

Production and Market of Sorbitol and Maltitol in China

The First Edition

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1. Introduction

Sorbitol and maltitol hot topics in 2018:

- Both sorbitol and maltitol capacity declined in 2018 because of overcapacity.
- As of 2018, there were 14 active sorbitol producers and 11 active maltitol producers left in China and most of them are located in Shandong Province.
- There are both liquid and crystalline types of sorbitol and maltitol in China, but only a few manufacturers produce crystalline due to higher cost and more difficult production technology.
- China's sorbitol was mainly exported to Asia countries. Apart from Asia countries, some American countries are also maltitol's main export destinations in 2018.
- In 2018, about 700,000 tonnes of sorbitol was consumed in China and 45% of it was used to produce vitamin C.
- About 100,000 tonnes of maltitol was consumed domestically in 2018 and 45% of it went to sugar-free chewing gum industry.

Purpose of the report:

Production, export, consumption and price changes of China's sorbitol and maltitol, dynamics of leading manufacturers and major downstream industries have been presented in this report, in order to clearly describe and better understand the status and future trend of China's sorbitol and maltitol industry.

What to report:

- An overview of China's sorbitol and maltitol industry, 2018;
- Supply and demand of China's sorbitol and maltitol, 2018;
- Export of China's sorbitol and maltitol, 2018–April, 2019;
- Price changes of China's sorbitol and maltitol, 2015–H1 2019;
- Dynamics of leading sorbitol and maltitol manufacturers, including background information and product structure, 2018;
- Forecast on future development in China's sorbitol and maltitol industries.

2. Approach for this report

The report is drafted by diverse methods as follows:

- Desk research

The sources of desk research are various, including published magazines, journals, government websites and statistics, industrial statistics, association seminars as well as information from the Internet. A lot of work has gone into the compilation and analysis of the obtained information.

- Internet

CCM visited government websites and contacted with players in the domestic agrochemical industry through B2B websites and software.

- Data processing and presentation

The data collected and compiled are sourced from:

- CCM's database
- Published articles in periodicals, magazines, journals and third-party databases
- Statistics from governments and international institutes
- Telephone interviews with domestic producers, joint ventures, service suppliers and governments
- Third-party data providers
- Comments from industrial experts
- Professional databases from other sources
- Information from the internet

The data from various sources have been combined and cross-checked to make this report as precise and scientific as possible. Throughout the process, a series of internal discussions were held in order to analyse the data and draw the conclusions.

3. Executive summary

Sorbitol and maltitol are two popular and important sugar alcohol products. So far, China has become the largest sorbitol producer and exporter in the world. Due to overcapacity, both sorbitol and maltitol saw decline in total domestic capacity in 2018, though still some sorbitol manufacturers have expansion plans. As for output, different trends were witnessed in 2018. On a year-on-year basis, the output of sorbitol increased in 2018, while that of maltitol decreased to XX tonnes in 2018, down by XX%. The average operating rate of sorbitol was XX% in China in 2018, about XX% higher than that of maltitol. Shandong Province is the largest sorbitol and maltitol production site in China.

In terms of export, Asia countries are the main export destination of China's sorbitol. The export destinations of China's maltitol are less concentrated in Asia, with some American countries like Brazil, the US and Chile also top on the list. Sorbitol and maltitol both have more than one HS Code and their export rebate rates are different.

More than XX% domestic sorbitol output was consumed in China in 2018. Pharmaceutical industry and daily chemical industry are two main downstream areas of sorbitol—vitamin C and toothpaste accounted for XX% sorbitol consumption in 2018. The demand for sorbitol is predicted to grow steady in the next two years in China. Most maltitol in China are consumed in food industry such as in sugar-free chewing gum, baked goods and candies. The demand for maltitol is expected to remain stable in the short term due to the limitation of its application fields.

Both sorbitol and maltitol have liquid and crystalline types, but most manufacturers only produce liquid products because the crystalline ones need more sophisticated production technology and incur higher cost. Compared with prices of liquid products, those of crystalline ones were more fluctuated during 2015–2018.

4. What's in this report?

Note: Key data/information in this sample page is hidden, while in the report it is not.

