

News Release



Date: 1 February 2006
No. : 19/2006
Time of release: 11.00 hrs

Theme:
Agriculture and
Fisheries

Compiled by:

Agriculture & Fisheries Unit
e-mail: agric.nso@gov.mt
Tel: 25997529

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

Agriculture

Fruit and Vegetables - December Quarter 2005

December Quarter 2005

During December quarter of 2005, 8.1 million kilograms of fresh fruit and vegetables passed through organised markets. When compared to the same quarter in 2004, a decline of 0.3 million kilograms (-3.9 per cent) was registered. Fresh fruit and vegetables availability declined as a result of the significant drop in the supply of potatoes. Similarly, the wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables dropped by Lm0.09 million (-5.9 per cent) from Lm1.38 million in the fourth quarter of 2004 to Lm1.30 million in the fourth quarter of 2005.

Annual 2005

The total supply of fresh fruit and vegetables passing through the markets fell by 1.4 million kilograms (-3.0 per cent), from 44.5 million kilograms in 2004 to 43.2 million kilograms in 2005. The wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables for 2005 remained practically unchanged. The total supply declined mainly due to a drop in the availability of potatoes.

Regional Statistics

During the fourth quarter of 2005, Maltese farmers marketed 7.1 million kilograms of fresh produce or 88.1 per cent of the total marketed production. When compared to the same period in 2004, the volume of fresh fruit and vegetables dropped marginally by 1.4 per cent, from 7.2 million kilograms. The wholesale value of this produce dropped from Lm1.14 million in the fourth quarter of 2004 to Lm1.10 million in the fourth quarter 2005, representing a decline of 4.0 per cent.

In 2005, Maltese farmers supplied a total of 36.8 million kilograms of fresh fruit and vegetables, a marginal decline of 0.9 per cent, over 2004. On the other hand, the wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables increased by 3.7 per cent, from Lm5.9 million in 2004 to Lm6.1 million in 2005.

During the period covered by this report, Gozitan farmers' supply of fresh fruit and vegetables at the organised markets dropped by 19.2 per cent, from 1.2 million kilograms in the fourth quarter of 2004 to 1.0 million kilograms in the fourth quarter of 2005. Similarly, the wholesale value of marketed fresh fruit and vegetables declined by 15.6 per cent, from Lm0.24 million in the fourth quarter of 2004 to Lm0.20 million over the comparative period in 2005. In 2005, the supply and wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables both declined by 13.6 per cent and 16.4 per cent respectively over 2004.

»

National Statistics Office
Library & Information Unit
Lascaris, Valletta CMR 02, Malta
Tel: (+356) 25997219
Fax: (+356) 25997205
e-mail: nso@gov.mt
<http://www.nso.gov.mt>

Indices

The 'All Items' fresh vegetables price index for the month of December stood at 89.49 points, 44.75 points (-33.3 per cent) lower than the same month in 2004. The price index of fresh vegetables fell mainly due to a drop in average monthly prices of the main crops sold in December, with the exception of potatoes, where the average price increased by 45.4 per cent over the comparative period. On the other hand, the volume index of fresh vegetables rose by 15.3 points or 18.2 per cent when compared to the same period in 2004. Whereas the supply of potatoes and cabbages declined by 13.7 per cent and 11.6 per cent respectively, there were noticeable increases in the supply of the other major crops for the month of December, the most noticeable being vegetable marrows and tomatoes where the supply increased by 64.7 per cent and 59.6 per cent respectively when compared to the same period in 2004.

The 'All Items' fresh fruit price index declined by 32.81 points (-16.2 per cent) from 202.20 points in December 2004 to 169.39 points in December 2005. The decline in the index was a result of a drop in the average unit price of strawberries (-19.8 per cent), although increases in the average unit price of lemons (+66.7 per cent), oranges (+20.9 per cent), and sweet oranges (+28.5 per cent) were registered.

