



MINISTERO DELLE POLITICHE AGRICOLE ALIMENTARI FORESTALI E DEL TURISMO



DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL INSPECTORATE FOR FRAUD REPRESSION AND
QUALITY PROTECTION OF THE AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS AND FOODSTAFFS (ICQRF)

REPORT 2018



Il Report è disponibile in italiano, inglese e cinese sul sito www.politicheagricole.it

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1. Summary

The year 2018 confirmed the strategic role of the agri-food sector for the Italian economy, with more than 42 billion euro of export. The ICQRF, with its daily action for the protection of “Made in Italy” products gave a significant contribution to consolidate the reputation of the quality of Italian products, as it was pointed out at the Italian parliament by the Italian Minister of Agriculture Gianmarco Centinaio: *“Controls in the agro-food sector are more and more an active marketing factor, which can position Italian food as an high-end product. Fighting frauds and the ‘Italian Sounding’ phenomenon is therefore a priority”*.

This report details the law enforcement activity carried out by the ICQRF against frauds, usurpations, ‘Italian Sounding’ and counterfeiting phenomena, which harms “Made in Italy” quality products, and consumers as well.

The operational results of 2018 confirms the quality of the Italian control system, where the ICQRF stands among the main enforcement Authorities worldwide. ICQRF carried out No. **54,098 anti-fraud controls**, of which 40,301 were inspections and 13,797 were analysis. The controlled operators were over 25,000 and the **controlled products about 53,000**.

The non-compliances detected involved 20.3% of the operators inspected, 12.4% of the products checked and 8.7% of the samples analysed.

The activity of countering criminal activities in the agri-food sector has been particularly intense, and in 2018 as well the ICQRF was a protagonist of the most relevant criminal police operations. Please find below some data:

- No. **721 crime reports** (+58% from 2017) and No. **4,194 administrative sanction** (+13%). Furthermore, No. **2,629 injunctions** towards operators have been issued.
- About **17.6 tons of seized goods**, to the value of **over 34 million euro**.
- No. **561** enforcement operations beyond national borders and on the web.

87% of controls concerned food products, and the remaining 13% technical means in agriculture (feed, fertilizers, seeds, plant protection products).

With reference to the agricultural sectors: No. 17,820 controls involved the wine sector, No. 7,157 the oils sector, No. 5,102 milk and dairy products, No. 3,226 the meats sector, No. 2,967 fruit and vegetables, No. 2,666 cereals and cereal products, No. 2,202 preserved vegetables, No. 1,961 sugar products, No. 911 honey, No. 679 the egg sector, No. 516 spirit drinks, and No. 1,959 other sectors.

The inspections and analytical controls on technical means in agriculture were No. **6,932**.

In sectors as **wine** and **olive oil**, the ICQRF continues to be the public Authority that carries out **the largest number of anti-fraud controls in the world**.

The ICQRF is a **sanctioning authority** for numerous types of violations in the agro-food sector, also sanctioned by other Control Authorities. Over the years, the sanctioning activity was extended and, today the ICQRF **it is the competent Authority to impose sanctions** for administrative infringements in the field of: food labeling, products with Geographical Indications (PDO, PGI), wine and wine products, productions from organic farming, GMOs, seeds and plant propagating material, feed and feed materials.

In 2018, the ICQRF issued No. **2,588 orders for payment** for an amount of **approximately 7 million euros**.

Implementing the so-called “origin decrees” concerning the sectors of milk and dairy products, rice, durum-wheat semolina and tomato, the ICQRF has filed No. **28 injunctions** and No. **30 administrative sanctions**.

At international level and on the web, the ICQRF activity for the protection of Made in Italy agro-foodstuffs reached significant results, which puts such enforcement body as a leading force in Europe of the protection of Geographical Indications.

As the Italian **ex officio Authority** for PDO/PGI products and **Contact Body** at the EU level in the wine sector, No. **561 interventions** have been carried out in 2018. In the last 4 years, the interventions of ICQRF abroad and on the web were No. **2,763** – an achievement no one in Europe can claim.

About web controls, the ICQRF strengthened its cooperation with Alibaba and Ebay and achieved significant results with Amazon as well: the interventions to protect the Italian productions on these three web marketplaces in 2018 were No. **177, with 99% success rate**. The cooperation with other Control Bodies intensified in 2018: No. **183 reports** from foreign authorities have been received, which have led to control activities on the Italian territory carried out by our Regional offices.

As **Food Fraud Contact Point**, the ICQRF received in 2018 No. **41 reports**, and carried No. **46 reports** towards other Member States by the means of the systems Food Fraud (FF) e Administrative Assistance and Cooperation (AAC). By the means of the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation, ICQRF has as well took part on a **Pilot program on market controls** on Geographical Indications promoted by the European commission.

Several cooperation and training initiatives at international level have been promoted by the ICQRF. Most recently, in December 2018, the twinning project “**Establishing Efficient Protection and Control System of Geographical Indications (GIs) in Georgia**” has been assigned to the ICQRF.

In Italy, the ICQRF is responsible as well for carrying out **supervisions of the public and private Control Bodies (CBs)** of the quality food productions (organic farming, agricultural products, PDO, PGI, TSG foodstuffs, PDO and PGI wines). In 2018, audits have been carried out on No. **52 CBs** (No. **15 audits** involved the production of PDOs and PGIs, No. **20 audits** involved wines, No. **15** the organic productions and No. **2** on meat labelling).

ICQRF plays an important role on **agro-food databases management**: Italy is the only country in the world to have electronic registers about wine and oil movements. Such electronic registers, together with the Single Register for Inspection Controls “RUCI”, are important tools for controls that puts Italy at the forefront in the field of risk management and of the understanding of market dynamics.

As for the wine sector specifically, on first of January 2017 the wine electronic register entered into force in Italy. With about 16,000 operators registered to date (about 95% of Italian wine production), ICQRF is able to perform daily online checks on the stocks and movements of over No. 560,000 wine storing containers and monitor more than 20,000,000 annual oenological movement and operations carried out by the Italian wineries. Such report provides also some summary data of the “Cantina Italia” report.

As for olive oil sector, the electronic register allows a full traceability of the production chain at national level, which allowed in 2018 as well to take effective action against frauds and non-compliances. Likewise the wine sector, ICQRF publishes every 15 days on the website of the Italian Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies, the report “Frantoio Italia”, which allows the operators to know in real-time the stocks of the oils, grouped by geographical origin.

Through the **Single Register for Inspection Controls “RUCI”**, the ICQRF has been able to optimize the inspection activities, avoiding the overlapping of controls on agricultural companies. On 31st of December 2018, the register contained data about more than No. **625,000 controls** performed by the ICQRF, Regions, Control Bodies and Carabinieri.

ICQRF carried out an intense activity of **listening to the production sectors**, in order to reduce the bureaucratic impact on the companies of market controls, developing together “best practices” for the benefit of producers and consumers. The cooperation agreements with several producers groups (such as Assofertilizzanti, Assosementi, Sicasov, Crea AIB – BT, Ente Nazionale Risi) allowed the sharing of operative information and the implementation of training initiatives aimed at the ICQRF staff, with positive impact on prevention and enforcement. Last agreement signed was with “Assobirrai” for the protection of national craft beer.

The 2018 results of the ICQRF confirms the efficiency and the quality of the work done by the ICQRF women and men, who protects the Italian agro-food productions and the work of million of national producers that, in 2018 as well, gave an important contribution to the economic growth and to the image of the Country.

The 2018 ICQRF Report is also available in Italian and Chinese on the website of the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies www.politicheagricole.it.

The Chief of ICQRF
Stefano Vaccari

2. Agro-food “Made in Italy” protection in the world and on the web

Italy is leader in the field of agro-food products of excellence with n. 863 agro-food products recognized by EU, as it is possible to see in the following graph.



In Europe, ICQRF is the Italian *ex officio* Enforcement Authority¹ regarding the protection of PGIs and PDOs products and the Italian Liaison Body² in wine sector. ICQRF is the National Authority, which takes measures to stop any unlawful use in Europe of the Italian Protected denominations of origin and protected geographical indications, in the *Food* and *Wine* sector.

On the **Web**, worldwide, ICQRF acts to protect the Italian PDO's and PGI's quality products, by means of cooperation with the main e-commerce *player* in the world. For several years, ICQRF, indeed, operates on Ebay, Alibaba and Amazon websites as Right Holder (*owner*) for protecting the “name” of the Italian Geographical Indications. Thanks to specific agreements for the protection of the agro-food and wine names, ICQRF speaks directly to the e-commerce players to stop, in few times, illegal listings concerning unlawful use of the Italian PDO's and PGI's names.

In the last four years, ICQRF has taken **No. 2,763 reports abroad and on the web**, including actions on the three main marketplaces of the world: Alibaba, Ebay and Amazon. In 2018, ICQRF tackled down **No. 561** cases of misuses and evocations, of which: No. 226 products on sale on Ebay *market place*, No. 16 on Amazon, No. 22 on Alibaba, No. 148 on other internet *service providers*, No. 236 wine products on sale on the web and in public places.

The following graphs and tables show the counterfeit products, the cases where the ICQRF took actions, and the countries or the web marketplaces involved.

¹ In accordance with the art. 13, par. 3, Reg. EU n. 1151/2012

² In accordance with the art. 40, Reg. EU 2018/273

Total reports of the ICQRF on the web and abroad: 2015 - 2018

Product	Total reports (no.), of which	Web cooperation	Wine sector	ex officio
Prosecco	801	232	569	
Parmigiano Reggiano	409	255		154
Wine kit	281	31	250	
Amarone della Valpolicella (Wine kit)	160	8	152	
Prosciutto di Parma	181	51		130
Aceto Balsamico di Modena	91	45		46
Asti	68		68	
Sicilia (olio EVO)	60	60		
Toscana (olio EVO)	58	23		35
Dauno (olio EVO)	52	52		
Grana Padano	44	13		31
Pecorino Siciliano	43	43		
Pecorino Toscano	42	15		27
Asiago	38	34		4
Gorgonzola	21	17		4
Campi Flegrei	21	21		
Salsiccia di Calabria	20	20		
Nero d'Avola	20		20	
Terra di Bari (olio EVO)	18	18		
Pecorino Romano	17	14		3
Salamini Italiani alla Cacciatora	15	12		3
Lenticchia di Altamura	15	15		
Amarone della Valpolicella	14	6	8	
Barolo	12		12	
Limone Femminello del Gargano	11	11		
Capocollo di Calabria	10	10		
Aceto Tradizionale di Modena	10	10		
Arancia di Ribera	10	10		
Mortadella di Bologna	10	6		4
Chianti	9		9	
Pancetta di Calabria	9	9		
<i>Other products</i>	<i>193</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>27</i>
Total	2,763	1,167	1,128	468

Total reports on the web and abroad - 2018

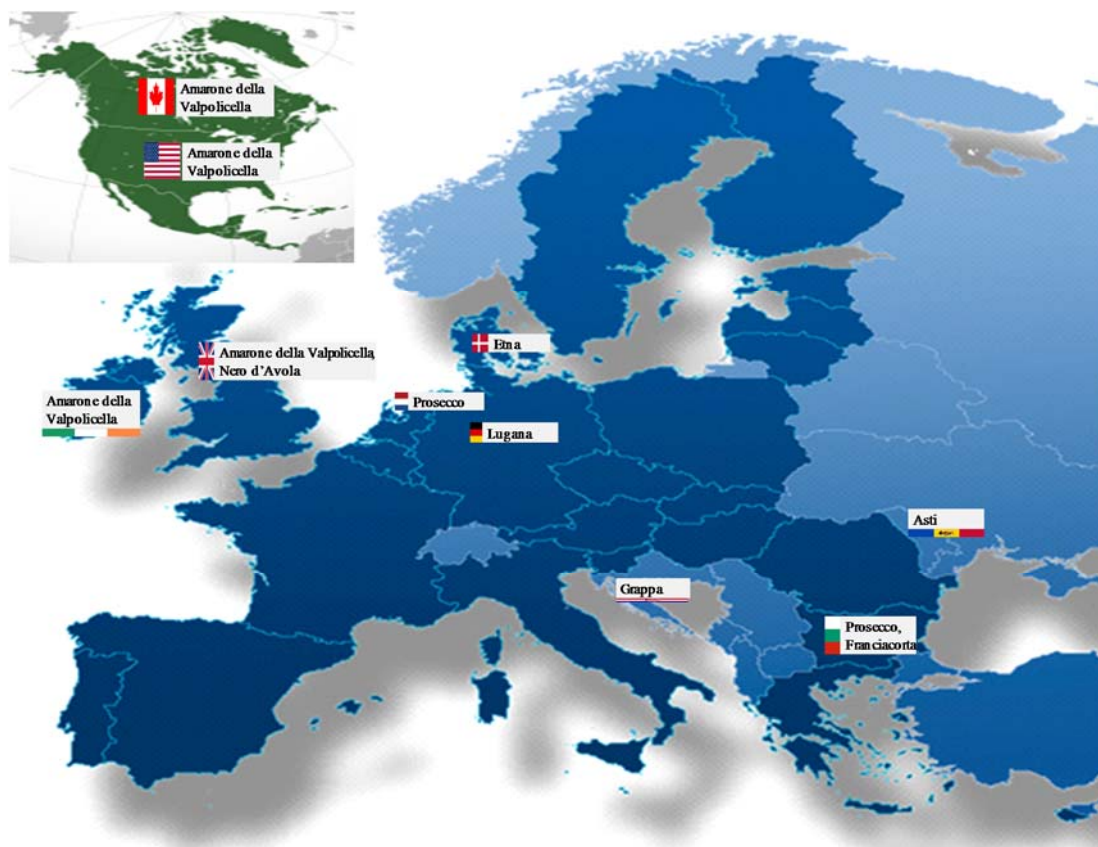
Product	Total reports (no.), of which	Web cooperation	Wine sector	ex officio
Amarone della Valpolicella (Wine kit)	160	8	152	
Prosciutto di Parma	112	8		104
Prosecco	52	5	47	
Grana Padano	32	4		28
Sicilia (olio EVO)	30	30		
Parmigiano Reggiano	20	14		6
Nero d'Avola	20		20	
Pecorino Toscano	15	15		
Dauno (olio EVO)	12	12		
Toscana (olio EVO)	11	11		
Asti	10		10	
Salsiccia di Calabria	7	7		
Amarone della Valpolicella	6	6		
Pecorino Siciliano	6	6		
Salamini Italiani alla Cacciatora	5	3		2
Oliva di Gaeta	5	5		
Aceto Balsamico di Modena	5	1		4
Molise (olio EVO)	4	4		
Terre Tarantine (olio EVO)	4	4		
Grappa	4		4	
Sabina (olio EVO)	3	3		
Pizzoccheri della Valtellina	3	3		
Pecorino Romano	3	3		
Limone Femminello del Gargano	3	3		
<i>Other products</i>	29	22	3	4
Total	561	177	236	148

ICQRF – listings removed on the online marketplaces – per product in 2018

Product	Total reports (no.), of which:	Ebay	Amazon	Alibaba
Sicilia (olio EVO)	30	30		
Pecorino Toscano	15	4		11
Parmigiano Reggiano	14	11		3
Dauno (olio EVO)	12	12		
Toscano (olio EVO)	11	10		1
Amarone della Valpolicella (Wine kit)	8		8	
Prosciutto di Parma	8		8	
Salsiccia di Calabria	7	7		
Amarone della Valpolicella	6	6		
Pecorino Siciliano	6	6		
Prosecco	5	5		
Oliva di Gaeta	5	5		
Terre Tarantine (olio EVO)	4	4		
Grana Padano	4	4		
Molise (olio EVO)	4	4		
Sabina (olio EVO)	3			3
Salamini Italiani alla Cacciatora	3	3		
Limone Femminello del Gargano	3	3		
Pecorino Romano	3	2		1
Pizzoccheri della Valtellina	3	3		
Asiago	2	2		
Gorgonzola	2	2		
Lenticchia di Altamura	2	2		
Brunello di Montalcino	2	2		
Prosciutto Toscano	2	2		
Melanzana Rossa di Rotonda	1	1		
Terra di Bari (olio EVO)	1	1		
Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo	1			1
Focaccia di Recco col formaggio	1	1		
Terra d'Otranto (olio EVO)	1	1		
Burrata di Andria	1	1		
Ciauscolo	1	1		
Arancia di Ribera	1	1		
Marche	1	1		
Garda (olio EVO)	1			1
Montepulciano d'Abruzzo	1	1		
Aceto Balsamico di Modena	1			1
Pane di Matera	1	1		
Total	177	139	16	22

ICQRF – Reports in 2018 as wine sector liaison body

Product	Reports (no.)	Involved Countries
Amarone della Valpolicella (Wine kit)	152	Canada, Regno Unito, USA, Irlanda
Prosecco	47	Paesi Bassi, Bulgaria
Asti	10	Moldavia
Etna	1	Danimarca
Franciacorta	1	Bulgaria
Lugana	1	Germania
Grappa	4	Croazia
Nero d'Avola	20	Regno Unito
Total		236



ICQRF – Reports in 2018 as “ex officio” Authority



Examples of irregular listings removed by ICQRF in 2018

Generic wine sold as "Prosecco" on eBay



VINO SPUMANTE EXTRA DRY "SHAH MAT" CL 75 X 6 Bo
prosecco


[Scrivi una recensione per primo.](#)

Condizione: **Nuovo**

Quantità: Più di 10 disponibili
11 venduti

EUR 21,50
(EUR 3,58 / Unità)

[Compralo Subito](#)



~~Casa Valdeg~~ Espumante Arte Brut 2015 - 6 Flaschen - Prosecco &
★★★★★ [Schreiben Sie die erste Rezension.](#)

Artikelzustand: **Neu**


Stückzahl: 5 verfügbar

EUR 100,95
(EUR 22,43 / L)
(inkl. MwSt.)

