USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Global Agricultural Information Network

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution **Date:** November 06, 2026

Report Number: BR2026-0049

Report Name: Sugar November Update

Country: Brazil

Post: Brasilia

Report Category: Sugar

Prepared By: Thiemi Hayashi

Approved By: Scott Patnode

Report Highlights:

Post lowers its MY 2026/27 sugarcane production forecast to 681 million metric tons (MMT), down 2 percent from the previous estimate. Above-average rainfall in the Center-South in September and October slowed crushing and lowered total recoverable sugar (TRS) levels. Because sugarcane quality is lower, Post also cuts its sugar production forecast by 4 percent to 40.5 MMT and its sugar export forecast by 4.8 percent to 31.7 MMT. Post keeps the sugar-ethanol mix at 49 percent sugar and 51 percent ethanol. Analysts expect about 30 MMT of sugarcane to carry over into MY 2027/28.

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Disclaimer: This report presents an updated outlook for sugarcane and sugar, and Production, Supply and Distribution (PS&D) forecasts for the Marketing Year (MY – April to March) 2026/27. Unless stated otherwise, data in this report is based on the views of Foreign Agricultural Service analysts in Brazil and is not official USDA data. Percent changes are calculated from unrounded data and may differ slightly from changes calculated from the rounded figures shown in this report.

Sugarcane Production

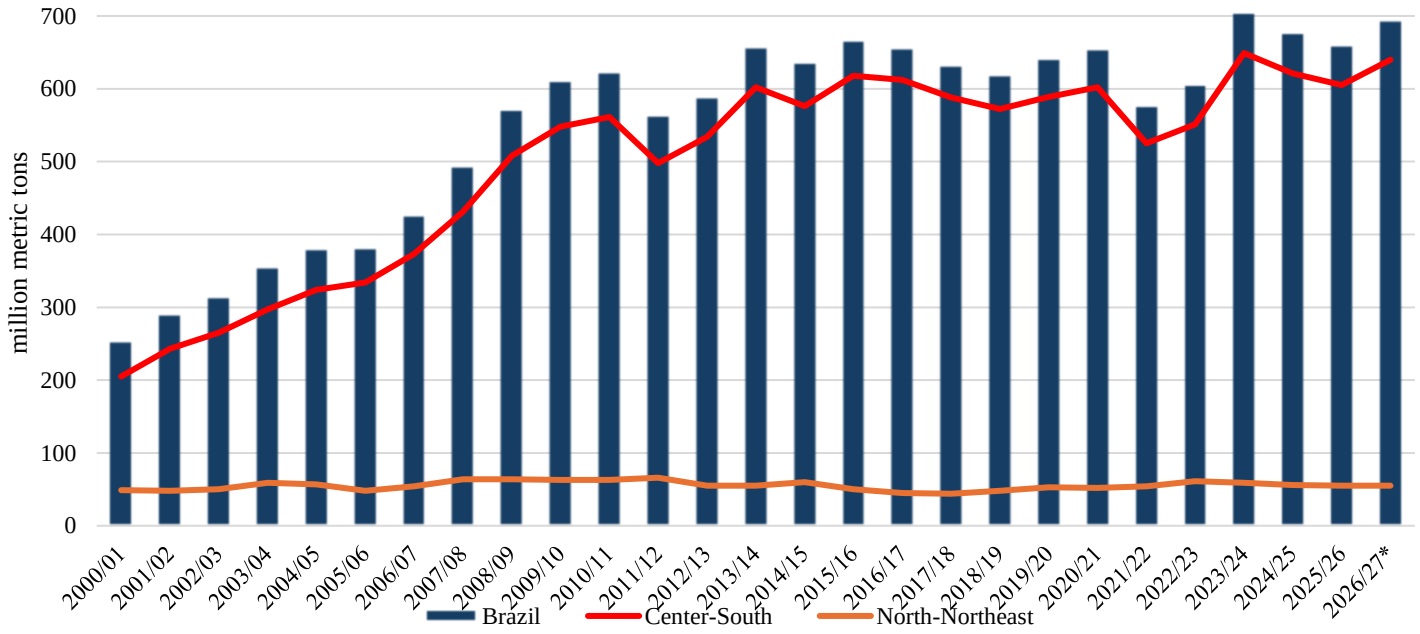
Table 1
Sugarcane Production, Supply and Demand

