

March 2022

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 Punjab Food Authority (PFA) discarded in total 24 900 litres of milk adulterated with prohibited ingredients (e.g. thickening chemicals and detergents).

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



Pakistan



Milk and milk products



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) has uncovered a criminal network smuggling 183 700 metric tons of frozen seafood (total value of 354 million Euros).

[Undercurrent news](#)



China



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



Thai authorities seized 3 300 contraband bottles of foreign liquor (total value of 25 000 Euros).

[Bangkok Post](#)



Thailand



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The Civil Guard seized 14 742 litres of wine adulterated with unauthorised additives and falsely labelled.

[La Voz de Galicia](#)

[La region](#)



Spain



Wine



Adulteration/ Product tampering
Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The Coast Guard seized in total around 27 tons of seafood products illegally fished or without the necessary traceability documentation, sometimes even expired.

[Ok! Mugello](#) [La discussione](#) [Msn](#) [Giornale Partite Iva](#) [L'Eco](#)
[del Sud](#) [Ital press](#) [Gazzetta del Sud](#) [Italia a Tavola](#) [Resto](#)
[al Sud](#) [Trmtv](#) [Ambiente Ambienti](#) [Puglia press](#)
[Manfredonia news](#) [Foggia Today](#) [Puglia Live](#) [Stato](#)
[Quotidiano](#) [L'informatore navale](#) [Blog Sicilia](#) [Ansa](#) [La](#)
[Sicilia](#) [Giornale di Sicilia](#) [Tp24](#) [Il Gazzettino](#) [Tempo](#)
[stretto](#) [Messina Today](#) [News Sicilia](#) [Normanno](#) [Stretto](#) [Web](#)
[Ansa](#) [2anews](#) [Il Mattino](#) [Lo strillone](#) [Giornale](#) [di](#)
[Sicilia](#) [Blog Sicilia](#) [Grandangolo Agrigento](#) [Il Gazzettino](#)
[Olbia nova](#) [Venezia Today](#) [Green Me](#)



Italy



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



In another operation, the authorities seized 30 longfin tunas (or albacore) with no traceability documentation.

[News Sicilia](#)

In March, the authorities seized 3 216 bottles of contraband Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and 2 712 bottles of beer, vodka and whisky.

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



India



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

In another operation, the authorities destroyed 44 000 litres of illicit distilled liquor.

[The Hindu](#)

The authorities seized 1 670 chickens illegally farmed (total value of 150 000 Euros) and 16 720 chicken eggs (total value of 3 000 Euros) with no traceability documentation.

[Antenna Sud](#) [La gazetta del Mezzogiorno](#) [Lecce Sette](#) [Lecce](#)
[prima](#) [La Repubblica](#) [Trnews](#) [Corriere dell'Economia](#)



Italy



Eggs and egg products
 Poultry meat and poultry meat products
 Grey market



The Carabinieri seized 2.76 tons of olive oil (total value of 30 000 Euros) lacking the required traceability documentation.

[Lecce sette](#) [Antenna Sud](#) [Lecce prima](#) [Trnews](#)
[La gazetta del mezzogiorno](#) [Askanews](#)



Italy



Fats and oils



Grey market

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (FS&HFA) seized 2.15 tons of expired spices used to manufacture Nimko and other food items.

[Urdu Point](#)



Pakistan



Herbs and spices



Adulteration/ Product tampering

In another operation, the FS&HFA seized additional 2.1 tons of expired and unsafe spices used to produce chips and salt.

[Urdu Point](#)

The National Gendarmerie seized 13 tons of contraband feed for cattle and poultry, and 30 tons of contraband corn.

[Liberte Algerie](#)



Algeria



Cereals and bakery products
 Feed materials
 Grey market



The Tax and Customs Police Directorate (POLFA) and the Police Directorate seized 3 100 live



Colombia

cattle (total value of 924 000 Euros) and 309 tons of contraband perishable food.

[El Nuevo Siglo](#)



Food



Grey market

A scientific article reported that 31% (45/ 144 samples) of pet food analysed (from 16 different brands) contained shark meat. Some sharks were also classified as “threatened”.

[Frontiers in Marine Science](#)

[Earth.com](#)

[CTV News](#)

[Il Fatto](#)

[Alimentare](#)



Singapore



Pet food



Adulteration/ Product
tampering
Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The authorities seized 15 tons of soft drinks (total value of 68 260 Euros). The expiry dates were erased with acetone and later falsified.

[Diario Correo](#)



Peru



Non-alcoholic beverages



Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The Canelones Police Headquarters and the Customs seized a truck with 17 or 24* tons of contraband tomatoes from Brazil (total value of 91 200 Euros).

[Montevideo](#)

[El Observador](#)

[Montevideo](#)

[Telenoche](#)



Uruguay



Fruits and vegetables



Grey market

At least five officials of the State Food Warehouse in Sucre have been arrested for smuggling. The authorities seized 48.26 tons of food.

