

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:**

TH5091 – Export prices increased around 1 percent as upward pressure on domestic prices more than offset the weakening Thai baht. The Government will likely begin to issue public tenders for non-food grade rice next week.

**Post:**  
Bangkok

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**Market Tone**

**Table 1: Export Prices (FOB) for various grades of Thai rice (USD/MT), Week ending July 20, 2015**

Quality	Exporter Observations							Period Average	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV
FWR 100 B	880	-	-	870	880	870	-	875	873
WR 100 B	400	-	400	400	400	400	400	400	398
PB 100%	400	-	400	397	400	400	395	399	397
PB 5%	395	-	395	392	395	395	390	394	392
WR 5%	390	-	390	385	390	390	390	389	388
WR 10%	-	-	-	-	-	387	-	387	387
WR 15%	-	-	-	-	-	380	-	380	380
WR 25%	-	-	-	-	-	365	-	365	365
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SUP	325	-	-	330	320	330	-	326	325
A1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Exchange rate: 34.4 baht/U.S.\$

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Despite the weakening of Thai baht (34.4 Baht/US\$ compared to 33.9 Baht/US\$), export prices increased around 1 percent from the previous week. This is due to the upward pressure on domestic prices caused by the on-going drought situation. Domestic prices of current-crop white rice (5% grade) increased to 12,450 baht per metric tons (\$362/MT), up approximately 2 percent from the previous week. The Government revised up its estimate of drought damage areas in the central plains to around 1.4 million rai (0.22 million hectares), compared to the previous estimate of around 0.9 million rai (0.14 million hectares). This is due to the government decision to block the irrigation for farming since July 16 in order to save water for household consumption purposes until mid-August. This will primarily affected main-crop rice in the central plains which has been planted in June. Since May 2015, around 4.9 million rai (0.8 million hectares) have reportedly been planted in the lower northern region and the central plains.

The Government announced that it will likely begin to issue new public tenders for non-food grade rice stocks of 1.29 million metric tons in the week of July 27. This rice is expected to be used primarily for ethanol production. Around 0.5 million metric tons of rice are likely to be substituted for cassava in ethanol production in the second half of 2015. This will account for around half of the annual demand for cassava in ethanol production (See GAIN Report: TH5085 – Biofuel Annual 2015, July 2015).

### **Rice Export Update**

Unofficial preliminary rice exports (excluding premium white and fragrant rice) for July 13-19, 2015 totaled 65,304 metric tons, down 22,540 metric tons from the previous week and down 16,702 metric tons from the four-week moving average of 82,006 metric tons (Table 2). Rice exports (excluding premium white and fragrant rice) from January 1 – July 19, 2015, totaled 2,132,065 metric tons, down 19 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).

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO	YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	(%)
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
Jul 19	65,304	82,006	2,132	2,635	-19.1

*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