



United States Department of Agriculture

Outlook

Economic Research Service | Situation and Outlook Report

SSS-M-455 | July 16, 2026

Next release is August 18, 2026

Sugar and Sweeteners Outlook: July 2026

Vidalina Abadam, coordinator
Joshua Huang, contributor

In this report:

[U.S. Sugar Outlook](#)
[Mexico's Sugar Outlook](#)

Changes to the U.S. 2026/27 Balance Sheet Include Data Revisions From Prior Years; Mexico's 2026/27 Sugar Production Is Raised

This month's changes to the U.S. fiscal year (FY) 2026/27 sugar balance sheet reflect multi-year revisions (starting in FY 2019/20 through April 2026) to deliveries for human consumption and ending stocks in the USDA, Farm Service Agency's *Sweetener Market Data (SMD)* report. The revisions ultimately result in a lower 2026/27 beginning stocks and larger projected deliveries. Sugar supply is forecast at 14.268 million short tons, raw value (STRV), up 94,000 STRV from last month as the decreases in beginning stocks and beet sugar production are more than offset by increases in cane sugar production and imports mostly from Mexico. U.S. sugar imports from Mexico are set at 1,346,085 STRV, based on the suspension agreements' U.S. Needs formula, to achieve a U.S. 13.5-percent stocks-to-use ratio. Sugar use is raised 56,000 STRV to 12.571 million, solely on increased deliveries for human consumption, which are now forecast at 12.441 million. This increase is in line with the upward adjustment made in 2025/26, based on the updated *SMD* data and pace to date. The resulting 2026/27 ending stocks are 1.697 million STRV, up 37,000 STRV from last month, and the corresponding stocks-to-use ratio is 13.5 percent.

Mexico's 2026/27 sugar production is raised from last month by 94,000 metric tons (MT), actual weight to 5.377 million, based on USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service's Mexico City Post amid good growing conditions. Mexico's total sugar exports are increased 94,000 MT to 1.292 million MT, most of which are forecast to be U.S. bound (1.152 million MT or 1.346 million STRV).

U.S. Sugar Outlook

Multi-year Revisions Were Made to the U.S. Balance Sheet

There were multi-year data revisions (from FY 2019/20 through April 2026) to deliveries for human consumption and ending stocks in the USDA, Farm Service Agency's (FSA) *Sweetener Market Data* (SMD) report. These updates were reflected in the July 2026 *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* (WASDE) report's U.S. balance sheet. A company underreported its sugar deliveries for consumption, which then resulted in overreported inventories because the company previously calculated their ending stocks (as opposed to reporting physical inventories). While the corrections to deliveries were relatively small on an average monthly basis, the effects on ending-month inventories accumulated over the period. By the end of April 2026, the overreported stocks amounted to 145,870 short tons, raw value (STRV). For a more detailed explanation, please see the FSA July 2026 SMD report and the accompanying *Explanation for Sweetener Market Data Revisions to Fiscal Years 2020–2026* document that is posted on the FSA, Dairy and Sweetener Analysis website. In addition, the multi-year revisions have been incorporated into the corresponding ERS Sugar and Sweetener Yearbook tables.

U.S. Beet Sugar Production Is Lowered for 2025/26 and 2026/27; Back-to-back Years of Output Are Below 5 Million Tons

U.S. fiscal year 2025/26 beet sugar production is lowered 12,000 STRV to 4.996 million on minor adjustments to sugarbeet shrink, sugarbeets sliced, and sugar produced from molasses (table 1, table 2). The current crop campaign is nearing the end, with most processors done with slicing beet piles.

For fiscal year 2026/27, beet sugar production is reduced 118,000 STRV to 4.821 million, 4 percent lower than the revised 2025/26 output and the lowest since 2019/20. This reduction is mainly on a lower planted and harvested area reported in the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) June 30 *Acreage* report. NASS lowered area planted to 1.033 million acres, down 4.3 percent from 2025/26 and 2.8 percent from the NASS March 31 *Prospective Plantings* report. The 1.033-million-planted acre projection would be the lowest in more than 45 years (figure 1).

Table 1: U.S. sugar supply and use by fiscal year (October–September), 1,000 short tons raw value

