

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:**

Export prices have increased five straight weeks due to new inquiries and the strengthening Thai baht. The government is expected to sell 1.7 million metric tons of food-quality rice stocks and 0.5 million metric tons of deteriorated rice stocks this week.

**Post:**  
Bangkok

## Market Tone

Table 1: Export Prices (FOB) for various grades of Thai rice (USD/MT), Week ending June 5, 2017

Quality	Exporter Observations							Period Average	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV
FWR 100 B	696	-	-	680	685	689	-	685	653
WR 100 B	447	-	445	447	450	449	445	447	436
PB 100%	452	-	420	451	455	453	415	441	429
PB 5%	447	-	415	446	450	448	410	436	424
WR 5%	437	-	415	437	440	438	415	430	419
WR 10%	435	-	-	-	-	436	-	436	421
WR 15%	419	-	-	-	-	421	-	420	406
WR 25%	395	-	-	-	-	396	-	396	385
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SUP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Exchange rate: 33.8 baht/USD  
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Both domestic and export prices increased 3-4 percent from the previous week. This is the fifth straight week that rice prices have increased driven in part by new inquiries from foreign buyers. At the same time, exporters are still seeking new-crop white rice and fragrant rice supplies to fulfill their contracted shipments to Iran. Exporters expect to complete the remaining contracted shipments to Iran by the end of June 2017. Presently, exporters are hesitant to sign new contracts due to concerns about volatile domestic prices and the strengthening Thai baht. Wholesale prices for 5% grade white rice have increased 16 percent from early May 2017. Additionally, several quotes are based on an exchange rate of 33.5 baht/USD, instead of the current exchange rate of 33.8 baht/USD. Note that in early May 2017, the exchange rate was 34.4 baht/USD.

This week, the government is expected to finalize the sale of (1) 0.5 million metric tons of deteriorated rice stocks to ethanol producers from the one million metric ton April 28 tender, and (2) 1.7 million metric tons of food-quality rice stocks from the 1.8 million metric ton May 24 tender. As a result of these expected sales, government rice stocks will likely decline to approximately 2.9 million metric tons which consist of 0.1 million metric tons of food-quality rice, 2.2 million metric tons of feed-quality rice stocks, and 0.6 million metric tons of deteriorated rice. Additionally, the National Rice Policy and Management Committee will have a meeting next week to consider issuing a new tender for the remaining government rice stocks. Industry expects a tender for these remaining stocks to be issued by the end of June 2017.

## Rice Export Update

Unofficial preliminary rice exports (excluding premium white and fragrant rice) for May 22-28, 2017, totaled 151,009 metric tons, down 27,392 metric tons from the previous week, and down 26,081 metric tons from the four-week moving average of 177,090 metric tons (Table 2). Rice exports from January 1 – May 28, 2017 totaled 3,485,389 metric tons.

<b>Table 2: Weekly Rice Exports (excluding fragrant rice)</b>					
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>4-WK AVG</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>YEAR AGO</b>	<b>% Growth from Last Year</b>
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	(%)
Mar 26, 2017	214,094	172,490	1,933	997	93.9
Apr 2, 2017	173,797	177,161	2,107	1,064	98.1
Apr 9, 2017	152,356	176,682	2,259	1,103	104.8
Apr 16, 2017	84,888	167,747	2,390	1,145	108.7
Apr 23, 2017	159,061	153,989	2,549	1,193	113.7
Apr 30, 2017	188,017	157,544	2,757	1,270	117.1
May 7, 2017	176,315	152,070	2,933	1,319	122.3
May 14, 2017	202,635	181,507	3,136	1,377	127.8
May 21, 2017	178,401	186,342	3,334	1,410	136.5
May 28, 2017	151,009	177,090	3,485	1,507	131.3
<p><i>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.</i></p>					
Source: Board of Trade of Thailand					