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Agriculture

Fruit and Vegetables - September Quarter 2006

There were increases in the volume and value of fresh fruit and vegetables sold through official markets in the third quarter of 2006.

In the third quarter of 2006, the volume of marketed fresh fruit and vegetables increased by 5.4 per cent to 15.8 million kilograms when compared to the same period last year. The wholesale value of this produce rose by 20.1 per cent to Lm2.31 million in the third quarter 2006.

When compared to the same period last year, there were drops in sugar melon (- 16.3 per cent) and water melon production (-7.6 per cent) accompanied by increases of 75.9 per cent and 28.9 percent respectively in the wholesale value.

In the first nine months of 2006, a total of 38.8 million kilograms yielding Lm6.38 million passed through organised markets. Compared to the same period last year, fresh fruit and vegetable availability rose by 9.3 per cent whereas the wholesale value increased by 5.2 per cent.

Regional Statistics

Maltese farmers marketed a total of 12.9 million kilograms of fruit and vegetables, representing 82.2 per cent of the total supply. This increased by 8.8 per cent whereas the wholesale value rose by 20.2 per cent.

The supply of fresh fruit and vegetables by Gozitan farmers declined by 7.8 per cent over the comparative period. The drop in volume was accompanied by an increase of 19.5 per cent in the wholesale value. A drop of 6.9 per cent in water melons production, the main produce of Gozitan farmers, was mainly responsible for this drop.

Indices

While the vegetables price index for the month of September stood at 104.65 points, an increase of 6.76 points (+6.9 per cent) over the same month in 2005, the volume index declined by 10.4 percent from 103.34 to 92.62 points during the same period.

The fruit price index dropped by 18.49 points from 76.77 points in September 2005 to 58.28 points in September 2006. This drop was the result of a decline in the average monthly unit price of fresh table grapes which dropped from 26c1 to 16c3 over the comparative period. The fruit volume index increased by 45.91 points (+30.9 per cent) from 148.54 points in September 2005 to 194.45 points in September 2006. Abundance of table grapes which increased by 57.7 per cent in volume, over the same period last year, was responsible for this increase ■

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

Item	July/September			January/September			July/September			January/September		
	Quantity (Kgs)						Wholesale value (Lm)					
	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005
Total vegetables and fruit	14,915,714	15,716,015	5.4	35,102,988	38,879,829	10.8	1,920,453	2,305,688	20.1	5,880,768	6,377,969	8.5
Total vegetables	13,767,429	13,940,719	1.3	32,795,304	35,861,573	9.3	1,547,598	1,792,438	15.8	5,016,542	5,274,987	5.2
<i>of which:</i>												
