

Coconut Oil Exports		
United States.....	4,728	5,292
Other countries.....	155	120
Total.....	4,833	5,412

Manila and Cebu Copra Arrivals
(In metric tons)

	Manila	Cebu	Total
Average—1954.....	8,741	11,537	20,278
November, 1954.....	16,199	18,502	34,701
December, 1954.....	13,529	18,443	31,982
January, 1953.....	8,448	12,662	21,130
January, 1954.....	13,038	15,490	28,528
January, 1955.....	9,856	15,456	25,314

Philippine and Indonesian Copra Exports
(In metric tons)

	Philippine Copra Exports*			Indonesian Copra Exports		
	1954	1953	1954/53	1954	1953	1954/53
January.....	53,992	41,025	131.6%	20,653	14,230	145.1%
February.....	58,879	38,672	152.3%	25,368	18,884	134.3%
March.....	60,919	50,168	121.4%	23,209	19,559	118.7%
April.....	55,951	48,745	114.8%	20,546	17,258	119.1%
May.....	65,249	36,536	178.6%	36,146	5,854	617.5%
June.....	75,978	48,144	157.8%	21,465	17,266	124.3%
July.....	82,513	64,359	128.2%	22,244	29,586	75.2%
August.....	93,093	71,010	131.1%	34,209	26,140	130.9%
September.....	86,717	75,804	114.4%	24,085	21,445	112.3%
October.....	93,920	83,610	112.3%	21,552	29,409	73.3%
November.....	77,212	73,510	105.0%			
December.....	68,417	62,629	109.2%			
Total.....	872,840	694,212	125.7%	249,477	199,631	125.0%

*Includes coconut oil exports converted to copra.

Production and Future Prospects. Production continued low during the first half of January, largely due to heavy rains. Arrivals at Manila were extremely poor, and Cebu arrivals continued the pace set in December. This situation improved considerably during the last half of the month as arrivals rose generally to fairly good levels.

Various bullish factors coincide to indicate that prices should advance more definitely in February: (1) Philippine export commitments for February are estimated at 70,000 to 80,000 long tons of copra, which is unusually high for this short month of seasonally low production; (2) all shipments of crude coconut oil for February arrival on the Atlantic Coast are reported sold; (3) reported sales of Indonesian copra for February shipment to China remove Indonesia as a potential source of supply for February; (4) experienced observers of the European market feel that there are some consumer requirements yet to be covered in Europe; (5) the international situation surrounding Formosa tends to be a bullish psychological factor.

A possible moderating factor is current doubt regarding the position of speculators. If the heavy February commitments to Europe are still largely held by speculators as opposed to consumers, there is the possibility that continued speculator sales could prevent substantial price advances. Also, copra production in February this year will likely be larger than in previous years.

Desiccated Coconut

By HOWARD R. HICK

Peter Paul Philippine Corporation

THIS report covers the period from December 15, 1954, to January 15, 1955, during which time copra prices and raw nut prices were at a standstill, continuing the record-long price plateau of the post-war period.

Desiccated coconut factories followed the general pattern of no production during the Christmas holidays

and the usual shutdown through early January. Therefore, December was a low-production month, as January, 1955, will also be.

In fact, the calendar year 1954 was about 18% down from the regular Philippine production-standard, due mostly to lower United States demand, in turn caused by consumers keeping coconut inventories at a low because prices were constant with no signs of increasing prices sufficient to cause such spurt-buying as usually follows rising and falling markets.

It is estimated that the consumer inventory is at its lowest since 1947, so that increased copra or nut prices would cause speculation and increased buying. However, indications still point to a steady market for another 30 days, continuing the long record-level.

The shipping statistics for December, 1954, are as follows:

Shippers	Pounds
Franklin Baker Company.....	2,342,900
Blue Bar Coconut Company.....	1,078,040
Peter Paul Philippine Corp.....	1,117,300
Red V Coconut Products, Ltd.....	2,499,300
Sun Ripe Coconut Products, Inc.....	508,500
Cooperative Coconut Products, Inc.....	67,000
Total.....	7,613,040

Sugar

By J. H. D'AUTHREAU

Philippine Sugar Association

THIS report covers the period from January 1 to January 31, 1955.

New York Market. It has been a dull and disappointing month as regards sales. The quota combined with approaching Cuban production have produced serious semi-stagnation. Business opened and remained steady throughout at 5.90/95¢ except for a brief fling on January 24 and 25 when moderate sales were made to refiners, including Philippines, at 5.97¢ and 6.00¢ for February and March arrivals. The market reverted almost immediately, however, to the former position of buyers 5.90¢, sellers 5.95/6.00¢, and little doing. Refined prices remained unchanged throughout the period. The Porto Rican stevedores' strike is still unsettled and expected sales-pressure from this source, as soon as settlement is reached, is undoubtedly a bear-factor in the market. On January 5 the New York Longshoremen's Association ratified the 2-year agreement with the New York Shipping Association containing "no-strike" and "no lock-out" clauses. President Eisenhower is reported to be agreeable to prompt revision of the U. S. Sugar Act by Congress. Both United States beet and cane interests are seeking increased quotas.