[Sofort-Kaufen](#)

[In den Warenkorb](#)

Generic lemons which evoke PGI Limone Femminiello del Gargano



Lomoni del Gargano biologici citrus lemon 10kg sicilia

Condizione: **Nuovo**

Tempo rimasto: 6g 02h (11 mar 2018 10:54:51 CET)

EUR 1,00

[Compralo Subito](#)

[Aggiungi al carrello](#)

[Aggiungi a Oggetti che osservi](#)
[Aggiungi alla collezione](#)

Luogo: Italia

Spedizione: **EUR 25,00** Economica | [Vedi i dettagli](#)
 Luogo in cui si trova l'oggetto: Rodi Garganico, Italia
 Spedizione verso: Europa

Ham “Tipo Parma” sold on the web

Tipo Parma Schinken

Art. Nr.: 4016
ca. 6 kg /Stück



JAMBON TYPE PARME +/- 5.5 KI



9,80 € /kg

Generic ham sold on the web as PDO “Prosciutto di Parma”




**Parma Schinker
Stücke ca.3 kg**

Parma Schinken halbe Stücke ca.3 kg

1

+

“Parmesan Cheese” listing removed on Alibaba website



Parmesan Cheese

FOB Reference Price: [Get Latest Price](#)

US \$1,000-1,200 / Metric Tons | 24 Metric Ton/Metric Tons (Min. Order)

✉ Contact Supplier

Type:	Semi Hard Cheese	Cheese Type:	Parmesan Cheese
Origin:	Cattle	Packaging:	Bulk, Sachet
Shape:	Block	Color:	Light Yellow
Additives:	Customers Demand	Shelf Life:	24 Months
Place of Origin:	South Africa	Brand Name:	OEM

Fake PDO "Pecorino Toscano" sold on the web



Premium Quality Cheese PECORINO TOSCANO - Pecorino cheese matured in BALSAMIC VINEGAR, 100% Italian sheep's milk

FOB Reference Price: [Get Latest Price](#)

1 Pallet/Pallets (Min. Order)

Burrata wich evokes the PGI "Burrata di Andria" sold on the web



FORMAGGI - "Burrata di Andria in bicchiere" - kg 0.250 ca

Condizione: **Nuovo**

Quantità: 9 disponibili
1 venduto

EUR 4,50

Compralo Subito

Aggiungi al carrello


[➤ Aggiungi a Oggetti che osservi](#)
[★ Aggiungi alla collezione](#)

Luogo: Italia

Consegna in 2-3 g

Spedizione: **EUR 7,90** Standard | [Vedi i dettagli](#)
Luogo in cui si trova l'oggetto: Vittorio Veneto TV, Italia

Vegan product sold on the web as "Ciauscolo"



"My Vegan Italian" spreadable "Ciauscolo" salami "soy/gluten-free

Condition: **New**

3Kg Ciauscolo:

Quantity: More than 10 available

£50.00

(£16.67 / kg)

Buy it now

Add to basket

Sausages sold on the web with references to PDO “Salsiccia di Calabria”



Salsiccia Curva stagionata - PICCANTE - Artigianale Calabria

Condizione: **Nuovo**

Quantità: 9 disponibili
29 venduti

EUR 6,90

[Compralo Subito](#)

[Aggiungi al carrello](#)

EVO oils which evoke PDO “Molise” and “Terra di Bari” removed on ebay website



OLIO Olio Extravergine di oliva Extra Silver Molise

Condizione: **Nuovo**

EUR 14,70

[Compralo Subito](#)

[Aggiungi al carrello](#)

[Aggiungi a Oggetti che osservi](#)

Spedizione da Italia	Consegna in 3 giorni	30 giorni per la
----------------------	----------------------	------------------

Spedizione: **EUR 6,50** Spedizione celere | [Vedi i dettagli](#)
 Luogo in cui si trova l'oggetto: Seregno (MI), Italia
 Spedizione verso: Europa

Consegna: **Stimata entro gio. 15 nov.**

Pagamenti: [PayPal](#) [MasterCard](#) [VISA](#) [American Express](#) [Paycom](#)

Carte di credito elaborate da PayPal
 Visa e MasterCard



Olio extravergine di oliva d'oliva BIO Puglia Terre di Bari -5 litri-

★★★★★ [Scrivi una recensione per primo.](#)

Condizione: **Nuovo**

Tempo rimasto: 28g 01h (02 apr 2018 15:06:10 CEST)

Quantità: 10 disponibili

EUR 35,00
(EUR 7,00 / L)

[Compralo Subito](#)

[Aggiungi a Oggetti che osservi](#)

★ [Aggiungi alla collezione](#)

Luogo: Italia	Ritiro di persona
---------------	-------------------

Spedizione: **EUR 12,00** Standard | [Vedi i dettagli](#)

3. The activity in Italy

An overview of the control activity

In the year 2018, ICQRF carried out 40,301 inspections and analysed 13,797 samples for a total amount of **54,098 controls**. The inspected operators have been 25,390 and 52,982 the controlled products.

The irregularities concerned 20.3% of operators, 12.4% of products and 8.7% of samples.

ICQRF reported to the Judicial Authority **721 individuals** and imposed **4,194 administrative penalties**.

During the inspection activities, inspectors seized irregular agro-food products for a total amount of over **17,500 tons** and a commercial value of over 21.8 million euros and 12.2 million euros of equivalent value in real estate and mobile assets, for a total value of seizures of over **34 million euros**.

Inspection activity	
Inspection controls (no.)	40,301
Analytical controls (no.)	13,797
Controls (no.)	54,098
Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	25,390
Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	20.3
Controlled products (no.)	52,982
Irregular products* (%)	12.4
Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	8.7
Results	
Crime reports (no.)	721
Administrative penalties (no.)	4,194
Seizures (no.)	595
Amount of seized products (tons)	17,588
Economic value of seizures (€)	34,098,556
Warnings (no.)	2,629

* including documentary and labeling irregularities

Kind of seized property	Amount	Value (€)
Seized agri-food products (tons)	17,588	21,814,136
Real estate (no.)	191	11,941,406
Mobile assets (no.)	1,655	343,014
Documents (no.)	20,430	-

Controls on Quality Products

PDO, PGI and TSG products

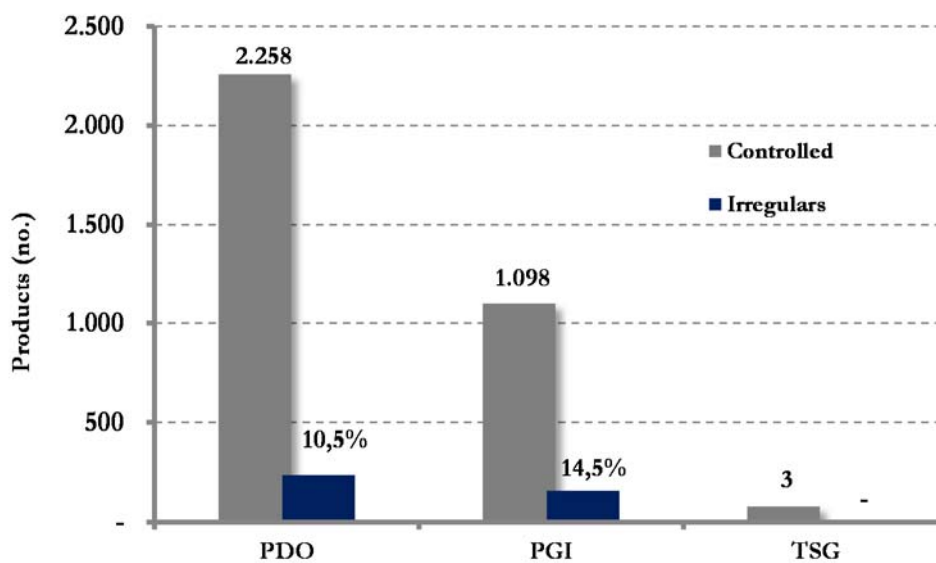
Hereinafter are reported the main results of control activities achieved in **2018** in PDO, PGI and TSG products.

ICQRF – controls on PDO, PGI and TSG products

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	2,963
	Analytical controls (no.)	918
	Controls (no.)	3,881
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	2,150
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	7.7
	Controlled products (no.)	3,359
	Irregular products* (%)	11.8
	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	2.9
Results	Crime reports (no.)	227
	Administrative penalties (no.)	306
	Seizures (no.)	33
	Amount of seized products (tons)	329.9
	Economic value of seizures (€)	2,013,625.00
	Warnings (no.)	306

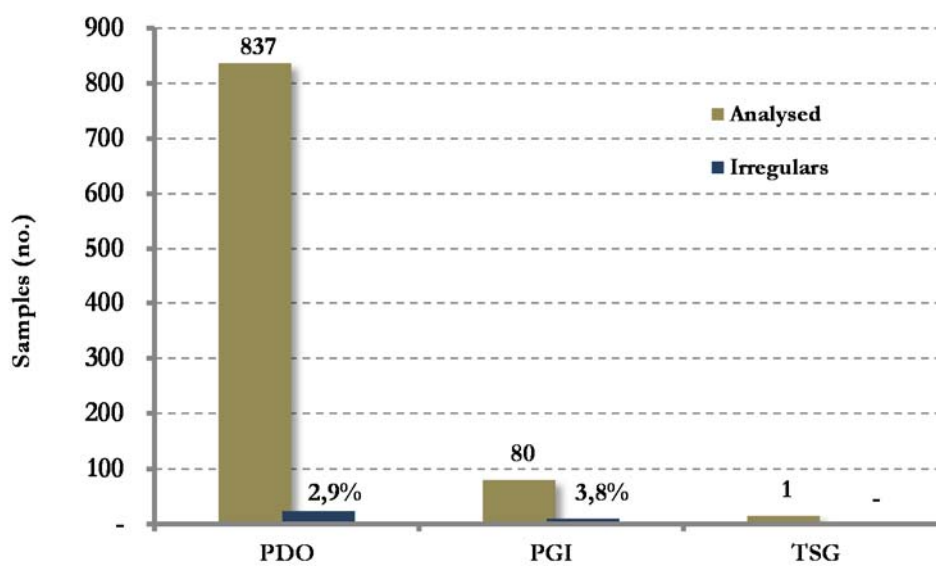
* including documentary and labeling irregularities

ICQRF – Controlled PDO, PGI and TSG and % of irregularities*



* including documentary and labeling irregularities

ICQRF – Samples of PDO, PGI and TSG analysed and % of irregularities



DO and GI wines

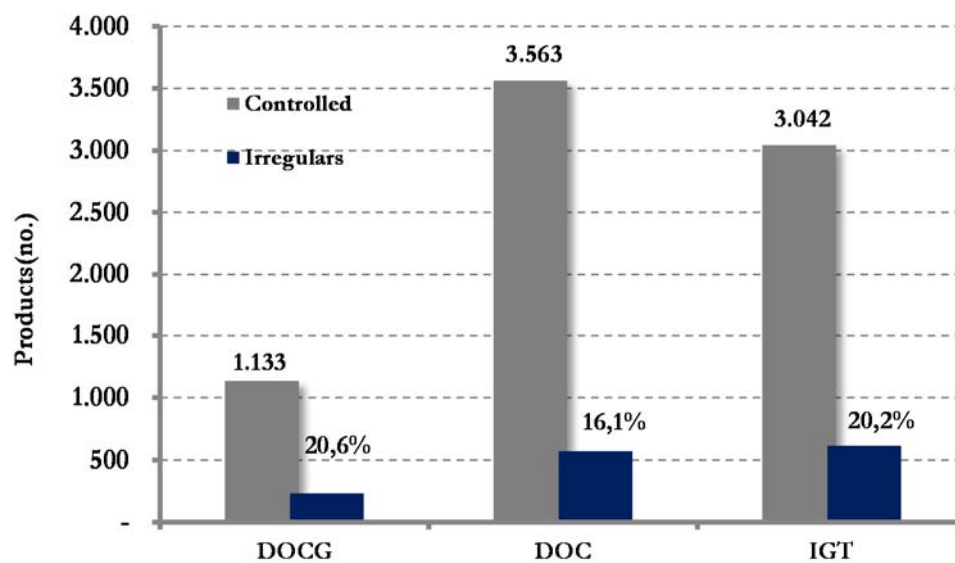
With 7,986 controls (5,593 inspections and 2,393 analytical) carried out in **2018** on quality wines, ICQRF has contributed to the success of Italian wine, the most exported agri-food product, guaranteeing its quality in the world.

ICQRF – controls on DO and GI wines

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	5,593
	Analytical controls (no.)	2,393
	Controls (no.)	7,986
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	4,130
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	23.1
	Controlled products (no.)	7,738
	Irregular products* (%)	18.4
	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	4.4
Results	Crime reports (no.)	173
	Administrative penalties (no.)	877
	Seizures (no.)	121
	Amount of seized products (tons)	6,242.5
	Economic value of seizures (€)	11,385,000.35
	Warnings (no.)	444

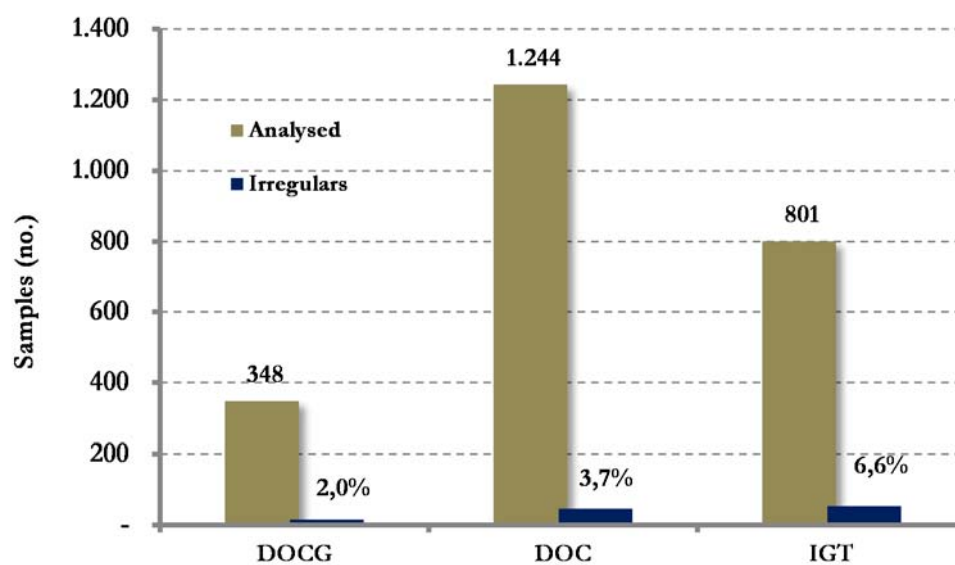
* including documentary and labeling irregularities

ICQRF – Controlled DO and GI wines and % of irregularities *



* including documentary and labeling irregularities

ICQRF – Samples of DO and GI wine analysed and % of irregularities



Organic productions

In 2018 ICQRF carried out 4,242 controls on organic productions (2,771 inspections and 1,471 analytical, overall + 6% on 2017), moreover, 2,297 operators and 3,689 products were controlled.

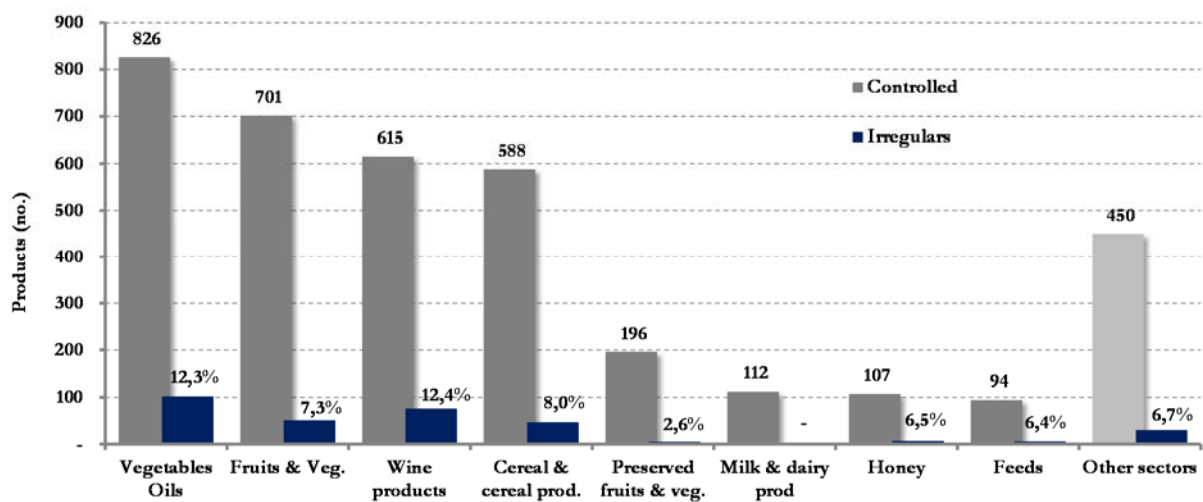
The ICQRF judicial police activity in the organic sector was particularly intense, with **88 reports of crime (19 in 2017)** and **187 administrative penalties (106 in 2017)**. Significant activities were also carried out in cooperation with other Italian control Authorities (Guardia di Finanza and Arma dei Carabinieri) to report the marketing of products cultivated in a conventional manner, with the use of plant protection products and chemical fertilizers, sold as “organic”.