1 Sorbitol

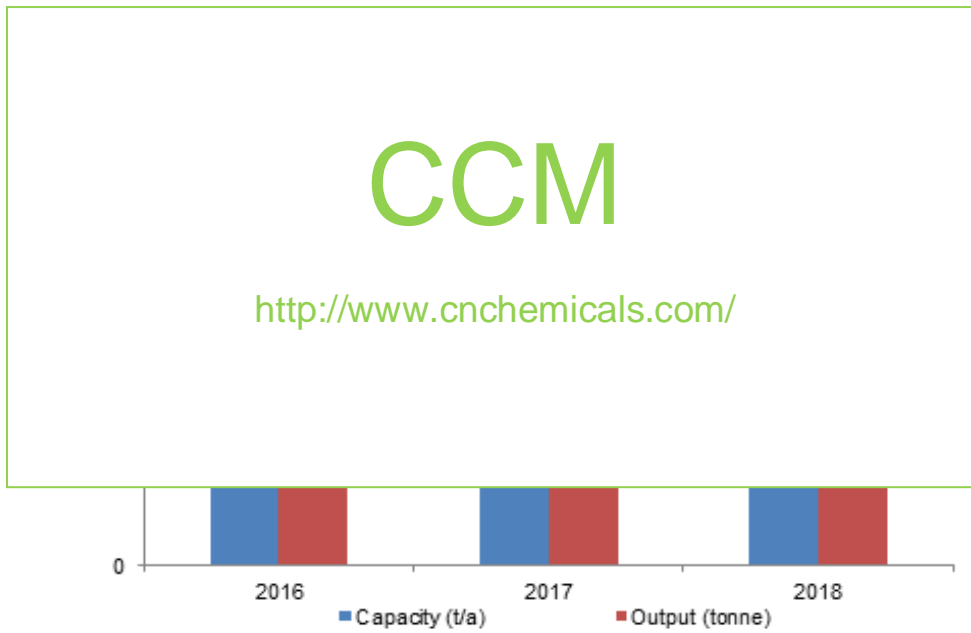
1.1 Supply and demand

1.1.1 Capacity and output

In 2016–2018, the capacity of sorbitol in China showed a downward trend, falling from XX t/a in 2016 to XX t/a in 2018. On one hand, Zhaoqing Huanfa Bio-technology Co., Ltd. (Zhaoqing Huanfa) has expanded its capacity of sorbitol from XX t/a in 2017 to XX t/a in 2018. On the other hand, some producers including Hebei Zhaozhou Limin Sugar Industry Group Co., Ltd., Shandong Tongchuang Bio-Technology Co., Ltd., NCPC Huaying Co., Ltd. and Northeast Pharmaceutical Group Co., Ltd. have stopped production successively since 2017 due to the sluggish domestic demand and rising costs, which led to a dramatic decrease in sorbitol capacity in 2017. In addition, Khalista (Liuzhou) Chemical Industries Ltd. (Khalista Chemical) cancelled its enterprise registration in 2018, which brought down sorbitol capacity in China further in 2018.

The national output of sorbitol in China witnessed some fluctuations during 2016–2018. In 2017, due to pressure of environmental supervision from the Chinese government, some sorbitol producers had to stop or cut production. Therefore, the output of sorbitol reduced from XX tonnes in 2016 to XX tonnes in 2017, down by XX%. In 2018, the output rebounded slightly to XX tonnes, which was influenced by increasing output of vitamin C in domestic market and increasing overseas demand.

Figure 1.1.1-1 Capacity and output of sorbitol in China, 2016–2018



Source: CCM

Figure 1.1.1-2 Output distribution of sorbitol in China, 2018



Source: CCM

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E-mail: econtact@cnchemicals.com

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Table 1.1.1-1 Capacity and output of sorbitol producers in China, 2018

No.	Producer	Region	Status	Operating rate	Capacity, t/a	Output, tonne
1	Shandong Tianli Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.	Shandong Province	Active	XXX	XXX	XXX
2	XXX	XXX	Active	XXX	XXX	XXX
...	XXX	XXX	Active	XXX	XXX	XXX

Source: CCM

...

Table 1.1.1-2 Expansion information of new sorbitol capacity in China

Company	Location	New capacity, t/a	Status, as of 2018
Shandong Tianli Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.	Weifang City, Shandong Province	XXX	Construction had completed
		XXX	Construction had not started yet
		XXX	XXX
XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
...	XXX	XXX	XXX

Source: CCM

...

1.1.2 Export of sorbitol, 2018–April 2019

China exported xxx tonnes of sorbitol, of nearly USD xxx million worth, to over 80 countries and regions in 2018. Between Jan. and April 2019, xxx tonnes sorbitol were exported from China to xxx destinations all over the world, an xxx% year-on-year increase.

