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Agriculture

Fruit and Vegetables - June Quarter 2005

During the second quarter of 2005, 12.5 million kilograms of fresh fruit and vegetables were transacted at the vegetable markets. This was an increase of 0.2 million kilograms (+1.7 per cent) over the same period last year, up from 12.2 million kilograms. Whilst the increase in fresh fruit and vegetable availability was minimal, the wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables increased by Lm 0.4 million liri (+24.6 per cent) from Lm 1.8 million in 2004 to Lm 2.2 million 2005.

During the first six months of 2005, the total supply of fresh fruit and vegetables passing through the markets rose by 0.4 million kilograms (+ 1.9 per cent), from 19.8 million kilograms in 2004, to 20.2 million kilograms in the corresponding period this year. This produce netted an increase of Lm 0.2 million liri (+6.3 per cent) which stood at Lm 3.7 million in the first six months of 2004 and up to Lm 4.0 in Jan/June period this year.

Regional Statistics

During the second quarter this year, Maltese farmers marketed 11.2 million kilograms of fresh produce (90.0 per cent) of the total marketed production. The relative share of produce increased by 3.7 percentage points (4.3 per cent) from the 86.3 percentage share in the same period last year.

During period under review, Gozitan farmers registered a decline in the volume of produce passing through the markets from 1.7 million kilograms to 1.2 million kilograms (-25.5 per cent). Similarly, the wholesale value registered a drop of 16.4 per cent from Lm 0.28 million liri in the second quarter of 2004 to Lm 0.24 million liri in the second quarter of 2005.

Indices

The 'All Items' fresh vegetables price index for the month of June stood at 73.39 points, 19.4 points (+36.0 per cent) higher than the same month in 2004. Increases in the wholesale price per kilogram of the main agricultural products in the month of June were responsible for the rise in the price index. Similarly, the 'All Items' fresh vegetables volume index increased from 161.57 points to 171.71 points, up by 10.14 points (+6.3 per cent) when compared to June 2004. Although declines in major crops, such as Cabbages (-12.3 per cent), Cauliflowers (-39.0 per cent), and Water melons (-9.1 per cent) were recorded, increases in the volumes of most of the agricultural products were responsible for the increase in the volume index.

The 'All Items' fresh fruit price index increased by 13.3 points (+12.9 per cent) from 102.96 points in June 2004 to 116.23 points in June 2005. The rise in the index was mainly due to an increase of average unit prices of strawberries (+58.4 per cent) and peaches (+35.3 per cent). Other major products, such as figs, lemons, and cherry plums registered declines in their respective average unit prices. Similarly, the volume index rose by 18.1 points (+8.3 per cent) from 218.36 points in June 2004 to 236.46 points in June 2005. The substantial increase in the volume of Figs (+64.0 per cent) and Cherry plums (+340.0 per cent) outweighed the declines in the other major fruit species available in the month of June.

