



Madrid IOC Headquarters June29 - July 1, 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Madrid - The 111th session of the Council of Members: we did things a bit differently this year - with restrictions on movement still in place due to the outbreak of covid-19, the session took place entirely online.

In this issue of the IOC newsletter, you'll find articles on:

- The 111th session on videoconference
- Important decisions taken by the Council
- Vacancy notices
- PhD traineeship Technical Unit
- Chemistry traineeship
- The new Sendingblue for bulk email sending
- Sovereign Orden of Malta
- Focus on table olives imports
- The international market of olive oil and table olives



CONCLUSIONS OF THE VIRTUAL SESSION

The operational units will be very busy this month making budget commitments to secure the activities approved by the Council of Members

Madrid - A great outcome for the IOC at the 111th session of the Council of Members. On last July 1st, at the plenary session, members unanimously approved the amendments to the 2020 budget and several other highly important decisions. Some decisions were postponed for adoption by written procedure and others to the next session in November in order to comply with internal procedures. We will provide a more detailed account of the meetings in the coming weeks.

And now for implementation, which will commit the Executive Secretariat until November. Operational units will be very busy this month allocating the budget to secure the activities approved by the Council of Members. As soon as the new dates are confirmed, we will publish the updated agenda on the website detailing the activities to start in September.



IMPORTANT DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Madrid - At the 111th session of the Council of Members, several draft decisions were approved by the Council. A substantial part of the decisions concern the administrative section and activities related to the chemistry and technical Units.

The latter are detailed below:

TECHNICAL UNIT

Agreement SupAgro Montpellier-COI

The IOC and the SupAgro Institute/UMR AGAP Montpellier have been working on olive genetic resources together for several years, including by providing expertise on the project to establish the world collection in Izmir and assisting in the genetic characterisation of the world collections in Marrakech and Cordoba.

Most recently, the Technical Unit worked with the institute to set up a project to study the adaptation of olive trees to climate change and the resilience of olive growing, both in the cropping systems and markets, in the context of global change. The project was entitled "Diversity of varieties, cropping systems and oil markets as an asset of Mediterranean olive growing in the context of global change".

To strengthen relations and help implement the project, a collaboration agreement between the two institutions on the genetic, phenotypic and agronomic characterisation of olive genetic resources was approved by the Council during its 111th session.



AGREEMENT IOC-FAO

A second collaborative agreement was approved by the Council during the 111th session, this time between the IOC and the FAO.

The key terms of this agreement are the joint planning, organising and coordinating of technical and training activities in the olive sector, in particular on topics related to olive diseases, *Xylella*

fastidiosa and verticilliosis, phytosanitary issues, sharing knowledge and data, developing the olive oil value chain and promoting olive product quality.



CHEMISTRY UNIT

Decisions adopted at the 111th meeting of the Council of Members and decisions to be consulted by written procedure

- Decision No. DEC-III.1/111-VI/2020, adopting the guide on the conformity of an olive oil or olive-pomace oil to the declared commercial category to certify the product's compliance with the regulations in force. This guide includes recommendations for ensuring legal certainty.
- Decision No. DEC-III.2/111-VI/2020, adopting the revision of the organoleptic assessment method for virgin olive oils for the following documents:
 - ✓ The revision of COI/T.20/ Doc. No. 14, the guide for selecting, training and monitoring qualified virgin olive oil tasters, to harmonise it with COI/T.28/Doc. No. 1.
 - ✓ The revision of COI/T.20/Doc. No. 5, on the sensory analysis of olive oil, to review the method for cleaning the standard tasting glass.
- Decision No. DEC-III.3/111-VI/2020, adopting the method for determining the composition and content of sterols and alcoholic composites by capillary gas chromatography, to review its accuracy.
- Decision No. DEC-III.4/111-VI/2020 on the revision of the trade standard for olive oils and olive-pomace oils COI/T.15 /NC No. 3/Rev.15, including the proposal for the decision tree for Δ^7 -stigmastenol applicable to refined olive oils and oils composed of refined olive oils and virgin olive oils.

