

# Age-specific child mortality in Sweden (1814-1910): A Case Study from Scania.

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## Research Question:

*How did food prices affect age-specific child mortality patterns during the 19<sup>th</sup> century?*

*Period: 1814-1910*

*Cohort groups: 1-4 years, 5-14 years*

*Low SES: Lower skilled worker, lower skilled farm worker, unskilled worker, unskilled farm worker.*

*Indirect or direct effect of food prices on child mortality.*



## Hypothesis:

*Resource reallocation is selective in favour to older children and ends up with higher mortality for very young children.*

Table I: Hazard Ratio of current and lagged rye-prices

VARIABLES	Children 1-4		Children 5-14	
	Hazard Ratio	p-value	Hazard Ratio	p-value
Current Rye Prices (ln_cycle)	1.5219	0.062	2.0434	0.020
Lagged Rye Prices (ln_cycle)	1.8310	0.007	2.6862	0.001
Gender				
male	1 (ref.)		1 (ref.)	
female	.9341	0.311	.9913	0.922
SES				
High SES	1 (ref.)		1 (ref.)	
Low SES	1.0224	0.741	1.1189	0.203
Birthyear	.9917	0.000	.9974	0.137
Time at risk	37869.36961		79630.87132	
Overall p-value			0.0000	0.0007

Current Rye Prices (ln\_cycle): effect within 12 months

Lagged Rye Prices (ln\_cycle): effect within 12 to 24 months



*Resource reallocation is selective in favour for younger children.*

## References:

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Bengtsson, T., Dribe, M., New Evidence on the Standard of Living in Sweden During the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century: Long- Term Development of the Demographic Response to Short-Term Economic Stress. In: *Living Standards in the Past. New Perspectives on Well-Being in Asia and Europe*.