

Department of Economic History

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT



LUND UNIVERSITY



Bureau  
d'économie  
théorique  
et appliquée  
(BETA)  
UMR 7522

# French Female Wages and the Long Run of History

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## Why Constructing Long-run Wage Series?

### Aim of the paper

Provide long-run wages series for France prior to the industrialization

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- Little is known about wages and payroll costs for France
- No assessment of earning possibilities from a gendered perspective

## Why Constructing Long-run Wage Series?

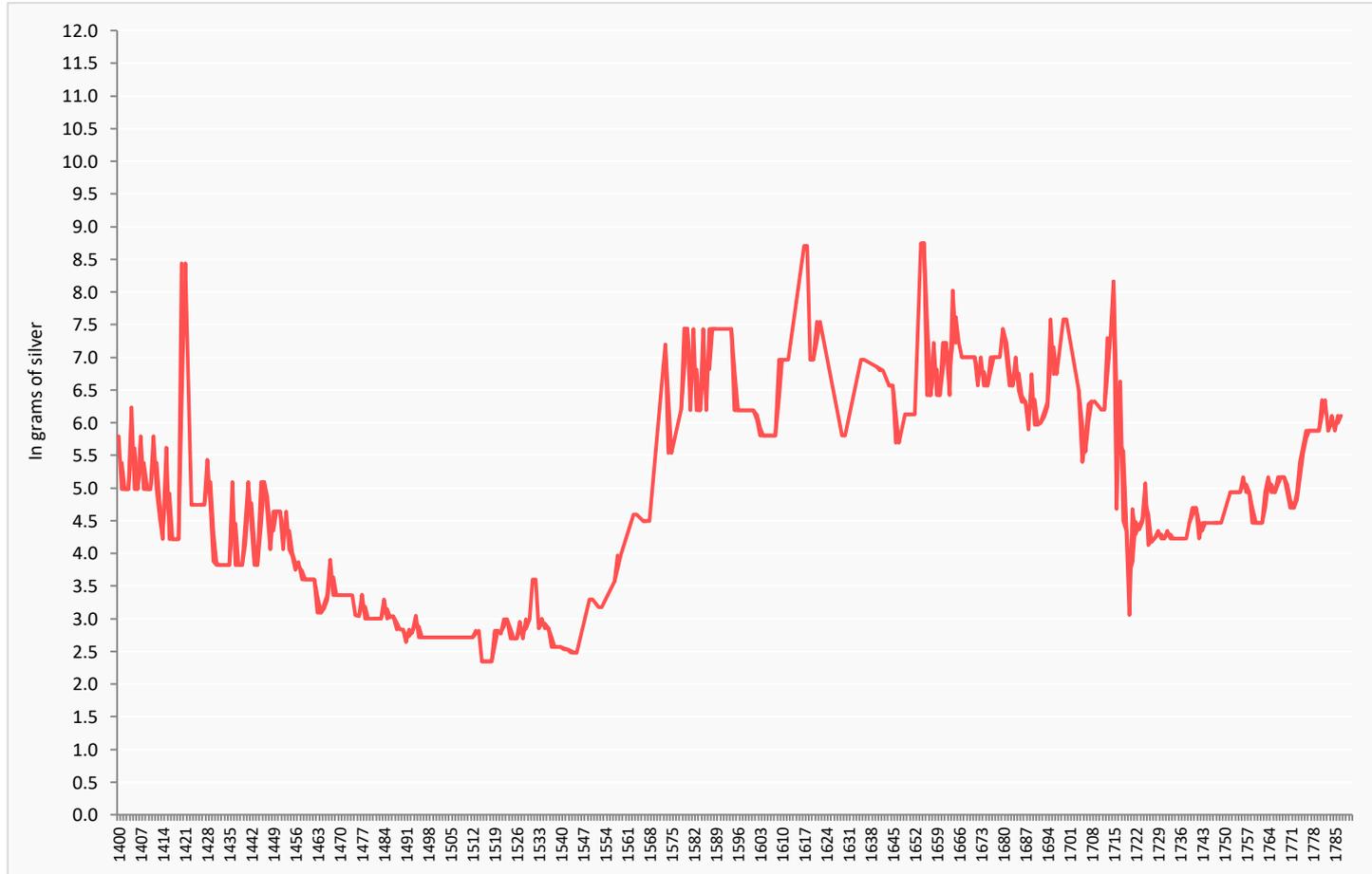
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➡ Key components to understand the long-run development process

# Background – Male Builders' Day Wages in Paris, 1400-1786



## Objective

1. Provide long-run wages series in a gendered comparative way
2. Shed light on the successive stages in long-run changes of wages
3. Investigate long-run changes in gender pay gap

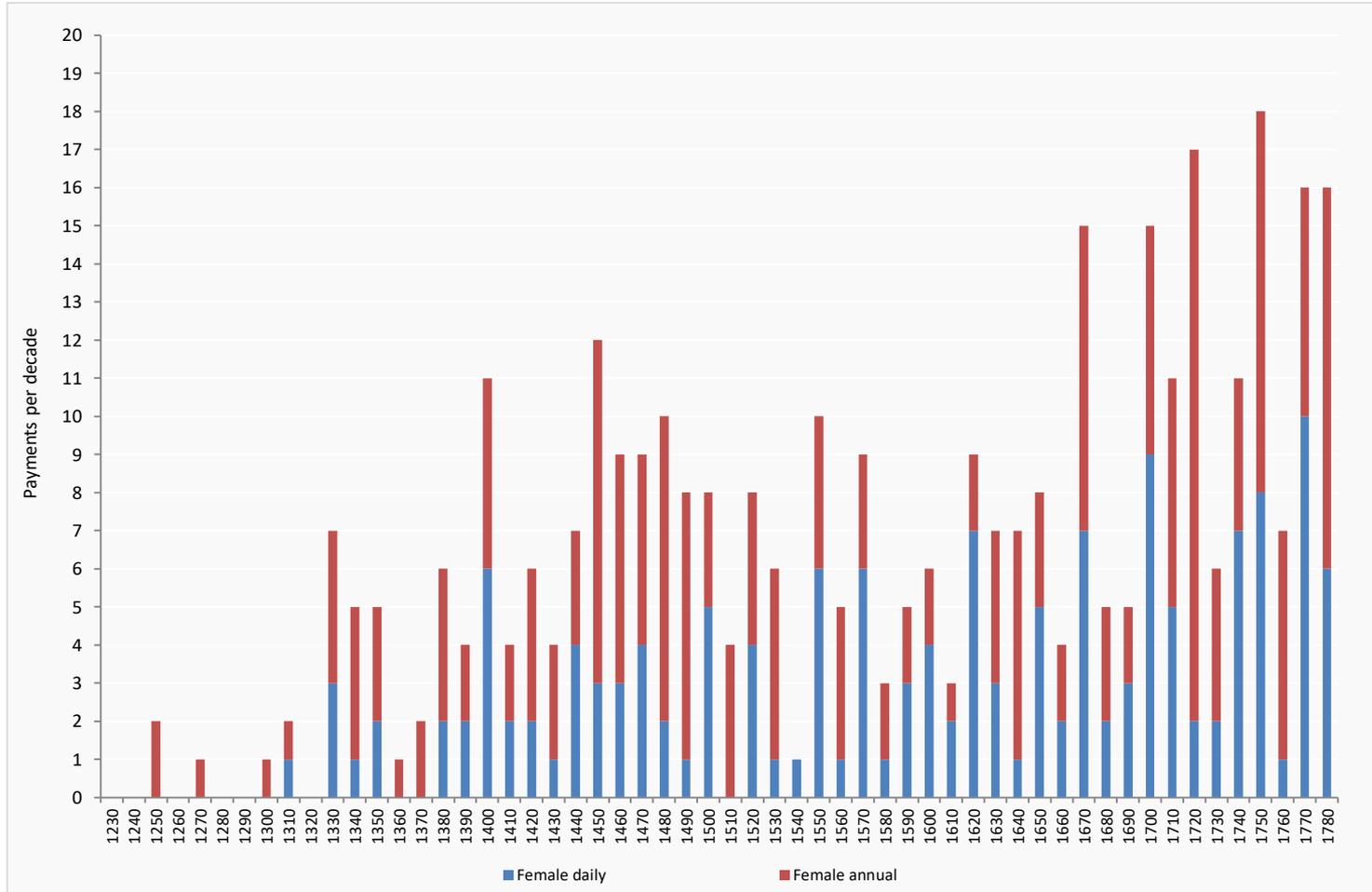
## Sources

- Primary and Secondary Sources

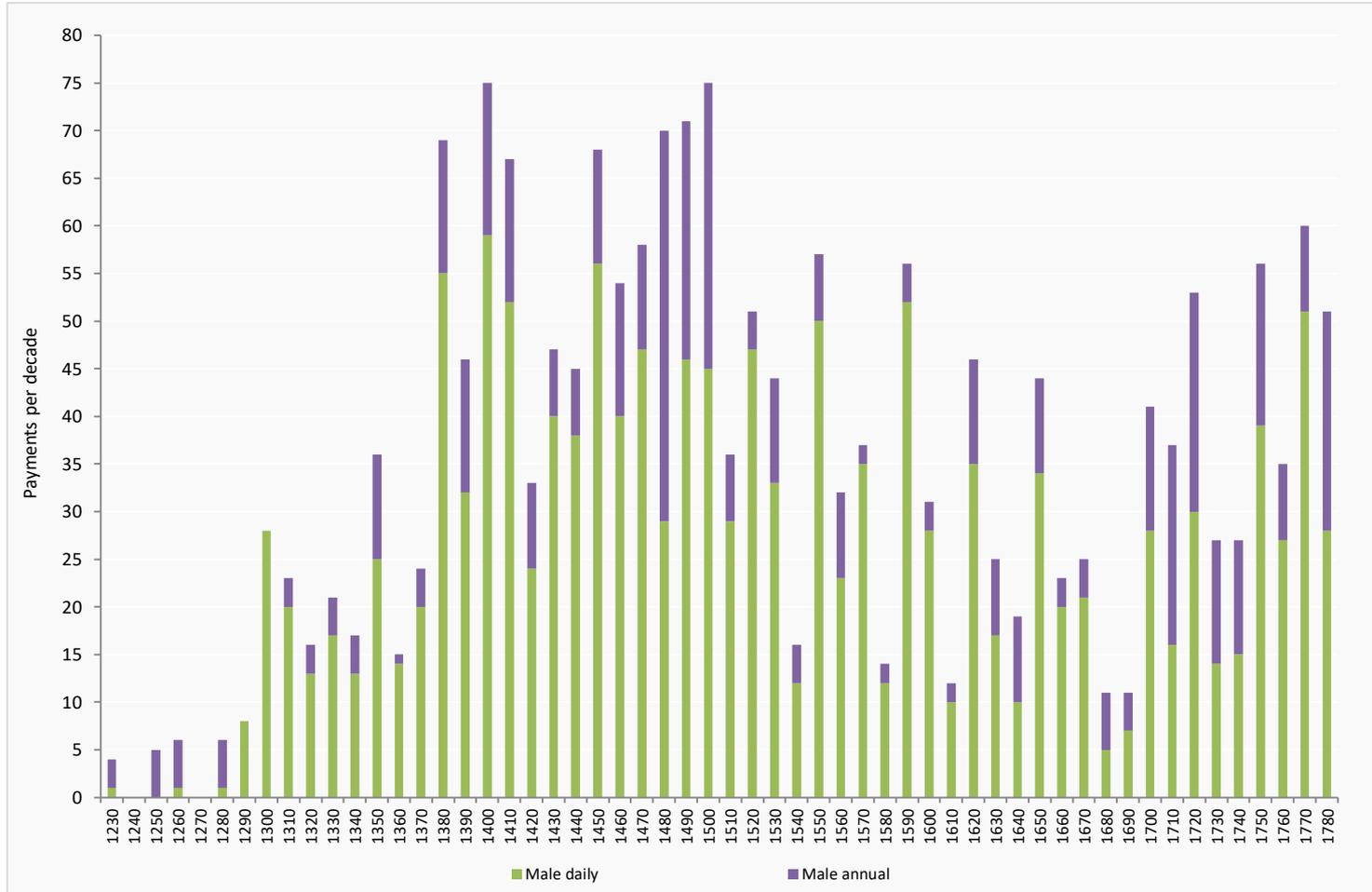
- Various secondary sources
- *Archives communales*
- *Archives départementales*
- *Archives hospitalières*
- *Bulletin et mémoires*
- *Ordonnances*
- etc...

- Men: 2365 observations
- Women: 512 observations
- Piece work: 469 observations

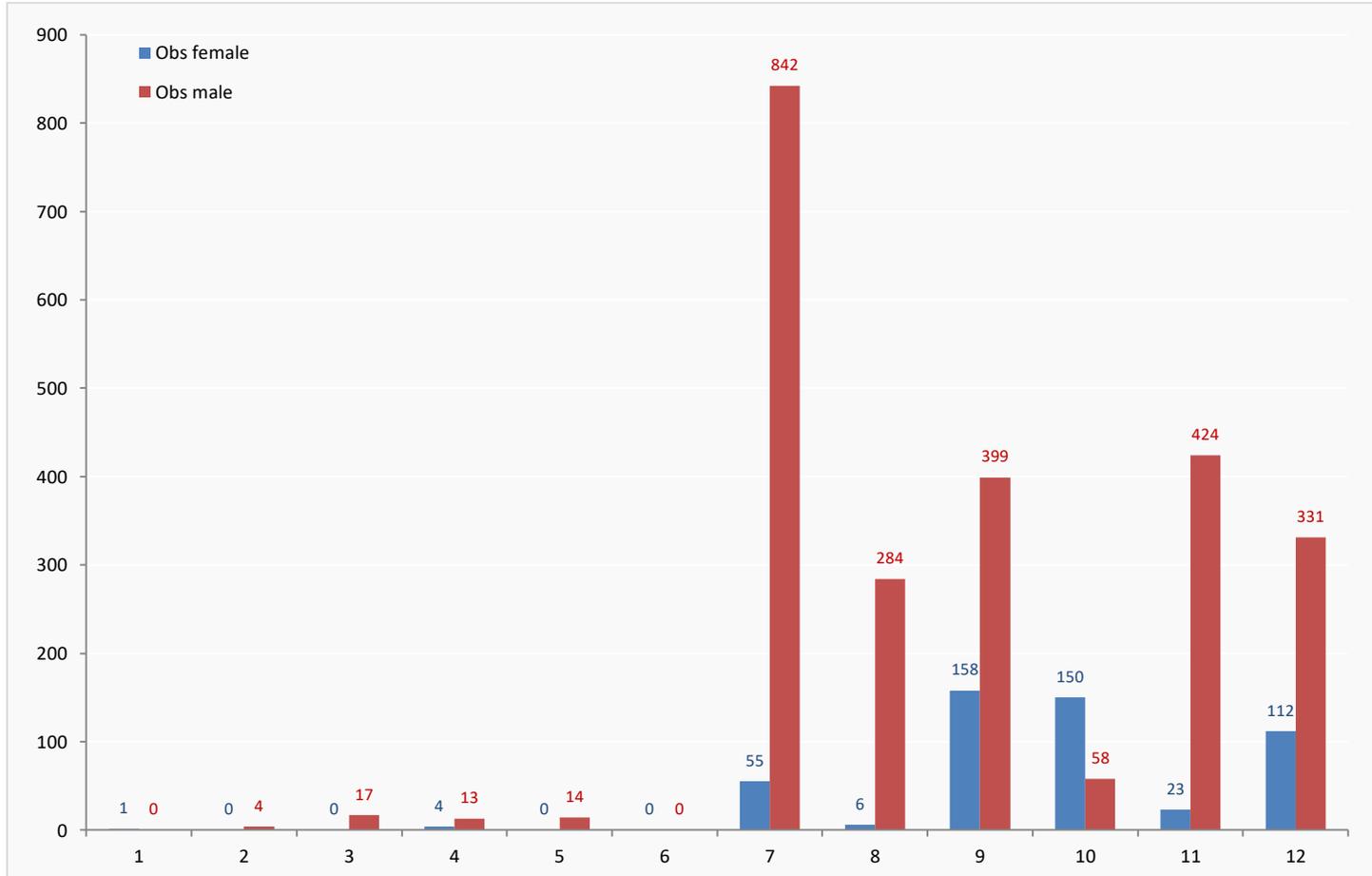
# Observations – Women



# Observations – Men



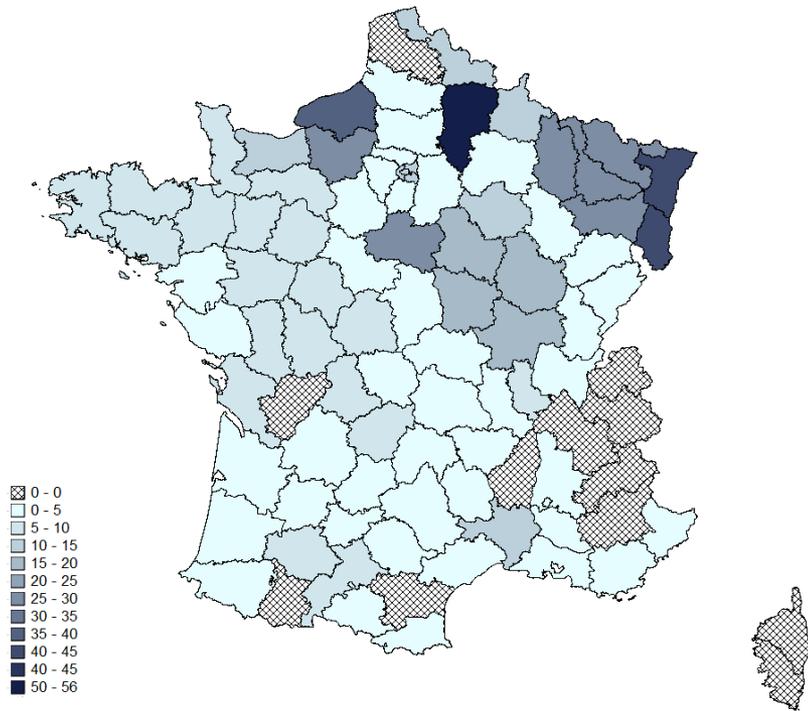
# Social Coverage



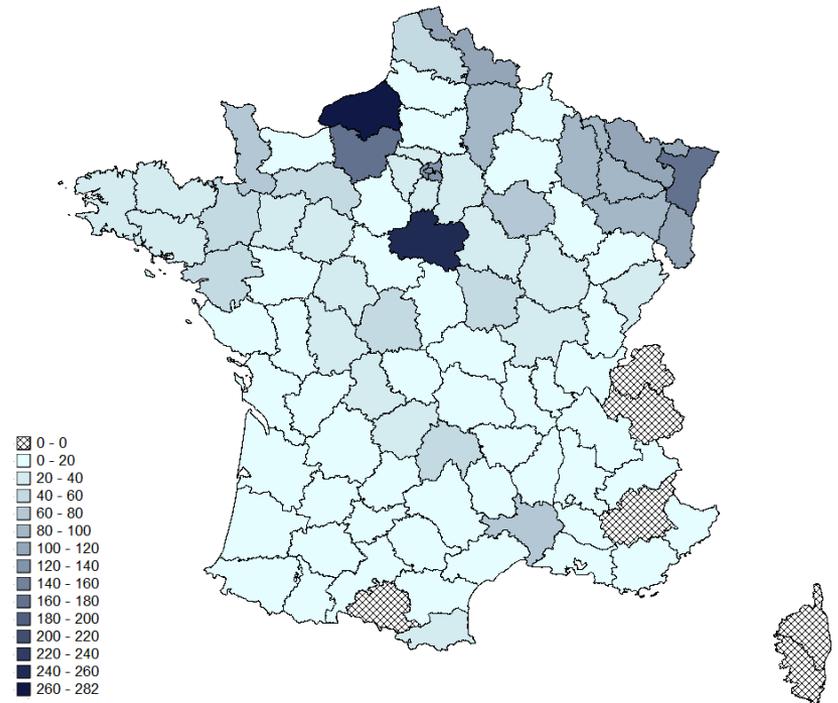
*Note:* Hisclass labels: 1 – Higher managers; 2 – Higher professionals; 3 – Lower managers; 4 – Lower prof and clerical, sales; 5 – Lower clerical and sales; 6 – Foremen; 7 – Skilled workers; 8 – Farmers; 9 – Lower skilled workers; 10 – Lower skilled farm workers; 11 – Unskilled workers; 12 – Unskilled farm workers

# Geographic Coverage

## Female Observations



## Male Observations



## Difficulties

- Main Difficulties
  - Various sources – daily, annual, piece
  - Data from the four corners of France
  - Different money and volumes between/within regions
  - Seasonality (summer vs winter) – Perquisites (fed vs not fed)

