

# News Release



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## Agriculture

### Fruit and Vegetables: Q3/2008

*During the third quarter, the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables rose by 9.9 per cent, while the wholesale value declined by 11.0 per cent.*

The supply of fresh fruit and vegetables during the third quarter of 2008 amounted to 14.53 million kilograms, an increase of 9.9 per cent when compared to the third quarter in 2007. On the other hand, the wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables decreased by 11.0 per cent, from €5.53 million in the third quarter of 2007 to €4.92 million in the third quarter this year.

The supply of fresh vegetables rose by 7.8 per cent over the 12.42 million kilograms supplied in the comparative period last year. The supply of Potatoes rose by 73.0 per cent, while Water Melons, Vegetable Marrows and Cabbages registered gains by 5.5, 5.7 and 11.8 per cent respectively. On the other hand, the supply of Tomatoes and Lettuce declined by 6.0 and 4.6 per cent respectively. The wholesale value of fresh vegetables declined by 17.0 per cent, from €4.83 million in the third quarter of 2007 to €4.01 million in the corresponding period of 2008, mainly due to a decline in the wholesale prices of the main vegetables. This resulted from the general increase in the supply of fresh vegetables in the third quarter of 2008.

During the third quarter of 2008, 1.15 million kilograms (+43.4 per cent) of fresh fruit, yielding €0.91 million (+29.9 per cent), were supplied to the market. The rise in the volume and wholesale value was mainly attributed to an increase in the supply of Peaches and Grapes which rose by 112.6 and 22.5 per cent respectively.

### Regional Statistics

Maltese farmers took a total of 12.09 million kilograms (+10.7 per cent) of fruit and vegetables to the market. This produce yielded €4.18 million (-9.2 per cent) in the third quarter of 2008. During this period, the share in volume of Maltese produce at the market amounted to 83.2 per cent of the total supply of fruit and vegetables.

On the other hand, Gozitan farmers took 2.44 million kilograms (+6.1 per cent) of fresh fruit and vegetables to the market. The wholesale value of Gozitan produce declined by 20.1 per cent, from €0.92 million in the third quarter of 2007 to €0.74 million in the third quarter of 2008.

### Quarterly Indices

The Quarterly 'All Items' fresh fruit price index for the third quarter declined by 2.80 points (-2.6 per cent), from 108.32 points in the third quarter of 2007 to 105.52 points in the corresponding period of 2008. Over the relative period, the fresh fruit volume index rose by 51.09 points or 43.4 per cent, to 168.72 points.

The Quarterly 'All Items' fresh vegetables price index for the third quarter stood at 88.60 points, down by 31.02 points (-25.9 per cent) over the corresponding period in 2007. The Quarterly 'All Items' vegetables volume index increased by 9.56 points (+7.8 per cent) from 122.80 points in the third quarter last year to 132.36 points in the period under review ■