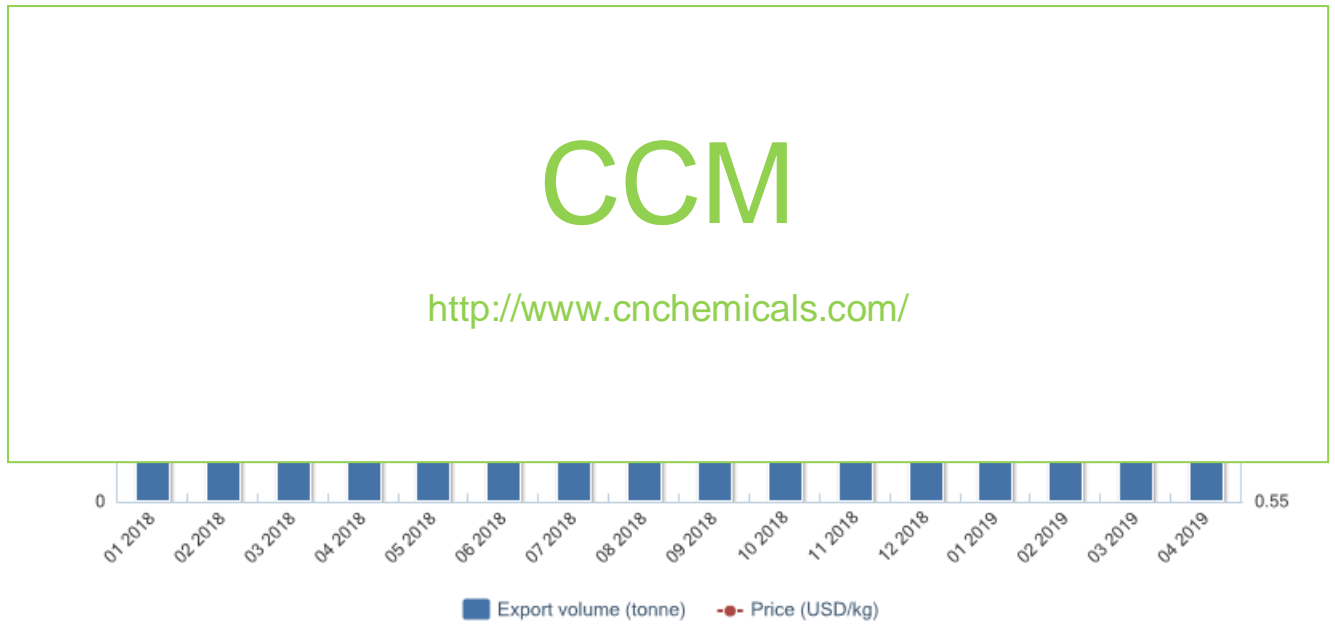
Table 1.1.2-1 China's exports of sorbitol by month, 2018

Month	Export volume, tonne	Export price, USD/kg	Export value, USD
Jan.	XXX	XXX	XXX
Feb.	XXX	XXX	XXX
...	XXX	XXX	XXX

Source: China Customs & CCM

...

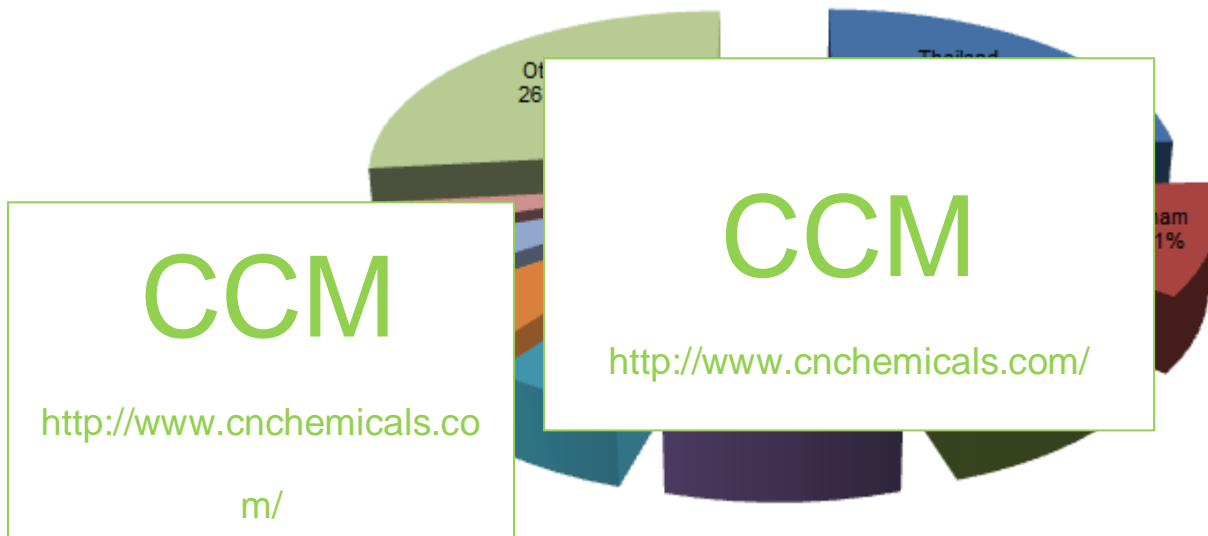
Figure 1.1.2-1 China's exports of sorbitol by month, Jan. 2018–April 2019



