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During the third quarter this year, the volume of fresh fruit and vegetables declined by 7.0 per cent, whereas the wholesale value increased by 12.6 per cent over the comparative period in 2014.

Fruit and Vegetables: Q3/2015

In the third quarter, the volume of fresh fruit and vegetables sold through official markets amounted to 11.2 million kilograms, yielding €5.0 million. This represented a drop of 7.0 per cent in weight and a 12.6 per cent growth in wholesale value over the corresponding period in 2014.

Fresh vegetable supply went down by 8.3 per cent to 10.5 million kilograms over 2014. Drops of 26.8, 18.4 and 11.8 per cent were registered mainly in the supply of tomatoes, cabbages and vegetable marrows respectively. In contrast, the wholesale value of fresh vegetables increased by 11.3 per cent to €4.4 million.

The supply of fresh fruit advanced by 18.4 per cent, mainly on account of increases of 106.7, 90.7 and 34.8 per cent in the availability of nectarines, strawberries and peaches respectively. The wholesale value of fresh fruit increased by 21.9 per cent to €0.7 million (Table 1).

Regional statistics

The volume of fresh fruit and vegetables supplied by Maltese farmers decreased by 6.7 per cent over the corresponding period in 2014. Maltese farmers supplied 9.9 million kilograms of fresh fruit and vegetables or 88.0 per cent of the total supply. The wholesale value of such produce went up by 14.7 per cent, from €3.8 million to €4.4 million (Table 2).

Gozitan farmers contributed 1.4 million kilograms of fresh fruit and vegetables, 12.0 per cent of the total supply. In volume terms, this produce decreased by 9.0 per cent, while the wholesale value went down by 0.2 per cent over 2014 (Table 3).

Quarterly indices

The quarterly All Items fresh fruit price index increased by 1.72 points (2.3 per cent) to 75.05 points. The respective volume index went up by 17.22 points (18.4 per cent) to 110.93 points.

The quarterly All Items fresh vegetables price index advanced by 21.86 points (26.5 per cent) to 104.4 points. In contrast, the respective volume index decreased by 9.24 points or 8.3 per cent to 101.9 points (Table 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

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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	July-September (Q3)					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014
Total vegetables	11,458,815	10,505,733	-8.3	3,936,061	4,381,026	11.3
<i>of which:</i>						
Bellpepper	263,624	258,683	-1.9	117,642	177,069	50.5
Broad beans	768	246	-68.0	506	199	-60.8
Cabbages	777,282	634,257	-18.4	82,874	149,080	79.9
Carrots	127,546	150,218	17.8	39,401	73,975	87.7
Cauliflowers	130,020	115,755	-11.0	45,634	30,025	-34.2
Celery	93,137	84,837	-8.9	17,828	20,886	17.2
Cucumber	280,037	257,601	-8.0	280,824	366,912	30.7
Dry onions	678,284	671,381	-1.0	225,034	262,244	16.5
Eggplant	321,756	302,818	-5.9	79,790	95,903	20.2
Globe artichokes	-	360	-	-	21	-
Green onions	16,714	33,394	99.8	5,574	12,118	117.4
Kohlrabi	63,878	39,474	-38.2	11,882	9,563	-19.5
Lettuce	1,046,026	942,172	-9.9	280,824	269,232	-4.1
Potatoes	934,674	851,435	-8.9	227,574	255,898	12.4
Pumpkins	94,906	82,065	-13.5	24,626	23,147	-6.0
Sugar melons	1,029,683	972,123	-5.6	324,427	286,183	-11.8
Tomatoes	1,490,659	1,091,815	-26.8	601,188	720,297	19.8
Vegetable marrows	757,645	668,016	-11.8	486,012	546,705	12.5
Watermelons	2,127,142	2,212,911	4.0	472,364	488,532	3.4
Other vegetables	1,225,036	1,136,174	-7.3	612,057	593,037	-3.1
Total fruit	617,101	730,529	18.4	537,170	654,632	21.9
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>Bambinella</i>	50,129	61,985	23.7	65,880	76,448	16.0
Cherry plums	11,126	28,493	156.1	16,261	29,390	80.7
Dry figs	3,060	124	-95.9	7,399	469	-93.7
Grapes	172,636	133,619	-22.6	113,833	109,883	-3.5
Lemons	56,646	35,091	-38.1	52,866	39,821	-24.7
Nectarines	23,802	49,202	106.7	11,471	25,199	119.7
Oranges	200	45	-77.5	187	8	-95.7
Peaches	226,980	306,073	34.8	191,188	240,383	25.7
Pomegranates	3,968	1,641	-58.6	2,333	1,474	-36.8
Strawberries	5,788	11,040	90.7	7,946	13,759	73.1
Sweet oranges	44	15	-65.9	12	3	-75.0
Other fruit	62,723	103,203	64.5	67,794	117,797	73.8
Total vegetables and fruit	12,075,916	11,236,262	-7.0	4,473,231	5,035,658	12.6