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

Item	July/September					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2007	2008	±% 2008/2007	2007	2008	±% 2008/2007
<b>Total vegetables and fruit</b>	<b>13,216,067</b>	<b>14,529,728</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>5,530,786</b>	<b>4,920,013</b>	<b>-11.0</b>
<b>Total vegetables</b>	<b>12,415,460</b>	<b>13,381,369</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>4,830,650</b>	<b>4,010,611</b>	<b>-17.0</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Artichokes Globe	0	14	-	0	21	-
Beans Broad	78	1,884	2,315.4	99	427	329.2
Bellpepper	327,881	311,845	-4.9	160,441	145,222	-9.5
Cabbages	462,482	517,258	11.8	152,290	81,191	-46.7
Carrots	132,509	82,806	-37.5	53,448	44,832	-16.1
Cauliflowers	259,489	264,870	2.1	87,073	71,329	-18.1
Celery	97,069	102,900	6.0	21,094	22,849	8.3
Cucumber	250,573	303,803	21.2	309,729	214,068	-30.9
Eggplant	339,511	314,702	-7.3	100,534	73,558	-26.8
Kohlrabi	88,145	63,289	-28.2	13,364	10,960	-18.0
Lettuce	885,959	845,181	-4.6	286,688	309,035	7.8
Marrows Vegetable	759,131	802,101	5.7	488,001	492,436	0.9
Melons Sugar	1,545,900	1,606,113	3.9	538,852	456,710	-15.2
Melons Water	2,690,940	2,839,525	5.5	744,127	389,705	-47.6
Onions Dry	740,199	751,247	1.5	311,080	266,354	-14.4
Onions Green	332	13,431	3,945.5	43	2,643	5,982.9
Potatoes	1,030,605	1,783,445	73.0	411,591	326,091	-20.8
Pumpkins	114,006	102,543	-10.1	29,656	24,476	-17.5
Tomatoes	1,709,702	1,606,339	-6.0	635,452	553,436	-12.9
Other vegetables	980,950	1,068,074	8.9	487,084	525,271	7.8
<b>Total fruit</b>	<b>800,607</b>	<b>1,148,360</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>700,135</b>	<b>909,402</b>	<b>29.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Bambinella	57,190	29,741	-48.0	90,088	55,886	-38.0
Figs Dry	8,013	5,021	-37.3	13,968	10,362	-25.8
Figs Early	437	458	4.8	482	222	-53.9
Grapes	236,392	289,511	22.5	183,124	201,067	9.8
Lemons	59,937	76,696	28.0	39,866	40,870	2.5
Nectarines	45,580	69,532	52.5	31,645	46,217	46.0
Oranges	22	0	-100.0	15	0	-100.0
Oranges Sweet	15	29	93.3	14	11	-20.4
Peaches	259,134	551,033	112.6	225,406	422,647	87.5
Plums Cherry	8,913	10,697	20.0	11,431	14,935	30.6
Pomegranates	6,486	4,870	-24.9	3,567	2,941	-17.5
Strawberries	6,198	5,642	-9.0	10,891	8,055	-26.0
Other fruit	112,291	105,130	-6.4	89,638	106,190	18.5

Table 2. Quantity and wholesale value of agricultural products sold through official markets by Maltese farmers

Item	July/September					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2007	2008	±% 2008/2007	2007	2008	±% 2008/2007
<b>Total vegetables and fruit</b>	<b>10,921,464</b>	<b>12,094,391</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>4,605,898</b>	<b>4,181,182</b>	<b>-9.2</b>
<b>Total vegetables</b>	<b>10,188,460</b>	<b>11,039,707</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>3,963,431</b>	<b>3,348,757</b>	<b>-15.5</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Artichokes Globe	0	14	-	0	21	-
Beans Broad	39	1,884	4,730.8	31	427	1,278.0
Bellpepper	314,438	299,108	-4.9	152,446	137,343	-9.9
Cabbages	441,357	499,032	13.1	143,466	75,384	-47.5
Carrots	117,978	65,368	-44.6	45,998	34,178	-25.7
Cauliflowers	248,413	258,060	3.9	82,929	69,187	-16.6
Celery	91,642	98,790	7.8	19,173	21,111	10.1
Cucumber	179,273	249,314	39.1	205,364	155,828	-24.1
Eggplant	294,926	275,911	-6.4	82,086	62,742	-23.6
Kohlrabi	83,088	62,507	-24.8	11,727	10,482	-10.6
Lettuce	832,999	793,381	-4.8	260,527	272,698	4.7
Marrows Vegetable	695,650	727,683	4.6	437,169	434,751	-0.6
Melons Sugar	1,251,530	1,326,761	6.0	431,653	370,724	-14.1
Melons Water	1,699,582	1,786,514	5.1	480,039	245,381	-48.9
Onions Dry	668,328	671,309	0.4	283,920	241,917	-14.8
Onions Green	332	4,085	1,130.4	43	396	811.4
Potatoes	967,108	1,664,240	72.1	384,222	303,246	-21.1
Pumpkins	95,050	89,913	-5.4	25,062	21,271	-15.1
Tomatoes	1,469,037	1,348,479	-8.2	527,180	469,219	-11.0
Other vegetables	737,690	817,355	10.8	390,399	422,450	8.2
<b>Total fruit</b>	<b>733,005</b>	<b>1,054,684</b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>642,467</b>	<b>832,425</b>	<b>29.6</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Bambinella	55,349	28,114	-49.2	87,679	53,225	-39.3
Figs Dry	8,013	5,021	-37.3	13,968	10,362	-25.8
Figs Early	197	427	116.8	78	216	178.0
Grapes	224,605	278,507	24.0	163,233	177,790	8.9
Lemons	23,685	19,561	-17.4	17,002	12,718	-25.2
Nectarines	45,046	69,046	53.3	31,334	45,779	46.1
Oranges	7	0	-100.0	11	0	-100.0
Oranges Sweet	15	15	0.0	14	3	-78.5
Peaches	255,419	545,886	113.7	222,413	418,611	88.2
Plums Cherry	8,730	10,198	16.8	11,305	14,358	27.0
Pomegranates	4,103	2,741	-33.2	2,136	1,635	-23.5
Strawberries	5,758	5,012	-13.0	9,910	7,764	-21.7
Other fruit	102,079	90,156	-11.7	83,384	89,965	7.9

