

INTERNATIONAL OLIVE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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MORE THAN A GREETING, A REAL WISH

BRUSSELS / Six minutes well spent and worth listening to in full. **Janusz Wojciechowski**, European Commissioner for Agriculture, gave a speech during World Olive Day celebrations in Tblisi, Georgia, on 26 November 2021. He outlined the key objectives for the European and global olive sector: market stabilisation, more transparent rules, a global vision and sharing standards to bolster quality, facilitate work and help markets grow.



'A symbolic product in many countries for historical, cultural and economic reasons, olive oil has a prominent position in the European Union's agricultural policies. We are firm supporters of the work of the Executive Secretariat,' says Commissioner Wojciechowski. 'We firmly believe that this cooperation should continue to bear fruit for the sector and for the people who derive their livelihood and wealth from olive growing.'

For this reason, the EU's New Deal, represented by Next Generation EU, is also geared towards guaranteeing safe and healthy food for future generations, but to do this we must work together with the IOC to modernise and simplify standards and guarantee consumers more quality and food safety.'

It is worth listening to his speech again and again: it's like a wish for the end of the year and a good start to 2022. A wish that we accept with great pleasure and that the IOC family extends with thanks to Commissioner Wojciechowski.

THE IOC AND GEORGIA: A TEAM EFFORT

TBILISI, GEORGIA / The 114th session of the Council of Members, held in Tbilisi, Georgia in November 2021, created a space for the Executive Secretariat, member countries and the Georgian Chair to share ideas and intentions. A local news channel did a detailed report on exactly this, in which it stated that when the common objectives of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives 2015 are shared, cooperation bears fruit. A link to the full report can be found below.



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In this report, the Georgian press fully grasped the true meaning of the International Agreement 2015: to join forces to support the sector, create wealth through marketing and labour leverage, protect the environment and involve and inform the consumer.

Georgia has dedicated, important figures leading its olive mission. First and foremost, the Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Environmental Pro-

tection and Agriculture, Mr Levan Davitashvili (pictured). An attentive and determined political figure, he has emphasised the potential of the Georgian olive sector in terms of economics, employment and the



environment. George Svanidze, the current Chair of the IOC, is a Georgian entrepreneur and patron who has successfully led the endeavour to create an ambitious project in the olive sector in the South Caucasus region. There is room for action and development, he says, but to meet the challenge, we need alliances and the cooperation of the international community. That is where we come in, said IOC Executive Director Abdellatif Ghedira. We work hand in hand with member country institutions to encourage the expansion of the international trade of olive oil and table olives, using obligatory trade

standards that were developed internally and are regularly updated to defend quality and fair trade. We also provide government representatives and experts the opportunity to meet regularly to discuss issues



and set priorities. To do this, we work closely with representatives from diverse areas of the private sector: producers, processors, businesspeople and consumers'.

On the Organisation's push for international cooperation, Mr Ghedira continued: 'We support international technical cooperation through research and development projects, training and the transfer of technology; we boost the integrated, integral and



sustainable development of olive growing and the olive industry to strengthen their relationship with the environment and preserve the genetic resources of the olive tree. We promote the consumption of olive oil and table olives using plans of action and promotion campaigns, and disseminate clear and precise data and statistics on the global market of olive oil and table olives.'

Georgian Vice-Prime Minister Levan Davitashvili and IOC Chair George Svandize have successfully pursued these aims, judging by the numerous meetings held at IOC headquarters in Madrid over the past two years, which are well documented in the report linked below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9izCQwl9fc

A NEW BEGINNING FOR OLIVE GROWING IN GEORGIA



TBILISI / The Executive Secretariat held an international seminar during the 114th session of the Council of Members, which took place in Georgia and was chaired by George Svanidze. Guests learnt about the potential for olive growing in this country, 'which aspires to be one of the key players in the South Caucasus olive sector,' said Executive Director Abdellatif Ghedira on the side-lines of this important event to celebrate World Olive Day.



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With over 1 200 hectares in production, Georgia plans to expand its sector through ongoing investments and with the technical support of the IOC, the Georgian Government and the international community.

Olives were first recorded in Georgia in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. According to researchers, olives were probably introduced to the country by the Greeks when they colonised the regions bordering the Black Sea.

Found to the north of the Lesser Caucasus Mountains, Georgia is nestled between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. With a total area of 69 700km², the country has 12 different climate zones and 49 types of soil. The country is also rich with renewable water resources and forests cover 33% of the territory.

Agriculture accounts for 8.3-9.2% of GDP and 16-17.5% of trade. Georgia has a long tradition of producing wine, citrus, grapes, tea, nuts, fruits and vegetables. Georgia and the South Caucasus lie in Vavilov's fourth centre of origin – Southwest Asia. Olive trees are thought to be relics of the southwest regions of the country. Wild olives have been known to grow in forests alongside bay trees (*Laurus nobilis*) in Abkhazia and in the southwest. In the Bible, Noah distributed olives between Armenia and Georgia.



This information was taken from an interesting presentation given during the seminar.



For more information about the Georgian olive sector, click on this link: <u>Georgia – Olive production and prospectives NOV, 2021Tbilisi 12</u>

Zviad Bobokashvili - author

Head of the Department of Fruit Crop Research, LEPL Scientific-Research Centre of Agriculture Ministry of Agriculture, Georgia, PhD, associate professor.

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SOME BEAUTIFUL PHOTOS TAKEN ON THIS SPECIAL DAY









LIVE FROM THE 114TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MEMBERS



TBILISI, GEORGIA / The 114th session of the Council of Members is underway in Tbilisi, Georgia. Delegates from the 18 member countries of the IOC are meeting in Georgia, this year's Chair, to make important decisions for the sector. Alongside Executive Director Abdellatif Ghedira at the Chair's table are the Vice Prime Minister of the Georgian Government and Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr Levan Davitashvili; the Chair of the Council, Mr George Svanidze; and the Chair of the Advisory Committee, representing the world olive oil sector, Mr Ali Ben El Hadj M'Barek. Greetings were addressed to the assembly by representatives of the governments of member countries who joined the session remotely. These included the Minister of Agriculture of Jordan, Mr Kaled Musa Al Henefat; the Deputy Minister of Trade of Turkey, Mr Sezai Ucarmak; and the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Uruguay, Mr Fernando Matos.

DECISIONS ON STANDARDISATION AND RESEARCH ADOPTED AT THE 114TH SESSION

The Standardisation and Research Unit of the Executive Secretariat held all sensory analysis and chemistry experts' meetings scheduled in the Unit's 2021 calendar of activities.

