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Report Highlights:

Egypt's sugar production in marketing year (MY) 2026/27 (October to September) is projected at 3.0 million metric tons (MMT), a decline of 180,000 metric tons (MT) from MY 2025/26 estimates due to reduced beet sugar output and a slight drop in cane sugar production. In MY 2025/26, Egyptian importers and some industries capitalized on falling global sugar prices by importing and refining raw sugar at costs significantly lower than processing domestic production, which prompted the Egyptian government to regulate both raw and refined sugar imports to balance local market supply and demand. Higher global energy prices continue to drive up costs for domestic sugarcane production and processing in Egypt.

SUGAR, CENTRIFUGAL

Sugar, Centrifugal Market Year Begins	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Oct 2024		Oct 2025		Oct 2026	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Egypt						
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	845	845	1155	1155	0	1245
Beet Sugar Production (1000 MT)	2400	2400	2470	2470	0	2300
Cane Sugar Production (1000 MT)	700	700	710	710	0	700
Total Sugar Production (1000 MT)	3100	3100	3180	3180	0	3000
Raw Imports (1000 MT)	1200	1200	1000	1000	0	1000
Refined Imp.(Raw Val) (1000 MT)	60	60	60	60	0	60
Total Imports (1000 MT)	1260	1260	1060	1060	0	1060
Total Supply (1000 MT)	5205	5205	5395	5395	0	5305
Raw Exports (1000 MT)	300	300	300	300	0	300
Refined Exp.(Raw Val) (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Exports (1000 MT)	300	300	300	300	0	300
Human Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	3750	3750	3850	3850	0	3900
Other Disappearance (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Use (1000 MT)	3750	3750	3850	3850	0	3900
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	1155	1155	1245	1245	0	1105
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	5205	5205	5395	5395	0	5305
(1000 MT)						

Production

FAS/Cairo forecasts that Egypt's sugar production for marketing year (MY) 2026/27 (October-September) will decline to 3.0 million metric tons (MMT), down from 3.18 MMT in the previous marketing year, due to slightly lower cane sugar output and a more significant drop in beet sugar production. The projected 3.0 MMT total comprises 2.3 MMT from sugar beets (approximately 77 percent of total production) and 0.7 MMT from sugarcane (approximately 23 percent of total production). Egypt's sugar processing sector consists of 16 facilities divided equally between the two sugar sources: all eight sugarcane processors are state-owned enterprises operating under the Holding Company for Food Industries (HCFI), which reports to the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade (MoSIT), while the eight sugar beet processors include five private sector facilities and three state-owned enterprises.

Consumption

FAS/Cairo forecasts total domestic sugar consumption in MY 2026/27 to increase by almost 1.3 percent, reaching 3.9 MMT. Population growth drives this rise in sugar consumption. Egypt's population reached approximately 109 million¹ and is expected to reach 124 million by 2030, according to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS). Egypt also hosts an estimated 10 million migrants not included in official population figures. Furthermore, the expansion of Egypt's confectionary food products sector requires greater volumes of sugar as a production input. As a staple commodity, sugar plays a vital role in numerous food processing operations and consumer goods manufacturing.

¹ <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/145282/CAPMAS-Egypt-records-population-increase-of-750K-in-196-days>

Egypt’s Food Subsidy Program: Beneficiaries of Egypt’s food subsidy program are entitled to receive one kilogram of sugar at a subsidized price of EGP 12.6 per kilogram (\$0.24 per kilogram). A network managed by HCFI includes 1,300 state-owned consumer outlets that accept payment by smart card, as well as 40,000 partnered private grocery stores, serving 64 million people under this program.

Sugar Prices: Sugar prices are currently stable in the Egyptian market, with retail prices for sugar ranging between EGP 28 and 38 per kilogram (\$0.53-\$0.72) in early 2026. Price variations depend on several factors, including sugar type (white, premium, or diet varieties), brand name, retail outlet, and packaging.

Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages in Egypt Under Review: In September 2025, local media reported that Egypt’s Ministry of Health is collaborating with the Ministry of Finance to explore implementing a graduated health tax on sugar-sweetened beverages, with the intention of reducing sugar consumption and combatting chronic diseases such as obesity and diabetes.² According to media sources the proposed tiered tax structure would exempt beverages containing less than 5 grams of sugar per 100 milliliters, impose a 20 percent tax on products with 5-9 grams per 100 milliliters, and levy a 30 percent tax on drinks exceeding 9 grams per 100 milliliters—all in addition to the existing value-added tax. The framework is reportedly modeled on implementation in other countries that have achieved reduced sugar consumption. FAS/Cairo has not observed any updates or implementation steps since that time.

