



## IN THIS ISSUE

**Madrid** - It's not long now before the start of the 111th session of the Council of Members. We're doing things a bit differently this year - the session will take place entirely online. In this issue of the IOC newsletter, you'll find articles on:

- The world olive oil and table olives sectors and the 111th session of the Council of Members
- New recruitments
- Vacancy notice: Secretariat of the Executive Director
- The trainee profile
- The IOC bookstore online: a little story of a big success
- Course for panel leaders in Madrid
- Chemistry and standardisation meetings and activities: quality strategy and working groups on Codex
- The last two consumer posts from OHIS
- Focus: Brazil imports and exports
- The international market of olive oil and table olives



## AN ONLINE SESSION: FROM MONDAY 29 JUNE



### Videoconferencing tests before the session

**Madrid** - It's not long now before the start of the 111th session of the Council of Members. The pandemic has led us to do things a bit differently this year - this year, the session will take place entirely online.

Despite the circumstances, the Executive Secretariat has been able to carry out its institutional and operational activities without interruption, and will continue as planned when things return to normal. This means the programmes approved by the Council of Members have all been respected.

The 111th session, meanwhile, will take place on Monday 29 June and Wednesday 1 July 2020. This year's session has been limited to the Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee meeting and the plenary session. A break in proceedings, on 30 June, will allow the Executive Secretariat to make any changes suggested by the Council of Members to the various Unit reports.

Discussions between delegations will take place online and the Executive Secretariat will manage the international platform for simultaneous interpretation from the headquarters building.

In the July issue of this newsletter, we will give you all the news from the 111th session and the outcomes of the two meetings.



## NEW ARRIVALS AT THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT



**Madrid** - The headquarters of the IOC is a great starting point for a career and we offer quality work experience that continues to attract new professionals from around the world.

Four new officials have recently been selected to join our ranks. Three are newly appointed and will be employed for various posts in the chemical, administrative, human resources and financial units. The fourth position, in the Chemistry and Standardisation Unit, has been filled by an official who was already with us and who has been chosen to take up a new role.

The following posts have been filled:

- **Head of Finance/Treasury Section**
- **Head of the Personnel Section**
- **Head of the Laboratory and Panel Management Section of the Standardisation and Research Unit**
- **Head of the Data Management Section of the Standardisation and Research Unit**

Congratulations and all the best to our new colleagues, **Pedro Guerrero Expósito**, **María Isabel Cerqueiro Rodríguez**, and **Ibtihel Khemakhem Ep Bouali**, and welcome back, **Rocío Villén Otero**.



### VACANCY NOTICE: ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE IOC

**Madrid** - A great opportunity for those who want to try their hand at an international competition: the Executive Secretariat is looking for someone to lead the Executive Director's Secretariat. The incumbent will have the following duties and responsibilities:

- Telephone-based secretarial services and maintaining contact records
- Managing the work agenda
- Writing correspondence
- Preparing and archiving records of meetings, interviews and missions
- Coordinating internal meetings and interviews
- Drafting meeting minutes (College of Senior Officials, Committees, ...)
- Following up on the Executive Director's decisions
- Supporting structures reporting directly to the Executive Director
- Managing internal and external mail:
  - Receipt and registration of external and internal mail
  - Receipt and registration of invoices
  - Organization and distribution of mail
  - Filing and archiving of mail
- Giving and following instructions
- Editing tracking tables



### REQUIREMENTS

- Citizenship of one of the member countries of the IOC
- Good health (the Executive Secretariat may require a medical examination)
- Education: Vocational or secondary education in secretarial or similar field
- Experience: Three years' experience in a similar field
- Languages: Good command of English or French (minimum B2) and good knowledge of at least one of the other official languages of the IOC (knowledge of Spanish and any other language would be an asset). Proficiency must be certified in writing or in a test conducted by the IOC.
- Other: A minimum of computer literacy: Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Knowledge of public administration.

The deadline is **30 June 2020** at midnight (Madrid time, Spain). Further information at: <https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/contracts-grants-vacancies/vacancies/>



### TRAINEE PROFILE AT THE IOC: SUPPORT FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

**Madrid** - And another great opportunity at the IOC: the Executive Secretariat is looking for a young graduate for a four-month, paid traineeship starting in September 2020. This is an opportunity to work in a multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-ethnic environment and put into practice everything you have learnt in your studies. As an intergovernmental commodity organisation and international forum for olive producing nations, the IOC strives to develop olive growing around the world. The profile and tasks of the post are outlined below:



#### CANDIDATES MUST:

- Be a citizen of one of the 17 Members of the IOC;
- Have a vocational training diploma or a secondary school leaving certificate and a two-year diploma in secretarial studies or similar. Owing to the nature of this traineeship, secretarial training will be rated more highly than any other type of training;
- Have a strong command of French or English;
- Have a strong command of at least one other official language of the IOC (Arabic, English, French, Italian and Spanish);
- Have excellent secretarial computer skills;
- Be in good health.