The decisions on chemistry, standardisation and research that were submitted and adopted at the 114th session of the Council of Members in November 2021 are listed below:

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- Decision DEC-III.1/114-VI/2021 on the trade standard for olive oils and olive pomace oils, COI/T.15/NC No. 3/Rev. 17, with a view to:
 - Including the decision tree on the linolenic acid limit between 1.00 and 1.40%;
 - Revising the decision tree for refined olive oils and olive oils;
 - Revising the decision tree for crude olive pomace oil and refined olive pomace oil; and
 - Including the method to determine the ethanol/methanol content in virgin olive oils in the list of methods referred to in COI/T.20/Doc. No. 36.
- Decision DEC-III.2/114-VI/2021 on the method to determine the methanol and ethanol content of virgin olive oils (document COI/T. 20/Doc. No. 36)
- Decision III.03/114-VI/2021 Guide COI/T.28/Doc. 1/Rev. 6, on the guidelines for meeting the requirements of ISO:17025 concerning the competence of sensory analysis laboratories, particularly for virgin olive oil
- Decision DEC-III.4/114-VI/2021 adopting the guidelines for granting the institutional sponsorship and recognition of the IOC for courses on the organoleptic assessment of virgin olive oils organised by the competent authorities (COI/T.30-3/Doc. No. 1)
- Decision III.5/114-VI/2021 on the rules of the Mario Solinas Quality Award, the IOC's international competition for extra virgin olive oils, for 2022 (COI/T.30/Doc. No. 24)
- Decision DEC-III.6/114-VI/2021 on grating the institutional patronage of the IOC for national competitions for the quality of extra virgin olive oils organised by the competent authorities (COI/T.30-2/Doc. No. 3).
- Decision DEC-III.7/114-VI/2021 adopting the act of approval of the IOC for laboratories for the physico-chemical analysis of olive oils.
- The list of physico-chemical analysis laboratories approved by the IOC for the period from 1 December 2021 to 30 November 2022 (T.21/Doc. 13/Rev.24/12.2021).
- The list of sensory analysis laboratories for virgin olive oils approved by the IOC for the period from 1 December 2021 to 30 November 2022 (<u>T.28/Doc. No 3/Rev.24/ 12.2021</u>) in accordance with Decision DEC-13/103-V/2015 on the IOC approval of sensory analysis laboratories for virgin olive oils.



VIP PARADE FOR WORLD OLIVE DAY



TBILISI - GEORGIA / Live coverage is available of the international seminar to celebrate World Olive Day with the Georgian authorities in collaboration with the Executive Secretariat.

The seminar addressed trends in the international olive oil market. International experts discussed key economic issues and topics of great interest for the world consumer.

The event took place from 11:30 to 16:30 (Tbilisi time) and 08:30 to 13.30 (Madrid time) on Friday 26 November 2021. A real parade of distinguished guests took part, including the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr Levan Davitashvili; the President of Georgia, Ms Salome Zourabichvili; the Prime Minister of Georgia, Mr Irakli Garibashvili; the Chair of the Parliament of Georgia, Mr Kakhaber Kuchava; the Chair of the IOC, Mr George Svanidze; the Executive Director of the IOC, Mr Abdellatif Ghedira; the European Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr Janusz Wojciechowski; Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation to Georgia, H.E. Mr Carl Hartzell; and the Minister of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Jordan, Khaled Musa Al Henefat.

The seminar was held at the building of the Presidency of the Republic of Georgia. For the agenda, click on this link: Programme_Olive_Tree_Day_Agenda



TBILISI CELEBRATES WORLD OLIVE DAY 2021

TBILISI / For the first time in the history of the IOC, World Olive Day was celebrated away from IOC head-quarters, in the magnificent Ceremonial Palace of Georgia in Tbilisi.



To mark the event, the Executive Secretariat, alongside the Presidency and Government of Georgia, held an international seminar on trends in the international market of olive oil.

Welcome speeches were given by Levan Davitashvili, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia; Natela Turnava, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia; George Svanidze, Chair of the IOC; Abdellatif Ghedira, Executive Director of the IOC; Janusz Wojciechowski, European Commisioner for Agriculture; Kaled Musa al Henefat, Minister of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Jordan; and Mahmoud Elyes Hamza, Minister of Agriculture, Water Research and Fisheries of Tunisia.

During the technical seminar, detailed presentations were given on a wide range of topics. Jaime Lillo, the Deputy Executive Director of the IOC, discussed the international market of olive oil. Gabriel Vigil, who covers the olive sector at the European Commission, presented the EU market and current trends, and Joseph R. Profaci, the Executive Director of the North American Olive Oil Association, presented the US market. Juan Vilar, the co-director of the master's degree in the administration and management of olive com-



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panies, presented the profile of the global olive oil consumer, and Santi Mas presented the Plant Forward Kitchen on behalf of Greg Drescher, vice-president of strategic initiatives and industry leadership at the Culinary Institute of America.

The final speech on the production of olives in Georgia, on the current situation, challenges and perspectives, was given by Zviad Bobokashvil, Head of the Department of Fruit Crop Research of the Georgian Scientific Research Centre of Agriculture.



The IOC celebrates World Olive Day, which was officially recognized by UNESCO in 2019, on 26 November every year. To promote this important event, the Executive Secretariat works with and provides support for delegations from member countries, representatives from the sector, local authorities, observatories and members of the diplomatic corps from countries that have signed the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives 2015.

SOME BEAUTIFUL PHOTOS TAKEN ON THIS SPECIAL DAY













ADVISORY COMMITTEE DISCUSSES IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR THE FUTURE OF THE SECTOR

TBILISI, GEORGIA / The 57th meeting of the Advisory Committee is underway in Tbilisi. Chaired by Georgia, the event takes place a day before the 114th session of the Council of Members. This is the first post-pandemic meeting held in a hybrid format: some olive oil delegates are attending face-to-face, from the capital of Georgia, and others are attending virtually, from around the world.



The meeting was opened by the Chair of the IOC, George Svanidze, followed by welcome addresses by Executive Director Abdellatif Ghedira and the Chair of the Advisory Committee, Ali Ben El Hadj M'Barek. The Deputy Executive Director responsible for administrative and financial matters, Mustafa Sepetçi, was also present. Jaime Lillo, the Deputy Executive Director responsible for operational activities, gave a presentation on two topics of particular interest to the sector: the NutriScore issue, and the revision of the international Codex Alimentarius standard.



The event continued with presentations from the Operational Units – Standardisation and Research, Technology and Environment, Economics and Promotion – and on the horizontal support activities implemented by the IOC Observatory.



Observers and representatives of the world olive oil sector complemented the items on the meeting's agenda, providing the Executive Secretariat with excellent food for thought for the subsequent debate in the Council of Members.

OLIVE OIL: THE EU EXPECTS TRADE TO GROW UNTIL 2030



TBILISI - GEORGIA / According to forecasts by the European Commission's DGAgri, growth in olive oil trade will remain strong and accelerate towards 2030. These are the findings of a study presented by Dr Gabriel Vigil, Head of the Olive Oil Sector of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture.

The study was presented during an interesting seminar organised by the IOC in Tbilisi as part of World Olive Day 2021.