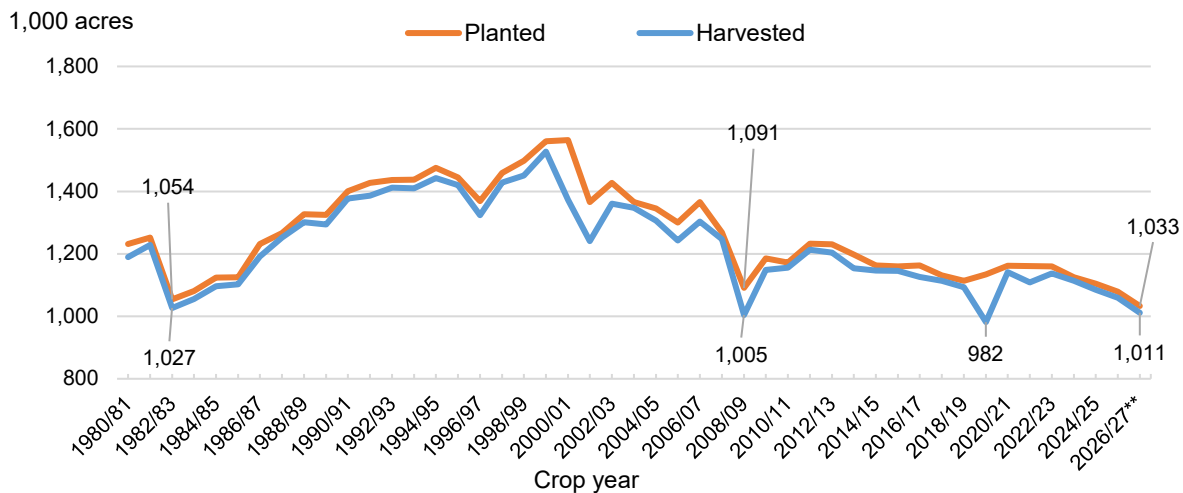
	2024/25	2025/26			2026/27		
	Final	June	July	Monthly change	June	July	Monthly change
Beginning stocks	2,141	2,490	2,376	-114	1,851	1,686	-165
Total production	9,397	9,223	9,185	-38	9,063	9,004	-60
Beet sugar	5,370	5,009	4,996	-12	4,939	4,821	-118
Cane sugar	4,027	4,214	4,189	-25	4,125	4,182	57
Florida	1,932	1,983	1,957	-25	1,979	2,016	37
Louisiana	2,095	2,232	2,232	0	2,146	2,166	20
Texas 1/	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total imports	3,393	2,653	2,696	43	3,260	3,579	319
Tariff-rate quota imports	1,534	1,316	1,316	0	1,422	1,422	0
Raw TRQ	1,003	1,087	1,087	0	1,137	1,137	0
Refined TRQ	252	21	21	0	24	24	0
FTA TRQ	280	208	208	0	261	261	0
Other program imports: for re-export and polyhydric	373	300	325	25	300	300	0
Non-program imports	1,485	1,037	1,055	18	1,538	1,856	319
Mexico	504	220	220	0	1,046	1,346	301
High-tier tariff/other	980	817	835	18	492	510	18
High-tier tariff	928	765	783	18	466	484	18
Raw sugar	547	299	299	0	0	0	0
Refined sugar	382	197	215	18	197	215	18
Refined sugar (specialty) 2/	NA	269	269	0	269	269	0
Other 3/	52	52	52	0	26	26	0
Total supply	14,931	14,366	14,257	-109	14,174	14,268	94
Total exports	111	25	25	0	25	25	0
Miscellaneous: end-of-year statistical adjustment	-41	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total deliveries	12,485	12,490	12,546	57	12,490	12,546	56
Domestic food and beverage	12,375	12,385	12,441	57	12,385	12,441	56
Other deliveries:	111	105	105	0	105	105	0
Sugar-containing products re-export program	82	80	80	0	80	80	0
Polyhydric alcohol, ethanol, other alcohol	14	15	15	0	15	15	0
Livestock feed	15	10	10	0	10	10	0
Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC): ethanol, feed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total use	12,555	12,515	12,571	57	12,515	12,571	56
Ending stocks	2,376	1,851	1,686	-165	1,660	1,697	37
Stocks-to-use ratio (percent)	18.9	14.8	13.4	-1.4	13.3	13.5	0.2

Note: Totals and monthly changes may not add due to rounding. NA = not applicable; TRQ=Tariff-rate quota.

1/ The last cane processor in Texas closed in 2023/24. 2/ A separate line for high-tier refined sugar (specialty) was included starting in the July 2025 *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* report. Before the July 2025 WASDE report, this volume was included in the "high-tier refined sugar" line. 3/ The "Other" line represents the raw sugar equivalent of imported cane molasses, which was added in the WASDE report, starting in fiscal year 2023/24.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* report; USDA, Farm Service Agency, *Sweetener Market Data* report; and the USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, *U.S. Sugar Monthly Import and Re-Exports* report.

Figure 1
U.S. sugarbeet area planted and harvested



Note: (**) denotes forecast.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service and USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* report.

NASS also released its initial estimate of area harvested at 1.011 million acres, the third lowest level since 1980/81. The 1.011-million-harvested acre projection is 48,000 acres lower than 2025/26 and reflects 4 consecutive years of decline. Area harvested is projected to decrease from 2025/26 for 7 of the 10 producing U.S. States (with the largest declines for Idaho, Minnesota, and Nebraska). Only Michigan and Oregon are forecast to have a slight year-over-year increase, while Washington is unchanged. A combination of several issues contributed to the acreage reduction, including relatively lower sugar prices, high input costs, drought conditions, and uncertainty in sugar demand.

The national sugarbeet yield is unchanged at 31.94 tons per acre, which is modeled as a function of NASS planting progress for the four largest sugarbeet-growing U.S. States (Minnesota, North Dakota, Idaho, and Michigan) through week 19. Yields tend to have a strong positive correlation with planting progress, that is, an earlier planting time frame allows for optimal crop development and sufficient time for sugarbeets to deposit sugar before harvest. This year, planting schedules were delayed and replants were needed in several beet growing areas due to wide-ranging weather issues that affected planting and germination (high winds, hail/freezing temperature, intense heat/drought). NASS will release its initial sugarbeet yield forecast in the August 10 *Crop Production* report.

Forecasts for the other variables (sugarbeet shrink, sucrose recovery, and early season beet sugar production in August–September 2026 and 2027) are unchanged from last month.

