

# Europe Fats, Oils Outlook Better

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The protracted fall in prices of most types of edible fats and oils—extending, in many cases, over the past three years—now shows some signs of levelling out again before the end of the present season.

Western Europe is probably the largest single influence on the world's fats and oils trade—it took well over half of total international trade last year—and there has been a sharp change in the supply position for Europe's most popular edible oil.

## Less Olive Oil

It is now evident that olive oil production will be sharply reduced in the 1962-63 season and this is expected to be a factor of growing significance for edible oils. Low production in Spain, Italy, and Turkey will help to cut back output from last year's yield of 1.6 million tons of oil to 983,000 tons.

This is already helping to bring a sharp change in sentiment in the world's fats and oils trades, where production has mounted steadily in excess of consumption over the last three years.

Spain has now suspended shipments of drummed olive oil, following a wave of stocking in Italy. Prices of Spanish olive oil on the British market are now nearly £100 a ton above their levels at this time last year.

With nearly a month to go before the new crop is harvested, they are currently around £325 a ton compared with £235 to £250 over the last four years.

## Seeks Soybean Oil

Spain is now in the market for groundnut oil and soybean oil to top up her own domestic supplies and this also is helping to pull up prices. Groundnut oil, despite bigger harvests, is holding steady at around £95 a ton and soybean oil is quoted at about the same level.

Both oils are about £20 a ton below their levels at this stage of the season last year but export prospects are seen to be somewhat brighter.

The U.S. is a major supplier of soybean and cottonseed oil and the Agriculture Department in Washington is now confidently forecasting bigger exports. As a principal exporter of several types of vegetable oils, America is looking particularly to countries like Greece and Spain, and to parts like Rotterdam and Hamburg to take up its oil and oilseeds exports.

This year's total oil export estimate of 2,200 million pounds is high in comparison with recent years, and it may take a strong demand from Western Europe to absorb bigger quantities without depressing the price level.

## Supply Estimate Revised

Nevertheless, Europe's total intake last year of all types of fats and oils totaled 15 million tons—including animal fats and fish oils, as well as vegetable oils and oilseeds. The prospective fall in olive oil production must also cause some revisions in earlier estimates of an ample over-all stock position in Europe.

Europe's stocks were estimated in the region of about 450,000 tons at the beginning of this year, which is historically quite high, but this is less than the shortfall expected in the olive oil harvests.

The changed outlook may help some vegetable oils and oilseeds which have been neglected over recent years. Copra prices, for example, are beginning to show signs of recovery after being in decline virtually since the end of 1958.

## Cotton Oil Sought

Coconut oil was formerly first favorite for margarine manufacturers and it is now £6 a ton above last year's levels. Refined cottonseed oil is also in demand at prices nearly £20 a ton above last year.

European buyers, however, are unlikely to push prices up to levels where they constitute a prolonged recovery. The advances in technology over recent years have enabled the margarine and cooking fat manufacturers to take their pick of any number of alternative combinations of fats and oils.

Fish oils have become highly competitive following heavy output in Peru and South Africa, and resale prices on the European markets are being quoted at several dollars below the official prices in exporting countries.

Moreover, bumper harvests and carryovers of crops such as soybeans and cottonseed in the U.S. this year will also be a dampening influence on price movements.

## • New Products

APPLIED SCIENCE LABORATORIES, INC., State College, Pa., lists several new products in the December issue of the GAS-CHROM Newsletter, not offered elsewhere. The publication includes a bibliography of almost 100 references to gas chromatographic analysis of steroids and for the first time, the availability of desmosterol is announced.

SECURITY VALVE Co., South Pasadena, Calif., has designed and manufactured Model 259 J, a new high performance liquid hydrogen valve with many advance design features such as: exceptionally low turbulence, very low heat gain and loss, positive shut-off and minimum mass design for propellant loading applications.

STEPAN CHEMICAL Co., Northfield, Ill., has announced a new high foaming detergent, designated Stephanol B-129, which is the sodium salt of alkyl phenoxy polyoxyethylene sulfate.

LAPINE SCIENTIFIC Co., Chicago, Ill., announced the availability of the Booster Tempunit for oil baths. It heats and stirs the oil or water medium, regulates its temperature and, if desired, circulates the liquid to an external apparatus such as a viscosimeter. Another new unit, called the Tecam Pulsator, for use with a Tempunit, reduces the temperature oscillations about a set point to less than half the usual variation.

BRINKMANN INSTRUMENTS, INC., Great Neck, L. I., N. Y., has introduced two models of Turbula Mixers, which provide new efficiency and speed to many mixing and cleaning (deburring) problems and permit the use of mixing vessels of various sizes and shapes.

SOLE CHEMICAL CORP., Chicago, Ill., has a new specification sheet available upon request for a series of four edible sorbitan fatty esters (sorbates) and four polyethoxylated sorbitan fatty esters (polysorbates) which is described in a tabulation of properties.

FISHER SCIENTIFIC Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., has introduced their latest model, the 1963 Fisher Jumbo Electric Stirrer, a new high-safety stirrer for heavy-duty lab tasks.

## Bright Future Forecast for Tallow Derived Products

Italian industrial chemist, Luciano Nobile, Vice President, Chemical Research and Industrial Development, The Ledoga Co., Milan, recently spoke at the annual convention of the National Renderers Association. He predicted greatly increased usage of sugar esters and sugroglycerides derived in large part from tallow.

Since tallow is a low-cost surplus commodity, it was selected for its economy as a raw material. According to Dr. Nobile, their products offer excellent promise for applications in the food, cosmetic, detergent, and pharmaceutical industries, outperforming traditional petroleum-based products in many instances.