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## The Dynamics of Exchange Rate, Inflation, and Trade Balance in Indonesia

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### ABSTRACT

Balance of trade has become an essential indicator for economic activities, particularly in countries adopting the open economy. During the last two decades, Indonesia has had trade surplus. The open economy has created dynamics in macroeconomic variables. The purpose of this research is to identify any dynamics between exchange rate, inflation, and balance of trade in Indonesia. Using the Autoregressive Distributed Lag, this study finds the dynamics between the said variables. In the short run, there are causalities between exchange rate and balance of trade, exchange rate and inflation, and balance of trade and inflation. In addition, J-Curve also occurred in Indonesia, where depreciation in exchange rate gradually improves the country's balance of trade in the second and fourth quarters.

**Keywords:** Exchange Rate, Inflation, Balance of Trade, Autoregressive Distributed Lag

*JEL Classification:* F1, F4, C1

### ABSTRAK

Neraca perdagangan menjadi salah satu indikator penting dalam melihat aktivitas ekonomi khususnya pada negara yang menganut sistem perekonomian terbuka. Selama 2 dekade terakhir, Indonesia mengalami surplus neraca perdagangan. Sistem perekonomian terbuka seperti ini menciptakan dinamika pada variabel-variabel makroekonomi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui apakah terdapat dinamika nilai tukar, inflasi, dan neraca perdagangan di Indonesia. Dengan menggunakan metode Autoregressive Distributed Lag, hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat dinamika pada variabel-variabel tersebut. Dalam jangka pendek, terdapat kausalitas antara nilai tukar terhadap neraca perdagangan, nilai tukar terhadap inflasi, dan neraca perdagangan terhadap inflasi. Hasil penelitian ini juga menunjukkan bahwa terdapat fenomena J-Curve di Indonesia, dimana ketika nilai tukar terdepresiasi, maka neraca perdagangan akan mulai membaik pada kuartal 2 dan kuartal 4.

**Kata Kunci:** Nilai Tukar, Inflasi, Neraca Perdagangan, Autoregressive Distributed Lag

*JEL Classification:* F1, F4, C1

## INTRODUCTION

Globalization is a process where the flow of ideas, people, goods, services, and capital becomes increasingly free, which leads to economic integration (IMF, 2002). There are four basic aspects of globalization: trade, movement of capital, movement of people, and the knowledge proliferation (IMF, 2000). Globalization has increased the interactions between countries, including economic interactions, which is discussed in this research. Indonesia is a small open economy that adopts a free-floating exchange rate, which means that its economy is influenced by not only domestic conditions but also the economy of other countries, especially the trading partners. Therefore, international trade transactions and financial condition will affect its economy.

In the end, the open economic system creates dynamics of macroeconomic variables, i.e. exchange rate, inflation, and balance of trade. The variables are related at least in the short term under certain institutional and structural assumptions (Yiheyis and Musila, 2018). Thus, it will be very interesting if their long-term dynamics can also be identified as they eventually affect the economic performance of a country. Exchange rate, inflation, and balance of trade policies were taken to improve

economic welfare, which is reflected in an increase in gross domestic product.

Balance of trade is an important indicator for economic activity, especially in countries that adopt open economy. Indonesia's balance of trade has been positive for the last two decades, as seen in Figure 1. A surplus in balance of trade can be considered good if both export and import are increasing, with a higher increase in export (Firdaus, 2020). The chart implies that Indonesia has been able to create healthy trade. This achievement certainly cannot be separated from the role of the government, particularly Bank Indonesia, which has the duty of maintaining the stability of Rupiah. Stability in this case is the stability against goods and services price and stability against other countries' currencies (Bank Indonesia, 2020). The historical data shows that, although Indonesia's balance of trade is experiencing a surplus, the gap between exports and imports is narrowing. This fact raises the question of "Is the narrowing of Indonesia's export-import gap a sign that its trade performance is starting to decline?", despite the positive balance of trade. The linkage between exchange rate, inflation and the balance of trade, especially in countries that adopt an open economy system, has attracted considerable attention. However, there is only a few numbers of empirical evidences

regarding the causal relationship between, or dynamics of, the three macroeconomic

variables in the context of developing countries (Yiheyis and Musila, 2018).

**Figure 1.** Indonesia's Export-Import from 2001 to 2020



Source: International Monetary Fund (2020)

Many empirical studies on the effect of exchange rate on balance of trade have been conducted on various objects: bilateral and multilateral trades as well as multiple trading partner countries. Their findings also vary widely. Arize, Malindretos, and Igwe (2017) found a significant relationship in both short and long term between exchange rate and balance of trade. In the long term, exchange rate depreciation is able to improve balance of trade. Bahmani-Oskooee and Aftab (2018), using the ARDL model, found that exchange rate has a significant effect on balance of trade, in both short and long term. Similar results were found by Bahmani-Oskooee,

Bose, and Zhang (2017); Bahmani-Oskooee and Fariditavana (2015); Bahmani-Oskooee and Fariditavana (2016); Nusair (2016); Baek (2014); Firdaus et al. (2018); Bahmani-Oskooee and Aftab (2017); Aftab, Syed, and Katper (2017); Ginting (2013); and Arize (1994). Nevertheless, there are also studies that do not find a significant relationship between exchange rate and balance of trade. Rose (1991) found little evidence that exchange rate affects the balance of trade, indicating insignificance in some developing countries.