Table 2: U.S. sugarbeet and beet sugar production

	2024/25 Final	2025/26 June	2025/26 July	Monthly change	2026/27 June	2026/27 July	Monthly change
Area planted (1,000 acres)	1,105	1,079	1,079	0	1,063	1,033	-30
Planted/Harvested ratio	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.00	0.98	0.98	0.00
Area harvested (1,000 acres)	1,086	1,060	1,060	0	1,038	1,011	-27
Yield (tons per acre)	32.50	33.16	33.16	0.00	31.94	31.94	0.00
Sugarbeet production (1,000 tons)	35,316	35,140	35,140	0	33,172	32,309	-863
Sugarbeet shrink (percent)	7.90	9.22	9.18	-0.04	8.12	8.12	0.00
Sugarbeet sliced (1,000 tons)	32,527	31,901	31,915	14	30,478	29,686	-792
Sugar extraction rate from slice (percent)	15.46	14.58	14.58	0.00	14.79	14.79	0.00
Sugar from beets sliced (1,000 STRV)	5,030	4,651	4,653	2	4,509	4,391	-117
Sugar from molasses (1,000 STRV)	324	380	366	-14	400	400	0
Crop year sugar production (1,000 STRV)	5,354	5,031	5,018	-12	4,909	4,791	-117
Sugar from imported beets (1,000 STRV)	NA	30	30	0	30	30	0
Aug.–Sep. sugar production (1,000 STRV)	690	706	706	0	654	654	0
Aug.–Sep. sugar production of next crop (1,000 STRV)	706	654	654	0	654	654	0
Fiscal year sugar production (1,000 STRV)	5,370	5,009	4,996	-12	4,939	4,821	-117

STRV = short tons, raw value; NA = not applicable.

Note: 1. Crop year is from August to July, while fiscal year is from October to September. Totals and monthly changes may not add due to rounding.

2. For 2025/26, area planted, area harvested, and yield are based on data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). For 2026/27: area planted and harvested are based on NASS June 2026 *Acreage* report; yield is forecast using a regression model, where yield is a function of the NASS planting progress, as of week 19 for the 4 largest sugarbeet-growing U.S. States (Minnesota, North Dakota, Idaho, and Michigan).

3. Sugarbeet shrink and sugar extraction rate from slice for 2025/26 are based on beet processors' estimates submitted to the USDA, FSA, *Sweetener Market Data (SMD)* report. For 2026/27, shrink is based on processor's estimates and extraction rate is based on a 10-year average (2016/17–2025/26).

4. Sugar from molasses for 2025/26 and 2026/27 is based on the beet processors' submission to *SMD*.

5. Early sugar production in August–September 2026 is based on a 10-year average (2015/16–2024/25), which is carried over for 2026/27.

6. Sugar from imported beets for 2024/25 is already included in the final crop year production. For 2025/26, this variable is based on processors' submission to *SMD* and is carried over for 2026/27. Sugar production from this component is separated for projection purposes and will be included in the total, as with the prior years, once the full crop year slice is available.

7. Fiscal year sugar production = crop year sugar production minus August to September sugar production plus August to September sugar production of the next crop.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS); USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA) *Sweetener Market Data (SMD)* report; and the USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* report.

U.S. 2025/26 Cane Sugar Production Is Lowered; Raised for 2026/27

U.S. fiscal year 2025/26 cane sugar production is lowered 25,000 STRV from last month to 4.189 million but remains 4 percent higher than 2024/25. This month's decrease is solely due to Florida, with a 25,000-STRV reduction to 1.957 million, as processors reflected final data in the *SMD* given the conclusion of the harvest campaign.

For fiscal year 2026/27, U.S. cane sugar output is raised 57,000 STRV from last month to 4.182 million STRV, nearly matching the revised 2025/26 for the largest on record, as both production for Florida and Louisiana are increased. The NASS *Acreage* report has a slightly lower forecast for

sugarcane area harvested (sugar and seed combined) for Florida (416,000 acres) versus last year (417,000 acres). However, the State's sugar output is increased 37,000 STRV to 2.016 million, based on processors' projections submitted to the *SMD* (table 3).

Louisiana 2026/27 cane sugar production is raised 20,000 STRV to 2.166 million, mainly on using NASS' 540,000-acre forecast of sugarcane area harvested (sugar and seed combined) from the *Acreage* report, which is 5,000 acres more than last month's projection. With this adjustment, the forecast for sugarcane area harvested for sugar (excluding seed) is raised to 513,000 acres. This increase implies 12 consecutive years of growth for Louisiana's sugarcane area harvested for sugar, which plays a major contributing factor in overtaking Florida as the lead cane-sugar-producing State. The 2.166-million-STRV forecast would be the second largest cane sugar production for Louisiana (behind 2025/26) and reflects 5 years of surpassing Florida.

