ANALYSIS OF PRICE MOVEMENTS OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS SOLD IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE BETWEEN THE 17th AND 19th CENTURY: THE CASE OF KASTAMONU[1]

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ABSTRACT

Kastamonu city has hosted many civilizations throughout its history. The city which came under the Ottoman rule in 15th century gained the characteristics of a traditional Ottoman city in the late 15th century, when the migration into Anatolia starting in 1071 began to lose the traces of the Seljuk and Danişment hegemony. In addition to the legal and administrative organizations, the records of Sharia Registry had an important place in the Ottoman economic life. In these records, there are many records of the legal, administrative and economic life of Kastamonu as well as the legal, administrative and economic information of the settlement where they were kept. It can be understood from the records of Sharia Registry that the narh registry had an effect on the prices in basic consumer goods in all parts of the Ottoman Empire. Among these are price ceiling [narh] records belonging to the products in Kastamonu Livestock Market. The study includes the price movements of meat and meat products in Kastamonu Live Animal Market in the sharia court records held in Kastamonu between the dates of H.1084 –1221 / M.1673 –1806. With the economic structure of the meat products of the city to be revealed in this study, it has been intended to complete the shortcomings in the previous studies in this field.

Keywords: Kastamonu, narh registers, meat products.

INTRODUCTION

Although the Ottoman social life and the history of the palace have been extensively studied, the economic life, import / export data and production / consumption analysis in the economic sense are seldom the subject of any study. Existing studies focus more on certain major sanjaks (districts) in the period after the ascension, mostly in central Istanbul. Although there is a lot of historical information about Kastamonu district, it is almost impossible to find works related to the province where economic analysis is made. This study is of special importance due to the reasons outlined above. In the study that analyzes the price movements of meat and meat products shedding light on the economic history of Kastamonu, the analysis of price movements of meat and meat products in Kastamonu Livestock Market according to Sharia court records between H.1084 –1272 / M.1673 – 1856 is given. The analysis also includes analysis of data on the exchange of monetary aggregates. Also regression methods was used to estimate the product prices as 2018. (see. Appendix)

RELATED LITERATURE

Looking at the studies on the Ottoman Empire, it is possible to consider them in two ways, generally as economic and political studies. When the studies in the literature are examined, it will not be wrong to say that studies on economic concepts started with Ömer Lütfi Barkan. When we talk about the economic repercussions of political struggles, we find Salih Özbaran's works. Mübahat Kütükoğlu, Halil Sahillioğlu, Mustafa Öztürk, Ahmet Tabakoğlu, Mehmet Genç, Şevket Pamuk and Mesud Küçükkalay focused on economic issues the most and provided us with historical information about prices. Halil İnalcık, İlber Ortaylı, Feridun Emecen, generally appear with the works that emphasize the political aspect and effects of the Empire. When the literature of history is examined, although it is known that the economic history cannot be separated from the political history, the researchers working on this end of the history have studied by leaning towards either political or economic history rather than taking the research weight on common points.

INFLATION IN THE ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Before the establishment of the Ottoman Empire, a variety of coins were in use. The money in circulation were mostly gold, silver, copper and bronze coins. It is adopted by the historians as a common opinion that the purchasing power of the people was very high until the 1453 conquest period, the palace's power was felt economically in every region of the Empire, and the retail foods primarily consumed were priced in accordance with people's purchasing power (Şahin,2013).

We see that the products brought from different continents with geographical discoveries until the 16th century were reflected in the prices of the Empire and that the exports became more difficult with the encouragement of imports, and also the prices fell Demirci (2017). While the economic life of the 15th and 16th centuries was so under control and bright, in the 17th and 18th centuries, the Empire entered into a period of economic instability and economic threats were accompanied by the threats outside the borders Aysan (2018). In this period, the

Ottoman Empire entered an inflationary term and the inflation rate, which was a new interest rate that had not been mentioned until then, started to enter the economic history as a form that people were not used to.

In this period of economic uncertainty, *inflation* was shown as the primary reason for the answer to the question of "Why?". In the history, additional financial measures to correct the economy as the first effective reflection, the practices to restrain the inflation which was also known as dabasement [tağşiş] were able to prevent prices in the short term, while in the long run they had more negative effects. As narrated by Pamuk (2014), according to historical sources, it is possible to say that the prices rose five times between 17th and 18th centuries and ten times in later periods.

NARH PRACTICE IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Today, the economic structure of the states can be determined in accordance with various criteria such as real value of money, trade volume, export-import balance and prices (Öztürk 1988). In this context, the price movements within the economic structure of the state play an important role in the public's purchasing power, the supply-demand balance in the market and the production-consumption adequacy (Öztürk 2012). In this respect, price movements are an indicator of all positive and negative developments in the state.

In order to prevent the monopolistic tendency against the conditions of supply and demand in the wide geographical area in which the Ottoman Empire was dominant, the control of the continuity of the product quality and ensuring the price stability was carried out through the the local administrators called Kadı [Judge] (Tabakoğlu 1987). In the provinces they ruled, keeping the interest of the public paramount, the Judges carried out narh price determination with the commission they collected within the context of Sharia and traditional law. In addition to the judge, muhtesib, kethuda and yiğitbaslari who served as the the leaders of chambers of today, cooperated with a commissioon comprised of ehl-i hibre (ehl-i vukuf) and the leaders and notables of the region. Through this commission, the price determination and movements in favor of the consumer were checked in the market where the competitive environment was not fully formed during the supply and demand of the product (Erdoğdu 2000). During the supply of the product, no intervention was made to the market and the imported goods market in which competition was taking place (Öztürk 1998).

