

# Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

Retrieved mainly from the JRC tool Medisys (<http://medisys.newsbrief.eu>)



*Disclaimer: The presentation of articles reflects their media coverage. In any case, it does not reflect the frequency of food fraud in a particular country and/or concerning a specific food product. The European Commission does not take any responsibility for the validity of the information extracted from the media channels scanned. The views expressed shall not be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission.*

## Food Fraud Cases

The authorities seized 800 kg of fake tea leaves adulterated with unhealthy dyes, spoiled leaves, and other substandard ingredients.

[Urdu Point](#)



Pakistan



Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 7 tons of contraband frozen pork.

[Khmer Times](#)



Cambodia



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)



Grey market

The authorities seized almost 36 000 tons of contraband wheat and flour.

[The Nation](#)



Pakistan



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

The authorities seized in total 44 tons of contraband flour.

[The Nation](#)

[The Nation](#)

The authorities seized 3 694 contraband bottles and 4 920 contraband cans of various brands of alcohol (total value of 58 630 Euros).

[The Malaysian Insight](#)



Malaysia



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized 317 bottles and 7 560 cans of liquor with unpaid taxes (total value of 58 300 Euros).

[The Star](#)

[The Sun Daily](#)

The authorities seized 40 000 bottles of wine with counterfeit labels from famous brands and Geographical Indications (total value of over 1.5 million Euros).

[Mdzol](#)

[The Drink business](#)

[Magazine Wein](#)



China



Wine



Counterfeit

The authorities seized 24 516 bottles of illegal liquor.

[Ani News](#)

The authorities seized 5 000 bottles of spurious liquor.

[The Hindu](#)

The authorities seized in total 63 420 bottles of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL).

[Times of India](#) [Times of India](#) [India Express](#)

The authorities seized 2.5 tons of sweets without traceability documentation (total value of 30 000 Euros).

[Caserta News](#)

[Caserta Web](#)

The authorities discovered an unauthorised plant producing cheese and seize 1.5 tons of illegal cheese.

[Ansa](#) [La Sicilia](#) [Catania Today](#) [Blog Sicilia](#) [LiveUniCT](#) [NewSicilia](#)

[Meridio News](#) [La Sicilia Web](#) [OdS](#) [Tg24](#) [Nel Cuore](#) [News Sicilia](#)

The authorities seized 13.6 tons of contraband corn from Mexico (total value of 5 500 Euros).

[Pcn de Guatemala](#)

The authorities seized in total 16 tons of contraband rice meant for the Public Distribution System.

[The Hindu](#)

[The Hindu](#)

The Rosslare Europort authorities seized 900 litres of contraband wine (total value of 11 000 Euros) and 21 230 litres of beer (total value of 85 000 Euros).

[Revenue](#)

The authorities seized 6 tons of horse meat sold as beef.

[Ultima Hora](#)

[Megacadena](#)

The authorities seized 16 000 litres of orange juice mislabelled as “whole juice” (although containing concentrated juice diluted with water) and adulterated with extra sugars.

[Gov.br](#)

[Revista Negocio Rural](#)



India



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market



Italy



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market



Italy



Milk and milk products



Grey market



Guatemala



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market



India



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market



Ireland



Alcoholic beverages  
Wine



Grey market



Paraguay



Meat and meat products  
(other than poultry)



Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding



Brazil



Non-alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product tampering  
Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

Customs authorities seized 64 tons of contraband wheat and 30 000 of birdseed (total value of 24 400 Euro).

[Cronica](#) [Ambito](#) [Diario Hoy](#)



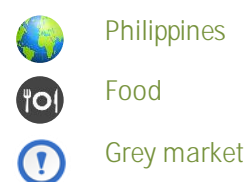
The authorities seized 2 tons of sardines illegally fished.

[News Sicilia](#) [Reggio Today](#) [QoS](#) Calabria7



The authorities seized 1.1 tons of illegally fished red tuna.

[Corriere Quotidiano](#) [Blog Sicilia](#) [Giornale partite Iva](#) [Meteo Web](#) [Notizie Tiscali](#) [La discussione](#) [Giornale L'ora](#) [Ok Mugello](#) [Ital press](#) [Il Metropolitano](#)  
[Giornale di Sicilia](#) [Stretto web](#) [Catania Today](#) [Meridio News](#) [Il giornale di Pantelleria](#) [Il giornale dei marinai](#) [Efa news](#) [News Sicilia](#) [La Sicilia web](#) [Agra press](#) [LiveUniCT](#) [QoS fai.informazione](#) [AmbienteAmbienti](#)  
[Grandangolo Agrigento](#) [News Sicilia](#) [Stella d'Italia News](#)

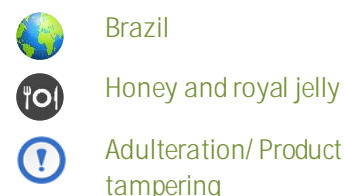


In January, authorities at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) seized contraband agri-fishery products for a total value of almost 3.5 million Euros.

[News Info](#) [Manila Metro](#) [Manila Standard](#)

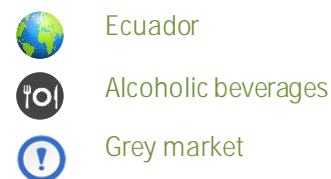
In the operation "Dextrin", the authorities closed a company adulterating bee honey with glucose, dextrin and other chemical products.