Table 3: U.S. sugarcane and cane sugar production

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26*	2026/27**
Florida						
Area harvested for sugar (1,000 acres)	388	386	391	381	399	399
Sugarcane yield (tons per acre)	42.4	44.5	44.4	45.1	41.9	43.1
Sugarcane production for sugar (1,000 tons)	16,451	17,177	17,360	17,183	16,718	17,208
Recovery rate (percent)	11.8	11.6	12.0	11.2	11.7	11.7
Sugar production (1,000 STRV)	1,934	1,985	2,079	1,932	1,957	2,016
Louisiana						
Area harvested for sugar (1,000 acres)	466	474	481	498	504	513
Sugarcane yield (tons per acre)	29.0	32.1	29.9	31.1	31.7	30.8
Sugarcane production for sugar (1,000 tons)	13,514	15,215	14,382	15,488	15,977	15,781
Recovery rate (percent)	13.9	13.6	13.2	13.6	14.3	13.7
Crop year sugar production (1,000 STRV)	1,881	2,071	1,904	2,105	2,279	2,166
Sep. sugar production (1,000 STRV)	12	75	6	124	114	67
Sep. sugar production of the next crop (1,000 STRV)	75	6	124	114	67	67
Fiscal year sugar production (1,000 STRV) 1/	1,944	2,001	2,022	2,095	2,232	2,166
Texas 2/						
Area harvested for sugar (1,000 acres)	34	31	17	0	0	0
Sugarcane yield (tons per acre)	30.8	22.6	22.5	0	0	0
Sugarcane production for sugar (1,000 tons)	1,056	698	371	0	0	0
Recovery rate (percent)	11.7	11.0	10.7	0	0	0
Sugar production (1,000 STRV)	124	76	40	0	0	0
United States						
Area harvested for sugar (1,000 acres)	888	891	889	879	903	912
Sugarcane yield (tons per acre)	34.9	37.1	36.1	37.2	36.2	36.2
Sugarcane production for sugar (1,000 tons)	31,021	33,090	32,113	32,671	32,695	32,989
Crop year recovery rate (percent)	12.7	12.5	12.5	12.4	13.0	12.7
Crop year sugar production (1,000 STRV)	3,939	4,132	4,022	4,037	4,236	4,182
Fiscal year sugar production (1,000 STRV)	4,002	4,063	4,141	4,027	4,189	4,182

STRV = short tons, raw value; Sep. = September.

Note: (*) denotes estimates, (**) denotes forecast.

1/ Louisiana's fiscal year sugar production = crop year sugar production minus September sugar production plus September sugar production of the next crop.

2/ The last cane processor in Texas closed in 2023/24.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service and USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* report.

U.S. Sugar Imports for 2025/26 and 2026/27 Are Raised

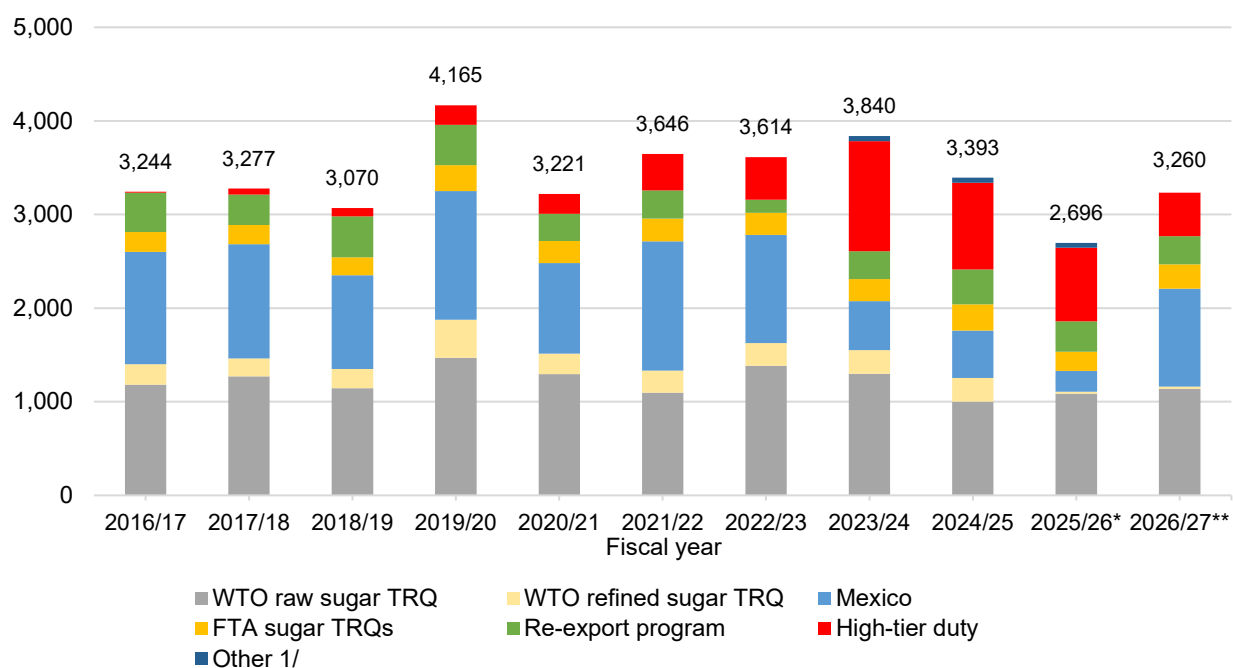
U.S. fiscal year 2025/26 sugar imports are raised 43,000 STRV from last month to 2.696 million but remain the lowest in nearly two decades (figure 2). The upward adjustment is driven by pace-to-date adjustments for imports under the re-export import programs (up 25,000 STRV to 325,000) and for imports of regular refined sugar (e.g., not specialty/organic sugar) paying the high-tier duty (up 18,000 STRV to 215,000 STRV).

For 2026/27, U.S. sugar imports are increased 319,000 STRV to 3.579 million, about 880,000 STRV or 33 percent higher than the revised 2025/26 estimate. The increase is mainly driven by a 301,000-STRV increase in the projected U.S. 2026/27 sugar imports from Mexico, which are now set at 1,346,085 STRV. The only other change to 2026/27 sugar imports is an 18,000-STRV increase in high-tier duty refined sugar imports, matching the revised 2025/26 estimate.

