









The French « observatory » on formation of prices and margins of food products

Methods and some results in the dairy products chain

Observatoire de la formation des prix et des marges des produits alimentaires





Presentation for

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FARM EUROPE

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Contents of the presentation

The presentation will start with a brief reminder of the objectives and the context of the creation of the observatory and its organization.

Then it presents the general principles of the method applied for all the sectors studied by observatory.

After that, it presents the specific data and method used, and main indicators and results developed by the observatory in the sector of dairy products.





The objectives of the observatory

Basically, the job of the observatory is to explain the differences of prices in the agri-food chains.

But it is not only a classical statistical objective : the observatory tries to produce informations shared and validated by a general consensus by all the stakeholders, in order to contribute to improve better relations in the food chains.



The context of the creation of the observatory

This context is, first, the entry of agricultural prices in an era of increasing volatility, since 2007.

This situation increased the old debates on the transmission of the prices from the upstream to the downstream of the food chain, with the background of the concentration in the food retailing business.

The other context of the creation of the observatory is the legislation. The observatory was created in 2010 by the Law of Modernization of Agriculture and Fishery. This law contains a number of measures to adapt the French agriculture to a more market-oriented European agricultural policy and to a more uncertainty of markets. In particular, the Law introduced the obligation of contracts between agricultural producers and their first buyers.



Organization of the observatory

It is important to note that the observatory is not a new service of the state, nor a control or regulator authority

It takes the shape of a statistical and economic working project associating several organizations : FranceAgriMer(National agency for support to agri-food sector), Public services of statistics, Agro-economic research, Professional technical institutes.

The studies of the observatory are oriented and validated by a steering committee, where are represented every stakeholders of the food chain, from agricultural production syndicates to consumers organizations, including food processing and retail trade lobbyists. This steering committee, as the very observatory, is chaired by an academic (Pr Ph. Chalmin). The technical management is made by FranceAgriMer.



The principles of the method

The observatory develops two completely different approaches.



The main approach is of sectorial, or microeconomic type.

It includes two stages.

The first one is the decomposition of retail prices of food consumer products into the value of the agricultural goods and gross margin in the food processing sector and in the retail trade sector (mainly hyper and supermarkets). This stages is realized on a monthly basis, at national level. This stage requires to have average technical references on the yields ratios of food processing, loss coefficients in the chain, etc.

Note that the gross margins and the value of agricultural commodity included in the final product must be expressed in the same unit of measure and for one unit of quantity of final product.

Gross margin are calculated not from accounting data, but from prices data and processing coefficients : this is due to the availability of the data on a monthly basis, also due to the difficulty to obtain or realize analytic accounts (product by product) from general accounting data...



Note that the gross margins and the value of agricultural commodity included in the final product must be expressed in the same unit of measure and for one unit of quantity of final product.

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In the second stage, the costs and the net margins in every sector are measured, as components of the agricultural value and of the gross margins amounts.

For this, accounting data are used : Farm accounting data network, for instance, in agriculture ; Sectorial statistics based on the accounts of companies (for the food processing industry) ; ad hoc survey in the distributors networks to estimate the costs and net margins in the various food department of hyper and supermarkets chains.

This stage is necessary on annual basis, as it uses accounts data

General method, sector by sector
Sectors \rightarrow products at retail level
<u>Dairy</u> → skimmed milk, yoghurt nature, emmental cheese, camembert cheese, standard goat cheese, sheep cheese feta type & roquefort, butter (national brands, distributors brands), in supermarkets.
(Project : basket of products, prices weighted by volume of consumption)
Others :
<u>Bovine meat</u> \rightarrow carcass of medium cow reconstituted with pieces of fresh meat at retail level (supermarkets)
Pork meat \rightarrow products of pork loin (roast and chop), cooked ham (in supermarkets)
<u>Poultry</u> \rightarrow whole chikens (labels, standards), cuts of chicken (in supermarkets)
<u>Bakery</u> \rightarrow french « baguette », average of all channels of distribution (supermarkets, traditional bakery)
Pastas \rightarrow standard pastas in pack of 500 gr, average of all channels (but mainly supermarkets)
<u>Fruits & vegetables</u> \rightarrow about 20 products, a seasonal basket of fruits, a seasonal basket of vegetables (in supermarkets)
<u>Fishery</u> : an example \rightarrow whiting in supermarkets and traditionnal fish shop
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The food chains studied by the observatory with this method, since its creation, or a little later, are the followings :

In the dairy sector :

Dairy skimmed milk, yoghurt nature, emmental cheese, camembert cheese, standard goat cheese, sheep cheese feta type & Roquefort, butter (national brands, distributors brands), in supermarkets. (Project : basket of products, prices weighted by volume of consumption)

Others :

Bovine meat : carcass of medium cow reconstituted with pieces of fresh meat at retail level (supermarkets)

Pork meat : products of pork loin (roast and chop), cooked ham (supermarkets)

Poultry : whole chickens (labels, standards), cuts of chicken, in supermarkets

Bakery : French « baguette », average of all channels of distribution (supermarkets, traditional bakery...)