Sugar Cane for Centrifugal	**2024/2025**		**2025/2026**		**2026/2027**	
Market Year Begins	**Apr 2024**		**Apr 2025**		**Apr 2026**	
Brazil	**USDA Official**	**New Post**	**USDA Official**	**New Post**	**USDA Official**	**New Post**
Area Planted (1000 HA)	9600	9600	0	9850	0	9950
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	9400	9400	0	9700	0	9800
Production (1000 MT)	645000	677800	0	660000	0	681000
Total Supply (1000 MT)	645000	677800	0	660000	0	681000
Utilization for Sugar (1000 MT)	316050	332122	0	326700	0	333690
Utilizatn for Alcohol (1000 MT)	328950	345678	0	333300	0	347310
Total Utilization (1000 MT)	645000	677800	0	660000	0	681000
(1000 HA), (1000 MT), (MT/HA) MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column						

Post revises downward the sugarcane production forecast for marketing year 2026/27 (MY2026/27) from 695 million metric tons (MMT) to 681 MMT, a reduction of 2 percent. Despite favorable weather during the sugarcane growing season, rainfall above average in the Center-South's (CS) main producing regions, especially in September and October, is forcing mills to reduce crushing pace, therefore decreasing total production. In the North and Northeast (NNE), crushing continues at a normal pace.

Post maintains the forecast for the sugar-ethanol production mix at 49 percent sugar and 51 percent ethanol. The outlook for sugar demand has improved, particularly in export markets, as production prospects may worsen in other sugar-exporting countries. At the same time, domestic ethanol prices remain high amid concerns over the slower crushing pace. These prices give mills a continued incentive to produce ethanol.

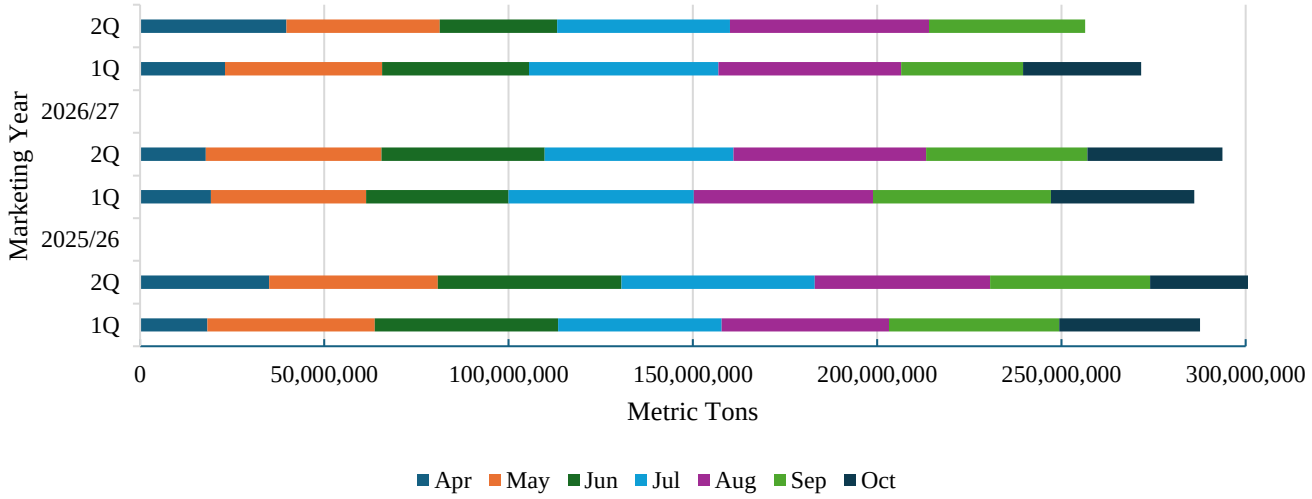
Figure 1
Brazilian Sugarcane Production, in million metric tons



*Source: National Supply Agency (Conab), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA); Chart by Post Brasília *Forecast*

From April 1 to October 15, 2026, mills crushed 528 MMT of sugarcane, down 2.8 percent from 543 MMT in the same period of MY 2025/26. Mills in the Center-South crushed 509.6 MMT, down 2.9 percent from 524.9 MMT a year earlier. Mills in the North-Northeast crushed 18.4 MMT, slightly above the 18.1 MMT crushed in the same period last year.

Figure XXX
Total Sugarcane Crushing, by First (1Q) and Second (2Q) Quarters of the Month, in metric tons