On the other hand, the 'All Items' fresh fruit volume index increased by 9.94 points or 12.3 per cent from 80.81 points in December 2004 to 90.75 points in December 2005. The increase in volume index was a result of the increase in availability of citrus fruit in the month of December when compared to the same period in 2004■

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

Malta & Gozo														
Item	2004				2005									
	October/December		January/December		October		November		December		October/December		January/December	
	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	8,383,680	1,382,669	44,513,630	7,176,715	2,839,874	481,311	2,245,487	350,703	2,973,953	468,486	8,059,314	1,300,500	43,162,302	7,181,269
Total vegetables	7,946,185	1,275,576	41,911,496	6,202,768	2,751,136	458,280	2,106,314	304,795	2,787,034	420,612	7,644,483	1,183,686	40,439,787	6,200,228
<i>of which:</i>														
Artichokes Globe	26,712	16,500	362,650	110,383	-	-	573	754	18,629	14,018	19,202	14,772	357,684	97,230
Beans Broad	498	268	466,968	137,264	345	75	290	102	972	520	1,607	697	669,378	111,092
Bellpepper	137,684	51,536	766,687	199,709	68,065	18,995	36,157	17,391	38,134	14,534	142,355	50,919	732,066	225,430
Cabbages	765,069	26,057	2,634,477	156,193	246,815	16,659	214,446	10,366	218,475	10,371	679,736	37,396	2,376,318	207,515
Carrots	239,717	20,906	1,648,402	245,299	31,702	4,592	69,260	10,125	136,514	16,465	237,476	31,182	1,032,806	157,678
Cauliflowers	1,143,782	124,000	3,186,057	375,096	363,211	35,025	439,534	25,796	462,445	27,037	1,265,190	87,858	3,770,838	317,223
Celery	116,451	12,945	440,270	47,971	46,961	3,252	31,931	2,387	38,156	3,262	117,048	8,900	455,277	38,368
Cucumber	111,961	47,501	686,722	216,050	47,642	19,612	34,256	8,683	34,762	10,232	116,660	38,527	693,256	199,364
Eggplant	158,430	29,627	729,018	128,122	77,165	10,274	45,816	6,345	38,424	9,907	161,405	26,527	708,899	131,070
Kohlrabi	258,918	20,332	827,056	79,330	88,007	6,817	76,300	5,886	97,796	7,035	262,103	19,739	927,674	71,286
Lettuce	443,916	85,111	2,237,281	269,550	227,218	29,903	144,700	23,301	159,896	25,824	531,814	79,027	2,332,769	318,733
