MACROECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL INDICATORS[1]

	UNIT	2000	2005
POPULATION			
Total population	Millions	9.56	10.10
Rural population	Millions	3.56	3.60
Percentage rural/total population	%	37.20	35.60
Total labour force (TLF)	Millions	3.82	4.11
Agricultural labour force (ALF)	Millions	0.94	0.97
ALF/TLF	%	24.64	23.50

	UNIT	2000	2003
PRODUCTION			
Gross domestic product per inhabitant (GDP/Hbt)	$	2 045	2 546
Agricultural GDP/GDP	%	12.28	12.87
FACTORS OF PRODUCTION			
Area under cultivation	1 000 ha	4 990	4 908
Irrigated area	1 000 ha	380	381
Area under cultivation/tractor	ha	142.17	139.83
AGRICULTURAL TRADE			
Agricultural imports	Million $	756	966
Agricultural exports	Million $	429	470
Agricultural exports/total exports	%	7.34	5.85
Agricultural imports/total imports	%	8.82	8.86

[1] Sources: Med Agri 2005 and UN Population Statistics 2006.

OLIVE GROWING IN TUNISIA

Tunisia is the most important olive-growing country of the southern Mediterranean region; over 30% of its cultivated land is dedicated to olive growing (1.68 million ha).

If the European Union is excluded, it is the major world power in the olive oil sector. It is making great efforts to restructure and modernise its sector as well as to raise olive oil quality and expand acreage.

1. Historical background

The olive tree has been grown for thousands of years in Tunisia. The Phoenicians were the first to introduce this crop to North Africa, and its expansion was then taken up by the other Mediterranean civilisations of the ancient world.

The olive was spread throughout the Mediterranean region as early as the eleventh century B.C., even preceding the founding of Carthage. Excavations at Suféitula (Sbeitla) and Thysdrus (El Jem), and the Roman mosaics found in Sousse, testify to the fact that it was found extensively across the whole of Tunisia.

2. Socio-economic importance

Olive cultivation plays a vital role in the social and economic life of Tunisia and accounts for nearly 15% of the total value of final agricultural production. International trade in olive oil takes up 50% of total agricultural exports and 5.5% of aggregate exports, making it the fifth source of foreign currency earnings for the country.

The olive sector (olive growing plus the olive oil industry) provides a livelihood directly or indirectly for over 1 million people and it generates 34 million workdays a year, equivalent to over 20% of the employment in agriculture.

In the year 2000 there were 236 500 agricultural holdings with olive orchards, 84% of which were under 5 ha.

Olive growing also does much to strike a regional balance because it is often the only crop feasible in least-favoured areas. This helps to keep people in rural areas which otherwise would feel the negative brunt of depopulation.

3. Resources and location

Tunisia's olive resources are estimated at over 65 million olive trees, grown on 1 680 000 ha, of which 75 000 ha is for certified organic crops. It is a source of employment for 269 000 or 57% of the country's farmers and accounts for 45% of agricultural exports, averaging out at 120 000 t per year. At world level Tunisia is ranked fourth in terms of the number of olive trees and second in terms of acreage.

Mean orchard density ranges between 100 and 150 trees/ha in irrigated orchards and 40 trees/ha in rainfed orchards farmed for oil production. When intended for table olives, orchard densities vary from 200 trees/ha in irrigated conditions to 100 trees/ha under dry-farming. As a rule, there are 100 olive trees/ha in the North, compared with 60 trees/ha in the Centre and 20 trees/ha in the South.

At present, there are 2 000 ha of super-intensive orchards, which produce an average 7–8 t per ha.

Three categories of olive orchards emerge when broken down by age bracket:

- Young orchards: 17%
- Bearing orchards: 58%
- Old orchards: 25%

Tunisia has a wealth of varietal resources, notably the cvs. 'Chemlali', 'Chetoui', 'Oueslati', 'Gerboua', 'Zalmati', 'Zarazi', 'Barouni' and 'Chemlali de Gafsa', which are for olive oil production.

Table olive varieties include 'Meski', 'Besbesi', 'Bidh el Haman', 'Limli' and 'Limouni'.

