

## ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF LOUISIANA SUGARCANE PRODUCTION IN 2013

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### Overview

In 2013, sugarcane was grown on 440,010 acres in 23 Louisiana parishes. An estimated 411,409 acres were available for harvest for sugar, assuming that 6.5 percent of the total acres were used for seed cane. The 11 operating raw sugar factories in the state processed 14,035,540 tons of cane, which was slightly lower than the amount processed in 2012. In total, the 11 factories produced 1.557 million short tons of sugar (96° pol), which is the third largest amount of sugar that Louisiana has ever processed. The average yield of cane produced from each harvested acre amounted to 34.1 tons/acre (a decrease of 2.9 tons/acre compared to 2012). The average sugar recovery at the 11 raw sugar factories was 11.1 percent or 222 pounds of sugar (96° pol) per ton of cane; this was a decrease of 5 pounds of sugar per ton of cane compared to the 2012 crop. The yield of commercially recoverable sugar produced per harvested acre was approximately 7,570 pounds (a decrease of 842 pounds compared to the 2012 crop). The 2012 crop had the highest recoverable sugar per acre of any sugarcane crop ever grown in Louisiana.

The gross farm value of the 2013 sugarcane crop was \$ 454,959,052 for sugar and molasses. The gross farm value represents 60 percent of the value of the sugar and 50 percent of the value of molasses produced. The remaining percentages are for processing and marketing, which amounted to \$ 314,641,709. Therefore, the total value of the sugarcane crop to Louisiana producers, processors and landlords at the first processing level was \$ 769,600,762. Sugarcane continues to rank high in value among the state's row crops.

### Louisiana's Rank in Total U.S. Sugar Production

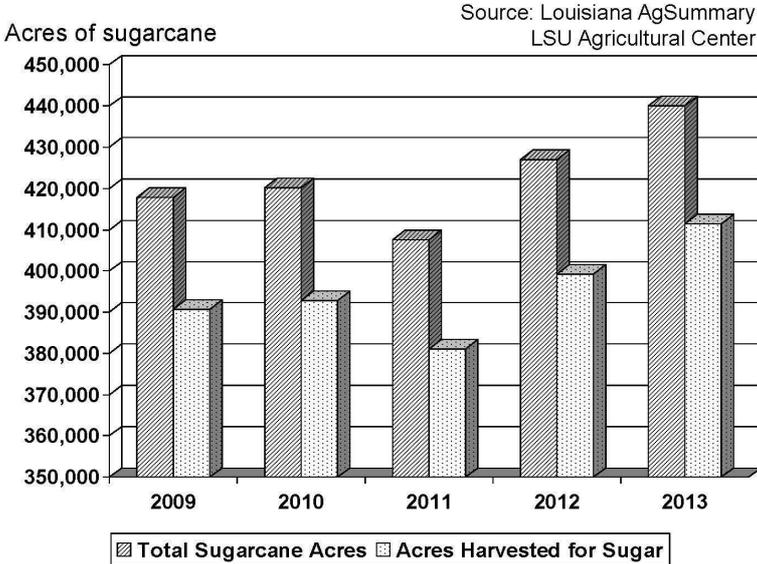
Refined white sugar in the United States is produced from two sources. Sugarbeets are processed directly into refined sugar, while sugarcane is first processed into raw sugar before being refined into white sugar. In 2013, 57.6 percent of total U.S. sugar production came from sugar beets and 42.4 percent came from sugarcane. For the 2013/14 fiscal year, Louisiana accounted for approximately 43.4 percent of total U.S. cane sugar production and 18.3 percent of total U.S. sugar production.