There have also been many empirical studies on the effect of exchange rate on inflation. Suhadak and Suciandy (2020) found that exchange rate has a

significant effect on inflation in Indonesia through production costs. The depreciation of rupiah decreases the price of domestic goods for other countries, leading to increases in export demand and commodity prices. Kihangire and Mugenyi (2005), using the ARDL model, also found that exchange rate has a significant effect on inflation. Similar results were found in other studies conducted in developing countries, e.g. Yiheyis (1997) and Klau (1998).

Inflation also affects balance of trade. When inflation rises, real exchange rate strengthens, so domestic goods become less competitive in world markets. This lowers exports and, subsequently, the balance of trade. Causality also appears in balance of trade-inflation relationship. When balance of trade increases, nominal exchange rate strengthens, and inflation weakens.

The depreciation of rupiah is a threat that must always be kept in check. The prolonged weakening of exchange rate endangers Indonesia's real sector because its imports are dominated by raw and auxiliary materials and capital goods. The Ministry of Trade (2016) stated that

76.44% of Indonesia's imports are raw and auxiliary materials, 16.45% are capital goods, and 7.11% are consumer goods. This study attempts to analyze the dynamics of Indonesia's exchange rate, inflation, and balance of trade against the world aggregate, which is represented by the country's six major trading partners, namely China, Japan, Singapore, the United States, South Korea, and Malaysia. Based on the said background, this study seeks to identify the effects of exchange rates and inflation on balance of trade in Indonesia, the effects of balance of trade and inflation on exchange rate in Indonesia, the effects of balance of trade and exchange rates on inflation in Indonesia.

**DATA**

This study uses secondary data from Q1 of 2002 to Q4 of 2018. As all variables in this study cannot be obtained directly from secondary sources, initial calculations need to be made based on the components that make up the variables. The following are the data used in this study.

**Table 1.** Data, Symbol, and Source

No	Data	Symbol	Source
1	Indonesia's Export	X	data.imf.org
2	Indonesia's Import	M	data.imf.org

**The Dynamics of Exchange Rate, Inflation, and Trade Balance in Indonesia**

No	Data	Symbol	Source
3	Indonesia – China Nominal Exchange Rate	NER	bi.go.id
4	Indonesia – Japan Nominal Exchange Rate	NER	bi.go.id
5	Indonesia – Singapore Nominal Exchange Rate	NER	bi.go.id
6	Indonesia – the United States Nominal Exchange Rate	NER	bi.go.id
7	Indonesia – South Korea Nominal Exchange Rate	NER	bi.go.id
8	Indonesia – Malaysia Nominal Exchange Rate	NER	bi.go.id
9	Consumer Price Index of Indonesia	CPI <sup>IND</sup>	data.imf.org
10	Consumer Price Index of China	CPI	data.imf.org
11	Consumer Price Index of Japan	CPI	data.imf.org
12	Consumer Price Index of Singapore	CPI	data.imf.org
13	Consumer Price Index of the US	CPI	data.imf.org
14	Consumer Price Index of South Korea	CPI	data.imf.org
15	Consumer Price Index of Malaysia	CPI	data.imf.org
16	The Weight of Indonesia – China Trade Activities	TAW	data.imf.org
17	The Weight of Indonesia – Japan Trade Activities	TAW	data.imf.org
18	The Weight of Indonesia – Singapore Trade Activities	TAW	data.imf.org
19	The Weight of Indonesia – the US Trade Activities	TAW	data.imf.org
20	The Weight of Indonesia – South Korea Trade Activities	TAW	data.imf.org
21	The Weight of Indonesia – Malaysia Trade Activities	TAW	data.imf.org
22	The Nominal GDP of Indonesia	NGDP <sup>IND</sup>	data.imf.org
23	The Nominal GDP of China	NGDP	data.imf.org
24	The Nominal GDP of Japan	NGDP	data.imf.org
25	The Nominal GDP of the US	NGDP	data.imf.org
26	The Nominal GDP of Singapore	NGDP	data.imf.org
27	The Nominal GDP of South Korea	NGDP	data.imf.org
28	The Nominal GDP of Malaysia	NGDP	data.imf.org
29	The Deflator GDP of Indonesia	DGDP <sup>IND</sup>	data.imf.org
30	The Deflator GDP of China	DGDP	data.imf.org
31	The Deflator GDP of Japan	DGDP	data.imf.org
32	The Deflator GDP of the US	DGDP	data.imf.org
33	The Deflator GDP of Singapore	DGDP	data.imf.org
34	The Deflator GDP of South Korea	DGDP	data.imf.org
35	The Deflator GDP of Malaysia	DGDP	data.imf.org
36	The Weight of Indonesia – China Export	EW	data.imf.org
37	The Weight of Indonesia – Japan Export	EW	data.imf.org
38	The Weight of Indonesia – the US Export	EW	data.imf.org
39	The Weight of Indonesia – Singapore Export	EW	data.imf.org
40	The Weight of Indonesia – South Korea Export	EW	data.imf.org
41	The Weight of Indonesia – Malaysia Export	EW	data.imf.org
42	Indonesia’s Treasury Bill Rate	ITBR	data.imf.org
43	London Interbank Offered Rate	LIBOR	fred.stlouisfed.org

