



IOC

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THE IOC COUNCIL OF MEMBERS GATHERS
IN MADRID TO CELEBRATE ITS 117TH SESSION



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OUTCOMES OF THE 117TH SESSION OF THE IOC'S COUNCIL OF MEMBERS



The **117th session** of the International Olive Council's (IOC) **Council of Members** wrapped up near the end of June with a number of engaging events. From the convening of different specialised committee meetings and the celebration of its 117th plenary session, to the appointment of its new Executive Director and the Mario Solinas Quality Awards ceremony, it was a non-stop month for the Organisation.

The 117th session of the Council of Members kicked off with multiple online meetings of the different **specialised IOC committees** on **14, 15 and 16 June**. On this occasion, and in very general terms, the Economic and Promotion Committee analysed the developments of the olive oil and table olive market and reviewed the IOC's promotion activities, the Chemistry and Standardisation Committee went over the relevant developments pertaining to methods of analysis and olive product standards, while the Technology and Environment Committee focused on the research and training activities underway. Last but not least, the Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee reviewed issues related to the Organisation's daily business.

On **Wednesday 21 June**, senior representatives from the **19 Member countries** of the IOC gathered at the Organisation's headquarters to decide on the appointment of the next Executive Director. Following a series of interviews and deliberations, the Council of Members unanimously voted **Jaime Lillo** from Spain as the IOC's next Executive Director as of January 2024. This exciting development for the Organisation was made official on **Thursday 22**, which was marked by the 117th plenary meeting of the Council of Members.



The headquarters welcomed representatives from the IOC's Member countries, as well as observers from Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq, Mauritania, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar and the United States. At the meeting, the Chairs of the Committees read their reports and a number of important decisions were adopted. The representative of Bosnia-Herzegovina officially presented his country's request to adhere to the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 2015. The attendees also took the opportunity to thank and congratulate the current Executive Director, **Abdellatif Ghedira**, for his fervent leadership and hard work since his appointment in 2016.

Jaime Lillo, currently acting as Deputy Executive Director in charge of operational activities, thanked the IOC's Members for their trust and committed himself to tackle the numerous and complex challenges facing the olive oil sector with the support of the IOC staff.

Finally, the olive on top: the **Mario Solinas Quality Awards** ceremony took place on **Friday 23 June!** The IOC welcomed at its headquarters the winners and finalists of this important international recognition for the best quality extra virgin olive oils. In the presence of a large and varied crowd composed of representatives from Member countries and the wider diplomatic corps, as well as numerous journalists and olive oil experts, the producers of the best extra virgin olive oil were awarded with golden, silver and bronze medals. The ceremony was followed by a delicious cocktail where guests had the opportunity to taste the winning oils accompanied by Mediterranean bites.

We tell you more about this significant event in the pages to follow. Read on!



THE IOC'S MARIO SOLINAS QUALITY AWARDS FOR THE BEST EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OILS UNDERLINE THE ENTHUSIASM AND PROSPERITY OF THE OLIVE OIL SECTOR WORLDWIDE

The **23d Mario Solinas Quality Awards ceremony** was held on **June 23** as part of the 117th Session of the Council of Members of the IOC. This prestigious event was attended by a number of ambassadors and representatives of the diplomatic corps from various countries.



The IOC Executive Director addressed the award-winning producers and packers to thank them for their enthusiasm for spreading the culture of excellent quality extra virgin olive oil (EVOO), as well as for their trust in the IOC. He put an emphasis on the extended trajectory and the development of these awards that welcomed 34 candidates on the occasion of their first edition, and which have now accepted up to **117 candidates** for their 23d edition.

The Jordanian ambassador to Spain, **Areej Hawamdeh**, also took the floor to express her gratitude for the sector's enthusiasm. She encouraged the producers and packers who had not been awarded this year to continue to participate in this prestigious competition.

The Deputy Executive Director for operational units acknowledged the effort and dedication of this new generation of olive growers who are taking EVOO to the top. He also highlighted and expressed his recognition for the important work of the international jury, made up of thirteen tasting panels and represented at the event by **Plácido Pascual**, head of the tasting panel of the Agri-Food Laboratory in Córdoba (Spain).



The Mario Solinas Quality Award is an international, institutional, not-for-profit competition organised annually by the IOC since the 2000-2001 olive crop year and open to companies from all over the world. Its aim is to encourage **producers, producer associations and packers** to market **extra virgin olive oils** with harmonious organoleptic characteristics, as well as to encourage consumers to recognise and appreciate the sensory attributes of these oils.