Marrows Vegetable	633,374	185,196	3,046,122	698,825	277,848	83,405	255,792	39,354	280,612	61,584	814,252	184,343	2,818,575	880,904
Melons Sugar	75,959	10,170	2,870,737	441,909	22,917	2,319	2,147	219	1,301	173	26,365	2,710	2,985,271	263,547
Melons Water	34,703	4,375	4,400,273	413,407	52,024	3,841	3,593	570	1,020	141	56,637	4,552	4,071,457	366,967
Onions Dry	493,518	87,840	1,852,153	365,706	208,212	26,815	147,768	20,957	197,148	26,856	553,128	74,629	1,929,678	287,468
Onions Green	12,366	583	402,192	34,637	170	8	946	49	663	37	1,779	94	498,268	32,599
Potatoes	1,153,848	75,810	6,054,162	569,179	112,049	12,878	76,089	10,077	266,532	32,793	454,670	55,749	4,978,170	487,827
Pumpkins	157,905	14,187	546,406	51,939	66,266	6,601	42,845	4,043	47,397	4,283	156,508	14,928	588,274	77,405
Tomatoes	907,305	250,132	5,023,442	942,721	360,998	96,335	170,350	63,187	415,768	89,448	947,116	248,970	4,529,637	1,137,152
Other vegetables	1,074,070	212,501	3,730,423	719,479	453,521	80,875	313,521	55,201	332,392	66,093	1,099,433	202,169	3,983,493	791,370
Total fruit	437,495	107,093	2,602,135	973,947	88,739	23,031	139,173	45,909	186,919	47,874	414,830	116,814	2,722,514	981,040
<i>of which:</i>														
Figs Dry	111	45	23,928	12,111	303	67	-	-	121	45	424	113	47,584	11,986
Figs Early	96	6	107,914	47,469	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	170,000	46,496
Grapes	77,106	20,727	476,853	118,515	16,290	6,089	-	-	-	-	16,290	6,089	323,644	92,897
Lemons	68,286	10,285	302,522	56,002	17,107	3,469	16,458	3,054	26,694	4,427	60,259	10,950	267,283	30,703
Nectarines	-	-	178,866	58,966	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	114,895	38,323
Oranges Sweet	133,124	28,026	176,864	47,219	2,960	833	63,107	19,100	86,296	21,605	152,363	41,538	376,032	81,722
Peaches	105	49	761,252	286,656	778	374	-	-	-	-	778	374	474,258	200,031
Plums Cherry	-	-	27,326	13,559	18	10	-	-	-	-	18	10	121,772	27,471
Pomegranates	36,317	8,671	41,898	9,673	37,644	8,916	4,228	1,706	172	99	42,044	10,721	47,313	11,925
Strawberries	10,236	16,540	268,816	246,107	30	73	7,670	11,134	2,821	6,083	10,521	17,290	315,954	307,692
Other fruit	112,114	22,743	235,896	77,670	13,609	3,200	47,710	10,915	70,815	15,614	132,134	29,729	463,781	131,794

