

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: December 01, 2025

Report Number: CH2025-0197

Report Name: Sugar Semi-Annual

Country: China - People's Republic of

Post: Guangzhou ATO

Report Category: Sugar

Prepared By: ATO Guangzhou

Approved By: Jon Flemings

Report Highlights:

China's MY 2025/26 sugar production forecast remains higher than the previous year at 11.5 MMT, as both cane and beet acreage are projected to increase, as competition crops remain less profitable. MY 2025/26 sugar consumption is forecast to remain steady at 15.8 MMT, as authorities strive to rejuvenate consumer spending amid a range of factors suppressing consumption. China's MY 2024/25 sugar imports are revised down to 5 MMT, as sugar syrup and premixed powder imports continued at significant levels.

Cane Sugar Production

Marketing year (MY) 2025/26 (October-September) cane sugar production in China is forecast at 9.9 million metric tons (MMT), same as the USDA official forecast. Weather conditions across the cane growing regions can be volatile, ranging from floods to droughts, threatening cane production. Despite several weather anomalies this year, experts believe the weather is currently beneficial for cane production.

MY 2025/26 cane acreage will expand in Guangxi, China's largest sugar producing area. The increase is largely because margins are higher, compared to competition crops (i.e., fruits), which are less profitable due to weak market demand. Local government authorities continue to offer support in various forms. For example, Guangxi has announced a plan to improve its cane harvest mechanization from the current low level of five percent to 20 percent by 2027. Despite the predominantly hilly terrain, over one third of Guangxi's cane planting area is sufficiently flat and adaptable to mechanized harvest. Until now, sugar millers have been reluctant to receive cane by mechanized harvest because of higher levels of foreign materials that must be addressed before processing. To counter this obstacle in 2025/2026, the Guangxi government plans to subsidize sugar millers RMB150 million (\$20.8 million, \$1=RMB7.2) to improve their cane receiving systems.

MY 2024/25 cane sugar production is estimated at 9.66 MMT, up 160,000 MT from the USDA official estimate to be in line with the official announcement by China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA). As producers of most competition crops suffered losses due to sluggish economy and weak demand, cane farmers and millers enjoyed profits while government authorities offered subsidies and mandating protective purchase prices.

China's second largest sugar producing province, Yunnan, made 2.42 MMT sugar in MY 2024/2025, the highest in history. From October 2024 to April 2025, Yunnan imported 3.13 MMT of cane from Laos and Myanmar, up 28.8 percent year-on-year. These cane imports were processed into over 410,000 MT sugar, accounting for 17 percent of Yunnan's sugar production.

Beet Sugar Production

MY 2025/26 China's beet sugar production is forecast at 1.6 MMT, same as the USDA official forecast. In Inner Mongolia, China's largest beet production area, a significant number of farmers switched to sugar beet, because market prices and demand weakened for competition crops (i.e., corn, soybean, potato).

On September 17, 2025, a beet sugar mill in Inner Mongolia started production, marking the beginning of China's MY 2025/26 sugar milling season, five days later than MY 2024/25 due to excessive rainfalls.

MY 2024/25 beet sugar production is estimated at 1.5 MMT, same as the USDA official estimate and in line with the official announcement by China's MARA.

Centrifugal Sugar Production

MY 2025/26 China's centrifugal sugar production is forecast at 11.5 MMT, same as the USDA official forecast and up 340,000 MT from the revised MY 2024/25 estimate. The projected increase is attributed to increased acreages in both cane and beet, whose competition crops are less profitable. Although most industry insiders forecast sugar prices will be weak in MY 2025/26, farmers (cane and beet) and millers are expected to remain profitable.

MY 2024/25 total sugar production is estimated at 11.16 MMT, revised up 160,000 MT from the USDA official estimate to be in line with the official announcement by China's MARA.

Since late 2024, Chinese sugar prices have been steadily decreasing. Like world sugar prices, China's MY 2025/26 prices are forecast to be weak.

Chart 1: China and World Sugar Prices from September 2024 to September 2025 (metric ton basis)



Source: Data by www.hisugar.com and TradingEconomics, Chart by ATO Guangzhou

Consumption

China's MY 2025/26 sugar consumption is forecast at 15.8 MMT, revised up 100,000 MT from the USDA official forecast. China's economy is still under significant pressure, yet indicators suggest a gradual stabilization.