Dr Vigil, however, pointed out that the sector must overcome a number of challenges, including climate change, changes in consumer behaviour, new market opportunities, and new producing countries.





The total surface area of the EU is 4 476 200 km², less than 6 000 000 ha of which are used for olive growing.

The EU is the largest producer, but it is also, to this day, the largest

consumer of olive oil. It remains a strong reference point at the IOC as it is the biggest player with the highest concentration of worldwide trade in the olive oil sector.

Further information are available 0n this link: <u>1Presentation Olive oil market in the European Union 26 November</u>.



Gabriel Vigil -

Head of the Olive Oil Sector of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and keynote speaker during the World Olive Day 2021 international seminar organized by the IOC's Executive Secretariat in Tbilisi.

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CYPRUS VISITS IOC HEADOUARTERS

MADRID / During a visit to Spain, Cypriot Foreign Minister Nikos Christodoulides paid a visit to the Executive Director of the IOC, Abdellatif Ghedira, at the Organisation's headquarters on 9 November 2021.

The Minister, who was accompanied by the Ambassador of Cyprus in Madrid and the Head of Protocol of the Embassy, was welcomed by the Executive Director, the Head of the External Relations Department of the Executive Secretariat and Professor Luis Rallo of the University of Cordoba.



On this occasion, Nikos Christodoulides presented the Executive Director with a Cypriot olive tree, which will be planted in the forecourt of the headquarters building.



The subsequent discussion focused on the activities implemented by the IOC, in particular those involving Cypriot institutions.

Luis Rallo gave an overview of the True Healthy Olive Cultivars (THOC) project and highlighted the dynamism of Cyprus' participation in this project.

The meeting ended with an exchange of gifts between the two officials, a photo opportunity and a note written by the Minister in the guestbook of the Organisation.



AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN VISITS IOC HEADOUARTERS

MADRID / On 18 November 2021, Executive Director Abdellatif Ghedira welcomed at headquarters H.E. Shujjat Ali Rathore, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, who was accompanied by his Advisor on Trade and Investment, Ahmed Affan. The Head of the External Relations Department of the Executive Secretariat also attended the meeting.



Discussions focused on the positive impact of the Executive Director's mission to Pakistan, the various meetings with the Pakistani authorities and private sector stakeholders, and the visits to different regions of the country. They concluded that Pakistan has real potential and adequate human resources to succeed in its plan to develop its olive sector, while pointing out the importance of technical training so that good practices are adopted and to prevent costly rectifications.

Pakistan's accession to the IOC was also discussed. The Pakistani Ambassador thanked the Executive Secretariat, in particular its Executive Director, for the efforts made to boost the olive sector in Pakistan and reaffirmed his country's willingness to join the IOC family as soon as possible. A document explaining the steps to become a member was presented to the Pakistani party.

At the end of the meeting, both parties committed to maintaining contact and the Executive Director assured his guests of the Executive Secretariat's support for Pakistan in its efforts to join the IOC.

OLIVARES VIVOS+

MADRID / The sustainable and profitable olive farming model promoted by SEO/birdlife, is extended to other european regions.

On 2 December 2021, the <u>LIFE Olivares Vivos+</u> project was presented at IOC headquarters in Madrid. The first part of the project, LIFE Olivares Vivos, took place between the end of 2015 and May 2021. The model was found to restore biodiversity and increase profits by reducing input costs – growers spent on average 22% less on fertilisers and phytosanitary products. Restoring the flora and fauna of these living olive groves also adds value to the oils produced, which are indicated by the Olivares Vivos label and certification scheme.

Life Olivares Vivos + starts this year and will run until 2026. The goal is to replicate this model in the main olive-growing regions of Spain, Italy, Greece and Portugal. This stage of the project will also show how biodiversity behaves in the long term and under climate change, as olive groves will be studied in the driest regions. The project will also be extended to other crops.



'Olives are the most important crop for conserving wildlife in Europe. The fact that Olivares Vivos+ is expanding into the olive-growing regions of the Mediterranean basin, a biodiversity hotspot, is a global commitment to re-establishing the link between agriculture and nature while protecting the interests of farmers. We know this new project will strengthen the role of Olivares Vivos, bring in new partners, and consolidate a model of agriculture reconciled with life in Europe', said Asunción Ruiz, Executive Director of SEO/BirdLife.



One of the objectives of this new phase will be to expand and replicate this model through demonstration plots and training courses for farmers. The project will spread through the autonomous communities of Andalusia, Extremadura, Madrid, Castilla-La Mancha, Valencia and Catalonia. The project will also be implemented in Alentejo, Portugal; Tuscany and Puglia, Italy; and the Peloponnese and Crete in Greece. Once the safeguarding action



plans are in place, we will assess and track biodiversity in these regions and analyse the impact of climate change on cropping patterns in plots in the semi-arid areas of Almeria and Granada, Andalusia. As the project progresses, it will be applied to other crops, such as grapevines, almonds and citrus fruits.

During the last LIFE project, alongside monitoring biodiversity and testing agri-environmental measures, the Marketing Department of the University of Jaén carried out studies and surveys in several EU countries to design the best marketing strategy and target the promotion of extra virgin olive oils with the *Olivares Vivos* label. From now on, this fieldwork and research will be accompanied by **information drives for consumers**, the final link in the project chain. As **José Eugenio Gutiérrez**, **SEO/BirdLife delegate in Andalusia and coordinator of Olivares Vivos**, pointed out, 'consumers are the key



to the whole process, thanks to their ability to choose. It is key that they recognise the **label that distin- guishes Olivares Vivos extra virgin olive oils** – the first agri-food product in Europe with a scientific guarantee that flora and fauna species have been restored in its production'.

The Olivares Vivos+ presentation was moderated by Noelia Santos, food and entertainment journalist for Time Out. Also participating were Angelo Salsi, Head of the Department of Natural Resources, Climate, Sustainable Blue Economy and Clean Energy at the European Commission's Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA); Asunción Ruiz, Executive Director of SEO/BirdLife; Hugo Morán, Secretary of State for the Environment; Fernando Miranda, Secretary General of Agriculture and Food at the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Jaime Lillo, Deputy Executive Director of the IOC; Araceli Cabello, Director General of the Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Protected Areas of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development of the Regional Government of Andalusia; and Pedro Bruno, Deputy for Agriculture, Environment and Climate Change of the Provincial Council of Jaén.

IN THE WAKE OF OLIVARES VIVOS

In five years, Olivares Vivos has become a world reference for reconciling agriculture and biodiversity, and its results and national and international renown have allowed it to be expanded under the LIFE programme.

The agro-environmental programme that characterises the Olivares Vivos model is based on the **largest** scientific study on olive groves and biodiversity in the world. The Department of Ecology of the University of Jaén and the Experimental Station of Arid Zones of the Superior Council of Scientific Research (CSIC, Spain) measured biodiversity in 40 olive groves in Andalusia before and after steps were taken to restore

the flora and fauna. They found that **the number of species of birds**, **ants**, **bees and plants increased by 7-12% and their abundance by 40%** in living olive groves in only three years. A **further 25% could be recovered** in the medium term. Overall, and in absolute terms, 180 species of birds, 60 species of ants, 200 species of wild bees and more than 750 species of plants were found in these olive groves, including one new to science, *Linaria gartobensis*.