This 23rd edition of the Mario Solinas Awards saw the evaluation of 117 samples from countries including: Argentina (2), Brazil (2), China (2), Croatia (1), Greece (4), Italy (6), Portugal (16), Spain (63), Tunisia (19) and Türkiye (2).

The samples were sent by **individual producers, producer associations and packers**.

Mercedes Fernández Albaladejo, Head of the Standardisation and Research Unit, together with Concha Crespo, journalist and event host, presented the winners of this edition, namely:



First prize

- Robust green fruitiness: Sabino Leone - Canosa Di Puglia (BT) - Italy
- Medium green fruitiness: SCA Nuestra Señora de los Remedios EVOO "Oro de Cánava"- Jimena (Jaén)-Spain
- Delicate green fruitiness: Molino Del Genil S.L - Cordoba - Spain
- Ripe fruitiness: Frantoio Romano - Ponte (BN) - Italy
- Small-scale producers: Aziende Agricole di Martino - Trani - Italy
- Packers: Goya en España SAU- Alcalá de Guadaíra (Sevilla) - Spain
- Southern Hemisphere: Fazenda Serra dos Tapes Indústria e Comercio de Azeite de Oliva Ltda. - Canguçu - Brazil





Second prize

- Robust green fruitiness: Coop. Olivarera de Valdepeñas Colival – Valdepeñas (C. Real) – Spain
- Medium green fruitiness: Sociedade Agrícola Vale Anna S.A. – F. da Alentejo – Portugal
- Delicate green fruitiness: Societé Fermes Ali Sfar – Tunisia – Tunisia
- Ripe fruitiness: Entre caminos Selección (Escalera Álvarez S.A.T) – La Roda de Andalucía (Sevilla) – Spain
- Small-scale producers: SCA Nuestra Señora del Castillo – Vilches (Jaén) – Spain
- Packers: Nuestra Señora de la Paz, S.C.A de Oleoestepa. – Estepa (Seville) – Spain

Third prize

- Robust green fruitiness: Aceites Castellar SL – Nobleza del Sur – Castellar (Jaén) – Spain
- Medium green fruitiness: Aceites Guadalquivir SCA- Villanueva de la Reina (Jaén) – Spain
- Delicate green fruitiness: Olinorte Produção Agrícola, Lda – Évora – Portugal
- Ripe fruitiness: Barhoumi Olive Oil – Tunis – Tunisia
- Packers: S.C.A Agropecuaria de Herrera de Oleoestepa, Herrera (Sevilla) – Spain

Check out the recording of the **ceremony** and the **list of winners** of the 23d edition of the Mario Solinas Quality Awards through [this link](#).



PRESS CONFERENCE – 2023 MARIO SOLINAS AWARDS CEREMONY

On **Wednesday 7 June**, in the build-up to the **Mario Solinas Quality Awards**, the IOC held a **press conference** and a dedicated **tasting session** at its headquarters during which the awarded olive oils were presented at the Organisation's headquarters.

Through these awards and for the last 23 years, the IOC has been rewarding **extra virgin olive oils** for their quality and recognising the fundamental work of the producers and packers.

The event was attended by numerous journalists who had the opportunity to taste this year's Mario Solinas award-winning oils under the guidance of several panel leaders recognised by the IOC.

The head of the tasting panel of the Agri-food Laboratory of Cordoba, P. Pascual, was accompanied by **Elena Díaz Mejía**, head of the panel of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, **Gema Gómez**, head of the panel of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, and **María del Mar García González**, head of the panel of the Central Customs and Excise Laboratory. The panel leaders explained to the participants the different stages of a professional tasting of extra virgin olive oils, teaching them how to recognise the different fruity notes that characterise a high-quality oil.

The IOC Deputy Executive Director presented the mission of the Organisation, the only one dedicated exclusively to olive oil and table olives. Highlighting the importance of the **organoleptic evaluation** of virgin olive oils, J. Lillo underlined the objectives of the Mario Solinas Quality Award, now in its 23rd year, which include improving the quality of extra virgin olive oils produced throughout the world and enhancing their visibility. He also placed an emphasis on the efforts of producers and packers to improve and diversify the quality of the olive oils marketed and congratulated them for the significant improvement in the image of extra virgin olive oil, the cornerstone of the Mediterranean diet, internationally recognised as the healthiest diet.





