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Rice Outlook: October 2021

Nathan W. Childs, coordinator
Bonnie LeBeau, contributor

In this report:

Rice Outlook monthly tables, in Excel format, can be found on the Rice Outlook report page on USDA's Economic Research Service website.

U.S. 2021/22 Rice Import Forecast Lowered 2.0 Million Cwt

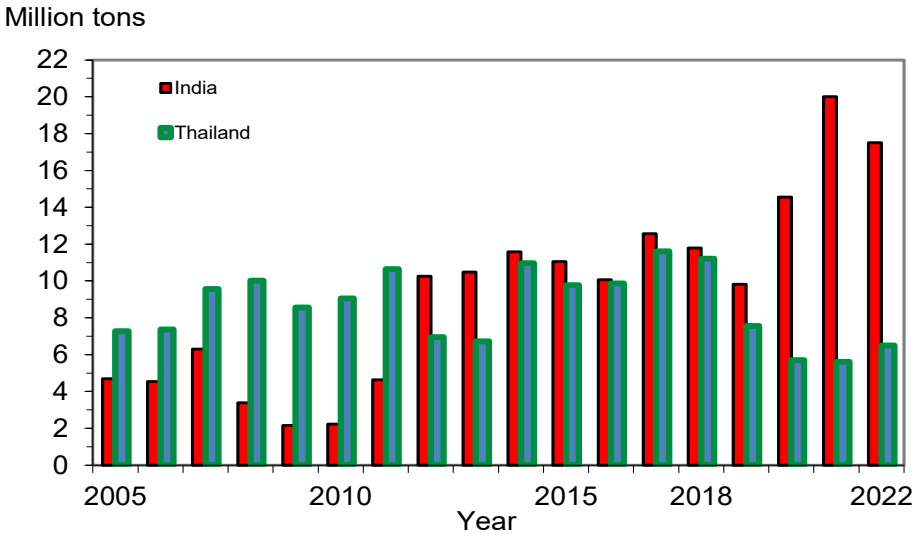
There were several revisions this month to the U.S. 2021/22 rice balance sheet. On the supply side, the production forecast was raised fractionally to 190.5 million hundredweight (cwt), 16 percent below a year earlier. The upward revision was due to a slightly higher yield. In addition, the import forecast was lowered 2.0 million cwt to 36.0 million, still up 6 percent from a year earlier. On the use side, domestic and residual use was lowered 1.0 million cwt to 146.0 million based on smaller imports. On balance, these supply and use revisions resulted in a 1.0-million cwt reduction in the ending stocks forecast to 33.2 million cwt, 24 percent below a year earlier. The season-average farm price (SAFP) forecasts were unchanged this month, with SAFP forecasts higher than last year for both classes of rice and for all-rice.

In the global market, the 2021/22 production forecast was raised 2.8 million tons to a record 510.7 million, mostly due to a larger forecast for India. Global rice consumption and residual use in 2021/22 is projected to be a record 512.3 million tons, 9.35 million tons larger than a year earlier, with China and India accounting for most of the expected increase. Global ending stocks are forecast at 183.6 million tons, up 1.8 million from the previous forecast but down 1.6 million tons from the year-earlier record high. The calendar year 2022 global trade forecast was raised 0.74 million tons to 48.7 million tons, down almost 0.3 million from the year-earlier record. India accounts for most of this month's upward revision in 2022 global exports. Import forecasts for 2022 were raised for China and Nepal.

Over the past month, quotes for Thailand's trading prices for most grades of regularly milled white rice (excluding aromatic rice and brokens) decreased about 1 percent from a month earlier. In contrast, price quotes for Vietnam's rice for the autumn crop, whose harvest is virtually complete, rose over the past month. Price quotes from most South American exporters either declined from a month earlier or were unchanged. U.S. trading prices for both long-grain and medium-grain milled rice were unchanged over the past month.

Figure 1

India's 2021 rice exports projected to be a record 20.0 million tons; Thailand's 2021 exports projected lowest since 1997



Notes: Rice exports are reported on a milled basis; 2021 and 2022 are forecasts.
Source: USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, *Production, Supply, and Distribution* database.

Domestic Outlook

U.S. 2021/22 Rice Crop Projected at 190.5 Million Cwt

The 2021/22 U.S. rice production forecast was raised 47,000 cwt to 190.5 million, more than 16 percent smaller than a year earlier. This month's fractional production increase was due to a slight increase in the average yield. Harvested area remains estimated at 2.5 million acres, more than 16 percent below a year earlier. The long-grain production forecast was raised 36,000 cwt to 144.3 million, down almost 16 percent from a year earlier. The year-to-year decline is the result of a substantial area reduction. Almost all long-grain rice is grown in the South. The combined medium- and short-grain crop is forecast at 46.3 million cwt, up 11,000 cwt from the previous forecast but more than 18 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 2005/06. The year-to-year decline is largely due to severe drought in California, where most of the U.S. medium- and short-grain crop is grown. Arkansas and Louisiana account for most of the remaining U.S. medium- and short-grain production.

At 7,625 pounds per acre, the 20221/22 average all-rice yield is up 2 pounds from the previous forecast and 6 pounds above a year earlier and the third-highest on record. This month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture raised its yield forecasts slightly for California and Louisiana, but lowered its yield forecast for Texas by 300 pounds per acre. The revised yield forecasts are based on a survey of rice producers conducted from September 24 to October 5 that asked growers about their expected yields as of October 1. Revised yield estimates were reported for all rice and by State. Survey-based yields by class for the United States and by State will be reported by NASS in the January 2022 *Crop Production 2021 Summary* that will be released on January 12.