Biodiversity was improved thanks to simple but effective measures, such as managing grass cover, restoring non-productive areas (gullies, streams, borders, roadsides, etc.), planting native species and installing infrastructure to help fauna (pools and watering troughs, walls, nesting boxes and posts, insect nesting boxes, etc.) These were done by olive growers from the LIFE project, volunteers and professional teams under the coordination of SEO/BirdLife.

Olivares Vivos has been welcomed throughout Andalusia, which has brough about the creation of the <u>Network of Municipalities for Living Olive Groves</u>. Promoted by the Provincial Council of Jaén, the network unites **68 localities that have signed a manifesto to promote olive groves that boost biodiversity. More than 750 farmers have already applied to take part in Olivares Vivos, which shows the growing interest in this model of olive growing that also improves profits.**

The **LIFE Olivares Vivos+ project** will be coordinated by SEO/BirdLife in collaboration with the Provincial Council of Jaen, the University of Jaén, the CSIC Arid Zone Experimental Station, Hellinikos Georgikos Organismos – Dimitra, D.R.E.AM Italia, the University of Évora and Juan Vilar Consultores, with funding from the Provincial Council of Jaén, the Secretariat of Agriculture of Andalusia, the Interprofessional Association of Olive Oil of Spain, the Region of Castilla-La Mancha and Caja Rural de Jaén.

MORE INFORMATION

Images and audiovisual material © Olivares Vivos

NATIONAL OLIVE OIL BOARD OF TUNISIA HOLDS OUALITY AWARD



TUNIS / A delegation of the IOC attended the award ceremony of a competition held by the National Olive Oil Board of Tunisia to find the best quality extra virgin olive oil. The event was held at the headquarters of the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries.

The IOC gave its patronage for this fourth edition of the competition, following the rules for granting institutional patronage for national extra virgin olive



oil competitions that are organised by competent authorities. These rules are based on the rules of the Mario Solinas Quality Award.

To request IOC patronage for national olive oil competitions, email the Executive Secretariat at iooc@ internationaloliveoil.org. Click on the following link for the competition rules: https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/what-we-do/chemistry-standardisation-unit/#institutional.



PANEL HARMONISATION WORKSHOP IN TUNISIA



TUNIS / Some 40 panel leaders and deputy panel leaders belonging to the 21 Tunisian panels with IOC recognition took part in a harmonisation workshop at the National Olive Oil Board training centre in Tunis on 1 December 2021.

The course, which was given as part of the country's World Olive Day celebrations, was run by two IOC experts in sensory analysis. The goal of the session was to reduce discrepancies and differences in results to ensure harmonisation between tasting panels.



Harmonization is one of the main objectives of the Standards and Research Unit of the International Olive Council. To this end, the Executive Secretariat organizes an annual harmonisation workshop for IOC-recognized tasting panels. The next workshop is scheduled for September 2022. Further information on participation and samples will be provided in due course.

TECHNICAL UNIT ACTIVITIES: COMING SOON

The Olive growing, Olive technology and Environment unit is structured in a head of unit, Abdelkrim Adi (until ending his mandate in November 2021), and in two heads of department, one for Technical cooperation and training, Catarina Bairrão Balula, and the other for Olive technology and environment, Pablo Morello Parra, who reinforced the team in 2021.

During 2021, very important and significant activities with a considerable effect in the olive sector, organised and with the participation of this Unit, took place. In January, detailed information will be published in this newsletter.



OLIVE NEWS: A PRESS REVIEW ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO THE OLIVE TREE

MADRID / The Executive Secretariat continues to monitor the sector through its OLIVE NEWS press review (http://www.scoop.it/t/olive-news), which uses different research tools and regular monitoring of the international press to collect and publish articles from the main specialized magazines on the international olive sector and other topics related to agriculture, nutrition, health, agricultural economics, the environment, the Mediterranean diet, etc., in Spanish, English, French and Italian. This press review is updated every day.

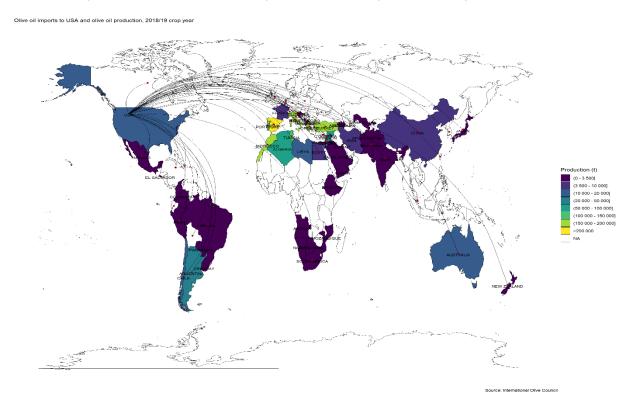
The published articles are also available on our social networks Linkedln and Twitter.in results to ensure harmonisation between tasting panels.





ECONOMIC STUDIES AND STATISTICS: ONE YEAR OF ACTIVITIES

Economic activity is governed by the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives 2015. Among the objectives of the Agreement are interpreting the world balance sheets on olive oil, olive pomace oils and table olives, conducting studies and proposing appropriate measures. The IOC is also responsible for disseminating economic analyses and data on olive oil and table olives and for providing its Members with the necessary indicators to ensure the olive products markets operate smoothly.



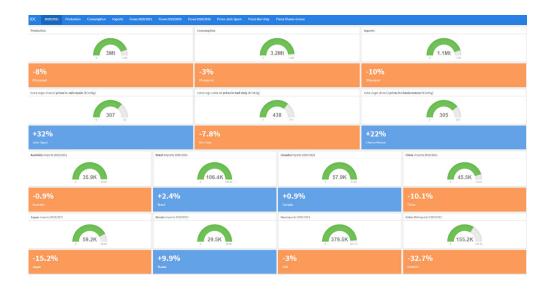
MARKET-RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Economic and Promotion Unit regularly monitors and analyses the olive product markets. This involves:

- Updating the IOC statistical database on world markets for olive oils, table olives and other edible liquid vegetable oils and fats;
- Examining market conditions;
- Monitoring olive oil and table olive imports in the countries in which the IOC carries out promotional activities;



- Conducting retrospective and prospective studies on olive oil and table olive markets;
- · Monitoring national olive-growing areas and the world distribution of olive-growing resources;
- Monitoring policy measures relating to the production, marketing, domestic consumption and international trade of olive products and other national development policies;
- Following up on bilateral or multilateral agreements between countries on the trade of olive oil and table olives; and following up on surveys, studies and economic research on the olive oil sector.



