

**Required Report:** Required - Public Distribution

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## **Report Name:** Grain and Feed Annual

**Country:** Haiti

**Post:** Port-au-Prince

**Report Category:** Grain and Feed

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### **Report Highlights:**

Hait's rice imports for marketing year July 2024 through June 2025 (MY 2024/2025) are forecast at 475,000 metric tons (MT), marginally higher compared to the previous marketing period driven by ongoing challenges to increase local production. Rice consumption during the same forecast period is projected unchanged at 530,000 MT relative to the same time last year as projected population growth and economic improvement are offset by large-scale human displacement. As social and political instability intensifies in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, which has far-reaching food security consequences nationwide, rice trade remains vulnerable to rapid deterioration due to irregularities in seaport operations and disruptions in food distribution networks.

## 1. RICE

<b>Rice, Milled</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>		<b>2023/2024</b>		<b>2024/2025</b>	
<b>Market Year Begins</b>	<b>Jul 2022</b>		<b>Jul 2023</b>		<b>Jul 2024</b>	
<b>Haiti</b>	<b>USDA Official</b>	<b>New Post</b>	<b>USDA Official</b>	<b>New Post</b>	<b>USDA Official</b>	<b>New Post</b>
<b>Area Harvested (1000 HA)</b>	55	55	55	52	0	53
<b>Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)</b>	51	51	31	31	0	23
<b>Milled Production (1000 MT)</b>	60	60	55	52	0	53
<b>Rough Production (1000 MT)</b>	109	109	100	95	0	96
<b>Milling Rate (.9999) (1000 MT)</b>	5500	5500	5500	5500	0	5500
<b>MY Imports (1000 MT)</b>	460	460	460	470	0	475
<b>TY Imports (1000 MT)</b>	527	527	460	460	0	460
<b>TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)</b>	375	375	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Supply (1000 MT)</b>	571	571	546	553	0	551
<b>MY Exports (1000 MT)</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TY Exports (1000 MT)</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Consumption and Residual (1000 MT)</b>	540	540	525	530	0	530
<b>Ending Stocks (1000 MT)</b>	31	31	21	23	0	21
<b>Total Distribution (1000 MT)</b>	571	571	546	553	0	551
<b>Yield (Rough) (MT/HA)</b>	1.9818	1.9818	1.8182	1.8269	0	1.8113

(1000 HA), (1000 MT), (MT/HA)

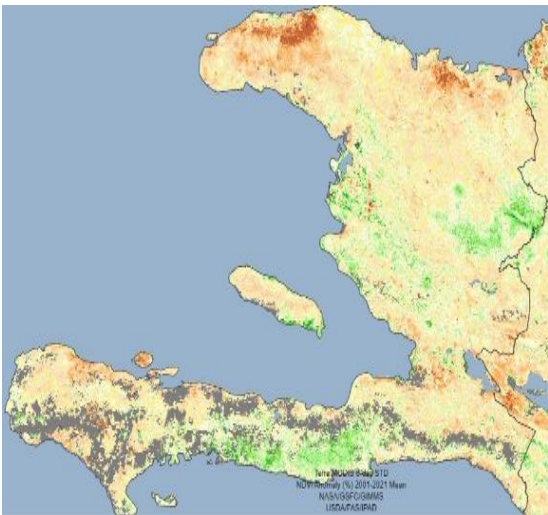
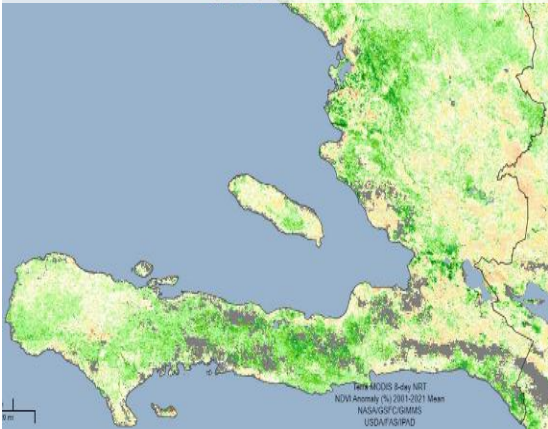
MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column

TY = Trade Year, which for Rice, Milled begins in January for all countries. TY 2024/2025 = January 2025 - December 2025

## 1.1 Production

For MY2024/2025, rice production is forecast at 53,000 metric tons (MT), marginally higher compared to the prior marketing year driven by adequate rainfall patterns. For MY2023/2024, rice production is adjusted down at 52,000 MT due to land abandonment and below-average rainfall, resulting in the lowest production levels seen in over a decade.

