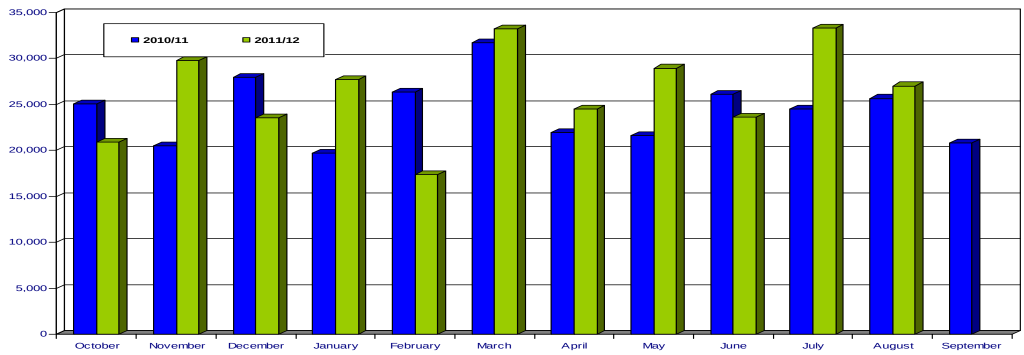
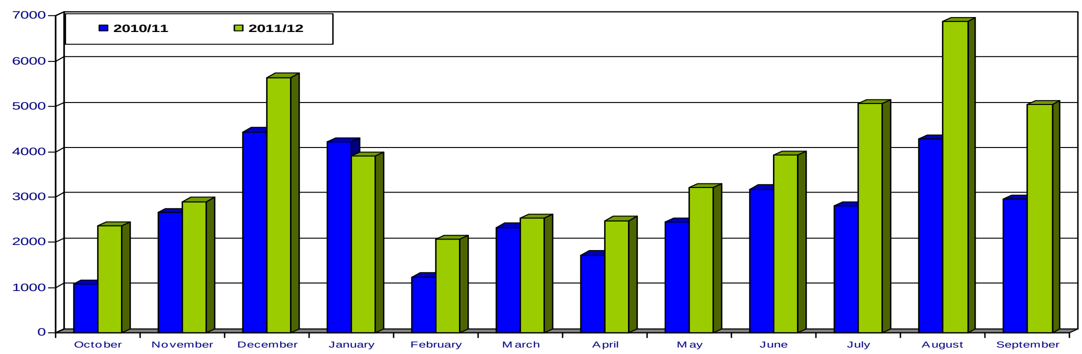
Spain, the world's top producer and exporter, saw its exports to non-EU countries climb by 26% in the first 11 months of the 2011/12 crop year (October 2011–August 2012) versus the same period a season earlier. The good harvest translated into higher exports to its top six export destinations: United States (+51%), China (+40%), Australia (+11%), Japan (+37%), Brazil (+5%) and Russia (+11%). The Spanish Olive Oil Agency has announced that Spain produced a total volume of 1 613 400 t of olive oil in 2011/12, thus recording season-on-season growth of 16%.

According to the figures just a month short of the crop year end, **U.S.** imports of olive oil and olive pomace oil are expected to top 300 000 t. Between October 2011 and August 2012 (the first 11 months of the season), they totalled 290 227.1 t, equating with 7% growth compared with the same period of the 2010/2011 season. IOC Members were the source of 98% of U.S. imports, with 81% coming from the EU and 17% from the rest of the member countries. Italy is the leading exporter to the United States, accounting for 143 656 t (+4%) of its aggregate imports. Spain lies in second place, with a share of 84 371 t. This last figure shows a significant +35% rate of season-on-season growth (the difference from the 51% reported by Spain is due to the usual discrepancies in export and import data). Next in line come Tunisia with 30 308 t (+24%), Argentina with 8 997 t (+33%) and Greece with 5 222.4 t (+30%). A breakdown by category reveals that 65% of imports were virgin grade (customs heading 150910), 30% were olive oil (150990) and 5% were olive pomace oil (151000). Monthly import performance is compared over the last two crop years in Graph I below.



