



**July, 2024** In this Issue...

- ▶ U.S. Gas-Fired Plants Tune ...
- ▶ EVs Lead Canada to \$11.7 Bi...
- ▶ Sugar Sector Brings \$500 Mi...
- ▶ Join Industrial Info for a ...

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## U.S. Gas-Fired Plants Tune Up as Summer Heat Hits All-Time Highs

As Americans crank their air conditioners to full throttle, operators of natural gas-fired power plants are bracing for energy demand that already has broken records.

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## EVs Lead Canada to \$11.7 Billion Worth of Automotive Projects Under Construction

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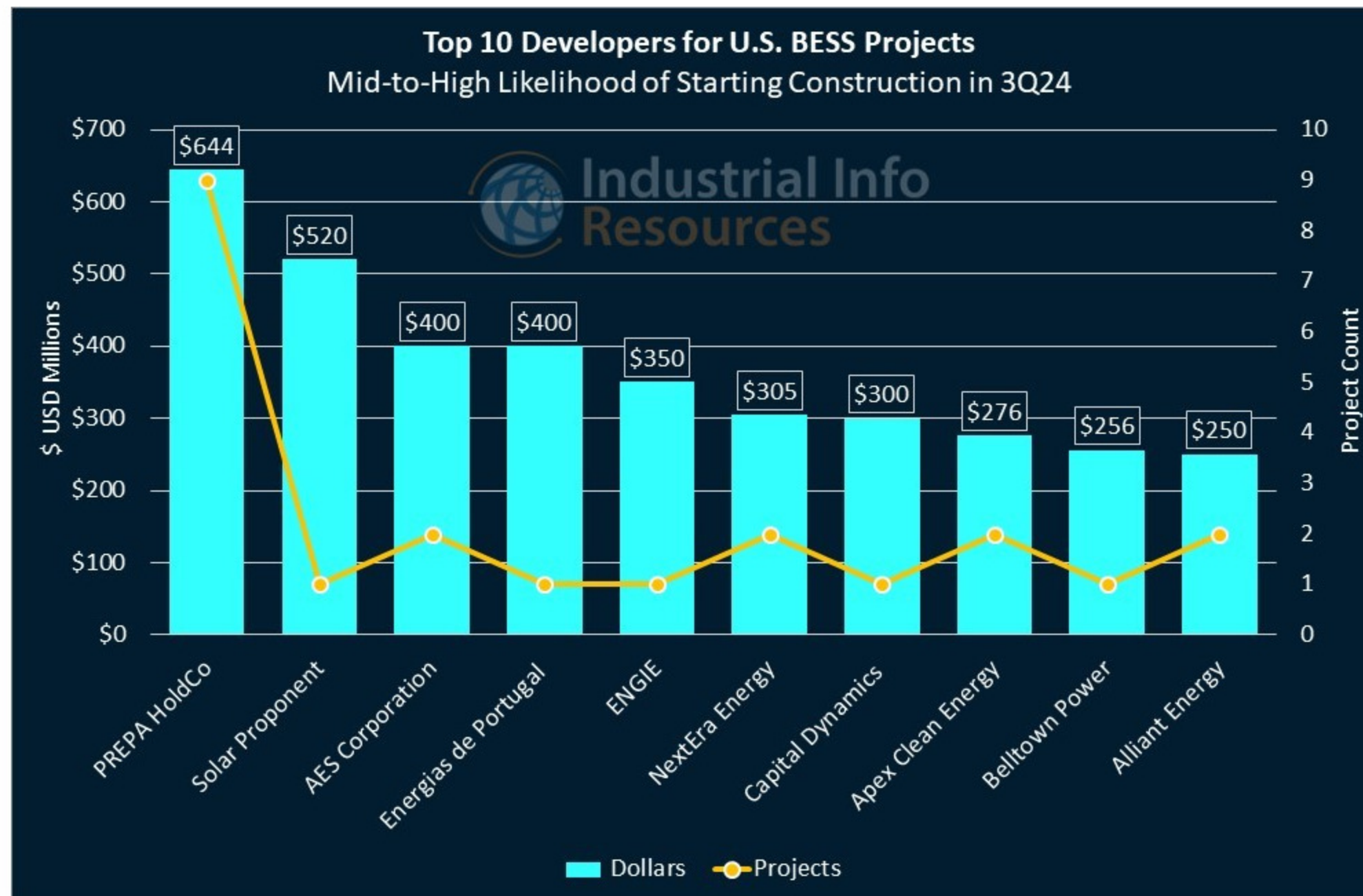
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## U.S. Gas-Fired Plants Tune Up as Summer Heat Hits All-Time Highs

As Americans crank their air conditioners to full throttle, operators of natural gas-fired power plants are bracing for energy demand that already has broken records. Power units that supply both the power grid and individual facilities will be under plenty of pressure this summer, and while most operators already performed maintenance earlier in the year, some are preparing for outages in the coming months. Industrial Info is tracking about 100 maintenance-related projects at power plants that entirely or partly use natural gas as a resource, which are set to kick off from July through August.



