



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Press Release(25)07
(English only)**

6 February 2025

Various sugar related articles

The Executive Director would like to draw your attention to the articles below all of which are relevant to the sugar sector.

Sugaronline Ebriefing

GUATEMALA: Palo Gordo mill opens sugar refinery

Ingenio Palo Gordo has opened a sugar refinery with capacity to produce 13,500 quintals of sugar per day, according to Republica.

This is the fifth sugar mill in Guatemala to install a sugar refinery. Ingenio Palo Gordo produces around 175,000 metric tonnes of raw sugar per year. With the new refinery, 90,000 tonnes of this total will be refined, according to the company's general manager Javier Prado.

AUSTRALIA: Sugar industry group calls for new policies to support sugar sector

The Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC) has urged the government to work on policies to ensure the competitiveness of the Australian sugar industry globally, as part of the suggestions submitted to the 2025/26 federal budget, reports Sugaronline.

The group said that there is "emerging global uncertainty as international trade rules come under pressure, including recent decisions by the Indian government to resume sugar exports despite World Trade Organisation (WTO) rulings."

"This is not business-as-usual. As a sector that exports more than 80% of its output, we need strong industry and government responses to ensure we remain competitive in a fast-changing global economy," ASMC chief executive officer (CEO) Ash Salardini said in a [statement](#) on Feb. 3.

The association also said frequent extreme weather events are impacting harvesting, crushing and the industry's supply chain infrastructure.

"The Federal Budget provides an opportunity for the government and industry to work together on a new approach to tackling these challenges head-on," said Salardini.

"With the right industry-government collaboration, we can continue to drive investment, innovation, and regional development in Queensland. We have a plan, and with government buy-in, we can support well-paid regional jobs, deliver affordable baseload renewable electricity, and enhance Australia's fuel security through biofuels."

The ASMC's Pre-Budget Submission makes several recommendations including the establishment of a National Bioenergy Feedstock Strategy, incentives to expand sugar's baseload renewable electricity cogeneration capacity.

The group also called for the development of an indigenous biofuels supply chain in Northern Australia, the establishment of a Cane Rail Fund dedicated to investment in infrastructure, and a Centre of Excellence for Advanced Sugar Manufacturing and AI.

BRAZIL: Petrobras CEO says company is eyeing ethanol and biofuels

Petrobras chief executive officer (CEO), Magda Chambriard, said during an event in Rio de Janeiro on Feb. 4 that the company is eyeing biofuels and ethanol "very seriously", referring to potential investments in these sectors, according to Reuters.

The state-owned oil company plans to invest around US\$2.2 billion in ethanol distilleries, marking its re-entry into the biofuel segment, according to a company's presentation last year.

UKRAINE: Sugar exports rise 17% in 5M 2024/25

Ukraine exported 352,000 metric tonnes of sugar in the first five months of the 2024/25 season (September-January), up 17% from the same period last season, according to the Ukraine Business News.

The country had reoriented its sugar exports to markets other than the European Union due to the trade restrictions imposed by the bloc.

The main export markets this year are Turkey, Libya, Somalia, Sri Lanka and North Macedonia.

FRANCE: Ethanol consumption rises 6% in 2024

Ethanol producers' group Bioethanol France said on Jan. 28 that France's ethanol consumption in 2024 increased by 6% from the previous year to 16 million hectolitres, according to Reuters.

The increase in ethanol consumption is in line with a rise in overall gasoline use. Ethanol in France is made from sugarbeets and grains.

SOUTH AFRICA: SA Canegrowers says call for higher sugar tax is misguided

South African sugarcane growers' association SA Canegrowers has said calls by health activists for an increase in the sugar tax are misguided, adding that a rise would cause losses to the sugar sector, reports Sugaronline.

"When the sugar tax was initially instituted in 2018, the tax led to in excess of 16,000 job losses and ZAR2 billion in lost revenue in the first year alone. Any extension or increase of the tax will unleash similar economic devastation upon South Africa's sugar industry, leading to misery for the thousands who will lose their jobs as a result," SA Canegrowers chairman Higgins Mdluli said [in a statement](#) on Feb. 4.

Health activist have urged Finance minister Enoch Godongwana to almost double the sugar tax in the Feb. 19 budget speech and to expand it to fruit juices, according to SA Canegrowers.

"Health activists are also making the misleading claim that increasing the sugar tax will allow the government to fund more feeding schemes for children. These two government policies are unrelated, and the tax income from the sugar tax is not ringfenced for health outcomes," said Mdluli.

SA Canegrowers is urging minister Godongwana to scrap the sugar tax. The group also called on the Treasury and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition to deliver "a promised broad calorie intake study that measures everything people eat and drink to inform health policies with real evidence, and to deliver the study examining the socio-economic impact of the sugar tax."

