

**Sugar #11 and #5 : prices****November: raw sugar tests 15 cts/lb**

At last, a month that ends on a positive note! Raw sugar climbed 5% in November, rebounding after a particularly bleak October when prices went around 14 cts/lb.

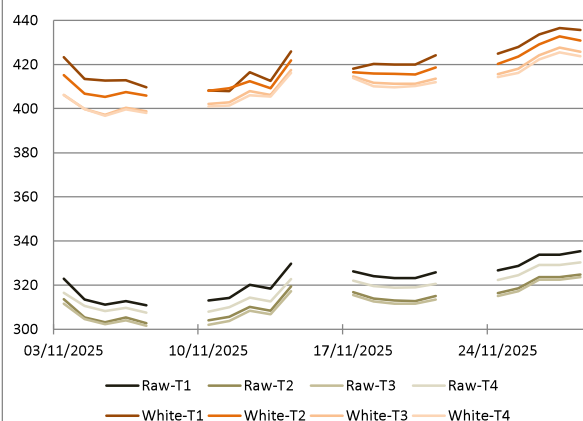
Data on speculators' positions are only available until the end of October, and remained at the same level as at the end of September: net sellers of more than 8.5 Mt (p. 2). Such unanimity around an extreme bearish stance is striking—especially at a time when global supply-and-demand forecasts are really not that clear.

During the latest WABCG meeting on 1 December, the International Sugar Organization (ISO) presented its updated outlook. The current 2024–2025 crop year is now expected to end with a deficit of –2.9 Mt, while the next season could see a surplus of roughly +1.6 Mt. Yet this projected recovery looks fragile: it assumes a mere 0.5% rise in global consumption, an exceptionally weak increase—made all the more puzzling given today's low sugar prices.

And the picture grew even more nuanced the very next day at the ISO seminar. Brazilian consultancy Datagro offered a more cautious view, estimating the global surplus at no more than +1.0 Mt. In their assessment, Brazil's Centre-South will likely produce sugar at a level similar to last season, around 40.8 Mt. The ethanol sector is expected once again to absorb significant cane volumes: even record-high corn ethanol output (nearing 25% this year, according to ISO) will not curb fuel ethanol demand from cane, buoyed by consumer behavior.

In the corridors of the ISO meeting, most analysts predicted that sugar prices are unlikely to break out of the 14–16 cts/lb range before next summer. Yet the prevailing sentiment remains one of uncertainty—markets continue to move in ways that few manage to foresee. Let's finish by a positive note: what is clear is that, at this time of year, these surplus expectations are relatively modest — and a weather event, if it triggers a shift in fund positions, could send the market moving in a radically different direction...

|   | Settling date | First week of November-25 | Last week of November-25 | Difference in currency | Difference in % |
|---|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>White sugar</b><br>(sugar#5, London, \$/t) | Dec 25        | 414,4                     | 431,7                    | 17,3                   | <b>4,2%</b>     |
|   | Mar 26        | 408,1                     | 427,3                    | 19,2                   | <b>4,7%</b>     |
|   | May 26        | 400,4                     | 422,2                    | 21,8                   | <b>5,4%</b>     |
|   | Aug 26        | 400,1                     | 420,4                    | 20,3                   | <b>5,1%</b>     |
| <b>Raw sugar</b><br>(sugar#11, NY, cts/lb)    | Mar 26        | 14,25                     | 15,04                    | 0,79                   | <b>5,5%</b>     |
|   | May 26        | 13,88                     | 14,58                    | 0,70                   | <b>5,0%</b>     |
|   | Jul 26        | 13,83                     | 14,52                    | 0,70                   | <b>5,0%</b>     |
|   | Oct 26        | 14,09                     | 14,84                    | 0,75                   | <b>5,3%</b>     |
| <b>Raw sugar</b><br>(sugar#11, NY, \$/t)      | Mar 26        | 314,2                     | 331,7                    | 17,4                   | <b>5,5%</b>     |
|   | May 26        | 306,0                     | 321,4                    | 15,3                   | <b>5,0%</b>     |
|   | Jul 26        | 304,8                     | 320,2                    | 15,4                   | <b>5,0%</b>     |
|   | Oct 26        | 310,5                     | 327,1                    | 16,5                   | <b>5,3%</b>     |
| <b>Premium</b>                                | Dec 25-Mar 26 | 100,1                     | 100,0                    | -0,1                   | <b>-0,1%</b>    |

**Raw & White sugar over the month**  
(daily price according to term T, US\$/t)**Sugar#11 and #5 prices since January 2010**  
front term, US\$/t