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Agriculture

Fruit and Vegetables: Q2/2008

During the second quarter the supply and wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables rose by 0.5 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Fresh fruit and vegetable availability for the second quarter of 2008 rose by 0.5 per cent, from 13.79 million kilograms in the second quarter of 2007 to 13.85 million kilograms in the second quarter this year. Similarly, the wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables for the second quarter of 2008 amounted to €5.96m, up by 5.6 per cent over the comparative quarter of 2007.

During this period, the supply of fresh vegetables declined by 2.2 per cent, to 12.91 million kilograms in the second quarter of 2008. Declines were registered in the supply of Potatoes (-22.3 per cent), Sugar Melons (-18.5 per cent), Water Melons (-1.7 per cent) and Tomatoes (-0.6 per cent), although the supply of Cauliflower and Lettuce increased by 5.5 and 10.2 per cent respectively over the comparative period last year. Furthermore, the wholesale value of fresh vegetables declined by 4.4 per cent, from €4.78m to €4.57m. Significant drops in the wholesale value of Water Melons (-33.0 per cent) and Potatoes (-47.7 per cent) were recorded.

The supply and wholesale value of fresh fruit increased by 61.3 and 61.6 per cent respectively over the comparative period last year. An increase in the supply of Peaches (+111.7 per cent) and Strawberries (+32.1 per cent) was registered, although the supply of Early Figs dropped by 58.1 per cent.

Regional Statistics

Maltese farmers supplied 12.63 million kilograms (+1.5 per cent) of fruit and vegetables, yielding €5.37m (+7.2 per cent). Overall, Maltese farmers supplied 91.2 per cent of the total supply of fruit and vegetables.

On the other hand, Gozitan farmers contributed a total of 1.22 million kilograms of fresh fruit and vegetables or 8.8 per cent of the total supply. Gozitan supply declined by 8.7 per cent over the second quarter last year. Similarly, Gozitan produce had a wholesale value of €0.59m, down by 7.1 per cent over the comparative period last year.

Quarterly Indices

The Quarterly 'All Items' fresh fruit price index for the second quarter rose by 12.27 points (+9.4 per cent) from 131.14 points in the second quarter of 2007 to 143.41 points in the second quarter this year. The fresh fruit volume index rose by 52.39 points (+61.3 per cent) from 85.50 points in the second quarter of 2007 to 137.89 points in the second quarter this year.

The Quarterly 'All Items' fresh vegetables price index for the second quarter stood at 109.66 points, an increase of 3.41 points (+3.2 per cent) over the corresponding period in 2007. The Quarterly 'All Items' vegetables volume index declined by 2.89 points (-2.2 per cent) from 130.60 points last year to 127.71 points in the second quarter of 2008. ■

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

Item	April/June					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (Lm)		
	2007	2008	±% 2008/2007	2007	2008	±% 2008/2007
Total vegetables and fruit	13,785,161	13,850,076	0.5	5,647,144	5,963,506	5.6
Total vegetables	13,203,215	12,911,533	-2.2	4,788,272	4,575,568	-4.4
<i>of which:</i>						
Artichokes Globe	54,080	64,963	20.1	6,313	8,448	33.8
Beans Broad	347,680	540,571	55.5	174,641	157,655	-9.7
Bellpepper	215,026	216,097	0.5	144,788	138,340	-4.5
Cabbages	543,595	586,950	8.0	64,647	70,802	9.5
Carrots	488,831	369,088	-24.5	177,425	153,711	-13.4
Cauliflowers	916,583	966,820	5.5	141,392	167,293	18.3
Celery	99,067	95,102	-4.0	25,244	29,033	15.0
Cucumber	210,784	270,534	28.3	155,678	125,867	-19.1
Eggplant	174,431	177,165	1.6	78,800	92,213	17.0
Kohlrabi	234,751	221,815	-5.5	30,500	36,526	19.8
Lettuce	790,100	870,822	10.2	207,280	192,535	-7.1
Marrows Vegetable	952,996	966,183	1.4	381,117	502,623	31.9
Melons Sugar	1,025,847	836,026	-18.5	415,685	460,751	10.8
Melons Water	1,196,178	1,176,415	-1.7	409,186	274,256	-33.0
Onions Dry	497,849	574,442	15.4	225,766	256,564	13.6
Onions Green	313,732	414,752	32.2	97,422	72,756	-25.3
Potatoes	2,452,804	1,906,713	-22.3	857,287	448,403	-47.7
Pumpkins	125,361	75,346	-39.9	41,097	87,111	112.0
Tomatoes	1,642,346	1,632,295	-0.6	670,142	763,584	13.9
Other vegetables	921,175	949,436	3.1	483,861	537,096	11.0
Total fruit	581,946	938,543	61.3	858,872	1,387,939	61.6
<i>of which:</i>						
Bambinella	0	187	-	0	622	-
Figs Dry	1,927	43	-97.8	432	60	-86.1
Figs Early	62,239	26,108	-58.1	111,535	59,414	-46.7
Grapes	0	48	-	0	61	-
Lemons	107,639	107,837	0.2	26,425	45,978	74.0
Nectarines	17,801	61,921	247.8	19,045	46,276	143.0
Oranges	1,307	5,988	358.1	1,310	3,233	146.8
Oranges Sweet	2,487	24,656	891.4	2,920	15,663	436.4
Peaches	124,069	262,621	111.7	111,508	197,093	76.8
Plums Cherry	2,108	37,414	1,674.8	3,701	47,960	1,195.8
Pomegranates	0	0	-	0	0	-
Strawberries	242,124	319,870	32.1	567,758	823,042	45.0
Other fruit	20,246	91,851	353.7	14,237	148,539	943.3