Nevertheless, olive orchards basically grow two main varieties:

- 'Chemlali de Sfax', which is found on 60% of olive crop area, primarily in the north–eastern, central–coastal, southern and southernmost regions. It is very vigorous and hardy, comes into bearing late and has a high, alternate productivity; the fruit is small and arranged in compact clusters. The oil yield is medium to high and may be as much as 25%. It is resistant to drought, moderately tolerant of salinity but sensitive to olive knot.

- 'Chetoui' is a dual-purpose variety grown on 35% of the country's olive acreage. It is found above all along the northern coastal strip of Tunisia. It is of medium hardiness and it has a high rooting ability; its start of bearing is intermediate and productivity is low and constant. The fruit ripens in December and is picked in January and February. It is used primarily for oil production (the oil is good quality) although it can also be used for black pickling; it gives a medium oil yield. It is tolerant of cold and salinity but requires good water supply. It is resistant to the most common olive diseases although it is sensitive to olive leaf spot.

Olives are found in all the regions of Tunisia, from North to South, They are cultivated with other crops such as cereals in the North, citrus fruits and vine in the Cap Bon peninsula, and strictly as a monoculture in the southern areas (Sousse, Mahalia, Slak, etc.). Close to 90% of cultivated olive acreage is located in the central and southern regions.

4. Production and yield

Traditionally, Tunisia produced an average 100 000 t of olive oil per year; however, during the period 2000/01–2003/04, production averaged 129 300 t and recorded a peak level of 280 000 t in 2003/04. There are huge year-to-year swings in production (they vary by a factor of 1 to 8), depending on various factors such as the characteristic alternate bearing pattern of olive growing, rainfall and cultural practices. To give an example, production oscillated widely from 270 000 t in 1996/97 to 35 000 t in 2001/02 and 72 000 t in 2002/03 because of three consecutive seasons of drought. In 2003/04, it climbed again to reach an all-time high of 280 000 t.

In volume terms, Tunisia is the world's second producer, behind the European Union taken as a whole, and it lies fourth when the individual countries of the European Union are considered, coming after Spain, Italy and Greece. Production forecasts for the period 2008–2010 are in the vicinity of 210 000 t, set against the current level of production of 129 300 t due to the drought from 2000/01 to 2002/03.

Mean yields (olive fruits/ha) vary significantly by region and according to rainfall. In the 1998/99 and 1999/00 crop years, oil-olive orchards gave yields of 650 kg/ha and 800 kg/ha respectively, while yields of 1 400 ka/ha were recorded in table olive orchards. Although progress has been made in improving cultural practices, these yields are still very small and lie below actual potential.

5. Processing sector

The processing sector is going through a transitional stage featuring the creation and modernisation of olive oil mills and the gradual move away from traditional methods.

Currently, there are 1 517 working olive oil mills in Tunisia. Crushing capacity has climbed from around 8 000 t/day in 1986 to the present level of 28 000 t/day.

Despite the clear move towards modernisation, traditional mills (52%) still slightly outnumber modern processing facilities (48%).

The modernisation of the processing sector coupled with improved cultural practices has led to more and better product; for instance, 70% of Tunisia's production is of quality oils, compared with 25% in 1985.

The processing sector also comprises 14 refineries; however, only a small amount of their activity is dedicated to olive oil owing to the small demand for refined olive oil. There are also 14 olive-pomace oil extraction plants, which operate at below-capacity and 35 modern packing plants, which have been consolidated in recent years and afford great potential for boosting the expansion of the sector.

6. Marketing

Up to 1962, the domestic vegetable oils market was supplied in full by home-produced olive oil. Then, however, the Tunisian Government had to import seed oils with the two-fold aim of maintaining the purchasing power of low-income households and guaranteeing continuing olive oil exports. This policy was a way of bringing in the foreign currency earnings the country needed for its balance of payments and of financing the equipment needed for the economic development of Tunisia.