In general, the narh commission determined the price of basic food, essential supplies and daily wages. However, commission made narh price determination in lamb-cutting period, fruit and vegetable period, and special dates such as Şaban month before the month of Ramadan (Saydam 1999). In addition, other factors such as grassroots epidemics, droughts, floods, extreme colds, natural disasters, wars and internal disturbances were among other factors that affected prices (Öztürk 2012). In case of objection from the tradesmen, ceiling price [narh] was determined by the tasters who were experts in the field of determining the amount of raw materials to be used in the product and the price was formed accordingly.

In the arrangements made after the coin adjustments, the commission determined the prices of the major goods depending on the absence or abundance of goods sold in the market. Determining the price of other products were left to the heads of chambers (Kütükoğlu 1993). The official profit of the tradesmen was taken into consideration during the determination of the ceiling price [narh]. This profit was at a rate of 10%, as expressed in the ihtisab regulations (Akgündüz 1990). However, changes in this rate were observed according to the type and amount of the raw material and labor required for the type and yield of the crop or the product (Ergenç 1995). The prices set by the Commission were announced to the public after being recorded as narh records in the Sharia Registry book, also known as the court book (Kuzucu 2006).

MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS PRICES

It is possible to access the narh records of meat and meat products between 1673-1856 in the province of Kastamonu. There is no price [narh] for each product given annually in these records. The previous year's narh was taken into consideration for the years when narh was not given. In some years, narh was given for almost every month. There is more data in the narh records of especially sheep, cattle and buffalo meat types. But it is not possible to reach regular narh data in other products. In this period, the data of 40 types of meat and meat products were in the Kastamonu narh records. These are: Lahm-ı Ganem, Cir Keçi Lahm-ı Ganem, Lahm-ı Ganem Besi, Lahm-ı Ganem Yerli, Lahm-ı Ganem Yeni Bıçak, Lahm-ı Ganem Cob, Lahm-ı Bakar, Cir Keçi Lahm-ı Bakar, Lahm-ı Bakar (Besi), Lahm-ı Mağaz, Cir Keçi Lahm-ı Mağaz, Lahm-ı Mağaz (Breeding Sheep), Çıkrıkçı Bey' Ettiği Lahm-ı Mağaz, Lahm-ı Camuş, Lahm-ı Keçi, Cir Keçi, Çob Muslıh, Cir Keçi Bey' Ettiği Lahm-ı Ganem, Breeding Sheep Meat, Tail, Original Tail, Tail Fat, Sheep Fat, Cattle Fat, Goat Fat, Inner Fat, Leaked Inner Fat, Inner Fat (Small Cattle) Mumcuya, Inner Fat (Cattle and Buffalo) Mumcuya, Neck Fat (Cattle and Buffalo) Mumcuya→, Tallow (Mumcıya), Liver (Both), Kelle-Paça (Both), Kelle, (Intestines and) Mumbar, Abdomen Fat, Beryan (Biryan), Revgan-ı Kuyruk, Revgan-ı Mağaz, Revgan-ı Bakar, Kebab Fat

Kiyye was used as a measure of the weight of these products.[3] To specify the value of the products akçe[4], meblağ, para and guruş were used.[5] Some products were only specified as name, no price was specified. Since the price of the product is not specified, it is thought that the price of the product is determined according to the market conditions.

PRODUCT EVALUATIONS

In the Graph 1, it can be seen that between 1690 and 1807 the price fluctuations are going upwards in low oscillation. Although there is a slight decline especially after 1807, the price movements, which were very close

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[3] Kiyye: Okka, 400 dirhems, See. Develioğlu, a.g.e., s. 519; Kıyye = A weight measure between 1,282 and 945 gr changing from region to region. See. Celal Esad Arseven, **Art Encyclopedia**, vol. III, MEB, İstanbul 1943, p. 1561
[4] Akçe: The first sikke and the first silver currency of the Ottomans. See. Halil Sahillioğlu, "Akçe", *TDVİA*, C. II, İstanbul 1989, p. 224-227
[5] Meblağ: para, akçe, See Develioglu *ibid*, p. 592; Used as akçe in Kastamonu records (KŞS, 60-1)

