

**International Sugar Organization**

1 Canada Square
Canary Wharf
London E14 5AA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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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.

Sugaronline Ebriefing**Datagro estimates global sugar deficit of 2.68 million T in 2026/27**

Brazilian consultancy Datagro estimates a global sugar deficit of 2.68 million metric tonnes for 2026/27, compared to a deficit of 800,000 tonnes projected for 2025/26, according to Reuters.

Datagro's president, Plinio Nastari, told journalists on March 4 that the estimate, which differs from some other firms, uses a methodology that converts volumes to equivalent raw sugar and considers all volumes for the period of October to September.

The deficit also considers stability in sugar production in Brazil's centre-south, compared to the previous season, as the country is expected to allocate more sugarcane to ethanol production.

Conflict in the Middle East could affect sugar refining and trade – ING

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz could disrupt sugar refining in the region and affect trade, according to a recent report from Dutch financial institution ING Group.

“Regional refiners, including Dubai-based Al Khaleej, which has a capacity of around 1.8mtpa, will face challenges in receiving raw sugar cargoes through the Strait and, obviously, exporting refined white sugar. As a result, this could lead to a tightening in the refined white sugar market,” ING Group's analyst said in a [commentary](#) on March 4.

The white sugar premium surged to \$107/t on March 3, the highest level since Sept. 30, amid rising concerns about refined sugar supply, according to the bank.

The geopolitical tensions in the Middle East are also impacting crude oil prices, which could benefit Brazilian ethanol prices.

“This could prompt sugar producers to allocate even more cane towards ethanol production, helping to eat into the large expected global sugar surplus,” said ING.

AUSTRALIA: Sugar producers call for urgent ethanol mandate amid war in the Middle East

The Australian Sugar Manufacturers (ASM) association has reinforced its call for a national ethanol mandate, adding that this would strengthen fuel security and protect regional industries, as the war in the Middle East could disrupt global oil supply, reports Sugaronline.

"Australia needs a plan immediately to secure the future of our domestic fuel supply," said Australian Sugar Manufacturers CEO, Ash Salardini, in a [statement](#) on March 2.

"With the Strait of Hormuz currently closed due to ongoing conflict in the Middle East, blocking 20% of global oil supply, Australia doesn't really have a plan A, let alone plan B."

ASM says Australia produces 30 million tonnes of sugarcane each year, from which the sugar industry generates 10 million tonnes of bagasse, 2 million tonnes of molasses, and "significant volumes of cane juice."

"With the right national policy settings, our industry could meet more than 30 per cent of Australia's domestic aviation fuel demand, provide significantly more ethanol for use in passenger vehicles, and help secure defence fuel supplies through regionally co-located biofuel facilities," said Salardini.

He said that Australia's sugar industry remains globally competitive but is increasing under pressure from "heavily subsidised" international competitors, citing Brazil and India.

"If nothing changes, between one and three Australian sugar mills could close by the end of 2027, equivalent to losing 15% of national capacity," he said.

In Australia, the effective national blending sits between 1 to 2%, according to ASM. "A modest increase to ethanol blends via a national ethanol mandate would deliver the cheapest form of liquid fuel emissions abatement available over the next decade," said Salardini. "Importantly, it will add weeks of supply to our woefully low liquid fuel reserves in Australia, mitigating our exposure to global shocks."

UKRAINE: Sugar exports total 270,000 T in 1H 2025/26

Ukraine exported 270,000 metric tonnes of sugar in the first half of 2025/26, from September to February, said the country's sugar industry association, [Ukrsugar](#), on March 3, according to APK-Inform.

The main export destination was Lebanon (29%), followed by Syria (17%), the European Union (14%), North Macedonia (6%) and Mauritania (5%).

By late February, the estimated sugarbeet area for 2026 was 170,000 hectares. Sugar production in the country may drop nearly 25% this year to 1.3 million tonnes, according to the news report.

BELIZE: Santander Sugar starts 2026 cane harvest

The Santander Sugar Group has launched the start of its harvesting season in western Belize, focused on strengthening operational efficiency, according to Love FM.