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

Malta														
Item	2004				2005									
	October/December		January/December		October		November		December		October/December		January/December	
	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	7,199,869	1,142,975	37,151,193	5,865,118	2,509,837	420,957	1,949,147	282,807	2,642,545	393,421	7,101,529	1,097,185	36,799,383	6,084,872
Total vegetables	6,958,537	1,076,724	35,056,130	5,040,896	2,448,912	404,631	1,900,996	263,222	2,561,492	370,834	6,911,399	1,038,687	34,751,840	5,260,457
<i>of which:</i>														
Artichokes Globe	25,391	15,535	335,115	99,205	-	-	415	544	17,657	13,279	18,072	13,823	337,290	89,363
Beans Broad	488	258	352,308	106,240	336	72	290	102	954	516	1,580	690	586,491	98,462
Bellpepper	112,449	41,212	651,612	152,748	60,257	16,917	31,125	14,712	26,371	10,109	117,752	41,738	627,392	179,276
Cabbages	710,850	22,495	2,409,426	137,332	234,410	15,179	201,449	9,168	204,772	9,286	640,631	33,633	2,210,948	189,675
Carrots	224,068	19,297	1,510,213	219,798	31,184	4,486	68,125	9,919	134,522	16,073	233,831	30,478	992,553	150,332
Cauliflowers	974,749	102,385	2,832,489	318,326	316,394	29,143	410,280	21,922	427,215	23,633	1,153,889	74,698	3,451,364	277,537
Celery	100,566	10,488	375,243	37,839	45,137	2,950	30,422	2,154	36,810	3,030	112,369	8,134	423,824	33,681
Cucumber	69,538	28,794	490,628	129,726	35,838	13,867	24,722	6,143	23,152	6,763	83,712	26,773	470,067	120,580
Eggplant	102,314	18,534	527,932	76,010	58,495	7,793	32,078	4,108	24,853	5,511	115,426	17,411	539,855	83,214
Kohlrabi	234,324	16,991	748,560	67,761	82,494	6,096	69,826	4,855	89,788	6,014	242,108	16,965	861,631	62,634
Lettuce	392,790	73,760	2,005,617	235,163	208,790	26,262	130,900	20,338	150,382	23,964	490,072	70,564	2,158,117	285,655
Marrows Vegetable	524,156	151,395	2,637,912	581,437	247,692	74,182	216,421	32,644	242,737	51,800	706,850	158,626	2,430,946	735,983
Melons Sugar	30,888	5,098	2,251,962	354,277	13,501	1,259	198	12	420	72	14,119	1,343	2,540,198	231,232
Melons Water	28,097	3,765	2,631,808	253,677	38,306	3,216	3,002	469	420	126	41,728	3,811	2,592,064	257,306
Onions Dry	470,763	83,323	1,513,026	317,073	195,144	25,439	141,428	20,037	191,423	26,083	527,995	71,559	1,591,216	252,723
Onions Green	12,171	577	351,298	29,387	170	8	265	12	545	21	980	40	461,819	29,505
Potatoes	1,068,788	69,047	5,459,935	502,476	109,549	12,687	66,115	8,622	242,873	29,832	418,537	51,141	4,576,125	446,826
Pumpkins	133,637	12,175	448,186	43,094	58,643	5,952	38,547	3,672	43,027	3,941	140,217	13,566	512,394	67,718
Tomatoes	799,714	220,614	4,344,691	803,962	321,925	87,551	148,392	54,524	391,216	80,092	861,533	222,167	3,967,548	994,648
Other vegetables	942,797	180,982	3,178,172	575,364	390,647	71,573	286,996	49,267	312,357	60,689	989,999	181,529	3,420,000	674,109
Total fruit	241,332	66,251	2,095,063	824,222	60,926	16,326	48,151	19,584	81,053	22,588	190,129	58,498	2,047,543	824,415
<i>of which:</i>														
Figs Dry	111	45	21,987	11,114	303	67	-	-	121	45	424	113	46,815	11,698
Figs Early	96	6	99,940	43,523	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	167,554	45,684
Grapes	76,141	20,486	456,690	110,732	15,958	5,964	-	-	-	-	15,958	5,964	307,234	85,240
Lemons	35,081	5,070	132,100	23,750	8,340	1,901	7,255	1,325	16,234	2,653	31,829	5,879	144,384	16,117
Nectarines	-	-	173,085	57,398	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	111,081	37,301
Oranges Sweet	30,612	6,797	32,328	7,527	97	27	8,822	2,687	20,175	4,960	29,094	7,674	50,089	11,771
Peaches	76	32	720,814	272,838	778	374	-	-	-	-	778	374	456,325	193,171
Plums Cherry	-	-	25,599	12,764	18	10	-	-	-	-	18	10	113,111	25,773
Pomegranates	23,934	5,230	28,190	5,962	25,741	5,795	1,681	617	42	21	27,464	6,433	31,057	7,180
Strawberries	9,669	15,609	245,815	223,202	30	73	6,654	10,296	2,699	5,944	9,383	16,313	295,842	291,694
Other fruit	65,612	12,976	158,515	55,411	9,661	2,114	23,739	4,659	41,782	8,965	75,182	15,738	324,052	98,787

