



International Sugar Organization

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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(English only)**

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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.

FoodNavigator.com

Are sweeteners good or bad for the planet?



Research suggests some could be more harmful to the environment than others.
<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/07/18/are-sweeteners-environmentally-sustainable>

Consumers are craving comfort foods and beverages



Comfort foods and beverages are proving hugely popular with consumers at the moment. But why now and how can the industry embrace it?
<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/07/18/comfort-food-and-beverage-trend>

Are high-fat foods contributing to the anxiety epidemic?



High-fat foods have been recognised as the number one cause of obesity. Now scientists are

looking at their potential links to another growing health issue - anxiety.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/07/15/are-high-fat-foods-contributing-to-the-anxiety-epidemic>

Sugar reduction: Three learnings from growth markets



How do approaches to sugar reduction in growth markets differ from those in the rest of the world?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/07/09/sugar-reduction-trends-in-emerging-markets>

Sugaronline Ebriefing

INDIA: ICRA forecasts revenues of sugar firms to rise 10% in FY2025

Revenues of Indian sugar companies are likely to increase by 10% in the 2025 financial year, supported by an increase in sales volumes and firm domestic sugar prices, according to investment information and credit rating agency ICRA, reports Sugaronline.

Higher distillery volumes due to new capacities should also contribute to increased revenues for the sugar industry, according to a statement released by ICRA on July 18.

India's net sugar production is estimated to decline to 30 million tonnes in the 2024/25 sugar season (October 2024-September 2025) from 32 million tonnes in the current cycle, as ICRA expects the government to allow a higher diversion towards ethanol.

"Even if the diversion towards ethanol is increased to 4 million metric tonnes in SY2025 (2024/25), the closing sugar stock level is likely to remain moderately high," said Girishkumar Kadam, senior vice president & group head of Corporate Ratings at ICRA.

Closing sugar stocks are estimated around 9.1 million tonnes by Sept. 30, 2024, equivalent to 3.8 months of consumption. This estimated stock is also higher than the sugar stock of 5.6 million on the same date in 2023. The closing stock is expected to further increase to over four months as on September 30, 2025, according to ICRA's estimates.

The agency said operating profit margins of the sugar mills are projected to remain in line with 2024, because of firm sugar realisations and higher cane prices for the 2024/25 season.

"Further, domestic sugar prices, which are currently in the range of INR 38-39/kg, are expected to remain firm till the start of the next season, thereby supporting the profitability of the mills."

"ICRA's outlook for the sugar sector is Stable, backed by the anticipated improvement in revenues, stable profitability, and comfortable debt coverage metrics along with the government's policy support, including the ethanol blending program (EBP)," said ICRA.

AUSTRALIA: Wilmar Sugar shuts mills due to workers' strike

Wilmar Sugar and Renewables has said that it was closing its eight sugar mills for up to 16 hours due to a strike by workers demanding higher pay, according to Reuters.

The company said the strike would cost sugarcane growers \$2.3 million in revenue. Sugar workers also plan another strike for July 24.

NIGERIA: Government considering temporary suspension of sugar tax

Nigeria's minister of Finance Wale Edun said on July 17 that the government was considering a temporary suspension of the sugar tax on sugar-sweetened drinks as part of a six-month economic stabilisation plan to help beverage companies navigate economic challenges, according to The Cable and Champion News.

The government would reintroduce the tax once the economy stabilises, he added. The NGN10/litre (US\$0.0061) excise duty on all non-alcoholic, carbonated, and sweetened beverages was introduced in January 2022.

SUDAN: Sugar production facilities devastated by war

Sudan's sugar production facilities have been devastated by the war that erupted in April 2023, with two of the country's six sugar factories directly hit, according to Dabanga.

The other four factories have been struggling to continue operations, according to the news report.

Sudan's white sugar output averaged 427,000 metric tonnes in recent years, but the country has the capacity to produce more than 750,000 tonnes annually. Domestic consumption before the war was estimated at 1 million tonnes.