The company's founder and CEO, Jose Rodriguez, said this is a special season because the company has started construction of a refinery, Sucro, the Caribbean Sugar Refinery, which will allow it to produce refined sugar for the first time in the Caribbean, reducing the dependence on exports, once the factory is in operation.

Eurasian Council exempts Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan from import duty on raw sugar

The Eurasian Economic Commission's Council announced on Feb. 27 that it has decided to exempt Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan from import customs duties on raw cane sugar intended for industrial processing, reports Sugaronline.

The exemption is valid for 2026 for up to 20,000 metric tonnes of raw cane sugar imported by Armenia, 100,000 tonnes by Kazakhstan, and 20,000 tonnes by Kyrgyzstan.

White sugar processed from raw cane sugar imported under tariff exemptions cannot be exported to other countries of the Eurasian Economic Union.

"The decision was adopted to ensure a stable supply of sugar and sugar-containing products at competitive prices to the internal markets of Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, to prevent the shortage of these goods, and to preserve the number of employees at sugar processing plants," ECC Trade minister Andrey Slepnev said in a press [statement released](#) by the commission.

US: Agriculture secretary announces disaster declaration for Florida due to crop damage by freeze

The US Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke Rollins, [announced](#) on March 4 a USDA disaster declaration to support Florida's farmers impacted by freezes in January and February, according to WGCU.

The declaration was issued in response to a request by all members of Florida's congressional delegation urging the USDA to provide relief for farmers.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services [estimates](#) that freezes in the state in late January and early February have caused over USD3 billion in losses to the agricultural sector, of which USD1.15 billion was to sugarcane producers.

UK: Sugar tax on sugary foods could raise prices of chocolates and confectionery by up to 30%

A tax on sugary foods in the UK could raise the prices of chocolates and sugary snacks by up to 30%, according to results of a new modelling released by the research organisation Nesta, reports Sugaronline.

The new modelling evaluates the effectiveness of introducing the first-ever UK tax based on the UK's Nutrient Profiling Model (NPM), a measure used to determine "less-healthy" food for policy and regulatory purposes.

A tax on unhealthy food, based on this model, could reduce rates of adult obesity in the UK by 16% and increase the cost of the average basket of groceries by around 1% for consumers, according to an assessment commissioned by Nesta and conducted by consultancy Oxford Economics.

"While a tax based on a more holistic measure of food could reduce obesity rates in Britain and raise additional revenues for public health, any tax on unhealthy food is likely to come with some cost to consumers. Our analysis shows that a tax can be designed so that higher prices fall on unhealthy foods, but the reality is that many people are already struggling with food prices," said Hugo Harper, director of healthy life at Nesta, in a [statement](#) on March 2.

"We believe the government should move forward with implementing the healthy food standard, which was announced in the 10-year plan for health. A policy that sets targets for the largest grocery retailers in the UK, such as the healthy food standard, would reduce obesity rates while having very little impact on food prices."

FoodNavigator.com

GLP-1s are quietly rewriting the grocery list



GLP-1 drugs are reshaping food demand, spending patterns and packaging strategy across the CPG landscape

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2026/03/02/glp-1s-impact-on-food-packaging-and-product-strategy/>

Food cravings on GLP-1s? What formulators need to know



It's a common misconception that GLP-1 drugs erase food cravings. Actually, they alter them

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/03/02/food-formulation-for-glp-1-food-cravings/>

Farm Bill markup sparks debate over nutrition and rural policy



The House Agriculture Committee began marking up the 2026 Farm, Food and National Security Act this week, which will impact federal nutrition programs, farmers and rural communities nationwide.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2026/03/04/house-farm-bill-markup-sparks-debate-over-nutrition-snap-and-farmer-support/>

Coca-Cola's incoming CEO reveals his 3 key focus areas



Henrique Braun will take the lead at the beverage giant on March 31: with three top priorities

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/02/27/coca-colas-incoming-ceo-reveals-his-3-key-focus-areas/>