

# Sweet Facts



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## U.S. Sugar Program Reform Could Save American Consumers and Businesses Billions, Create Thousands of Jobs

With the current U.S. sugar program extended until September 30, 2013, Congress has a critical opportunity this year to enact reforms that will modernize the Depression-era program and free American consumers and businesses from much of its unnecessary costs that stifle economic growth and job creation. Here are three key reasons for Congress to reform the program now.

- **The sugar program has imposed a \$14 billion hidden food tax on American consumers and businesses over the past four years alone**, to provide a special interest subsidy to sugar producers.
- **The sugar program puts 600,000 jobs in sugar-using industries at risk** and impedes businesses from growing and creating new jobs. According to U.S. Department of Commerce data, an **estimated 125,000 jobs were lost** in U.S. sugar-using industries between 1997 and 2010.
- **Though the sugar program threatens the vitality of American businesses of all sizes, smaller companies are hurt most.** For example, in 2011, Arkansas state-favorite Yarnell Ice Cream and family-owned Judson-Atkinson Candies, Inc., in San Antonio, Texas, were forced to halt production because of high sugar costs.

**Sugar reform would help save American consumers and businesses up to \$3.5 billion and create an additional 20,000 jobs annually.**

**Congress – Reform the Outdated Sugar Program As Soon as Possible This Year!**

Learn more about the need to reform U.S. sugar policy at [www.sugarreform.org](http://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 Our objective is to reform the federal government's intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.*