In this regard, the Head of the IOC's Standardisation and Research Unit pointed out that "numerous scientific studies show that a diet whose main source of fat is olive oil has positive effects on the body and prevents the onset of various diseases". She added that "Mediterranean populations, who consume the most olive oil, suffer less obesity. Compared to a low-fat diet, not only is weight loss greater, but it is maintained for longer, making it more difficult to regain the weight lost". Likewise, she also stressed that "olive oil favours the consumption of healthy, low-calorie foods such as vegetables, legumes and fruit, making them tastier and more attractive, and the absorption of other healthy nutrients."



The event concluded with the invitation of all attendees to the **Mario Solinas 2023 Awards Ceremony**.

VISIT OF AN AUSTRALIAN EXPERT TO THE IOC HEADQUARTERS

Prof. Robert Spooner-Hart, a researcher at **Western Sydney University** and a member of the **Australian Olive Association**, was received at the headquarters of IOC on **19 May 2023** by **María Juárez** (Head ad interim of the Economics and Promotion Unit), **Lhassane Sikaoui** (Head of the Olive Growing, Olive Oil Technology and Environment Unit), **Catarina Bairrao** (Head of the Technical Cooperation and Training Department) and **Juan Antonio Polo** (Head of the Olive Oil Technology and Environment Department).



The **Australian Olive Association** is a not-for-profit organisation representing over 85% of the country's olive industry and all of its stakeholders (growers, oil mills, olive service providers, scientists, etc.). It is the main advisory body to the government and the industry on research activities.



The Australian Olive Association's activities include the sector's strategic management, the establishment of a biosecurity plan for the sector, the promotion of Australian olive oil and table olives, the implementation of research, development and innovation projects, etc.

The visiting professor gave a lengthy description of the olive oil and table olive sector in Australia, pointing out that olive growing covers an area of 33,000 ha. According to the IOC's data, Australia produces 23 million kg of olive oil a year, mainly extra virgin olive oil, and 3,500 tonnes of table olives. Australia imports 40 million litres of olive oil and 17,000 tonnes of table olives. Annual consumption per capita is 2.4 litres of olive oil and 0.8 kg of olives.

The IOC representatives explained the lines of work of their units and referred in particular to the promotional activities carried out by the IOC in Australia over the last few months.

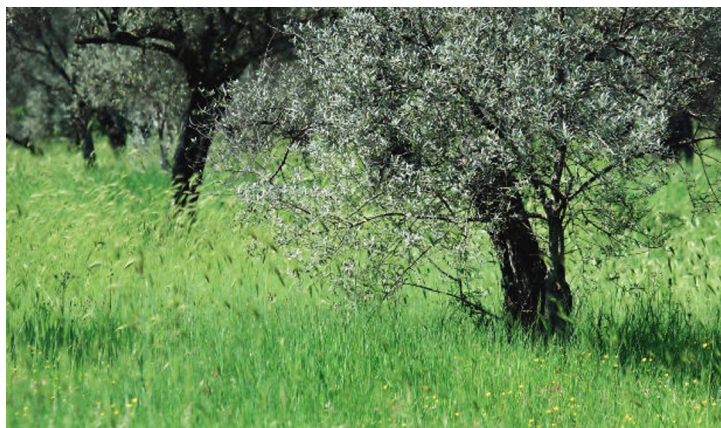
IOC officials thanked **Prof. Spooner-Hart** for his visit to the headquarters and for the wealth of information of interest that he provided on the occasion. They encouraged him to participate in all activities of interest to him, extending this invitation to the Australian Olive Association, which they identified as a key stakeholder in Australia.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

On the occasion of **World Environment Day**, celebrated globally on **Monday 5 June**, the IOC once again highlighted the fundamental role played by olive trees as a sustainable crop that contribute to the **fight against climate change**.

The **United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP) established [this day](#) in 1973 to enhance global awareness of this pressing issue and encourage solutions aimed at **reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions**.