Recent mean consumption of olive oils (2000/01–2003/04) works out at 43 000 t. Vegetable oil consumption averages 23 kg/inhabitant/year; 6 kg of this amount correspond to olive oil and 17 kg are imported seed oil. Hence, the domestic market absorbs between 50 000 t and 70 000 t of olive oil per year; however, this consumption is primarily self-consumption by producers themselves, who hold back part of their production, which does not therefore enter marketing channels. Other consumers buy olive oil on-mill, which means that just over 10 000 t actually reach distribution channels.

Although Tunisia is regarded as being a major olive oil country, only 30% of its production goes for consumption, which accounts for 25% of aggregate consumption of vegetable oils.

Nevertheless, olive oil consumption is expected to increase considerably with the help of recent promotion and education campaigns and the increased purchasing power of the population. For this to happen, the drought-related problems of the past have to be overcome to bring production back up to its usual levels at least.

Olive oil is Tunisia's top agricultural export (it accounted for close to 50% of total agricultural exports in 1999/00). Exports are an important source of foreign currency and generate earnings of around TND 700 million per year. During the 1990s it exported an average of 119 600 t/year, a level which had soared from the tonnages of previous decades (the mean in the 1980s was around 50 000 t/year). In the bumper 2003/04 season, Tunisia exported 209 000 t. Mean Tunisian exports in 2000/01–2003/04 came to 91 500 t.

At present, there are 56 exporters in Tunisia, located basically in the Sfax region, which is the hub of the olive oil economy and of the 1 300 mills. There are 41 large-scale packing plants; 25 are bottling plants and 16 pack other vegetable oils (soybean, corn, palm and sunflower). Packed oils account for no more than 1% of exports, but the aim is for this percentage to reach 20% by 2010.

Tunisia and the European Community signed a Cooperation Agreement in April 1976 which laid down special conditions providing access to the EC market for a large number of Tunisian products, including olive oil. Under the Agreement, Tunisia was awarded a preferential quota of 46 000 t of exports to the EC until the end of November 2000. When the Agreement was extended in late December 2000, the quota was raised to 50 000 t/year from 2001, with further gradual increases to reach 56 000 t/year over a four-year period.

In brief, domestic olive oil production is basically for export since foreign product sales took up 70% of total mean production in the last ten crop years. While accounting for no more than 8.3% of aggregate world production, Tunisia exported 32% of world exports during the reference period. In the 2005/06 season, foreign currency earnings were worth the equivalent of TND 900 million, i.e. almost double the figure for exports in 2005 (TND 476.7 million) and more than the figure for 2004 (TND 700 million).

New measures have recently been taken to reorganise and consolidate the sector, particularly by adopting specifications laying down the legal framework for operating as an exporter and defining the scope of application of the provisions covering administrative, technical and health aspects. The specifications also make provision for penalties in the event of infringements.

In 2006, prices indices on the world market changed rapidly in response to a shortfall in olive production. This led to price speculation, with prices climbing to TND 5–6 per litre, and as high as TND 7.5 for premium quality on the Sfax marketplace.

This price increase on the home market drove consumers to switch to other imported vegetable oils, prompting a drop in domestic sales of Tunisian olive oil and a fall in price to TND 4.5 in March 2006.

To prevent olive oil price inflation, the National Oil Board decided to use information as a tool for the 2006/07 season by publishing indices and indicators while avoiding intervening in the market and allowing prices to move according to the law of supply and demand.

Olive oil indicators for 2006/07 (prices at 08/12/2006)

	2006–2007	2005–2006
Price of olive oil	TND 3.5–4.5/L	TND 5.5–6.8
Harvest progress at 08/12/2006	24%	16%
Quantity of olives available at 08/12/2006	24 000 t	19 000 t
Price of olives Sfax	480–745 millimes/kg	700–1 200 millimes /kg
Price of olives Centre	460–700 millimes/kg	760–1 000 millimes/kg
Price of olives Sahel	510–680 millimes/kg	810–980 millimes/kg
Prix of olives North	555–635 millimes/kg	855–935 millimes/kg
Price of olives South	575–645 millimes/kg	875–945 millimes/kg
Price of olives other regions	430–860 millimes/kg	730–1 160 millimes/kg
No. working mills	1 054	870
No. mills in Sfax	266	-
Olive oil exports at 10/12/2006	35 000 t	-
Olive oil exported by National Oil Board	18 310 t	-

Source: National Oil Board

7. Table olive subsector

Currently, only 22 500 ha of olive crop area are dedicated to table olive production (3.25 million olive trees), of which 10 000 ha are cultivated under irrigation. Production varies between 10 000 and 15 000 t/year, recording a yearly average of 12 700 t in the 1990s. Since 2003/04, production has risen to an average of 20 000 t per year.