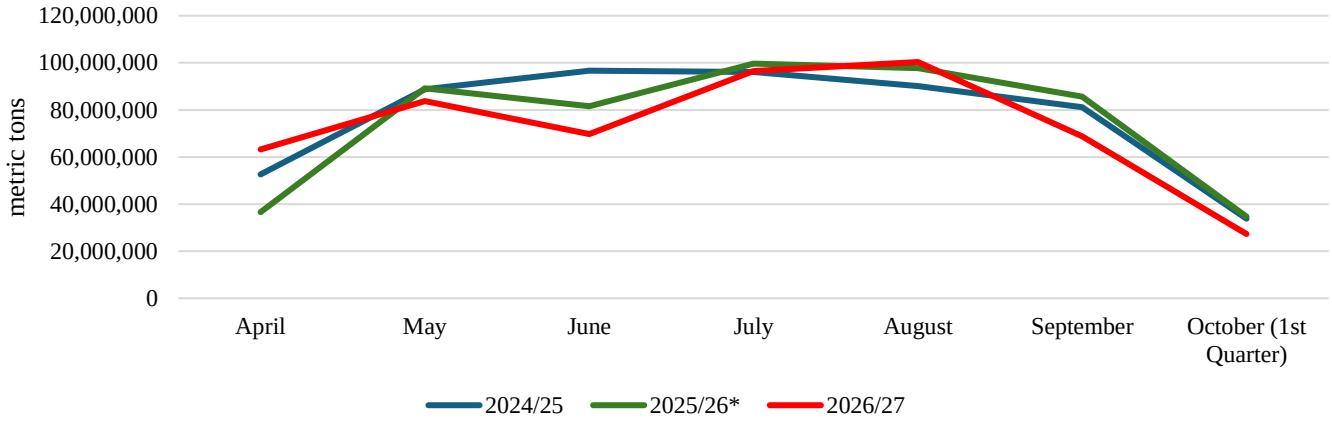
Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA); Chart by Post Brasilia

Compared with MY 2025/26, crushing fell 6.4 percent in May, 13.6 percent in June, and 3.2 percent in July. The decline grew sharper in September, when crushing fell 17.9 percent year over year, according to Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA). This was the largest September decline since MY 2018/19, also an El Niño year, when crushing fell 20.3 percent.

The slowdown continued into October. From October 1 to 15, 2026, Brazil crushed 32 MMT of sugarcane, down 17.8 percent from 38.9 MMT in the same period of 2025. The decline was concentrated in the Center-South, where mills crushed 27.3 MMT, down 21.2 percent from 34.6 MMT a year earlier.

Figure 2

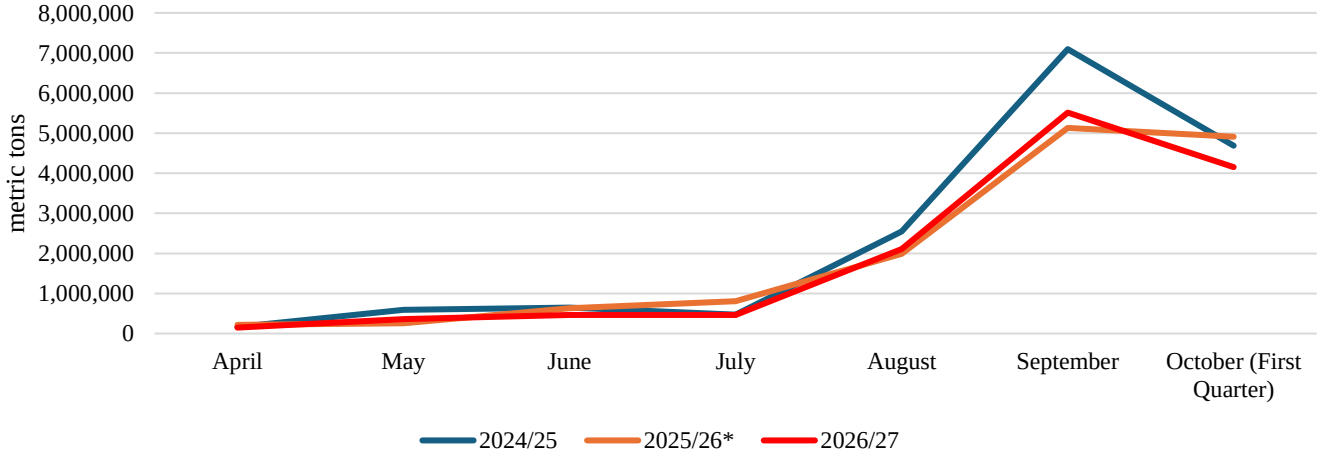
Sugarcane Crushing in the Center-South Region, in metric tons



Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA); Chart by Post Brasília

Figure 3

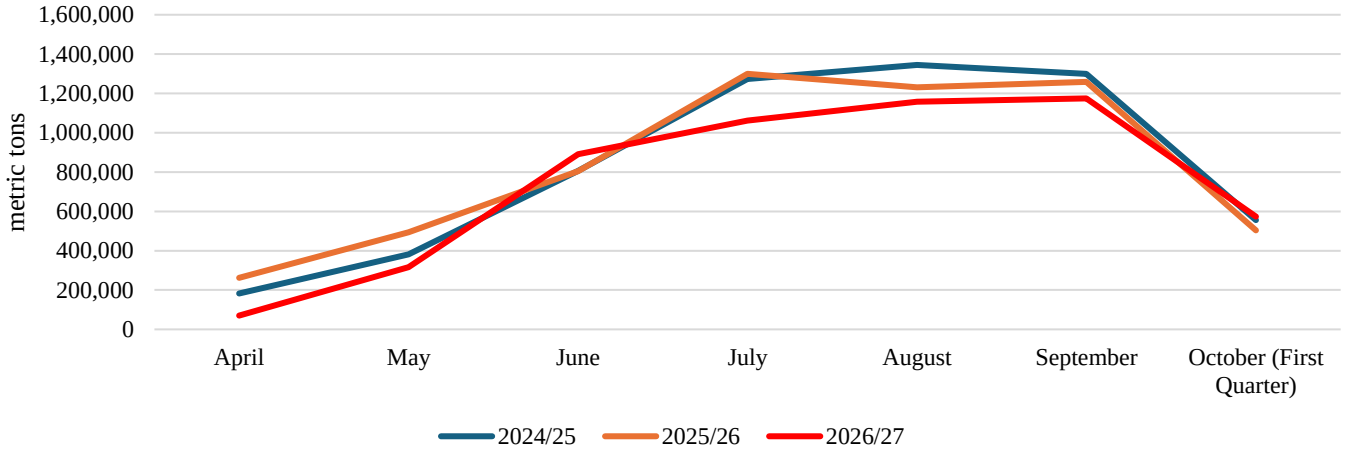
Sugarcane Crushing in the Northeast Region, in metric tons



Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA); Chart by Post Brasília

Figure 4

Sugarcane Crushing in the North Region, in metric tons



Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA); Chart by Post Brasília

Given the slower crushing pace, CS mills plan to extend crushing into December 2026 or start MY 2027/28 operations early, in February 2027. CS mills usually begin their offseason maintenance period in November and resume crushing in late March or April. However, December through February is the rainiest period in the CS region, which could continue to slow the pace of crushing.

Analysts estimate that an unusually large volume of sugarcane, approximately 30 MMT, will carry over into the next season, which will affect the MY 2027/28 forecast. Carryover cane also raises concerns about lower cane quality, given the higher exposure to pests, diseases, and weeds, including the sugarcane spittlebug.

Depending on how much crushing the weather allows, analysts estimate that mills could crush between 150 and 160 MMT from October through March, based on the average volume crushed in that period since MY 2022/23.

MAPA data also show a decline in cane quality in MY 2026/27. Cane quality is measured by total recoverable sugar (ATR), which is the amount of sugar a mill can actually convert into sugar or ethanol. Both ATR per ton of cane (kg/t) and total ATR (tons) fell this season. ATR per ton measures the sugar concentration in each ton of cane and reflects industrial yield. Total ATR measures the total volume of recoverable sugar and reflects agricultural yield.

From April 1 to October 15, 2026, total recoverable sugar (TRS) reached 70,828 MMT, down 12 percent from 80,505 MMT in the same period of 2025. Average TRS per ton of cane fell 3.3 percent over the same period, from 138.7 kg/t in MY 2025/26 to 134.1 kg/t. For MY 2026/27, Post forecasts total TRS (t) at 74,835 and average TRS/cane at 133 kg/t.

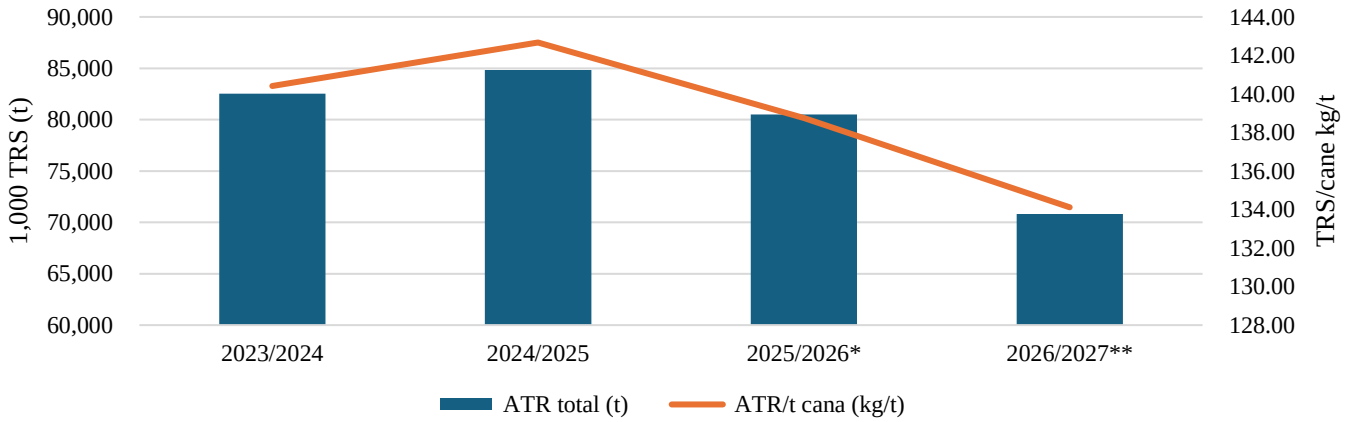
Analysts say the main cause of lower agricultural and industrial yields is excess rainfall, which limits sucrose accumulation in the cane. Since July 2026, growers have also reported fields with stool damage from machinery traffic and poor ratoon sprouting. Mills may direct more cane to sugar in the final