These documents can all be found on our website at the following link:

<https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/what-we-do/chemistry-standardisation-unit/standards-and-methods/>

A further decision has been taken urgently by written procedure because of the pandemic:

- Decision No. DEC-III.6/111-VI/2020 to adopt the guidelines for managing tasting panels for the organoleptic assessment of virgin olive oils to follow the method in force during a pandemic.



PANEL: NEW PANDEMIC REGULATIONS

Approved by written procedure. The EU gave its approval but requested it be reviewed in the future.



Madrid - At its 111th meeting, the Council decided to adopt an important decision by written procedure. Article 10(6) of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives 2015 states “The Council of Members may take decisions by an exchange of correspondence between the Chair and the members without holding a session, provided that no member, excluding those members in arrears, objects to this procedure”.

The decision concerns the guidelines for managing an olive oil tasting panel in the event of a pandemic. In particular, the EU notified the Executive Secretariat of its support for this draft decision and requested it be reviewed at a later date.

The measure, attached hereto, was approved on 17 July 2020.

DECISION No. DEC-III.1/112-VI /2020 ADOPTING GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF VIRGIN OLIVE OIL TASTING PANELS IN CASE OF PANDEMIC.

Decision and guidelines (EN):

https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/DEC-GUIDELINES-FOR-ORGANOLEPTIC-ASSESSMENT-DURING-PANDEMIC_ENK.pdf

https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Guidelines_MPP_ENK_22062020.pdf



RECRUITMENT



VACANCY NOTICE REF.: COI AV-8/20

Assistant to the Executive Director (Section)

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

Under the supervision of the Executive Director, the incumbent will be responsible for the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Secretariat of the Executive Director: } Manage the Executive Director's phone calls and contact list } Convene internal meetings, coordinate appointments and manage the Executive Director's agenda } Prepare draft correspondence from the Executive Director } Prepare draft minutes of meetings chaired by the Executive Director } Follow up on the instructions of the Executive Director } Manage the files of mission meetings and the various activities of the Executive Director } Administer mail received to the official email address of the IOC } Provide support to the team reporting directly to the Executive Director



2. Secretariat of the College of Senior Officials: } Prepare draft minutes of meetings of the College of Senior Officials } Follow up on the instructions of the College of Senior Officials } Manage the register of decisions of the College of Senior Officials
-3Príncipe de Vergara, 154 28002 Madrid (Spain) iooc@internationaloliveoil.org
Tel: +34-91 590 36 38 Fax: +34-91 563 12 63
3. Supervision and interim: } Supervise the activities of mail registry and inventory management } Cover the Head of the Department of External Relations and Permanent Secretariat of the Council of Members.
 - For further information please see the documents in EN and FR as follows:
 - [Vacancy notice AV8 ENG](#)
 - [APPLICATION FORM EN](#)

APPLY FOR AN IOC TRAINEESHIP IN 2020

A great opportunity for young graduates

The deadline to send in applications for the latest round of traineeships at the IOC is 30 August 2020. The scheduled start date is 1 October 2020. The notice for the following traineeship was published on the IOC website on 13 July:

- Support for the Chemistry and Standardisation Unit

This traineeship is a great opportunity for young graduates to work in a multi-cultural, multi-lingual, and multi-ethnic environment and put into practice what they have learned during their studies.

For further information please go to the Vacancies section under “Work With Us” on the IOC web site or click on the link below.

- [ST5-20 Support CHEM trainee ENG](#)
- [2020 APPLICATION FORM TRAINEES ENG](#)
- [2020 TRAINEESHIP RULES eng](#)





EXPERT MEETING ON ORGANOLEPTIC ASSESSMENT SEPTEMBER 2020

7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	1	2

Madrid - A meeting for the experts on organoleptic assessment is scheduled for 16 and 17 September 2020 at IOC headquarters in Madrid. The meeting will focus on the progress of the electronic working groups and the conclusions of the inter-comparison test for panel recognition for the period 2020-2021, alongside other key topics. Given the pandemic, experts will have the choice of attending in person or via videoconference with interpretation.