ICQRF – controlli su produzioni biologiche

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	2,771
	Analytical controls (no.)	1,471
	Controls (no.)	4,242
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	2,297
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	11.3
	Controlled products (no.)	3,689
	Irregular products* (%)	8.8
	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	3.2
Results	Crime reports (no.)	88
	Administrative penalties (no.)	187
	Seizures (no.)	23
	Amount of seized products (tons)	238.9
	Economic value of seizures (€)	579,440.00
	Warnings (no.)	110

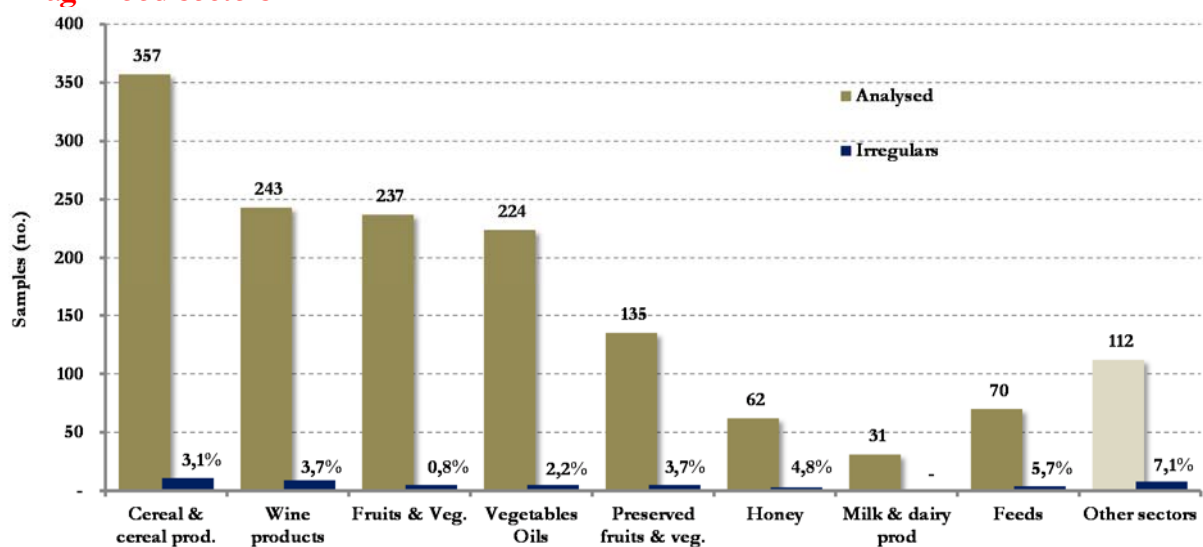
* including documentary and labeling irregularities

ICQRF - Organic products inspected and irregulars among the most relevant agri-food sectors



* including documentary and labeling irregularities

ICQRF – Samples of organic products analysed and irregulars among the most relevant agri-food sectors



ICQRF operational activities as EU Food fraud contact point

ICQRF, together with the Ministry of Health, is the Italian Food Fraud Contact Point (FFCP). In 2018 ICQRF activated the Food Fraud (FF) and Administrative Assistance and Cooperation (AAC) system making **46 reports**, which concerned:

- Catalan buffalo mozzarella, produced with cow's milk, declared as 100% of buffalo milk;
- vegan products sold online evoking "Camembert" and "Feta" PDO;
- pasta, produced in Austria, labelled as Italian;
- two cases of oil from Bulgaria marketed as extra-virgin olive oil but resulted as blends of sunflower and olive oil;
- wine, produced in Bulgaria, illegally labelled as "Prosecco";
- breadsticks produced in Germany but bearing on the label the Italian tricolor and the famous "Ponte dei sospiri" of Venice;
- a case of Italian origine evocations in Denmark related to a mozzarella produced and marketed by a large German distribution chain;
- Greek extra virgin olive oil marketed as Italian extra virgine olive oli;
- Greek virgin olive oil sold as extra virgin olive oil;
- watermelons and peaches, sent to Italy from Greece, lacking the correct origin indication;
- Greek peaches with an uncertain origin introduced in Italy from Spain;
- Dutch frozen chicken with a water content above the permitted limit;
- Polish eggs arrived in Italy not stamped with the Polish manufacturer's code;
- requests to the Spanish Authority for administrative controls to meat exporters;
- Hungarian mozzarella with the presence of sorbic acid not declared on the label.

Concerning AAC, ICQRF was involved in a PILOT program promoted by the European Commission, aimed at market controls on specific PDO / PGI products throughout Europe. The program was attended by 6 Member States and Italy was involved for the protection of Parma Ham PDO. The activity led to the reporting of 30 cases of evocation and usurpation of the protected designation, sent to: Germany (8), Poland (8), United Kingdom (5), Hungary (5), Sweden (2), Luxembourg (1) and Czech Republic (1).

ICQRF also managed **41 reports** from other EU Member States (Austria, France, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Spain), relating, among others, to the marketing of irregular extra virgin olive oil, feed with non-compliant labeling system and fruit and vegetables with a false indication of origin.

4. The fight to agri-food crime

ICQRF has maintained a high level of activity to protect consumers and fair competition, and in the fight against crime in the food sector.

The local offices and Central Investigation Unit have conducted numerous actions to combat crime agri-food, using the fundamental specialist support of ICQRF analysis laboratories.

The most relevant ICQRF Judicial Police operations of 2018 are shown below.

PDO HAM

In 2018 continued the activities associated with the two separate operations started last year to protect the PDO hams, directed by public prosecutor's Office in Turin and Pordenone.

The overall numbers of the operations are impressive:

- over 300 investigated individuals reported to the A.G.
- 810.000 thighs seized
- about 480.000 hams excluded, removing the brand, from the PDO production market
- the brand was voluntary removed by the breeders in over 500,000 thighs

Public Prosecutor's Office of Turin - operation "Skinke"

The Central Investigative Unit has completed the examination of the positions of the suspects and sent to the Prosecutor's Office of Turin the summary information on the investigated individuals.

Furthermore, with the support of the ICQRF local offices of the Northern Italy, it has implemented the numerous provisions of the Turin Public Prosecutor's Office, aimed at restoring the ham thighs seized after "removing the brand" (i.e. depriving them of any reference to the PDO).

In this way, the aforementioned Judicial Authority has defined the positions relating to the about 250 individuals referred during the investigations and has submitted a request for indictment against 14 individuals and 6 companies, challenging the criminal association offenses, commercial fraud, counterfeiting of appellations of origin of agri-food products, falsifications in registers and notifications.

The positions of the remaining investigated individuals were removed and transferred to the 27 Public Prosecutor's Offices, in Northern and Central Italy, responsible for the territory.

The Central Investigation Unit has received various delegations from these Public Prosecutor's Offices to define the related dossier.

Public Prosecutor's Office of Pordenone

During 2018 the Public Prosecutor's Office of Pordenone delegated the execution of 32 seizure decrees against the same number of operators, arranging the seizure of 280,000 PDO San Daniele and Parma hams, due to failure to comply with the respective product specifications in order the genetic type of pigs, feed delivered and the average weight at slaughter.

Against the provisions, all the suspects have appealed to the Court of Review, which, on the basis of the multiple evidences, has confirmed the precautionary measures.

The 80,000 hams, still present in the ham factories, were subsequently released by excluding them from the PDO circuit with the imposition of the removing the brand.

In August 2018 have been notified the conclusion of the preliminary investigation notices to 62 individuals, suspected in various ways in relation to crimes of criminal association, commercial

fraud in the aggravated form, the issue of agro-food products with protected designation of origin, counterfeiting brand, fraud against a public entity, breach of professional secrecy.

The Judicial Authority has also removed and forwarded the positions of 10 other individuals investigated for the same offenses to the competent Public Prosecutor's Office.

At the charge of 24 individuals and 10 companies the A.G. has requested the indictment, while for the remaining 38 individuals and 15 companies the first hearing of the trial has already been set.

In this phase, 3 of the suspects asked to be admitted to the plea deal.

ORGANIC PRODUCTIONS – operation “Top Bio”

Investigation conducted by the Public Prosecutor's Office of Verona, carried out by the local ICQRF Office in co-delegation with the Carabinieri Tutela Agroalimentare.

The survey activity, which lasted about 2 years, highlighted the commercialization of products cultivated in a conventional farming, with the use of plant protection products and chemical fertilizers, and then sold like “organic”.

The company based in Verona, owner of numerous land in Italy and abroad, would have sold “organic” cereal products only in appearance, as obtained with the use of non-permitted products (pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides).

In this way, the company increased its productivity and, through the **mixing** of grains that had residues of plant protection products with other “zero residual” batches, managed to lower the amount of not permitted substances below the expected limit.

Very useful for the investigations were telephone tapping that have highlighted the fraudulent planning, while by searches “kites”, related to notes of the illegal products used, were found.

The Public Prosecutor's Office contested the **crime of criminal association** and carried out **7 coercive precautionary** measures (4 house arrest).

WINE – Operation “DULCIS IN FUNDO”

Delegated by the Naples North Public Prosecutor's Office, the Central Investigation Unit in co-delegation with the Economic and Financial Police Unit of the G.d.F. of Caserta, with the support of the ICQRF local offices, executed an ordinance issued by Judge for preliminary investigations of Naples North. In application of the order were executed **9 personal precautionary measures** (4 house arrest and 5 obligations of presentation to the P.G.) as well as the related decree on the preventive seizure of real estate, financial transactions and company holdings for over **12 million euros**.

The operational activity, carried out at the end of April, involved about 70 staffs of the ICQRF and several Regions (Campania, Apulia, Sicily, Emilia Romagna and Veneto).

The individuals of the order are seriously suspected of criminal association, with a base operating in the province of Naples, active in the commission of multiple tax offenses and in the illegal placing on the national market of consignments of sugar.

The sugar, marketed by a company based in Sant'Antimo (NA) and a local unit in Carinaro (CE), was sold “in black” to many Italian operators in the wine sector for the sophistication of their products.

Complex investigations, which lasted about two years, were carried out using telephone tapping, video surveillance and tail.

The evidences that emerged were compared with the official annotations of the different types of sugars present on the electronic register of the SIAN platform (National Agricultural Information System).

The development of all investigative evidences therefore demonstrated the existence of a criminal branched structure, with transnational projection, which operated fraudulently in the wine market using a network of people and complacent companies located in different places of the Campania, Apulia, Sicily and Veneto

There are **36 individuals investigated**, for various reasons, for crimes of criminal association, commercial fraud, sale of non-genuine food items as genuine, fraud in registers and notifications, fraudulent declaration through the use of invoices for non-existent physical transactions, omitted tax declaration, issue of invoices for non-existent transactions and self-laundering.

Two individuals investigated have already applied for a plea deal, resolved with the application of sentences for 2 years the first and 3 years and 6 months the second.

WINE – Fake Amarone della Valpolicella DOCG

Control activities carried out by ICQRF Nord-est between January and June 2018, which blocked the sale, in China and the Chinese communities in Italy, of DOCG Amarone della Valpolicella fake wine.

The wine sold was a Red IGT Verona and over the label with such designation was affixed to another label in red velvet bearing the designation of Amarone. The phenomenon involved the sale of about 140,000 bottles with a turnover of 1,400,000 euros.

The producer / seller of Verona area was reported the Public Prosecutor's Office of Verona and were issued administrative sanctions for approximately 670,000 euros.

WINE – Operation “Profumo Divino”

Extensive investigations carried out by the ICQRF Italia Centrale, directed by the Public Prosecutor's Office of Tivoli, have led to the seizure, at a wine cellar, of over 300,000 liters of wines (worth about 400,000 euros) strongly suspected of sophistication through additions of flavors and substances suitable to hide the mediocre quality of sophisticated wines to the consumers.

During the operation, which involved 30 inspectors, they were found and seized packs of synthetic flavorings, 9,000 of unknown origin and quality wine bottles (value € 35,000) and substantial documentary evidences.

4 individuals investigated for committing commercial fraud, counterfeiting of appellations of origin of agri-food products, falsifications in registers and notifications.

WINE – Operation “Falsicchio”

The control activity, initiated by the ICQRF Emilia Romagna and Marche and continued with the Guardia di Finanza of Ascoli Piceno, was directed by the Public Prosecutor's Office of Ascoli Piceno.

At the distribution centers of Perugia and Monteprandone of a known food distribution chain, fake Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi DOC were seized, which involved about 3,000 5-liter dams and has been recalled from the market at the initiative of the distribution chain itself.

The investigative activity has enabled to trace the origin of the fraud, perpetrated from March 2013 to April 2018, to satisfy the supply contract stipulated between one cellar wine from Ascoli and the GdO, and highlighted commercial transactions for a quantity of 580,000 liters of white wine generic falsely labeled as Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi DOC.

The operator from Ascoli was investigated for committing commercial fraud and counterfeiting of appellations of origin of agri-food products.

CANNED FRUITS – Operation “Tropicana”

The operation carried out by the ICQRF Emilia Romagna and Marche to protect Made in Italy and consumers was called “Tropicana”.

The controls revealed a vast phenomenon of fraud, aimed at the marketing of Greek syrup peaches labelled as “*Frutta Italiana*” (Italian Fruit).

The investigations have shown that Greek syrup peaches, bought in 5 kg cans, were repackaged by a company from Ravenna in smaller glass jars, suitable for retail sale by unlawfully attributing to the product the false Italian origin.

The activity led to the seizure of **157,000 jars of syrup peaches**, ready to be sent to distribution platforms.

The investigative activities have shown that also the previous order of the mass distribution circuit has been satisfied with fruit from Greece, always bearing on the label the indication “*Frutta Italiana*”. In this case, the operator has immediately recalled the products from the market, before the seizures took place on a national scale.

The owner of the factory is investigated for aggravated commercial fraud.

MEET – Operation “Miel¹ di Sardegna”

After several months of investigations, surveillance activities of the territory and port, intensified near the Easter holidays, when the price of lamb meat and in particular of that of the “*Agnello di Sardegna*” PGI is rapidly increasing, several trucks were intercepted at the port of Olbia. Those trucks were coming from Romania and carrying live lambs to be slaughtered in Sardinia.

The inspection activity continued at the slaughterhouses of the island and the distribution platforms of Northern Italy, leading to the withdrawal from market of about 12,000 lambs of uncertain origin, for a total economical value of 1,200,000 euros. Of these, 3,169 lambs of French and Romanian origin passed off as Italians and 1,156 lambs marketed as “*Agnello di Sardegna*” PGI but in fact of Rumanian origin were seized in the major Italian retail chains.

During the operation, administrative penalties were imposed due to the violation of the rules on PDO / PGI products and the owner of a slaughtering company was reported to the Judicial Authorities for commercial fraud.

EXTRAORDINARY CONTROL PROGRAMS

Various actions have been taken to protect national agrifood products during 2018.

➤ Imported rice from the South East Asia

In consideration of the particular market situation of the rice commercialized on the national territory, starting from 1 July, controls have been intensified at the entry points of Italy, such as ports-airports-frontier, up to silos and warehouses rice originated from Cambodia and Myanmar. This requirement has resulted from the need to avoid being marketed rice or products derived from poor quality rice and with the presence of residues of plant protection products in contravention of EU standards.

The control activity was also carried out in collaboration with the Customs and the Port Authorities.

¹ *Miel*, in romanian language, means “Lamb”

During the controls on the rice, the traceability and the indication of the declared origin was verified, and samples were taken

In total 355 samples were taken, among the varieties Jasmin, Basmati, Thaibonnet, Lungo Surinam and other rice, representing thousands of tons of product.

48 samples were found to be irregular, due to breakage and damaged grains and two samples due to the presence of residues of plant protection plants exceeding the legal limits. 49 complaints were made and three reports of crime were forwarded to the Judicial Authority.

➤ **Cherries of non-EU origin**

In order to protect Italian cherry producers from fraudulent phenomena (change of origin of the product), ICQRF reinforced controls on the origin of the product, through constant monitoring in the port areas, in particular in Bari, Brindisi and Ancona, as well as at the major Italian operators

The traceability requirements of the goods were examined, with particular reference to commercial documentation. During the activity, 11 administrative violations were contested due to lack of traceability.

➤ **Concentrated grape must and Rectified concentrated grape must of abroad production**

In order to verify the genuineness of the grapevine products introduced by other Member States and to ensure the correct execution of commercial practices in the national territory, the control over the MCs and MCRs and on the sugary substances from abroad (in particular from Spain) has been intensified

ICQRF has activated controls at various operators in the wine sector by proceeding with the examination of the commercial documentation, the verification of the traceability and the sampling of the products.

As part of the mutual assistance on controls in the wine sector (Articles 40, 43-45 of Reg. (EU) No. 2018/273), the activities in collaboration with the Spanish Authorities allowed the seizure, of approximately 170 t of Rectified concentrated grape must, for a worth about 300,000 euros and to challenge administrative violations for over 170,000 euros. The products were seized due to irregularities in the accompanying documents.

➤ **Contrast to the nationalization of abroad kiwi**

Italy, despite being the main European producer of kiwis, imports significant quantities, in particular from Greece.

In order to counter the possible fraudulent nationalization of kiwifruit introduced in Italy, ICQRF has intensified controls on the origin of the product through constant monitoring in the port areas, in particular in Bari, Brindisi and Ancona, as well as in the main Italian operators, examining the traceability of the goods, with particular reference to commercial documentations.

This activity highlighted a fraud system, in the final phase of kiwi retail trade, linked to the issue of commercial documents with the same numbering as the original ones but with different origins reported. Some seizures were carried out and four reports of crime were forwarded to the Judicial Authority.

TERRA DEI FUOCHI – ICQRF activity

In 2018, ICQRF has carried out a careful control activity on the agri-food production and operators of the 57 Municipalities of the “*Terra dei fuochi*” (Land of Fires), contributing to guarantee the quality of Campania products to producers and consumers.