[Correo del Orinoco](#)

[La Patilla](#)



Venezuela



Food



Grey market

The Cumbria County Council’s Trading Standards Department analysed the adulteration rate of meat products across the country. Out of 40 samples, 12 (30%) were reported as adulterated. Lamb meat was frequently substituted with beef or chicken, but also pork.

[Cumbria.gov.uk](#)



UK



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)



Adulteration/ Product
tampering
Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), from October to December 2021 the authorities seized 119 tons of smuggled pork, chicken, beef and duck products from China (with an increase of 33% compared to the previous year).

[Daily News](#)

[Daily Breeze](#)

[The Poch Times](#)



USA



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)

Poultry meat and poultry
meat products



Grey market

The Mauritanian authorities seized 40 tons of smuggled rice from Senegal.

[Cridem](#)



Mauritania



Cereals and bakery
products



Grey market

The Aduana Nacional de Bolivia (ANB) destroyed 6 tons of contraband alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, including beer, wine, whiskey and energy drinks (total value of 12 150 Euros).

[Los Tiempos](#)



Bolivia



Alcoholic beverages

Non-alcoholic beverages

Wine



Grey market

Antilles-French Guiana patrol boats seized 4.5 tons of illegal fish, including protected species (as sharks and rays).

[Blada](#)



France



Bivalve molluscs and products thereof

Cephalopods and products thereof

Crustaceans and products thereof

Fish and fish products

Gastropods



Grey market

Wrong claims on reduced allergenicity from certain breast milk substitutes seem to be still found on infant products in some markets, as China or Russia.

[Bmj](#)

[Nutrition Insight](#)



China/ Russia



Milk and milk products



Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The authorities seized in total 284.85 tons of contraband rice between 9th February and 21st March.

[Authorityngr](#)

[Authorityngr](#)

[Sahara Reporters](#)

[Daily Post](#)

[Sun News Online](#)

[Sun News Online](#)

[Punch](#)

[Daily Post](#)

[Agro Nigeria](#)



Nigeria



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

In October 2021, the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) discovered that 23% (70/ 306 samples) of palm oils analysed contained Sudan IV dye, a dangerous chemical not supposed to be ingested.

[Cnr](#)



Ghana



Fats and oils



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority seized 4 000 litres of substandard and fake energy drinks with labels from multinational companies.

[Daily Times](#)

[Urdu Point](#)

[The News](#)

[Urdu Point](#)



Pakistan



Non-alcoholic beverages



Counterfeit

In another operation, additional 50 000 litres of counterfeit beverages of various multinational brands were seized as well.

[Urdu Point](#)

[The News](#)

The Italian authorities seized 20 tons of contraband food with no traceability documentation and stored without respecting the hygiene requirements.

[Anteprima24](#)



Italy



Food



Grey market

The Civil Supplies CID Unit seized 5.1 tons of contraband rice meant for distribution through public distribution system.

[The Hindu](#)



India



Cereals and bakery products

The authorities seized 1.125 tons of pulses and nuts without the required traceability documentation.

[Carabinieri](#) [Sicilia Oggi Notizie](#) [Blog Sicilia](#) [Grandangolo Agrigento](#)
[Itaca Notizie](#) [Il giornale di Pantelleria](#) [Il Sicilia](#) [Live Sicilia](#)



Grey market



Italy



Fruits and vegetables
Nuts, nut products and seeds



Grey market

The authorities seized more than 25 000 units of contraband alcoholic beverages (beer, whiskey, rum, vodka, creams), for a total value of 16 000 Euros.

[Chroy](#) [Teletica](#) [Diario Extra](#)



Costa Rica



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

Chinese authorities seized 8 000 semi-finished and bottled counterfeit wines with fake labels from a famous Australian brand, for a total value of 1.44 million Euros.

[Securing Industry](#)



China



Wine



Counterfeit

The National Gendarmerie closed a factory producing fake honey by mixing boiled water, powdered sugar, glucose, molasses and syrup.

[Koaci](#) [Journal du Cameroun](#)



Cameroon



Honey and royal jelly



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 2 800 litres of smuggled alcoholic beverages (e.g. wine, Limoncello, Sambuca), for a total value of 24 300 Euros.

[Independent](#)



Ireland



Alcoholic beverages
Wine



Grey market

The National Customs seized 244 tons of contraband soybeans (total value of 120 300 Euros).