IOC PHD SCHOLARSHIPS

The deadline for applications is 2 September 2020



As part of its technical cooperation and training programme for 2020, the IOC plans to award four scholarships for PhD students from IOC member countries.

The objective of these scholarships is to encourage the transfer of technology and the sharing of information, experience and research among member countries in the fields of olive growing and olive oil technology, and standardisation and research.

The maximum duration of the PhD is four years. The subject of the doctoral thesis must be related to the objectives of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives 2015 (<https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/about-ioc/mission-basic-text/>).

For further information please consult the note published below



The thesis may cover the following topics:

1. Standardisation and research:
 - Nutritional properties of olive oils and table olives
 - Standardisation of olive oils and table olives
 - New methods related to physico-chemical and organoleptic characteristics
2. Olive growing, olive oil technology and technical cooperation:
 - Identification, preservation and utilisation of the genetic resources of the olive tree
 - Interaction between olive growing and the environment
 - Olive growing and climate change
3. The promotion of olive products, the dissemination of information and the olive economy:
 - Analysis of international trade in olive oil
 - Economic study on olive oil and table olives
 - Analysis of indicators for monitoring olive product markets

Priority will be given to candidates who conduct research on the olive sector and/or leaders of projects related to the objectives of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives 2015.

Applicants must have been accepted for a PhD in a university with a department dedicated to olive cultivation or olive oil technology or offering olive studies and/or specific studies on the olive sector.

Research conducted in collaboration with various institutions, including those based in the applicant's country of origin, is strongly encouraged.

As mentioned above, the thesis must entail research on subjects related to the olive sector and the thesis supervisor must be a specialist in the olive sector.

Applicants must hold a degree preferably in one of the following fields: chemistry, chemical engineering, food science and technology, biology, agronomy or olive studies, economics or equivalent, and have a Master's degree with honours, preferably in the field of olive cultivation.

Priority will be given to candidates under 40 years of age.

Candidates must also have a good knowledge of English, since candidates will be required to write scientific articles in English over the course of their studies. The minimum level required is B1, which must be supported by a certificate.

The IOC will cover the students' registration fees and will pay a monthly stipend (board and lodging) adjusted to the cost of living in the country concerned. The IOC will also pay travel expenses, if any, at the beginning and end of the PhD.

The deadline for applications to reach the Executive Secretariat is **2 September 2020**. Applications should be sent to iooc@internationaloliveoil.org.

Applications must be accompanied by the duly completed university PhD pre-



registration form completed in one of the two working languages of the IOC (English or

French), an official document giving details of the PhD programme (bibliography, objectives, research plan and method) and a CV with at least the following information:

1. Full name (first and last name)
2. Full address including city, postcode and country of residence
3. Telephone number (preferably mobile and landline)
4. Email (personal and professional)
5. Tax identification number and passport number
6. Date of birth
7. Nationality
8. Area of specialty
9. Current post: research centre: company/institution, position, responsibilities, etc.
10. Previous post: research experience: company/institution, positions, responsibilities, etc.
11. Qualifications: diploma/training, university/institute, date, etc.
12. Language skills

Candidates must enclose a photocopy of their passport and proof of diplomas and Master's qualifications.

Participants must devote themselves exclusively to the PhD and may not engage in any other professional activity during the period of study.

The Executive Secretariat may request additional information on candidates.

This invitation does not imply any obligation on the part of the IOC to select nominated candidates.

In principle, the programme will start in October 2020, unless restrictions due to the pandemic require a postponement.

SENDINGBLU HELPS THE IOC SEND EMAILS

Madrid - In July 2020, the Executive Secretariat began using a new email system called Sendingblu that will hopefully eliminate disruptions to mass emails for our readers, users and member countries.

For Sendingblue, the delivery rate is highly important. That is why we have developed one of the most efficient activation processes, combining artificial intelligence with our operator checks. This will give us a better delivery rate for our outgoing correspondence, and prevent messages being sent to your spam folder.