Pastas : standard pastas in pack of 500 gr, average of all channels (but mainly supermarkets)

Fruits & vegetables : about 20 products, a seasonal basket of fruits, a seasonal basket of vegetables

Fishery : an example whiting in supermarkets and traditional fish shop.



Further analysis : macroeconomic study of domestic food consumption

This part of the observatory work uses the Symmetric Input Output Matrices of the national accounts to decompose the domestic food expense into :

First, needed agricultural production and others values as a whole, final imports and taxes ;

Second : values added in every sector of national economy, final and intermediate imports, taxes.



Further analysis : macroeconomic study of domestic food consumption

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	Half-skimmed ultra heat traited milk	All brands
	Emmental cheese	All brands
	Camembert cheese	National brands
		Retailer brands
	Natural yoghurt	National brands
Butter (pack o		Retailer brands
	Putter (peek of 205 a)	National brands
	Buller (pack of 205 g)	Retailer brands
	Standard goat cheese	All brands
-	Sheep cheese feta type	All brands
Sire.	Sheep cheese Roquefort	All brands

Data and methods in the dairy chain

The products monitored by the observatory are the followings, sold in super and hyper markets (except hard discount) : the half skimmed milk (basket of various brands, packaging and quality levels...), the emmental cheese (idem), the camembert cheese (idem), the plain yoghurt (idem) , the 250 g pack of butter (idem), and some sheep and goat cheeses.

For some of these products, two groups of brands are differentiated : national (or companies) brands ; retailers brands... as the distribution of the margins between processing sector and retail trade are quite different.

	Datas and	d methods in dairy fo	ood chain : prices da	ata sources		
		AGRI. PRICES	INDUSTRY PRICES	RETAIL PRICES		
	Dairy products	Milk survey, SSP (p)	Ad hoc survey for Obs. (by INSEE)	Kantar Worldpanel ©		
(p) : <i>public data</i>	Ad hoc survey	© commerc	ial data		
	Average values, F	rance				
	Retail prices in hy	per and supermarkets	, except hard discoun	t		
	Prices weighted by	y bought quantities Mo	onthly frequency			
Availability : t + 2 or t + 3 months						
\Box All prices « exit factory » \Rightarrow ad hoc surveys, no pre-existing statistics						
	Problem : retail pri nel)	ces include imported	products (no data abo	ut origin of product in		
	Difficulty : to colled d in supermarkets	ct prices of <u>same prod</u>	<u>uct</u> (or same basket o	f products) exit factory		
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Prices data

The prices data come from existing national statistics (milk producer price), ad hoc enquiries (prices exit factory) and panel of surveys privates companies (retail prices in supermarkets).

These prices data are average values, at national level. The retail prices are ones in supermarket and hypermarket ("superettes" and hard discount shops not taken into account). The means of prices are weighted by quantities bought.

Two difficulties : the retail prices can include imported products (no data about origin of product in panel) and the basket of products, for a given item, is not always exactly the same for the price exit factory and for the consumer price.



This is an important point of the method for the price decomposition in dairy food chain.

The cost in milk for a dairy consumer product is not only the cost of the milk required by the processing into final product, at a strictly technological point of view : two other elements must be taken into account :

First, the process produces not only one product – that is to say the consumer product, (skimmed milk, for instance), but also produces linked co-products (cream, in the case of the production of skimmed milk) for instance) : the valuation of these co-products must be taken into account in the calculation of the final cost in milk of the main product.

Second, milk collection and dairy products consumption are seasonal, and the seasonal surplus of collection for the process of the main product has to be processed into other dairy products : in fact, products for industry (powders, industrial butter). There is also a structural surplus of milk, compared with the trend of consumption : this surplus as also to be processed into other dairy products. The valuation of these others products must be taken into account in the calculation of the final cost in milk of the main product.

Note that we consider that all the linked products or every product processed from surplus are dairy products for industry (powders of milk, of buttermilk, casein, whey, industrial butter), even it is not always the case... But this hypothesis allows to calculate the cost in milk of every consumer product independently from each other.

The calculation of linked co-products is based on technological ratio.

