

News Release

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Agriculture Statistics

Fruit and Vegetables - March Quarter 2004

During March quarter 2004, 7.6 million kilograms of fresh fruit and vegetables passed through the official markets. When compared to the same period last year, there was an increase of 0.2 million kilograms (+ 2.7%) from 7.4 million kilograms. During this period, the wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables increased by Lm 0.2 million (+ 11.1%) from Lm 1.8 million to Lm 2.0 million.

While the volume of fresh vegetables increased by 0.2 million kilograms (+ 3.6%) from 7.2 million kilograms to 7.4 million kilograms, the total wholesale value of fresh vegetables amounted to Lm 1.9 million, an increase of Lm 0.2 million (+ 13.7%), when compared to the same period last year. The four main items which contributed to the increase in volume were Broad Beans, Cauliflower, Lettuce and Vegetable Marrows as the volume of these products, passing through the markets, increased by 56.0%, 17.4%, 19.3% and 49.3% respectively. A drop of 32.4% in the availability of dry onions was recorded.

The total fruit passing through the official markets in the period under review, declined both in quantity and in wholesale value. Whereas, the quantity of fresh fruit declined by 32.2 per cent from 214,230 to 145,195 kilograms, the wholesale value of fresh fruit declined by 18.2 per cent from Lm 102,016 to Lm 83,456. Sweet Oranges was mainly responsible for the drop, both in volume and in value of total fruit produce.

Regional Statistics

The share of agricultural production differs by region. Whereas 86.9 per cent of all vegetables passing through the official markets came from Maltese farmers, 52.9 per cent of all fruit were provided by Gozitan farmers.

During the period under review, the total quantity of fresh fruit and vegetables provided by Maltese farmers, increased by 0.2 million kilograms (+ 3.7%) from 6.3 million kilograms to 6.5 million kilograms. The wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables also increased by Lm 0.2 million (+14.8%) from Lm 1.4 million to Lm 1.6 million.

On the other hand, the total amount of fresh fruit and vegetables passing through the official markets provided by Gozitan farmers dropped by 2.5 per cent from 1.1 million kilograms in the first quarter of 2003 to 1.0 million kilograms in the first quarter this year. The wholesale value of Gozitan produce increased by 4.8 per cent from Lm 341,932 to Lm 358,422.

Indices

The 'All Items' fresh vegetables price index for the month of March stood at 152.8 points, a decline of 29.8 points (-16.3%) from 182.6 points in the same month last year. While, during the month of March, increases in the average prices of Potatoes (+99.7%), Dry Onions (+203.3%) and Carrots (+108.4%) were recorded, other vegetable crops registered declines in the average prices. These were Tomatoes (-19.2%), Vegetable Marrows (-60.8%) and Cauliflowers (-30.7%).

The monthly calendar of NSO News Releases may be consulted on the Office's website at www.nso.gov.mt

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On the other hand, in the month of March, the 'All Items' fresh vegetables volume index increased by 18.3 points (+22.2%) from 82.4 points to 100.7 points in the same month this year. The increase in the volume index was mainly due to the main vegetable crops such as Cabbages (+21.4%), Cauliflowers (+39.9%), Vegetable Marrows (+157.3%) and Tomatoes (+24.2%).

The 'All Items' fresh fruit price index declined by 6.7 points (-3.9%) from 169.4 points in March 2003 to 162.7 points in March 2004. Although the average price per kilogram of Sweet Oranges increased by 53.4 per cent, this increase was offset by declines in the average prices of Strawberries (-6.9%), and Lemons (-14.7%), the other two main fruits grown in March.

On the other hand, the 'All Items' fresh fruit volume index for the month of March increased marginally to 26.4 points when compared to the same period last year. The increase in the quantity of Strawberries (+19.3%), and Lemons (+17.5%) passing through the official markets, was offset by a substantial decline in the availability of Sweet Oranges by 71.5 per cent.

Note: The Fruit and Vegetable News Release is being presented to show the dominant produce. A full list of all produce passing through the official markets will be made available upon request.

