



COMPETERE
Policies for Sustainable Development

REPORT

EU PALM OIL IMPORTS

Jan-Jun 2022 Vs 2021

Focus on edible palm oil



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Please direct inquiries to:

Competere – Policies for sustainable development

Piazza San Salvatore in Lauro, 13 - 00186, ROMA, RM, ITALY +39 06 97842491 info@competere.eu



INTRODUCTION

This report presents an overview of the month-to-month variation in EU palm oil imports in the first six months of 2022 in relation to the respective months of 2021. The analysis includes the world's leading palm oil producers and exporters to Europe: Indonesia, Malaysia, Colombia, and Guatemala.

The report aims to monitor the flow of palm oil trade amid recent crises, including most recent climate change-related events such as drought, the Russian-Ukrainian war, disruptions in supply chains and the palm oil export freeze imposed by Indonesia during part of the month of May.

The second section of the report focuses on edible palm oil: the shortage of sunflower oil has prompted many food companies to backtrack and revert to using palm oil or other vegetable oils. This report aims to analyze whether these recent phenomena have led to increased import of palm oil. To get the overall picture, in this section the comparison extends to the first six months of 2018, 2019 and 2020 (beyond the Pandemic).

Finally, the last section focuses on Italy to understand the changes in palm oil imports from Indonesia, Malaysia, Guatemala, and Colombia in the first six months of 2022 compared to the previous year.

Given the nature of supply chains, the first six months of 2022 are not yet sufficient to provide a comprehensive scenario of import dynamics. Upcoming monthly reports will help provide a more accurate understanding of palm oil trade dynamics.



KEY FINDINGS

- Indonesia and Malaysia were the top two exporters to the EU in the first six months of 2022, maintaining their respective positions as top exporters in 2021.
- Colombian and Malaysian imports to the EU increased in the first six months of 2022. Imports from Indonesia and Guatemala, however, decreased.
- In the first six months of 2022 Malaysian and Colombian imports of edible palm oil have increased, probably due to the lower availability of sunflower oil due to the war in Ukraine; in Indonesia, the trend is mainly stable, while Guatemalan exports have declined steadily, after a record peak in late 2021 and early 2022.
- In the first six months of 2022, Indonesian and Malaysian palm oil imports to Italy have decreased slightly compared to the first six months of 2021. Imports from Guatemala decreased physiologically after the December 2021 - January 2022 boom. Imports from Colombia, however, increased slightly.



FOCUS ON ITALY PALM OIL IMPORTS

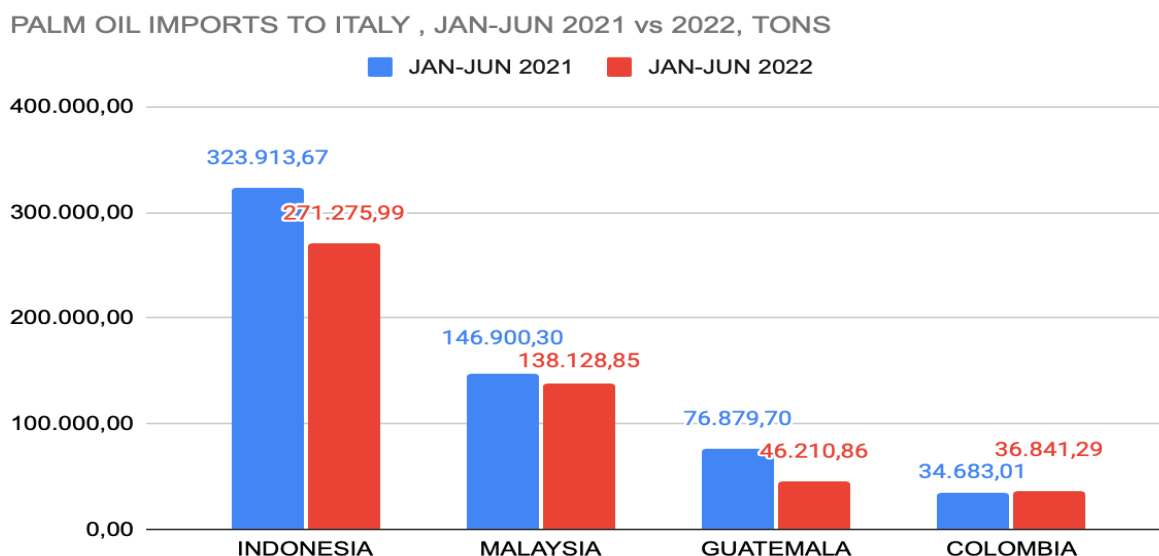


Figure 9 - Source: Eurostat

In the first six months of 2022, Italy imported 271.275,99 tons of palm oil (categories 15.11.10.90, 15.11.90.99, 15.11.10.10, 15.11.90.91, and 15.11.90.19) from Indonesia. However, in the first six months of 2021, Italy imported 323.913,67 tons of palm oil, illustrating a modest decrease in imports of palm oil from Indonesia to Italy. Similarly, imports of palm oil from Malaysia to Italy decreased from the first six months of 2021 (146.900,30 tons) to the first six months of 2022 (138.128,85 tons), though only slightly in comparison to the decrease in imports from Indonesia.

The sharpest decrease in palm oil imports is from Guatemala which, in the first six months of 2021 exported 76.879,70 tons of palm oil to Italy but only 46.210,86 tons in the first six months of 2022. This stands in contrast to national trends, where Guatemala imported more palm oil in the first three months of 2021 to the EU than in the four years prior.

On the other hand, in the first six months of 2022, Italy imported 36.841,29 tons of palm oil from Colombia, in contrast to the 34.683,01 tons imported from Colombia in the first six months of 2021, revealing a slight increase.

PO IMPORTS TO ITALY, JAN-JUN, IN TONS

	Indonesia	Malaysia	Guatemala	Colombia
Jan-Jun 2021	323.913,67	146.900,30	76.879,70	34.683,01
Jan-Jun 2022	271.275,99	138.128,85	46.210,86	36.841,29

Tables 2 – Source: Eurostat



Policies for Sustainable Development

P.zza San Salvatore in Lauro, 13 – int. 4
00186 Rome – Italy
+39.06.97842491

www.competer.eu - info@competer.eu - @competerEU