#### IT WILL BE CONSIDERED AN ASSET:

- To have a thorough knowledge of Spanish;
- To have some initial work experience.

The list of IOC member countries can be found at:

<http://www.internationaloliveoil.org/estaticos/view/103-list-of-iocmembers>.

#### TASKS

The main tasks of the trainee, under the supervision of the Executive Director's secretaries, will be:

- To compile and update lists (of session participants, event participants, etc.);
- To publish documents through the IOC platform;
- To write meeting minutes;
- To file documentation and correspondence;
- To update fact cards on the member countries and status of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives 2015;
- To register and file outgoing/incoming mail;

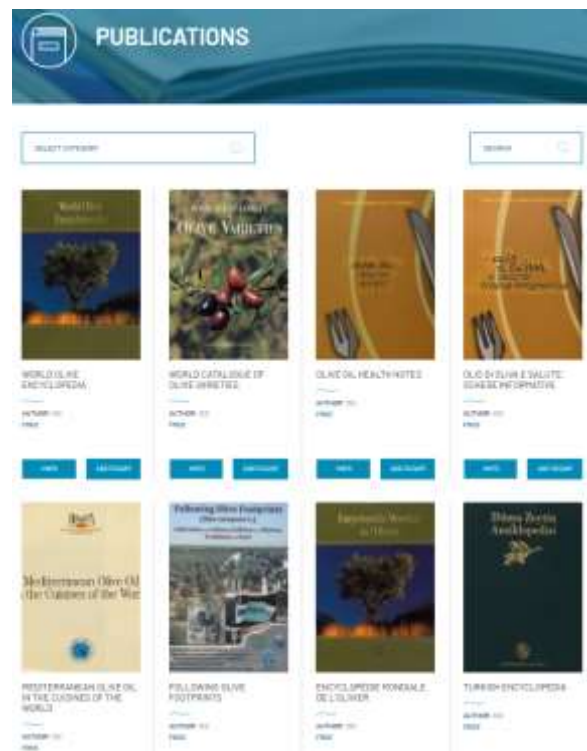


- To help with the preparation and holding of IOC sessions and meetings;
- To draft correspondence;
- To take telephone calls.

The scheduled starting date is September 2020. The deadline for applications **15 July 2020 at 23.00 (Madrid time)**. Further information can be found at this link: <https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/contracts-grants-vacancies/vacancies/>

## A LITTLE STORY OF A BIG SUCCESS: THE IOC DIGITAL LIBRARY FOR FREE

**Madrid** - Over the past few weeks, the Executive Secretariat has offered a new service on the IOC website that has drawn an increasingly wide audience.



The online library, available at <https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/publications/>, allows users to download the books edited by the IOC for free. There are about twenty publications, including various editions of OLIVAE, the annual IOC magazine, and they are given in various languages.

All the books available, except OLIVAE, can be found in the **DIGITAL EDITION** section of the publications tab at the link above. The decision to make these free of charge was approved by the College of Senior Officials following repeated suggestions from some of our member countries, in particular the European Union. After the summer break, all available books will have a summary detailing the contents of the book for those who want to know a little bit more about the publication before they download it.

In the first month of this service, over **1 200** books were downloaded free of charge. The newsletter currently has **10 090** contacts and **9 851** subscribers; **52** new users have signed up in the first half of June 2020. These figures highlight the hard work we have done to engage more with our website's users and readers.



## COURSE FOR PANEL LEADERS IN MADRID



**Madrid** - The Technology and Environment Unit have had to make some adjustments to their activities thanks to the covid-19 pandemic.

The international course on the sensory analysis of virgin olive oils for future tasting panel leaders has been scheduled for 21-25 September 2020 at IOC headquarters in Madrid. This course is designed to meet the need for technical agents with the skills to lead olive oil tasting panels. According to the IOC method for the organoleptic assessment of virgin olive oil (COI/T.20/Doc. No 15/Rev. 8):

‘The panel leader must be a suitably trained person with an expert knowledge of the kinds of oils which he or she will come across in the course of their work. They are the key figure in the panel and responsible for its organisation and running. The work of the panel leader calls for basic training in the tools of sensory analysis, sensory skill, meticulousness in the preparation, organisation and performance of the tests and skill and patience to plan and execute the tests in a scientific manner.’