We hope to have added another piece in the mosaic of services we are building for our users.



IOC DONATION TO THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA



Madrid - The Executive Director has donated some sample olive oils to the Foundation of the Order of Malta in Spain to be used in the Order's kitchens to care for the homeless and people pushed to society's fringes.

This institution is of particular interest to the IOC and we make this contribution at a time where many are in need of support while we weather the pandemic. The Order of Malta in Spain currently provides more than 800 meals a day, 7 days a week.

Pictured with their protective masks, from left to right: Ingrid Garcia Reyes, Internal Controller; Abdellatif Ghedira, Executive Director; Miguel Quijano, Delegate of the Order of Malta in Spain; Mercedes Fernandez, Head of the Chemistry and Standardisation Unit; and Eduardo Muela, Head of the Legal Department.

The Sovereign Order of Malta was created in 1113 and is subject to international law. It has diplomatic relations with over 100 states and the European Union, and is a permanent observer at the United Nations. Today, the Order of Malta is active in 120 countries and cares for people in need through its medical, social and humanitarian projects.



FOCUS: IMPORTS OF TABLE OLIVES



The main importers of table olives were the United States (23%), Brazil (17%) and the European Union (16%). Together, these three markets account for 56% of world imports. The remaining importer countries represent below 6%.

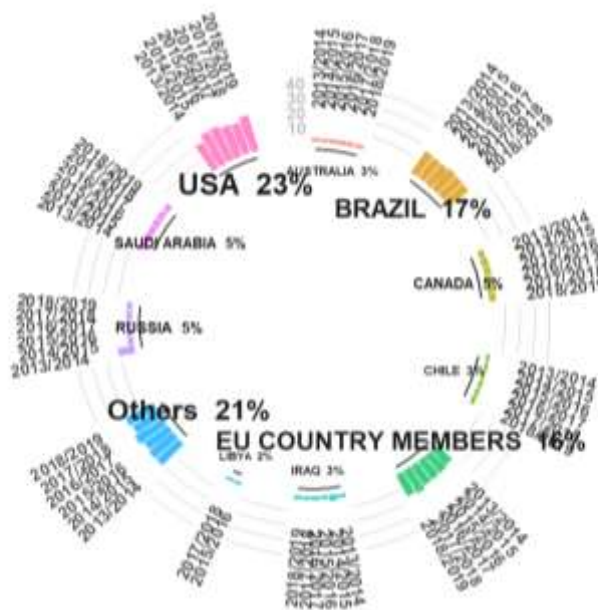


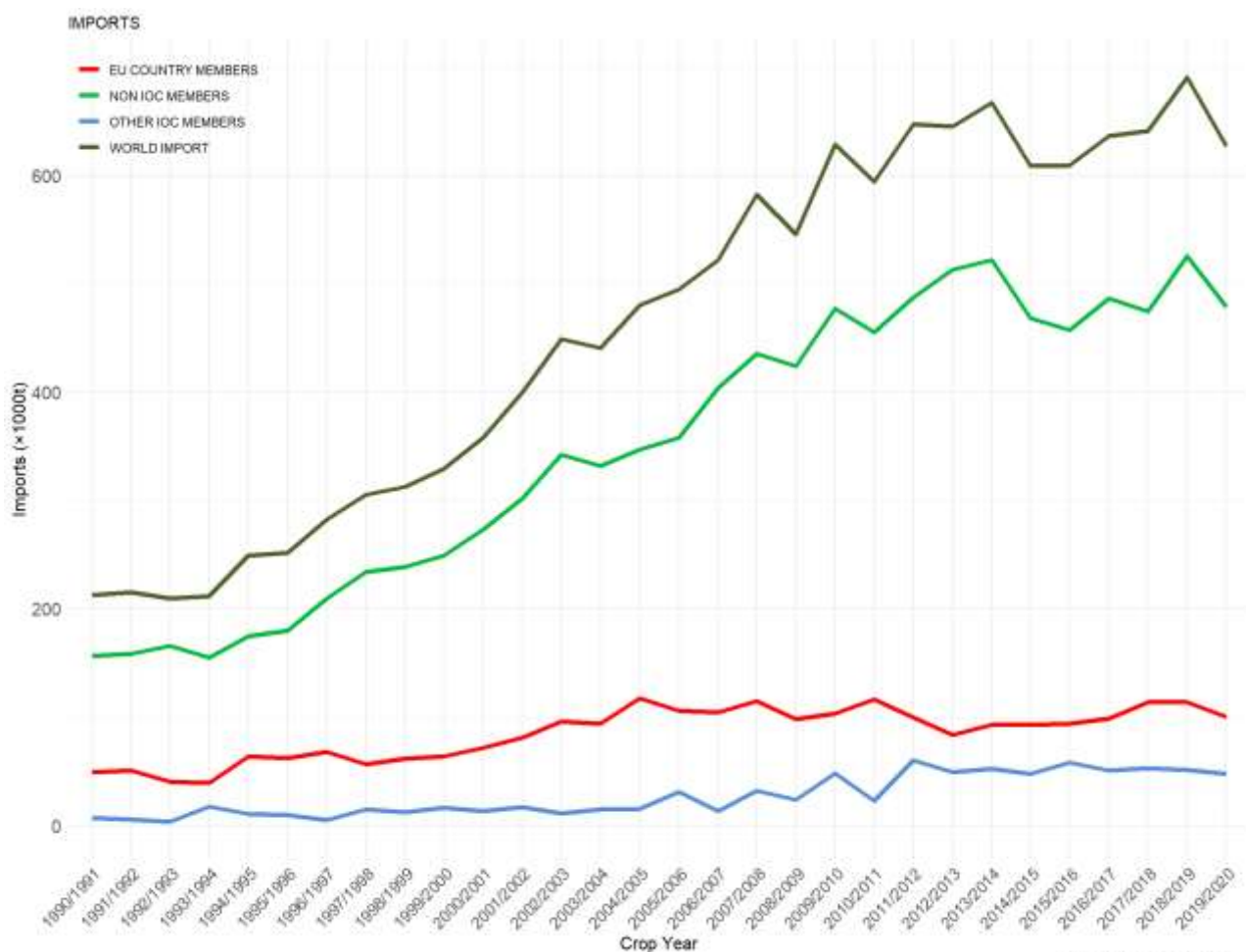
Figure I – Table olives, percentage of world imports (average six crop years)



Table 1 shows table olive imports in eight representative markets in the last six crop years. Imports increased significantly in the 2018/19 crop year in all except the European Union, where purchases remained stable. Imports in this crop year grew most in the United States (21.5%) and Russia (9.3%) compared to the previous crop year.

	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	Average	%Variation Rates
AUSTRALIA	17914	15841	15510	17597	17260	18488	17102	↑ 7.1
BRAZIL	113999	103255	102045	114284	109933	117796	110219	↑ 7.2
CANADA	29141	29153	29931	28662	31337	32324	30091	↑ 3.2
CHINA	1019	1713	1756	1872	1801	1847	1668	↑ 2.6
JAPAN	4304	4680	3668	4393	3986	4087	4186	↑ 2.5
RUSSIA	26492	22517	21620	24400	25654	28045	24788	↑ 9.3
USA	135453	151939	154050	146232	141211	171620	150084	↑ 21.5
Extra-EU	93018	91526	97455	98777	113948	113960	101447	↓ 0
Total	421339	420624	426036	436216	445130	488167	439585	↑ 9.7

Table I – Imports table olives in representative markets (2013/14 - 2018/19) (t)



