, Argentina, and Vietnam prices: *Creed Rice Market Report*.

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