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

Gozo														
Item	2004				2005									
	October/December		January/December		October		November		December		October/December		January/December	
	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	1,183,812	239,694	7,362,438	1,311,597	330,037	60,354	296,340	67,897	331,408	75,065	956,628	202,360	6,362,918	1,096,397
Total vegetables	987,648	198,853	6,855,366	1,161,872	302,224	53,649	205,318	41,572	225,542	49,778	731,927	144,044	5,687,947	939,772
<i>of which:</i>														
Artichokes Globe	1,321	965	27,535	11,179	-	-	158	210	972	739	-	-	20,394	7,868
Beans Broad	10	10	114,660	31,024	9	3	-	-	18	5	-	-	82,888	12,630
Bellpepper	25,235	10,324	115,075	46,960	7,808	2,077	5,032	2,678	11,763	4,425	24,603	9,181	104,674	46,154
Cabbages	54,219	3,562	225,051	18,860	12,405	1,480	12,997	1,198	13,703	1,086	39,105	3,764	165,370	17,840
Carrots	15,649	1,609	138,189	25,502	518	106	1,135	206	1,992	392	3,645	704	40,253	7,346
Cauliflowers	169,033	21,615	353,568	56,770	46,817	5,882	29,254	3,874	35,230	3,404	111,301	13,161	319,474	39,686
Celery	15,885	2,457	65,027	10,132	1,824	302	1,509	233	1,346	232	4,679	766	31,453	4,687
Cucumber	42,423	18,707	196,094	86,324	11,804	5,745	9,534	2,540	11,610	3,469	32,948	11,754	223,189	78,784
Eggplant	56,116	11,093	201,086	52,112	18,670	2,481	13,738	2,238	13,571	4,396	45,979	9,115	169,044	47,857
Kohlrabi	24,594	3,341	78,496	11,570	5,513	721	6,474	1,031	8,008	1,021	19,995	2,773	66,043	8,652
Lettuce	51,126	11,351	231,664	34,387	18,428	3,641	13,800	2,963	9,514	1,859	41,742	8,463	174,652	33,078
Marrows Vegetable	109,218	33,801	408,211	117,387	30,156	9,223	39,371	6,710	37,875	9,784	107,402	25,716	387,629	144,922
Melons Sugar	45,071	5,072	618,775	87,632	9,416	1,060	1,949	206	881	101	12,246	1,368	445,073	32,315
Melons Water	6,606	610	1,768,465	159,730	13,718	625	591	102	600	15	14,909	742	1,479,393	109,661
Onions Dry	22,755	4,517	339,127	48,632	13,068	1,376	6,340	919	5,725	773	25,133	3,069	338,462	34,745
Onions Green	195	6	50,894	5,250	-	-	681	38	118	16	799	54	36,449	3,095
Potatoes	85,060	6,764	594,227	66,703	2,500	192	9,974	1,456	23,659	2,961	36,133	4,608	402,045	41,001
Pumpkins	24,268	2,012	98,220	8,845	7,623	649	4,298	371	4,370	342	16,291	1,362	75,880	9,688
Tomatoes	107,591	29,518	678,751	138,759	39,073	8,784	21,958	8,663	24,552	9,356	85,583	26,803	562,089	142,504
Other vegetables	131,273	31,519	552,251	144,115	62,874	9,302	26,525	5,935	20,035	5,404	109,434	20,641	563,493	117,261
Total fruit	196,163	40,842	507,072	149,725	27,813	6,705	91,022	26,325	105,866	25,286	224,701	58,316	674,971	156,625
<i>of which:</i>														
Figs Dry	-	-	1,941	997	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	769	288
Figs Early	-	-	7,974	3,946	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,446	812
Grapes	965	241	20,163	7,784	332	125	-	-	-	-	332	125	16,410	7,657
Lemons	33,205	5,215	170,422	32,252	8,767	1,567	9,203	1,730	10,460	1,773	28,430	5,070	122,899	14,586
Nectarines	-	-	5,781	1,568	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,814	1,022
Oranges Sweet	102,512	21,230	144,536	39,692	2,863	806	54,285	16,413	66,121	16,646	123,269	33,865	325,943	69,951
Peaches	29	17	40,438	13,818	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,933	6,861
Plums Cherry	-	-	1,727	795	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,661	1,697
Pomegranates	12,383	3,441	13,708	3,711	11,903	3,121	2,547	1,088	130	78	14,580	4,287	16,256	4,745
Strawberries	567	931	23,001	22,905	-	-	1,016	838	122	139	1,138	977	20,112	15,998
Other fruit	46,502	9,767	77,381	22,259	3,948	1,086	23,971	6,256	29,033	6,650	56,952	13,991	139,729	33,007

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

	Fresh Fruit Index		Fresh Vegetables Index	
	Price Index	Volume Index	Price Index	Volume Index
2003	151.57	85.49	101.18	113.09
2004	115.11	105.27	82.55	124.55
2005	105.23	110.14	85.31	120.17
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
July	115.89	162.18	71.21	188.59
August	103.07	249.71	76.11	181.02
September	97.49	145.58	85.06	121.33
October	174.13	43.08	89.12	98.10
November	128.30	67.57	98.40	75.11
December	169.39	90.75	89.49	99.38

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>