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Report Highlights:

The ROK government initiative to replace rice acreage with other grains has contributed to the overall decline in rice production. Rice product manufacturer consumption has steadily increased, reaching a historic peak in total usage, but this growth has not offset the table rice per capita consumption decline. The ROK government has successfully auctioned 4,612 metric tons of U.S. table rice since resuming auctions in March 2026.

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Milled Rice

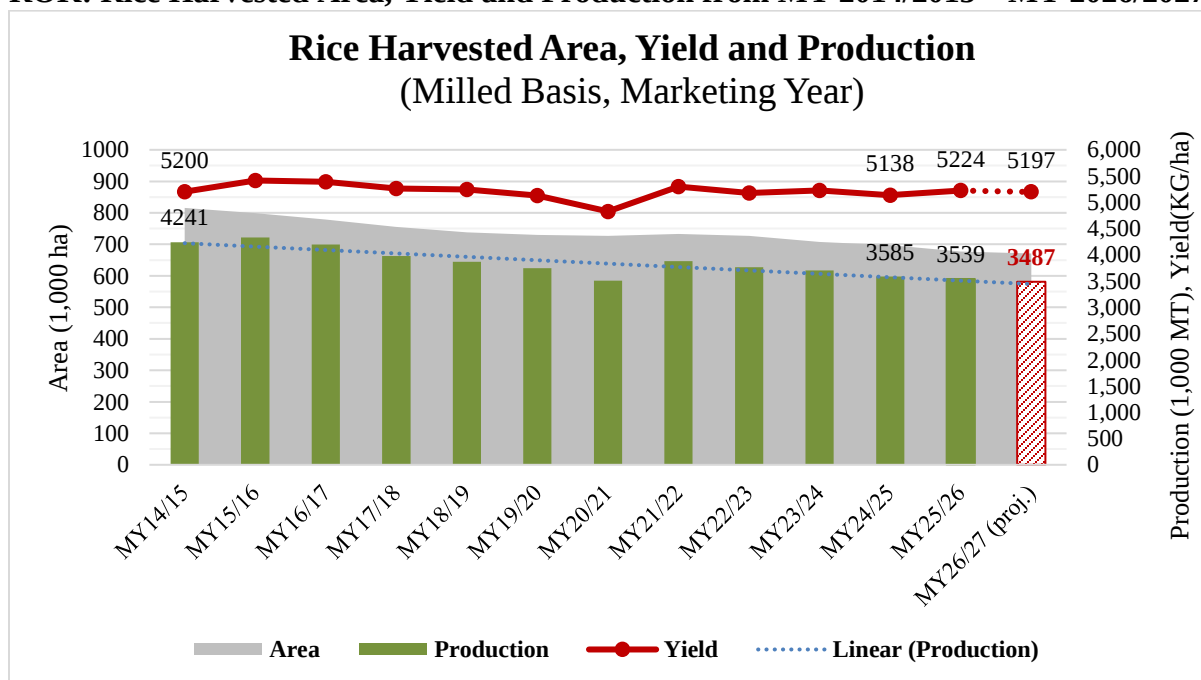
Rice Production

Post Seoul forecasts that rice production in the Republic of Korea (ROK) in marketing year (MY) 2026/27 (November 1-October 30) will continue to decline to approximately 3.5 million metric tons (MMT), based on a sample survey of farm households conducted by the Korea Rural Economic Institute (KREI) from May 7 to May 13, 2026. The survey focused on rice acreage, and the production estimates derived by applying the three-year average yield to the reported area.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) continues its efforts to diversify rice production in order to maintain output at appropriate levels in line with demand, primarily by encouraging farmers to replace rice with other crops such as soybeans, rice for supply stabilization, rice for flour, forage feed, and other alternative uses.

Figure 1

ROK: Rice Harvested Area, Yield and Production from MY 2014/2015 – MY 2026/2027



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (MAFRA); MY 2026/27 forecast by KREI

Rice Consumption

Rice consumption has been declining steadily in the ROK, driven by population decline and the growing popularity of alternative meals replacing the traditional rice-based cuisine among younger generations. Only variations in feed use have significantly affected total rice consumption. Post Seoul forecasts that there will be only marginal revisions in MY 2026/27 rice consumption resulting from changes in the rice processing industry. With no severe rice production surplus forecasted – which has been the key factor behind past increases in rice use for feed – Post does not anticipate major consumption changes led by rice for feed use.

