



Sugar and Sweeteners Outlook

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In this report:

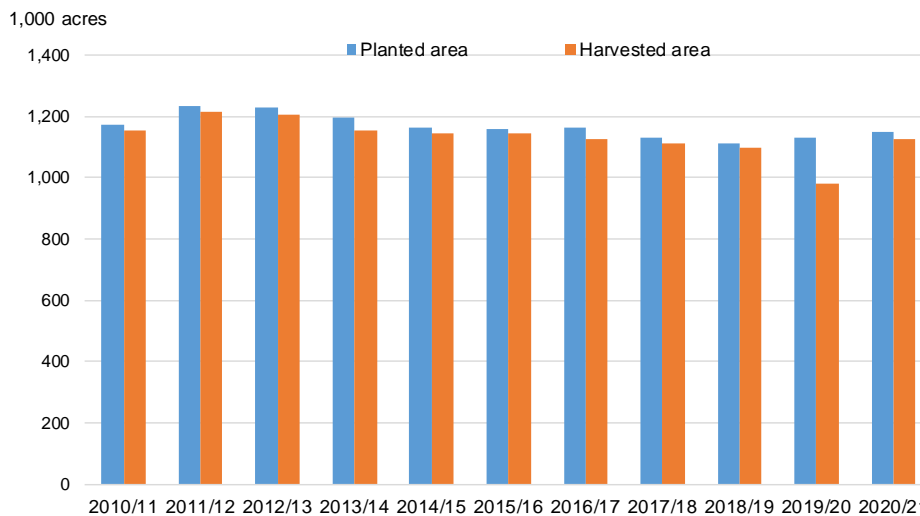
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U.S. Sugar Production Raised for 2020/21 Due to Harvested Area Forecasts

Both the U.S. sugarcane and sugarbeet crops are forecast to increase harvested area in 2020/21, raising U.S. sugar production projections. Higher estimated imports for 2019/20 result in higher carryout, also boosting 2020/21 supplies. The stocks-to-use ratio for 2019/20 is estimated to be 14.5 percent and 13.5 percent for 2020/21.

Mexico sugar production estimates are raised for 2019/20, increasing exports to the United States. Lower forecasted domestic deliveries in both 2019/20 and 2020/21 allow for more domestic supplies to be exported, with most of the increase in 2020/21 expected to go to non-U.S. destinations.

Sugarbeet planted and harvested area, 2010/11 to 2020/21



Note: 2020/21 data are forecasts.
Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

United States Outlook

Increased Acreage Raises Sugar Production for 2020/21

In the USDA's July *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* (WASDE), U.S. total supplies of sugar in 2020/21 totaled 13.921 million short tons, raw value (STRV), a 187,000-STRV increase from the June forecast. The increase is due to higher beginning stocks and domestic production, which were slightly offset by lower imports.

Table 1: U.S. sugar: Supply and use by fiscal year (Oct./Sept.), July 2020

Items	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
		(estimate)	(forecast)	(estimate)	(forecast)	
	1,000 Short tons, raw value			1,000 Metric tons, raw value		
Beginning stocks	2,008	1,783	1,772	1,822	1,617	1,608
Total production	8,999	8,002	9,090	8,163	7,259	8,246
Beet sugar	4,939	4,256	5,000	4,480	3,861	4,536
Cane sugar	4,060	3,746	4,090	3,683	3,398	3,710
Florida	2,005	2,106	2,105	1,819	1,910	1,910
Louisiana	1,907	1,513	1,850	1,730	1,372	1,678
Texas	147	127	135	134	115	122
Hawaii	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total imports	3,070	4,178	3,059	2,785	3,790	2,775
Tariff-rate quota imports	1,541	2,203	1,580	1,398	1,998	1,433
Other program imports	438	350	350	397	318	318
Non-program imports	1,092	1,625	1,129	990	1,474	1,024
Mexico	1,000	1,395	1,079	908	1,265	979
High-duty	91	230	50	83	209	45
Total supply	14,076.75	13,962	13,921	12,770	12,666	12,629
Total exports	35	35	35	31	32	32
Miscellaneous	28	0	0	26	0	0
Deliveries for domestic use	12,231	12,155	12,230	11,096	11,027	11,095
Transfer to sugar-containing products						
for exports under re-export program	98	80	80	89	73	73
Transfer to polyhydric alcohol, feed, other alcohol	27	25	25	25	23	23
Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) sale for ethanol, other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deliveries for domestic food and beverage use	12,106	12,050	12,125	10,982	10,932	11,000
Total use	12,294	12,190	12,265	11,153	11,059	11,127
Ending stocks	1,783	1,772	1,656	1,617	1,608	1,502
Private	1,783	1,772	1,656	1,617	1,608	1,502
Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stocks-to-use ratio	14.50	14.54	13.50	14.50	14.54	13.50

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Sugar and Sweeteners Outlook.