According to industry reports, in August 2025, China's beverage production reached 17.76 MMT, up 0.25 percent year-on-year; and from January to August 2025, it reached 128.76 MMT, up 2.5 percent. Furthermore, the trendy Chinese milk tea and coffee shops continue to expand. On the other hand, some industrial demands that usually drive sugar consumption are continuing to trend downward. For example, mooncakes are historically consumed and shared as gifts during Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival (September-October). Annually, mooncake production can reach 500,000 MT, using over 150,000 MT

of sugar annually. However, shifting consumer preferences, household economic factors, and government efforts to control gift giving are expected to result in a significant decline in sales.

In 2026, China will start its 15th Five-Year Plan, a national development blueprint. The Chinese government will continue efforts to boost development in key economic sectors, as well as consumer spending. This could help to improve tourism and dining out, further helping to stabilize sugar consumption. Furthermore, sugar prices are forecast to stay relatively low in MY 2025/26, which could also stimulate demand.

MY 2024/25 sugar consumption is estimated at 15.7 MMT, same as the USDA official estimate.

Trade

Imports

MY 2025/26 China's sugar imports are forecast at 5.3 MMT, same as the USDA official forecast. Sugar prices have been relatively low, supporting continued sugar imports. The government's continued efforts in regulating imports of sugar syrup/premix powder are expected to maintain raw sugar imports at higher levels.

MY 2024/25 sugar imports are estimated at 5 MMT, revised down 200,000 MT from the USDA official estimate. The revision reflects displaced sugar imports as the government worked to control sugar syrup and premixed powder imports. According to industry reports, from October 2024 to August 2025, China's raw sugar imports were 4.1 MMT, down 6.37 percent year-on-year.

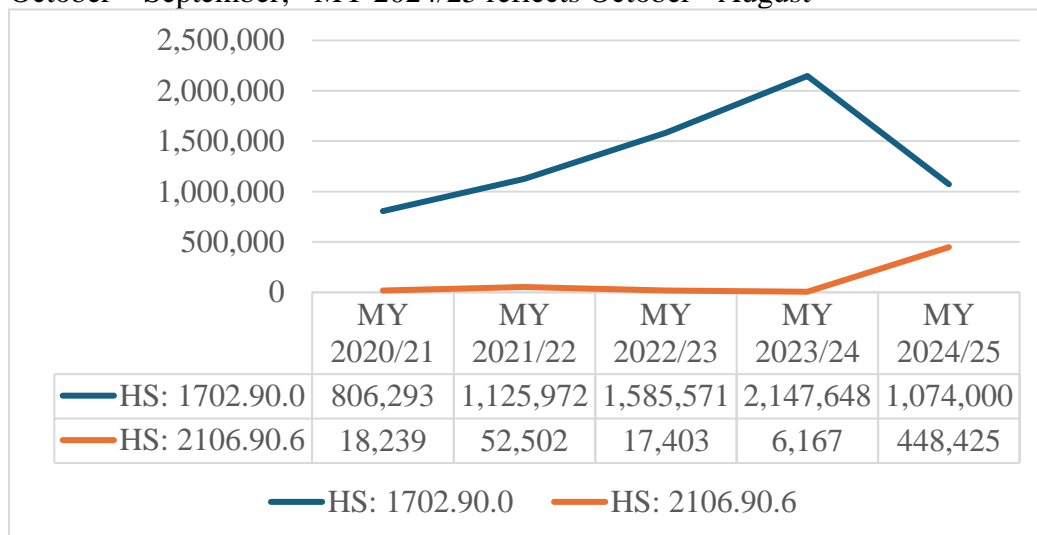
Imports of Sugar Syrup and Premixed Powder

(NOTE: Imports of sugar syrup and premixed powder are not included in the PSD figures but do add supply to the China market and are therefore explained here.)

