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In the first quarter, the volume of fresh fruit and vegetables increased by 2.3 per cent, whereas the wholesale value declined by 7.5 per cent when compared to the corresponding quarter last year.

Fruit and Vegetables: Q1/2014

The volume of fresh fruit and vegetables passing through official markets rose to 10.3 million kilogrammes (+2.3 per cent), from 10.1 million kilogrammes in the corresponding quarter last year. On the other hand, the wholesale value dropped by 7.5 per cent from €5.0 million in the first quarter last year to €4.6 million in 2014.

Fresh vegetables supplied decreased marginally by 0.8 per cent to 9.8 million kilogrammes over the comparative quarter in 2013. Increases were registered in the supply of Globe artichokes (+24.8 per cent), Vegetable marrows (+11.3 per cent) and Tomatoes (+1.3 per cent). In contrast, the wholesale value of fresh vegetables declined by 12.5 per cent to €3.8 million.

The supply of fresh fruit increased by 45.1 per cent mainly on account of a rise in the availability of Oranges (+71.8 per cent), Sweet oranges (+65.6 per cent) and Strawberries (+43.7 per cent). Similarly, the wholesale value of fresh fruit advanced by 25.6 per cent, to €0.8 million.

Regional Statistics

The volume of fresh fruit and vegetables supplied by Maltese farmers increased by 2.4 per cent over the corresponding quarter in 2013. Maltese farmers supplied 9.6 million kilogrammes of fresh fruit and vegetables, or 92.8 per cent of the total supply. The wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables went down by 6.8 per cent from €4.5 million to €4.2 million.

Gozitan farmers contributed 0.7 million kilogrammes of fresh fruit and vegetables, or 7.2 per cent of the total supply. The volume of fresh fruit and vegetables increased by 0.6 per cent, whereas the wholesale value declined by 12.5 per cent over the comparative quarter in 2013.

Indices

The quarterly 'All Items' fresh fruit price declined by 29.69 points (-17.6 per cent) to 139.11 points. In contrast, the fresh fruit volume index increased by 23.81 points (+45.1 per cent) to 76.66 points.

The quarterly 'All Items' fresh vegetables price index went down by 13.84 points (-13.0 per cent) to 92.41 points. On the other hand, the fresh vegetables volume index increased by 0.71 points (+0.8 per cent) to 95.13 points in the first quarter this year ■

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

Item	January-March					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2013	2014	±% 2014/2013	2013	2014	±% 2014/2013
Total vegetables and fruit	10,082,175	10,312,512	2.3	5,020,990	4,645,893	-7.5
Total vegetables	9,734,153	9,807,668	0.8	4,355,193	3,809,690	-12.5
<i>of which:</i>						
Bellpepper	82,541	93,215	12.9	123,851	120,349	-2.8
Broad beans	44,801	110,062	145.7	83,127	155,685	87.3
Cabbages	941,267	906,413	-3.7	82,861	92,539	11.7
Carrots	505,935	470,215	-7.1	165,298	199,164	20.5
Cauliflowers	1,453,905	1,413,706	-2.8	217,596	220,226	1.2
Celery	123,119	118,612	-3.7	25,851	24,142	-6.6
Cucumber	80,574	145,042	80.0	140,927	93,838	-33.4
Dry onions	699,654	658,225	-5.9	507,636	112,504	-77.8
Eggplant	101,329	88,180	-13.0	125,054	103,503	-17.2
Globe artichokes	410,075	511,744	24.8	224,932	143,745	-36.1
Green onions	20,802	41,435	99.2	4,157	6,587	58.4
Kohlrabi	354,452	319,598	-9.8	43,731	48,097	10.0
Lettuce	702,040	690,884	-1.6	132,578	166,379	25.5
Potatoes	941,521	859,878	-8.7	352,789	314,277	-10.9
Pumpkins	166,151	165,025	-0.7	61,752	46,800	-24.2
Sugar melons	22	0	-	11	0	-
Tomatoes	868,182	879,628	1.3	820,876	770,650	-6.1
Vegetable marrows	861,922	959,719	11.3	695,903	518,619	-25.5
Watermelons	0	0	-	0	0	-
Other vegetables	1,375,865	1,376,089	0.0	546,262	672,588	23.1
Total fruit	348,021	504,845	45.1	665,797	836,203	25.6
<i>of which:</i>						
Bambinella	0	0	-	0	0	-
Cherry plums	0	0	-	0	0	-
Dry figs	198	119	-39.9	1,624	519	-68.0
Early figs	0	0	-	0	0	-
Grapes	0	0	-	0	0	-
Lemons	64,362	68,544	6.5	22,911	16,975	-25.9
Nectarines	0	0	-	0	0	-
Oranges	35,361	60,734	71.8	34,763	39,331	13.1
Peaches	0	0	-	0	0	-
Pomegranates	70	0	-	98	0	-
Strawberries	129,312	185,803	43.7	501,976	671,462	33.8
Sweet oranges	98,853	163,661	65.6	84,416	82,310	-2.5
Other fruit	19,866	25,983	30.8	20,010	25,606	28.0