### U.S. Sugar Production, 2012/13 and 2013/14

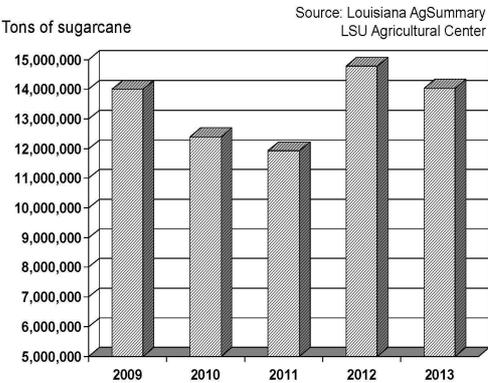
	2012/13	2013/14
	(1,000 short tons, raw value)	(1,000 short tons, raw value)
Beet sugar production	5,076	5,025
Cane sugar production	3,905	3,690
Florida	1,867	1,765
Hawaii	179	190
Louisiana	1,686	1,600
Texas	173	135
Total U.S. sugar production	8,981	8,715

Source: World Agricultural Outlook Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture, WASDE-527, March 2014.

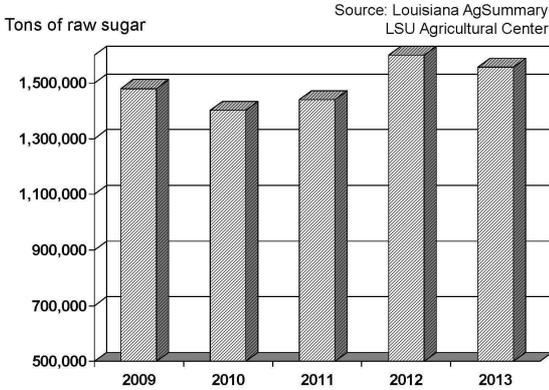
# Louisiana Sugarcane Acreage, 2009-2013



## Louisiana Sugarcane Production, 2009-2013



## Louisiana Sugar Production, 2009-2013



## 2013 Louisiana Agricultural Summary Data for Sugarcane

Parish	Sugarcane Products	Total Producers	Units of Production (Yield per acre)	Total Production	Total Acres	Total Crop Value
Acadia	Raw sugar (lbs)	5	5,800	18,014,800	3,106	\$3,927,226
	Molasses (gal)		174	540,444		\$380,689
Ascension	Raw sugar (lbs)	15	7,950	152,337,900	19,162	\$33,209,662
	Molasses (gal)		239	4,579,718		\$3,225,953
Assumption	Raw sugar (lbs)	44	7,134	250,688,760	35,140	\$54,650,150
	Molasses (gal)		214	7,519,960		\$5,297,060
Avoyelles	Raw sugar (lbs)	11	6,950	67,387,200	9,696	\$14,690,410
	Molasses (gal)		209	2,026,464		\$1,427,441
Calcasieu	Raw sugar (lbs)	*	6,000	1,716,000	286	\$374,088
	Molasses (gal)		180	51,480		\$36,263
Evangeline	Raw sugar (lbs)	*	5,600	716,800	128	\$256,262
	Molasses (gal)		168	21,504		\$15,147
Iberia	Raw sugar (lbs)	83	7,382	403,935,658	54,719	\$88,057,973
	Molasses (gal)		221	12,092,899		\$8,518,238
Iberville	Raw sugar (lbs)	30	7,900	293,690,400	37,176	\$64,024,507
	Molasses (gal)		237	8,810,712		\$6,206,266
Jefferson Davis	Raw sugar (lbs)	*	6,600	6,864,000	1,040	\$1,496,352
	Molasses (gal)		198	205,920		\$145,050
Lafayette	Raw sugar (lbs)	20	7,300	91,250,000	12,500	\$19,892,500
	Molasses (gal)		219	2,737,500		\$1,928,295
Lafourche	Raw sugar (lbs)	28	6,254	187,620,000	30,000	\$40,901,160
	Molasses (gal)		188	5,640,000		\$3,972,816
Pointe Coupee	Raw sugar (lbs)	30	7,900	342,433,400	43,346	\$74,650,481
	Molasses (gal)		237	10,273,002		\$7,236,303
Rapides	Raw sugar (lbs)	16	7,800	85,971,600	11,022	\$18,741,809
	Molasses (gal)		234	2,579,148		\$1,816,752
St. Charles	Raw sugar (lbs)	*	7,086	9,686,562	1,367	\$2,111,671
	Molasses (gal)		213	291,171		\$205,101
St. James	Raw sugar (lbs)	26	7,400	214,252,644	28,953	\$46,707,076
	Molasses (gal)		222	6,427,579		\$4,527,587
St. John	Raw sugar (lbs)	10	7,280	54,316,080	7,461	\$11,840,905
	Molasses (gal)		218	1,626,498		\$1,145,705
St. Landry	Raw sugar (lbs)	8	7,500	62,340,525	8,312	\$13,590,234
	Molasses (gal)		225	1,870,215		\$1,317,379
St. Martin	Raw sugar (lbs)	49	7,663	240,215,432	31,347	\$52,366,964
	Molasses (gal)		230	7,209,911		\$5,078,661
St. Mary	Raw sugar (lbs)	44	7,200	341,136,000	47,380	\$74,367,648
	Molasses (gal)		216	10,234,080		\$7,208,886
Terrebonne	Raw sugar (lbs)	9	5,750	54,581,702	9,492	\$11,898,811
	Molasses (gal)		173	1,642,197		\$1,156,764
Vermilion	Raw sugar (lbs)	29	6,765	221,019,315	32,671	\$48,182,211
	Molasses (gal)		203	6,632,213		\$4,671,731
West Baton Rouge	Raw sugar (lbs)	15	7,900	118,112,900	14,951	\$25,748,612
	Molasses (gal)		237	3,543,387		\$2,495,962
<b>Total Sugarcane Crop Value</b>						<b>\$769,600,762</b>

