

# Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud

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*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 in total 1 360 bottles of contraband liquor.

[DT Next](#)



India

The authorities seized 14 172 bottles of illegal liquor.

[Indian Express](#)

[Times of India](#)



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized 2 794 bottles of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMLF).

[The Hindu](#)

The authorities seized four containers of contraband frozen meat.

[Khmer Times](#)



Cambodia



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)

Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Grey market

Batam Customs seized more than 10 000 litres of contraband alcoholic beverages from Singapore (total value of 411 650 Euros).

[Tempo.co](#)



Indonesia



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized 1 ton of immature Nile perch illegally fished.

[Monitor](#)



Uganda



Fish and fish products



Grey market

The authorities seized 24 tons of frozen buffalo meat from India without any official documentation.

[Bangkok Post](#)



Thailand



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)



Grey market

The authorities seized 60 000 bottles of alcoholic beverages illegally produced and with counterfeit labels from a famous brand.

[Indian Express](#)



The authorities seized 4 200 bottles of contraband whiskey and almost 2 000 bottles of other contraband alcoholic beverages.

[Acento](#) [el Nacional](#)



The Punjab food Authority (PFA) discarded 1.3 tons of unsafe khoya, a typical dairy product, adulterated with vegetable ghee and starch.

[App](#) [Urdu Point](#)



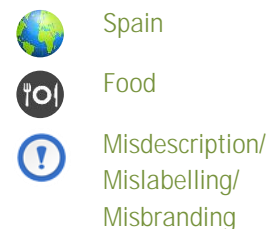
The authorities seized in total 68.2 tons of contraband sugar intended to be smuggled into Bangladesh.

[Ani News](#) [Cambodian Times](#) [Sri Lanka Source](#) [Manila](#) [Metro](#)  
[Myanmar News](#) [Singapore Star](#) [The Cambodian News](#) [Long Beach](#)  
[Star](#) [Nigeria Sun](#) [Northern Ireland News](#) [Uni India](#) [Outlook](#) [India](#)  
[Menafn](#) [The Financial Express](#) [Ndtv](#) [Myanmar News](#) [Ani](#)  
[News](#) [Dev Discourse](#) [Long Beach Star](#) [Cambodian Times](#) [The](#)  
[Cambodian News](#) [Manila Metro](#) [Northern Ireland News](#) [Singapore Star](#) [Sri](#)  
[Lanka Source](#) [Nigeria Sun](#)



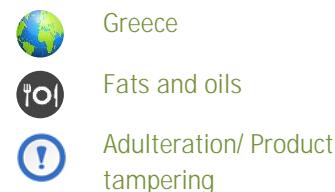
The authorities seized 10 tons of food not compliant with the language requirements of the EU legislation (total value of 90 000 Euros). The products were not labelled in the national language of consumers and did not include information regarding allergens.

[El Periodico](#)



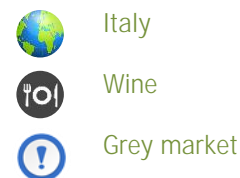
The authorities arrested a person for adulterating olive oil. The authorities also seized 13 960 litres of sunflower oil and 6 332 litres of a substance resembling olive oil.

[Ekathimerini](#)



The authorities seized 50 bottles of contraband high-quality wine (total value of 170 000 Euros).

[Repubblica](#) [Sondrio Today](#)



The authorities seized in total 45.5 tons of rice meant for the public distribution system.

[The Hindu](#) [The Hindu](#) [Uni India](#) [Greater Kashmir](#) [The Hindu](#)  
[Times of India](#)



The authorities seized 1.9 tons of contraband parboiled rice.

[Pulse](#) [Punch Ng](#) [Vanguard Ng](#)



Nigeria



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

The authorities seized 13 422 bottles of contraband alcoholic beverages.

[Arab Times Online](#)



Kuwait



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities uncovered a criminal group stealing chicken meat (total value of 375 000 Euros) and reselling it with forged dispatch notes in the supply chains.

