

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF LOUISIANA SUGARCANE PRODUCTION IN 2019

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Overview

In 2019, sugarcane was grown on 482,111 acres in 24 Louisiana parishes. An estimated 440,000 acres were available for harvest for sugar, assuming that 9.1 percent of the total acres were used for seed cane. The 11 operating raw sugar factories in the state processed 13,588,003 tons of cane, which was a decrease from the 16.87 million tons of cane processed in 2018. In total, the 11 factories produced 1.510 million short tons of sugar (96° pol), an 18% decrease in the amount of sugar produced. The average sugar recovery at the 11 raw sugar factories was 222 pounds of sugar (96° pol) per ton of cane. The average yield of cane produced from each harvested acre amounted to 30.9 tons/acre. The yield of commercially recoverable sugar produced per harvested acre was approximately 6,860 pounds.

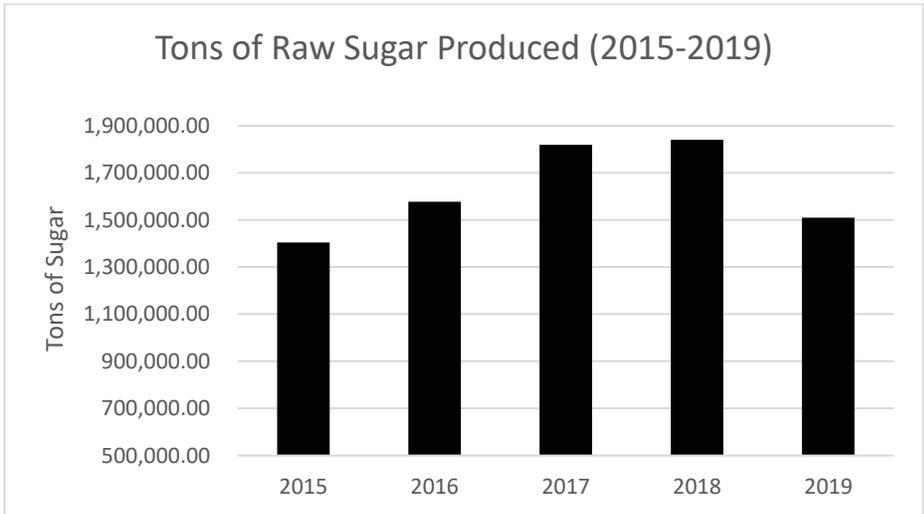
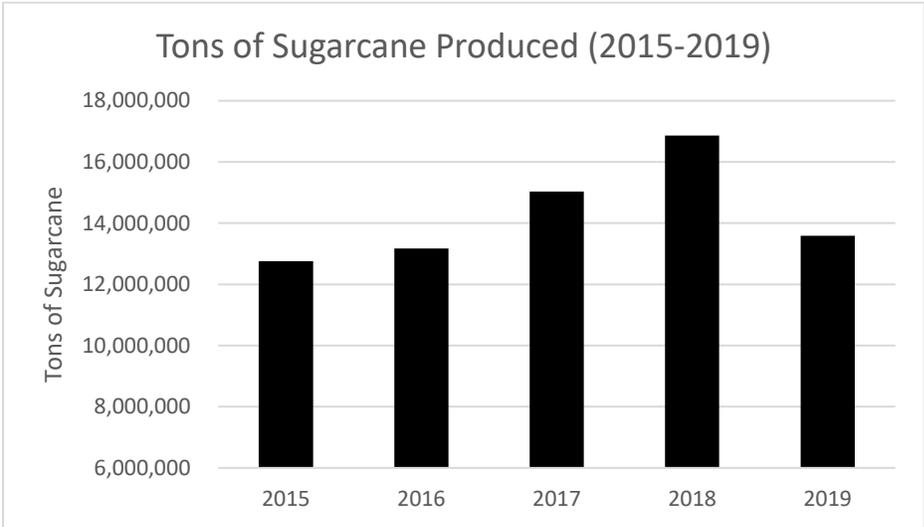
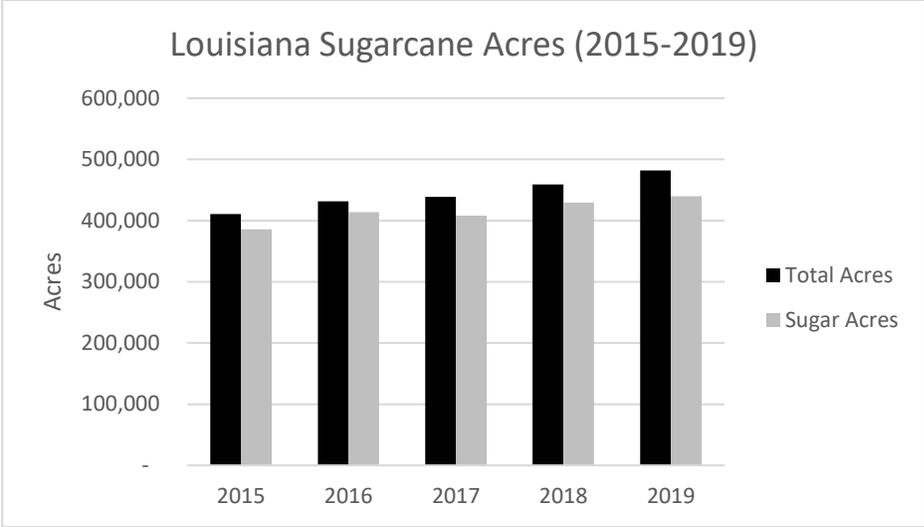
Louisiana's Rank in Total U.S. Sugar Production

