

News Release



Date: 2 November 2007
No. : 174/2007
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

Fisheries

Fish Landings: Q3/2007

The volume and wholesale value of fish landings at the fish market declined by 46.3 per cent and 10.1 per cent respectively, due to lower catches of the major species.

In the third quarter of 2007, a total of 268,700 kilograms of fresh fish were landed at the local fish market. When compared to the same period last year the volume of fresh fish landed declined by 46.3 per cent, due to a shortfall in the landings of Dorado (-63.0 per cent), Swordfish (-19.9 per cent) and Blue Fin Tuna (-86.3 per cent). Similarly, the wholesale value of fresh fish landed fell by 10.1 per cent to Lm0.70 million this year.

January-September 2007

To date, 608,341 kilograms of fresh fish yielding Lm1.68 million, were landed at the local fish market, implying drops of 34.9 per cent regarding volume and 12.0 per cent regarding wholesale value. The decline in volume was mainly due to the fall in Dorado and Blue Fin Tuna landings, by 62.5 per cent and 45.5 per cent respectively. The decline in the wholesale value of fish landings was brought about by lower landings of Dorado and Blue Fin Tuna.

Maltese landings

In the period under review, Maltese fishermen landed 213,436 kilograms of fresh fish or 28.4 per cent less than in the third quarter of 2006. Dorado, Blue Fin Tuna and Swordfish landings, being the main species landed in this quarter, declined by 38.7 per cent, 18.5 per cent, and 85.6 per cent respectively. In contrast, the wholesale value of fresh fish landed increased by 2.9 per cent over the third quarter in 2006 due to an increase in the volume of Shrimp landed, and because of better prices fetched as a result of the shortfall in the volume of Dorado landed.

Gozitan landings

The third quarter of 2007 resulted in a 73.1 per cent decline in the volume of fish landed at the local fish market by Gozitan fishermen. Although a general decline in all major species was registered, the volume of Dorado landed at the fish market declined heavily by 81.3 per cent. Dorado landings at the fish market in the third quarter of 2007 contributed to 58.1 per cent of all landings, down from 83.6 per cent in the third quarter of 2006. Although higher prices for the major species were obtained, the wholesale value of fresh fish landed by Gozitan fishermen declined by 45.4 per cent over the comparative period, resulting from smaller catches.

Landings by foreign vessels

Foreign-flagged vessels landed 1,989 kilograms of fresh fish yielding Lm4,136. This represents a decline of 50.2 per cent in volume and 55.3 per cent in the wholesale value over the third quarter in 2006.

Indices

The Quarterly 'All Items' fresh fish price index for the third quarter stood at 145.31, up by 38.12 points (+35.6 per cent) from 107.19 points in the third quarter of 2006. On the other hand, the Quarterly 'All Items' fresh fish volume index fell by 69.26 points (-46.3 per cent) from 149.66 points in the third quarter of 2006 to 80.40 points in the third quarter this year ■

National Statistics Office
Library & Information Unit
Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000, Malta
Tel: (+356) 25997219
Fax: (+356) 25997205
e-mail: nso@gov.mt
<http://www.nso.gov.mt>

Table 1. Quantity (Kgs) of fish landings

Administrative area*	Species designation		July/September			January/September		
	Maltese	English	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006
MALTA	Total		500,191	268,700	-46.3	933,950	608,341	-34.9
	Gamblu	Shrimp	10,845	13,590	25.3	25,511	23,224	-9.0
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	8,692	5,362	-38.3	17,232	12,558	-27.1
	Lampuka	Dorado	291,477	107,881	-63.0	317,945	119,215	-62.5
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	2,868	3,269	14.0	17,055	18,833	10.4
	Pixxispad	Swordfish	96,192	77,060	-19.9	168,518	154,158	-8.5
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	26,946	3,695	-86.3	227,008	123,814	-45.5
	Vopa	Bogue	3,075	3,107	1.0	14,581	12,820	-12.1
	Hut ieħor	Other Species	60,096	54,736	-8.9	146,100	143,719	-1.6
Malta ¹	Total		298,001	213,436	-28.4	651,023	502,367	-22.8
	Gamblu	Shrimp	3,140	8,859	182.1	11,534	16,793	45.6
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	5,662	5,220	-7.8	13,234	11,555	-12.7
	Lampuka	Dorado	125,423	76,906	-38.7	130,202	81,480	-37.4
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	2,238	2,878	28.6	14,774	16,212	9.7
	Pixxispad	Swordfish	92,239	75,201	-18.5	158,021	145,303	-8.0
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	25,619	3,695	-85.6	213,245	118,132	-44.6
	Vopa	Bogue	544	1,563	187.3	3,811	4,891	28.3
	Hut ieħor	Other species	43,136	39,114	-9.3	106,202	108,001	1.7
Gozo and Comino ²	Total		198,195	53,275	-73.1	273,495	98,816	-63.9
	Gamblu	Shrimp	7,705	4,724	-38.7	13,934	6,424	-53.9
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	2,444	21	-99.1	3,122	620	-80.1
	Lampuka	Dorado	165,713	30,975	-81.3	187,359	37,735	-79.9
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	452	201	-55.5	1,691	2,236	32.2
	Pixxispad	Swordfish	3,953	1,859	-53.0	10,054	8,855	-11.9
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	1,327	0	-100.0	13,763	5,682	-58.7
	Vopa	Bogue	2,531	1,516	-40.1	10,770	7,901	-26.6
	Hut ieħor	Other Species	14,070	13,979	-0.6	32,802	29,363	-10.5
Foreign Vessels ³	Total		3,995	1,989	-50.2	9,432	7,158	-24.1
	Gamblu	Shrimp	0	7	-	43	7	-83.7
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	586	121	-79.4	876	383	-56.3
	Lampuka	Dorado	341	0	-100.0	384	0	-100.0
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	178	190	6.7	590	385	-34.7
	Pixxispad	Swordfish	0	0	-	443	0	-100.0
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	0	0	-	0	0	-
	Vopa	Bogue	0	28	-	0	28	-
	Hut ieħor	Other Species	2,890	1,643	-43.1	7,096	6,355	-10.4