Harvested area is estimated below a year earlier in all reported States except Texas. In the Delta, harvested area in Arkansas remains reported at 1.20 million acres, 17 percent below a year earlier. Mississippi's 2021/22 rice harvested area remains reported at 101,000 acres, 39 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 1973/74. In Missouri, 2021/22 harvested area remains reported at 194,000 acres, down 9 percent from a year earlier. On the Gulf Coast, Louisiana's harvested area remains reported at 413,000 acres, 13 percent below a year earlier. In Texas, 2021/22 harvested area remains reported at 188,000 acres, up 5 percent from a year earlier. In much of the South, persistent rainfall nearly all spring prevented and delayed plantings on a substantial amount of rice acreage. In March, growers in the South had indicated they intended to plant less rice in 2021/22 than a year earlier due to higher expected returns for corn and soybeans. Finally, in California, 2021/22 rice harvested area remains reported at just 405,000 acres, 21 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 1992/93. The sharp decline in California area this year is the result of severe drought and abnormally low reservoir levels in northern California.

Yields are projected to be above a year earlier in California, Louisiana, and Missouri, below a year earlier in Mississippi and Texas, and unchanged in Arkansas. At 8,000 pounds per acre, Missouri's 2021/22 yield is up 10 percent from a year earlier and is the highest on record. Louisiana's yield of 6,900 pounds per acre is up 1 percent from a year ago. Despite a severe drought and record-low reservoir levels, the California 2021/22 yield is forecast at a record 8,900 pounds per acre, up 2 percent from a year earlier. At 7,000 pounds, the Texas 2021/22 yield is down 14 percent from a year earlier. Mississippi's yield of 7,400 pounds per acre is 20 pounds below the year-earlier record. The Arkansas yield remains forecast at 7,500 pounds per acre.

Production is projected below a year earlier in all reported States, although the decline in Missouri is minuscule. The Arkansas 2021/22 rice crop remains projected at almost 89.9 million cwt, down 17 percent from a year earlier, a result of smaller area. Mississippi's production remains forecast at 7.47 million cwt, down 39 percent from a year earlier and the smallest since 1983/84. This year's sharp decline is due almost entirely to reduced plantings. Missouri's rice crop remains projected at 15.5 million cwt, virtually unchanged from a year ago, as a record yield offset an area decline. The revised Louisiana production forecast of 28.5 million cwt is 12 percent below a year earlier, a result of smaller plantings. Texas rice production is now projected at 13.2 million cwt, a decline of 10 percent from 2020/21, a result of a weaker yield; planted area actually expanded this year in Texas. Finally, California's production is now forecast at 36.0 million cwt, almost 20 percent below a year earlier, a result of a sharp drop in area caused by the severe drought in the State. This is the smallest California rice crop since 1998/99.

Harvest of the 2021/22 U.S. Delta Rice Crop Remains Behind Normal

Persistent rainfall across the South this spring delayed plantings and field operations, leading to a delayed harvest in parts of the South. For the week ending October 3, 73 percent of the U.S. 2021/22 rice crop was reported harvested, 4 percentage points ahead of a year earlier but 3-percentage points behind the U.S. 5-year average. Harvesting progress varied by region and by State, with harvest in the Delta still behind normal. In the Delta, 72 percent of the 2021/22 Arkansas rice crop was reported harvested by October 3, which was 4 percentage points ahead of a year earlier but 10 percentage points behind the State's 5-year average. Similar to this year, in 2020/21, continuing rainfall nearly all spring and well into summer delayed planting, crop progress, and harvest in the Delta, the largest U.S. rice growing region. In nearby Mississippi, 77 percent of the 2021/22 rice crop was reported harvested by October 3, ahead of the 69 percent reported a year earlier but behind the Mississippi 5-year average of 82 percent. Missouri's 2021/22 rice crop was reported 54 percent harvested by October 3, 2 percentage points ahead of a year earlier but well behind the State's 5-year average of 69 percent.

Crop progress was more advanced on the Gulf Coast, as expected, based on its latitude and climate. For the week ending October 3, 96 percent of the Louisiana 2021/22 rice crop was harvested, unchanged from a year earlier but 1 percentage point behind the Louisiana 5-year average. In Texas, 99 percent of the 2021/22 rice crop was reported harvested by October 3, just 1 percentage point behind a year earlier but unchanged from the Texas 5-year average. In California, 55 percent of the 2021/22 rice crop was reported harvested by October 3, 9 percentage points ahead of a year earlier and 23 percentage points ahead of the California 5-year average. This year's much smaller California rice acreage enabled an earlier completion of planting.

U.S. 2021/22 Long-Grain Import Forecast Lowered 2.0 Million Cwt to 28.0 Million

Total U.S. rice supplies in 2021/22 are projected at 270.2 million cwt, down almost 2.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 7 percent below a year earlier. This month's downward revision in total supplies is the result of a reduced import forecast more than offsetting a slightly larger crop forecast. The year-to-year decline is the result of a much smaller crop more than offsetting a big boost in carryin and expanded imports. At 202.0 million cwt, U.S. 2021/22 long-

grain supplies are almost 2.0 million cwt below the previous forecast and 6 percent smaller than a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain supplies are projected at 65.7 million cwt, up 11,000 cwt from the previous forecast, more than 11 percent below a year earlier, and the smallest since 2008/09. In 2008/09, U.S. medium- and short-grain farm prices were record high.