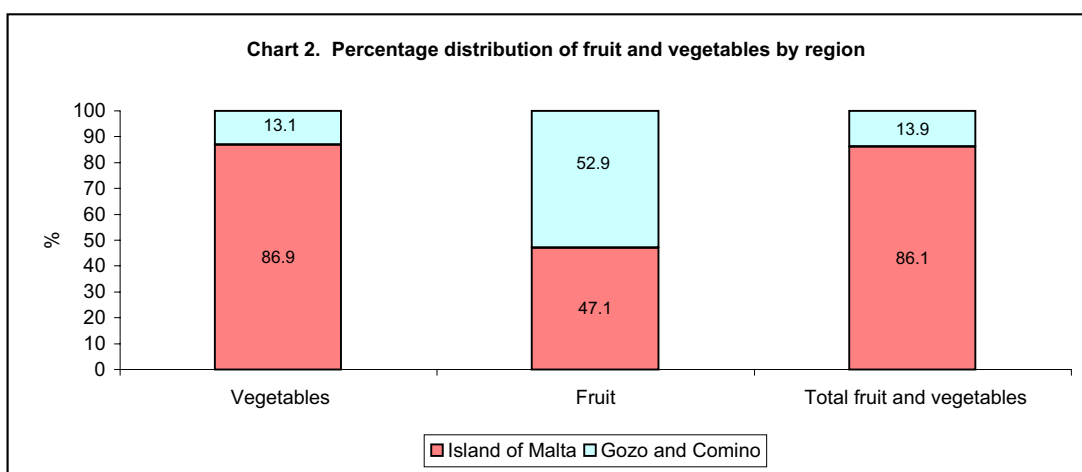
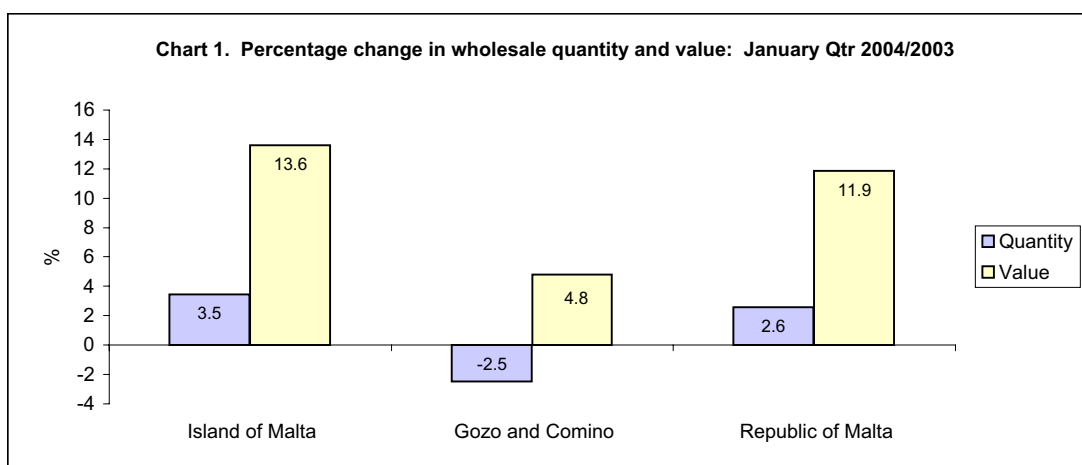


Table 1. Wholesale value and quantity of agricultural products sold through official markets

Item	2003						2004					
	January/March		January		February		March		January/March			
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value		
	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm		
Total vegetables and fruit	7,368,190	1,756,146	2,278,009	673,653	2,402,330	598,605	2,878,885	692,549	7,559,224	1,964,807		
Total vegetables	7,153,959	1,654,131	2,216,413	649,901	2,373,125	585,716	2,824,491	645,733	7,414,029	1,881,351		
<i>of which:</i>												
Artichokes Globe	249,114	101,020	15,691	19,509	62,375	42,906	154,034	26,079	232,100	88,493		
Beans Broad	55,266	33,477	1,291	1,062	6,443	5,126	78,464	43,524	86,198	49,711		
Bellpepper	63,735	49,033	22,136	15,883	21,797	15,823	29,091	18,983	73,024	50,689		
Cabbages	675,838	55,338	215,733	36,218	238,590	24,885	254,490	11,661	708,813	72,764		
Carrots	526,018	50,730	158,523	35,794	163,330	30,549	169,411	35,111	491,264	101,453		
Cauliflowers	716,393	156,913	270,113	65,349	321,289	53,630	249,898	57,317	841,300	176,297		
Celery	113,720	12,284	34,751	7,393	33,670	5,414	46,371	4,057	114,792	16,863		
Cucumber	74,955	43,713	19,566	19,427	23,731	18,174	28,742	19,944	72,039	57,545		
Eggplant	35,629	33,571	10,029	11,319	10,242	11,842	17,678	13,504	37,948	36,666		
Kohlrabi	256,951	37,918	82,331	17,477	97,425	12,466	109,860	9,848	289,616	39,791		
Lettuce	389,392	77,110	137,851	22,883	136,220	18,190	190,561	14,921	464,632	55,994		
Marrows Vegetable	362,249	262,792	132,591	106,419	153,780	85,164	254,423	89,466	540,793	281,049		
Melons Sugar	630	118	44	12	676	85	16	4	736	101		
Melons Water	50	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Onions Dry	542,440	75,843	170,544	55,572	122,897	50,610	73,561	34,429	367,002	140,611		
Onions Green	38,538	2,842	9,279	346	13,243	625	39,269	3,233	61,791	4,204		
Potatoes	1,389,063	161,642	386,118	56,758	399,345	60,954	457,239	96,293	1,242,702	214,005		
Pumpkins	174,256	29,424	55,987	5,361	50,759	4,730	53,036	5,381	159,782	15,472		
Tomatoes	582,425	270,140	170,713	109,453	183,015	83,833	253,139	96,539	606,867	289,825		
Other vegetables	907,299	200,212	323,123	63,667	334,300	60,710	365,210	65,439	1,022,633	189,817		
Total fruit	214,230	102,016	61,596	23,752	29,205	12,889	54,394	46,816	145,195	83,456		
<i>of which:</i>												
Figs Dry	381	268	67	46	6	5	-	-	73	50		
Figs Early	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Grapes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Lemons	61,454	12,682	19,853	3,021	17,020	2,200	25,216	4,173	62,089	9,394		
Nectarines	20	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Oranges Sweet	94,617	27,884	31,610	13,148	7,358	3,805	2,885	1,516	41,853	18,469		
Peaches	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Plums Cherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Pomegranates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Strawberries	29,605	55,188	2,144	4,719	2,613	6,136	25,675	40,921	30,432	51,775		
Other fruit	28,153	5,970	7,922	2,818	2,208	744	618	205	10,748	3,768		