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

Item	April/June					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (Lm)		
	2007	2008	±% 2008/2007	2007	2008	±% 2008/2007
Total vegetables and fruit	12,454,070	12,634,769	1.5	5,010,397	5,371,738	7.2
Total vegetables	11,955,947	11,849,140	-0.9	4,203,112	4,078,382	-3.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Artichokes Globe	52,842	61,942	17.2	5,904	8,115	37.5
Beans Broad	302,792	486,593	60.7	153,004	138,928	-9.2
Bellpepper	185,329	185,741	0.2	120,314	115,241	-4.2
Cabbages	520,972	570,544	9.5	61,011	66,714	9.3
Carrots	468,958	355,661	-24.2	168,845	147,938	-12.4
Cauliflowers	881,550	945,863	7.3	134,363	159,278	18.5
Celery	93,141	89,455	-4.0	23,145	26,454	14.3
Cucumber	122,198	189,874	55.4	89,425	83,140	-7.0
Eggplant	128,242	121,028	-5.6	54,011	60,494	12.0
Kohlrabi	227,693	214,702	-5.7	28,336	32,879	16.0
Lettuce	745,544	823,955	10.5	188,028	171,912	-8.6
Marrows Vegetable	872,685	881,541	1.0	343,886	452,148	31.5
Melons Sugar	927,129	774,656	-16.4	375,241	431,510	15.0
Melons Water	1,120,748	1,135,302	1.3	383,876	264,093	-31.2
Onions Dry	330,602	402,138	21.6	157,506	197,944	25.7
Onions Green	265,849	392,105	47.5	81,422	65,469	-19.6
Potatoes	2,253,472	1,776,168	-21.2	787,433	414,423	-47.4
Pumpkins	114,785	68,008	-40.8	37,803	80,143	112.0
Tomatoes	1,486,446	1,490,111	0.2	579,482	680,992	17.5
Other vegetables	854,972	883,755	3.4	430,079	480,570	11.7
Total fruit	498,123	785,630	57.7	807,284	1,293,356	60.2
<i>of which:</i>						
Bambinella	0	187	-	0	622	-
Figs Dry	19	43	126.3	26	60	132.8
Figs Early	61,898	25,592	-58.7	110,863	58,168	-47.5
Grapes	0	48	-	0	61	-
Lemons	49,877	49,922	0.1	12,975	21,813	68.1
Nectarines	17,506	60,756	247.1	18,763	45,378	141.9
Oranges	811	2,944	263.0	829	1,484	79.1
Oranges Sweet	26	652	2,407.7	21	287	1,241.0
Peaches	120,142	255,113	112.3	108,975	191,194	75.4
Plums Cherry	2,108	36,966	1,653.6	3,701	47,452	1,182.1
Pomegranates	0	0	-	0	0	-
Strawberries	227,277	264,717	16.5	537,870	781,786	45.3
Other fruit	18,460	88,691	380.5	13,263	145,052	993.7