Figure 2

U.S. sugar imports by type

1,000 short tons, raw



FTA = free trade agreement; WTO = World Trade Organization; TRQ = tariff-rate quota.

Note: (*) denotes estimate, (**) denotes forecast. The data labels at the top of the bars represent total imports.

1/ "Other" represents the raw sugar equivalent of imported cane molasses, which was added in the WASDE report starting in fiscal year 2023/24.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* report; USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, *U.S. Sugar Monthly Import and Re-Exports* report.

The 1,346,085 STRV-volume of imports from Mexico was calculated by the U.S. Department of Commerce and released on July 10 based on the suspension agreements', U.S. Needs formula to achieve a U.S. 13.5-percent stocks-to-use ratio (table 4). Correspondingly, Mexico's initial Export Limit as of July 2026 is set at 673,043 STRV or 50 percent of the U.S. Needs (1,346,085 STRV * 0.5 = 673,043 STRV). The 673,043-STRV represents a minimum volume, that is, the final Export Limit for Mexico in 2026/27 cannot be lower than 673,043 STRV. This number implies that the July 2026 Export Limit would be larger than the actual imports from Mexico in the last 3 years (2023/24 = 521,000 STRV; 2024/25 = 504,000 STRV; and 2025/26 = 220,000 STRV).

Table 4: Comparison of WASDE report forecast of U.S. sugar imports from Mexico and U.S. Needs calculation by the U.S. Department of Commerce

	Sugar imports from Mexico in the WASDE report 1/	U.S. Needs 2/	Percent to derive Export Limit 3/	U.S. Needs x percent	Less than or equal to previous calculation	Export Limit 4/
Unit is STRV except where percent is noted						
2023/24						
July 2023	1,485,900	1,485,900	50	742,950	NA	742,950
September 2023	1,284,150	1,284,150	70	898,905	No	898,905
December 2023	971,079	1,065,550	80	852,440	Yes	898,905
March 2024	665,663	680,525	100	680,525	Yes	898,905
April 2024 (final adjustment) 5/	498,644	NA	NA	NA	NA	565,505
2024/25						
July 2024	789,925	789,925	50	394,963	NA	394,963
September 2024	394,963	306,175	70	214,322	Yes	394,963
December 2024	620,925	620,925	80	496,740	No	496,740
March 2025	496,740	305,075	100	305,075	Yes	496,740
2025/26						
July 2025	439,275	439,275	50	219,638	NA	219,638
September 2025	219,638	-113,725	70	-79,608	Yes	219,638
December 2025	219,638	7,155	80	5,724	Yes	219,638
March 2026	219,638	5,249	100	5,249	Yes	219,638
2026/27						
July 2026	1,346,085	1,346,085	50	673,043	NA	673,043

STRV = short tons, raw value; NA = not applicable; WASDE = *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* report.

1/ Imports from Mexico in the WASDE report can differ from U.S. Needs because the former's projection takes into account the production capacity of Mexico's mills particularly in producing low polarity sugar for exports to the United States; the latter is strictly based on the U.S. Needs formula specified in the U.S.-Mexico sugar suspension agreements.

2/ Per the suspension agreements, U.S. Needs is "calculated based on information in the WASDE report published by USDA" and is equal to (Total Use * 1.135) - Beginning Stocks - Production - TRQ Imports - Other Program Imports - (footnote 5 for "other high tier" + "other"). Starting in the May 2022 WASDE report, footnote 5 was changed to "High-tier tariff/other" and was assigned its own row.

3/ The suspension agreements define Export Limit as "the quantity of Mexican Sugar permitted to be exported, based on the Date of Export, during a given Export Limit Period".

4/ The Export Limit in the current period cannot be set lower than the prior period.

5/ Based on USDA, WASDE report calculation, since U.S. Department of Commerce has not published its calculation at the time of publication.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) ACCESS repository using case number C-201-846; USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* (WASDE) report.

A USDA Federal Register Notice (FRN) setting the U.S. 2026/27 World Trade Organization (WTO) minimum tariff-rate quota (TRQ) raw and refined sugar was published on July 14. The minimum raw and refined sugar TRQs are set at 1,117,195 metric tons raw value (MTRV) (equivalent to

1,231,497 STRV) and 22,000 MTRV (24,251 STRV), respectively. No additional amount is added to the specialty sugar TRQ (historically filled by organic sugar imports) and thus is set at zero for 2 consecutive years (2025/26 and 2026/27). These minimum TRQ volumes are already incorporated in the 2026/27 *WASDE* report balance sheet since May 2026. Minor changes can be reflected in the *WASDE* U.S. balance sheet after the U.S. Trade Representative publishes its FRN that will allocate the TRQs by country.