 $\label{thm:local-prop} \textit{Figure I-Image of the scoreboard developed by this Unit and available on the IOC website.}$

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE IOC'S WORK

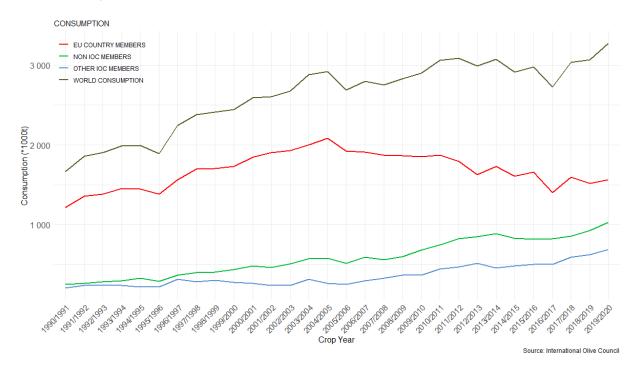
The Unit carries out market studies and other economic analyses and statistical work on the olive oil and table olives sector that are requested by IOC Members.

In 2020, a study on consumer behaviour was launched to analyse the consumption of olive oil in member countries, which has undergone significant changes in volume and by groups of countries in recent years.

Changes in world consumption has almost doubled since 1990/91. The main feature of this evolution is the growth of consumption in non-IOC countries, which has increased steadily over previous decades from about 14% to 30% of world consumption.

On the other hand, consumption in the EU has been on a downward trend since the 2004/05 crop year, falling from around 70% of the world total in 2004/05 to around 50% at present.

When consumption started to fall in the EU, it increased in the rest of the world.



Graph II - Distribution of olive oil consumption.

For this reason, the study on consumer behaviour was considered necessary to analyse the variables involved in consumption and understand what caused its decline in some countries.

The study will consist of a review of all the information published to date on oil and fat consumption at both the national and international levels and the analysis of secondary information from public and private sources. It will also be based on a representative survey carried out by means of a structured questionnaire addressed to consumers in the countries concerned.

The objectives of this study are as follows:

• 1. To analyse the changes and trends in the consumption of olive oil in IOC member countries compared with other edible oils and fats to determine whether consumption has fallen in olive oils only, or whether there has been an overall reduction in the consumption of fats. As far as possible, the analysis will



be carried out according to the type of olive oil (EV00, V00 and 00). Factors of change in eating habits, especially those affecting consumption patterns, will also be examined.

- 2. To analyse consumer behaviour with regard to edible oils and fats in general, and olive oil in particular, in IOC member countries to determine:
 - The domestic use of olive oil (consumer households, non-consumer households, households using exclusively olive oil, households using both olive oil and sunflower oil, etc.).
 - · Reasons not to use olive oil.
 - Oils and fats used according to the objectives (frying, salad dressing, deep-frying, baking, stewing, etc.).
 - The reasons for buying or using oils and fats for each purpose.
 - The image or perception of olive oils according to the qualities or advantages sought in the purchase/consumption(price, quality, health, environment, taste, etc.).
 - Points of sale and purchase terms, use of information and communication technologies.
 - Brands.
 - The level of knowledge of the different types of olive oil on the market.
 - Niveles de conocimiento de los distintos tipos de aceite de oliva en el mercado.
 - Sources of information on food in general and olive oil in particular.
 - consumer's sensitivity to price, what they are willing to pay.
 - Market segments according to sociodemographic and psychographic variables.
 - The intention to repurchase when the consumer has stopped buying oil.

The study is ongoing the year 2020 covered Spain, Italy and Greece, countries where consumption has fallen sharply. In 2021, it covered Argentina, Egypt, Tunisia and Jordan. In 2022, the study will be completed and other countries will be studied.



INTERNATIONAL

OLIVE COUNCIL

The Economic and Promotion Unit contributes to the writing of sector analysis articles for the IOC's Olivæ journal and to the review of economic texts submitted by external authors. It also prepares economic and statistical information for the monthly newsletter.



7

THE WORLD OF OLIVE OIL

Source: Economy and Promotion Unit





PRICES

In 2020, to help our readers understand the international market, the Unit began publishing a monthly report on changes in producer prices of extra virgin olive oil, refined olive oil and refined olive pomace oil on representative markets. As these markets contribute to a large part of world production, their producer prices have a significant influence on prices in other markets.

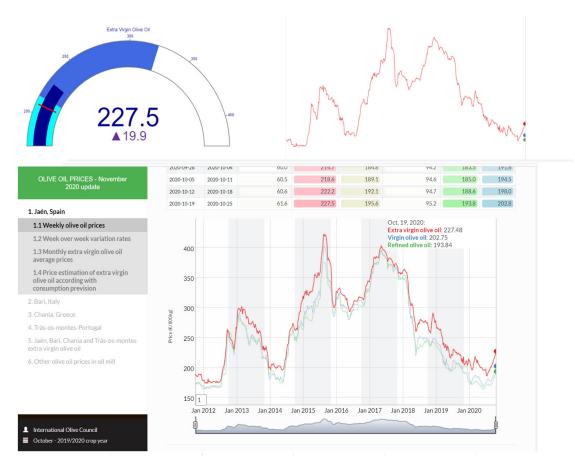


Figure IV - Some images from the monthly price report, available on the IOC website.



APPROVED BALANCE SHEETS

The Unit closely examines the olive oil and table olive markets and regularly makes a general estimate of the supply of and demand for olive oil and table olives. This work is based on information provided by IOC Members, as well as data provided by governments of non-member countries and any other relevant statistical material available. Provisional production and consumption data are presented below. Final data from the balance sheets approved by the Council of Members will be available in December 2021.

Production (×1000tn)	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020(p.)	Average	2020/2021(e.)	%variation rates
EU, of which:	2 324	1 752	2 188	2 264	1 920	2 090	2 051	↑ 6.8%
SPAIN	1 403	1 291	1 262	1 790	1 125	1 374	1 389	1 23.4%
GREECE	320	195	346	185	275	264	275	₩ 0.0%
ITALY	475	182	429	174	366	325	274	↓ -25.4%
PORTUGAL	109	69	135	100	140	111	100	↓ -28.8%
Other IOC countries, of which:	668	620	1 007	808	1 158	852	758	↓ -34.5%
TUNISIA	140	100	325	140	440	229	140	↓ -68.2%
TURKEY	150	178	263	194	230	203	210	↓ -8.7%
MOROCCO	130	110	140	200	145	145	160	1 0.3%
ALGERIA	82	63	82	97	126	90	70	↓ -44.0%
EGYPT	16	30	40	41	40	33	30	↓ -25.0%
JORDAN	30	20	21	21	34	25	24	↓ -29.0%
ARGENTINA	24	24	45	28	30	30	30	₩ 0.0%
Non-IOC producers, of which:	184	190	184	233	188	196	200	↑ 6.6%
SYRIA	110	110	100	154	118	118	115	↓ -2.5%
AUSTRALIA	20	21	21	20	8	18	23	1 70.6%
CHILE	18	20	22	18	20	20	20	1 2.5%
TOTAL	3 177	2 561	3 379	3 305	3 266	3 138	3 010	↓ -7.8%

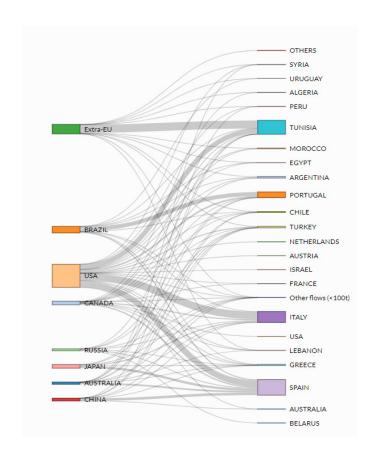
Table I - Production of olive oil, provisional data.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

To help understand the state of the international markets, the Unit monitors and prepares reports on exports and imports from the most representative markets.