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

Item	July-September (Q3)					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014
Total vegetables	10,026,346	9,203,853	-8.2	3,361,684	3,807,683	13.3
<i>of which:</i>						
Bellpepper	256,983	252,643	-1.7	114,417	172,800	51.0
Broad beans	680	202	-70.3	411	158	-61.6
Cabbages	736,084	624,957	-15.1	76,709	146,594	91.1
Carrots	127,485	150,218	17.8	39,381	73,975	87.8
Cauliflowers	129,000	113,805	-11.8	45,339	29,308	-35.4
Celery	89,848	82,099	-8.6	16,754	19,835	18.4
Cucumber	212,713	199,717	-6.1	188,512	254,366	34.9
Dry onions	602,590	595,257	-1.2	205,999	239,570	16.3
Eggplant	293,344	276,204	-5.8	72,195	87,196	20.8
Globe artichokes	-	360	-	-	21	-
Green onions	14,754	28,826	95.4	4,806	10,933	127.5
Kohlrabi	58,362	38,082	-34.7	10,845	9,136	-15.8
Lettuce	1,009,606	912,212	-9.6	269,780	259,642	-3.8
Potatoes	850,449	792,087	-6.9	207,981	238,521	14.7
Pumpkins	80,858	71,931	-11.0	21,079	20,439	-3.0
Sugar melons	871,397	795,494	-8.7	266,096	230,469	-13.4
Tomatoes	1,328,402	986,979	-25.7	541,704	656,372	21.2
Vegetable marrows	715,089	630,606	-11.8	453,287	516,380	13.9
Watermelons	1,683,239	1,750,685	4.0	361,903	379,266	4.8
Other vegetables	965,465	901,491	-6.6	464,487	462,702	-0.4
Total fruit	564,756	681,704	20.7	481,257	598,821	24.4
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>Bambinella</i>	48,960	60,798	24.2	64,652	75,424	16.7
Cherry plums	10,876	27,893	156.5	15,933	28,992	82.0
Dry figs	3,060	124	-95.9	7,399	469	-93.7
Grapes	166,110	127,841	-23.0	98,724	97,189	-1.6
Lemons	20,144	9,554	-52.6	21,068	11,557	-45.1
Nectarines	23,580	48,876	107.3	11,361	25,036	120.4
Oranges	200	-	-	187	-	-
Peaches	226,305	304,479	34.5	190,675	239,218	25.5
Pomegranates	1,776	741	-58.3	1,122	737	-34.3
Strawberries	5,533	10,945	97.8	7,124	13,515	89.7
Sweet oranges	-	15	-	-	3	-
Other fruit	58,212	90,440	55.4	63,013	106,682	69.3
Total vegetables and fruit	10,591,101	9,885,557	-6.7	3,842,941	4,406,504	14.7

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

Item	July-September (Q3)					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014
Total vegetables	1,432,469	1,301,880	-9.1	574,377	573,343	-0.2
<i>of which:</i>						
Bellpepper	6,641	6,040	-9.0	3,225	4,269	32.4
Broad beans	88	44	-50.0	95	41	-57.2
Cabbages	41,198	9,300	-77.4	6,165	2,486	-59.7
Carrots	61	-	-	21	-	-
Cauliflowers	1,020	1,950	91.2	295	716	142.8
Celery	3,289	2,738	-16.8	1,074	1,051	-2.2
Cucumber	67,324	57,884	-14.0	92,312	112,546	21.9
Dry onions	75,694	76,124	0.6	19,035	22,674	19.1
Eggplant	28,412	26,614	-6.3	7,596	8,707	14.6
Globe artichokes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green onions	1,960	4,568	133.1	768	1,185	54.4
Kohlrabi	5,516	1,392	-74.8	1,038	427	-58.8
Lettuce	36,420	29,960	-17.7	11,044	9,590	-13.2
Potatoes	84,225	59,348	-29.5	19,593	17,377	-11.3
Pumpkins	14,048	10,134	-27.9	3,547	2,708	-23.6
Sugar melons	158,286	176,629	11.6	58,331	55,714	-4.5
Tomatoes	162,256	104,837	-35.4	59,484	63,925	7.5
Vegetable marrows	42,556	37,410	-12.1	32,725	30,325	-7.3
Watermelons	443,903	462,226	4.1	110,462	109,267	-1.1
Other vegetables	259,572	234,683	-9.6	147,569	130,335	-11.7
Total fruit	52,346	48,825	-6.7	55,913	55,811	-0.2
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>Bambinella</i>	1,169	1,187	1.5	1,228	1,024	-16.6
Cherry plums	250	600	140.0	327	398	21.6
Dry figs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grapes	6,526	5,778	-11.5	15,110	12,694	-16.0
Lemons	36,502	25,537	-30.0	31,798	28,264	-11.1
Nectarines	222	326	46.8	110	163	48.0
Oranges	-	45	-	-	8	-
Peaches	675	1,594	136.1	513	1,165	127.0
Pomegranates	2,192	900	-58.9	1,212	738	-39.1
Strawberries	255	95	-62.7	823	243	-70.4
Sweet oranges	44	-	-	12	-	-
Other fruit	4,511	12,763	182.9	4,781	11,115	132.5
Total vegetables and fruit	1,484,814	1,350,705	-9.0	630,290	629,154	-0.2

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	120.66	160.54	103.61	86.51	68.74	69.89	-	-	-
	Volume index	73.15	62.70	80.07	129.39	82.66	162.74	131.89	125.10	75.80	-	-	-
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	149.71	118.68	89.80	83.50	102.48	127.20	-	-	-
	Volume index	78.73	78.36	86.82	91.50	95.88	128.20	139.84	98.48	67.38	-	-	-

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	128.27	75.05	-
	Volume index	71.97	124.93	110.93	-
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	119.40	104.40	-
	Volume index	81.31	105.19	101.90	-

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 is recorded by crop where quantities and values 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 is 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>