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

Malta & Gozo														
Item	2004				2005									
	April/June		January/June		April		May		June		April/June		January/June	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm
Total vegetables and fruit	12,245,661	1,762,008	19,804,885	3,726,815	3,403,762	712,371	3,752,153	717,064	5,302,379	766,704	12,458,295	2,196,139	20,187,274	3,960,315
Total vegetables	11,504,615	1,421,998	18,918,643	3,303,349	3,255,728	596,728	3,594,973	611,998	4,815,315	592,448	11,666,016	1,801,175	19,027,875	3,468,944
<i>of which:</i>														
Artichokes Globe	103,838	5,389	335,938	93,883	81,993	4,019	5,298	201	-	-	87,291	4,220	338,170	82,388
Beans Broad	380,178	87,261	466,376	136,972	385,751	57,075	217,291	16,332	3,333	472	606,375	73,879	667,414	110,313
Bellpepper	190,369	53,845	263,392	104,535	27,486	15,807	52,361	23,532	105,789	20,876	185,636	60,215	258,489	109,085
Cabbages	662,753	17,965	1,371,566	90,729	207,675	19,514	180,540	21,222	169,525	9,302	557,740	50,038	1,232,444	119,785
Carrots	506,241	80,424	997,505	181,877	109,943	19,933	75,199	16,637	102,478	28,208	287,620	64,778	698,816	105,676
Cauliflowers	954,424	47,440	1,795,724	223,736	391,744	30,421	400,303	23,232	164,400	15,299	956,447	68,952	2,285,719	207,128
Celery	105,253	9,686	220,045	26,549	34,562	3,073	32,967	4,371	38,835	2,786	106,364	10,231	231,421	22,358
Cucumber	205,811	47,493	277,850	105,038	32,734	21,040	105,301	9,670	129,963	7,734	267,998	38,444	333,942	85,797
Eggplant	153,507	34,983	191,455	71,649	22,592	12,286	41,818	15,362	103,527	11,337	167,937	38,985	215,808	76,119
Kohlrabi	209,712	13,106	499,328	52,897	91,539	7,958	69,284	6,191	50,140	3,145	210,963	17,294	583,649	44,891
Lettuce	610,186	42,375	1,074,818	98,369	229,319	16,538	255,498	17,212	247,880	28,510	732,697	62,259	1,092,076	145,121
Marrows Vegetable	1,063,058	105,637	1,603,851	386,686	195,466	110,647	407,167	58,990	271,774	41,461	874,407	211,099	1,369,711	515,923
Melons Sugar	815,839	139,283	816,575	139,384	164	156	49,307	29,583	709,321	91,090	758,792	120,829	759,823	121,098
Melons Water	1,009,874	108,908	1,009,874	108,908	-	-	22,095	10,997	872,139	123,773	894,234	134,770	894,237	134,771
Onions Dry	318,404	48,580	685,406	189,191	52,923	23,028	100,437	13,571	261,010	20,231	414,370	56,830	747,333	154,447
Onions Green	324,525	29,602	386,316	33,805	171,770	12,623	216,315	13,254	39,716	1,667	427,801	27,543	456,785	29,485
Potatoes	1,654,093	156,501	2,896,795	370,506	459,227	55,570	667,024	64,901	696,360	42,692	1,822,611	163,163	2,732,920	261,838
Pumpkins	122,369	13,051	282,151	28,523	55,267	12,335	34,830	11,375	29,030	8,780	119,127	32,490	314,723	51,155
Tomatoes	1,331,261	234,170	1,938,127	523,995	336,388	103,666	371,439	191,226	573,223	86,413	1,281,050	381,305	1,923,584	670,056
Other vegetables	782,921	146,301	1,805,553	336,117	369,185	71,038	290,500	64,140	246,872	48,672	906,557	183,851	1,890,812	421,511
Total fruit	741,046	340,009	886,241	423,466	148,035	115,642	157,180	105,066	487,065	174,256	792,279	394,964	1,159,400	491,371
<i>of which:</i>														
Figs Dry	-	-	73	50	24	3	-	-	27	10	51	13	103	48
Figs Early	98,454	42,690	98,454	42,690	-	-	-	-	161,108	43,152	161,108	43,152	161,108	43,152
Grapes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lemons	106,236	19,595	168,325	28,988	24,239	1,237	26,214	1,801	33,441	3,595	83,894	6,632	141,845	10,494
Nectarines	61,307	20,576	61,307	20,576	-	-	232	163	33,303	13,097	33,535	13,260	33,535	13,260
Oranges Sweet	1,782	715	43,635	19,184	13,100	2,657	1,979	510	238	56	15,317	3,223	223,639	40,182
Peaches	221,845	67,830	221,845	67,830	-	-	5,552	3,526	127,054	55,206	132,606	58,732	132,606	58,732
Plums Cherry	14,328	6,907	14,328	6,907	-	-	286	278	61,583	13,124	61,869	13,401	61,869	13,401
Pomegranates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Strawberries	216,686	173,667	247,118	225,442	107,454	110,952	119,259	97,847	48,226	35,781	274,938	244,579	297,603	287,069
Other fruit	20,409	8,029	31,157	11,797	3,218	794	3,658	942	22,085	10,236	28,961	11,971	107,092	25,033

