

## SEASONAL MOVEMENT OF PRICE OF JOWAR IN MAHARASHTRA AND MYSORE

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THE purpose of this note is to put together the available wholesale price data for Jowar for the post-War II years in a number of markets in the States of Maharashtra and Mysore, in order to study the seasonal pattern of price movements in them. The objective is two-fold : In the first instance it is necessary to find out if in these markets the wholesale price of jowar exhibits any seasonal characteristic, and to note its pattern. Secondly, it is desired to estimate the seasonal rise in the price in each of these markets, and compare this rise with some estimated costs of storage, etc., over the period. Limitations of data make it necessary that the approach here will be more of an exploratory character.

Wholesale price data for jowar for six markets in Maharashtra and Mysore were published in the Bulletin on Agricultural Prices,\* and have been used here. Besides, data for the Barsi market in Maharashtra collected separately from the regulated market office at Barsi for some other purpose, have been analysed. The data were not available for all these markets for all the post-war years, and were often for different years for different markets.

The seasonal price indices are calculated after fitting a trend line by taking 12 monthly moving average centred, and expressing the observed price of each month as a percentage of the trend value for that month. The indices are given in Table 1.

A second method of analysis is followed mainly to study the price rise between the post-harvest period and the following pre-harvest period. The actual monthly price data for jowar during a marketing year are taken and such data for each year are deflated by the all-India general wholesale price index for that year (1952-53 = 100) in order to make the prices in different years comparable in terms of general purchasing power of the rupee. While this does not give a proper seasonal index, our interest is in finding out the extent of the rise in price from the post-harvest months to the subsequent pre-harvest months. It is necessary to examine the extent of price rise during this period for different years to find out how often it is

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