

# News Release



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## Agriculture

### Fruit and Vegetables: Q4/2007

*In the fourth quarter of 2007, the volume of fresh fruit and vegetables declined by 11.1 per cent, whereas the wholesale value rose by 21.6 per cent.*

A total of 8.4 million kilograms of fresh fruit and vegetables was supplied in the fourth quarter of 2007. This indicates a fall of 11.1 per cent over the comparative period in 2006. On the other hand, the wholesale value increased by 21.6 per cent, from Lm1.6m (€3.6m) in the fourth quarter of 2006 to Lm1.9m (€4.4m) in the corresponding quarter of 2007.

The supply of fresh vegetables fell by 11.3 per cent. Drops were recorded in Potatoes (-40.3 per cent), Lettuce (-11.5 per cent) and Vegetable Marrows (-34.7 per cent). In contrast, the wholesale value for fresh vegetables rose from Lm1.4m (€3.3m) in the fourth quarter of 2006 to Lm1.8m (€4.1m) in the fourth quarter of 2007, an increase of 24.9 per cent.

The supply of fresh fruit decreased by 7.3 per cent over the comparative period in 2006. The decline registered was mainly the result of a drop in the availability of Sweet Oranges (-11.0 per cent) and Grapes (-77.6 per cent). Similarly, the wholesale value of fresh fruit declined by 10.4 per cent to Lm0.13m (€0.31m) in the fourth quarter of 2007.

### Regional Statistics

In the fourth quarter of 2007, Maltese farmers supplied a total of 7.6 million kilograms or 90.0 per cent of the total fruit and vegetable supply produced locally. While over the comparative period in 2006, the volume of fresh fruit and vegetables fell by 11.1 per cent, the wholesale value rose by 21.8 per cent.

Gozitan farmers' supply of fresh fruit and vegetables amounted to 835,756 kilograms or 10.0 per cent of the total supply. In the period under review, an 11.7 per cent decline in the volume of fresh fruit and vegetables was recorded, while the wholesale value of Gozitan produce increased by 20.4 per cent.

### Indices

The quarterly 'All Items' fresh vegetables price index for the fourth quarter of 2007 stood at 137.35 points, an increase of 40.98 points (+42.5 per cent) over the same period in 2006. On the other hand, the volume index for fresh vegetables fell 10.04 points (-11.3 per cent), from 88.52 points in the fourth quarter of 2006 to 78.48 points in the corresponding quarter last year.

The fresh fruit price index stood at 138.19 points in the fourth quarter 2007, a drop of 0.07 points (-0.6 per cent) over the last quarter of 2006. Nevertheless, the fresh fruit volume index declined by 5.39 points (-7.3 per cent) from 73.46 points to 68.07 points■