to each other in the first half of the 19th century, continued their upward trend as of the second half of the same century.
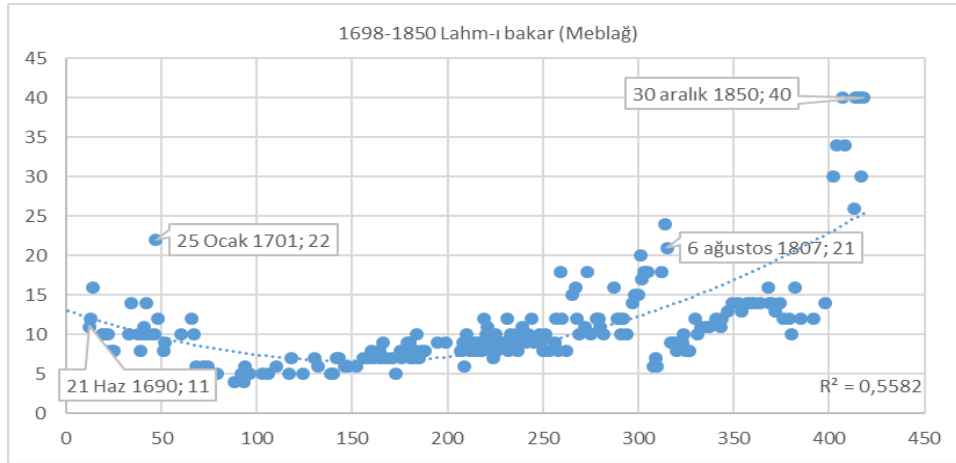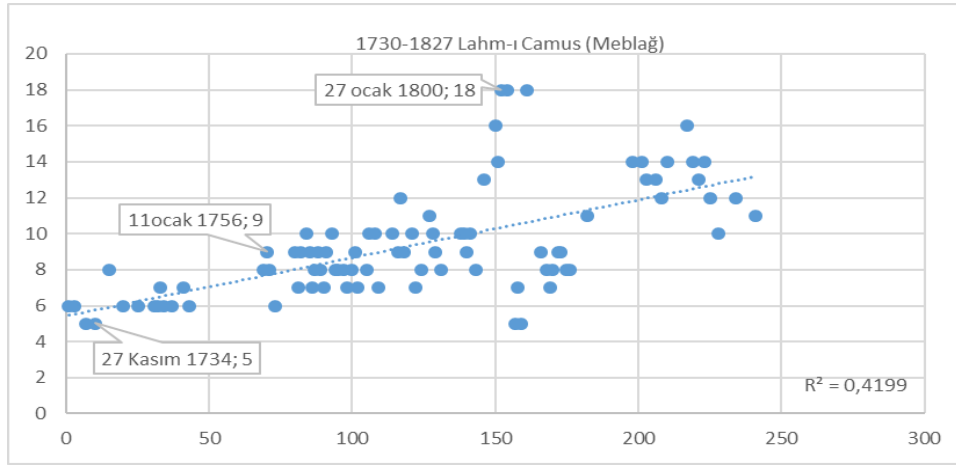

Graph 1: Cow Prices Change (Chart 1 shows the prices of cow meat between 1698-1850. Chart equation y = 0.003 x^2-0.0838x +13.135. On Chart 12 in Appendix , the estimated chart with future dates created with the prices of 2018 can be seen.
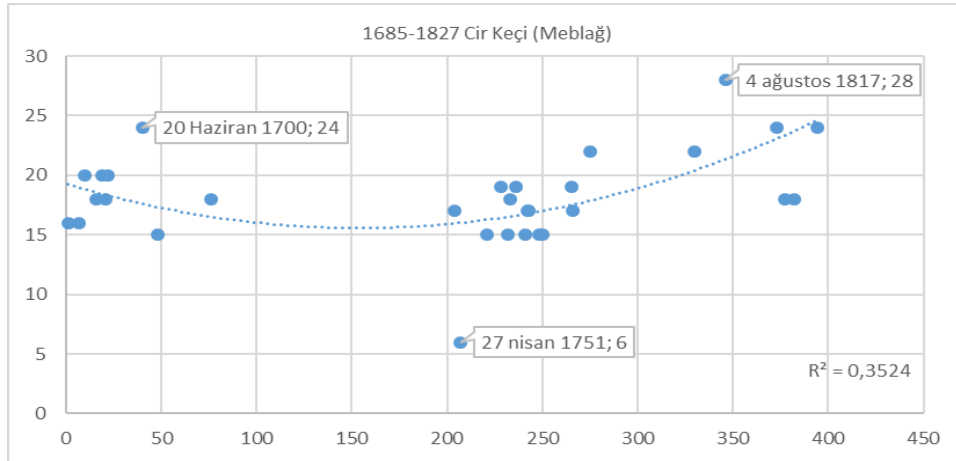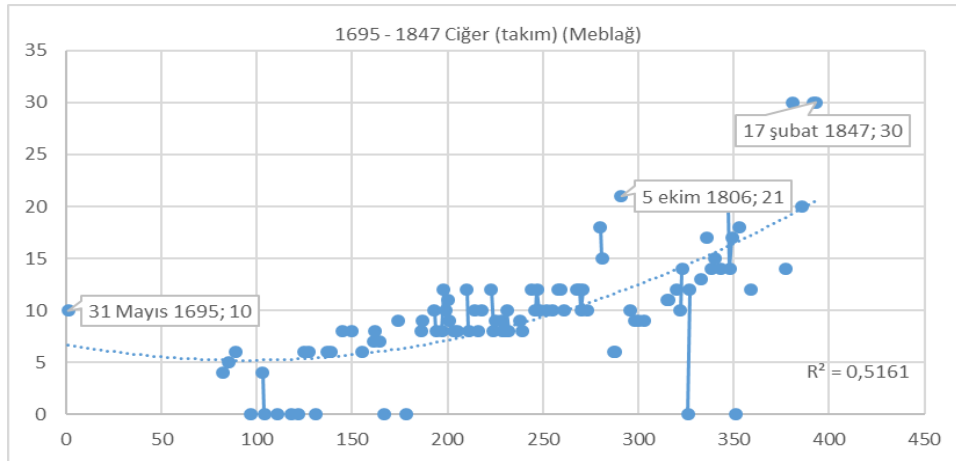

Graph 2: Goat Meat Prices Change (Chart 2 which shows the goat prices between 1685-1827. Chart equation y = 0.0002x^2-0.0482x +19.279. On Chart13: in Appendix, the estimated chart with future date created with the prices of 2018 can be seen.)