Graph I – Monthly comparison of imports (t) of olive oil and olive pomace oil by the United States

At the end of 2011/12, imports by **China** outstripped forecasts to reach 45 967.80 t (both olive oil and olive pomace oil), recording 38% growth against 2010/11. Spain is the top source for this market, accounting for 60% of total imports (26 885.3 t), followed by Italy (10 729.3 t), Greece (2 720.5 t), Tunisia (1 115.4 t), Australia (953.9 t), Turkey (832.5 t) and Syria (733 t). Eighty-four per cent of imports belonged to the virgin grade (customs heading 150910), 5% was olive oil (150990) and 11% was olive pomace oil (151000). Monthly imports through both crop years are compared in Graph II.



Graph II – Monthly comparison of imports of olive oil and olive pomace oil by China

WORLD MARKET FOR OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES

1. OLIVE OIL: 2011/12 CROP YEAR

The data for the eight countries listed in the table below report higher imports of olive oil and olive pomace oil by China (+35%), Russia (+13%), Japan (18%), Brazil (+14%) and the United States (+7%) in the first eleven months of the 2011/12 crop year (October to August). Conversely, imports by Canada and Australia fell by -4% and -3%, respectively. August data were not available for the EU at the time of publishing this newsletter. However, when compared with the data for the first ten months of 2010/11, the October 2011–July 2012 figures show a 12% increase in extra-EU/27 imports (this seems surprising at first glance, given the exceptionally high level of EU production in 2011/12, but it can perhaps be explained by some operators' expectations of a poor harvest in 2012/13 because imports started to rise in May 2012). Intra-EU/27 imports went down by -2% compared with the same period of 2010/11.

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

No	Importing country	October 10	October 11	November 10	November 11	December 10	December 11	January 11	January 12	February 11	February 12
1	Australia	2492.8	2571.2	3522.0	3027.0	3505.0	1580.0	1887.0	3060.0	1723.0	2289.0
2	Brazil	6852.5	5247.0	6461.1	8866.7	6002.8	6004.8	5280.8	6414.7	6343.5	6453.8
3	Canada	3511.0	2903.0	3520.0	4080.0	3704.0	2980.0	4402.0	2471.0	3210.0	2263.0
4	China	1073.1	2364.0	2657.5	2901.2	4439.8	5638.7	4125.6	3897.1	1233.4	2063.1
5	Japan	2911.0	3085.0	2651.0	3064.0	3181.0	3392.0	3254.0	3597.0	2785.0	3519.0
6	Russia	2354.0	2511.0	2151.0	3486.0	2749.0	2854.0	1703.0	1805.0	1972.0	1973.2
7	USA	25040.5	20939.5	20490.0	29832.0	27938.0	23574.0	19730.0	27739.0	26376.0	17383.0
8	Extra-EU/27	4869.0	6122.0	6586.0	4982.0	9821.0	6250.0	6519.3	5174.4	9943.3	9715.7
	Intra-EU/27	82141.7	86248.0	91566.6	87821.0	107612.0	99466.3	92897.2	87352.9	92365.0	91360.0
	Total	**131245.6**	**131990.7**	**139605.2**	**148059.9**	**168952.6**	**151739.8**	**139798.9**	**141511.1**	**145951.2**	**137019.8**

No	Importing country	March 11	March 12	April 11	April 12	May 11	May 12	June 11	June12	July 11	July 12	August 11	August 12
1	Australia	2523.0	3491.0	2679.0	2082.0	3505.0	2121.0	2524.0	2820.0	2079.0	2798.0	3845.1	3409.2
2	Brazil	5559.1	5615.9	4200.5	4583.7	3981.5	5845.0	4035.0	4715.5	5885.7	5635.5	4250.6	7933.9
3	Canada	4469.0	4939.0	3738.0	3453.0	3601.0	3802.0	2546.0	2907.0	2684.0	2975.0	3078.6	4124.7
4	China	2332.7	2524.6	1714.6	2472.9	2439.4	3200.7	3170.0	3922.2	2802.4	5067.7	4284.4	6874.3
5	Japan	3206.0	2670.0	3087.0	3897.0	3124.0	3801.0	3029.0	3994.0	3302.0	5142.0	4263.8	4757.6
6	Russia	2423.9	2895.7	2584.6	1992.2	2535.3	2521.5	2394.0	2575.4	2078.4	2476.8	1756.1	2727.0
7	USA	31727.0	33277.0	21961.0	24527.0	21638.0	28958.0	26121.0	23642.0	24512.0	33322.0	25671.3	27035.0
8	Extra-EU/27	8172.0	8034.6	10632.1	7349.0	6355.0	16223.0	5652.0	8252.0	6239.9	11527.0	3267.8	nd
	Intra-EU/27	92284.6	91017.9	82597.0	73486.0	85845.0	84312.0	89454.0	82074.0	78239.3	89543.0	80904.8	nd
	Total	**152697.3**	**154465.7**	**133193.8**	**123842.8**	**133024.2**	**150784.2**	**138925.0**	**134902.1**	**127822.7**	**158487.0**	**131322.5**	

