

News Release



Date: 29 January 2007
No. : 15/2007
Time of release: 11.00 hrs

Theme:
Agriculture and Fisheries

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Fisheries

Fish Landings: Q4/2006

In the fourth quarter of 2006, the volume and wholesale value of fish landings increased by 25.5 and 2.4 per cent respectively.

A total of 362,437 kilograms (+25.5 per cent) of fresh fish were landed at the local fish market during the fourth quarter of 2006. Whilst Sword Fish landings declined by 35.9 per cent, Dorado landings rose by 80.0 per cent over the comparative period.

The wholesale value of fish landings amounted to Lm495,823 in the fourth quarter of 2006. Whilst an increase in the wholesale value of Dorado landings (+29.8 per cent) was registered, the wholesale value of Sword Fish landings fell by 16.7 per cent.

Annual 2006

The total fish landings for 2006 decreased by 3.0 per cent from 1,336,881 kilograms to 1,296,387 kilograms when compared to 2005. The decline was mainly the result of lower catches of Sword Fish (-26.0 per cent) and Blue Fin Tuna (-24.7 per cent), although Dorado landings increased by 25.1 per cent. The wholesale value of fish landings in 2006 decreased by 2.8 per cent, mainly due to the decline with the wholesale value of Blue Fin Tuna landings.

Maltese landings - December Quarter

Maltese fishermen landed 181,415 kilograms of fresh fish at the local market, an increase of 23,986 kilograms (+15.2 per cent) in 2006. Increases in Dorado landings (+260.9 per cent) was partially offset by a decrease in Sword Fish landings (-39.6 per cent) in the same period in 2006. A marginal decrease (-0.2 per cent) was registered in the wholesale value of the last quarter over the comparative period last year. The decline in the wholesale value of Sword Fish landings was offset by an increase of Shrimp and Dorado landings.

Gozitan landings - December Quarter

During the fourth quarter of 2006 Gozitan fishermen landed 179,754 kilograms of fresh fish (+41.4 per cent) over the comparative period last year. The increase in Gozitan landings resulted mainly from a 42.3 per cent increase in Dorado landings. A 14.9 per cent increase was also registered in the wholesale value, from Lm133,242 in the fourth quarter 2005 to Lm153,067 in the fourth quarter 2006. This increase was mainly due to the increase in wholesale value of Sword Fish, from Lm6,009 (+204.5 per cent) and Dorado (+11.0 per cent)

Fish landings by foreign vessels - December Quarter

For the quarter under review, foreign flagged vessels landed 0.3 per cent of the total fish landings in Malta representing 0.5 per cent of the total wholesale value of landings.

Indices

The 'All Items' fresh fish price index for the month of December stood at 139.82 points, up by 20.64 points (+17.3 per cent) from 119.18 points in 2005. The 'All Items' fresh fish volume index decreased by 36.32 points (-67.7 per cent) from 53.61 points in 2005 to 17.29 points in December 2006 ■

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Table 1. Quantity (Kgs) of fish landings

Administrative area*	Species designation		October/December			January/December		
	Maltese	English	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005
MALTA	Total		288,774	362,437	25.5	1,336,881	1,296,387	-3.0
	Gamblu	Shrimp	5,297	6,612	24.8	30,146	32,123	6.6
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	1,075	2,278	111.9	24,170	23,197	-4.0
	Lampuka	Dorado	133,945	241,153	80.0	447,095	559,098	25.1
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	2,223	2,493	12.1	18,841	19,548	3.8
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	110,241	70,663	-35.9	323,314	239,181	-26.0
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	301,444	227,008	-24.7
	Vopa	Bogue	5,049	2,705	-46.4	21,089	17,286	-18.0
	Hut lehor	Other Species	30,944	36,533	18.1	170,782	178,946	4.8
Malta ¹	Total		157,429	181,415	15.2	946,384	832,438	-12.0
	Gamblu	Shrimp	1,953	5,127	162.5	18,384	16,661	-9.4
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	969	2,066	113.2	21,465	18,843	-12.2
	Lampuka	Dorado	23,130	83,480	260.9	182,074	213,682	17.4
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	1,701	1,770	4.1	15,509	16,544	6.7
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	107,489	64,953	-39.6	308,313	222,974	-27.7
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	277,790	213,245	-23.2
	Vopa	Bogue	2,049	1,551	-24.3	5,829	5,362	-8.0
	Hut lehor	Other species	20,138	22,468	11.6	117,020	125,127	6.9
Gozo and Comino ²	Total		127,145	179,754	41.4	370,681	453,249	22.3
	Gamblu	Shrimp	3,344	1,485	-55.6	11,762	15,419	31.1
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	6	206	3,333.3	2,180	3,472	59.3
	Lampuka	Dorado	110,815	157,673	42.3	265,021	345,032	30.2
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	-	410	-	2,183	2,101	-3.8
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	2,672	5,710	113.7	14,225	15,764	10.8
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	23,654	13,763	-41.8
	Vopa	Bogue	3,000	1,154	-61.5	15,260	11,924	-21.9
	Hut lehor	Other Species	7,308	13,116	79.5	36,396	45,774	25.8
Foreign Vessels ³	Total		4,200	1,268	-69.8	19,816	10,700	-46.0
	Gamblu	Shrimp	-	-	-	-	43	-
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	100	6	-94.0	525	882	68.0
	Lampuka	Dorado	-	-	-	-	384	-
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	522	313	-40.0	1,149	903	-21.4
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	80	-	-100.0	776	443	-42.9
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Vopa	Bogue	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hut lehor	Other Species	3,498	949	-72.9	17,366	8,045	-53.7