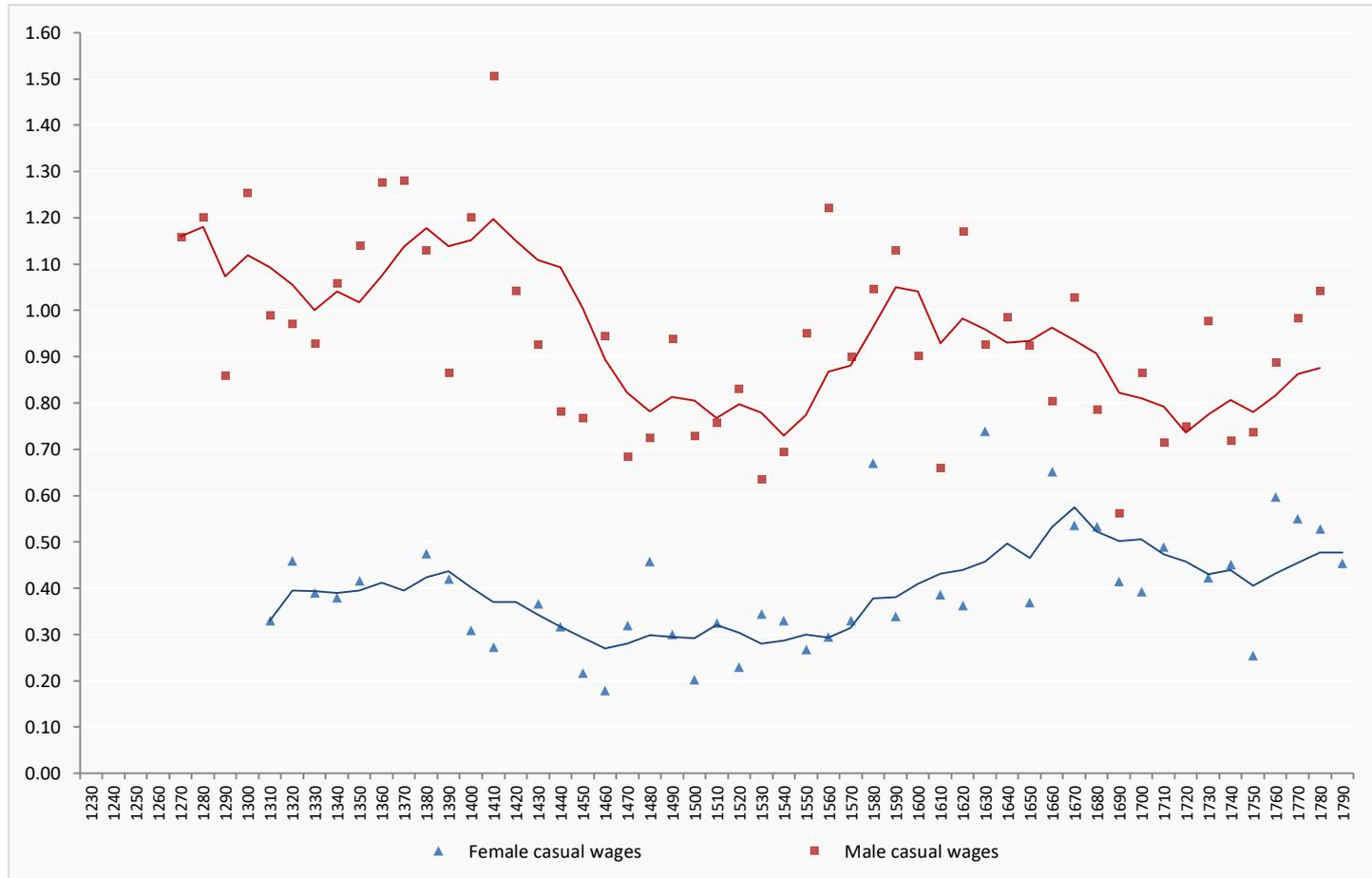
## Selection Criteria

- Criteria
  - Exclude apprenticeship
  - Exclude wages involving responsibilities
  - Exclude outliers – Noble families, drivers, gatekeepers
  - Keep information from Paris

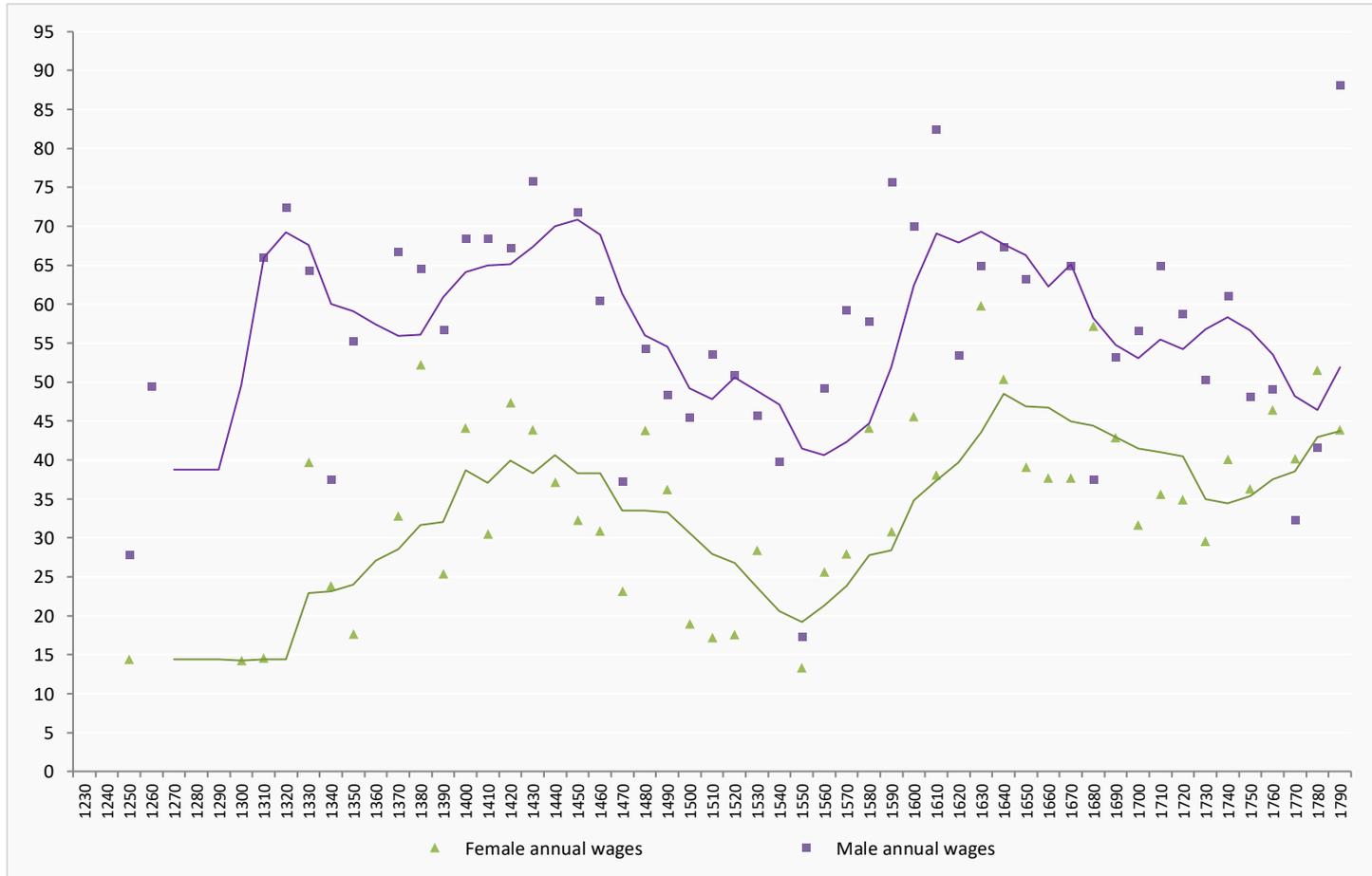
## Steps

1. Transform the wages in *francs* and *centimes*
2. Code occupations using: (i) the HISCO, and (ii) HISCLASS systems
3. Separate skilled and unskilled workers
4. Average per decades
5. Estimate using 5-period moving average

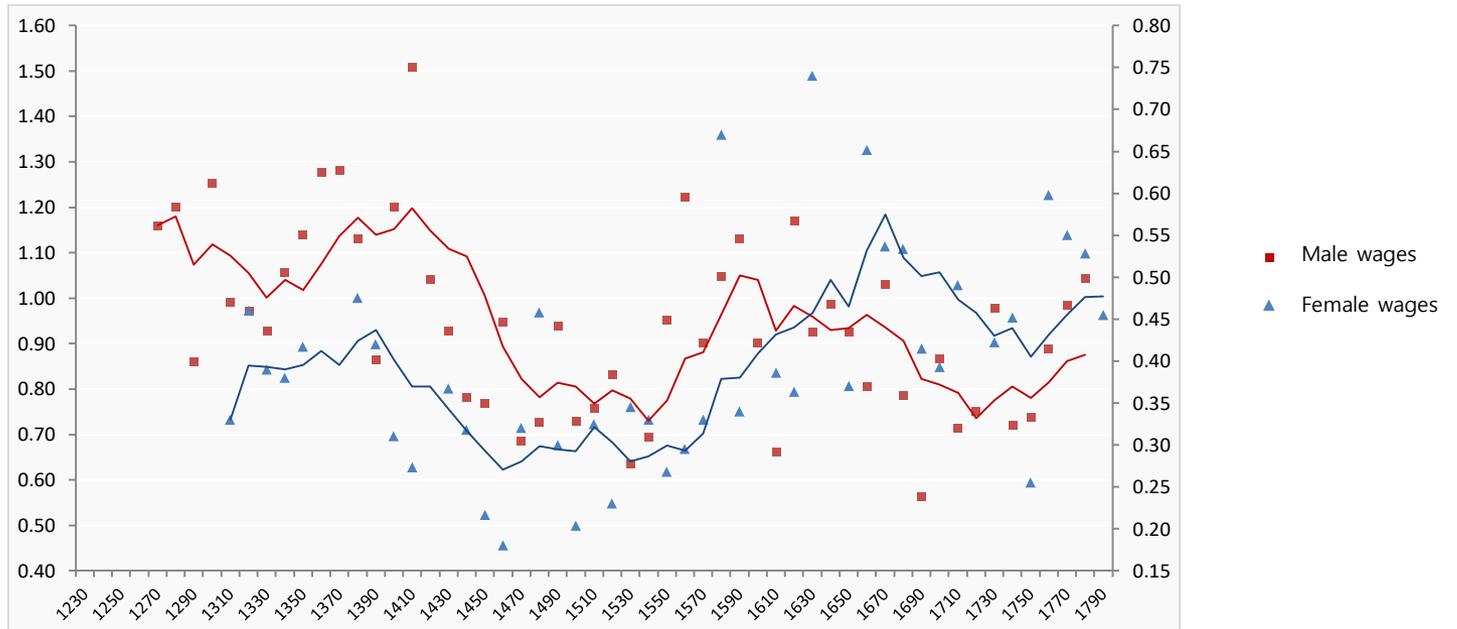
# Female and Male Daily Wages, 1250-1790