Domestic production in 2019/20 is reduced 29,000 STRV—to 4.256 million STRV---based on processors' reporting lower sucrose extraction rates from the sugarbeet slicing campaign through May.

Table 2: Beet sugar production projection calculation, 2019/20 and 2020/21

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21
					June	July	June	July
Sugarbeet production (1,000 short tons) 1/	35,371	36,881	35,325	33,282	28,600	28,600	33,671	33,929
Sugarbeet shrink	6.5%	8.3%	7.3%	5.2%	5.7%	5.7%	6.6%	6.6%
Sugarbeet sliced (1,000 short tons)	33,066	33,834	32,742	31,561	26,984	26,984	31,454	31,696
Sugar extraction rate from slice	14.58%	13.72%	15.18%	14.77%	14.31%	14.20%	14.51%	14.51%
Sugar from beets slice (1,000 STRV) 2/	4,820	4,643	4,970	4,660	3,861	3,832	4,564	4,599
Sugar from molasses (1,000 STRV) 2/	380	352	368	352	337	337	360	360
Crop-year sugar production (1,000 STRV) 2/	5,201	4,995	5,338	5,012	4,198	4,169	4,924	4,959
August-September sugar production (1,000 STRV)	688	606	715	655	582	582	633	633
August-September sugar production of subsequent crop (1,000 STRV)	606	715	655	582	633	633	638	638
Sugar from imported beets (1,000 STRV) 3/	--	--	--	--	36	36	36	36
Fiscal year sugar production (1,000 STRV)	5,119	5,103	5,279	4,939	4,285	4,256	4,965	5,000

1/ USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service for historical data. 2/ August-July basis. 3/ Sugar from imported beets split out for projections only, included in total once full crop-year slice is recorded. Sugar from imported beets is incorporated into total production in historical data.

Note: STRV = short tons, raw value.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service and World Agricultural Outlook Board.

On June 30, the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) published its first forecast of harvested area for both the 2020/21 sugarcane and sugarbeet crop in its *Acreage* report. The report showed that U.S. growers planted 1.148 million acres of sugarbeets this spring, about planted 9,000 more acres than they intended in the March *Prospective Plantings* report. This was led by additional planted acres in Minnesota (5,000 additional acres), Michigan (4,000 acres), and Nebraska (2,300 acres). The increase was partially due to the delayed planting, which is likely to reduce expected sugarbeet yields from what was expected in March and April. These increases were offset by reductions in planted area from the March intentions in Colorado (700 fewer acres), Wyoming (500 acres), and Washington (200 acres). Planted area for 2020/21 is 1.4 percent higher than the previous year's crop.

Table 3: Sugarbeet planted area, 2016/17 to 2020/21

State	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 (estimate)	Annual Change (Percent)
			1,000 acres			
Minnesota	437.0	420.0	415.0	424.0	432.0	1.9
North Dakota	213.0	214.0	202.0	212.0	214.0	0.9
Idaho	172.0	167.0	163.0	171.0	168.0	-1.8
Michigan	151.0	144.0	150.0	146.0	154.0	5.5
Nebraska	48.0	46.1	45.5	44.0	46.3	5.2
Montana	45.6	42.9	43.5	41.8	42.8	2.4
Wyoming	30.7	32.1	32.1	31.6	31.0	-1.9
Colorado	28.1	29.4	26.3	25.1	24.5	-2.4
California	25.3	25.0	24.6	24.5	24.4	-0.4
Oregon	10.7	9.1	9.3	10.0	9.1	-9.0
Washington	2.0	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.8	-10.0
U.S. Total	1,163.4	1,131.4	1,113.1	1,132.0	1,147.9	1.4

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

NASS also forecast that the 2020/21 sugarbeet harvest will cover 1.127 million acres. This would represent a 15.1-percent increase from the previous year, as 2019/20 was marked with record amounts of unharvested area due to poor weather conditions. The 2020/21 forecast implies that unharvested area will return to levels consistent with historical averages.

