



Sugar and Sweeteners Outlook

Michael McConnell, coordinator
David Olson, contributor

U.S. Sugar Deliveries for 2017/18 Lower than 2016/17

The U.S. sugar market in 2017/18 finished with ending stocks of 1.993 million short tons, raw value (STRV) and a stocks-to-use ratio of 16.0 percent. Domestic deliveries for the completed fiscal year were reported 0.6 percent lower than the previous year at 12.185 million STRV, including 12.048 million STRV for food and beverage use. Projected domestic deliveries for 2018/19 are reduced to 12.320 million STRV—12.175 million STRV for food and beverage use—representing a 1.1 percent annual increase from 2017/18 levels. Domestic sugar production for 2018/19 is projected to be 9.015 million STRV, reduced primarily due to a lower forecast sugarbeet crop. Ending stocks for 2018/19 are projected to total 1.404 million STRV, resulting in an 11.3-percent stocks-to-use ratio.

Ending stocks in Mexico for 2017/18 were reported at 1.395 million metric tons, actual value (MT). Deliveries for domestic users finished at 4.739 million MT, including 482,000 MT of deliveries for the IMMEX program. Domestic deliveries for 2018/19 are projected to be 4.893 million MT, accounting for less per capita sweetener consumption than previously forecast and higher deliveries for IMMEX. Ending stocks for 2018/19 are projected to be 1.613 million MT, or a 36.6 percent stocks-to-consumption ratio.

U.S. Domestic Outlook

Sugarbeet Crop Outlook Reduced, Leading to Lower Expected Beet Sugar Production, Partially Offset by Cane Increases

The November *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* (WASDE) projects tighter sugar supplies in the United States for 2018/19, but also less use. The net result is a reduction in projected ending stocks compared with the October report.

Total sugar supplies in 2018/19 are projected to be 13.809 million short ton, raw value (STRV), a 268,000-STRV reduction from the previous month. Some of the reduction is due to a 21,000-STRV decrease in beginning stocks due to changes in the 2017/18 balance table. Most of the reduction is due to a net decrease of 247,000-STRV in domestic production.

Table 1: U.S. sugar: supply and use, by fiscal year (Oct./Sept.), November 2018

Items	1,000 Short tons, raw value			1,000 Metric tons, raw value		
	2016/17	2017/18 (estimate)	2018/19 (forecast)	2016/17	2017/18 (estimate)	2018/19 (forecast)
Beginning stocks	2,054	1,876	1,993	1,863	1,702	1,808
Total production	8,969	9,293	9,015	8,137	8,430	8,178
Beet sugar	5,103	5,279	4,974	4,629	4,789	4,513
Cane sugar	3,866	4,014	4,041	3,507	3,641	3,666
Florida	2,055	1,983	2,050	1,864	1,799	1,860
Louisiana	1,628	1,862	1,841	1,477	1,689	1,670
Texas	140	169	150	127	153	136
Hawaii	43	0	0	39	0	0
Total imports	3,244	3,277	2,801	2,943	2,973	2,541
Tariff-rate quota imports	1,611	1,663	1,564	1,462	1,509	1,419
Other program imports	419	326	350	380	296	318
Non-program imports	1,213	1,287	887	1,101	1,168	805
Mexico	1,201	1,223	842	1,090	1,110	764
Total supply	14,267	14,446	13,809	12,943	13,105	12,527
Total exports	95	170	85	86	154	77
Miscellaneous	38	97	0	35	88	0
Deliveries for domestic use	12,258	12,186	12,320	11,121	11,055	11,177
Transfer to sugar-containing products for exports under re-export program	127	110	120	115	100	109
Transfer to polyhydric alcohol, feed, other alcohol	29	28	25	27	25	23
Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) sale for ethanol, other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deliveries for domestic food and beverage use	12,102	12,048	12,175	10,979	10,930	11,045
Total use	12,391	12,453	12,405	11,241	11,297	11,254
Ending stocks	1,876	1,993	1,404	1,702	1,808	1,273
Private	1,876	1,993	1,404	1,702	1,808	1,273
Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stocks-to-use ratio	15.14	16.00	11.32	15.14	16.00	11.32

Source: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Sugar and Sweetener Outlook.

Domestic sugar production is projected to be 9.015 million STRV. Beet sugar production is reduced 262,000 STRV from the October report, totaling 4.974 million STRV. The reduction is due to 4.9-percent less sugarbeet production forecast by the *National Agricultural Statistics Service* (NASS) in the November *Crop Production* report. Estimates to 2017/18 beet sugar production are raised 34,000 STRV to 5.279 million STRV, based on reported production numbers by processors for September 2018 to the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) *Sweetener Market Data* (SMD)—which rounds out the full 2017/18 fiscal year.

Table 2: Beet sugar production projection calculation, 2017/18 and 2018/19

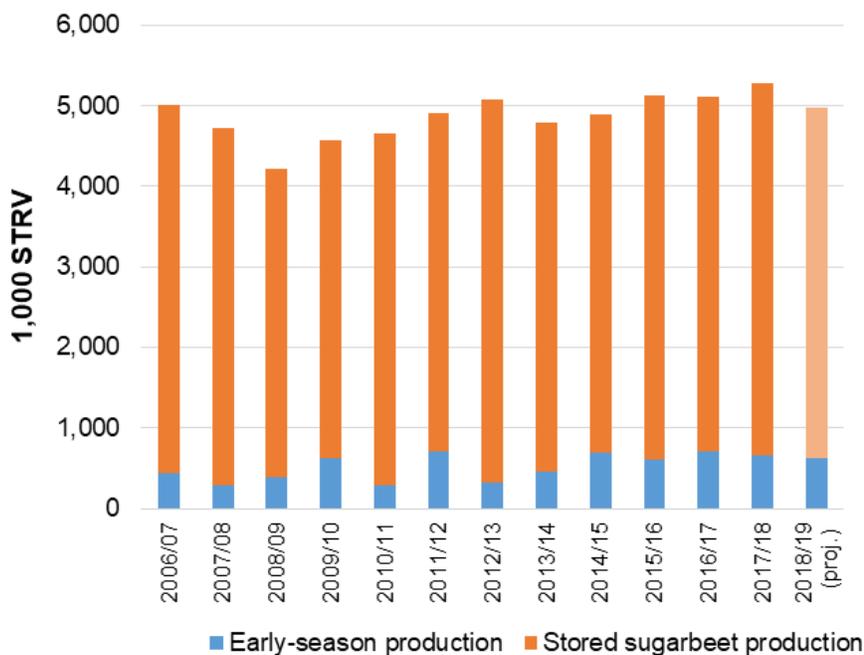
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2017/18	2018/19	2018/19
						October	November	October	November
Sugarbeet production (1,000 short tons) 1/	35,224	32,789	31,285	35,371	36,881	35,325	35,325	35,215	33,504
Sugarbeet shrink 2/	4.8%	6.8%	5.4%	6.5%	8.3%	7.3%	7.3%	6.9%	6.9%
Sugarbeet sliced (1,000 short tons)	33,532	30,545	29,595	33,066	33,834	32,742	32,742	32,785	31,192
Sugar extraction rate from slice	15.3%	14.3%	14.6%	14.6%	13.7%	15.2%	15.2%	14.7%	14.7%
Sugar from beets slice (1,000 STRV)	5,142	4,325	4,325	4,820	4,643	4,970	4,970	4,831	4,596
Sugar from molasses (1,000 STRV) 2/	327	324	341	380	352	368	368	368	368
Crop-year sugar production (1,000 STRV) 3/	5,469	4,648	4,667	5,201	4,995	5,338	5,338	5,199	4,964
August-September sugar production (1,000 STRV)	708	315	461	688	606	715	715	621	655
August-September sugar production forecast (1,000 STRV)	315	461	688	606	715	621	655	618	625
Sugar from imported beets (1,000 STRV) 4/	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40	40
Fiscal year sugar production (1,000 STRV)	5,076	4,794	4,893	5,119	5,103	5,245	5,279	5,236	4,974