U.S. 2021/22 all-rice imports are forecast at 36.0 million cwt, down 2.0 million from the previous forecast but 6 percent larger than a year earlier. U.S. long-grain imports are forecast at 28.0 million cwt, down 2.0 million from the previous forecast but up 2 percent from a year earlier. This month's downward revision in long-grain imports was based on a recent slowdown in monthly deliveries. Since April, monthly U.S. imports of long-grain rice have been smaller than a year earlier. The reduced import pace is likely the result of continued container shortages and high ocean freight.

In August, the United States imported 52,160 tons (product-weight) of long-grain rice, down 34 percent from July and 38 percent less than a year earlier and the smallest since September 2018. Thailand remains the largest supplier of long-grain rice to the United States, exporting 29,469 tons in August, up 19 percent from July but 16 percent below a year earlier and the second-smallest amount since September 2018. U.S. imports of Thailand's long-grain rice peaked in the spring of 2020 at more than 70,000 tons a month and then returned to a more normal level of monthly purchases of 40,000-50,000 tons that summer. U.S. imports from Thailand dropped sharply this July and remain below pandemic levels. Almost all U.S. imports of Thai rice are jasmine rice, a premium aromatic. India is the second largest supplier of long-grain rice to the United States, shipping 13,927 tons in August, down almost 21 percent from July and 42.5 percent below the year-earlier near-record. Basmati, also a premium aromatic, accounts for nearly all U.S. long-grain rice imports from India. Pakistan was the third-largest supplier in August, shipping 2,549 tons, 35 percent below a year earlier, with basmati accounting for most of these shipments.

Medium- and short-grain imports remain projected at a record 8.0 million cwt in 2021/22, 19 percent larger than a year earlier. Puerto Rico is expected to again import at least three shipments of 21,000 tons of medium- and short-grain rice, with a fourth shipment possible, depending on the timing of the first three shipments and Puerto Rico's need for imported rice. China has supplied all but one of these shipments since May 2018, when Puerto Rico shifted from buying mostly U.S. rice due to much lower prices for rice from China. However, in May 2021, India supplied a 21,000-ton shipment to Puerto Rico. China, India, and Thailand are the top suppliers of medium and short-grain rice to the United States, including the Puerto Rican market. Together, these three Asian suppliers account for 90 percent or more of U.S. medium- and short-grain imports. Italy, Japan, Spain, and Argentina supply most of the remaining U.S. medium- and short-grain imports, typically shipping small amounts each month.

In August, the U.S. imported 11,086 tons of medium- and short-grain rice, a typical quantity for a month without a shipment to Puerto Rico. Thailand supplied 6,120 tons of medium- and short-grain rice in August, up 95 percent from a month earlier but 41 percent below a year ago. Similar to long-grain rice, U.S. imports of Thailand's medium- and short-grain rice peaked April-August 2020. Most of this rice is specialty rice classified as medium- and short-grain. India supplied 2,784 tons of medium- and short-grain rice in August, 45 percent below a year earlier.

The 2021/22 U.S. all rice carryin is estimated at 43.7 million cwt, almost 53 percent above the year-earlier abnormally low level. The 2021/22 long-grain carryin remains forecast at 29.7 million cwt, 76 percent larger than in 2020/21. In contrast, the 2021/22 medium- and short-grain carryin remains forecast at 11.5 million cwt, 7 percent larger than a year earlier.

U.S. 2021/22 Domestic and Residual Use Forecast Lowered

Total use of all rice in 2021/22 is projected at 237.0 million cwt, down 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast—a result of a reduction in the long-grain domestic and residual use forecast—and almost 4 percent smaller than a year earlier. Both exports and combined domestic and residual use are expected to be smaller than a year earlier in 2021/22. Long-grain total use is projected at 179.0 million cwt, down 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and more than 3 percent smaller than a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain total use remains forecast at 58.0 million cwt, more than 5 percent below 2020/21.

Total domestic and residual use in 2021/22 is projected at 146.0 million cwt, down 1.0 million from the previous forecast and the fourth consecutive month of a downward revision. Domestic and residual use is forecast almost 5 percent below the year-earlier record. This month's downward revision is based on smaller imports. The year-to-year projected reduction is based on smaller U.S. supplies, primarily a much smaller crop, which implies smaller post-harvest losses in marketing and milling. Long-grain domestic and residual use is projected at 114.0 million cwt, down 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 5 percent below the year-earlier record. Combined medium- and short-grain domestic and residual use remains projected at 32.0 million cwt, more than 1 percent below a year earlier.

U.S. exports of all rice in 2021/22 remain projected at 91.0 million cwt, down 3 percent from a year earlier. The year-to-year decline in U.S. exports is based on smaller U.S. supplies and less-competitive U.S. prices. In August, the U.S. Bureau of the Census reported that 350,822 tons (product-weight) of rice were exported, 42 percent above a month earlier and 170 percent larger than the year-earlier abnormally low shipments which was a result of extremely tight ending supplies of long-grain rice in 2020/21. Exports of all-rice in August 2021 were the highest since April.