Table 4: Sugarbeet harvested area, 2016/17 to 2020/21

State	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Annual Change
	<i>1,000 acres</i>					<i>Percent</i>
Minnesota	417.0	409.0	408.0	336.0	420.0	25.0
North Dakota	203.0	212.0	199.0	170.0	211.0	24.1
Idaho	170.0	166.0	163.0	165.0	166.0	0.6
Michigan	149.0	143.0	148.0	145.0	152.0	4.8
Nebraska	47.2	45.2	44.1	42.1	45.8	8.8
Montana	45.3	42.7	42.4	36.5	42.6	16.7
Wyoming	30.0	31.6	30.7	24.0	30.2	25.8
Colorado	27.6	29.0	25.5	24.4	24.0	-1.6
Oregon	10.2	9.1	9.3	9.8	9.0	-8.2
Washington	1.9	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.8	-10.0
U.S. Total	1,126.2	1,113.8	1,096.4	979.3	1,126.8	15.1

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The increased harvested area raises beet sugar projections for 2020/21 to 5.000 million STRV—a 35,000-STRV increase from the previous month's figure. The expected sugarbeet yield, as well as the beet processing parameters, remain unchanged from the previous month. The first official yield forecast by NASS will be published in the August *Crop Production* report, which will provide an objective assessment of the productivity of recently planted crop.

U.S. Sugarcane Harvested Area in 2020/21 Expected To Be Largest Since 2005/06

The *Acreage* report provided the first USDA forecast information for the 2020/21 sugarcane crop. The United States is expected to harvest 920,400 acres of sugarcane from the current crop. This represents a 0.8-percent increase from the previous year and the largest area harvested in the United States since 2005/06.

Table 5: Sugarcane harvested area, 2016/17 to 2020/21

State	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 (forecast)	Annual Change
	<i>1,000 acres</i>					<i>Percent</i>
Florida	417.0	412.7	412.3	410.7	404.0	-1.6
Louisiana	431.0	449.6	448.5	469.0	480.0	2.3
Texas	39.6	41.8	38.9	33.5	36.4	8.7
Hawaii	15.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	--
U.S. Total	903.1	904.1	899.7	913.2	920.4	0.8

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Louisiana is forecast to harvest 480,000 acres, which would be a 2.3-percent increase from the previous year and the largest State total since 2003/04. Louisiana has seen an upward trend in sugarcane area beginning in 2016/17, as the region introduced new varieties that have allowed

for more production in the northern edges of the State's growing region and provide better yields for the State's relatively short growing-season and harvesting window.

Sugarcane area in Florida is forecast to be 1.6-percent lower than 2019/20. This would be the State's lowest total since 2011/12—although both harvested area and production have remained in a relatively narrow range since then, with sugar production primarily driven by sugarcane yields and processor recovery rates.

Texas is forecast to see an 8.7-percent increase from 2019/20, as the State returns to levels consistent with recent historical averages.

Cane sugar production is projected to be 4.090 million STRV, a 50,000-STRV increase from the June forecast, due to the higher harvested area forecast. The increase is entirely captured by a 50,000-STRV increase in cane sugar production in Louisiana—totaling 1.850 million STRV. Florida and Texas cane sugar production remain unchanged at 2.105 million and 135,000 STRV, respectively.

U.S. Sugar Use Forecasts Unchanged from Previous Year

No changes were made to the forecasts of U.S. sugar use, although the market is still absorbing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it has changed economic activity. U.S. domestic deliveries of sugar in 2019/20 are estimated at 12.155 million STRV, with 12.050 million STRV being delivered for food and beverage use. Domestic deliveries in 2020/21 are projected to be 12.230 million STRV, with 12.125 million STRV for food and beverage use—representing a 0.6-percent annual increase for each forecast.

Through May, total deliveries for food and beverage use were 1.7 percent higher than the same period in 2018/19. Deliveries by beet processors and cane sugar refiners—which report to the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) *Sweetener Market Data* (SMD)—were 1.8 percent lower, however. This has been largely due to lower production from domestically grown sugarbeets and sugarcane, particularly the beet sector, where deliveries are 10.5 percent lower as a result of the estimated 16.0-percent decline in beet sugar production.

