

WORLD RICE PRICES STILL ON A DOWNWARD TREND

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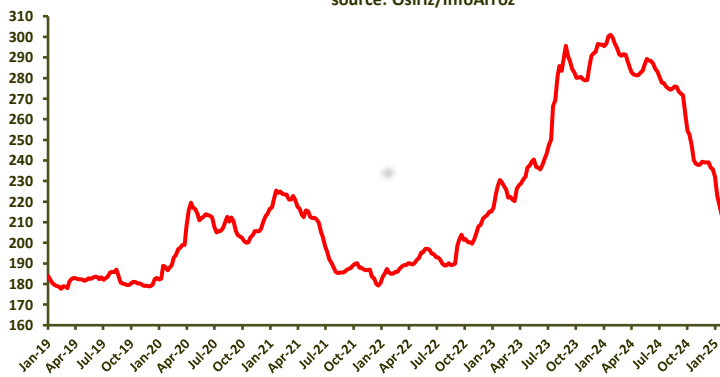
Market trends

In January, **world rice prices** fell sharply by 7%. This is the sharpest monthly decline since July 2021, when exporters cut their prices in reaction to soaring sea freight costs and abundant export offers. At the beginning of 2025, the world market is also showing abundant export supply, while import demand is weak. Importers are expecting further price declines and look forward to more stable world prices. The import market is expected to recover with the return of the main importers, such as the Philippines and West African countries, but not for several weeks. Meanwhile, Indonesia, whose import demand reached record levels in 2024, import requirements are expected to fall sharply in 2025. On the supply side, Indian exports are expected to pick up sharply, up 30% from 2024, and approaching their historical record of 22 Mt in 2022. Thailand and Vietnam would be the big losers in this reshaping of the export market, with external sales down by 15-20%, after a prosperous year in 2024 thanks to India's restrictive export measures. In this context, world rice prices are likely to remain low for much of the year, with some periods of price stability or even recoveries, depending on the evolution of import demand. Thus, world trade is expected to grow only slightly by 1.2% in 2025, compared to 10% in 2024.

In January, the OSIRIZ/InterRice Index (IPO) dropped by 15.6 points to 222.3 points (base 100 = January 2000) against 237.9 points in December. In early February, the IPO index fell further to 208 points, the lowest level since November 2021.

OSIRIZ/InfoArroz International price Index (IPO)

base 100 = january 2000
source: Osiriz/InfoArroz



World production

According to FAO estimates, **global rice production** in 2024 is expected to have increased by 0.9% to 812.4 Mt (539.4 Mt milled basis) up from 805.5 Mt in 2023. This improvement reflects higher harvests in Asia, particularly in India, and to a lesser extent in China, where yields were lower than expected. As a result, India has become the world's largest rice producer, surpassing China. In Africa, production has barely increased, while North America has continued to grow after the strong 30% recovery observed in 2023. In the Mercosur region, production is also expected to improve.

World trade and global stocks

World rice trade in 2024 is estimated to increase significantly by 10%, reaching a historic level of 58.4 Mt against 53.0 Mt in 2023. This rise is mainly due to increased demand from the Philippines and Indonesia. However, demand from sub-Saharan Africa, the world's largest importing region, is believed to have declined due to high global prices, particularly during the first half of the year, following India's withdrawal from the export market. Nevertheless, India's absence was limited, as it only concerned non-Basmati white rice, and exemptions were granted to countries whose food security heavily depended on Indian supplies, particularly African nations. On the other hand, China reduced significantly its imports in 2024, drawing from its abundant stocks to meet domestic needs. As India's return to the export market and the drop in global prices, rice trade was particularly strong in the last quarter of 2024. The outlook for 2025 confirms this recovery, but given the decline in demand from some major importing countries, especially Indonesia. Global trade is expected to grow by only 1%. However, it would still reach a historic level of 59 Mt, representing, for the first time, 11% of global rice production.

World rice stocks ending in 2024 are estimated to increase by 2.6%, nearly surpassing the 200 Mt level for the first time. They could continue to rise in 2025 to 204 Mt. The decline in Chinese stocks—though still abundant, accounting for 70% of annual domestic consumption and 50% of global stocks—was largely offset by the increase in Indian stocks, mainly due to export restrictions. The stocks of the major exporting countries rose to 65 Mt in 2024, an increase compared to 2023 and representing 33.5% of global stocks.

