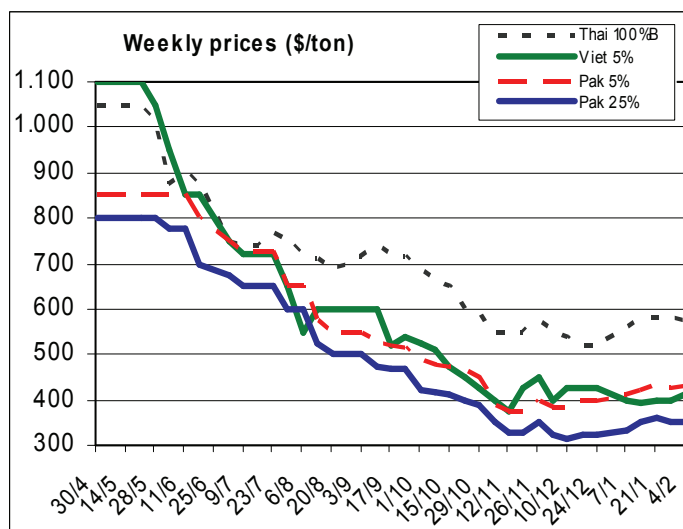


# International Markets

## Milled rice international FOB quotes

Exchange rate 1 € = \$1,2849

Asian Markets	\$/t	€/t
Thai 100%B	575	448
Vietnam 5%	410	319
India (MEP)	1.000	778
India Basmati trad.	1.900	1.479
Pakistan 5%	430	335
Others Markets	\$/t	€/t
Uruguay 5%	520	405
Argentina 5%	510	397
USA LG 2/4%	573	446
California MG 1/4%	1.150	895
Egypt 101	N.Q.	N.Q.



- Thailand** The quote of 100% B is \$5 lower than two weeks ago, however, there is no real trading as Viet price is \$165 per mt lower. There is some trading out of the new crop on parboil, fragrant, fragrant brokens and white brokens.
- Vietnam** The market is a bit firmer, as the government has announced an increase in the MEP for 5%. This firmness could be short lived with the arrival of the Viet new crop (Feb/Mar) and if India drops their ban, add to that competition from Burma and Pakistan.
- India** The market remains relatively quiet as the export ban remains officially in tact.
- Pakistan** The loss to the crop is real, but hard to put an exact number on it. On the high side it is reported to be as much as 1 MMT versus more conservative estimates in the final analysis of about half that much.
- Usa Gulf** Prices continue to go down (-\$11 for LG 2/4%) as mills desperate for export business discount offers in a effort to attract buyers.
- California** Unchanged the price of Californian medium grain milled rice.
- Others** The **Egyptian government** have reiterated their intention not to lift the ban before it naturally expires on 1st April 2009. They also indicated that they were considering imposing quotas to restrict the volume of exports and continue to protect domestic supply. In 2008, **Turkey** imported 235,000 MTS of rice. Last year, the Turkish government authorised the Turkish Grains Board to import up to 100,000 MTS of duty-free rice by September 2009.

## Food Safety

### Rapid Alert System (Source: EFSA)

On 21<sup>th</sup> January a notification was sent on by Italy concerning melamine in rice chilli crackers from China.

## Rules and Calls for bids

### Council Regulation (O.J.E.U. L 30/09)

The European Commission has published:

- the Council Regulation (EC) No 72/2009 on modifications to the Common Agricultural Policy by amending Regulation (EC) No 1234/07.
- the Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 establishing common rules for direct support schemes for farmers under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers, repealing Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003.

## Other news

### Rice exporters look to better year (Fonte: VietNamNet Bridge)

Rice farmers can expect a lucrative 2009 after trade officials forecast the world's rice demand would increase 1 per cent from last year. Global demand for rice will be higher than usual this year as people in developing countries substitute rice for more expensive foods such as meat, fruit and vegetables. The Viet Nam Food Association (Vietfood) also predicted that rice exports would grow - but only during the second half of this year.

### Outlook good for U.S. rice to Cuba (Fonte: Delta Farm Press)

The Obama administration could restore full trade with Cuba, the president of the USA Rice Federation said. Free trade agreements are also pending for Colombia, Panama and Korea.

### Lamy: "Ministers continue to attach highest priority to the round's conclusion" (Fonte: WTO)

Director-General Pascal Lamy, in his report to the General Council on 3 February 2009, said that at an informal gathering hosted by Swiss Minister Doris Leuthard last week on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos trade ministers "recognized the major progress made in 2008...provides a sound basis for an early resolution of the remaining differences". He said he looked forward to the G20 meeting in April "to provide further impetus to our work"