Table 6: Food and beverage deliveries, 2014/15 to 2019/20, October through May

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Annual change
	<i>1,000 short tons, raw value</i>						<i>Percent</i>
Beet sugar processors	3,120	2,953	3,519	3,487	3,320	2,973	-10.5
Cane sugar refiners	4,030	4,221	3,987	3,964	4,132	4,347	5.2
Total reporters	7,150	7,174	7,506	7,451	7,452	7,320	-1.8
Nonreporter, direct consumption	378	557	505	438	487	752	54.4
Total deliveries	7,528	7,731	8,011	7,888	7,939	8,072	1.7
Final fiscal year deliveries 1/	11,921	11,881	12,102	12,048	12,106	12,050	-0.5

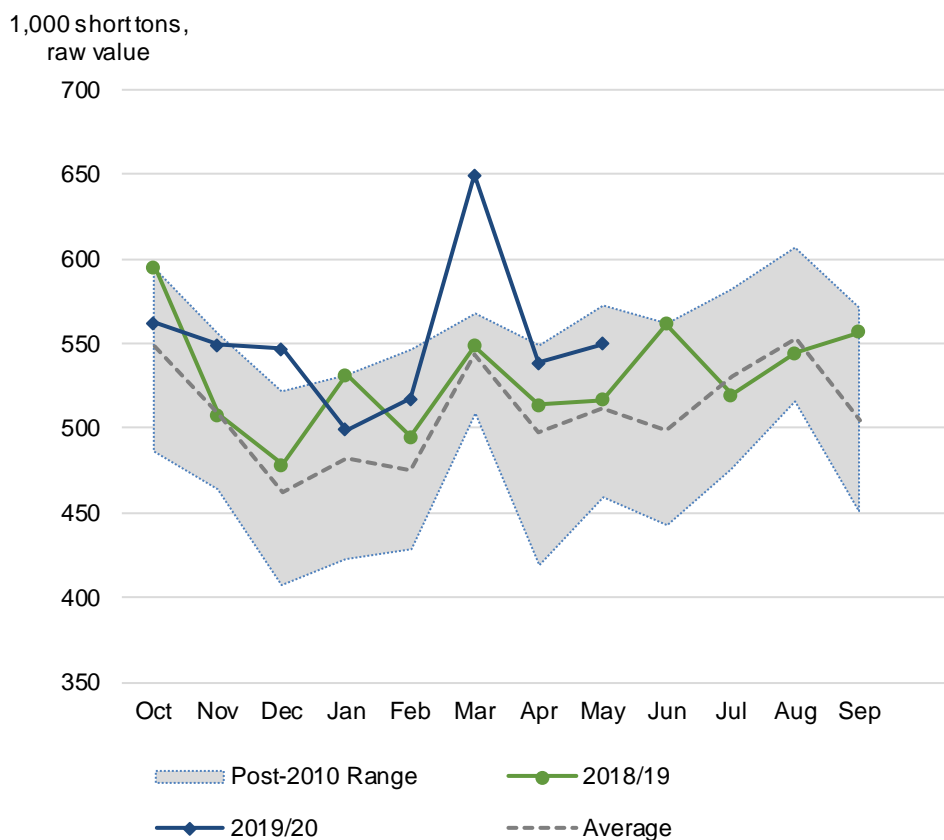
1/ Latest WASDE estimate for 2019/20.

Source: USDA, Farm Service Agency.

Deliveries from nonreporters, which make up about 7 percent of total deliveries, are up 54.4 percent compared with a year ago. The large amount of deliveries from nonreporters is due to: increased imported refined sugar through the USDA's actions to increase the refined tariff rate quota (TRQ); a higher proportion of sugar imported through free-trade agreements (FTAs) being higher polarity sugar and not needing additional refining; and higher levels of high-tier tariff sugar being imported at the full duty rate due to relatively tight supplies and high prices in the United States compared with the world futures market. The year-over-year increase in deliveries is primarily due to higher nonreporter deliveries that are occurring because of the relatively tight supply situation. It is also highly likely that these imports are being captured as deliveries earlier in the year than they would had the sugar been delivered by a reporter and remained in the reporter's inventory longer. As a result, the year-to-date pace through May is not likely to hold for the remainder of the year, which is why the current forecast in 2019/20 for deliveries is for a 0.5-percent decline despite the pace-to-date being higher.

