

In 2014, final household consumption expenditure on food in the domestic market was estimated at €557 million.

World Food Day: 16 October 2015

On the occasion of World Food Day (16 October) the NSO is publishing a set of figures relating to the food sector in Malta, with a focus on local agricultural production and the economic aspects of consumption. This year, the Day's theme devised by the United Nations is: 'Social Protection and Agriculture: Breaking the cycle of rural poverty'.

In 2014, the total agricultural production was estimated at 143,040 tonnes, an increase of 2.1 per cent over 2013. The production of vegetables amounted to 74,410 tonnes, an increase of 0.6 per cent over the previous year and contributed to 52.0 per cent of the total final production (Table 1).

During 2014, food expenditure incurred by private households was estimated at €557 million, an increase of 1.2 per cent over 2013. The share of household expenditure on food was estimated at 10.8 per cent of the total private final expenditure in the domestic market. Last year, there was an increase in household spending on most food items, ranging from 1.1 per cent on sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionery items to 7.0 per cent on fish when compared to 2013 (Table 2).

Food inflation measured by means of the 12-month moving average rate was 0.5 per cent, while the annual rate was 0.1 per cent. Food prices were higher mainly in respect of preserved and processed fruits, margarine and butter, chocolate, take away food and processed vegetables (Table 3 and Chart 4).

Current estimates for 2014 indicate that the value of imported foodstuffs stood at €514 million, an increase of 0.3 per cent when compared to 2013. Increases were recorded in most food products, mainly meat (5.6 per cent) and milk, cheese and eggs (3.6 per cent) (Table 4). Malta's food exports declined by 7.0 per cent, to an estimated value of €197 million when compared to 2013. This was mainly due to a decrease in the exports of cereal products and fish, by 48.0 and 5.8 per cent respectively (Table 5) ■

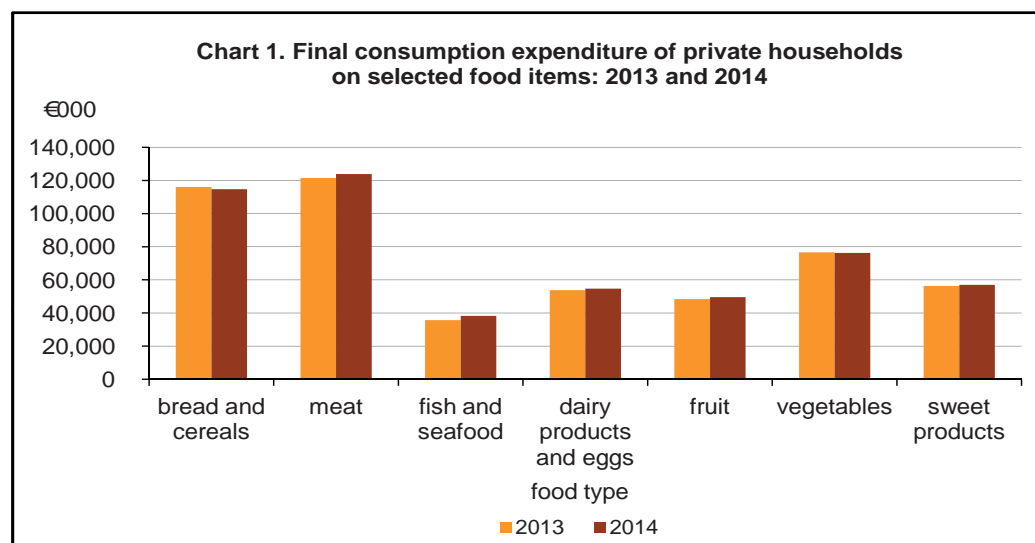
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Table 1. Final production of agricultural products by year and type of food product

tonnes

Type of food product	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Vegetables	79,248	82,548	70,170	73,933	74,410
Fruit	8,631	9,432	9,804	8,891	9,359
Cattle	1,422	1,128	1,111	1,134	1,129
Pigs	7,511	7,305	5,665	5,920	6,153
Broilers	4,398	4,155	4,244	4,115	3,916
Milk	42,127	41,693	43,360	40,986	42,833
Eggs	5,091	3,434	4,317	5,113	5,239
Total	148,427	149,695	138,671	140,092	143,040

Source: Agriculture and Environment Statistics.