NEWSLETTER Nº169 / DECEMBER 2021



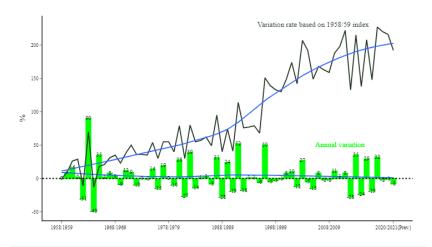


 $Figure\ V-Images\ of\ the\ reports\ available\ on\ the\ IOC\ website\ on\ import\ flows\ and\ imports\ in\ the\ main\ 2020/2021\ markets$

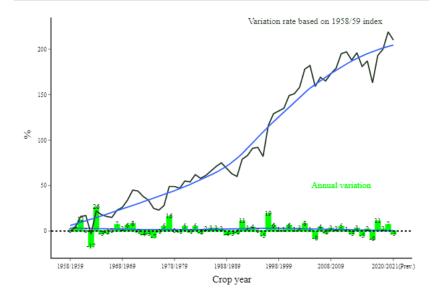
STUDIES

The Economic and Promotion Unit also supervises questionnaires, studies and economic research on the olive oil sector conducted by research and development agencies. It also carries out market studies and other economic analysis and statistical work on the sector.

As already mentioned, the study on consumer behaviour that was launched this year will be essential to understanding how the market works on the demand side. The increase in global demand confirms the need for higher production, while at the same time seeking a balance to avoid price pressures. This balance must be found in both the short and long term. National expansion plans allow the sector's production capacity to continue to grow, despite climate dependency and diseases such as Xylella fastidiosa.



Graph VI - Evolution of olive oil production



Graph VII - Evolution of olive oil consumption

MEETING OF THE IOC STATISTICS WORKING GROUP

The working group for monitoring statistics meets once a year to review the data produced by the IOC and, in particular, the olive oil and table olive balance sheets. This year's meeting was held by videoconference on 2 November.

NEW PROJECTS FOR 2022

New reports are being prepared and others are available on the IOC website. The aim is to provide relevant, regular and reliable statistical data that meet the demands of the sector and can be used around the world.

Some of the target lines of information are:

- To follow the imports and exports of olive oil on the main markets.
- To have a system for both producer and consumer prices as well as imports and exports.
- To obtain different estimates for value and volume on both the supply and demand sides.









Extra virgin olive oil (Extra-EU) 400 - Unit value — Volume 20k 350 -15k (€/100 kg) 300 250 -5k 2018 Feb 2019 Apr 2019 Jun 2019 Aug 2019 Oct 2019 Dec 2017 Dec 2018 Jun 2018 Oct 2018 Dec 2019 Feb 2020 Jun 2020 Aug 2020 Dec 2021 Jun 2021 Apr 2021 Feb 2020 Feb 2020 Oct

Figure VI - Images of rapports available on the IOC website on imports.

Month

THE WORLD OF OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES

By Economic and Promotion Unit - Economic Studies and Statistics Department



EXTRA-EU27 EXPORTS OF TABLE OLIVES

According to the first estimates¹ at the end of the 2020/21 crop year, extra-EU exports of table olives reached 320 810 t, totalling $\[\]$ 868 million (+8.6% and +4.6% respectively compared to the previous crop year). In August, the unit value of extra-EU exports of table olives was $\[\]$ 266 per 100 kg (-2.0% compared to the previous month).



Graph 1-Table olive (20057000) exports in August of the 2020/2021 crop year compared to the previous year.

¹ Crop year is understood as the period from 1 September of year t to 30 October of year t+1. Trade value at free on board (FOB) rate. Export volume in tonnes, 1t = 1000kg = 1Mg. Values given in euros. The unit value is calculated as (value)/quantity. Sources: Own elaboration based on data from the European Commission; EUROSTAT; Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; data provided by member countries. Harmonized System Codes: Table olives = 20057000 + 20019065 + 07108010 + 07112010 + 07099210. 20057000 olives, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid (excl. frozen).



In the 2019/2020 crop year, extra-EU exports of table olives are estimated at 295 365 t, totalling \in 830 million (-6.3% and -3.2%, respectively, compared to the previous year).

CROP YEAR	2017/2018		2018	/2019	2019/	2020	2020/2021		
Export country	VOLUME	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	
Spain	175 616	438.1	201 346	464.0	188 917	455.5	179 441	449.2	
Greece	91 614	277.0	74 934	277.8	68 913	265.2	99 349	290.8	
Portugal	13 826	45.1	15 836	51.2	15 425	48.4	14 955	64.7	
Italy	13 208	32.1	14 894	35.3	13 832	31.8	18 480	30.6	
Others	8 394	29.6	8 224	29.0	8 278	29.1	8 585	32.6	
Total	302 658	821.9	315 234	857.3	295 365	830.0	320 810	868.0	

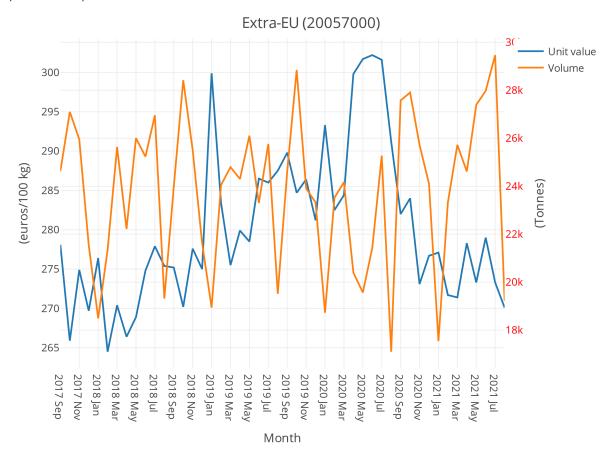
Table 1 - Extra-EU exports by exporting country and crop year. Volume in tonnes. Value in million euros.

