

**International Sugar Organization**1 Canada Square
Canary Wharf
London E14 5AA**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR****Press Release(26)25
(English only)****12 August 2026****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**US: Sugar users say exemption of in-quota sugar from new tariffs avoids raising costs for consumers**

The Sweetener Users Association (SUA) has welcomed the Office of the United States Trade Representative's (USTR) decision to exempt sugar imported under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) raw and refined sugar tariff-rate quotas (TRQ) from the new tariffs between 10% and 12.5% imposed under Section 301, reports Sugaronline.

The Trump administration announced new tariffs on [July 23](#) on 60 economies, citing their failure to impose and enforce a prohibition on the use of forced labor in the production of goods. Sugar imports under the TRQ are exempt from the new tariffs, according to SUA.

"We appreciate USTR's recognition that sugar imports are essential to meeting domestic demand," said SUA president Rick Pasco in a [statement released](#) July 24.

"Exempting sugar entering under the WTO raw and refined sugar quotas from these new tariffs will help ensure a more reliable sugar supply without adding unnecessary costs for American food manufacturers and consumers."

SUA said the US is a net importer of sugar, consuming approximately 12 million short tonnes annually while producing approximately 9 million short tonnes domestically, and that imports are therefore "an essential part of the US sugar supply."

SUA also encouraged the USTR and the US Department of Agriculture to implement the Government Accountability Office's 2023 recommendations for improving how raw sugar import quotas are allocated and reallocated and to carry out the sugar reallocation requirements enacted by Congress through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

INDIA: Government continues to defend support measures for cane producers at WTO

India's state minister for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said in a written reply to Parliament that the government continues to defend nine trade disputes at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), including related to the sugar sector, according to the Times of India.

Brazil, Australia and Guatemala have challenged India's domestic support for sugarcane producers and cited alleged sugar export subsidies, which they argue are inconsistent with WTO rules.

Prasada said India has defended its policies and that the measures have continued to benefit sugarcane producers. He added that India has appealed the panel report and that the appeals remain pending.

INDIA: Government has approved INR46.9 billion in subsidy support for ethanol projects

India's government has approved INR46.87 billion in interest subsidies for eligible ethanol projects under its various support schemes, according to the Economic Times' Energy World. Junior petroleum minister Suresh Gopi revealed this to Parliament on Aug. 3.

The government provides an interest subvention of 6% or 50% of the interest rate charged by lenders, whichever is lower, for five years on loans taken to set up new distilleries or to expand existing ethanol production facilities.

EUROPE: August rainfall will be critical for beet crop yields in EU and UK – NFU

August rainfall in the European Union and the United Kingdom will be critical to confirm current yield forecasts for the 2026/27 season, which are already significantly lower than last season's, according to a [blog post](#) by the UK farmers' union NFU.

According to NFU senior commercial and market analyst James Thompson, "there is growing concern that the current yield forecast may still prove optimistic if meaningful rainfall fails to materialise."

EU sugar production is expected to total 14.1 million metric tonnes in 2026/27, compared to 16.6 million tonnes in 2025/26, according to the European Commission.

If August brings meaningful rainfall to Europe and improved conditions in other growing regions, current production forecasts may largely be realised, according to Thompson.

"However, if dryness persists, markets may begin to reassess both European and global supply prospects. Analysts are becoming increasingly confident that imports of sugar attracting a duty of €98/tonne will be needed to supply the EU+UK market," he wrote in the blog post released Aug. 5.

FIJI: PM reverses earlier decision and Singh returns to Sugar Ministry

Fiji's PM Sitiveni Rabuka has reinstated Charan Jeeth Singh as Sugar Industry minister, reversing an earlier Cabinet allocation that placed the sugar sector under Agriculture minister Tomasi Tunabuna, according to the Fiji Times.

Singh said he was informed of the decision through an email from the Prime Minister on Aug. 3, and that he will formally take up the portfolio next week.

Singh held the Sugar Industry portfolio before a Cabinet reshuffle several months ago, which saw him moved to Public Enterprises, Multi-Ethnic Affairs, Culture, Heritage and Arts.

ECUADOR: Sugar industry expects to produce 530,000 T of sugar in 2026/27

The Ecuadorian sugar industry began the 2026/27 season expecting to produce around 530,000 metric tonnes of sugar, which is sufficient to supply the domestic market and maintain exports, according to El Productor.

The sector remains alert to the potential impact of El Niño on crops.

The president of the National Federation of Sugar Producers of Ecuador (Fenazúcar), Laura Zurita, said the harvest has begun in the Coastal region, where more than 80% of the area planted with sugarcane is concentrated.

