



June 26, 2012

FACT CHECK:

U.S. Sugar is NOT 'More Affordable than World Average' Sugar Lobby's Often Cited U.S. Sugar Price is Off by 15%

The U.S. sugar-growing and processing lobby claims the price of U.S. sugar is 'more affordable' than the world average. This is false. In reality, the price is 50 percent or more above the average world price. A recently released [Agralytica white paper](#) details how the sugar lobby's often cited U.S. sugar price is off by 15 percent. Here are the facts:

- *"The American Sugar Alliance bar chart purporting to compare national retail sugar prices misses the actual US price by 15%, which calls into question their other claims. Their prices for EU countries also look suspect.*
- *"The real comparison worth making is the wholesale price paid by food manufacturers and grocery chains. Wholesale prices for refined sugar in the European Union averaged about 36 cents per pound in 2011, according to the European Commission. The US price was 56 cents per pound in 2011 according to information published by USDA – more than 50% higher.*
- *"... The chart that ASA has been circulating ... shows a 2011 US retail sugar price of 58 cents. There was not a single month in 2011 when the retail price was below 66 cents, and the average for the year was 68.3 cents according to US Bureau of Labor statistics. That is 15% higher than the inaccurate price ASA is now using."*

The FACT is, the U.S. sugar program has artificially increased the U.S. price of sugar, costing consumers and businesses \$14 billion over the past four years.

Congress – Reform Outdated Sugar Policies in the 2012 Farm Bill!

Learn more about the need to reform U.S. sugar policy in the 2012 Farm Bill at
www.sugarreform.org.

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The Coalition for Sugar Reform is an alliance of consumers, food and beverage manufacturers, trade advocates, environmental groups, taxpayer watchdog organizations, responsible government advocates, think tanks and other interests. Our objective is to reform the federal government's intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.