TRENDS IN WORLD TABLE OLIVE CONSUMPTION

During the 25 years between the 1990/91 and 2015/16 seasons, world consumption of table olives increased 2.8 times (+173 pc). Chart 1 shows how it has climbed constantly over the years, hitting its highest level in 2015/16. The biggest rises have been in the member countries of the IOC – also the top producers –, often in tandem with increases in production. This is particularly the case of countries like Egypt, which consumed 11 000 t in 1990/91 and now consumes 360 000 t in 2015/16; Turkey, where consumption has shot up from 110 000 t to 327 500 t and Algeria where it has soared from 14 000 t to 231 500 t. Table olive consumption has increased in the other countries too, but to a smaller extent. In 2015/16, the world’s top ten consumers were Egypt, Turkey, Algeria, the United States, Spain, Syria, Italy, Brazil, Iran, France and Russia.

Chart 2 looks at annual per capita consumption of table olives in the IOC member countries in 2013/14. Albania leads the league with a total consumption of 29 000 t for a population of barely 2 895 000, which gives a per capita consumption of 10 kg. Much further down the line come Algeria with 5 kg/capita/year, Turkey, Syria and Lebanon with between 4.7 and 4.4 kg/year, Egypt (3.8 kg), Jordan, Israel and Libya (between 2.6 and 2.2 kg), and Tunisia, Uruguay and Morocco (1.9–1 kg). Annual per capita consumption in the other countries was less than 1 kg (Argentina, Iran and Iraq, listed in descending order).

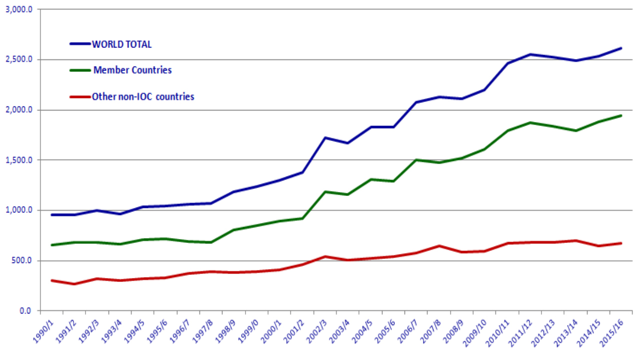


Chart 1: Trend of world table olive consumption (000 tonnes)

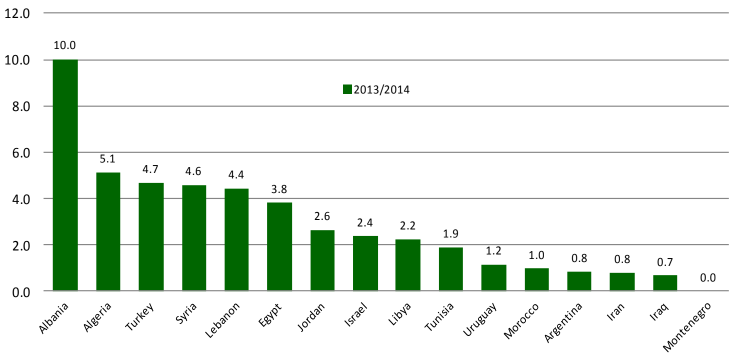


Chart 2: Annual per capita table olive consumption (kg) in IOC member countries in 2014

Looking at the countries in the European Union, we find that table olive consumption has risen by 70.6 pc, going up from 346 400 t in 1990/91 to 591 000 t in 2015/16. Spain is the top producer and consumer (Chart 3) and has an annual per capita consumption of 3.5 kg. Cyprus comes next (3.1 kg), followed by Malta (3 kg) and Italy (2 kg), and then Bulgaria, Luxembourg, Greece and Romania (1.6–1 kg). The inhabitants of France, Sweden, Belgium, Portugal, United Kingdom, Austria, Croatia, Denmark and Germany eat between 0.9 and 0.5 kg of olives per year while those in Lithuania, Finland, Slovenia, Ireland, Slovakia, Latvia, Poland, Estonia, Czech Republic, Hungary and the Netherlands consume less than 0.4 kg/year.