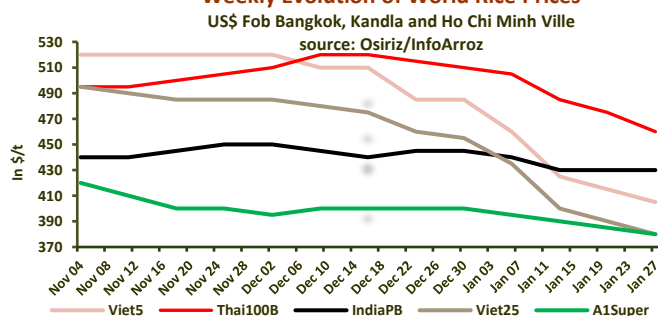
This monthly report is made by Patricio Méndez del Villar, researcher at the Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement - CIRAD in France (www.cirad.fr). The contents are available in four languages: French (Osiriz), Spanish (InfoArroz), English (InterRice) and Portuguese (InterArroz). All rights reserved. Osiriz, InfoArroz, InterRice and InterArroz are registered marks. Any reproduction, even partial, is not allowed without prior written consent of the author. The full report can be downloaded only from the website www.infoarroz.org.

OSIRIZ Index (IPO 100 = January 2000) & Export Rice Prices (US\$/t FOB – source: OSIRIZ)

	IPO	Usa 2/4	Thai100B	Thai Parb	Ind Parb	Viet5	Camb5	Burma5	Uru5	Thai25	Viet25	Pak25	A1Super
2023	252.5	734	552	541	470	547	548	565	654	504	529	485	450
2024*	274.1	779	586	576	518	572	671	568	776	525	544	515	452
JULY-SEPTEMBER	275.3	781	581	574	533	568	521	545	803	521	536	519	449
OCTOBER-DECEMBER	291.5	764	510	507	452	518	462	502	748	462	487	429	413
DECEMBER	237.9	746	515	508	445	502	630	498	713	454	471	425	399
JANUARY	222.3	744	481	479	433	426	630	479	685	433	401	414	388
06-jan-25	232.0	750	505	500	440	460	630	490	685	450	435	420	395
13-jan-25	222.8	750	485	480	430	425	630	485	685	435	400	420	390
20-jan-25	218.9	745	475	475	430	415	630	480	685	425	390	415	385
27-jan-25	214.1	730	460	460	430	405	630	460	685	420	380	400	380

source: Osiriz/InfoArroz; *January-December

In **India**, rice prices declined by 3% and remain competitive despite competition from Pakistan, whose prices are currently the lowest in the market. With the lifting of restrictions on white rice exports at the end of September 2024, demand surged, and Indian rice sales were particularly strong. Monthly sales doubled in the last quarter of the year, averaging 2 Mt per month compared to 1 Mt/month between June and September. In total, Indian exports reached 17 Mt in 2024, the same volume as in 2023. In 2025, exports are expected to jump to 22 Mt, driven by abundant supplies accumulated during the restrictive period and increased production in 2024/2025. In January, white rice and parboiled prices were between \$ 435 and \$ 433/t FOB, against \$ 450 and \$ 445 in December. In early February, Indian prices continued to weaken, ranging between \$ 400 and \$ 415, the lowest level since January 2023.

Weekly Evolution of World Rice Prices


In **Thailand**, prices dropped significantly by 7-8%. Since the announcement of India's export resumption, Thai prices have fallen by over \$ 100/t, reaching their lowest level since December 2022. Like other Asian competitors, Thailand is feeling the full impact of India's return to the market, marking the end of a prosperous period during which Thai exports grew by 25% to 10 Mt in 2024. In 2025, Thai exports could fall significantly to 7.5 Mt, due to Indian competition and declining import demand, particularly from Indonesia. In January, Thai 100%B rice averaged \$ 481, down from \$ 515 in December. Thai parboiled rice traded at \$ 479, from \$ 508 previously. Broken rice A1 Super dropped 3% to \$ 388, from \$ 399. By early February, Thai prices were still weakening due to persistently low external demand.

