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Thailand

Rice Price - Weekly

Weekly Rice Price Update

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Report Highlights:

TH0024 Export prices declined by 1-2 percent due to the weakening Thai baht. The January's enquiries have yet to be concluded as the government's stock release plan remains unclear. The bi-weekly benchmark prices for February 1-15 are lower than the previous period.

Post:

Bangkok

Market Tone

Table 1: Export Prices (F O B) for various grades of Thai rice (USD/MT), Week ending Feb. 1, 2010

Quality	Exporter Observations							Period Average	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	1,005	-	990	-	1,000	965	-	990	995
WR 100 B	585	-	595	-	590	585	580	587	594
PB 100%	595	-	610	-	610	595	600	602	610
PB 5%	580	-	600	-	600	590	590	592	601
WR 5%	550	-	560	-	560	555	570	559	566
WR 10%	540	-	550	-	550	545	-	546	550
WR 15%	515	-	540	-	-	525	-	527	532
WR 25%	495	-	500	-	-	505	-	500	517
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SUP	415	-	-	-	430	420	-	422	420
A1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Exchange rate: 33.05 baht/U.S.\$

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Despite steady domestic prices, export prices declined by 1-2 percent due to the weakening Thai baht to 33.05 baht/\$, as compared to 32.90 in the previous week. The January's enquiries have yet to be concluded as foreign buyers wait and see what the government's stock release plan will be, in light of its cancellation of the January 21 tender. The government is expected to gradually release intervention stock through a basis-bidding approach in the Agricultural Future Exchange of Thailand (AFET). However, export and domestic prices will likely remain volatile until new second-crop supplies enter the market in the next couple of weeks.

The bi-weekly benchmark prices for February 1-15 are lower than the previous period; as such farmers are receiving higher compensation for fragrant rice paddy. Meanwhile, farmers selling white rice paddy will also receive compensation as benchmark prices in this period were lower than insurance price, for the first time since December 15.

Table 2: Price Insurance Scheme for MY 2009/2010 rice crop

	Rice paddy				
	Fragrant rice (Hom Mali)	Provincial fragrant rice	Pathum fragrant rice	Glutinous rice	White rice
1. Eligible tonnage (ton/household) ^{a/}	14	16	25	16	25
2. Insured prices (Baht/ton) ^{a/}	15,300	14,300	10,000	9,500	10,000
3. Benchmark prices (Baht/ton) ^{b/}					
Oct. 1-15, 2009	14,986	13,899	9,896	7,523	8,806
Oct. 16-31, 2009	14,940	13,860	8,940	7,470	8,466
Nov. 1-15, 2009	14,840	13,729	9,175	7,680	8,389
Nov. 16-30, 2009	13,002	12,620	10,501	8,473	8,914
Dec. 1-15, 2009	13,720	13,388	10,565	9,591	9,242
Dec. 16-31, 2009	14,895	14,503	12,072	11,533	10,212
Jan. 1-15, 2010	15,369	14,757	12,198	11,706	10,072
Jan. 16-31, 2010	15,073	14,548	12,076	11,486	10,164
Feb. 1-15, 2010	14,915	14,359	12,004	11,511	9,993
4. Compensation (1-2), (Baht/ton)					
Oct. 1-15, 2009	314	401	104	1,977	1,194
Oct. 16-31, 2009	360	440	1,060	2,030	1,534
Nov. 1-15, 2009	460	571	825	1,820	1,611
Nov. 16-30, 2009	2,298	1,680	-	1,027	1,086
Dec. 1-15, 2009	1,580	912	-	-	758
Dec. 16-31, 2009	405	-	-	-	-
Jan. 1-15, 2010	-	-	-	-	-
Jan. 16-31, 2010	227	-	-	-	-
Feb. 1-15, 2010	385	-	-	-	7
5. Market prices (Baht/ton)					
Oct. 1-15	n.a.	n.a.	8,500	n.a.	8,600
Oct. 16-31	13,675	n.a.	8,575	n.a.	8,150
Nov. 1-15	14,075	14,000	9,775	8,800	8,525
Nov. 16-30	14,577	14,000	10,550	8,967	9,600
Dec. 1-15	15,125	14,000	12,050	11,500	10,738
Dec. 16-31	15,250	14,000	12,200	11,800	10,310
Jan. 1-15	15,250	14,000	11,850	11,775	9,350
Jan. 16-3	15,250	14,000	11,850	11,750	10,250
Feb. 1-15 ^{c/}	15,025	14,000	11,850	11,800	10,250

Note:

^{a/} Cabinet approval on Sep. 22, 2009^{b/} The benchmark prices will be published twice a month on the 1st and 16th, based on average historical wholesale prices of the last 15 days in Bangkok. These prices are set by the Subcommittee on Benchmark Price Determination, chaired by the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Commerce.^{c/} As of Feb. 2, 2010

Rice Exports Update

Unofficial rice exports (excluding fragrant rice) for January 25-31, 2010 totaled 104,448 tons, down

32,860 tons from the previous week, and down 26,778 tons from the four-week moving average of 131,222 tons. Exports of white rice and parboiled rice during January 1-31, 2010 totaled 525,904 tons, up 22.9 percent from 427,768 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1-25, 2010 amounted to 590,904 tons, up 17.4 percent from 203,50 tons in the previous year.

Table 3: 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)	(%)
Nov 15	112,300	116,441	5,237	6,997	-25.2
Nov 22	113,768	108,568	5,350	7,047	-24.1
Nov 29	75,104	98,789	5,426	7,101	-23.6
Dec 6	80,501	95,418	5,506	7,170	-23.2
Dec 13	116,586	96,490	5,623	7,258	-22.5
Dec 20	120,454	98,161	5,743	7,348	-21.8
Dec 27	126,910	111,113	5,870	7,453	-21.2
Dec 31, 2009	25,812	97,440	5,900	7,470	-21.1
Jan 3, 2010	1,000	-	1	3	-68.0
Jan 10	111,299	-	112	85	32.6
Jan 17	171,849	-	284	211	34.8
Jan 24	137,308	105,364	422	353	19.5
Jan 31	104,448	131,226	526	428	22.9

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports 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 export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Source: Board of Trade of Thailand

Table 4: Weekly private registered rice export sales

Movement (MT)	Jan. 11-15	Jan. 18-22	Jan. 25-29
Weekly sales	158,714	172,418	57,828
4 week sum	-	-	571,291
4 week mov. avg.	-	-	142,823
Total weekly sales	341,050	513,468	571,291

End of report.