[Eju](#)



Bolivia



Fruits and vegetables



Grey market

The Italian authorities seized 3 300 tons of several food products, for a total value of 1 275 000 Euros. In detail:

- 231 kg of "Colomba" PDO sweets for using an unauthorised logo of a Geographical Indication (total value of 7 250 Euros)
- 5.5 tons of meat products without the required origin labelling (total value of 66 000 Euros)
- 3 300 tons of must and 160 000 litres of wine (total value of 1 200 000 Euros) for lacking the required documentation necessary to claim the Geographical Indication

[Carabinieri](#) [Italia a Tavola](#) [Giornale l'ora](#) [Stella d'Italia news](#)
[Europa Today](#) [Stato Quotidiano](#) [L'arena](#) [Agricoltura](#)
[La voce del Trentino](#) [Agenzia nova](#) [Giornale Trentino](#)
[L'Adige](#) [Ansa](#) [Trento Today](#) [Piacenza Sera](#) [il Dolomiti](#) [TrmTV](#)
[Verona sera](#) [Tviweb](#) [Abruzzolive](#) [Live Sicilia](#) [Verona oggi](#)
[Libertà](#) [Ambienteambienti](#) [Il metropolitano](#) [Foggia Today](#)
[Quotidiano di Puglia](#) [Ambienteambienti](#) [Gazzetta di Parma](#) [Brescia](#)
[oggi](#) [Il fatto nisseno](#) [Greenme](#) [Il Piacenza](#) [Il Gazzettino](#) [Agronline](#)
[Puglia press](#) [La voce del Nord Est](#) [L'Adigetto](#) [Nove Firenze](#)
[95047](#) [Agronline](#)



Italy



Cereals and bakery products
Meat and meat products (other than poultry)
Wine



Counterfeit
Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The Bolivian authorities seized 68 tons of contraband food and drinks.

[Opinion](#)

[el Diario](#)

[FMBolivia](#)



Bolivia



Alcoholic beverages

Food



Grey market

The National Customs seized 26 430 litres of contraband beer (total value of 38 800 Euros).

[Eju](#)



Bolivia



Alcoholic beverages

Wine



Grey market

The Bolivian National Customs (ANB) destroyed 54 tons of contraband beer and wine from Argentina (total value of 56 500 Euros).

[El pais](#)

[Bolivia en tus manos](#)

[Reduno](#)

[el Diario](#)

Other interesting articles

Tools & Guides from FAN

The Food Authenticity Network (FAN) has a section collecting tools, guidelines and reports on food fraud.

[FAN](#)



UK



Food

Sugar adulteration

A scientific review focuses on the global problem of sugar adulteration, focusing on possible health effects, reasons, detection techniques, and the way forward.

[Sugar Tech](#)



World



Other food products/
mixed

"Intellectual property crime threat assessment 2022" Report

The European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and Europol have released their report covering the distribution of counterfeit and pirated goods (including food, in particular cookies, pasta, crisps and sweets), which unfortunately increased during the pandemic.

[EUIPO](#)

[Report](#)

[Wallstreet online](#)

[Antenne Salzburg](#)

[Financial Food](#)

[Onvista](#)

[Finanzen](#)

[Faz](#)

[Blue](#)

[news](#)

[el Correo](#)

[ConSalud](#)

[en espanol24](#)

[Hola news](#)

[Prensa Latina](#)

[Diari de Tarragona](#)

[100 Noticias](#)

[Proplanta](#)

[Trends](#)

[Quifinanza](#)

[Food Safety News](#)

[Muy Pymes](#)



EU



Food

FAO foresight paper on food safety and quality

The FAO publication "Thinking about the future of food safety" covers also food fraud in Chapter 9.

[FAO](#)

[Report](#)

[AgroAvances](#)

[The Foodtech](#)



World



Food

Analysis on MediSys-FF

A scientific article analyses of food fraud cases identified by MediSys-FF over a 6-year period (2015–2020).

[Food Control](#)

[Food Authenticity Network](#)



World



Food

OECD-EUIPO Report on counterfeit goods

OECD and EUIPO have published the new report "*Dangerous Fakes - Trade in Counterfeit Goods that Pose Health, Safety and Environmental Risks*". China and Hong Kong (China) are the largest identified exporters of dangerous fakes, accounting for more than three-quarters of seizures.

[OECD](#)

[EUIPO](#)

[Finanz Nachrichten](#)

[Presse portal](#)

[Economiadehoy](#)

[El mundo financiero](#)

[Cope](#)

[Food Retail](#)



World



Food

Pesticides seized in Brazil

More than 84 tons of counterfeit or smuggled pesticides were seized in Brazil in January-February alone.

[G1 Globo](#)



Brazil



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Updated AMC bulletin on saffron

The American Botanical Council (AMC) has updated the bulletin dedicated to saffron adulteration.

[Herbalgram](#)



World



Herbs and spices

The Food Fraud Monthly Report is drafted by the JRC Geel Unit F.4 “*Fraud Detection and Prevention*” with the support of the JRC Ispra Unit I.3 “*Text and Data Mining*”.

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