Source: Researcher (2021)

All data in Table 1 were then calculated according to the variables used in this study, namely balance of trade, real effective exchange rate, inflation, relative macroeconomic activities, and relative

interest rate. This study uses two control variables, namely relative macroeconomic activities and relative interest rate; they were used to anticipate overestimates and

underestimates on the coefficients from the estimation results.

**Table 2.** Data, Symbol, and Position

No	Variable	Symbol	Position
1	Real Effective Exchange Rate	REER	Dependent Variable and Independent Variable
2	Inflation	INF	Dependent Variable and Independent Variable
3	Balance of trade	TB	Dependent Variable and Independent Variable
4	Real Macroeconomic Activities	RMA	Control Variable
5	Relative Interest Rate	RIR	Control Variable

Source: Researcher (2021)

- 1) Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER)

$$REER_t = \sum_{i=1}^n TAW_i \times RER_{it}$$

$$RER_{it} = NER_{it} \times \frac{CPI_{it}}{CPI_t^{IND}}$$

- 2) Inflation (INF)

$$INF_t = \frac{CPI_t^{IND} - CPI_{t-1}^{IND}}{CPI_{t-1}^{IND}} \times 100\%$$

- 3) Balance of trade (TB)

$$TB_t = \frac{X_t}{M_t}$$

- 4) Real Macroeconomic Activities (RMA)

$$RMA_t = \frac{\frac{NGDP_t^{IND}}{DGDP_t^{IND}}}{\sum_{i=1}^n EW_i \times \frac{NGDP_{it}}{DGDP_{it}}}$$

- 5) Relative Interest Rate (RIR)

$$RIR_t = ITBR_t - LIBOR_t$$

This method was chosen as a substitute for the Engle-Granger (1987) method, which requires that all variables must be integrated at the same level. One of the advantages of ARDL is that it can be used by combining the variables in I (0) and I (1). To identify the long-term relationship, bound testing needs to be done. Pesar, Shin, and Smith (2001) explained that there are two sets of bound, namely the lower bound and the upper bound. When we assume that all variables are at I(0), lower bound is generated. When we assume that all variables are at I(1), upper bound is generated. Pesar, Shin, and Smith (2001) suggested that this bound can be used when one part of the variables is at I(0) and the other part is at I(1). The maximum lag used to estimate the model is 4, equivalent to 1 year (four quarters). There are three models to be estimated according to the research objectives; they are Model 1, Model 2, and Model 3.

**METHODOLOGIES**

This study uses a time-series econometric model, namely Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL), developed by Pesar and Shin (1999) and Pesar, Shin, and Smith (2001).

Model 1:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \log TB_t = & \alpha_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{n1} \alpha_{1k} \Delta \log TB_{t-k} \\ & + \sum_{k=0}^{n2} \alpha_{2k} \Delta \log REER_{t-k} \\ & + \sum_{k=0}^{n3} \alpha_{3k} \Delta INF_{t-k} \\ & + \sum_{k=0}^{n4} \alpha_{4k} \Delta \log RMA_{t-k} \\ & + \sum_{k=0}^{n5} \alpha_{5k} \Delta RIR_{t-k} \\ & + \lambda_0 \log TB_{t-1} \\ & + \lambda_1 \log REER_{t-1} + \lambda_2 INF_{t-1} \\ & + \lambda_3 \log RMA_{t-1} + \lambda_4 RIR_{t-1} \\ & + \mu_t \end{aligned}$$

Model 2:

$$\Delta \log REER_t = \beta_0$$

$$\begin{aligned} & + \sum_{k=1}^{n1} \beta_{1k} \Delta \log REER_{t-k} \\ & + \sum_{k=0}^{n2} \beta_{2k} \Delta \log TB_{t-k} \\ & + \sum_{k=0}^{n3} \beta_{3k} \Delta INF_{t-k} \\ & + \sum_{k=0}^{n4} \beta_{4k} \Delta \log RMA_{t-k} \\ & + \sum_{k=0}^{n5} \beta_{5k} \Delta RIR_{t-k} \\ & + \gamma_0 \log REER_{t-1} \\ & + \gamma_1 \log TB_{t-1} + \gamma_2 INF_{t-1} \\ & + \gamma_3 \log RMA_{t-1} + \gamma_4 RIR_{t-1} \\ & + \varepsilon_t \end{aligned}$$