When we look at the records in Graph 2 held since 1685, it can be said that there is a record of 60 years. The price records which were not clear until 1750 were recorded until 1817 although rarely.

It would not be wrong to say that price movements are cumulative in linear form. (Graph 3) Thus, prices that were together in the 25-year period after 1734 began to increase from 1756 onwards. After this period in 1800 in which the first serious price movements of 100 years is seen, prices started downward trend.

Graph 3: *Male Buffalo Meat Prices Change (Chart 3 shows the male buffalo meat prices between 1685-1827. Chart equation y = 0.000002x^2-0.0326x+5.4266. On Chart14 in Appendix, the estimated chart with future date created with the prices of 2018 can be seen.)*
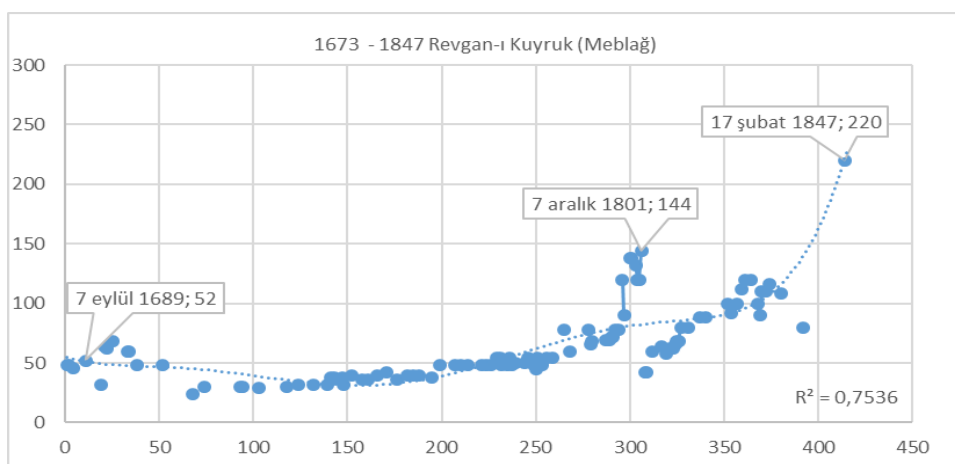

Graph 4: *Liver Prices Change (Chart 4 shows the liver prices between 1695-1847. Chart equation y = 0.0002x^2-0.0323x +6.7524. On Chart15 in Appendix, the estimated chart with future date created with the prices of 2018 can be seen.)*

Although it is known that liver was a valuable meat during the Ottoman period, the records of price movements can be seen regularly starting in 1700s. Furthermore, it is clearly seen in the Graph 4 that the prices in this period went up changing 6 times.
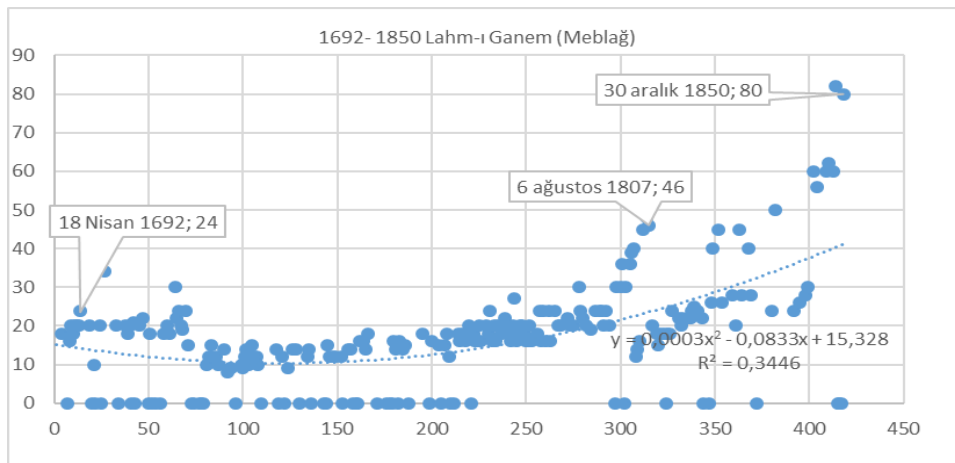
Graph 5: *Mutton Prices Change (Chart 5 shows the mutton prices between 1685-1827. Chart equation y = 0.0003x²-0.0833x +15.328. On Chart16: in Appendix, the estimated chart with future date created with the prices of 2018 can be seen.)*

When we look at the price of mutton, it will be seen that the most stable price development in meat prices is on this type. Especially the long term inflation from 1692 until 1807 did not affect this product. (Graph 5) And then there is increase in the second half of 19th century and then the prices reach the highest point.

