

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:

TH5083 – Export prices increased 2 to 4 percent due to concerns about ongoing drought. The number of rice millers participating in the public tender more than doubled.

Post:
Bangkok

Author Defined:
Market Tone

Table 1: Export Prices (FOB) for various grades of Thai rice (USD/MT), Week ending July 6, 2015

| Quality | Exporter Observations | | | | | | | Period Average | |
|------------|-----------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|-----|
| | #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 | #6 | #7 | CUR. | PRV |
| F WR 100 B | 840 | - | - | 825 | 880 | 845 | - | 848 | 850 |
| WR 100 B | 388 | - | 390 | 395 | 400 | 390 | 390 | 392 | 386 |
| PB 100% | 392 | - | 390 | 395 | 395 | 395 | 385 | 392 | 376 |
| PB 5% | 387 | - | 385 | 390 | 390 | 390 | 380 | 387 | 371 |
| WR 5% | 378 | - | 380 | 380 | 385 | 380 | 380 | 381 | 374 |
| WR 10% | - | - | - | - | - | 377 | - | 377 | 372 |
| WR 15% | - | - | - | - | - | 373 | - | 373 | 368 |
| WR 25% | - | - | - | - | - | 358 | - | 358 | 355 |
| WR 35% | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| A1 SUP | 320 | - | - | 320 | 320 | 325 | - | 321 | 321 |
| A1 SPEC | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Exchange rate: 33.7 baht/U.S.\$

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

On average, export prices increased 2- 4 percent to the levels last seen in May 2015. This is due to concerns about ongoing drought. Rice exporters reportedly receive numerous inquiries from foreign buyers, particularly for parboiled rice. Specifically, export prices of parboiled rice increased by around \$20/MT (4%) from the previous week in anticipation of tighter supplies of new-crop paddy. With weather expectations dry, traders expect domestic rice prices in Thailand to trend upward in the second half of the year.

Sources indicated that 62 bidders participated in the public tender for 1.4 million metric tons of government stocks on July 6, 2015. This compared to only 40 bidders in the previous tender on June 15. Of the total, 25 bidders were rice millers which more than doubled last time. All of these 25 millers were reportedly engaged in the former government's rice pledging programs. Given that traders have complained about the quality of rice sold under recent government tenders, it would appear that the rice millers are more comfortable with rice quality and quantity in their warehouses, but owned by the government. The tender consisted mainly of old-crop 5% grade white rice from MY2013/14 pledging program. The tender closed on Tuesday, July 7.

Rice Export Update

Unofficial preliminary rice exports (excluding premium white and fragrant rice) for June 29 – July 5, 2015 totaled 82,324 metric tons, down 10,230 metric tons from the previous week and down 11,252 metric tons from the four-week moving average of 93,575 metric tons (Table 2). Rice exports (excluding premium white and fragrant rice) from January 1 – July 5 28, 2015, totaled 1,968,917 metric tons, down 17 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 3 | 103,706 | 63,300 | 1,285 | 1,289 | -0.3 |
| 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 |

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