



**IOC**

INTERNATIONAL  
OLIVE  
COUNCIL  
**NEWSLETTER**

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**Nº 186**

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ENGLISH EDITION

THE IOC DIVES INTO THE CERTIFICATION  
OF CARBON ABSORBED  
THROUGH OLIVE-GROWING





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## CELEBRATION OF THE FOURTH WORKSHOP ON THE HARMONISATION OF IOC-RECOGNISED VIRGIN OLIVE OIL TASTING PANELS

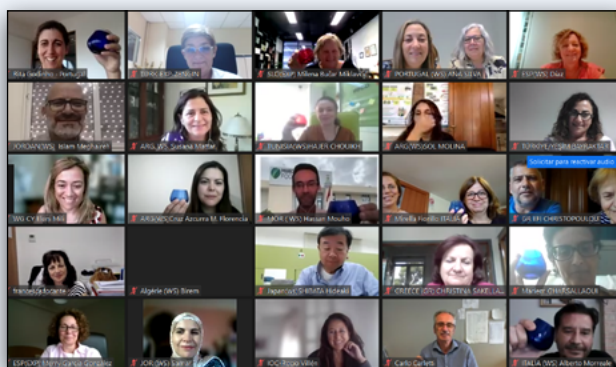
The Standardisation and Research Unit of the IOC's Executive Secretariat (ES) organised a free workshop from 19 to 21 September open to the heads of IOC-recognised tasting panels. One hundred and nine (109) heads of tasting panels from 26 IOC member and non-member countries took part in this theoretical and practical activity.

The aim of the workshop was to reduce the differences between the panels and to encourage the continuous training of panel members.

The activity was led by six IOC experts in organoleptic evaluation: Karolina Brkić Bubola, Milena Bučar Miklavčič, Ana Carrilho, Susana Mattar Sabio, Angels Calvo Fandos and Placido Pascual Morales.

The participating panels had previously received 28 samples of virgin olive oil to be used for the tasting session. The data from each sample was entered during the tasting sessions on the IOC-Panel platform provided by the Fundación del Olivar for statistical analysis of the results obtained in real time. The ES would like to thank Miguel Angel Romero Ortega, from the Fundación del Olivar, who was available throughout the workshop to help the panel leaders make the best use of the platform.

All the participants expressed their gratitude to the Standardisation and Research Unit and their satisfaction with the fruitful results obtained after three days of tastings and lively discussions. The ES took note of the participants' comments and suggestions for the next edition, which is scheduled for September 2024 by videoconference.



Some screenshots during the video conference



## INAUGURATION OF THE 20TH INTERNATIONAL COURSE FOR EXPERTS IN THE ORGANOLEPTIC ASSESSMENT OF VIRGIN OLIVE OILS

The IOC took part in the inauguration of the 20th edition of the International Course for Experts in the Sensory Organoleptic Assessment of Virgin Olive Oils on 26 September. The Organisation was represented by its Deputy Executive Director, Jaime Lillo, who sat alongside the Rector of the University of Jaén, Nicolás Martínez Reyes, the Programme Director, Sebastián Sanchez Villasclaras, the Technical Director, Marino Uceda, and the Course Coordinator, Alberto Moya.



Jaime Lillo emphasised the importance of this course in the organoleptic assessment of virgin olive oils for the IOC, pointing out that it was considered to be the most prestigious in the world, given its high level of complexity and the quality of its content. He pointed out that, in 2023, the IOC had awarded 25 scholarships to participants from 17 countries, and took the opportunity to congratulate the scholarship holders selected from the very large number of applicants that the Organisation receives every year. This new edition of the course, which is taught in English and Spanish, will see the participation of 35 international students.

Nicolás Martínez Reyes stressed the importance of the collaboration between the IOC and the University of Jaén, and pointed out that the olive sector was a priority for the region. Sebastián Sánchez conveyed that more than 100 lecturers from various countries, including Australia, Greece, Italy, Jordan and Spain, will be taking part in the course, the aim of which is not only to train participants in organoleptic assessment, but also to improve their knowledge of the complex process involved in obtaining virgin olive oil - from the olive grove and oil mills to the storage and marketing of this age-old product.

The speakers also paid tribute to [Professor Cristino Lobillo](#), recalling his significant contribution to the conception, launch and organisation of this course.





## INAUGURATION OF THE 15TH EDITION OF THE MASTER'S DEGREE IN OLIVE GROWING AND OLIVE OIL TECHNOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CORDOBA

The Master's in Olive Growing and Olive Oil Technology takes place every two years since 1995 and is organised by the University of Córdoba (UCO), the Andalusian Regional Government's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, the IFAPA (*Instituto Andaluz de Investigación y Formación Agraria, Pesquera, Alimentaria y de la Producción Ecológica*), the CSIC (*Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas*), the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) through the IAMZ, the *Fundación Patrimonio Comunal Olivarero* (FPCO) and, finally, the IOC.

The inauguration ceremony of this 15th edition of the Master took place on October 3d and was attended by Cristina Aguilar, Vice-Rector of Postgraduate Studies at the University of Córdoba; Juan Ramón Villegas, Head of the Agriculture, Livestock, Industry and Quality Department of the Córdoba Regional Delegation; Raúl Compés, Director of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ-CIHEAM); M<sup>a</sup> Leire Molinero, the Director of the Sustainable Agriculture Institute of Córdoba (IAS-CSIC); Darío Reina Giménez, the Director of the IFAPA of Córdoba; and Enrique Quesada Moraga, the Director of the Master in Olive Growing and Olive Oil Technology of the UCO. The International Olive Council (IOC) was represented by the Head of the Olive Oil and Environment Department, Juan Antonio Polo Palomino.

In his intervention, Juan Antonio Polo Palomino recalled that one of the IOC's missions is to contribute to the sustainable development of the sector, and that, to this end, there is no more powerful tool than people for transforming a reality. He added that training individuals to meet the challenges currently faced the olive sector was a guarantee of success. He further encouraged the students to make the most of this Master's degree and to train themselves so they are ready to face the historic moment that is marking the agricultural reality, in particular when it comes to the need of feeding a growing world population, with a constant useful surface area and increasingly scarce resources, and in the face of new challenges, such as responding to climate change.





## THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECENT MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA, OMAN AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



The IOC Executive Director was invited to Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, by the Chairman of the Arab Authority for Investment and Development ([AAAID](#)), which contributes capital to 56 companies in 12 Arab countries with the aim of supporting their agricultural development. This authority encourages development programmes to support small farmers and develop local communities, provides consultancy services, and carries out feasibility studies.

AAAID informed the Executive Director of its willingness to work with the Organisation to support the financing of the olive sector in its member countries. Abdellatif Ghedira invited the AAAID to participate as an observer at the next meeting of the IOC's Advisory Committee to be held on Wednesday 22 November in Madrid, where they will be able to present their initiative and explain to the Committee's representatives the conditions and criteria for financing olive-growing projects.