[Securing Industry](#)



United Kingdom



Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Document forgery  
Grey market

In 2023 the authorities seized 2.1 tons of meat illegally slaughtered.

[Sun Star](#)



Philippines



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)  
Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Grey market

The authorities seized 1.35 tons of seafood illegally sold.

[Ansa](#) [Blog Sicilia](#) [Palermo Today](#) [Il Fatto Nisseno](#)



Italy



Bivalve molluscs and products thereof  
Cephalopods and products thereof  
Crustaceans and products thereof  
Fish and fish products  
Gastropods



Grey market

The authorities seized 1.5 tons of bivalves without any traceability documentation (total value of 8 200 Euros).

[Carabinieri](#)

In the operation “Spinnaker” the authorities seized 2 tons of seafood illegally fished or without any traceability documentation.

[Ansa](#) [Catania Today](#) [La Sicilia Web](#)

The authorities seized 6 tons of seafood without any traceability documentation.

[Gazzetta di Livorno](#) [Toscana Media News](#) [Tenews](#) [Firenze Today](#) [Il Telegrafo](#) [Green Report](#)

Almost 4 tons of bushmeat are estimated to be illegally smuggled through Brussels airport each month.

[Mirror](#) [Green Me](#)



Belgium



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)  
Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Grey market

The authorities seized 1.1 tons of seafood (mainly octopus and fishes) illegally caught.

[El Debate](#) [Cope](#) [Infobae](#) [el Dia de Cordoba](#) [Europa press](#) [Tele Prensa](#) [Noticias De](#)



Spain



Cephalopods and products thereof  
Fish and fish products

Thirty people have stolen 130 tons of chicken meat from a company to resell it on the black market (total value of 244 000 Euros).

[Adn Cuba](#)

Twenty people are suspected to be dead because of adulterated liquor.

[K24TV](#)

[The Star](#)

[Citizen digital](#)

The authorities seized 14 000 bottles of contraband alcoholic beverages,

[Times of Oman](#)

The authorities seized 1 100 boxes of meat products and 300 boxes of quail eggs not respecting the labelling legislation and of unclear origin (total value of 30 000 Euros).

[Casteddu Online](#)

[Cagliari pad](#)

[La Nuova Sardegna](#)

The Chairman, the vice-president, the general secretary and the treasurer of the “Halal Council” have been arrested for issuing false halal certificates.

[Uni India](#)

The authorities seized 37 buffaloes smuggled into Bangladesh.

[Myanmar News](#)

[Ani News](#)

[Dev Discourse](#)

[Long Beach Star](#)

[Cambodian Times](#)

[The Cambodian News](#)

[Manila Metro](#)

[Northern](#)

[Ireland News](#)

[Singapore Star](#)

[Sri Lanka Source](#)

[Nigeria Sun](#)

The authorities seized 590 kg of fish illegally caught in federal waters.

[Foreign affairs](#)

The authorities seized almost 1 ton of illegally caught fish.

[Foreign Affairs](#)

The authorities seized 44 tons of seafood in a restaurant either expired or lacking the required traceability documentation.

[Blog Sicilia](#)

[Agrigento Oggi](#)



Grey market



Cuba



Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Grey market



Kenya



Alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product tampering



Oman



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market



Italy



Eggs and egg products  
Meat and meat products (other than poultry)  
Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Grey market



India



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)  
Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Document forgery



India



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)



Grey market



United States of America



Fish and fish products



Grey market



Italy



Bivalve molluscs and products thereof  
Cephalopods and

products thereof  
Crustaceans and  
products thereof  
Fish and fish products  
Gastropods  
Adulteration/ Product  
tampering  
Grey market



Renowned water companies seem to have used prohibited treatments (i.e. ultraviolet treatments and activated carbon filters) on mineral waters to guarantee their safety. The legislation prohibits any disinfection of mineral waters, which must naturally be of high microbiological quality to bear the specific label “mineral water”.