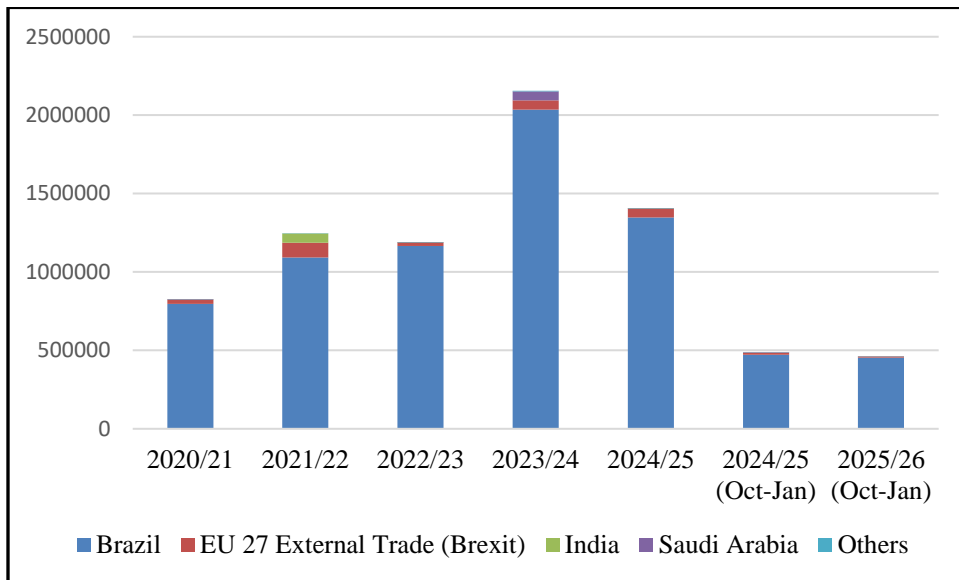
Trade

Imports

FAS/Cairo forecasts total sugar imports in MY 2026/27 at 1.06 MMT, similar to the previous marketing year, due to an increase in carry-over stocks. Brazil has been the major supplier of raw sugar to Egypt during the past five years and is likely to remain Egypt’s main raw sugar supplier, while the European Union is the major supplier of refined sugar to the Egyptian market (Figure 1).

² <https://www.cairo24.com/2288869>

Figure 1: Egypt’s Sugar Imports by Origin (Marketing Year; MMT)



Source: Trade Data Monitor LLC

Raw and Refined Sugar Imports Decision: On March 30, 2026, the Egyptian Ministry of Investment and Trade issued Decision No. 119 for 2026 emphasizing that imports of both raw and refined sugar are subject to approval by the Minister of Supply and Minister of Investment after submitting an import permit specifying the import volume. The decision to regulate both raw and refined sugar imports aims to balance supply and demand in the local market. Egypt currently imports approximately one million MT of raw sugar, which is refined domestically and sold at prices of roughly 3,000 Egyptian pounds (\$56.89) per MT below the price of locally produced sugar. Egyptian sugar factories have faced severe financial pressure from high production costs and competition with importers who refine lower-priced raw materials locally.

Exports

FAS/Cairo forecasts Egypt’s sugar exports to reach 300,000 MT in MY 2026/27, unchanged from the MY 2025/26 estimate. While Egypt’s export ban on sugar remains in place, the country continues to export sugar to several Arab countries, as well as some in Africa, through regulated channels that permit the export of officially recognized surplus quantities. On March 12, 2026, the Egyptian Customs Authority issued Export Circular No. 9 of 2026 to enforce the Ministry of Investment's decision prohibiting the export of all sugar types.³ The circular directs Egyptian customs at ports to implement Ministry of Investment Resolution No. 58 of 2026, which extends the application of Ministerial Resolution No. 88 of 2023 through April 30, 2027. Resolution No. 88 of 2023 prohibits the export of all

³ <https://almaalnews.com/2103117/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%83-%D8%AA%D9%86%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%B0-%D9%82%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%AB%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A8%D8%AD%D8%B8%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%B5%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%B5%D9%86%D9%81/>

sugar types except for quantities exceeding local market needs, as determined by the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade and approved by the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade.

Stocks

FAS/Cairo forecasts MY 2026/27 ending sugar stocks to reach nearly 1.1 MMT, a decrease of almost 11.2 percent from the previous marketing year, due to an anticipated decrease in local production and increase in consumption.

SUGAR BEETS

Sugar Beets	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Jan 2024		Jan 2025		Jan 2026	
Market Year Begins	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Egypt						
Area Planted (1000 HA)	285	316	0	326	0	301
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	282	315	0	325	0	300
Production (1000 MT)	10895	16800	0	17300	0	16000
Total Supply (1000 MT)	10895	16800	0	17300	0	16000
Utilization for Sugar (1000 MT)	10895	16800	0	17300	0	16000
Utilizatr for Alcohol (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	10895	16800	0	17300	0	16000

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT)

Productive Capacity

FAS/Cairo forecasts Egyptian sugar beet production in MY 2026/27 at 16.0 MMT, a decrease of 7.5 percent from the previous marketing year. The decrease in production is due to an estimated 7.7 percent decrease in the area harvested, reaching 300,000 hectares, driven by a lower procurement price.