Long-grain exports in 2021/22 remain projected at 65.0 million cwt, nearly unchanged from a year earlier. The United States is expected to face stronger competition from the South American suppliers in key Latin American markets in 2021/22 by spring 2022, largely offsetting the impact of the recent large sales to Iraq. Most South American exporters are expected to harvest larger crops next spring compared with their 2020/21 crops, which in several countries were adversely impacted by drought. In August, the U.S. Bureau of the Census reported 284,315 tons of long-grain rice (product-weight) exported, up 39 percent from a month earlier and sharply above the 44,720 tons exported last August. Mexico was the largest export market for U.S. long-grain rice in August, taking almost 125,000 tons. The Caribbean—mostly Haiti—ranked second, followed by Central America, with Guatemala and Honduras the largest buyers in the region.

The September 30 weekly *U.S. Export Sales* reported 43,200 tons of milled long-grain rice had been shipped to Iraq that month, with 76,900 tons remaining on the books as outstanding sales to Iraq with shipment expected this market year. *U.S. Exports Sales* also reported that 27,500 tons of long-grain rough rice were shipped to Venezuela in September, with no outstanding sales as of September 30.

Combined medium- and short-grain exports in 2021/22 remain projected at 26.0 million cwt, down 10 percent from 2020/21. The year-to-year decline in exports is based on expectations of few sales outside the core U.S. markets in Northeast Asia where the bulk of U.S. medium- and short-grain exports are shipped: Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. U.S. medium- and short-grain sales to the Middle East are expected to be lower than in 2020/21, with Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Israel again the main buyers. The United States is not expected to sell any rice to North Africa. The tighter U.S. supplies of medium- and short-grain rice are expected to reduce exportable sales and boost U.S. trading prices. In addition, by late spring 2022, Australia is expected to be in position to increase its exports due to a projected strong area expansion in 2021/22, partly a response to higher expected global trading prices for medium grain rice. Australia is expected to increase its market share in Northeast Asia and Oceania. China is expected to again have abundant supplies of extremely-low-priced Government-held stocks of medium- and short-grain rice available for export, with the Middle East and North Africa the major markets.

In August, the U.S. Bureau of the Census reported that 66,508 tons (product-weight) of medium- and short-grain rice were shipped, 56 percent above July but 22 percent below a year earlier. Japan imported around 42,000 tons and Jordan imported about 6,000 tons of U.S. medium- and short-grain rice in August.

By type, U.S. rough-rice exports in 2021/22 remain projected at 33.0 million cwt, down almost 5 percent from a year earlier. Venezuela is again expected to be a major buyer of U.S. rough-rice exports, taking almost 300,000 tons in 2020/21, all long-grain. Almost all U.S. rough-rice exports are currently shipped to Latin America. The U.S. Bureau of the Census reported that almost 180,000 tons of rough-rice were exported in August, virtually all long-grain, with Mexico the largest market, followed by Central America, with Guatemala and Honduras the largest buyers in the region.

Milled-rice exports (milled-and brown-rice exports on a rough-rice basis) remain projected at 58.0 million cwt, down 2 percent from a year earlier. The United States is expected to make few sales of milled rice beyond Northeast Asia, Haiti, Canada, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. In addition, Mexico, although primarily a rough-rice market, regularly imports small quantities of U.S. milled rice. U.S. milled-rice exports are limited by cheaper rice from Asia, as well as by growing competition from several South American exporters. In August, the U.S. Bureau of the Census reported 171,154 tons of milled rice exported, with Haiti, Japan, and the United Kingdom the largest markets.

U.S. Ending Stocks Projected Smaller in 2021/22; Season-Average Farm Prices Projected Higher

The above supply and use revisions result in a 2021/22 ending stocks forecast of 33.2 million cwt, down almost 1.0 million cwt from the previous forecast and 24 percent less than a year earlier. The all-rice stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 14.0 percent, down from 17.7 percent a year earlier. Long-grain ending stocks are projected at 23.0 million cwt, down almost 1.0 million from the previous forecast and 23 percent below a year earlier. The long-grain stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 12.8 percent, down from 16.0 percent a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain ending stocks are projected at 7.7 million cwt, almost unchanged from the previous forecast but 32 percent smaller than a year earlier. The 2021/22 medium- and short-grain stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 13.4 percent, down from 18.7 percent a year earlier.

There were no revisions this month to the 2021/22, season-average farm price (SAFP) forecasts. The 2021/22 long-grain SAFP remains forecast at $13.00 per cwt, up 40 cents from a year earlier. The California medium- and short-grain 2021/22 SAFP remains forecast at $23.00, up $3.30 from 2020/21 and the highest since the 2008/09 record of $27.40 per cwt. The southern medium- and short-grain SAFP remains forecast at $14.00 per cwt, up $1.00 from 2020/21 and the highest since 2014/15. With a substantial decrease in the California crop in 2021/22 due to the acreage decline, some users of medium- and short-grain rice are expected to switch from California rice to southern medium- and short-grain rice. The U.S. 2021/22 medium- and short-grain SAFP remains forecast at $20.10 per cwt, $2.40 higher than a year earlier. The 2021/22 U.S. all-rice SAFP remains forecast at $14.80 per cwt, up $1.10 from the year-earlier U.S. SAFP.

International Outlook

Production Forecasts for 2021/22 Raised for India and Madagascar, but Lowered for Burma, Guyana, and India

Global rice production in 2021/22 is forecast at a record 510.7 million tons (milled basis), up 2.75 million tons from the previous forecast and nearly 4.3 million tons larger than a year-earlier. Production forecasts for 2021/22 were raised this month for India, Madagascar, the United States, and Venezuela, but lowered for Burma, Guyana, Iran, Japan, and Uruguay.

