

AVERAGE ADJUSTED RETAIL PRICE PER POUND AND AVERAGE FARM PRICE PER POUND FOR BROILERS, BY MONTHS, BASED ON 3-MONTH MOVING AVERAGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1953 TO 1956

(RETAIL PRICES DECREASED 25 PERCENT BECAUSE OF SHRINKAGE IN DRESSING)

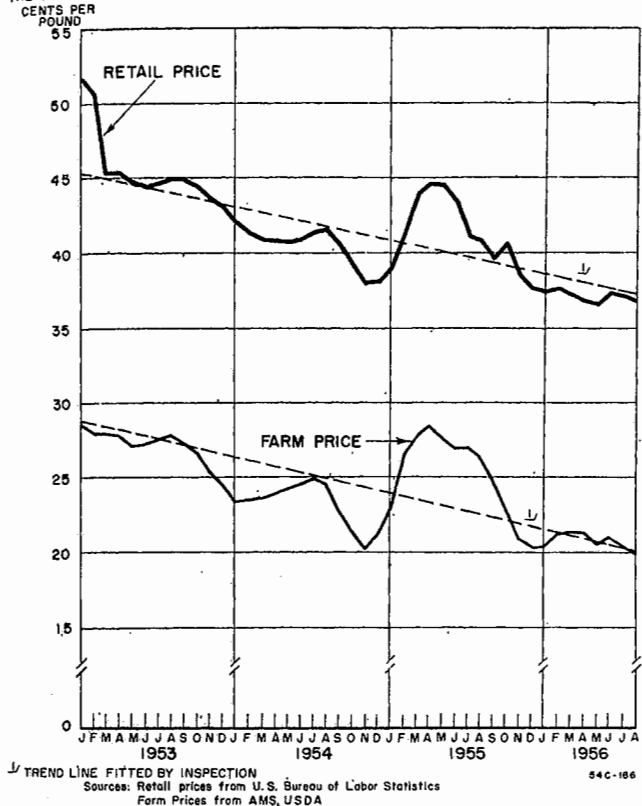


Figure 9

The trends of broiler prices compared with feed are shown in Figure 12 and Table 13. Feed prices have been maintained at a more-or-less constant level since 1949 while the trend of broiler prices has continued downward except for relatively high peaks in certain months of 1952 and 1955.

Prices of broilers compared with prices of feed.—The price of broilers compared with the price of feed (the broiler-feed ratio) has become less favorable to broiler growers since 1948. In that year a pound of live broiler would buy 6.5 pounds of feed (1 to 6.5 ratio). With a few exceptions, the ratio continued to become less favorable until 1954, when the annual average dropped to 1 to 4.3. That is, the price of a pound of live broiler was equivalent to only 4.3 pounds of feed, compared with 6.5 pounds in 1948. During 1955 the relationship improved somewhat, but in 1956 it again grew less favorable and during the first 9 months averaged only 1 to 4.1. The lowest ratio during that entire 10-year period occurred in September 1956.

Trends in feed efficiency.—The rapid increase in efficiency in broiler production has only partly offset the decline in the ratio of broiler prices to feed prices, which has taken place since 1948. As feed constitutes about two-thirds of the total cost of producing broilers, feed efficiency is influential in the profitableness of production.

During the last 25 years, the feed efficiency (pounds of feed per pound of gain) has increased significantly. About 20 years ago, somewhat more than 12 pounds of feed were required to produce a 3-pound broiler. Now it can be produced on less than 9 pounds of feed—a reduction of more than 25 percent in feed requirement. The increase in feed efficiency was gradual until the late 1940's. Since then it has been stepped up at a rapid rate. This increase

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE PER POUND OF SELECTED KINDS OF MEATS, BY MONTHS, BASED ON 3-MONTH MOVING AVERAGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1953 TO 1956

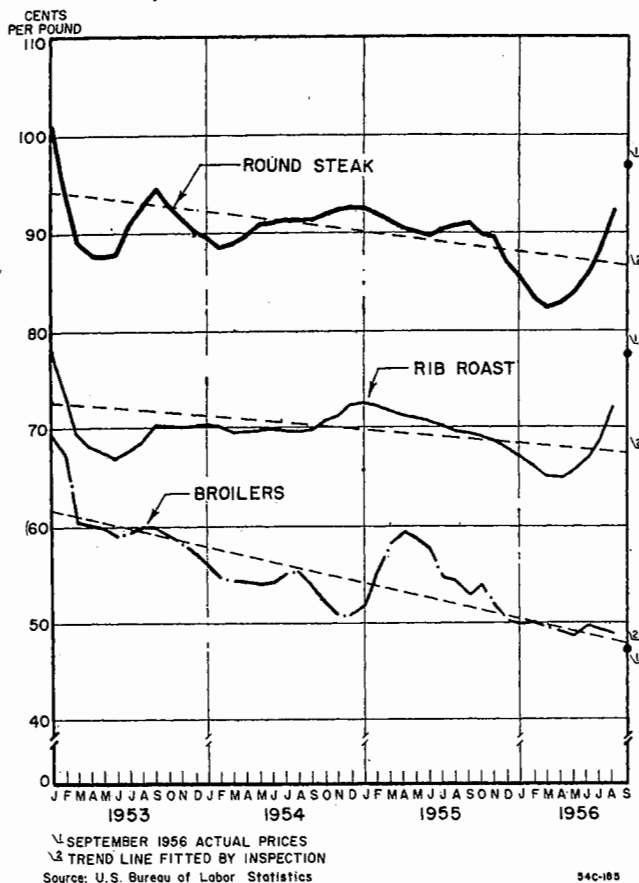


Figure 10

Table 14.—BROILER-FEED PRICE RATIOS,¹ UNITED STATES, BY MONTHS: JANUARY 1947 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1956

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average
1947.....	6.4	5.6	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.1	5.5	6.0	6.2
1948.....	6.0	5.8	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.9	7.1	6.7	6.6	6.9	6.5
1949.....	6.3	5.9	6.2	6.2	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.9	5.8	5.6	6.0	5.4	5.8
1950.....	4.5	5.6	6.3	6.0	5.6	5.5	5.9	6.0	6.0	5.4	5.1	4.8	5.6
1951.....	5.1	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.4	4.8	4.7	4.6	5.3
1952.....	5.1	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.4	4.7	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.7	5.4	5.1
1953.....	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.1	4.5	5.2
1954.....	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.0	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.7	4.3
1955.....	4.7	4.0	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.2	4.5	4.4	4.1	5.0
1956.....	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.2	4.2	3.9	4.3	3.8	3.6				

¹Number of pounds of broiler mash equal in value to 1 pound of broiler—live weight.