**Figure 1. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index 2024**



The department of Artibonite, known as the “rice basket” of agriculture production in Haiti, has traditionally accounted for approximately 70-80 percent of total rice production. Over the last several years, escalating insecurity has compelled farmers to abandon rice fields, leading to widespread displacement. Satellite imagery data from World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that in 2023 up to 3,000 hectares of farmland have been left deserted since 2018, as farmers move to cultivate in less productive and smaller areas in the Artibonite region.

Source: Built by Post with information from GIMMS/NASA on 04/02/24

**Figure 2. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index 2023**

The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)<sup>1</sup> in figure 1, a tool that measures crop health and growth, signals moderate rainfall conditions during the first 9 months of MY 2023/2024, benefiting the planting season for the upcoming marketing year. The NVDI also recorded a score of 0.66 as opposed to the 0.61 recorded during the same time last year. The NVDI anomaly<sup>2</sup> during the first 9 months of MY 2023/2024 registered a positive score of 0.03, as opposed to a negative score of 0.004 during the previous MY.

In January 2023, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved Haiti for a \$105 million loan through its Food

Shock Window Program, a fund that provides financing to member countries facing acute food shortages. The Government of Haiti earmarked \$24 million to the Ministry of and Natural Resources (MARND) to

Source: Built by Post with information from GIMMS/NASA on 04/02/24

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(GoH) Agriculture boost local

<sup>1</sup> The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) quantifies vegetation by measuring the difference between near-infrared (which vegetation strongly reflects) and red light (which vegetation absorbs). The NDVI is scaled between -1 and 1 as follows: -1.00-0.00 dead plant; 0.00-0.33 unhealthy plant; 0.33-0.66 moderately healthy plant; and 0.66-1.00 very healthy plant.

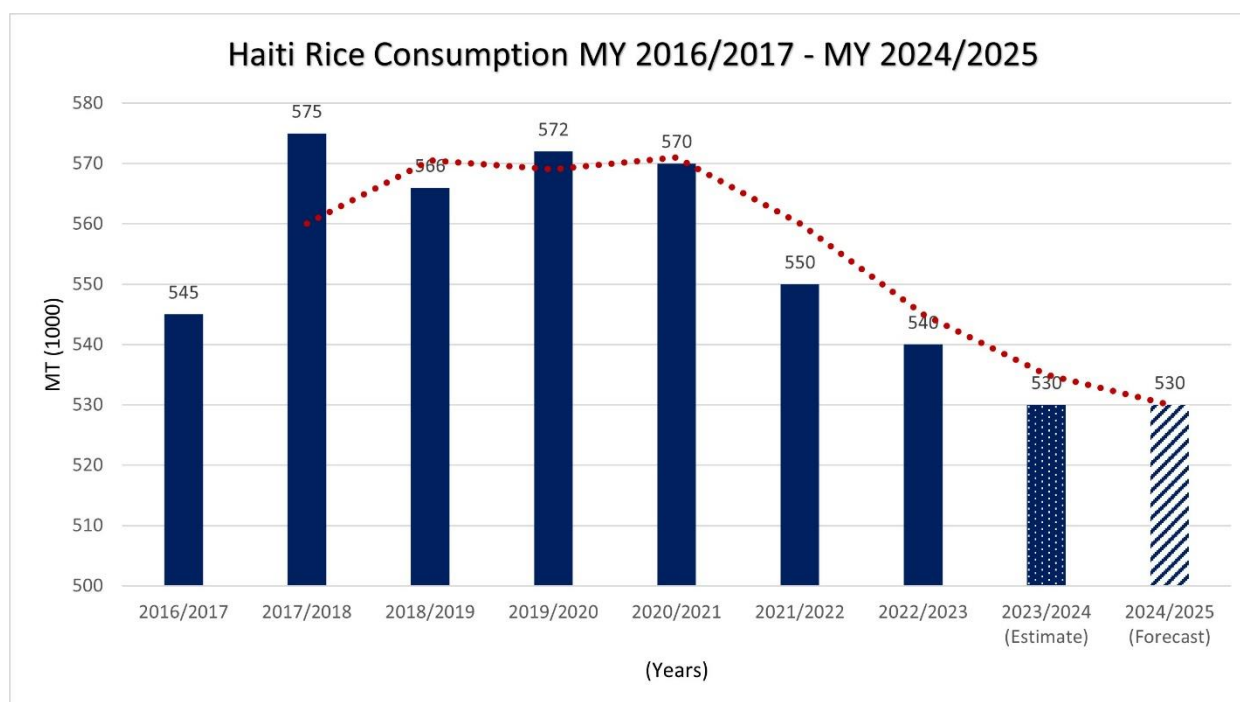
<sup>2</sup>The NDVI index anomaly is a comparison of the current NDVI value for each day of year to the average computed over the set of base years to determine if the areas are more or less productive than the average.

