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During the first quarter of 2015, the volume and wholesale value of fish landings decreased by 40.4 and 31.3 per cent respectively over the comparative period in 2014.

Fish Landings: Q1/2015

Fish landings in the first quarter amounted to 64,969 kilograms, down by 40.4 per cent over the comparative period in 2014. This was due to drops in landings of the majority of the species, mainly Swordfish (69.2 per cent) and Dogfish (30.3 per cent) (Table 1). Similarly, the wholesale value of landings declined by 31.3 per cent to €432,776 (Table 2). Two comparative quarters are being shown in order to facilitate analysis.

Regional overview

During the first quarter, Maltese fishermen landed 53,774 kilograms, a decrease of 41.1 per cent over the comparative period in 2014. Landings of Maltese fishermen accounted for 82.8 per cent of total landings. The decrease was mainly brought about by drops in Swordfish (68.8 per cent) and Dogfish (37.8 per cent). On the other hand, there was a sharp increase in Shrimp landings. The wholesale value of fish landings by Maltese fishermen amounted to €384,801, down by 28.2 per cent when compared to 2014.

Fish landings by Gozitan fishermen decreased by 36.5 per cent over the comparative period a year earlier. This was mainly brought about by a decline in most of the species mainly Swordfish (71.9 per cent). In contrast, increases of 87.7 and 1.7 per cent were registered for Bogue and Dogfish respectively. In terms of volume, landings by Gozitan fishermen comprised 17.2 per cent of total landings. Wholesale value was €47,975, a drop of 49.0 per cent over the first quarter of 2014.

Indices

The 'All Items' fresh fish price index for the first quarter of 2015 stood at 124.08 points, an increase of 12.00 points over the comparative period in 2014. The decrease in the supply of fresh fish was reflected in the quarterly 'All Items' fresh fish volume index, which stood at 19.94 points, down by 13.50 points over the first quarter of 2014 (Table 4) ■

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Table 1. Quantity (in kgs) of fish landings

Administrative area	Species designation		2013	2014	2015			% change 2015/2014	
	Maltese	English	January-March	January	February	March	January-March	January-March	
MALTA	Gamblu	Shrimp	185	849	1,662	658	1,080	3,400	300.5
	Dott	Stone Bass	625	1,600	59	144	580	783	-51.1
	Lampuka	Dorado	3,799	51	-	-	-	-	-
	Mazzola	Dogfish	9,412	12,219	2,206	2,051	4,257	8,514	-30.3
	Pixxispad	Swordfish	13,862	51,432	11,031	4,797	-	15,828	-69.2
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Vopa	Bogue	1,301	4,941	1,837	2,111	1,542	5,490	11.1
	Ħut ieħor	Other Species	30,149	37,855	9,102	7,652	14,200	30,954	-18.2
	Total		59,333	108,947	25,897	17,413	21,659	64,969	-40.4
Malta ¹	Gamblu	Shrimp	167	674	1,641	633	1,054	3,328	393.8
	Dott	Stone Bass	368	906	59	144	580	783	-13.6
	Lampuka	Dorado	1,016	13	-	-	-	-	-
	Mazzola	Dogfish	5,664	9,905	1,223	1,424	3,514	6,161	-37.8
	Pixxispad	Swordfish	12,020	43,997	9,440	4,296	-	13,736	-68.8
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Vopa	Bogue	777	2,767	301	212	897	1,410	-49.0
	Ħut ieħor	Other species	25,966	33,043	7,821	7,163	13,372	28,356	-14.2
	Total		45,978	91,305	20,485	13,872	19,417	53,774	-41.1
Gozo and Comino ²	Gamblu	Shrimp	18	175	21	25	26	72	-58.9
	Dott	Stone Bass	257	694	-	-	-	-	-
	Lampuka	Dorado	2,783	38	-	-	-	-	-
	Mazzola	Dogfish	3,748	2,314	983	627	743	2,353	1.7
	Pixxispad	Swordfish	1,842	7,435	1,591	501	-	2,092	-71.9
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Vopa	Bogue	524	2,174	1,536	1,899	645	4,080	87.7
	Ħut ieħor	Other Species	4,183	4,812	1,281	489	828	2,598	-46.0
	Total		13,355	17,642	5,412	3,541	2,242	11,195	-36.5

¹ landings of vessels owned by persons residing in mainland Malta and landings of foreign-flagged vessels

