

ABSTRACT

This paper was based on an assessment of Broiler Meat Prices in Trinidad and Tobago in an era of rising food prices. In recent years Trinidad and Tobago had begun experiencing periods of escalating food prices which were having a huge impact on the local broiler industry. Chicken being the most consumed meat in the market was also experiencing increases in prices. This led to the importation of low quality meat from abroad.

The Net Nominal Protection Coefficient (net NPC) was used to calculate the competitiveness of chicken prices at the Processing Plant and Pluck Shop levels for Brazil and the United States of America (USA). It was revealed that most chicken parts were protected. The net NPC for whole breast, thighs, drumsticks, whole birds and leg quarters were all greater than 1 at both the processing plant and pluck shop levels. However, the Net NPC for wings and boneless breast were less than one for both levels. In the case of Brazil, the Net NPCs for all chicken parts were less than 1 at both the processing plant and pluck shop levels. As a result it was concluded that Trinidad and Tobago is susceptible to broiler imports.

In addition, the prices of soybean and corn which are the main ingredients used for the production of feed were also assessed to find out if the prices of these inputs were having an impact on chicken prices. Correlation Coefficients were found to show the relationship between chicken prices to corn and soybean prices. Corn had a correlation of (0.923) and soybean had a coefficient of (0.866). The coefficients indicated that the prices of corn and soybean had a negative influence on chicken prices *ceteris paribus*.

This study revealed that Trinidad and Tobago should be concerned about the Local Broiler Market.