Table olive exports have been sinking and only averaged 500 t/year during the reference period. The home market absorbs the rest of production as well as taking other amounts of product switched from oil-olive orchards, which thus help to satisfy market requirements.

8. State intervention in the sector

The State takes continuing action to boost the sector owing to its enormous importance in the socio-economic development of Tunisia.

At the beginning of the 1990s, the government passed a package of measures to stimulate the expansion of the sector by designing a development strategy entailing the creation of a fund for the promotion of olive products, the opening of credit lines for financing olive oil mills, the introduction of an official prize to reward and support exemplary producers and the institutionalisation of the National Olive Festival as a regional, one-week event.

When updated in 1998, the National Development Strategy for the Olive Sector incorporated new guidelines hinged on:

1. Lowering costs of production, raising orchard productivity and achieving the integral development of the table olive sector.

2. Improving product quality.

3. Expanding exports through foreign agreements and providing support for private exporters to break into new markets.

4. Expanding domestic olive oil consumption by making sure that olive oil is present on the home market at competitive prices vis-à-vis other vegetable oils.

5. Implementing a pricing policy aimed at raising quality.

6. Creating the National Consultative Council to improve sectoral organisation and maintaining the role of the National Oil Board in guaranteeing the purchase of the olive oil harvest from small-scale farmers.

7. Creating a fund to promote packed oil under the Finance Act 2006 to help the position of Tunisian exporters in the international olive oil trade.

8. Granting exemption from value-added tax on:

- the production and sale of olive oil, olive-pomace oil and the by-products of olive crushing;
- the importation, production and sale of soybeans and soybean oil;
- the importation of vegetable oils by the National Oil Board for blending with olive oil and refined olive-pomace oil and subsequent sale;
- the production, refining and packing of vegetable oils intended for human consumption and on the production and refining derivatives of these products.

9. Strategic goals for 2007

The Tunisian Government has set a series of developmental goals for the olive sector, for achievement if possible in 2007:

- Raising production to reach 210 000 t
- Improving tree yields, amongst other things by using modern olive harvesting methods
- Increasing exports to 130 000 t/year
- Stimulating consumption to increase it from the current level of 50 000 t to 80 000 t
- Encouraging the expansion of table olive crop area to 35 000 ha in order to reach a production level of 30 000 t
- Improving the quality of olive oil and table olives
- Consolidating research and by-product reuse

OLIVE SECTOR PROFILE[1]

I. STATISTICS

A. Statistics on production of olive oils, table olives and other edible oils

1. Olive orchard area and yields:

a. Changes in area under olives (ha):

Year	Area planted during the year		Area grubbed during the year [2]	Total area	
	Trees for oil	Trees for table olives		Trees for oil	Trees for table olives
1996	17 000	15 000	--	1 467 000	16 500
1997	21 000	2300	--	1 488 000	18 800
1998	26 700	1 300	--	1 514 700	20 100
1999	25 000	1 500	--	1 539 700	22 600
2000	20 800	900	--	1 560 500	22 500
2001	21 000	1 000	--	1 581 500	23 500
2002	15 000	1 000	--	1 596 500	24 500
2003	15 000	1 000	--	1 611 500	25 500
2004 (prov.)	15 000	1 000	--	1 626 500	26 500
2005 (estimates)	15 000	1 000	--	1 641 500	27 500
2006 (estimates)			--	1 652 000	28 000

[1] Replies to IOOC Executive Secretariat questionnaire.
[2] The areas grubbed are on a par with new plantings.

b. Total area dedicated to olive growing in 2000 (ha):