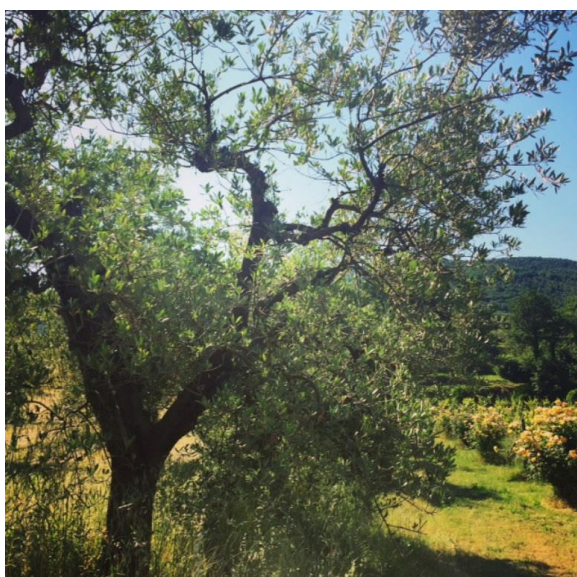




Since its inception, the IOC has highlighted the **essential role of olive trees** as part of the solution to climate change through specialised courses and seminars. Moreover, in collaboration with the **Spanish University of Jaén** and the **University Institute of Research on Olive Grove and Olive Oils**, the Organisation collaborates on a web portal dedicated to olive sustainability. Through [this page](#) you can read about the latest research and scientific developments in the field of agroecology, particularly when applied to the olive grove, and learn more about important projects that are being developed in this domain.

For **World Environment Day** this year, the IOC published an engaging video which puts an emphasis on the **olive's grove potential** in addressing the issue of climate change and brings to the forefront olive oil's innumerable **positive attributes**, both in terms of people's health, as that of our planet as a whole.

The video was put together on the occasion of the **UN's 2016 Climate Change Conference COP22**, and can be accessed through [this link](#).



