

SUGAR

FAO's forecast for world sugar production in 2023/24 (October/September) is pegged at 179.4 million tonnes, marking a slight uptick of 0.5 million tonnes, or 0.3 percent, from the previous season's output. This new forecast is up from FAO's preliminary expectations mainly due to a larger-than-earlier anticipated output in Brazil, the world's largest sugar producer and exporter. The bumper outturn in Brazil along with the anticipated rebounds in China and the European Union are expected to more than offset the production declines foreseen in India and Thailand.

Global sugar consumption is forecast to continue increasing in 2023/24, up 2.5 million tonnes, or 1.4 percent, from the previous season. Africa and Asia are expected to account for this growth, along with an anticipated rebound in Europe from the previous season's downturn. Despite the anticipated growth in global sugar consumption, the upward revision to the global production forecast should result in a global surplus of 1.9 million tonnes in 2023/24.

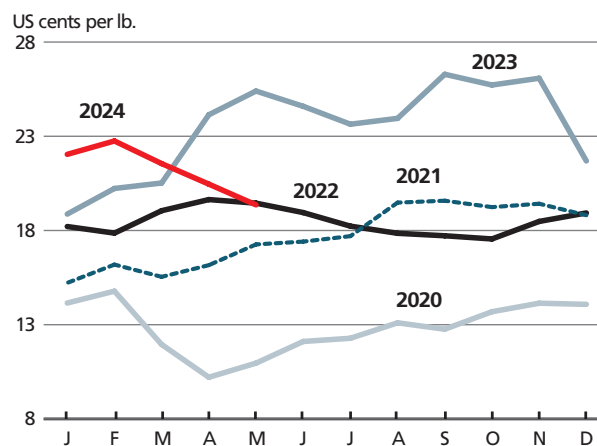
In 2023/24, the forecast for the world sugar trade stands at 63.3 million tonnes, which corresponds to a 1.0 percent increase from the estimated volume for 2022/23. The expansion is the result of an anticipated increase in exportable supplies in Brazil that will more than offset foreseen lower shipments from India and Thailand. On the import side, larger purchases by Asia and Africa are forecast to outweigh a likely sharp decline in Europe. In China, the largest international sugar buyer, imports are officially forecast to increase from last year, despite the rebound in domestic production. By contrast, sugar imports by the European Union are set to drop markedly from last year on the back of higher domestic production.

International sugar prices generally declined since reaching their 12-year highs in September 2023, and in May 2024, they dropped to their lowest value since January 2023. The price declines were mostly related to improved global supply prospects. Additionally, the good start of the new harvest season in Brazil has exerted further downward pressure on prices. The Brazilian real has generally weakened against the United States dollar since October 2023, encouraging exports and contributing to the lower world sugar prices (expressed in United States dollar).

Contact:

Elmamoun Amrouk
Fabio Palmeri

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR PRICES*



* As measured by the International Sugar Agreement (ISA)

WORLD SUGAR MARKET AT A GLANCE

	2021/22	2022/23 estim.	2023/24 f'cast	Change: 2023/24 over 2022/23
	million tonnes		%	
WORLD BALANCE				
Production	174.6	178.8	179.4	0.29
Trade*	62.4	62.7	63.3	0.97
Total utilization	173.8	174.9	177.4	1.43
Ending stocks	111.9	115.6	117.4	1.52
SUPPLY AND DEMAND INDICATORS				
Per caput food consumption:				
World (kg/yr)	22.0	22.0	22.1	0.55
LIFDC (kg/yr)	12.4	12.5	12.5	0.40
World stocks-to-use ratio (%)	64.4	66.1	66.2	0.09
ISA DAILY PRICE AVERAGE (US cents/lb)				
	2022	2023	2024 Jan-May	Change: Jan-May 2024 over Jan-May 2023 %
	18.49	23.43	21.14	-3.16%

* Trade figures refer to exports.