Crop	Total area (excluding abandoned orchards)			Bearing area		
	Dry-farmed	Irrigated	Total	Dry-farmed	Irrigated	Total
Table olives	12 500	10 000	22 500	6 200	5 000	11 200
Oil-olives	1 520 000	40 000	1 560 000	1 276 000	30 000	1 306 000
Dual-purpose olives	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	**1 532 500**	**50 000**	**1 582 500**	**1 282 200**	**35 000**	**1 317 200**

c. Average orchard density (no. olive trees/ha):

Type of growing	Trees for oil	Trees for table olives
Irrigated	100–150	200
Dry-farmed	40	100

d. Breakdown of olive-growing area, by tree age bracket, in 2000:

Age	Area (ha)	%
< 5 years old	110 000	7
5–15 years old	155 000	10
16–50 years old	905 000	58
>50 years old	390 000	25
Total	**1 560 000**	**100**

e. Average production yield (kg olives/ha):

Type of tree	1998/99 crop year	1999/00 crop year
Oil-olives	650	800
Table	1 400	1 400

2. Production sector

a. Number of agricultural holdings growing olive trees in 2000:

Olive crop area on holding	No. of holdings	Total olive crop area (ha)
< 1 ha	94 100	--
1– 5 ha	104 600	--
6–10 ha	28 900	--
11–20 ha > 10 ha	8 900	--
21–50ha	--	--
> 50 ha	--	--
Total	**236 500**	**1 560 000**

b. Possibilities of mechanisation (cultural practices and harvesting):

Heading	Area (ha)	%
Can be fully mechanised [1]	156 000	100
Can be partially mechanised	--	--
Cannot be mechanised	--	--

c. Share of the olive sector (olive oils and table olives) in the final agricultural production of the country in 1999 and 2000 (excluding stockfarming products):

Heading	1999	2000
Olive sector (%)	15	15
Final agricultural production	**100**	**100**

[1] Harvesting cannot be mechanised.

d. Production infrastructure:

Units	Number	Average production capacity (t/8 hr)
Traditional oil mills	784	8 530
Oil mills with presses or super-presses	398	8 415
Continuous-process oil mills (two or three-phase)	335	11 260
Total oil mills	**1 517**	**28 205**
Table olive processing plants	26	--
Olive-pomace oil extraction plants	14	1 200
Seed oil extraction plants	14	1 200
Edible oil refineries	14	1 200
Table olive packing plants	4	--
Edible oil packing plants	35	--

3. Domestic production of fluid edible vegetable oils and table olives

a. Olive oil and table olive production[1] (t):

Crop years	Production of virgin olive oil	Production of table olives
1996/97	270 000	15 000
1997/98	93000	13 000
1998/99	215 000	14 000
1999/00	210 000	13 500
2000/01	115 000	11 500
2001/02	35 000	6 500
2002/03	72 000	6 500
2003/04	280 000	26 000
2004/05 (prov.)	130 000	13 000
2005/06 (estimates)	200 000	24 000

[1] Including quantities used for producer household consumption (self-consumption).

b. Olive oil production, by grade, during the 1998/99 and1999/00 crop years[1] (crop year: 1 November– 31 October):

Grades	1998/99 crop year		1999/00 crop year	
	Quantities (t)	%	Quantities (t)	%
Extra, up to 1°	65 500	30	63 000	30
Virgin, 1°– 2°	43 000	20	42 000	20
Ordinary, 2°– 3.3°	43 000	20	42 000	20
Lampante, > 3.3°	65 500	30	63 000	30
Total	**217 000**	**100**	**210 000**	**100**

c. Total table olive production, by type, during the 1998/99 and 1999/00 crop years[2] (crop year: 1 September–31 August):

Quantities in net drained weight	1998/99 crop year		1999/00 crop year	
	Quantities (t)	%	Quantities (t)	%
Green table olives [3]	--		--	
Table olives turning colour [4]	--		--	
Black table olives [5]	--		--	
Total	**4 000**		**3 500**	

[1] Including quantities used for producer household consumption (self-consumption).
[2] In net drained weight (actual weight of the product without any packaging and without any medium: brine, dry salt, etc.).
[3] Prepared in brine, treated or untreated, presented whole, and not whole, stoned or stuffed.
[4] Also covers olives darkened by oxidation presented whole, and not whole, stoned or stuffed, as well as cracked olives, split olives and specialities, whether green, black or turning colour.
[5] Prepared in brine, dry salt or dehydrated, presented whole, and not whole, stoned or stuffed.