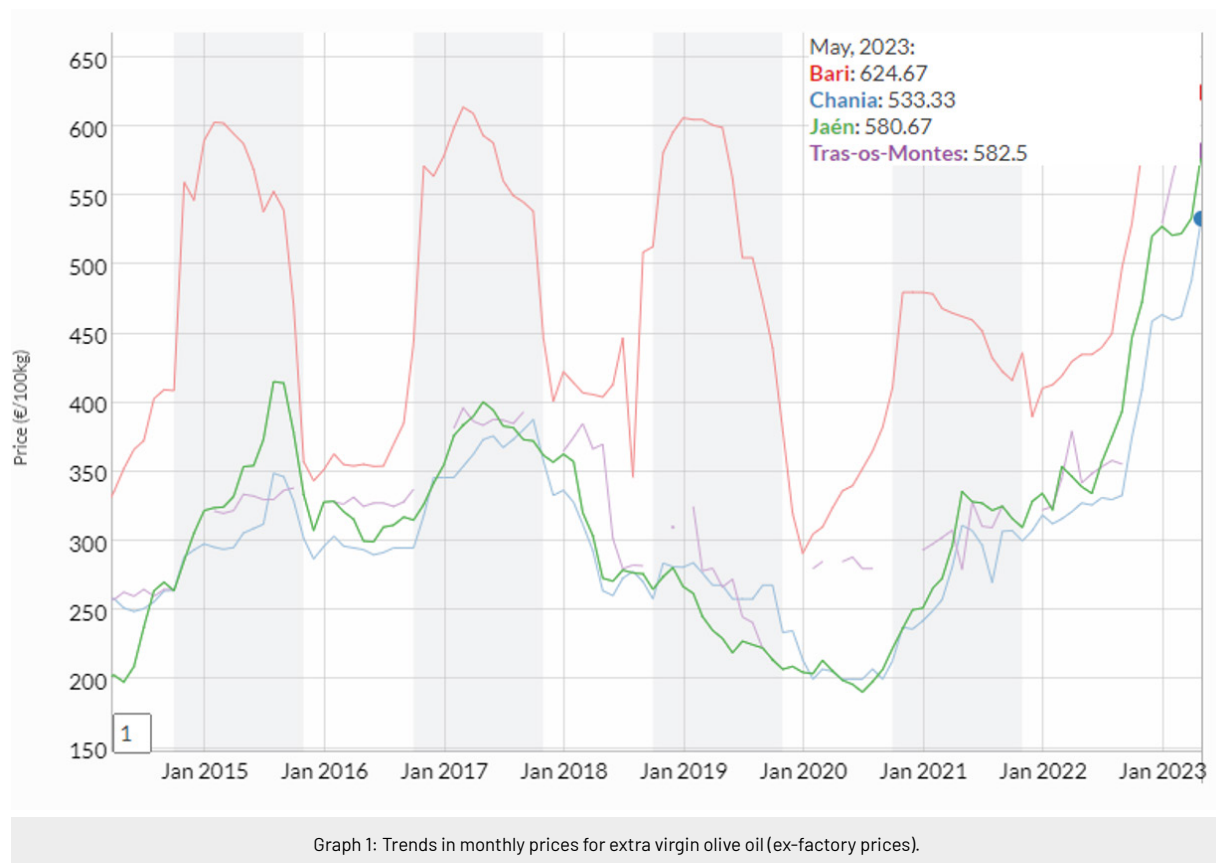


THE WORLD MARKET OF OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES

Olive oil prices

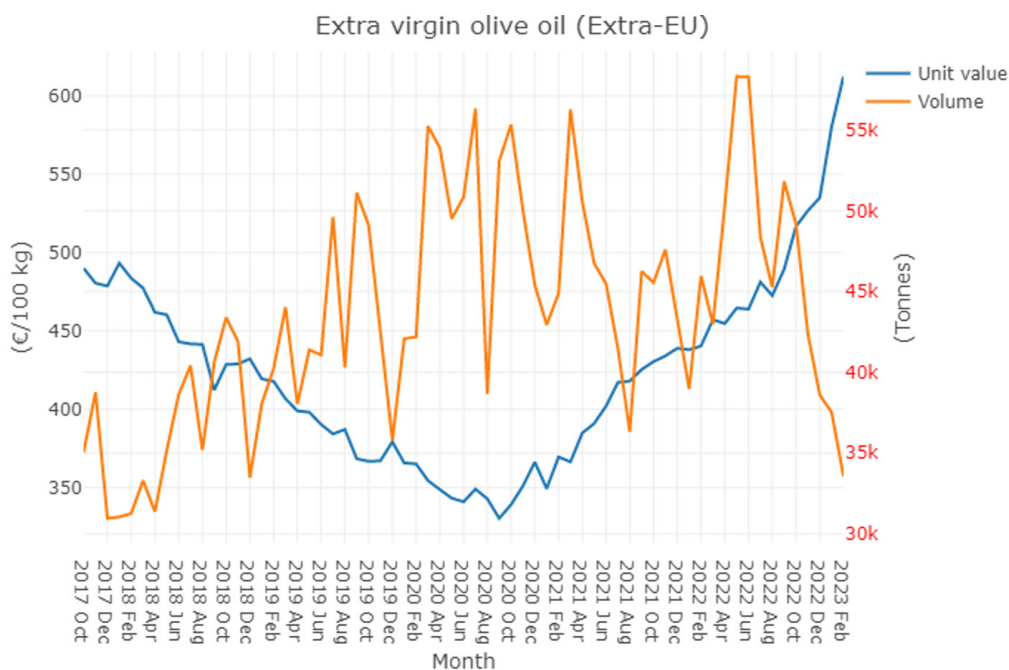
Olive oil prices have hit record highs. In Jaén (Spain), the price of extra virgin olive oil has exceeded the record set in August 2015 by almost €169.

The latest figures show that extra virgin olive oil was being traded at €591.5 per 100kg in Jaén during the week of 15 to 21 May (+74.5% compared to the same period of the previous crop year). In Bari (Italy), the price for this category reached €633 (+45.5%), while in the Greek town of Chania it stood at €560 (+69.7%).





As regards extra-EU exports, in February of the 2022/23 crop year, the unit value of olive oil was €588 per 100kg (+40% in comparison to the same period of the previous crop year, or +4.4% versus the previous month). For extra virgin olive oil, this figure was €612.5 per 100kg (implying an increase of €282.2 compared to September 2020).



Graph 2: Evolution of the unit value and volume of extra virgin olive oil exports.

In February, the unit value index for extra-EU exports from the EU was 160.3 (+37.7% in comparison to the same period of the previous crop year, or +4.6% with respect to the previous month).