With lower production and deliveries expected from the beet processing sector in 2019/20, the cane sugar refining sector has been expected to increase its throughput to compensate. The April 1 announcement by the USDA to increase the raw sugar TRQ provided additional raw sugar supplies for the sector to refine. In March 2020, the sector set a record melt rate, refining about 650,000 STRV of raw sugar into refined sugar—eclipsing the previous high mark for monthly refining of about 607,000 STRV. In April and May, while melt rates have remained above average, refineries have not continued with the same rate of throughput as in March. This could be part of the impact of COVID-19, which has created uncertainty for total sugar demand in the United States, as total food consumption in the country has shifted dramatically from away-from-home food consumption to at-home food consumption.

Figure 1
Sugarcane refiners melt, monthly, 2009/10 to 2019/20



Source: USDA, Farm Service Agency.

Sugar Imports in 2020/21 Lowered, Partially Due to Raised Forecasts for 2019/20 Imports

U.S. sugar imports in 2020/21 are projected to total 3.059 million STRV, a 38,000-STRV reduction from the previous month's report. The reduction is primarily due to a 223,000-STRV decrease in projected imports from Mexico, as the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC) will calculate its first U.S. Needs and Export Limit calculation for 2020/21, in accordance with the Suspension Agreements.

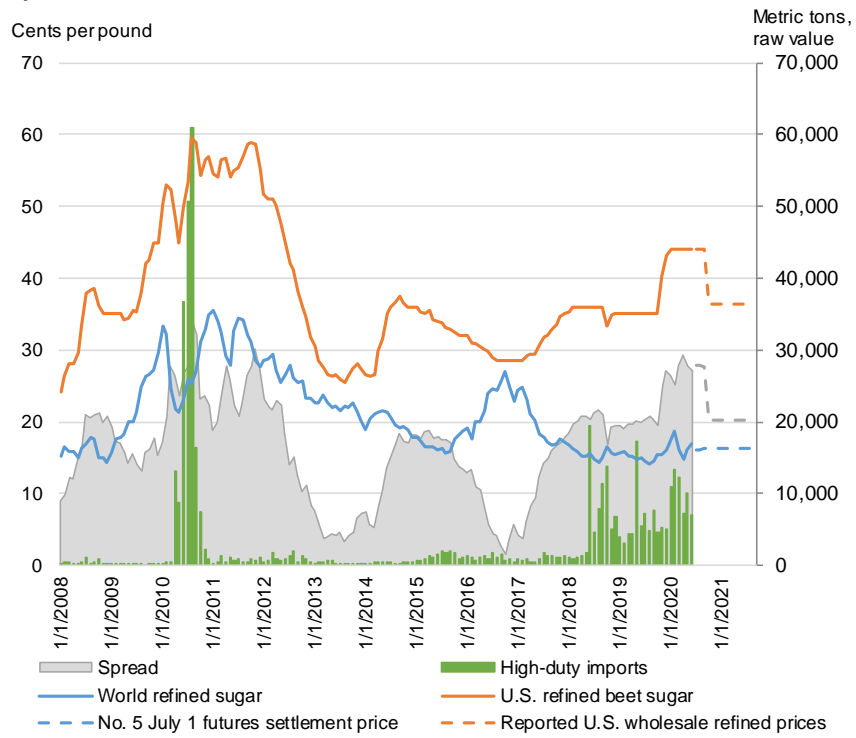
The reduction in 2020/21 imports from Mexico are partially offset by a 185,000-STRV increase from imports under quota programs. On July 9, the USDA announced the volumes of the 2020/21 tariff rate quotas. This included the WTO minimum obligations for refined, raw, and specialty sugar, which were accounted for in previous WASDE projections. The announcement also included a 154,000-STRV additional quota for specialty sugars. Additionally, imports under

free trade agreements (FTAs) are increased 31,000 STRV based on additional imports entering from Canada as part of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) that entered into force in July 2020.

Imports for 2019/20 are estimated to be 4.178 million STRV, a 163,000-STRV increase from the previous month. The increase is primarily the result of higher imports from Mexico during the current fiscal year. The amount of sugar shipped to the United States from Mexico is expected to be a function of available supplies between the drought-affected sugarcane crop and the amount of domestic demand within Mexico. As Mexico's sugarcane harvest concludes in July, production estimates have been increased, allowing for more shipments to the United States. Additional information on Mexico's supply-and-use outlook can be found in the subsequent section of this report.

