

**International Sugar Organization**

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Various sugar related articles

The Executive Director would like to draw your attention to the articles below all of which are relevant to the sugar sector.

Sugaronline Ebriefing**UAE: Retailers report impacts of newly-implemented tax on sugary drinks**

Some retailers have reported a decline in sales of high-sugar drinks and an increase in demand for low- and zero-sugar alternatives following the introduction of a new tiered-volumetric model for the sugar excise tax in the United Arab Emirates on Jan. 1, according to Khaleej Times.

The chairman and managing director of Adil Group of Supermarkets, Dr. Dhananjay Datar, said sales of high-sugar drinks had slowed, and that many beverage brands have started reformulating products to reduce sugar levels and launch alternatives.

Anurag Chaturvedi, CEO of Andersen UAE, said the tax change is expected to encourage manufacturers to reduce added sugar to fall into lower-tax categories.

CANADA: Front-of-package labelling becomes effective

Canada's mandatory [front-of-package](#) labelling requirements became effective from [Jan. 1](#), with prepackaged foods displaying nutrition symbols in products deemed high in sugars, saturated fats and sodium, according to Food in Canada.

The new requirements were introduced by the nutrition labelling regulations in June 2022. On Dec. 31, 2025, a transition period for implementation ended. Food packages that were imported, produced in Canada or packaged at retail before that date can still be sold.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will monitor compliance with the new food labelling requirement.

SYRIA: Sugar refinery opens in Hassia Industrial City

Syria's Ministry of Economy and Industry has announced the launch of the raw sugar refinery in Hassia Industrial City, with production capacity of up to 1 million metric tonnes per year, according to the official news agency Syrian Arab News Agency (Sana).

The al-Madina "Food City" refinery was implemented by Tunisian company BIA, with technology from the German company BMA.

The Ministry said the facility underwent rehabilitation, including upgrades to equipment and workforce, increasing its daily reception capacity to 5,000 tonnes.

The refinery produces sugar meeting European standards, intended to meet domestic demand and support future exports.

US: Government expected to advise Americans to cut added sugars – news report

The US government is expected to advise people to consume no more than 10 grams of added sugar per meal as part of new dietary guidelines, according to Bloomberg, citing a source familiar with the matter on Jan. 6.

The latest version of the Dietary Guidelines, to be released later this week, is also expected to tell people to avoid added sugar, while keeping the overall limit of no more than 10% of calories from added sugars for those over two years old.

FoodNavigator.com

How will tariffs impact food in 2026?



US trade barriers still loom large over F&B

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/01/06/impact-of-tariffs-on-food-in-2026/>

The Big Shift: Five trends transforming food and beverage



Discover the breakthrough ideas redefining how food is created, regulated and trusted

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/01/06/the-big-shift-five-trends-transforming-food-and-beverage/>

Will GLP-1s go big in Europe in 2026?



The use of weight-loss drugs could become more widespread in the continent, shaping the food and beverage market

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/01/05/glp-1s-europe-success-in-2026/>

Gum and mints are growing – just not how brands might think



The path forward is being shaped less by nostalgia and more by younger consumers, sugar-free formats and a renewed focus on function

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2026/01/07/gum-and-mints-are-growing-just-not-how-brands-might-think/>