

Prices of pork cuts : Retrospective analysis and prediction attempts

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The impact of prices of pork cuts becomes more and more important for the economy of the whole pig channel. It affects the income of farmers and that of processing industries. Like the carcass price, and often more than it, the price of each cut is extremely variable.

On the basis of methods applied to pig carcass prices, the authors studied the variation of cut prices in France over the last two decades : decomposition into trend, cycle, season and residue, then analysis of these components. Achieving periodically a one-year estimation of carcass prices, they attempted to deduce simply an estimation of cut prices.

The analysis showed that the cycle has an effect on all cut prices. Its characteristics, period, phase, magnitude are sometimes close (loin, ham, neck), sometimes remote (belly, backfat, flare fat) from those of the carcass.

Compared to that of the carcass over the twenty years, the trend may display some variations (loin, ham) or more or less marked up- and downgradings (belly, neck, fat pieces).

For prediction, the cycle or trend differences between cut and carcass are obstacles to high quality results. The latter are satisfactory for loin, ham, neck, poor for belly and fat pieces.

Factors affecting present trends in pig slaughtering and processing industries

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The purpose of the present study is to define the factors affecting the structural changes in the pig slaughtering, cutting and processing sector. This work is based on the study of 28 slaughtering and cutting industries and 30 processing industries.

Results show that beside size and specialization criteria, two elements are important for the development of pig industries : their progress in the transformation processes and the relevance of their commercial policy.

Influence of several favourable factors on pork consumption

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During the post-war period, the increase of income has led to a higher consumption of pork and beef. From the sixties, because of differences in retail prices, pork has progressed faster than