On an annual basis, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, India, Mali, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, South Korea, Tanzania, Thailand, and Uganda account for the bulk of the projected production increase in 2021/22, with Bangladesh, India, and Thailand showing the largest year-to-year production increases. In contrast, crops are projected to be smaller than a year earlier in Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, EU, Guyana, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, North Korea, the Philippines, Russia, the United States, and Vietnam. The United States and Egypt are projected to show the largest production declines in 2021/22.

Global rice consumption and residual use in 2021/22 is projected to be a record 512.3 million tons, up 0.24 million tons from the previous forecast and 9.35 million tons larger than a year earlier. Bangladesh, Nepal, and the Philippines account for the bulk of this month's increase in the global consumption and residual use forecast. In contrast, consumption and residual use forecasts were lowered this month for Burma, China, and the United States. On an annual basis, China accounts for the largest share of the projected increase in global rice consumption and residual use in 2021/22, with China's total domestic and residual use expected to increase 4.5 million tons to a record 155.1 million tons. Industrial and feed uses account for nearly all of China's projected increase in consumption and residual use in 2021/22. India's consumption and residual use is projected to increase 2.3 million tons to a record 105.0 million. Bangladesh's consumption and residual use is projected to increase 0.6 million tons to a record 36.6 million tons in 2021/22.

In contrast, consumption and residual use is projected to decline in Japan, South Korea, and the United States. The decline in both East Asian countries is due to long-term shifts in diet away from rice to a more a Western Diet and to a declining population in Japan and only negligible population growth in South Korea. The decline in the United States is based on a much smaller crop.

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, October 2021						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation and comments on year-to-year change or month-to-month revision
1,000 metric tons (milled basis)						
Rice production in 2021/22						
Burma	12,600	-200	0.0	↓	→	Lowered the crop forecast based on a smaller expected monsoon season crop. Total harvested area was lowered 100,000 hectares to 6.9 million, unchanged from a year earlier but 0.2 million hectares below the 2017/18 record. The reduced area estimate is largely due to the impact of COVID-19-related restrictions on labor and transportation, as well as higher inputs costs. The average yield of 2.85 tons per hectare is unchanged from a year earlier but slightly below the 2018/19 record.
El Salvador	19	-4	0.0	↓	→	Production forecast was lowered based on a reduced harvested area estimate. At 4,000 hectares, harvested area is down 1,000 hectares from the previous estimate but unchanged from the year-earlier revised estimate. This year's area estimate was lowered based on the late arrival of the rainy season and a lack of payments to rice farmers from the Government.
Guyana	637	-88	-7.4	↓	↓	Lowered the crop forecast based on a smaller harvested area estimate and a lower yield, with production now forecast to be the lowest since 2018/19. Total harvested area is estimated at 175,000 hectares, almost 8 percent below the previous forecast and more than 6 percent below a year earlier, with the first-crop harvested area estimate reduced 3 percent and the second-crop area estimate revised down 5 percent. Excessive rainfall limited second-crop plantings. The total rice crop yield was lowered almost 5 percent to 5.6 tons per hectare, 1 percent below a year earlier.
India	125,000	3,000	2.2	↑	↑	India's production forecast was raised to a sixth consecutive record-high, largely based on the Government of India's September 21-released *First Advance Estimate* of the 2021/22 kharif crop at a record 107.0 million tons, up about 2.6 million tons from a year earlier. The kharif crop typically accounts for more than 85 percent of India's total rice production, with the bulk of this crop planted June-September. Much of the kharif crop is dependent on the timing and duration of the Southwest Monsoon, with barely half the kharif crop irrigated and reservoirs dependent on the June-September Monsoon rainfall. Rainfall was especially strong this year in late August and September after a dry spell earlier in August, which boosted late-season plantings. At 45.5 million hectares, total rice harvested area is up 0.5 million from both the previous forecast and a year earlier, but still fractionally below the 2008/09 record of 45.54 million hectares. The 2021/22 area expansion is partly due to an increase in the Government of India's Minimum Support Price for the kharif crop. The all-rice average yield of 4.12 tons per hectare is the highest on record. The rabi crop, harvested March-June, accounts for the remainder of India's rice production and is nearly all irrigated.
Iran	1,900	-100	-5.0	↓	↓	Crop forecast was lowered due to drought and resulting irrigation-water shortages in the main rice-growing regions in the north, where the bulk of Iran's rice is produced. Total harvested area was lowered 15,000 hectares to 560,000, almost 3 percent below a year earlier. The yield of 5.14 tons per hectare is 2 percent below both the previous forecast and a year earlier.
Japan	7,560	-20	-0.1	↓	↓	Slight downward revision in production is based on a fractionally lower yield estimate reported by the U.S. Agricultural Office in Tokyo. At 1.526 million hectares, rice harvested area in Japan is up 1,000 hectares from the previous estimate but down 0.5 percent from a year earlier and the smallest reported for any year since 1900. Rice area has declined in Japan for more than 50 years, primarily due to Government programs aimed at diverting area away from rice production to alternative crops due to a long-term shift in diets away from rice to a more Western diet, a result of rising incomes. In addition, Japan's population has declined each year since 2011.
Madagascar	2,560	256	-5.4	↑	↓	Madagascar's production forecast was raised based on data reported by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization's indication of a higher yield. The current severe drought in the country is adversely impacting crop production in the south, which accounts for only a small share of Madagascar's total rice production, with the bulk grown in the central and northern regions. Despite this month's upward revision, rice production in Madagascar remains well below the 2010/11 record of 3.03 million tons. Both adverse weather and a severe locust infestation have been responsible for smaller rice production in Madagascar since 2011/12.
United States	6,050	1	-16.3	↑	↓	Slight increase in the production forecast was based on a revised yield reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Yield forecasts were raised slightly for California and Louisiana but lowered for Texas.
Uruguay	833	-107	-0.8	↓	↓	Crop forecast was reduced based on a 20,000-hectare reduction in harvested area to 135,000 hectares, 3 percent below a year earlier and the lowest since 1993/94. The average yield of 8.81 tons per hectare is up 2 percent from both the previous forecast and the year earlier revised estimate and is the highest on record. The revised data are largely based on updated trend analysis. Uruguay exports the bulk of its rice crop.
Venezuela	152	12	2.0	↑	↑	Production forecast was raised based on higher area and yield estimates. At 60,000 hectares, rice harvested area is up 5,000 hectares from the previous forecast but is unchanged from a year earlier. Since 2019/20, rice area in Venezuela has been the lowest since 1961/62, mostly due to inadequate and expensive inputs, and more competitive prices for imported rice. The average yield of 3.73 tons per hectare is up almost 9 percent from the previous forecast, a result of a limited amount of fertilizer provided by the Government that partially offset, but did not end, the severe input shortage.