4. Cost prices during the 2004/05 crop year[1]

a. Production and processing of olives (TND/kg):

Place	Headings	Amount
Holding	**Average purchase price of oil-olives**	0.4–1.005
	Average purchase price of table olives	0.5–1.005
	Direct production aid or subsidy: - Coverage of cost of national olive pest and disease control campaigns - Subsidy for nitrogen fertilisation - Subsidy for equipment for pruning, crop health care and olive harvesting - Support fund for development of olive growing: grants and credit for creation of new olive orchards and care of existing orchards	
Oil mill	**Minimum guaranteed price for olive oil: Extra 0.3º** **Lampante**	2.200 1.850
	Minimum guaranteed price for table olives:	According to supply and demand
	Direct processing aid or subsidy	

5. Employment generated by the olive sector (workdays)

Employment	1998/99 crop year	1999/00 crop year
Olive growing	25 000 000	30 000 000
Olive oil/table olive industry	2 500 000	3 000 000
Total	27 500 000	33 000 000

[1] EUR 1 = TND 1.6 (Tunisian dinars)

B. Statistics on consumption and trade

1. Domestic consumption

a. Quantities consumed of olive oils, olive-pomace oils and other fluid edible vegetable oils (FEVOs):

- **Total quantities consumed (t):**

Headings	1998/99 crop year	1999/00 crop year
Virgin olive oils consumed by producer households	70 000	50 000
Virgin olive oils sold loose	60 000	40 000
Packed olive oils	10 000	10 000
Packed olive-pomace oils	--	--
Olive oils used in the food processing industry	--	--
Olive-pomace oil used in the food processing industry	--	--
Total olive oils and olive-pomace oils consumed	**70 000**	**50 000**

Seed oils for direct consumption	150 000	150 000
Seed oils used in the food processing industry	46 000	34 000
Total seed oils consumed	**196 000**	**184 000**
Grand total of FEVOs consumed	**266 000**	**234 000**

b. Total quantities of table olives consumed (net drained weight)

- **Total quantities consumed (crop year: 1 September–31 August): (t):**

Headings	1998/99 crop year	1999/00 crop year
Table olives consumed by producer households	10 000	10 500
Bulk table olives	--	--
Packed table olives	--	--
Table olives used in the food processing industry	4 000	3 500
Total	**14 000**	**14 000**

- **Table olive styles (%):**

Styles	Green olives	Olives turning colour	Black olives
Whole [1]	100	100	100
Other	--	--	--
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

c. Quantities of other fluid edible vegetable oils consumed (FEVOs) (t):

Oils	1999	2000
Soybean oil	142 000	127 000
Cottonseed oil	--	--
Sunflower oil	10	40
Rapeseed oil	18300	24 300
Other oils	36 300	32 400
Total FEVOs	**196 000**	**184 000**

d. Consumption of oils and table olives per head (kg/head):

Edible oils and table olives	1999	2000
Olive oil	7	5
Olive-pomace oil	--	--
Other edible oils (FEVOs)	17	17
Table olives	14	14

[1] May include cracked but not stoned olives.

2. Trade in edible oils and table olives

a. Domestic trade:

- **Average[1] domestic trading prices for table olives in 1999/00:**

Average prices (TND/kg)	Green olives	Olives turning colour	Black olives
Wholesale stage: Whole	2.00	2.00	2.00
Stoned	--	--	--
Stuffed	--	--	--
Retail stage: Whole	3.00	3.00	3.00
Stoned	--	--	--
Stuffed	--	--	--
Duties & taxes (VAT, etc.)	--	--	--

b. International trade:

- **Trade in olive oils (t)[2]:**

Imports/exports	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Imports of olive oils	None			
Imports of olive-pomace oils	None			
Exports of olive oils	95 000	22 000	40 000	209 000
Exports of olive-pomace oils	--	--	--	--

- **Main countries of destination of olive oils (%)**

Product	Country			
	Italy	Spain	USA	Other
Olive oil	70%	18%	7%	5%
Olive-pomace oil				

[1] EUR 1 = TND 1.316.
[2] Crop year: 1 November–31 October.