The calculation of seasonal surplus is based on a classical statistical decomposition of milk collection and consumer product demand into trend, seasonal coefficient, calendar effect and stochastic component.

The calculation of the structural surplus is based on consumption-production balance.







Datas and methods in dairy food chain : milk deliveries seasonality modelling example : UHT milk

Principles (SAS proc X 11)

 C_t , volume of milk collection at the date (month, year) « t »

 P_{tr} , volume of milk processed at the date (month, year) « t »

Xt : Ct or Pt

 $X_t = T^{(X)}_{t} \cdot S^{(X)}_{t} \cdot D^{(X)}_{t} \cdot I^{(X)}_{t}$

With :

 $T^{(X)}_{t}$: value of the long-run trend at the date (month, year) « t »

 $S_{t}^{(X)}$: seasonal factor (% of Tt) at the date (month, year) « t » : $St \approx St + 12$ (% of T_t)

 $D^{(X)}_{t}$: the date effect at the date (month, year) « t » : holidays, etc., ... (% of T_{t})

 $I^{(X)}_{t}$: irregular component at the date (month, year) « t » (% of T_{t})

 $S^{(C)}_{t} / min_{2000-20, t} (S^{(C)}_{t} - S^{(P)}_{t}) - S^{(P)}_{t} / min_{2000-20, t} (S^{(C)}_{t} - S^{(P)}_{t})$

seasonal surplus, in %

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Prices index can give a approximate information about the sense of the variation of the prices spread in a given stage of the food chain ONLY in some cases.

To deduct the sense of the variation of the prices spread in other cases, it is necessary to know the value of the initial prices ratio : cf. next slide

Prices index

Notations :

 P_{A0} and P_{At} : prices at satge A of the food chain, for year 0 and t,

 $P_{\it B0}$ and $P_{\it Bt}$: prices at the stage B of the food chain, for year 0 and t,

 $m_0 = P_{B0} / P_{A0}$, prices ratio for year 0,

 $D_0 = P_{B0} - P_{A0}$ and $D_T = P_{Bt} - P_{At}$, the prices spreads for year 0 and t,

 $\varDelta D_t = D_t - D_0$, the variation of the prices spread,

 IP_{A0} , IP_{Ab} , IP_{B0} and IP_{Bt} the indexes of the prices, for yera 0 and t,

 $\varDelta IP_{\mathit{At}}$ and $\varDelta IP_{\mathit{Bt}}$ the indexes variations for year t

$$\Delta D_t = P_{A0} \left[m_0 \frac{\Delta I P_{Bt}}{I P_{B0}} - \frac{\Delta I P_{At}}{I P_{A0}} \right]$$

 m_0 is normally greater than 1, so :

 $\Delta D_{t} > 0 \text{ (increasing prices spread) if } : \frac{\Delta IP_{Bt}}{IP_{B0}} > \frac{\Delta IP_{At}}{IP_{A0}}$ $\Delta D_{t} < 0 \text{ (decreasing prices spread) if } : \frac{\Delta IP_{Bt}}{IP_{B0}} < 0 \text{ et } \frac{\Delta IP_{At}}{IP_{A0}} > \frac{\Delta IP_{Bt}}{IP_{B0}}$

In the other cases, the sign of ΔD_t cannot be deducted only from : it is necessary to know the value of m_0

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It is necessary to have prices data in value (level in €, VS index) for the monitoring of margins variations

It could be a problem in some case : concentrated processing sector → statistical confidentiality rules, respect of business confidentiality



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elibititi ett		% bought annuel quantities (average 2008-2012) *
	Half-skimmed ultra heat traited milk	74.5%
	Emmental cheese	6.1%
	Camembert cheese	2.6%
	Natural yoghurt	13.8%
	Butter (pack of 205 g)	3.1%



Decomposition of retail prices into cost in milk and gross margins. Some examples.

Note that all these results concern average products, alls types of brands (national and retailers brands), The distribution of margins, their level and the final prices are different for the same product as it is a national brand or a retailer brand.

Following slides shows annual and monthly retail prices decomposition and a chart of the variations of the gross margins at industrial and retail level...:

- for the "basket" of all dairy products monitored by the observatory (products weighted by the percentage in basket purchased quantities),

- for some dairy products of this "basket"

It seems logical that the gross margin for processing industry is greater than the gross margin at retail stage, as the costs are more important in the first stage. But it is not always the case.





Decomposition of retail prices into cost in milk and gross margins. Some examples.

For the skimmed milk : the gross margin of processing sector is approximately equal to the cost in milk, and the gross margin of the retail sector is approximately the half of which of processing sector.







