**How does the financial performance of sugar-using firms compare to other agribusinesses and the US market?**

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**Abstract**

Sugar-using firms (SUFs) utilize sucrose as a primary ingredient to produce sugar-containing products (SCPs). The multibillion-dollar SCP industry produces items ranging from candy bars to ice cream. SUFs claim that the US sugar program is a “bad deal for American food and beverage manufacturers.” Therefore, this report analyzed the financial performance of publicly traded SUFs to determine if they are performing at an economic disadvantage compared to their publicly traded agribusiness peers and a benchmark of all US firms. Regarding various profitability and risk measures, SUFs outperformed their agribusiness peers and the general benchmark of all US firms. Furthermore, compared to other US industries using the 17 French and Fama industry classifications, SUFs had the highest return on investment and Economic Value Added margin and the second-lowest weighted average cost of capital. Therefore, this study found nothing to suggest that the US sugar policy hinders the financial success of SUFs.

**Keywords**: Financial analysis, sugar-using firms, US sugar policy, risk-adjusted profitability, Economic Value Added