production. However, implementation had been delayed due to administrative and security constraints. Post sources have confirmed that in May 2023 the GoH opted to redirect those funds to social welfare programs, such as food vouchers and public transportation programs.

Rice production in Haiti occurs during the spring and fall rainy seasons, with planting preparation typically beginning in March and August. The Artibonite region primarily relies on rainwater irrigation for rice cultivation. Farmers historically have cultivated several varieties of rice based on geographic location and seed availability. The TCS-10, a rice variety developed through collaboration between Haiti and Taiwan, is popular in Artibonite for its high yield and resistance to fungi, including sheath rot disease. TCS-10 is a short-grain variety available in white or yellow. Additional cultivated varieties include Shella, La Crete, and Jaragua. Over several years, significant challenges and constraints have hindered improvement in local production, including limited access to financing, technical assistance, skilled labor, and natural disasters.

## 1.2 Consumption

**Figure 3.**



In MY 2024/2025, rice consumption is forecast to hold steady at 530,000 MT compared to the same period last year as gains from population and economic growth are offset by large-scale human displacement. For MY 2023/2024, consumption is projected at 530,000 MT, marking a 7-year low due to high inflation.

Between January 2023 and December 2023, food and beverage inflation rose over 28 percent as reported by the Haitian Institute of Statistical Information (IHSI). Increased gang violence, roadblocks, and reduced availability of local agricultural products, including rice, have driven food prices higher. The same basket of foods edged even higher by 1.5 percent between December 2023 and January 2024. With

nearly 5 million Haitians, roughly half the population, experiencing food insecurity, many have been forced to reduce their reliance on proteins and grains, including rice.

High rates of internal displacement have placed significant pressure on food availability, particularly within rural communities across Haiti. The International Organization of Migration, in collaboration with the Haiti Directorate-General for Civil Protection, estimates that over 150,000 people have fled the Haitian capital in search of safer areas, mostly in the south of Haiti. In March 2024 alone, more than 53,000 people have migrated from Port-au-Prince to smaller communities elsewhere in Haiti. In 2023, Dominican authorities deported or repatriated nearly 250,000 Haitians, according to statistics from the General Directorate of Migration (DGM). Another 250,000 returned voluntarily over the same time frame.

Political and social instability, primarily concentrated in Port-au-Prince but with widespread repercussions throughout Haiti, has severely hampered the national economy. IHSI reports that the Haitian economy contracted by 1.9 percent in 2023, marking the fifth consecutive year of decline, amounting to a cumulative decrease of 10.4 over the five-year period. Looking ahead to 2024, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) forecasts a turnaround, projecting a modest increase in gross domestic product (GDP) of 1.2 percent, reversing the trend of the previous five-year downturn. The forecast recovery depends on whether the government can improve the security situation in the capital.

Internally displaced people (IDP) along with over 120,000 Haitians relocating to the United States under its Humanitarian Parole Program, which grants temporary residency to Haitians and individuals from select countries, have reduced consumption levels to unprecedented lows.

