



NORTH STAR

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# NEWS

# INSIDE

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### **Bolsonaro promises to zero federal tax on diesel**

The Brazilian President Jair Messias Bolsonaro commented on this week, during a live, regarding the increase in fuel prices applied by PETROBRAS, and said that he will zero federal taxes on diesel for two months and on LPG, for undetermined time. Bolsonaro stressed that PETROBRAS has the autonomy to make decisions and that it cannot interfere with the state-owned company, but signaled that the government may temporarily extinguish the tax on these products. Bolsonaro revealed that exemption from federal taxes on diesel and LPG will begin in March. As from March 2021, there will be no federal tax on diesel. In these two months, we will study a definitive way to zero this tax even to help offset this excessive increase by PETROBRAS, Bolsonaro said.

### **Price of hydrous ethanol in mills rises for the eighth consecutive week**

The hydrated ethanol prices have been on the rise in São Paulo market since the end of December 2020. In the first week of February, the CEPEA (Centro de Estudos Avançados em Economia Aplicada - Center for Advanced Studies in Applied Economics) indicator for hydrates

closed at R\$ 2.2474 per liter, up 5,41% compared to the previous week and the eighth week followed by advance. According to CEPEA researchers, the support has come from the gradual return of demand. Distributors continue to acquire significant volumes, aiming to supply the São Paulo market especially. The CEPEA researchers also pointed out that the expectation of delaying the start of the grinding of the next season has made some buyers anticipate the acquisitions, in an attempt to prevent new highs until the entry of new product in the market.

### **Oil reaches 13-month high**

The oil prices reached their highest level in about 13 months on this week, as vaccination against COVID-19 promises to revive demand and producers of the commodity keep supply under control. In addition, fears of tensions in the Middle East have sparked new purchases, while there are also hopes that a US stimulus and easing of blockages will boost fuel demand. The Brent oil rose 1.3% to USD 63.76, the highest since January 2020. US oil futures (WTI) gained 1.8% on this week, to USD 60.54 per barrel. The contract reached its highest value since January last year, at USD 60.95, at the start of the session.

## PORTS OF BRAZIL

### Port of Recife

The Port of Recife registered 69.04% growth in January on this year, compared to the same month in 2020. The scenario also reposition the handling estimates for the coming months. The forecast was to handle around 82 thousand tonnes of products, but the result was 166,041 tonnes. In January 2020, 98,225 tonnes were handled. The busiest cargo was sugar bulk and bagged, almost 82 thousand tonnes were exported to Romania, Lebanon and Canada. Subsequently, 34,847 tonnes of Belgian and Argentine barley malt arrived through the Port of Recife to supply the beer industry in the state of Pernambuco.

### 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.

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