Notes: 1/ National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. 2/Projections based on processor forecasts published by U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency. 3/ August-July basis. 4/ Sugar from imported beets split out for projections only, included in total once full crop-year slice is recorded. They are incorporated into total production in historical data.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Economic Research Service and World Agricultural Outlook Board.

Early-season production for the 2018/19 sugarbeet crop came in at 655,000 STRV—not as large as the previous year's record amount but still relatively large by historical standards. This result was anticipated based on the planting progress of the spring. Early season production for the 2019/20 sugarbeet crop is also raised, based on the updated average of the preceding 5 years.

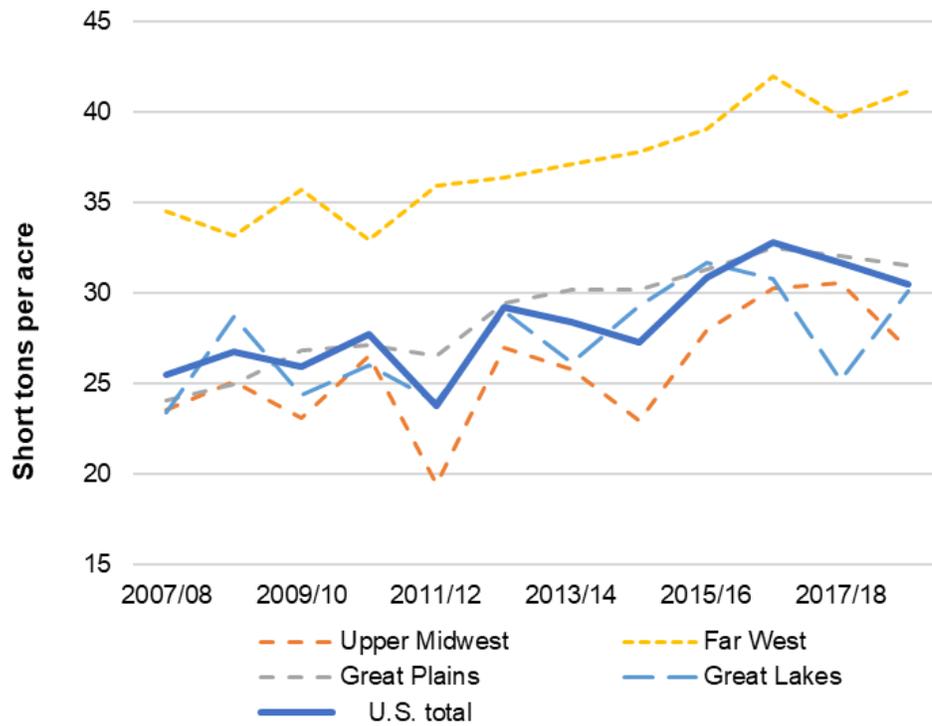
Figure 1
Total U.S. beet sugar production, crop year 2006/07 to 2018/19



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency.

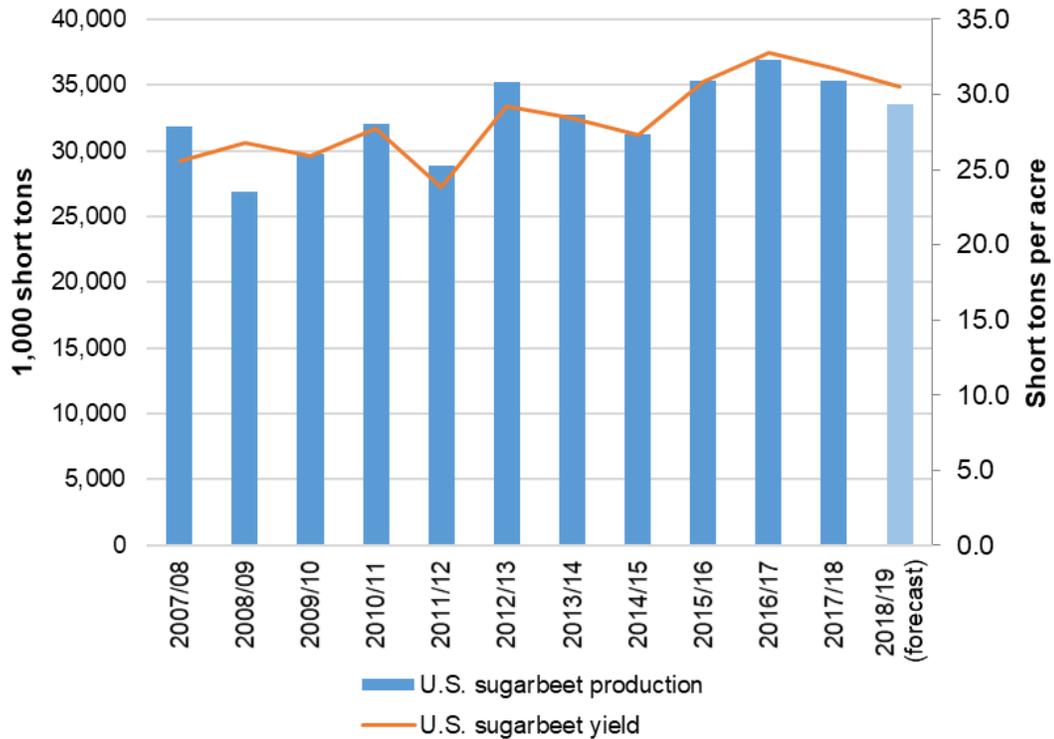
The 2018/19 sugarbeet crop forecast was reduced significantly after cold weather detrimentally impacted the harvest. NASS reduced the national forecast from 32.8 tons per acre in the September *Crop Production* report down to 30.5 tons per acre in the August report, demonstrating the change in prospects over the past few months. On a tonnage basis, the largest sugarbeet production reductions from the previous month’s report are from the Upper Midwest States of Minnesota and North Dakota, accounting for 1.3 million short tons less sugarbeet production—or 74.1 percent of the national reduction—primarily based on a forecast of significantly lower yields. This is likely due to unusually cold weather during October in the Red River Valley that straddles the Minnesota and North Dakota border. The conditions stalled harvest progress and may have implications for the quality of the sugarbeets that are beginning to be piled and stored for the winter slicing season, but current forecasts left recovery rates and shrink rates unchanged from previous expectations. Reported sugar production from beet processors during November and December will be instructive about the quality of the current sugarbeet crop being sliced, but it will be several months before that data is available. The reduction in sugarbeet production is substantial enough by itself, however, to reduce beet sugar production expectations.