She expects production to reach approximately 530,000 tonnes, as long as weather conditions remain within normal parameters.

EUROPE: Sugar production expected to decline to 10-year low

Sugar production in the European Union and the United Kingdom is expected to fall to the lowest level since the 2015 season, due to hot weather damage and a smaller beet crop, according to a Bloomberg.

Sugar production in the EU+UK is expected to decline to around 15 million tonnes, according to the news report, citing data from S&P Global Energy.

The sugarbeet crop area in Europe has declined for a second straight year, and production has been affected by heat waves this summer.

Covrig Analytics has reduced its output estimate for the EU and UK to 14.7 million tonnes. The European Commission estimates sugar production in the EU alone to fall to 14.1 million tonnes.

FAO Sugar Price Index rises 5.6% in July

The FAO Sugar Price Index rose 5.6% in July from [June](#), mainly driven by concerns about the potential impacts of persistent hot and dry weather on crop yields in the European Union and of El Niño-related weather conditions on production prospects in Asia, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), reports Sugaronline.

"Expectations of stronger demand for ethanol in Brazil following a temporary increase in the mandatory ethanol blend in gasoline also provided support to prices, as a higher ethanol blending requirement could divert a larger share of sugarcane towards ethanol production and reduce sugar availability," FAO said in a [statement](#) on Aug. 7.

Improving harvesting conditions in Brazil's key centre-south growing regions limited the overall increase in international sugar prices.

The FAO Sugar Price Index in July remained 8% lower than its level a year ago.

Sugar is one of the five commodity groups considered to calculate the FAO Food Price Index, which averaged 131.1 points in July 2026, up 0.6% from June and 1% higher than July last year, driven by increases in the prices of sugar, cereals and vegetable oils.

The FAO Food Price Index remained 18.2% below its peak reached in March 2022.

BRAZIL: Sugar production falls 5.7% in 1H July – government data

Sugar production in Brazil's centre-south region fell by 5.7% in the first half of July, from the same period last year, to 3.19 million metric tonnes, per data released by the Ministry of Agriculture, according to Reuters.

A total of 50.65 million tonnes were crushed in the period, up 2.6% year-on-year. Ethanol output totaled 2.43 billion litres, up 12.1% from the previous year, driven in part by higher corn-based ethanol output.

GUATEMALA: Sugar production rises 11% in 2025/26

Guatemala's sugar industry concluded the 2025/26 crushing season with a total production of 2.81 million metric tonnes of sugar, up 11% from the previous harvest, per data released by sugar producers' association Asazgua, according to Copades.

Favorable weather conditions during the growing season, the strong performance of sugarcane varieties, and the timely implementation of agronomic management practices have contributed to increased production, according to Guatecaña's general manager, Luis Miguel Paiz.

The 2026/27 season should be affected by the El Niño weather phenomenon, with potential reduction and disruption of rainfall patterns during the growing season, which could lead to prolonged water scarcity.

FoodNavigator.com

GLP-1 for weight loss exceeds use for diabetes management



Numerator and Kantar data show weight loss has become the dominant reason for GLP-1 use in the US and globally.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/08/05/glp-1-weight-loss-use-now-exceeds-diabetes-use/>

5 trends shaping global energy drink recipes



From GLP-1 to naturalness, the evolution of energy drinks worldwide is being driven by a variety of different trends

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/08/05/5-trends-shaping-global-energy-drink-recipes/>

Germany first EU country to launch Wegovy oral GLP-1



Use of the GLP-1 pill will expand with more EU countries to follow later this year – food and beverage will need to be ready

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/08/06/germany-first-to-launch-wegovy-pill/>

From calories to nutrients: How diet culture has shifted



GLP-1 drugs, protein trends and glucose monitoring are reshaping diet culture, pushing nutrients ahead of once-popular calorie counting

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/08/06/how-has-diet-culture-evolved/>

GLP-1s could be linked to more than 150 deaths



Data on the drugs' side-effects has highlighted potential risks

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/08/10/glp-1s-may-be-linked-to-more-than-150-deaths/>

Drought hits Europe: How have crops been impacted?



Heatwaves have led to water shortages across the continent

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/08/11/drought-in-europe-how-have-crops-been-impacted/>

Roughly 80% of US food products will be labeled GMO by 2028



A federal district court has given the USDA until Jan. 1, 2028, to revise bioengineered food disclosures and close controversial QR code loopholes

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/08/10/court-orders-usda-to-rewrite-gmo-labeling-by-2028/>