Bruce Chung, the chief financial officer for **NRG Energy Incorporated (NYSE:NRG)** (Houston, Texas), was among the energy executives who expressed confidence in his company's recently completed maintenance projects: "We have taken advantage of the mild winter in February and March to conduct our maintenance activities more proactively, and we feel confident about fleet performance heading into the critical summer months," he said in a quarterly earnings-related conference call. Nonetheless, many of these companies have maintenance projects slated for major facilities in the coming months.

NRG's projects include one of the single highest-valued scheduled turnarounds within the U.S.: the **\$15 million outage of Unit 1 at its Gregory Power Partners Cogeneration Plant in Gregory, Texas**, which generates 171 megawatts (MW) from a natural gas-fired, combined-cycle (NGCC) generator built by **General Electric (NYSE:GE)** (Boston, Massachusetts). Subscribers to Industrial Info's Global Market Intelligence (GMI) Power Project and Plant Databases can learn more from a detailed [project report](#) and [plant profile](#).

Texas accounts for more maintenance-related projects--and more investment in such projects--at gas-fired power-generation facilities in the third quarter than any other U.S. state. **Rayburn Electric Cooperative** (Rockwall, Texas) is readying to perform normal inspections and repairs to the NGCC **Unit Block 1 at its Rayburn Energy Station in Sherman, Texas**, which generates 803 MW from turbines provided by **Siemens AG** (Munich, Germany). Subscribers can learn more from a detailed [project report](#) and [plant profile](#).

Pennsylvania narrowly trails Texas in its total statewide investment in maintenance projects at gas-fired plants, led by **Tyr Energy Incorporated's** (Overland Park, Kansas) 28-day hot gas-path inspections at its 1,033.7-MW, NGCC **Hickory Run Energy Station in New Castle, Pennsylvania**, which sits near the border with Ohio within the Marcellus and Utica shale plays. Tyr Energy is a subsidiary of **Itochu Corporation** (Tokyo, Japan). Subscribers can learn more from a detailed [project report](#) and [plant profile](#).

Arizona-based utility **Salt River Project** (Tempe) accounts for the single highest-valued maintenance project for the coming quarter: a 71-day outage at the 113.6-MW **Unit 3 at the Agua Fria Power Station in Glendale, Arizona**, which is driven by a General Electric tandem-compound steam turbine generator. Agua Fria, which has a total output of 722 MW, features seven other natural gas-fired units, as well as a battery energy-storage system (BESS) and a small solar array. Subscribers can learn more from a detailed [project report](#) and [plant profile](#).

Many of the third-quarter maintenance kickoffs are at power plants that supply individual facilities, instead of the power grid. Two are part of the Texas Gulf Coast's booming Chemical Processing Industry: **Formosa Plastics Group's** (Livingston, New Jersey) 85-MW **Unit 1 at its plastics plant in Point Comfort** and **TPC Group Incorporated's** (Houston) 35-MW **steam turbine generator at its butadiene plant in Houston**. Subscribers can read detailed reports on the [Point Comfort](#) and [Houston](#) projects.

**Archer Daniels Midland Company (NYSE:ADM)** (Chicago, Illinois) uses natural gas-fired units to power many of its **soybean-processing plants**. It is slated to perform maintenance on power units at its 2 million ton-per-year **soybean mill and refinery in Decatur, Illinois**; 1.7 million-ton-per-year **soybean processing plant in Lincoln, Nebraska**; and 1.28 million ton-per-year **soybean processing plant in Valdosta, Georgia**. The projects are expected to wrap up in July, August and September, respectively. Subscribers can read detailed reports on the [Decatur](#), [Lincoln](#) and [Valdosta](#) projects.

Subscribers to Industrial Info's GMI Project and Plant databases can [click here](#) for a full list of detailed reports for projects mentioned in this article, and [click here](#) for a full list of related plant profiles.

Subscribers can [click here](#) for a full list of reports for maintenance-related projects at power plants across the U.S. that are set to kick off from July through August.