Continued--

Table A - Global rice production, selected monthly revisions and year-to-year changes, October 2021--continued						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation and comments on year-to-year change or month-to-month revision
1,000 metric tons (milled basis)						
Rice production in 2020/21						
Argentina	840	34	5.7	↑	↑	Lowered the crop estimate based on data from the Ministry of Agriculture reporting larger area. Harvested area is estimated at 190,000 hectares, up 7,000 from the previous estimate and 3 percent larger than a year earlier. The average yield of 6.8 tons per hectare is virtually unchanged from the previous estimate but is up 3 percent from a year earlier.
El Salvador	19	-3	5.6	↓	↑	Lowered the crop forecast based on data from the Ministry of Agriculture reports of smaller area. At 7.25 tons per hectare, the average yield is up 7 percent from the previous forecast and 4 percent above the year-earlier revised estimate.
Madagascar	2,707	147	0.0	↑	→	Crop estimate was raised based on recently released production data from the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization indicating a higher yield. Although severe drought sharply curtailed food production in the south, the bulk of Madagascar's rice is grown in the central and northern regions that were not impacted as severely by the current drought.
Thailand	18,863	33	6.8	↑	↑	Production estimate was raised slightly based on a 114,000-hectare increase in harvested area to 10.51 million hectares, up 6 percent from the year-earlier drought-reduced crop. The area revision was only for the dry season crop. The average all- rice yield of 2.72 tons per hectare is down 1 percent from the previous forecast, but still fractionally above a year earlier. The revised data are from the U.S. Agriculture Office in Bangkok.
Uruguay	840	-18	-0.7	↓	↓	Lowered the crop based on a slightly smaller harvested area estimate. At 139,000 hectares, harvested area is 3,000 hectares below the previous estimate and 1,000 hectares less than a year earlier.The revisions are based on Ministry of Agriculture data.
Venezuela	149	19	6.4	↑	↑	The crop estimate was raised based on a slightly larger harvested area estimate and a higher yield. Harvested area was raised 5,000 hectares to 60,000, unchanged from a year earlier and the lowest since 1961/62. Although inputs remain expensive and in short supply, the Government of Venezuela provided a limited amount of fertilizer to producers that partially offset the input shortage.

Source: Created by USDA, Economic Research Service with data from USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, *Production, Supply and Distribution Database*.

In 2021/22, global ending stocks are forecast at 183.6 million tons, up 1.8 million from the previous forecast but down 1.6 million tons from the year-earlier record high. China's ending stocks were raised 1.0 million tons to 112.0 million, 4.5 million tons below the year-earlier record. China accounts for the bulk of the expected decline in global ending stocks in 2021/22. India's ending stocks were raised 0.5 million tons to a record 35.0 million, mostly due to a larger crop. India's stocks are up 1.5 million tons from a year earlier. In 2021/22, China is projected to account for 61 percent and India for 19 percent of global ending rice stocks. In contrast, the U.S. 2021/22 ending stocks forecast was lowered 30,000 tons to 1.06 million, down more than 0.3 million from a year earlier. The 2021/22 global stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 35.8 percent, down from a near-record 36.8 percent in 2020/21.

Export Forecasts for 2021 and 2022 Again Raised for India

Global rice trade in calendar year 2022 is projected at 48.7 million tons (milled basis), up 0.74 million tons from the previous forecast but down almost 0.3 million from the year-earlier record. Much of the expected year-to-year global trade decline is the result of weaker imports of Indian rice by Bangladesh and Vietnam. India's 2022 exports are projected to drop 2.5 million tons from the 2021 revised record to 17.5 million, still the second-highest on record. U.S. exports are forecast to drop 2.5 percent in 2022 to 2.88 million tons, due to tighter supplies and resulting higher prices. These declines in exports in 2022 are expected to be partially offset by increased exports from Australia, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, China, EU, Pakistan, Paraguay, Thailand, Uruguay, and Vietnam, with Thailand's exports projected to increase the most, up 0.9 million tons to 6.5 million.