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

Item	October/December								
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (Lm)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006
<b>Total vegetables and fruit</b>	<b>9,449,775</b>	<b>8,397,554</b>	<b>-11.1</b>	<b>1,566,277</b>	<b>1,904,718</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>3,648,443</b>	<b>4,436,800</b>	<b>21.6</b>
<b>Total vegetables</b>	<b>8,949,812</b>	<b>7,934,258</b>	<b>-11.3</b>	<b>1,418,661</b>	<b>1,772,479</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>3,304,592</b>	<b>4,128,766</b>	<b>24.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>									
Artichokes Globe	21,952	9,549	-56.5	14,281	9,739	-31.8	33,265	22,686	-31.8
Beans Broad	926	235	-74.6	494	158	-67.9	1,150	369	-67.9
Bellpepper	118,617	141,279	19.1	49,080	58,241	18.7	114,325	135,664	18.7
Cabbages	712,748	563,407	-21.0	37,683	94,843	151.7	87,778	220,925	151.7
Carrots	276,289	206,942	-25.1	35,384	31,957	-9.7	82,423	74,440	-9.7
Cauliflowers	1,293,057	1,376,954	6.5	113,944	137,053	20.3	265,418	319,247	20.3
Celery	107,063	123,667	15.5	11,924	13,662	14.6	27,777	31,825	14.6
Cucumber	190,057	148,725	-21.7	35,089	58,847	67.7	81,735	137,078	67.7
Eggplant	156,569	146,129	-6.7	33,470	36,143	8.0	77,964	84,189	8.0
Kohlrabi	306,534	358,825	17.1	21,571	27,957	29.6	50,246	65,123	29.6
Lettuce	690,921	611,806	-11.5	85,771	121,149	41.2	199,792	282,200	41.2
Marrows Vegetable	901,139	588,253	-34.7	203,788	249,614	22.5	474,699	581,445	22.5
Melons Sugar	30,250	28,989	-4.2	3,331	3,945	18.4	7,760	9,188	18.4
Melons Water	14,574	25,274	73.4	2,511	3,994	59.1	5,849	9,304	59.1
Onions Dry	704,016	510,286	-27.5	104,093	139,953	34.4	242,471	326,002	34.4
Onions Green	2,064	1,399	-32.2	89	84	-5.5	207	196	-5.5
Potatoes	672,543	401,383	-40.3	95,392	65,902	-30.9	222,203	153,509	-30.9
Pumpkins	150,930	180,114	19.3	12,406	22,365	80.3	28,897	52,096	80.3
Tomatoes	1,483,947	1,387,904	-6.5	336,855	427,069	26.8	784,660	994,803	26.8
Other vegetables	1,115,617	1,123,139	0.7	221,507	269,805	21.8	515,971	628,477	21.8
<b>Total fruit</b>	<b>499,963</b>	<b>463,296</b>	<b>-7.3</b>	<b>147,615</b>	<b>132,239</b>	<b>-10.4</b>	<b>343,851</b>	<b>308,034</b>	<b>-10.4</b>
<i>of which:</i>									
Bambinella	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-
Figs Dry	445	112	-74.9	107	44	-58.5	249	103	-58.5
Figs Early	24	0	-100.0	10	0	-100.0	22	0	-100.0
Grapes	73,032	16,367	-77.6	15,048	6,801	-54.8	35,054	15,843	-54.8
Lemons	73,770	70,347	-4.6	12,682	17,278	36.2	29,541	40,247	36.2
Nectarines	0	134	-	0	51	-	0	119	-
Oranges	95,147	122,001	28.2	26,703	27,956	4.7	62,201	65,120	4.7
Oranges Sweet	159,027	141,570	-11.0	44,830	35,261	-21.3	104,425	82,137	-21.3
Peaches	76	1,743	2,193.4	33	997	2,943.7	76	2,322	2,943.7
Plums Cherry	0	879	-	0	499	-	0	1,162	-
Pomegranates	52,330	48,271	-7.8	11,989	13,305	11.0	27,927	30,993	11.0
Strawberries	12,857	4,181	-67.5	26,475	7,220	-72.7	61,670	16,817	-72.7
Other fruit	33,256	57,692	73.5	9,739	22,827	134.4	22,685	53,172	134.4