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## EVs Lead Canada to \$11.7 Billion Worth of Automotive Projects Under Construction

Canada, much like its southern neighbor, is home to a wide variety of industrial activity. According to Statistics Canada, the federal government's statistics arm, the country's total manufacturing sales in April increased 1.1% month-over-month to C\$70.8 billion (US\$51.6 billion), with sales of motor vehicles seeing the greatest increase. Industrial Info is tracking US\$11.7 billion worth of automotive projects under construction in Canada, most of which is attributed to electric vehicle (EV)-related projects.

The Statistics Canada data show the country's sales of motor vehicles in April increased 5.6% to C\$4.8 billion (US\$3.5 billion), following a 7.9% decline in March, while sales of motor vehicle parts jumped 7.7%. "Despite the ongoing retooling at some auto assembly plants, certain auto manufacturers sold more motor vehicles in April," the agency said.

Statistics Canada said the total jump in April manufacturing sales "was mainly attributable" to growth in the transportation equipment subsector (+4.1%), which, in addition to vehicle and related part manufacturing, includes rail, aerospace and shipbuilding.

Canada's automotive projects under construction include an effort from **Stellantis (NYSE:STLA)** (Amsterdam, Netherlands) aimed at upgrading/retooling an existing 4.4 million-square-foot **assembly plant in Windsor, Ontario**, to allow for plug-in hybrid and EV production. The **US\$1.5 billion project** is expected to wrap up this year.

Subscribers to Industrial Info's Global Market Intelligence (GMI) Industrial Manufacturing Project Database can [click here](#) for the project report.

The remaining investment value of Canada's automotive projects under construction is attributed to the production of EV batteries, a precursor of EV assembly. The battery projects are buoyed by the construction of **Volkswagen AG's** (Wolfsburg, Germany) **C\$7 billion (US\$5 billion) battery cell-manufacturing plant in Saint Thomas, Ontario**, the automaker's first battery plant in North America. The plant will be operated by **PowerCo SE**, Volkswagen's battery company. The project, which recently kicked off, entails building a 3 million-square-foot facility with an annual production capacity of up to 90 gigawatt-hours.

The federal government last year agreed to provide Volkswagen with up to C\$13 billion (US\$9.7 billion) in subsidies to build the Saint Thomas plant.

"The cell factory with a projected start of production in 2027 is part of a larger plan that Volkswagen and PowerCo agreed upon with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government in August of 2022," Volkswagen said in a press release late last year. "The Memorandum of Understanding signed at the time focuses on battery value creation and raw material security in order to help promote e-mobility in the country."

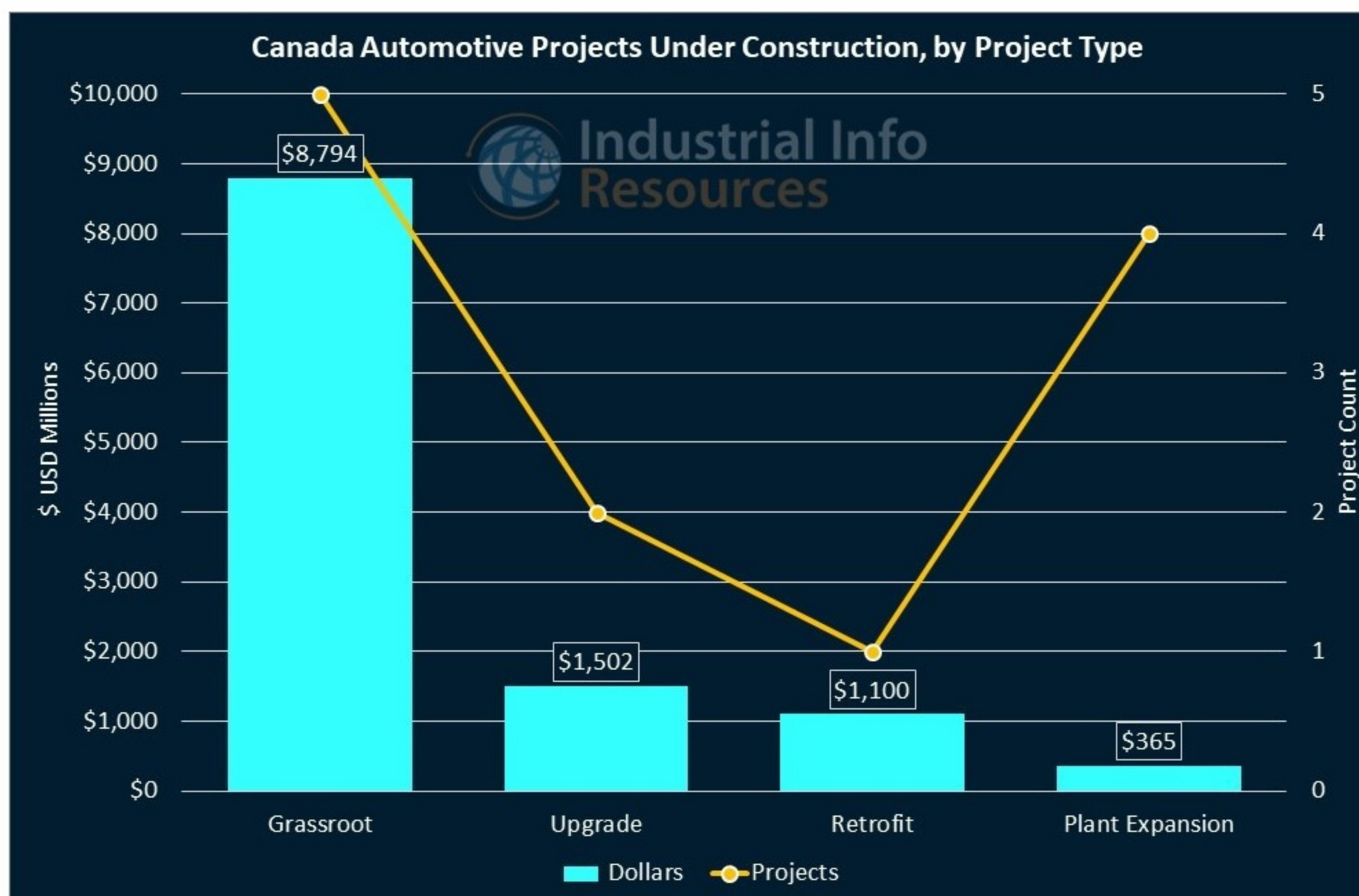
[Click here](#) to read more information on the project.

