

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY  
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT  
POLICY

Required Report - public distribution

**Date:** 4/3/2018

**GAIN Report Number:** TH8051

## **Thailand**

### **Rice Price - Weekly**

#### **Weekly Rice Price Update**

**Approved By:**

Russ Nicely, Agricultural Counselor

**Prepared By:**

Ponnarong Prasertsri, Agricultural Specialist

**Report Highlights:**

Rice export prices increased by 2-4 percent due to strong demand for low-grade white rice from African countries. The government is expected to sell the remaining 2.04 million metric tons of rice stocks by October 2018.

**Post:**  
Bangkok

## Market Tone

**Table 1: Export Prices (FOB) for various grades of Thai rice (USD/MT), Week ending April 2, 2018**

Quality	Exporter Observations							Period Average	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV
F WR 100 B	1,070	-	-	1,070	1,120	1,120	-	1,095	1,075
WR 100 B	435	-	440	436	450	437	440	440	425
PB 100%	430	-	440	432	440	430	440	435	420
PB 5%	425	-	435	427	435	425	435	430	415
WR 5%	425	-	430	426	440	426	430	430	415
WR 10%	422	-	-	423	-	423	-	423	408
WR 15%	419	-	-	-	-	420	-	420	405
WR 25%	417	-	-	-	-	418	-	418	403
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SUP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Exchange rate: 31.02 baht = U.S. \$1.00

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Export prices for all grades of rice increased by 2-4 percent from the previous week driven by strong demand for low-grade white rice from African countries. Meanwhile, the government is planning to issue a new tender for the remaining 44,000 metric tons of food-quality rice stocks in late April – May 2018. According to the National Rice Policy and Management Committee meeting on March 29, 2018, the government is holding 2.04 million metric tons of old-crop rice stocks which consist of (1) 1.5 million metric tons of feed-quality rice, (2) 0.5 million metric tons of deteriorated rice, and (3) 0.04 million metric tons of food-quality rice. The government expects to sell all of these remaining rice stocks by October 2018, with the food-quality rice stocks being sold in late April or May and the other rice stocks being sold from June – September 2018.

The Thai Rice Exporter Association reported that Thai rice exports during January – February 2018 totaled 1,912,620 metric tons, up 10 percent from the same period last year. Rice exports in February were 950,761 metric tons, 4 percent increase from the same period last year, but smaller than the 17 percent increase in January 2018, compared to the previous year. This suggests that the strong export momentum of 2017 is slowing down.

## Rice Export Update

Unofficial and preliminary rice exports (excluding premium white and fragrant rice) for March 19-25, 2018, totaled 166,034 metric tons, down 69,479 metric tons from the previous week and down 17,953 metric tons from the four-week moving average of 183,987 metric tons (Table 2). Rice exports from January 1- March 25, 2018, totaled 2,286,490 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)	(%)
Jan 21, 2018	221,163	161,109	526	355	48.1
Jan 28, 2018	211,141	184,181	737	560	31.5
Feb 4, 2018	234,413	216,575	971	739	31.4
Feb 11, 2018	261,032	231,937	1,232	915	34.7
Feb 18, 2018	177,819	221,101	1,410	1,095	28.8
Feb 25, 2018	140,552	203,454	1,551	1,236	25.5
Mar 4, 2018	141,274	180,169	1,692	1,393	21.4
Mar 11, 2018	193,128	163,193	1,885	1,548	21.8
Mar 18, 2018	235,513	177,617	2,120	1,731	22.5
Mar 25, 2018	166,034	183,987	2,286	1,922	19.0

*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

**End of Report.**