Figure 2
 Yields, sugarbeets, by region, 2007/08 to 2017/18



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Figure 3
Sugarbeet production and yields, 2007/08 to 2018/19



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Cane sugar production for 2018/19 is projected to total 4.041 million STRV, a 15,000-STRV increase from the October number. The increase is due to higher expectations for Louisiana sugarcane production. NASS increased its sugarcane yield forecast from 31.3 tons per acre in the October report to 33.0 tons per acre. This is partially offset by lower expected recovery rates, as reported by processors. Production in Florida and Texas remains unchanged from the previous month at 2.050 million STRV and 150,000 STRV, respectively, after only minor crop adjustments made by both NASS and processors.

Cane sugar production for 2017/18 is estimated at 4.014 million STRV, a 10,000-STRV increase from the previous month. The change is also due to increased production in Louisiana, based on reported production of the early-season harvest of the 2018/19 crop that is accounted for prior to the October 1 start of the fiscal year. Florida and Texas production remains unchanged from the previous month.

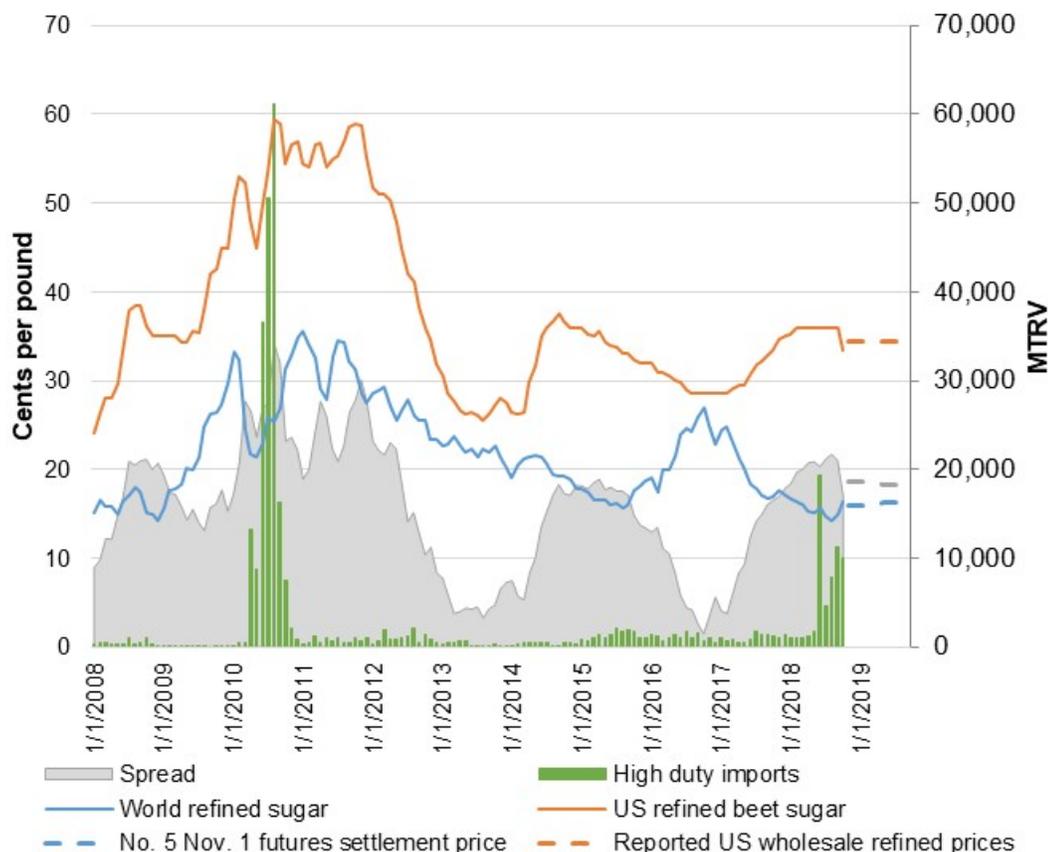
Imports in 2017/18 Reduced, 2018/19 Unchanged

Estimated imports for 2017/18 are 3.277 million STRV, with preliminary final reporting by multiple data sources for the full fiscal year now available. The estimate is a 38,000-STRV reduction from the previous month's estimate. Imports from quota programs are decreased a slightly to 1.663 million STRV.

Imports from Mexico are reduced 46,000 STRV, totaling 1.223 million STRV. The reduction is based on reporting through September 2018 from the U.S. Census Bureau. It suggests that Mexico did not completely utilize all of its allocated licenses under the 2017/18 Export Limit, as defined under the Suspension Agreements—although only by a relatively small percentage of the total.