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

Item	January-March					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2013	2014	±% 2014/2013	2013	2014	±% 2014/2013
Total vegetables and fruit	9,340,613	9,566,366	2.4	4,469,906	4,163,728	-6.8
Total vegetables	9,126,646	9,285,390	1.7	3,924,879	3,451,967	-12.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Bellpepper	67,868	71,254	5.0	103,977	94,449	-9.2
Broad beans	40,031	97,071	142.5	72,791	134,721	85.1
Cabbages	906,812	875,828	-3.4	77,127	87,522	13.5
Carrots	498,154	467,269	-6.2	163,206	198,095	21.4
Cauliflowers	1,378,430	1,373,536	-0.4	201,008	209,240	4.1
Celery	118,394	115,741	-2.2	24,514	23,288	-5.0
Cucumber	42,740	108,658	154.2	76,331	68,022	-10.9
Dry onions	697,603	654,832	-6.1	506,403	111,855	-77.9
Eggplant	64,774	49,364	-23.8	80,638	57,530	-28.7
Globe artichokes	406,337	509,392	25.4	221,208	141,650	-36.0
Green onions	18,903	39,749	110.3	3,505	6,158	75.7
Kohlrabi	328,895	303,368	-7.8	40,226	45,049	12.0
Lettuce	672,688	674,634	0.3	126,075	162,730	29.1
Potatoes	907,701	829,664	-8.6	338,914	302,818	-10.7
Pumpkins	150,883	154,377	2.3	55,752	43,339	-22.3
Sugar melons	0	0	-	0	0	-
Tomatoes	776,800	797,189	2.6	729,812	691,258	-5.3
Vegetable marrows	772,346	848,994	9.9	619,936	455,717	-26.5
Watermelons	0	0	-	0	0	-
Other vegetables	1,277,291	1,314,472	2.9	483,455	618,525	27.9
Total fruit	213,966	280,977	31.3	545,028	711,760	30.6
<i>of which:</i>						
Bambinella	0	0	-	0	0	-
Cherry plums	0	0	-	0	0	-
Dry figs	7	0	-	21	0	-
Early figs	0	0	-	0	0	-
Grapes	0	0	-	0	0	-
Lemons	41,093	37,697	-8.3	14,151	9,211	-34.9
Nectarines	0	0	-	0	0	-
Oranges	18,429	28,868	56.6	16,260	18,395	13.1
Peaches	0	0	-	0	0	-
Pomegranates	16	0	-	2	0	-
Strawberries	127,094	182,710	43.8	491,072	657,456	33.9
Sweet oranges	14,305	16,406	14.7	10,304	9,378	-9.0
Other fruit	13,023	15,296	17.5	13,218	17,320	31.0