More than half of controls (56%) concerned the agri-food sectors most at risk due to the particular production aptitude of the territory (fresh and preserved fruits and vegetables, dairy products and grapevine products). It should be noted that, despite the intensity of the ICQRF controls on the Land of Fires is higher than the average of controls for the other areas of Italy, **the rate of irregularity is lower than the national average.**

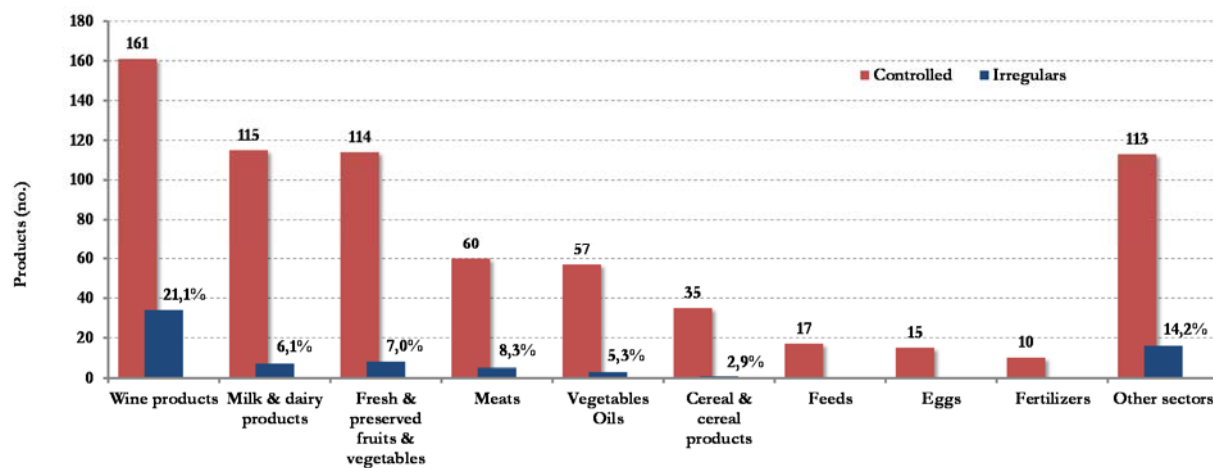
The results are shown in the following table and further details on the activity of the ICQRF are published on the PROMETEO portal of the local office of the Government of Naples in the section “*I soggetti coinvolti*” (The Authorities involved).

ICQRF - Activities in the so-called “Land of fires”

Attività di controllo	
Inspection controls (no.)	472
Analytical controls (no.)	212
CONTROLS (no.)	684
Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	346
Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	23.1
Controlled products (no.)	697
Irregular products (%)	10.6
Campioni irregolari (%)	7.5

Results	
Crime reports (no.)	10
Administrative penalties (no.)	191
Seizures (no.)	4
Economic value of seizures (€)	589,110
Warnings (no.)	23

ICQRF - Activities per each agri-food sector in the so-called “Land of fires”



Main infringements

- ✓ Irregular labelling of food products
- ✓ Buffalo mozzarella produced with illegally added cow's milk
- ✓ Feeds with a composition non-compliant to that declared in label
- ✓ Seeds oils coloured with chlorophyll illicitly marketed as extra virgin olive oils
- ✓ Documentary irregularities related to the grapevine products book-keeping and declaration of production

5. Focus on inspected agri-food sectors

The following tables show the activity carried out in **2018** and the results achieved, per each agri-food sector.

ICQRF – Control activity per each agri-food sector

Sector	Controls (no.)	Of which, inspection (no.)	Of which, analytical (no.)	Controlled Operators/ Premises (no.)	Irregular Operators/ Premises (%)	Controlled products (no.)	Irregular products* (%)	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)
Wine products	17.820	14.194	3.626	8.071	28,4	18.974	18,3	6,1
Vegetables Oils	7.157	5.483	1.674	3.322	18,9	7.352	10,2	10,8
Milk & dairy prod	5.102	3.256	1.846	2.532	14,0	4.564	8,4	3,8
Fruits & Veg.	2.967	2.610	357	1.818	15,1	3.759	10,6	3,1
Meats	3.226	3.019	207	1.812	16,1	3.384	9,8	25,1
Cereal & cereal pr.	2.666	1.750	916	1.382	17,9	2.471	9,7	3,7
Eggs	679	679	-	551	16,0	934	10,5	-
Preserv. fru. & veg.	2.202	1.306	896	1.009	8,2	1.821	4,6	4,5
Honey	911	529	382	422	12,8	789	6,1	9,4
Sugars	1.961	1917	44	457	32,2	930	20,2	0,0
Spirits drinks	516	305	211	231	18,2	433	9,2	18,0
Feeds	2.976	1.425	1.551	1.205	19,7	2.162	4,3	16,6
Fertilizers	2.331	1.230	1.101	888	17,2	1.637	7,7	18,2
Seeds	1.143	845	298	431	14,8	1.515	8,3	6,4
Plant protect. prod.	482	269	213	212	7,1	352	4,8	2,3
Other sectors (*)	1.959	1.484	475	1.047	17,8	1.905	10,7	6,9
Total	54.098	40.301	13.797	25.390	20,3	52.982	12,4	8,7

*including documentary and labeling irregularities

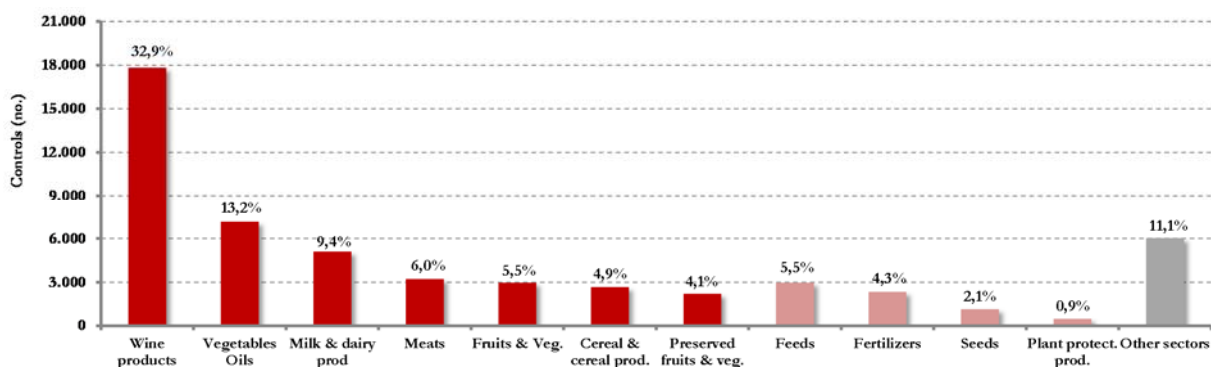
ICQRF – Controls' results per each agri-food sector

Sector	Crime reports (no.)	Administrative penalties (no.)	Seizures (no.)	Seized amounts (tons)	Value of seizures (€)	Warnings (no.)
Wine products	194	1.789	298	14.929,8	16.292.705,22	1.077
Vegetables Oils	59	400	53	40,0	151.740,00	545
Milk & dairy prod	28	179	16	25,4	148.725,00	178
Fruits & Veg.	14	344	15	33,2	49.086,40	206
Meats	233	353	31	322,1	1.986.318,00	213
Cereal & cereal prod.	12	207	12	27,2	85.539,00	68
Eggs	3	66	9	10,0	28.606,73	23
Preserved fruits & veg.	16	57	14	193,2	874.224,62	27
Honey	8	45	1	2,0	5.000,00	19
Sugars	36	167	11	871,8	12.565.347,00	101
Spirits drinks	3	21	8	41,9	229.927,48	6
Feeds	8	247	4	13,6	5.500,00	31
Fertilizers	41	157	68	474,1	673.469,54	9
Seeds	56	53	28	468,9	749.787,64	15
Plant protect. prod.	2	14	9	5,3	20.000,00	0
Other sectors (*)	8	95	18	129,0	232.579,65	111
Total	721	4.194	595	17.587,6	34.098.556,28	2.629

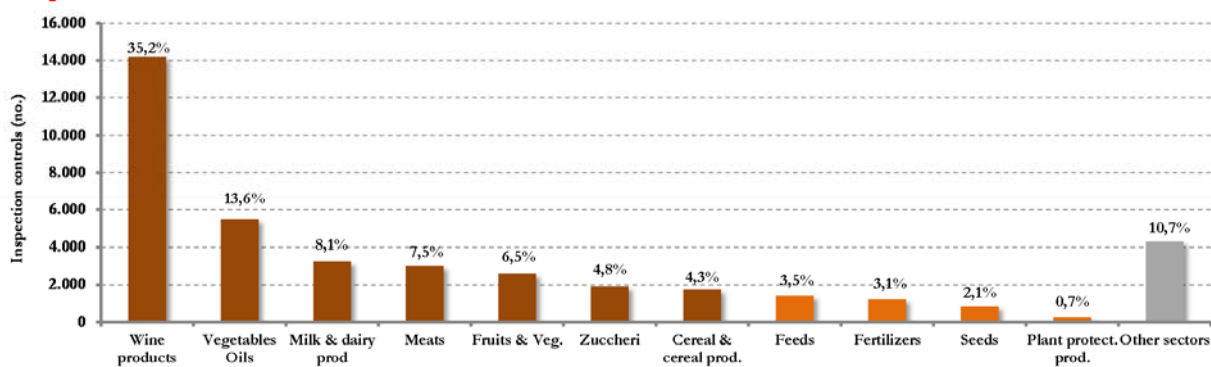
(*) Prodotti dolciari, prodotti ittici, birre, aceti, spezie, bevande nervine, additivi, acque minerali e bevande analcoliche

ICQRF - Control activity per each agri-food sector

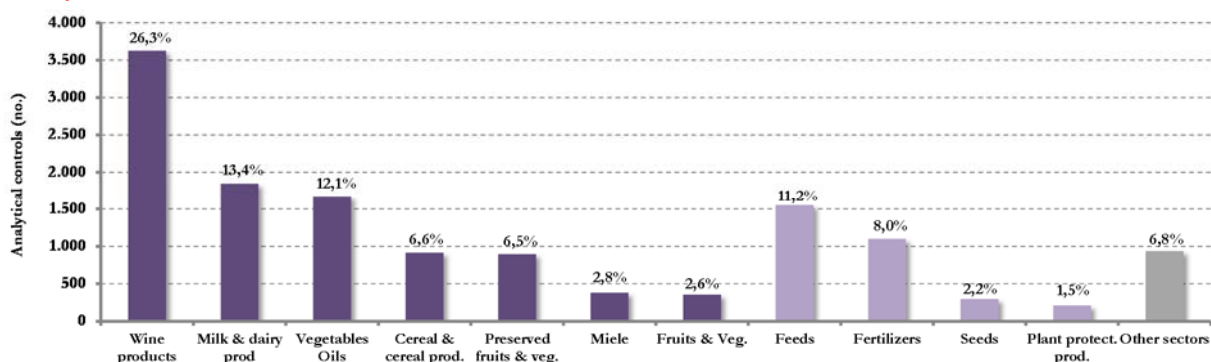
Controls



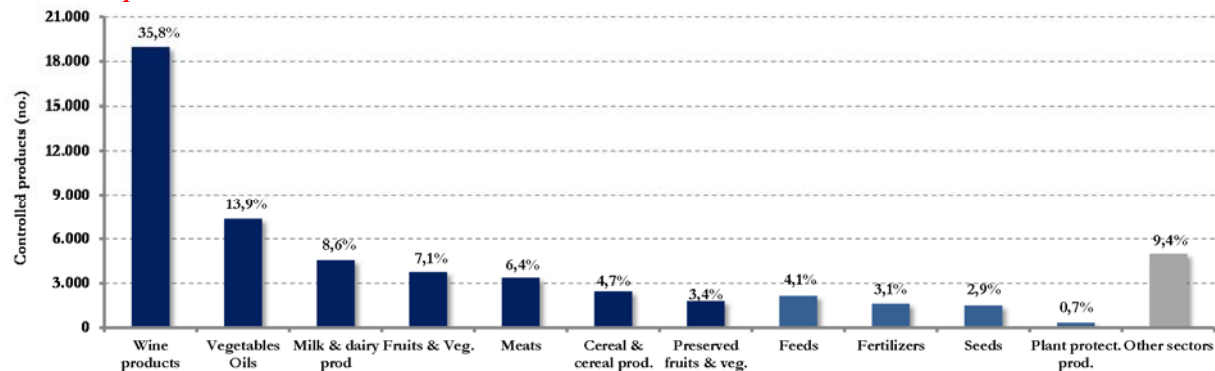
Inspection controls



Analytical controls



Controlled products



Wine products

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	14.194
	Analytical controls (no.)	3.626
	Controls (no.)	17.820
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	8.071
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	28,4
	Controlled products (no.)	18.974
	Irregular products (%)	18,3
	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	6,1
Results	Crime reports (no.)	194
	Administrative penalties (no.)	1.789
	Seizures (no.)	298
	Amount of seized products (tons)	14.929,8
	Economic value of seizures (€)	16.292.705,22
	Warnings (no.)	1.077

Main infringements

- ✓ Fraud on the market for PDO and PGI wines which not meet the requirements established by the product specifications
- ✓ Sophistication of grapevine products by water dilution and / or by sugar addition
- ✓ Grapevine products detention not justified by the official documentation of the winery
- ✓ Illegal detention in wineries of sugary substances suitable for sophisticating musts and wines
- ✓ Irregular addition of flavouring in wine
- ✓ Missed or irregular holding of the winery registers
- ✓ Irregularities in the accompanying documents
- ✓ Violations of the provisions concerning the description, presentation and/or in the wine closure system, of generic and DO wines

Vegetables Oils

Inspection activity	Controlli ispettivi(n.)	5.483
	Analytical controls (no.)	1.674
	Controls (no.)	7.157
	Operatori controllati (n.)	3.322
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	18,9
	Prodotti controllati (n.)	7.352
	Irregular products (%)	10,2
Results	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	10,8
	Crime reports (no.)	59
	Administrative penalties (no.)	400
	Seizures (no.)	53
	Amount of seized products (tons)	40,0
	Economic value of seizures (€)	151.740,00
	Warnings (no.)	545

Main infringements

- ✓ Extra virgin olive oils resulted belonging to a lower category at the chemical and / or organoleptic analysis
- ✓ Missing or irregular indication of geographical origin in extra virgin olive oils
- ✓ Extra virgin olive oil declared organic with the presence of residues of plant protection products
- ✓ Infringements of labeling and presentation provisions for olive oils due to omissions of mandatory indications, irregular use of voluntary indications, misleading use of designation of origin
- ✓ Failure or irregular keeping of the electronic records of olive oils
- ✓ Marketing of extra virgin olive oils obtained from the mixture with seed oils
- ✓ Marketing of sunflower seed oils, which at the chemical analysis, resulted obtained from different species than the declared one

Milk and dairy products

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	3.256
	Analytical controls (no.)	1.846
	Controls (no.)	5.102
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	2.532
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	14,0
	Controlled products (no.)	4.564
	Irregular products (%)	8,4
Results	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	3,8
	Crime reports (no.)	28
	Administrative penalties (no.)	179
	Seizures (no.)	16
	Amount of seized products (tons)	25,4
	Economic value of seizures (€)	148.725,00
	Warnings (no.)	178

Main infringements

- ✓ Cheese, in some cases also PDO, with preservatives prohibited or undeclared
- ✓ Sheep and buffalo cheeses produced with the illicit addition of cow's milk
- ✓ Infringements of the labelling law provisions by the omission of mandatory indications, including indication of the geographical origin of milk, irregular use of voluntary indications, misleading use of the designation of origin
- ✓ Failure to adopt suitable traceability systems for dairy products
- ✓ Serious inconsistencies in the PDO cheese control plan

Fruits and Vegetables

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	2.610
	Analytical controls (no.)	357
	Controls (no.)	2.967
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	1.818
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	15,1
	Controlled products (no.)	3.759
	Irregular products (%)	10,6
Results	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	3,1
	Crime reports (no.)	14
	Administrative penalties (no.)	344
	Seizures (no.)	15
	Amount of seized products (tons)	33,2
	Economic value of seizures (€)	49.086,40
	Warnings (no.)	206

Main infringements

- ✓ Irregular labelling of fruit and vegetables, for use of misleading indications of origin, provenance, quality and other mandatory information
- ✓ Organic fruit and vegetables, in particular lentils and oranges, whit residual of unauthorized chemicals
- ✓ Citrus fruits with undeclared active substance used for surface treatment
- ✓ Evocation or usurpation of PDO and PGI products
- ✓ Fruit and vegetables without traceability records
- ✓ False indications of origin

Meats

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	3.019
	Analytical controls (no.)	207
	Controls (no.)	3.226
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	1.812
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	16,1
	Controlled products (no.)	3.384
	Irregular products (%)	9,8
	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	25,1
Results	Crime reports (no.)	233
	Administrative penalties (no.)	353
	Seizures (no.)	31
	Amount of seized products (tons)	322,1
	Economic value of seizures (€)	1.986.318,00
	Warnings (no.)	213

Main infringements

- ✓ Pigs not complying with the product specification of PDO hams
- ✓ Pork and beef meat products with nutritional composition different than the one declared
- ✓ Frozen chicken meat with a water content above the permitted limit
- ✓ Cooked ham and other pork and poultry products irregularly labeled by omission or incorrect indication of the ingredients used
- ✓ Meats and meat products irregularly labeled by using misleading terms, sometimes evoking geographical designations
- ✓ Irregularities in the meat traceability system

Cereal and cereal products

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	1.750
	Analytical controls (no.)	916
	Controls (no.)	2.666
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	1.382
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	17,9
	Controlled products (no.)	2.471
	Irregular products (%)	9,7
	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	3,7
Results	Crime reports (no.)	12
	Administrative penalties (no.)	207
	Seizures (no.)	12
	Amount of seized products (tons)	27,2
	Economic value of seizures (€)	85.539,00
	Warnings (no.)	68