* 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		July/September			January/September		
	Maltese	English	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006
MALTA	Total		779,911	701,245	-10.1	1,913,545	1,684,851	-12.0
	Gamblu	Shrimp	60,694	86,917	43.2	163,265	160,062	-2.0
	Ħanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	29,951	20,565	-31.3	57,339	48,220	-15.9
	Lampuka	Dorado	198,282	161,335	-18.6	220,715	175,926	-20.3
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	2,125	2,858	34.5	18,005	20,917	16.2
	Pixxispad	Swordfish	290,186	266,868	-8.0	533,569	549,158	2.9
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	74,098	6,969	-90.6	578,793	344,922	-40.4
	Vopa	Bogue	2,406	3,057	27.1	12,876	11,932	-7.3
Ħut ieħor	Other Species	122,169	152,676	25.0	328,983	373,714	13.6	
Malta ¹	Total		571,879	588,649	2.9	1,526,587	1,448,473	-5.1
	Gamblu	Shrimp	23,698	55,525	134.3	87,679	114,481	30.6
	Ħanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	20,041	20,069	0.1	44,146	44,359	0.5
	Lampuka	Dorado	89,320	118,052	32.2	95,461	124,468	30.4
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	1,568	2,452	56.4	15,421	17,574	14.0
	Pixxispad	Swordfish	276,779	260,760	-5.8	496,467	516,705	4.1
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	70,720	6,969	-90.1	542,863	328,181	-39.5
	Vopa	Bogue	427	1,458	241.5	4,428	4,822	8.9
Ħut ieħor	Other species	89,326	123,364	38.1	240,122	297,883	24.1	
Gozo and Comino ²	Total		198,770	108,460	-45.4	364,796	217,658	-40.3
	Gamblu	Shrimp	36,996	31,371	-15.2	75,218	45,560	-39.4
	Ħanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	8,156	65	-99.2	10,381	2,340	-77.5
	Lampuka	Dorado	108,689	43,283	-60.2	124,937	51,458	-58.8
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	435	243	-44.1	1,991	2,986	50.0
	Pixxispad	Swordfish	13,407	6,108	-54.4	35,428	32,453	-8.4
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	3,378	0	-100.0	35,930	16,741	-53.4
	Vopa	Bogue	1,979	1,571	-20.6	8,448	7,082	-16.2
Ħut ieħor	Other Species	25,730	25,819	0.3	72,463	59,038	-18.5	
Foreign Vessels ³	Total		9,262	4,136	-55.3	22,162	18,720	-15.5
	Gamblu	Shrimp	0	21	-	368	21	-94.3
	Ħanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	1,754	431	-75.4	2,812	1,521	-45.9
	Lampuka	Dorado	273	0	-100.0	317	0	-100.0
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	122	163	33.6	593	357	-39.8
	Pixxispad	Swordfish	0	0	-	1,674	0	-100.0
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	0	0	-	0	0	-
	Vopa	Bogue	0	28	-	0	28	-
Ħut ieħor	Other Species	7,113	3,493	-50.9	16,398	16,793	2.4	

* 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. Monthly 'All Items' fresh fish indices

Month	Fresh Fish Index (2005 = 100)	
	Price Index	Volume Index
2006		
January	103.37	38.89
February	116.17	15.94
March	111.06	19.96
April	121.65	26.86
May	112.53	156.04
June	114.48	131.66
July	116.76	76.91
August	112.33	135.10
September	98.86	236.97
October	101.46	233.91
November	123.24	69.31
December	121.45	22.10
2007		
January	125.62	26.22
February	114.91	20.90
March	112.57	32.88
April	135.27	31.75
May	129.84	87.65
June	121.57	105.47
July	116.64	63.68
August	156.70	95.67
September	155.68	81.84
October		
November		
December		

Table 4. Quarterly 'All Items' fresh fish indices

Quarter	Fresh Fish Index (2005 = 100)	
	Price Index	Volume Index
2006		
Q1/2006	108.51	24.93
Q2/2006	113.18	104.85
Q3/2006	107.19	149.66
Q4/2006	108.87	108.44
2007		
Q1/2007	115.08	26.67
Q2/2007	125.53	74.96
Q3/2007	145.31	80.40
Q4/2007		

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. From this release onwards, monthly and quarterly indices with 2005 as the base year will be disseminated.
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 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, Mġarr, 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.