Model 3:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta INF_t = & \theta_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{n1} \theta_{1k} \Delta INF_{t-k} \\ & + \sum_{k=0}^{n2} \theta_{2k} \Delta \log TB_{t-k} \\ & + \sum_{k=0}^{n3} \theta_{3k} \Delta \log REER_{t-k} \\ & + \sum_{k=0}^{n4} \theta_{4k} \Delta \log RMA_{t-k} \\ & + \sum_{k=0}^{n5} \theta_{5k} \Delta RIR_{t-k} \\ & + \delta_0 INF_{t-1} + \delta_1 \log TB_{t-1} \\ & + \delta_2 \log REER_{t-1} \\ & + \delta_3 \log RMA_{t-1} + \delta_4 RIR_{t-1} \\ & + \nu_t \end{aligned}$$



The time-series method requires stationary data to avoid spurious regression. According to Gujarati (2009), the regression happens as the data only shows a trend; the high  $R^2$  is the result of the trend, not the relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variable. If the data is stationary, estimation using OLS can be done (Sugiyanto, 2004). There are several stationarity tests; they are chart analysis, correlogram test, and unit root test. This study uses unit root test and chart analysis (in addition to visual analysis). One of the commonly used methods is the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) test by adding the lag of the differentiation variable on the right side of the equation as a development from the previous unit root test model, which can only be done if the time series data only follows the AR pattern (1). In fact, in many cases, time-series data contain higher AR elements (Widarjono, 2017). The following is the formulation of the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) test (Dickey and Fuller, 1979).

$$\Delta Y_t = \gamma Y_{t-1} + \sum_{i=2}^p \beta_i \Delta Y_{t-i+1} + e_t$$

$$\Delta Y_t = \alpha_0 + \gamma Y_{t-1} + \sum_{i=2}^p \beta_i \Delta Y_{t-i+1} + e_t$$

$$\Delta Y_t = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 T + \gamma Y_{t-1} + \sum_{i=2}^p \beta_i \Delta Y_{t-i+1} + e_t$$

Where:  $Y$  = observed variable;  $\Delta Y_t = Y_t - Y_{t-1}$  and  $T$  = time trend

Following the model estimation, statistical diagnostic tests including Ramsey RESET (Regression Specification Error Test), CUSUM, CUSUMQ, Adjusted  $R^2$ , Normality, and Autocorrelation were performed.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the stationarity test using Augmented Dickey Fuller show that  $\log INF$  is stationary at level with significance level of 1%, while  $\log TB$ ,  $\log REER$ ,  $\log RMA$ , and  $RIR$  are stationary at first difference with significance levels of 1%, 1%, 5%, and 5%. Thus, based on the results of the unit root test, the data to be used is the combination of  $I(0)$  and  $I(1)$ . RESET test results in Model 1 indicate that the probability value is higher than the significance level of 5%, so the null hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, it can be concluded that the model is appropriate. Model 2 also shows that the established model is also appropriate. Table 3 shows the summary of RESET test results. Model 3 shows that the probability value is lower than the significance level of 5%, so the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, Model 3 is inaccurate. However, RESET test is only one of several model feasibility tests. There are still many other tests, such as

regression coefficient test, variable significance test through t test,  $R^2$ , Adjusted  $R^2$ , Durbin-Watson statistical value, MWD test etc. (Widarjono, 2017). If a measurement other than RESET is used, Model 3 is still feasible to use, even though the other two models are considered relatively better.

The results of the CUSUM and CUSUMQ tests for Model 1, 2, and 3 show the stability of the parameters, as shown in Figure 3. The recursive residual value is within the band at the critical line of 5%. The tests are indispensable for time-series data, which are often unstable due to structural changes in the study period. Moreover, the use of long period of time for research increases the likeliness of encountering structural changes such as crises, policy changes, natural disasters, non-natural disasters, etc.

**Table 3.** Descriptive Statistics, Unit Root Test Result, and Data Normality Test Result

Variable	Statistic Descriptive					Augmented Dickey-Fuller		Saphiro-Wilk			
	Obs	Mean	Max	Min	SD	t-statistics	Prob	W	V	z	Prob>z
<b>LogTB</b>											
Level	68	0.2218	0.5440	-0.0541	0.1624	-1.8147	0.3704	0.9525	2.8510	2.274**	0.0111
<i>First Difference</i>						-9.2954***	0.0000				
<b>LogREER</b>											
Level	68	8.1787	8.4465	8.0276	0.0857	-2.3891	0.1487	0.9629	2.2290	1.740**	0.0409
<i>First Difference</i>						-6.6184***	0.0000				
<b>INF</b>											
Level	68	0.0157	0.1034	-0.0022	0.0144	-7.6539***	0.0000	0.7050	17.7350	6.243***	0.0000
<i>First Difference</i>						-8.3481***	0.0000				
<b>LogRMA</b>											
Level	68	-2.1128	-1.9336	-2.3363	0.1062	-0.5176	0.8798	0.9532	2.8130	2.245**	0.0123
<i>First Difference</i>						-3.2173**	0.0239				
<b>RIR</b>											
Level	68	0.0077	0.0277	-0.0137	0.0116	-2.2636	0.1867	0.9615	2.3130	1.820**	0.0343
<i>First Difference</i>						-2.9824**	0.0419				