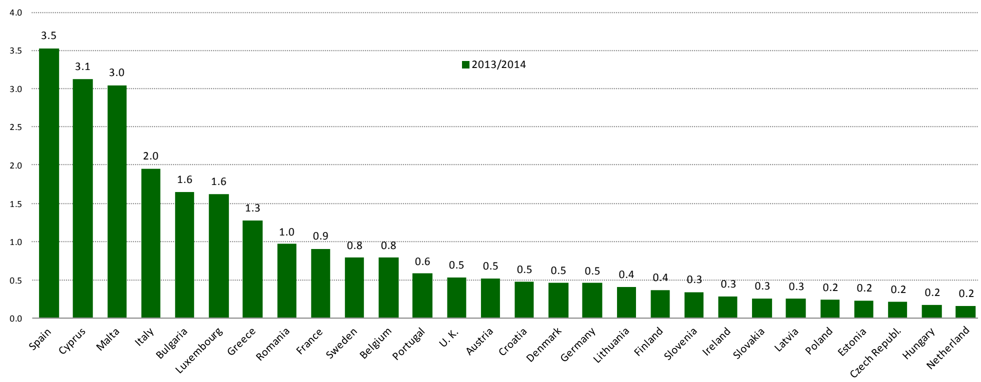


Chart 3: Annual per capita table olive consumption (kg) in EU countries in 2014

In the non-IOC member countries, annual consumption of table olives in 2014 (Chart 4) oscillated between 2.9 and 0.9 kg, with Palestine in the lead, and Chile, Saudi Arabia, Peru and Australia next in line (these five countries are also producers). At a distance follow Canada and Switzerland with 0.8 kg each, Brazil and Russia with between 0.6 and 0.5 kg, and Mexico and the United States with 0.1 kg.

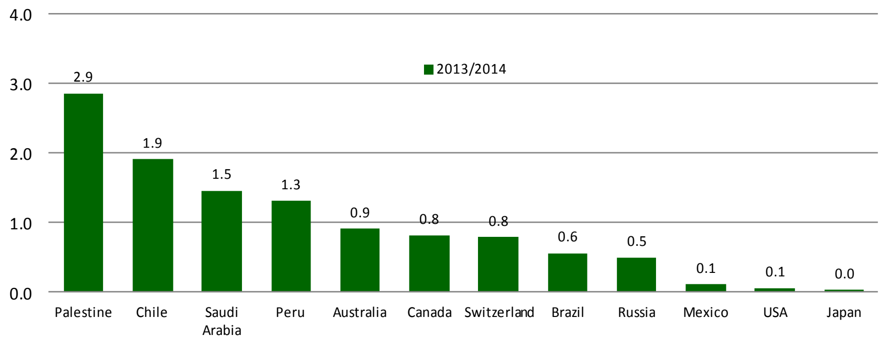


Chart 4 – Annual per capita table olive consumption (kg) in non-IOC member countries in 2014

IRRIGAOLIVO (CFC-IOC/06): Development and Dissemination of Sustainable Irrigation Management in Olive Growing

The Executive Secretariat has developed a project for rational irrigation management in olive cultivation as part of the IOC's R & D and environmental programme. Known as IRRIGAOLIVO (CFC-IOC/06), the project has been set up in Morocco and Syria with financing from the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC).
Although drought-tolerant, the olive tree gives higher yields when it is irrigated. Water is an important and precious resource. The object of this project is therefore to show olive growers the economic benefits of rational irrigation use. For instance, deficit irrigation where only 70 pc of plant water requirements are covered can give bigger crops and better oil quality while saving a considerable amount of water. By conducting trials and promoting irrigation and orchard management practices, the project seeks to help small farmers to produce more and better and to increase their earnings and so improve their standard of living. **See project video**

WORLD TRADE IN OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES

1. TRADE IN OLIVE OIL IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF 2015/16

Imports of olive oils and olive pomace oils in the first four months of the 2015/16 crop year (October 2015–January 2016) grew by 29 pc in China (chiefly in December) and 5 pc in the United States compared with the same four months of 2014/15. The other markets recorded large decreases of 41 pc in Brazil, 38 pc in Russia, 33 pc in Australia, 18 pc in Japan and 4 pc in Canada.

The October–December 2015 figures for the EU[1] reveal a decrease of 16.5 pc in intra-EU acquisitions and an increase of 30 pc in extra-EU exports versus the same period of 2014/15.

