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During the fourth quarter of 2015, the volume and wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables increased by 0.5 and 9.5 per cent respectively over the comparative period in 2014.

Fruit and Vegetables: Q4/2015

The volume of fresh fruit and vegetables sold through official markets amounted to 8.5 million kilograms, yielding €4.8 million. This represented an increase of 0.5 per cent in weight and a 9.5 per cent growth in the wholesale value over the corresponding period in 2014.

Fresh vegetable supply went down by 0.1 per cent to 8.1 million kilograms. Drops of 22.4, 13.5 and 11.3 per cent were registered in the supply of potatoes, cauliflowers and cabbages respectively. In contrast, the wholesale value of fresh vegetables increased by 8.2 per cent to €4.3 million.

The supply of fresh fruit advanced by 15.1 per cent, mainly on account of an increase in the availability of lemons and oranges by 34.6 and 26.2 per cent respectively. The wholesale value of fresh fruit went up by 25.0 per cent to €0.4 million (Table 1).

Regional statistics

The volume of fresh fruit and vegetables supplied by Maltese farmers edged down by 3,156 kilograms over the corresponding quarter in 2014. Maltese farmers supplied 7.8 million kilograms of fresh fruit and vegetables or 91.6 per cent of the total supply. The wholesale value of such produce went up by 9.4 per cent, from €3.9 million to €4.3 million (Table 2).

Gozitan farmers contributed 0.7 million kilograms of fresh fruit and vegetables, equivalent to 8.4 per cent of the total supply. In volume terms, this produce advanced by 7.0 per cent, while the wholesale value increased by 10.2 per cent (Table 3).

Quarterly indices

The quarterly All Items fresh fruit price index increased by 7.58 points (8.9 per cent) to 92.88 points over the comparative quarter in 2014. The respective volume index went up by 7.79 points (15.1 per cent) to 59.51 points.

The quarterly All Items fresh vegetables price index advanced by 9.22 points (7.9 per cent) to 126.28 points. In contrast, the respective volume index decreased by 0.08 points or 0.1 per cent to 78.97 points (Table 5) ■

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

Item	October-December (Q4)					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014
Total vegetables	8,149,461	8,141,390	-0.1	3,993,839	4,320,052	8.2
<i>of which:</i>						
Bellpepper	149,501	144,156	-3.6	146,386	157,912	7.9
Broad beans	2,462	2,767	12.4	2,299	3,431	49.2
Cabbages	885,359	785,223	-11.3	71,652	162,348	126.6
Carrots	193,888	203,351	4.9	73,873	91,748	24.2
Cauliflowers	1,211,333	1,048,367	-13.5	264,004	277,395	5.1
Celery	105,386	112,666	6.9	29,937	34,760	16.1
Cucumber	151,571	187,695	23.8	195,212	138,010	-29.3
Dry onions	720,535	730,958	1.4	354,320	445,422	25.7
Eggplant	200,175	208,187	4.0	101,277	114,741	13.3
Globe artichokes	17,591	18,085	2.8	16,615	18,215	9.6
Green onions	1,510	3,021	100.1	192	1,484	671.1
Kohlrabi	226,075	229,819	1.7	51,793	53,664	3.6
Lettuce	684,340	869,943	27.1	224,887	205,967	-8.4
Potatoes	502,379	389,903	-22.4	169,223	182,054	7.6
Pumpkins	162,492	162,667	0.1	43,248	53,382	23.4
Sugar melons	3,746	4,874	30.1	1,348	1,588	17.8
Tomatoes	964,772	768,953	-20.3	867,755	904,088	4.2
Vegetable marrows	706,918	872,119	23.4	631,635	646,374	2.3
Watermelons	20,841	68,575	229.0	14,633	21,016	43.6
Other vegetables	1,238,587	1,330,063	7.4	733,550	806,454	9.9
Total fruit	340,589	391,873	15.1	351,398	439,287	25.0
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>Bambinella</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cherry plums	8	-	-	12	-	-
Dry figs	-	25	-	-	205	-
Grapes	19,065	16,989	-10.9	16,961	17,972	6.0
Lemons	46,261	62,276	34.6	40,866	41,970	2.7
Nectarines	108	-	-	26	-	-
Oranges	80,318	101,351	26.2	54,171	67,711	25.0
Peaches	585	2,754	370.8	991	3,759	279.4
Pomegranates	61,628	67,004	8.7	53,930	56,580	4.9
Strawberries	14,972	22,278	48.8	106,910	173,843	62.6
Sweet oranges	89,523	81,863	-8.6	50,617	42,987	-15.1
Other fruit	28,121	37,333	32.8	26,914	34,261	27.3
Total vegetables and fruit	8,490,049	8,533,264	0.5	4,345,237	4,759,340	9.5