The Executive Secretariat invited members who believe they are in a position to lead one or more olive oil tasting panels to nominate, by 10 July 2020, two future panel leaders or deputy panel leaders to participate in the course.

Members were informed that candidates must already be directly involved in the sensory analysis of virgin olive oil.



## MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

**Madrid** - Despite the state of emergency due to the outbreak of covid-19, the Standardisation and Research Unit has continued its activities via videoconferences and electronic working groups. It has also organised trials and planned a number of activities for the second half of the year.

A meeting of experts on organoleptic assessment is scheduled for 16-17 September 2020 at IOC headquarters in Madrid. At the meeting, the electronic working groups will present their progress and the experts will analyse the conclusion of the inter-comparison tests for panel recognition for the period 2020-2021.

The Unit has also planned various meetings the following month, including on the quality strategy (5 October); the IOC expert group on olive oil composition and varietal identification (6 October); and the expert chemists (7-8 October) as well as the technical commission on physico-chemical analysis laboratories.



## QUALITY STRATEGY

**Madrid** - On 5 October 2020, a meeting will be held on the strategy for olive oil quality. In attendance will be some 20 experts who are specialised in the field and have vast experience in the relevant technology and standardisation. Together, they will begin the review of the annex of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 2015, which is in force until 2024.

## REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS ON CODEX

**Madrid** - In 2019, the IOC set up five electronic working groups to study topics that had not reached consensus in the revision of the Codex standard. These groups were made up of experts from various countries whose work was also reviewed by the IOC experts in physico-chemical analysis and/or organoleptic assessment from around the world.



The reports of each group focused on a particular topic, including fatty acids, the current category of virgin olive oil, ethyl esters, PPPs & DAGs, and the Codex proposal to set the limit for the median defect to 3.





INTERNATIONAL  
OLIVE  
COUNCIL



Universidad  
de Navarra  
School of Medicine



## SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION SYSTEM ON OLIVE OIL AND HEALTH (OHIS)

Madrid - The new informative platform set up by the IOC in collaboration with the University of Navarra is now live on the IOC website <https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/>

For lovers of the Mediterranean diet, here are the latest posts:

<https://meddietolivehealth.com/lentil-hummus-with-homemade-whole-wheat-pita-chips/>

<https://meddietolivehealth.com/hake-in-green-sauce-with-couscous-salad/>



Available online  
**FREE OF CHARGE** on IOC WEBSITE:

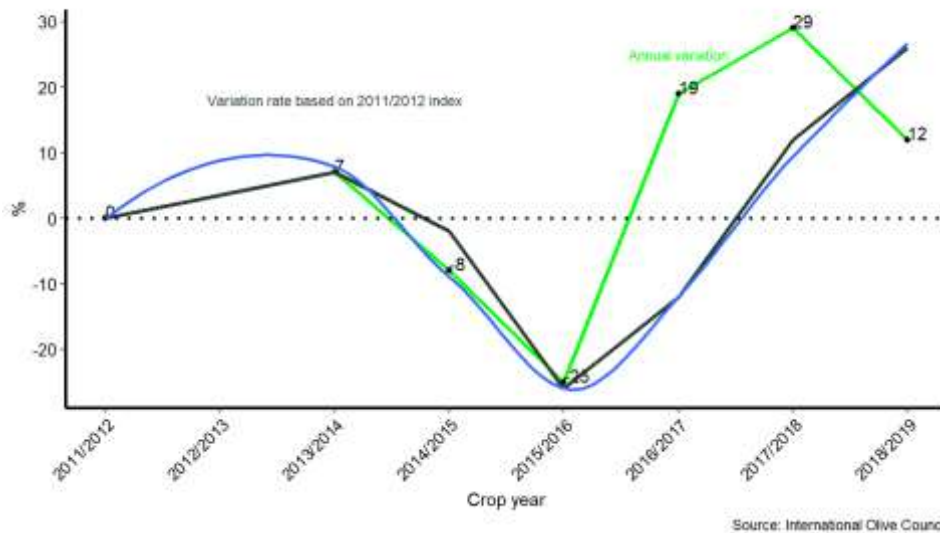
<https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/publications/>



## FOCUS BRAZIL

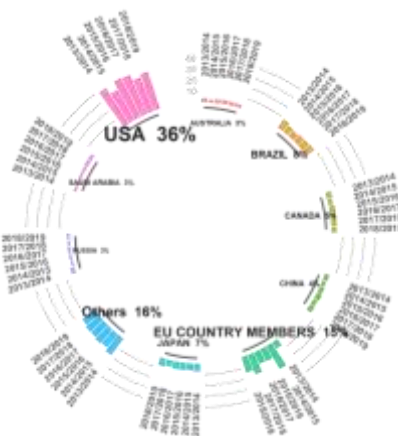
### IMPORTS OF OLIVE OIL

Imports rebounded, reaching the highest figures on record. Imports of virgin olive oil and olive oil in Brazil grew by 12% in the 2018/19 crop year, reaching 86 089 t.



