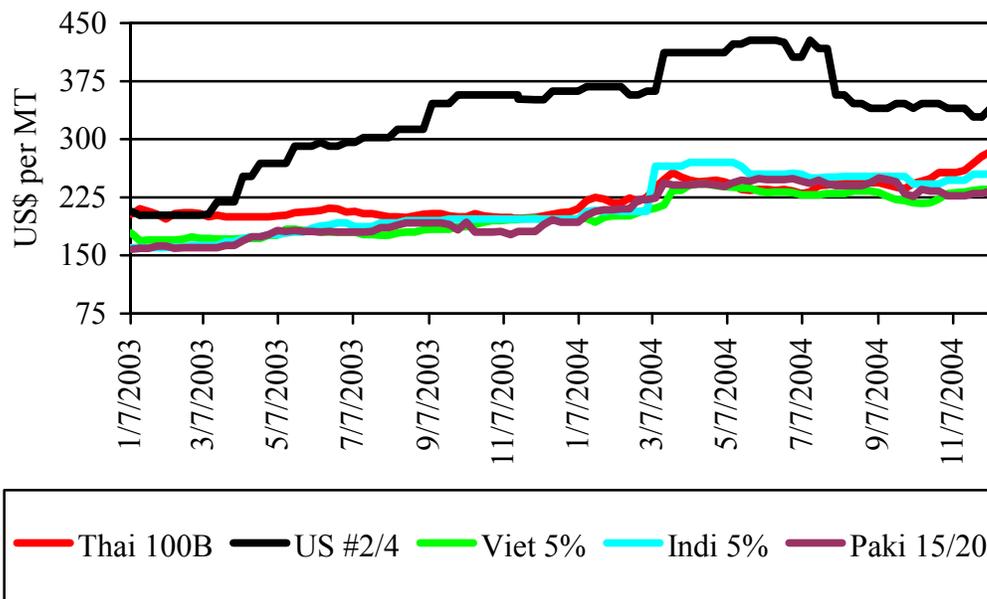

RICE: WORLD MARKETS AND TRADE

PRICES:

International: Asian prices continue to trend up. Thai 100B accelerated \$27 over the last month largely as a result of the government intervention program, which introduced a new round of purchases November 1 at a higher purchase price. Thai prices are also up on the strengthening of the Thai baht and reduced crop prospects due to dry weather in the Northeast. Quotes are currently at \$284 per ton, FOB. Viet 5% prices also edged higher by \$4, to \$235 per ton, FOB. However, Vietnam has relatively tight exportable supplies until the winter-spring crop is harvested in February. Meanwhile, Indian 5% quotes are up \$8 to \$255 per ton. India remains relatively withdrawn from the white rice market.

International Rice Price Quotes



Domestic: U.S. prices continue to trend down thereby narrowing the spread between U.S. and Asian prices. U.S. #2/4 long grain milled rice is currently quoted at \$329 per ton, FOB, down \$6 from last month. The spread between similar qualities of U.S. and Thai prices has shrunk to \$45 per ton. However, with Viet prices slow to increase, the spread between similar qualities of U.S. and Vietnam continues to be close to \$100 per ton. Prices for U.S. #1/4 medium grain milled rice from California are quoted at \$300 per ton, FOB, down \$25 from last month.

TRADE CHANGES IN 2005

Selected Exporters

- **Australia** is cut 50,000 tons to 250,000 as exports are unlikely to rebound from the previous year due to tight supplies.
- **Vietnam** is up 150,000 tons to 3.9 million due to increased price competitiveness.

TRADE CHANGES IN 2004

Selected Exporters

- **Australia** is down 50,000 tons to 225,000 based on a lackluster pace largely due to a slow recovery from drought.
- **Thailand** is raised 200,000 tons to 10.0 million based on export pace to date, particularly to the Middle East and Africa.
- **Vietnam** is raised 200,000 tons to 4.2 million based on an exceptional pace to date.

Selected Importers

- **Angola, Ghana, Guinea, and Mozambique** are raised based on expanded shipments.
- **Indonesia** is reduced 100,000 tons to 700,000 as the government-imposed import ban continues to limit imports, including smuggling, in an effort to support higher producer prices.
- **Kenya** is boosted 75,000 to 250,000 tons as a result of increased shipments from Pakistan and Vietnam.
- **Malaysia** is up 75,000 tons to a record 800,000 tons as the government seeks to rebuild stocks.
- **Senegal** is raised 50,000 to 800,000 due to increased import demand.