

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:

TH5087 – Despite a sale of 1.1 million metric ton of rice stocks, export prices increased 2-3 percent due to concerns about ongoing drought and small amounts of good quality rice remaining in government stocks.

Post:
Bangkok

Author Defined:
Market Tone

Table 1: Export Prices (FOB) for various grades of Thai rice (USD/MT), Week ending July 13, 2015

Quality	Exporter Observations							Period Average	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV
FWR 100 B	870	-	-	870	880	870	-	873	848
WR 100 B	400	-	395	400	400	400	395	398	392
PB 100%	400	-	395	397	400	400	390	397	392
PB 5%	395	-	390	392	395	395	385	392	387
WR 5%	390	-	385	385	390	390	385	388	381
WR 10%	-	-	-	-	-	387	-	387	377
WR 15%	-	-	-	-	-	380	-	380	373
WR 25%	-	-	-	-	-	365	-	365	358
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SUP	320	-	-	330	320	330	-	325	321
A1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Exchange rate: 33.9 baht/U.S.\$

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Following last week's bump up, export prices increased by \$5-10/MT for white and parboiled rice, which is 2 to 3 percent above the previous week. This increase is despite the large sales of government stocks. Traders reportedly are expressing growing concern about the ongoing drought and small amount of good quality rice left in the government stocks. Domestic farm-level prices of current-crop rice paddy increased to around 8,400 baht per metric tons (\$249/MT), up 8 percent from the previous week, as millers are stockpiling new-crop rice in anticipation of smaller main-crop supplies in the coming months.

The Government reported that 33 bidders (out of 62) were awarded amounts in the public tender on July 6. Around 1.1 million metric tons (out of 1.4 million metric tons) was sold, primarily to exporters at approximately 9,000 baht per metric ton, ex-warehouse (\$266/MT), mostly 5% grade white rice. This sales price is far below the purchase price of 22,700 baht per metric tons (\$670/MT) under the former government's pledging programs. So far in 2015, the government has sold 3.2 million metric tons of its rice stocks.

On July 8, the Government reported that it is holding stocks of around 14 million metric tons. Of the total, only around 8 million metric tons are mixed-quality food grade. Meanwhile, the remainder is non-food grade (4.7 million metric tons) and bad quality rice (1.3 million metric tons). Despite this official report, questions remain about the amount of rice that is unaccounted for in government stocks.

Rice Export Update

Unofficial preliminary rice exports (excluding premium white and fragrant rice) for July 6-12, 2015 totaled 87,844 metric tons, up 5,521 metric tons from the previous week and up 4,306 metric tons from the four-week moving average of 83,539 metric tons (Table 2). Rice exports (excluding premium white and fragrant rice) from January 1 - July 12, 2015, totaled 2,056,761 metric tons, down 18 percent from the same period last year.

Total rice exports from January to May 2015 totaled 3,772,158 metric tons, down 1.4 percent from the same period last year (See GAIN Report - TH5082 Grain and Feed Update, June 2015).

Table 2: Weekly rice exports (excluding fragrant rice)

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO	YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	(%)
May 10	59,917	63,708	1,318	1,395	-5.5
May 17	65,468	76,583	1,384	1,480	-6.5
May 24	88,775	79,466	1,473	1,622	-9.2
May 31	62,340	69,125	1,535	1,775	-13.5
Jun 7	59,677	69,065	1,595	1,914	-16.7
Jun 14	127,991	84,696	1,723	2,031	-15.2
Jun 21	71,433	80,361	1,794	2,136	-16.0
Jun 28	92,554	87,914	1,887	2,264	-16.7
Jul 5	82,324	93,575	1,969	2,385	-17.4
Jul 12	87,844	83,539	2,057	2,499	-17.7

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. In addition, starting May 1, 2013, the data will not include 100% - 25% grade white rice exports. 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 fragrant rice and white rice (100%-25% grades) export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers available from the Board of Trade of Thailand. The reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Source: Board of Trade of Thailand

End of report