

U.S. SUGAR POLICY: The Cost to Small Businesses

Small business owners across the United States are forced to pay 50 percent or more above the world price for sugar because of the outdated U.S. sugar program. It's a price local job creators and their customers cannot afford.

"Our bakers have continually endured these increases on sugar that can no longer be allowed to go unchallenged. Without change in the sugar bailout system **the continued increase will surpass the ability to pass the cost on to consumers and force the end of millions of jobs** in baking and food industries throughout the U.S."

— Dave Schmidt, Wisconsin Bakers Association
Willis, WI

"I would love to see reform to the sugar program so that we could have **a little bit of relief from the pressure of the prices** that we're paying for one of our main ingredients, and that's sugar."

— Warren Brown, CakeLove
Washington, DC

"I have been told from a leading grocery chain that they buy baked goods from Canada because sugar is cheaper there. **We are exporting jobs to our neighbors for whom?**"

— Kurt Schmitt, Deerfields
Buffalo Grove, IL

"Sugar reform is essential to **ensuring adequate supplies at a fair price** for U.S.-based businesses like Clasen Quality Coatings, Inc."

— Greg Breunig, Clasen Quality Coatings, Inc.
Madison, WI

"The **high price of sugar has caused our business sales to drop every quarter**. We have had to lay off four people in production as well as many sales associates. Being in the bakery business for over 80 years, I have never seen times like this."

— Charlie Riesterer, Riesterer's Bakeries
West Hempstead, NY

"We have to raise prices on the baked goods we produce. Customers complain that we are expensive. This we have to listen to **as a result of the high prices we are having to pay for sugar. Many customers turn away.**"

— Felix Sherman, The Ambrosia Bakery
Baton Rouge, LA

"We [Bob's Candies – Albany, GA] were one of the world's largest manufacturers of candy canes and produced over 500 million a year, employing nearly 600 employees. ... In the 1990s we had a very difficult time competing with foreign manufacturers due to the world price of sugar being so low compared to our U.S. price. In fact, we moved 300 of those jobs to Mexico to try to compete. Unfortunately, it just wasn't enough and **the entire plant is now in Mexico due to the price of sugar.**"

— Greg McCormack, Kencraft Handcrafted Confections
North Alpine, UT

"The **high (and rising) price of sugar makes it hard to keep our price point in line with our market** segment here in an economically depressed area (Muskegon, Mi.)"

— Marvin "Butch" Rouwhorst, Rykes Bakery
Muskegon, MI