

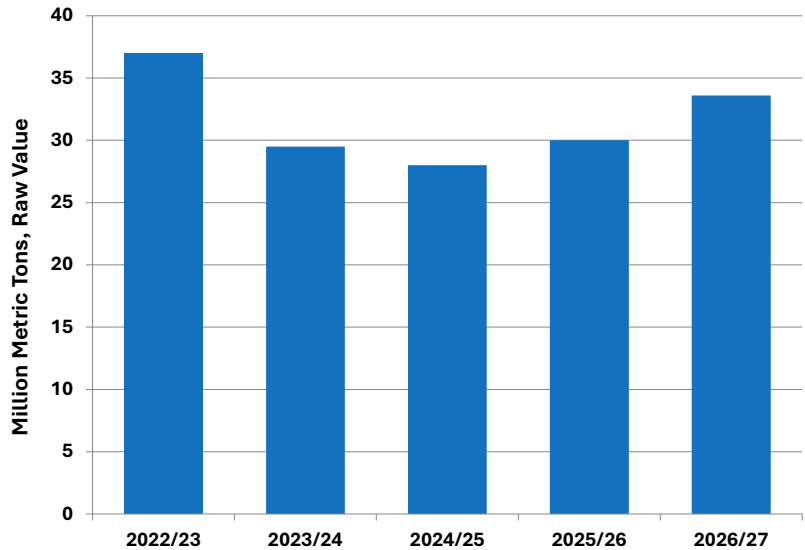


May 2026

Sugar: World Markets and Trade

India is the world's second-largest sugar producer behind Brazil and output in 2026/27 is forecast to recover 3.6 million metric tons (raw value) to 33.6 million. Consecutive monsoons restored groundwater reserves, leading to improved yields and increased area. Area planted and harvested are forecast at nearly 6.0 million hectares, a 2 percent increase from the previous year. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka are the leading sugarcane producing states, accounting for nearly 60 percent of total sugar production.

India Production Continues Recovery



India's sugar industry is highly regulated through a variety of laws and policies designed to balance the interests of growers, sugar mills, and consumers that prioritizes domestic stability over global market trends.

Growers are shielded from market volatility by the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) mechanism, which establishes a guaranteed federal minimum price paid to growers each year, though several states establish higher prices. The FRP is legally-binding and sugar mills must pay growers within 2 weeks of delivery.

Sugar mills cannot sell below an established government price, which allows mills to cover costs and pay the FRP to growers. The government also regulates the quantity of sugar each mill can sell in the domestic market to prevent oversupply. Each sugar mill is assigned a specific area from which it must purchase all available sugarcane, and farmers in that area must sell to that mill. Because sugarcane loses its sugar content rapidly after being harvested, designating mills based on proximity to growers prevents unnecessary loss.

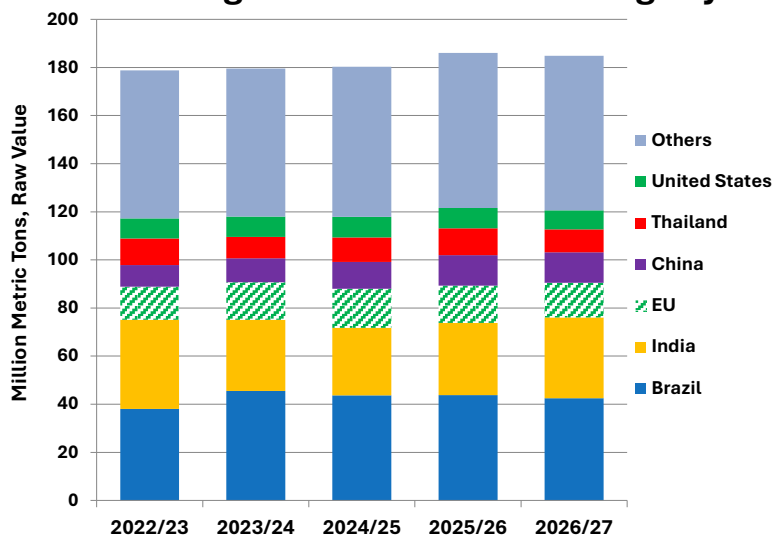
Steep import tariffs are implemented when the government determines that domestic supplies are sufficient to satisfy consumption to protect growers and mills from foreign supplies priced below domestic supplies. Imports in 2026/27 are forecast down 200,000 tons to 2.4 million, with raw sugar from Brazil accounting for the vast majority.

