



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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to resume in July 2026, although volumes may be limited to around 200,000 tons. In contrast, Indian rice prices edged higher as exporters raised offers following the appreciation of the rupee, while strong demand from African markets continued due to India's competitive pricing. Government rice stocks also reached a record high at the start of June. Thailand's rice prices increased on steady demand from Malaysia and the Philippines. Traders expect prices to rise further amid concerns that El Niño could reduce production later this year as farmers begin planting for the new crop.

Source: Business Recorder. (2026, June 19). *Vietnam rice export prices fall as Philippines pauses imports.*

Philippines

Quezon City expands rice aid programme, benefiting over 210,000 Families

Around 1,200 beneficiaries in Barangay Doña Imelda, Quezon City, each beneficiary received 10 kilograms of rice under the "Mula sa Puso Para sa Pamilya" initiative, led by First Lady Louise Araneta-Marcos. The program aims to help families meet their daily food needs while easing the burden of the cost of living. Funded by 462.9 million PHP (7.55 million USD) from the Office of the President through the Local Government Support Fund, the initiative also supports local farmers by sourcing rice directly from farmer cooperatives under the Sagip Saka Act. A total of 210,455 families, or about 25 percent of Quezon City's households, are expected to benefit, with two more distribution rounds scheduled in the coming months.

*1 USD = 61.34 PHP

Source: Philippines News Agency. (2026, June 22). *1.2K QC families get rice under First Lady's initiative.*

Viet Nam

Vietnam rice prices fall as Philippine imports pause; India and Thailand see gains

Vietnam's rice export prices declined this week as the Philippines, its largest buyer, temporarily suspended imports in June, weakening demand. Traders expect purchases

Japan

Japan rice prices decline for the first time in 3.5 years

Rice prices in Japan fell 5.4 percent year-on-year in May 2026, marking the first annual decline since November 2022 after more than three years of sharp increases. Poor harvests drove the price surge in 2024 and 2025 due to extreme heat, panic buying after a 2024 "megaquake" warning, hoarding by traders, rising domestic demand for rice amid higher imported food prices, and increased consumption due to record tourism. Long-term structural issues, such as shrinking rice-growing areas and an aging farming population, also contributed to supply constraints. The government has taken various measures in the past to bring prices down, including releasing emergency stockpiles of grain. Although the price declined, it remains significantly more expensive than it was a few years ago, and urged the government to address the underlying causes to prevent future price surges.

Source: Japan Today. (2026, June 20). *Japan rice prices fall for first time in 3 1/2 years.*

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