

20 May 2015 | 1100 hrs | 096/2015

In the first quarter of 2015, the volume of fresh fruit and vegetables declined by 14.1 per cent, whereas the wholesale value increased by 37.8 per cent over the comparative period in 2014.

Fruit and Vegetables: Q1/2015

In the first quarter, the volume of fresh fruit and vegetables sold through official markets amounted to 8.9 million kilogrammes, yielding €6.4 million. This represented a drop of 14.1 per cent in weight and a 37.8 per cent growth in wholesale value over the corresponding period in 2014.

Fresh vegetable supply went down by 14.5 per cent to 8.4 million kilogrammes over the comparative quarter in 2014. Decreases of 72.6, 60.5 and 39.6 per cent were registered in the supply of green onions, cucumber and vegetable marrows respectively. In contrast, the wholesale value of fresh vegetables increased by 45.8 per cent to €5.6 million.

The supply of fresh fruit declined by 6.1 per cent, mainly on account of a drop of 27.0 per cent in the availability of strawberries. However, the wholesale value of fresh fruit increased by 1.2 per cent to €0.8 million (Table 1).

Regional statistics

The volume of fresh fruit and vegetables supplied by Maltese farmers decreased by 14.8 per cent over the corresponding quarter in 2014. Maltese farmers supplied 8.2 million kilogrammes of fresh fruit and vegetables, 92.1 per cent of the total supply. The wholesale value of such produce went up by 37.5 per cent, from €4.2 million to €5.7 million (Table 2).

Gozitan farmers contributed 0.7 million kilogrammes of fresh fruit and vegetables, 7.9 per cent of the total supply. In volume terms, this produce decreased by 6.0 per cent, while the wholesale value went up by 40.0 per cent over the comparative quarter in 2014 (Table 3).

Indices

The quarterly All Items fresh fruit price index increased by 11.69 points (8.4 per cent) to 150.80 points. In contrast, the respective volume index declined by 4.69 points (6.1 per cent) to 71.97 points.

The quarterly All Items fresh vegetables price index went up by 65.32 points (70.7 per cent) to 157.73 points. On the other hand, the respective volume index decreased by 13.82 points (14.5 per cent) to 81.31 points (Tables 4 and 5) ■

Compiled by:

**Unit B3: Agriculture and
Environment Statistics**

**Directorate B: Business
Statistics**

Further information on data:

Mr Ronald TANTI
T. +356 2599 7333
E. ronald.tanti@gov.mt

Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
The advance release calendar may be consulted at www.nso.gov.mt

Issued by: **External Cooperation and Communication Unit, National Statistics Office, Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000, Malta.**
T. +356 2599 7219 F. +356 2599 7205 E. nso@gov.mt

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

Item	January-March (Q1)					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014
Total vegetables	9,807,668	8,382,557	-14.5	3,809,690	5,555,656	45.8
<i>of which:</i>						
Bellpepper	93,215	95,969	3.0	120,349	140,417	16.7
Broad beans	110,062	76,010	-30.9	155,685	115,291	-25.9
Cabbages	906,413	782,010	-13.7	92,539	196,028	111.8
Carrots	470,215	484,821	3.1	199,164	168,074	-15.6
Cauliflowers	1,413,706	1,056,899	-25.2	220,226	446,708	102.8
Celery	118,612	112,625	-5.0	24,142	27,963	15.8
Cucumber	145,042	57,247	-60.5	93,838	136,573	45.5
Dry onions	658,225	695,599	5.7	112,504	577,966	413.7
Eggplant	88,180	71,770	-18.6	103,503	123,757	19.6
Globe artichokes	511,744	561,966	9.8	143,745	214,712	49.4
Green onions	41,435	11,365	-72.6	6,587	2,612	-60.3
Kohlrabi	319,598	291,256	-8.9	48,097	79,851	66.0
Lettuce	690,884	616,922	-10.7	166,379	148,643	-10.7
Potatoes	859,878	681,815	-20.7	314,277	234,349	-25.4
Pumpkins	165,025	174,650	5.8	46,800	84,372	80.3
Sugar melons	-	14	-	-	11	-
Tomatoes	879,628	801,888	-8.8	770,650	841,926	9.2
Vegetable marrows	959,719	580,095	-39.6	518,619	1,139,854	119.8
Watermelons	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other vegetables	1,376,089	1,229,637	-10.6	672,588	876,549	30.3
Total fruit	504,845	473,972	-6.1	836,203	846,517	1.2
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>Bambinella</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cherry plums	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dry figs	119	6	-95.0	519	40	-92.3
Early figs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grapes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lemons	68,544	64,325	-6.2	16,975	37,901	123.3
Nectarines	-	60	-	-	16	-
Oranges	60,734	81,716	34.5	39,331	49,977	27.1
Peaches	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pomegranates	-	30	-	-	45	-
Strawberries	185,803	135,727	-27.0	671,462	660,009	-1.7
Sweet oranges	163,661	159,372	-2.6	82,310	70,261	-14.6
Other fruit	25,983	32,736	26.0	25,606	28,269	10.4
Total vegetables and fruit	10,312,512	8,856,529	-14.1	4,645,893	6,402,173	37.8