Export quotas are adjusted to ensure adequate supplies for consumers. The government provides highly subsidized sugar to the poorest households to ensure affordability for vulnerable populations. Exports are forecast up 100,000 tons to 3.6 million on increased production, with top destinations including Sudan, Libya, and Somalia.

2026/27 Sugar Overview

Global sugar production is forecast down 1.2 million tons to 184.9 million with lower production in Brazil, the European Union the United States and Thailand expected to more than offset higher India production. Exports are forecast down slightly to 62.3 million tons with reduced exports from Brazil, the European Union, Morocco, and Pakistan more than offsetting higher shipments from Australia. Ending stocks are forecast to rise slightly, primarily in China and India.

Global Sugar Production Down Slightly



U.S. production is forecast down slightly to 8.0 million tons. Imports are forecast nearly 600,000 tons higher to 3.0 million based on projected quota programs consistent with World Trade Organization and free-trade agreement obligations, and on projected imports from Mexico, re-exports, and high-tier tariff imports. Consumption is unchanged while stocks are reduced mostly due to lower output.

Brazil production is forecast down 1.3 million tons to 42.5 million on the expectation that the ethanol/sugar mix will favor ethanol at 52 percent versus 48 percent for sugar. Strong domestic ethanol demand drives the shift in the ethanol/sugar mix following the August 2025 policy change to increase the anhydrous ethanol blend in gasoline from 27 percent to 30 percent. With lower sugar output, consumption and exports are forecast to decline.

European Union production is forecast to fall 1.2 million tons to 14.4 million on lower sugarbeet area amid weak prices and high input costs, leading some growers to switch to alternative crops. Imports are up with lower production while exports are forecast down and consumption flat.

China production is forecast nearly unchanged at 12.7 million tons on normal growing conditions and stable sugarcane and sugarbeet area. The central government continues to prioritize sugar production, with local governments in Guangxi and Yunnan provinces supporting this goal through subsidies and programs that promote improved planting techniques and mechanization. Imports and consumption are expected flat.

Thailand production is forecast down 1.8 million tons to 9.5 million due primarily to reduced area following last year's announcement by the Office of the Cane and Sugar Board to set the farm-gate price below the cost of production to reduce inflation. Consumption and exports are expected to remain unchanged.

Selected MY 2025/26 Revisions from the November 2025 Forecast:

Global production is down 3.2 million tons to 186.1 million.

- India is revised down 5.3 million tons to 30.0 million due to excessive rainfall that disrupted crop development and restricted field operations.

- China is increased 1.1 million tons to 12.6 million due to a rise in area.
- Thailand is raised 1.0 million tons to 11.3 million due to higher cane sugar yields.

Global imports are raised 800,000 tons to 58.3 million tons.

- Libya is up 770,000 tons to 950,000 on updated trade data.
- Bangladesh is raised 525,000 tons to 2.4 million on updated trade data.
- Indonesia is lowered 1.1 million tons to 4.0 million based on a policy decision to reduce raw sugar allocations for refineries.

Global exports are lowered 3.4 million tons to 62.6 million.

- Brazil is lowered 1.6 million tons to 34.1 million on reduced output as well as higher domestic consumption.
- India is revised down 1.0 million tons to 3.5 million on lower output.
- Australia is lowered nearly 500,000 tons to 2.7 million on lower production and higher ending stocks.

Contact Information

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To receive the circular via email, go to:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFAS/subscriber/new>. Please visit <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/sugar-world-markets-and-trade> to view archived and future releases.

The *Sugar: World Markets and Trade* circular is based on reports from FAS Overseas Posts and on available secondary information. The individual country reports can be obtained on FAS Online at: <https://fas.usda.gov/data/gain>

PSD Online

The entire USDA PSD database is available online at: <https://www.fas.usda.gov/psdonline>.

Additional Resources

Please refer to the USDA-FAS Sugar website at: <https://www.fas.usda.gov/commodities/sugar> for additional data and analysis.

Situation and outlook information on U.S. sugar and sweeteners can be obtained from the USDA-Economic Research Service at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/crops/sugar-sweeteners.aspx>.

Please note that the measurement unit is metric tons (tons) raw value using Harmonized Tariff Code contained within 1701.

