

# News Release



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## Agriculture

### Fruit and Vegetables - Q1/2007

*During the first quarter the volume and wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables rose by 22.0 per cent and 16.2 per cent respectively.*

Fresh fruit and vegetables passing through the official markets in the first quarter of 2007 amounted to 11.4 million kilograms yielding Lm 1.95 million. This represents an increase of 22.0 per cent in weight and an increase of 16.2 per cent in the wholesale value over the comparative period last year.

The supply of fresh vegetables rose by 21.7 per cent over the first quarter in 2006. This rise was a result of an increase in the supply of Potatoes (+103.3 per cent), Vegetable Marrows (+50.0 per cent), Tomatoes (+17.9 per cent) and Lettuce (+28.9 per cent). A drop of 33.7 per cent in the supply of Dry Onions was also registered. The wholesale value of fresh vegetables rose by 13.1 per cent from Lm 1.57 million in the first quarter 2006 to Lm 1.77 million in 2007. The wholesale value of Dry Onions and Potatoes rose by 58.2 per cent and 145.7 per cent respectively due to higher prices fetched at the market. The increase in the wholesale value of tomatoes resulted solely from an increase in the supply of tomatoes as average prices remained relatively stable.

The supply and wholesale value of fresh fruit rose by 29.8 per cent and 59.6 per cent respectively over the comparative period last year. The increase in the supply of fresh fruit resulted from an increase in Sweet Oranges (+19.3 per cent) and Strawberries (+152.4 per cent). The increase in the wholesale value resulted mainly from an increase in supply of fresh fruit whereas average prices of strawberries fell by 12.5 per cent over the comparative period last year.

### Regional Statistics

Maltese farmers supplied a total of 10.36 million kilograms of fruit and vegetables or 91.0 per cent of the total supply. The volume and wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetable supply increased by 22.4 per cent and 17.9 per cent respectively over the same period last year. The increase in the supply of potatoes (+104.3 per cent) was mainly responsible for the increase.

Gozitan farmers, on the other hand, supplied 1.02 million kilograms of fruit and vegetables which amounted to 9.0 per cent of the total supply. The supply and wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables rose by 18.0 per cent and 6.4 per cent respectively.

### Indices

The 'All Items' fresh fruit price index declined by 26.68 points (-19.1 per cent) from 139.72 points in March 2006 to 113.04 points in March this year. In contrast, the volume index increased by 23.98 points (+78.5 per cent) from 30.54 points in March 2006 to 54.52 in March 2007.

The 'All Items' fresh vegetables price index for the month of March stood at 114.89 points, a drop of 7.19 points (-5.9 per cent) over the corresponding month in 2006. The 'All Items' vegetables volume index rose by 17.87 points (+18.4 per cent) from 97.26 points last year to 115.13 points in March 2007 ■

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

Item	January/March					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (Lm)		
	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006
<b>Total vegetables and fruit</b>	<b>9,334,726</b>	<b>11,384,356</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>1,680,195</b>	<b>1,952,075</b>	<b>16.2</b>
<b>Total vegetables</b>	<b>9,065,374</b>	<b>11,034,767</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>1,567,284</b>	<b>1,771,886</b>	<b>13.1</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Artichokes Globe	285,419	380,340	33.3	87,116	59,974	-31.2
Beans Broad	103,207	187,653	81.8	43,578	76,799	76.2
Bellpepper	72,572	85,228	17.4	38,320	50,241	31.1
Cabbages	770,621	790,021	2.5	38,880	28,224	-27.4
Carrots	488,117	606,868	24.3	70,402	63,294	-10.1
Cauliflowers	1,466,348	1,477,113	0.7	120,987	98,462	-18.6
Celery	128,869	120,045	-6.8	11,320	10,567	-6.7
Cucumber	63,935	111,651	74.6	46,380	46,371	0.0
Eggplant	50,209	71,717	42.8	25,789	33,680	30.6
Kohlrabi	361,925	435,845	20.4	22,423	22,627	0.9
Lettuce	499,285	643,437	28.9	78,300	61,923	-20.9
Marrows Vegetable	646,056	969,242	50.0	317,899	210,933	-33.6
Melons Sugar	494	577	16.8	128	445	248.8
Melons Water	0	0	-	0	0	-
Onions Dry	742,453	491,995	-33.7	88,331	139,742	58.2
Onions Green	38,280	171,016	346.8	1,615	42,547	2,535.0
Potatoes	991,134	2,014,732	103.3	122,854	301,814	145.7
Pumpkins	194,520	160,219	-17.6	17,818	13,266	-25.5
Tomatoes	914,791	1,078,136	17.9	236,402	276,094	16.8
Other vegetables	1,247,141	1,238,933	-0.7	198,744	234,886	18.2
<b>Total fruit</b>	<b>269,352</b>	<b>349,589</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>112,911</b>	<b>180,189</b>	<b>59.6</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Figs Dry	93	1,394	1,398.9	60	226	279.3
Figs Early	0	0	-	0	0	-
Grapes	0	0	-	0	0	-
Lemons	64,518	73,928	14.6	8,618	7,288	-15.4
Nectarines	0	0	-	0	0	-
Oranges Sweet	113,692	135,666	19.3	38,820	49,881	28.5
Peaches	0	0	-	0	0	-
Plums Cherry	0	0	-	0	0	-
Pomegranates	0	15	-	0	1	-
Strawberries	29,709	74,986	152.4	49,922	105,088	110.5
Other fruit	61,340	63,600	3.7	15,492	17,705	14.3