The Executive Director also visited Saudi Arabia on September 19th, where he was received by the Head of Delegation from this new IOC member country. He then travelled to Muscat, the capital of the Sultanate of Oman on September 21st, where he took part in a workshop on the olive sector. On this occasion, Abdellatif Ghedira presented the IOC and its objectives, and explained what the Organisation brings to its member countries. He encouraged the attendees to consider setting up a physico-chemical analysis laboratory and a tasting panel to better control the quality of olive oils and combat fraud. He also recommended that representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture set up a research nursery to study the adaptation of olive tree varieties to the country's climatic conditions. Contacts with the [Sultanate of Oman's Embassy](#) in Madrid will be stepped up with a view to exploring ways of forging closer ties with the IOC.



## THE IOC'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MISSION TO EGYPT

In response to an invitation from the President of the Egyptian Olive Council, IOC Executive Director Abdellatif Ghedira visited Egypt from 4 to 6 October 2023, where he took part in a number of events.

The Executive Director held a meeting with the Egyptian members of the IOC Advisory Committee and the Egyptian delegation to the IOC, during which he encouraged them to increase their participation and involvement in IOC activities, to appoint experts and to collaborate more closely with the IOC Executive Secretariat as a whole.

Together with the national and local authorities, he took part in the inauguration of the first olive-growing festival to be held in the Sinai Peninsula, during which he planted an olive tree on a plot where 10,000 trees were planted on the same day. The IOC Director was able to witness the importance of the olive sector in this arid region which should soon be home to 25 million new varieties of olive trees. This initiative is part of an ambitious programme to plant 100 million oil olive seedlings, which the Egyptian authorities announced at the 53d meeting of the IOC Advisory Committee in 2019. More than 60% of this programme has already been implemented in various regions of the country. Egypt, which is the world's leading producer of table olives – with 600,000 tonnes produced in 2022/23 – has decided to diversify its production and grow more varieties of oil to boost domestic consumption, which is still well below what it could be in a traditionally producer country, reaching no more than 400 grams of olive oil per capita per year.

The IOC Executive Director recommended that this planting programme be part of an overall strategy that should include all components of the value chain, in particular the choice of suitable varieties, the revitalisation of nurseries, the installation of processing and storage units, the establishing and recognition of analysis laboratories and tasting panels, and the development of agribusiness as a whole. He also proposed that this Mediterranean country consider the development of communication campaigns with the IOC's support, as part of the intergovernmental organisation's promotional activities in member countries.

Furthermore, he discussed the possibility of making a national germplasm bank available to the competent Egyptian authorities in order to study the adaptation of international varieties to Egypt's diverse edaphic conditions, as well as the possibility of setting up a training centre exclusively dedicated to the study of table olives.

Executive Director Ghedira also extended an official invitation to the Egyptian Minister of Agriculture to attend the 118th session of the Council of Members to be held in Madrid in November.





## THE IOC'S MISSION TO AUSTRALIA AS PART OF ITS PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN

The Head of the IOC's Economy and Promotion Unit, María Juárez, and the Head of the Promotion Department, Imene Trabelsi, visited Australia from 12 to 22 October 2023 to take stock of the progress of the ongoing promotion campaign and define the next steps.

The promotional campaign in Australia began in 2022 and is due to end in 2026. In 2022, the IOC focused on creating a brand strategy and organising two launch events to announce and present the campaign.



In 2023, the campaign focuses more on raising awareness among Australian authorities and stakeholders of the IOC's standards and the nutritional, sensory, sustainable and health benefits of virgin olive oils.

IOC officials attended the Introductory Olive Oil Tasting Workshop held in Sydney on 17-18 October 2023 for authorities and stakeholders, an event aimed at introducing them to the IOC's standards and the practice of olive oil tasting, as well as to inform them about the health benefits of olive oil, its unique taste and versatility. The workshop was led by renowned scientist and IOC-recognised tasting expert, Wenceslao Moreda.

Representatives from the Australian olive sector and embassy officials from several countries in Australia, such as Lebanon, Spain, Greece, France and Tunisia, took part in this introductory sensory analysis workshop.

The workshop concluded with a cocktail reception at which the Head of the IOC's Economy and Promotion Unit presented the Organisation's mission and objectives, as well as the structure of its Executive Secretariat. Representatives of the Spanish, Tunisian, Greek and French embassies in Australia took the floor to underline the value of such events, which make a significant contribution to bringing together stakeholders in the Australian olive sector and the IOC.





## THE LATEST ACTIVITIES AT THE IOC

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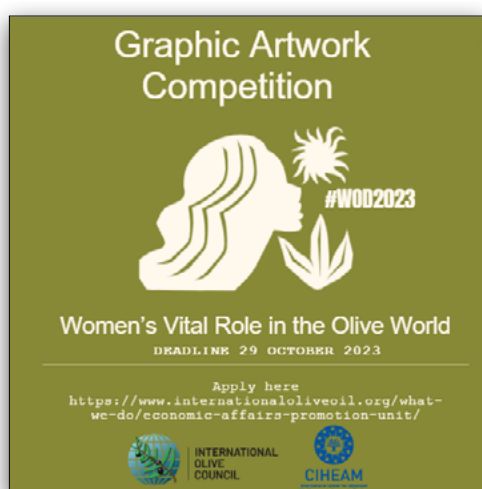
Imene Trabelsi closed the event by reiterating the IOC's appreciation to the participants and underlining the Organisation's role in promoting the culture of olive oil consumption and disseminating trade standards for olive products. She said that the collaboration between Australia and the IOC represented an important step towards a healthier and more sustainable future. "Our aim is to raise global awareness of the benefits of olive oil and sustainable practices based on the principles of a circular economy, which will not only reduce the impact of climate change but also control the final cost of production," said the Head of the IOC's Promotion Department.

The IOC representatives also met with the public relations agency in charge of the project, Sopexa, which is working to create, develop and maintain a collaborative network, and is also helping in the dissemination of the IOC promotion programme aimed at key stakeholders. Moreover, the agency is responsible for creating specific content to support the key objective of raising awareness of the IOC standards and tasting methods among authorities and stakeholders. To this end, it is working with a "campaign ambassador", chef Mark Olive, a well-known and much-loved figure in Australia, who is helping to build trust and legitimacy for the campaign. Overall, his recipes and presence add a more "playful" touch to the promotional activities. His presence on social networks is also used for reaching a wider audience that goes beyond the key stakeholders.





## THE IOC AND CIHEAM ARE ENTHUSIASTICALLY WORKING TOWARDS THE CELEBRATION OF WORLD OLIVE DAY, 2023!



Right before the summer, the International Olive Council (IOC) and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Studies ([CIHEAM](#)) agreed to join forces once again, this time in order to jointly organise the upcoming celebration of World Olive Day (WOD). This year, WOD will focus on the vital role of women in olive oil. The celebration will take place on Thursday 23 November at the IOC's headquarters in Madrid.

The CIHEAM, a Mediterranean intergovernmental organisation established in 1962 and a longstanding collaborator of the IOC on a wide range of activities, has made gender equality a core pillar of their work over recent years. Among other important projects, the CIHEAM has released groundbreaking analyses which shed a light on the current situation of women empowerment and gender equality in the Mediterranean region and beyond, such as their "Gender equality in the Mediterranean region" report

([CIHEAM, 2022](#)) and their joint publication with the Union for the Mediterranean ([UfM](#)) on "Strengthening the role of women in rural and agricultural areas – Obstacles and opportunities" ([CIHEAM, 2018](#)). Indeed, the active involvement of women is crucial in safeguarding food security, accounting for 43% of the worldwide agricultural workforce ([CIHEAM, 2022](#)). Unfortunately, however, the fundamental role of women is to this day often overlooked.