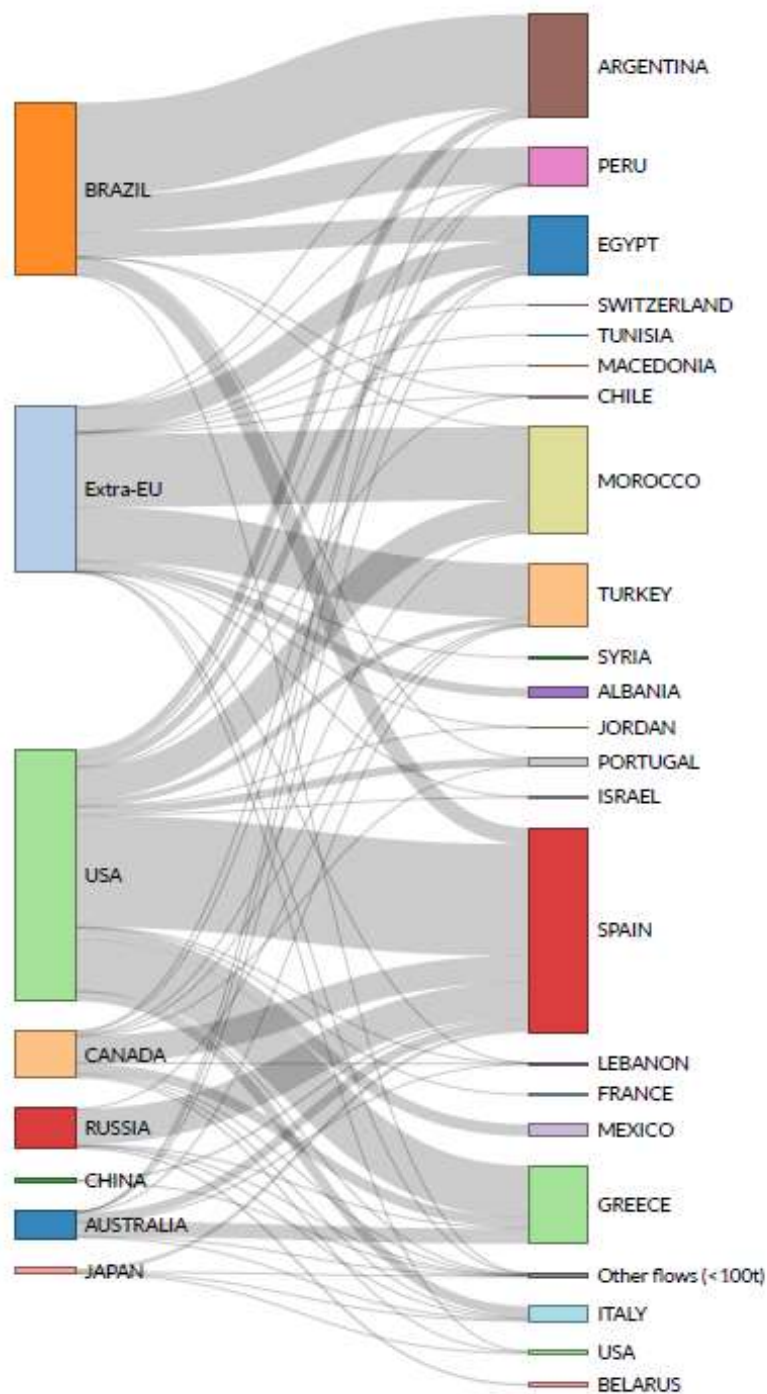
Source: International Olive Council

Figure II – Table olives, distribution of world imports (provisional 2018/2019, forecast 2019/2020)

The main suppliers of table olives to these markets are Spain, Argentina, Morocco, Greece, Turkey, Egypt and Peru.



In terms of suppliers, Greece (53%) and Spain (32%) are the main suppliers to Australia; Argentina (54%) and Peru (21%) to Brazil; Spain (57%) and Greece (21%) to Canada; Spain (90%) to China; Spain (61%) and the United States (16%) to Japan; Spain (85%) to Russia; Spain (44%) and Greece (20%) to the United States; and Morocco (43%) and Turkey (32%) to the European Union.