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

Item	January-March (Q1)					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014
Total vegetables	9,285,390	7,893,244	-15.0	3,451,967	5,012,088	45.2
<i>of which:</i>						
Bellpepper	71,254	68,083	-4.5	94,449	101,326	7.3
Broad beans	97,071	74,180	-23.6	134,721	110,807	-17.8
Cabbages	875,828	755,070	-13.8	87,522	187,636	114.4
Carrots	467,269	484,382	3.7	198,095	167,964	-15.2
Cauliflowers	1,373,536	1,005,454	-26.8	209,240	421,043	101.2
Celery	115,741	110,836	-4.2	23,288	27,341	17.4
Cucumber	108,658	40,821	-62.4	68,022	97,900	43.9
Dry onions	654,832	694,731	6.1	111,855	577,699	416.5
Eggplant	49,364	39,411	-20.2	57,530	67,037	16.5
Globe artichokes	509,392	559,396	9.8	141,650	212,338	49.9
Green onions	39,749	10,632	-73.3	6,158	2,289	-62.8
Kohlrabi	303,368	270,901	-10.7	45,049	75,660	67.9
Lettuce	674,634	596,842	-11.5	162,730	144,157	-11.4
Potatoes	829,664	652,543	-21.3	302,818	224,403	-25.9
Pumpkins	154,377	161,421	4.6	43,339	78,440	81.0
Sugar melons	-	14	-	-	11	-
Tomatoes	797,189	712,958	-10.6	691,258	743,363	7.5
Vegetable marrows	848,994	483,655	-43.0	455,717	954,813	109.5
Watermelons	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other vegetables	1,314,472	1,171,914	-10.8	618,525	817,862	32.2
Total fruit	280,977	261,661	-6.9	711,760	715,007	0.5
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>Bambinella</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cherry plums	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dry figs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Early figs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grapes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lemons	37,697	35,423	-6.0	9,211	21,499	133.4
Nectarines	-	60	-	-	16	-
Oranges	28,868	44,864	55.4	18,395	23,323	26.8
Peaches	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pomegranates	-	20	-	-	30	-
Strawberries	182,710	132,415	-27.5	657,456	641,127	-2.5
Sweet oranges	16,406	26,694	62.7	9,378	9,702	3.5
Other fruit	15,296	22,184	45.0	17,320	19,310	11.5
Total vegetables and fruit	9,566,366	8,154,904	-14.8	4,163,728	5,727,095	37.5

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

Item	January-March (Q1)					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014
Total vegetables	522,278	489,313	-6.3	357,723	543,567	52.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Bellpepper	21,961	27,886	27.0	25,899	39,091	50.9
Broad beans	12,991	1,830	-85.9	20,965	4,485	-78.6
Cabbages	30,585	26,940	-11.9	5,016	8,391	67.3
Carrots	2,946	439	-85.1	1,070	110	-89.7
Cauliflowers	40,170	51,445	28.1	10,986	25,665	133.6
Celery	2,871	1,789	-37.7	854	622	-27.2
Cucumber	36,384	16,426	-54.9	25,815	38,673	49.8
Dry onions	3,393	868	-74.4	649	266	-59.0
Eggplant	38,816	32,359	-16.6	45,973	56,720	23.4
Globe artichokes	2,352	2,570	9.3	2,095	2,375	13.4
Green onions	1,686	733	-56.5	429	324	-24.5
Kohlrabi	16,230	20,355	25.4	3,047	4,191	37.5
Lettuce	16,250	20,080	23.6	3,649	4,486	22.9
Potatoes	30,214	29,272	-3.1	11,458	9,946	-13.2
Pumpkins	10,648	13,229	24.2	3,461	5,932	71.4
Sugar melons	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tomatoes	82,439	88,930	7.9	79,392	98,563	24.1
Vegetable marrows	110,725	96,440	-12.9	62,902	185,041	194.2
Watermelons	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other vegetables	61,617	57,723	-6.3	54,063	58,687	8.6
Total fruit	223,868	212,312	-5.2	124,442	131,510	5.7
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>Bambinella</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cherry plums	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dry figs	119	6	-95.0	519	40	-92.3
Early figs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grapes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lemons	30,847	28,902	-6.3	7,764	16,401	111.2
Nectarines	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oranges	31,866	36,852	15.6	20,936	26,654	27.3
Peaches	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pomegranates	-	10	-	-	15	-
Strawberries	3,094	3,312	7.1	14,006	18,882	34.8
Sweet oranges	147,255	132,678	-9.9	72,931	60,559	-17.0
Other fruit	10,688	10,552	-1.3	8,286	8,959	8.1
Total vegetables and fruit	746,146	701,625	-6.0	482,165	675,077	40.0

Table 4. All Items fresh fruit and vegetables index by month and year
(2010=100)

Index	Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fresh fruit index	2014												
	Price index	112.37	154.25	150.70	128.65	117.21	84.02	86.25	70.05	63.70	73.34	85.73	96.83
	Volume index	66.86	65.03	98.09	124.22	129.07	170.00	97.91	102.63	80.58	39.19	46.70	69.27
	2015												
	Price index	117.70	154.48	180.21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Volume index	73.15	62.70	80.07	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fresh vegetables index	2014												
	Price index	84.56	84.12	108.55	91.78	92.80	75.08	76.92	80.23	90.46	112.71	125.94	112.55
	Volume index	99.39	90.48	95.52	96.56	107.76	135.44	137.47	101.95	94.02	84.89	71.41	80.84
	2015												
	Price index	160.43	154.92	157.83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Volume index	78.73	78.36	86.82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 5. All Items fresh fruit and vegetables index by quarter and year
(2010=100)

Index	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Fresh fruit index	2014				
	Price index	139.11	109.96	73.33	85.30
	Volume index	76.66	141.10	93.71	51.72
	2015				
	Price index	150.80	-	-	-
Volume index	71.97	-	-	-	
Fresh vegetables index	2014				
	Price index	92.41	86.55	82.54	117.06
	Volume index	95.13	113.25	111.14	79.05
	2015				
	Price index	157.73	-	-	-
Volume index	81.31	-	-	-	

Methodological Notes

1. The information included in this news release 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 and data is 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 main types of produce are shown in this release. A full list of items that pass through the official markets may be made available on request.
6. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=15>