# Female and Male Annual Wages, 1230-1790



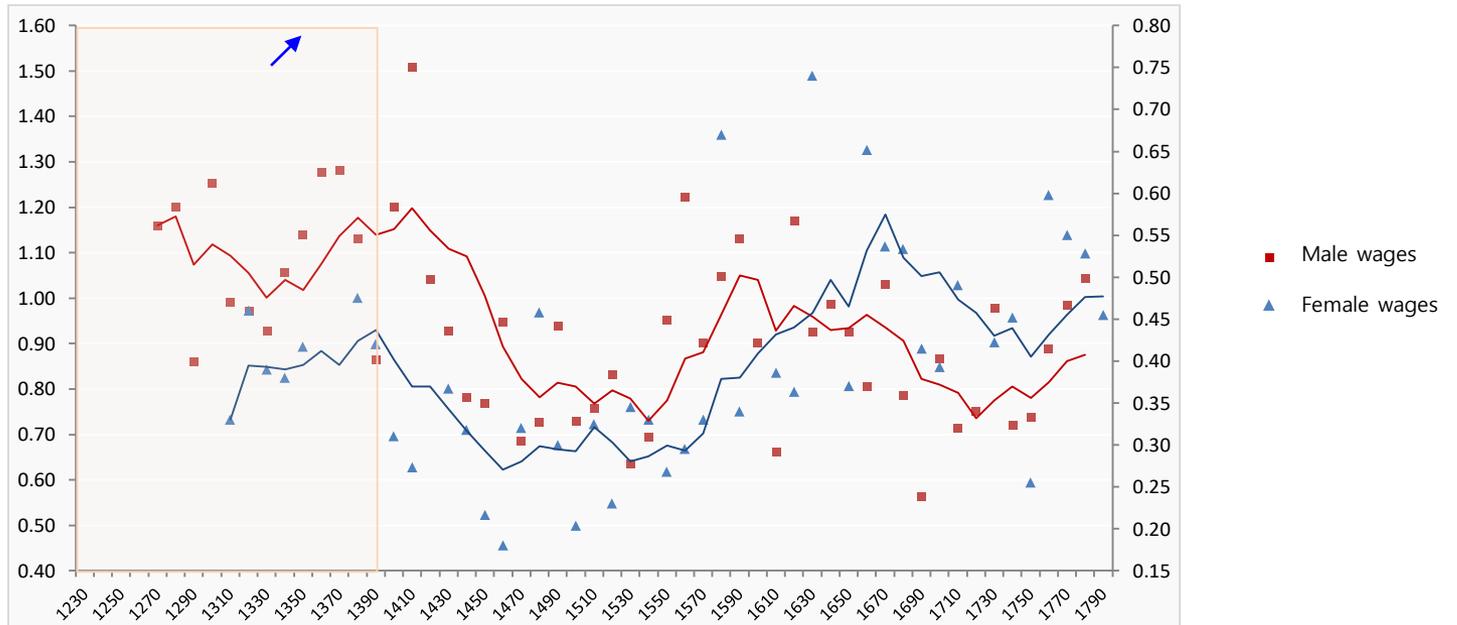
## Daily Wages



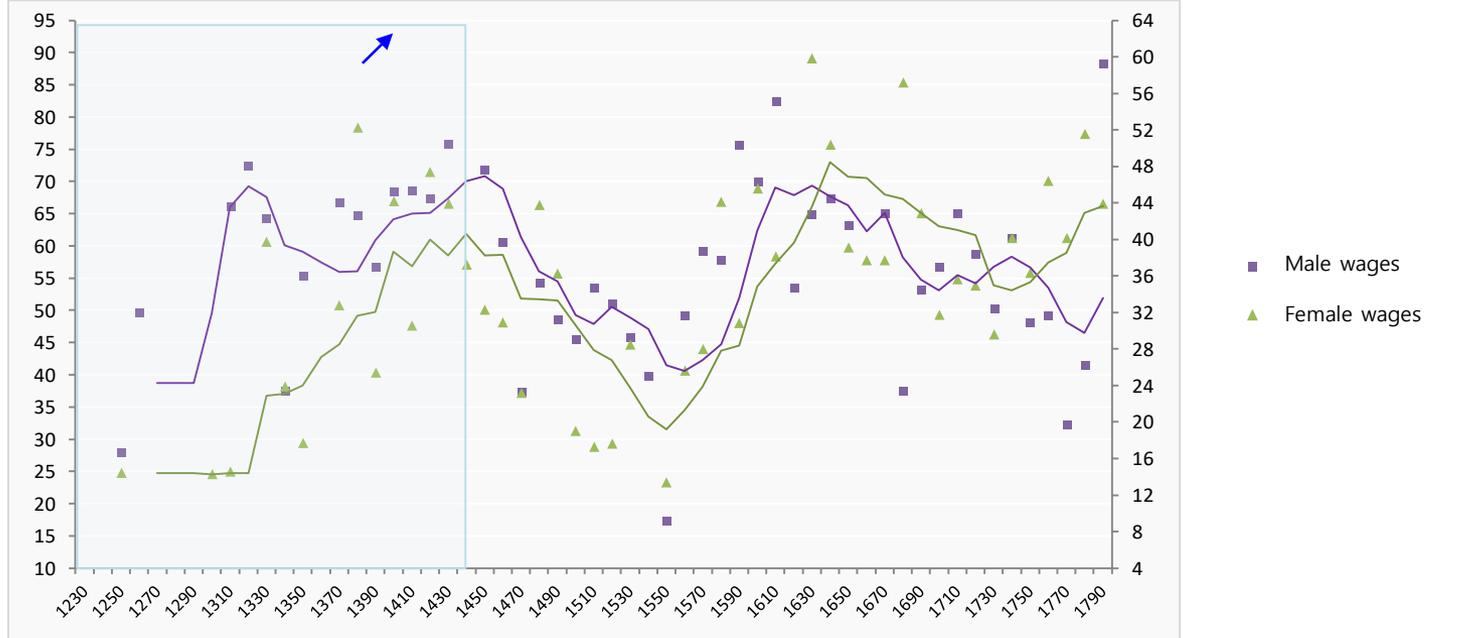
## Annual Wages



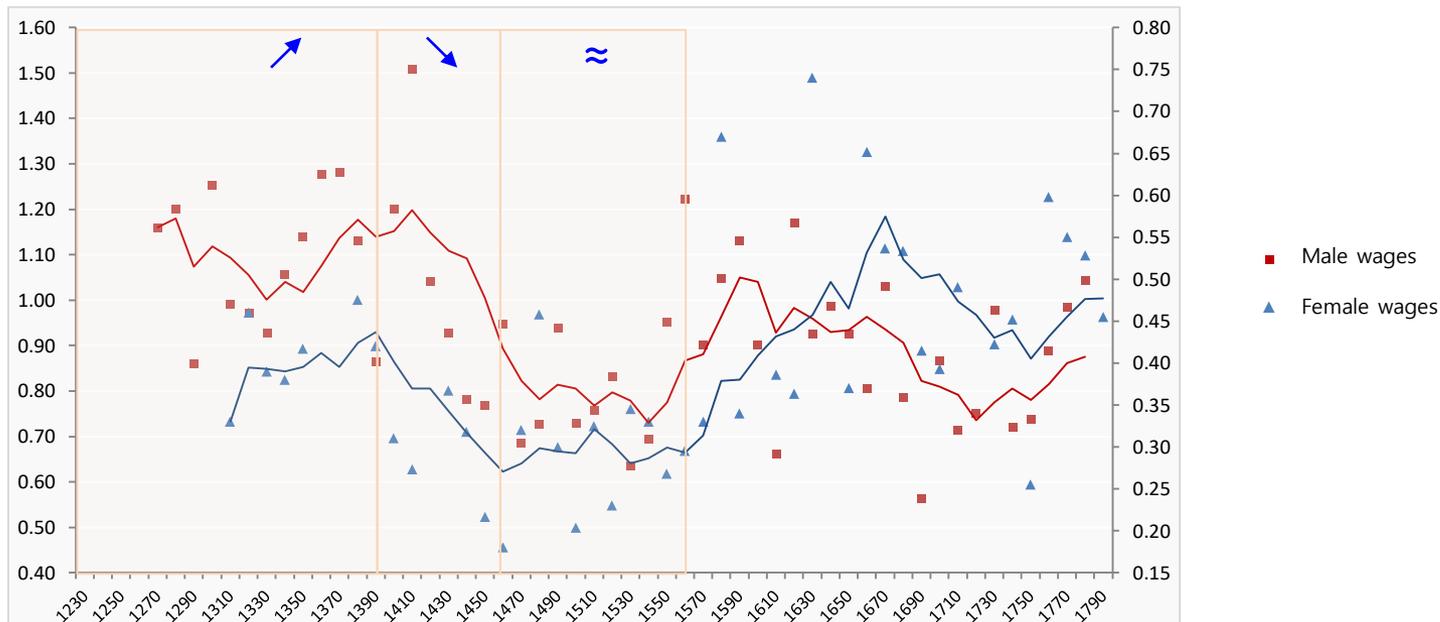
Daily Wages



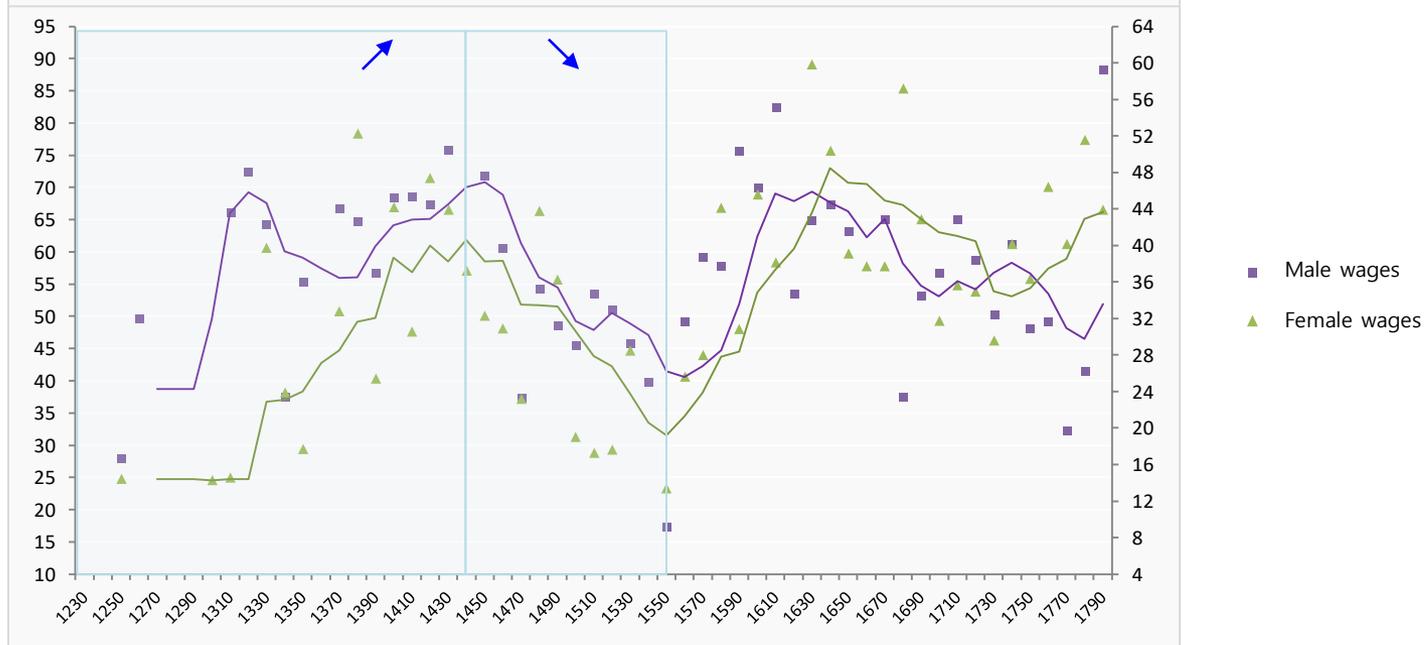
Annual Wages



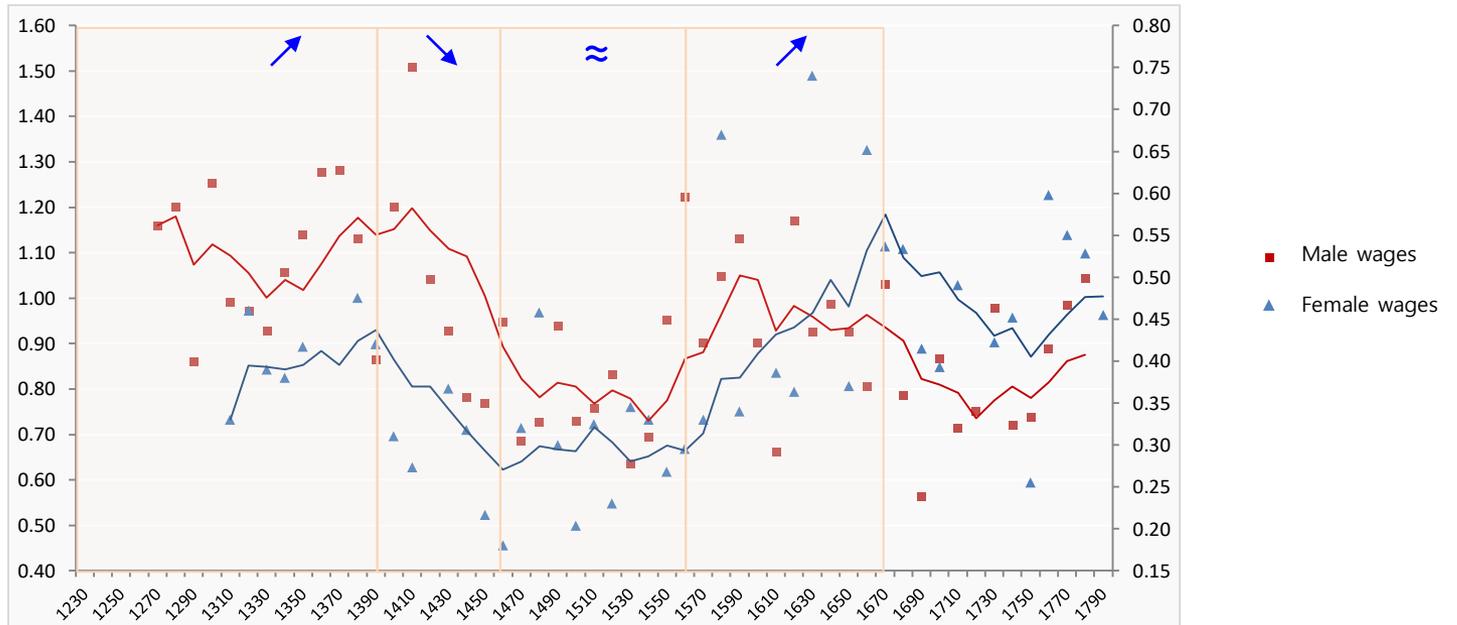
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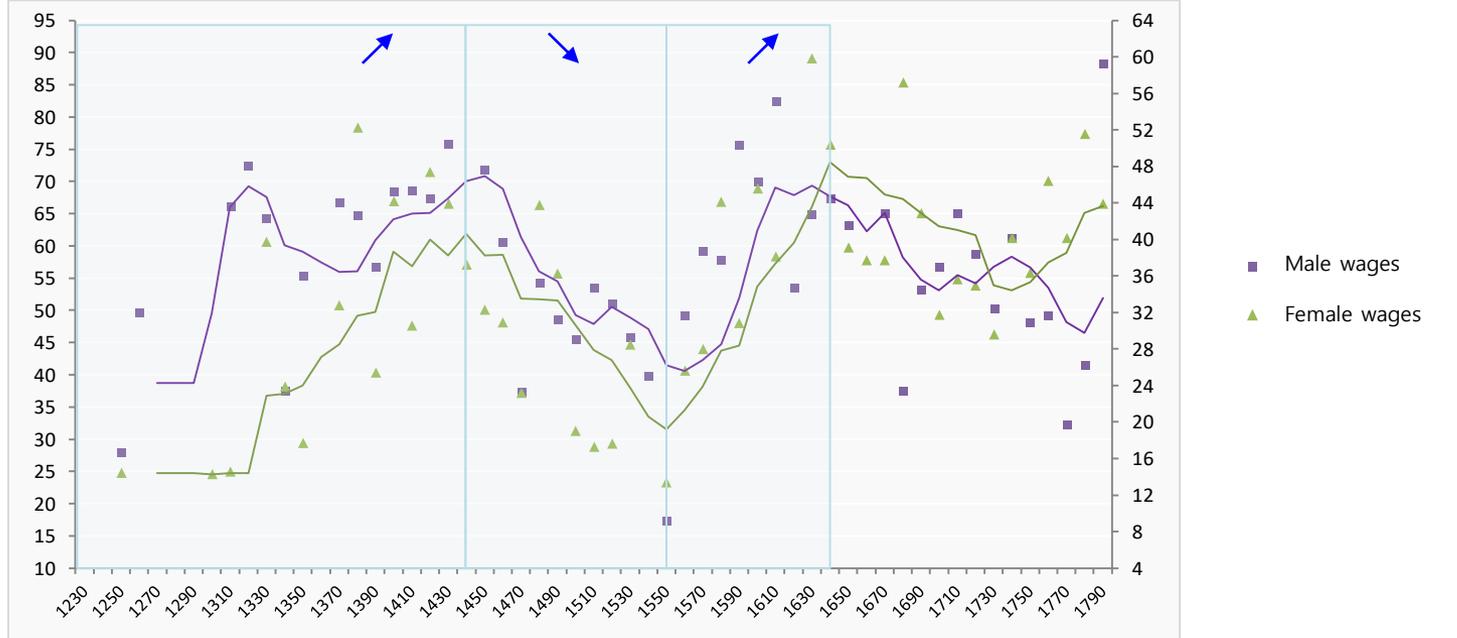
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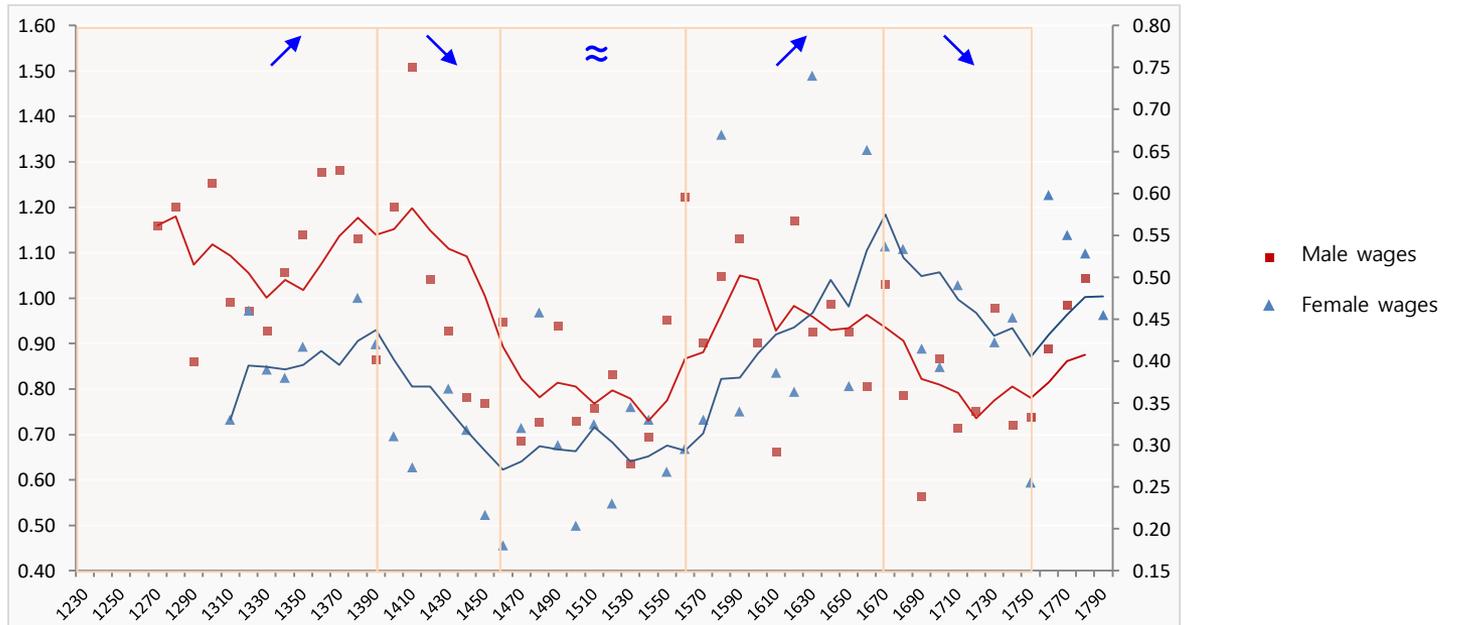
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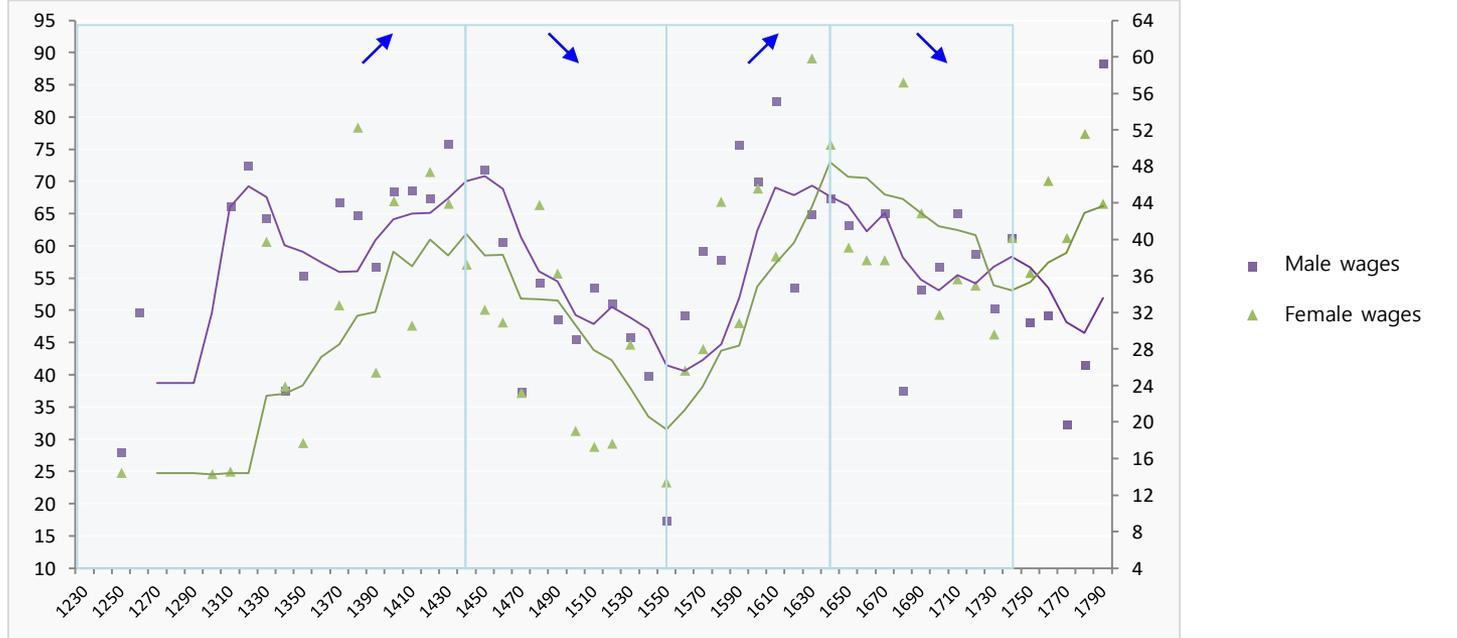
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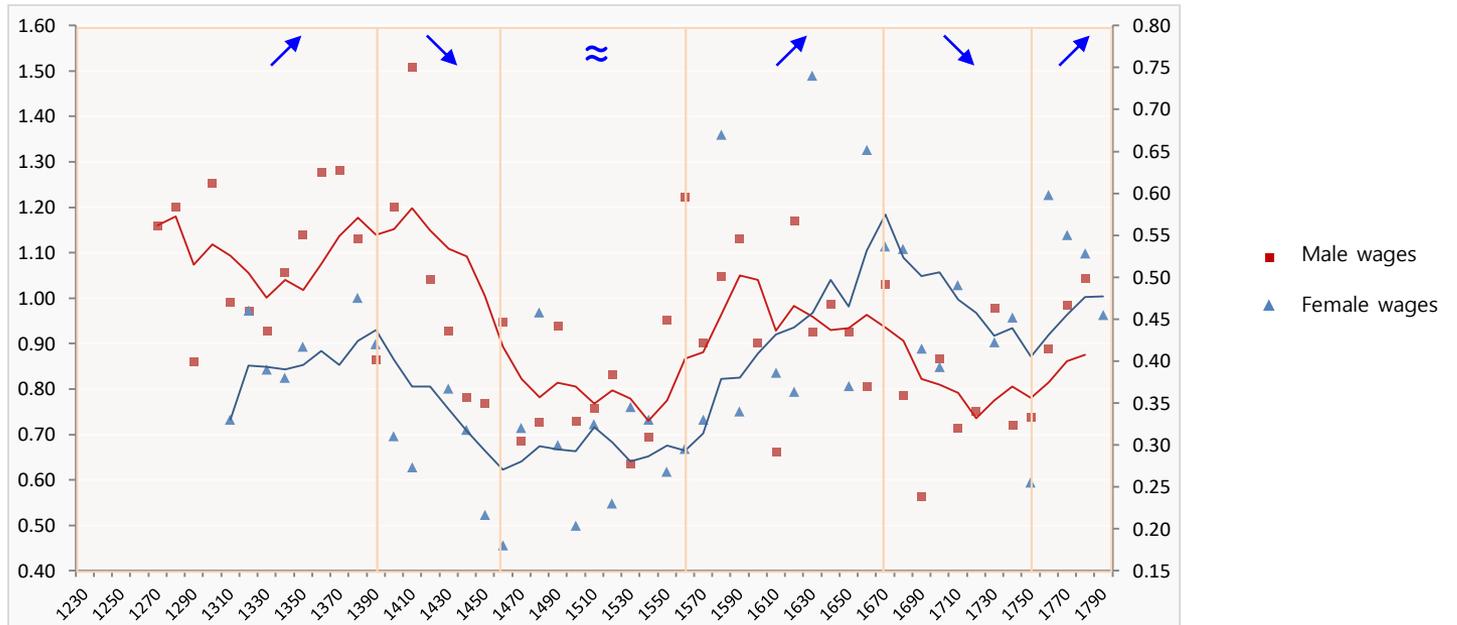
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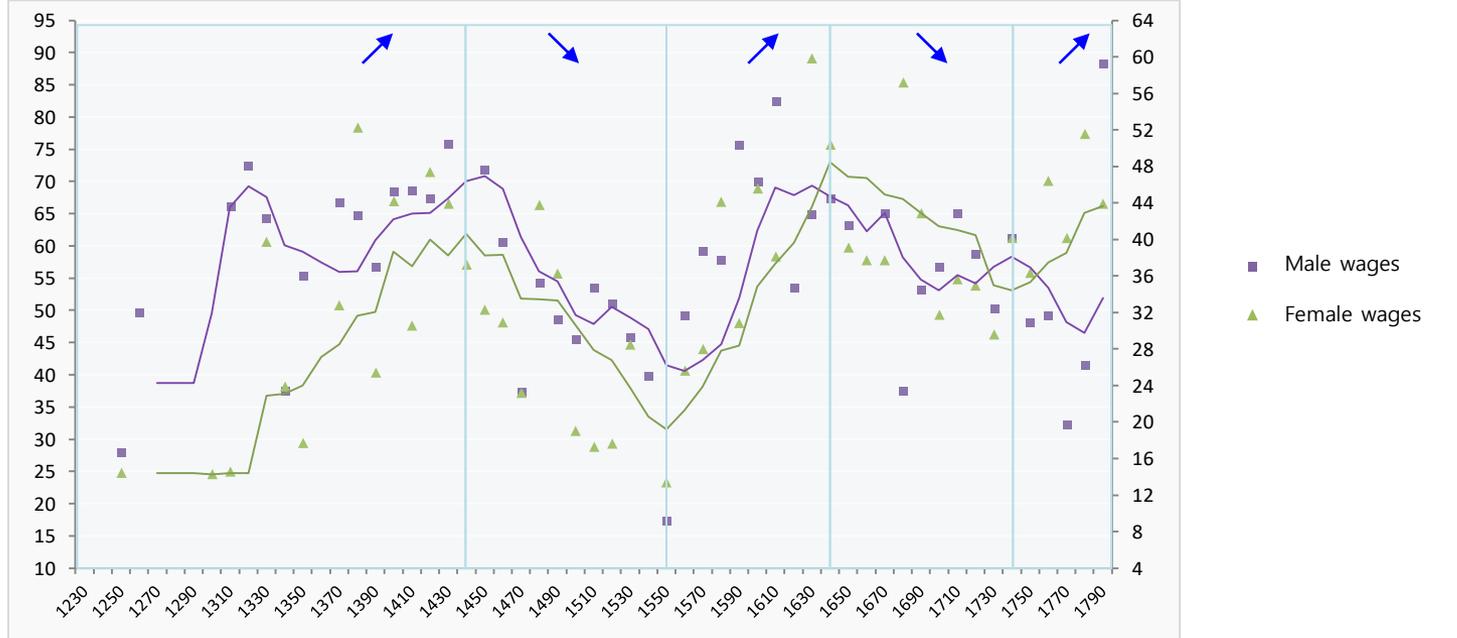
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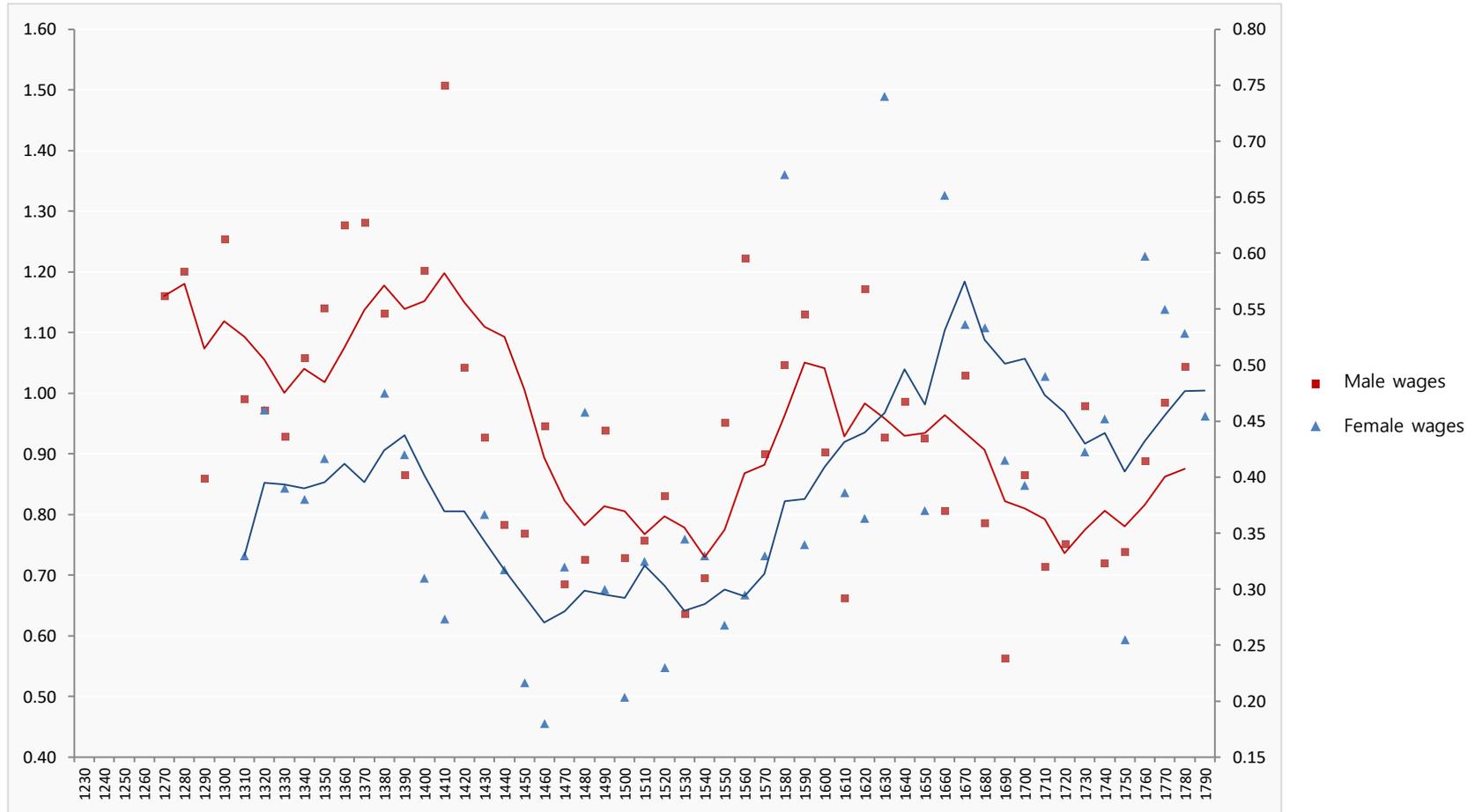