The volume sold by these countries ranges from 26 000 t from Peru to almost 140 000 t from Spain.
Figure II – Flow of table olives imports in certain markets (2018/2019)



I. WORLD TRADE IN OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES

Source: Economy and Promotion Unit

1. OLIVE OIL – 2019/20 CROP YEAR

The table below shows trade in olive oil and olive-pomace oil in eight countries in the first seven months of the current crop year (October 2019 – April 2020). Imports rose in Brazil (20%); Canada (13%); China (7%)¹; Japan (4%); the United States (2%); and Australia (1%). Data for Russia² are available only until March, when trade had grown by 13% compared to the previous crop year.

In the first six months of the 2018/19 crop year, intra-EU acquisitions grew by 12% and extra-EU imports grew by 17% compared to the same period the previous crop year³.

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	April 19	April 20
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	2178,1	2800,3
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	8794,1	9276,8
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	4763,8	5477,6
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	3047,9	2549,1
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	7211,1	6473,0
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	2351,1	n.d
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	33158,2	37219,0
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	37832,2	14793,0	n.d
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	108906,5	94274,0	n.d
Total	163888,0	180976,3	160900,9	169448,3	177030,5	194816,3	160192,6	166805,9	165897,8	181285,4	170395,0	211567,8	170571,3	63795,9

Imports of olive oil (including olive-pomace oil) (t)

2. TABLE OLIVES – 2019/20 CROP YEAR

The table below shows trade in table olives in the first eight months of the 2019/20 crop year (September 2019 – April 2020)⁴. Increases were found in Brazil (5%), but decreases were found in Australia (16%) and the United States (2%).

In the first seven months of the 2019/20 crop year (September 2019 – March 2020)⁵, intra-EU acquisitions grew by 6% and extra-EU imports by 2% compared to the same period the previous crop year.

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	April 19	April 20
1	Australia	1588,5	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	1590,2	1189,3
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	10371,6	7022,8
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	3071,6	2659,9
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	16395,3	11315,2
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	12928,9	12024,3	n.d
	Intra-EU/28	29234,7	26860,7	31315,6	40385,0	34806,4	33707,0	29204,6	28889,4	23680,6	25657,6	25012,7	25211,3	27382,2	31488,1	29124,2	n.d
	Total	59483,4	62000,9	68191,0	80537,5	74800,5	74518,7	62423,2	66565,9	57466,9	58491,0	57116,4	55940,8	67471,2	71395,5	72577,2	22187,2

Imports table olives (t)

¹ The data on China's imports has been calculated for January and February using the average for both.

² The data on Russia's imports in April was not available when this newsletter went to print.

³ The data on the EU's imports were not available for April 2020 when this newsletter went to print.

⁴ 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.

⁵ The data on the EU's imports were not available for April 2020 when this newsletter went to print.



II. PRODUCER PRICES – OLIVE OILS



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

Extra virgin olive oil – Producer prices in **Spain** in the fourth week of June 2020 stood at €1.97/kg, an 11% fall compared to the previous crop year.

Italy – Prices in Italy in the first week of June 2020 stood at €3.40/kg, a 43% fall compared to the previous crop year.