2. TABLE OLIVES: 2011/12 CROP YEAR

The figures reported in the next table show that table olive imports through the first eleven months of the 2011/12 season (October–August) increased by +12% in Brazil held steady in Australia and dropped by -5% in both Russia and the United States and by -2% in Canada. At the time of publication, the August data were not available for the EU but when set against the data for the first ten months of 2010/11, the October 2011–July 2012 figures show an overall -3% decrease in extra-EU/27 imports while intra-EU/27 imports remained stable.

Table Olive Imports (t)

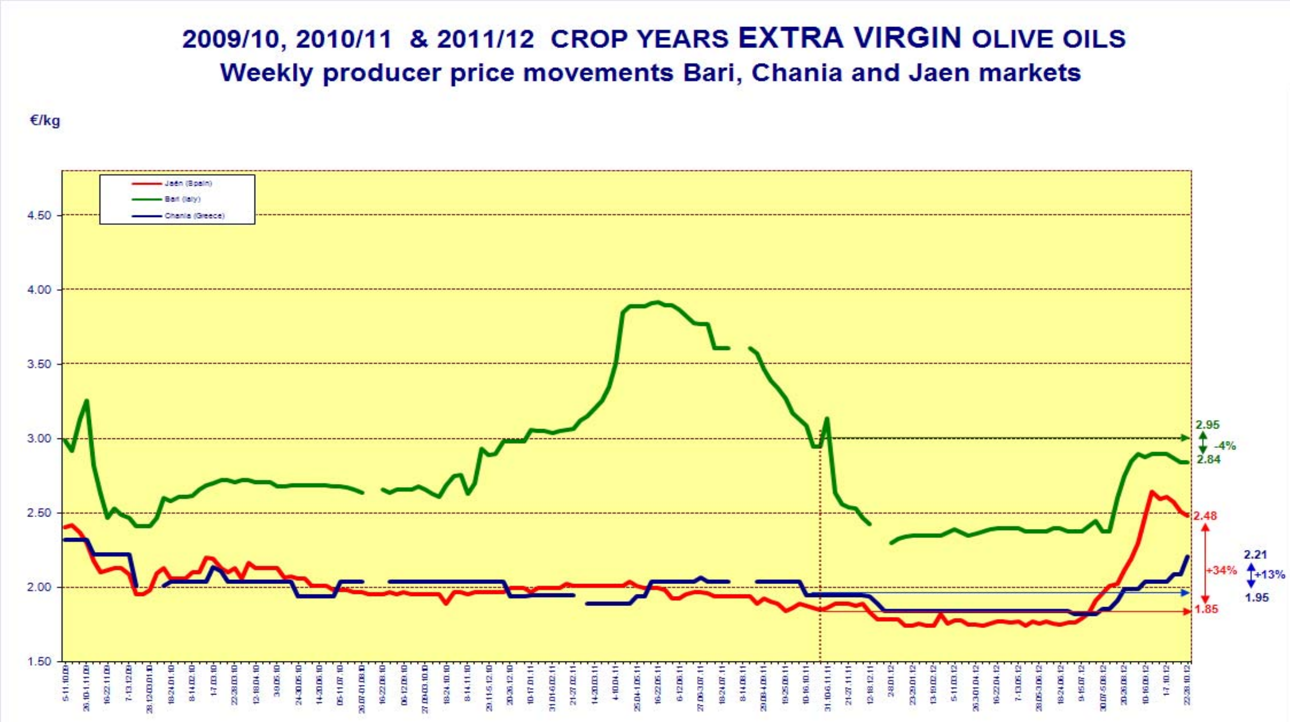
Nº	Importing country	October 10	October 11	November 10	November 11	December 10	December 11	January 11	January 12	February 11	February 12
1	Australia	934.0	1072.0	1649.0	1734.0	2222.0	1613.0	1347.0	1510.0	1787.0	1515.0
2	Brazil	9168.4	9746.1	8854.5	12350.8	8209.1	10340.0	6227.5	7069.0	5001.2	5538.3
3	Canada	2346.0	2953.7	2401.4	2577.0	2023.9	2024.3	2165.0	1743.0	2029.0	2018.0
4	Russia	6955.0	7707.0	9345.0	9949.0	9763.0	7889.0	4867.9	3001.9	4778.9	5430.6
5	USA	10327.0	10492.0	12400.0	10928.0	13064.0	9927.0	10736.0	10015.0	9654.0	8512.0
6	Extra-EU/27	9375.1	9143.8	10030.9	8542.8	8674.8	8239.6	7412.0	8224.3	8843.7	8302.9
	Intra-EU/27	27096.4	26049.3	27003.6	27485.4	24003.5	24061.2	21276.9	34645.1	24855.8	22558.3
	Total	**66201.9**	**67163.9**	**71684.4**	**73567.0**	**67960.3**	**64094.1**	**54032.3**	**66208.3**	**56949.6**	**53875.1**