It is with this in mind that both the IOC and CIHEAM are eager to dedicate World Olive Day 2023 to the vital role that women play in the olive sector and across the entire olive production chain, from the cultivation of the crop to its place on our tables. To this end, both intergovernmental organisations have pooled resources with a number of women's associations working in the olive oil sector that represent a diversity of geographical areas, including the Women in Olive Oil network from the USA, the Arab and Jordanian Olive Oil Women's Network, the Women & Olives LATAM network, and the Italian associations Pandolea and Donne dell'Olio. Besides offering their support across a diversity of aspects that relate to the organisation of WOD 2023, these networks are actively collaborating on the collection of videos that represent the members of their associations as they contribute their hard work to the production of olive oil all over the world and across all of its stages. The deadline for the submission of videos was October 22nd, after which the organisers began to work on a compilation that will be shown to the guests attending WOD.

Sunday 29 October was also a significant milestone in the organisation of WOD since it was the deadline for the reception of submissions for the international artwork competition launched by the IOC and CIHEAM in September. Over thirty people from all over the world took part in this graphic design competition, which aimed to highlight and celebrate the fundamental contribution made by women in the olive oil sector.



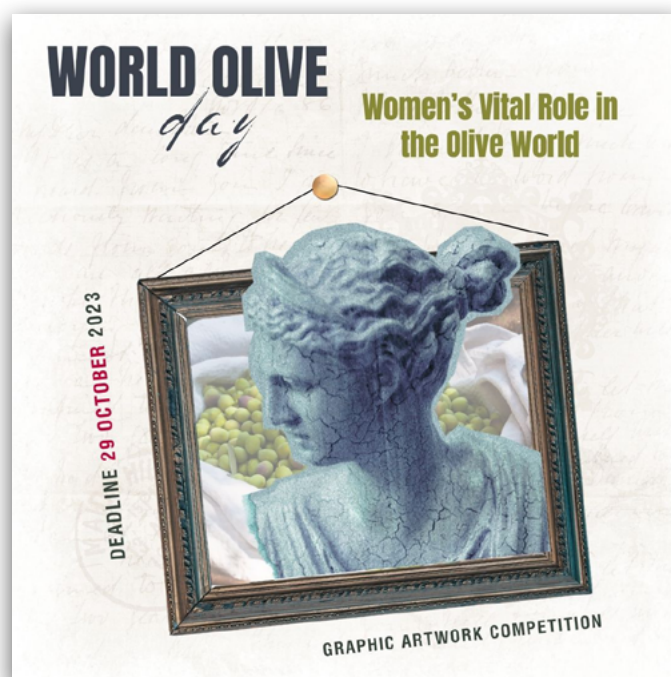
## THE LATEST ACTIVITIES AT THE IOC

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The competition will give international exposure to original, never-before-seen works created using one of the following techniques: coloured pencils, pastels, watercolour, gouache, acrylic paint, felt pens, collage, recycled or natural materials, computer-assisted drawing, etc.

The best works will be presented at the WOD ceremony, and the two finalists will be invited to Madrid to attend the event in person.

The IOC and CIHEAM also have other exciting events in store to celebrate WOD 2023 and women's contributions to the olive world, such as a delightful cocktail reception with a tasting of traditional and oil-based dishes from across the globe. The event, which will be attended by senior representatives of international organisations and of the IOC's Council of Members, promises to be a delicious success! Stay tuned for more updates on WOD 2023!





## WORKSHOP ON THE CARBON BALANCE OF THE OLIVE SECTOR AS A PART OF THE SOLUTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

The sustainability of the olive sector is a strategic line of work of the International Olive Council (IOC). As such, the carbon balance in the olive grove is one of the main lines of action that the IOC intends to develop.

The current situation constitutes an ideal scenario for the IOC to contribute to the development of methodological and policy frameworks aimed at enhancing the role of olive groves as an effective strategy to achieve the United Nations climate goals, in line with the adaptation measures recently described in the sixth synthesis report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

According to the 2017 study of the CO<sub>2</sub> balance of olive oil in the world carried out by the IOC, the world olive-growing area, which spans 10.5 million hectares according to IOC data, could remove 47 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. This means that, on average, one hectare of olive groves can capture 4.5 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Thus, taking into account the total life cycle of olive oil, it can be maintained that the production of one kilogram of olive oil removes 10 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.

Recently, several initiatives have emerged to generate 'carbon credits' from agriculture which could hypothetically be monetised on the voluntary emissions market. The European Union (EU) is at present working on a framework for certifying carbon removals.

Therefore, we are currently at a crucial moment for the olive grove to obtain a well-earned recognition for its fundamental environmental role. Moreover, this acknowledgement could also have a positive effect on farmers, as their sustainable and positive agronomic practices would allow them to obtain additional income.





## THE LATEST ACTIVITIES AT THE IOC

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Considering that the IOC is the world's only international and intergovernmental organisation working in olive oil, it seems logical to assume that the Organisation is uniquely positioned to become a leader in this sector and to provide its member countries with technically contrasted tools, under recognised and validated standards, that are easy to use for the end user.

It is in this context that the IOC organised an international workshop entitled "Carbon balance of the olive sector: part of the solution against climate change" at the Organisation's headquarters in Madrid (Spain), as well as online, from 17 to 19 October, 2023.

The workshop provided a unique opportunity for participants to exchange on their experiences, to reflect on the position of the olive oil and table olive sector in terms of its contribution to the achievement of the "CO2 neutrality" objectives, as well as on how the current situation can benefit the sector as a whole.

This timely event brought together stakeholders of the olive sector - experts, lawyers, policy makers, project coordinators, private company representatives, etc. - who are interested in the assessment of the carbon balance, the removal of CO2, carbon credit markets, etc., with a view to creating a platform for reflection on the issues addressed at the workshop:

1. Are we able to put forward an algorithm for its calculation?
2. Should the IOC propose a specific system for the calculation, verification, and generation of carbon credits in the olive sector in line with the eu and the main international standards?
3. What role should the IOC play in the future marketplace for carbon credits in the olive sector?





