



July 17, 2012

FACT CHECK:

U.S. Sugar Lobby Continues to Distort the Findings of a Department of Commerce Study

As the basis for many of their arguments to maintain the Depression-era U.S. sugar program, the sugar-growing and processing lobby falsely claims that a 2006 U.S. Department of Commerce study reported that there were “just 2,000 sugar jobs in the country” between 1997 and 2002.

FALSE.

In fact, the study did not report that there were only 2,000 jobs in the sugar industry during that time period. Here’s an excerpt from the study:

- *“Approximately 987,810 people worked in sugar-using industries as of 2002. In contrast, there are 61,000 full-time equivalent jobs involved in the growing and harvesting of sugarcane and sugar beets. Studies suggest that the U.S. sugar program helps to maintain approximately 2,260 of these sugar industry jobs, many of which are growing and harvesting jobs, at an annual cost per job saved of \$826,000.”*
- *“In addition to the cost per job saved, nearly three confectionery manufacturing jobs are lost for every job protected in the sugar growing sector due to the price gap between U.S. and world refined sugar prices.”*

These facts can be found on page 4 of the study. Click [here](#) to read the full text.

The FACT is, the sugar lobby is blatantly distorting the Commerce study, which calls into question what other misleading information they are sharing to maintain the sugar program. It may be a sweet deal for well-off farmers and sugar companies, but it has cost 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Congress – Reform Outdated Sugar Policies in the 2012 Farm Bill!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 Our objective is to reform the federal government’s intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.