Harmonized Codes and Conversion Rates

Sugar – Metric Tons (Raw Value)		
HS code	Description	Conversion Rate
170111	Cane sugar, raw, in solid form, not containing added flavoring or coloring matter	1.00
170112	Beet sugar, raw, in solid form, not containing added flavoring or coloring matter	1.00
170113	Raw cane sugar specified in subheading note 2 to this chapter	1.00
170114	Cane sugar, raw, in solid form, not containing added flavoring or coloring matter, nesoi	1.00
170191	Cane/beet sugar, refined, solid, containing added flavoring coloring	1.07 cane 1.087 beet 1.06 for Mexico
170199	Cane/beet sugar chem pure sucrose refined nesoi	1.07 cane 1.087 beet 1.06 for Mexico

World Centrifugal Sugar: Production and Consumption

1,000 Metric Tons, Raw Value

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	May 2026/27
Production						
Brazil	35,450	38,050	45,544	43,700	43,800	42,500
India	36,880	37,000	29,500	28,000	30,000	33,600
European Union	16,577	13,811	15,699	16,277	15,519	14,353
China	9,600	8,960	9,960	11,160	12,600	12,700
Thailand	10,157	11,059	8,808	10,240	11,258	9,500
United States	8,307	8,391	8,449	8,525	8,382	7,993
Pakistan	7,560	6,860	6,560	5,860	7,060	6,910
Russia	6,000	6,100	6,600	6,750	7,000	6,250
Mexico	6,556	5,537	4,986	5,057	5,490	5,451
Australia	4,120	4,300	4,035	3,810	3,830	4,180
Turkey	2,650	2,900	3,400	3,100	2,900	3,050
Egypt	2,855	2,885	2,600	3,100	3,180	3,000
Guatemala	2,575	2,608	2,621	2,621	2,681	2,810
Indonesia	2,300	2,400	2,300	2,400	2,700	2,500
Colombia	2,300	2,180	2,000	2,250	2,300	2,400
South Africa	1,906	1,996	2,075	1,940	2,016	2,060
Argentina	1,700	1,640	1,730	1,840	1,835	2,000
Philippines	1,821	1,799	1,923	2,085	1,950	1,930
Iran	1,600	1,550	1,620	1,800	1,800	1,800
Ukraine	1,450	1,330	1,820	1,800	1,490	1,490
Peru	1,260	1,185	1,220	1,290	1,300	1,350
Vietnam	820	1,015	1,125	1,250	1,350	1,350
United Kingdom	1,025	805	1,150	1,225	1,175	1,025
Kenya	700	790	530	810	605	850
Japan	810	755	630	750	700	740
Other	13,622	12,850	12,680	12,705	13,135	13,062
Total	180,601	178,756	179,565	180,345	186,056	184,854
Human Dom. Consumption						
India	29,379	30,000	30,288	29,122	30,100	31,000
China	14,999	15,541	15,500	15,390	16,750	16,750
European Union	17,000	16,500	16,400	15,800	15,900	15,900
United States	11,314	11,471	11,266	11,158	11,121	11,121
Brazil	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,000	9,948	9,000
Indonesia	7,600	7,730	7,471	7,160	7,300	7,250
Pakistan	6,233	6,206	6,343	6,600	6,600	6,800
Russia	6,350	5,842	6,140	6,252	6,500	5,750
Mexico	4,342	4,475	4,284	4,121	4,241	4,165
Egypt	3,458	3,316	3,625	3,738	3,850	3,900
Thailand	3,177	3,342	3,844	3,850	3,300	3,300
Turkey	3,020	3,353	3,435	3,222	2,975	3,125
Iran	2,600	2,468	2,535	2,595	2,371	2,516
Philippines	2,197	2,148	2,160	2,150	2,250	2,300
Bangladesh	2,767	2,232	2,050	1,994	2,390	2,267
Vietnam	1,922	1,900	2,077	2,022	2,101	2,116
Algeria	1,888	1,892	1,847	2,099	2,239	2,102
Japan	1,827	1,807	1,775	1,964	1,844	2,045
United Arab Emirates	453	1,194	1,327	1,263	1,865	1,885
Colombia	1,865	1,800	1,801	1,752	1,780	1,820
Canada	1,357	1,400	1,515	1,685	1,706	1,800
Nigeria	1,600	1,650	1,620	1,500	1,700	1,800
Malaysia	1,675	1,890	1,611	2,010	1,705	1,755
United Kingdom	1,756	1,717	1,876	1,908	1,925	1,738
South Africa	1,710	1,750	1,641	1,550	1,600	1,620
Other	34,376	35,722	35,030	35,494	35,864	36,166
Total	174,365	176,846	176,961	175,399	179,925	179,991

