

# Average U.S. Rice Yield Record Highest



**ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE**

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The 2012/13 U.S. rice production forecast is lowered 0.3 million cwt to 198.5 million cwt, still 7 percent larger than a year earlier. This month's downward revision was the result of a slightly lower yield forecast. The average field yield was decreased 11 pounds per acre to 7,417 pounds.

The long-grain rice production forecast is lowered 0.2 million cwt to 139.8 cwt, 20 percent larger than a year earlier. The combined medium- and short-grain production forecast is lowered 0.1 million cwt to 58.7 million cwt, more than 14 percent below the year-earlier near-record.

California and Louisiana account for all of this month's downward revision in average yield. California's yield was lowered 150 pounds per acre to 8,300 pounds, 45 pounds below a year earlier. Louisiana's 2012/13 yield forecast was reduced 100 pounds per acre to 6,500 pounds, still 3 percent higher than a year earlier and the highest on record.

In contrast, average yield forecast were raised this month for Arkansas, Missouri, and Texas. Missouri's yield was raised 200 pounds per acre to a record 6,900 pounds, 6 percent higher than a year earlier. The average Texas yield was raised 50 pounds per acre to a record 8,150 pound, 13 percent above a year earlier. In Arkansas, the average yield was raised 40 pounds per acre to a record 7,340 pounds, almost 9 percent above last year. The average Mississippi field yield remains forecast at 7,100 pounds per acre, up 4 percent from a year earlier.

Harvested area is estimated lower in all reported States in 2012/13 except Arkansas and Missouri, with Texas reporting the largest decline. At 134,000 acres, harvested area in Texas is 26 percent below a year earlier. At 123,000 acres, Mississippi's harvested area is 22 percent below a year earlier and the lowest since 1977/78.

California's 2012/13 harvested area is estimated at 563,000 acres, down 3 percent from last year. Louisiana's rice harvested area declined 4 percent from 2011/12 to 400,000 acres, the smallest since 2007/08.

Arkansas and Missouri account for all of the expected increase in U.S. rice production in 2012/13. At 94.0 million cwt, rice production in Arkansas is up almost 20 percent from a year earlier, a result of both expanded area and a higher yield.

By November 4, the entire southern crop was harvested. Crops were harvested 1-2 weeks ahead of normal across the South, a result of early planting. In contrast, 76 percent of the California crop was harvested by November 4, behind the 5-year average of 89 percent.

## **Total U.S. Rice Supplies Projected To Be Up 3 Percent in 2012/13**

The total supply forecast for 2012/13 was raised fractionally this month to 260.1 million cwt, almost 3 percent larger than a year earlier. A higher import forecast more than offset a slightly weaker crop projection.

The 2012/13 all rice carryin remains estimated 41.1 million cwt, 15 percent below a year earlier.

Total rice imports for 2012/13 are projected

at 20.5 million cwt, up 1.0 million cwt from last month's forecast and 6 percent above a year earlier. These are the largest imports since 2007/08.

Long-grain imports are projected at a record 18.0 million cwt, up 1.0 million cwt from last month's forecast and 6 percent higher than a year-earlier. Medium- and short-grain imports remain projected at 2.5 million cwt for 2012/13, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

## **U.S. 2012/13 Export Forecast**

### **Raised 3.0 Million Cwt to 103.0 Million Cwt**

Total use of U.S. rice in 2012/13 is projected at 230.0 million cwt, up 3.0 million cwt from last month's forecast and nearly 9 percent above a year earlier. By class, long-grain total use is projected at 167.0 million cwt, up 4.0 million cwt from last month's forecast and 15 percent above a year earlier. Medium- and short-grain total use is projected at 63.0 million cwt, down 1.0 million cwt from last month's forecast and 6 percent below a year earlier. The year-to-year decline medium- and short-grain total use is based on tighter supplies and higher prices.

Total domestic and residual use of all-rice in 2012/13 remains projected at 127.0 million cwt, 15 percent higher than a year earlier. For long-grain, 2012/13 domestic and residual use remains projected at 95.0 million cwt, 22 percent larger than a year earlier. Medium- and short-grain domestic and residual use remains projected at 32.0 million cwt, down 1 percent from a year earlier.

Total exports of U.S. rice in 2012/13 are projected at 103.0 million cwt, up 3.0 million cwt from last month's forecast and more than 1 percent above a year earlier.

By type, U.S. rough-rice exports remain projected at 33.0 million cwt, up 1 percent from a year earlier. Latin America is expected to remain the largest market for U.S. rough-rice exports, with Mexico the biggest buyer. Milled rice exports (combined milled- and brown-rice exports converted to a rough-basis) are projected at 70.0 million cwt, an increase of 3.0 million cwt from last month's forecast and nearly 2 percent above a year earlier.

By class, long-grain exports are projected at 72.0 million cwt, 4.0 million cwt above last month's forecast 8 percent above a year earlier. Medium- and short-grain exports are projected at 31.0 million cwt, 1.0 million cwt below last month's forecast and 11 percent below the year-earlier near-record.

U.S. ending stocks of all-rice in 2012/13 are projected at 30.1 million cwt, down 2.3 million cwt from last month's forecast and 27 percent below a year earlier. The stocks- to-use ratio is calculated at 13.1 percent, down from 19.4 percent in 2011/12.

## **U.S. 2012/13 Season-Average Price Forecast**

### **Raised for Long-Grain Rice**

The 2012/13 season-average farm price (SAFP) for U.S. long-grain rice was raised 50 cents per cwt on both the high and low ends this month to \$13.70-\$14.70 per cwt, compared with \$13.40 per cwt a year earlier. The combined medium- and short-grain 2012/13 U.S. SAFP remains forecast at \$16.50-\$17.50 per cwt, compared with \$16.50 a year earlier.

In late October, NASS reported a mid-October U.S. long-grain rough-rice price of \$14.10 per cwt, up 30 cents from the revised September estimate. The September price was lowered 30 cents from the mid-month estimate to \$13.80. For combined medium- and short-grain rice, the mid-October NASS price was reported at \$17.90 per cwt, up 50 cents from the revised September price. The September price was raised 50 cents from the mid-month estimate to \$17.40. Δ



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