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## Thailand

### Grain and Feed

### Weekly Rice Price Update

**2006**

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**Report Highlights:**

Export prices eased as local millers and traders released speculative stocks. Also, rice exporters are optimistic about possible rice program revisions in the wake of a military-led coup on September 19.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Bangkok [TH1]  
[TH]

**Indicative Prices (Week Ending Sep. 25):**

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	543	-	535	499	520	520	520	523	528
WR 100 B	315	324	321	315	320	314	312	317	320
PB 5%	310	311	320	320	318	313	308	314	315
WR 5%	310	320	316	307	310	306	307	311	314
WR 10%	305	315	312	304	305	302	302	306	310
WR 15%	296	310	299	301	295	288	297	298	301
WR 25%	280	297	280	298	272	273	292	285	287
WR 35%	277	-	-	295	270	269	-	278	279
A 1 SUP	231	230	230	228	230	227	226	229	230
A 1 SPEC	229	228	228	225	228	-	224	227	228

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters, Exchange rate: 37.5 baht/U.S.\$

**Market Tone**

Export prices for most grades of rice were offered lower as domestic prices eased, particularly for white rice prices. Local rice traders and millers are reportedly releasing speculative stocks of white rice due to the concerns over the release of white rice intervention stocks of around 1.7 million tons by the military-led Council for Democratic Reform under Constitutional Monarchy (CDRM) who seized control of the Thai government and declared martial law on September 19, 2006. The CDRM is expected to maintain the rice price stabilization policy through the intervention program. Exporters are optimistic about a possible program revision to cushion the negative impact of high intervention prices on Thai rice exports. The previous Government planned to push the intervention prices of new intervention program to 12,000 baht/ton (roughly U.S.\$ 320/MT) for fragrant paddy, which was 2,000 baht/ton (roughly U.S.\$ 53/MT) higher than the previous year's program, regardless of the current high market prices of fragrant rice. Meanwhile, foreign buyers are reportedly hesitant to buy as they expect a delay in this year's intervention program and, if so, new crops harvested by the end of next month could cause prices to decline further.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO	YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	%
AUG 6	55,278	80,608	2,859	3,168	-9.8
AUG 13	55,807	74,814	2,915	3,259	-10.6
AUG 20	79,618	69,603	2,994	3,361	-10.9
AUG 27	101,889	73,148	3,096	3,463	-10.6
SEP 3	83,897	80,303	3,180	3,529	-9.9
SEP 10	98,168	90,893	3,278	3,589	-8.7
SEP 17	111,044	98,750	3,389	3,683	-8.0
SEP 24	109,071	100,545	3,498	3,773	-7.3

*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.*

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Sep. 18-24, 2006 totaled 109,071 tons, down 1,974 tons from the previous week's total, and up 8,526 tons from the four-week moving average of 100,545 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Sep. 24, 2006 totaled 3,498,212 tons, as compared with 3,773,364 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Sep. 14, 2006, amounted to 5,091,165 tons, down slightly from 5,117,522 tons in the previous year.

### Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Sep. 4-8, Sep. 11-15, and Sep. 18-22, 2006 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Sep. 4-8	Sep. 11-15	Sep. 18-22
weekly sales	115,901	115,061	82,685
4 week sum	513,052	504,001	519,316
4 week mov. avg.	128,263	126,000	129,829
Total weekly sales	4,170,272	4,285,333	4,368,018

End of Report.