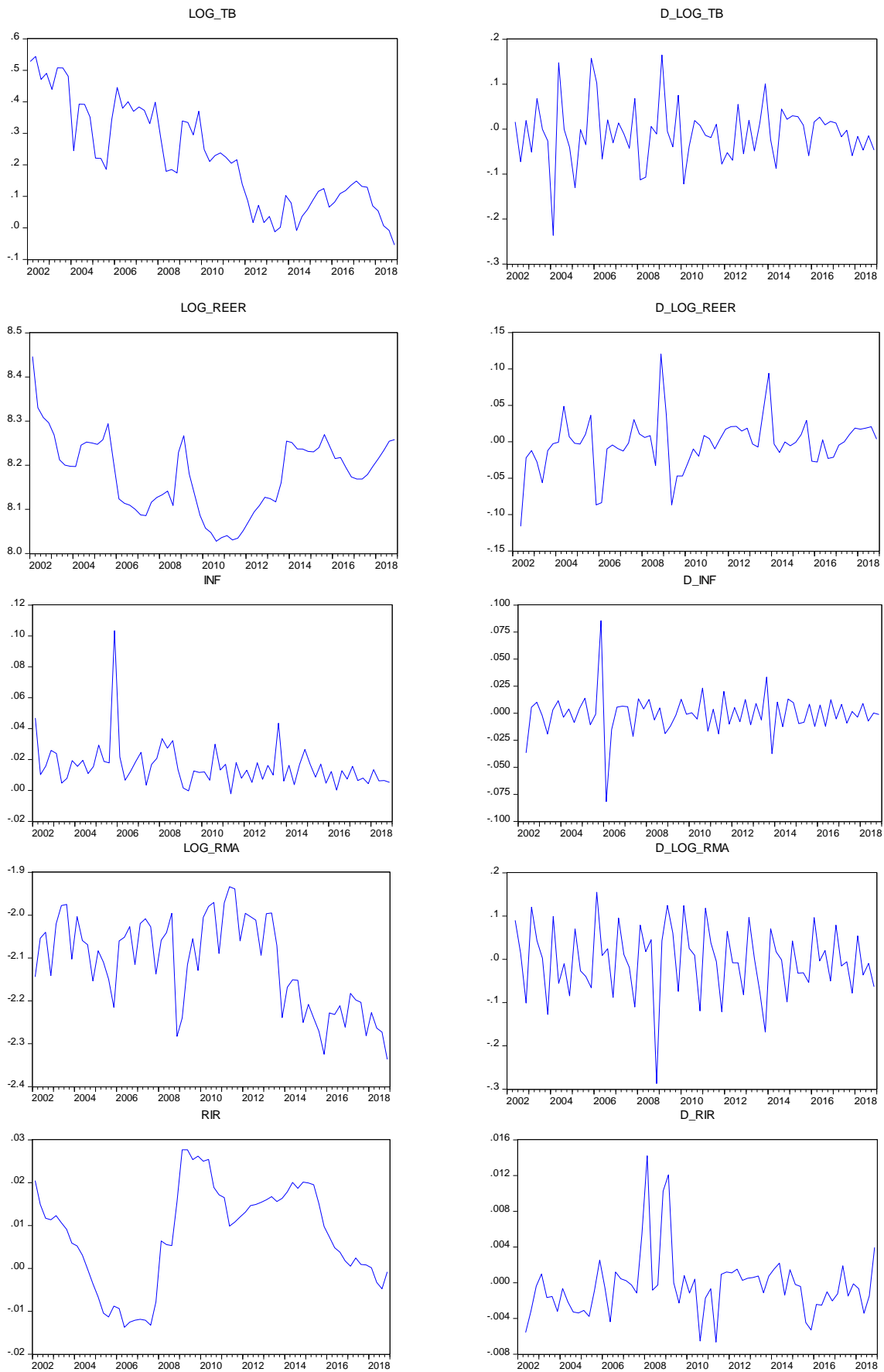
Note: significant at 1%; \*\* significant at 5%; \* significant at 10%

Null hypothesis: "variable has unit root"

max = maximum; min = minimum; SD = standard deviation

Source: IMF, World Bank, and Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (processed using E-Views 10)