Imports under quota programs for 2019/20 are estimated to total 2.203 million STRV, a 23,000-STRV increase from the June estimate. Like the 2020/21 projection, the increase is due to the provisions of the USMCA entering into force in July 2020, giving Canada additional market access under the FTA. High-tier tariff imports are projected to be 230,000 STRV, unchanged from the previous month. According to the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), through June, nearly 84,000 STRV have entered the United States. U.S. Customs reports and data indicate that a large volume of sugar has entered the United States but remains in bonded warehouses in preparation to clear customs. This buildup in supplies is likely to drive an increase in high-tier tariff imports for the remainder of the fiscal year—and potentially carry into 2020/21.

Figure 2
U.S. and World refined sugar prices, monthly, January 2008 to September 2021



Mexico Outlook

Sugarcane Harvest Stretches into July, Raising Supply Estimates for 2019/20

Mexico sugar supplies in 2019/20 are estimated at 6.540 million metric tons, actual value (MT)—a 52,000-MT increase from the previous month. The increase is due to higher production expected, as the current sugarcane harvests season concludes in July. The July WASDE estimates 2019/20 Mexico sugar production at 5.282 million MT—accounting for all of the increase in total supplies.

Through July 4, Conadesuca, the domestic sugar market and policy authority in Mexico, reported production of 5.274 million MT with only one sugarcane mill remaining in operation for the season. Late season harvest results have shown relatively stronger yields and recovery rates than what was reported through the peak of the harvest. This is largely due to the fact that most of the remaining mills in operation during the later portion of the year were in Mexico's Pacific regions, which was less affected by the severe drought that dramatically reduced productivity in the Gulf, Northeast, and Southeast.

Sugar production for 2020/21 is projected to total 6.100 million MT, unchanged from the previous month. The projection is based on a return to normal weather conditions during the growing season for the crop. Severe drought conditions during the summer of 2019 were largely responsible for the lower yields and production of the 2019/20 crop.

Table 7: Mexico sugar supply and use 2018/19 - 2019/20 and projected 2020/21, July 2020

Items	2018/19	2019/20 (estimate)	2020/21 (forecast)
	1,000 metric tons, actual weight		
Beginning stocks	1,395	1,169	929
Production	6,426	5,282	6,100
Imports	85	89	89
Imports for consumption	22	24	24
Imports for sugar-containing product exports, IMMEX 1/, other	63	65	65
Total supply	7,905	6,540	7,118
Disappearance			
Human consumption	4,092	4,077	4,073
For sugar-containing product exports (IMMEX)	460	301	385
Other deliveries and end-of-year statistical adjustment	-20	0	0
Total	4,532	4,378	4,458
Exports	2,204	1,233	1,731
Exports to the United States & Puerto Rico	856	1,194	898
Exports to other countries	1,348	39	833
Total use	6,737	5,611	6,189
Ending stocks	1,169	929	929
	1,000 metric tons, raw value		
Beginning stocks	1,478	1,239	985
Production	6,811	5,599	6,466
Imports	90	94	94
Imports for consumption	23	25	25
Imports for sugar-containing product exports (IMMEX)	67	69	69
Total supply	8,380	6,932	7,545
Disappearance			
Human consumption	4,337	4,322	4,317
For sugar-containing product exports (IMMEX)	488	319	408
Other deliveries and end-of-year statistical adjustment	-21	0	0
Total	4,804	4,641	4,725
Exports	2,337	1,307	1,835
Exports to the United States & Puerto Rico	908	1,265	952
Exports to other countries	1,429	41	883
Total use	7,141	5,947	6,560
Ending stocks	1,239	985	985
Stocks-to-human consumption (percent)	28.6	22.8	22.8
Stocks-to-use (percent)	17.3	16.6	15.0
High-fructose corn syrup (HFCS) consumption (dry weight)	1,528	1,493	1,470