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

Item	January/March					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (Lm)		
	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006
<b>Total vegetables and fruit</b>	<b>8,467,595</b>	<b>10,361,428</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>1,434,200</b>	<b>1,690,313</b>	<b>17.9</b>
<b>Total vegetables</b>	<b>8,351,411</b>	<b>10,208,965</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>1,370,044</b>	<b>1,576,080</b>	<b>15.0</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Artichokes Globe	270,954	372,958	37.6	82,513	57,014	-30.9
Beans Broad	99,051	173,633	75.3	41,065	70,441	71.5
Bellpepper	50,653	63,297	25.0	26,865	37,592	39.9
Cabbages	729,794	754,917	3.4	35,189	25,316	-28.1
Carrots	473,650	587,304	24.0	67,869	59,724	-12.0
Cauliflowers	1,340,306	1,372,157	2.4	102,820	88,180	-14.2
Celery	124,004	114,875	-7.4	10,569	9,772	-7.5
Cucumber	36,717	63,861	73.9	25,597	25,822	0.9
Eggplant	23,189	35,174	51.7	11,878	16,466	38.6
Kohlrabi	339,441	410,193	20.8	19,880	19,542	-1.7
Lettuce	469,057	607,238	29.5	72,277	57,700	-20.2
Marrows Vegetable	558,624	847,564	51.7	275,794	180,574	-34.5
Melons Sugar	220	577	162.3	38	445	1,056.7
Melons Water	0	0	-	0	0	-
Onions Dry	726,675	479,341	-34.0	85,956	135,882	58.1
Onions Green	35,813	165,328	361.6	1,460	42,022	2,778.2
Potatoes	936,193	1,912,519	104.3	114,799	287,027	150.0
Pumpkins	183,004	149,107	-18.5	16,788	12,387	-26.2
Tomatoes	800,724	960,487	20.0	203,315	239,815	18.0
Other vegetables	1,153,344	1,138,436	-1.3	175,371	210,358	20.0
<b>Total fruit</b>	<b>116,184</b>	<b>152,462</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>64,157</b>	<b>114,233</b>	<b>78.1</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Figs Dry	93	68	-26.9	60	55	-7.8
Figs Early	0	0	-	0	0	-
Grapes	0	0	-	0	0	-
Lemons	38,400	41,432	7.9	4,969	3,966	-20.2
Nectarines	0	0	-	0	0	-
Oranges Sweet	14,640	9,207	-37.1	4,443	2,863	-
Peaches	0	0	-	0	0	-
Plums Cherry	0	0	-	0	0	-
Pomegranates	0	15	-	0	1	-
Strawberries	26,973	71,643	165.6	46,192	100,026	116.5
Other fruit	36,078	30,097	-16.6	8,493	7,323	-13.8

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

Item	January/March					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (Lm)		
	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006
<b>Total vegetables and fruit</b>	<b>867,131</b>	<b>1,022,929</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>245,995</b>	<b>261,762</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>Total vegetables</b>	<b>713,963</b>	<b>825,802</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>197,240</b>	<b>195,806</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Artichokes Globe	14,465	7,382	-49.0	4,604	2,960	-35.7
Beans Broad	4,156	14,020	237.3	2,513	6,358	153.0
Bellpepper	21,919	21,931	0.1	11,455	12,649	10.4
Cabbages	40,827	35,104	-14.0	3,690	2,907	-21.2
Carrots	14,467	19,564	35.2	2,532	3,570	41.0
Cauliflowers	126,042	104,956	-16.7	18,167	10,282	-43.4
Celery	4,865	5,170	6.3	751	794	5.8
Cucumber	27,218	47,790	75.6	20,783	20,549	-1.1
Eggplant	27,020	36,543	35.2	13,912	17,215	23.7
Kohlrabi	22,484	25,652	14.1	2,543	3,085	21.3
Lettuce	30,228	36,199	19.8	6,023	4,223	-29.9
Marrows Vegetable	87,432	121,678	39.2	42,105	30,358	-27.9
Melons Sugar	274	0	-100.0	89	0	-100.0
Melons Water	0	0	-	0	0	-
Onions Dry	15,778	12,654	-19.8	2,376	3,860	62.5
Onions Green	2,467	5,688	130.6	155	525	239.3
Potatoes	54,941	102,213	86.0	8,055	14,787	83.6
Pumpkins	11,516	11,112	-3.5	1,030	878	-14.7
Tomatoes	114,067	117,649	3.1	33,087	36,279	9.6
Other vegetables	93,797	100,497	7.1	23,373	24,527	4.9
<b>Total fruit</b>	<b>153,168</b>	<b>197,127</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>48,755</b>	<b>65,956</b>	<b>35.3</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Figs Dry	0	1,326	-	0	171	-
Figs Early	0	0	-	0	0	-
Grapes	0	0	-	0	0	-
Lemons	26,118	32,496	24.4	3,649	3,322	-9.0
Nectarines	0	0	-	0	0	-
Oranges Sweet	99,052	126,459	27.7	34,377	47,018	36.8
Peaches	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Plums Cherry	0	0	-	0	0	-
Pomegranates	0	0	-	0	0	-
Strawberries	2,736	3,343	22.2	3,730	5,062	35.7
Other fruit	25,262	33,503	32.6	6,999	10,382	48.3

**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
<b>2005</b>				
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
<b>2006</b>				
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
October	81.98	81.94	106.47	89.44
November	113.19	90.15	118.93	85.27
December	96.68	75.56	88.34	97.12
<b>2007</b>				
January	97.75	69.67	96.93	109.23
February	129.90	48.98	90.52	110.79
March	113.04	54.52	114.89	115.13

## 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>