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

Item	January-March					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2013	2014	±% 2014/2013	2013	2014	±% 2014/2013
Total vegetables and fruit	741,562	746,146	0.6	551,084	482,165	-12.5
Total vegetables	607,507	522,278	-14.0	430,315	357,723	-16.9
<i>of which:</i>						
Bellpepper	14,673	21,961	49.7	19,874	25,899	30.3
Broad beans	4,771	12,991	172.3	10,336	20,965	102.8
Cabbages	34,455	30,585	-11.2	5,734	5,016	-12.5
Carrots	7,781	2,946	-62.1	2,092	1,070	-48.9
Cauliflowers	75,475	40,170	-46.8	16,588	10,986	-33.8
Celery	4,725	2,871	-39.2	1,336	854	-36.1
Cucumber	37,834	36,384	-3.8	64,596	25,815	-60.0
Dry onions	2,051	3,393	65.4	1,233	649	-47.4
Eggplant	36,555	38,816	6.2	44,416	45,973	3.5
Globe artichokes	3,738	2,352	-37.1	3,724	2,095	-43.8
Green onions	1,899	1,686	-11.2	652	429	-34.2
Kohlrabi	25,557	16,230	-36.5	3,505	3,047	-13.1
Lettuce	29,352	16,250	-44.6	6,503	3,649	-43.9
Potatoes	33,820	30,214	-10.7	13,875	11,458	-17.4
Pumpkins	15,268	10,648	-30.3	5,999	3,461	-42.3
Sugar melons	22	0	-	11	0	-
Tomatoes	91,382	82,439	-9.8	91,064	79,392	-12.8
Vegetable marrows	89,576	110,725	23.6	75,968	62,902	-17.2
Watermelons	0	0	-	0	0	-
Other vegetables	98,574	61,617	-37.5	62,807	54,063	-13.9
Total fruit	134,055	223,868	67.0	120,769	124,442	3.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Bambinella	0	0	-	0	0	-
Cherry plums	0	0	-	0	0	-
Dry figs	191	119	-37.7	1,603	519	-67.6
Early figs	0	0	-	0	0	-
Grapes	0	0	-	0	0	-
Lemons	23,269	30,847	32.6	8,760	7,764	-11.4
Nectarines	0	0	-	0	0	-
Oranges	16,932	31,866	88.2	18,503	20,936	13.2
Peaches	0	0	-	0	0	-
Pomegranates	54	0	-	96	0	-
Strawberries	2,218	3,094	39.5	10,904	14,006	28.4
Sweet oranges	84,548	147,255	74.2	74,112	72,931	-1.6
Other fruit	6,843	10,688	56.2	6,792	8,286	22.0

Table 4. Monthly 'All Items' Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Index

Month	Fresh Fruit Index (2010 = 100)		Fresh Vegetables Index (2010 = 100)	
	Price Index	Volume Index	Price Index	Volume Index
2013				
January	112.19	62.17	113.27	103.38
February	207.91	37.47	109.29	87.70
March	186.29	58.91	96.21	92.16
April	126.91	126.68	92.80	116.34
May	159.30	83.89	109.49	114.05
June	108.80	145.73	93.26	113.15
July	106.74	115.29	83.47	133.25
August	71.25	129.88	84.63	110.82
September	56.66	77.86	88.75	88.82
October	56.78	38.59	91.26	88.15
November	74.26	49.06	110.79	67.59
December	84.79	65.67	131.38	74.69
2014				
January	112.37	66.86	84.56	99.39
February	154.25	65.03	84.12	90.48
March	150.70	98.09	108.55	95.52
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				

Table 5. Quarterly 'All Items' Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Index

Quarter	Fresh Fruit Index (2010 = 100)		Fresh Vegetables Index (2010 = 100)	
	Price Index	Volume Index	Price Index	Volume Index
2013				
Q1/2013	168.80	52.85	106.25	94.42
Q2/2013	131.67	118.77	98.52	114.51
Q3/2013	78.22	107.68	85.62	110.97
Q4/2013	71.95	51.11	111.14	76.81
2014				
Q1/2014	139.11	76.66	92.41	95.13
Q2/2014				
Q3/2014				
Q4/2014				

Methodological Notes

1. The information is collected from the four official markets (Pitkali Malta, Co-op Malta, Pitkali Gozo, and 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, with Monday and Thursday being the busiest days. Data are forwarded to the NSO on a monthly basis.
2. Data are recorded by crop where quantities and value are kept, together with average unit price.
3. 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 2010 as the base year. Price indices are calculated using the Laspeyres method with variable monthly baskets. These indices are not comparable month by month, and can only be compared with values for the corresponding month in previous years.
4. 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>