Meanwhile, another Stellantis project is designed to support production of three internal combustion engine models: a **US\$1.1 billion retool at its assembly plant in Brampton, Ontario**, which is expected to enhance production of the automaker's Chrysler 300, Dodge Charger and Dodge Challenger models as well as additional models. The project will be performed in multiple phases, and Industrial Info is tracking a completion date in mid-2026. Subscribers can read detailed reports on the [Brampton project](#).

Among the projects related to the production of vehicle parts is **Vuteq Corporation's** (Toyota City, Japan) **US\$40 million expansion of its plant in Woodstock, Ontario**, which entails constructing an 82,000-square-foot building addition and installing four new injection molding machines to increase the company's manufacturing capacity of interior trim and windshields, among other components. [Click here](#) to read more information on the project, which is expected to wrap up around the end of the year.

Subscribers to Industrial Info's GMI Project Database can [click here](#) for a full list of detailed reports for projects mentioned in this article, and [click here](#) for a full list of related plant profiles.

[Click here](#) for a full list of automotive projects under construction in Canada, and Industrial Info is tracking three projects, worth more than US\$1 billion, with a completion date in June.





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- ▶ Join Industrial Info for a ...



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## Sugar Sector Brings \$500 Million in Spending to U.S.

For each of the past five years, Americans have consumed more than 11 million metric tons of sugar, a figure that has more or less held steady since about 2019. Sugar, therefore, represents a solid, stable market in the U.S., and the country's sugar refiners are underway not only with grassroots projects, but also capital projects at existing plants and several maintenance programs.

Two grassroots sugar plants are expected to begin construction soon. [Sucro Limited](#) (Coral Gables, Florida) will site a new refinery at its existing location in the University Park area of Chicago. The 50,000-square-foot facility will provide 350,000 metric tons per year of refined sugar products, with a focus on specialty sugar capabilities, including large grain crystals used in specialty foods and confectionery. It also will be home to an integrated brown sugar line, specialty liquid production and will be able to refine organic sugar.

Sucro Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Taylor said, "Our new Chicago refinery will add much-needed domestic refinery capacity to address the demand for refined sugar and reduce the market's reliance on imports. The refinery's primary focus will be higher value specialty sugar products which are in high demand from U.S. food processors and manufacturers." According to Sucro, the location represents the most inland cane sugar refinery in the U.S., providing a strong advantage to serve the Midwestern market in the U.S. Subscribers to Industrial Info's Global Market Intelligence (GMI) Food & Beverage Project Database can learn more by viewing the [project report](#).