## THE LATEST ACTIVITIES AT THE IOC

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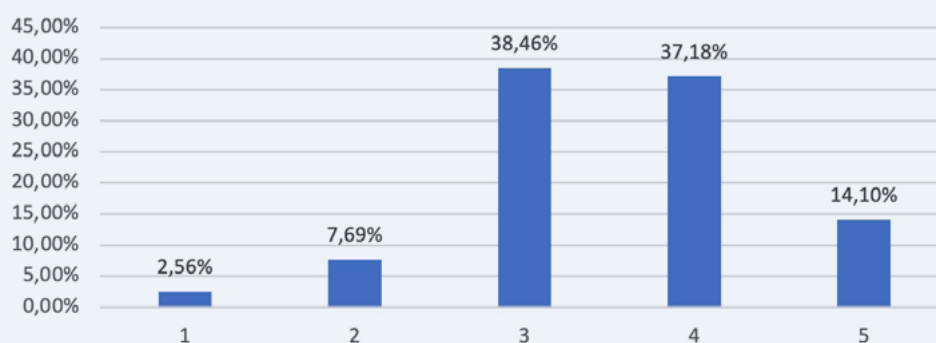
Following three days of intense deliberations, and after analysing participants' responses to a survey, the main conclusions reached were:

- This was a unique event that brought together policy, science, technology and the market in an open innovation exercise that allowed us to address this issue with a holistic 360° vision.
- It happened at the right moment: it is primordial to get moving so that the true role of the olive grove as a carbon sink is sufficiently recognised and valued in the new voluntary carbon credit markets that are already in the process of being regulated.
- Regarding the necessary minimum consensus concerning the assessment of the olive grove's carbon balance that is required for starting to develop a methodology, event participants answered 3,53 on average. This leads the IOC to affirm that, indeed, a minimum consensus does exist.
- The main work priorities identified by the workshop's participants are:
  1. How to establish the baseline criteria for the olive sector.
  2. To develop a methodology for carbon balance assessment in olive orchards.
  3. To model the CO<sub>2</sub> absorption capacity of olive groves.
  4. To consider how to adapt the Q.U.A.L.I.T.Y (QUantification, Additionality, Long-term Storage, Sustainability) criteria to the olive-growing sector.
- The sector considers that the IOC should provide robust methodologies and tools based on scientific knowledge, as well as facilitating the access to these tools: more than 90% of the participants consider that the IOC should work on the standardisation of the calculation of the carbon balance in olive groves, and more than 80% consider that it is the most appropriate entity to define the rules of the future carbon credit market in olive groves.
- The current scenario is presented as a great opportunity for the sector and the objective to be achieved is for society to identify the olive grove with the concept of sustainability and as an effective strategy against climate change: "Olive oil is good for your health and for the environment".

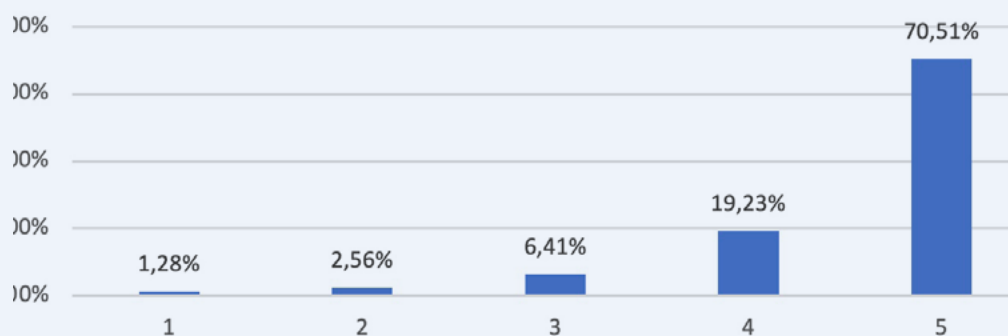


### MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE SURVEY

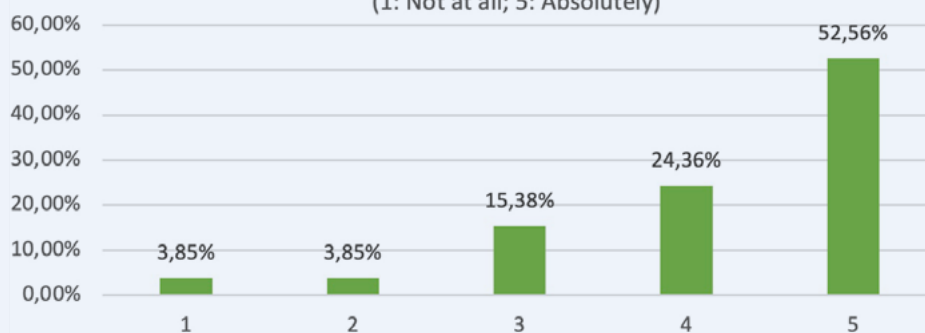
Do you consider that there is a minimum scientific consensus on assessing the carbon balance of olive groves to start developing a standard methodology?  
(1: Not at all; 5: Absolutely)



Should the IOC work on standardising the assessment of the carbon balance of olive groves?  
(1: Not at all; 5: Absolutely)



Would the IOC be the most appropriate body for establishing operating rules for a future voluntary global market for carbon credits in olive groves?  
(1: Not at all; 5: Absolutely)





## VISIT FROM THE AMBASSADOR OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AT THE IOC HEADQUARTERS

The IOC's Executive Director, Abdellatif Ghedira, welcomed the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Spain, Vesna Andree Zaimović, at the IOC's headquarters in Madrid on Thursday 19 October, 2023. The Executive Director was pleased to hand over to the Ambassador the decision of the Council of Members approving Bosnia and Herzegovina's request to become a full member of the Organisation. He recalled that the process to welcome the Balkan country to the IOC family began with Zaimović's predecessor, and took the opportunity to convey his satisfaction with the Members' endorsement.

The very recently appointed Ambassador thanked the IOC Director for his and the Executive Secretariat's support for her country's accession to the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 2015. She highlighted that Bosnia and Herzegovina represents a new generation for agriculture and that the future lies in developing the sector. The Ambassador emphasised that her country has all the necessary prerequisites for developing different kinds of agricultural crops, in particular olive groves, and that joining the IOC was indeed a great step in this direction.

Ghedira thanked the Ambassador for her country's trust and the initiative to adhere to the Organisation, and emphasised that this was a mutually beneficial action for both. He recalled that the IOC's member countries enjoy countless benefits from their affiliation, such as the access to scholarships, grants, the sharing of scientific knowledge, and an overall integral support to all of the country's stakeholders in the olive oil sector (farmers and producers, exporters and companies, researchers, policy makers, etc.). Moreover, he stressed that one of the key factors regarding the IOC's work is the development of international trade standards for olive oil and table olives. Together, the Council of Members, which represent nearly 96% of the world's producing and consuming countries of olive oil, jointly decide on international standards which, ultimately, benefits the end consumers and positively impacts the quality of international trade through the mechanisms in place, such as national IOC-recognised laboratories and tasting panels. The Executive Director emphasised that the IOC is all in all the most essential forum for the sector's stakeholders under the United Nations. He invited the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in the upcoming session of the Council of Members and its specialised committees, as well as in the Advisory Committee and the celebration of World Olive Day scheduled for November 2023. Zaimović gladly accepted the invitation to participate as an observer country until the process of adherence to the Organisation concludes throughout the next year.







## COURTESY VISIT FROM TÜRKIYE'S AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN

On Tuesday 24 October 2023, the IOC's Executive Director, Abdellatif Ghedira, welcomed the recently appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Spain, Nüket Küçükel Ezberci.

Both representatives exchanged their views on the current global situation of the olive oil sector, discussing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for this millennial crop, essential both for Türkiye, the larger Mediterranean region and the world as a whole.

The Executive Director also took this opportunity to invite Ambassador Ezberci to the upcoming 118th session of the Council of Members, Türkiye being an essential member of this intergovernmental organisation, as well as to the celebration of World Olive Day on Thursday 23 November which, this year, will be dedicated to the vital role of women in the olive world.





## THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MISSION TO LEBANON

The Executive Director of the International Olive Council (IOC) travelled to Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, on 26 October 2023, where he was received by the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Najib Mikati, and the Minister of Agriculture, Abbas Al-Haj Hassan.

