

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF LOUISIANA SUGARCANE PRODUCTION IN 2017

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Overview

In 2017, sugarcane was grown on 438,910 acres in 25 Louisiana parishes. An estimated 408,200 acres were available for harvest for sugar, assuming that 7.0 percent of the total acres were used for seed cane. The 11 operating raw sugar factories in the state processed 15,034,910 tons of cane, which was an increase from the 13.1 million tons of cane processed in 2016. In total, the 11 factories produced 1.82 million short tons of sugar (96° pol). This was more than a 16% increase in the amount of sugar produced. The average sugar recovery at the 11 raw sugar factories was 242 pounds of sugar (96° pol) per ton of cane. The average yield of cane produced from each harvested acre amounted to 36.4 tons/acre (an increase of 4.6 tons/acre compared to 2016). The yield of commercially recoverable sugar produced per harvested acre was approximately 8,810 pounds (an increase of 987 pounds compared to the 2016 crop).

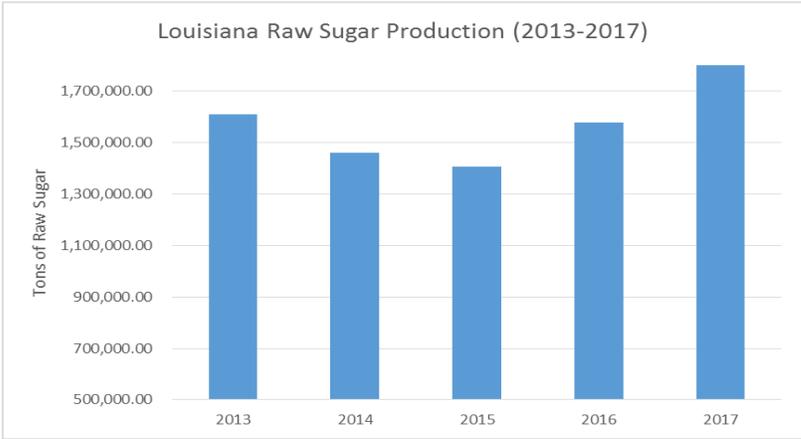
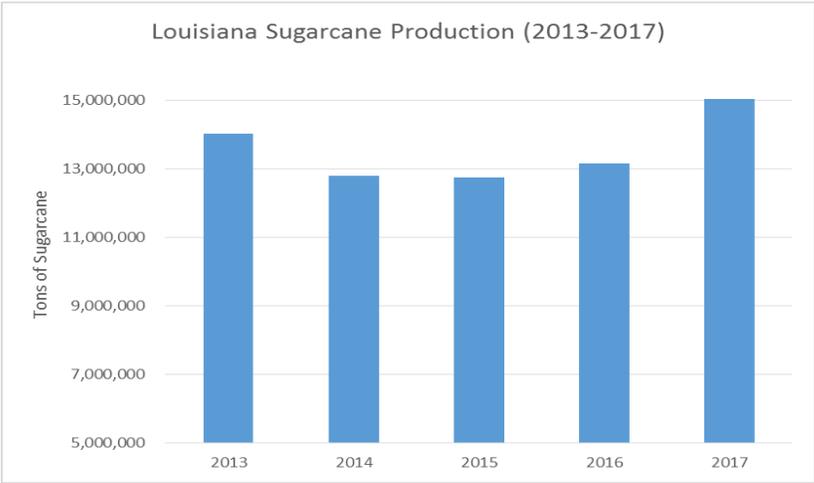
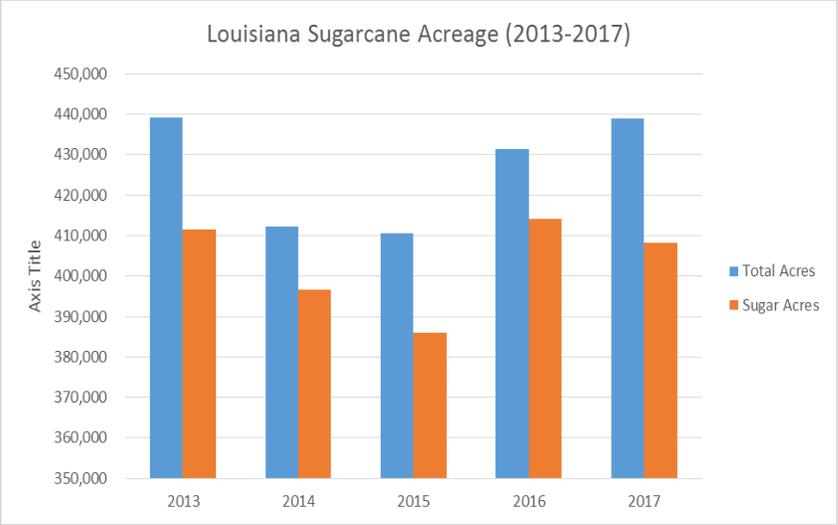
Louisiana's Rank in Total U.S. Sugar Production