months of the season as international prices recover. Even so, the extra volume will not offset the losses from crushing interruptions and lower TRS.

TRS is one of the main indicators used to set payments to cane suppliers and mills, guiding production and marketing decisions across the sugar-energy sector. Mills pay for supplied cane based on its TRS content per ton and TRS market prices. If these payments fall out of line with production costs, including inputs and operating expenses, margins could come under heavy pressure, especially for independent cane growers.

Figure 5

Total TRS Production and TRS per Ton of Cane, April 1–October 15



*Source: Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA). Chart by Post Brasilia. *TRS production data through September 1, 2026. **TRS production data through October 16, 2026.*

Sugar Production

Table 2
Sugar Production, Supply and Demand

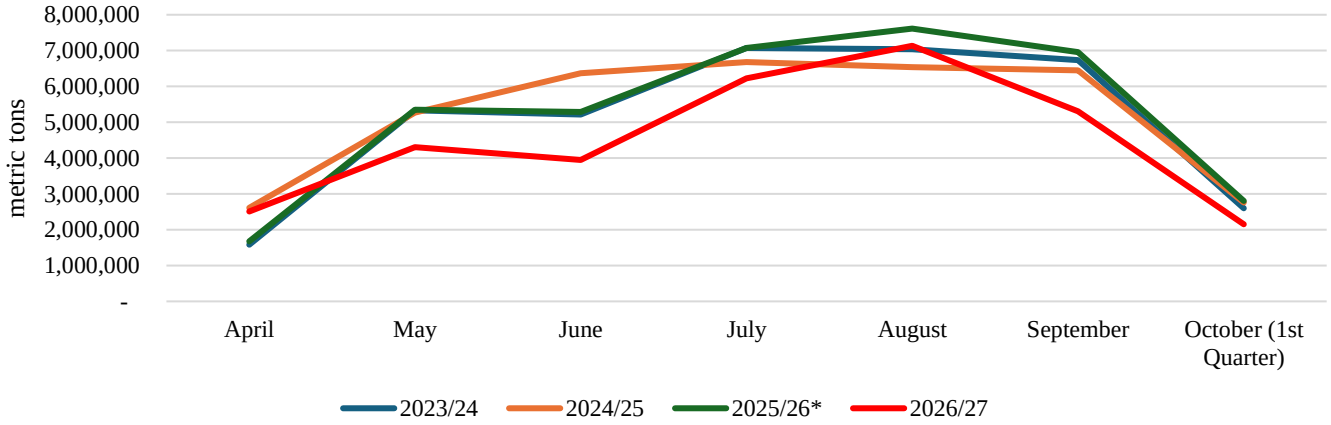
Sugar, Centrifugal	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
Market Year Begins	Apr 2024		Apr 2025		Apr 2026	
Brazil	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	760	760	570	570	321	321
Beet Sugar Production (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cane Sugar Production (1000 MT)	43700	43700	43800	43295	42500	40500
Total Sugar Production (1000 MT)	43700	43700	43800	43295	42500	40500
Raw Imports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Refined Imp.(Raw Val) (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Imports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	44460	44460	44370	43865	42821	40821
Raw Exports (1000 MT)	30570	30764	29940	29939	29500	27600
Refined Exp.(Raw Val) (1000 MT)	4320	4325	4161	4112	4100	4121
Total Exports (1000 MT)	34890	35089	34101	34051	33600	31721
Human Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	9000	8801	9948	9493	9000	8800
Other Disappearance (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Use (1000 MT)	9000	8801	9948	9493	9000	9100
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	570	570	321	321	221	300
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	44460	44460	44370	43865	42821	40821

Post lowers the forecast of MY 2026/27 sugar production by 4 percent, from 42.2 MMT to 40.5 MMT. Mills may extend crushing into December or start MY 2027/28 crushing early, but low TRS levels and the difficulty mills face in extracting more sucrose from the cane will limit total sugar production.

From April 1 to October 15, 2026, Brazil produced 31.5 MMT of sugar, down 14 percent from 36.7 MMT in the same period of 2025. The CS produced 30.8 MMT, and the North-Northeast produced 771,651 tons.