Another grassroots plant is planned for the site of the former Majestic Star Hotel & Casino in Gary, Indiana. [Indiana Sugars Incorporated](#) (Gary) is getting started on demolishing the existing structures and over the course of three construction phases will build a powdered sugar factory, including a warehouse in the final stage. The new facility will allow Indiana Sugars to relocate operations from its existing site in Gary. While Phase I construction is expected to be completed in 2025, the end of Phase III, which includes a storage warehouse, isn't expected until 2027. Subscribers to Industrial Info's GMI Project Database can learn more by viewing the related [project reports](#).

Other sugar refiners are expanding their operations to both increase production and provide greater variety in their range of products. [Louisiana Sugar Refining LLC](#) (LSR) (Gramercy, Louisiana) is doing both with the expansion of its Gramercy mill. The expansion includes infrastructure enhancements to increase refinery capacity by up to 50% and will allow the production of more value-added products such as powdered and large-grain sugars. In addition, LSR is adding more rail tracks and expanding its loadout operations to move product faster and more efficiently. The work is expected to boost the refinery's capabilities from 1 million pounds of raw sugar per year to 1.5 million tons, making it one of the largest refineries in the U.S. Work has been underway since last year and is expected to wrap up in 2025. Subscribers can learn more by viewing the [project report](#).

While the projects discussed to this point have been for cane sugar refineries, there's another segment of the U.S. market also drawing activity: sugar beet processing. While sugar derived from cane and beets is chemically identical, a major difference between the two sources of sugar involves consumer choice. While most of the sugar beets in the U.S. are genetically modified organisms (GMOs), according to Indiana Sugars, cane sugar is non-GMO. Although beet-derived sugar can be slightly cheaper to produce than sugar from cane, many consumers are seeking non-GMO foods and sourcing out foods grown organically, which sugar cane allows.

Several companies are upgrading their beet sugar mills. One of the largest of these projects is set to kick off next year at a plant in Drayton, North Dakota. [American Crystal Sugar Company](#) (Moorhead, Minnesota) will both upgrade an existing diffuser and construct a new one at its 1.8 million-ton-per-year beet sugar mill.

The diffuser is one of the primary stages in the beet sugar-production process. Sugar beets are washed and cut into thin strips called cossettes. In the diffuser, a countercurrent flow of hot water extracts the sugar from the cossettes, attempting to obtain the maximum amount of sugar with minimum water. This liquid is then purified and put through a series of evaporators before entering the crystallization process. American Crystal Sugar will upgrade an existing 100-foot tower diffuser and construct a new 120-foot tower to join the existing equipment. The work is expected to be completed toward the end of next summer. American Crystal Sugar also will add a new dryer to the plant, which is expected to be completed toward the end of next year. Subscribers can learn more by viewing the reports on the [evaporator and dryer projects](#).

[Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative](#) (SMBDC) (Renville, Minnesota) is underway with a similar project involving evaporators at its plant in Renville. In the evaporation process, the sugar juice is heated with steam to evaporate the natural water and then filtered again, concentrating it into a dark syrup before crystallization. Similarly to American Crystal Sugar, SMBDC is both upgrading an existing evaporator and constructing new units. The two new evaporator additions will cover 50,000 square feet and 75,000 square feet. The project is expected to be completed in the coming months. Subscribers can learn more by viewing the [project report](#).

One of the final steps in the sugar-making process is centrifuging. After the sugar syrup emerges from the evaporation process, it is boiled and seeded with sugar crystals to start the crystallization process, forming a mixture of sugar crystals and molasses. The sugar crystals are separated from the molasses in a centrifuge, and in the case of beet sugar, emerge as 99.9% pure white sugar. [Amalgamated Sugar Company LLC](#) (Boise, Idaho) this summer plans to begin dismantling and replacing five old centrifugal machines with new equipment at its 19,000-ton-day beet sugar mill in Paul, Idaho. The project is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Subscribers can [click here](#) to learn more.

In addition to these capital projects, Industrial Info is tracking more than \$85 million of maintenance occurring at U.S. sugar mills this year. Subscribers can [click here](#) for a full list.

Subscribers to Industrial Info's GMI Database can [click here](#) to view reports for all of the projects discussed in this article and [click here](#) for the related plant profiles.



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The automotive sector continues to be one of the highest spending and most consistent sectors in terms of annual spending throughout the world. The conversion from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles (EVs) is ongoing, and investment in new battery facilities as well as parts and assembly plants grows. But the sector also shows signs of slowed activity on the road to this conversion. Join us as we take a look at the current automotive sector and where and when it will grow, as well as the important trends that are driving both the conversion to EVs and the spending we are seeing planned for the future.

We hope that you are able to join us for this informative webinar. [Click here](#) to learn more and to RSVP.

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