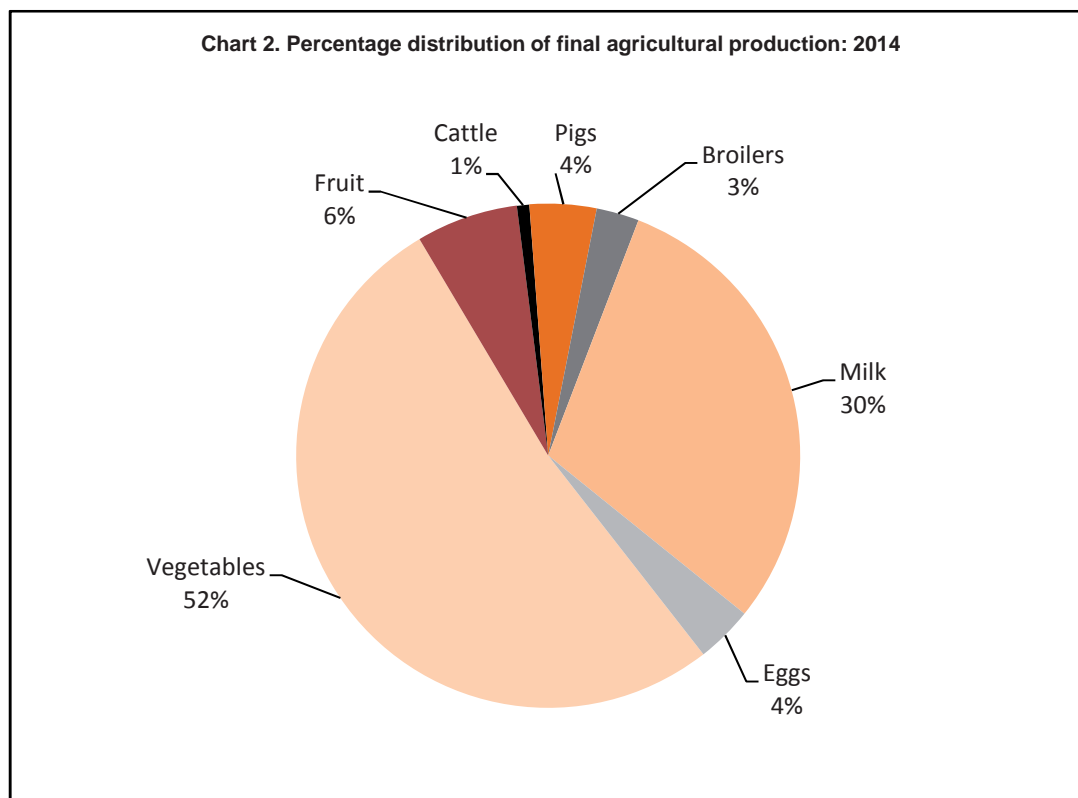


Table 2. Final consumption expenditure of households on food in the domestic market by year and type of food product

€000

Type of food product	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bread and cereals	109,306	121,005	109,599	116,070	114,699
Meat	111,437	118,097	118,942	121,504	123,886
Fish and seafood	35,070	33,162	35,818	35,719	38,222
Milk, cheese and eggs	49,980	53,920	53,389	53,749	54,677
Oils and fats	16,797	19,503	18,521	17,933	17,560
Fruit	44,124	45,643	41,028	48,374	49,546
Vegetables	73,494	74,040	73,853	76,607	76,224
Sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionery	45,621	52,580	54,255	56,367	56,962
Food products not elsewhere specified	20,724	21,881	23,137	23,946	25,163
Food category of expenditure incurred by households in the local market	506,555	539,831	528,542	550,267	556,939
Private final expenditure in the domestic market	4,341,702	4,636,992	4,785,991	4,954,222	5,150,157

Note: Data in line with the European System of Accounts (ESA) 2010.