Conversely, high-tier imports are increased by 9,000 STRV to 64,000 STRV, partially offsetting the decline in imports from Mexico. Shipments of these imports, which pay a higher duty rate, continued to come in at a higher rate by historical standards through the end of 2017/18, and indications are that the early months of 2018/19 will continue to see shipments at comparable levels. These flows can abruptly change, however, making it difficult to assess whether they will be sustained for the duration of 2018/19. The price differential between the U.S. wholesale market and the world refined sugar futures market in the past few months likely allowed traders and commercial users to complete transactions at profitable levels for the high-duty imports to enter the United States in subsequent months. Price differentials have lessened recently, particularly as World refined futures contract prices have increased from the recent nadir levels of July 2018.

Figure 4
U.S. and World refined sugar prices, monthly, January 2008 to September 2019



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.

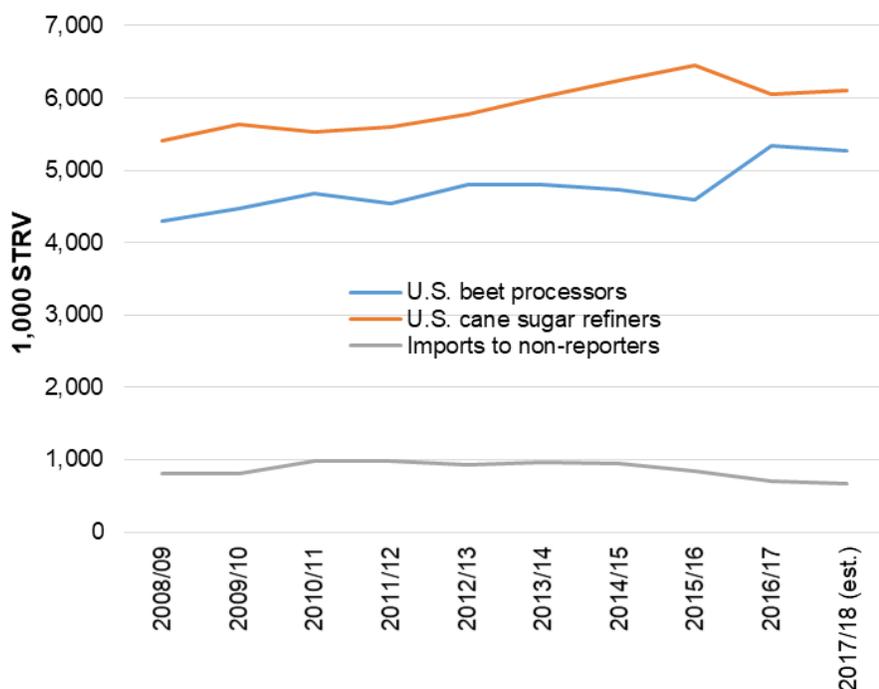
Imports in 2018/19 are projected to be 2.801 million STRV, unchanged from the October projection. The total is predicated on expected trade under quota programs, the latest calculation of U.S. Needs by the Department of Commerce subsequent to the September WASDE for imports from Mexico, and high-tier tariff imports that are likely to be at relatively higher monthly levels through the first quarter of 2018/19.

U.S. 2017/18 Deliveries Finish Below Prior Year

Domestic deliveries for food and beverage use for the full 2017/18 fiscal year are reported at 12.048 million STRV, based on the most recent release of the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) *Sweetener Market Data* (SMD). The full-year total represents a 52,000-STRV reduction from the previous month's forecast and a 0.4-percent decline from 2016/17 levels.

Beet processors finished the fiscal year delivering 5.271 million STRV for food and beverage use. Although a 1.3-percent decline from the previous year, this represents the second consecutive year of deliveries above 5.0 million STRV—a level not previously reached.

Figure 5
Total U.S. sugar deliveries, by sector, fiscal year, 2008/09 to 2017/18

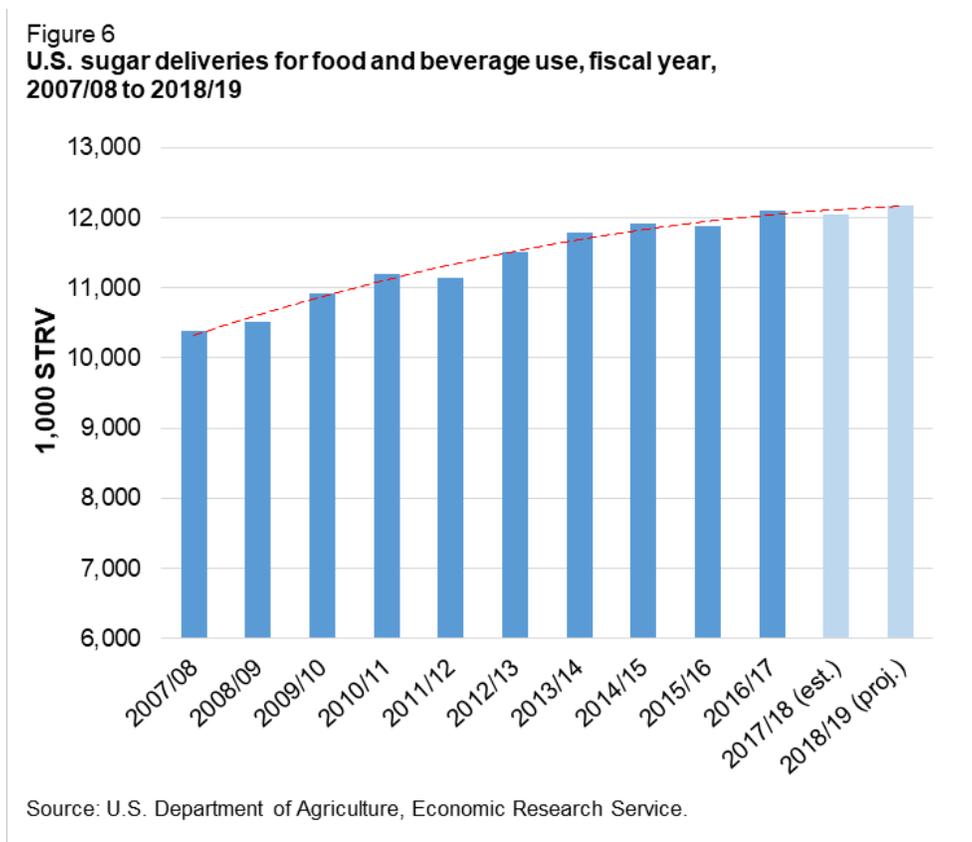


Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency.