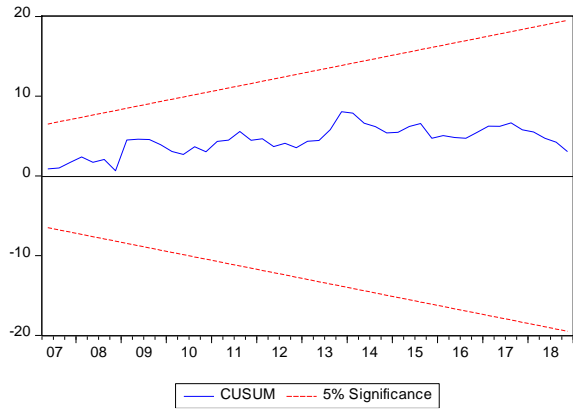
Figure 2. Charts of Variables at Level and First Difference



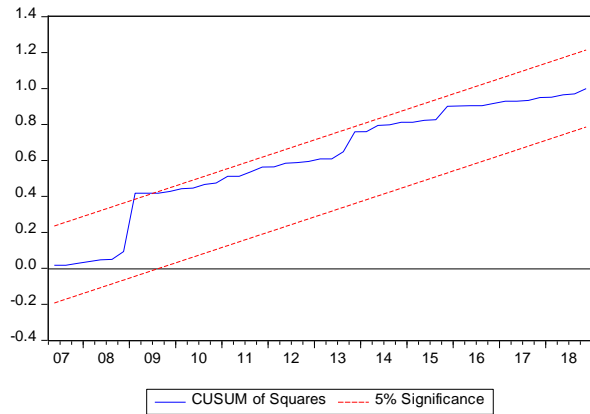
Source: IMF, World Bank, and Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (processed using E-Views 10)

**Gambar 3.** CUSUM and CUSUMQ Test Results

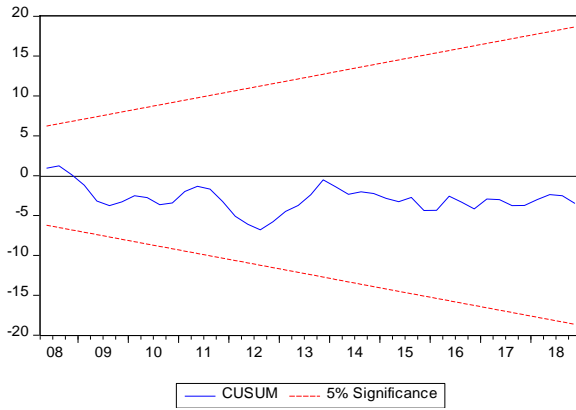
Model 1: CUSUM



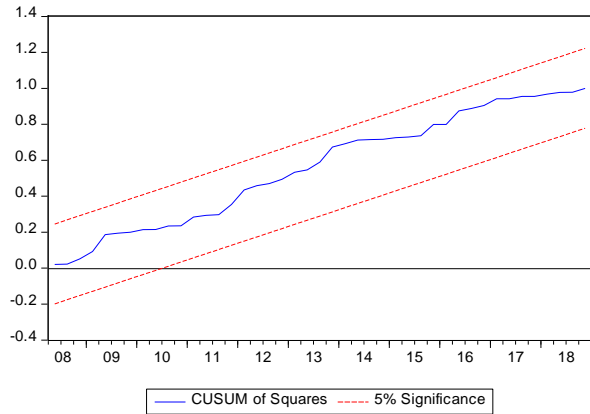
Model 1: CUSUMQ



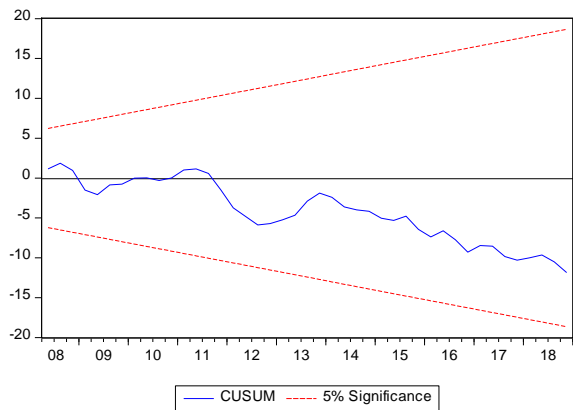
Model 2: CUSUM



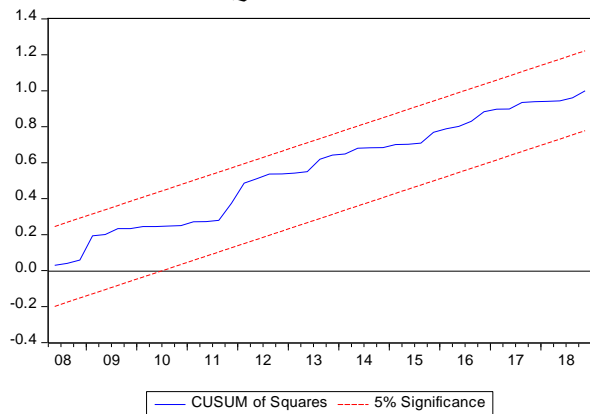
Model 2: CUSUMQ



Model 3: CUSUM



Model 3: CUSUMQ



Source: IMF, World Bank, and Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (processed using E-Views 10)

The ability of the independent variables in explaining the dependent variable is relatively better in Model 1 and Model 2 than in Model 3. The results of the normality test performed on all models show a probability value that is higher than the significance level of 5%, so the null hypothesis is accepted, which means that the residual in all model is normally

distributed. Model 1 and 3 do not contain autocorrelation, but autocorrelation is found in Model 2. Hence, improvements need to be made for Model 2, namely using the Newey-West method, which was popularized by Newey and West (1987). The results of estimation for Model 2 in Table 3 show that the model is autocorrelation-free.