Table 2. Wholesale value and quantity of agricultural products sold through official markets

Item	2003						2004					
	January/March		January		February		March		January/March			
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value		
	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm		
Total vegetables and fruit	6,292,114	1,414,213	1,975,163	551,844	2,065,559	488,899	2,469,263	565,642	6,509,984	1,606,385		
Total vegetables	6,210,521	1,351,650	1,956,331	543,971	2,051,862	481,904	2,433,376	526,407	6,441,568	1,552,282		
<i>of which:</i>												
Artichokes Globe	226,139	89,183	13,281	16,729	55,287	38,781	144,645	23,517	213,213	79,027		
Beans Broad	48,695	28,872	1,202	958	6,062	4,788	61,182	33,851	68,446	39,596		
Bellpepper	43,669	32,805	13,580	9,978	12,539	9,124	15,732	10,720	41,851	29,822		
Cabbages	590,704	47,990	192,780	32,668	209,115	21,307	227,685	10,059	629,580	64,034		
Carrots	487,787	45,785	145,079	31,644	147,464	27,052	150,832	31,388	443,375	90,084		
Cauliflowers	623,092	130,869	247,231	58,216	281,430	45,002	214,649	47,144	743,310	150,362		
Celery	95,429	9,595	27,658	5,780	27,248	4,251	39,630	3,247	94,536	13,279		
Cucumber	41,786	21,856	11,245	11,049	10,019	7,639	12,871	9,003	34,135	27,691		
Eggplant	19,968	17,013	5,270	5,577	4,329	4,818	7,887	5,898	17,485	16,293		
Kohlrabi	224,296	32,823	75,640	15,309	88,854	10,516	99,057	8,476	263,551	34,301		
Lettuce	343,805	67,745	126,001	20,197	121,000	15,470	171,501	12,846	418,502	48,513		
Marrows Vegetable	290,554	211,875	106,295	84,413	126,439	69,745	206,275	72,422	439,009	226,580		
Melons Sugar	330	104	-	-	75	3	-	-	75	3		
Melons Water	50	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Onions Dry	514,744	71,324	159,410	51,434	115,489	47,388	70,910	33,318	345,809	132,140		
Onions Green	31,224	2,358	8,898	327	11,375	471	33,752	2,675	54,025	3,474		
Potatoes	1,227,391	140,551	339,741	49,482	348,992	52,867	404,554	84,976	1,093,287	187,325		
Pumpkins	144,270	24,174	47,522	4,577	41,477	3,830	45,299	4,614	134,298	13,021		
Tomatoes	475,381	220,474	145,360	93,204	150,323	68,800	209,210	79,079	504,893	241,083		
Other vegetables	781,205	156,242	290,139	52,427	294,346	50,052	317,707	53,174	902,192	155,652		
Total fruit	81,593	62,563	18,832	7,873	13,697	6,995	35,887	39,235	68,416	54,103		
<i>of which:</i>												
Figs Dry	9	7	7	5	-	-	-	-	7	5		
Figs Early	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Grapes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Lemons	30,163	6,473	11,638	1,787	9,805	1,270	12,167	2,059	33,610	5,116		
Nectarines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Oranges Sweet	8,220	2,274	1,591	677	79	36	30	15	1,700	728		
Peaches	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Plums Cherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Pomegranates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Strawberries	27,342	50,578	1,928	4,242	2,220	5,197	23,421	37,080	27,569	46,519		
Other fruit	15,859	3,231	3,668	1,162	1,593	493	269	81	5,530	1,735		