Deliveries by cane refiners totaled 6.113 million STRV, a 1.4-percent increase. This was still lower than deliveries in recent years, which reached 6.444 million STRV in 2015/16 after 8 years of annual growth starting in 2008/09. Constrained supplies of raw sugar led to a significant decline in melt rates and deliveries by the sector in 2016/17. The increase in 2017/18 coincided with a buildup of raw sugar supplies and an improvement, although inconsistent, in melt rates and deliveries.

Deliveries from nonreporters, representing refined sugar that is imported into the United States and not refined or marketed by beet processors or cane refiners covered under the U.S. sugar program, totaled 664,000 STRV in 2017/18—a 17.2-percent decline from the year before and continuing the downward trend for the past 5 years, when deliveries peaked just under 1.0 million STRV in 2013/14. The reduction is mostly attributed to fewer direct-consumption imports from Mexico due to the terms of the Suspension Agreements signed between the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC) and the Government of Mexico in December 2014 and

amended in June 2017. The terms of the agreements limit the amount of sugar that can be imported from Mexico and used for direct consumption or transported by means other than bulk ocean-going vessels; both of which are important competitive factors for direct-consumption imports. Deliveries for food and beverage use for 2018/19 are projected to be 12.175 million STRV, a 75,000-STRV reduction from the previous month's forecast. The adjustment is primarily due to adjustments made to 2017/18 totals and represents a 1.1-percent annual increase. U.S. sugar use has trended upward in recent years, despite some instances of year-over-year declines. There is evidence that the rate of growth recently has slowed, however.

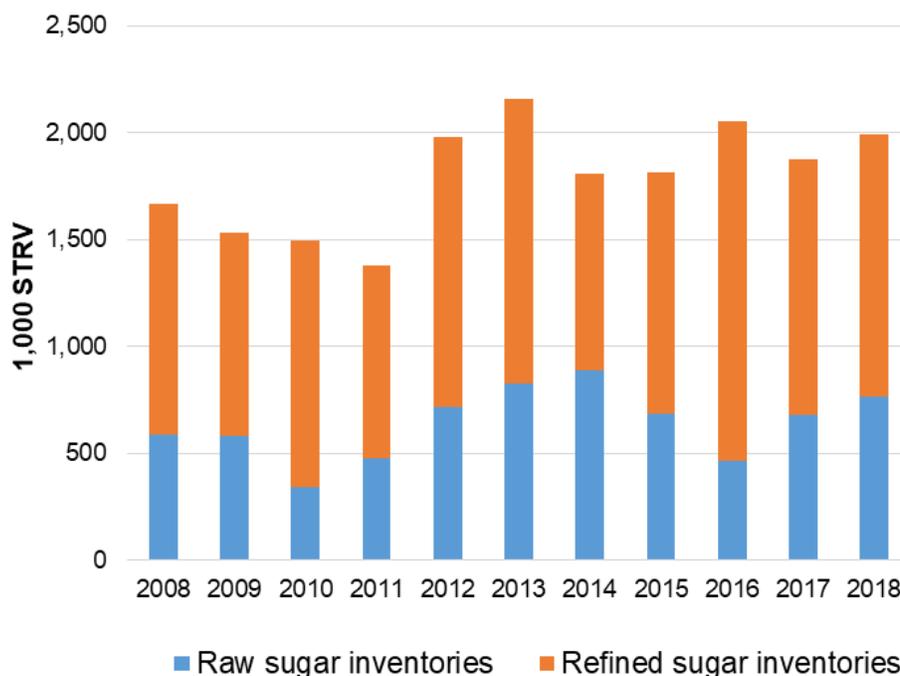


Ending Stocks Finish Higher in 2017/18, With More Raw than Refined Sugar in Inventories

Reported ending stocks for 2017/18 totaled 1.993 million STRV, as reported by domestic processors and refiners, a 21,000-STRV reduction from the previous month's estimate. Compared with 2016/17 ending stocks, totals are 6.2 percent higher than those of the previous year.

Perhaps more significant than the total of overall ending stocks is their structure in 2017/18 compared with other years. Ending stocks of refined sugar are only 2.5 percent higher than the previous year. Beet processors' inventories at the end of September finished nearly identical to the previous year. Cane refiners' stocks of refined sugar heading into 2018/19 were higher than the previous year's extremely low levels, but still remained tight by historical standards after carrying low levels through most of the fiscal year.

Figure 7
September 30 sugar inventories, fiscal year

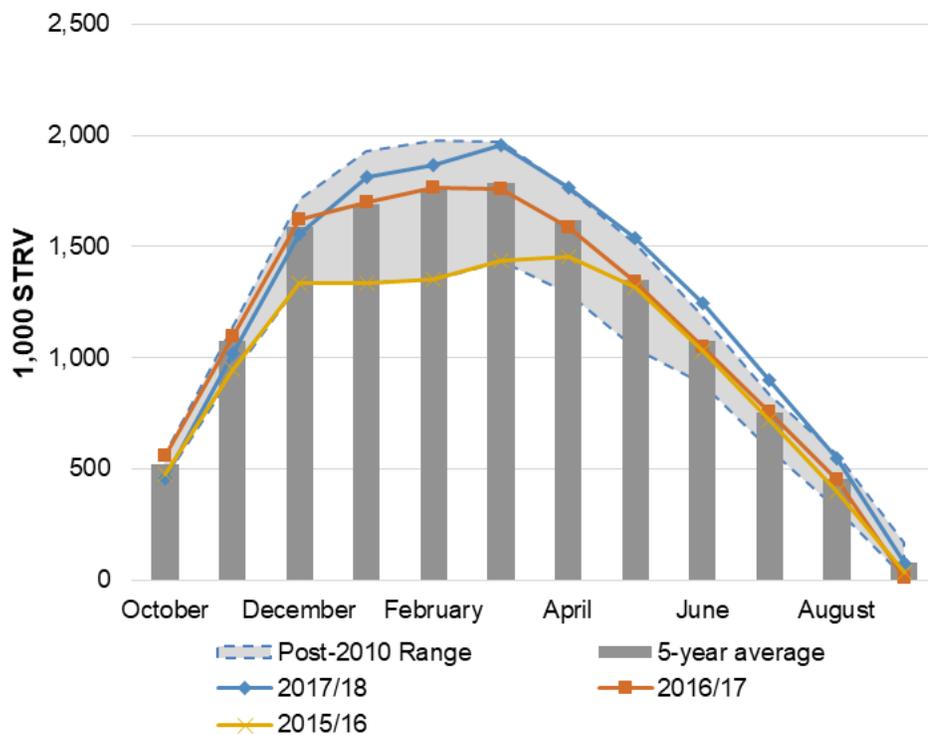


Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency.