Reported sales of actuals totalled approximately 192,160 long tons, of which 78,000 tons were Philippines. Exchange operations for the period approximated 148,750 short tons. Deliveries of refined for the period December 26 to January 22 were 545,477 short tons as compared with 656,471 for December, 1953, and with 483,270 for January, 1954. Total deliveries for the year to January 29 were 524,000 short tons as compared with 404,000 short tons on the same date in 1954. On January 29 refiners stocks were 153,907 long tons as against 113,658 on the same date last year.

Opening and closing quotations on the No. 6 Contract were as follows:

	March	May	July	Sept.	Nov.
January 3.....	5.42¢	5.49¢	5.58¢	5.63¢	5.61¢
January 31.....	5.47	5.53	5.63	5.68	5.67

Average spot price for January was 5.460476¢.

Local Market. (a) Domestic Sugar. Old crop sugar still hangs over the market. It is hoped, however, that February will see its disposal. New crop sugar is

not being pressed onto the market largely as a result of the combined efforts of producers, and remedial action may yet be seen in the form of quota segregation, if not of outright quota reduction. Prices continue as before and supplies are plentiful.

(b) Export Sugar. Due to the dull and inactive New York market and to constantly rising freights, prices have declined and very little business is reported, and due to a scarcity of March space most exporters are withdrawn from the market at the month's end. Prices rule at P13.80 ex Hawaiian-Philippine Co. warehouse (nominal). Space has been reported closed in isolated cases at \$16.00 for early March and little space offering. The problem is at present under discussion between shippers and the Associated Steamship Lines with a view to obtaining assurances from the latter that sufficient tonnage will be made available to lift the crop and bring it to the United States before December 31, 1955. Shippers are resisting the \$16.00 rate, but it would seem that no charter tonnage is immediately available as a relief.

Total export shipments of 1954-55 crop sugar for the month were 79,813 long tons, making a total of 194,020 against the 1954-55 crop as compared with 184,783 up to the same date in 1954. Total Philippine arrivals in New York for the period January 1 to January 29, 1955, are recorded at 45,639 long tons as against 24,544 long tons for the same period in 1954.

World Market. The Cuban 1955 crop has been set at 4,400,000 Spanish long tons, segregated as follows:

United States Free.....	1,585,975
United States Retained.....	498,490
World Free.....	200,000
World Retained (available).....	347,414
World Retained (subject to release by Stabilization Institute).....	658,596
Obligatory World Reserve.....	218,362

Voluntary Reserve.....	341,163
Special Stabilization Reserve.....	350,000
Local Consumption.....	200,000

This is a somewhat larger crop than expected, and, despite the new categories of "Reserves", was at first regarded bearishly by both the No. 4 and No. 6 Contracts. Spot declined at first to 3.15¢ but has since recovered, and World quotations are steady to firm, assisted perhaps to some degree by the Formosan situation.

Opening and closing quotations were as follows:

	Spot	March	May	July	Sept.
January 3.....	3.17¢	3.17¢	3.17¢	3.20¢	3.20¢
January 31.....	3.17	3.19	3.18	3.18	3.17

At the end of January, some 35 Cuban mills were reported in operation.

Molasses. The main local exporter has now fixed the price for the 1954-55 production at P11.25 per long ton, f.o.b. lighter at Central wharf. The World market continues weak.

1954-55 Milling. Twenty-two Centrals are now milling for the 1954-55 crop. Latest reports from these Centrals indicate that their total production up to January 30 is 608,014 short tons and the average of juice purities to date is 84.11.

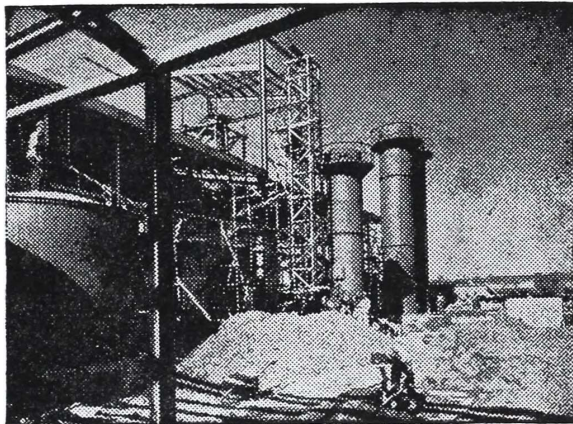
A new crop estimate is in course of preparation. Cane sugar ratios and tonnages continue good.

Tobacco

By RICARDO PADILLA SATRUSTEGUI
Cia. Tabacalera

NATIVE Tobacco. On January 9 heavy rains flooded the fertile tobacco plantations of the Cagayan Valley in Northern Luzon, damaging extensive areas of young plants recently transplanted from seed-plots. However,

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