

News Release



Date: 10 August 2007
No. : 128/2007
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 - Q2/2007

During the second quarter the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables declined by 0.3 per cent while the wholesale value rose 1.3 by per cent.

Fresh fruit and vegetable availability for the second quarter of 2007 declined marginally by 0.3 per cent, from 13.83 million kilograms in the second quarter of 2006 to 13.79 million kilograms in the second quarter this year. On the other hand, the wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables increased by 1.3 per cent, from Lm 2.39 million in the second quarter last year to Lm 2.42 million in the second quarter this year.

The period under review revealed that the supply of fresh vegetables rose by 2.7 per cent over the second quarter in 2006. Underpinning this result was an increase in the supply of sugar melons (+48.3 per cent), potatoes (+9.0 per cent) and tomatoes (+6.0 per cent). The supply of dry onions declined sharply by 35.5 per cent when compared to the same period last year. Furthermore, the wholesale value of fresh vegetables rose by 7.3 per cent, from Lm 1.92 million in the second quarter of 2006 to Lm 2.06 million in the second quarter this year.

On the other hand, the supply and wholesale value of fresh fruit declined by 40.2 per cent and 22.7 per cent respectively over the comparative period last year. Noticable declines in early figs (-65.9 per cent), nectarines (-73.3 per cent), and peaches (-58.7) were registered, although the supply of lemons increased by 28.1 per cent over the comparative period. The decline in the wholesale value of fresh fruit, from Lm 0.48 million to Lm 0.37 million, was mainly the result of a decline in fresh fruit availability.

Regional Statistics

Maltese farmers supplied a total of 12.45 million kilograms (-1.3 per cent) of fruit and vegetables yielding Lm 2.15 million (+0.1 per cent), representing 90.3 per cent of the total supply of fruit and vegetables.

On the other hand, Gozitan farmers supplied 1.33 million kilograms (+10.4 per cent) of fresh fruit and vegetables over the same period last year. The wholesale value of Gozitan produce increased by 12.6 per cent, from Lm 0.24 million in the second quarter of 2006 to Lm 0.27 million in the second quarter this year.

Indices

The Quarterly 'All Items' fresh fruit price index for the second quarter rose by 26.75 points (+25.6 per cent) from 104.29 points in second quarter of 2006 to 131.04 points in the second quarter this year. In contrast, the quarterly volume index fell by 57.55 points (-40.2 per cent) from 143.05 points in the second quarter of 2006 to 85.50 points in the second quarter this year.

The Quarterly 'All Items' fresh vegetables price index for the second quarter stood at 106.97 points, down marginally by 0.10 points (-0.1 per cent) over the corresponding period in 2006. The Quarterly 'All Items' vegetables volume index rose by 3.44 points (+2.7 per cent) from 127.16 points last year to 130.60 points in the second quarter of 2007 ■

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>

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

Item	April/June					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (Lm)		
	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006
Total vegetables and fruit	13,829,088	13,785,161	-0.3	2,392,087	2,424,319	1.3
Total vegetables	12,855,480	13,203,215	2.7	1,915,266	2,055,605	7.3
<i>of which:</i>						
Artichokes Globe	100,426	54,080	-46.2	3,568	2,710	-24.0
Beans Broad	511,637	347,680	-32.0	74,877	74,974	0.1
Bellpepper	200,196	215,026	7.4	57,229	62,158	8.6
Cabbages	527,755	543,595	3.0	53,579	27,753	-48.2
Carrots	370,445	488,831	32.0	74,525	76,168	2.2
Cauliflowers	752,853	916,583	21.7	85,718	60,700	-29.2
Celery	99,219	99,067	-0.2	10,931	10,837	-0.9
Cucumber	209,664	210,784	0.5	61,686	66,833	8.3
Eggplant	137,266	174,431	27.1	31,532	33,829	7.3
Kohlrabi	224,666	234,751	4.5	17,928	13,094	-27.0
Lettuce	836,025	790,100	-5.5	75,088	88,985	18.5
Marrows Vegetable	1,088,357	952,996	-12.4	178,376	163,614	-8.3
Melons Sugar	691,789	1,025,847	48.3	174,849	178,454	2.1
Melons Water	1,182,069	1,196,178	1.2	110,639	175,664	58.8
Onions Dry	772,325	497,849	-35.5	95,165	96,921	1.8
Onions Green	312,343	313,732	0.4	12,925	41,823	223.6
Potatoes	2,251,053	2,452,804	9.0	228,819	368,033	60.8
Pumpkins	135,073	125,361	-7.2	17,797	17,643	-0.9
Tomatoes	1,548,985	1,642,346	6.0	370,934	287,692	-22.4
Other vegetables	903,334	921,175	2.0	179,102	207,722	16.0
Total fruit	973,608	581,946	-40.2	476,821	368,714	-22.7
<i>of which:</i>						
Figs Dry	74	1,927	2,504.1	33	185	465.1
Figs Early	182,561	62,239	-65.9	70,733	47,882	-32.3
Grapes	0	0	-	0	0	-
Lemons	84,045	107,639	28.1	16,887	11,344	-32.8
Nectarines	66,631	17,801	-73.3	19,722	8,176	-58.5
Oranges Sweet	1,165	2,487	113.5	398	1,254	215.1
Peaches	300,276	124,069	-58.7	89,621	47,870	-46.6
Plums Cherry	34,992	2,108	-94.0	14,596	1,589	-89.1
Pomegranates	0	0	-	0	0	-
Strawberries	259,487	242,124	-6.7	247,210	243,738	-1.4
Other fruit	44,379	21,553	-51.4	17,620	6,674	-62.1