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 2017, 56.89 percent of total U.S. sugar production came from sugar beets and 43.10 percent came from sugarcane. For the 2016/17 fiscal year, Louisiana accounted for approximately 42.1 percent of total U.S. cane sugar production and 18.1 percent of total U.S. sugar production.

U.S. Sugar Production, 2016/17 and 2017/18

	2016/17	2017/18
	(1,000 short tons, raw value)	(1,000 short tons, raw value)
Beet sugar production	5,103	5,219
Cane sugar production	3,866	4,021
Florida	2,055	1,992
Louisiana	1,628	1,859
Texas	140	170
Total U.S. sugar production	8,969	9,240

Source: World Agricultural Outlook Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture, WASDE-575, March 2018.



2017 Louisiana Agricultural Summary Data for Sugarcane

Parish	Sugarcane Products	Total Producers	Units of Production (Yield per acre)	Total Production	Total Acres	Total Crop Value ¹
Acadia	Raw sugar (lbs)	*	6,000	22,386,000	3,731	\$6,091,204
	Molasses (gal)		129	480,403		
Ascension	Raw sugar (lbs)	10	7,900	142,640,030	18,056	\$38,786,811
	Molasses (gal)		170	3,016,055		
Assumption	Raw sugar (lbs)	37	8,000	270,780,000	33,848	\$73,678,914
	Molasses (gal)		172	5,810,938		
Avoyelles	Raw sugar (lbs)	17	8,300	86,445,330	10,415	\$23,521,671
	Molasses (gal)		178	1,855,117		
Calcasieu	Raw sugar (lbs)	*	7,000	1,351,000	193	\$367,605
	Molasses (gal)		150	28,992		
Cameron	Raw sugar (lbs)	*	7,000	63,000	*	\$17,142
	Molasses (gal)		150	1,352		
Evangeline	Raw sugar (lbs)	*	8,200	2,738,800	*	\$745,224
	Molasses (gal)		176	58,775		
Iberia	Raw sugar (lbs)	82	8,000	448,440,000	56,055	\$122,019,988
	Molasses (gal)		172	9,623,522		
Iberville	Raw sugar (lbs)	30	9,000	331,016,310	36,780	\$90,069,142
	Molasses (gal)		191	7,103,610		
Jefferson Davis	Raw sugar (lbs)	*	8,100	7,298,100	901	\$1,985,804
	Molasses (gal)		174	156,617		
Lafayette	Raw sugar (lbs)	20	8,714	72,326,200	8,714	\$19,679,872
	Molasses (gal)		178	1,552,120		
Lafourche	Raw sugar (lbs)	22	8,100	210,972,600	26,046	\$57,405,392
	Molasses (gal)		174	4,527,472		
Pointe Coupee	Raw sugar (lbs)	33	9,300	433,854,300	46,651	\$118,051,236
	Molasses (gal)		200	9,310,513		
Rapides	Raw sugar (lbs)	10	8,375	100,801,500	12,036	\$27,427,968
	Molasses (gal)		180	2,163,200		
St. Charles	Raw sugar (lbs)	*	7,500	10,402,500	1,387	\$2,830,507
	Molasses (gal)		161	223,237		
St. James	Raw sugar (lbs)	22	7,935	225,634,899	28,435	\$61,394,986
	Molasses (gal)		170	4,842,124		
St. John	Raw sugar (lbs)	8	7,877	50,046,545	6,353	\$13,617,605
	Molasses (gal)		169	1,073,998		
St. Landry	Raw sugar (lbs)	17	8,000	84,965,600	10,621	\$23,119,038
	Molasses (gal)		172	1,823,361		
St. Martin	Raw sugar (lbs)	34	8,000	238,752,000	29,844	\$64,964,133
	Molasses (gal)		172	5,123,617		
St. Mary	Raw sugar (lbs)	24	8,100	375,175,800	46,318	\$102,084,886
	Molasses (gal)		174	8,051,272		
Terrebonne	Raw sugar (lbs)	8	8,100	74,803,500	9,235	\$20,353,943
	Molasses (gal)		174	1,605,283		
Vermilion	Raw sugar (lbs)	35	8,056	305,564,080	37,930	\$83,143,621
	Molasses (gal)		173	6,557,405		
West Baton Rouge	Raw sugar (lbs)	15	9,200	138,165,600	15,018	\$37,594,694
	Molasses (gal)		197	2,965,033		
Total Sugarcane Crop Value						\$988,951,387