Graph 6: *The Tail Fat Prices Change (Chart 6 shows the goat prices between 1673-1847. Chart equation y = 0.0015x²-0.3885x +58.897. On Chart17 in Appendix, the estimated chart with future date created with the prices of 2018 can be seen.)*

One of the main reasons why the tail fat is sold at higher prices than the price of the mutton is its use in different sectors. The prices which were stable until almost the second half of 17th century rose 3 fold in late 18th century and early 19th century seen in Graph 6. Tail fat prices, which continued at low levels for a period of time reached highest level in the second half of 19th century.
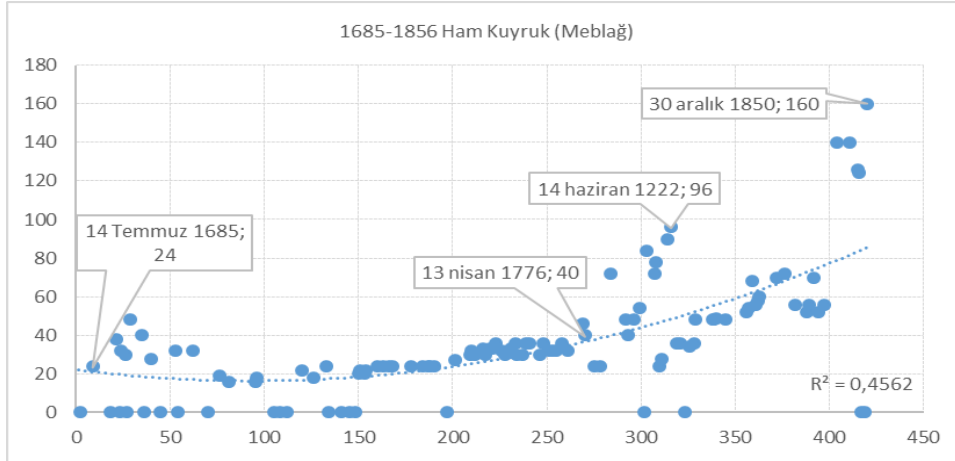
Graph 7: *Raw Tail Prices Change (Chart 7 shows raw tail fat prices between 1685-1856. Chart equation y = 0.0006x²-0.1215x +22.097. On Chart18 in Appendix, the estimated chart with future date created with the prices of 2018 can be seen.)*

The raw tail had quite a significance in each corner of the Empire. The tail was used in drug production, lighting and wood polish. When the price levels are examined, the prices in Graph 7 that are going on in a certain range until 1776 follow a different and scattered course after this date.
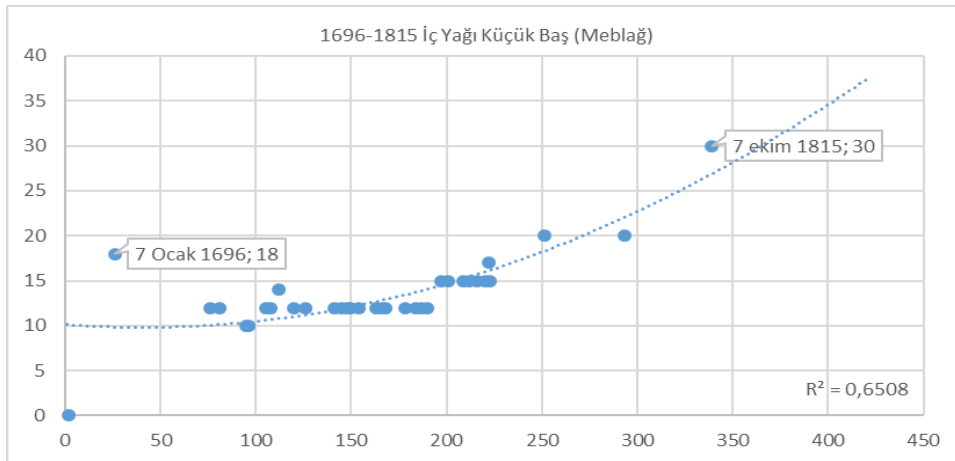
Graph 8: *Inner Fat Small Cattle Prices Change (*Chart 8 shows the small cattle inner fat prices between 1685-1827. Chart equation *y = 0.0002x²-0.0156x +10.131. On Chart19: in Appendix, the estimated chart with future date created with the prices of 2018 can be seen.)*

The inner fat was known as flavouring of the meat in food sector. Because of its limited use, it was sold at lower prices than other types of animal fat. The Graph 8 supposedly shows how the price of inner fat was created. It is clear from the graph that there is no sign of the records during the remaining periods and the recordings are concentrated in a certain range.
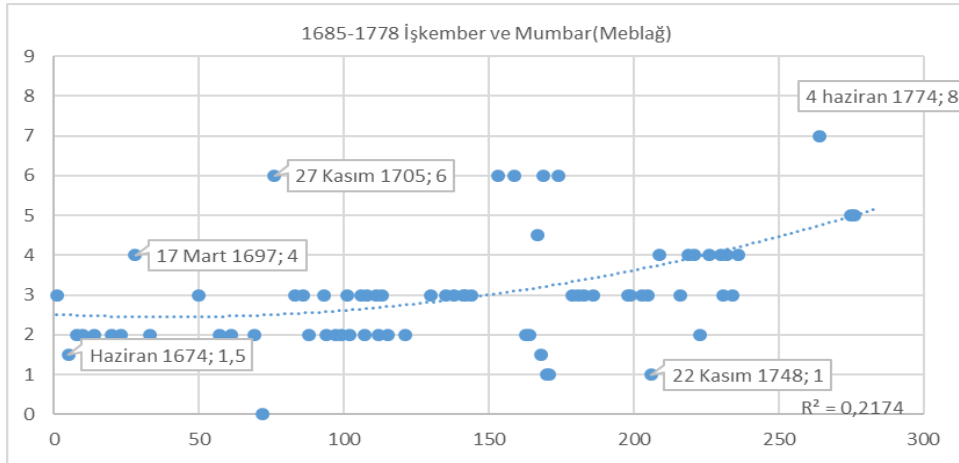
Graph 9: *Tripe and Stuffed Sausage Prices Change (Chart 9 shows the prices of tripe and stuffed sausage between 1685-1778. Chart equation y = 0.00005x²-0.0036x+2.5196. On Chart 20 in Appendix, the estimated chart with future date created with the prices of 2018 can be seen.)*