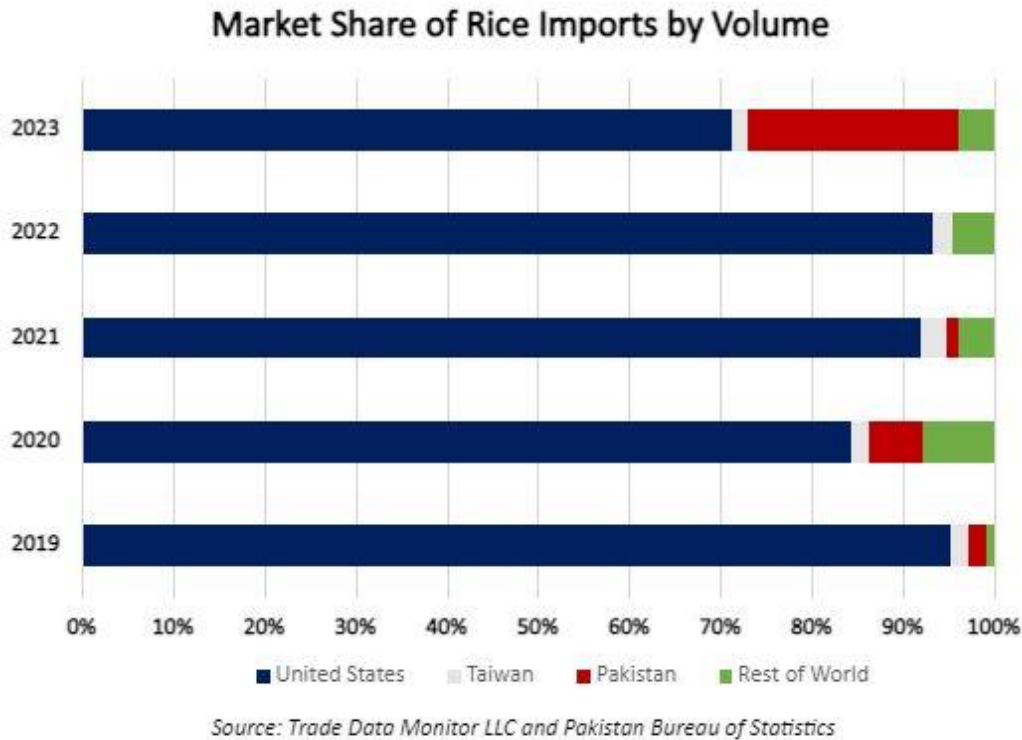
Haiti's population is expected to expand. IHSI projects the population will continue to grow on average of 1.3 percent through 2025. Haitians' preferences for long-grain, unbroken domestic rice remains unchanged. Long-grain rice remains one of a few relatively affordable staple foods, particularly for low-income households compared to other grain alternatives, such as bulgur wheat and cornmeal.

### **1.3 Trade**

The local rice market relies heavily on imported rice, predominantly sourced from the United States and largely for commercial use. For MY 2024/2025, rice imports are forecast slightly higher at 475,000 MT as importers adopt strategies to maintain trade flows. For MY 2023/2024, rice imports have been adjusted higher at 470,000 MT due to lower-than-expected production.

The International Port of Port-au-Prince (APN), Haiti's largest seaport, along with the privately-owned Varreux seaport, serves as the primary entry point for U.S. rice. In March 2024, port authorities advised vessel operators to postpone shipments to APN until security could be reliably ensured. As a result, some rice importers have redirected their shipments to the Port of Cap-Haïtien in the north, which has maintained uninterrupted operations. The Port of Cap-Haïtien, which is in Haiti's second largest city, has been able to successfully manage the additional cargo from APN. Importers who continue to use APN are reportedly ordering smaller rice quantities from the United States to facilitate quicker offloading. To distribute rice within the country, distributors are either using trucks for transportation or transferring bagged rice onto smaller boats bound for smaller ports in other departments.

Figure 4.