Compared with MY 2025/26, total sugar production fell 19.5 percent in May, 25.4 percent in June, 12 percent in July, and 6.3 percent in August. The decline grew sharper in September, when production fell 23.7 percent. This was the largest September decline since MY 2018/19, when production fell 39.4 percent.

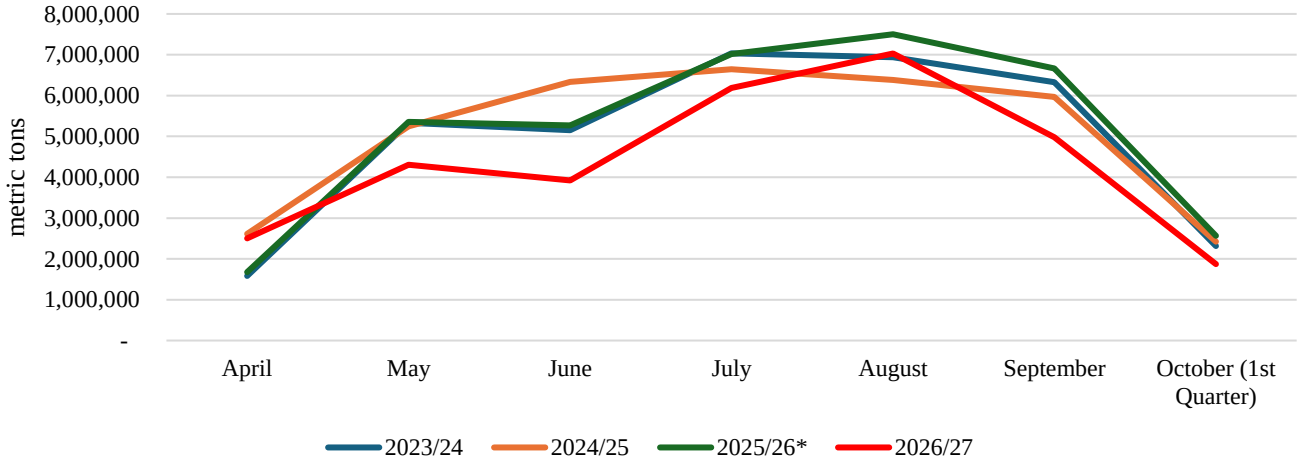
Figure 6
Brazilian Sugar Production, in metric tons



Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA); Chart by Post Brasilia

In the Center-South, sugar production from April 1 to October 15, 2026, totaled 30.8 MMT, down 14.5 percent from 36 MMT in the same period of MY 2025/26. Compared with the previous season, the steepest declines came in June (down 25.5 percent), September (down 25.3 percent), and the first half of October (down 27 percent).

Figure 7
Center-South Sugar Production, in metric tons

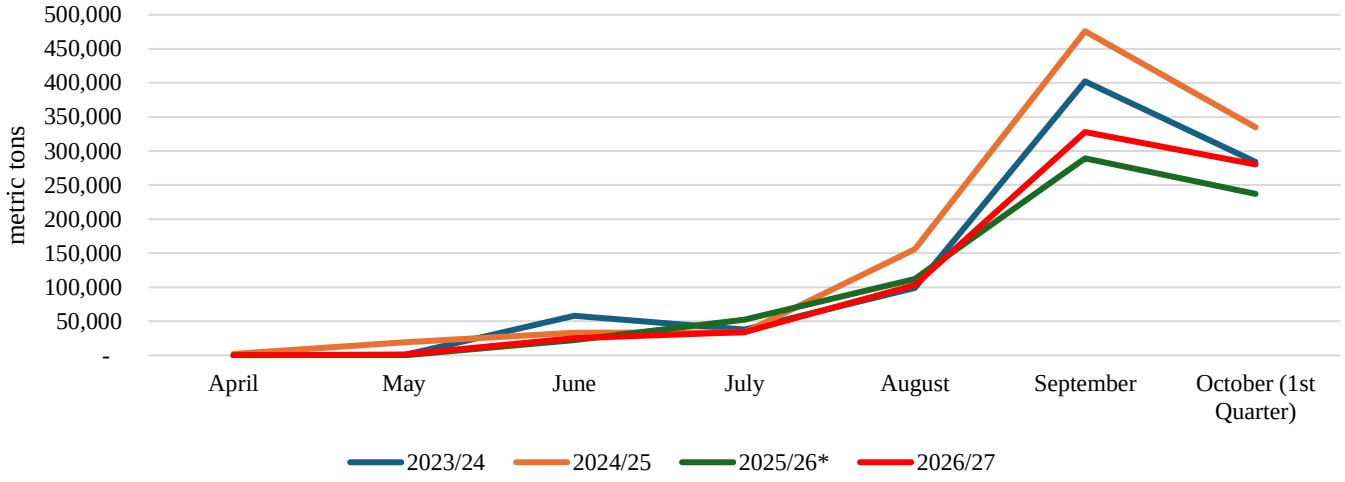


Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA); Chart by Post Brasilia

In contrast, sugar production in the North-Northeast rose 8.2 percent from April 1 to October 15, 2026, to 771,651 metric tons, up from 713,188 metric tons in the same period of MY 2025/26. The North-Northeast follows a different harvest calendar than the Center-South, with its season running from September through August.