Intra-EU exports reached 280 108 t, totalling $\[\in \]$ 704.8 million (+1.9% and +4.4% respectively compared to the previous crop year).

CROP YEAR	2017/2018		2018.	/2019	2019/	2020	2020/2021		
Export country	VOLUME	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	
Spain	118 578	267.8	127 399	273.6	126 566	280.8	126 414	282.9	
Greece	89 182	226.9	81 063	235.5	82 093	253.9	92 603	260.6	
Portugal	31798	55.4	23 571	57.7	26 026	65.7	15 051	55.4	
Others	40 023	104.6	42 786	108.6	45 422	104.3	49 363	121.3	
Total	279 581	654.8	274 819	675.4	280 108	704.8	283 431	720.2	

Table 2 - Intra-EU exports by exporting country and year of harvest. Volume in tonnes. Value in million euros.

In August of the 2020/2021 crop year, extra-EU table olive exports were valued at €266 per 100 kg (-7.4% compared to the same period the previous crop year or -2.0% compared to the previous month), while 20 655 t were exported (+14.9% compared to the same period the previous marketing year or -32.8% compared to the previous month).



 ${\it Graph\,1-Trends\,in\,the\,unit\,value\,and\,volume\,of\,extra-EU\,table\,olive\,exports\,(200570000).}$

In August, extra-EU exports went mainly to Australia (-21.8%), Brazil (+175.6%), Canada (-20.8%), Russia (+24.3%), Saudi Arabia (+51.9%), the UK (+35.6%) and the US (+6.1%), compared to the same period the previous crop year.

CROP YEAR	2017/	/2018	2018	/2019	2019/	′2020	2020/	2021(*)
Partner country	VOLUME	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE
United States	116 910	336.2	123 973	357.4	105 248	327.1	114 792	345.9
Russia	24 816	76.3	26 430	81.4	27 190	82.4	27 987	80.1
United Kingdom	24 676	77.0	24 539	72.4	23 986	68.9	29 972	86.1
Saudi Arabia	19 477	43.8	20 487	45.2	21 596	48.8	18 327	52.5
Canada	18 195	43.7	18 231	45.1	18 520	47.5	21143	40.5
Australia	14 411	40.6	13 912	41.0	12 477	36.4	16 354	39.3
Brazil	5 344	18.5	9 163	18.9	7 458	20.8	6 367	22.3
Albania	6 971	15.5	5 864	17.3	7 046	18.2	10 962	16.3
Mexico	5 606	14.2	6 335	14.0	6 159	17.6	5 484	19.1
Ukraine	4 901	8.2	4 699	10.3	6 058	12.2	6 473	17.3
Switzerland	5 454	8.7	5 280	12.0	5 850	11.2	6 309	9.6
Others	55 898	139.3	56 319	142.3	53 779	138.7	56 639	139.0

Table 3 - Extra-EU exports by partner country and year of harvest. Volume in tonnes. Value in million euros.

https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/what-we-do/economic-affairs-promotion-unit/#prices

WORLD TRADE IN OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES

1. OLIVE OIL - 2020/21 CROP YEAR

302 658

Total

The table below shows trade in olive oil and olive pomace oil in eight countries in the current crop year (October 2020-August 2021). Imports rose by 18% in Russia, 1% in Canada and 2% in Brazil compared to the same period the previous crop year. Imports remained stable in Australia but fell by 2% in the US, 15% in Japan and 8% in China.

In the first eleven months of the 2020/21 crop year, intra-EU acquisitions rose by 1% and extra-EU imports fell by 28% compared to the same period the previous crop year².

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

37

320 810

 $^{^{2}\,}$ Data for the EU were not available for September 2021 when this newsletter went to print.



	OLIVE OIL IMPORTS (INCLUDING OLIVE POMACE OIL)(T)													
Country	OCT 19	OCT 20	NOV 19	NOV 20	DEC 19	DEC 20	JAN 20	JAN 21	FEB 20	FEB 21	MAR 20	MAR 21		
Australia	2275.4	3353.3	2471.8	2563.6	2443.6	3377.3	3130.2	1942.9	2375.6	3708.4	2633.4	2840.9		
Brazil	8334.3	11052.3	10999.9	12249.6	7845.2	10356.0	8938.4	9219.6	8860.8	7230.1	11911.3	9490.6		
Canada	4516.1	5755.7	4001.1	5146.6	4182.1	5900.5	4104.4	5417.4	3222.5	3541.5	5877.1	4686.8		
China	3203.8	2588.2	6565.4	5438.5	6586.4	7785.1	3542.4	4931.3	3542.4	1974.5	2780.2	3264.2		
Japan	4963.1	4902.6	5298.7	6160.0	7189.2	4478.2	4643.6	3690.9	5125.7	3687.6	6332.9	5915.0		
Russia	3411.8	4156.7	2628.9	3908.1	2904.4	3992,3	1593.7	2220.1	2122.7	2764.4	2935.8	2392.6		
USA	33224.7	29339.7	22626.7	33389.2	27204.7	32336.5	23870.3	41415.3	29002.5	22794.7	32358.3	29599.8		
Extra-EU	13337.0	19817.7	11688.1	22010.5	17869.3	19222.7	14560.8	14900.6	21780.4	17754.0	38069.5	20302.2		
Intra-EU	102199.1	98528.6	100322.8	104971.3	115451.0	119103.8	98686.6	96943.8	107469.2	119629,3	112017.9	122183.2		
Total	180976.3	179494.7	169448.3	195837.4	194816.3	206552.4	166805.9	180682.0	181285.4	183084.4	211567.8	200675.3		

			OLIV	E OIL IMP	ORTS (IN	CLUDING	OLIVE PO	MACE OIL	.)(T)			
Country	APR 20	APR 21	MAY 20	MAY 21	JUN 20	JUN 21	JUL 20	JUL 21	AUG 20	AUG 21	SEP 20	SEP 21
Australia	2800.3	4202.0	4259.8	3614.2	4876.5	2263.7	4135.6	3358.0	2298.2	2311.0	2731.7	2901.0
Brazil	9276.8	7354.8	8037.8	8858.7	5583.8	7257.3	8861.5	7185.4	7237.1	9606.7	8292.1	6868.4
Canada	5477.6	4620.7	7404.6	8360.7	4463.3	5482.6	5698.6	3776.5	338.9	3152.9	5947.6	3128.4
China	2549.1	3204.7	4602.8	4645.5	5729.5	3538.7	5480.4	5092.5	4631.2	4546.6	6366.3	3954.3
Japan	6473.0	4888.5	5507.6	4429.1	8549.2	6715.7	5844.9	5095.5	6338.3	5881.6	5771.8	5220.6
Russia	3061.1	3117.2	3066.7	3540.5	2690.1	3693.7	2484.2	2919.3	2700.0	2793.1	2728.0	2591.1
USA	37219.0	41050.3	39718.1	41981.5	45347.2	35544.0	35315.3	23537.9	36662.7	31043.2	34369.4	28501.8
Extra-EU	32500.7	21270.8	31308.2	15448.7	27564.8	12918.7	23984.3	8836.9	18294.8	8598.7	20339.2	N.D
Intra-EU	102593.2	95490.3	93260.6	109237.9	97099.9	93493.2	98297.3	85892.4	77776.0	65817.9	102246.5	N.D
Total	200772.0	185199.3	195238.0	200116.7	201232.4	170907.6	189777.5	145693.9	159413.7	59335.1	66206.8	53165.6



2. TABLE OLIVES - 2020/21 CROP YEAR

The table below shows trade in table olives in the 2020/21 crop year³ (September 2020-August 2021). Imports grew by 23% in Australia and Canada, 9% in the US and 4% in Brazil compared to the same period the previous crop year.