Main infringements

- ✓ Production and commercialization of organic cereals in breach of the organic technical provisions
- ✓ Rice with flaws exceeding the legal tolerances
- ✓ Missing or irregular indication of the geographical origin in rice and pasta
- ✓ Bread partially cooked and frozen, sold with no mention on the label
- ✓ Usurpation and evocation of PDO products
- ✓ Flours and pasta with ash content higher or lower than the legal limit
- ✓ Cereals, flours and spasta from organic farming with not allowed chemicals

Eggs

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	679
	Analytical controls (no.)	-
	Controls (no.)	679
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	551
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	16,0
	Controlled products (no.)	934
	Irregular products (%)	10,5
	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	-
Results	Crime reports (no.)	3
	Administrative penalties (no.)	66
	Seizures (no.)	9
	Amount of seized products (tons)	10,0
	Economic value of seizures (€)	28.606,73
	Warnings (no.)	23

Main infringements

- ✓ Eggs sold as “Extra” after the permitted deadline
- ✓ Labelling and packaging with non-compliant particulars, even related to voluntary information
- ✓ Lack of authorizations necessary to carry out packaging and egg classification activities
- ✓ Irregularities in accounting records

Preserved fruits and vegetables

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	1.306
	Analytical controls (no.)	896
	Controls (no.)	2.202
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	1.009
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	8,2
	Controlled products (no.)	1.821
	Irregular products (%)	4,6
Results	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	4,5
	Crime reports (no.)	16
	Administrative penalties (no.)	57
	Seizures (no.)	14
	Amount of seized products (tons)	193,2
	Economic value of seizures (€)	874.224,62
	Warnings (no.)	27

Main infringements

- ✓ Olives illicitly colored with copper chlorophyll
- ✓ Jams with not admitted additives or with additives not declared on the label or with irregular sugar content
- ✓ Preserved vegetables with preservatives not declared on the label
- ✓ Preserved tomato products that does not comply with legal requirements or containing molds higher than the legal limits
- ✓ Marketing of truffle sauces and mushroom creams containing species not admitted for sale
- ✓ Preserved vegetables unduly labelled as IG products

Honey

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	529
	Analytical controls (no.)	382
	Controls (no.)	911
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	422
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	12,8
	Controlled products (no.)	789
	Irregular products (%)	6,1
	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	9,4
Results	Crime reports (no.)	8
	Administrative penalties (no.)	45
	Seizures (no.)	1
	Amount of seized products (tons)	2,0
	Economic value of seizures (€)	5.000,00
	Warnings (no.)	19

Main infringements

- ✓ Monofloral honey, often from the European Community, whose botanical or geographical origin does not meet the category declared
- ✓ Honey with abnormal chemical or organoleptic features
- ✓ Irregular labelling of honey due to the use of misleading terms or to the omission of mandatory indications or to the illegal use of geographical designations

Sugars

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	1.917
	Analytical controls (no.)	44
	Controls (no.)	1.961
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	457
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	32,2
	Controlled products (no.)	930
	Irregular products (%)	20,2
Results	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	-
	Crime reports (no.)	36
	Administrative penalties (no.)	167
	Seizures (no.)	11
	Amount of seized products (tons)	871,8
	Economic value of seizures (€)	12.565.347,00
	Warnings (no.)	101

Main infringements

- ✓ Lack or irregular keeping of records
- ✓ Illegal detention in wineries and in cellars of sugary substances suitable for sophistication of musts and wines

Spirits drinks

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	305
	Analytical controls (no.)	211
	Controls (no.)	516
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	231
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	18,2
	Controlled products (no.)	433
	Irregular products (%)	9,2
Results	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	18,0
	Crime reports (no.)	3
	Administrative penalties (no.)	21
	Seizures (no.)	8
	Amount of seized products (tons)	41,9
	Economic value of seizures (€)	229.927,48
	Warnings (no.)	6

Main infringements

- ✓ Irregular alcohol and liquor due to the presence of active ingredients harmful to human health and non admitted dyes
- ✓ Spirits drinks with composition non-compliant to legal or declared values
- ✓ Irregularities on labelling
- ✓ Misleading use of geographical designations

Feeds

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	1.425
	Analytical controls (no.)	1.551
	Controls (no.)	2.976
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	1.205
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	19,7
	Controlled products (no.)	2.162
	Irregular products (%)	4,3
Results	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	16,6
	Crime reports (no.)	8
	Administrative penalties (no.)	247
	Seizures (no.)	4
	Amount of seized products (tons)	13,6
	Economic value of seizures (€)	5.500,00
	Warnings (no.)	31

Main infringements

- ✓ Feeds for farm animals and pet, with composition non-compliant to legal limit or to that declared in label
- ✓ Feeds with GMOs presence higher than the legal limits
- ✓ Organic feeds with the presence of residues of plant protection products
- ✓ Feeds infringing the labelling and packaging provisions

Fertilizers

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	1.230
	Analytical controls (no.)	1.101
	Controls (no.)	2.331
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	888
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	17,2
	Controlled products (no.)	1.637
	Irregular products (%)	7,7
Results	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	18,2
	Crime reports (no.)	41
	Administrative penalties (no.)	157
	Seizures (no.)	68
	Amount of seized products (tons)	474,1
	Economic value of seizures (€)	673.469,54
	Warnings (no.)	9

Main infringements

- ✓ Irregular fertilizers for content of nutritive elements non-compliant to legal limit or to that declared in label
- ✓ Fertilizers commercialised like suitable for organic productions with not admitted active nutrients
- ✓ Presence of ingredients undeclared or not authorized
- ✓ Irregular labelling of fertilizers for lack or non-compliant mandatory indications

Seeds

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	845
	Analytical controls (no.)	298
	Controls (no.)	1.143
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	431
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	14,8
	Controlled products (no.)	1.515
	Irregular products (%)	8,3
Results	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	6,4
	Crime reports (no.)	56
	Administrative penalties (no.)	53
	Seizures (no.)	28
	Amount of seized products (tons)	468,9
	Economic value of seizures (€)	749.787,64
	Warnings (no.)	15

Main infringements

- ✓ Irregular marketing of seeds covered by international patent
- ✓ Seeds not comply with legal limits for germination or with purity value lower than declared on the label
- ✓ Seeds commercialised like suitable for organic productions treated with not admitted plant protection products
- ✓ Non declared chemicals used in the seed tanning

Plant protection products

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	269
	Analytical controls (no.)	213
	Controls (no.)	482
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	212
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	7,1
	Controlled products (no.)	352
	Irregular products (%)	4,8
	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	2,3
Results	Crime reports (no.)	2
	Administrative penalties (no.)	14
	Seizures (no.)	9
	Amount of seized products (tons)	5,3
	Economic value of seizures (€)	20.000,00
	Warnings (no.)	-

Main infringements

- ✓ Presence of active ingredients different than those declared on the label
- ✓ Purchase and sale of plant protection products without the necessary license
- ✓ Marketing of plant protection products not authorized

Other sectors

(Confectionery products, fish products, beers, vinegars, spices, nervine beverages, additives, mineral waters and soft drinks)

Inspection activity	Inspection controls (no.)	1.484
	Analytical controls (no.)	475
	Controls (no.)	1.959
	Controlled Operators / Premises (no.)	1.047
	Irregular Operators / Premises (%)	17,8
	Controlled products (no.)	1.905
	Irregular products (%)	10,7
	Irregular analytical outcomes (%)	6,9
Results	Crime reports (no.)	8
	Administrative penalties (no.)	95
	Seizures (no.)	18
	Amount of seized products (tons)	129,0
	Economic value of seizures (€)	232.579,65
	Warnings (no.)	111

Main infringements

- ✓ Usurpation and evocation of GI vinegars and confectionery products
- ✓ Irregular marketing of beer due to alcoholic strength by volume non-complied
- ✓ Non-compliant vinegars for acidity lower than legal limits
- ✓ Non-compliant indications on the label or packaging
- ✓ Non-compliance with traceability system of products

6. Management of Big Databases for Controls

ICQRF plays an important role in the management of agro-food databases and controls: these databases are significant tools for controls and they put Italy at the forefront of risk management and dynamic market knowledge.

WINE computerized register

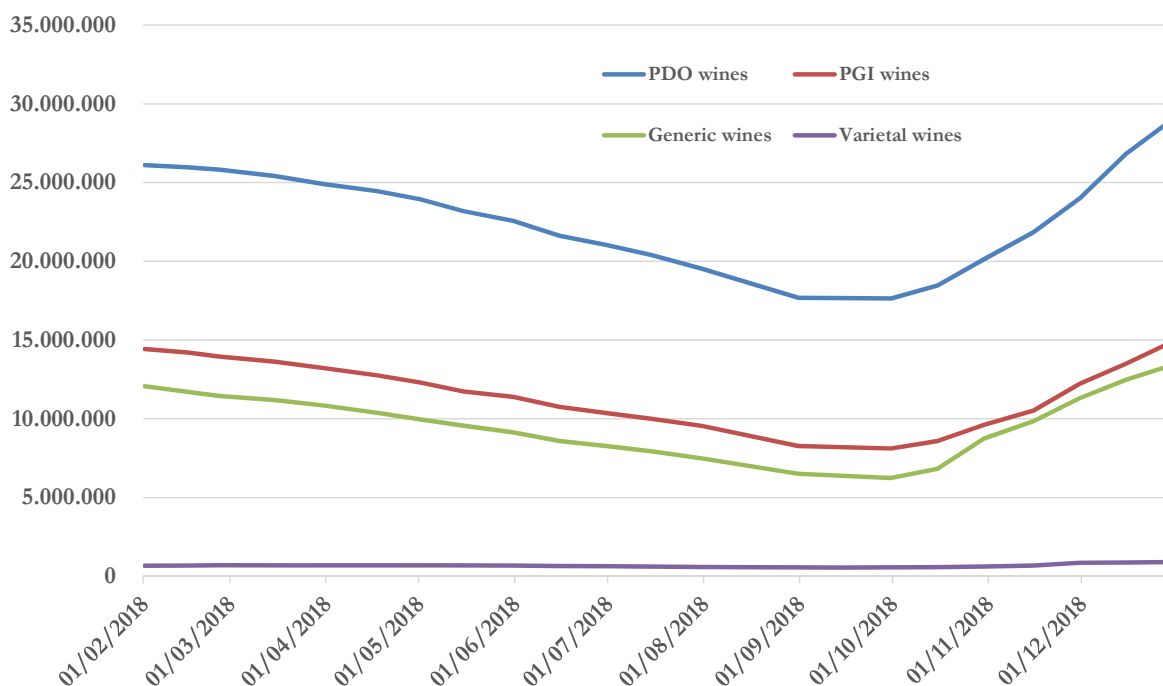
Since 2017 in Italy, the only country in the world, the computerized register of wine (*Registro Telematico Vino* – RTV) is operative: operators in the supply chain must register online the movements and processing of wine products. In addition to allowing official control authorities to monitor and verify on line each operation and movement carried out by all operators on national territory, the register provides important data for the knowledge of the wine market. Ministerial Decree No. 293 of 20 March 2015 gives details on keeping RTV.

There are almost **16,000** registered operators on RTV and around **10%** of them produce 1,000 or more hectolitres per year. **Registered wine storing containers are about 560,000** and over **20 million oenological operations** are recorded annually.

For the whole of 2018 ICQRF published the data of RTV in a report called “Cantina Italia”, in an aggregated form every two weeks, available on the website www.politicheagricole.it.

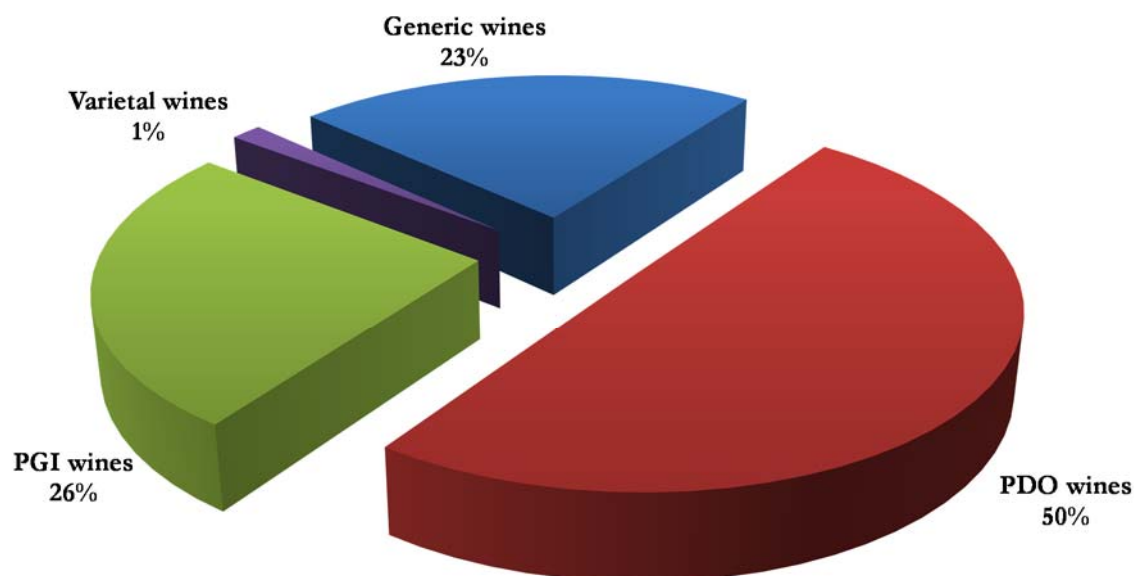
The following tables summarize the data provided by RTV.

Trend of the national stock by type of wine

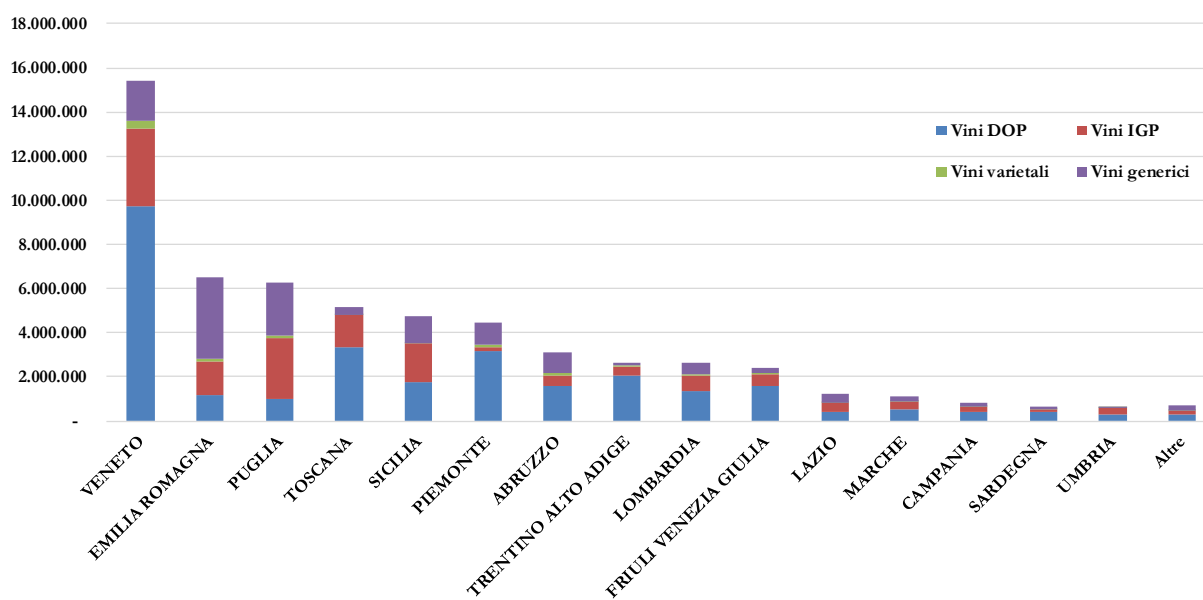


STOCK OF WINE IN ITALY AT 31.12.2018: 58.530.736 hectoliters

Stock percentage distribution by type of wine



Regional distribution by type of wine present in “Cantina Italia”



Wine on RTV classified by province and type at 31.12.2018: first 20 provinces

Province	PDO wines (hl)	PGI wines (hl)	Varietal wines (hl)	Generic wines (hl)	Total wine (hl)
TV	4.455.311	1.166.512	57.757	605.189	6.284.770
VR	3.272.730	1.270.510	202.581	782.188	5.528.008
RA	94.179	621.800	79.192	2.849.955	3.645.126
TP	817.003	1.001.429	1.603	875.018	2.695.053
CH	1.166.062	405.256	97.964	826.268	2.495.550
CN	1.775.604	137.284	39.263	309.300	2.261.450
TN	1.547.060	390.221	20.899	93.932	2.052.112
SI	1.513.953	407.911	2.282	102.486	2.026.631
FG	28.033	563.150	63.181	1.186.864	1.841.228
FI	1.018.331	384.616	995	132.031	1.535.972
BA	100.563	466.768	8.129	942.189	1.517.649
VI	726.831	448.208	57.118	138.981	1.371.137
AT	773.712	31.487	34.253	403.576	1.243.029
VE	753.620	346.584	11.948	97.077	1.209.229
TA	408.935	686.161	2.960	77.315	1.175.372
PV	450.206	488.656	26.008	172.230	1.137.100
PN	745.819	225.578	12.252	66.773	1.050.422
BR	302.039	636.329	8.040	80.601	1.027.009
UD	633.713	218.507	23.327	134.105	1.009.652
PD	492.200	291.735	19.225	187.010	990.171
<i>Other</i>	<i>8.078.026</i>	<i>4.807.278</i>	<i>130.905</i>	<i>3.417.857</i>	<i>16.434.066</i>
ITALY	29.153.930	14.995.982	899.880	13.480.945	58.530.736