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

Malta														
Item	2004				2005									
	April/June		January/June		April		May		June		April/June		January/June	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm
Total vegetables and fruit	10,569,316	1,480,418	17,079,300	3,086,803	3,037,641	616,144	3,364,207	643,089	4,807,198	701,549	11,209,046	1,960,782	17,873,472	3,400,003
Total vegetables	9,944,933	1,180,243	16,386,501	2,732,525	2,917,389	507,726	3,228,334	544,806	4,359,380	538,147	10,505,103	1,590,679	17,049,762	2,977,724
<i>of which:</i>														
Artichokes Globe	96,511	4,642	309,724	83,669	77,070	3,409	4,648	154	-	-	81,718	3,563	318,906	75,468
Beans Broad	283,280	66,363	351,726	105,959	339,915	50,756	185,734	13,964	3,146	447	528,795	65,167	584,553	97,690
Bellpepper	159,609	42,215	201,459	72,037	16,696	9,499	39,590	18,620	94,212	19,126	150,498	47,245	192,116	75,262
Cabbages	612,882	16,161	1,242,462	80,196	192,900	17,681	166,035	19,415	160,125	8,544	519,060	45,640	1,131,724	108,630
Carrots	458,924	71,470	902,299	161,554	106,691	19,450	70,358	15,717	93,374	26,187	270,423	61,354	665,840	99,823
Cauliflowers	897,989	43,453	1,641,299	193,815	356,089	26,804	378,898	21,247	164,085	15,277	899,072	63,328	2,102,447	183,780
Celery	89,815	7,820	184,351	21,099	32,741	2,756	30,759	3,899	36,288	2,409	99,788	9,064	210,803	19,412
Cucumber	144,785	29,134	178,920	56,826	15,242	9,332	74,165	6,169	82,419	4,518	171,826	20,019	199,898	39,996
Eggplant	105,061	20,940	122,546	37,233	11,164	6,232	25,328	9,623	83,226	8,671	119,718	24,526	144,297	42,638
Kohlrabi	189,987	11,321	453,538	45,622	82,971	6,908	64,388	5,590	48,910	2,988	196,269	15,487	542,978	39,731
Lettuce	552,408	37,367	970,910	85,880	217,789	14,951	236,958	15,192	230,370	25,656	685,117	55,799	1,006,356	129,528
Marrows Vegetable	943,045	92,016	1,382,054	318,596	161,972	92,187	361,385	52,158	248,317	38,352	771,674	182,696	1,148,700	415,555
Melons Sugar	692,719	123,273	692,794	123,276	164	156	49,160	29,499	673,846	86,116	723,170	115,770	723,850	115,979
Melons Water	905,541	97,973	905,541	97,973	-	-	22,095	10,997	851,469	121,900	873,564	132,897	873,567	132,898
Onions Dry	179,429	31,224	525,238	163,364	50,664	22,653	65,707	9,788	155,419	11,276	271,790	43,718	587,023	135,682
Onions Green	281,592	25,087	335,617	28,561	162,535	11,791	199,405	11,902	39,616	1,662	401,556	25,354	426,090	26,833
Potatoes	1,434,872	133,339	2,528,159	320,664	432,437	51,934	616,428	59,268	634,948	38,641	1,683,813	149,842	2,518,740	239,904
Pumpkins	101,780	11,034	236,078	24,055	48,012	10,849	29,659	9,872	24,211	7,409	101,882	28,131	278,527	45,034
Tomatoes	1,124,547	198,741	1,629,440	439,824	302,466	93,731	342,196	176,084	507,244	76,794	1,151,906	346,609	1,702,664	592,269
Other vegetables	690,158	116,670	1,592,349	272,322	309,872	56,647	265,438	55,648	228,155	42,175	803,465	154,470	1,690,685	361,612
Total fruit	624,383	300,175	692,798	354,279	120,251	108,418	135,873	98,283	447,819	163,402	703,943	370,103	823,710	422,279
<i>of which:</i>														
Figs Dry	-	-	7	5	24	3	-	-	27	10	51	13	103	48
Figs Early	90,904	38,990	90,904	38,990	-	-	-	-	159,002	42,386	159,002	42,386	159,002	42,386
Grapes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lemons	42,426	7,969	76,036	13,085	15,417	691	16,249	1,084	16,310	1,714	47,976	3,490	86,059	5,845
Nectarines	58,353	19,698	58,353	19,698	-	-	232	163	31,976	12,700	32,208	12,863	32,208	12,863
Oranges Sweet	16	3	1,716	731	227	67	-	-	-	-	227	67	20,965	4,095
Peaches	203,633	62,463	203,633	62,463	-	-	5,499	3,489	118,665	52,147	124,164	55,636	124,164	55,636
Plums Cherry	13,914	6,688	13,914	6,688	-	-	286	278	58,966	12,532	59,252	12,810	59,252	12,810
Pomegranates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Strawberries	198,070	157,550	225,638	204,069	102,293	107,075	109,984	92,330	45,775	33,468	258,052	232,873	279,053	272,279
Other fruit	17,068	6,815	22,598	8,550	2,290	581	3,623	940	17,098	8,446	23,011	9,967	62,904	16,317