Olive oil imports (including olive-pomace oils) (t)

No	Importing country	October 14	October 15	November 14	November 15	December 14	December 15	January 15	January 16
1	Australia	3125.1	1717.8	2391.8	1818.9	1652.1	1265.9	1856.8	2065.8
2	Brazil	9584.6	5529.5	7269.9	4853.6	6249.3	2689.6	6367.2	4394.6
3	Canada	3985.0	3092.5	3257.6	2875.6	3070.4	3193.2	2343.1	3015.8
4	China	2410.8	3106.7	3651.5	3219.6	3530.5	6015.2	2850.1	3067.6
5	Japan	4776.0	4492.0	4735.0	3791.0	3965.4	3097.0	4531.0	3402.0
6	Russia	4259.5	1785.8	3192.4	2084.0	2653.1	1940.6	1513.0	1390.1
7	USA	23332.0	28580.0	28449.8	20324.3	18755.6	23627.0	24296.3	26922.3
8	Extra-EU/27	6722.0	17568.3	6801.8	8433.7	14707.0	10600.9	18871.7	nd
	Intra-EU/27	89729.0	65823.0	98016.0	81263.5	122803.0	112096.4	102347.8	nd
	Total	**147924.0**	**131695.6**	**157765.8**	**128664.2**	**177386.3**	**164525.8**	**164977.0**	

[1]EU data for January 2016 were not available at the time of writing

2. TRADE IN TABLE OLIVES IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF 2015/16

In the first four months of the 2015/16 season (October 2015–January 2016), table olive imports increased in Canada (+4 pc) and held steady in the United States but fell in Russia (−24 pc), Brazil (−20 pc) and Australia (−2 pc).

EU[2] trade data for the first three months of the new crop year (October–December 2015) report a 16 pc period-on-period increase in intra-EU acquisitions, contrasting with a 9 pc decrease in extra-EU imports.

Table Olive Imports (t)

No	Importing country	October 14	October 15	November 14	November 15	December 14	December 15	January 15	January 15
1	Australia	1547.0	1156.0	1234.0	1469.0	1580.0	1682.0	1408.0	1355.0
2	Brazil	12930.3	7793.4	10285.5	9311.3	8685.1	8834.9	8007.7	6034.8
3	Canada	2413.0	2636.0	2469.0	3090.0	2810.0	3003.0	2144.0	1494.0
4	Russia	11076.5	6730.3	8719.1	7214.5	7288.0	5490.0	3413.8	3868.1
5	USA	10367.0	12738.0	10164.0	11635.0	12219.0	11997.0	11629.0	8133.0
6	Extra-EU/27	8283.2	6386.7	7032.3	7133.3	8053.5	7836.3	7666.5	nd
	Intra-EU/27	27945.4	30114.0	23889.4	31646.4	27859.4	30365.4	22021.7	nd
	Total	**74562.4**	**67554.4**	**63793.3**	**71499.5**	**68495.0**	**69208.6**	**56290.7**	

II. PRODUCER PRICES

Graph 1 tracks the weekly movements in the prices paid to producers for extra virgin olive oil in the three top EU producing countries plus Tunisia while Graph 3 shows the weekly changes in the producer prices for refined olive oil in the three main EU producers. Monthly price movements for the same two grades of oil are given in Graphs 2 and 4.