Table B - Selected rice importers at a glance (1,000 metric tons), October 2021.						
Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Rice importers, 2022						
China	4,000	400	0.0	↑	→	Raised the import forecast based on larger-than-expected recent purchases and expectations that demand for Indian rice will remain strong in 2022.
Colombia	120	-20	300.0	↓	↑	Lowered the import forecast based on a weaker-than-expected pace of purchases.
Guatemala	120	-5	9.1	↓	↑	Import forecast was reduced based on a slower-than-expected pace of purchases in recent months.
Madagascar	700	50	33.3	↑	↑	Raised the import forecast to a record-high based on stronger-than-expected imports in market year 2020/21 and expectations of continued large purchases.
Nepal	1,350	200	8.0	↑	↑	The record import forecast is based on expectations of continued strong purchases from top supplier India.
Philippines	2,200	100	-4.3	↑	↓	Expect continued strong buying from Vietnam, especially with a presidential election scheduled in the Philippines for May 9, 2022.
Singapore	360	20	0.0	↑	→	Raised the import forecast based on expectations that the recent faster-than-expected import pace will continue.
Syria	230	50	0.0	↑	→	Larger import forecast is based on expectations that the recent faster-than-expected pace of purchases from Vietnam and China will continue in 2022.
United States	1,175	-50	4.4	↓	↑	Lowered the import forecast based on a recent reduction in monthly imports, especially for jasmine rice from Thailand.
Venezuela	520	-30	-5.5	↓	↓	Import forecast was lowered based on a larger crop.
Rice importers, 2021						
Bangladesh	2,400	300	11,900.0	↑	↑	Raised the import forecast based on expectation of continued strong public and private sector buying for the remainder of 2021 and on the August cut in the import tariff to 15 percent from 25 percent. In addition, prices for domestic rice are currently well above prices for imported rice.
China	4,000	100	25.0	↑	↑	Raised the import forecast based on a very strong current pace of purchases.
Colombia	30	-40	87.3	↓	↑	Reduced the import forecast based on very weak purchases in recent months.
Costa Rica	150	-10	-3.8	↓	↓	Import forecast was lowered based on a weaker-than-expected import pace.
El Salvador	75	5	-23.5	↑	↓	Raised the import forecast based on a smaller crop.
European Union	1,800	-50	-9.7	↓	↓	Import forecast was lowered based on weaker-than-expected demand early in the year.
Guatemala	110	-15	-19.7	↓	↓	Reduced import forecast based on a weaker-than-expected pace of trade to-date.
Nepal	1,250	150	27.6	↑	↑	Increased import forecast based on larger-than-expected purchases from top supplier India.
Philippines	2,300	200	-6.1	↑	↓	Import forecast raised based on stronger-than-expected purchases from Vietnam.
Singapore	360	35	-8.9	↑	↓	Increased the import forecast based on a faster-than-expected pace of purchases in recent months.
Syria	230	50	26.4	↑	↑	Increased imports based on large purchases from Vietnam and China
United Arab Emirates	850	-50	0.0	↓	→	Reduced the import forecast based on slower buying from top supplier India.
United States	1,125	-25	-7.0	↓	↓	Import forecast was lowered based on a recent slowdown in monthly purchases.
Vietnam	1,250	50	212.5	↑	↑	Import forecast was raised to a record high based on continued strong demand for rice from India.

Source: Created by USDA, Economic Research Service with data from USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, *Production, Supply and Distribution Database.*

Table C - Selected rice exporters at a glance (1,000 metric tons), October 2021.

Country or region	Current forecast	Change from last month's forecast	Percent change from a year earlier	Month-to-month direction	Year-to-year direction	Explanation of year-to-year change in forecast or month-to-month change in forecast
Rice exporters, 2022						
Argentina	350	10	-2.8	↑	↓	Raised the export forecast based on a larger 2020/21 rice crop.
Guyana	470	-60	0.0	↓	→	Reduced the export forecast based on a smaller 2021/22 rice crop.
India	17,500	1,000	-12.5	↑	↓	Export forecast was increased based on a larger 2021/22 rice production forecast.
Pakistan	4,000	-150	2.6	↓	↑	Reduced the export forecast based on expectations of larger global shipments in 2022 from number one exporter and major competitor India.
Peru	50	-15	900.0	↓	↑	Export forecast was lowered based on expected weaker imports from Peru's top buyer Colombia.
Uruguay	800	-50	6.7	↓	↑	Reduced the export forecast based on a smaller 2021/22 crop forecast.
Rice exporters, 2021						
Argentina	360	10	7.5	↑	↑	Export forecast was raised based on a larger 2020/21 crop estimate.
Burma	1,700	-150	-26.1	↓	↓	Reduced the export forecast based on a very slow shipment pace in July and expectations of weak shipments in August, which followed China's closure of its border with Burma on July 9 due to increases in COVID-19 infections in northern towns on Burma's side of the border.
Costa Rica	20	10	17.6	↑	↑	Export forecast was raised based on a stronger-than-expected pace of shipments to-date.
Cote d'Ivoire	25	5	-50.0	↑	↓	Export forecast was raised based on a stronger-than-expected pace of shipments to date.
Guyana	470	-60	-9.6	↓	↓	Lowered exports based on a reduced 2021/22 rice crop forecast.
India	20,000	1250	37.4	↑	↑	Exports are raised to a record high based on continued strong sales to Bangladesh, Nepal, the Middle East, and Sub-Saharan Africa--all major buyers of India's rice.
Malaysia	60	10	100.0	↑	↑	Raised the export forecast based on a stronger-than-expected pace of shipments in recent months.
Pakistan	3,900	-200	-0.9	↓	↓	Lowered the export forecast based on a slower-than-expected pace of shipments since the start of 2021 and stronger competition from India.
Peru	5	-45	-93.3	↓	↓	Export forecast lowered based of the absence of top-buyer Colombia from the market.
Uruguay	750	50	-22.4	↑	↓	Raised export forecast based on a stronger-than-expected pace of sales, especially to Venezuela and Iraq.
Vietnam	6,200	-100	0.5	↓	↑	Reduced the export forecast based on rising prices for Vietnam's rice and a still-sluggish pace of shipments despite a recent increase.