Source: 2013 Louisiana Summary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, LSU Agricultural Center.

## SUGARCANE SUMMARY FOR CROP YEAR 2013

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In 2013, sugarcane was grown on 440,010 acres in 23 Louisiana parishes. An estimated 411,409 acres were available for harvest for sugar, assuming that 6.5 percent of the total acres were used for seed cane.

The 11 operating raw sugar factories in the state processed 14,035,540 tons of cane, which was slightly lower than the amount processed in 2012. In total, the 11 factories produced 1.557 million short tons of sugar (96° pol), which is the third largest amount of sugar that Louisiana has ever processed.

The average yield of cane produced from each harvested acre amounted to 34.1 tons/acre (a decrease of 2.9 tons/acre compared to 2012). The average sugar recovery at the 11 raw sugar factories was 11.1 percent or 222 pounds of sugar (96° pol) per ton of cane; this was a decrease of 5 pounds of sugar per ton of cane compared to the 2012 crop. The yield of commercially recoverable sugar produced per harvested acre was approximately 7,570 pounds (a decrease of 842 pounds compared to the 2012 crop). The 2012 crop had the highest recoverable sugar per acre of any sugarcane crop ever grown in Louisiana.

Although the pricing period is not completed for the 2013 crop, sugar prices have dropped considerably compared to the pricing period of 2010-2012. The average predicted value for raw sugar for 2013 is \$0.2180 per pound. Molasses prices have remained high at an average of \$120 per short ton at 79.5 Brix.

The gross farm value of the 2013 sugarcane crop was \$ 420,952,028 for sugar and molasses. The gross farm value represents 60 percent of the value of the sugar and 50 percent of the value of molasses produced. The remaining percentages are for processing and marketing, which amounted to \$ 314,641,709. Therefore, the total value of the sugarcane crop to Louisiana producers, processors and landlords at the first processing level was \$ 735,593,737. Sugarcane continues to rank first in value among the state's row crops.

