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## Market Structure, Tomatoes Quantities and Prices Seasonal Fluctuations at El-Nozha Market in Alexandria Governorate

## El-Sayed Mahmud El-Sharkawy, Rafek Baseem Mohamed, Al-Hussein Abdelatif El-Safi, Mohamed Ali Ali Fathalla

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## ABSTRACT

Agricultural marketing are economic activities that aim at satisfying consumers' needs of agricultural services and commodities. These commodities are transported from production points to consumption centers via different marketing channels. The Nozha market is considered as one of the most important wholesale and distribution market for fruits and vegetables in Alexandria governorate. Therefore, it seeks to match queantities supplied to quantities demanded.

The objective of this research is to identify the Nozha market structure, capacity development and its relative importance for vegetables for the period (2001-2012). In addition, it seeks to estimate seasonal and monthly fluctuations of quantities and prices before and after excluding the general trend if tomatoes that had been delivered to the market during the study period.

It was fiend that the Nozha wholesale had consisted if about 359 stores that were fully allocated to agencies and trademen, and of which 202 (56%) for vegetables and 157 (44%) for fruits. Moreover, the market consisted of 560 dealers who were hamber and the market administration, and if whom 201 worked in partnerships.

It was also found that the Nozha wholesale market had 40% share of the average vegetable production in a leading during the study period. This measure indicated the importance of El-Nozha center for marketing majour vegetable crops. It was also indicated that there were wide range seasonal fluctuations of tomatoes prices and quantities delivered to the market during study period. It was concluded there was if necessity a need to increase the capacity of the market, upgrade performance and thus relatively stabilize quantities. This measure would help bring about equilibrium supply and demand, and hence stabilize monthly fluctuating prices.