Tripe and stuffed sausage prices are the lowest among the meat/offal group of meat. Prices seen Graph 9 are generally in the same range. It can be seen that 1705 is the first highest and 1774 is the second highest price.
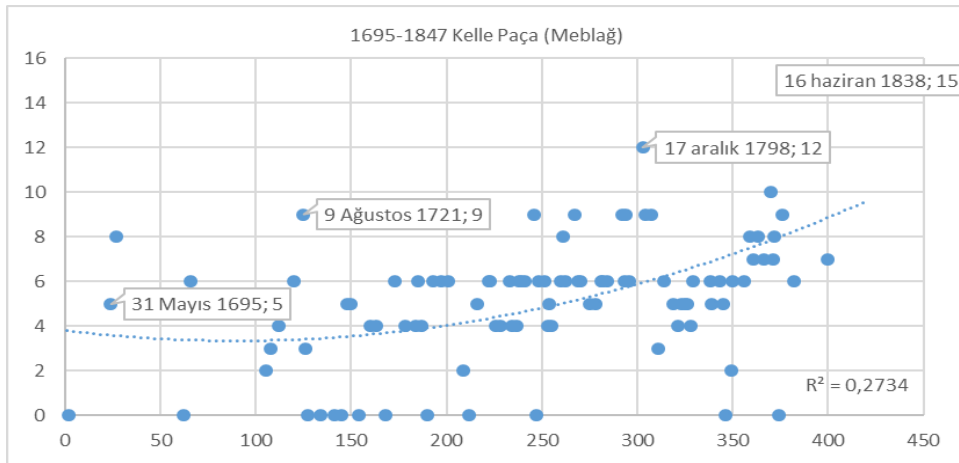
Graph 10: *Kelle Paça (Head and Hooves) Prices Change (Chart 10 shows the prices of kelle paça between 1695-1847. Chart equation y = 0.000005x²-0.0103x+3.8093. On Chart21 in Appendix, the estimated chart with future date created with the prices of 2018 can be seen.)*

The price of kelle paça [head and foot] started at low levels. However, it is seen in Graph 10 that it is widely priced in a way that is not quite common in other types of meat. In the one hundred-year period, the prices experienced 6-fold increase or 6-fold decrease fluctuations. Beginning at the end of the 18th century, it was sold at the highest prices.
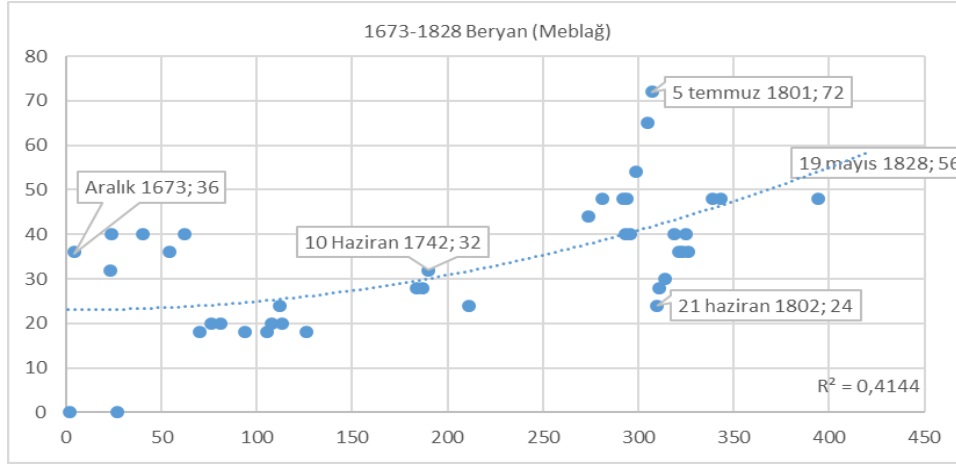
Graph 11: *Beryan (Biryan-Well Kebab) Prices Change (Chart 11 shows the prices of beryan meat between 1673-1828. Chart equation y = 0.0002x²-0.0023x +23.118. On Chart22 in Appendix, the estimated chart with future date created with the prices of 2018 can be seen.)*

Biryan (Beryan) meat is special to Kastamonu. Considering the relatively low price movements in the recordings, it can be thought that it is parallel to mutton because because it is made from lamb / sheep mutton. It started to increase from the beginning of the 19th century and continued its price movements in a narrow range as can be seen from the graph.