Table 3. Wholesale value and quantity of agricultural products sold through official markets

Item	2003						2004					
	January/March		January		February		March		January/March			
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value		
	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm		
Total vegetables and fruit	1,076,076	341,933	302,847	121,809	336,771	109,706	409,622	126,907	1,049,240	358,422		
Total vegetables	943,438	302,481	260,083	105,930	321,263	103,812	391,115	119,327	972,460	329,070		
<i>of which:</i>												
Artichokes Globe	22,974	11,836	2,410	2,780	7,088	4,124	9,389	2,563	18,887	9,466		
Beans Broad	6,570	4,605	89	104	381	338	17,282	9,673	17,752	10,115		
Bellpepper	20,065	16,228	8,556	5,904	9,258	6,700	13,359	8,263	31,173	20,867		
Cabbages	85,134	7,348	22,953	3,550	29,475	3,578	26,805	1,603	79,233	8,730		
Carrots	38,231	4,945	13,444	4,150	15,866	3,497	18,579	3,723	47,889	11,369		
Cauliflowers	93,301	26,043	22,882	7,133	39,859	8,628	35,249	10,174	97,990	25,934		
Celery	18,291	2,689	7,093	1,613	6,422	1,162	6,741	809	20,256	3,585		
Cucumber	33,169	21,858	8,321	8,378	13,712	10,535	15,871	10,941	37,904	29,854		
Eggplant	15,660	16,558	4,759	5,742	5,913	7,025	9,791	7,606	20,463	20,373		
Kohlrabi	32,655	5,095	6,691	2,168	8,571	1,950	10,803	1,372	26,065	5,490		
Lettuce	45,587	9,366	11,850	2,685	15,220	2,721	19,060	2,075	46,130	7,481		
Marrows Vegetable	71,695	50,916	26,296	22,006	27,341	15,419	48,148	17,043	101,785	54,469		
Melons Sugar	300	15	44	12	601	82	16	4	661	98		
Melons Water	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Onions Dry	27,696	4,519	11,134	4,137	7,408	3,222	2,651	1,112	21,193	8,471		
Onions Green	7,314	484	381	19	1,868	154	5,517	557	7,766	730		
Potatoes	161,672	21,091	46,377	7,276	50,353	8,087	52,685	11,317	149,415	26,681		
Pumpkins	29,986	5,249	8,465	785	9,282	900	7,737	767	25,484	2,451		
Tomatoes	107,044	49,666	25,354	16,249	32,692	15,033	43,929	17,460	101,974	48,742		
Other vegetables	126,094	43,971	32,984	11,241	39,954	10,658	47,503	12,265	120,441	34,164		
Total fruit	132,638	39,452	42,764	15,879	15,509	5,893	18,507	7,580	76,779	29,353		
<i>of which:</i>												
Figs Dry	372	261	60	41	6	5	-	-	66	45		
Figs Early	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Grapes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Lemons	31,291	6,210	8,215	1,234	7,215	930	13,049	2,114	28,479	4,278		
Nectarines	20	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Oranges Sweet	86,397	25,610	30,019	12,471	7,279	3,769	2,855	1,501	40,153	17,742		
Peaches	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Plums Cherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Pomegranates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Strawberries	2,264	4,609	216	477	394	939	2,254	3,841	2,863	5,256		
Other fruit	12,294	2,738	4,254	1,656	615	251	349	125	5,218	2,032		

Table 4. 'All Items' Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Index

Month	Fresh Fruit Index		Fresh Vegetables Index	
	Price Index	Volume Index	Price Index	Volume Index
2002				
January	208.25	67.26	205.62	90.98
February	205.46	36.04	142.93	98.14
March	114.00	34.61	125.27	99.68
April	97.73	62.20	166.34	124.41
May	127.63	88.39	97.85	130.57
June	113.10	179.69	88.51	134.92
July	150.88	120.83	79.08	171.46
August	131.35	158.04	93.00	154.37
September	176.25	77.10	101.40	128.50
October	143.02	32.85	115.67	104.92
November	122.84	54.07	110.82	89.34
December	203.33	93.63	112.69	91.96
2003				
January	180.85	50.31	121.41	95.76
February	189.96	27.31	179.21	76.90
March	169.43	26.38	182.60	82.44
April	110.41	54.34	170.72	108.73
May	176.10	74.29	175.39	118.06
June	137.80	160.14	73.95	174.42
July	158.81	122.89	69.49	193.61
August	135.94	169.58	77.99	153.74
September	166.47	142.37	105.58	122.77
October	163.30	54.19	139.07	80.02
November	127.85	61.80	149.24	71.90
December	197.56	82.23	155.29	78.77
2004				
January	182.84	29.90	193.32	79.04
February	197.01	14.18	156.59	84.62
March	162.75	26.41	152.79	100.72