In 2026, the Government of Egypt (GoE) reduced the guaranteed price for sugar beets by 16.6 percent to EGP 2,000 (\$38.00) per MT, down from EGP 2,400 (\$47.30) per MT in the 2025 season. The guaranteed price is a key factor influencing farmers' production decisions. When the government establishes a low guaranteed price, farmers shift to alternative, more profitable crops.

This price reduction led many farmers to decrease their sugar beet acreage and shift to wheat cultivation. Contract farming agreements between sugar beet processors and farmers have reportedly declined by 16 percent since last year. Industry contacts have reported that the prior season witnessed a substantial increase in supply after farmers did not honor their contractual commitments, resulting in volumes that surpassed the factories' ability to process excess quantities.

Like sugarcane, sugar beets are purchased from farmers at a government-guaranteed price. However, due to competition between private companies in the sugar beet processing sector trying to secure a significant amount of production from farmers, purchasing prices sometimes exceed the purchasing price set by the government.

Additionally, beyond the official procurement price, farmers earn premiums from private companies based on delivery timing and sugar content. The delivery premium ensures a consistent supply of beets

early in the season when sucrose levels are highest. This incentivizes farmers to prioritize sucrose concentration over crop weight, ultimately boosting sugar yields.

The use of contract farming between growers and industry stakeholders facilitates the provision of certified sugar beet seeds to farmers, ongoing assessment and oversight of crop cultivation throughout the growing season, and consistent, sustainable yields.

Planting Cycle and Seed Imports: Sugar beet planting occurs in August and September, with harvest taking place in March and April. Egypt does not produce beet seeds domestically due to specific temperature and sunlight requirements. Consequently, Egypt relies on seed varieties imported from Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, France, and Sweden. Each season, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) distributes 20-30 different varieties to reduce the risk of crop loss caused by a single variety's vulnerability to biological or environmental stresses.

SUGARCANE

Sugar Cane for Centrifugal Market Year Begins	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Jan 2024		Jan 2025		Jan 2026	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Egypt						
Area Planted (1000 HA)	125	141	0	143	0	141
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	124	140	0	142	0	140
Production (1000 MT)	13043	12200	0	12370	0	12200
Total Supply (1000 MT)	13043	12200	0	12370	0	12200
Utilization for Sugar (1000 MT)	13043	12200	0	12370	0	12200
Utilizatn for Alcohol (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Utilization (1000 MT)	13043	12200	0	12370	0	12200
(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT)						

Productive Capacity

FAS/Cairo forecasts cane production in MY 2026/27 at 12.2 MMT, a decrease of almost 13.8 percent from the previous marketing year. The decrease in production is due to a 2,000-hectare reduction in area harvested compared to the previous season.

In recent weeks, sugarcane farmers in Upper Egypt have voiced growing frustration over delayed payments for delivered crops, with some waiting over two months for payment. These delays have disrupted farmers' financial planning and their ability to cover production costs and other expenses, particularly as agricultural input prices, especially fuel and fertilizers, continue to rise. Farmers report that the cost of cultivating one acre of sugarcane has increased significantly, with higher fuel, transportation, and labor costs, while the official procurement price of EGP 2,500 (\$47.40) per metric ton remains inadequate.

Farmers are reportedly calling on the government to expedite overdue payments and raise the procurement price to EGP 4,000 (\$76.00) per MT, warning that without adjustments, many may switch to more profitable crops. The Head of Egypt's Farmers' Syndicate warned that without swift action,

sugarcane acreage could decline in future seasons and called for a flexible pricing mechanism that accounts for production cost fluctuations and ensures timely payments to maintain sector stability.⁴

As a result, the government’s procurement of sugarcane for sugar production faces significant competition from a thriving private sector, including black honey and molasses producers, as well as sugarcane juice shops in urban areas. Many Egyptian sugarcane farmers have redirected their sales to these businesses due to more competitive prices. Approximately 60 percent of harvested sugarcane acreage is procured by the government for sugar production, while the remaining 40 percent flows to these alternative market channels.

Sugarcane cultivation in Egypt is heavily concentrated around the sugar refineries in Upper Egypt, which constitute 77 percent of the cane area in the country. Middle Egypt comprises an additional 15 percent of the sugarcane area, followed by the Delta at 8 percent. Sugarcane is planted in the spring and fall seasons. Spring planting occurs in February and March, while fall planting extends from September through October. The crop takes 12 months to grow.

Attachments:

No Attachments

⁴ <https://almaalnews.com/2109071/%D8%AA%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AF-%D8%B4%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%88%D9%89-%D9%85%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%B9%D9%8A-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%83%D8%B1-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF/>