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

Item	April/June					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (Lm)		
	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006
Total vegetables and fruit	12,623,925	12,454,070	-1.3	2,149,362	2,150,963	0.1
Total vegetables	11,745,765	11,955,947	1.8	1,707,483	1,804,396	5.7
<i>of which:</i>						
Artichokes Globe	99,391	52,842	-46.8	3,432	2,534	-26.2
Beans Broad	440,201	302,792	-31.2	63,552	65,684	3.4
Bellpepper	173,220	185,329	7.0	49,285	51,651	4.8
Cabbages	501,986	520,972	3.8	50,307	26,192	-47.9
Carrots	354,859	468,958	32.2	71,724	72,485	1.1
Cauliflowers	729,704	881,550	20.8	80,285	57,682	-28.2
Celery	92,073	93,141	1.2	9,832	9,936	1.1
Cucumber	151,544	122,198	-19.4	39,963	38,390	-3.9
Eggplant	91,086	128,242	40.8	20,350	23,187	13.9
Kohlrabi	217,265	227,693	4.8	16,288	12,165	-25.3
Lettuce	783,376	745,544	-4.8	67,012	80,720	20.5
Marrows Vegetable	980,859	872,685	-11.0	158,088	147,630	-6.6
Melons Sugar	640,992	927,129	44.6	163,797	161,091	-1.7
Melons Water	1,077,732	1,120,748	4.0	102,064	164,798	61.5
Onions Dry	623,407	330,602	-47.0	78,267	67,617	-13.6
Onions Green	295,820	265,849	-10.1	11,535	34,954	203.0
Potatoes	2,133,617	2,253,472	5.6	213,921	338,045	58.0
Pumpkins	122,590	114,785	-6.4	16,222	16,229	0.0
Tomatoes	1,386,032	1,486,446	7.2	330,732	248,772	-24.8
Other vegetables	850,011	854,972	0.6	160,827	184,633	14.8
Total fruit	878,160	498,123	-43.3	441,879	346,567	-21.6
<i>of which:</i>						
Figs Dry	74	19	-74.3	33	11	-66.2
Figs Early	180,793	61,898	-65.8	69,982	47,593	-32.0
Grapes	0	0	-	0	0	-
Lemons	44,324	49,877	12.5	8,556	5,570	-34.9
Nectarines	64,215	17,506	-72.7	19,104	8,055	-57.8
Oranges Sweet	53	26	-50.9	30	9	-69.4
Peaches	285,869	120,142	-58.0	85,209	46,783	-45.1
Plums Cherry	33,165	2,108	-93.6	13,943	1,589	-88.6
Pomegranates	0	0	-	0	0	-
Strawberries	235,440	227,277	-3.5	231,431	230,907	-0.2
Other fruit	34,228	19,271	-43.7	13,591	6,049	-55.5