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

Item	October-December (Q4)					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014
Total vegetables	7,642,981	7,626,868	-0.2	3,668,985	3,962,977	8.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Bellpepper	139,640	126,539	-9.4	134,325	137,899	2.7
Broad beans	2,028	2,476	22.1	1,962	3,146	60.3
Cabbages	848,924	770,054	-9.3	66,594	157,496	136.5
Carrots	191,305	200,779	5.0	73,304	90,904	24.0
Cauliflowers	1,138,577	990,392	-13.0	244,851	260,729	6.5
Celery	104,076	110,366	6.0	29,492	33,923	15.0
Cucumber	121,620	172,528	41.9	153,536	120,618	-21.4
Dry onions	713,032	723,298	1.4	351,833	441,833	25.6
Eggplant	169,810	180,078	6.0	78,221	90,169	15.3
Globe artichokes	17,499	17,819	1.8	16,355	17,668	8.0
Green onions	1,510	2,482	64.4	192	1,250	549.6
Kohlrabi	215,305	215,340	0.0	49,336	50,461	2.3
Lettuce	651,537	832,123	27.7	213,928	193,130	-9.7
Potatoes	476,313	370,897	-22.1	161,370	172,712	7.0
Pumpkins	138,888	143,667	3.4	36,902	47,211	27.9
Sugar melons	3,055	4,694	53.6	1,200	1,490	24.1
Tomatoes	898,050	696,148	-22.5	807,402	814,003	0.8
Vegetable marrows	638,724	786,383	23.1	567,575	582,720	2.7
Watermelons	17,582	62,990	258.3	12,918	19,389	50.1
Other vegetables	1,155,506	1,217,817	5.4	667,686	726,226	8.8
Total fruit	180,146	193,102	7.2	230,726	305,248	32.3
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>Bambinella</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cherry plums	8	-	-	12	-	-
Dry figs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grapes	19,065	16,981	-10.9	16,961	17,964	5.9
Lemons	23,166	29,753	28.4	20,390	20,125	-1.3
Nectarines	108	-	-	26	-	-
Oranges	44,704	39,421	-11.8	28,189	25,796	-8.5
Peaches	585	2,711	363.4	991	3,732	276.7
Pomegranates	38,140	39,329	3.1	33,380	32,542	-2.5
Strawberries	14,524	21,829	50.3	103,522	170,714	64.9
Sweet oranges	22,948	17,176	-25.2	10,976	9,705	-11.6
Other fruit	16,898	25,902	53.3	16,280	24,671	51.5
Total vegetables and fruit	7,823,127	7,819,971	0.0	3,899,711	4,268,225	9.4

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

Item	October-December (Q4)					
	Quantity (Kgs)			Wholesale value (€)		
	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014	2014	2015	% change 2015/2014
Total vegetables	506,479	514,522	1.6	324,854	357,075	9.9
<i>of which:</i>						
Bellpepper	9,861	17,617	78.7	12,061	20,013	65.9
Broad beans	434	291	-32.9	337	285	-15.5
Cabbages	36,435	15,169	-58.4	5,058	4,853	-4.1
Carrots	2,583	2,572	-0.4	570	844	48.2
Cauliflowers	72,756	57,975	-20.3	19,153	16,666	-13.0
Celery	1,310	2,300	75.6	445	837	88.2
Cucumber	29,951	15,167	-49.4	41,675	17,392	-58.3
Dry onions	7,503	7,660	2.1	2,488	3,589	44.3
Eggplant	30,365	28,109	-7.4	23,056	24,572	6.6
Globe artichokes	92	266	189.1	260	547	110.6
Green onions	-	539	-	-	234	-
Kohlrabi	10,770	14,479	34.4	2,456	3,203	30.4
Lettuce	32,803	37,820	15.3	10,959	12,837	17.1
Potatoes	26,066	19,006	-27.1	7,853	9,342	19.0
Pumpkins	23,604	19,000	-19.5	6,346	6,171	-2.8
Sugar melons	691	180	-74.0	148	98	-33.8
Tomatoes	66,722	72,805	9.1	60,352	90,085	49.3
Vegetable marrows	68,194	85,736	25.7	64,060	63,655	-0.6
Watermelons	3,259	5,585	71.4	1,714	1,627	-5.1
Other vegetables	83,081	112,246	35.1	65,864	80,228	21.8
Total fruit	160,443	198,771	23.9	120,672	134,039	11.1
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>Bambinella</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cherry plums	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dry figs	-	25	-	-	205	-
Grapes	-	8	-	-	8	-
Lemons	23,095	32,523	40.8	20,476	21,845	6.7
Nectarines	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oranges	35,614	61,930	73.9	25,982	41,915	61.3
Peaches	-	43	-	-	27	-
Pomegranates	23,488	27,675	17.8	20,550	24,038	17.0
Strawberries	448	449	0.2	3,388	3,129	-7.6
Sweet oranges	66,575	64,687	-2.8	39,641	33,283	-16.0
Other fruit	11,223	11,431	1.9	10,634	9,590	-9.8
Total vegetables and fruit	666,922	713,293	7.0	445,526	491,114	10.2

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	71.75	97.44	109.45	
Volume index	73.15	62.70	80.07	129.39	82.66	162.74	131.89	125.10	75.80	48.05	62.05	68.42	
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	121.38	130.18	127.28	
Volume index	78.73	78.36	86.82	91.50	95.88	128.20	139.84	98.48	67.38	79.45	80.57	76.88	

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	92.88
	Volume index	71.97	124.93	110.93	59.51
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	126.28
	Volume index	81.31	105.19	101.90	78.97

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>