Source: National Accounts.

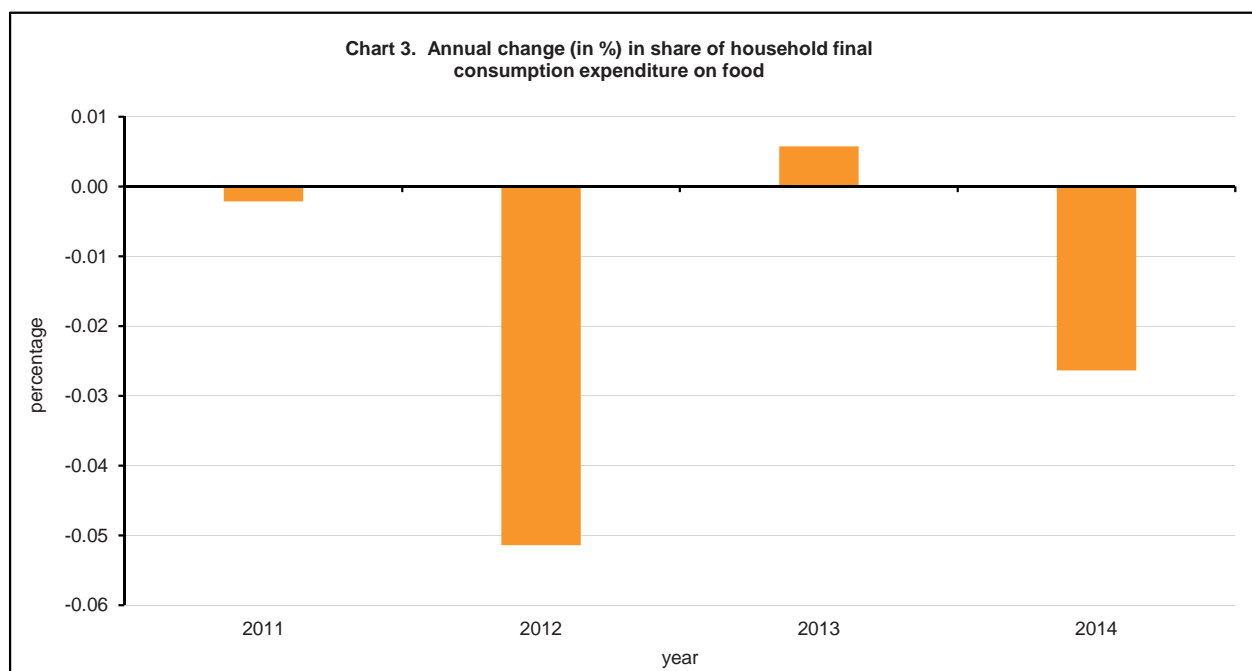


Table 3. Price inflation by food type
December 2002=100

Type of food product	per cent					
	12-month moving average rate			Annual rate		
	2012	2013	2014	Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014
FOOD	4.70	4.77	0.53	6.00	2.63	0.09
Fresh bread and fresh pastry	2.80	6.42	3.05	6.92	2.62	3.83
Cereals	1.26	-1.54	-0.72	2.55	-1.92	-0.72
Flour, bakery products	1.02	0.93	1.74	1.15	1.15	1.42
Biscuits and rusks	4.10	1.55	1.39	3.68	0.71	1.30
Pasta	1.48	0.69	-1.00	2.21	-0.14	-0.64
Beef/Pork	7.69	7.60	1.77	8.52	2.87	0.26
Frozen meat	8.65	2.42	-0.19	5.87	0.73	-1.59
Poultry and rabbit meat	3.02	6.13	2.36	6.58	3.60	-1.03
Prepared and processed meat	7.92	6.56	-1.08	8.57	1.08	-0.23
Fish, fresh or chilled	11.08	10.63	-1.84	5.68	-12.49	32.10
Prepared and preserved fish and seafood	12.54	8.53	-3.67	13.32	5.56	-8.27
Eggs	11.55	9.85	1.66	19.75	0.17	0.63
Milk and milk products	1.84	1.83	0.26	2.98	0.15	0.23