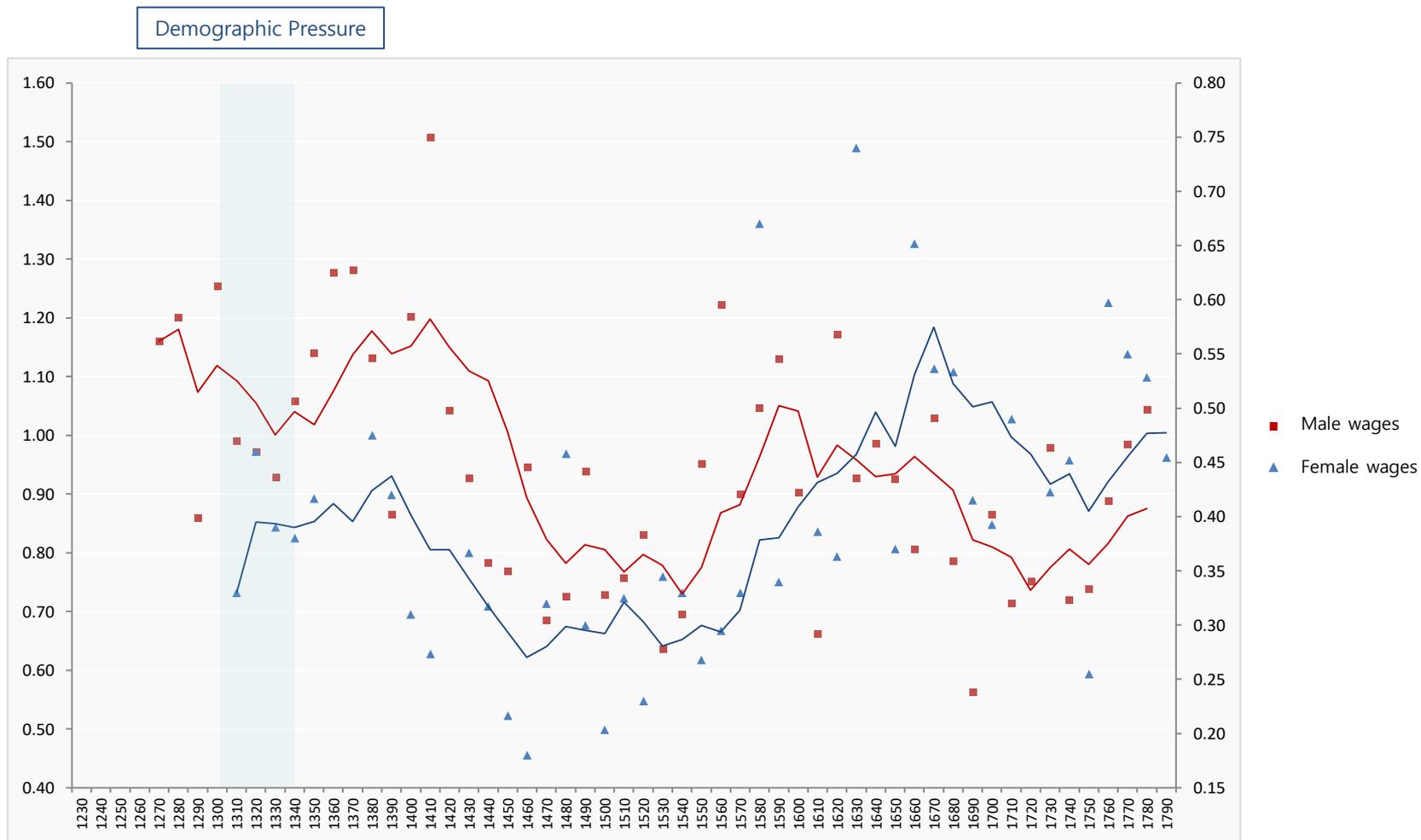
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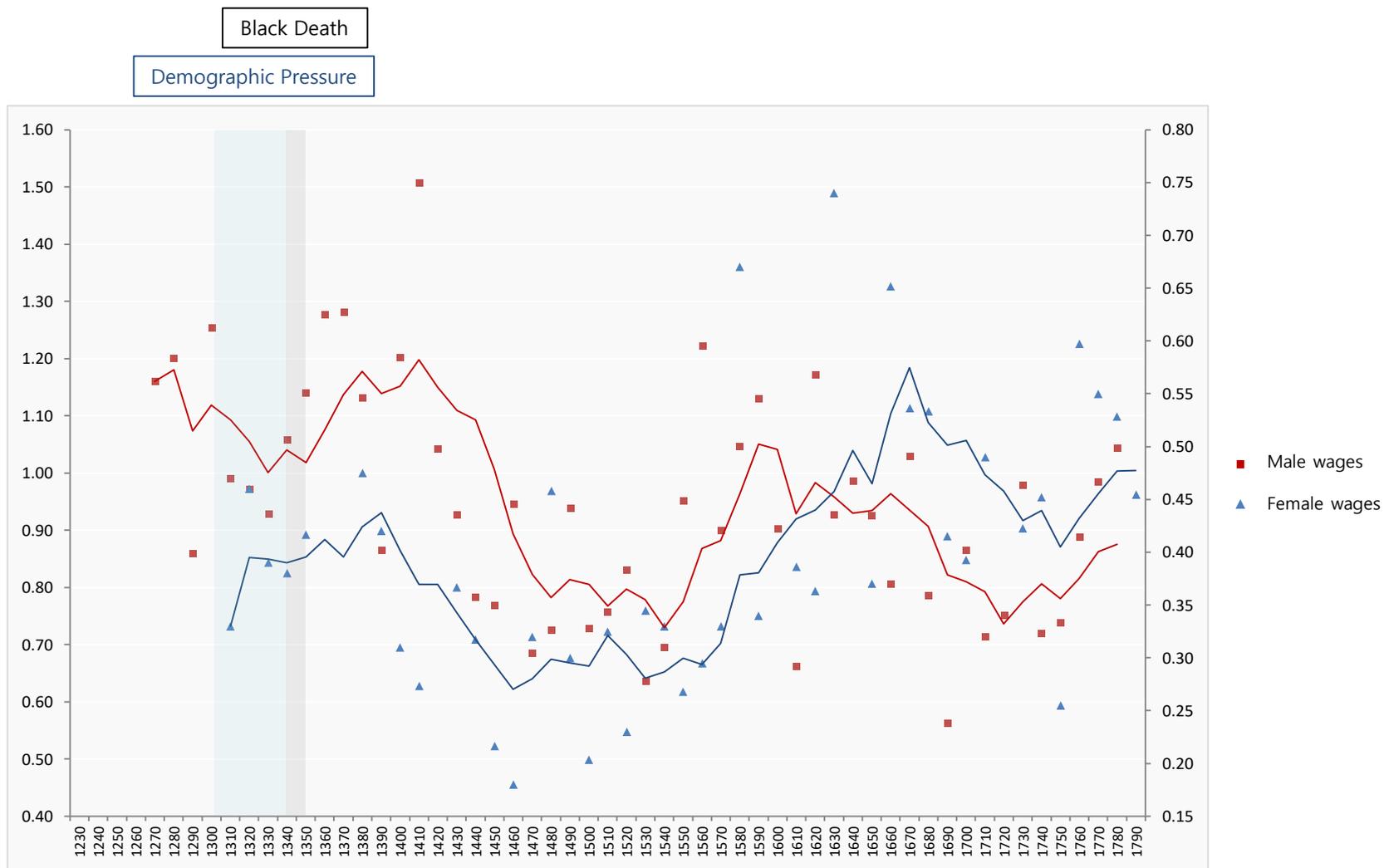


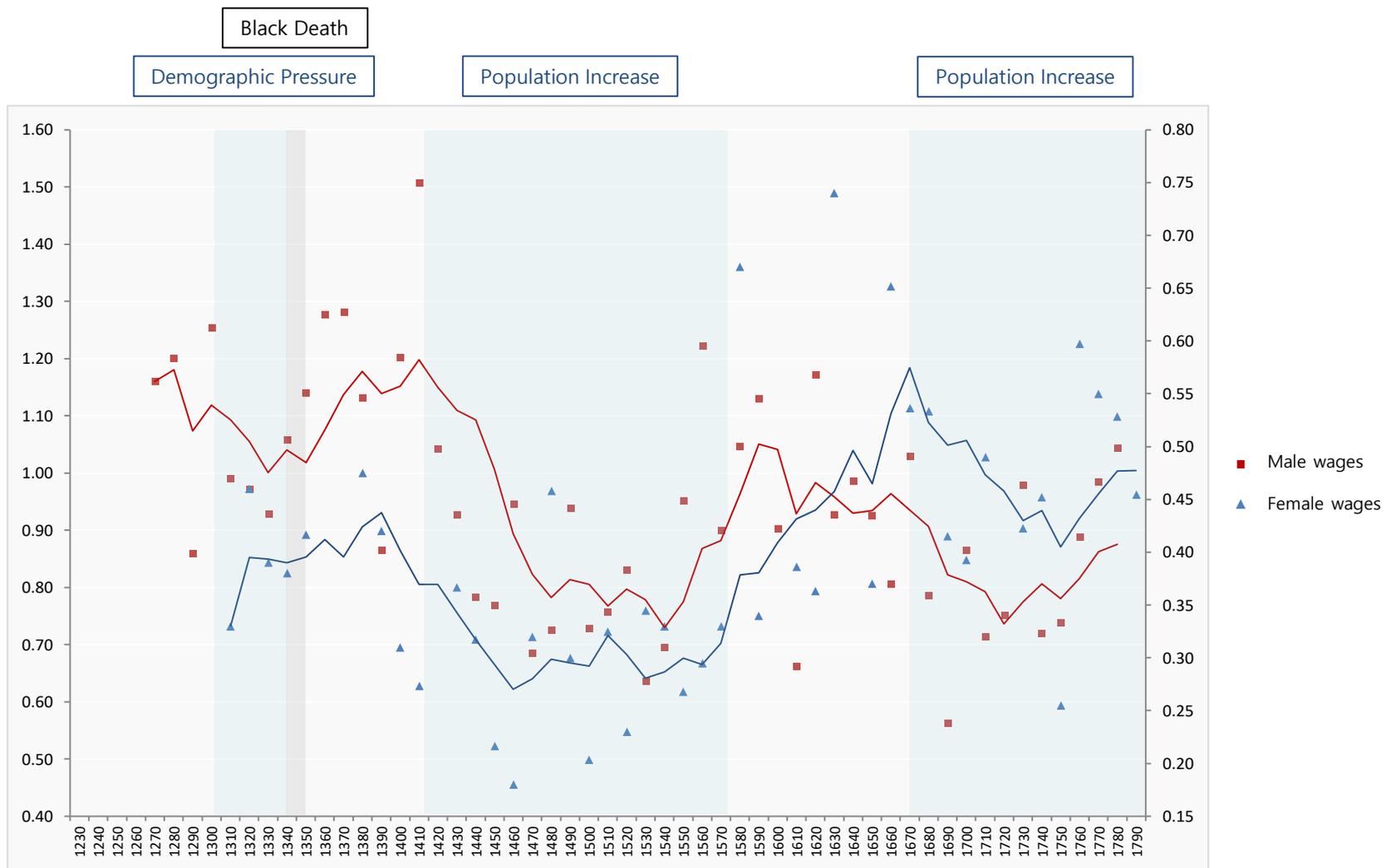
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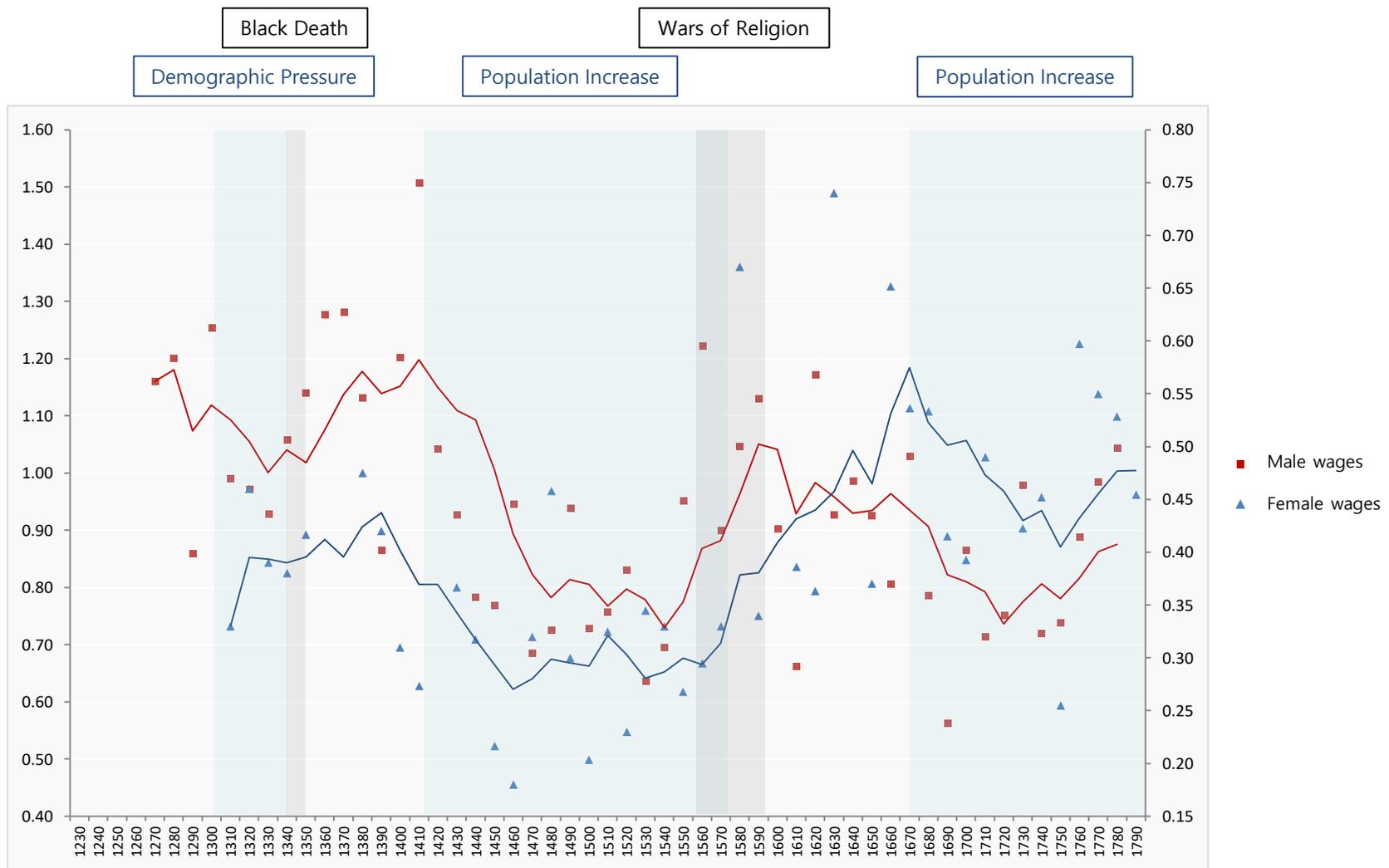