PDO and PGI wines in RTV at 31/12/2018	hl	%
PROSECCO	4.515.678	10,2
DELLE VENEZIE O BENESKIH OKOLISEV	1.982.183	4,5
TERRE SICILIANE	1.924.302	4,4
VENETO	1.770.773	4,0
PUGLIA	1.645.597	3,7
SICILIA	1.627.001	3,7
MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO	1.415.870	3,2
SALENTO	1.408.352	3,2
TOSCANO O TOSCANA	1.383.813	3,1
CHIANTI	1.272.700	2,9
RUBICONE	1.069.264	2,4
CONEGLIANO VALDOBBIADENE PROSECCO	1.021.704	2,3
PROVINCIA DI VERONA O VERONESE	756.190	1,7
CHIANTI CLASSICO	743.389	1,7
TRENTINO	674.887	1,5
TRENTINO - TRENTINO SUPERIORE	674.887	1,5
TRE VENEZIE O TRI BENECIJE	651.195	1,5
EMILIA O DELL' EMILIA	628.789	1,4
VALPOLICELLA	569.734	1,3
PROVINCIA DI PAVIA	555.082	1,3
FRANCIACORTA	546.365	1,2
BAROLO	511.462	1,2
SOAVE	504.934	1,1
PRIMITIVO DI MANDURIA	473.294	1,1
BARBERA D'ASTI	437.303	1,0
ALTO ADIGE	436.484	1,0
VALPOLICELLA RIPASSO	428.036	1,0
LAZIO	405.525	0,9
MARCA TREVIGIANA	398.376	0,9
AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA	398.218	0,9
TERRE DI CHIETI	381.726	0,9
BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO	375.492	0,9
TRENTO	340.821	0,8
PIEMONTE	340.801	0,8
MARCHE	336.982	0,8
ROMAGNA	309.524	0,7
<i>Other PDO/PGI</i>	<i>11.233.178</i>	<i>25,4</i>
Total PDO/PGI	44.149.911	

OLIVE OIL computerized register

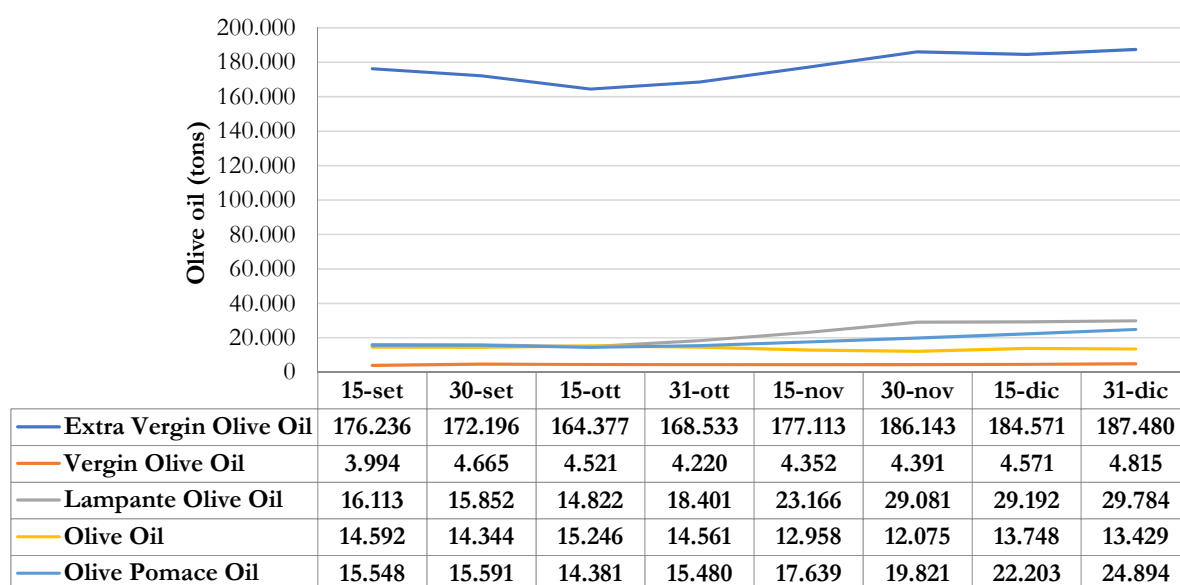
The computerized register of olive oil (Registro Telematico Olio – RTO) is a system, unique in the world, for accurate traceability of the olive oil supply chain, at national level; it enables the official control bodies to monitor online individual movements of olives, olive oil, pomace oil and pomace for each plant/warehouse. Also it allows to know the operators, both domestic and foreign, performing the movements.

Olive dealers, oil mills, packaging companies, bulk oil traders, refineries and olive-pomace traders are obliged to keep RTO for each establishment/warehouse. Operators holding oil exclusively for self-consumption, for non-food uses, for use in certain food products, as well as operators holding only prepacked and labeled oils are exempted from the obligation of the RTO.

Starting from September 2018, ICQRF published the data of RTO in a report called “Frantoio Italia”, in an aggregated form every two weeks, available on the website www.politicheagricole.it.

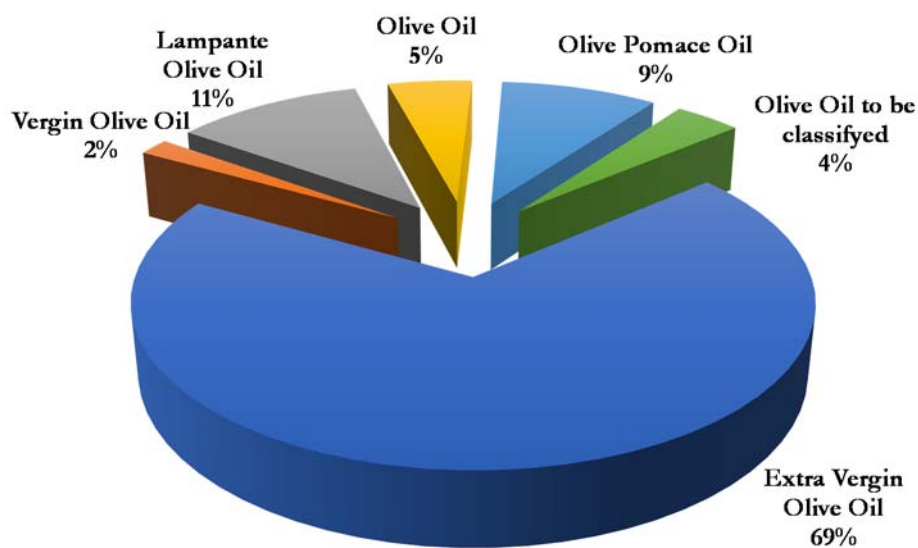
The following tables summarize the data provided by RTO.

Trend of the national stock by type of olive oil

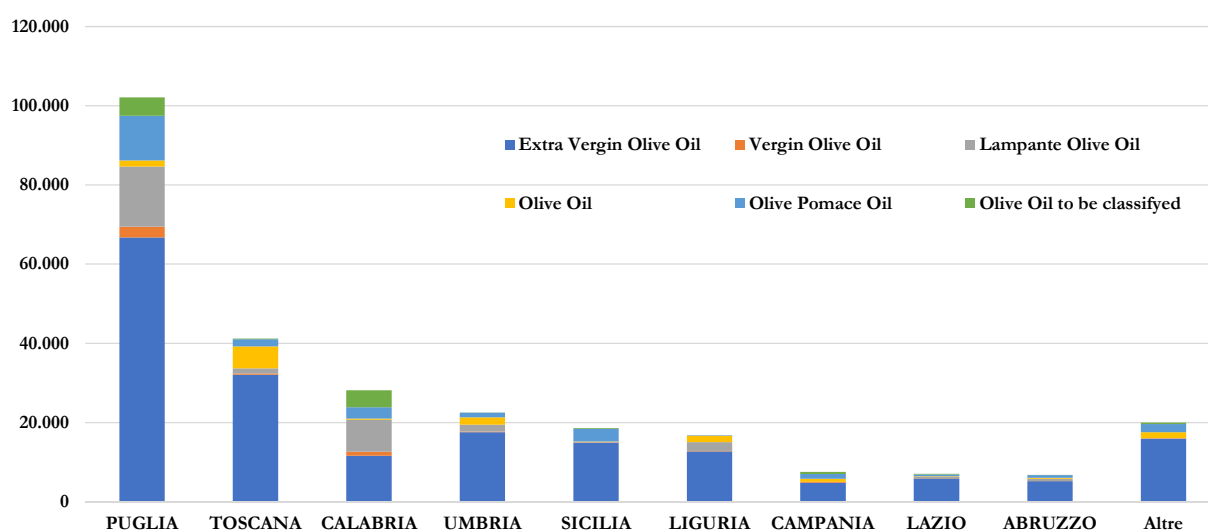


STOCK OF OLIVE OIL IN ITALY AT 31.12.2018: 270.889 Tons

Stock percentage distribution by type of olive oil



Stock percentage distribution by olive oil category and region expressed in tons



Olive oil stock distribution by province and type at 31/12/2018

Data in Tons

<i>Province</i>	<i>Extra Virgin Olive Oil</i>	<i>Virgin Olive Oil</i>	<i>Lampante Olive Oil</i>	<i>Olive Oil</i>	<i>Olive-pomace Oil</i>	<i>Olive Oil to be classified</i>	<i>Total olive oil</i>
Bari	28.992	808	4.522	1.386	6.106	1.259	43.074
Barletta-Andria-Trani	18.698	99	824	62	3.180	40	22.904
Perugia	16.646	149	1.716	1.817	1.154	16	21.498
Brindisi	8.270	780	6.779	41	1.935	1.394	19.199
Imperia	10.290	13	2.238	1.351	28	58	13.977
Firenze	9.960	274	6	1.092	1.027	38	12.397
Lucca	6.986	-	1.269	3.866	146	15	12.283
Reggio Calabria	1.716	598	6.871	68	684	1.926	11.862
Agrigento	8.824	77	16	12	2.831	6	11.765
Foggia	7.537	20	7	14	17	576	8.171
Siena	6.485	47	13	475	575	32	7.626
Catanzaro	5.191	63	215	1	193	791	6.455
Lecce	1.879	843	2.532	1	26	603	5.884
Cosenza	2.702	148	79	16	803	998	4.746
Arezzo	4.339	1	-	16	16	3	4.375
Chieti	3.892	25	12	3	11	34	3.975
Vibo Valentia	704	230	899	9	1.188	531	3.561
Trapani	3.213	7	128	1	70	1	3.420
Salerno	1.492	156	26	17	896	385	2.973
Cuneo	2.510	-	-	208	253	-	2.971
Taranto	1.384	119	561	33	14	734	2.845
Cremona	2.383	7	-	326	68	-	2.785
Potenza	1.308	6	45	72	1.255	18	2.705
Roma	2.140	2	370	15	54	30	2.610
Grosseto	2.487	1	5	-	-	6	2.499
Genova	2.187	64	-	168	70	5	2.495
Teramo	637	57	546	278	643	15	2.176
Verona	2.076	7	1	50	1	17	2.151
Benevento	1.249	28	-	488	207	115	2.087
Forlì - Cesena	1.310	29	-	201	211	1	1.753
Avellino	1.389	30	-	137	117	28	1.702
Crotone	1.296	2	10	166	17	42	1.534
Viterbo	1.449	2	-	-	5	35	1.491
<i>Other</i>	15.856	125	94	1.038	1.093	734	18.940
ITALY	187.480	4.815	29.784	13.429	24.894	10.487	270.889

Extra virgin PDO and PGI olive oil stock at 31/12/2018

<i>Olive oil PDO and PGI present at RTO</i>	<i>Liters</i>	<i>%</i>
TERRA DI BARI	7.046.282	39,4
TOSCANO	2.777.419	15,5
VAL DI MAZARA	2.230.209	12,5
SICILIA	1.501.707	8,4
OLIO DI CALABRIA	760.680	4,3
DAUNO	428.060	2,4
VALLI TRAPANESI	400.921	2,2
UMBRIA	337.078	1,9
MONTI IBLEI	266.071	1,5
GARDA	262.476	1,5
SABINA	161.400	0,9
VENETO	151.940	0,9
APRUTINO PESCARRESE	144.648	0,8
SARDEGNA	119.495	0,7
VALLE DEL BELICE	102.912	0,6
LAMETIA	99.867	0,6
CHIANTI CLASSICO	98.392	0,6
RIVIERA LIGURE	142.889	0,8
COLLINE SALERNITANE	88.818	0,5
COLLINA DI BRINDISI	82.640	0,5
MOLISE	69.289	0,4
CANINO	73.424	0,4
<i>Other PDO / PGI</i>	519.794	2,9
Total PDO / PGI	17.866.409	

RUCI - Single Register of Controls on Agricultural Enterprises and the Supervision Database

The Single Register of Inspections on Agricultural Enterprises – (Registro Unico dei Controlli sulle Imprese agricole - RUCI) is tool adopted by the Italian Parliament in 2014 to limit the overlapping of controls on agricultural enterprises. Implemented in force of the Decree of the Ministers of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies and the Minister of Interior of 22 July 2015, so far RUCI contains the control data from over 100 supervisory and control bodies such as **ICQRF**, **certification bodies (CBs)** and **Carabinieri**.

Data from the “Supervision Database” are also automatically added in RUCI. This database is the information base shared between ICQRF and other competent Authorities (Regions and APs) which collects information such as supervisory activity and control activity, carried out by CBs and, in particular, the *non-compliances* and the list of operators included in the certification system.

The results from over **625,000 controls** were available on RUCI at 31 December 2018.

RUCI contains the identification and main information related to the inspections carried out on agricultural enterprises, including enterprise tax code; data from the authority carrying out the control the competent authority for the control; premises and date of inspection; type of control; sector concerned; outcome of the control. The following table provides some aggregated data contained in RUCI.

RUCI – Number of controls on agricultural businesses in 2014/2018 (by Region)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	TOTAL
Sicily	13.919	21.510	22.246	14496	13.493	85.664
Tuscany	9.259	11.639	14.633	10544	9.643	55.718
Calabria	10.492	12.806	14.698	7463	7.833	53.292
Apulia	9.778	10.993	14.630	10009	10.690	56.100
Emilia-Romagna	10.184	10.924	11.546	7716	10.278	50.648
Piedmont	8.727	9.329	10.704	5382	8.647	42.789
Veneto	7.111	7.715	11.174	7824	10.073	43.897
Lazio	6.154	6.644	8.100	6261	6.949	34.108
Sardinia	6.405	8.416	7.139	5028	5.038	32.026
Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol	2.791	5.514	7.604	7048	7.712	30.669
Lombardy	5.221	5.662	7.133	4886	5.957	28.859
Campania	4.409	5.332	7.196	4510	5.742	27.189
Marche	4.008	4.784	5.067	3059	3.957	20.875
Abruzzo	2.647	4.421	4.708	2838	2.936	17.550
Umbria	3.162	3.223	2.933	2528	2.654	14.500
Basilicata	1.883	2.161	3.083	2125	1.980	11.232
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	1.146	1.573	2.697	1630	2.136	9.182
Liguria	1.490	1.639	1.511	1088	1.027	6.755
Molise	385	473	786	588	559	2.791
Valle d'Aosta/ Vallée d'Aoste	154	284	391	97	243	1.169
ITALY	109.325	135.042	157.979	105.120	117.547	625.013

7. Delegation of control bodies related to quality products and their supervision

ICQRF has the task of authorizing the, private or public, certification and control bodies (CBs) that certify quality products PDOs, PGIs, TSG's (including wines) organic products and spirit drinks. ICQRF, in addition to authorizing CBs, also approves the control plans of each PDO, PGI and TSG and the costs of controls paid by producers.

The control bodies certifying the PDO/PGI/TSG are 48 (22 of which are private and 26 public) 28 of which are active on PDO and PGI wines (8 of which are private and 20 public). 14 CBs controlling the organic production and one public control body control GI spirits (Genepi del Piemonte).

Intense is the activity to standardize the level of controls on operators throughout the country and to provide Certification Bodies with indications for a uniform drafting of control plans.

In 2018, 107 decrees were issued to authorize certification and control of quality products, of which 72 for PDO, PGI, TSG, 29 in the wine sector and 6 in organic farming. The approval of the control plan of CIOCCOLATO DI MODICA PGI is important, following its recognition at EU level: it is therefore Italian the first chocolate protected in Europe

All of 597 control plans and tariffs approved during the year, as well as the authorization decrees issued for a total of 1.287 documents, are available on the website of the Ministry.

Once recognized and authorized, the CBs are supervised by ICQRF to verify the maintenance of the requisites required for carrying out control and certifications. ICQRF performs Office audits at the CBs and examines samples of company files by performing review audits and witness audits at a representative sample of system operators.

In 2018, **52** supervision activities (Control bodies/regulated areas) were followed, of which 15 in the field of agricultural and food products to PDO, PGI and TSG, 20 in the area of PDO and PGI wines, **15** in organic farming and **2** in meat labeling.

The controls carried out on the operators headquarters (review audits), which consist of a critical examination of the activities carried out by the CB, and the controls carried out alongside (witness audits) were in total **527**.

ICQRF - Supervision activity on CBs per quality scheme

Quality scheme	Office audits (n)	Review/witness audits (n)
PDOs, PGIs and TSGs	15	86
PDOs, PGIs and varietal wines	20	124
Organic products	15	309
Meat labelling	2	8
Total	52	527

8. The ICQRF Laboratories: quality protection and research

With **6 analytical laboratories** and over 100 laboratory technicians, the ICQRF holds an in house capability to perform the analytical verification of agri-food products that has few equals in Europe.