World Centrifugal Sugar: Imports and Exports

1,000 Metric Tons, Raw Value

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	May 2026/27
Exports						
Brazil	25,950	28,200	35,974	34,890	34,101	33,600
Thailand	6,835	6,899	4,438	5,650	6,000	6,000
Australia	3,120	2,950	3,147	2,627	2,707	3,607
India	11,548	8,303	3,966	3,831	3,500	3,600
Guatemala	1,651	1,427	1,183	1,803	1,608	1,685
Saudi Arabia	583	706	838	952	1,010	1,000
Mexico	1,777	1,072	473	1,084	1,048	949
European Union	1,217	868	2,037	2,066	1,258	858
United Arab Emirates	1,209	1,093	798	1,061	770	825
South Africa	548	722	870	594	905	750
Colombia	663	676	565	677	700	730
Ukraine	70	466	755	731	701	701
Morocco	731	656	677	854	900	700
Argentina	327	190	110	600	520	600
Russia	431	601	552	551	551	551
Eswatini	524	488	561	531	535	547
El Salvador	538	505	430	419	430	439
Nicaragua	481	465	528	400	402	400
Nigeria	350	350	365	385	375	350
Egypt	300	430	300	300	300	300
Mauritius	320	339	312	287	290	300
Pakistan	500	1,000	300	700	500	300
Korea, South	280	270	277	275	275	275
Malaysia	316	193	265	260	260	250
Honduras	144	209	204	175	206	212
Other	4,043	2,854	3,116	3,110	2,796	2,795
Total	64,456	61,932	63,041	64,813	62,648	62,324
Imports						
China	5,199	3,841	5,012	4,644	5,450	5,450
Indonesia	5,466	5,730	4,971	4,788	4,030	4,200
United States	3,308	3,279	3,481	3,078	2,407	2,957
United Arab Emirates	1,563	2,322	2,241	2,342	2,625	2,700
European Union	1,997	3,110	2,098	1,413	1,950	2,550
India	340	1,393	3,558	2,599	2,630	2,430
Bangladesh	2,805	2,105	1,971	1,922	2,350	2,250
Algeria	2,245	1,985	1,936	2,207	2,325	2,150
Nigeria	1,930	1,950	1,930	1,820	2,030	2,130
Malaysia	1,961	2,128	1,818	2,318	1,975	2,000
Morocco	1,531	1,639	1,701	1,951	1,703	1,903
Saudi Arabia	1,517	1,860	1,982	2,240	1,970	1,875
Canada	1,315	1,359	1,465	1,674	1,675	1,725
Korea, South	1,983	1,819	1,759	1,578	1,570	1,615
Japan	1,004	1,034	1,151	1,261	1,157	1,207
Iraq	1,278	1,363	1,365	1,299	1,240	1,200
Egypt	858	926	2,015	1,248	1,060	1,060
Sudan	1,597	1,697	859	1,077	1,135	1,060
Libya	153	332	662	772	950	930
Somalia	880	931	741	784	855	900
United Kingdom	797	969	800	829	875	850
Vietnam	1,082	905	1,027	841	820	825
Lebanon	265	386	381	663	760	800
Yemen	473	859	872	702	705	725
Sri Lanka	547	625	536	741	750	700
Other	14,535	14,638	14,050	13,109	13,335	12,701
Total	56,629	59,185	60,382	57,900	58,332	58,893

World Centrifugal Sugar: Ending Stocks

1,000 Metric Tons, Raw Value

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	May 2026/27
Ending Stocks						
Thailand	9,212	10,030	10,556	11,296	13,254	13,454
India	9,506	9,596	8,400	6,046	5,076	6,506
China	5,014	2,091	1,395	1,643	2,783	4,023
Pakistan	3,812	3,472	3,392	1,952	2,162	1,972
United States	1,652	1,672	2,014	2,257	1,807	1,518
Mexico	1,022	885	1,503	1,190	1,132	1,184
Egypt	90	155	845	1,155	1,245	1,105
Australia	294	784	788	1,062	1,266	911
Philippines	387	833	656	939	753	704
Russia	624	580	624	655	704	663
European Union	1,463	1,016	376	200	511	656
Ukraine	504	490	636	801	679	557
Iran	650	618	651	692	756	500
South Africa	207	104	11	226	309	431
Indonesia	2,370	2,330	1,950	1,750	1,080	430
Vietnam	384	392	408	417	426	425
Algeria	377	389	398	426	432	400
Bangladesh	550	448	409	377	377	400
Japan	460	440	444	489	500	400
Costa Rica	325	314	387	381	381	383
Malaysia	335	380	322	370	380	375
Korea, South	420	395	381	345	342	350
Ecuador	359	385	392	372	368	341
Canada	271	278	301	330	349	324
Iraq	250	268	272	257	257	250
Other	6,538	7,210	7,313	6,624	6,194	6,148
Total	47,076	45,555	44,824	42,252	43,523	44,410