Source: Created by USDA, Economic Research Service with data from USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, *Production, Supply and Distribution Database.*

On the global 2022 import side, Bangladeshôs imports are projected to drop 1.8 million tons to 0.6 million due to a strong crop recovery. Vietnamôs imports are projected to decline 0.75 million

tons to a more typical 0.50 million from this yearôs abnormally high record of 1.25 million tons. The bulk of Vietnamôs imports are typically border shipments from Cambodia, with Vietnam taking mostly rough rice. This year, Vietnam has imported large quantities of broken kernel rice from India for feed use, food processing, and beer. These purchases are not expected to continue in 2022. Imports are also projected to decline in 2022 for Australia, Brazil, the Philippines, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, and Venezuela.

In contrast, imports are projected to increase in 2022 for Angola, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote dôIvoire, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, EU, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, North Korea, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Qatar, Togo, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. Egypt is expected to show the largest import increase in 2022, with its imports projected to increase 0.4 million tons to a record 0.8 million due to a smaller crop. China is expected to remain the largest rice importer in 2022, taking 4.0 million tons, unchanged from 2021.

The global rice trade forecast for 2021 was raised 0.8 million tons to 49.0 million, up 3.8 million tons from a year earlier and the highest on record. On the export side, Indiaôs exports were raised 1.25 million tons to a record 20.0 million tons, up 37 percent from a year earlier, with shipments to Bangladesh, Nepal, and Vietnam accounting for much of this monthôs upward revision in 2021 imports and for the year-to-year import increase.

Over the past month, quotes for Thailandôs trading prices for most grades of regularly milled white rice (excluding aromatic rice and brokens) decreased about 1 percent from a month earlier, mostly due to a further weakening of the Thai *baht*, despite fresh demand for white rice and parboiled rice from West Africa and demand for white rice and glutinous rice from China. Thailandôs 100-percent Grade B long-grain milled rice for export was quoted at $397 per ton for the week ending October 4, down $4 from the week ending September 6. Prices for Thailandôs 5-percent brokens parboiled riceô a specialty riceô were quoted at $387 per ton for the week ending October 4, down $5 from the week ending September 6. Prices for Thailandôs jasmine riceô a premium aromaticô were quoted at $643 per ton for the week ending October 4, up $6 from the week ending September 6.

Price quotes for Vietnamôs rice for the autumn crop whose harvest is virtually complete rose over the past month, mostly due to continued Government purchases for national reserves and to allocate rice to COVID-19-affected provinces, as well as to buyers filling contracts for shipments to Cuba, the Philippines, and Malaysia. For the week ending October 5, prices for Vietnamôs 5-percent broken-kernel long-grain milled rice were quoted at $435 per ton, up $30 from the week ending September 7. Vietnamôs quotes are currently the highest among the Asian exporters for comparable grades and quality. Pakistanôs price quotes for 5-percent broken rice increased $10 per ton from the week ending September 7 to $370 for the week ending October 5. Indiaôs 5-percent broken nonparboiled white rice was quoted at $355 per ton (bulk) for the week ending October 5, down $15 from the week ending September 7.

Price quotes from most South American exporters either declined from a month earlier or were unchanged. Uruguayôs generic 5-percent broken-kernel long-grain milled rice remain quoted at $580 per ton for the week ending October 5, unchanged since late June and about $30 per ton above the current U.S. price for long-grain milled rice for Latin American markets and $20 below U.S. prices that are based on Iraqi terms and specifications. Argentinaôs 5-percent brokens remain quoted at $610 per ton. In contrast, prices for Brazilôs generic 5-percent broken-kernel rice were quoted at $505 per ton for the week ending October 5, down $10 from the week ending September 7.

U.S. trading prices for long-grain milled rice were unchanged over the past month. Prices for U.S. long-grain milled rice, Number 2 Grade, 4-percent broken kernels (free on board a vessel at a Gulf port, Iraqi specifications) remain quoted at $600 per ton for the week ending October 5, unchanged since the week ending July 20. U.S prices for Latin American milled-rice markets—Haiti, Colombia, and Mexico—remain quoted at $550 per ton for the week of October 5, unchanged since the week ending August 3. In contrast to the milled-rice prices, U.S. rough-rice export price quotes increased $10 from mid-September to $350 per ton for the week ending October 5.

Milled-rice prices in California were unchanged over the past month. Prices for California Number 1 Grade, 4-percent broken kernels for the week ending October 5 remain quoted at $1,125 per ton (free on board at a domestic mill, Mediterranean specifications). These are the highest prices since June 2009. For delivery to the Port of Oakland, California, medium-grain milled-rice (Korean specifications) prices remain quoted at $1,225 per ton for the week ending October 5. For listings of trading prices by exporter and grade of rice, see table 9 in the Excel file.

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