### 1. Olive oil and olive pomace oil

Brazil contributes around 8% to world imports of olive oil, placing it third behind the United States (36%) and the European Union (15%). Together, these three countries import 59% of the total volume, and the remaining countries import below 8%.



Graph I - Olive oil and olive-pomace oil, percentage of world imports (average 6 crop years)

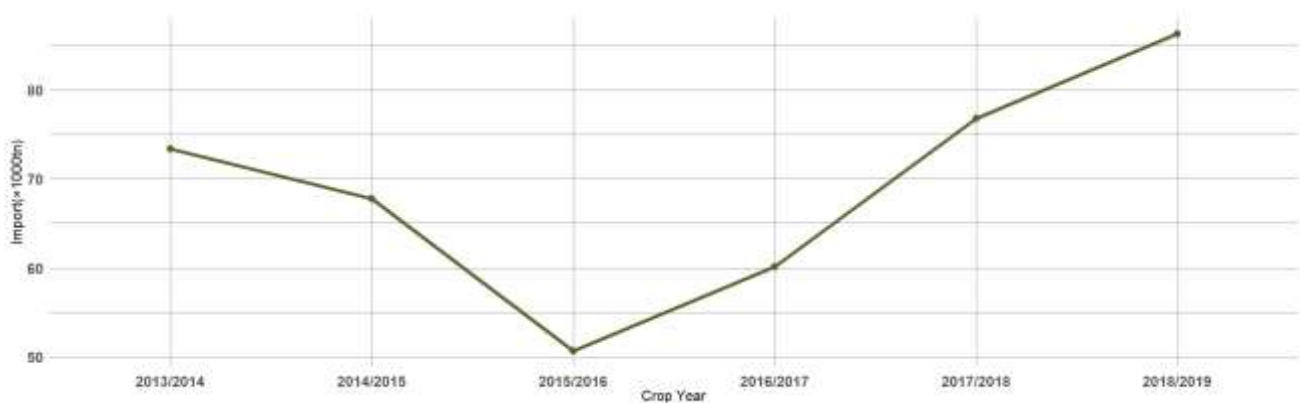


Imports of olive oil and olive-pomace oil into Brazil increased by 12.4% in the last crop year. The olive oil market in Brazil has seen strong growth since the 2015/16 crop year, when imports reached their lowest at 50 649 t, or 31% less than the 2013/14 crop year. This fall was due to the economic crisis and the devaluation of the Brazilian currency. In the most recent crop year, imports reached 86 362 t, 70.5% more than in 2015/16.

Table I shows changes in imports over the last six crop years. Portugal and Spain were the two main suppliers to Brazil, with increases of 23.3% and 6.2% respectively, accounting for 79.7% of total imports. The rest of the countries fall below 8%.

|              | 2013/2014    | 2014/2015    | 2015/2016    | 2016/2017    | 2017/2018    | 2018/2019    | %Variation Rates |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| PORTUGAL     | 43073        | 40915        | 29034        | 34209        | 45184        | 55721        | ↑ 23.3           |
| SPAIN        | 15051        | 13754        | 9471         | 12226        | 12382        | 13150        | ↑ 6.2            |
| ARGENTINA    | 6654         | 5358         | 5208         | 5379         | 7594         | 6293         | ↓ -17.1          |
| CHILE        | 3470         | 2707         | 3070         | 3670         | 5654         | 5164         | ↓ -8.7           |
| ITALY        | 4334         | 4087         | 3075         | 3800         | 4250         | 4141         | ↓ -2.6           |
| TUNISIA      | 11           | 275          | 320          | 402          | 951          | 1269         | ↑ 33.4           |
| GREECE       | 428          | 347          | 435          | 309          | 635          | 360          | ↓ -43.3          |
| TURKEY       | 163          | 152          | 7            | 71           | 126          | 197          | ↑ 56.6           |
| Others       | 198          | 183          | 30           | 74           | 41           | 67           | ↑ 64.9           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>73382</b> | <b>67778</b> | <b>50649</b> | <b>60140</b> | <b>76817</b> | <b>86362</b> | <b>↑ 12.4</b>    |

Table I - Olive oil and olive-pomace oil imports by country of origin (2013/14 – 2018/19) (t)



Graph II – Changes in imports 2013/14 – 2018/19 (x1000 t)

By origin, 85% of the total came from European Union countries in the 2018/19 crop year, with Portugal in the lead (64.5%), followed by Spain (15.2%). The remaining countries fall below 8%.