- **Main countries of destination of table olives (%)**

Product	Country			
	France	Libya	….	Other
Table olives	50%	30%	…	20%

- **Trade in other fluid edible vegetable oils (t):**

Imports/exports	2001	2002	2003	2004
Soybean oil imports	197 600	181 100	193 100	174 500
Sunflower oil imports	3 300	100	700	900
Rapeseed oil imports	--	100	--	6 000
Imports of other oils	15 300	42 300	48 800	38 900
Total FEVO imports	**216 200**	**223 600**	**242 600**	**220 300**
Sunflower oil exports	--	--	--	--
Soybean oil exports	--	--	--	--
Rapeseed oil exports	--	--	--	--
Exports of other oils	8 900	30 500	41 000	28 300
Total FEVO exports	**8 900**	**30 500**	**41 000**	**28 300**

- **Trade in table olives (t)**[1]

Imports/exports	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Imports of green table olives	--	--	--	--
Imports of table olives turning colour	--	--	--	--
Imports of black table olives	--	--	--	--
Total table olive imports	**--**	**--**	**--**	**--**
Exports of green table olives	500	0	500	500
Total table olive exports	500	0	500	500

[1] Table olive crop year: 1 September–31 August.

c. Share of the olive sector (olive oils and table olives) in the total agricultural trade of the country in 1999 and 2000 (excluding stockfarming products):

Heading	1999	2000
Olive sector exports (%)	54	42
Total agricultural exports	**100%**	**100%**

Heading	1999	2000
Olive sector imports (%)	None	None
Total agricultural imports	**100%**	**100%**

II. ORGANISATION OF PRODUCTION SECTOR

A. General arrangements

1. Governmental intervention concerning production capacity (olive tree, products and by-products) and its modernisation

a. Public or private intervention agencies:

- National Oil Board
- Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources

b. Practical details of intervention:

- Study, research, development, training, extension, credits, subsidies

c. Main guidelines for the sector:

- Strengthening of research.
- Improvement of hectare yields and of domestic olive oil production.
- Improvement of oil quality.
- Utilisation of by-products.
- Development of table olives.

d. Ongoing and/or planned programmes for olive orchard improvement or reorganisation:

- Preparation of a strategy for the development of the olive sector aimed primarily at raising productivity and crop production and improving olive oil quality. Main action envisaged:
    - Integrated approach to care of existing orchards (tillage – fertilisation – pruning – plant protection treatment, etc.).
    - Reorganisation of old orchards through rejuvenation schemes or grubbing and replanting.
    - Creation of intensive table olive orchards.
    - Creation of nurseries to produce softwood cuttings.
    - Extension of olive orchards in areas suited to olive growing.

e. Modernisation programmes for the olive oil industry (olive oils and olive-pomace oils) and utilisation of by-products:

- Scheme to modernise pressing mills.
- Creation of new continuous-process facilities.
- Scheme to reuse olive oil mill wastewater as fertiliser in olive orchards.

f. Modernisation programmes for the table olive processing industry:

- No arrangements

g. Public or private intervention agencies responsible for storage of olive oils and olive-pomace oils:

- No arrangements

h. Stock accumulation arrangements:

- No arrangements

i. Purchase price of oils for storage, by grade (TND/t)

	2003/04	**2004/05**	**2005/06**
Extra virgin	2.150	2.200	-
Lampante	1.950	1.850	-

EUR 1 = TND 1.6

2. Designations of origin, geographical indications, other:

(a) Agencies that grant and protect *designations of origin* and *geographical indications:*

- There are no designations of origin in Tunisia. The Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources has undertaken a study to fix criteria and conditions for the demarcation, characterisation and entitlement to PDO status for olive oils.