² landings of vessels owned by persons residing in Gozo and Comino

Table 2. Wholesale value (in €) of fish landings

Administrative area	Species designation		2013	2014	2015				% change 2015/2014
	Maltese	English	January-March		January	February	March	January-March	January-March
MALTA	Gamblu	Shrimp	2,021	9,992	7,652	3,539	12,574	23,765	137.8
	Dott	Stone Bass	5,921	14,501	601	1,373	4,852	6,826	-52.9
	Lampuka	Dorado	16,957	220	-	-	-	-	-
	Mazzola	Dogfish	25,425	32,850	5,755	7,085	10,604	23,444	-28.6
	Pixxispad	Swordfish	110,911	283,148	78,462	37,478	-	115,940	-59.1
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Vopa	Bogue	5,156	13,215	5,202	6,847	5,139	17,188	30.1
	Ħut leħor	Other Species	202,352	276,375	65,555	61,559	118,499	245,613	-11.1
		Total	368,743	630,301	163,227	117,881	151,668	432,776	-31.3
Malta ¹	Gamblu	Shrimp	1,968	7,675	7,599	3,451	12,255	23,305	203.6
	Dott	Stone Bass	3,634	9,050	601	1,373	4,852	6,826	-24.6
	Lampuka	Dorado	4,398	70	-	-	-	-	-
	Mazzola	Dogfish	14,479	25,688	3,400	5,028	8,760	17,188	-33.1
	Pixxispad	Swordfish	95,308	238,619	67,941	34,060	-	102,001	-57.3
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Vopa	Bogue	3,536	7,951	908	1,067	3,374	5,349	-32.7
	Ħut leħor	Other species	178,073	247,100	59,328	58,376	112,428	230,132	-6.9
		Total	301,396	536,153	139,777	103,355	141,669	384,801	-28.2
Gozo and Comino ²	Gamblu	Shrimp	53	2,317	53	88	319	460	-80.1
	Dott	Stone Bass	2,287	5,451	-	-	-	-	-
	Lampuka	Dorado	12,559	150	-	-	-	-	-
	Mazzola	Dogfish	10,946	7,162	2,355	2,057	1,844	6,256	-12.7
	Pixxispad	Swordfish	15,603	44,529	10,521	3,418	-	13,939	-68.7
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Vopa	Bogue	1,620	5,264	4,294	5,780	1,765	11,839	124.9
	Ħut leħor	Other Species	24,279	29,275	6,227	3,183	6,071	15,481	-47.1
		Total	67,347	94,148	23,450	14,526	9,999	47,975	-49.0

¹ landings of vessels owned by persons residing in mainland Malta and landings of foreign-flagged vessels

² landings of vessels owned by persons residing in Gozo and Comino

Table 3. Fresh fish indices

Month	All Items Fresh Fish Index (2010=100)	
	Price Index	Volume Index
2014		
January	96.34	53.52
February	118.54	26.10
March	121.37	20.69
April	134.78	29.64
May	152.28	117.09
June	122.74	81.67
July	115.81	89.88
August	106.75	107.05
September	103.29	113.87
October	85.37	95.43
November	123.30	35.42
December	134.64	28.13
2015		
January	116.87	23.84
February	125.53	16.03
March	129.85	19.94
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		

Table 4. Quarterly 'All Items' fresh fish indices

Quarter	Fresh Fish Index (2010=100)	
	Price Index	Volume Index
2014		
Q1/2014	112.08	33.44
Q2/2014	136.60	76.13
Q3/2014	108.62	103.60
Q4/2014	114.44	52.99
2015		
Q1/2015	124.08	19.94
Q2/2015		
Q3/2015		
Q4/2015		

Methodological Notes

1. Statistical data for fish landings are collected through the daily returns of sales submitted by middlemen at the fish market.
2. The information is submitted to the NSO on a monthly basis by the Department of Fisheries. Data on fish landings by species, volume, average monthly unit prices and total value paid out to fishermen are used in this compilation.
3. The indices are used to monitor developments in price and volume movements over a particular period. The price and volume indices are fixed-weight Laspeyres type indices with 2010 as the base year. Price and volume indices with base year 2005=100 may be provided on request.
4. The news release is designed to specify the seven dominant species landed. No individual species under the heading 'Other species' exceed 10 per cent of total landings. Statistical information on all species may be made available on request.
5. The data in this release are not normally subject to revision.
6. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>