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

Item	October/December								
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (Lm)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006
<b>Total vegetables and fruit</b>	<b>8,503,327</b>	<b>7,561,799</b>	<b>-11.1</b>	<b>1,351,224</b>	<b>1,645,737</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>3,147,505</b>	<b>3,833,536</b>	<b>21.8</b>
<b>Total vegetables</b>	<b>8,243,250</b>	<b>7,309,554</b>	<b>-11.3</b>	<b>1,269,548</b>	<b>1,572,516</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>2,957,252</b>	<b>3,662,977</b>	<b>23.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>									
Artichokes Globe	20,981	9,223	-	13,431	9,392	-	31,285	21,879	-
Beans Broad	897	139	-84.5	488	49	-90.0	1,138	114	-90.0
Bellpepper	96,908	117,733	21.5	39,240	46,856	19.4	91,405	109,144	19.4
Cabbages	678,321	527,330	-22.3	34,516	87,964	154.8	80,401	204,901	154.8
Carrots	270,805	198,378	-26.7	34,278	30,368	-11.4	79,845	70,739	-11.4
Cauliflowers	1,210,164	1,279,314	5.7	103,362	119,914	16.0	240,769	279,324	16.0
Celery	102,823	120,652	17.3	11,206	13,084	16.8	26,104	30,477	16.8
Cucumber	135,331	115,197	-14.9	24,548	43,583	77.5	57,181	101,520	77.5
Eggplant	117,500	110,352	-6.1	23,005	24,098	4.7	53,587	56,133	4.7
Kohlrabi	294,764	347,342	17.8	19,756	25,475	28.9	46,018	59,340	28.9
Lettuce	652,631	565,076	-13.4	77,756	109,032	40.2	181,124	253,976	40.2
Marrows Vegetable	789,774	504,161	-36.2	179,055	208,400	16.4	417,086	485,442	16.4
Melons Sugar	23,271	20,574	-11.6	2,246	3,047	35.6	5,232	7,096	35.6
Melons Water	12,165	24,015	97.4	2,118	3,671	73.3	4,934	8,551	73.3
Onions Dry	680,196	496,398	-27.0	100,525	137,269	36.6	234,160	319,750	36.6
Onions Green	1,963	1,379	-29.8	69	77	12.3	160	179	12.3
Potatoes	610,143	379,909	-37.7	85,811	62,367	-27.3	199,886	145,275	-27.3
Pumpkins	130,671	166,184	27.2	10,857	20,829	91.9	25,290	48,520	91.9
Tomatoes	1,391,315	1,289,898	-7.3	306,369	381,039	24.4	713,647	887,582	24.4
Other vegetables	1,022,628	1,036,300	1.3	200,912	246,004	22.4	468,000	573,035	22.4
<b>Total fruit</b>	<b>260,077</b>	<b>252,245</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>81,676</b>	<b>73,221</b>	<b>-10.4</b>	<b>190,253</b>	<b>170,559</b>	<b>-10.4</b>
<i>of which:</i>									
Bambinella	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-
Figs Dry	445	112	-74.9	107	44	-58.5	249	103	-58.5
Figs Early	24	0	-100.0	10	0	-100.0	22	0	-100.0
Grapes	72,767	16,138	-77.8	14,987	6,694	-55.3	34,910	15,593	-55.3
Lemons	37,451	42,278	12.9	6,265	10,083	61.0	14,593	23,488	61.0
Nectarines	0	134	-	0	51	-	0	119	-
Oranges	53,211	81,206	52.6	14,116	16,532	17.1	32,881	38,508	17.1
Oranges Sweet	30,744	36,856	-	8,380	8,460	-	19,521	19,707	-
Peaches	64	1,743	2,623.4	28	997	3,428.5	66	2,322	3,428.5
Plums Cherry	0	799	-	0	456	-	0	1,063	-
Pomegranates	30,971	30,275	-2.2	6,420	7,541	17.5	14,955	17,566	17.5
Strawberries	12,278	3,493	-71.6	25,522	6,259	-75.5	59,450	14,580	-75.5
Other fruit	22,123	39,212	77.2	5,841	16,103	175.7	13,606	37,511	175.7