In February 2026, the Ministry of Data and Statistics (MODS) [announced the official statistics](#) on rice consumption for manufacturers for calendar year (CY) 2025. Total consumption continued to increase, exceeding 1.0 MMT for the first time, driven by higher demand in chewy rice cake products and “other” uses. Because the statistics for “other” uses combine 23 industry categories, there is no official breakdown by specific end use. According to the explanatory notes, increased use for “other” food and beverages, such as rice bread and health functional foods, was the main driver of the overall consumption increase in manufacturer rice consumption.

Table 1
ROK: Rice Consumption by Usage (for Manufacturers)

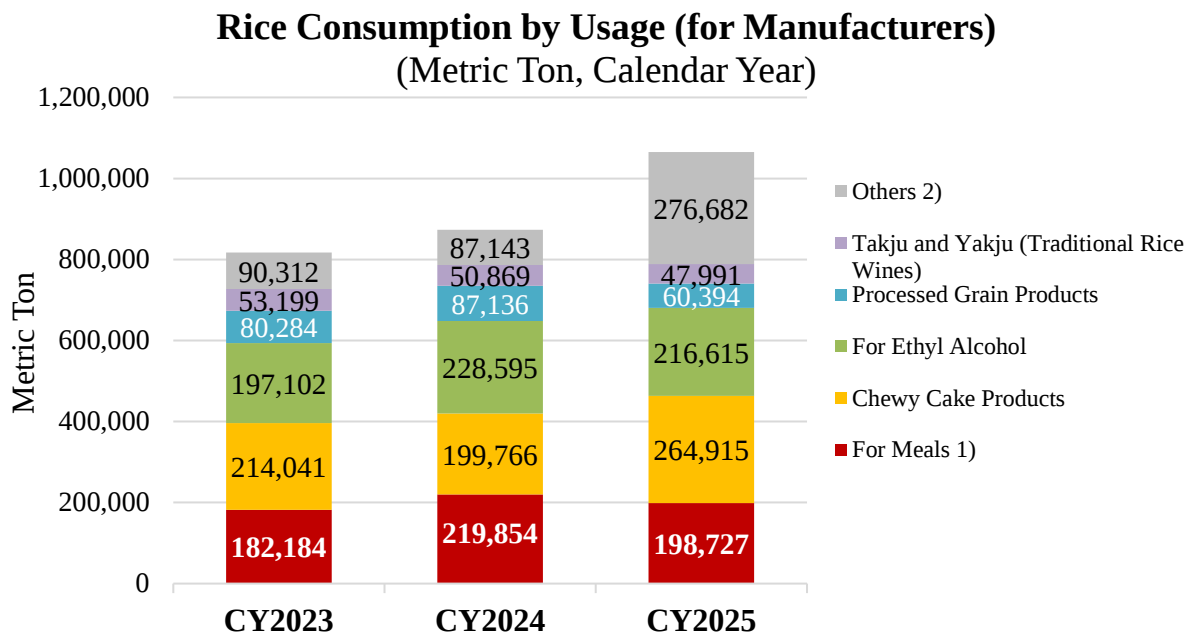
Rice Consumption by Usage (for Manufacturers) (Metric Ton, Calendar Year)							
Manufacturing Industry		Volume			Share (Percent)		
		CY2023	CY2024	CY2025	CY2023	CY2024	CY2025
For Food	For Meals ¹⁾	182,184	219,854	198,727	22	25	19
	Chewy Cake Products	214,041	199,766	264,915	26	23	25
	Processed Grain Products	80,284	87,136	60,394	10	10	6
	Starch and Sweeteners	13,774	13,558	14,973	2	2	1
	Confectionery Products	13,134	10,531	17,410	2	1	2
	Noodles and Macaroni	17,552	11,917	7,086	2	1	1
	Traditional Sauces (Jang)	10,673	8,572	6,811	1	1	1
	Others ²⁾	26,422	33,278	221,340	3	4	21
Subtotal		558,064	584,612	791,656	68	67	74
For Beverages	Takju and Yakju (Traditional Rice Wines)	53,199	50,869	47,991	7	6	5
	For Ethyl Alcohol	197,102	228,595	216,615	24	26	20
	Others ²⁾	8,756	9,287	9,062	1	1	1
	Subtotal	259,057	288,751	273,668	32	33	26
Total		817,122	873,363	1,065,324	100	100	100

1) combines two published categories; includes lunchbox, HMR, and retort food

2) includes for other food and other beverage manufacturing sectors beyond the 10 specified industry classifications (such as rice bread products, soups, health functional foods, and other products).