Table 3. Quantity and wholesale value of agricultural products sold through official markets by Gozitan farmers

Item	July/September					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2007	2008	±% 2008/2007	2007	2008	±% 2008/2007
<b>Total vegetables and fruit</b>	<b>2,294,603</b>	<b>2,435,338</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>924,888</b>	<b>738,831</b>	<b>-20.1</b>
<b>Total vegetables</b>	<b>2,227,001</b>	<b>2,341,662</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>867,220</b>	<b>661,854</b>	<b>-23.7</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Artichokes Globe	0	0	-	0	0	-
Beans Broad	39	0	-100.0	68	0	-100.0
Bellpepper	13,443	12,737	-5.3	7,996	7,879	-1.5
Cabbages	21,125	18,226	-13.7	8,823	5,807	-34.2
Carrots	14,531	17,438	20.0	7,451	10,654	43.0
Cauliflowers	11,076	6,810	-38.5	4,145	2,142	-48.3
Celery	5,427	4,110	-24.3	1,922	1,738	-9.6
Cucumber	71,300	54,489	-23.6	104,365	58,240	-44.2
Eggplant	44,585	38,791	-13.0	18,448	10,815	-41.4
Kohlrabi	5,057	782	-84.5	1,637	478	-70.8
Lettuce	52,960	51,800	-2.2	26,161	36,336	38.9
Marrows Vegetable	63,481	74,418	17.2	50,833	57,685	13.5
Melons Sugar	294,370	279,352	-5.1	107,199	85,986	-19.8
Melons Water	991,358	1,053,011	6.2	264,088	144,324	-45.4
Onions Dry	71,871	79,938	11.2	27,160	24,436	-10.0
Onions Green	0	9,346	-	0	2,247	-
Potatoes	63,497	119,205	87.7	27,370	22,845	-16.5
Pumpkins	18,956	12,630	-33.4	4,595	3,206	-30.2
Tomatoes	240,665	257,860	7.1	108,273	84,216	-22.2
Other vegetables	243,260	250,719	3.1	96,685	102,821	6.3
<b>Total fruit</b>	<b>67,602</b>	<b>93,676</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>57,668</b>	<b>76,977</b>	<b>33.5</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Bamibnella	1,841	1,627	-11.6	2,408	2,661	10.5
Figs Dry	0	0	-	0	0	-
Figs Early	240	31	-87.1	404	7	-98.4
Grapes	11,787	11,004	-6.6	19,891	23,278	17.0
Lemons	36,252	57,135	57.6	22,864	28,152	23.1
Nectarines	534	486	-9.0	311	437	40.7
Oranges	15	0	-100.0	3	0	-100.0
Oranges Sweet	0	14	-	0	8	-
Peaches	3,715	5,147	38.5	2,993	4,036	34.8
Plums Cherry	183	499	172.7	127	577	355.4
Pomegranates	2,383	2,129	-10.7	1,431	1,307	-8.7
Strawberries	440	630	43.2	981	291	-70.3
Other fruit	10,212	14,974	46.6	6,255	16,224	159.4

**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
<b>2007</b>				
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
<b>2008</b>				
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	157.86	224.63	108.87	154.55
July	119.60	152.00	96.46	167.80
August	105.08	207.77	75.22	125.04
September	101.88	146.39	102.62	104.23
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
<b>2007</b>				
Q1/2007	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
<b>2008</b>				
Q1/2008	125.92	74.25	155.21	93.88
Q2/2008	137.29	137.89	109.66	127.71
Q3/2008	105.52	168.72	88.60	132.36
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 Thursday 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 comparative month in previous years.
4. The regional data are derived at source where every consignment at the official markets is 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 main types of 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>