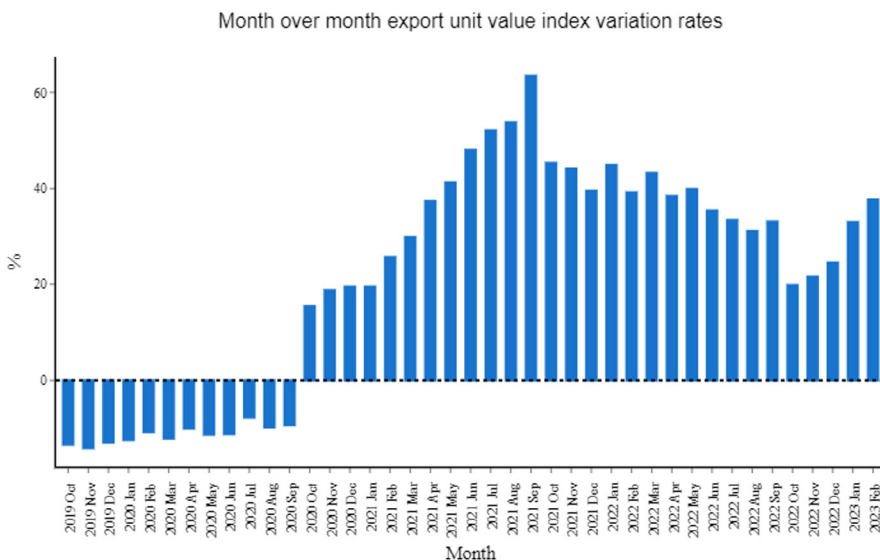
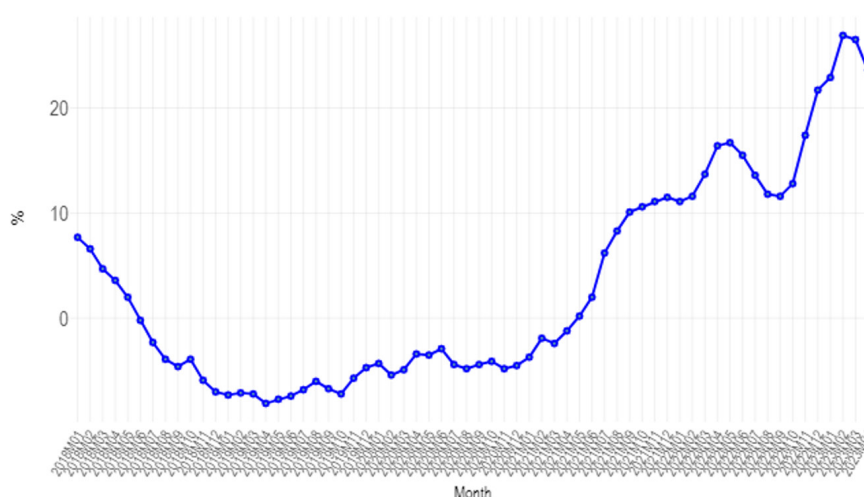


Figure 3: Trend in the unit value index for extra-EU exports.

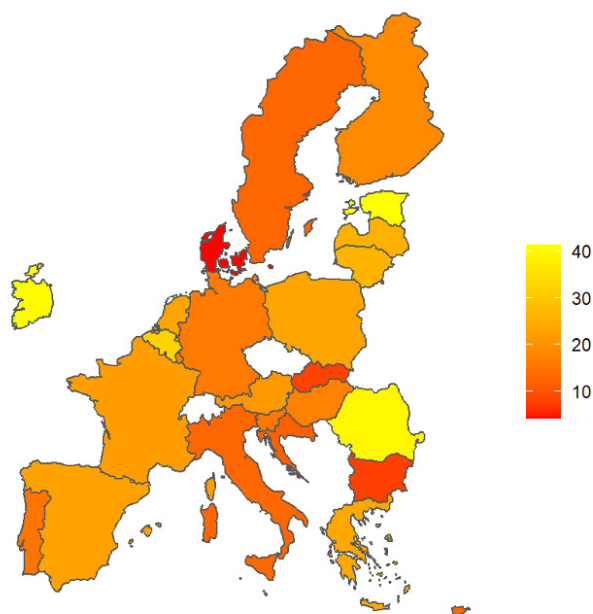


On the demand side, the harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP) for olive oil in the EU rose by 23.6% in April in relation to the same month of the previous year.

