

December 2023

Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud

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 149.5 tons of contraband foreign parboiled rice (total value of 237 500 Euros), 7 300 litres of contraband foreign refined vegetable oils (total value of 21 000 Euros), 2 131 cartons of spaghetti, macaroni and couscous (total value of 21 000 Euros), 360 cartons of frozen poultry products (total value of 23 900 Euros).

[The Guardian](#)



Nigeria



Cereals and bakery products

Fats and oils

Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Grey market

The authorities seized 130 tons of smuggled meat and poultry (total value of 670 000 Euros). Some products were also rotten.

[News.abs](#)

[GMA Network](#)



Philippines



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)

Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Grey market

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Mapa) seized 9 000 bottles of soybean oil mislabelled as extra virgin olive oil from Spain. The fraud was discovered by using the nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy.

[Gov.br](#)

[O tempo](#)

[Diario do Comercio](#)

[O progresso](#)

[Bemparana](#)

[TN](#)

[Online](#)

[Olive Oil Times](#)



Brazil



Fats and oils



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 8 738 bottles of contraband whiskey.

[Diario Libre](#)



Dominican Republic



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The Argentine Naval Prefecture seized 37 tons of contraband soybean and corn.

[Misiones Online](#)



Argentina



Cereals and bakery products
Fruits and vegetables



Grey market

The authorities seized 13 tons of sunflower oil (from Bulgaria) adulterated with dyes to be sold as olive oil.

[National Post](#) [Calgary Herald](#) [Euronews](#) [Express](#)



Greece



Fats and oils



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 6 000 bottles of illegal alcoholic beverages.

[Muscat Daily](#) [Times of Oman](#)



Oman



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities uncovered an illegal meat canning facility, and in another operation they seized 4 tons of sliced pork without any label or documentation.

[Food Safety News](#)



Lithuania



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)



Grey market

The authorities seized 9 tons of dried turtle meat (total value of 890 000 Euros), equivalent to 12 000 turtles killed. Others seized products included two tons of endangered dried cockles and sea snails.

[Malay Mail](#) [The Sun](#) [Bernama](#) [The Star](#)



Malaysia



Bivalve molluscs and products thereof
Gastropods

Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)



Grey market

The authorities seized 1 ton of unhealthy curd (khoya) adulterated with vegetable ghee and starch.

[App](#)



Pakistan



Milk and milk products



Adulteration/ Product tampering

Punjab Food Authority (PFA) seized in total 4 500 litres of milk adulterated with water, urea, formalin, or fat.

[Balochistan24](#) [Urdu Point](#) [App](#) [Urdu Point](#) [The Nation](#)

In the operation "Omegabad" the authorities dismantled a criminal organisation mixing cloudy oils with olive oil and selling the final product as pure olive oil. The authorities also seized 260 000 litres of adulterated olive oil.

[Noticias o minuto](#) [The Guardian](#) [Executive Digest](#) [Jornal de Angola](#) [Sabado](#)
[The Chronicle](#) [Telecinco](#) [Giornale di Sicilia](#) [Euronews](#) [Teatro Naturale](#) [la](#)
[Regione](#) [Clarín](#) [China daily](#) [Express](#) [Dissapore](#) [Securing Industry](#) [Murcia](#)
[Today](#) [African Manager](#) [Ivoire matin](#) [GreenMe](#) [Il Salvagente](#) [Cnn](#)
[Cnn espanol](#) [Huaral](#) [Local3news](#) [Ksl](#) [Eastidaho News](#)



Spain, Italy



Fats and oils



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 5 000 bottles of counterfeit alcoholic beverages (total value of 117 000 Euros).

[RCN Radio](#) [Semana](#) [HSB Noticias](#) [el Tiempo](#)



Colombia



Alcoholic beverages

The authorities seized 25 tons of counterfeit alcoholic beverages (whiskey, rum, vodka or gin from recognized international brands).

[Semana Radio](#) [La Patilla](#) [el Pais](#) [Semana](#) [Infobae](#) [Infobae](#) [Rcn](#)

In the Delta-India operation the authorities seized:

- 56 tons (3 000 pieces) of ham and shoulders with altered origin labels and counterfeiting Geographical Indications;
- 5 570 litres of alcoholic beverages adulterated with aromatic essences and sugar, resembling the taste of vermouth, muscatel and mistela;
- Wine sold with a Geographical Indication without being registered and being authorised

[Infobae](#) [La Sexta](#) [Huelva Informacion](#) [El Confidencial](#) [el Correo](#)
[News](#) [Andalucia Informacion](#) [CIm24](#) [el Mundo](#) [Teller Report](#) [Euro Weekly](#)
[Agroclm](#) [El Obrero](#) [EFE Agro](#)

The authorities seized 25 603 litres of smuggled and counterfeit alcohol.

[Daily Sahab](#)

The authorities seized 1 ton of expired, smelly and fungal meat ready to be supplied to marts and stores.

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

In the operation "Helianthus" the authorities seized 6 400 litres of vegetable oils (mixtures of 75% sunflower oil and 25% lampante oil) mislabelled as extra-virgin olive oil.