Source: China Customs & CCM

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Figure 1.1.2-2 Share of China's export volume of sorbitol by destination, 2018



Source: China Customs & CCM

...

Table 1.1.2-4 Top 20 export destinations of sorbitol from China, Jan.–April 2019

No.	Destination	Export volume, tonne	Export price, USD/kg	Export value, USD
1	Thailand	XXX	XXX	XXX
2	Vietnam	XXX	XXX	XXX
...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX

Source: China Customs & CCM

...

Table 1.1.2-5 Export tax rebate rate of sorbitol in China, as of Aug. 2019

HS Code	Export rebate rate
XXX	XXX
XXX	XXX

Source: State Taxation Administration of the People's Republic of China

1.1.3 Consumption pattern of sorbitol in China

1.1.3.1 Market size

...

1.1.3.2 Consumption pattern

...

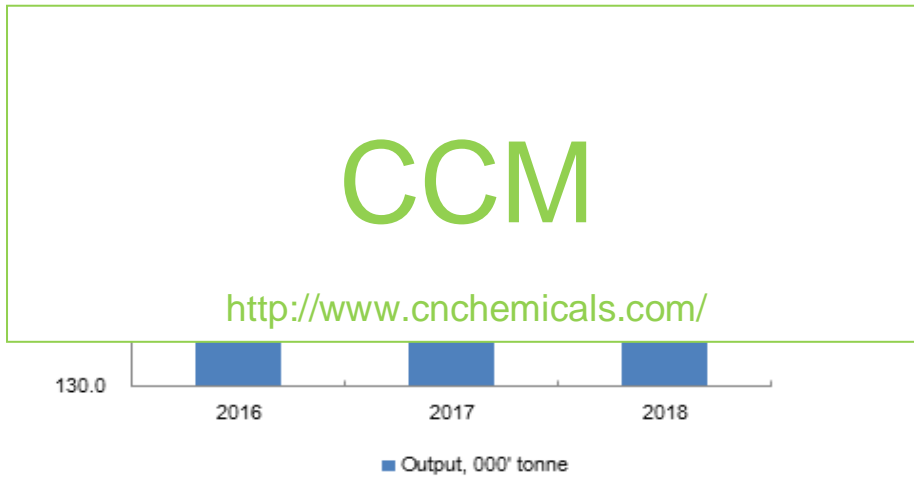
1.1.3.3 Brief introduction to major downstream industries

- Vitamin C industry

Unlike other vitamin products, most VC is used in food and medicine instead of feed. Affected by environmental pressure, many VC producers have been forced to suspend production or relocate since late 2016. However, Inner Mongolia NCPC Huakai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Huakai Pharmaceutical), a wholly owned subsidiary of North China Pharmaceutical Company Ltd. (North China Pharmaceutical), was approved to construct a 8,200 t/a VC production line in 2018, which is predicted to be put into production in 2019.

...

Figure 1.1.3.3-1 Output of vitamin C in China, 2016–2018



Source: CCM

- **Toothpaste industry**

...

- **Baked foods**

...

- **Rigid polyurethane foam**

...

1.1.4 Price of sorbitol in China, 2015–H1 2019

During 2015–May 2017, the ex-works price of 70% syrup sorbitol was dropping in general, which decreased from USDXX/t in June 2015 to USDXX/t in May 2017. Such a trend was mainly caused by XX and XX.

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Figure 1.1.4-1 Monthly ex-works price of sorbitol in China, Jan. 2015–Dec. 2016



Source: CCM

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If you want more information, please feel free to contact us

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