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## Thailand

### Grain and Feed

### Weekly Rice Price Update

**2008**

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**Report Highlights:**

Export prices declined slightly due to the weakening Thai baht and limited new enquiries. Despite Vietnam's imminent return to the market, exporters anticipate Thai rice prices will rebound from increased demand from the Middle East in the coming months. The Vietnamese Government announced it will remove the rice export ban in July, but set minimum export prices higher than current market prices.

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

**Indicative Prices (Week Ending Jun. 23):**

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	1,010	-	-	-	920	980	-	957	990
WR 100 B	780	-	-	-	780	790	790	785	798
PB 5%	-	-	-	-	800	810	800	803	820
WR 5%	750	-	-	-	760	750	770	758	770
WR 10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 15%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 25%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A 1 SUP	540	-	-	-	650	-	550	587	580
A 1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters, Exchange rate: 33.4 baht/U.S.\$									

**Market Tone**

Despite ongoing domestic price fluctuations, export prices declined slightly as the Thai baht continued to weaken (33.4 baht/\$ as compared to 33.1 baht/\$ in the previous week). Despite the trend of declining prices, exporters anticipate increased inquiries from the Middle East will help prices rebound in the coming months. In the short-term however, new enquiries remain quiet as foreign buyers are waiting for Vietnamese rice to come available soon.

On June 18, the Vietnamese Government announced the export ban would be lifted in July, and set a minimum export price of \$800/MT, FOB for white rice, which is higher than current offered prices for Thai premium white rice (\$780-790/MT). However, Vietnam is reportedly expected to reach its export target of 4.0 - 4.5 million tons this year. In addition to announcing the removal of the rice export ban, the Vietnamese Government announced a Government-to-Government sale to the Philippines for 600,000 tons of white rice at \$940/MT, C&F.

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)	%
APR 27	169,952	147,135	2,915	1,608	81.3
MAY 4	135,461	137,116	3,050	1,685	81.0
MAY 11	137,226	132,063	3,188	1,795	77.6
MAY 18	187,581	157,555	3,375	1,902	77.4
MAY 25	174,175	158,611	3,549	2,026	75.2
JUN 1	209,946	177,232	3,759	2,134	76.1
JUN 8	192,204	190,977	3,952	2,248	75.8
JUN 15	180,467	189,198	4,132	2,385	73.3
JUN 22	159,050	132,930	4,291	2,494	72.05

*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 Jun. 16-22, 2008 totaled 159,051 tons, down 21,416 tons from the previous week, and up 26,120 tons from the four-week moving average of 132,930 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Jun. 22, 2008 totaled 4,291,089 tons, as compared with 2,494,150 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Jun. 19, 2008, amounted to 5,580,029 tons, up 48.4 percent from 3,801,514 tons in the previous year.

### Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Jun. 2-6, Jun. 9-13, and Jun 16-20 , 2008 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Jun. 2-6	Jun. 9-13	Jun 16-20
Weekly sales	213,934	176,525	180,143
4 week sum	746,938	735,612	707,828
4 week mov. avg.	186,735	183,903	176,957
Total weekly sales	4,202,579	4,379,104	4,559,247

End of report.