As for category, 86.5% of total imports were under code 15.09.10 (virgin olive oils), followed by imports under 15.09.90 (olive oils) with 13.2% and the remaining 0.3% under 15.10.00 (olive-pomace oils).

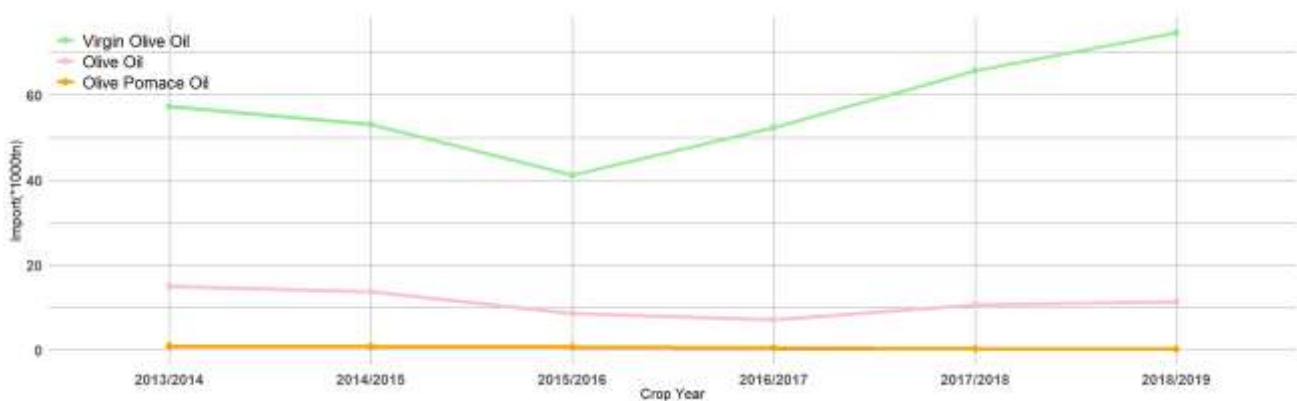


| Country          | OLIVE OIL               |                  | OLIVE POMACE OIL        | TOTAL        |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
|                  | 150910 VIRGIN OLIVE OIL | 150990 OLIVE OIL | 151000 OLIVE POMACE OIL |              |
| <b>PORTUGAL</b>  | 46105                   | 9576             | 40                      | 55721        |
| <b>SPAIN</b>     | 12574                   | 455              | 121                     | 13150        |
| <b>ARGENTINA</b> | 5326                    | 967              | 0                       | 6293         |
| <b>CHILE</b>     | 5164                    | 0                | 0                       | 5164         |
| <b>ITALY</b>     | 3994                    | 34               | 113                     | 4141         |
| <b>TUNISIA</b>   | 961                     | 308              | 0                       | 1269         |
| <b>GREECE</b>    | 360                     | 0                | 0                       | 360          |
| <b>TURKEY</b>    | 197                     | 0                | 0                       | 197          |
| <b>OTHERS</b>    | 41                      | 26               | 0                       | 67           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>74722</b>            | <b>11367</b>     | <b>273</b>              | <b>86362</b> |

\* Source: Own elaboration based on Ministerio do Desenvolvimento, Industria e Comercio Exterior, Brasil

Table II – Distribution of imports by product type and country (2018/2019) (t)

The last crop year has seen a positive trend in imports of virgin olive oil: the volume of imports rose by 81.3% if we compare the 2018/2019 crop year with the 2015/2016 crop year, when they represented 81.4% of total imports.



Graph III – Changes in imports by product type 2013/14 – 2018/19 (x1000 t)



Olive oil imports to Brazil, 2018/19 crop year



Source: IOC own elaboration based on Ministero di Desenvolvimento, Industria e Comercio Exterior, Brasil



## THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET

(Source : Economy and Promotion Unit)

### I. WORLD TRADE IN OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES

#### 1. OLIVE OIL – 2019/20 CROP YEAR

The table below shows the trade of olive oil and olive-pomace oil in the top eight markets in the first six months of the current crop year (October 2019 – March 2020). Imports rose in Brazil (23%), Canada (13%), Russia (13%), China (10%)<sup>1</sup> and Japan (8%). They fell in Australia (3%) and the United States (1%) compared to the same period the previous crop year.