- No geographical indications.

(b) "Organic" designations granted at national level for virgin olive oils:

- 2004/05 = 3 684 t organic olive oil
- 2005/06 = 13 000–15 000 t organic olive oil (estimates)

(c) Proportion of "organic oils" in relation to total olive oil production (%) :

- 2004/05 = 3 684 t/130 000 + 2.83%
- 2005/06 = 13 000–15 000 t/200 000 t + 6.5–7.5% (estimates)

III. ORGANISATION OF TRADE AND CONSUMPTION SECTORS

General arrangements

1. International trade: customs duties and miscellaneous aid for edible oils, oilseeds and table olives:

a. Customs duties for olive oils and olive-pomace oils:

Commodities	HS code[1]	Imports[2]	Exports[2]
Olive oils, virgin and/or refined	**15 09 10**	140%	--
Olive-pomace oils, crude and/or refined	**15 10 00**	140%	--

1 Nomenclature of the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System.
2 Taxes (+), refunds (-), premiums (-) or other.

b. Customs duties for other main fluid edible vegetable oils, crude and/or refined:

Commodities	HS code[1]	Imports[2]		Exports[2]
		Crude	Refined	
Soybean oil	**15 07 10**	15%	26%	--
Groundnut oil	**15 08 10**	0%	10%	--
Sunflower oil	**15 12 11**	0%	10%	--
Cottonseed oil	**15 12 11**			--
Rapeseed/colza oil	**15 14 10**	0%	10%	--
Corn oil	**15 15 21**	0%	10%	--

2. Marketing and consumption on domestic market during the 2004/05 crop year:

a. Direct subsidies or aid for domestic edible oil consumption:

(i) Olive oils and olive-pomace oils:

- None

(ii) Other edible oils:

- Because they are commodities, vegetable oils imported by the National Oil Board benefit from a consumption subsidy under the Food Product Compensation Fund (fixing of public retail price).

b. *Food* standards applicable to edible oils and table olives:

(i) Olive oils, olive-pomace oils and other edible oils:

- Codex Alimentarius standards for edible fats and oils.

c. Table olives:

- Draft Tunisian standard: PNT 52.76 (2004)
- National Standardisation and Industrial Property Institute.
- CODEX STAN 66-1981 (REV – 1 –1987) standard for table olives.
- IOC standard of 18-06-2004.

d. *Trade* standards applicable to edible oils and table olives:

(i) Olive oils, olive-pomace oils and other edible oils:

- IOC standards

e. Table olives:

- Codex Alimentarius standards

f. General measures to protect food consumption of oils and table olives

(i) Olive oils, olive-pomace oils and other edible oils

The Tunisian system for olive oils, olive-pomace oils and other edible oils is based on a regulatory framework comprising decrees and orders in addition to a set of standards.

g. Table olives

There is an Order of 13 December 1948 concerning the standardisation of canned olives and a registered (but not compulsory) Tunisian standard 52.76 (1994). However, for monitoring purposes, general texts on labelling, additives, contaminants, hygiene, … are applied in both cases.

h. Measures to curb fraud:

(i) Bodies:

Four Ministries are involved in food control

- Ministry of Trade and Crafts.
- Ministry of Public Health.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources.
- Ministry of the Interior and Sustainable Development.

Several bodies operate in the control area, notably the Under-Directorate for Fraud Repression of the Quality and Consumer Protection Directorate.

(ii) Results achieved:

As is the case for all food and industrial products, Law 92.117 of 7 December 1992 on consumer protection and the related texts are applicable.

Offences are established on the basis of:
- An official report
- Documentary checks
- Test results

g. Action taken at *national level* to promote olive oils and/or table olives

Action	Olive oils		Table olives	
	Promoter agency	**Funding**	**Promoter agency**	**Funding**
- National Olive Oil Day - Participation of National Oil Board in Tunismed 2005 - Participation of National Oil Board in International Olive Festival, Kalâa Kebira. - Participation of National Oil Board in International Olive Festival Tebourba.	- National Oil Board - Cepex	- National Oil Board - Cepex		