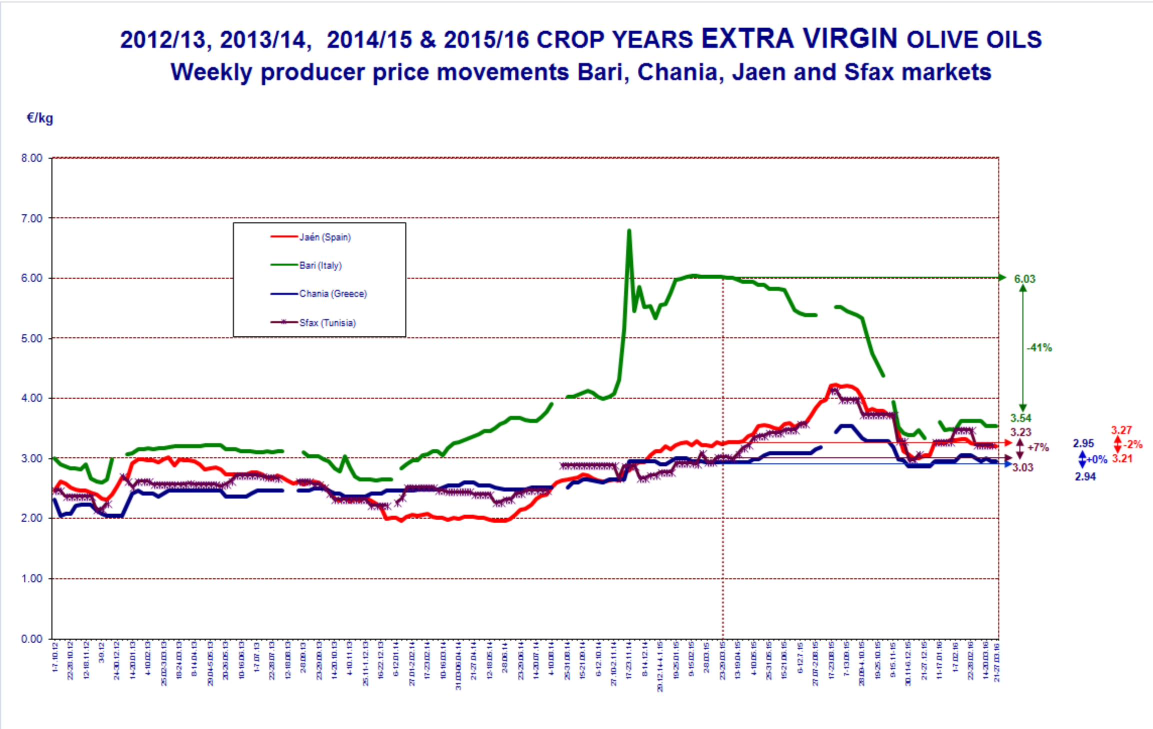
Extra virgin olive oil: After peaking at €4.23/kg in the third week of August 2015, producer prices in Spain switched direction and began to drop, gathering momentum from the last week of September (Graph 1). In recent weeks, they have levelled off and were lying at **€3.21/kg** in the **last week of March 2016**. This is 2 pc lower than a year earlier and 21 pc below the maximum (€4.23/kg) but 65 pc higher than the low recorded in the third week of May 2014 (€1.96/kg).

Italy: In the **week from 10 to 16 November 2014**, producer prices in Italy hit their highest level of both the last decade and the reporting period, reaching **€6.79/kg**. After some fluctuations, they started to fall sharply. After then picking up they dipped again, reaching **€3.54/kg at the end of March 2016**, down by 41 pc on the level a year earlier. Graph 2 shows how the monthly prices of extra virgin olive oil have behaved in recent crop years.