GERMANY: Nordzucker plans to produce less sugar in 2025

Nordzucker plans to produce less sugar and more ethanol in 2025, compared to the previous year, after high volumes of sugar production in the EU reduced prices for the sweetener to low levels in 2024/25, according to the company's [online newsletter](#) on Jan. 23, reports Sugaronline. "We can now cautiously assume that sugar prices in the EU have reached their lowest level. Despite long campaigns and high production volumes, the lower beet acreage expected next year is slowly being reflected in prices," said chief executive officer (CEO) Lars Gorissen.

"We have adjusted our beet delivery contracts for the coming year to reflect market conditions and will produce less sugar in 2025. This is a contribution to the gradual normalisation of the market."

Excessive sugar volumes of the current campaign require a variety of measures, such as increased exports, when world market prices are low, according to COO Alexander Godow.

"We are also increasing the amount of bioethanol produced and storing larger quantities of sugar for liquid sugar production," he said.

Nordzucker's earnings in the first nine months of 2024/25 have declined due to lower sugar prices and higher costs. Operating profit (EBIT) fell to EUR230 million (US\$237.7 million), compared to EUR380 million (US\$392.7 million) for the same period of the previous year.

"Nevertheless, we will close the current financial year with a clearly positive result. We are not so confident about the financial year 2025/26; in view of the market situation, we can hardly rule out [a negative result](#)," said Gorrisen.

Nordzucker expects to conclude its 2024/25 sugarbeet campaign [in mid-February](#). Beet yield has been above average, but the sugar content is below the five-year average and the company's expectations.

ED & F Man Daily Research

India's sugar output to fall 14.7% y/y in 2024/25 - Reuters - India's sugar output during the 2024/25 marketing year ending in September 2025 may fall to 27.27 million metric tons, down 14.7% from a year ago, as mills are likely to divert more sugar for ethanol production, a trade body said on Friday. Mills are likely to divert 3.75 million tons of sugar for ethanol production in the current season, up from the last year's 2.15 million tons, the Indian Sugar and Bio Energy Manufacturers Association said in a statement.

Pakistan sugar production sees significant increase in January 2025 - The Nation - The Sugar Advisory Board has noted that sugar production in January 2025 saw a significant increase compared to December 2024. Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain chaired an important meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board. The meeting reviewed sugarcane crop estimates and discussed plans to meet the country's sugar needs for the 2024-25 season. Key decisions were made to improve production, stabilize prices, and support the sustainable growth of the sugar industry. During the meeting, it was noted that sugar production in January 2025 saw a significant increase compared to December 2024. Rana Tanveer Hussain urged sugar millers to invest in research and development to enhance production capacity and ensure the long-term growth of the industry.

FoodNavigator.com

PepsiCo's snacking woes intensify with more volume declines



Can PepsiCo's M&A strategy reverse slumping demand for its snacks?

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/02/05/can-ma-save-pepsicos-slumping-snack-business/>

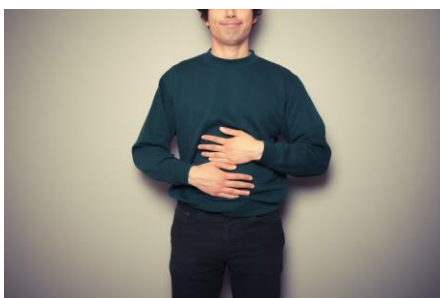
How global trade tensions will impact the food & beverage industry



The Trump administration is pushing back a decision on tariffs for Canada and Mexico, but the specter of further trade tensions looms large over the food and beverage industry

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/02/04/trump-puts-trade-war-on-backburner/>

GLP-1: Chasing the food industry's satiety Holy Grail



Satiety is the Holy Grail of many health trends, promised by both GLP-1 drugs and some foods alike. How is it achieved?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/01/24/satiety-how-to-feel-full/>

Why big food like Mondelez and Unilever are obsessed with India



India is a chocolate box of opportunity for global food and beverage manufacturers. Its mix of youth, a booming middleclass and rising disposable incomes is an especially delicious recipe irresistible to FMCG corporates hellbent on growing revenues and profits

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/01/29/obsessive-unilever-and-mondelez-target-growth-in-india/>

Key crop yields on the rise and more can afford healthy diet, report suggestsOpens in new window



In spite of factors such as climate change and the global cost-of-living crisis, a new report has many positive findings about the global food system.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/01/29/crop-yields-increase-globally-report-shows/>

Is Brooke Rollins a 'no brainer' for USDA secretary?



Senators grilled Rollins at her confirmation hearing on the future of SNAP, school meals and Prop 12 as well as how she would protect farmers and ranchers if tariffs trigger a trade war

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/01/23/senators-grill-rollins-on-snap-school-meals-prop-12-and-h-2a-visas-for-farm-wor>