U.S. 2025/26 Sugar Deliveries for Human Consumption Are Raised; Carried Over to 2026/27

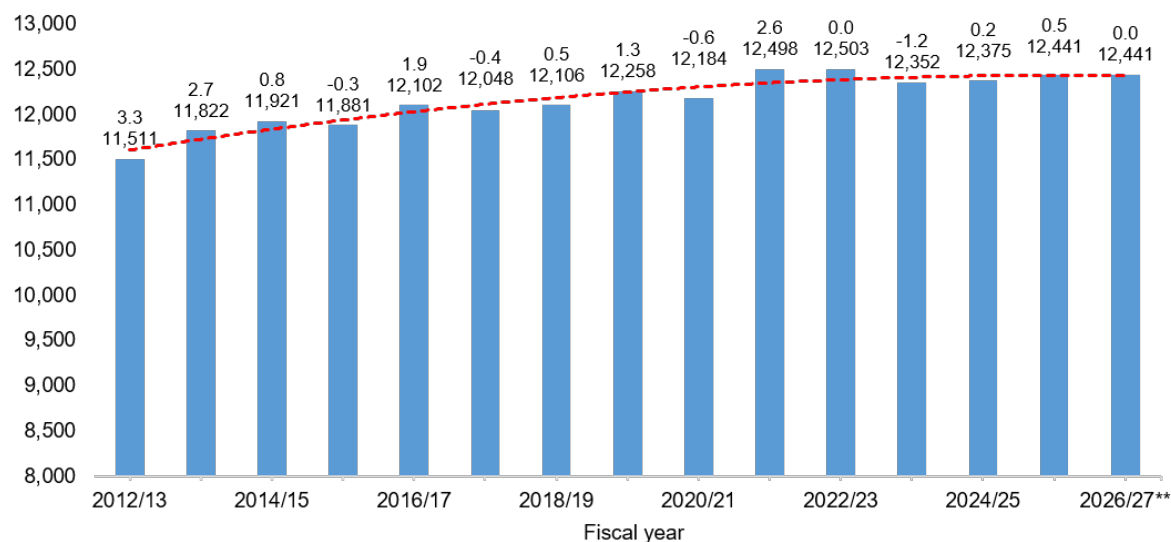
U.S. 2025/26 sugar deliveries for food and beverage use are increased 57,000 STRV from last month to 12.441 million, up 0.5 percent from 2024/25 (figure 3). This increase jointly reflects the multi-year, upward revisions to the *SMD* deliveries data and the current stronger-than-expected pace for beet and cane sugar deliveries than originally estimated (table 5, figures 4–7). This 12.441-million-STRV estimate is carried over to 2026/27.

Between October 2025–May 2026, beet processors' deliveries were consistently above the 5-year monthly average since January. Cumulative beet sugar deliveries totaled 3.383 million STRV, about 209,000-STRV higher (6.6 percent) than in the same period last year. As with March and April, refiners' cane sugar deliveries in May were relatively large, leading the cumulative pace (4.395 million STRV) to surpass last year's cumulative pace for the first time (by 0.5 percent) since November 2025. Together, reporters' cumulative deliveries are up 233,000 STRV (3.1 percent) from last year over the same period. Meanwhile, although non-reporter deliveries (also known as direct consumption imports, or DCI¹) rebounded in April, the May number came in relatively weaker. Thus, DCI cumulative volume stands at 447,000 STRV, the lowest level since 2020/21.

¹ Sugar deliveries for human consumption are equal to the sum of beet and cane sugar deliveries plus DCI. DCI is also referred to as non-reporter deliveries. "Non-reporters" do not report to *SMD*, as opposed to the reporters (comprised of beet processors and cane refiners), and their imports are assumed to be refined sugar for direct consumption or delivery to an end-user. Non-reporter imports are calculated by subtracting the reporters' imports in the *SMD* report from the total imports in the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) *U.S. Sugar Monthly Import and Re-Exports* report. The formula is: $DCI = FAS \text{ total imports} - SMD \text{ cane refiner imports}$. Because of this derived calculation, DCI can be negative in some months. Historically, a negative month for DCI will be eventually offset in succeeding months.

Figure 3
U.S. sugar deliveries for food and beverage use

1,000 short tons, raw value



Note: (**) denotes forecast. The dashed red line represents the long-term trend line. The numbers at the top row of the bars represent the annual growth rates (percent).
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* report and USDA, Farm Service Agency, *Sweetener Market Data* report.

Table 5: U.S. sugar deliveries for food and beverage use, October–May

Components	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	5-year average	Annual change (2025/26 versus 2024/2025)	
1,000 STRV								Percent	
Beet sugar processors	3,238	3,565	3,280	3,184	3,174	3,383	3,288	209	6.6
Cane sugar refiners	4,178	4,159	4,359	4,519	4,371	4,395	4,317	24	0.5
Total reporters	7,416	7,724	7,639	7,703	7,545	7,779	7,605	233	3.1
Non-reporters (direct consumption)	609	612	665	488	496	447	574	-49	-9.9
Total	8,025	8,336	8,304	8,190	8,042	8,226	8,179	184	2.3
Percent share in total								Percentage points	
Beet sugar processors	40	43	40	39	39	41	40	2	N/A
Cane sugar refiners	52	50	52	55	54	53	53	-1	N/A
Total reporters	92	93	92	94	94	95	93	1	N/A
Non-reporters (direct consumption)	8	7	8	6	6	5	7	-1	N/A
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0	N/A

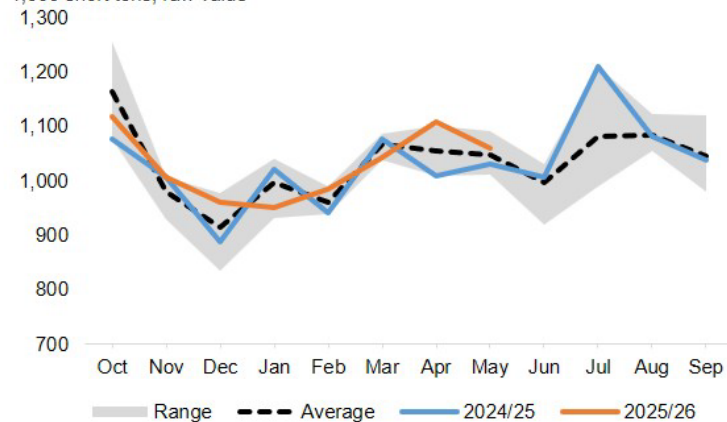
N/A = not applicable; STRV = short tons, raw value.