On September 13, 2023, a binational dispute between Haiti and the Dominican Republic prompted both countries to close their borders, leading to the suspension of all commercial trade. While the border has reopened on the DR side, it remains closed on the Haiti side. Nevertheless, trade has resumed. For MYs 2024/2025 and 2023/2024, the DR Grain and Feed report projects formal exports of approximately 10,000 MT of rice to Haiti over each MY. For MY 2023/2024, the report estimates informal DR exports to Haiti of approximately 70,000 MT. For further information on the border closure, visit Post’s report [Closure of Haiti Dominican Republic Border Impacts Food Security-Bilateral Trade and US Agricultural Exports](#). To the latest Grain and Feed analysis published by the FAS Post in the Dominican Republic, please visit 2024 [Grain and Feed Annual](#).

Pakistani rice is playing a larger role in the Haitian market. In calendar year 2023 (trade year 2022/2023), Haiti purchased approximately 20 percent (122,000 MT) of total rice imports from Pakistan, marking a notable shift from 2022 when Haiti recorded no rice imports from the South Asia country. Post sources have indicated that Pakistani rice, which is comparable in quality to U.S. rice, is more competitively priced and arrives pre-bagged, making it quicker and safer to unload. Post sources have confirmed that importers will continue to import from non-U.S. markets like Pakistan due to their competitive pricing and handling advantage.

As part of the USDA McGovern Dole School Feeding Program in Haiti, the project imported 700 MT in March 2024 and is scheduled to import roughly 600 MT in March 2025. The U.S. Agency for International Development by way of the WFP supports the government with emergency food aid, including rice, beans, and oil. By pre-positioning commodities in country, the development agency can

rapidly respond to sudden or acute crises. In 2024, WFP has requested approximately 5,200 MT of rice, which is expected to arrive during the second quarter of the calendar year. Sources indicate that WFP will order a similar quantity next year.

### 1.3 Price

**Table 1**

Prices of Staple Foods in Port-au-Prince (Gourde)			
Commodity	February 2024	February 2023	5-Year February Average (2019-2023)
Rice	700	600	325
Maize meal	500	450	225
Dry beans (black)	1,150	1,000	580

Source: FEWS/NET; currency exchange rate US\$1 = G132

Rice, black beans, and maize are essential food staples, particularly for low-and middle-income households in Haiti. In the March 2024 Monthly Price Bulletin from the Famine Early Warning Systems (FEWS) Network (NET), which monitors staple food prices in food insecure countries, a 6lb bag of imported rice in Port-au-Prince was priced at 700 Gourdes (US\$5.30) in February 2024. This represents a 17-percent increase (US\$4.55) compared to February 2023 and a 115-percent increase over the 5-year February average of approximately 352 Gourdes (US\$2.46).

Haiti applies a 3-percent tariff on rice, along with other fees totaling roughly 21 percent. The full implementation of the Dominican Republic - Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) in January 2025 has raised concerns among some Haitian rice importers. In this scenario, Dominican producers may consider exporting Dominican rice to Haiti, while, at the same time, fulfilling part of local rice demand from the United States. However, Dominican authorities have voiced opposition to fully liberalizing U.S. rice imports and are expected to limit the volume of rice, especially in the near term.

### 1.4 Stocks

In MY 2024/2025, rice stocks are projected lower at 21,000 MT compared to the previous outlook fueled by escalating food insecurity. For MY 2023/2024 rice stocks are estimated at 23,000 MT, equivalent to about half a month’s supply of national consumption. Stocks are mainly owned by farms or by private companies. The government lacks national statistics on stock levels.

### 1.5 Marketing

The Government of Haiti does not take an active role in the procurement or sale of locally—produced or imported rice. Neither does it negotiate with rice importers to reduce market prices or exempt taxes.

Locally produced rice is marketed through a network of sellers. The producers sell the milled rice in bags of 50 kilograms to women sellers – called Madam Sara – who transport the commodity to major

markets in cities to sell to retailers, supermarkets, and food depots. Small retailers in open-air markets sell rice to consumers in a 2.7-kilogram container called big marmite, a 0.49-kilogram container called small marmite or godet. Supermarkets and food depots sell rice in bags of 50, 25, and 12.5 kilograms (kg). However, consumers can buy rice in packaging of 2.27-kilogram from supermarkets.

Rice importers package rice in bags of 25 kilograms (kg) and 12.5 kg but no longer in 50 kg. They sell them to major markets in cities. The food depots sell those bags to retailers and supermarkets.



**Attachments:**

No Attachments