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## Thailand

### Grain and Feed

### Weekly Rice Price Update

**2009**

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**Report Highlights:**

Export prices were largely unchanged this week as the market remained quiet with very few enquiries on white rice. The National Rice Policy Committee set MY2008/09 second-crop intervention prices at 12,000 baht/ton and 11,800 baht/ton for 100% grade white rice paddy and 5% grade white rice paddy, respectively, the same intervention prices as for main-crop rice. Total intervention for the second crop is targeted at 2.5 million tons valued at 36 billion baht (\$1.0 billion).

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

**Indicative Prices (Week Ending Mar. 16):**

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	850	870	870	870	870	830	-	860	860
WR 100 B	610	635	630	623	620	590	610	617	619
PB 5%	-	-	650	-	635	605	600	623	628
WR 5%	585	605	600	605	595	560	590	591	591
WR 10%	550	-	-	-	-	553	-	552	554
WR 15%	510	-	-	-	-	525	-	518	520
WR 25%	480	-	-	-	-	465	-	473	475
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A 1 SUP	325	340	-	-	330	325	-	330	331
A 1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters, Exchange rate: 35.7 baht/U.S.\$									

**Market Tone**

Export prices remain largely unchanged as the market remained quiet with very few enquiries, particularly for white rice. Current Thai white rice prices reflect the government intervention program which set the intervention prices higher than market prices. The National Rice Policy Committee agreed to set the MY2008/09 second-crop intervention prices at 10,800 – 12,000 baht/ton of white rice paddy, unchanged from the MY 2008/09 main-crop intervention prices but approximately 20 percent higher than current market prices. The MY 2008/09 second-crop intervention program targeted 2.5 million tons of paddy (approximately one third of anticipated second-crop production) valued at 36 billion baht (\$1.0 billion), effective March 16- July 31, 2009. However, the credit line is revised down to 350,000 baht (\$9,804) per farmer, as compared to 500,000 baht (\$14,006) in the previous program.

As for, the recent tender of Japanese imports of rice under the WTO commitment last week, Thai rice is competitive as it is white rice from the government stock release last November, of which the prices were approximately 10 percent lower than current market prices. As a result, this deal did not pressure domestic Thai rice prices as Thai rice exporters who won the tender at reportedly \$570/MT have secured the rice supplies (from the government stocks) for the deliveries in April which is reportedly around 90,000 tons most of which are 100% grade white rice.

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)	%
Jan 11	87,324	-	91	220	-58.9
Jan 18	127,646	-	218	379	-42.2
Jan 25	141,973	90,060	360	557	-35.3
Feb 1	73,513	107,614	434	739	-41.3
Feb 8	116,472	114,901	550	915	-39.9
Feb 15	113,467	111,357	664	1,110	-40.2
Feb 22	122,972	106,606	787	1,293	-39.2
Mar 1	95,657	112,142	882	1,493	-40.9
Mar 8	100,463	108,140	983	1,680	-41.5
Mar 15	104,942	106,008	1,088	1,869	-41.8

*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 Mar. 9-15, 2009 totaled 104,942 tons, up 4,478 tons from the previous week, and down 1,067 tons from the four-week moving average of 106,008 tons. Exports during Jan. 1- Mar. 15 totaled 1,087,725 tons, as compared with 1,869,372 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1- Mar. 12, 2009, amounted to 1,588,256 tons, down 35.8 percent from 2,474,771 tons in the previous year.

### Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Feb. 23-27, Mar. 2-6, and Mar. 9-13, 2009 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Feb. 23-27	Mar. 2-6	Mar. 9-13
Weekly sales	160,691	84,054	169,579
4 week sum	560,121	561,203	556,412
4 week mov. avg.	140,030	140,301	139,103
Total weekly sales	1,102,345	1,186,399	1,355,978

End of Report.