Figure 8

North-Northeast Sugar Production, in metric tons



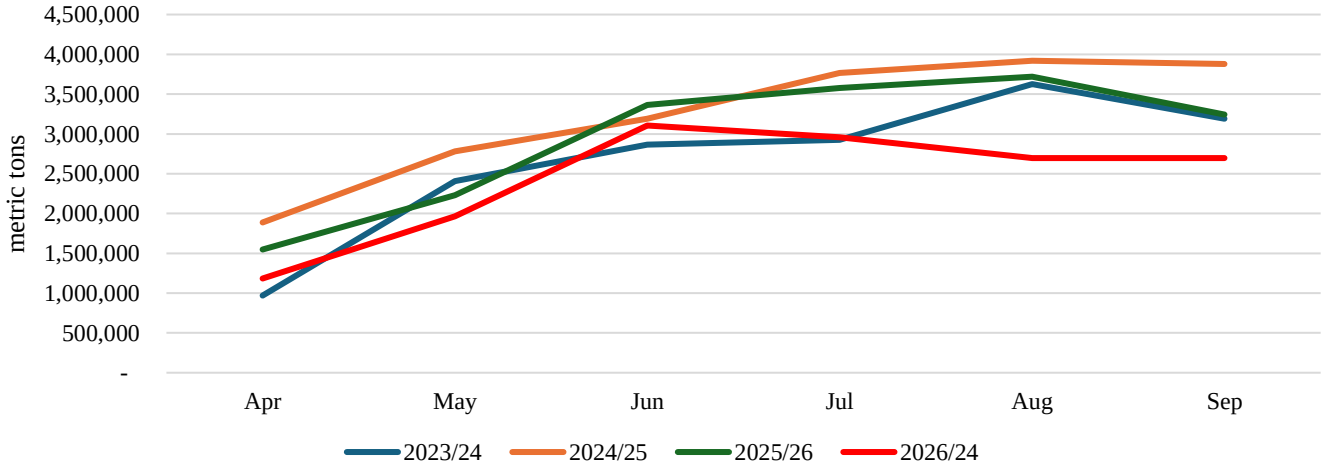
Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA); Chart by Post Brasilia

Trade

Post decreases the MY 2026/27 sugar export forecast by 4.8 percent, from 33.3 MMT to 31.7 MMT, given lower sugar availability. As of November 5, 2026, October export data had not yet been published, but according to data from April through September 2026, Brazil exported 14.6 MMT of sugar, down 17.4 percent from 17.6 MMT in the same period of MY 2025/26.

Figure 9

Brazilian Sugar Exports, April to September, in metric tons, raw value



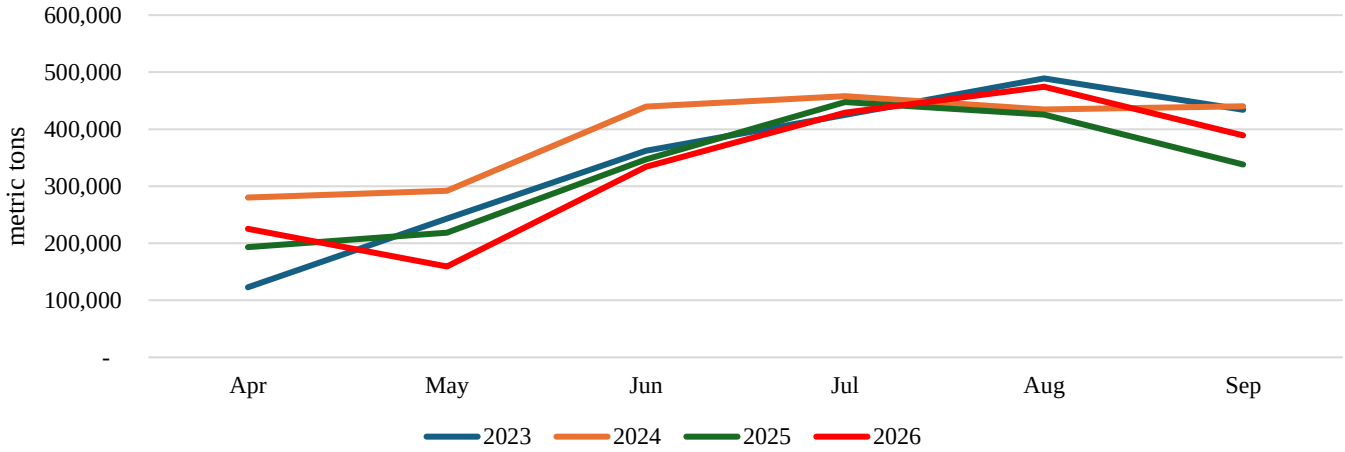
Source: Trade Data Monitor; Chart by Post Brasilia. NOTE: Harmonized Codes (HS) include 170111, 170112, 170113, 170114, 170191, 170199