Cheese	1.06	2.46	1.11	0.88	3.49	-0.49
Refined oils	2.40	-1.55	-0.18	-0.01	-0.98	-1.23
Margarine and butter	3.86	5.10	7.68	0.24	8.44	5.47
Fruits, fresh or chilled	0.98	16.68	-2.12	4.71	1.96	-1.13
Preserved and processed fruits	4.15	3.98	7.89	3.27	2.67	11.81
Ice-cream	4.94	6.52	-0.97	7.75	2.99	-1.34
Sugar	14.03	-1.12	-6.33	2.01	-2.10	-9.47
Chocolate	3.86	11.68	4.33	5.79	12.22	3.61
Unprocessed potatoes	0.98	19.72	-12.49	29.61	26.50	-33.58
Processed potatoes	2.29	2.83	1.81	0.79	4.27	4.48
Vegetables	12.41	9.73	-7.45	23.87	15.70	-18.08
Processed vegetables	5.07	2.80	3.24	3.98	3.71	1.10
Other foods	7.77	1.70	0.56	6.48	0.93	-0.22
Tea	2.12	6.07	1.64	2.32	1.10	3.55
Coffee	6.40	2.58	-0.43	8.18	-1.27	-0.46
Cocoa	1.89	6.52	2.47	0.22	8.10	2.17
Served meals and food	1.54	0.80	2.26	0.32	1.13	2.87
Take-aways	6.48	2.25	3.51	5.39	1.45	5.78

Source: Price Statistics.

Chart 4. Inflation (12-month moving average rate) recorded in respect of selected food products in 2014 compared to 2013