Nº	Importing country	March 11	March 12	April 11	April 12	May 11	May 12	June 11	June 12	July 11	July 12	August 11	August 12
1	Australia	1489.0	1768.0	1221.0	1239.0	1608.0	1686.0	1147.0	1426.0	1263.0	1270.0	1622.0	1488.0
2	Brazil	5455.6	7868.7	5144.3	7641.4	6988.5	3857.9	6142.6	2166.6	7054.8	6356.9	8806.6	13356.6
3	Canada	2610.0	2269.0	2180.0	2071.0	2119.0	2489.0	2039.0	2365.0	2832.0	2303.0	2411.0	1903.0
4	Russia	5521.4	5501.0	5483.9	4395.7	5402.8	3959.4	4325.7	4489.0	5042.0	4898.5	5794.0	6759.7
5	USA	11384.0	11674.0	12228.0	12373.0	11008.0	11914.0	12184.0	11965.0	12305.0	13290.0	14178.0	12067.0
6	Extra-EU/27	12280.3	10286.7	10505.8	10949.9	12576.0	11668.2	9891.9	10145.0	8958.9	10273.7	9823.5	nd
	Intra-EU/27	26714.6	26453.6	27804.5	24550.9	32171.4	28798.3	31782.3	27857.9	25953.0	27294.2	24662.5	nd
	Total	**65454.9**	**65821.0**	**64567.5**	**63220.9**	**71873.7**	**64372.8**	**67512.5**	**60414.5**	**63408.7**	**65686.3**	**67297.6**	