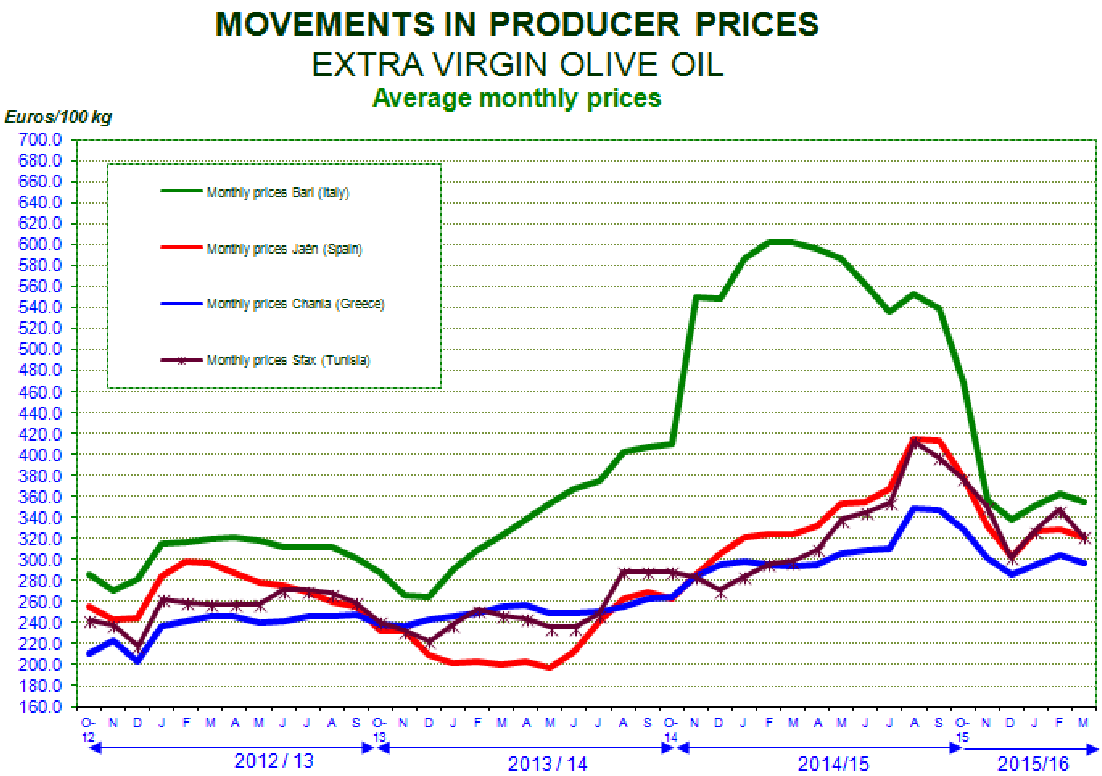
Greece: In the last weeks of August and first week of September 2015, prices rose to period highs (€3.54/kg). After oscillating, they dropped in the last two weeks of **March 2016** to reach **€2.95/kg,** thus lying at the same level as in March 2015.

Tunisia: Producer prices peaked in the last weeks of August 2015 (€4.13/kg). Then, like elsewhere, they started to drop. By the close of the last few weeks, they were lying at **€3.23/kg**, showing period-on-period growth of +7 pc.

