

# SUGAR INDUSTRY

KEY INFO IN

**10**

POINTS

# 1

## ▶ FRANCE: EUROPE'S #1 SUGAR PRODUCER

France is the leading producer of white sugar in the European Union (EU), accounting for over 30% of total output, ahead of Germany (22%); France is also ranked 10th in the world (figures from CEDUS, a French sugar association). In France, sugar is produced from beet (on the mainland) and cane (in overseas *départements*).

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# 2

## ▶ OVER 4.5 MILLION TONNES OF SUGAR PRODUCED

During the 2015-2016 sugar season, France produced almost 4.5 million tonnes (mt) of beet sugar from its 25 mainland sugar refineries, while its five sugar refineries in overseas *départements* produced over 257,600 tonnes of cane sugar in the 2014-2015 season. The sugar industry employs 44,500 people in France and generates revenue in excess of €4.3 billion. (CEDUS)

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# 3

## ▶ NEARLY 2 MILLION TONNES EXPORTED

French exports in 2015-2016 totaled almost 1.9 million tonnes. French sugar is mainly exported to EU countries (86% of exports), notably Italy, Spain, Germany and the United Kingdom. Outside the EU, France's main customers are in the Middle East and north and west Africa. (CEDUS)

# 4

## ▶ THE #1 MARKET FOR SUGAR: AGRI-FOOD COMPANIES

France has a wide range of outlets for sugar. Only 10% of all sugar produced is intended for direct use (table sugar). Most sugar (60%) goes to the agri-food industry for use in confectionery, chocolate and biscuits. French companies in these sectors enjoy a strong international reputation, generating an average of 27% of their sales outside France. (LAlliance 7)

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# 5

## ▶ BEET CULTIVATION

6,000 planters grow 34 million tonnes of sugar beet with 16% sugar content over more than 383,000 hectares. Every year, France produces an average of 13 tonnes of sugar per hectare of sugar beet, one of the highest yields in the EU. Eighty percent of planted areas are concentrated in nine *départements*. (lesucre.com)

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# 6

## ▶ FRENCH FIRMS AMONG GLOBAL LEADERS

Cooperative groups are among the market leaders, including Tereos, France's leading sugar group and the fourth largest in the world (nine production sites in mainland France), and Cristal Union, the next largest French firm and fifth largest in Europe.

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# 7

## ▶ 3 MILLION TONNES OF SUGAR USED IN FRANCE

Three million tonnes of sugar were used in France in 2015-2016, two-thirds of it for human consumption (table sugar and the food processing industry), 20% for alcohol and ethanol production, and 10% for the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

# 8

## ▶ EUROPE'S #1 PRODUCER OF BEET ETHANOL

France was the leading European producer of alcohol in 2015, producing a total of 18.8 million hectoliters, or 26% of all European output, ahead of Germany (16%) and the United Kingdom (10%). This alcohol is increasingly used as fuel in the form of bioethanol. In France, the target is for bioethanol to account for 10% of fuel consumption by 2020.

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# 9

## ▶ QUOTAS TO END IN 2017

The EU Common Agricultural Policy includes a quota scheme for food-grade sugar production, due to come to an end in 2017. The withdrawal of these centrally managed quotas will abolish the cap on exports to non-EU countries and lead to more trade in global markets. This major development is therefore opening up new opportunities for the French sugar industry.

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# 10

## ▶ A SUSTAINABLE SECTOR

The development of precision beet farming supported by advanced technology has already helped reduce the industry's carbon footprint. The sugar cane sector is now focusing its efforts on energy optimization. On the island of Réunion, sugar cane residue has been in use as a fuel to produce electrical and steam power for over 25 years.



For further information, please visit:  
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THE EU'S **#1**  
PRODUCER OF  
WHITE SUGAR



**AGRI-FOOD  
INDUSTRY: FRANCE'S  
#1  
INDUSTRY**



FRANCE:  
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AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER



**€171 billion**  
**IN SALES, INCLUDING**  
**21% IN EXPORTS**