In the 2020/21 crop year, intra-EU acquisitions fell by 4% and extra-EU imports rose by 12% compared to the same period the previous crop year⁴.

Table olive imports (t)

	TABLE OLIVE IMPORTS (T)												
Country	SEP 19	SEP 20	OCT 19	OCT 20	NOV 19	NOV 20	DEC 19	DEC 20	JAN 20	JAN 21	FEB 20	FEB 21	
Australia	1177.7	1590.2	1187.7	1470.6	1606.4	1671.5	1315.2	2141.9	1488.0	1538.6	1164.9	2028.3	
Brazil	9869.7	14702.7	12570.2	17012.7	13466.6	14990.8	11834.1	14363.3	9248.7	9531.1	9559.4	9704.5	
Canada	2310.2	4139.0	2934.7	3671.0	2863.4	4088.8	3192.4	3140.7	2594.0	3072.5	2050.4	2375.5	
USA	14579.7	8942.1	14945.7	11341.4	13593.2	13197.0	11738.4	11828.2	10062.5	11664.8	9311.0	8397.8	
Extra-EU	6993.8	8372.4	8276.1	10867.0	9150.1	10492.1	9325.1	10589.1	9118.0	8569.6	8639.8	7817.1	
Intra-EU	26166.8	29487.6	38698.8	29041.7	31792.5	29070.6	33542.1	24908.9	23754.8	20449.3	25640.3	23213.3	
Total	62000.9	67232.9	80537.5	73404.4	74518.7	73510.8	66565.9	66972.1	58491.0	54825.9	55940.8	53536.5	

	TABLE OLIVE IMPORTS (T)													
Country	MAR 20	MAR 21	APR 20	APR 21	MAY 20	MAY 21	JUN 20	JUN 21	JUL 20	JUL 21	AUG 20	AUG 21		
Australia	1313.1	1353.1	1189.3	1645.5	1272.0	1876.8	1448.6	1643.4	1507.1	1593.0	1484.2	1281.8		
Brazil	9705.8	9113.9	7022.8	8573.7	8040.0	6504.8	9629.6	7846.4	10512.5	7208.3	12911.9	10367.9		
Canada	3172.0	3133.8	2659.9	2513.0	3267.6	3372.1	2542.3	3601.5	2511.3	3092.0	2055.7	3485.8		
USA	12787.5	12571.5	11315.2	9505.0	111903.6	14908.1	10680.7	18216.1	10251.1	18166.4	16017.9	20399.1		
Extra-EU	12933.8	11835.2	11125.5	10805.4	9423.8	9871.0	9085.0	9871.3	10603.6	8840.7	8719.2	8325.5		
Intra-EU	30347.3	31384.0	23765.1	27635.8	24680.8	27311.3	29570.0	28987.5	32804.1	31958.8	24331.5	26409.9		
Total	71395.5	69391.4	55317.7	60678.4	57003.7	63844.0	61798.5	70166.1	67233.1	30059.7	65291.1	70273.0		

https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/what-we-do/economic-affairs-promotion-unit/#exports

³ According to the new provisions of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 2015, 'table olive crop year' means the twelve months from 1 September of one year to 31 August of the next.

 $^{^{\}rm 4}$ Data for the EU were not available for September 2021 when this newsletter went to print.

II. PRODUCER PRICES - OLIVE OILS

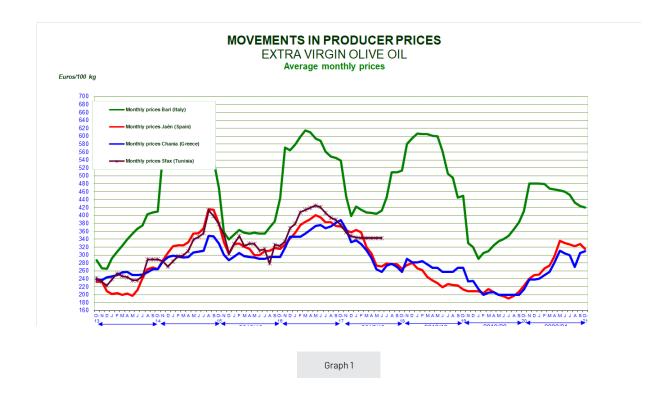
Monthly price movements for extra virgin olive oil and refined olive oil are shown in graphs 1 and 2.

Extra virgin olive oil – Producer prices in Spain from 8 to 14 November 2021 stood at ≤ 3.07 /kg, a 32% rise on the same period the previous crop year.

Italy – Prices in Italy from 8 to 14 November 2021 stood at €4.38/kg, a 7.8% fall on the same period the previous crop year.

Greece – Prices in Greece from 8 to 14 November 2021 stood at €3.05/kg, a 31.2% rise on the same period 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 same period the previous crop year.

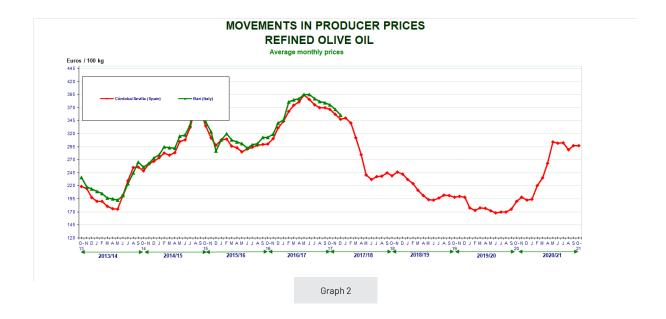


Refined olive oil: Producer prices in Spain stood at €2.86/kg from 8 to 14 November 2021, which indicates an increase of 44.7% compared to the same period the previous crop year. Data for Italy in this category



have not been available since the end of December 2017 when they had increased by 4% to €3.56/kg.

The difference between the price of extra virgin olive oil (€3.07/kg) and refined olive oil (€2.86/kg) in Spain was 0.20/kg. In Italy, the difference was 0.30/kg in December 2017.



https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/what-we-do/economic-affairs-promotion-unit/#prices



http://www.internationaloliveoil.org

Keep up with the olive sector through Olive News: http://www.scoop.it/t/olivenews

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