In the first five months of the current crop year (2019/20), intra-EU acquisitions grew by 13% and extra-EU imports fell by 3% compared to the same period the previous crop year<sup>2</sup>.

| No | Importing country | October 18      | October 19      | November 18     | November 19     | December 18     | December 19     | January 19      | January 20      | February 19     | February 20     | March 19        | March 20       |
|----|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1  | Australia         | 3343,7          | 2275,4          | 3378,8          | 2471,8          | 1894,3          | 2443,6          | 2363,8          | 3130,2          | 2208,5          | 2375,6          | 2548,4          | 2633,4         |
| 2  | Brazil            | 8245,6          | 8334,3          | 8467,6          | 10999,9         | 6310,5          | 7845,2          | 6515,5          | 8938,4          | 8022,5          | 8860,8          | 8848,9          | 11911,3        |
| 3  | Canada            | 4663,2          | 4516,1          | 4028,9          | 4001,1          | 4217,5          | 4182,1          | 3245,9          | 4104,4          | 2778,9          | 3222,5          | 4017,0          | 5877,1         |
| 4  | China             | 2495,9          | 3203,8          | 4405,4          | 6565,4          | 4740,2          | 6586,4          | 7115,2          | 3542,4          | 1520,3          | 3542,4          | 3598,7          | 2780,2         |
| 5  | Japan             | 5142,4          | 4963,1          | 5893,7          | 5298,7          | 4610,2          | 7189,2          | 5594,4          | 4643,6          | 4489,0          | 5125,7          | 5398,7          | 6332,9         |
| 6  | Russia            | 3058,9          | 3411,8          | 2291,4          | 2628,9          | 2836,1          | 2904,4          | 1420,6          | 1593,7          | 2177,9          | 2122,7          | 1970,7          | 2935,8         |
| 7  | USA               | 34986,8         | 33224,7         | 26394,3         | 22626,7         | 30983,4         | 27204,7         | 24753,6         | 23870,3         | 26292,8         | 29002,5         | 25869,5         | 32358,3        |
|    | Extra-EU/28       | 12787,9         | 13189,7         | 14892,6         | 11496,3         | 19103,1         | 17621,2         | 14229,4         | 14532,4         | 19875,5         | 21666,8         | 18327,4         | n.d            |
| 8  | Intra-EU/28       | 89163,6         | 107857,4        | 91148,2         | 103359,5        | 102335,2        | 118839,5        | 94954,1         | 102450,5        | 98532,5         | 105366,4        | 99815,8         | n.d            |
|    | <b>Total</b>      | <b>163888,0</b> | <b>180976,3</b> | <b>160900,9</b> | <b>169448,3</b> | <b>177030,5</b> | <b>194816,3</b> | <b>160192,6</b> | <b>166805,9</b> | <b>165897,8</b> | <b>181285,4</b> | <b>170395,0</b> | <b>64829,1</b> |

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

#### 2. TABLE OLIVES – 2019/20 CROP YEAR

The table below shows trade in table olives in the first seven months of the 2019/20 crop year (September 2019 – March 2020)<sup>3</sup>. It points to an increase of 10% in Brazil, 8% in Canada and 3% in the United States. However, trade fell by 14% in Australia compared to the same period the previous crop year.

In the first six months of the 2019/20 crop year (September 2019 – February 2020), intra-EU acquisitions grew by 4% and extra-EU fell by 2% compared to the same period the previous crop year<sup>4</sup>.

