



## Italian olive oil seasonal production projected to improve

**Italian olive oil production for the 2019/20 harvesting season is projected to make a vast improvement compared to the last crop year, which was among one of the worst seasons in the past 25 years because of extreme weather across the Mediterranean region.**

Italy is expected to produce 270,000 tons, a striking improvement from the 175,000 tons produced during the 2018/19 season, according to the speculative harvest figures published in mid-June by Olimerca, a prominent information resource among the olive industry. The olive crop year is the period from October 1 to September 30 in the next year.

The improvement in production has been attributed to stable weather conditions, as well as above-seasonal rainfall levels in April and May. Last season Italy was hit by irregular rainfall, early spring frosts, strong winds and summer droughts, all of which mirrored climate change predictions and resulted in a 57 percent drop in the country's olive harvest.

Spanish olive oil production is bracing itself for a decrease from 1.77 million tons to 1.35 million tons due to water limitations and the inter-annual alternance of olive trees. Greece and Portugal are projected to increase their yields to 300,000 tons and 130,000 tons respectively, while the remainder of the Mediterranean producers will contribute approximately 400,000 tons.

Tunisia is heading towards a record production of 350,000 tons and the rest of the world will supply around 70,000 tons overall. Olimerca reported that the global yield of olive oil is estimated to reach 3.67 million tons, a small increase from last season's 3.13 million tons.

Olive oil shipments to Asian markets have also grown, according to the European Commission's "Short-Term Outlook for EU Agricultural Markets in 2019 and 2020". Exports to Japan grew by 38 percent and by 30 percent to China, with both contributing to the EU's estimated export total of 650,000 tons—an increase of 15 percent from the previous campaign.

The international TAICHI project is spreading information about the health benefits of using extra virgin olive oil for cooking to Mainland China and Taiwan.

Co-funded by the EU and promoted by the two main consortia of Italian olive growers, Italia Olivicola and UNAPOL, the TAICHI project offers consumers all the information they need to understand olive oil through its website, various social media platforms and OurOliveOil APP – available in the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

### Sources:

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To find out more about the TAICHI project, visit [OurOliveOil.com](http://OurOliveOil.com)

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