After outlining the IOC's mission as the world's only intergovernmental organisation bringing together those involved in the production and consumption of olive oil and table olives, as well as its unique position as a forum for discussion of issues affecting the sector, he spoke to his audience about what the Organisation brings to its member countries in terms of technology transfer, training, improving the quality of olive products, exchanges of information and know-how.

He encouraged the Lebanese authorities, one of the oldest members of the IOC since the country of the cedar tree joined the International Agreement in 1973, just 50 years ago, to strengthen their presence within the Organisation and to take advantage of what it can bring to the country's olive sector, which is so important to its economy.

He took the opportunity of his visit to invite the Minister of Agriculture to attend the next session of the Council of Members, the plenary session of which will be held in Madrid on 23 November, and the celebration of World Olive Day on the same day, two events which will be attended by other Ministers of Agriculture from IOC member countries, as well as numerous members of the diplomatic corps alongside the heads of delegations.





## MEETING OF THE IOC STATISTICS WORKING GROUP

The IOC's Statistics Working Group will be holding its 14th meeting on 6 and 7 November by videoconference. The experts appointed by the IOC member countries will review the progress and conclusions of the studies on consumer behaviour, discuss the observatories and analyse developments on the world market for olive oil and table olives.



More information  
will be available shortly on our website  
and in the November Newsletter.

## 118TH SESSION OF THE IOC COUNCIL OF MEMBERS

The International Olive Council is getting ready to hold the 118th session of its Council of Members. Representatives from the 19 IOC member countries (Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Egypt, Georgia, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, the European Union and Uruguay) will take part in meetings of the various specialised committees, the plenary session and various events.



More information  
will be available shortly on our website  
and in the November Newsletter.

## FOLLOW US THROUGH OUR NETWORKS!

Many of you are already following us on our online networks, through the International Olive Council's press review OLIVE NEWS (<https://www.scoop.it/topic/olive-news>), which gathers and publishes the latest news from the international olive sector and other topics of interest such as the Mediterranean diet, health, etc., in Spanish, English, French and Italian. The main advantage of this press review, which is updated daily, is its swiftness: you can access it at any time if you want to keep up to date with the latest news from the sector. Since its launch in December 2013, more than 11,000 articles in the olive sector's main media have been collected through this press review, which has 8,500 subscribers and has already received almost 360,000 visits. All the articles published on Olive News are also available on X (formerly Twitter) at the following address @iocolivenews. The IOC also has a dedicated page on LinkedIn (International Olive Council). Keep up with us!



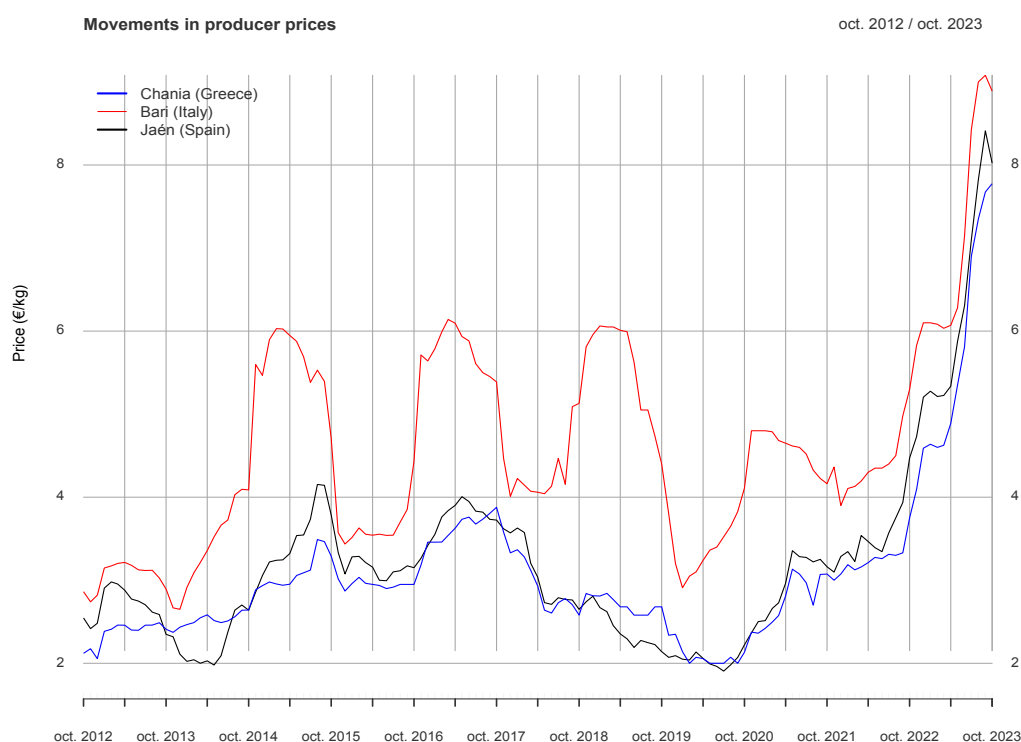


## WORLD MARKET OF OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES

### OLIVE OIL PRICES

Olive oil prices have fallen for the fourth week running. The price of extra virgin olive oil fell during the second week of October in Jaén (Spain) to €797.5 per 100kg, 1.2% less than the previous week.

The latest figures for the week of 9-15 October put extra virgin olive oil at €797.5 per 100kg in Jaén (+80.2% than the same period last year), €870 in Bari (Italy)(+63.8%) and €770 in Chania (Greece).



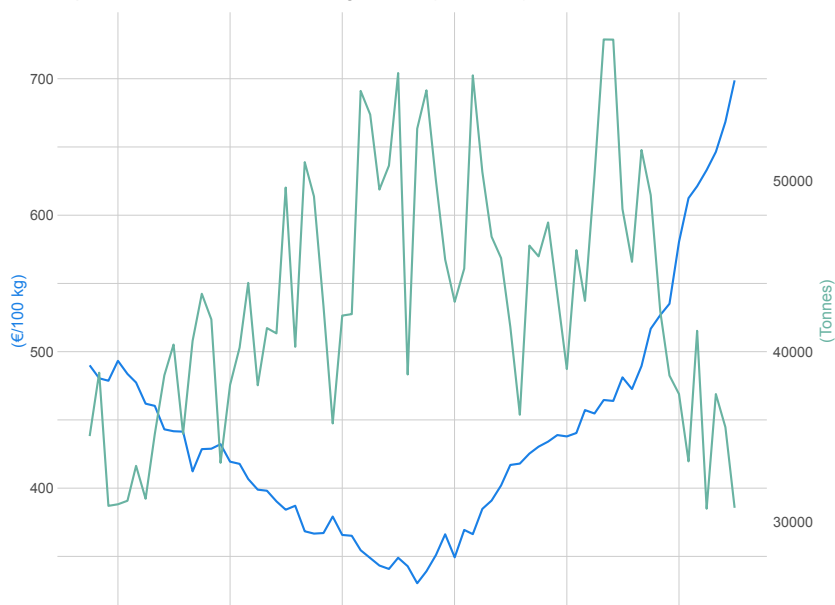
Graph 1: Trends in producer prices for extra virgin olive oil on the main markets (€/1kg).