[Progresso](#)



The authorities seized 136 084 bottles of contraband liquor (total value of almost 633 000 Euros).

[La Hora](#)



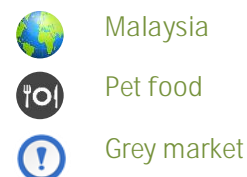
The authorities seized 6 tons of frozen beef with poor traceability records or double labelling.

[Food Safety News](#)



The authorities seized 16 tons of pet food without a valid import permit.

[The Sun Daily](#)



The authorities seized almost 5.4 tons of sugar smuggled from India.

[Bss News](#)



In 2022 the Ancona International Airport authorities seized 1.57 tons of contraband meat and dairy products and 266 litres of contraband alcoholic beverages.

[Agenparl](#) [Corriere Adriatico](#) [Cronache Ancona](#) [Ancona Today](#)



Grey market



Italy



Alcoholic beverages  
Meat and meat products  
(other than poultry)  
Milk and milk products  
Poultry meat and poultry  
meat products



Grey market

The authorities seized in total 2 750 sea urchins without traceability documentation.

[La Nuova Sardegna](#) [Molfetta Live](#) [La Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno](#) [Bari Today](#)  
[La Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno](#)



Italy



Other food products/  
mixed



Grey market

The authorities seized at least 4 000 tons of smuggled white sugar from Thailand (total value of 6.8 million Euros).

[Manila Times](#) [SunStar](#) [Inquirer](#) [Manila Metro](#) [Marine Insight](#)  
[Safety4Sea](#) [Maritime-Network](#) [Manila Times](#)



Philippines



Other food products/  
mixed



Grey market

The authorities seized 480 live cats and 4 tons of frozen cat carcasses illegally butchered in an unapproved facility.

[Vietnam News](#) [Vietnamnet](#)



Vietnam



Meat and meat products  
(other than poultry)



Grey market

The authorities seized between 25 and 35 tons of beef without any documentation.

[La Nacion](#) [Ultima Hora](#)



Paraguay



Meat and meat products  
(other than poultry)



Grey market

The authorities seized 240 000 undocumented eggs (total value of almost 24 00 Euros).

[Mindanao Examiner](#)



Philippines



Eggs and egg products



Grey market

The authorities seized 1.5 tons of mussels without traceability documentation.

[Corriere di Taranto](#) [Tr News](#) [Quotidiano Puglia](#) [La Milano](#)  
[Taranto Buonasera](#) [Puglia Press](#)



Italy



Bivalve molluscs and  
products thereof



Grey market

The authorities seized 9 900 litres of contraband alcohol.

[Actu](#) [France3](#) [20 minutes](#) [L'independant](#) [Midi Libre](#) [Le Parisien](#)



France



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized 30 tons of smuggled frozen pork from Brazil (total value of 162 000 Euros).

[Bangkok post](#)



Thailand



Meat and meat products  
(other than poultry)  
Grey market



Two persons died after drinking illegal adulterated liquor.

[el Caribe](#)



Dominican Republic



Alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product  
tampering  
Grey market

The authorities seized 1 300 litres of milk adulterated with unhealthy ingredients and thickening agents.

[Urdu Point](#)    [The Nation](#)



Pakistan



Milk and milk products



Adulteration/ Product  
tampering

The authorities seized 28 000 bottles of contraband liquor (total value of 146 500 Euros).

[The News](#)



Pakistan



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized 6 tons of shellfish without any documentation.

[Food Safety News](#)



Argentina



Bivalve molluscs and  
products thereof  
Cephalopods and  
products thereof  
Crustaceans and products  
thereof  
Gastropods  
Other food products/  
mixed  
Grey market



The authorities uncovered a criminal organisation selling conventional products (especially almonds and tomato sauce) as organic, for a total value of 20 million Euros earned between 2016 and 2022.

[Ansa](#)   [Il Fatto Alimentare](#)   [Ottopagine](#)   [Fanpage](#)   [Corriere del Mezzogiorno](#)  
[My Fruit](#)   [Corriere Ortofrutticolo](#)   [Efa News](#)   [GreenMe](#)



Italy



Food



Counterfeit

## Other interesting articles

### Authentication of geographical origin

Our Unit JRC F.4 Food Integrity has just released a short "Science for Policy Brief" on the authentication of geographical origin via elemental fingerprint, disclosing some interesting unpublished data.

[JRC](#)



EU



Food

### Fraud in botanical supply chain

An online review covers the most relevant typologies of adulteration affecting the botanical ingredients, used in phytomedicines, dietary/food supplements, functional foods and cosmetics.



World



Dietetic foods, food  
supplements, fortified  
foods

Food Fraud and mitigation strategies

A scientific journal has published a study investigating food frauds during Covid-19 and the mitigation strategies applied in UK.

[Food Control](#)



United Kingdom



Food

CNBC report on food fraud

The CNBC Channel has released a short documentary on food fraud.

[Youtube](#)



USA



Food

The Food Fraud Monthly Report is drafted by the JRC Geel Unit F.4 “*Food Integrity*” with the support of the JRC Ispra Unit T.5 “*Text and Data Mining*”.

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