Artichokes Globe	312	146	-53.2	338,482	385,991	14.0	71	33	-53.5	82,459	90,717	10.0
Beans Broad	358	268	-25.1	667,772	615,112	-7.9	83	54	-34.4	110,395	118,510	7.4
Bellpepper	331,222	351,464	6.1	589,711	624,232	5.9	65,426	59,986	-8.3	174,511	155,534	-10.9
Cabbages	464,138	519,683	12.0	1,696,582	1,818,059	7.2	50,334	45,973	-8.7	170,119	138,431	-18.6
Carrots	96,514	130,617	35.3	795,330	989,179	24.4	20,820	22,260	6.9	126,496	167,187	32.2
Cauliflowers	219,929	210,512	-4.3	2,505,648	2,429,713	-3.0	22,237	28,334	27.4	229,365	235,039	2.5
Celery	106,808	92,869	-13.1	338,229	320,957	-5.1	7,110	7,827	10.1	29,468	30,078	2.1
Cucumber	242,654	324,618	33.8	576,596	598,217	3.7	75,040	60,752	-19.0	160,837	168,817	5.0
Eggplant	331,686	367,045	10.7	547,494	554,520	1.3	28,425	35,129	23.6	104,544	92,450	-11.6
Kohlrabi	81,922	96,547	17.9	665,571	683,138	2.6	6,657	5,556	-16.5	51,547	45,907	-10.9
Lettuce	708,879	787,742	11.1	1,800,955	2,123,052	17.9	94,584	117,396	24.1	239,706	270,783	13.0
Marrows Vegetable	634,612	738,557	16.4	2,004,323	2,472,970	23.4	180,639	185,363	2.6	696,562	681,638	-2.1
Melons Sugar	2,199,083	1,840,342	-16.3	2,958,906	2,532,625	-14.4	139,738	245,753	75.9	260,837	420,729	61.3
Melons Water	3,120,583	2,882,707	-7.6	4,014,820	4,064,776	1.2	227,644	293,396	28.9	362,414	404,035	11.5
Onions Dry	629,217	624,891	-0.7	1,376,550	2,139,669	55.4	58,392	67,137	15.0	212,840	250,633	17.8
Onions Green	39,704	91,675	130.9	496,489	442,298	-10.9	3,020	8,430	179.1	32,505	22,969	-29.3
Potatoes	1,790,580	1,912,849	6.8	4,523,500	5,155,036	14.0	170,240	197,107	15.8	432,078	548,780	27.0
Pumpkins	117,043	114,691	-2.0	431,766	444,284	2.9	11,322	9,919	-12.4	62,478	45,533	-27.1
Tomatoes	1,658,937	1,816,440	9.5	3,582,521	4,280,215	19.5	218,126	216,756	-0.6	888,182	824,091	-7.2
Other vegetables	993,249	1,037,057	4.4	2,884,060	3,187,531	10.5	167,690	185,278	10.5	589,201	563,124	-4.4
Total fruit	1,148,285	1,775,296	54.6	2,307,684	3,018,256	30.8	372,856	513,250	37.7	864,226	1,102,982	27.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Figs Dry	47,057	9,974	-78.8	47,160	10,141	-78.5	11,825	3,994	-66.2	11,873	4,086	-65.6
Figs Early	8,892	4,323	-51.4	170,000	186,884	9.9	3,344	1,635	-51.1	46,496	72,368	55.6
Grapes	307,354	521,579	69.7	307,354	521,579	69.7	86,808	103,703	19.5	86,808	103,703	19.5
Lemons	65,179	51,919	-20.3	207,024	200,482	-3.2	9,259	14,264	54.1	19,753	39,769	101.3
Nectarines	81,360	137,478	69.0	114,895	204,109	77.6	25,063	37,440	49.4	38,323	57,163	49.2
Oranges Sweet	-	-	-	223,669	115,509	-48.4	-	-	-	40,184	39,276	-2.3
Peaches	340,874	773,725	127.0	473,480	1,074,001	126.8	140,925	243,580	72.8	199,657	333,202	66.9
Plums Cherry	59,885	38,141	-36.3	121,754	73,133	-39.9	14,059	14,349	2.1	27,461	28,945	5.4
Pomegranates	5,269	8,515	61.6	5,269	8,515	61.6	1,204	1,910	58.6	1,204	1,910	58.6
Strawberries	7,831	5,983	-23.6	305,433	295,179	-3.4	3,333	3,914	17.4	290,402	301,046	3.7
Other fruit	224,585	223,659	-0.4	331,647	328,726	-0.9	77,034	88,460	14.8	102,065	121,514	19.1