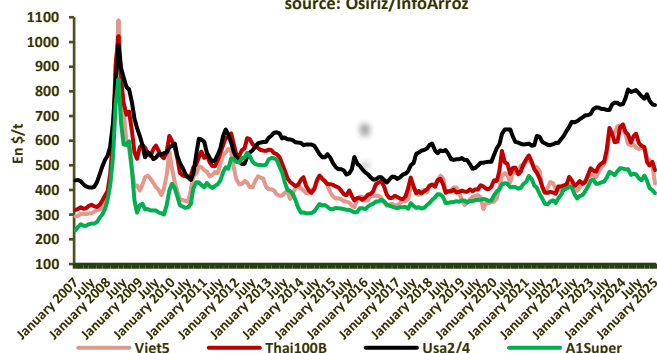
In **Vietnam**, export prices weakened significantly by 15% in just one month, the sharpest monthly drop since July 2021. Vietnam is also suffering from the slowdown in external demand, particularly from its two main clients, the Philippines and Indonesia, which together accounted for 60% of Vietnamese exports in 2024. This marks the end of Vietnam's "golden year", during which it exported over 9 Mt for the first time. 2025 is expected to be a challenging year, with exports possibly declining to 7.5 Mt, a 17% drop. In January, Viet 5% rice traded at \$ 426, down from \$ 502, while Viet 25% fell to \$ 401, against \$ 471. By early February, prices continued to decline under Thai competition and weak global demand.

In **Pakistan**, rice prices fell by 2-3%, making them the most competitive in the market, below Indian prices. However, Pakistan is also facing a cyclical slowdown in global demand. Like Thailand and Vietnam, Pakistan benefited from India's export restrictions and is believed to have exceeded the historic threshold of 6.5 Mt, up from 4.5 Mt in 2023. In January, Pak 5% averaged \$ 445, down from \$ 455 in December. By early February, Pak 5% had dropped further to \$ 410.

Monthly Evolution of World Rice Prices

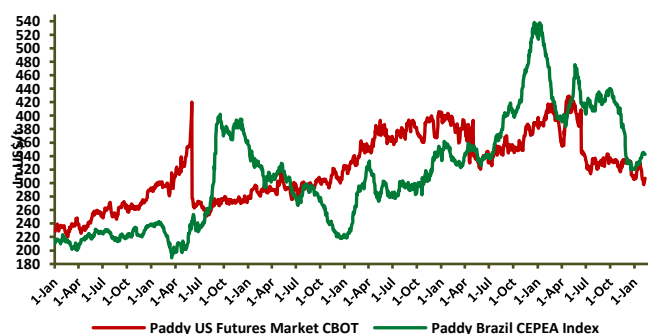
US\$ Fob Bangkok, Houston and Ho Chi Minh Ville

source: Osiriz/InfoArroz



In **China**, production increased by just 0.5% to 207.5 Mt (milled basis). This modest growth is attributed to floods affecting parts of the country. With domestic stocks expected to decline—though they remain significant, covering 70% of annual domestic consumption and 50% of global stocks—China is expected to increase its rice imports, stimulated by the fall in global prices. In 2025, Chinese rice imports could reach 2 Mt, up from 1.4 Mt in 2024.

In the **United States**, rice prices fell by 1% in a rather quiet external market. In January, exports were estimated at 230,000 t, against 240,000 t in December. In 2024, U.S. exports rose significantly by 33% to 3.2 Mt and are expected to remain high in 2025. Early in the year, Mexico emerged as the top buyer of U.S. rice, followed by Haiti and Japan. In January, the indicative price for Long Grain 2/4 rice marked \$ 744/t, against \$ 746 in December. By early February, prices had weakened further to \$ 715. On the Chicago Board of Trade, rough rice future prices declined 2% to \$ 317/t, down from \$ 324 in December. By early February, futures fell another 5% to \$ 302.

Daily price of paddy United States and Brazil


In **Mercosur**, export prices dropped by 4-5% in a slow market. Export activity is expected to pick up with the arrival of new crops in the coming weeks. The Brazilian paddy rice indicative price rose slightly by 1.3% to \$ 331/t, up from \$ 327 in December. By early February, prices were strengthening further to \$ 344, supported by a stronger Brazilian real against the U.S. dollar.