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

Item	April/June					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (Lm)		
	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006
Total vegetables and fruit	1,205,163	1,331,090	10.4	242,725	273,356	12.6
Total vegetables	1,109,715	1,247,268	12.4	207,783	251,209	20.9
<i>of which:</i>						
Artichokes Globe	1,035	1,238	19.6	136	176	29.3
Beans Broad	71,436	44,888	-37.2	11,326	9,289	-18.0
Bellpepper	26,976	29,697	10.1	7,944	10,507	32.3
Cabbages	25,769	22,623	-12.2	3,272	1,561	-52.3
Carrots	15,586	19,873	27.5	2,802	3,683	31.5
Cauliflowers	23,149	35,033	51.3	5,434	3,018	-44.5
Celery	7,146	5,926	-17.1	1,099	901	-18.0
Cucumber	58,120	88,586	52.4	21,722	28,442	30.9
Eggplant	46,180	46,189	0.0	11,182	10,642	-4.8
Kohlrabi	7,401	7,058	-4.6	1,639	929	-43.3
Lettuce	52,649	44,556	-15.4	8,076	8,265	2.3
Marrows Vegetable	107,498	80,311	-25.3	20,288	15,983	-21.2
Melons Sugar	50,797	98,718	94.3	11,052	17,363	57.1
Melons Water	104,337	75,430	-27.7	8,575	10,866	26.7
Onions Dry	148,918	167,247	12.3	16,898	29,304	73.4
Onions Green	16,523	47,883	189.8	1,390	6,869	394.3
Potatoes	117,436	199,332	69.7	14,898	29,988	101.3
Pumpkins	12,483	10,576	-15.3	1,575	1,414	-10.2
Tomatoes	162,953	155,900	-4.3	40,202	38,920	-3.2
Other vegetables	53,323	66,204	24.2	18,274	23,089	26.3
Total fruit	95,449	83,823	-12.2	34,941	22,147	-36.6
<i>of which:</i>						
Figs Dry	0	1,908	-	0	174	-
Figs Early	1,768	341	-80.7	751	289	-61.5
Grapes	0	0	-	0	0	-
Lemons	39,721	57,762	45.4	8,331	5,774	-30.7
Nectarines	2,416	295	-87.8	618	121	-80.4
Oranges Sweet	1,112	2,461	121.3	368	1,244	238.4
Peaches	14,407	3,927	-72.7	4,413	1,087	-75.4
Plums Cherry	1,827	0	-100.0	652	0	-100.0
Pomegranates	0	0	-	0	0	-
Strawberries	24,047	14,847	-38.3	15,779	12,831	-18.7
Other fruit	10,151	2,282	-77.5	4,029	625	-84.5

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

Month	Fresh Fruit Index (2005 = 100)		Fresh Vegetables Index (2005 = 100)	
	Price Index	Volume Index	Price Index	Volume Index
2006				
January	146.27	61.35	129.21	91.72
February	168.82	30.20	123.68	82.26
March	162.62	27.17	132.04	95.02
April	91.75	72.44	121.66	100.22
May	125.36	66.82	134.85	121.59
June	106.07	289.87	100.17	159.66
July	123.98	282.31	103.78	177.67
August	87.93	327.15	88.04	145.51
September	81.26	173.04	96.10	90.49
October	100.98	72.91	97.09	87.38
November	146.86	80.22	109.67	83.31
December	124.87	67.24	90.47	94.89
2007				
January	147.61	61.99	104.86	106.72
February	172.01	43.58	87.77	108.24
March	141.09	48.51	122.17	112.48
April	100.67	69.41	121.60	113.13
May	126.94	82.02	112.54	130.47
June	159.46	105.08	103.31	148.20
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				

Table 5. Quarterly 'All Items' Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Index

Quarter	Fresh Fruit Index (2005 = 100)		Fresh Vegetables Index (2005 = 100)	
	Price Index	Volume Index	Price Index	Volume Index
2006				
Q1/2006	153.07	39.57	120.94	89.67
Q2/2006	104.29	143.05	107.07	127.16
Q3/2006	98.04	260.83	92.13	137.89
Q4/2006	129.37	73.46	96.37	88.52
2007				
Q1/2007	145.01	51.36	104.28	109.15
Q2/2007	131.04	85.50	106.97	130.60
Q3/2007				
Q4/2007				

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 2005 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>