| No | Importing country | September 18   | September 19   | October 18     | October 19     | November 18    | November 19    | December 18    | December 19    | January 19     | January 20     | February 19    | February 20    | March 19       | March 20       |
|----|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1  | Australia         | 1598,5         | 1177,7         | 1462,9         | 1187,7         | 1997,5         | 1606,4         | 1232,9         | 1315,2         | 1427,8         | 1488,0         | 1233,8         | 1164,9         | 1848,5         | 1313,1         |
| 2  | Brazil            | 9521,8         | 9869,7         | 12056,6        | 12570,2        | 12807,1        | 13466,6        | 9626,1         | 11834,1        | 7349,8         | 9248,7         | 9384,3         | 9559,4         | 8535,6         | 9705,8         |
| 3  | Canada            | 2702,7         | 2310,2         | 2641,3         | 2934,7         | 2848,2         | 2863,4         | 2403,5         | 3192,4         | 2326,4         | 2594,0         | 2112,2         | 2050,4         | 2695,6         | 3172,0         |
| 4  | USA               | 9902,5         | 14549,7        | 11907,0        | 14945,7        | 13040,2        | 13593,2        | 11242,6        | 11738,4        | 12164,6        | 10062,5        | 9854,0         | 9311,0         | 15965,2        | 12787,5        |
| 5  | Extra-EU/28       | 6523,2         | 7232,8         | 8807,6         | 8514,3         | 9501,1         | 9282,0         | 8713,5         | 9596,4         | 10517,6        | 9440,1         | 9519,6         | 8643,9         | 11044,0        | n.d            |
|    | Intra-EU/28       | 29234,7        | 26860,7        | 31315,6        | 40385,0        | 34606,4        | 33707,0        | 29204,6        | 28889,4        | 23680,6        | 25657,6        | 25012,7        | 25211,3        | 27382,2        | n.d            |
|    | <b>Total</b>      | <b>59483,4</b> | <b>62000,9</b> | <b>68191,0</b> | <b>80537,5</b> | <b>74800,5</b> | <b>74518,7</b> | <b>62423,2</b> | <b>66565,9</b> | <b>57466,9</b> | <b>58491,0</b> | <b>57116,4</b> | <b>55940,8</b> | <b>67471,2</b> | <b>26978,5</b> |

Table olive import (t)

<sup>1</sup> The data on imports from China has been calculated for January and February using the average for both.

<sup>2</sup> EU data were not available for March 2020 when this newsletter went to print.

<sup>3</sup> According to the new provisions of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 2015, which came into force on 1 January 2017, 'table olive crop year' means the period of twelve months from 1 September of one year to 31 August of the next.

<sup>4</sup> EU data were not available for March 2020 when this newsletter went to print.



## II. PRODUCER PRICES – OLIVE OILS

Monthly price movements for extra virgin and refined olive oil are shown in graphs 1 and 2.

**Extra virgin olive oil – Producer prices in Spain** in the third week of May 2020 stood at €2.00/kg, a 12% fall compared to the previous crop year.

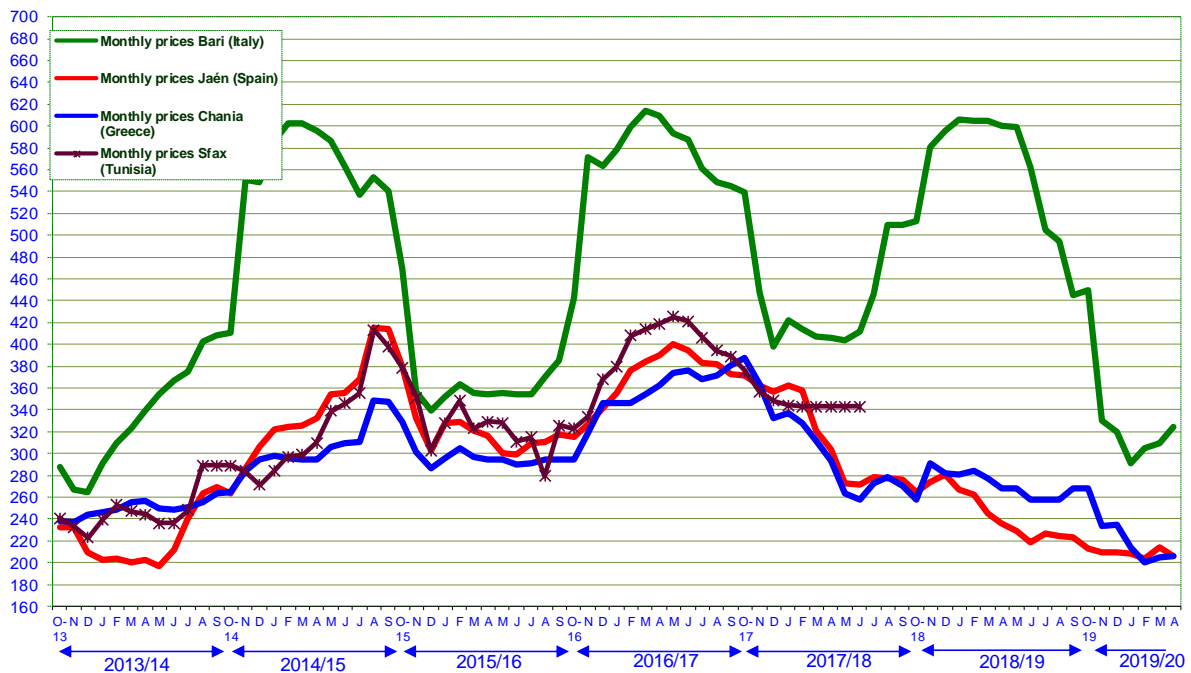
**Italy** – Prices in Italy in the third week of May 2020 stood at €3.40/kg, a 44% fall compared to the previous crop year.