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 2019, 53.47 percent of total U.S. sugar production came from sugar beets and 46.52 percent came from sugarcane. For the 2019/20 fiscal year, Louisiana accounted for approximately 40.45 percent of total U.S. cane sugar production and 18.82 percent of total U.S. sugar production.

U.S. Sugar Production, 2018/19 and 2019/20

| | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | (1,000 short tons, raw value) | (1,000 short tons, raw value) |
| Beet sugar production | 4,939 | 4,298 |
| Cane sugar production | 4,060 | 3,740 |
| Florida | 2,005 | 2,100 |
| Louisiana | 1,907 | 1,513 |
| Texas | 147 | 127 |
| Total U.S. sugar production | 8,999 | 8,038 |

Source: World Agricultural Outlook Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture, WASDE-599, April 2020



2019 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) | * | 6,100 | 28,226,747 | 4,627 | \$7,792,879 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 154 | 709,257 | | |
| Ascension | Raw sugar (lbs) | 10 | 6,600 | 108,465,998 | 16,434 | \$29,945,440 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 166 | 2,725,438 | | |
| Assumption | Raw sugar (lbs) | 37 | 6,900 | 211,945,376 | 30,717 | \$58,514,167 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 173 | 5,325,577 | | |
| Avoyelles | Raw sugar (lbs) | 22 | 7,100 | 99,720,195 | 14,045 | \$27,530,887 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 178 | 2,505,681 | | |
| Calcasieu | Raw sugar (lbs) | * | 6,700 | 609,643 | * | \$168,311 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 168 | 15,319 | | |
| Cameron | Raw sugar (lbs) | * | * | * | * | * |
| | Molasses (gal) | | * | * | | |
| Concordia | Raw sugar (lbs) | * | * | * | * | * |
| | Molasses (gal) | | * | * | | |
| Evangeline | Raw sugar (lbs) | * | 6,400 | 4,422,792 | * | \$1,221,050 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 161 | 111,132 | | |
| Iberia | Raw sugar (lbs) | 79 | 6,600 | 347,714,507 | 52,684 | \$95,997,493 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 166 | 8,737,064 | | |
| Iberville | Raw sugar (lbs) | 30 | 7,550 | 262,599,614 | 34,781 | \$72,498,858 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 190 | 6,598,372 | | |
| Jefferson Davis | Raw sugar (lbs) | * | 6,200 | 4,044,661 | * | \$1,116,656 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 156 | 101,631 | | |
| Lafayette | Raw sugar (lbs) | 15 | 6,700 | 55,643,870 | 8,306 | \$15,362,235 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 168 | 1,398,170 | | |
| Lafourche | Raw sugar (lbs) | 21 | 6,800 | 156,442,566 | 23,006 | \$43,190,876 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 171 | 3,930,951 | | |
| Pointe Coupee | Raw sugar (lbs) | 45 | 7,550 | 415,913,299 | 55,088 | \$114,825,908 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 190 | 10,450,703 | | |
| Rapides | Raw sugar (lbs) | 16 | 7,310 | 106,460,410 | 14,564 | \$29,391,734 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 184 | 2,675,043 | | |
| St. Charles | Raw sugar (lbs) | * | 7,000 | 8,862,869 | 1,266 | \$2,446,873 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 176 | 222,698 | | |
| St. James | Raw sugar (lbs) | 22 | 7,000 | 170,826,003 | 24,403 | \$47,161,874 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 176 | 4,292,365 | | |
| St. John | Raw sugar (lbs) | * | 6,950 | 42,476,777 | 6,112 | \$11,727,046 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 175 | 1,067,319 | | |
| St. Landry | Raw sugar (lbs) | 20 | 7,100 | 134,335,498 | 18,920 | \$37,087,526 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 178 | 3,375,464 | | |
| St. Martin | Raw sugar (lbs) | 22 | 6,210 | 179,630,484 | 28,926 | \$49,592,628 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 156 | 4,513,597 | | |
| St. Mary | Raw sugar (lbs) | 24 | 6,385 | 271,987,705 | 42,957 | \$75,090,734 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 160 | 6,834,267 | | |
| Terrebonne | Raw sugar (lbs) | * | 6,735 | 54,845,963 | 8,143 | \$15,141,948 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 169 | 1,378,121 | | |
| Vermilion | Raw sugar (lbs) | 39 | 6,350 | 253,057,412 | 39,852 | \$69,864,433 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 160 | 6,358,604 | | |
| West Baton Rouge | Raw sugar (lbs) | 15 | 7,305 | 101,559,398 | 13,903 | \$28,038,656 |
| | Molasses (gal) | | 184 | 2,551,895 | | |
| Total Sugarcane Crop Value¹ | | | | | | \$833,708,212 |