On December 10, 2024, China suspended the import permits for sugar syrup and premixed powder (H.S. code: 1702.90.0, containing other sugar substances such as artificial sugar) from 74 manufacturers located in Thailand. The ban remains in effect. As a result, the targeted imports have dropped significantly. However, the imports of another type of sugar syrup and premixed powder (H.S. code: 2106.90.6, containing flavoring and coloring agents) have since surged, as indicated in Chart 2.

In MY 2024/25, from October 2024 to August 2025, China's total imports of sugar syrup and premixed powders (combining H.S. codes 1702.90.0 and 2106.90.6) reached 1.52 MMT, down about 25 percent year-on-year and roughly equivalent to 1.2 MMT raw sugar.

Chart 2: China's Imports of Sugar Syrup and Premix Powder in Metric Tons
October – September; *MY 2024/25 reflects October - August



Source: China's Customs data

Exports

MY 2025/26 China's sugar exports are forecast at 220,000 MT, revised up 20,000 MT from the USDA official forecast. The revision reflects reports that North Korea agreed to purchase an additional 20,000 MT of sugar from China in meetings alongside the September 2025 military parade in Beijing.

MY 2024/25 China's sugar exports are estimated at 200,000 MT, same as the USDA official estimate.

Stocks

China's MY 2025/26 sugar stocks are forecast at 2.42 MMT, revised down 160,000 MT from the USDA official forecast. With the reduced estimate of MY2024/25 stocks and the forecast of increased domestic sugar consumption, MY 2025/26 stocks are poised to decrease.

MY 2024/25 stocks are estimated at 1.64 MMT, revised down 400,000 MT from the USDA official estimate due to reduced sugar imports.

Note: the tables of Production, Supply and Distribution are on the next page.

Table 1: Sugar, Centrifugal: Production, Supply and Distribution

Sugar, Centrifugal Market Year Begins China	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
	Oct 2023		Oct 2024		Oct 2025	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	2091	2091	1383	1383	1683	1643
Beet Sugar Production (1000 MT)	1140	1140	1500	1500	1600	1600
Cane Sugar Production (1000 MT)	8820	8820	9500	9660	9900	9900
Total Sugar Production (1000 MT)	9960	9960	11000	11160	11500	11500
Raw Imports (1000 MT)	4600	4600	4700	4500	4800	4800
Refined Imp.(Raw Val) (1000 MT)	400	400	500	500	500	500
Total Imports (1000 MT)	5000	5000	5200	5000	5300	5300
Total Supply (1000 MT)	17051	17051	17583	17543	18483	18443
Raw Exports (1000 MT)	3	3	3	3	3	3
Refined Exp.(Raw Val) (1000 MT)	165	165	197	197	197	217
Total Exports (1000 MT)	168	168	200	200	200	220
Human Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	15500	15500	15700	15700	15700	15800
Other Disappearance (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Use (1000 MT)	15500	15500	15700	15700	15700	15800
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	1383	1383	1683	1643	2583	2423
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	17051	17051	17583	17543	18483	18443
(1000 MT)						

Table 2: Sugar Cane: Production, Supply and Distribution

Sugar Cane for Centrifugal Market Year Begins China	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
	Oct 2023		Oct 2024		Oct 2025	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (1000 HA)	1160	1160	1210	1210	0	1250
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	1160	1160	1210	1210	0	1250
Production (1000 MT)	77000	77000	81000	81000	0	82000
Total Supply (1000 MT)	77000	77000	81000	81000	0	82000
Utilization for Sugar (1000 MT)	77000	77000	81000	81000	0	82000
Utilizatn for Alcohol (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Utilization (1000 MT)	77000	77000	81000	81000	0	82000
(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT)						

Table 3: Sugar Beets: Production, Supply and Distribution

Sugar Beets Market Year Begins China	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
	Oct 2023		Oct 2024		Oct 2025	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (1000 HA)	180	180	188	188	0	215
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	180	180	188	188	0	215
Production (1000 MT)	9700	9700	10100	10100	0	11400
Total Supply (1000 MT)	9700	9700	10100	10100	0	11400
Utilization for Sugar (1000 MT)	9700	9700	10100	10100	0	11400
Utilizatn for Alcohol (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	9700	9700	10100	10100	0	11400
(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT)						

Attachments:

No Attachments