* see methodological notes

1 landings of vessels owned by persons residing on the main island of Malta

2 landings of vessels owned by persons residing on the islands of Gozo and Comino

3 landings of foreign flagged vessels

Table 2. Wholesale value (Lm) of fish landings

Administrative area*	Species designation		October/December			January/December		
	Maltese	English	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005	2005	2006	±% 2006/2005
MALTA	Total		484,156	495,823	2.4	2,477,854	2,409,368	-2.8
	Gamblu	Shrimp	29,683	43,660	47.1	182,689	206,925	13.3
	Ħanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	3,649	7,785	113.3	74,289	75,509	1.6
	Lampuka	Dorado	119,374	154,968	29.8	362,507	375,683	3.6
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	2,435	2,364	-2.9	19,790	20,369	2.9
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	257,946	214,854	-16.7	765,936	748,423	-2.3
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	712,163	578,793	-18.7
	Vopa	Bogue	4,487	2,494	-44.4	19,211	15,370	-20.0
	Ħut ieħor	Other Species	66,582	69,698	4.7	341,269	388,296	13.8
Malta ¹	Total		340,788	340,179	-0.2	1,999,973	1,866,766	-6.7
	Gamblu	Shrimp	11,789	36,617	210.6	118,337	124,296	5.0
	Ħanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	3,315	6,996	111.0	66,256	61,141	-7.7
	Lampuka	Dorado	25,104	50,370	100.6	156,515	145,831	-6.8
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	1,878	1,659	-11.7	16,285	17,080	4.9
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	251,627	196,558	-21.9	728,237	693,025	-4.8
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	655,560	542,863	-17.2
	Vopa	Bogue	2,103	1,610	-23.4	6,161	6,038	-2.0
	Ħut ieħor	Other species	44,972	46,369	3.1	252,622	276,492	9.4
Gozo and Comino ²	Total		133,242	153,067	14.9	448,553	517,863	15.5
	Gamblu	Shrimp	17,894	7,043	-60.6	64,352	82,261	27.8
	Ħanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	8	768	9,500.0	6,364	11,535	81.3
	Lampuka	Dorado	94,270	104,598	11.0	205,992	229,535	11.4
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	-	354	-	2,222	2,345	5.5
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	6,009	18,296	204.5	34,957	53,724	53.7
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	56,603	35,930	-36.5
	Vopa	Bogue	2,384	884	-62.9	13,050	9,332	-28.5
	Ħut ieħor	Other Species	12,677	21,124	66.6	65,013	93,201	43.4
Foreign Vessels ³	Total		10,126	2,577	-74.6	29,328	24,739	-15.6
	Gamblu	Shrimp	-	-	-	-	368	-
	Ħanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	326	21	-93.6	1,669	2,833	69.7
	Lampuka	Dorado	-	-	-	-	317	-
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	557	351	-37.0	1,283	944	-26.4
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	310	-	-100.0	2,742	1,674	-38.9
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Vopa	Bogue	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Ħut ieħor	Other Species	8,933	2,205	-75.3	23,634	18,603	-21.3

* see methodological notes

1 landings of vessels owned by persons residing on the main island of Malta

2 landings of vessels owned by persons residing on the islands of Gozo and Comino

3 landings of foreign flagged vessels

Table 3. Fresh Fish Indices

	Fresh Fish Index (1995 = 100)	
	Price Index	Volume Index
2004		
January	103.17	32.63
February	145.60	21.94
March	118.71	20.00
April	133.11	16.69
May	159.47	126.86
June	128.04	84.00
July	125.56	46.07
August	129.49	75.29
September	117.01	97.46
October	105.69	144.92
November	117.58	47.87
December	115.95	36.03
2005		
January	131.33	14.99
February	104.31	8.69
March	114.65	21.98
April	204.96	23.55
May	153.29	170.95
June	149.26	97.58
July	120.45	77.02
August	104.00	145.87
September	106.65	175.30
October	124.31	90.44
November	148.59	58.70
December	119.18	53.61
2006		
January	125.63	30.42
February	187.62	12.47
March	121.78	15.62
April	150.32	21.01
May	181.01	122.06
June	153.27	102.99
July	161.04	60.16
August	119.46	105.68
September	112.72	185.36
October	110.38	182.97
November	119.68	54.22
December	139.82	17.29

Methodological Notes

1. According to the fisheries regulation, fish caught by local fishermen has to be sold through the wholesale fish market and statistical data for fish landings is collected through the daily returns of sales submitted by middlemen at the fishmarket. Aquaculture statistics are provided by the Food and Veterinary Regulation Division of the Ministry of Rural Affairs and Environment.
2. The information is submitted to the NSO on a monthly basis. Fish landings by species, data on volume, average monthly unit prices and total value paid out to fishermen are available to compile the news release.
3. The indices are used to monitor developments in price and volume movements over a particular period. The price and volume indices are fixed weights Laspayres type indices with 1995 as the base year.
4. The data in this release are not normally subject to revision.
5. The news release has been re-designed to include the 7 dominant species landed. No individual species under the heading 'Other species' exceed 10 per cent of the total landings. All species will be made available upon request.
6. The aquaculture statistics are not being published in this release in order to respect confidentiality.
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 Luċġja, Tarxien, Xgħajra.

Northern Harbour: Qormi, B'Kara, Gżira, Hamrun, 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, Siggiewi, 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, Xagħra, Xewkija, Żebbuġ.