**Table 4.** Bound Test Results

Significance Level	Lower Bound I(0)	Upper Bound I(1)	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
			Dependent Variable: $\Delta \log TB_t$ F-statistic	Dependent Variable: $\Delta \log REER_t$ F-statistic	Dependent Variable: $\Delta INF_t$ F-statistic
10%	2.2	3.09			
5%	2.56	3.49	2.8997	14.3603	6.2626
1%	3.29	4.37			

Source: IMF, World Bank, and Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (processed using E-Views 10)

In order to identify the long-term relationship, a cointegration test is required. The results of the bound test show that the F-statistical value of Model 2 and Model 3 is greater than the upper bound of I(1) at the significance levels of 10%, 5%, and 1%, which means that there is a cointegration or long-term relationship between variables in Model 2 and Model 3. The F-statistic value of Model 1 is below the upper bound of I(1) but above the lower bound of I(0). According to Yiheyis and Musila (2018), if the F-statistic value is

below the lower limit of I(0), cointegration does not occur. Because the F-statistic value of Model 1 is still above I(0), the cointegration appears in Model 1 even though it is not strong enough as the value is between the upper and lower bound. Considering that the data is the combination of level and first difference, the two bound values can be used when one part of the data is at I(0) and the other part of the data is at I(1) (Pesar, Shin, and Smith, 2001).

**Table 5.** Result of Short-Term Estimation

Explanatory Variables	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	Dependent Variable: $\Delta \log TB_t$		Dependent Variable: $\Delta \log REER_t$		Dependent Variable: $\Delta INF_t$	
	coefficient	t-statistic	coefficient	t-statistic	coefficient	t-statistic
$\Delta \log TB_t$	-	-	-0.0728	-1.9612***	-0.0206	-0.8208
$\Delta \log TB_{t-1}$	-0.2953	-1.8995*	-0.0702	-2.0607**	-0.0660	-2.5237**
$\Delta \log TB_{t-2}$	-0.2807	-1.8752*	0.0776	2.5566**	-	-
$\Delta \log TB_{t-3}$	-0.3763	-2.6233**	-	-	-	-
$\Delta \log TB_{t-4}$	-	-	-	-	-	-
$\Delta \log REER_t$	-0.8206	-2.4820**	-	-	-0.5726	-6.0963***
$\Delta \log REER_{t-1}$	0.2844	0.9644	0.4535	4.4390***	-0.3219	-3.3549***
$\Delta \log REER_{t-2}$	-0.8365	-2.7204***	0.0617	0.5472	-0.1612	-1.7494*
$\Delta \log REER_{t-3}$	0.3508	1.3681	-0.0710	-0.5551	-0.2597	-3.3264***
$\Delta \log REER_{t-4}$	-	-	0.4778	6.1378***	-	-
$\Delta INF_t$	-0.0154	-0.0246	-0.8096	-7.2107***	-	-
$\Delta INF_{t-1}$	-2.5960	-2.4888**	-0.2578	-1.4034	0.3327	1.6056
$\Delta INF_{t-2}$	-2.2853	-2.6563**	-0.0288	-0.1665	0.3833	2.3994**
$\Delta INF_{t-3}$	-0.9008	-1.5769	-0.4180	-5.9027***	0.1391	1.3248
$\Delta INF_{t-4}$	-	-	-0.2105	-2.3826**	-	-
$\Delta \log RMA_t$	-	-	-0.5684	-13.923***	-0.2989	-4.3603***
$\Delta \log RMA_{t-1}$	-	-	0.0984	2.6590**	-0.3456	-4.7209***
$\Delta \log RMA_{t-2}$	-	-	0.1392	3.6467***	-0.2033	-2.8536***
$\Delta \log RMA_{t-3}$	-	-	-0.0468	-1.1015	-0.2384	-3.4938***
$\Delta \log RMA_{t-4}$	-	-	0.4811	8.5999***	-	-
$\Delta RIR_t$	-	-	0.6716	1.4208	0.3612	0.7377
$\Delta RIR_{t-1}$	-	-	-0.0655	-0.0908	1.1143	2.1049**
$\Delta RIR_{t-2}$	-	-	-1.2860	-1.9759*	-	-
$\Delta RIR_{t-3}$	-	-	-	-	-	-
$\Delta RIR_{t-4}$	-	-	-	-	-	-
#obs	64		64		64	
R <sup>2</sup>	0.8827		0.9819		0.6436	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.8427		0.9735		0.4779	
F-statistic	22.10***		116.94***		3.8840***	
Autocorrelation (prob)	0.1275		0.0017		0.1728	
Normality (prob)	0.2866		0.6740		0.0588	
Ramsey RESET (prob)	0.9565		0.2773		0.0000	

note: \*\*\* significant at 1%; \*\* significant at 5%; \* significant at 10%

Source: IMF, World Bank, and Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (processed using E-Views 10)