Note: Totals and percentages may not add due to rounding. "Reporters" refer to beet processors and cane refiners that report their data to the USDA, Farm Service Agency's monthly *Sweetener Market Data (SMD)* report. Years included in the 5-year average are 2020/21–2024/25.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from USDA, Farm Service Agency.

Figure 4
U.S. total sugar deliveries for food and beverage use, monthly, fiscal years 2020/21–2025/26

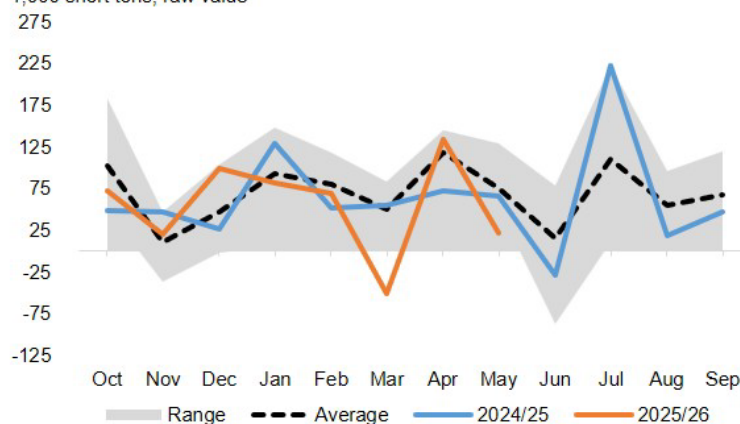
1,000 short tons, raw value



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from USDA, Farm Service Agency.

Figure 5
U.S. non-reporter sugar deliveries, monthly, fiscal years 2020/21–2025/26

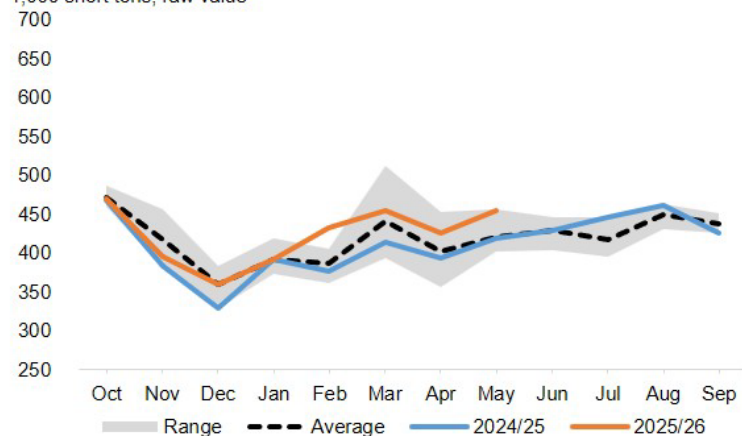
1,000 short tons, raw value



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from USDA, Farm Service Agency.

Figure 6
U.S. refined beet sugar deliveries, monthly, fiscal years 2020/21–2025/26

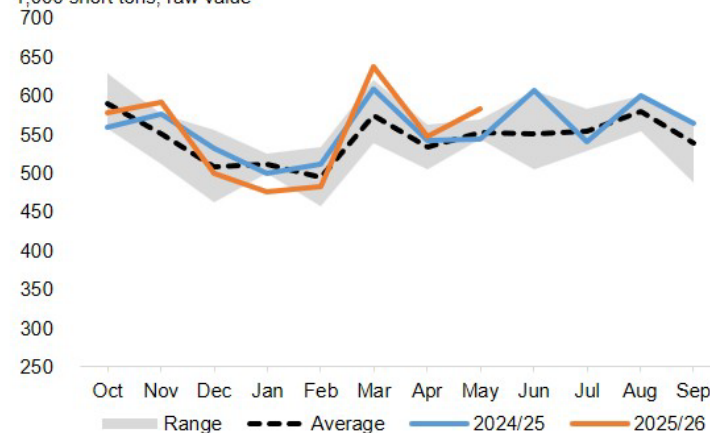
1,000 short tons, raw value



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from USDA, Farm Service Agency.

Figure 7
U.S. refined cane sugar deliveries, monthly, fiscal years 2020/21–2025/26

1,000 short tons, raw value



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from USDA, Farm Service Agency.

Mexico's Sugar Outlook

Mexico's Sugar Production Is Raised for 2025/26 and 2026/27

For 2025/26, Mexico's sugar production is raised 74,000 metric tons, actual weight (MT) from last month to 5.310 million, given the campaign's stronger-than-expected finish (table 6). In its latest weekly production report (week 41 through July 11) that was released after the July USDA, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*' (WASDE) report, Mexico's National Committee for the Sustainable Development of Sugarcane (CONADESUCA) reported cumulative sugar production at 5.322 million MT. Corresponding adjustments will be made to the August WASDE report.