[Le Monde](#) [Le Parisien](#) [Le Figaro](#) [Beverfood](#) [Il Fatto Quotidiano](#)  
[Food and tec](#) [Green Me](#) [Il Sole 24 Ore](#) [Il Salvagente](#) [Il Fatto](#)  
[Alimentare](#) [France Info TV](#) [Alimentando](#) [Secolo d'Italia](#) [Il Giornale](#)  
[Gazzetta di Modena](#) [Meteo Web](#) [Stretto Web](#) [Affari Italiani](#) [Gazzetta di](#)  
[Reggio](#) [La Nuova Ferrara](#) [Ticino News](#) [Le Parisien](#) [Tio](#) [La Gazzetta](#)  
[del Mezzogiorno](#) [Corriere del Ticino](#) [Swiss Info](#) [Today Headline](#) [Medical](#)  
[Express](#) [Digital Journal](#) [Tuko](#) [Barrons](#) [Legit](#) [Channel News Asia](#)  
[The Straits Times](#) [Terra Daily](#) [Foodwatch](#) [Free](#) [Malaysia](#) [Today](#)  
[The Frontier Post](#) [Foodwatch](#) [Mefafn](#)



France



Water for human  
consumption (other)



Adulteration/ Product  
tampering  
Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/  
Misbranding

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department seized 42 tons of contraband rice (total value of 20 400 Euros).

[The Sun](#)



Malaysia



Cereals and bakery  
products



Grey market

The authorities seized 82 tons of rice mislabelled as “imported” (total value of 72 800 Euros).

[Burkina 24](#) [Le Faso](#) [Hauts-bassins](#) [Aib](#)



Burkina Faso



Cereals and bakery  
products



Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/  
Misbranding

The authorities seized 100 tons of contraband cocoa beans at the border with Guinea.

[Market Screener](#) [Abidjan](#) [Ivoire Matin](#) [La nouvelle Tribune](#)



Ivory Coast



Cocoa and cocoa  
preparations, coffee and  
tea



Grey market

The Food and Economic Security Authority (ASAE) seized 510 litres of cooking oil sold as olive oil.

[Executive Digest](#) [24 Sapo](#) [Noticias o minuto](#) [Visao](#) [Sapo](#)  
[Cnn Portugal](#) [Tvi](#) [Correio de manha](#) [Observador](#) [Sapo](#)  
[Cidade](#) [Radio Comercial](#)



Portugal



Fats and oils



Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/  
Misbranding

A man has been arrested for transporting 27 horses intended to be illegally slaughtered in Paraguay to produce meat products for human consumption.

[Noticias](#) [Metro World News](#)



Brazil



Meat and meat products  
(other than poultry)



Grey market

The authorities seized 96 tons of contraband pork from Brazil (total value of 522 500 Euros).

[The Star](#)



Malaysia



Meat and meat products  
(other than poultry)

The authorities seized 126 720 litres of contraband alcoholic beverages (total value of 877 000 Euros).

[The Star](#)

Researchers have studied species misrepresentation in cat food products by using DNA barcoding (~85 basepairs of the mitochondrial 16S rRNA gene) followed by Sanger or next generation sequencing (NGS). Out of 138 canned cat food products in the Taiwanese market, the mislabelling rate was 28.99%, the majority related to tuna replacement.

[PeerJ](#)

In the "Operation Xaropel II, "the Federal Police seized 8 000 bottles of adulterated honey and dismantled a criminal organisation selling 15 tons per month of sugar syrups as real honey, with a profit margin of 2 000%.

[Gov.br](#) [Gov.br](#) [O tempo](#) [Journal de Brasilia](#) [G1.globo](#) [Hoje Emdia](#)  
[Noticias](#) [Agencia brasil](#) [Odia](#) [Opovo](#) [Istoe](#) [dinheiro](#)  
[Correio24horas](#) [Diario do Comercio](#) [AgoraMT](#)

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) seized 2 tons of pork and chicken products illegally imported from Thailand.