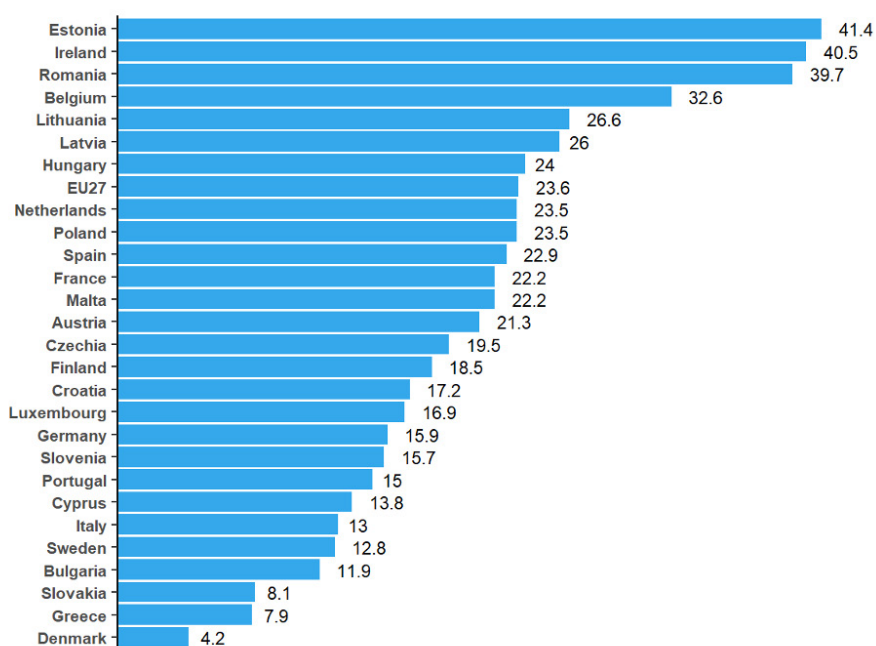


Graph 4: Trend in the HICP for olive oil in the EU-27. Rate of change (m/m-12)(%).

By country, the biggest increases were recorded in Estonia, Ireland, Romania and Belgium, while Denmark, Greece, Slovakia and Bulgaria saw the smallest increases. Seven countries recorded values above the EU-27 average.



Graph 5: Rate of change in the HICP for olive oil by country in April (m/m-12)(%).



2023M04 (%)

Graph 6: Rate of change in the HICP for olive oil by country in April (m/m-12)(%).

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

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



I. WORLD TRADE IN OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES

1. OLIVE OIL - 2022/23 CROP YEAR

Trade in olive oil and olive-pomace oil since the beginning of the 2022/23 crop year (October 2022 - March 2023) in the 8 markets shown in the table below has increased by 3% in Australia, 17% in Brazil, 6% in Canada and 5% in the United States, compared to the same period of the previous crop year. Conversely, imports fell by 12% in Japan and 17% in China.

In terms of EU trade for the 2022/23 crop year, intra-EU purchases and extra-EU imports fell by 2% and 14% respectively compared to the same period of the previous year.

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

No	Importing country	October 21	October 22	November 21	November 22	December 21	December 22	January 22	January 23	February 22	February 23	March 22
1	Australia	3385,1	2687,1	2254,0	3071,9	2809,0	2423,4	1942,9	3220,5	2453,0	2141,9	2941,4
2	Brazil	8137,6	8488,4	8895,7	12979,1	7465,7	9772,4	9219,6	7735,8	6199,6	9010,5	9808,9
3	Canada	3195,9	4845,4	3628,6	5634,9	3209,7	3862,3	3997,5	3935,3	5294,5	3476,8	5632,6
4	China	3156,3	3447,5	5464,2	7032,8	8439,6	6035,3	4931,3	3220,7	2931,0	1691,7	2711,2
5	Japan	4567,0	5555,5	6856,5	3476,5	4514,3	4508,3	3690,9	4092,4	3557,2	3838,6	5759,4
6	Russia	3227,1	n.d	3393,8	n.d	2805,4	n.d	2220,1	n.d	n.d	n.d	n.d
7	USA	24667,7	37568,0	32101,5	32131,2	25586,4	24321,7	41415,3	32843,2	31094,2	30683,6	32371,3
8	Extra-EU/27	15418,9	10879,0	9681,7	9374,4	28845,2	29095,3	14900,6	8375,4	14814,2	14024,2	15339,9
	Intra-EU/27	81263,4	86190,7	98173,2	101980,4	116706,2	116557,8	96943,8	92295,8	113380,0	100229,5	110910,4
	Total	147019,0	159661,6	170449,1	175681,3	200381,5	196576,5	179262,1	155718,9	179723,6	165096,8	185474,9

2. TABLE OLIVES - 2022/23 CROP YEAR

Trade in table olives for the 2022/23 crop year¹ (September 2022 - March 2023) in the markets presented in the table below increased by 8% in Brazil and 19% in the United States in comparison with the same period of the previous crop year. Conversely, imports fell by 5% in Australia and 3% in Canada.

