

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Thailand

Rice Price - Weekly

Weekly Rice Price Update

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Report Highlights:

Export prices further increased 4-6 percent, except for fragrant rice prices which remained steady. Many traders are reportedly interested in the remaining 1.8 million metric ton tender for food-quality rice stocks on May 24, 2017.

Post:
Bangkok

Market Tone

Table 1: Export Prices (FOB) for various grades of Thai rice (USD/MT), Week ending May 22, 2017

| Quality | Exporter Observations | | | | | | | Period Average | |
|------------|-----------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|-----|
| | #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 | #6 | #7 | CUR. | PRV |
| F WR 100 B | 635 | - | - | 640 | 650 | 638 | - | 641 | 641 |
| WR 100 B | 427 | - | 435 | 426 | 425 | 428 | 435 | 429 | 410 |
| PB 100% | 433 | - | 410 | 425 | 435 | 434 | 405 | 424 | 408 |
| PB 5% | 428 | - | 405 | 420 | 430 | 429 | 400 | 419 | 404 |
| WR 5% | 417 | - | 405 | 416 | 415 | 418 | 405 | 413 | 396 |
| WR 10% | 415 | - | - | - | - | 416 | - | 416 | 392 |
| WR 15% | 400 | - | - | - | - | 402 | - | 401 | 382 |
| WR 25% | 380 | - | - | - | - | 381 | - | 381 | 363 |
| WR 35% | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| A1 SUP | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| A1 SPEC | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Exchange rate: 34.4 baht/USD

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Export prices for most grades of rice further increased 4-6 percent from the previous week, except for fragrant rice prices which remained steady. Foreign buyers are still inquiring about white and parboiled rice while Thai exporters are securing rice to fulfill their contracted shipments to Iran. Presently, some exporters are limiting the sale of white rice and parboiled rice due to concern about volatile domestic prices as a result of the market actions of the rice millers. The Ministry of Commerce reported that around 60 traders including millers and exporters will participate in the 1.8 million metric ton tender for the remaining food-quality rice stocks on May 24, 2017. The tender will consist of approximately 1.5 million metric tons of fragrant rice, 0.2 million metric tons of white rice, and 0.1 million metric tons of broken rice and glutinous rice. These are carry-over stocks from the MY2011/12 – MY2013/14 rice pledging programs.

By early June 2017, the National Rice Policy and Management Committee will likely finalize the results of the tender for one million metric tons of deteriorated rice issued on April 28, 2017. Approximately half of this deteriorated rice is expected to be sold to the highest bids, particularly to ethanol producers. If both results of the April 28 tender for deteriorated rice stocks and the May 24 tender for the remaining food-quality rice stocks are finalized, the government rice stocks are expected to decline to approximately 2 to 3 million metric tons in June 2017, of which around 2.2 million metric tons will be feed-quality rice stocks. The government plans to issue a new tender for these remaining feed-quality rice stocks in late June 2017.

Rice Export Update

Unofficial preliminary rice exports (excluding premium white and fragrant rice) for May 8-14, 2017, totaled 202,635 metric tons, up 26,320 metric tons from the previous week, and up 21,128 metric tons from the four-week moving average of 181,507 metric tons (Table 2). Rice exports from January 1 – May 14, 2017 totaled 3,135,979 metric tons.

| Table 2: Weekly Rice Exports (excluding fragrant rice) | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| WEEK ENDING | QUANTITY | 4-WK AVG | YEAR TO DATE | YEAR AGO | % Growth from Last Year |
| | (MT) | (MT) | (TMT) | (TMT) | (%) |
| Mar 12, 2017 | 154,272 | 156,726 | 1,551 | 869 | 78.4 |
| Mar 19, 2017 | 116,482 | 153,708 | 1,719 | 930 | 84.9 |
| Mar 26, 2017 | 214,094 | 172,490 | 1,933 | 997 | 93.9 |
| Apr 2, 2017 | 173,797 | 177,161 | 2,107 | 1,064 | 98.1 |
| Apr 9, 2017 | 152,356 | 176,682 | 2,259 | 1,103 | 104.8 |
| Apr 16, 2017 | 84,888 | 167,747 | 2,390 | 1,145 | 108.7 |
| Apr 23, 2017 | 159,061 | 153,989 | 2,549 | 1,193 | 113.7 |
| Apr 30, 2017 | 188,017 | 157,544 | 2,757 | 1,270 | 117.1 |
| May 7, 2017 | 176,315 | 152,070 | 2,933 | 1,319 | 122.3 |
| May 14, 2017 | 202,635 | 181,507 | 3,136 | 1,377 | 127.8 |

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. In addition, during May 1, 2013 - December 18, 2016, export data did not include 25% - 100% grade white rice exports as the reporting authority was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official export data. FAS/BKK reports only the official export numbers available from the Board of Trade of Thailand. The reader should bear in mind these differences when comparing historical data with current data.

Source: Board of Trade of Thailand