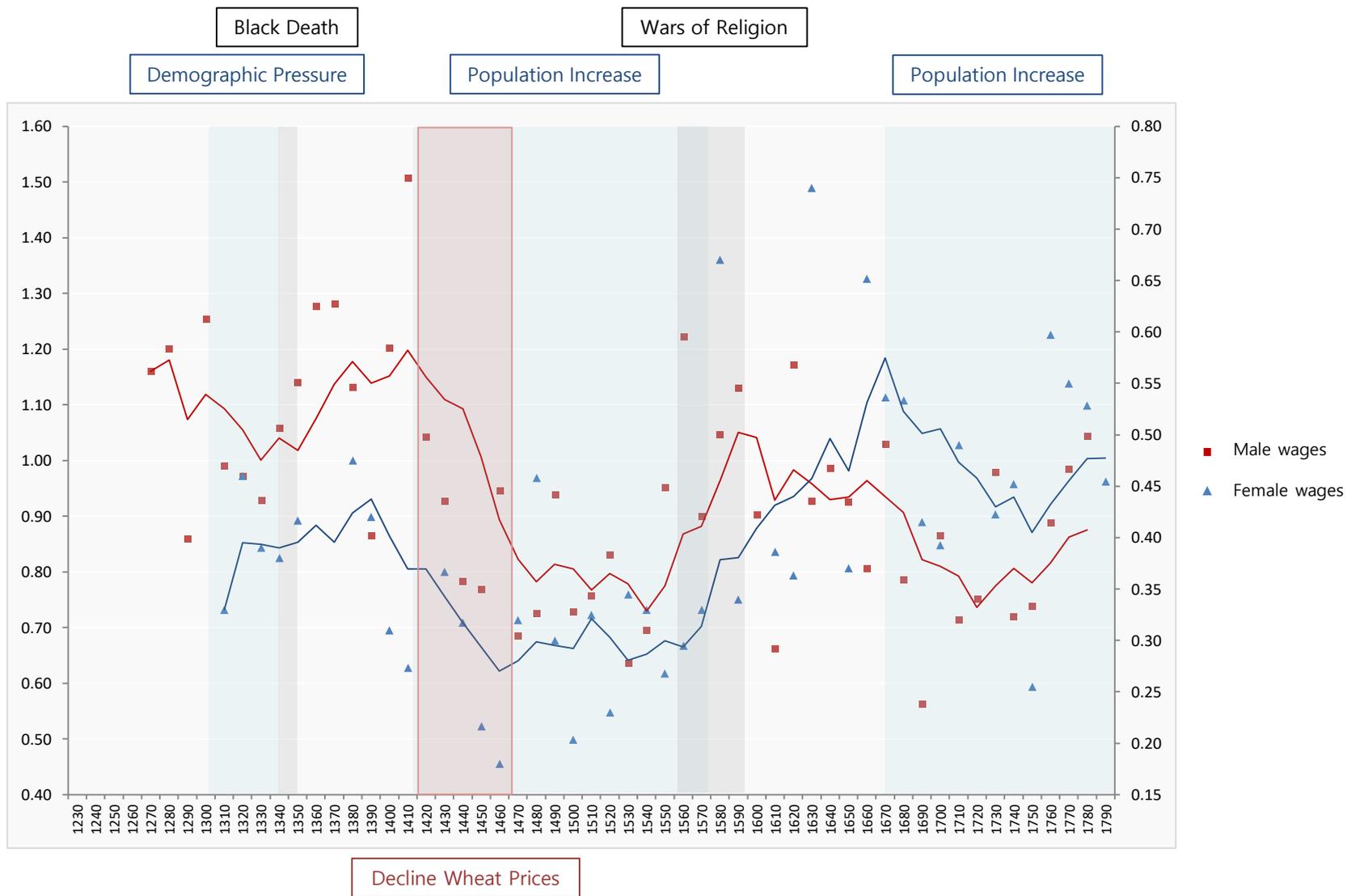


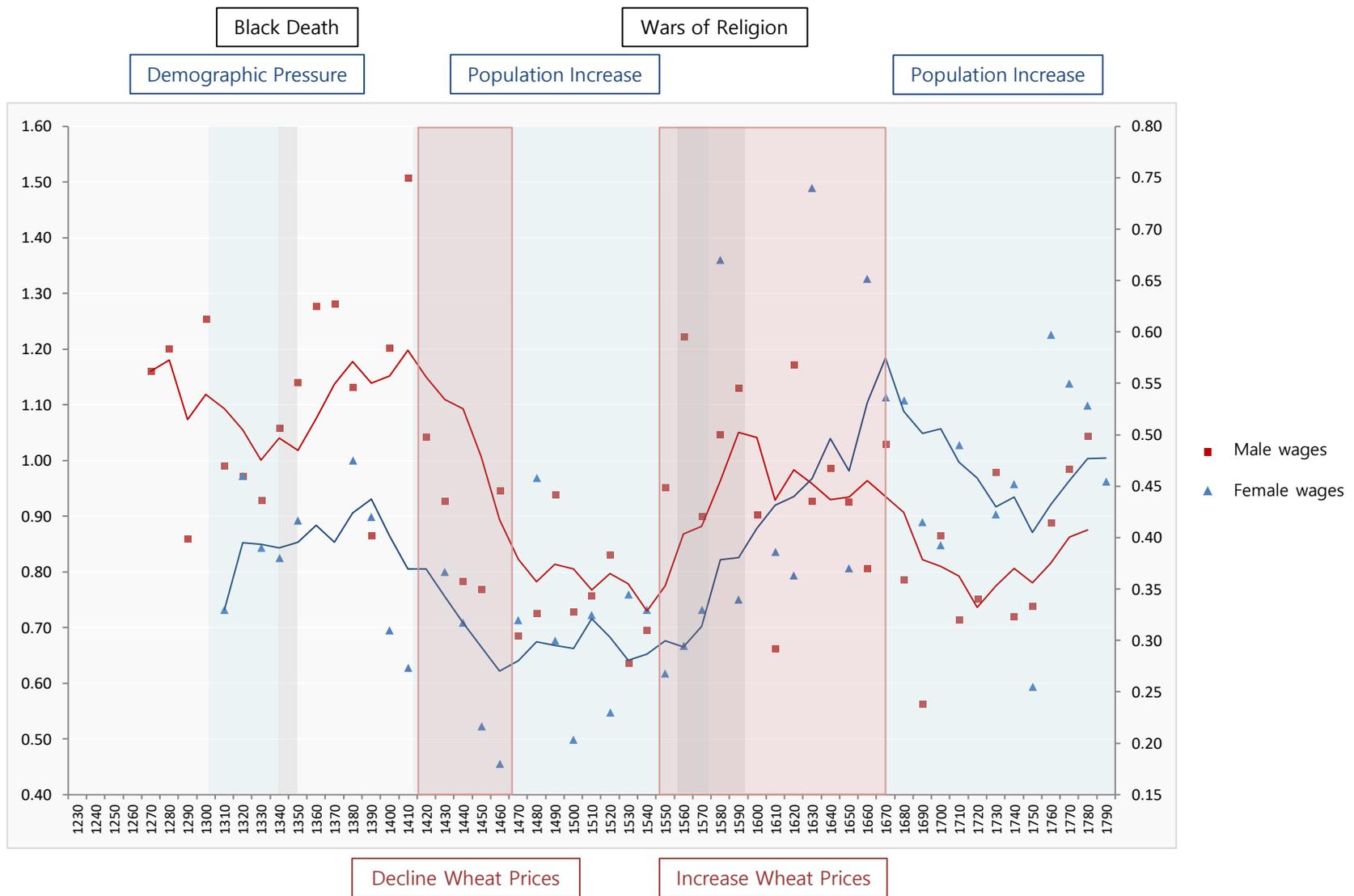




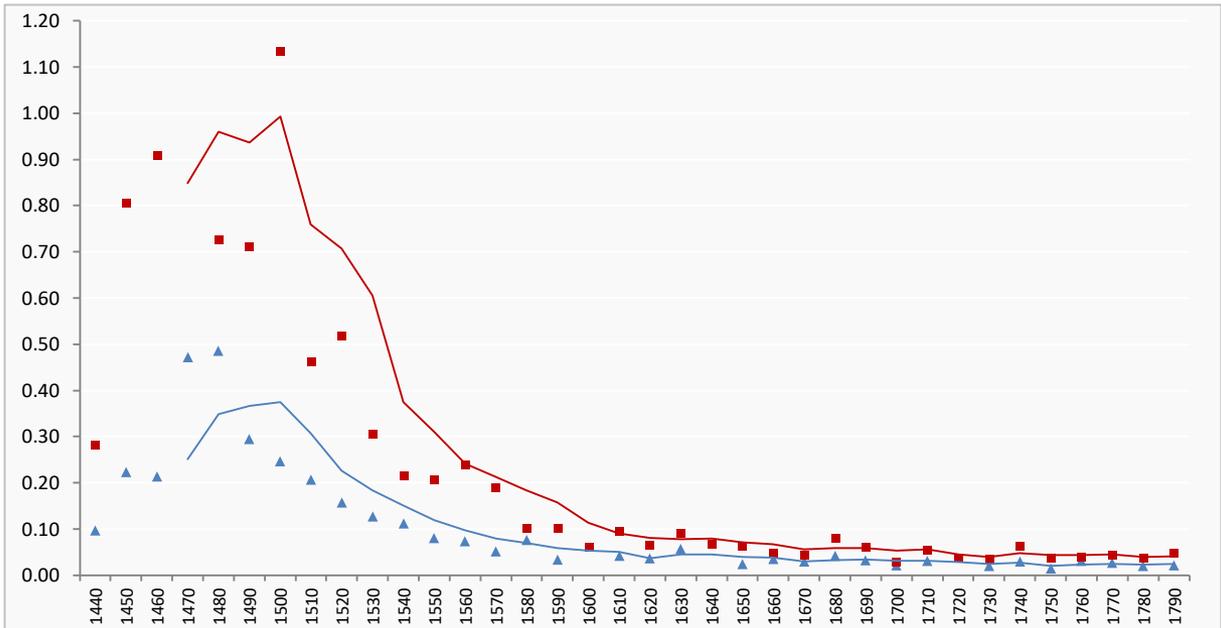




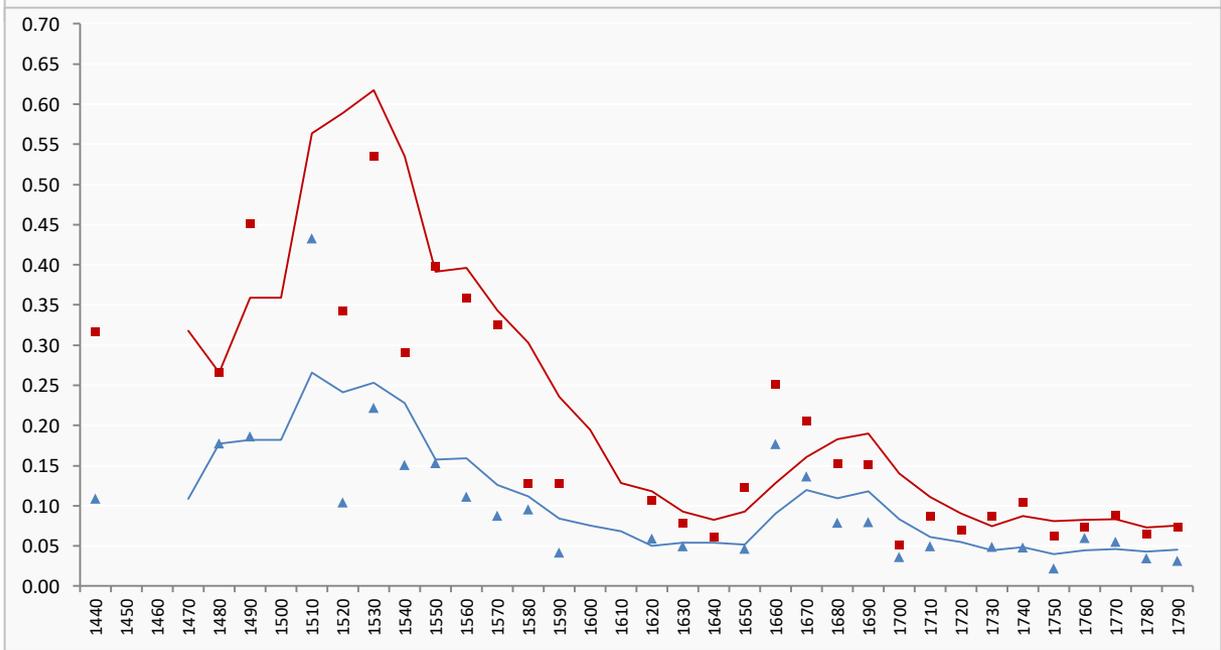




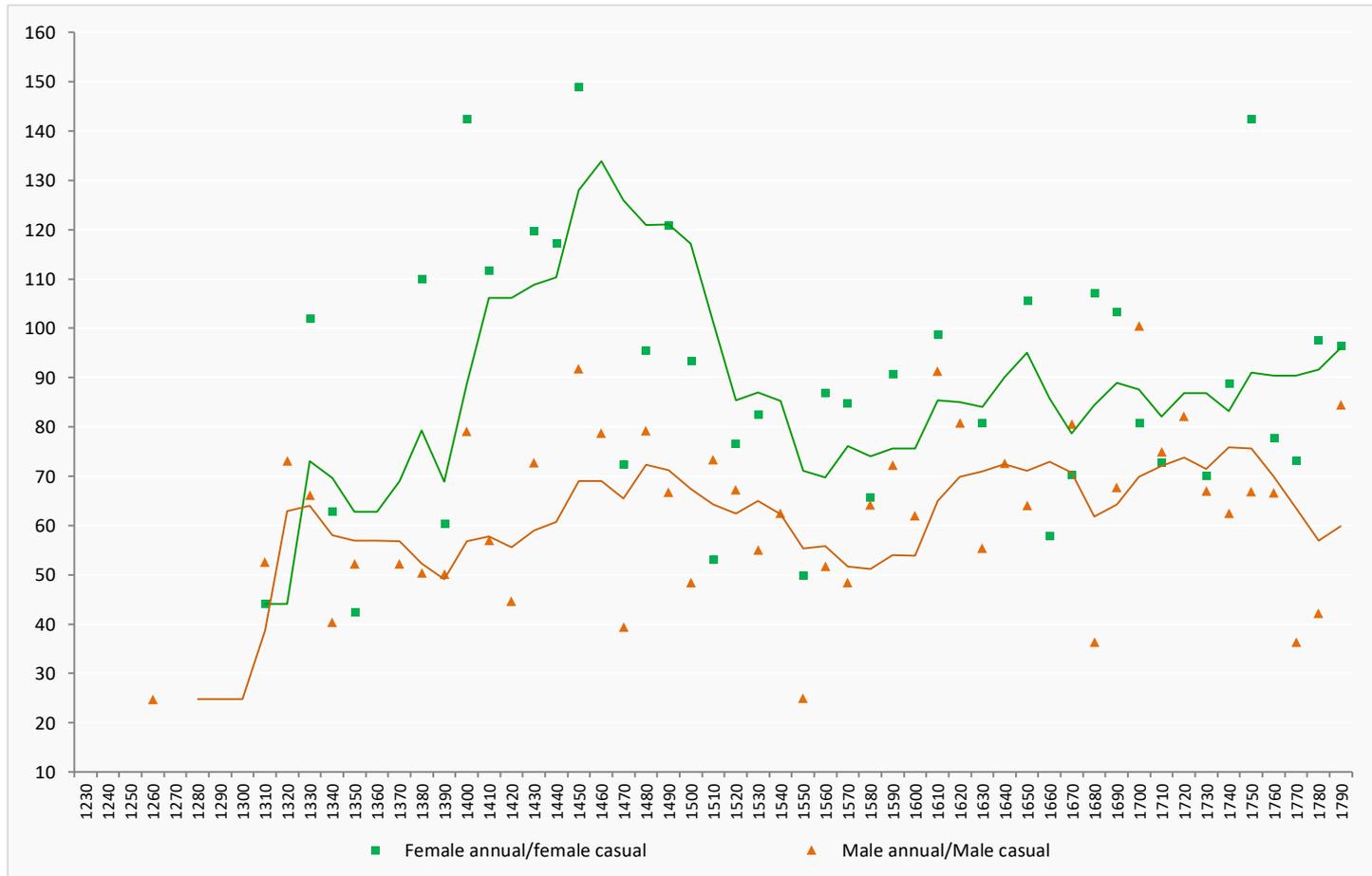
Wheat prices in Paris



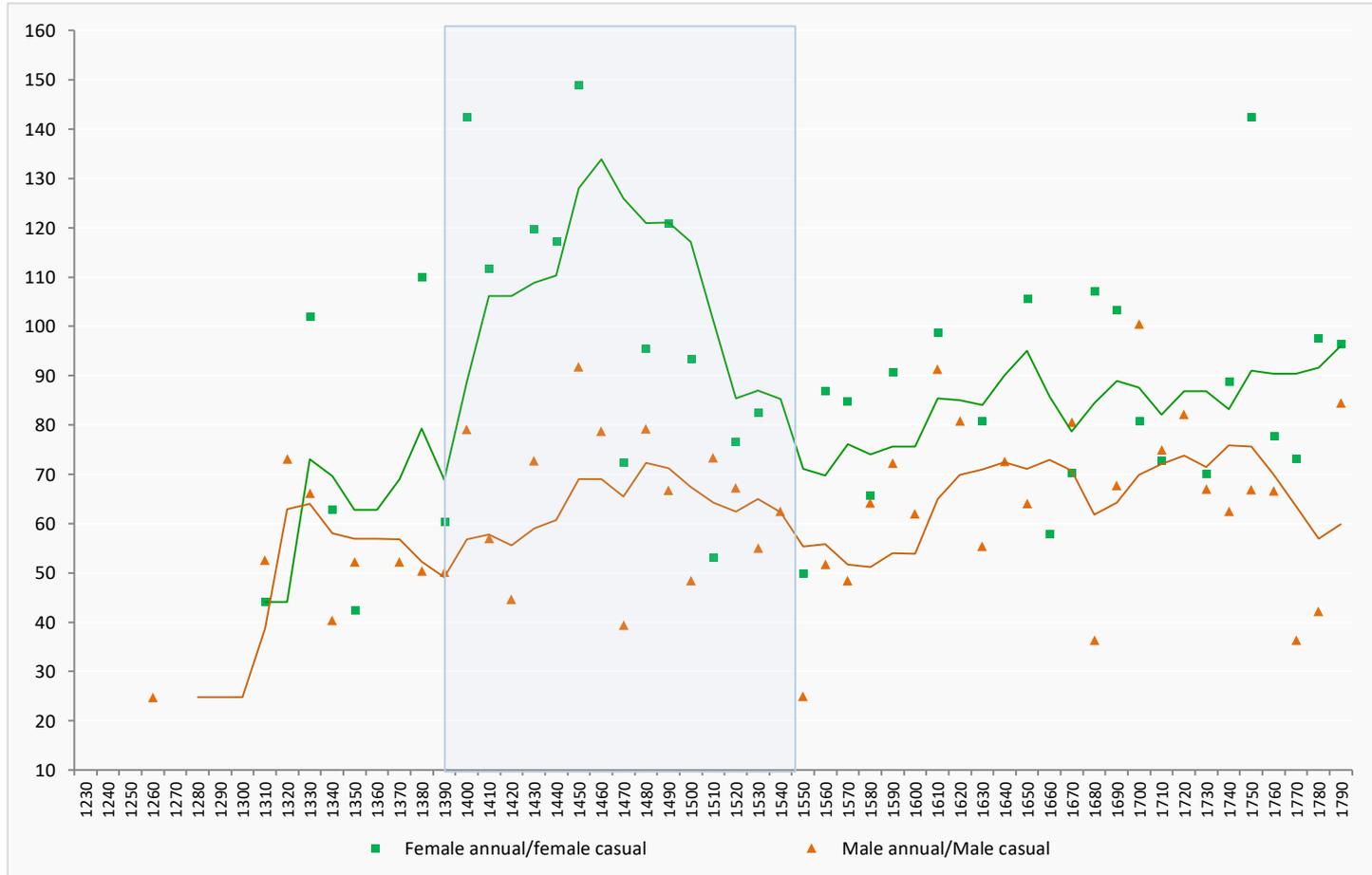
Wheat prices in Strasbourg



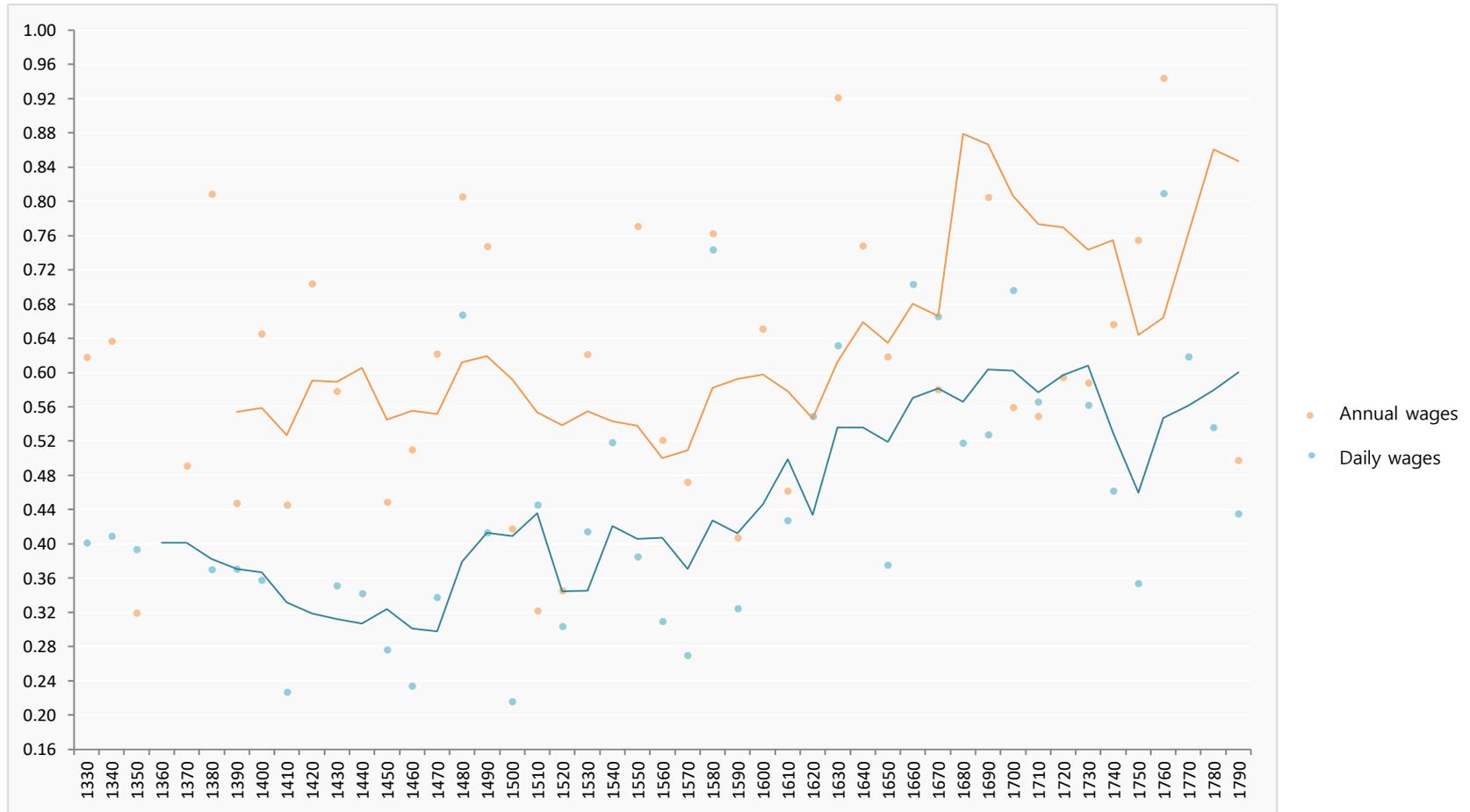
# Days of Daily Wages to Earn Annual Wages



