

NORTH STAR

# NEWS

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# INSIDE

EDITION 389<sup>th</sup>

March 05<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Diesel rises at gas stations in the first days after tax exemption

The average price of diesel fuel rose at gas stations in the first few days after the government zeroed out federal fuel taxes in an effort to please truck drivers. For the sector, the tendency is for the exemption to be consumed by readjustments in the prices of refineries. The average price of diesel at Brazilian service stations fluctuated around R\$ 4.45 in the first days of March, almost R\$ 0.10 more than in the last day of February. The tax exemption became effective in March, removing R\$ 0.30 per liter from the fuel price. If the transfer had been immediate, the liter of diesel would be worth about R\$ 4.00 after taxes were zeroed. Gas stations claim that distributors only started issuing invoices without federal taxes on this week, and transfers will be felt in the coming days. According to FECOMBUSTÍVEIS ((Federação Nacional do Comércio Varejista de Combustíveis e Lubrificantes - National Federation of Retail Trade in Fuels and Lubricants), the discount, on average, is R\$ 0.18.

### Ethanol soars and rises 35% in plants helped by high gasoline and crop delay

Hydrated ethanol grew by 35% in the last 30 days at plants in the Center-South of Brazil. The liter of fuel rose to R\$ 2,973 in Paulínia/SP, city in the state of

São Paulo, the region's storage and distribution base. A number of factors support alcohol prices in recent weeks. One of them is the recent gasoline price readjustments promoted by PETROBRAS, due to the increase in oil prices abroad. Price adjustments for oil products make ethanol more attractive to consumers. In many regions of the country, the relationship between ethanol and gasoline prices is below 70%. This is a period of off-season and a lower fuel supply. Traditionally, prices go up.

### Crude sugar rebounds from a month low and closes higher at ICE

The crude sugar prices at ICE (Intercontinental Exchange) rebounded and closed higher on this week, after reaching a low of one month in view of the strengthening of the dollar and with funds still avoiding purchases of the sweetener, which had led futures contracts to a maximum of four years in the end of February. The May contract for raw sugar closed up 0.4%, at USD 16.26 per pound, after touching a one-month low at the start of the session, at USD 15.96. The strong dollar makes sugar, priced in the US currency, more expensive for investors outside the US.

## PORTS OF BRAZIL

### Port of Suape

Bilateral trade between Argentine and the Northeast region of Brazil will have a facilitator, and the state of Pernambuco will benefit greatly from this. On this week, a memorandum of cooperation was signed that places the Port of Suape as an official port in the flow of goods that have the Northeast as their origin and destination. With the agreement, Pernambuco will directly absorb all Argentine's cargo destined for the Northeast, collecting the nationalization taxes. Currently, this imported volume enters via South region of country and reaches the region via highways. In addition to reducing logistical costs by using maritime transport to access the region's market, Argentine companies will have access to reduced tariffs and tax incentives from the State.

### 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

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