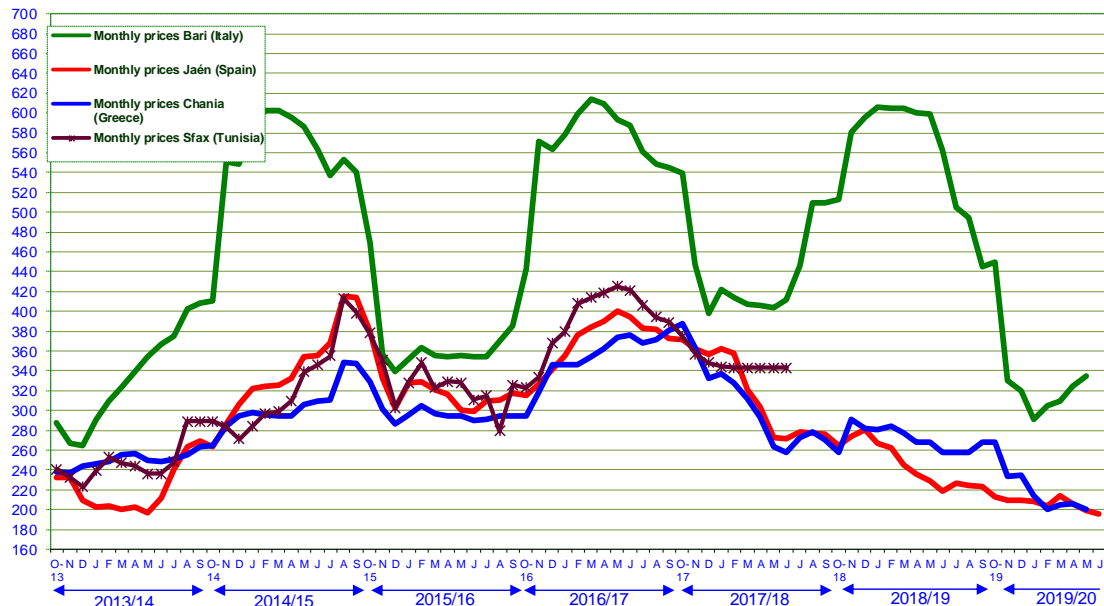
Greece – Prices in Greece in the first week of June 2020 stand at €2.00/kg, a 22% fall compared to the previous crop year.

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





MOVEMENTS IN PRODUCER PRICES REFINED OLIVE OIL Average monthly prices

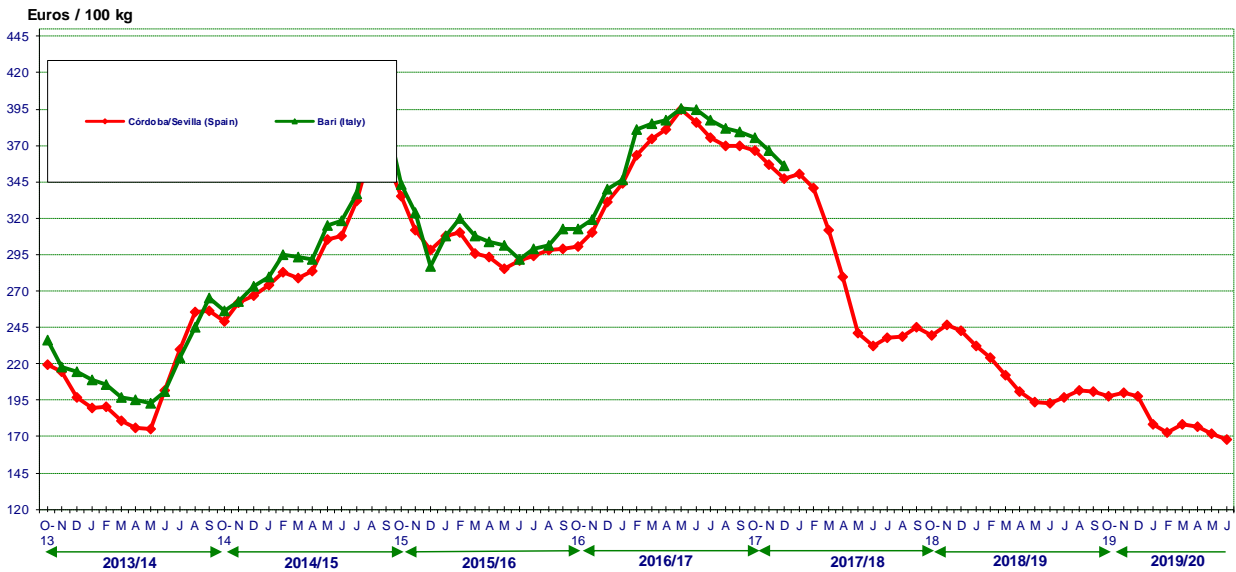


Figure 2



Available online
FREE OF CHARGE on IOC WEBSITE:

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



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-olivae-publications>



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