Source: MODS

Figure 2
ROK: Top Five Rice Use Categories; Continued Growth in Rice Used for Food Processing



Source: MODS

1) includes lunchbox, HMR, and retort food

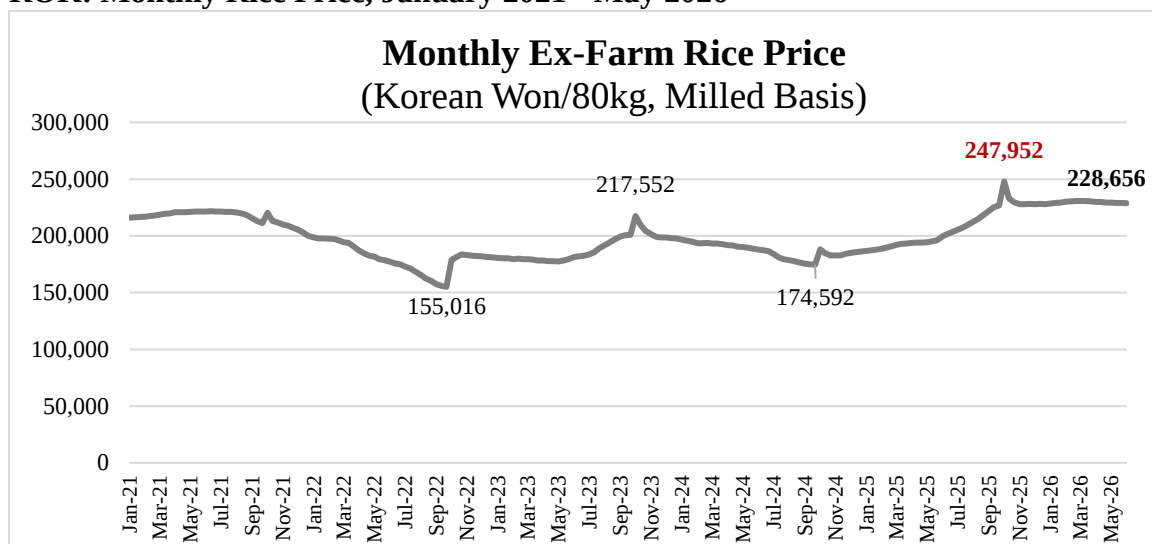
2) includes all uses beyond the top five categories specified

Domestic Price

Affected by the ROK government's policy to maintain rice production at appropriate levels, domestic rice prices reached a peak during the September harvest season in 2025 and have remained flat over the past six months. FAS Seoul forecasts stock levels to fall below average and for domestic prices to remain at similar levels in the coming months until the new crop harvest begins in September 2026. According to KREI's June 2026 rice report, the government plans to release some government rice to stabilize the market while monitoring stock levels, which may affect the domestic price during the summer season.

Figure 3

ROK: Monthly Rice Price, January 2021 - May 2026



Source: Korean Statistical Information Service (KOSIS)

Rice Trade

Post Seoul forecasts that MY 2026/27 rice imports will total 408,000 MT, in line with the ROK's minimum mark access import scheme. Because the Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corporation (aT) contracts this quantity on a calendar year basis, year-to-year variations in imports frequently occur. Post revised MY 2025/26 imports up to 450,000 MT from the previous report, reflecting robust import volumes accumulated from November 2025 through May 2026, as well as scheduled arrivals through October 2026 under contracts with aT.

In accordance with WTO commitments, the ROK imports 408,000 MT of rice annually on a most-favored nation (MFN) basis at the current duty level of 5 percent under a tariff rate quota (TRQ) regime implemented in 2015. At the end of 2019, following negotiations to resolve a WTO dispute on rice tariffication, the ROK allocated 390,000 MT of country-specific quotas (CSQs) within the TRQ for five trading partners: the United States, China, Vietnam, Thailand, and Australia. The remaining 20,000 MT is allocated on an MFN basis and is also available to the five countries with CSQs. Tariffs outside the quota remain prohibitively high at 513 percent.

As of publishing, in 2026 aT has awarded approximately 37,000 MT of U.S. rice through the WTO TRQ, followed by scheduled supplies from Vietnam and Thailand.