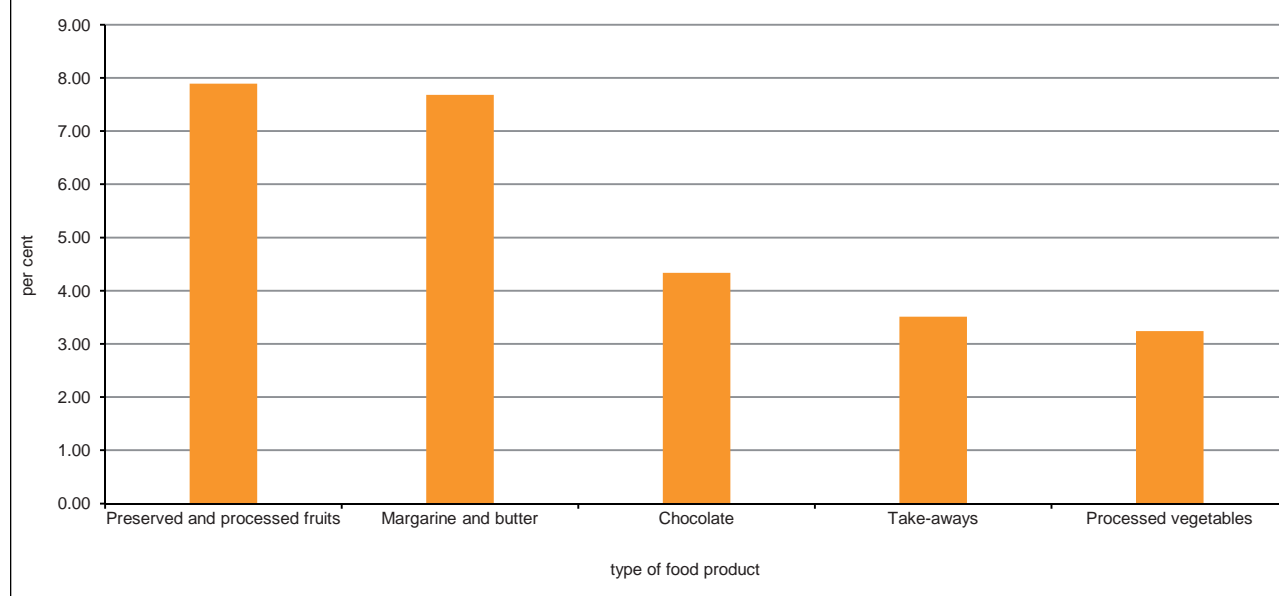


Table 4. Imports of food by year and type of product

€ 000					
Type of food product	2010*	2011*	2012*	2013*	2014*
Meat fresh, frozen or prepared	67,729	74,072	75,823	76,365	80,634
Milk, cheese and eggs	40,970	45,150	45,686	46,985	48,683
Fish fresh, frozen or prepared	37,831	38,243	74,876	71,118	68,567
Cereals and preparations	68,816	77,681	101,357	99,108	93,887
Fruit and vegetables	66,337	68,088	69,079	74,361	76,624
Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	20,651	23,832	24,281	24,402	21,786
Oils and fats	12,233	13,954	15,168	14,511	14,719
Other food not elsewhere specified	87,598	94,056	104,195	105,313	108,901
Food imports	402,164	435,076	510,465	512,163	513,800
Total imports	4,331,332	5,341,448	6,189,308	5,639,083	6,392,743

* Provisional

Note 1: Includes trade in live and frozen fish used in the aquaculture industry.

Note 2: Items are classified according to the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) as follows:

Item 1 is Division 01 of the SITC

Item 2 is Division 02 of the SITC

Item 3 is Division 03 of the SITC

Item 4 is Division 04 of the SITC

Item 5 is Division 05 of the SITC

Item 6 is Division 06 of the SITC

Item 7 is made up of Divisions 41,42,43 and part of 09 (091)

Item 8 is made up of Divisions 07,08, and part of 09 (098)

Source: International Trade and Transport Statistics.

Table 5. Exports of food by year and type of product

€ 000					
Type of food product	2010*	2011*	2012*	2013*	2014*
Meat fresh, frozen or prepared	389	175	493	383	62
Milk, cheese and eggs	97	398	280	457	29
Fish fresh, frozen or prepared	70,259	55,722	88,773	103,725	97,745
Cereals and preparations	8,269	8,579	21,521	18,956	9,866
Fruit and vegetables	1,096	3,630	2,341	2,593	1,988
Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	13	213	1,319	2,190	534
Oils and fats	5	-	9	15	37
Other food not elsewhere specified	55,560	61,165	72,531	83,717	86,825
Food exports	135,688	129,883	187,267	212,035	197,087
Total exports	2,809,339	3,819,015	4,438,837	3,925,497	3,737,005

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Source: International Trade and Transport Statistics.

Methodological Notes

1. Final agricultural production is calculated by deducting losses incurred and output for own use from gross production. Final production refers to all goods and services actually consumed.
2. The 12-month moving average rate of inflation compares retail price indices of the immediate past 12 months with the indices of the previous 12 months. Hence, the 12-month average rate measures inflation over a relatively long period when compared to the monthly inflation rate and the annual inflation rate, the latter two rates being more subject to transient changes in prices.
3. The classification used to classify the consumption expenditure is the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP), adapted to the needs of Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices.
4. The classification used for the breakdown of the trade data is the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Third Revision. According to this classification, food items are classified in the food category irrespective of whether this food is meant for human consumption or otherwise.
5. 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>

Classifications: http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=COICOP_1999
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/regcst.asp?Cl=14>