**Greece** – Prices in Greece in the third week of May 2020 stand at €2.00/kg, a 25% fall compared to the previous crop year.

**Tunisia** – Prices in Tunisia remained stable in the last weeks of June 2018, at €3.43/kg, an 18% fall compared to the previous crop year.

### MOVEMENTS IN PRODUCER PRICES EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL Average monthly prices

Euros/100 kg

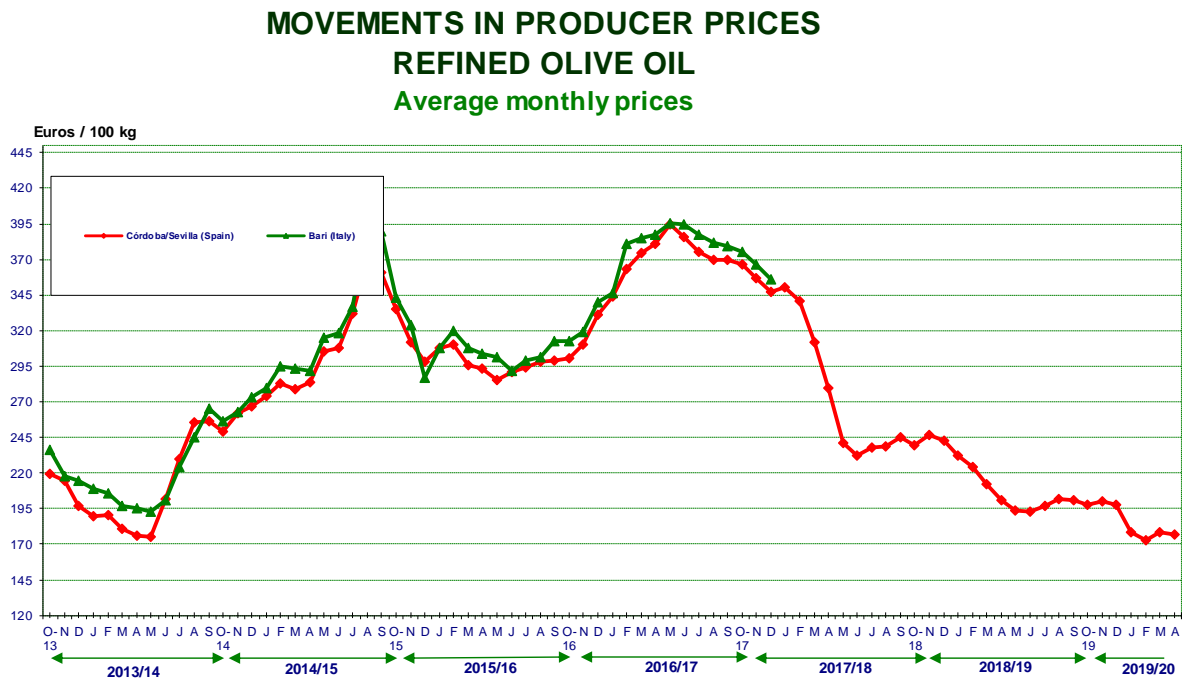




Graph 1

**Refined olive oil:** Producer prices in Spain stood at €1.67/kg in the third week of May, which indicates a fall of 15% compared to the same period the previous crop year. Data for Italy in this category are not available since the end of December 2017 when they had increased by 4% to €3.56/kg.

In the third week of May 2020, the difference between the price of extra virgin olive oil (€2.00/kg) and refined olive oil (€1.67/kg) in Spain was €0.33/kg. In Italy, the difference was €0.43/kg in December 2017 (Graph 3).



Graph 2





## STAY TUNED!

<http://www.internationaloliveoil.org>

Keep up with the olive sector through Olive News:

<http://www.scoop.it/t/olive-news>

and the goings-on at the IOC:

<http://www.linkedin.com/company/international-olivecouncil>

Our scientific journal Olivæ is available at:

<http://www.internationaloliveoil.org/store/index/48-olivæ-publications>



■ The IOC's headquarters on Calle Principe de Vergara 154 in Madrid