CONCLUSION

The practice of the Ottoman Empire paying the cost of the wars waged during the political and military ascension from domestic market rather than the conquered lands caused increasing government spending. In this process, the state tried to compensate the public deficit by devaluing the money, tağşiş in other words, instead of raising the fixed tax rates. In this process, the increasing financial stagnation led to the formation of new sources of financing by the state through the activation of mints and coin novation in 1685.

Studies have revealed that the prices observed in the Ottoman Empire between the 17th and 18th centuries increased approximately fivefold and then increased to tenfold. Due to price instability, the State tried to keep the prices under control through the narh practice. In this process, the frequent changes of Narhs and their differences in practice put the tradesmen and the consumers in discomfort.

Kastamonu meat and meat products prices, which are a reflection of the economic crisis that existed in the Ottoman Empire, are a confirmation of the accuracy of these approaches. In addition to the decline in the real value of money, rise in gold prices led to the rise of prices as shown in the example of Kastamonu. Even when the price of the product is expressed as money depending on the depreciation of the kuruş, it was started to be expressed with kuruş rather than with the high numbered money after 1840. In this context, while periodic increases and decreases in the meat and meat products can be seen in the records of Kastamonu Sharia Resitry between 1673-1856, a six-fold increase is observed in general.
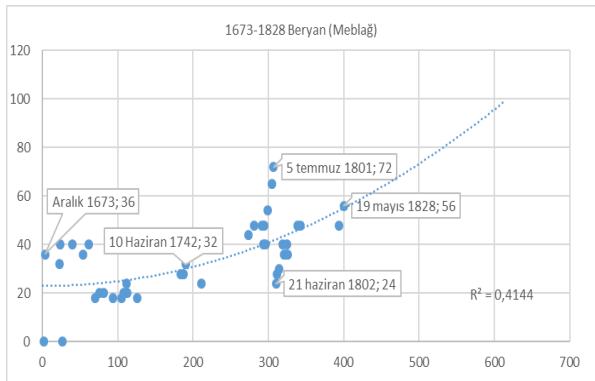
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APPENDIX: Estimated Price Trends in 2018 December Prices with Average Prices