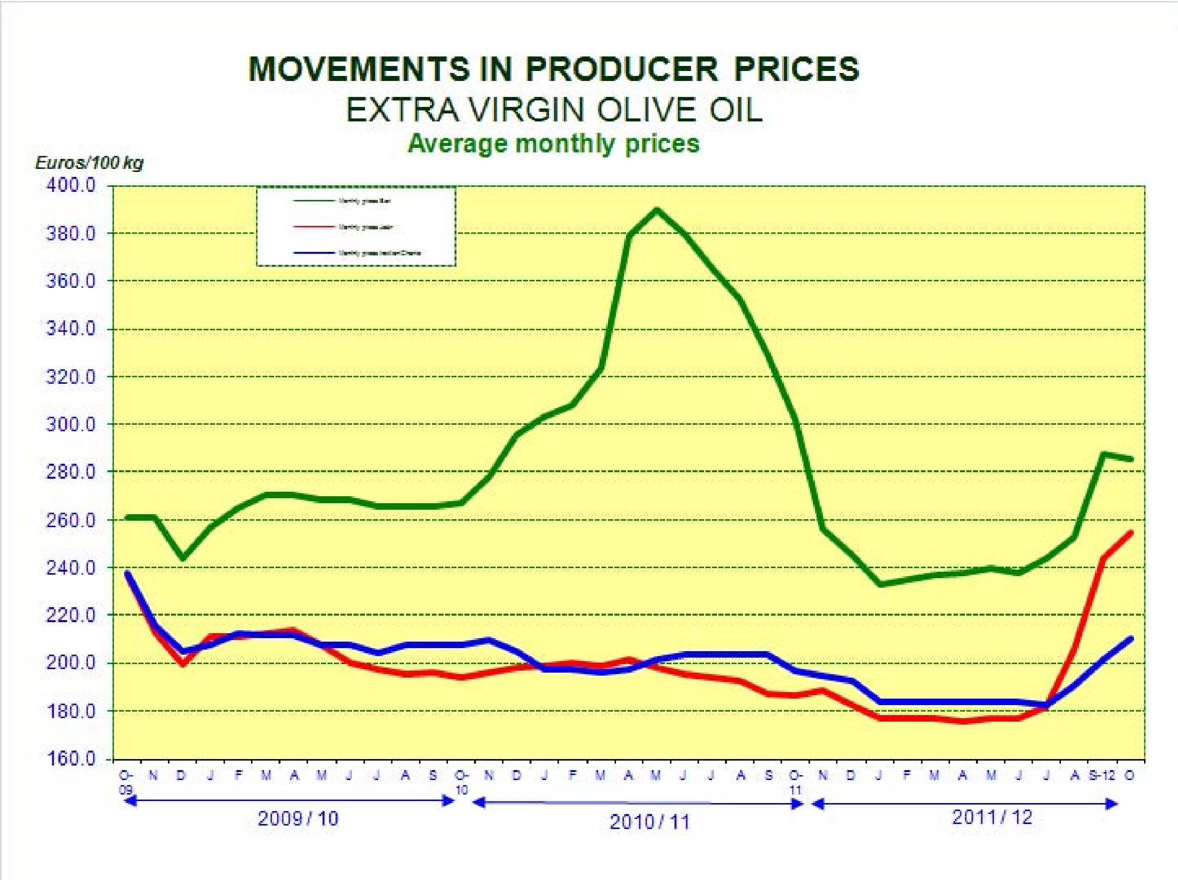
PRODUCER PRICES

Graphs 1 and 3 track the weekly movements in the prices paid to producers for extra virgin olive oil and refined olive oil in the top EU producing countries. The monthly price movements for the same two grades of oil are given in Graphs 2 and 4.

- **Extra virgin olive oil**: Compared with the same period a season earlier, prices started to rise sharply in **Spain** in late June, reaching €2.64/kg by the second last week of September. They then changed direction in the last week of October, falling to **€2.48/kg**. Even so, overall, they were +34% higher than a season earlier. It must also be remembered that prices have been very low in Spain through the last two crop years and that this increase brings them up to the level of March 2008. In **Italy**, producer prices lie at **€2.84 €/kg,** equating with a drop of -4% from the season before. However, they have reached this level after rising within the space of two months from €2.38/kg in the first week of August to €2.90/kg in the first week of October (see Graph 1). Over a period of three months producer prices in **Greece** have risen by +13% from €1.82/kg (late July) to €**2.21/kg** (last week of October 2012). While they have taken longer to materialise in Italy and Greece, these rises show the influence of prices in Spain, the world's foremost producer, despite the prospects of a good 2012/13 harvest in the first two countries, Greece particularly.