Table 2**ROK: 2026 WTO Rice TRQ Contracts Status by Country**

2026 WTO Rice TRQ Contracts Status by Country (Metric Ton, Milled Basis, as of June 15, 2026)				
Country	Allocated TRQ	Contracts	Open	Contractual Rate (%)
USA	132,304	37,302	95,002	28.2
China	157,195	0	157,195	0.0
Vietnam	55,112	30,112	25,000	54.6
Thailand	28,494	10,394	18,100	36.5
Australia	15,595	0	15,595	0.0
MFN	20,000	0	20,000	0.0
Total	408,700	77,808	330,892	19.0

Source: Korea Agro-Fisheries and Food Trade Corporation (aT)

The aT sells imported table rice to consumer distribution channels on a weekly basis through a public auction system (www.atbid.co.kr), and distributes imported processing rice directly to end-users, such as food processors and alcoholic beverage producers, at a set price throughout the year. Since the resumption of U.S. table rice sales on March 6, 2026, targeting to sell the rice imported under the 2024 WTO TRQ, a total of 4,612 MT has been sold through this regular channel. Although the ROK government has maintained a weekly sales volume of 400 MT of U.S. table rice, this pace is insufficient to sell the total stock of combined 2024 and 2025 CSQ U.S. table rice, totaling over 75,000 MT. Additionally, the history of inconsistent distribution of U.S. table rice during the local crop's harvest season, including a prolonged absence from November 2023 to March 2026, presents challenges to reestablishing U.S. rice supplies in local distribution channels.

Table 3**ROK: Status of aT Selling Auctions for Table Rice under 2025 TRQ**

Status of aT Selling Auctions for Table Rice under 2025 TRQ (Metric Tons, Milled Basis, as of June 15, 2026)						
Commodity (Period of Auctions)	USDA Grade	Total Table Rice TRQ	Auctioned Off	Balance	Auctioned Off (%)	Auctioned Price^{1/}
U.S. Medium Grain	#1	40,000	0	40,000	0	N/A
Thai Long Grain (Dec. 29, 2025~)	#1	2,600	1,303	1,297	50	3,134
	#1 ^{a/}	500	0	500	0	3,303
Vietnamese Long Grain (Jun. 8, 2026~)	#1	900	118	782	13	3,032
Total	-	44,000	1,421	42,579	3	N/A

Source: aT

1/ Weighted average in Korean Won per Kg

a/ Hom Mali

Table 4**ROK: Status of aT Selling Auctions for Table Rice under 2024 TRQ**

Status of aT Selling Auctions for Table Rice under 2024 TRQ (Metric Tons, Milled Basis, as of June 15, 2026)						
Commodity (Period of Auctions)	USDA Grade	Total Table Rice TRQ	Auctioned Off	Balance	Auctioned Off (%)	Auctioned Price ^{1/}
U.S. Medium Grain (Mar 6, 2026~)	#1	40,000	4,612	35,388	12	2,094
Thai Long Grain (Nov. 25, 2024~Dec. 22, 2025)	#1	2,900	2,900	0	100	2,697
	#1 ^{a/}	200	200	0	100	4,971
Vietnamese Long Grain (Aug. 26, 2024, ~ Apr. 11, 2025)	#1	900	900	0	100	2,344
Total	-	44,000	8,612	35,388	20	N/A

Source: aT

1/ Weighted average in Korean Won per Kg

a/ Hom Mali

Exports

MY 2026/27 rice exports remain unchanged from the previous report and from the prior year. Food aid donations increased significantly to 150,000 MT in CY 2025 and based on ROK aid commitments are on pace to remain at the same level in CY 2026. Post forecasts commercial export sales to continue at similar levels. Exports to the United States reached 2,220 MT in CY 2025 and are following a similar pace this year, totaling 1,020 MT from January to May 2026.

Table 5
ROK: Production, Supply and Distribution

Rice, Milled	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
Market Year Begins	Nov 2024		Nov 2025		Nov 2026	
Korea, Republic of	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	698	698	680	678	670	670
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	1205	1205	751	687	674	636
Milled Production (1000 MT)	3585	3585	3540	3539	3520	3490
Rough Production (1000 MT)	4783	4783	4720	4715	4680	4640
Milling Rate (.9999) (1000 MT)	7495	7495	7500	7506	7521	7522
MY Imports (1000 MT)	328	335	408	450	408	408
TY Imports (1000 MT)	335	342	408	450	408	408
Total Supply (1000 MT)	5118	5125	4699	4676	4602	4534
MY Exports (1000 MT)	192	192	175	180	175	180
TY Exports (1000 MT)	191	191	175	180	175	180
Consumption and Residual (1000 MT)	4175	4246	3850	3860	3775	3800
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	751	687	674	636	652	554
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	5118	5125	4699	4676	4602	4534
Yield (Rough) (MT/HA)	6.8524	6.8524	6.9412	6.9543	6.9851	6.9254

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)

MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column

TY = Trade Year, which for Rice, Milled begins in January for all countries. TY 2026/2027 = January 2027 - December 2027

OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: [PSD Online Advanced Query](#)

Note: Official USDA data is based on the June 2026 WASDE data

Attachments:

No Attachments