From April through September 2026, Brazil exported 2.0 MMT of refined sugar, up slightly from 1.9 MMT in the same period of MY 2025/26. Raw sugar exports, by contrast, fell 19.8 percent to 12.5

MMT, down from 15.7 MMT a year earlier, and accounted for nearly all of the decline in total sugar exports.

Figure 10

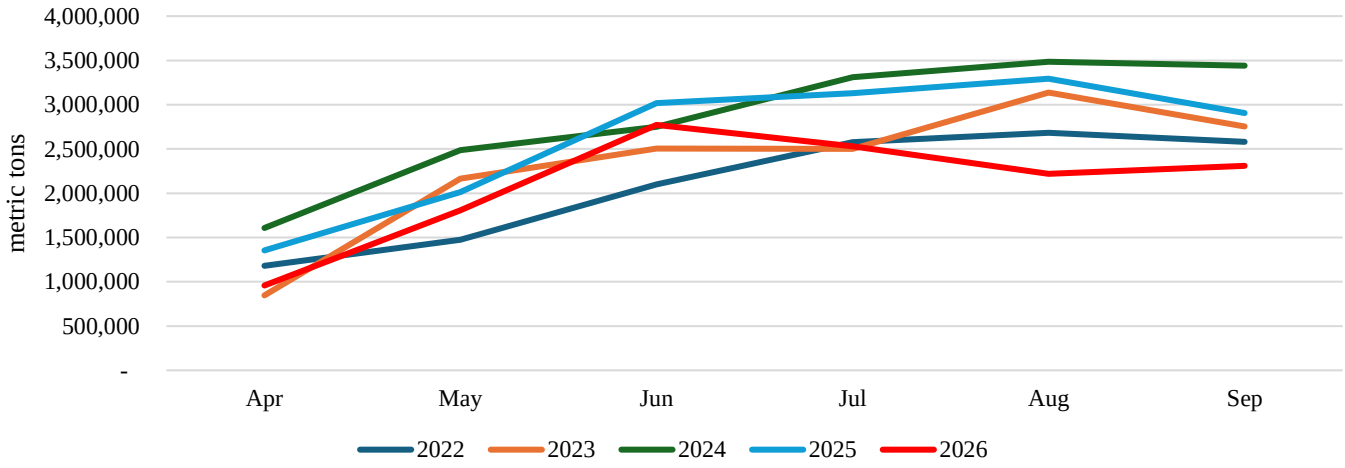
Refined Sugar Exports, April to September, in metric tons



Source: Trade Data Monitor; Chart by Post Brasilia. NOTE: Harmonized Codes (HS) include 170111, 170112, 170113, 170114, 170191, 170199

Figure 11

Raw Sugar Exports, April to September, in metric tons



Source: Trade Data Monitor; Chart by Post Brasilia. NOTE: Harmonized Codes (HS) include 170111, 170112, 170113, 170114, 170191, 170199

From April through September 2026, China was the top destination for Brazilian sugar, with 1.8 MMT, or 12.6 percent of total exports. Saudi Arabia was second with 1.2 MMT (8.2 percent), and Bangladesh was third with 998,780 tons (6.7 percent).

Table 3

Brazilian Main Sugar Destinations, April to September MY2026/27, in metric tons

	April	May	June	July	August	September	Apr-Sep
China	39,774	117,946	548,695	574,021	242,144	331,791	1,854,371
Saudi Arabia	158,293	194,071	250,161	115,671	266,032	223,097	1,207,325
Bangladesh	53,113	268,906	167,153	145,854	176,970	176,784	988,780
India	442	82,677	164,673	228,631	164,309	323,108	963,840
Morocco	-	130,490	96,234	268,595	159,097	197,031	851,447
Canada	23,786	30,271	90,098	191,278	137,799	151,312	624,544
Brazilian Total Exports	**1,183,715**	**1,965,853**	**3,105,670**	**2,959,375**	**2,695,193**	**2,698,275**	**14,608,081**

Source: Trade Data Monitor; Chart by Post Brasilia. NOTE: Harmonized Codes (HS) include 170111, 170112, 170113, 170114, 170191, 170199

Attachments:

No Attachments.