

THE PANDEMIC PIVOT

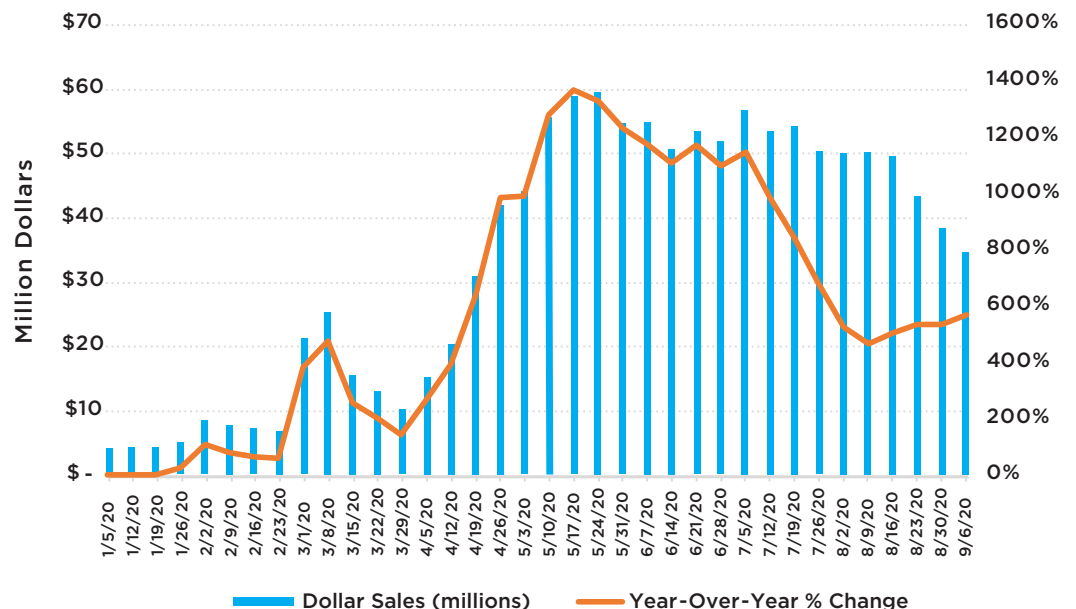
The spread of COVID-19 early in 2020 upended the ethanol industry in ways that were previously unimaginable. At the peak of the crisis, in late April, more than half of ethanol capacity was idled and less than a quarter of the nation's biorefineries were running at full capacity.

At the same time, we saw the industry take on a new look as unforeseen challenges and opportunities arose, and new partnerships formed. Our nation's ethanol producers rose to the occasion, and we saluted our members for their community leadership. Perhaps the greatest story for the year was how ethanol producers around the country pivoted to produce more high-purity alcohol for hand sanitizers and other disinfectants.

Moving forward into 2021, we know a little of what to expect: A slow and gradual return to whatever "normal" will mean, punctuated with the threat of new surges or other problems down the line. While we don't expect fuel ethanol production to reach pre-pandemic normal quickly, we do expect the increased demand for high-purity alcohol for sanitizers to continue well into 2021.



RETAIL HAND SANITIZER SALES, REPORTED WEEKLY



Source: Information Resources, Inc.