With regard to extra-EU exports, in July of the 2022/2023 crop year, the unit value of olive oil was €677 per 100 kg (+45.1% on the same period of the previous crop year or +4.4% on the previous month). This figure was €698.8 per 100 kg for extra virgin olive oil (€368.5 more than in September 2020).

The unit value index for extra-EU exports from the EU was 199 (+55.8% on the same period in the previous crop year, or +4.5% on the previous month).

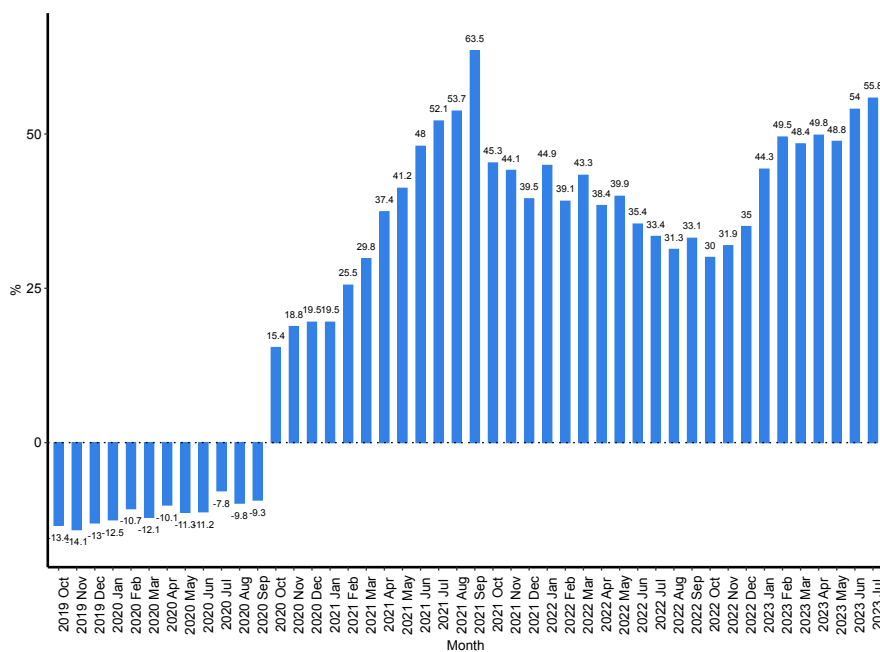


Export unit value and volume of extra virgin olive oil (extra - EU27)



Graph 2: Trends in the unit value (€/100 kg) and volume (tonnes) of extra-virgin olive oil exports from the EU.

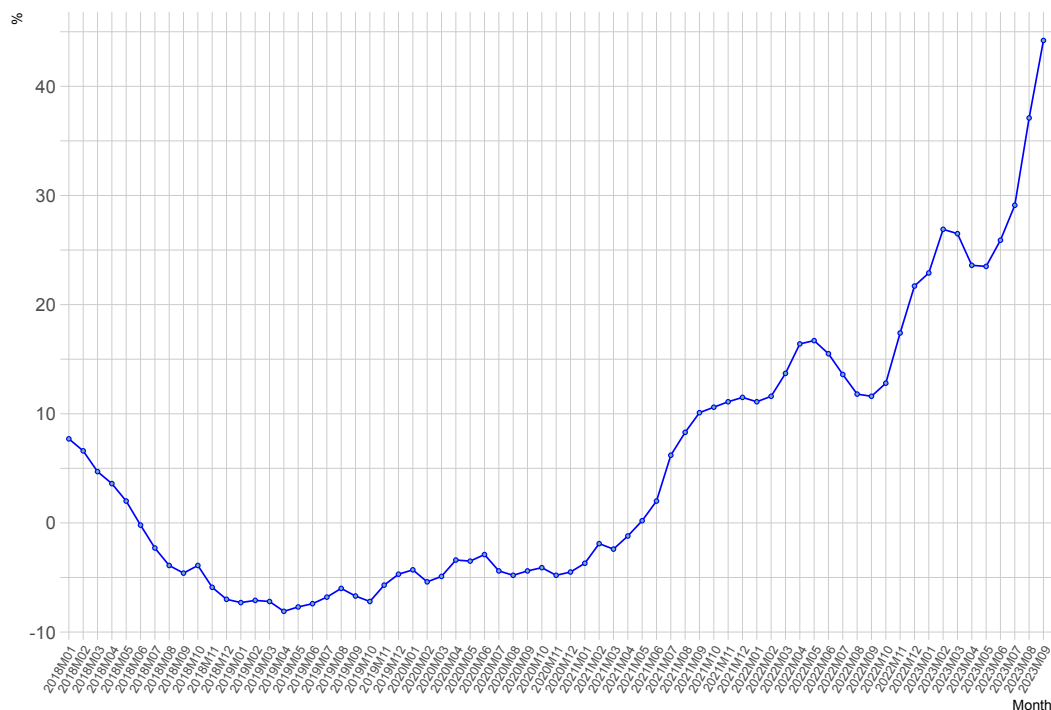
Export unit value index (extra - EU27) (m / m-12)



Graph 3: Evolution of the unit value index of extra-EU olive oil exports. Rate of change (m/m-12)(%).

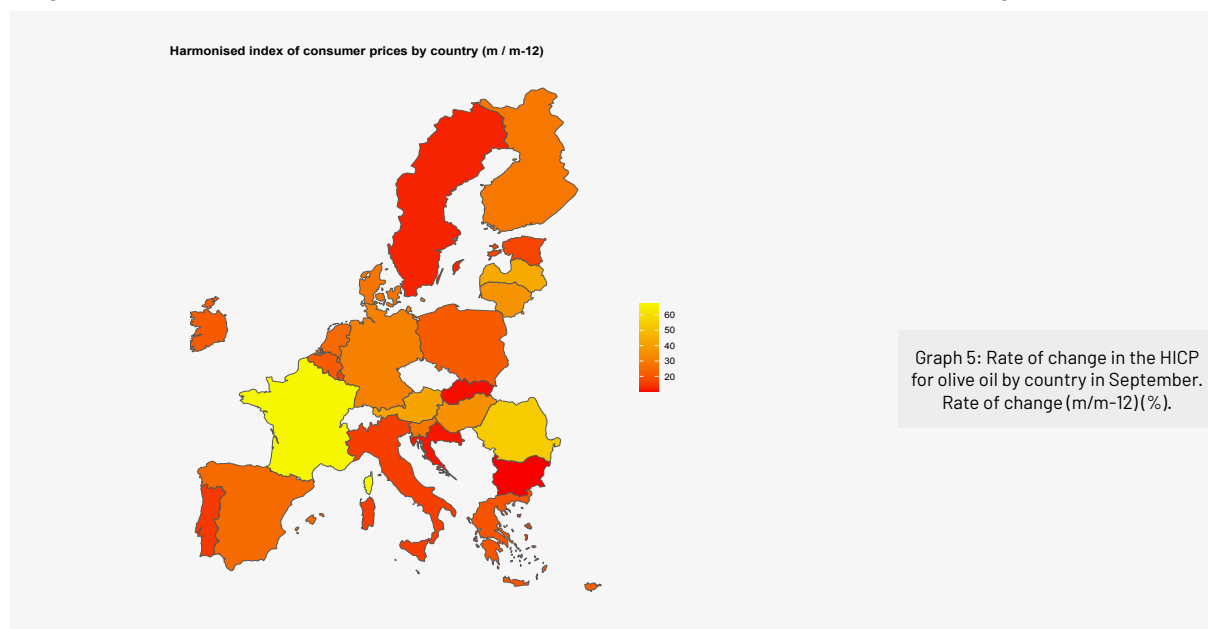


On the demand side, the harmonised index of consumer prices for olive oil in the EU (HICP) in September 2023 was 44.2% higher than in the same month of the previous crop year.