In **sub-Saharan Africa**, regional supply continues to improve with the arrival of new harvests in a relatively active market with stable prices. In 2025, local market supply is expected to be satisfactory, but import demand is likely to increase, mainly driven by lower global prices. For now, African importers are waiting for more stable global prices before placing new orders.

	Rice (millions of tons)									
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Paddy rice								(e)	(p)	
World Production	748.3	752.6	764.3	758.1	780.0	792.5	791.7	805.5	812.4	
China	211.1	212.7	212.2	210.0	211.9	212.8	208.5	206.6	207.4	
India	163.7	168.5	172.6	178.3	184.5	194.2	203.6	202.9	209.7	
Indonesia	54.0	55.3	59.2	67.7	54.6	54.4	54.0	52.5	52.5	
Bangladesh	50.4	54.2	54.5	55.2	55.9	56.8	57.8	60.6	60.2	
Vietnam	42.8	42.8	44.0	43.4	42.7	43.9	42.7	43.5	43.2	
Thailand	32.4	33.7	32.7	28.3	30.3	33.0	33.9	33.0	33.4	
Burma	28.6	29.5	30.4	25.3	25.1	24.9	24.7	28.7	27.2	
Brazil	10.6	12.3	12.1	10.5	11.2	11.8	10.8	10.0	10.6	
Japan	10.7	10.8	10.6	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.4	10.2	10.2	
Milled rice										
World Exports	41.3	48.3	48.5	44.4	45.8	51.9	56.3	53.0	58.4	
India	10.1	12.5	11.6	9.8	14.5	21.4	22.5	17.9	17.0	
Thailand	9.9	11.6	11.1	7.6	5.7	6.1	7.7	8.8	10.0	
Vietnam	5.8	5.9	6.6	7.0	6.2	6.5	7.2	8.3	9.1	
Pakistan	4.0	3.7	3.9	4.5	4.0	3.9	4.6	4.5	6.5	
China	0.5	1.2	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.1	
United States	3.5	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.3	2.4	3.2	
Burma	2.8	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.2	1.8	2.2	1.8	2.3	
Brazil	0.6	0.6	1.2	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.0	
Others	4.1	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.5	6.1	6.4	6.0	7.7	
World Imports	41.3	48.3	48.5	44.4	45.8	51.9	56.3	53.0	58.4	
China	6.3	5.9	4.5	3.8	3.6	5.1	6.6	2.7	2.0	
Nigeria	2.2	2.7	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.2	
Philippines	0.8	1.2	2.5	2.8	2.5	3.0	3.9	3.7	3.8	
European Union	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.5	2.3	2.4	
Cote d'Ivoire	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.8	
Iran	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.0	0.9	1.3	0.8	1.2	
Saudi Arabia	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	
Senegal	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.9	1.4	1.4	
Indonesia	1.3	0.3	2.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	3.5	3.0	
Brazil	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	
Japan	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	
Fed. Russia	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	
Eastern Asia	13.4	16.4	17.1	12.8	12.4	16.2	18.3	17.3	16.8	
Africa	14.3	17.1	16.7	16.0	16.2	17.6	18.7	16.9	16.2	
Near & Middle East	7.3	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	
Latin America	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.9	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.8	
Developed countries	3.9	4.2	4.3	5.0	5.7	5.2	6.3	6.2	6.1	
Stocks ending	173.6	173.9	176.0	187.2	187.6	193.8	194.5	193.9	200.0	
China	98.0	99.0	103.3	105.9	103.9	102.8	100.6	100.1	100.0	
India	18.1	19.5	21.7	28.8	32.7	35.6	41.4	43.2	46.8	
Pakistan	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	1.1	1.0	0.4	0.4	
Thailand	10.7	8.2	5.6	5.4	6.0	8.0	9.9	10.1	9.2	
Vietnam	2.8	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.4	3.1	4.2	3.8	3.5	
United States	1.5	1.5	0.9	1.4	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.3	

Sources: FAO & USDA, 2024