With regard to trade in table olives within the EU, during the 2022/23 crop year, intra-EU purchases increased by 9%, and extra-EU imports fell by 5% compared to the same period of the previous year.

Imports of table olives (t)

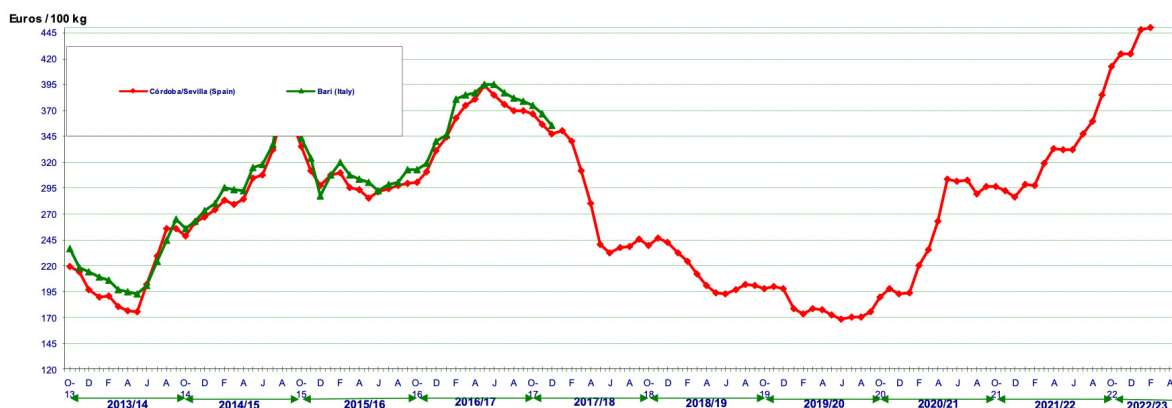
No	Importing country	September 21	September 22	October 20	October 22	November 21	November 22	December 21	December 22	January 22	January 23	February 22	February 23	March 22	March 23
1	Australia	1622,4	2366,1	1120,8	996,5	1277,0	1600,5	1531,5	1547,0	1296,8	1221,0	1565,2	909,0	2275,7	1545,0
2	Brazil	11770,4	11432,5	10495,0	8957,5	13417,9	10838,6	9812,7	11057,8	5484,3	9922,8	8182,5	10303,6	9275,3	11740,6
3	Canada	2581,3	3172,0	2396,9	2872,2	3150,3	3459,8	3032,9	2661,1	3320,0	2827,9	2403,6	1759,6	2837,2	2379,2
4	USA	12274,1	14272,0	11534,0	13449,3	10713,6	17146,0	12419,3	13606,8	11211,4	12173,9	9804,7	12385,0	12150,6	12511,0
5	Extra-EU/27	8335,4	8262,9	8858,6	9177,3	9328,5	8683,8	8114,0	8982,9	8747,8	8034,1	9371,0	7139,5	11235,7	n.d
	Intra-EU/27	28211,0	28224,8	33305,3	50645,7	39645,5	31851,5	26423,6	32850,1	22988,4	23537,5	24904,0	23913,7	25720,4	n.d
	Total	64794,6	67730,2	67710,6	86098,4	77532,7	73580,1	61334,0	70705,7	53048,6	57717,1	56231,0	56410,4	63494,8	28175,8

¹ According to the 2015 International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, in force since 1 January 2017, a "table olive crop year" is defined as the twelve-month period from 1 September of any one year to 31 August of the following year.



Refined olive oil: In Spain, during the week of 5 to 21 May 2023, the producer price for this category of olive oil was €5.49/kg, displaying an increase of 66.4% compared to the same period of the previous crop year. Italian data for this category has not been available since the end of December 2017 when it was trading at €3.56/kg, signifying an increase of 4% with respect to the previous crop year.

The difference between the price of extra virgin olive oil (€5.92/kg) and the price of refined olive oil (€5.49/kg) is €0.43/kg in Spain.



Graph 2

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

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



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Our scientific journal Olivae is available at:

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

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