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

Item	Gozo													
	2004				2005									
	April/June		January/June		April		May		June		April/June		January/June	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	Kg	Lm	
Total vegetables and fruit	1,676,346	281,589	2,725,585	640,011	366,122	96,227	387,947	73,975	495,181	65,155	1,249,249	235,357	2,313,802	560,312
Total vegetables	1,559,682	241,755	2,532,142	570,824	338,338	89,002	366,640	67,192	455,935	54,302	1,160,913	210,496	1,978,112	491,220
<i>of which:</i>														
Artichokes Globe	7,327	747	26,214	10,213	4,923	610	650	47	-	-	5,573	657	19,264	6,919
Beans Broad	96,898	20,899	114,650	31,014	45,836	6,319	31,557	2,368	187	25	77,580	8,712	82,861	12,623
Bellpepper	30,760	11,631	61,933	32,498	10,790	6,308	12,771	4,912	11,577	1,751	35,138	12,970	66,373	33,822
Cabbages	49,871	1,803	129,104	10,534	14,775	1,833	14,505	1,806	9,400	758	38,680	4,398	100,720	11,155
Carrots	47,317	8,954	95,206	20,323	3,252	484	4,841	920	9,104	2,021	17,197	3,424	32,976	5,853
Cauliflowers	56,435	3,987	154,425	29,921	35,655	3,617	21,405	1,985	315	22	57,375	5,624	183,272	23,348
Celery	15,438	1,866	35,694	5,450	1,821	317	2,208	472	2,547	378	6,576	1,167	20,618	2,946
Cucumber	61,026	18,359	98,930	48,213	17,492	11,708	31,136	3,501	47,544	3,217	96,172	18,425	134,044	45,801
Eggplant	48,446	14,043	68,909	34,416	11,428	6,054	16,490	5,739	20,301	2,666	48,219	14,459	71,511	33,481
Kohlrabi	19,725	1,785	45,790	7,275	8,568	1,050	4,896	600	1,230	157	14,694	1,807	40,671	5,159
Lettuce	57,778	5,008	103,908	12,489	11,530	1,587	18,540	2,019	17,510	2,855	47,580	6,460	85,720	15,594
Marrows Vegetable	120,013	13,620	221,798	68,089	33,494	18,461	45,782	6,833	23,457	3,109	102,733	28,402	221,011	100,367
Melons Sugar	123,120	16,010	123,781	16,108	-	-	147	85	35,475	4,974	35,622	5,059	35,973	5,119
Melons Water	104,333	10,935	104,333	10,935	-	-	-	-	20,670	1,873	20,670	1,873	20,670	1,873
Onions Dry	138,975	17,356	160,168	25,827	2,259	374	34,730	3,783	105,591	8,955	142,580	13,112	160,310	18,765
Onions Green	42,933	4,514	50,699	5,245	9,235	833	16,910	1,352	100	5	26,245	2,190	30,695	2,652
Potatoes	219,221	23,162	368,636	49,842	26,790	3,637	50,596	5,633	61,412	4,051	138,798	13,321	214,180	21,934
Pumpkins	20,589	2,017	46,073	4,468	7,255	1,486	5,171	1,503	4,819	1,371	17,245	4,359	36,196	6,122
Tomatoes	206,714	35,429	308,688	84,171	33,922	9,935	29,243	15,142	65,979	9,620	129,144	34,696	220,920	77,787
Other vegetables	92,763	29,631	213,204	63,795	59,313	14,391	25,062	8,492	18,717	6,497	103,092	29,380	200,127	59,899
Total fruit	116,664	39,834	193,443	69,187	27,783	7,225	21,307	6,783	39,246	10,853	88,336	24,861	335,690	69,092
<i>of which:</i>														
Figs Dry	-	-	66	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Figs Early	7,550	3,700	7,550	3,700	-	-	-	-	2,106	766	2,106	766	2,106	766
Grapes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lemons	63,810	11,626	92,289	15,904	8,822	546	9,965	717	17,131	1,881	35,918	3,143	55,786	4,648
Nectarines	2,954	878	2,954	878	-	-	-	-	1,327	397	1,327	397	1,327	397
Oranges Sweet	1,766	712	41,919	18,454	12,873	2,590	1,979	510	238	56	15,090	3,156	202,674	36,086
Peaches	18,212	5,368	18,212	5,368	-	-	53	38	8,389	3,059	8,442	3,097	8,442	3,097
Plums Cherry	414	219	414	219	-	-	-	-	2,617	592	2,617	592	2,617	592
Pomegranates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Strawberries	18,617	16,117	21,480	21,373	5,160	3,877	9,275	5,517	2,451	2,313	16,886	11,707	18,550	14,789
Other fruit	3,341	1,214	8,559	3,247	928	213	35	2	4,987	1,790	5,950	2,004	44,188	8,716