Conversely, raw sugar inventories were 12.8 percent higher than the previous year. Inventories from cane processors—which are comprised of raw sugar from domestically produced sugarcane—were 77,000 STRV compared with the previous year's level of 13,000 STRV. This was likely due to the record-large sugarcane crop and cane sugar production in Louisiana during 2017/18. While cane processors inventories typically build during the harvest season as sugar is produced, they generally carry very low supplies by the end of the fiscal year as sugar is marketed or transferred to cane refineries. The relatively large ending stocks for processors may indicate that the large supplies produced during 2017/18 resulted in more raw sugar being held further upstream—particularly for processors in Louisiana and Texas that use refining

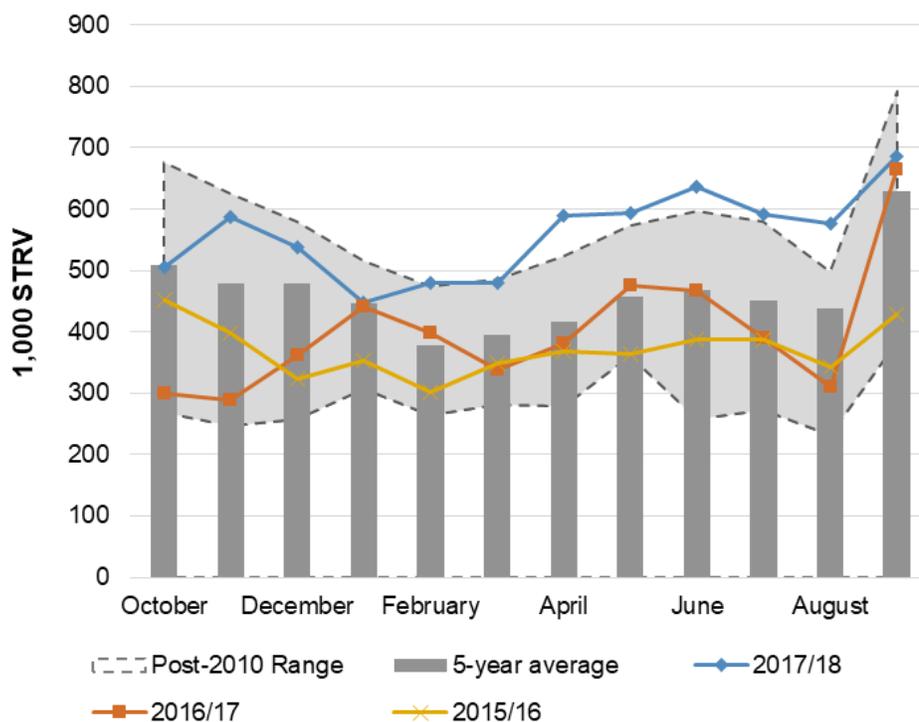
capacities in the Gulf. Cane refiners' ending stocks of raw sugar finished 3.3 percent higher than the previous year; however, this was mitigated by inventories that increased substantially at the end of 2016/17, during the time when processors transfer supplies to refiners in order to satisfy loans made under the USDA's nonrecourse loan program. In 2017/18, refiners' raw stocks were at substantially higher levels, partially due to increased imports. As a result, physical and economic constraints may have limited the ability of the market to move raw sugar supplies to refiners farther from processors' locations who had more available storage capacities.

Figure 8
Sugarcane processors inventories, monthly, 2010/11 to 2017/18



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency.

Figure 9
Sugarcane refiners raw sugar inventories, monthly, 2010/11 to 2017/18

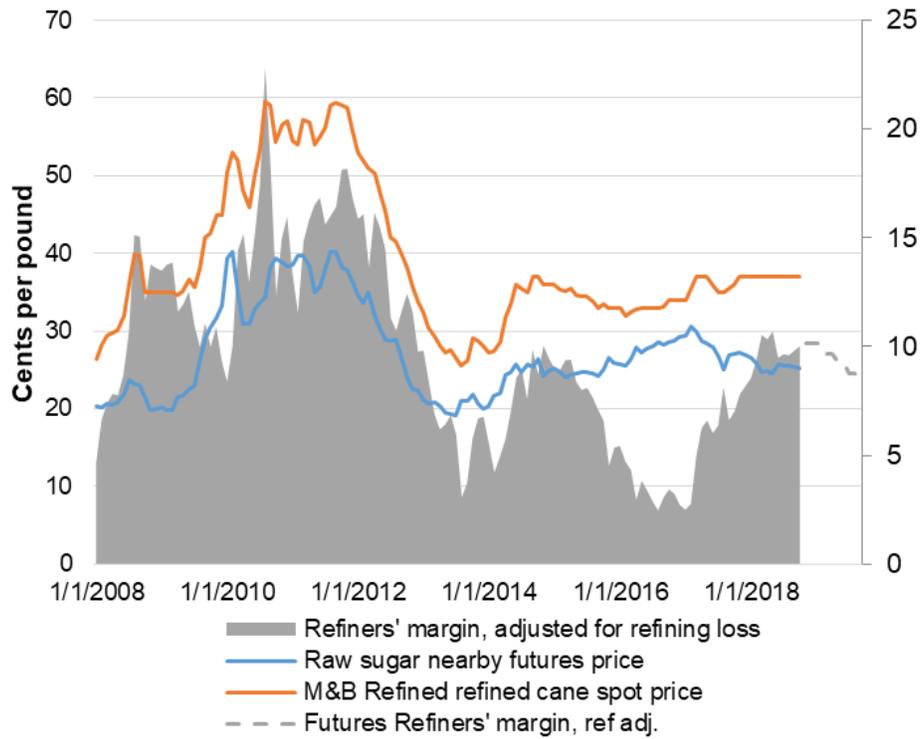


Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency.

U.S. Wholesale Refined Prices Increase as Lower Expected Supplies Affect Market

Midwest wholesale refined beet sugar spot prices in October averaged 33.38 cents per pound—lower than the previous fiscal year average of 35.53 cents, but higher than reported offerings of 33.0 cents heading into the year. Similarly, reported spot prices for Northeast cane refined sugar increased from 35.0 cents per pound heading into the year to 35.25 cents during October. The price increase coincided with the developments in the sugarbeet harvest, as the market anticipated tighter refined sugar supplies, particularly in the first half of the fiscal year. Along with lower U.S. raw sugar futures contract pricing, the outlook for cane refiners' margins appears to be in line with the end of 2017/18, which would be an improvement from the levels during 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Figure 10
U.S. refiner margins, monthly, January 2008 to September 2019



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.