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

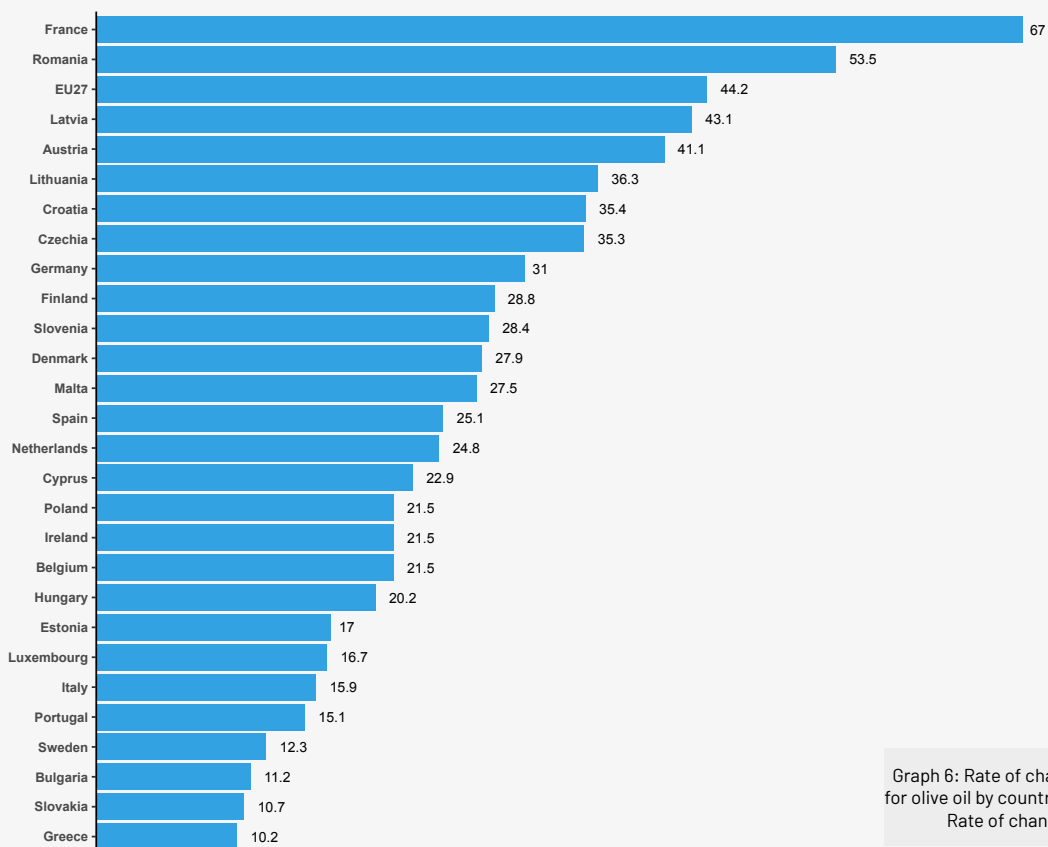
By country, the biggest increases were recorded in France, Romania and Latvia, while Greece, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Sweden saw the smallest increases. Two countries are above the EU-27 figure.



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



### Harmonised index of consumer prices by country (m / m-12)



2023M09 (%)

Graph 6: Rate of change in the HICP for olive oil by country in September. Rate of change (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 on the 8 markets shown in the table below during the 2022/23 crop year (October 2022 - August 2023) fell compared to the same period in the previous crop year by 16% in Australia, 11% in Brazil, 10% in Canada, 32% in China, 17% in Japan and 14% in the United States.

Intra-EU purchases up to July were down 13%, while extra-EU imports were down 6% on the same period in the previous crop year.

Importing country	October 21	October 22	November 21	November 22	December 21	December 22	January 22	January 23	February 22	February 23	March 22	March 23	April 22	April 23	May 22	May 23	June 22	June 23	July 22	July 23	August 22	August 23
Australia	3385.1	2687.1	2254.0	3071.9	2809.0	2423.4	1942.9	3220.5	2453.0	2141.9	2941.4	2701.6	2366.1	1403.1	2554.0	2526.1	2069.8	1769.9	3746.4	1980.1	4465.5	2181.9
Brazil	8137.6	8488.4	8895.7	12879.1	7465.7	9772.4	8219.6	7735.8	6199.6	9010.5	9806.9	10174.5	8204.9	4400.5	8910.0	4755.0	8696.3	4097.0	9435.8	5309.3	9355.2	7473.8
Canada	3195.9	4845.4	3628.6	5634.9	3206.7	3862.3	3997.5	3805.3	5294.5	3476.8	5632.6	4796.4	4200.3	3431.5	4702.0	4221.0	8699.3	4254.5	3607.3	4000.3	4637.8	3396.0
China	3156.3	3447.5	5464.2	7032.8	8439.6	6035.3	4931.3	3220.7	2931.0	1891.7	2711.2	1548.3	2787.0	2236.9	2210.5	1864.8	3424.0	2177.7	7341.7	2621.4	6332.1	1836.6
Japan	4567.0	5555.5	6856.5	3476.5	4514.3	4508.3	6201.0	4052.4	3557.2	3838.6	5796.4	4023.0	4871.7	4311.1	4366.3	5666.8	5238.9	3570.1	6038.1	5253.5	6965.0	4681.7
Russia	3227.1	n.d.	3393.8	n.d.	2805.4	n.d.	2220.1	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
USA	24667.7	37568.0	32101.5	32131.2	25586.4	24321.7	41415.3	32843.2	31094.2	30683.6	32371.3	38221.3	40530.7	35301.9	52410.9	28790.2	45645.3	22918.1	33578.8	35182.2	40408.2	25207.7
Extra-EU/27	15416.9	10879.0	9681.7	9374.4	28845.2	29095.3	7075.9	8375.4	14814.2	14024.2	15339.9	11839.4	22021.2	11912.9	17543.8	14031.0	14662.3	17299.7	11022.2	20493.0	14101.0	n.d.
Intra-EU/27	81263.4	86190.7	98173.2	101980.4	116706.2	116557.8	92792.8	92295.8	113380.0	100229.5	110910.4	96704.9	104439.8	71862.6	125059.5	89864.7	104449.6	81750.2	91497.3	70538.3	89900.9	n.d.
<b>Total</b>	<b>147019.0</b>	<b>159661.6</b>	<b>170448.1</b>	<b>175681.3</b>	<b>200381.5</b>	<b>196576.5</b>	<b>169796.5</b>	<b>155718.9</b>	<b>179723.6</b>	<b>165096.8</b>	<b>185474.9</b>	<b>169011.3</b>	<b>189421.7</b>	<b>134860.5</b>	<b>217757.0</b>	<b>151749.5</b>	<b>193185.5</b>	<b>137835.3</b>	<b>166267.4</b>	<b>145378.1</b>	<b>176163.7</b>	<b>44777.8</b>

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

### 2. TABLE OLIVES - 2022/23 SEASON

Trade in table olives for the 2022/23 crop year<sup>1</sup> (September 2022 - August 2023) on the markets portrayed in the table below shows a 4% increase in imports into the United States compared to the same period in the previous crop year, but a 9% decrease in Australia, a 2% decrease in Brazil and a 4% decrease in Canada.