[Sfa.gov](#)

The authorities seized 8.2 tons of rotten chicken meat, ready to be processed and supplied to the markets.

[App](#) [Urdu Point](#) [The Nation](#)

The authorities arrested four persons and seized 1 230 litres of cholai wine, an illegal alcoholic beverage usually made from rice.

[BSS News](#)

The authorities seized 25 tons of wheat flour not suitable for human consumption and stored in an illegal food establishment.

[Acritica](#) [Em Tempo](#) [G1 Globo](#)

The authorities seized 25 000 food supplements from India without any health certification, but simply declared as vegetable products.

[Il Tirreno](#)

The NGO Oceana Mexico denounced high levels of glazing in imported seafood products.



Grey market



Malaysia



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market



Taiwan



Pet food



Adulteration/ Product tampering



Brazil



Honey and royal jelly



Adulteration/ Product tampering



Singapore



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)  
Poultry meat and poultry meat products  
Grey market



Pakistan



Poultry meat and poultry meat products  
Adulteration/ Product tampering



Bangladesh



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market



Brazil



Cereals and bakery products  
Adulteration/ Product tampering  
Grey market



Italy



Dietetic foods, food supplements, fortified foods  
Document forgery



Mexico

According to their analyses, up to 60% of the weight is actually ice, whereas the internationally acceptable limit is 12%.

- 43% of imported fish fillets (mostly basa and tilapia) were adulterated with at least 21% of glaze;
- More than 70% of imported and 20% of domestic frozen shrimps exceeded the limit of 12% glazing.

[Oceana Mexico](#) [Diario Zocalo](#) [el Manana](#) [Animal politico](#) [Noro Este](#)

The authorities seized 2 tons of substandard and unhealthy tea leaves. Adulterants include non-food colouring, bran, used tea, gypsum powder and molasses syrup.

[Urdu Point](#)

The authorities seized 1 215 bottles of mineral water produced with contaminated water and filled in non-food grade bottles.

[Ary News](#) [The Nation](#)

The authorities seized 60 tons of sugar with fake documents and stamps.

[Tribune](#)

The authorities seized in total almost 63 000 litres of smuggled cooking oil.

[Adom online](#) [Citi Newsroom](#) [Adom online](#)

The authorities seized 18 tons of food expired or with no expiration date, unfit for human consumption, stored inappropriately, with falsified labels or with irregularities in the documentation.




[Mprs](#) [G1 Globo](#)




 Crustaceans and products thereof  
 Fish and fish products  
 Adulteration/ Product tampering

 Pakistan  
 Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea  
 Adulteration/ Product tampering

 Pakistan  
 Food Contact Materials  
Water for human consumption (other)  
 Adulteration/ Product tampering

 Pakistan  
 Other food products/ mixed  
 Document forgery

 Ghana  
 Fats and oils  
 Grey market

 Brazil  
 Food  
 Adulteration/ Product tampering  
Grey market  
Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/  
Misbranding

## Other interesting articles

### UK FSA guidance on food crime prevention

The United Kingdom Food Standards Agency (FSA) has updated its guidance for the private sector to prevent food crime.

[Food.gov.uk](https://www.food.gov.uk)     [Food-safety](#)

### DG SANTE ACN food fraud monthly reports

The Commission has published its first monthly report on agri-food fraud suspicions. The report compiles information gathered from the Alert and Cooperation Network (ACN), which facilitates the exchange of information between Member States on agri-food controls. The report includes cases of cross-border non-compliance, which ACN members have identified and shared as suspected fraud.

[DG SANTE](#)     [Food Authenticity Network](#)     [Food Safety News](#)

### UK FSA Surveillance Sampling Programme

A project commissioned by the UK FSA led to the sampling of retail food products from food business operators (e.g. national supermarkets and small independent retailers) in October 2022. A total of 1 215 food samples from 28 different food commodity types were collected and tested. 81% of the samples tested for compliance were satisfactory.

[FSA](#)     [Food Authenticity Network](#)

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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