Estimated graphs shows and clears a question that what the prices and trends have been occurred up to 2018 by Ottoman Inflationist Rate.
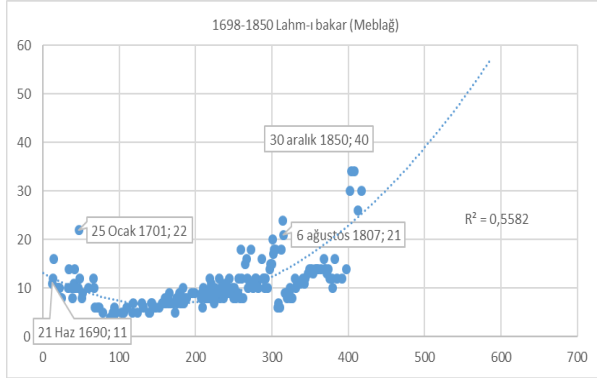
Graph 12: *y = 0.003 x² -0.0838x +13.135*
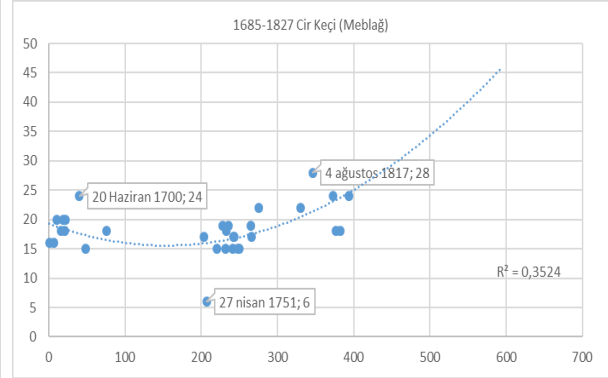
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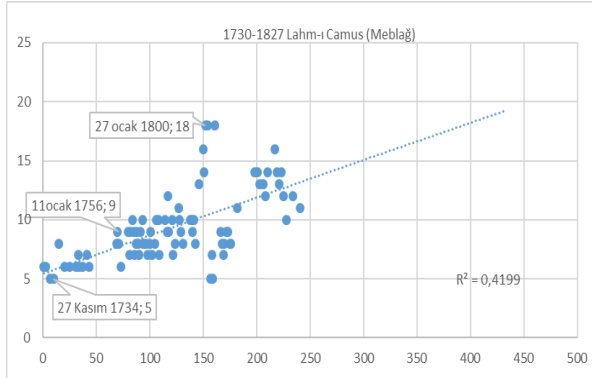
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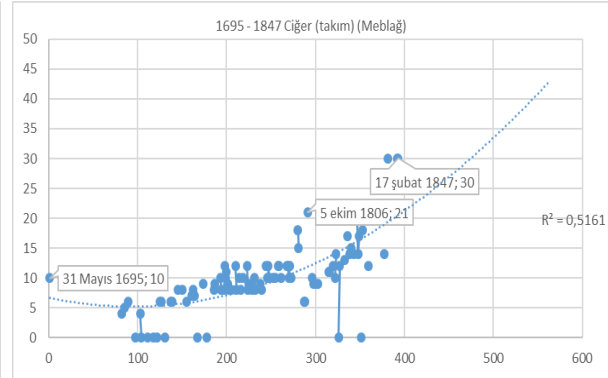
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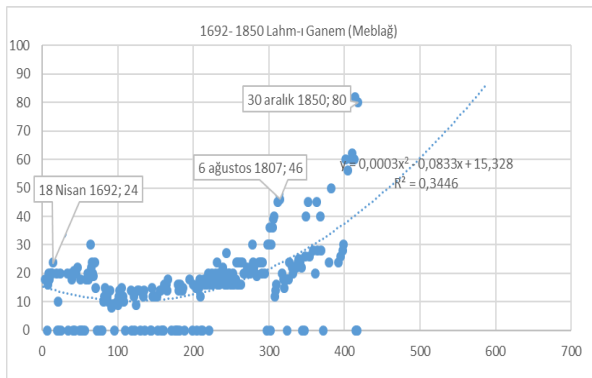
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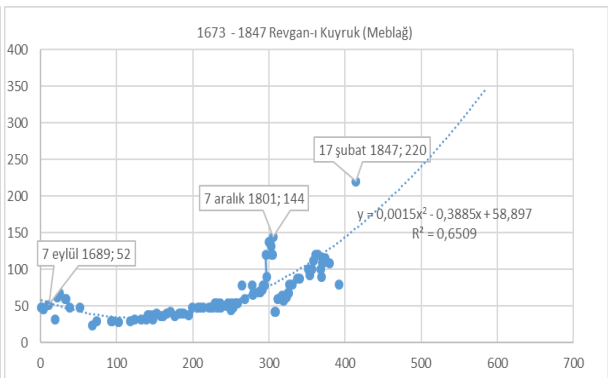
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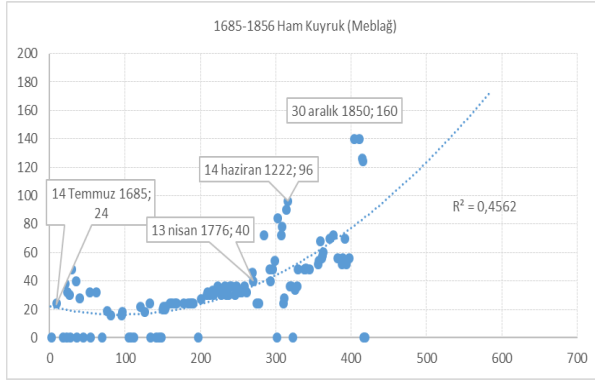
Graph 18: *y = 0.0006x²-0.1215x +22.097*
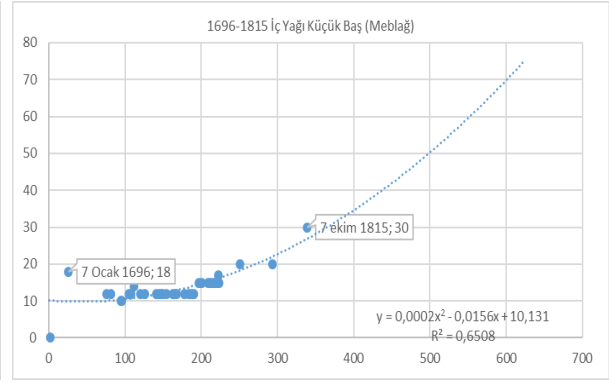
Graph 19: *y = 0.0002x²-0.0156x +10.131*
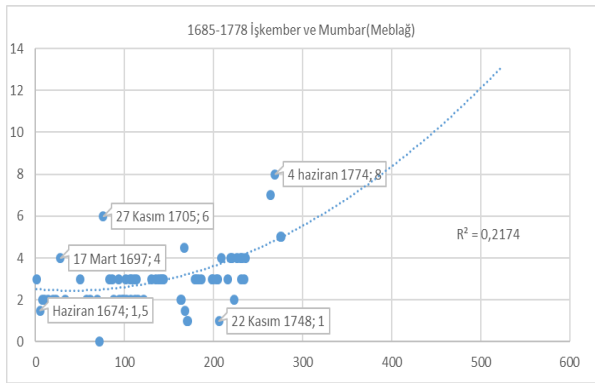
Graph 20: *y = 0.00005x²-0.0036x+2.5196*
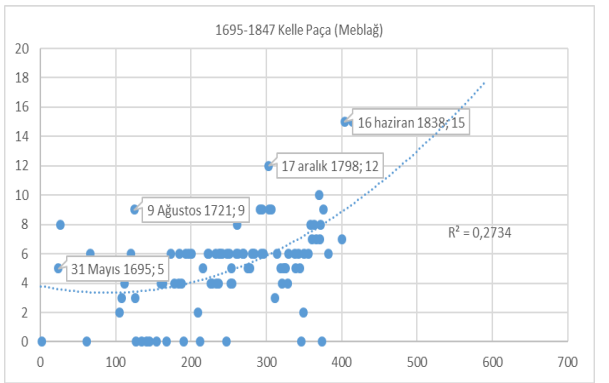
Graph 21: *y = 0.000005x²-0.0103x+3.8093*

Graph 22: *y = 0.0002x²-0.0023x +23.118*