As of week 41, a point when prior campaigns have historically concluded, 5 of the 47 mills are still in operation (table 7). Despite a weather-delayed start, the cumulative harvested area of 735,000 hectares (ha) is now close to matching last year's 736,000 ha. While the acreage remains relatively lower compared with past years, this year's relatively strong sugarcane field yield and extraction rates have more than compensated for it.

Mexico's 2026/27 sugar production is raised 94,000 MT from last month to 5.377 million. This number is 1 percent higher than the revised 2025/26, based on an updated forecast provided by USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service's Mexico City Post. Post noted an expectation for better growing conditions and an increased outlook for harvested area.

Minimal Changes to the Rest of Mexico's 2025/26 and 2026/27 Sugar Balance Sheet

For 2025/26, other changes in the balance sheet from last June are based on Post. These changes include a 10,000-MT decrease in sugar imports for consumption (now at 30,000 MT) and a 56,000-MT reduction in sugar deliveries for domestic consumption (now at 3.945 million MT). The reduction in deliveries (combined with increased supply) result in a 102,000-MT increase in exports to destinations other than the United States (now at 852,000 MT), the largest since 2018/19. The net effect of these changes is a 19,000-MT increase in ending stocks (now at 1.195 million MT), which filters through as increased beginning stocks for 2026/27.

For 2026/27, a major change in this month's balance sheet (on top of the higher beginning stocks and production) is the upward adjustment to Mexico's total exports of 94,000 MT to 1.292 million. Mexico's sugar exports to the United States (in accordance with the U.S. Needs calculation in July)

are raised 257,000 MT from last month to 1.152 million, mostly offsetting a 163,000-MT reduction in exports to non-U.S. destinations. Sugar exports to the United States are preferred over non-U.S. destinations because U.S. prices tend to be relatively higher than world prices.

Table 6: Mexico's sugar supply and use by fiscal year (October–September), 1,000 metric tons, actual weight

	2024/25	2025/26			2026/27		
	Final	June	July	Monthly change	June	July	Monthly change
Beginning stocks	1,418	1,123	1,123	0	1,176	1,195	19
Production	4,771	5,236	5,310	74	5,283	5,377	94
Imports	167	52	42	-10	28	28	0
Imports for consumption	154	39	30	-10	14	14	0
Imports for IMMEX	13	13	13	0	14	14	0
Total supply	6,355	6,411	6,476	65	6,488	6,601	113
Exports	1,023	938	1,040	102	1,198	1,292	94
Exports to the United States and Puerto Rico	432	188	188	0	895	1,152	257
Exports to other countries 1/	591	750	852	102	304	140	-163
Deliveries to domestic users	4,209	4,297	4,241	-56	4,226	4,226	0
Domestic consumption	3,901	4,001	3,945	-56	3,929	3,929	0
IMMEX	323	296	296	0	297	297	0
Other deliveries, end-of-year statistical adjustment	-14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Use	5,232	5,235	5,280	46	5,425	5,519	94
Ending stocks	1,123	1,176	1,195	19	1,063	1,082	19
Domestic	973	1,026	1,045	19	913	932	19
United States 2/	150	150	150	0	150	150	0
Stocks-to-domestic-consumption ratio (percent)	28.8	29.4	30.3	0.9	27	28	0.5
HFCS consumption (dry weight)	1,639	1,680	1,500	-180	1,462	1,462	0

IMMEX = Industria Manufacturera, Maquiladora y de Servicios de Exportación; HFCS = high-fructose corn syrup.

Note: Totals and monthly changes may not add due to rounding.

1/ Includes exports participating in the U.S. re-export programs.

2/ Starting in May 2025, a new line for "sugar inventory with polarity of less than 99.2 for exports to the United States" was added. This addition was done after Mexico's National Committee for the Sustainable Development of Sugarcane (CONADESUCA) included this information in its fourth iteration of the 2024/25 *National Sugar Balance* report, published on May 6, 2025.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* report; Mexico's National Committee for the Sustainable Development of Sugarcane (CONADESUCA).

Table 7: Mexico's cumulative sugar production through week 41 of the harvest season

	Pace to date		Over-the-year difference (2025/26 versus 2024/25)	
	2024/25	2025/26	Level	Percent
Number of mills in operation	2	5	3	150
Area harvested (1,000 ha)	736	735	-1	0
Sugarcane processed (1,000 MT)	45,744	49,583	3,840	8
Sugarcane yield (MT per ha)	62.1	67.4	5.3	9
Extraction rate (percent)	10.4	10.7	0.3	3
Agro-industrial yield (MT sugar per ha)	6.5	7.2	0.8	12
Sugar production (1,000 MT)	4,770	5,322	552	12
By type:				
Refinada	935	1,055	120	13
Estándar	3,309	3,869	560	17
Blanco especial	65	58	-7	-11
Mascabado	5	20	15	309
Polarity less than 99.2	457	321	-136	-30

ha = hectares; MT = metric tons.

Note: Totals and monthly changes may not add due to rounding.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from Mexico's National Committee for the Sustainable Development of Sugarcane (CONADESUCA).

Suggested Citation

Abadam, V. and Huang, J. (2026). *Sugar and sweeteners outlook: July 2026* (Report No. SSS-M-455). U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.

Use of commercial and trade names does not imply approval or constitute endorsement by USDA.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint: https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint](https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.