[La Informacion](#) [Telecinco](#) [el Debate](#) [La Voz del Sur](#)

The Coast Guard and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) seized 1.2 tons of illegally caught red snapper in waters subject to U.S. law enforcement.

[Beaumont Enterprise](#)

The authorities arrested a man for selling alcoholic beverages produced by manufacturing spirit mixed colouring and flavour agents. The authorities also seized 1 600 bottles of adulterated products.

[Times of India](#)

The authorities seized 7 236 litres of contraband Indian-made foreign liquors.

[Times of India](#)

The authorities seized 2 500 litres and 15 000 bottles of illicit liquor.



Counterfeit



Spain



Alcoholic beverages
Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)
Wine



Adulteration/ Product
tampering
Misdescription/
Mislabelling/
Misbranding
Counterfeit



Türkiye



Alcoholic beverages



Counterfeit
Grey market



Pakistan



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



Adulteration/ Product
tampering



Spain



Fats and oils



Adulteration/ Product
tampering
Document forgery



USA



Fish and fish products



Grey market



India



Alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product
tampering
Grey market

[The Hindu](#)

The Hellenic Food Authority (EFET) identified 15% of irregularities in olive oil samples analysed in 2022.

[Ot](#) [Page News](#)



Greece



Fats and oils



Adulteration/ Product tampering
Misdescription/
Mislabelling/
Misbranding

The Kano Road and Traffic Agency seized 4 600 bottles of illegal alcoholic drinks. Alcohol consumption is illegal in all parts of the Kano state.

[Punch Ng](#)



Nigeria



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized in total 72.3 tons of ration rice meant for supply under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

[The Hindu](#) [Uni India](#) [The Hindu](#)



India



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

In November 2023, the authorities seized 341.5 tons of rice meant for supply under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

[DT Next](#)

The authorities seized 76 bottles of counterfeit Moutai bottles refilled with cheap liquors.

[China Daily](#) [Straits Times](#) [The Drinks Business](#) [Mondaq](#)



China



Alcoholic beverages



Counterfeit

The authorities seized 8 tons of oranges, lemons and mandarins without traceability documentation.

[Blog Sicilia](#)



Italy



Fruits and vegetables



Grey market

The authorities seized 1.7 tons of food without traceability documentation.

[Fanpage](#)



Italy



Food



Grey market

The Oceana organization in Mexico reported that they detected the sale of fake cod in fishmongers, supermarkets and restaurants in Mexico City, which was actually shark meat or tilapia fish. The investigation was conducted through DNA analysis. Cod replacement registered a higher percentage in fishmongers (55%), followed by restaurants (40%). Supermarkets recorded the lowest percentage (4.5%).

[Oceana](#) [Tiempo](#) [Milenio](#) [Diario de Morelos](#)



Mexico



Fish and fish products



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 12 000 litres of olive oil with a counterfeit Geographical Indication, and 4 300 litres of pomace oil mislabelled as extra-virgin olive oil.

[Food Safety News](#)



Portugal



Fats and oils



Counterfeit

Misdescription/
Mislabelling/

The authorities seized 1.4 tons of bivalve shellfish illegally produced (total value of 16 000 Euros).

[Food Safety News](#)



Misbranding
Portugal



Bivalve molluscs and
products thereof
Grey market



The authorities seized 3 100 bottles of wine and champagne produced illegally.

[Semana](#)



Colombia



Wine



Grey market

The authorities seized 26 tons of fish (e.g. salmon, swordfish) without traceability documentation, and 2 tons of octopus with wrong labels.

[Ansa](#) [La Sicilia Web](#) [Blog Sicilia](#)



Italy



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



Grey market
Misdescription/
Mislabelling/
Misbranding

The authorities seized 1.4 tons of contraband mussels.

[Bta](#)



Bulgaria



Bivalve molluscs and
products thereof
Grey market



The authorities seized 2 000 tons of contraband rice (total value of 1.63 million Euros).

[Manila Standard](#)



Philippines



Cereals and bakery
products



Grey market

The authorities seized 1.5 tons of dried fruits of unknown origin.

[Tunisie numerique](#)



Tunisia



Fruits and vegetables



Grey market

Other interesting articles

New FAQ on FDA food traceability rule

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has released the third wave of new FAQs and tools for the *Food Traceability Rule*.

[FDA](#) [Securing Industry](#) [Perkins Coie](#) [JDsupra](#) [Mondaq](#) [Food Safety Tech](#)

2023 Merriam-Webster's Word of the Year

In 2023 the Word of the Year of the Merriam-Webster website was *authentic*.

"Authentic has a number of meanings including "not false or imitation," a synonym of real and actual; and also "true to one's own personality, spirit, or character."

[Merriam-Webster](#)

Key figures on the European food chain – 2023 edition

The European Commission has published a selection of recent data from the domains of agriculture and fisheries statistics. It presents key messages for the EU, and highlights the main players and key specialisations, accompanying analysis with intuitive visualisations and innovative data presentations.

[European Commission](#)

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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