Intra-EU purchases of table olives up to July rose by 5%, while extra-EU imports fell by 5% compared to the same period last year.

Importing country	September 21	September 22	October 21	October 22	November 21	November 22	December 21	December 22	January 22	January 23	February 22	February 23	March 22	March 23	April 22	April 23	May 22	May 23	June 22	June 23	July 22	July 23	August 22	August 23
Australia	1622.4	2366.1	1120.8	996.5	1277.0	1600.5	1531.5	1547.0	1296.8	1221.0	1565.2	905.6	2275.7	1545.0	1691.3	1301.8	1559.2	1309.5	1500.8	1084.2	1602.3	1356.7	2086.4	2172.9
Brazil	11770.4	11432.5	10495.0	8957.5	13417.9	10838.6	9812.7	11057.8	5484.3	9922.8	8182.5	10303.0	9275.3	11740.6	8914.5	8302.4	9698.7	11110.7	12389.1	8798.5	10904.8	10312.3	14978.2	10276.7
Canada	2581.3	3172.0	2396.9	2872.2	3150.3	3459.8	3032.9	2651.1	3320.0	2827.9	2403.6	1759.7	2837.2	2379.2	2896.2	2567.4	3727.7	2489.7	3570.4	2775.3	2322.9	4064.7	3118.8	2980.8
USA	12274.1	14272.0	11534.0	13449.3	10713.6	17148.0	12419.3	13806.8	11211.4	12173.9	9804.7	12385.0	12150.6	12511.0	10494.0	14477.2	14041.0	11350.5	17614.9	12892.1	15540.9	12515.7	19916.0	18834.1
Extra-EU/27	8335.4	8262.9	8658.6	9177.3	9328.5	8683.8	8114.0	8662.9	8747.8	8453.0	9371.0	7658.0	11235.7	10693.5	11548.2	9389.1	10045.3	9834.3	10650.8	9731.4	7516.1	8053.6	7809.0	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	24783.0	25720.4	32287.7	25529.0	28569.7	33323.4	32090.1	33044.8	31899.1	37164.0	30285.8	29815.3	n.d.
<b>Total</b>	<b>64794.6</b>	<b>67730.2</b>	<b>67710.6</b>	<b>86096.4</b>	<b>77532.7</b>	<b>73580.1</b>	<b>61334.0</b>	<b>70705.7</b>	<b>53048.6</b>	<b>58136.0</b>	<b>56231.0</b>	<b>57774.3</b>	<b>63494.8</b>	<b>71127.0</b>	<b>61173.2</b>	<b>64587.5</b>	<b>72395.2</b>	<b>68294.8</b>	<b>78770.8</b>	<b>67180.6</b>	<b>75051.0</b>	<b>66588.8</b>	<b>77223.7</b>	<b>32364.5</b>

Imports of table olives (t)

<sup>1</sup> 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.





## II. PRODUCER PRICES - OLIVE OILS

Monthly price trends for extra virgin and refined olive oil are shown in graph1.

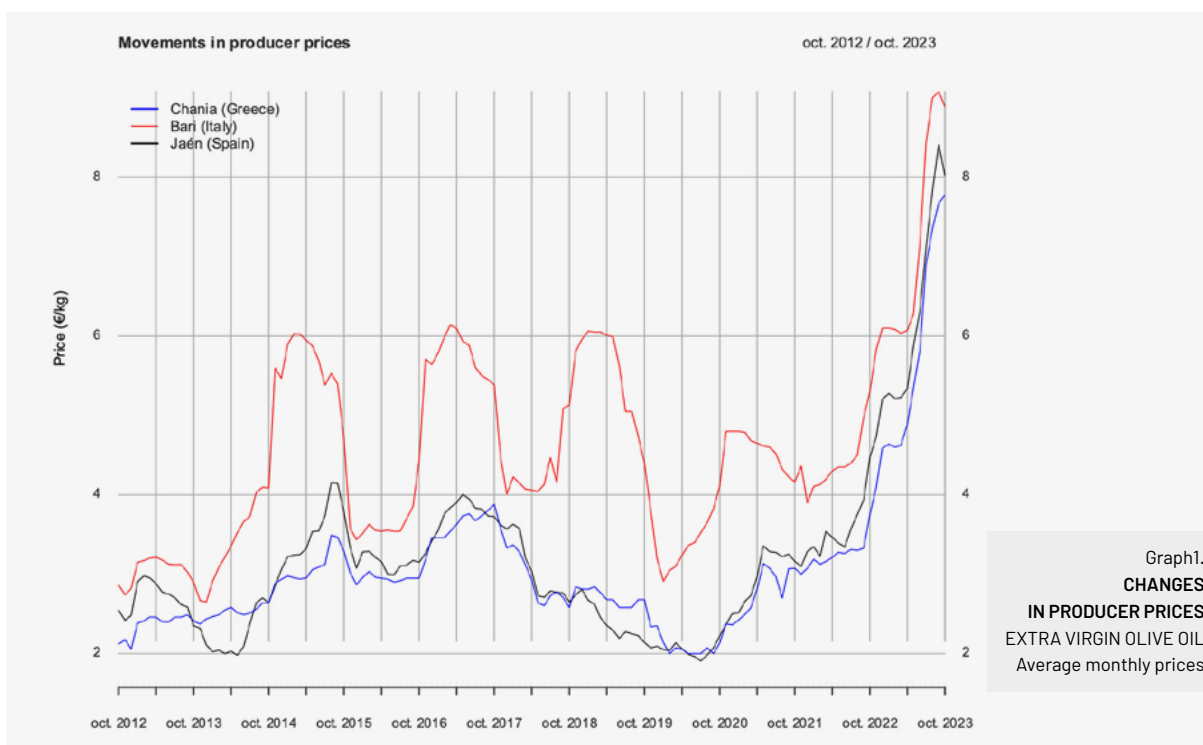
### Extra virgin olive oil:

**Spain** - The producer price for this category reached €7.97/kg during the week of 9 to 15 October 2023, an increase of 80.2% compared with the same period last season.

**Italy** - The producer price for extra virgin olive oil reached €8.7/kg in the week from 9 to 15 October 2023, an increase of 63.8% compared to the same period last year.

**Greece** - The Greek producer price for this category reached €7.7/kg during the week of 9 to 15 October 2023, an increase of 123.2% compared with the same period last season.

**Tunisia** - The price of extra virgin olive oil was €8.2/kg in the last week of September 2023.



### Refined olive oil:

The producer price for this category in Spain was €7.15/kg in the week from 9 to 15 October 2023, an increase of 81.2% compared with the same period in the previous crop year. Data for Italy in this category have not been available since the end of December 2017.

The difference between the price of extra virgin olive oil (€7.97/kg) and the price of refined olive oil (€7.15/kg) was €0.82/kg in Spain.

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

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