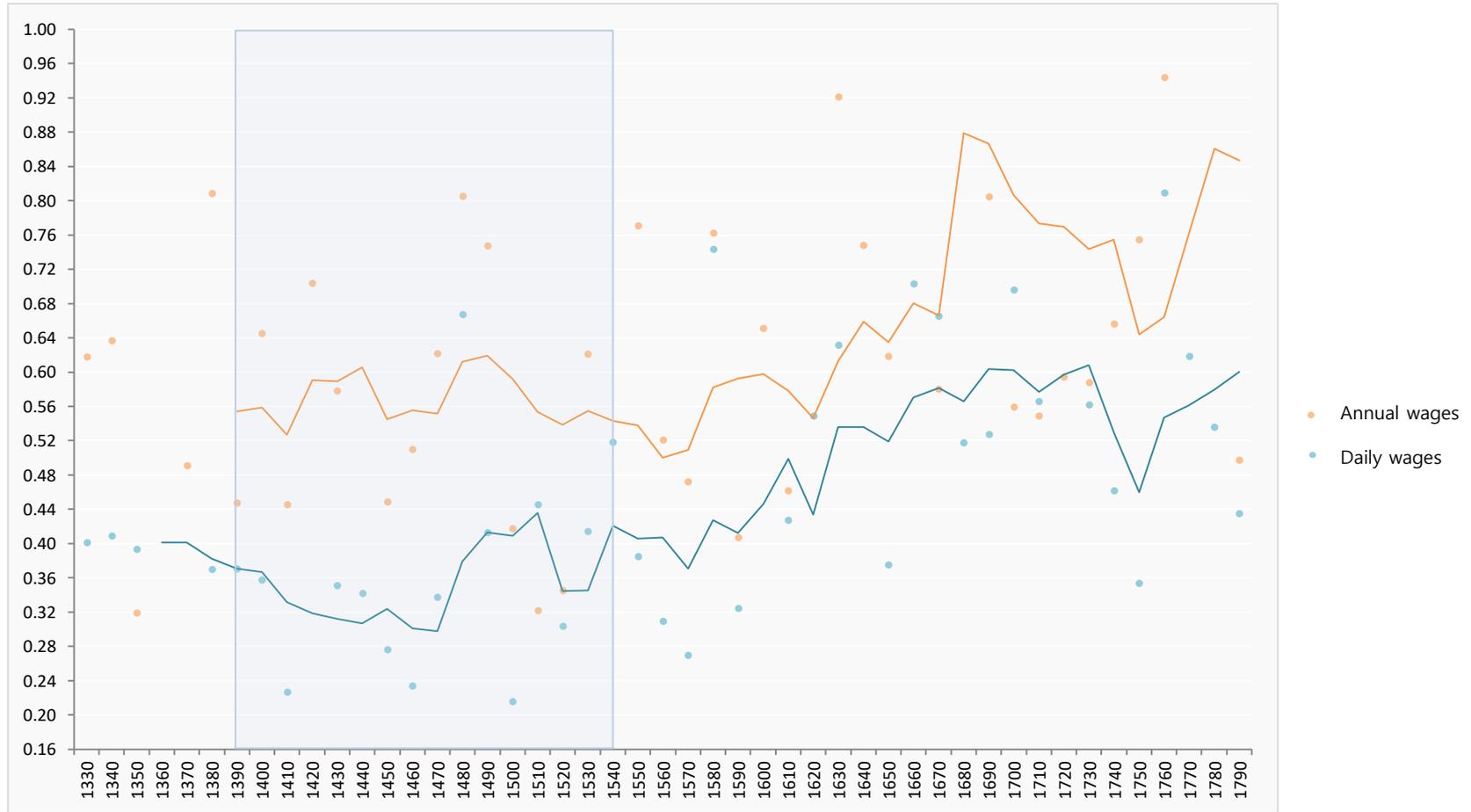
# Days of Daily Wages to Earn Annual Wages



# Gender Pay Gap



# Gender Pay Gap



## Summary

### ➤ Construction of Wage Series

- France over six centuries, 1230-1790
- From a gendered perspective

### ➤ Highlight

- Patterns of long-run wage series – 5 Stages
- Support for Malthus' theory (?)
- Decline in the gender pay gap – Higher gender equality (circa 1550)

## Future Research

- Increase the robustness of the series
  - Complete with additional observations
  - Consumption price index
  - Look at what happens after 1800 – Industrialization
  
- Empirical investigation
  - Investigate more closely the relationship with population
  - Implications – Breadwinner model?
  - Determinant of fertility transition?

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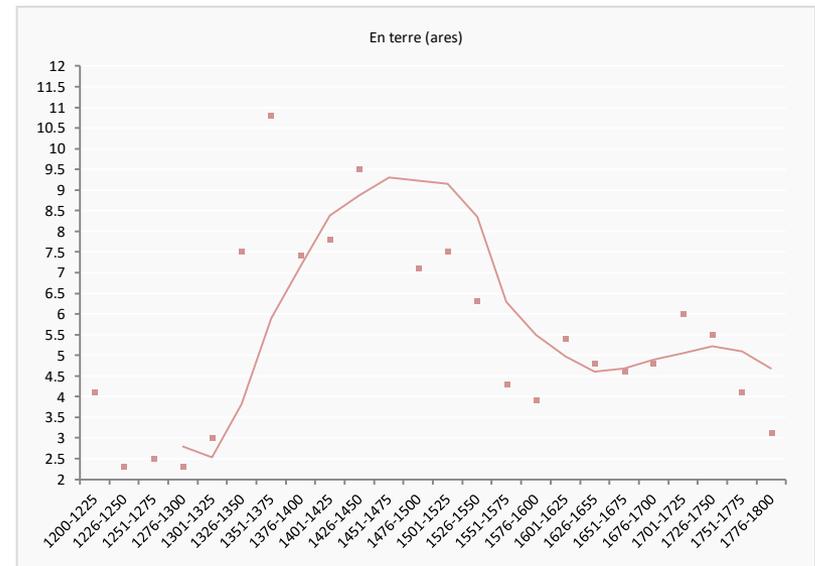
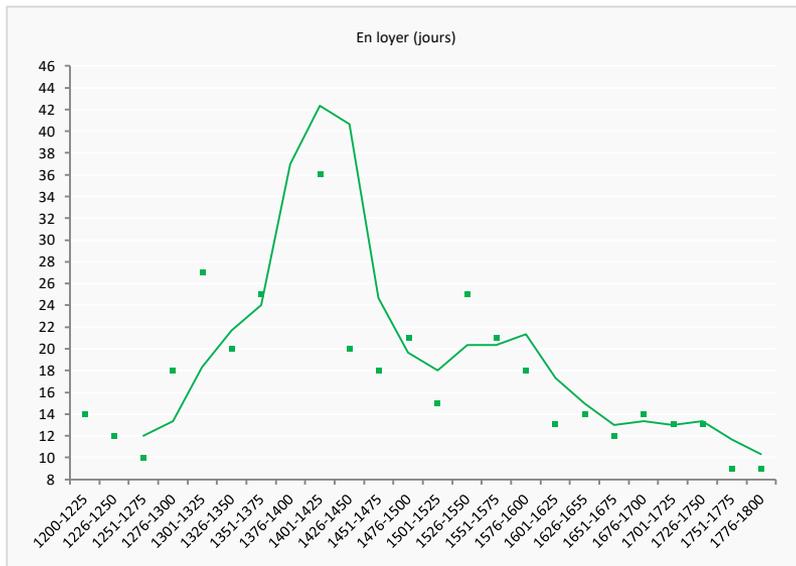
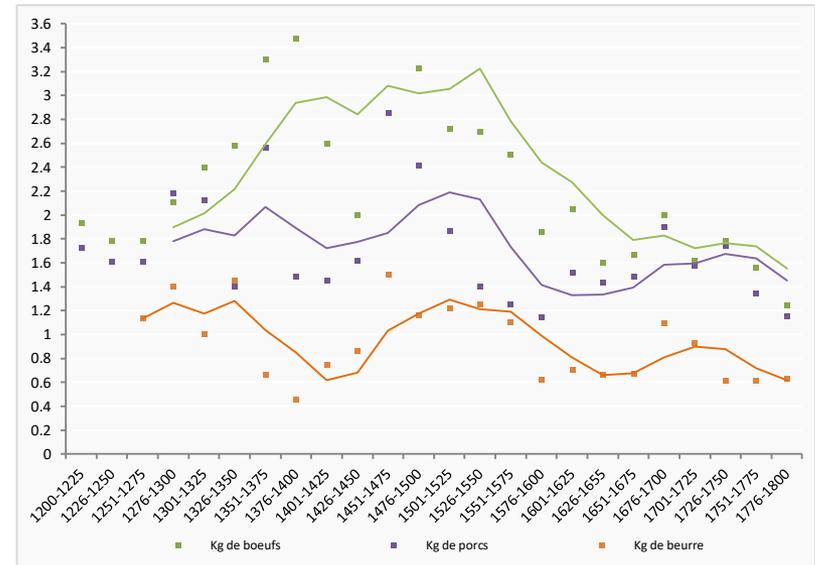
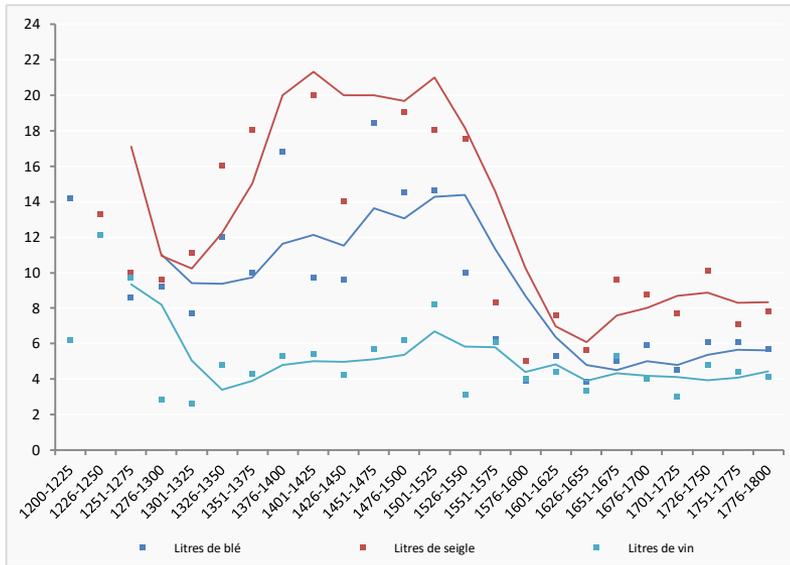
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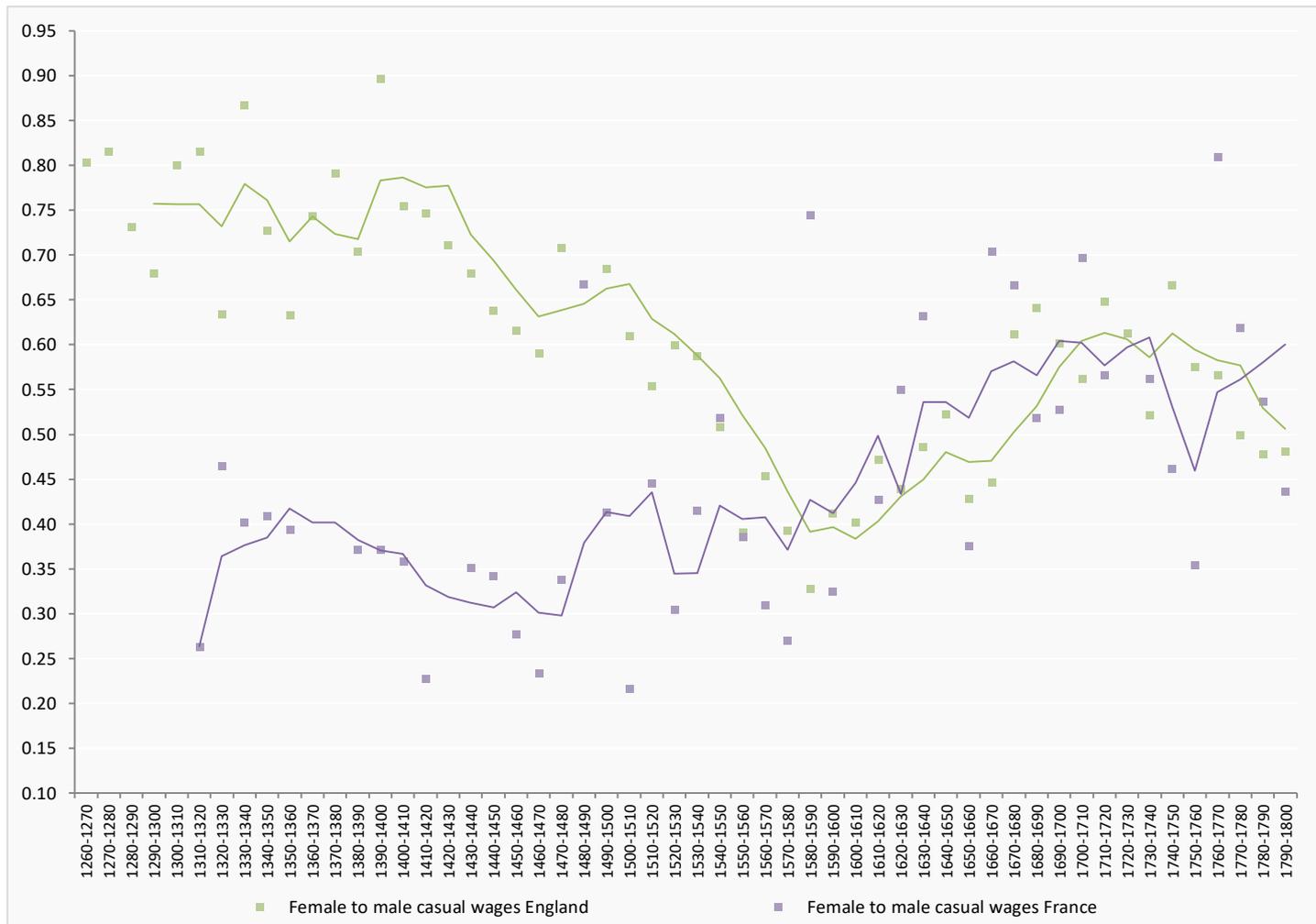
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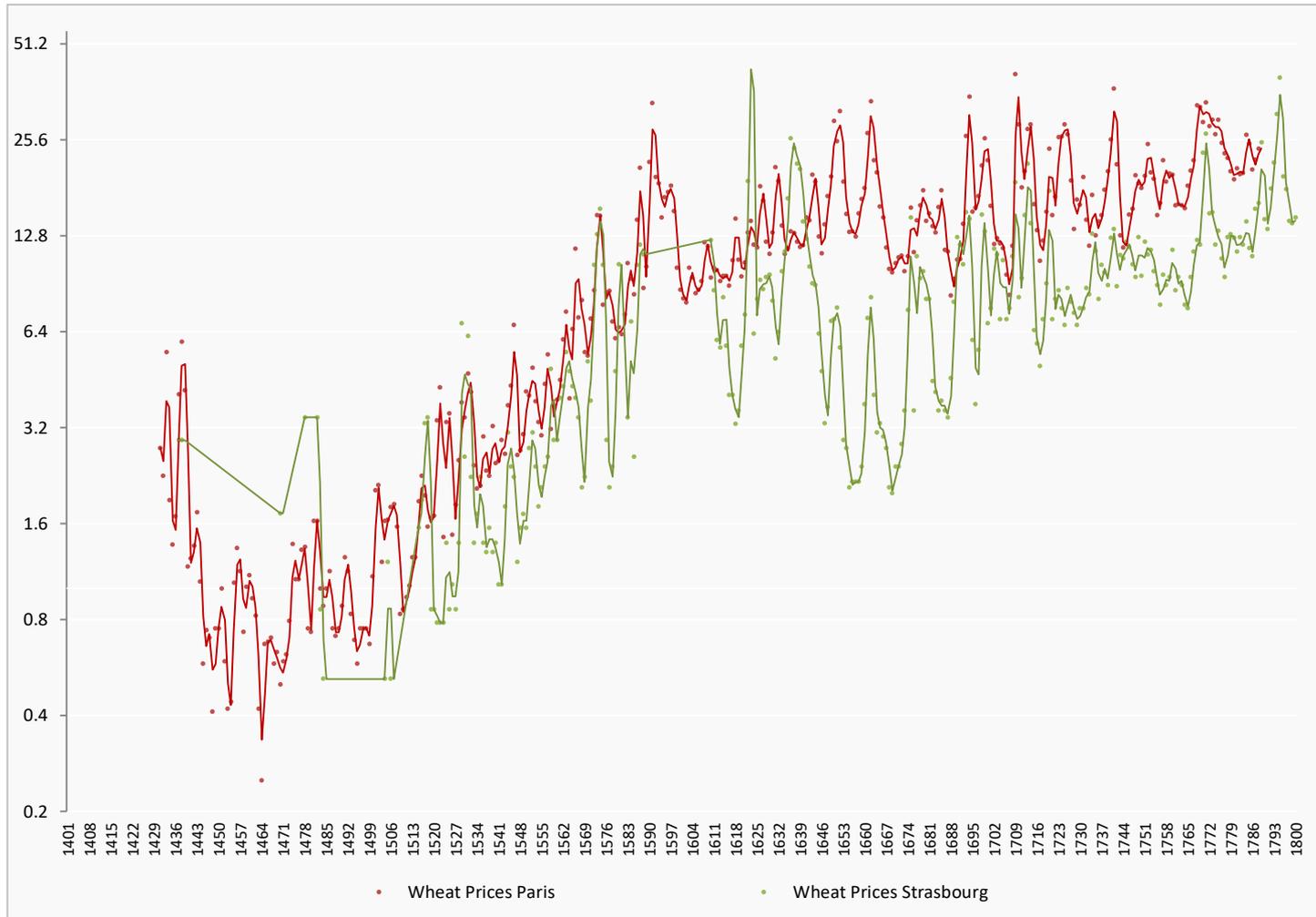
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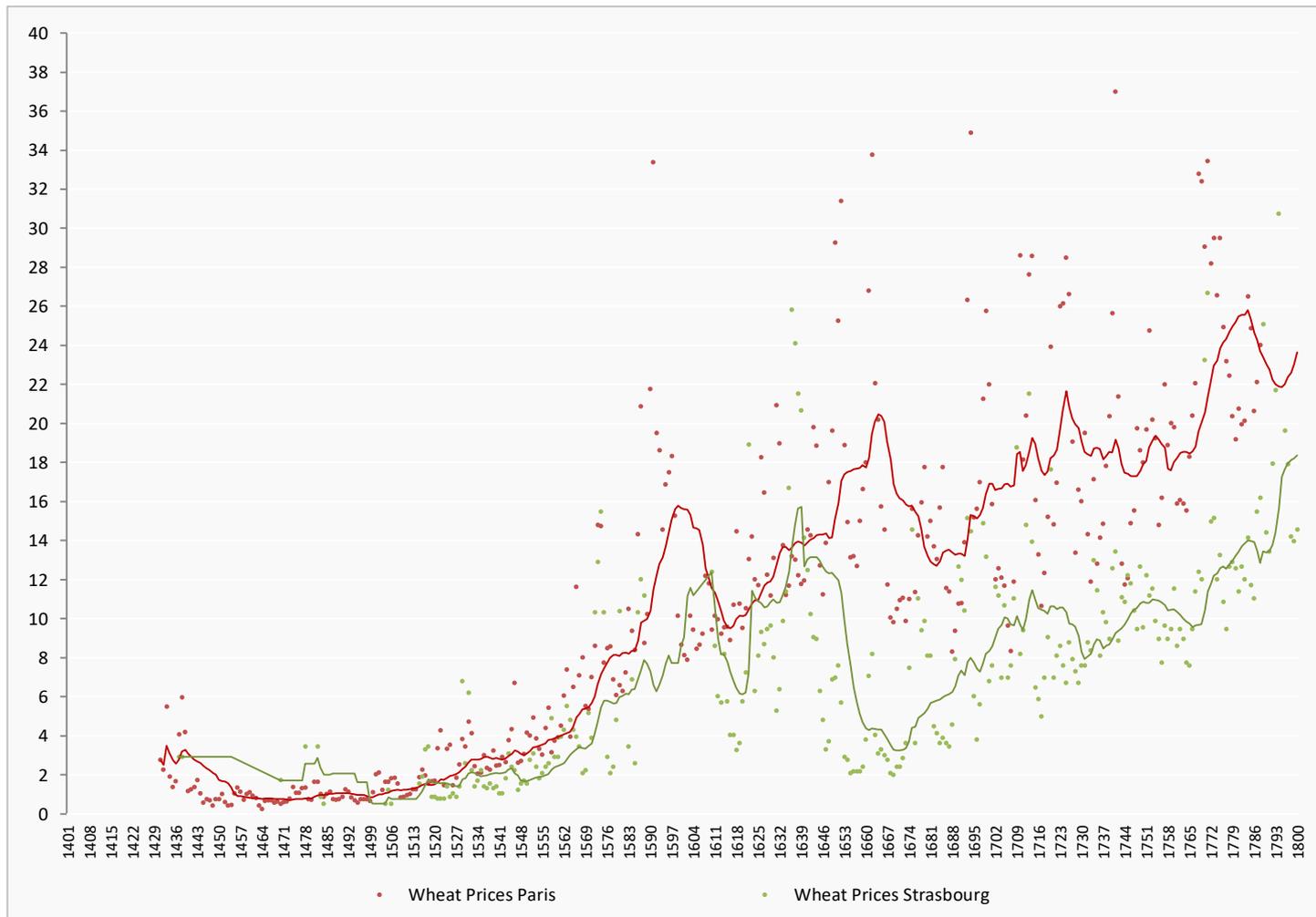
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# Consumption Price Wages



