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## Thailand

### Grain and Feed

### Weekly Rice Price Update

### 2004

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**Report Highlights:**

Export prices increased slightly in response to the upward revision of the Government's intervention prices.

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

**Indicative Prices (Week Ending Aug. 30):**

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	392	370	446	423	415	380	390	402	404
WR 100 B	244	245	248	244	242	245	240	244	243
PB 5%	256	250	252	265	265	267	240	256	253
WR 5%	239	240	242	240	240	240	236	240	238
WR 10%	237	235	237	237	238	238	232	236	235
WR 15%	235	232	232	234	237	236	228	233	232
WR 25%	230	229	231	230	230	228	224	229	228
WR 35%	226	227	230	225	226	226	220	226	225
A 1 SUP	214	212	221	210	212	213	207	213	212
A 1 SPEC	213	211	220	208	210	-	206	211	211
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

**Market Tone**

Despite the seasonal slowdown in new order demand, export prices increased slightly in response to strengthening domestic prices, following the government's upward revision of the intervention price for the upcoming major crop's mortgage scheme (Nov. 1, 2004 – Feb 28, 2005) by another 300-700 Baht/ton (roughly U.S.\$ 7-17/ton) on top of its recent announcement which was set at around 1,000 baht/ton (roughly U.S.\$ 25/ton) higher than the previous year's intervention prices. As a result, 100% grade white rice paddy prices will be 6,600 – 7,000 baht/ton (roughly U.S.\$ 159-169/ton), as compared to 5,330 baht/ton (roughly U.S.\$ 128/ton) in the previous year. Also, domestic demand for white rice paddy remained strong, as parboiled rice exporters continued to secure supply to cover the pending shipments to African countries, leading to a surge in current parboiled rice export prices.

As for the start of rice future trade on the Agricultural Futures Exchange of Thailand last week (Aug. 26), trade sources expected thin trade volume as long as the price risk is explicitly hedged through the government's intervention prices. Also, the anticipated marginal price fluctuation does not seem to attract speculators, who are believed to be a key of the future market success.

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

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
JUL 11	161,618	183,459	3,836	2,287
JUL 18	178,271	182,648	4,014	2,413
JUL 25	197,424	187,060	4,212	2,524
AUG 1	188,845	181,539	4,400	2,658
AUG 8	146,493	177,758	4,547	2,799
AUG 15	125,322	164,521	4,672	2,912
AUG 22	126,229	146,722	4,798	3,052
AUG 29	159,721	139,441	4,958	3,180

*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 Aug. 23-29, 2004 totaled 159,721 tons, up 33,491 tons from the previous week's total and up 20,279 tons from the four-week moving average of 139,441 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Aug. 29, 2004 totaled 4,958,121 tons, compared with 3,179,660 tons during the same period in 2003.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1- Aug. 16, 2004, amounted to 5,975,107 tons, up 40 percent from 4,276,051 tons in the previous year.

### Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Aug. 9-13, Aug. 16-20, and Aug. 23 -27, 2004 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Aug. 9-13	Aug. 16-20	Aug. 23-27
weekly sales	96,714	126,588	158,002
4 week sum	499,558	422,199	407,149
4 week mov. avg.	124,890	105,550	101,787
Total weekly sales	5,339,047	5,465,635	5,623,637

End of Report.