Mexico Outlook

Mexico Domestic Deliveries for Human Consumption Lowered for both 2017/18 and 2018/19

Total use in Mexico for 2017/18 is estimated at 5.838 million metric tons, actual value (MT), a 36,000-metric ton, actual value (MT) reduction from the October estimate. The changes are based on full-year reporting from Conadesuca for the completed fiscal year.

Table 3: Mexico sugar supply and use, 2016/17 - 2017/18 and projected 2018/19, November 2018

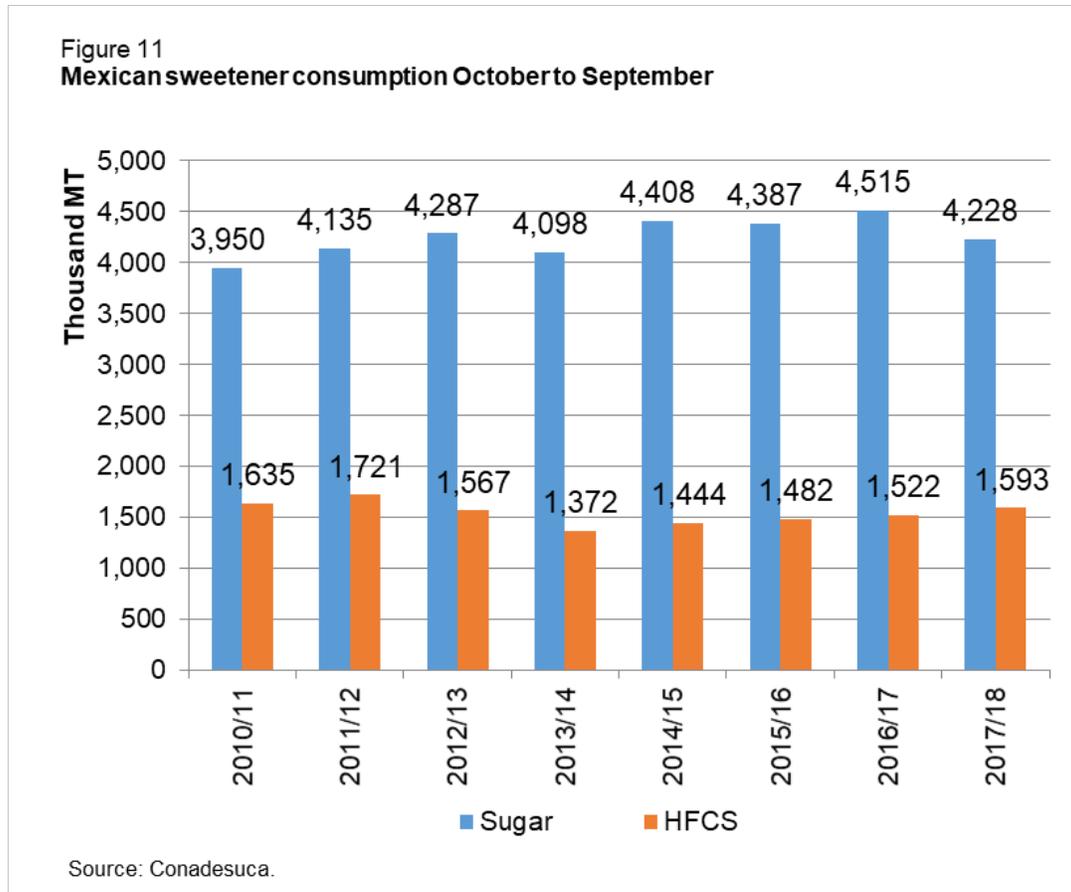
Items	2016/17	2017/18 (estimate)	2018/19 (forecast)
	1,000 metric tons, actual weight		
Beginning stocks	1,037	1,002	1,395
Production	5,957	6,010	6,025
Imports	93	220	115
Imports for consumption	48	132	65
Imports for sugar-containing product exports, IMMEX 1/, other	45	88	50
Total supply	7,087	7,232	7,535
Disappearance			
Human consumption	4,515	4,228	4,413
For sugar-containing product exports (IMMEX)	397	482	480
Other deliveries and end-of-year statistical adjustment	-61	29	0
Total	4,851	4,739	4,893
Exports	1,234	1,099	1,028
Exports to the United States & Puerto Rico	1,028	1,047	721
Exports to other countries	205	52	307
Total use	6,085	5,838	5,921
Ending stocks	1,002	1,395	1,613
	1,000 metric tons, raw value		
Beginning stocks	1,099	1,062	1,478
Production	6,315	6,370	6,387
Imports	98	234	122
Imports for consumption	51	140	69
Imports for sugar-containing product exports (IMMEX)	47	93	53
Total supply	7,512	7,666	7,987
Disappearance			
Human consumption	4,786	4,482	4,678
For sugar-containing product exports (IMMEX)	420	510	509
Other deliveries and end-of-year statistical adjustment	-64	31	0
Total	5,142	5,023	5,187
Exports	1,308	1,165	1,090
Exports to the United States & Puerto Rico	1,090	1,110	764
Exports to other countries	218	55	326
Total use	6,450	6,188	6,276
Ending stocks	1,062	1,478	1,710
Stocks-to-human consumption (percent)	22.2	33.0	36.6
Stocks-to-use (percent)	16.5	23.9	27.2
High fructose corn syrup (HFCS) consumption (dry weight)	1,522	1,593	1,593

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

Source: USDA, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* and Economic Research Service, Sugar and Sweeteners Outlook; Conadesuca.