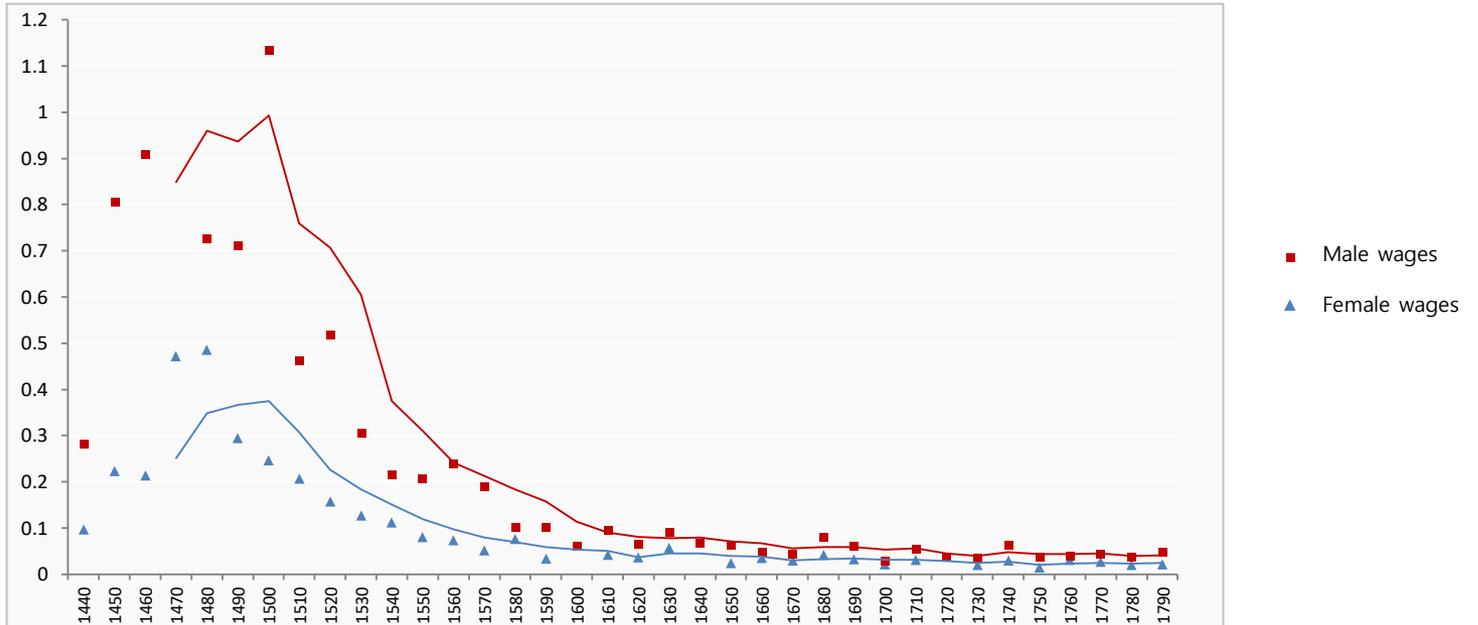




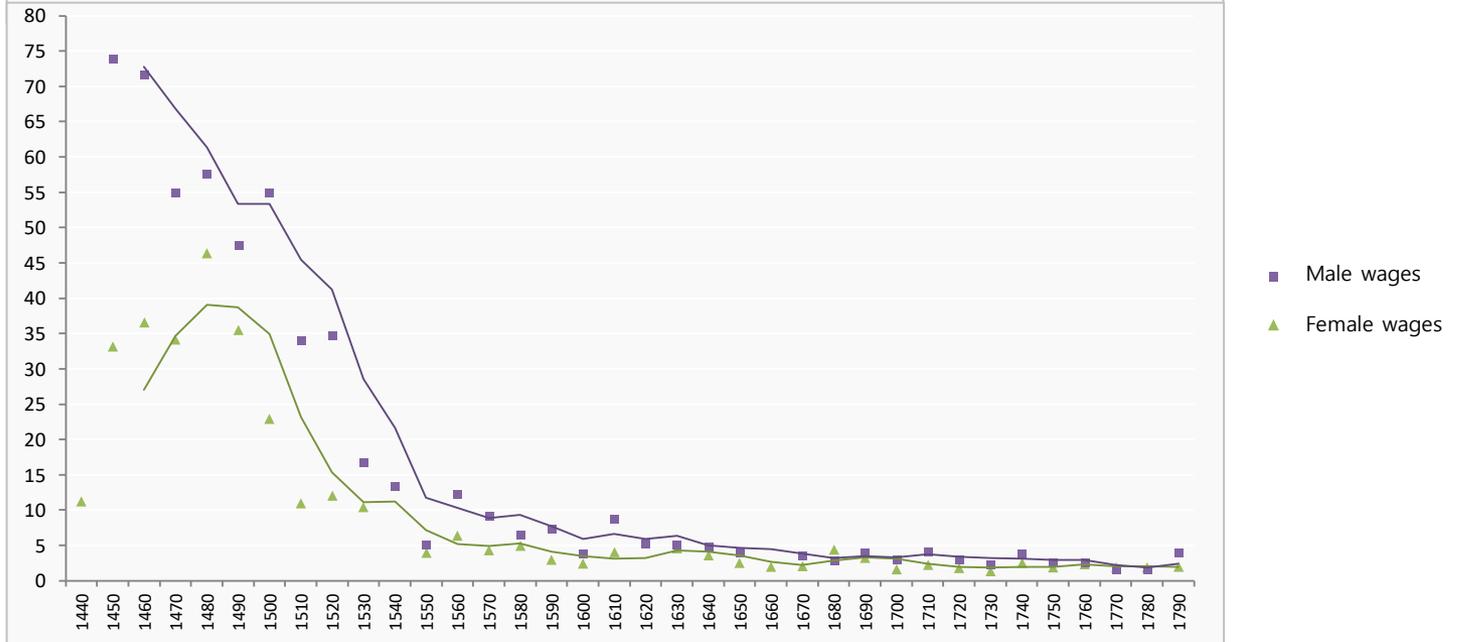


# Wheat Wage Series – Paris

Daily Wages

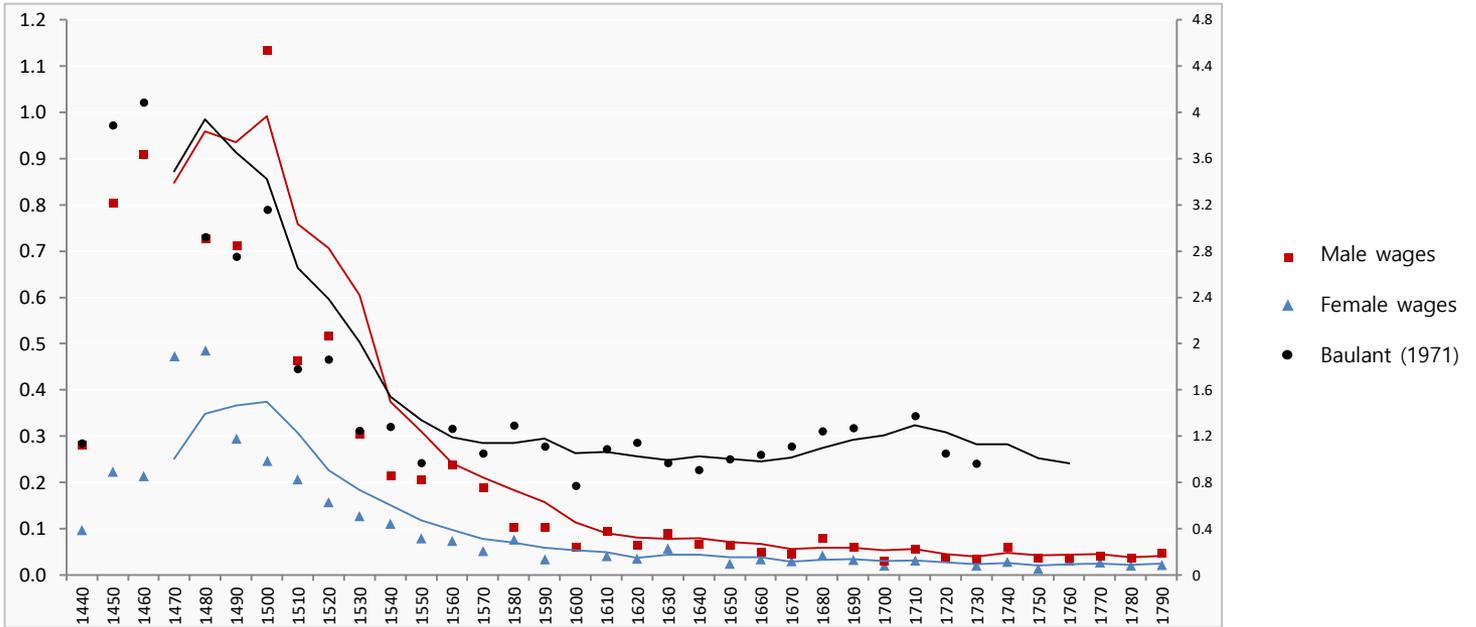


Annual Wages

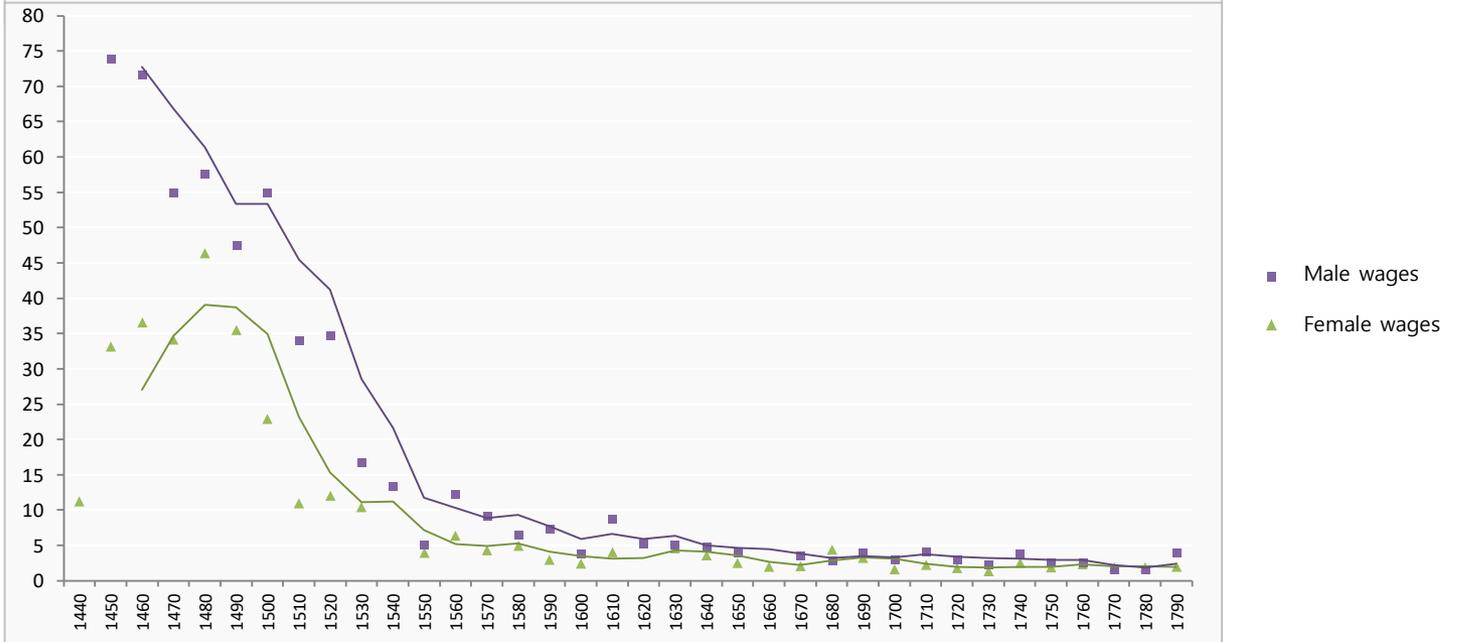


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Daily Wages

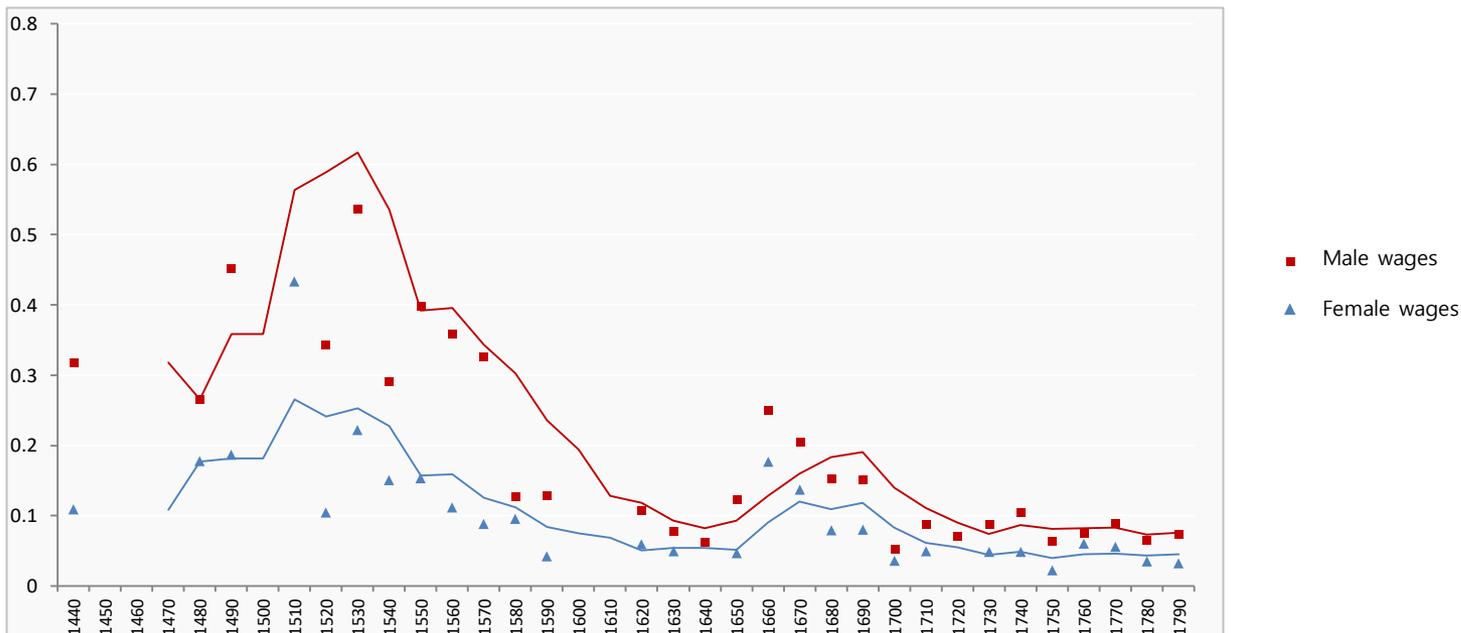


Annual Wages

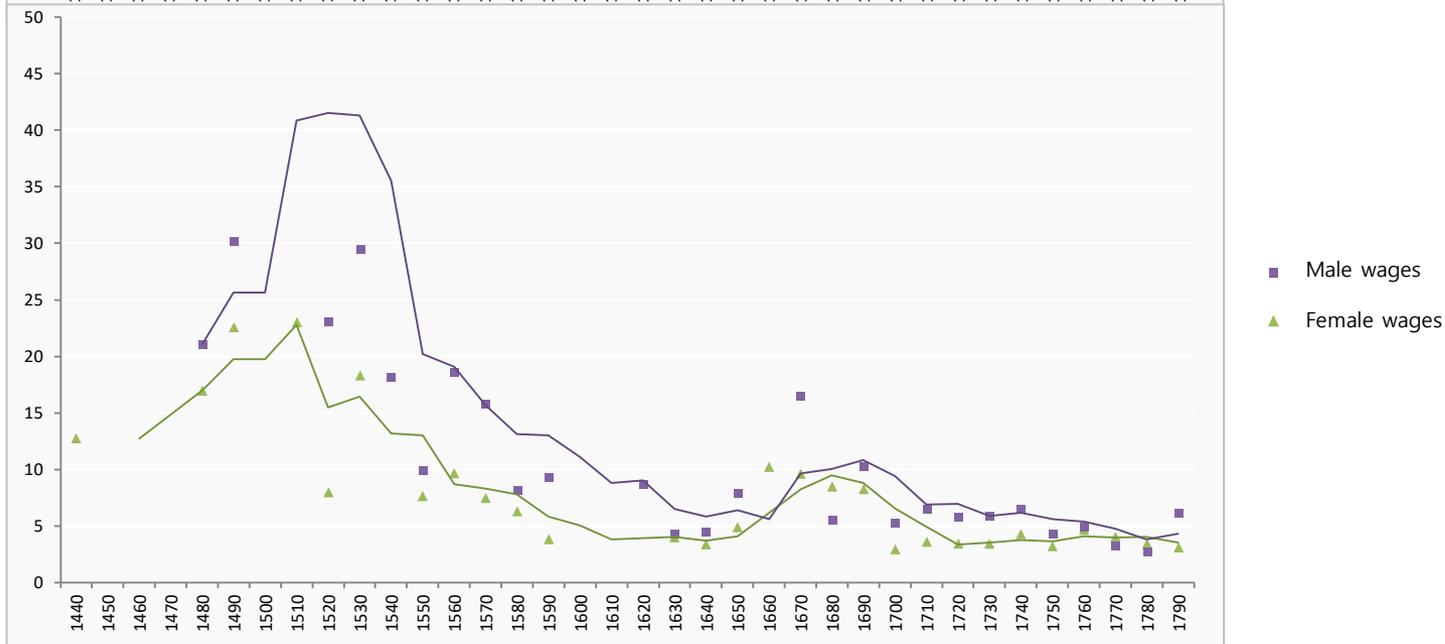


# Wheat Wage Series – Strasbourg

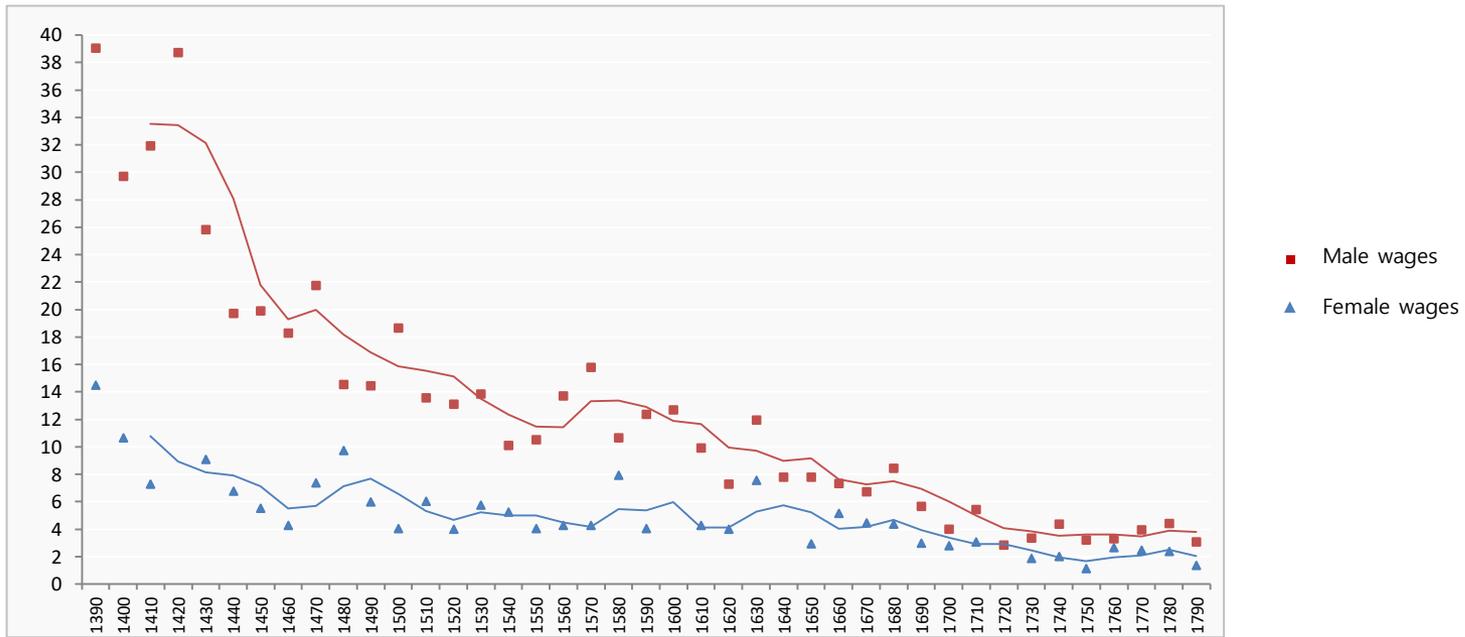
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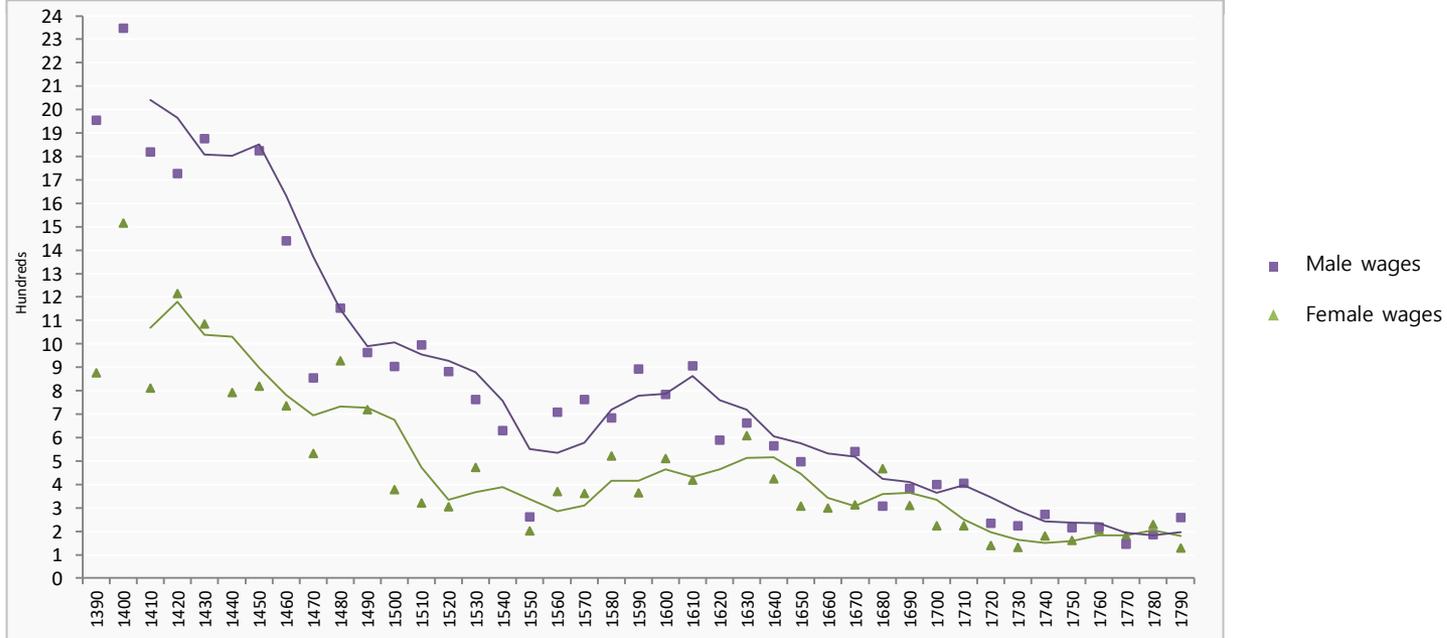