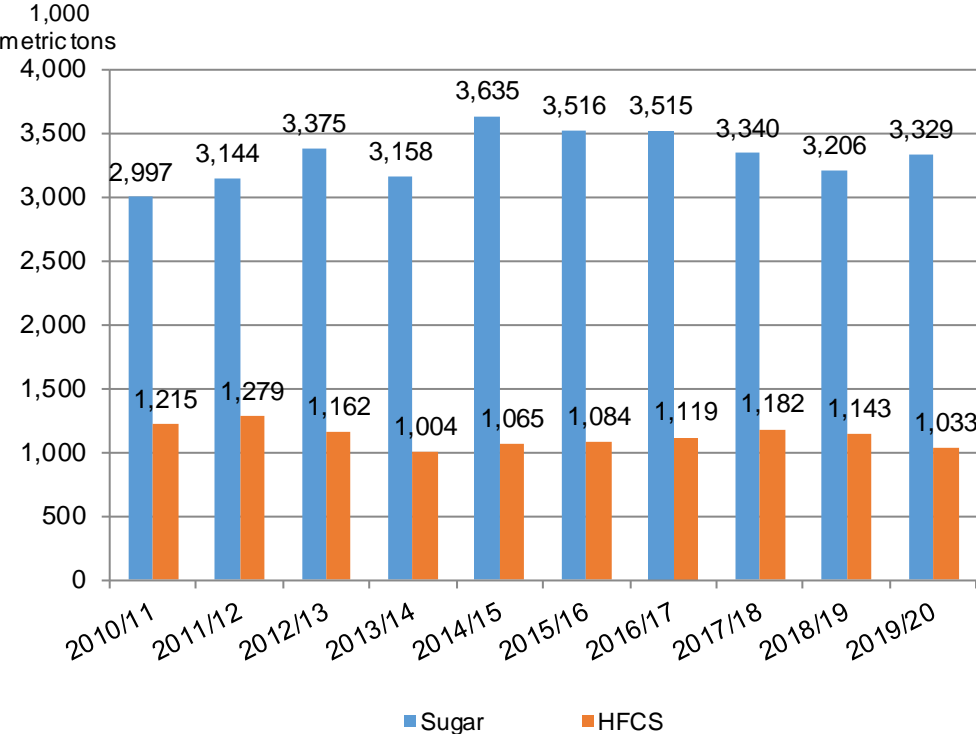
1/ IMMEX = Industria Manufacturera, Maquiladora y de Servicios de Exportación.

Source: USDA, *World Agricultural Outlook Board*; USDA, Economic Research Service; Conadesuca.

Forecasts for Domestic Deliveries Lower for 2019/20 and 2020/21

Domestic deliveries for 2019/20 in Mexico are estimated at 4.378 million MT, a 44,000-MT reduction from the previous month. The reduction is primarily due to fewer deliveries to the *Industria Manufacturera, Maquiladora y de Servicios de Exportación* (IMMEX) program, which facilitates exports of domestically produced products in Mexico—including sugar-containing food products. This is partially offset by a 20,000-MT increase of deliveries for domestic human consumption, estimated to total 4.077 million MT. The increase is due to reporting from the FAS Mexico City Post’s reporting. Like the United States, domestic food purchasing and consumption patterns have been dramatically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through May, Conadesuca reported sugar deliveries were 2.0 percent higher than the previous year.