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

Item	October/December								
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (Lm)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006	2006	2007	±% 2007/2006
<b>Total vegetables and fruit</b>	<b>946,448</b>	<b>835,756</b>	<b>-11.7</b>	<b>215,053</b>	<b>258,981</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>500,938</b>	<b>603,264</b>	<b>20.4</b>
<b>Total vegetables</b>	<b>706,562</b>	<b>624,705</b>	<b>-11.6</b>	<b>149,113</b>	<b>199,963</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>347,340</b>	<b>465,789</b>	<b>34.1</b>
<i>of which:</i>									
Artichokes Globe	971	326	-66.4	850	347	-59.2	1,980	808	-59.2
Beans Broad	29	96	231.0	6	109	1,889.1	13	255	1,889.1
Bellpepper	21,709	23,546	8.5	9,840	11,385	15.7	22,920	26,520	15.7
Cabbages	34,427	36,077	4.8	3,167	6,879	117.2	7,377	16,024	117.2
Carrots	5,484	8,564	56.2	1,107	1,589	43.6	2,577	3,701	43.6
Cauliflowers	82,893	97,640	17.8	10,582	17,139	62.0	24,649	39,922	62.0
Celery	4,240	3,015	-28.9	718	579	-19.4	1,672	1,348	-19.4
Cucumber	54,726	33,528	-38.7	10,541	15,265	44.8	24,555	35,557	44.8
Eggplant	39,069	35,777	-8.4	10,465	12,045	15.1	24,376	28,057	15.1
Kohlrabi	11,770	11,483	-2.4	1,815	2,483	36.8	4,228	5,783	36.8
Lettuce	38,290	46,730	22.0	8,014	12,117	51.2	18,668	28,224	51.2
Marrows Vegetable	111,365	84,092	-24.5	24,733	41,214	66.6	57,613	96,002	66.6
Melons Sugar	6,979	8,415	20.6	1,085	898	-17.2	2,527	2,092	-17.2
Melons Water	2,409	1,259	-47.7	393	323	-17.8	916	753	-17.8
Onions Dry	23,820	13,888	-41.7	3,568	2,684	-24.8	8,312	6,252	-24.8
Onions Green	101	20	-80.2	20	7	-65.1	47	17	-65.1
Potatoes	62,400	21,474	-65.6	9,581	3,535	-63.1	22,317	8,234	-63.1
Pumpkins	20,259	13,930	-31.2	1,548	1,535	-0.8	3,607	3,577	-0.8
Tomatoes	92,632	98,006	5.8	30,486	46,030	51.0	71,013	107,221	51.0
Other vegetables	92,989	86,839	-6.6	20,594	23,801	15.6	47,972	55,442	15.6
<b>Total fruit</b>	<b>239,886</b>	<b>211,051</b>	<b>-12.0</b>	<b>65,940</b>	<b>59,018</b>	<b>-10.5</b>	<b>153,598</b>	<b>137,475</b>	<b>-10.5</b>
<i>of which:</i>									
Bambinella	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-
Figs Dry	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-
Figs Early	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-
Grapes	265	229	-13.6	62	107	73.8	144	250	73.8
Lemons	36,319	28,069	-22.7	6,417	7,195	12.1	14,948	16,759	12.1
Nectarines	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-
Oranges	41,936	40,795	-2.7	12,587	11,424	-9.2	29,320	26,612	-9.2
Oranges Sweet	128,283	104,714	-18.4	36,450	26,801	-26.5	84,905	62,430	-26.5
Peaches	12	0	-100.0	5	0	-100.0	10	0	-100.0
Plums Cherry	0	80	-	0	43	-	0	99	-
Pomegranates	21,359	17,996	-15.7	5,569	5,764	3.5	12,971	13,427	3.5
Strawberries	579	688	18.8	953	960	0.7	2,220	2,237	0.7
Other fruit	11,133	18,480	66.0	3,898	6,723	72.5	9,079	15,661	72.5

**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>2006</b>				
January	154.60	61.35	129.21	91.72
February	174.55	30.20	123.68	82.26
March	163.93	27.17	132.04	95.02
April	91.90	72.44	121.66	100.22
May	125.43	66.82	134.85	121.59
June	106.13	289.87	100.17	159.66
July	89.85	282.31	103.78	177.67
August	78.31	327.15	88.04	145.51
September	81.74	173.04	96.10	90.49
October	103.92	72.91	97.09	87.38
November	156.35	80.22	109.67	83.31
December	136.40	67.24	90.47	94.89
<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	47.91	125.70	81.27
November	132.87	83.82	160.17	73.26
December	131.43	72.48	154.81	80.91

**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>2006</b>				
Q1/2006	157.63	39.57	120.94	89.67
Q2/2006	104.37	143.05	107.07	127.16
Q3/2006	82.69	260.83	92.13	137.89
Q4/2006	138.26	73.46	96.37	88.52
<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

## 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 are forwarded to the NSO on a monthly basis.
2. The data are recorded by crop, where the volume 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 is classified by the residence of the farmer.
5. The wholesale value in this release is being released in both Lm and €. Successive releases will be disseminated in € only.
6. The data in this release are not normally subject to revision.
7. 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.
8. 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>