The 2013 sugarcane crop got off to a slow start. Late winter and spring temperatures were well below normal. In fact, below freezing temperatures were experienced on March 2, 3, 7, and 27 of 2013 (data from Baton Rouge Airport). Temperatures conducive for growth of sugarcane were not experienced until mid-May. Summer rainfall patterns were generally well distributed during the summer, which provided for good sugarcane growth. However, the crop was short as planting time arrived in early August. In fact, many growers delayed planting in order to allow for additional crop growth. Planting ratios were good for the 2013 planting season, and stands of newly planted cane were considered excellent. The high tonnage for the 2013 crop was likely due to very warm temperatures experienced in September and October, which resulted in excellent late season crop growth. Fortunately, no tropical systems affected the Louisiana sugar industry in 2013, another plus for good tonnage and sugar recovery.

In addition to the high tonnage, recoverable sugar per ton of cane was very good, although not as good as the 2012 crop. Weather conditions for the 2013 harvest were generally wet. The additional mud and fiber in harvested cane were factors that lower overall sugar recovery.

Sugarcane acreage (440,010 acres) in Louisiana for 2013 was higher than the acreage reported in 2012. Production acreage continues to be lost to urban encroachment and industrial development; however, sugarcane acreage continued to increase in Pointe Coupee and Vermilion parishes.

The 2013 sugarcane variety census showed Louisiana producers have spread their risk and continue to rely several varieties. The most widely grown variety was HoCP 96-540, which was grown on 39 percent of the production acres. This was followed by L 99-226 (17%), L 01-299 (15%), L 01-283 (10%), L 99-233 (6%), HoCP 00-950 (4 percent), L 03-371 (3 percent), and HoCP 04-838 (3%). HoCP 04-838 was released in 2011 and is currently being increased on most farms. Seed-cane of the experimental variety HoCP 07-613 was expanded on secondary increase stations and is scheduled for release in 2014.

Sugar yield at the beginning of the harvest was high considering that growers harvested their older stubble crops and heavy clay land first. Sugar recoveries were good where ripeners were applied and much lower where ripeners were not applied. With the late season growth, many acres of ripened treated cane did not have pronounced yellowing, which is common after ripener application. Sugar recoveries were also higher due to the erectness of the crop. An erect crop can be topped when harvested. Harvest conditions for the 2013 crop were generally wet.

The Louisiana sugar industry experienced below freezing temperatures on November 28, 29, and 30 of 2013, where minimum temperatures experience were 26, 27, and 29, respectively. Although growing points were killed by these temperatures, no freeze cracks were observed and bud damage along the stalk was minimal. Growers were able to process the most freeze damaged cane first, and the harvest season was completed with minimal losses. Most damage from the freeze occurred north of Interstate 10.

The 11 factories processed slightly less tonnage than the 2012 crop. The first factory to open was Alma on September 24, 2013, and the last factory to close was Cora Texas and Sterling Sugars, which processed sugarcane until January 10, 2014.

Table 1. 2013 Temperature data from the Ben Hur Farm and rainfall data for St. Gabriel, Louisiana. Information provided by Dr. Richard Bengtson.

Month	High Temp	Low Temp	Avg. Temp	Departure from normal	Rain (in.)
	----- F° -----				
January	62.4	44.4	53.4	2.9	13.22
February	64.7	46.0	55.4	1.5	9.14
March	68.0	44.0	56.0	-4.4	1.67
April	75.3	55.7	65.5	-1.5	6.41
May	82.2	62.3	72.2	-2.7	7.92
June	90.0	72.6	81.3	1.1	0.94
July	89.0	72.0	80.5	-1.6	3.16
August	90.1	71.9	81.0	-1.0	5.23
September	90.0	69.7	79.8	2.0	3.48
October	80.0	59.6	69.8	1.2	1.67
November	67.5	46.1	56.8	-3.2	1.57
December	61.0	42.1	51.5	-1.1	3.03
Avg. Temp.	76.7	57.2	66.9		57.44
Long Term Average			67.6		58.33
Difference			-0.7		98% of normal
Temperatures are from the Ben Hur Weather Station because the Sugar Research Station weather station is no longer in service.					