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

Item	July/September			January/September			July/September			January/September		
	Quantity (Kgs)						Wholesale value (Lm)					
	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005
Total vegetables and fruit	11,824,383	12,867,246	8.8	29,697,855	33,958,765	14.3	1,587,684	1,907,958	20.2	4,987,687	5,491,521	10.1
Total vegetables	10,790,679	11,216,175	3.9	27,840,441	31,313,351	12.5	1,244,046	1,435,452	15.4	4,221,770	4,512,978	6.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Artichokes Globe	312	0	-100.0	319,218	370,345	16.0	71	0	-100.0	75,539	85,945	13.8
Beans Broad	358	256	-28.5	584,911	539,508	-7.8	83	52	-37.3	97,772	104,669	7.1
Bellpepper	317,524	335,747	5.7	509,640	559,620	9.8	62,275	56,850	-8.7	137,538	133,000	-3.3
Cabbages	438,593	493,375	12.5	1,570,317	1,725,155	9.9	47,413	42,589	-10.2	156,043	128,086	-17.9
Carrots	92,882	121,615	30.9	758,722	950,124	25.2	20,032	20,358	1.6	119,854	159,951	33.5
Cauliflowers	195,028	201,147	3.1	2,297,475	2,271,157	-1.1	19,059	25,921	36.0	202,840	209,026	3.0
Celery	100,652	88,148	-12.4	311,455	304,225	-2.3	6,135	7,101	15.8	25,547	27,503	7.7
Cucumber	186,457	247,537	32.8	386,355	435,798	12.8	53,811	38,747	-28.0	93,807	104,306	11.2
Eggplant	280,132	321,884	14.9	424,429	436,159	2.8	23,164	29,181	26.0	65,802	61,408	-6.7
Kohlrabi	76,545	91,684	19.8	619,523	648,390	4.7	5,937	4,786	-19.4	45,668	40,955	-10.3
Lettuce	661,689	746,382	12.8	1,668,045	1,998,815	19.8	85,564	107,824	26.0	215,091	247,114	14.9
Marrows Vegetable	575,396	671,966	16.8	1,724,096	2,211,449	28.3	161,801	165,876	2.5	577,356	599,757	3.9
Melons Sugar	1,802,229	1,483,607	-17.7	2,526,079	2,124,819	-15.9	113,910	195,984	72.1	229,889	359,819	56.5
Melons Water	1,676,769	1,538,973	-8.2	2,550,336	2,616,705	2.6	120,597	151,474	25.6	253,495	253,538	0.0
Onions Dry	476,198	505,657	6.2	1,063,221	1,855,739	74.5	45,481	55,782	22.6	181,163	220,004	21.4
Onions Green	34,749	79,252	128.1	460,839	410,885	-10.8	2,632	7,353	179.4	29,465	20,348	-30.9
Potatoes	1,638,848	1,801,642	9.9	4,157,588	4,871,452	17.2	155,782	184,798	18.6	395,686	513,517	29.8
Pumpkins	93,650	94,391	0.8	372,177	399,985	7.5	9,118	8,090	-11.3	54,152	41,101	-24.1
Tomatoes	1,403,351	1,576,935	12.4	3,106,015	3,763,691	21.2	180,212	185,227	2.8	772,481	719,274	-6.9
Other vegetables	739,317	815,977	10.4	2,430,001	2,819,331	16.0	130,968	147,458	12.6	492,580	483,656	-1.8
Total fruit	1,033,704	1,651,071	59.7	1,857,414	2,645,414	42.4	343,638	472,506	37.5	765,917	978,542	27.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Figs Dry	46,288	9,974	-78.5	46,391	10,141	-78.1	11,536	3,994	-65.4	11,585	4,086	-64.7
Figs Early	8,552	2,994	-65.0	167,554	183,787	9.7	3,299	1,056	-68.0	45,684	71,037	55.5
Grapes	291,276	502,855	72.6	291,276	502,855	72.6	79,276	95,587	20.6	79,276	95,587	20.6
Lemons	26,496	12,017	-54.6	112,555	94,741	-15.8	4,392	3,286	-25.2	10,238	16,811	64.2
Nectarines	78,873	134,721	70.8	111,081	198,936	79.1	24,438	36,763	50.4	37,301	55,867	49.8
Oranges Sweet	-	-	-	20,995	14,693	-30.0	-	-	-	4,097	4,473	9.2
Peaches	331,383	756,878	128.4	455,547	1,042,747	128.9	137,161	238,469	73.9	192,797	323,678	67.9
Plums Cherry	53,841	33,376	-38.0	113,093	66,541	-41.2	12,954	12,805	-1.2	25,763	26,748	3.8
Pomegranates	3,593	5,286	47.1	3,593	5,286	47.1	746	1,092	46.3	746	1,092	46.3
Strawberries	7,407	5,090	-31.3	286,460	267,503	-6.6	3,102	3,307	6.6	275,381	280,931	2.0
Other fruit	185,996	187,880	1.0	248,870	258,186	3.7	66,734	76,148	14.1	83,049	98,232	18.3