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

Month	Fresh Fruit Index		Fresh Vegetables Index	
	Price Index	Volume Index	Price Index	Volume Index
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
April	92.44	70.29	127.41	120.28
May	152.26	71.12	83.65	128.40
June	102.96	218.36	53.95	161.57
July	133.99	175.58	64.86	219.96
August	107.71	251.15	61.98	182.93
September	144.06	193.91	71.48	133.67
October	158.02	63.66	67.59	104.85
November	103.22	67.92	112.89	94.43
December	202.20	80.81	134.24	84.08
2005				
January	177.97	87.19	159.72	94.72
February	181.90	47.82	173.24	70.80
March	134.43	43.22	121.98	96.99
April	86.16	71.87	142.82	116.10
May	136.07	76.31	137.07	128.19
June	116.23	236.46	73.39	171.71

Methodological Notes

1. The information is collected from the four official markets namely; Pitkali Malta, Co-op Malta, Pitkali Gozo, Co-op Gozo where all farmers deposit their produce for sale to licensed hawkers, through private middlemen. The information is compiled on a daily basis, Monday and Thursdays being the busiest days. The data is forwarded to the NSO on a monthly basis.
2. The data is recorded by crop where quantities and value are kept, together with average unit price.
3. The quantities and prices per kilogram of each individual product are then used in the compilation of monthly volume and price indices for each agricultural product. The indices are used to monitor developments in price and volume movements over a particular period. The price and volume indices have 1995 as the base year. The indices are calculated using the Laspayres method with fixed weights.
4. The regional data are derived at source where every consignment at the official markets are classified by the residence of the farmer.
5. The data in this release are not normally subject to revision.
6. 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.
7. These statistics are published and disseminated by the National Statistics Office and can also be found on the NSO website <http://www.nso.gov.mt>

NUTS classification

The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) is a common classification that is used to provide a single uniform breakdown of territorial units for the production of regional statistics with regard to the European Union. It was adopted on 26 May 2003 by means of a Regulation¹ of the European Parliament and of the Council.

¹ (EC) No. 1059/2003

NUTS levels					
Administrative area	I (National)	II (National)	III (Regional)	IV (District)	V (Locality)
MALTA	x	x	x	x	x
Malta			x		
Gozo & Comino			x		
Southern Harbour				x	
Northern Harbour				x	
South Eastern				x	
Western				x	
Northern				x	
Gozo & Comino				x	

COMPOSITION OF DISTRICTS - NUTS level V

Southern Harbour: Valletta, Birgu, Isla, Bormla, Żabbar, Fgura, Floriana, Kalkara, Luqa, Marsa Paola, Santa Luċija, Tarxien, Xgħajra.

Northern Harbour: Qormi, B'Kara, Gżira, Ħamrun, Msida, Pembroke, Pieta, San Ġiljan, San Ġwann, Santa Venera, Sliema, Swieqi, Ta' Xbiex.

South Eastern: Żejtun, B'Bugia, Gudja, Għaxaq, Kirkop, M'Scala, M'Xlokk, Mqabba, Qrendi, Safi, Żurrieq.

Western: Mdina, Żebbuġ, Siġġiewi, Attard, Balzan, Dingli, Iklin, Lija, Rabat, Mtarfa.

Northern: Għargħur, Mellieħa, Mgarr, Mosta, Naxxar, San Pawl il-Baħar.

Gozo and Comino: Rabat, Fontana, G'Sielem & Comino, Għarb, Għasri, Kerċem, Munxar, Nadur, Qala, San Lawrenz, Sannat, Xgħira, Xewkija, Żebbuġ.