¹ Total crop value of raw sugar and molasses.

Source: 2017 Louisiana Summary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, LSU Agricultural Center.

SUGARCANE SUMMARY FOR CROP YEAR 2017

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In 2017, sugarcane was grown on 439,102 acres in 25 Louisiana parishes. An estimated 410,560 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 15,034,910 tons of cane. In total, the 11 factories produced 1.819 million short tons of sugar (96° pol). The average yield of cane produced from each harvested acre amounted to 36.6 tons/acre. The average sugar recovery at the 11 raw sugar factories was 12.1 percent or 242 pounds of sugar (96° pol) per ton of cane. The yield of commercially recoverable sugar produced per harvested acre was approximately 8,862 pounds. This eclipsed the 2012 crop, which had the highest sugar yield of any sugarcane crop ever grown in Louisiana when production was recorded at 8,412 pounds of sugar/harvested acre.

Although the pricing period is not completed for the 2017 crop, the average predicted price for raw sugar for 2017 is \$0.26 per pound. Molasses prices is estimated to have an average price of \$96 per short ton at 79.5° Brix.

The gross farm value of the 2017 sugarcane crop was \$ 589,278,744 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 \$ 400,185,440. Therefore, the total value of the sugarcane crop to Louisiana producers, processors and landlords at the first processing level was \$ 989,464,184.

The 2017 sugarcane crop got off to an early start. Late winter (January and February) temperatures were above normal, and spring temperatures (March – May) were above normal. Rainfall was above normal during this same time frame (see Tables 1 - 3). The high rainfall and in some cases high water tables were not conducive for early crop growth. Summer growth was excellent, and the cane height at the beginning of planting was above normal. Some growers began planting in late July, but wet conditions in August made this a difficult crop to plant. Fields for planting began to dry by early- to mid-September and by late-September to early-October the majority of planting was completed. Planting ratios were very good for the 2017 planting season. The months of October and November were very dry. Some stands of newly planted cane suffered because of the extended dry weather. Sugarcane crop growth was excellent throughout the summer months and just prior to harvest.

Sugarcane brown rust levels were moderate throughout the growing season, and fungicides were applied primarily to HoCP 96-540 and L 01-283. Brown stripe disease was commonly seen on fields of L 01-299. A freeze in early January 2017 was enough to keep

infestations of the West Indian canefly at low levels. No insecticides were used for the control of this insect pest. Sugarcane borer pressure was light. Populations of the Mexican rice borer increased, with some insecticide applications being used for its control, primarily in the western portions of the sugarcane growing area.