All laboratories operate in accordance with the **EN ISO / IEC 17025: 2005** “General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories” and routinely check conformity to according to analytical determinations accredited by “ACCREDIA” the Sole national accreditation body.

Accreditation involves a total of well **338 test**¹.

ICQRF has tasting panels, in charge of the assessment and official control of the organoleptic characteristics of virgin and extra virgin olive oils, using the method defined at EU level. The tasting committees admitted under the Ministerial Decree of 18 June 2014, have obtained international recognition from the C.O.I. (International Olive Council).

In addition, all the laboratories participate in **proficiency tests**, or inter-laboratory testing circuits (ring tests) organized by providers, preferably accredited according to UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17043, to evaluate their analytical performance, also for the purpose of maintenance of accreditation..

The harmonization of the ICQRF Quality System, a priority objective for the uniform application of the specific industry standard and to guarantee the quality of the analytical data produced by the individual laboratories, is managed by the PREF IV Office and by a working group that involves all the Quality Assurance Managers of Laboratories distributed throughout Italy.

ICQRF laboratories are also committed, as an institutional task, in carrying out research activities, as an essential tool to improve the action to combat fraud in the agri-food sector, as well as for the enhancement of the quality characteristics of food. ICQRF develops new methods of analysis on agri-food matrices able to highlight the possible use of fraudulent production practices or to identify new parameters for the qualitative characterization of foods.

The study and research activity also aims at updating obsolete analytical methods as they are no longer consistent with the evolution of production technologies or, in any case, implementable with the use of different techniques.

The following are the lines of research pursued by the ICQRF laboratory network in 2018:

- development of a method of analysis for the qualitative and quantitative determination of hydroxymethionine, added in food for animals as a nutritional additive;
- development of an HPLC method with UV detector for the separation and quantification of ten carotenoids that are used in the feed industry. The study is organized by the Joint Research Center - European Union Reference Laboratory (JRC EURL) Feed Additive;
- spectroscopic characterization of near infrared feeds - Near Infra Red - for the purpose of setting up a database of spectroscopic profiles referring to the main quality parameters of the product;
- development of a simplified method that is faster and cheaper, as an alternative to the official method of Reg. EEC 2568/91 (method C.O.I.) for the analysis of sterols, erythrodiol and grapes in extra virgin olive oils;

¹ The updated list of accredited test of each ICQRF Laboratory is available on-line at the web page:
http://www.accredia.it/accredia_labsearch.jsp?ID_LINK=293&area=7&dipartimento=L,S&desc=Laboratori

- study for the characterization of near infrared spectroscopic profiles - Near Infra Red - referred to olive oil, in order to promote the application of N.I.R. as a screening method for the control of this food matrix;
- histological analysis in foodstuffs of animal origin: the study still to be perfected for the application to the control, confirmed the possibility of being able to discriminate, by means of histological analysis, the presence of mechanically separated meat unlawfully added and not declared in product samples and prepare meat;
- Participation in an interlaboratory study organized by the ERC-CWS for the identification of statistical parameters (repeatability and reproducibility) of sulfited products, such as musts, partially fermented musts and new fermenting wines, in which fermentation is inhibited, in fact, by sulfitation.
- implementation of a database of isotopic ratios: (D / H) I, (D / H) II, R and $^{13}\text{C} / ^{12}\text{C}$ of ethanol and $^{18}\text{O} / ^{16}\text{O}$ of water for the characterization of citrus juices (oranges, lemons, clementines, mandarins) of sure Italian origin;
- determination of the ratio $^{15}\text{N} / ^{14}\text{N}$ and $^{13}\text{C} / ^{12}\text{C}$ of plant, animal and mineral matrices of certain origin to identify the possible illegal use of nitrogenous mineral fertilizers in organic farming.

The research activities carried out in 2018 were the subject of publications and presentations of the results in national and international locations. The main ones are listed below:

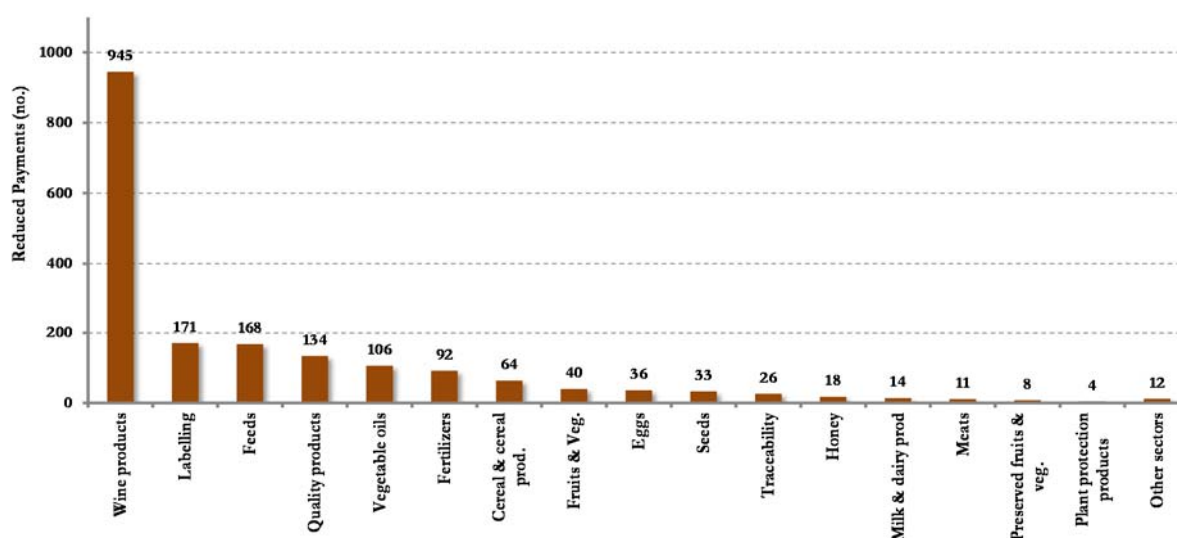
1. Scordino, M.; Lazzaro, F.; Borzì, M.A.; Sabatino, L.; Traulo, P.; Gagliano, G. *Dehydroacetic acid in cheese and cheese coating, results of official control in Italy Food Additives and Contaminants - Part B*, 2018, 11, 75-81.
2. Poster: “Quantitative determination of HPLC / PDA of dehydroacetic acid in cheese” Scordino, M.; Lazzaro, F.; Borzì, M.A.; Sabatino, L.; Traulo, P.; Gagliano, G. Convegno Congiunto delle Sezioni Calabria e Sicilia 2017-18. Catania 9-10 febbraio 2018.
3. Oral communication “Forensic analytical chemistry in the wine sector, the experience of the ICQRF Laboratory”. Autori: Caruso, R.; Fiorillo, M.; Gambino, G.L.; Gargano, M.; Sabatino, L.; Scordino, M.; Traulo, P. e Gagliano, G. 1° Workshop “La chimica analitica forense”, 20 giugno 2018, Catania. Atti.
4. Oral communication “*Application of stable isotope ratios in wine official control: ICQRF-Laboratory Catania’s activity*”. Autori: G.L. Gambino, R. Caruso, M. Fiorillo, M. Gargano, L. Sabatino, M. Scordino, P. Traulo, G. Gagliano. The 2nd Isotope Ratio MS Day, 27-29 Giugno 2018, Messina. Atti.
5. Poster “*Food Additives Italian Official Control: Dehydroacetic Acid in Cheese and Cheese Coating*” Monica Scordino, Francesco Lazzaro, Marco A. Borzì, Leonardo Sabatino, Pasqualino Traulo and Giacomo Gagliano. EFSA’s Conference “Science | Food | Society” (Parma, Italy, 18-21 September 2018).

9. The results of the control activities: reports of infringement, penalties, reports of warning, orders for payments

Following violations ascertained by the control bodies, the ICQRF proceeds to impose pecuniary administrative sanctions. For the sanctions of value up to 50,000 euros, the territorial offices of the ICQRF provide; above this amount, the Central Administration (DG VICO) is responsible. DG VICO also provides, irrespective of the amount, for the imposition of sanctions in specific sectors such as the geographical indications of food and wine, the organic, GMOs.

The imposition of sanctions occurs at the conclusion of a specific procedure governed by Law 24/11/1981, n. 689.

Of the **4,194 administrative penalties** directly raised by ICQRF in 2018, they were voluntarily paid by the offender 1,882, benefiting from the reduced payment required by law, for a tax benefit of over 2.3 million euro.



ICQRF – Reduced payments for penalties imposed considering the checked sectors

Settors \ Fields	Reduced payments (no.)	Amount of payments (€)
Wine products	945	715.782,36
Labelling	171	452.638,46
Feeds	168	230.595,57
Quality products	134	457.665,88
Vegetable Oils	106	90.870,69
Fertilizers	92	152.271,00
Cereal and cereal products	64	13.175,76
Fruit and vegetables	40	36.913,25
Eggs	36	15.503,85
Seeds	33	45.862,28
Traceability	26	28.650,00
Honey	18	24.030,79
Milk and dairy products	14	13.853,14
Other sector	12	5.766,13
Meats	11	19.430,04
Preserved fruits and vegetables	8	17.673,51
Plant protection products	4	6.766,67
Total	1.882	2.327.449,38

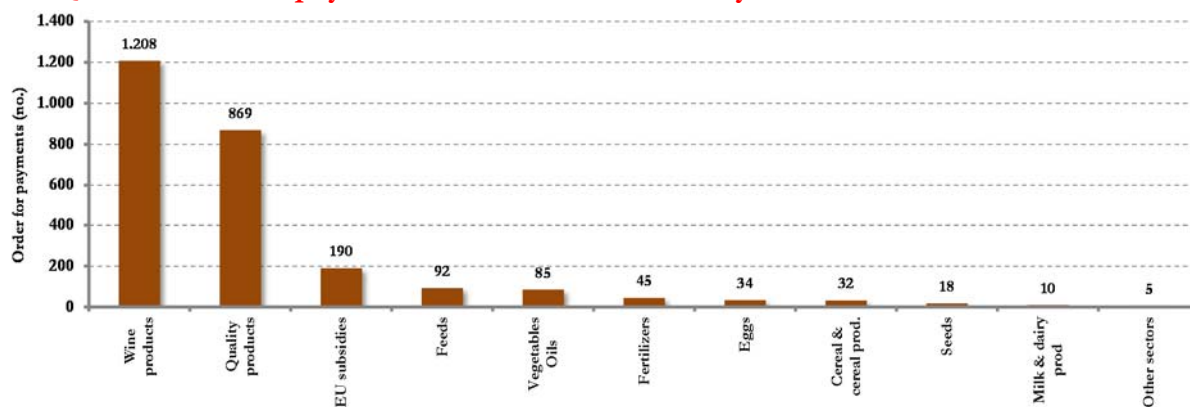
ICQRF - Reduced payments on penalties imposed for each of the provision infringed

Sectors\Fields	Penalty rules applicable	Payments (No.)	Amount (€)
Wine products	D.Lgs n. 260 del 10/08/2000	26	14.396,64
	D. Lgs. n. 61 del 8/4/2010	30	42.204,22
	Legge n. 238 del 12/12/2016	17	4.266,70
	Legge n. 238 del 12/12/2016	865	653.374,80
	Legge n. 82 del 20/2/2006	7	1.540,00
Vegetable Oils	D. Lgs. n. 103 del 23/5/2016	101	84.418,08
	D. Lgs. n. 225 del 30/9/2005	1	1.540,00
	Legge n. 1407 del 13/11/1960	4	4.912,61
Milk and dairy products	D. L. n.91 del 24/06/2014	1	1.050,00
	Legge n. 138/74 del 11/04/1974	4	410,60
	Legge n. 1526 del 23/12/1956	4	361,20
	Legge n. 4 del 3/2/2011	5	12.031,34
Fruits and vegetables	D. Lgs. n. 306 del 10/12/2002	40	36.913,25
Meat	D. Lgs. n. 58 del 29/1/2004	8	18.905,54
	Legge n. 343 del 4/7/1985	3	524,50
Cereals and cereal products	Legge n. 325 del 18/03/1958	21	2.463,93
	Legge n. 580 del 4/7/1967	43	10.711,83
Eggs	Legge n. 88 del 07/07/2009	36	15.503,85
Preserved fruits and vegetables	D. Lgs. n. 50 del 20/2/2004	6	9.100,00
	Legge n.154 del 28/7/2016	2	8.573,51
Honey	D. Lgs. n. 179 del 21/5/2004	18	24.030,79
Feeds	D. Lgs. n. 26 del 3/2/2017	127	165.751,15
	Legge n. 281 del 15/2/1963	41	64.844,42
Fertilizers	D. Lgs. n. 75 del 29/4/2010	92	152.271,00
Seeds	Legge n. 1096 del 25/11/1971	33	45.862,28
Plant protection products	D. Lgs. n. 150 del 14/8/2012	3	5.366,67
	D. Lgs. n. 69 del 17/4/2014	1	1.400,00
Quality products	D. Lgs. n. 20 del 23/2/2018	24	73.452,59
	D. Lgs. n. 297 del 19/11/2004	110	384.213,29
Labelling	D. Lgs. n. 109 del 27/1/1992	84	174.725,52
	D. Lgs. n. 110 del 27/1/1992	1	1.032,90
	D. Lgs. n. 178 del 12/6/2003	1	1.166,67
	D. Lgs. n. 206 del 6 settembre 2005	1	722,00
	D. Lgs. n. 231 del 15/12/2017	79	269.191,37
	Legge n. 9 del 14/1/2013	5	5.800,00
Traceability	D. Lgs. n. 190/2006 del 05/04/2006	26	28650,00
Other sectors	D. Lgs. n. 193 del 6/11/2007	4	3.410,00
	Legge n. 1354 del 16/8/1962	8	2.356,13
Total		1.882	2.327.449,38

ICQRF also issued **2.629 warnings** against operators in implementation of the so-called “Campolibero” Decree.

In 2018 the ICQRF issued **2.588 orders for payment**, for an amount of around **7 million euros**.

ICQRF - Orders for payments for each field of activity



Sectors\Fields	Orders for payments (no.)	Amount of payments (€)
Wine producta	1.208	2.351.998,61
Quality products	869	2.416.311,46
EU Subsidies	190	1.650.631,07
Feeds	92	168.381,95
Vegetable oils	85	135.651,21
Fertilizers	45	148.012,38
Eggs	34	16.005,65
Cereal and cereal products	32	9.252,30
Seeds	18	55.169,00
Milk and dairy products	10	9.345,60
Preserved frutis and vegetables	2	6.000,00
Meats	1	10.329,00
Labelling	1	3.500,00
Beers	1	154,00
Total	2.588	6.980.742,23

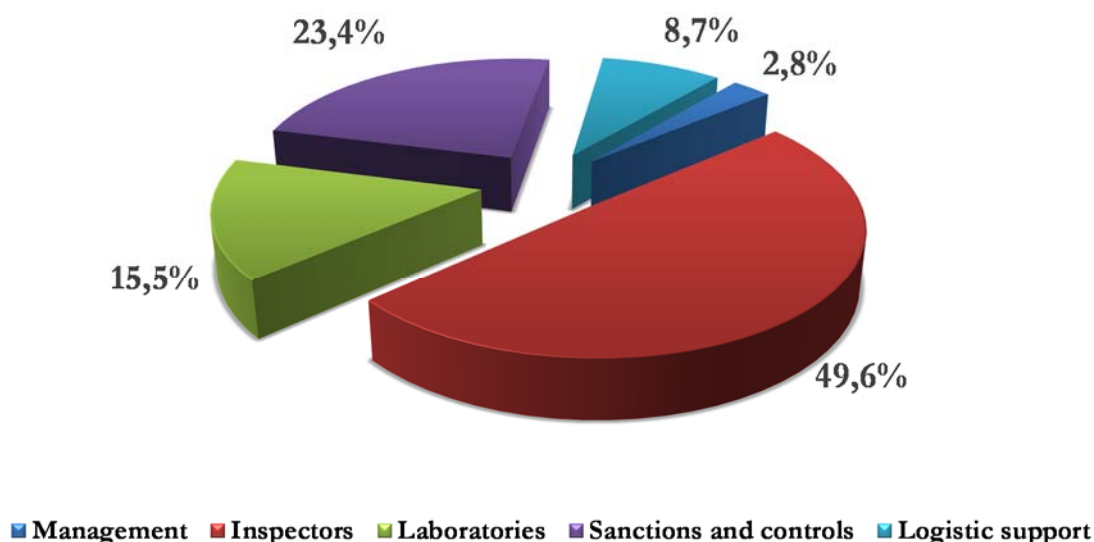
ICQRF – Orders for payments for each of the provisions infringed

Sector\Fields	Penalty rules applicable	Orders for payments issued (n.)	Amount (€)
Wine products	D.Lgs n. 260 del 10/08/2000	243	499.035,06
	D. Lgs. n. 61 del 8/4/2010	737	1.214.173,94
	Legge n. 238 del 12/12/2016	156	132.668,16
	Legge n. 82 del 20/02/2006	72	506.121,45
Vegetable oils	D. Lgs. n. 103 del 23/5/2016	46	39.100,00
	Legge n. 1407 del 13/11/1960	26	83.230,68
	Legge n. 35 del 27/01/1968	1	309,00
	Legge n. 9 del 14/1/2013	11	12.900,00
	R.D.L. n. 2033 del 15/10/1925	1	111,53
Milk and dairy products	D. L. n.91 del 24/06/2014	6	8.289,75
	Legge n. 138/74 del 11/04/1974	1	258,00
	Legge n. 1526 del 23/12/1956	3	797,85
Meats	Legge n. 26 del 13/2/1990	1	10.329,00
Cereal and cereal products	D.P.R. n. 187 del 09/02/2001	1	1.549,00
	Legge n. 325 del 18/03/1958	13	816,00
	Legge n. 580 del 04/07/1967	18	6.887,30
Eggs	Legge n. 88 del 07/07/2009	34	16.005,65
Preserved fruits and vegetables	D. Lgs. n. 151 del 21/5/2004	2	6.000,00
Beer	Legge n. 1354 del 16/8/1962	1	154,00
Feeds	D. Lgs. n. 26 del 3/2/2017	6	7.250,00
	Legge n. 281 del 15/02/1963	86	161.131,95
Fertilizers	D. Lgs. n. 75 del 29/4/2010	45	148.012,38
Seeds	Legge n. 1096 del 25/11/1971	18	55.169,00
Quality products	D. lgs n. 297 del 19/11/2004	869	2.416.311,46
EU subsidies	Legge n. 898 del 23/12/1986	190	1.650.631,07
Labelling	D. Lgs. n. 231 del 15/12/2017	1	3.500,00
Total		2.588	6.980742,23

10. The staff of ICQRF, their proficiency and the regional organization

The ICQRF staff consists of **816 units**, (25 of which are managers); however, the staff currently in service consists of only **714 units** (20 of which are managers), with a ratio **managers/officers** of just **2.8%**.