Decomposition of retail prices into cost in milk and gross margins. Some examples.

For the emmental, due to the technological process with about 12 litres of milk for one kg of cheese, the weight of the cost in milk is more important, more then the half of the final price. The distribution of gross margins is paradoxical : the major part is in retail sector.






Decomposition of retail prices into cost in milk and gross margins. Some examples.

This distribution of gross margins seems more balanced for camembert.







Decomposition of retail prices into cost in milk and gross margins. Some examples.

The yoghurt is a product with a high level of value added and the part of the gross margin of the processing industry sector is approximately the half of the final price.







Decomposition of retail prices into cost in milk and gross margins. Some examples.

The case of the 250 g pack of butter is particular. In the modelization of the processing industry for the observatory, the butter for industry is a by-product of others dairy consumer product (skimmed milk, yoghurt...). So, it is considered that the raw material for consumer butter is butter for industry, and not milk. The part of this cost in industrial butter is approximately 60% of the final price of consumer butter.







Costs in farm

The costs in farm can be approximately estimated on the basis of FADN data or data from farm panel monitored by Institut de l'Elevage (Technical agency of the breeding sector)





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Costs in processing industry

The costs in processing industry are given by national statistics based on companies accounts.

This slide show the average accounts of the dairy processing sector.

The observatory also realizes a statistical typology of dairy firms, according to the structure of their dairy productions.



The typology crosses structures of fabrication and belonging to a group of companies or not.

When a factory belongs to a group, some accounts may be not mesasured with market prices, but with internal prices. This can impact the results of the factory.





Costs in supermarkets chains

The average costs in every food department of supermarkets chains are estimated from an ad hoc survey developed by the observatory since 2012.

The same scope of consolidation is applied to the various organizations or the supermarkets chains (integrated chains, chains of independents shops...) in order to calculate average results for all the sector.

This scope is limited to the retailing activities of hyper and supermarkets, including the buying groups of the chains and some of their support functions. Some other functions, sometimes included in the same holding group, are considered out or the scope of consolidation : this is the case for the commercial real estate management of the chains.

	Sales of the department : meat department, delicatessen, poultry, fruits and veg., dairy, bakery	
	(measured at the entry of the perimeter : buying group)	
-	Costs of goods sold	
	(taken into account : back and rebates, internal logistical costs)	
=	Gross margin	
-	Specialized employees costs	
=	Semi-net margin	
-	Others directs charges (specialized supplies)	
-	Common costs to be distributed (with keys) amongst the departments	
	(supplies, employees, real estate, financial costs, amortization)	
=	Net margin (before or after distribution of tax on profit)	
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In every food department ("fresh" food department at the moment), the following accounts are measured :

Sales of the department : meat department, delicatessen, poultry, fruits and veg., dairy, bakery

- (measured at the entry of the perimeter : buying group)
- Costs of good sold
 - (taken into account : back and rebates, internal logistical costs)
- = Gross margin
- Specialized employees costs
- = Semi-net margin
- Others directs charges (specialized supplies...)
- Common costs to be distributed (with keys) amongst the

departments

- (supplies, employees, real estate, financial costs, amortization...)
- = Net margin (before or after distribution of tax on profit)



The dairy product department presents in 2013 an average net margin of 2.30 euros for 100 euros of sales (2.3%), higher than the net margin ratio for all fresh food department : 1.8%, and for all the sector : 0.9%.

The dairy product department is the biggest of fresh food departments in terms of sales.



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The dairy product department is the biggest of fresh food departments in terms of sales.







Prices transmissions

This analysis gives some simplified indicators about the links between prices at every stage of the chain.

A simulated price is calculated a every stage. This price is such as the gross margin (GM) of the considered stage (GM on intermediate consumption in farm, GM on costs in milk in processing industry, gross margin on costs of sold products in supermarkets) is maintained at its level of 2005, inflation taken into account.

This principle of calculation is applied to :

The price of the milk, at farm level, simulated according to the price of inputs

The price of processed products exit factory, simulated according to the cost in milk

The price of consumer products in supermarkets, simulated according to the cost of good sold.

The slides only presents the example of half-skimmed milk. The result for others products can be different.







Main results of the Observatory Dairy products

□ Increase of milk production price in 2014...

□ ... totally or partially transmitted by food processing industry, according to products

Retail prices in supermarkets : increasing

□ Amelioration of the situation of dairy farms

Contrasted evolutions of results in dairy industry, according to products

Gross and net margins of the dairy sector in supermarkets decreasing in 2013... in 2014 ?

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