Harvest began on September 20, 2016 at the LASUCA mill at St. Martinville and concluded at St. Mary Sugar Cooperative on January 21, 2018. At the beginning of the grinding season, the weather was dry, the cane was straight, and sugar recoveries were high. No tropical systems from the Atlantic basin affected the Louisiana sugar industry in 2017. Weather conditions for the majority of the harvest were dry. The crop remained erect until a rare snow event occurred on December 8, 2017. Overall, the dry weather and an erect crop contributed to the second best sugar recovery on record at the factories. Throughout harvest, state-wide cane yield (tons/acre) was higher than expected, which resulted in a record sugar yield of 8862 lbs/acre.

The 2017 sugarcane variety census showed that Louisiana producers have spread their risk and have continued to rely on several varieties. The most widely grown variety was L 01-299, which was grown on 45 percent of the production acres. This was followed by HoCP 96-540 (25%), L 01-283 (12%), and HoCP 04-838 (8%). All other varieties each occupied less than 4% of the state's acreage. HoCP 09-804 sugarcane variety was released to the industry in 2016 and was increased in 2017 plantings.

Table 1. 2017 monthly weather summary for Baton Rouge from data obtained at Ryan Airport.

Month	Max Temperature	Min Temperature	Ave Temperature	High Temperature	High Temp Date	Low Temperature	Low Temp. Date	Monthly Precip.	Rain Days
January	70	49	59	82	18	21	8	9.68	9
February	75	54	65	84	28	37	16	1.75	7
March	77	56	67	86	29	39	16	3.74	10
April	83	59	71	90	29	47	8	7.40	10
May	83	63	73	91	19	49	6	9.08	11
June	87	71	79	92	30	60	9	9.56	17
July	92	74	83	97	20	70	31	6.44	13
August	90	74	82	96	19	69	29	7.74	17
September	89	67	78	93	28	58	8	0.08	4
October	82	60	71	91	14	36	29	3.62	11
November	74	51	62	85	6	33	24	2.70	5
December	62	43	53	82	5	26	31	5.95	14
Annual	80	60	70	97		21		67.74	128

Table 2. 2017 monthly weather summary for New Orleans from data obtained at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

Month	Max Temperature	Min Temperature	Ave Temperature	High Temperature	High Temp Date	Low Temperature	Low Temp Date	Monthly Precip.	Rain Days
January	69	51	60	80	20	27	7	4.90	9
February	73	56	64	81	8	44	17	2.74	6
March	76	59	67	83	29	44	16	2.88	4
April	81	62	71	86	5	50	7	5.45	9
May	82	66	74	90	28	53	4	9.93	10
June	87	74	80	92	19	65	9	15.48	19
July	91	75	83	96	27	71	24	6.50	13
August	90	76	83	96	19	73	29	15.77	20
September	88	72	80	92	29	63	12	0.42	4
October	81	65	73	90	12	39	29	3.13	9
November	74	56	65	84	4	37	24	0.06	2
December	64	47	56	85	5	29	9	5.16	12
Annual	80	63	71	96		27		72.42	117

Table 3. 2017 monthly weather summary for Lafayette from data obtained at the Lafayette Regional Airport.

Month	Max Temperature	Min Temperature	Ave Temperature	High Temperature	High Temp Date	Low Temperature	Low Temp Date	Monthly Precip.	Rain Days
January	70	53	61	80	13	23	8	3.37	6
February	75	57	66	83	12	41	16	M	M
March	78	59	68	87	23	43	15	1.78	8
April	84	64	74	90	22	53	7	5.54	8
May	83	65	74	90	20	53	6	9.72	8
June	87	72	79	92	19	61	9	11.02	15
July	92	76	84	96	28	71	31	7.00	14
August	90	76	83	97	19	73	29	14.27	20
September	90	69	80	94	28	59	8	0.33	4
October	83	61	72	93	8	37	29	3.68	6
November	74	53	64	86	6	36	24	6.23	8
December	62	45	54	84	5	28	31	6.29	15
Annual	81	63	72	97		23		69.38	117