The staff actually on duty is distributed among the different functions/activities as follow:



ICQRF organizational framework, at central level, consists of **two Directorates General** (Directorate General for the recognition of control and certification bodies and consumer protection - **VICO**, Directorate-General for the Prevention and Contrast of Agro-Food Frauds - **PREF**). Over **83%** of ICQRF personnel is located in **29 local Offices** (10 of non-general management level and 19 Area offices) and **6 Laboratories** (5 management laboratories, which perform first-level analytical activities and the Central Laboratory of Rome, which carries out the second analyses).

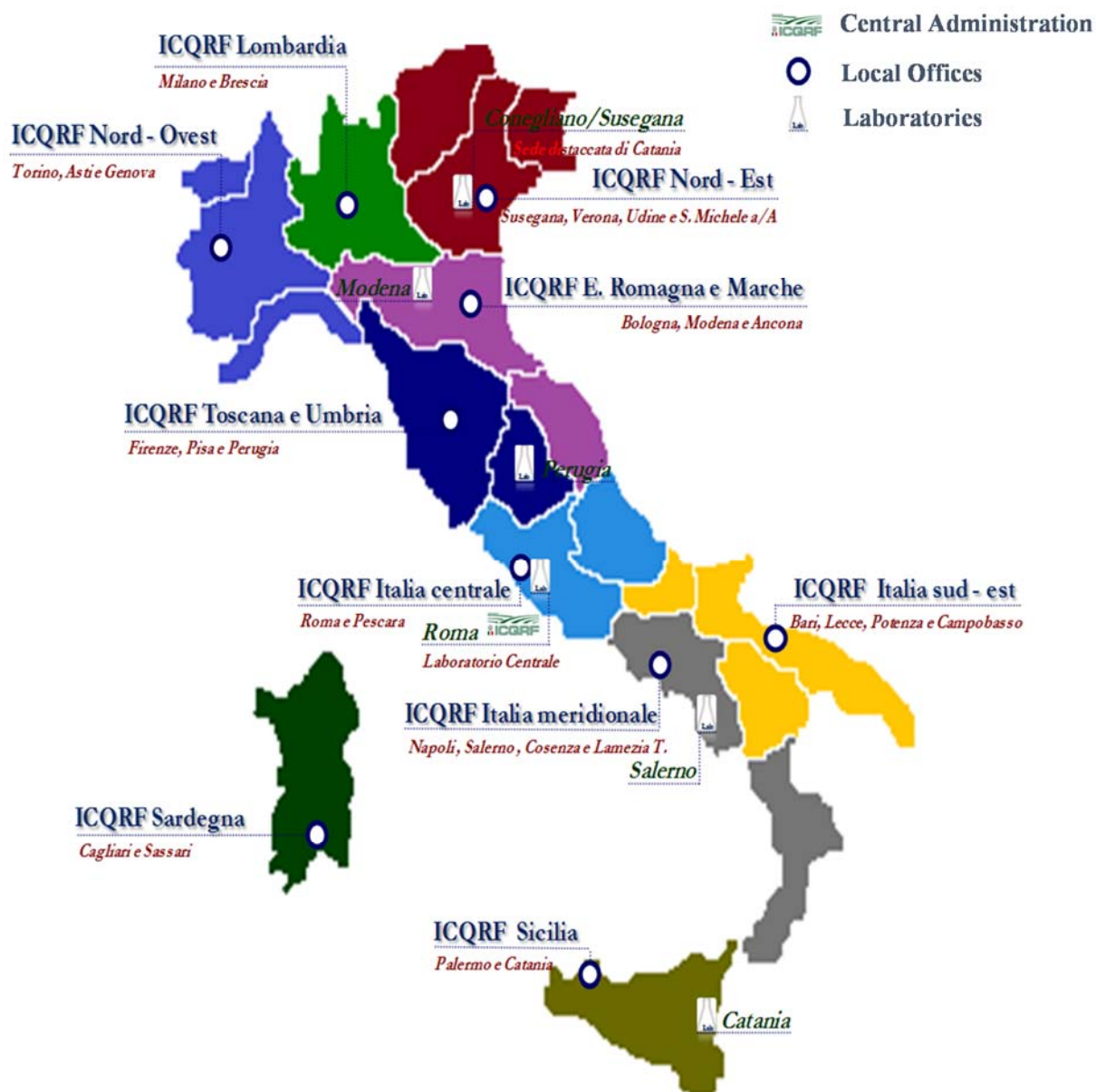
The **General Direction VICO** is responsible for recognition/approval and withdrawal/suspension of Control Bodies (CBs) for the inspection of Geographical Indications (GIs: PDO, PGI, TSG) and organic productions. The above-mentioned General direction may impose administrative sanctions relating to the infringements in the preparation and trade of agro-food products, manages the Department's budget, plans the needs of the ICQRF instrumental and logistical resources, manages the accessory economic treatment of the personnel, manages the personnel's professional training and his mobility from one office to another.

The **General Direction PREF** is responsible for planning and coordination, as well as for monitoring and assessment of the inspections carried out by the ICQRF's local offices. The General Direction PREF carries out this activity also in partnership with other control authorities, through the Central Investigation Unit (U.I.C.). It is also responsible for the supervision of CBs (in cooperation with the regional authorities and the autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano). Furthermore, General Direction PREF is in charge of coordinating the analytical activities of the Laboratories, included the activity of Rome Central Laboratory that, as previously mentioned, has the institutional duty to carry out the so-called 'review analysis', also on request of the Italian Judicial Authority. Finally, it coordinates research activities for the identification of new analytical methods to be applied to counteract agro-food fraud

In addition, at central level, there are n. 5 **Special Units**:

1. **Central Investigation Unit - U.I.C.:** for Judicial Police's specific investigations activities either at national or international level;
2. The ***ex officio* Protection Unit:** for the protection of Geographical Indications (GIs) belonging to the food and wine sectors (at Web and worldwide level) against any illegal use or deceptive practice;
3. **Labelling Unit:** which support ICQRF local offices for the solution of specific issues related to the labelling legislation (national and European);
4. **Unit for the editing of the ICQRF newsletter:** it promotes an in-depth analysis and a rapid dissemination of documents and information related to the institutional activities to all the ICQRF staff;
5. **ICQRF Communication Unit:** for the coordination and implementation of the institutional communication activities at national and international level.

Distribution of ICQRF Offices and Laboratories in Italy



ICQRF - distribution of staff (by place of work)

Office / Lab	Location	Local units	Staff on duty (No.)
Central Administration	Rome		91
ICQRF Nord ovest	Turin	Asti Genova	41
ICQRF Lombardia	Milan	Brescia	38
ICQRF Nord est	Susegana	Verona Udine S. Michele all'Adige	49
ICQRF E. Romagna e Marche	Bologna	Modena Ancona	54
ICQRF Toscana e Umbria	Florence	Pisa Perugia	53
ICQRF Italia Centrale	Rome	Pescara	44
ICQRF Italia Meridionale	Naples	Salerno Cosenza Lamezia Terme	60
ICQRF Italia Sud est	Bari	Lecce Potenza Campobasso	70
ICQRF Sicilia	Palermo	Catania	45
ICQRF Sardegna	Cagliari	Sassari	31
Laboratory of Catania			31
Laboratory of Conegliano			13
Laboratory of Modena			21
Laboratory of Perugia			22
Laboratory of Salerno			24
Laboratory of ROME			27
TOTAL			714

Staff training

ICQRF carefully takes care of the specific training of its personnel, aiming at the development of professional skills and the evolution of techniques to combat agro-food fraud both in Italy and in the world as well as on the web.

In 2018, ICQRF involved **504 staff members in the training activity**, which is almost the 79% of the current staff.

Individual participation in the various activities was of 2,063 people, so that during the year each employee should have been able to participate in more than one training and updating activity.

The following are the main training events on specialized issues carried out during 2018

In-house activities (focus groups - training courses and in-depth study)

- Differences between the types of companies envisaged by the civil code. Main fiscal documents and accounting records of a company (duration 4 days - 105 participants);
- Specialized English course in the agro-food sector (duration 28.5 h - 12 participants);
- Training on the job - Use of RNI technique in the agro-food sector (duration 3 days - 4 participants);
- Training course for newly hired inspection staff (duration 6 days - 9 participants);
- Sensory analysis of Honey - I level Improvement, in collaboration with CREA of Bologna (duration 3 days - 2 participants);
- Sensory analysis of Honey - II level Improvement, in collaboration with the CREA of Bologna (duration 3 days - 4 participants);
- Focus Group. GC-MS and LC-MS techniques (duration 1 day - 10 participants);
- Collaborative study days realized within the framework of the Technical-scientific collaboration agreement between ICQRF and Edmund Mach Foundation (duration 3 days - 2 participants);
- Characteristics of the olive oil sector in Spain (olive production, transformation, storage and refining of oils) and instruments for the protection of protected names in the oil sector, in collaboration with the International University of Andalusia (duration 4 days - 20 participants);
- Meeting / Operational Meeting on cross-cutting issues ICQRF sanctioning activities (duration 1 day - 21 participants);
- Specialized English Course in the agro-food sector for the Head of Department and the two General Directors of the ICQRF (duration 48 h - 3 participants);
- Basic Russian language course (duration 25 h - 1 participant).

Videoconferencing activities (upgrading seminars/in-depth seminars/ meetings /conferences)

- Training on food additives, enzymes and flavourings - BTSF (durata 1 g. - n. 103 participants);
- Cross sectorial course on market controls - BTSF (duration 1 day. - n. 105 partecipanti);
- PDO-PGI-TSG - BTSF (duration 1 day. - n. 106 partecipanti);
- Insights on the ISO/IEC 17065: 2012 for the of supervision over the Control Bodies operating in the context of regulated productions (duration 1 day - 135 participants);
- Chemometric analysis for the statistical treatment of data - Advanced techniques of classification (Machine learning) of agro-food matrices (duration 4 days - 19 participants);
- The MVV document in electronic format (duration 1 day - 141 participants);

- Pesticide residues: methods of analysis and validation procedures (duration 1 day - 17 participants);
- Animal feed regulations: raw materials, production, labelling, marketing and critical points along the supply chain. Notes on particular feeds for animals reported in the specifications of regulated quality products. Specific aspects of sampling and the main sanctioning legal framework (duration 1 day - 95 participants);
- Insights on the subject of the European Union quality schemes and labels, procedures of the EUIPO appeal boards and protection of the geographical indications of the agro-food sector (duration 1 day - 63 participants);
- Fundamentals of liquid mass and its application (duration 1 day - 40 participants);
- Food labelling: EU regulation 1169/2011, nutrition declaration, information on lactose-free and gluten-free products, misleading advertising in food product labelling and presentation, sanctions system and its future developments (duration 1 day - 140 participants);
- e-commerce controls according to the different platforms and other online trading methods (duration 1 day - 79 participants);
- Proper sampling procedures in the context of genetic analysis (duration 1 day - No. 101 participants);
- Isotopic analysis of wine products, olive oils, tomatoes and juices (duration 1 day - 68 participants);
- Overview of protocol and specialist analysis (e.g. NMR) in relation to their applicability in the inspection activity (duration 1 day - 74 participants);
- Update regarding honey sensory analysis (duration 1 day - 136 participants);
- Main rules on the marketing of plant protection products: labelling, classification and authorization framework (duration 1 day - 86 participants);
- Sharing experience regarding the Master in Food Law at the LUISS University (duration 1 day - 40 participants);
- New assignments in the light of the new Code of Public Contracts (Legislative Decree No. 50/2016, as amended by Legislative Decree No. 56/2017) and the ANAC Guidelines. Analysis of the most problematic operational aspects (duration 1 day - 45 participants);
- Telematic Register in the wine sector (duration 1 day - 75 participants);
- 12th European Pesticide Residue Workshop (duration 1 day - No. 24 participants);
- Sharing ENFP experience at the European Commission (duration 1 day - 40 participants)..

Transfer of skills and training of external staff

In the course of the year 2018 ICQRF, in light of its central role at national and international level as well as in lights of the control experiences that had a strong echo also abroad, continued to carry out training and knowledge transfer activities.

ICQRF in Georgia

ICQRF has been awarded as a Senior Partner of the Twinning Project “Establishing Efficient Protection and Control System of Geographical Indications (GIs) in Georgia”.

ICQRF in Turkey

Within the framework of the tools developed by the European Union to support and strengthen the process of integration of candidate and potential candidate countries to join the EU, ICQRF has been commissioned by the European Commission to carry out:

- A series of seminars on GIs and rural development measures at the ARDSI (Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institution);
- A series of seminars for managers and officials of the Ministry of food, agriculture and livestock, on the PDO and PGI and on the role of the Protection Consortia in the management, promotion and protection of these products.

ICQRF in Moldavia

ICQRF organized a study visit for a delegation of the Republic of Moldova aimed to provide a picture of the control system and protection of quality wine products in Italy. A Memorandum between ICQRF and the Moldovan agro-food control authority has been signed, with whom a collaboration has begun to prevent and repress violations regarding the production and trade of wine products both off-line and on-line. The ICQRF delegation also met the Moldavian Minister of Agriculture in Chişinău, as the control authority of the "Made in Italy" agro-food industry in the world.

ICQRF in Ukraine

In the framework of the program funded by the European Commission “Support to the development of a Geographical Indications system in Ukraine”, ICQRF held an in-depth workshop to support and strengthen the process of integration of candidate and potential candidate countries to join the EU. The workshop was targeted to representatives of companies, researchers and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and of the Ministry of Economy and Trade. The main topics of the workshop were related to the recognition, control and certification procedures of the PDO and PGI registered products at EU level.

ICQRF in Hungary

At the National Food Chain Safety Office, ICQRF participated in the meeting of the three working groups (Isotopic Measures, Management of the Isotopic Database and New Analytical Methods for the Characterization of Wines), established at the European Reference Center for Control in the Sector wine industry (European Reference Center for the Wine Sector ERCCWS).

ICQRF in Serbia

ICQRF participated in the Twinning Project SR 14 IPA AG 02 17 “Strengthening capacities for implementation and further development of the legislative framework in the field of organic production and food quality policy”.

ICQRF in Bosnia and Herzegovina

As part of the TAIEX project, ICQRF hosted a delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina for a study visit on Geographical Indications. The delegation was composed of officials of the most representative authorities such as the Food Safety Agency, Ministry of Trade and Economic Relations, Ministry of Trade and Tourisms, Federal Ministry of Trade, Internal Trade and Consumer Protection.

ICQRF in France

An ICQRF delegation of officials from the *ex officio* Unit and from the local Offices had a meeting in Paris with the DGCCRF (French authority responsible for the repression of food fraud, *ex officio* authority, contact body, and food fraud contact point). The meeting was held to optimize the intervention procedures and creating a direct collaboration in the fight against irregularities/frauds on GIs between the two countries.

ICQRF at the European Commission

ICQRF participated in the following events:

- 33rd session of the scientific subcommittee of the World Customs Organization. The meeting concerned the proposed modification of the sub-items of the harmonized nomenclature on olive oils.
- Meeting on the European Authent-net project funded within the Horizon 2020 actions. The project aims to facilitate the cooperation between national and international research bodies in the field of food genuineness, in a way to improve the competitiveness of the food supply chain, establishing a network of funding bodies for research activities in the field of "food authenticity" and a map of the genuineness of food products in Europe.
- 3rd meeting of the working group on official controls on food marketed online.
- Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Wine Controls at the European Reference Center for Control in the Wine Sector (ERCCWS).
- Meeting of the food fraud contact points of the Member States.
- Coordination meeting for the European campaign regarding the evaluation of characteristics related to food quality.
- Meeting of the expert group on olive oil.
- Meeting regarding the Pilot project for the launch of a campaign of controls on specific PDO and PGI products.
- Meeting of the agricultural markets' expert group – “Olive oil” sub-group. At the meeting, an intervention on the importance of controls in the prevention of fraudulent activities and on the management of cases of fraud was expressly requested by the organizers. ICQRF also participated in the Round Table “Anonymity and confidentiality in the execution of controls in the olive oil sector, in particular in relation to counter-analyses: how and when?”
- Fertilizer working group meeting.

Contacts

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- **Directorate general for the accreditation of control bodies, certification and consumer protection (VICO)**

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- **Directorate general for prevention and enforcement of agri-food frauds (PREF)**

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- **Local Offices e Local Units**

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- **Laboratories**

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