[2] EU data for January 2016 were not available at the time of writing



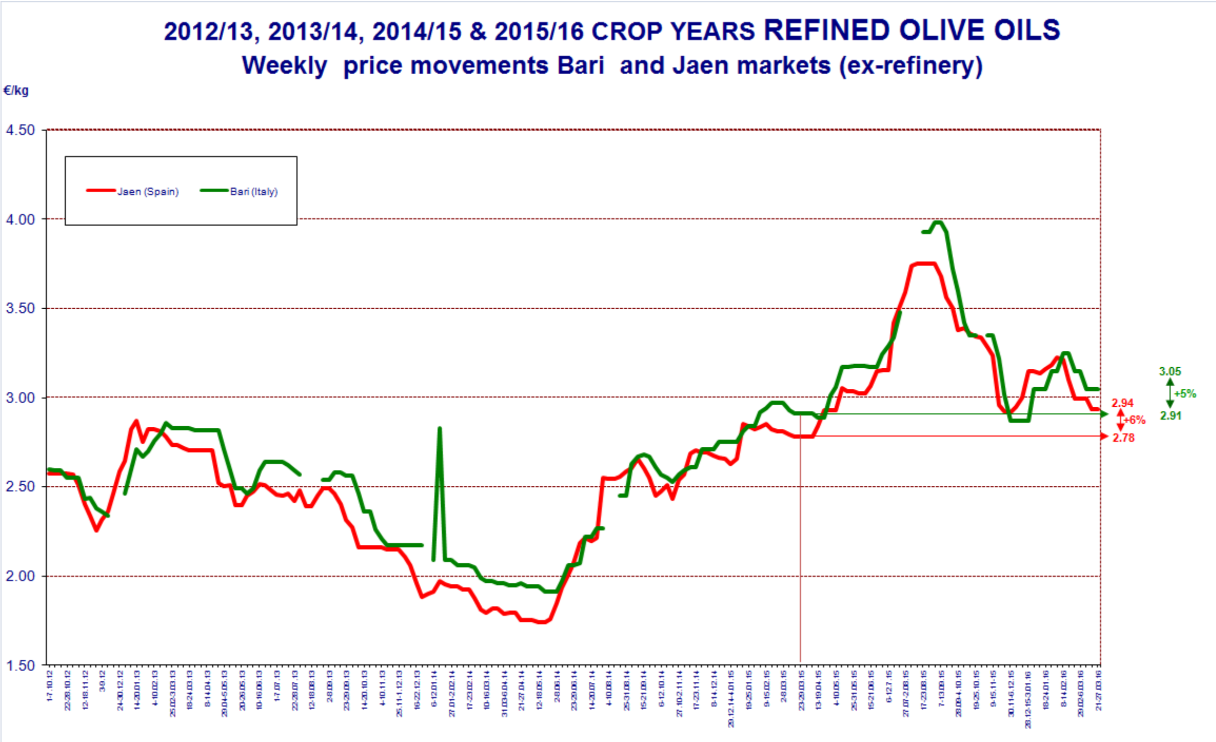
Graph 1



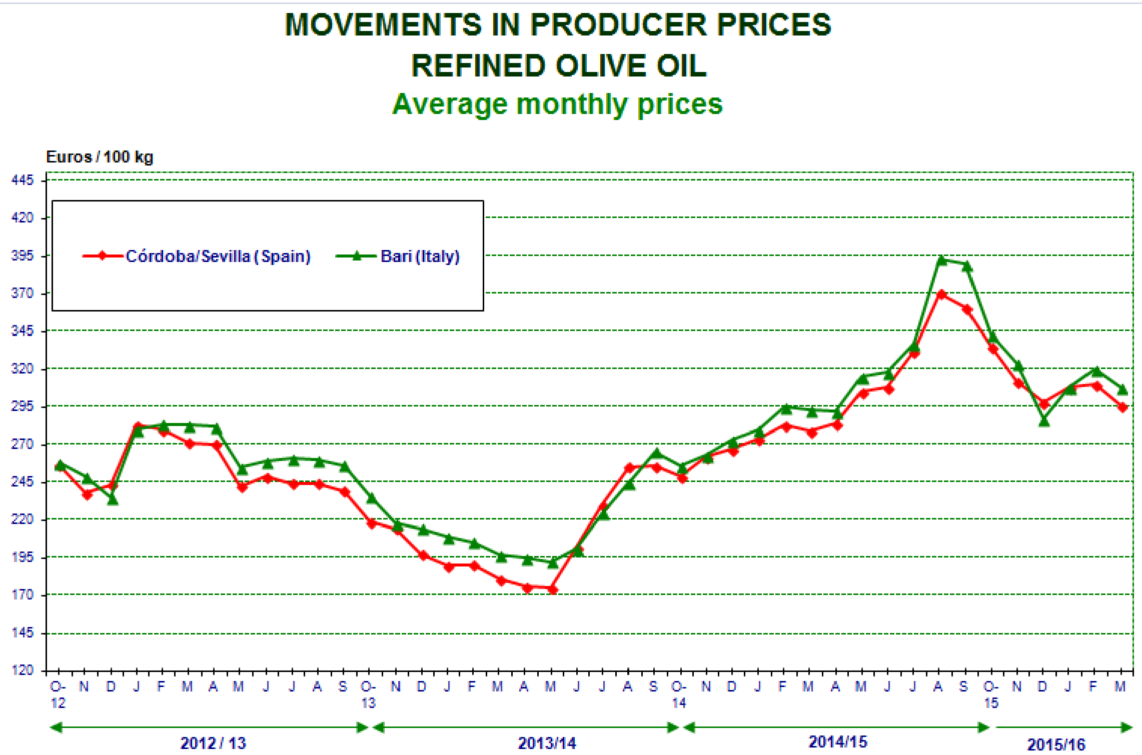
Graph 2

- **Refined olive oil**: After peaking in August 2015, producer prices for refined olive oil followed in the footsteps of extra virgin prices. In **Spain** where they started to drop ahead of elsewhere, they fell sharply but started to rally in the third week of January 2016. They have fallen again in the last two weeks and stood at **€2.94/kg** at the end of March 2016, but were still 6 pc higher than in the same period of the preceding crop year. The trend in **Italy** has been similar, with prices lying at **€3.05/kg** at the end of March 2016. This level was 5 pc higher than the same period the season before. No price data are available for this product category in Greece.

  At the end of March 2016, the price of refined olive oil (€2.94/kg) and extra virgin olive oil (€3.21/kg) differed by €0.27/kg in Spain and €0.49/kg in Italy (Graph 3).



Graph 3



Graph 4

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