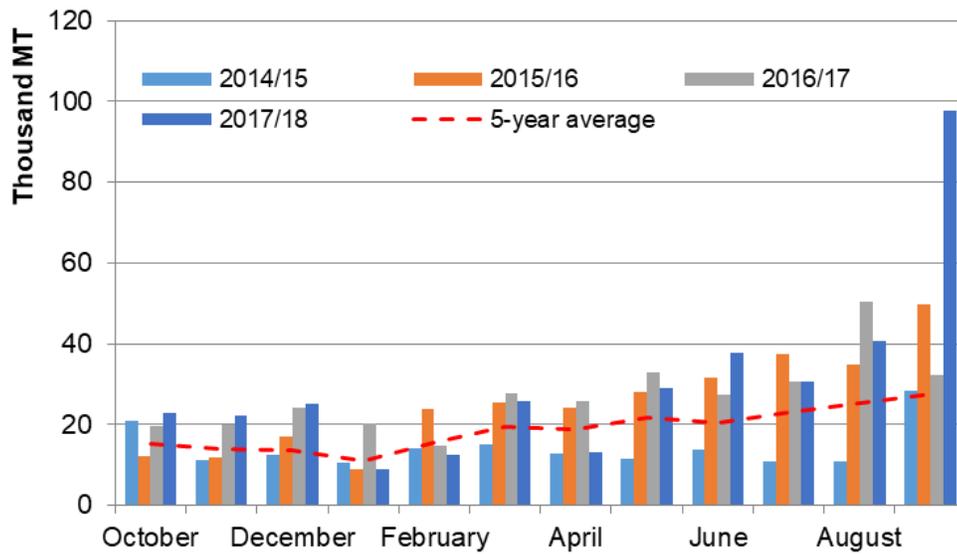
Domestic deliveries in Mexico in 2017/18 are estimated at 4.739 million metric tons, actual value (MT), a 12,000-MT increase from the previous estimate. Domestic deliveries for human

consumption are reduced 108,000 MT from the October report, totaling 4.228 million STRV. Compared with 2016/17, deliveries for human consumption were 6.4 percent lower in 2017/18. Deliveries for high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS) for the year increased 4.5 percent, however, totaling 1.593 million MT, partially offsetting the lower volumes of sugar.



Domestic deliveries to the IMMEX program are raised 92,000 MT to 482,000 MT. The increase is due to a substantially large volume of sugar delivered in September 2018—98,000 MT, nearly double the next-largest monthly total since 2008/09. Falling domestic prices and large volumes of exports expected to the world market prior to the end of the calendar year likely make the IMMEX program an attractive marketing avenue.

Figure 12
Mexico domestic IMMEX deliveries, monthly, 2009/10 to 2017/18



Source: Conadesuca.

Domestic deliveries for 2018/19 are projected to be 4.893 million MT. Deliveries for human consumption are projected to be 4.413 million MT, a 148,000-MT decrease from the previous month. This would still represent a 4.4-percent increase from the 2017/18 estimate. The total is based on a per capita sweetener total in line with the 5-year average and HFCS deliveries projected to remain level with the 2017/18 estimate. Deliveries for the IMMEX program are projected to be 480,000 MT—a 90,000-MT increase from the October projection—as the drivers spurring IMMEX deliveries in 2017/18 are expected to remain significant in 2018/19.

Exports for 2017/18 are estimated at 1.099 million MT, including 1.047 million MT shipped to the United States. Exports to the United States are based on reported entries from the U.S. Census Bureau. Exports to other destinations are estimated at 52,000 MT, a 9,000-MT reduction from the previous month's estimate, based on updated figures published by Conadesuca. Included in the 52,000 MT are 34,000 MT shipped to the United States through the U.S. re-export program, as these shipments are not under the scope of the Suspension Agreements and do not require Export Licenses.

Exports for 2018/19 are projected to total 1.028 million MT, a 53,000-MT reduction from the previous month. The reduction is due to fewer exports to non-U.S. destinations, which are now reduced to 307,000 MT. This total includes supplies from 2017/18 that have been committed to the FIMEA program, which will market exports to the world market before the end of the

calendar year, according to Conadesuca. Exports to the United States are projected to total 721,000 MT, unchanged from the previous month's projection and based on the U.S. Department of Commerce's calculation of U.S. Needs from the September WASDE; as specified under the Suspension Agreements. The next calculation from the agency will be subsequent to the December WASDE.

Forecast for Mexico Sugar Production in 2018/19 Unchanged, as Harvest Season Set To Begin in November

The USDA projects Mexico sugar production in 2018/19 at 6.025 million MT, unchanged from the previous month. The total is based on trends in yields and recovery rate from recent years and a small increase in harvested area from the 2017/18 campaign.

In November, Conadesuca released its first forecast for sugar production in 2018/19. The organization forecasts 6.249 million MT of sugar coming from 823,000 hectares of sugarcane harvested. Both totals would be substantial increases from the previous year and recent years' harvest campaigns. This year's harvest season is just getting underway, with mills scheduled to begin operations between early November and early January, depending on location. The progress and reporting by mills during the harvest season will be an important factor in adjustments made to Mexico's production outlook in the coming weeks and months.

Ending stocks in Mexico are projected at 1.613 million MT, a 178,000-MT increase from the previous month. The increase is due to lower projected domestic deliveries, exports, and an increase of 67,000 MT in beginning stocks being carried over from 2017/18. The resulting 36.6-percent stocks-to-consumption ratio would be large by historical standards.

Suggested Citation

McConnell, Michael J. and David Olson, *Sugar and Sweeteners Outlook*, SSS-M-363, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, November 15, 2018

Contacts & Additional Information

Contact		E-mail
Michael McConnell (coordinator)	(202) 694-5184	michael.mccconnell@ers.usda.gov

Subscribe to ERS e-mail notification service at [https://www Telephone.ers.usda.gov/subscribe-to-ers-e-newsletters/](https://www.Telephone.ers.usda.gov/subscribe-to-ers-e-newsletters/) to receive timely notification of newsletter availability.

Data

Tables from the *Sugar and Sweeteners Yearbook* are available in the Sugar and Sweeteners Topics at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/sugar/>. They contain the latest data and historical information on the production, use, prices, imports, and exports of sugar and sweeteners.

Related Websites

Sugar and Sweeteners Outlook <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/SSS/>
WASDE <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documented=1194>
Sugar Topics <http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/Sugar/>

E-mail Notification

Readers of ERS outlook reports have two ways they can receive an e-mail notice about release of reports and associated data.

- Receive timely notification (soon after the report is posted on the web) via USDA's Economics, Statistics and Market Information System (which is housed at Cornell University's Mann Library). Go to <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/aboutEmailService.do> and follow the instructions to receive e-mail notices about ERS, Agricultural Marketing Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board products.
- Receive weekly notification (on Friday afternoon) via the ERS website. Go to <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Updates/> and follow the instructions to receive notices about ERS outlook reports, *Amber Waves* magazine, and other reports and data products on specific topics. ERS also offers RSS (really simple syndication) feeds for all ERS products. Go to <http://www.ers.usda.gov/rss/> to get started.