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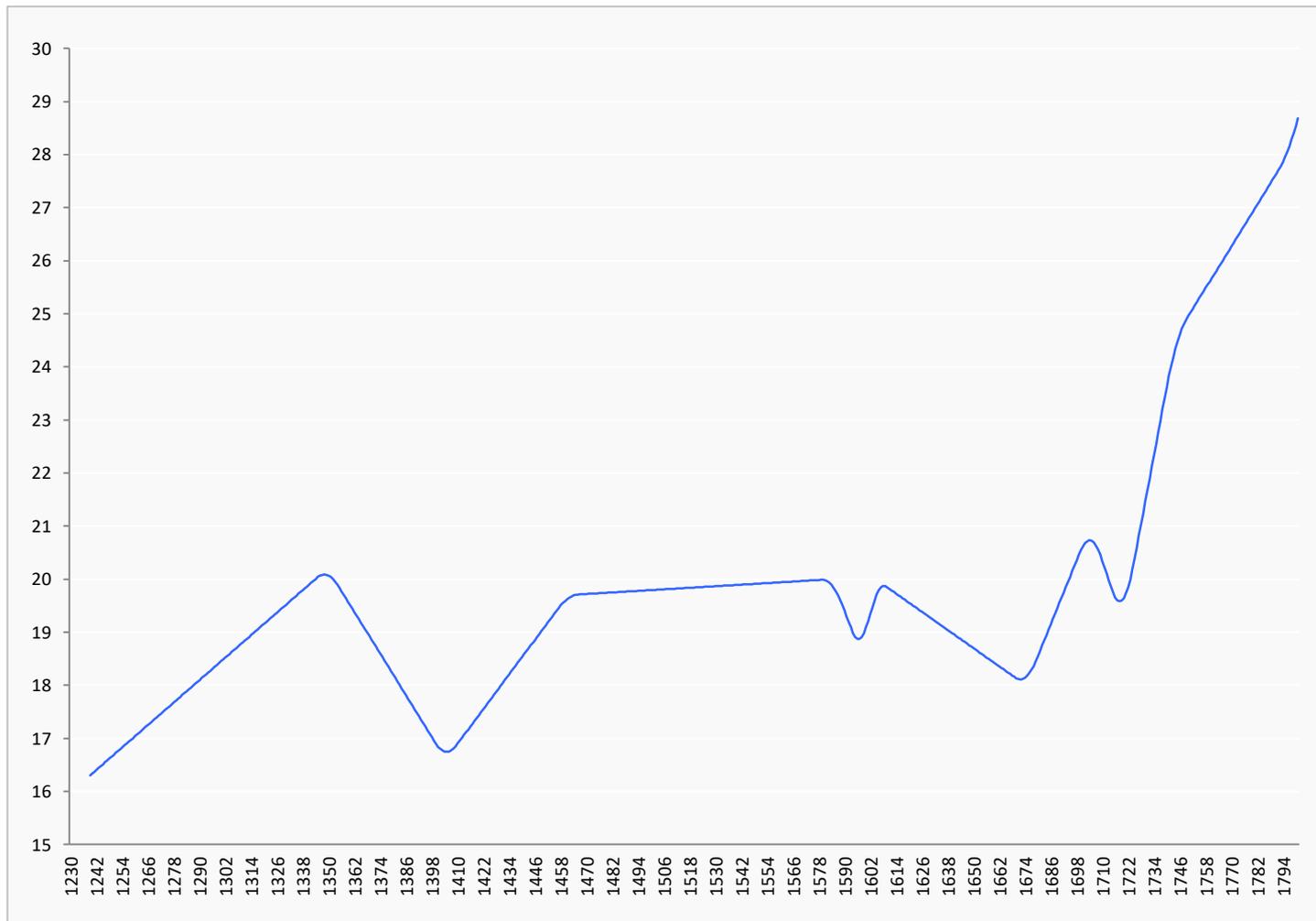


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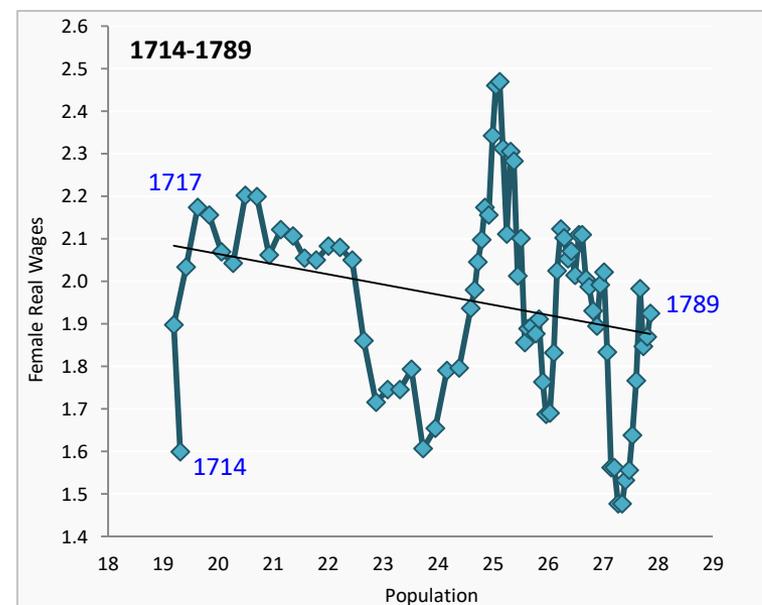
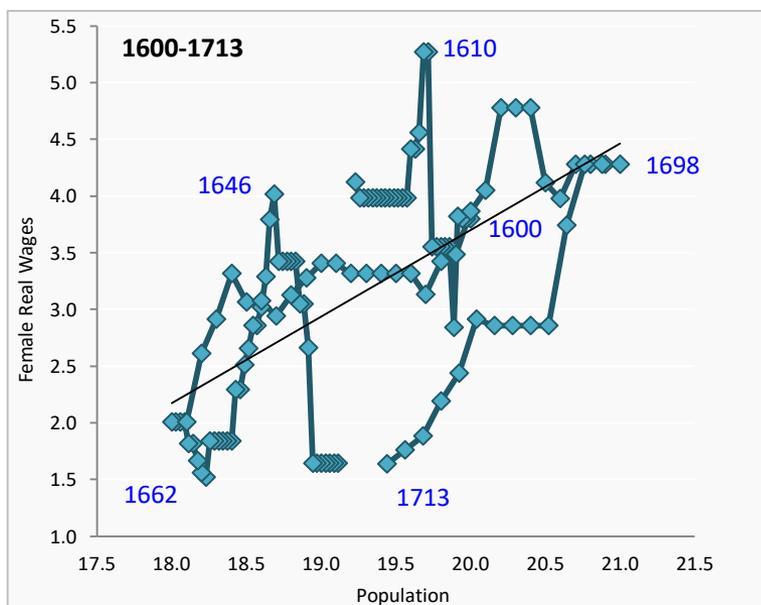
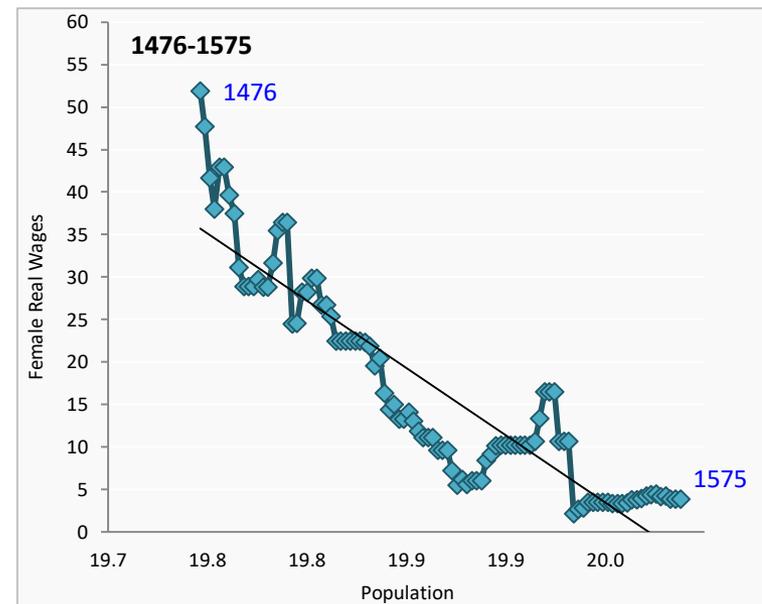
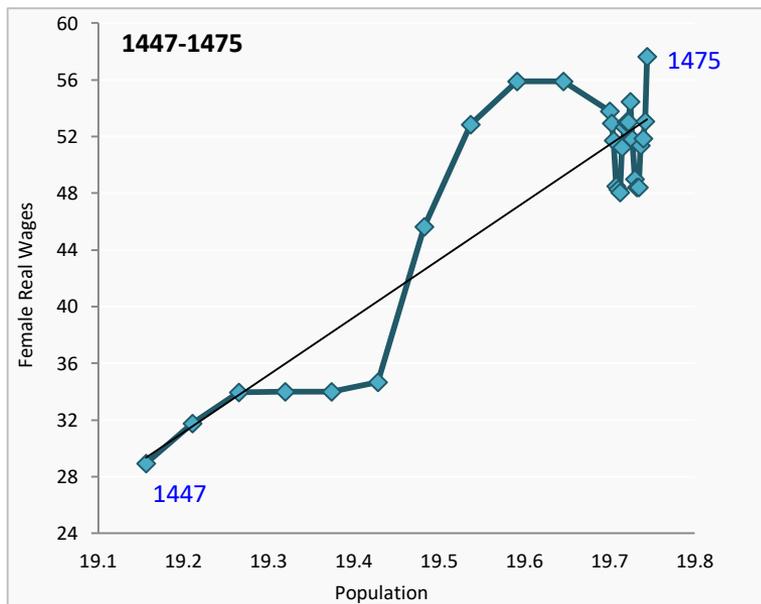


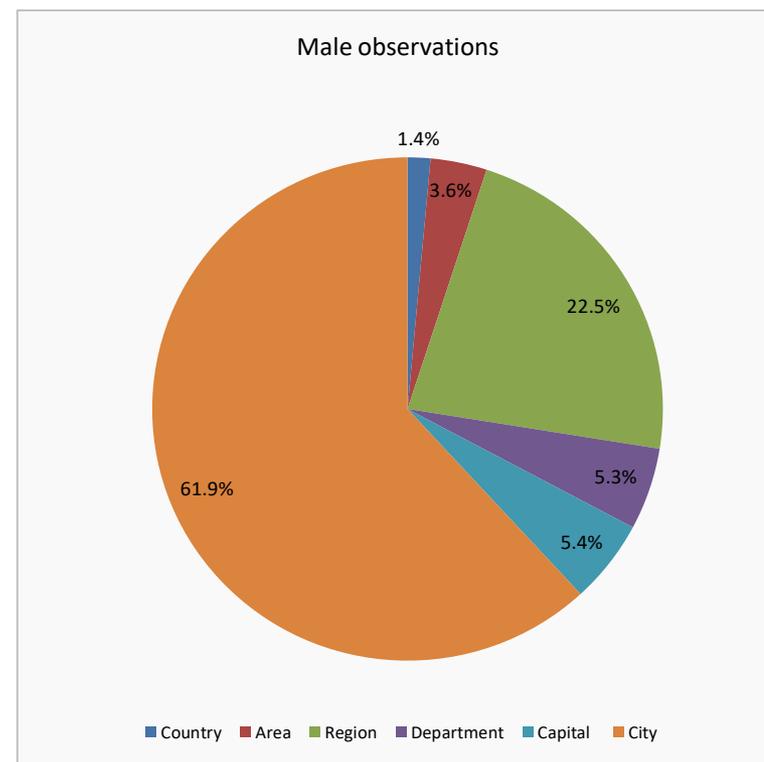
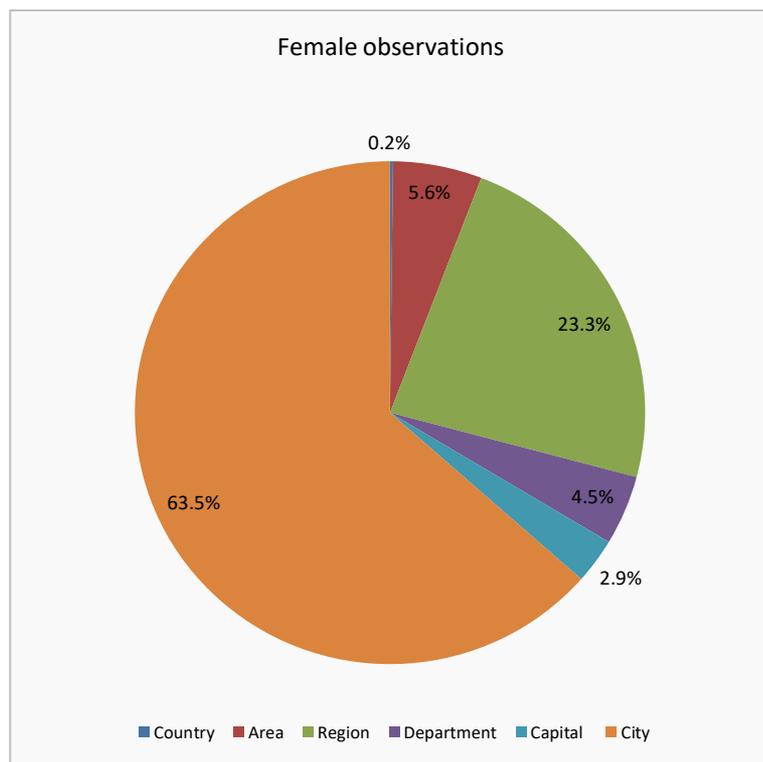
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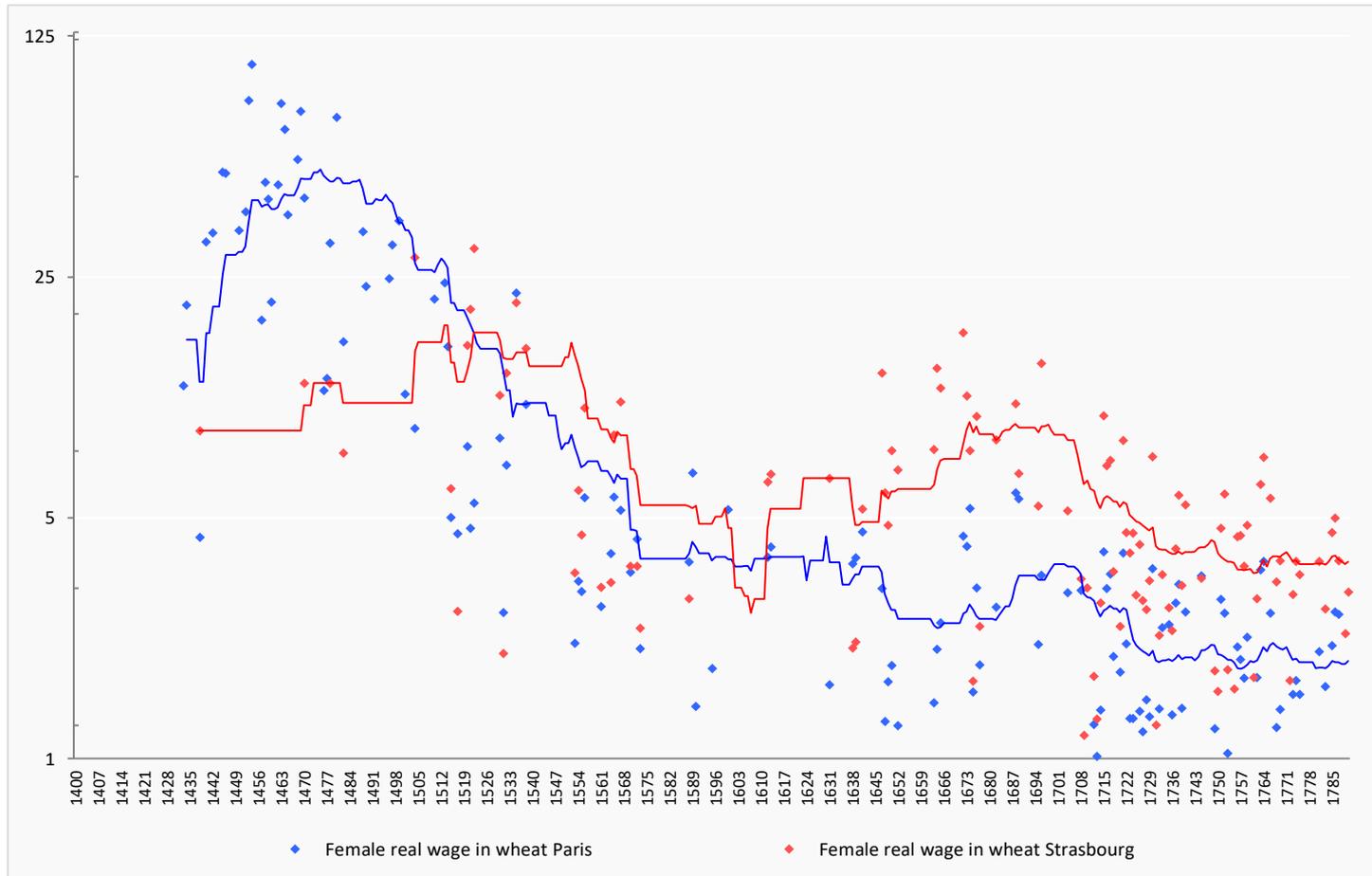


# Female Real Wages and Population





# Female Annual Real Wages



# Female Annual Real Wages

