



NORTH STAR

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# NEWS

# INSIDE

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### Crude sugar closes higher at ICE and March contract traded at USD 16.44 per pound

Crude sugar futures contracts traded at ICE (Intercontinental Exchange) advanced on this week, driven by a more favorable economic scenario and by positive fundamentals for the short term. The March crude sugar contract closed up USD 0.17, or 1.4%, at USD 16.44 per pound. Traders said volumes were boosted this week by the rollover of positions held by index funds in the March contract, which will expire two weeks from now, for the May contract. Higher inflation expectations continue to drive interest in commodities. The sugar stock-consumption ratio in the United States, an important indicator for assessing supply and demand, jumped for the second consecutive month and reached 16.1%, according to an estimate by the US Department of Agriculture.

### With high gasoline, price of hydrated ethanol renews record in plants

The resumption of face-to-face classes, the proximity of the carnival holiday and the gasoline price increases announced by PETROBRAS brought hydrous ethanol to a record price this week. According to data collected, the value of biofuel in Brazilian plants jumped 2.5%, reaching R\$ 2.695 per cubic meters. This number, which includes taxes, refers to

the region of Ribeirão Preto, city located in the state of São Paulo, and differs from the CEPEA (Centro de Estudos Avançados em Economia Aplicada - Center for Advanced Studies in Applied Economics) indicator, which disregards taxes and takes into account the state as a whole. According to CEPEA, the hydrate was sold by the São Paulo plants at R\$ 2.132 per cubic meters, characterizing a 0.23% weekly increase.

### Oil prices are up 9th day with OPEC+ cuts and optimism about demand

Oil prices were rising for the ninth consecutive day this week, in the biggest positive sequence in two years, driven by cuts in supply from major producers and optimism that the application of vaccines could lead to a recovery in demand. Brent crude rose USD 0.40, or 0.65%, to USD 61.49 per barrel, and United States oil advanced USD 0.30, or 0.51%, to USD 58.66 per barrel. US oil inventories fell by 3.5 million barrels, according to the American Petroleum Institute, against expectations of an increase of 985,000. Brent moves into the ninth consecutive earnings session, the longest bullish streak since between December 2019 and January 2019.

## PORTS OF BRAZIL

### Ports of Bahia

In January, the Ports of Bahia, i.e. Salvador, Aratu and Ilhéus, reached the mark of 1,095,335 tons handled, which represented a strong increase of 36.16%, compared to the same period of 2020, when the company handled 804,466 tonnes. It was the best month in January in the company's history and, for the first time, more than 1 million tons were handled. These figures were mainly driven by the performance of Port of Aratu, with an increase of 54.88%, in relation to January 2020, handling 643,113 tons, against 415,224 tonnes, in the same period of the previous year. Contributed to this increase, the liquid bulk handling, with a growth of 69.45%, and solid bulk, with a growth of 33.82%. The main products handled were naphtha, with 294,953 tonnes, and fertilizers, with 99,579 tonnes.

### Shipping Agency

The shipping agency service values for quality and agility in attendance of foreign and Brazilian flag vessels, provision of information to companies involved in foreign trade and internal market in real time, with competitive prices in relation to port and maritime costs, and the search for harmony between public and private stakeholders in the supply chain. North Star operates in different segments, serving bulk vessels (solid and liquid), loose cargo, offshore ships, project cargo, dredgers and passenger ships, providing quality services for large and consolidated market players.

### Shipbrokers

As a result of negotiation and relationship skills with leading Shipowners and their representatives in 5 (five) continents, competitive prices of freight and special conditions on hiring of vessels are offered, thus helping trading companies, importers and exporters that need to transport their cargo around the world.

### Consultancy

It offers the market solution in the resolution of maritime demurrage disputes, making the management of recovery or settlement with the involved shipping

companies. The technical, pre-operational and operational follow-up is performed of vessels in ports, ensuring that contract clauses will be achieved and complied.

### Customs Clearance

Customs clearance is a fiscal procedure by which all goods coming or going abroad must be submitted for the exporter to receive final permission to send their goods and the importer obtains authorization to receive their imported goods. Our function as Customs Brokers is to prepare and sign the documents that serve as basis for customs clearance, import and export, verifying the tariff framework of the respective merchandise and arranging the payment of import taxes and industrialized products, as well as the state tax (ICMS). We act toward to several public agencies linked to numerous Government Ministries (Health, Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, Finance, and others), finalizing the obtaining of documents or information via Siscomex necessary for the fiscal procedure (import licenses, export records, certificates of origin, phytosanitary certificates, among others). Our goal is to bring our customers, importers and exporters, peace of mind to carry out their activities in foreign trade with the highest transparency and efficiency throughout the process.

## TRAINING

### North Star Training

North Star develops training in a variety of areas, helping partners achieve excellence. We conduct courses within our facilities, or InCompany training. Make your quote.

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