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

Item	April/June					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (Lm)		
	2007	2008	±% 2008/2007	2007	2008	±% 2008/2007
Total vegetables and fruit	1,331,090	1,215,306	-8.7	636,747	591,768	-7.1
Total vegetables	1,247,268	1,062,393	-14.8	585,159	497,186	-15.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Artichokes Globe	1,238	3,021	144.0	409	333	-18.6
Beans Broad	44,888	53,978	20.3	21,638	18,728	-13.4
Bellpepper	29,697	30,356	2.2	24,474	23,099	-5.6
Cabbages	22,623	16,406	-27.5	3,637	4,088	12.4
Carrots	19,873	13,427	-32.4	8,580	5,773	-32.7
Cauliflowers	35,033	20,957	-40.2	7,029	8,015	14.0
Celery	5,926	5,647	-4.7	2,099	2,579	22.9
Cucumber	88,586	80,660	-8.9	66,253	42,727	-35.5
Eggplant	46,189	56,137	21.5	24,789	31,720	28.0
Kohlrabi	7,058	7,113	0.8	2,164	3,647	68.6
Lettuce	44,556	46,867	5.2	19,252	20,623	7.1
Marrows Vegetable	80,311	84,642	5.4	37,231	50,475	35.6
Melons Sugar	98,718	61,370	-37.8	40,445	29,241	-27.7
Melons Water	75,430	41,113	-45.5	25,310	10,163	-59.8
Onions Dry	167,247	172,304	3.0	68,260	58,620	-14.1
Onions Green	47,883	22,647	-52.7	16,001	7,287	-54.5
Potatoes	199,332	130,545	-34.5	69,853	33,980	-51.4
Pumpkins	10,576	7,338	-30.6	3,294	6,968	111.5
Tomatoes	155,900	142,184	-8.8	90,660	82,592	-8.9
Other vegetables	66,204	65,681	-0.8	53,782	56,526	5.1
Total fruit	83,823	152,913	82.4	51,588	94,583	83.3
<i>of which:</i>						
Bambinella	0	0	-	0	0	-
Figs Dry	1,908	0	-	406	0	-
Figs Early	341	516	51.3	673	1,246	85.1
Grapes	0	0	-	0	0	-
Lemons	57,762	57,915	0.3	13,451	24,165	79.7
Nectarines	295	1,165	294.9	283	898	217.9
Oranges	496	3,044	513.7	481	1,749	263.4
Oranges Sweet	2,461	24,004	875.4	2,899	15,375	430.4
Peaches	3,927	7,508	91.2	2,533	5,898	132.9
Plums Cherry	0	448	-	0	508	-
Pomegranates	0	0	-	0	0	-
Strawberries	14,847	55,153	271.5	29,888	41,256	38.0
Other fruit	1,786	3,160	76.9	974	3,487	257.9

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
2007				
January	156.51	61.99	104.88	106.72
February	181.07	43.58	87.69	108.24
March	144.08	48.51	122.01	112.48
April	100.99	69.41	123.13	113.13
May	127.00	82.02	111.82	130.47
June	159.77	105.08	102.95	148.20
July	113.99	80.41	128.53	170.90
August	114.57	152.86	120.12	120.32
September	108.87	119.61	118.36	77.19
October	147.73	47.97	125.70	81.27
November	132.87	83.82	160.17	73.26
December	131.43	72.48	154.81	80.91
2008				
January	118.31	90.05	160.37	92.64
February	131.07	60.33	168.17	83.11
March	134.62	72.39	150.85	105.90
April	107.66	90.90	129.45	107.70
May	151.37	98.15	118.96	120.88
June	166.98	224.63	108.87	154.55
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
2007				
Q12007	150.53	51.36	104.22	109.15
Q2/2007	131.14	85.50	106.25	130.60
Q3/2007	108.32	117.63	119.62	122.80
Q4/2007	138.19	68.07	137.35	78.48
2008				
Q1/2008	125.92	74.25	155.21	93.88
Q2/2008	143.41	137.89	109.66	127.71
Q3/2008				
Q4/2008				

Methodological Notes

1. The information is collected from the five official markets namely; Pitkali Malta, Co-op Malta, Pitkali Gozo, Co-op Gozo and Ta' Qali Producers Group 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 Laspeyres 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>