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

Item	July/September			January/September			July/September			January/September		
	Quantity (Kgs)						Wholesale value (Lm)					
	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005
Total vegetables and fruit	3,091,331	2,848,770	-7.8	5,405,133	4,921,064	-9.0	332,770	397,729	19.5	893,082	886,449	-0.7
Total vegetables	2,976,751	2,724,545	-8.5	4,954,863	4,548,222	-8.2	303,552	356,986	17.6	794,772	762,009	-4.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Artichokes Globe	0	146	-	19,264	15,646	-18.8	0	33	-	6,919	4,773	-31.0
Beans Broad	0	12	-	82,861	75,604	-8.8	0	2	-	12,623	13,841	9.6
Bellpepper	13,698	15,717	14.7	80,071	64,612	-19.3	3,151	3,135	-0.5	36,973	22,534	-39.1
Cabbages	25,545	26,308	3.0	126,265	92,904	-26.4	2,921	3,383	15.8	14,076	10,346	-26.5
Carrots	3,632	9,002	147.9	36,608	39,055	6.7	788	1,902	141.3	6,642	7,236	8.9
Cauliflowers	24,901	9,365	-62.4	208,173	158,556	-23.8	3,177	2,413	-24.1	26,525	26,013	-1.9
Celery	6,156	4,721	-23.3	26,774	16,732	-37.5	975	726	-25.5	3,920	2,576	-34.3
Cucumber	56,197	77,081	37.2	190,241	162,419	-14.6	21,229	22,005	3.7	67,030	64,510	-3.8
Eggplant	51,554	45,161	-12.4	123,065	118,361	-3.8	5,261	5,948	13.1	38,741	31,042	-19.9
Kohlrabi	5,377	4,863	-9.6	46,048	34,748	-24.5	720	770	7.0	5,879	4,952	-15.8
Lettuce	47,190	41,360	-12.4	132,910	124,237	-6.5	9,021	9,571	6.1	24,614	23,670	-3.8
Marrows Vegetable	59,216	66,591	12.5	280,227	261,521	-6.7	18,838	19,487	3.4	119,206	81,880	-31.3
Melons Sugar	396,854	356,735	-10.1	432,827	407,806	-5.8	25,828	49,768	92.7	30,948	60,909	96.8
Melons Water	1,443,814	1,343,734	-6.9	1,464,484	1,448,071	-1.1	107,047	141,922	32.6	108,919	150,497	38.2
Onions Dry	153,019	119,234	-22.1	313,329	283,930	-9.4	12,911	11,356	-12.0	31,676	30,629	-3.3
Onions Green	4,955	12,423	150.7	35,650	31,413	-11.9	388	1,077	177.2	3,040	2,621	-13.8
Potatoes	151,732	111,207	-26.7	365,912	283,584	-22.5	14,458	12,309	-14.9	36,392	35,263	-3.1
Pumpkins	23,393	20,300	-13.2	59,589	44,299	-25.7	2,204	1,828	-17.0	8,326	4,433	-46.8
Tomatoes	255,586	239,505	-6.3	476,506	516,524	8.4	37,914	31,528	-16.8	115,701	104,817	-9.4
Other vegetables	253,932	221,080	-12.9	454,059	368,200	-18.9	36,722	37,820	3.0	96,621	79,468	-17.8
Total fruit	114,581	124,225	8.4	450,270	372,842	-17.2	29,218	40,744	39.4	98,309	124,440	26.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Figs Dry	769	0	-100.0	769	0	-100.0	288	0	-100.0	288	0	-100.0
Figs Early	340	1,329	290.9	2,446	3,097	26.6	46	580	1,165.3	812	1,331	63.8
Grapes	16,078	18,724	16.5	16,078	18,724	16.5	7,532	8,116	7.8	7,532	8,116	7.8
Lemons	38,683	39,902	3.2	94,469	105,741	11.9	4,867	10,978	125.6	9,515	22,958	141.3
Nectarines	2,487	2,757	10.9	3,814	5,173	35.6	625	677	8.3	1,022	1,296	26.7
Oranges Sweet	-	-	-	202,674	100,816	-50.3	-	-	-	36,086	34,803	-3.6
Peaches	9,491	16,847	77.5	17,933	31,254	74.3	3,764	5,111	35.8	6,861	9,524	38.8
Plums Cherry	6,044	4,765	-21.2	8,661	6,592	-23.9	1,106	1,545	39.7	1,697	2,197	29.4
Pomegranates	1,676	3,229	92.7	1,676	3,229	92.7	458	818	78.6	458	818	78.6
Strawberries	424	893	110.6	18,974	27,676	45.9	232	607	161.7	15,021	20,116	33.9
Other fruit	38,589	35,779	-7.3	82,777	70,540	-14.8	10,300	12,312	19.5	19,016	23,282	22.4

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

Month	Fresh Fruit Index (2000 = 100)		Fresh Vegetables Index (2000 = 100)	
	Price Index	Volume Index	Price Index	Volume Index
2004				
January	122.28	30.51	198.24	67.32
February	153.71	14.47	143.87	72.08
March	145.57	26.94	149.71	85.79
April	77.82	71.71	124.03	102.44
May	106.00	72.56	86.65	109.36
June	107.56	222.79	66.29	137.61
July	127.14	179.14	74.21	187.35
August	94.12	256.24	70.09	155.81
September	71.08	197.85	77.94	113.85
October	89.39	64.95	81.60	89.31
November	85.38	69.30	125.84	80.43
December	75.89	82.45	142.06	71.61
2005				
January	59.49	88.96	144.86	80.68
February	113.33	48.79	165.02	60.31
March	146.10	44.10	129.00	82.61
April	97.69	73.33	140.93	98.88
May	92.07	77.86	139.24	109.19
June	92.77	241.26	89.77	146.25
July	98.12	165.47	71.13	160.63
August	81.09	254.77	75.06	154.18
September	76.77	148.54	97.89	103.34
October	103.07	43.95	106.35	83.56
November	100.56	68.94	102.52	63.97
December	88.67	92.59	96.40	84.65
2006				
January	96.36	68.94	100.08	93.88
February	133.61	33.94	94.98	84.20
March	139.72	30.54	122.08	97.26
April	85.31	81.41	124.19	102.58
May	108.87	75.09	118.30	124.45
June	100.20	325.75	85.26	163.42
July	92.88	317.25	79.74	181.85
August	69.84	367.65	80.31	148.94
September	58.28	194.45	104.65	92.62

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 unit volume and prices are 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 2000 as the base year. Price indices are calculated using the Laspayres method with variable monthly baskets. Price indices from one month to another are not comparable and can only be compared to the same month in previous years.
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>