Figure 3
Mexican sweetener consumption October to June, 2010/11 to 2019/20

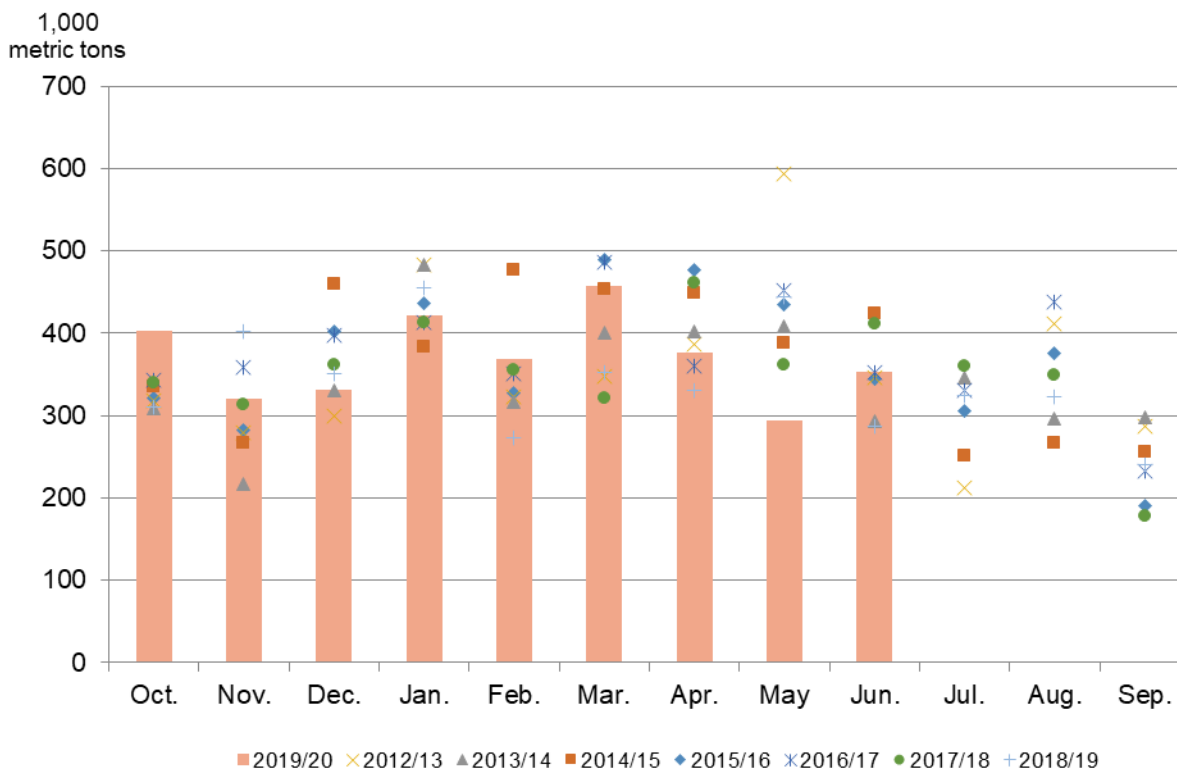


Source: Conadesuca.

There were indications of the pandemic having a negative impact on sugar demand based on lower deliveries in May, however. The monthly deliveries series is a relatively volatile one, with potential for big swings from one month to the next, making it difficult to extrapolate the results of one single data point. FAS reporting suggests that there are also some positive demand

factors for sugar-containing products in Mexico due to the pandemic---in particular, sugar-containing beverages and soft drinks seeing an increased consumption due to lack of availability of alcoholic beverages.

Figure 4
Mexican sugar deliveries for consumption, monthly, 2012/13 to 2019/20



Source: Conadesuca.

Domestic deliveries in 2020/21 are projected at 4.458 million MT—a 117,000-MT reduction from the previous month. Both IMMEX and domestic consumption deliveries are reduced from the previous month by 50,000 and 67,000 MT, respectively, based on FAS reporting. Deliveries for human consumption are projected at 4.073 million MT, which would represent a 0.1-percent decline from the current 2019/20 estimate, reflecting some of the potential impacts of COVID-19, as well as other national trends focused on nutrition- and health-related issues. Deliveries of high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS) are also reduced 23,000-MT to 1.470 million MT, due to lower demand and terms of trade with the United States—which ships the majority of Mexico’s HFCS supply. In particular, exchange rates have not favored shipments of HFCS to Mexico.

Exports Raised for 2019/20 and 2020/21, Carryout Reduced

The additional available supplies, and reduced domestic use, result in raised estimated exports for 2019/20. Exports for 2019/20 are estimated at 1.233 million MT, a 120,000-MT increase from the June report. The increase is due to more shipments to the United States, which is estimated to total 1.194 million STRV. Exports to other countries remain unchanged at 39,000 MT.

Exports for 2020/21 are projected at 1.731 million MT, a 117,000-MT increase from the previous month. Shipments to the United States are forecast to be 923,000 MT, a 191,000-MT reduction from June, based on the anticipated U.S. Needs calculation done by the USDOC from the July WASDE projections. Exports to other countries are raised 308,000 MT to 808,000 MT, however. Exports to other countries are forecast based on the amount of available supplies in 2020/21 to fully satisfy domestic demand, the U.S. Export Limit, and carry 2 ½ months of domestic use as ending stocks to carry the market between the beginning of the 2021/22 fiscal year and the beginning of that year's harvest in November.

Ending stocks for 2020/21 are projected to be 929,000 MT, a 24,000-MT reduction from the previous year based on the revised projection of domestic use.

Suggested Citation

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