Graph 1



Graph 2

- Refined olive oil: Prices also started to climb sharply in Spain and Italy as of the last week of July to record +46% (€2.57/kg) and +40% (€2.55/kg) season-on-season growth (Graph 3). No data are available for Greece. The gap between the price of refined olive oil and extra virgin olive oil is currently around -€0.09/kg in Spain and €0.29/kg in Italy. By the end of the period, prices in Spain had reached the levels of Italy, probably reflecting the forecasts of a poor harvest in Spain.
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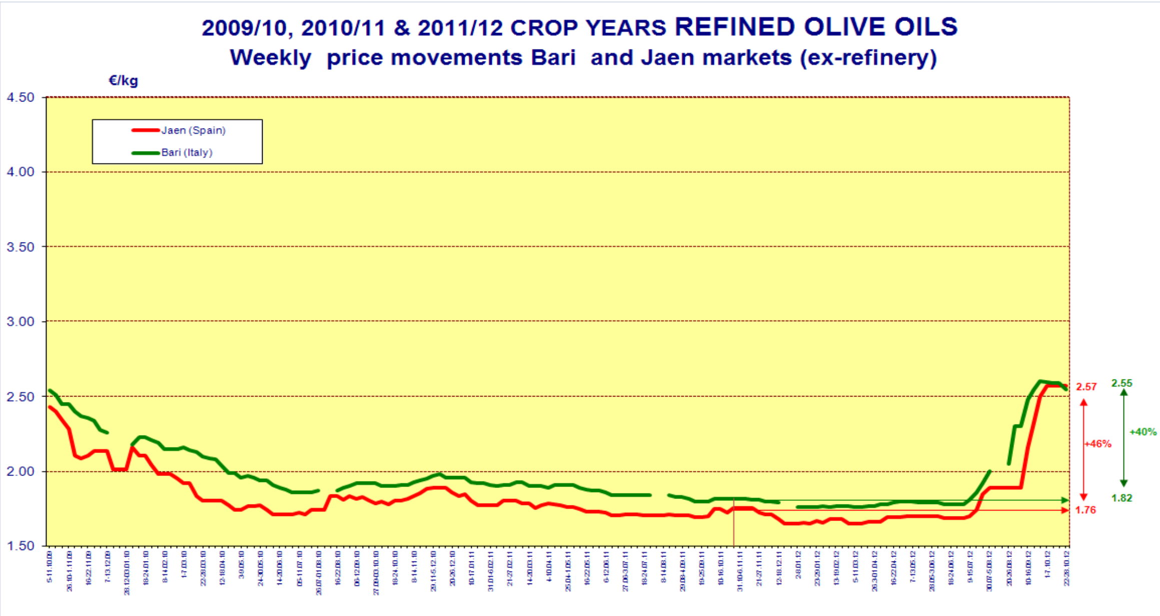
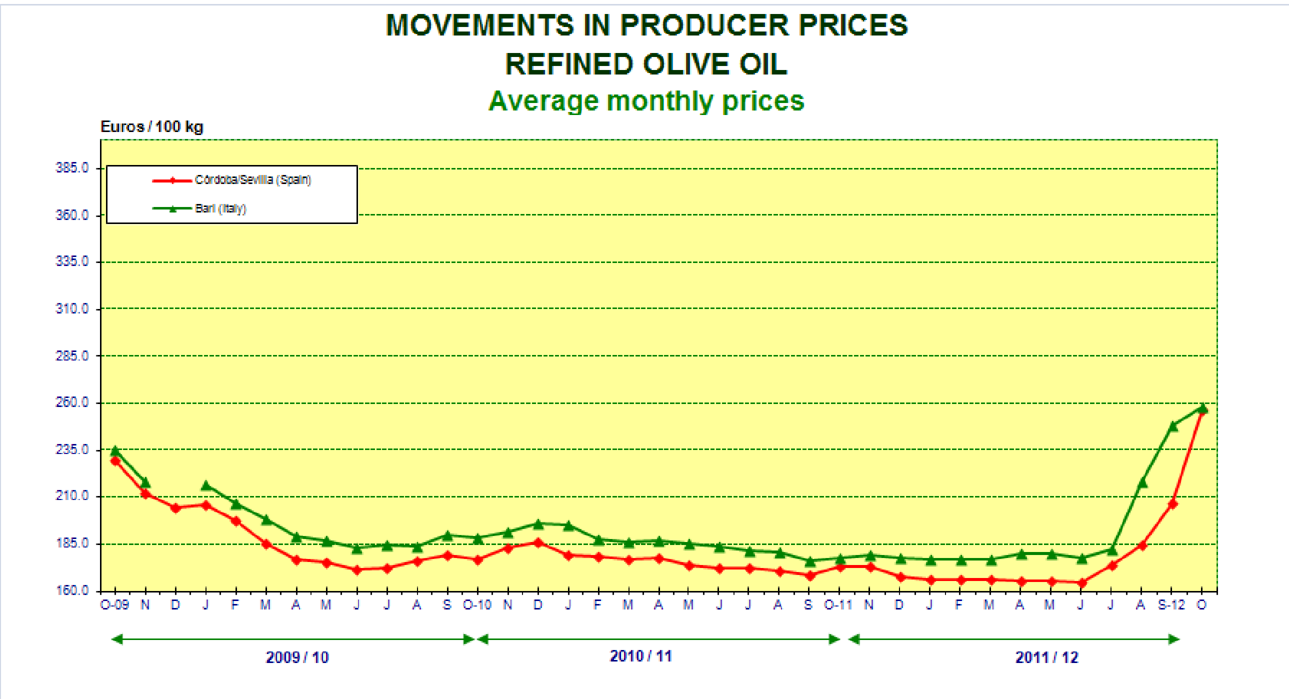


Graph 3



Graph 4