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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

El Niño is strengthening, with a greater than 90% chance of a very strong event – NOAA

El Niño has strengthened further over the past month and has a greater than 90% chance of becoming a very strong event during the Northern Hemisphere fall and winter, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), reports Sugaronline.

"During the October-December 2026 season, there is a 75% chance of a historic event that would exceed the strength of previous El Niño events dating back to 1950," the Climate Prediction Center of NOAA's National Weather Service said in a weather bulletin on Sept. 10.

Sea surface temperatures have exceeded +3°C in the eastern equatorial Pacific. Subsurface temperatures continued to be significantly above average, with widespread anomalies in excess of +10°C at depth.

"Collectively, the coupled ocean-atmosphere system reflected a strengthening El Niño," the Climate Prediction Center added.

El Niño tends to alter weather patterns across the globe, resulting in higher temperatures and dry weather in some regions and increased rainfall in others, potentially affecting agricultural production, including sugarcane and sugarbeets.

BRAZIL: Government renews and expands tax cuts for fuels

Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva signed two new measures on Sept. 9 to renew and expand fuel subsidies, including gasoline and ethanol, according to Veja.

The government signed a decree to reduce taxes on gasoline and ethanol and an executive order to add new subsidies for diesel.

The PIS/Cofins tax rates for gasoline was reduced by BRL0.63/litre. The tariff rate for ethanol, currently BRL0.19 per liter, was set to zero. The measure is valid until Oct. 5.

The new tax cuts replace and expand on the reduction the government implemented earlier in the year.

INDIA: Australia seeks clarification from India about sugar subsidies at WTO

Australia is seeking clarification from India on its domestic sugarcane and sugar policies, arguing that India's government has provided cane support far above the limit allowed under WTO rules from 2018/19 to 2024/25, according to the Press Trust of India.

Australia said in a paper submitted to the WTO that it seeks further clarification from India on its domestic sugarcane and sugar policies, adding that, as the world's second-largest sugar producer and third-largest exporter, "dynamics in India's sugar market have significant implications for both prices and trade in the global market.

Under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, domestic support to the sugar industry should be capped at 10% of the total value of sugarcane production.

INDIA: ISMA says sugar imports remain viable following fall in local prices

Indian Sugar and Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) president Niraj Shirgaokar said on Sept. 9 that sugar imports continue to make commercial sense even after domestic prices declined, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI).

Last month, India's government allowed up to 1 million tonnes in duty-free imports to increase local supplies and reduce record prices ahead of the festival season.

Shirgaokar told reporters on the sidelines of a conference on Sept. 9 that imports are still viable despite declining domestic prices.

According to the news report, sugar mills in India have reportedly applied to import 800,000 tonnes of sugar but are concerned about the viability of these imports, as global prices have risen sharply.

AUSTRIA: Agrana announces intention to acquire flavor producer Esarom

Agrana announced on Sept. 9 that it intends to acquire flavour producer Esarom for an enterprise value of EUR150 million, seeking to expand and consolidate its food and beverage solutions business as a growth platform, reports Sugaronline.

The company plans to buy 100 % of the shares in Esarom GmbH and Esarom Holding GmbH and combine the expertise of these companies with its existing range of fruit preparations, juice concentrates, beverage bases and customer-specific food and beverage solutions.

Esarom generated revenues of EUR112 million in its 2025 financial year. Given the EBITDA multiple of 9.0x, the agreed enterprise value amounts to around EUR150 million.

Agrana said the share purchase agreement is to be signed in the near future. The closing of the transaction is subject to the necessary anti-trust approvals and is expected at the beginning of the 2027/28 financial year.

Founded in 1946, this Esarom specialises in tailored taste and beverage solutions as well as functional formulations for the food and beverage sector. The company develops and produces flavours, bases, powders, emulsions, functional blends and stabilisers.

Agrana said Esaron has comprehensive know-how in terms of formulations, long-term customer relationships and a strong focus on exports, particularly to Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia.

The planned combination of the Esarom sites in Oberrohrbach and Rückersdorf with the Agrana site in Kröllendorf is aimed at creating an integrated three-site production cluster.

The intention is to bundle the areas of production, development and application expertise, accelerate joint product development and enable aligned customer relationship management.

Agrana said this should benefit customers through a broader portfolio of solutions and additional possibilities to jointly develop tailored products.

“The objective with Wsarom is not only to expand our portfolio but also to combine complementary areas of competence to create an even stronger overall offering. The expertise at Wsarom supplements our own existing fruit preparation, beverage base and flavour offerings in the form of customer-specific solutions,” said Stephan Büttner, CEO of AGRANA Beteiligungs-AG, in a press statement.

INDIA: Rising sugar prices pressure costs for packaged-food makers

India's packaged-food makers face rising sugar prices ahead of the festive season, pressuring production costs for companies making candies, confectionery goods, beverages, and other products, according to Live Mint.

Packaged-food makers are weighing price increases and smaller pack sizes as they try to absorb higher input costs without hurting demand.

Sugar prices have risen about 20% and are up 20% sequentially, making it one of the biggest raw-material cost pressures for companies, according to the news report.

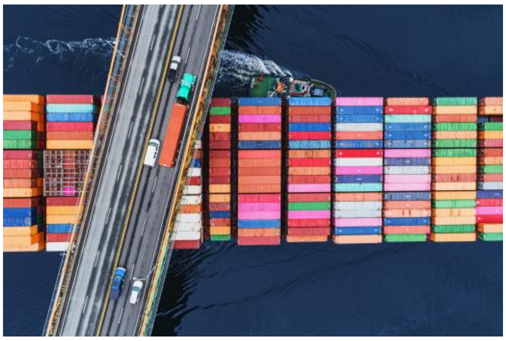
FoodNavigator.com

Baby food still has a sugar problem

Sugar is still a burning issue in baby food. New research suggests many popular products are high in free sugars, while campaigners and nutrition experts say voluntary guidelines are falling short.

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/09/07/baby-foods-sugar-problem-persists-globally/

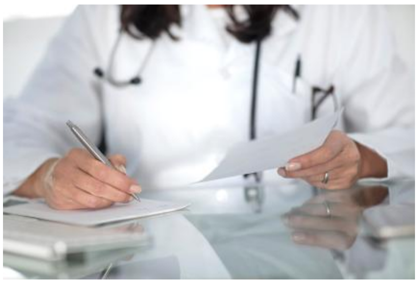
Canada’s tariff retaliation puts US food and agriculture industries in a bind



Dairy and steel groups back aggressive US trade action, while broader agriculture groups warn that escalating tariffs and retaliation could threaten critical export markets.

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/09/08/canada-tariffs-put-us-food-and-ag-in-a-bind/

GLP-1 prescriptions for young children up 310-fold



GLP-1 use among US children has risen rapidly, signalling a shift that Europe should watch closely.

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/09/10/childhood-glp-1-prescriptions-rise-dramatically/