¹Total Sugar Value (Raw + Molasses)

SUGARCANE SUMMARY FOR CROP YEAR 2019

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In 2019, sugarcane was grown on 482,111 acres in 24 Louisiana parishes. An estimated 440,000 acres were available for harvest for sugar. The 11 operating raw sugar factories in the state processed 13,588,003 tons of cane. In total, the 11 factories produced 1.510 million short tons of sugar (96° pol). The average yield of cane produced from each harvested acre amounted to 30.9 tons/acre. The average sugar recovery at the 11 raw sugar factories was 11.11 percent or 222 pounds of sugar (96° pol) per ton of cane. The yield of commercially recoverable sugar produced per harvested acre was approximately 6,860 pounds. This was the first time that the state's yield was below 7,000 pounds/acre since 2006.

Although the pricing period is not complete for the 2019 crop, the average predicted price for raw sugar is \$0.26 per pound. Molasses price is estimated to have an average price of \$109 per short ton at 79.5° Brix.

The gross farm value of the 2019 sugarcane crop was \$ 495.4 million 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 \$ 338.3 million. Total value of the sugarcane crop to Louisiana producers, processors and landlords at the first processing level was \$ 833.7 million.

The 2019 sugarcane crop was negatively affected by above average rainfall during November and December of the 2018 harvest, which rutted fields leading into the 2019 growing season. In addition, spring 2019 temperatures were below normal. Rainfall was above normal for the growing season (Tables 1-3). Summer growth was normal, but planting was slightly delayed because of short seed cane. Growers began planting in August, but wet conditions in that month made planting a challenge. Much of the state's fallow sugarcane acres were planted in September as weather conditions improved. Sugarcane growth was especially good during September and early October because of warm summer-like temperatures.

Hurricane Barry moved onshore on July 13, 2020 near the Bayou Teche area. A broad wind field lodged cane in most areas of the Louisiana sugarcane growing region.

Sugarcane brown rust levels were moderate because of the mild 2018-19 winter. Fungicide usage in 2019 was moderate, mainly applied to HoCP 96-540 and L 01-283. Brown stripe disease was a problem early in the season for L 01-299, but the variety did reestablish by late spring. Seedcane fields of L 01-299 represented some of the worst cane stands in 2019. The mild winter also increased infestations of the West Indian canefly and sugarcane borer. Populations of the Mexican rice borer continued to move eastward, with some insecticide applications being used for its control.

Harvest began on September 17, 2019 at LSUCA mill and concluded at Sterling raw sugar factory on January 3, 2020. The 2019 harvest was much drier than the 2018 harvest season.

The industry also experienced a severe freeze on November 13, 2020, with temperatures reaching 22 F in Cheneyville for 30 minutes. Sugar recoveries decreased, but all acres were harvested for sugar production.

The 2019 sugarcane variety census showed that the most widely grown variety was L 01-299, grown on 56 percent of the production acres. This was followed by HoCP 96-540 (15%), L 01-283 (14%), HoCP 09-804 (5%), and HoCP 04-838 (4%). All other varieties each occupied less than 4% of the state's acreage. Two new sugarcane varieties, L 12-201 and Ho 12-615, were released to sugarcane growers for commercial production in 2019.