

The Forced, High Cost of Sugar as a Result of Government Policy

The combined effects of limits on domestic production and imports push U.S. prices to artificially high levels. Changes made to the sugar program in the 2008 Farm Bill, which were not fixed in the 2014 Farm Bill and made worse in the 2018 Farm Bill, have led to American consumers paying up to twice as much for sugar as foreign consumers.

Calendar Year	U.S. Price*	World Price**	U.S. % Higher
2009	38.1 ¢/lb	22.1 ¢/lb	72.1%
2010	53.2 ¢/lb	27.8 ¢/lb	91.6%
2011	56.2 ¢/lb	31.7 ¢/lb	77.5%
2012	43.4 ¢/lb	26.5 ¢/lb	63.7%
2013	27.2 ¢/lb	22.2 ¢/lb	22.8%
2014	32.9 ¢/lb	20.1 ¢/lb	63.9%
2015	33.9 ¢/lb	16.9 ¢/lb	100%
2016	29.7 ¢/lb	22.6 ¢/lb	31%
2017	31.3 ¢/lb	19.6 ¢/lb	59.7%
2018	35.5 ¢/lb	15.6 ¢/lb	127.6%
2019 Q1, Q2	35.0 ¢/lb	15.3 ¢/lb	128.8%

* U.S. refined beet sugar prices as reported by Sosland and tabulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture

** Refined sugar prices based on the London No. 5 Sugar Futures Market