**Table 6.** Result of Long-Term Estimation

Explanatory Variables	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	Dependent Variable: $\Delta \log TB_t$		Dependent Variable: $\Delta \log REER_t$		Dependent Variable: $\Delta INF_t$	
	coefficient	t-statistic	coefficient	t-statistic	coefficient	t-statistic
$\log TB_t$	-	-	-0.8403	-1.6310	-0.0327	-3.1676***
$\log REER_t$	0.0269	0.0217	-	-	0.0035	0.1798
$INF_t$	28.5202	1.3798	-22.1363	-1.8314*	-	-
$\log RMA_t$	-0.7456	-0.5172	1.3294	1.3674	0.0681	4.3317***
$RIR_t$	5.5373	0.6908	-8.7262	-1.8354*	-0.3876	-5.6183***
C	-2.2002	-0.2661	11.4357	4.9345***	0.1370	0.8734

note: \*\*\* significant at 1%; \*\* significant at 5%; \* significant at 10%

Source: IMF, World Bank, and Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (processed using E-Views 10)

Depreciation of real effective exchange rate in the short term has a significant negative effect on the balance of trade at lag 0 and lag 2, while at lag 1 and lag 3, it does not significantly affect the balance of trade, but the correlation is positive. The estimation results in this study indicate that, when real exchange rate depreciates, the balance of trade immediately decreases. In the following quarter, the balance of trade improved although not significantly. The depreciation of real exchange rate makes the prices of domestic goods relatively lower than those of foreign goods, so export demand increases followed by balance of trade (Mankiw, 2016). This result follows the J-Curve theory, in which the balance of trade of a country immediately deteriorates after depreciation and will improve several months later (Krugman, Obstfeld, and

Melitz, 2018). According to Nusair (2016), there are two empirical definitions regarding the J-Curve. The first is the definition by Bahmani-Oskooee (1985) that J-Curve occurs when the exchange rate coefficient is negative at the lowest lag followed by a positive coefficient value at the highest lag. The second is the definition by Rose and Yellen (1989) that J-Curve occurs when the exchange rate coefficient is negative or insignificant in the short term but positive and significant in the long term. The results of this study's estimation are more inclined to the definition proposed by Bahmani-Oskooee (1985) than to the definition by Rose and Yellen (1989).

Measured in domestic currency, balance of trade might fall sharply after the depreciation as some import and export orders were placed in the preceding months. The main impact of



depreciation will increase the value of previously agreed imports measured in the domestic currency. The negative and significant relationship between real effective exchange rate and balance of trade in the short term is also caused by raw materials and capital goods that dominate Indonesia's imports, so the demand is inelastic. These types of goods must still be imported to ensure the smooth running of domestic production activities to avoid inflation and unemployment. The estimation results also show that in the long run the real effective exchange rate does not significantly influence the balance of trade, but the correlation is positive. This shows that depreciation in the long run could improve the balance of trade. Theoretically, the coefficient has shown the right direction even though the value is insignificant.

Inflation in the short term has a significant negative effect on balance of trade at lag 1 and lag 2, but it does not significantly affect balance of trade at lag 0 and lag 3, yet the correlation is negative. This study's estimation results indicate that, when inflation increases, the balance of trade decreases. Inflation can affect balance of trade through real exchange rate channel. At a certain nominal (unchanged) exchange rate, an increase in inflation will lead to an increase in real

exchange rate, so foreign goods will become relatively cheaper, and imports will increase. Nevertheless, the strengthening of real exchange rate makes domestic goods uncompetitive. In other words, domestic goods become more expensive abroad, so export demand falls, and balance of trade worsens. In the long run, the estimation results show that inflation does not have any significant effect on balance of trade because the nominal exchange rate can neutralize changes in the real exchange rate caused by changes in inflation. Purchasing power parity theory states that exchange rate between two currencies of two countries is the same as the price level ratio in the two countries (Krugman, 2018). The domestic purchasing power of a country's currency is fully reflected in the price level prevailing in that country itself. Thus, the purchasing power parity theory states that a decrease in the purchasing power of a domestic currency (indicated by an increase in domestic prices) will be accompanied by a proportional depreciation of the currency in the foreign exchange market. Conversely, an increase in the purchasing power of the domestic currency will be followed by a proportional appreciation of the currency. The nominal exchange rate in the long run can change and adjust accordingly. If inflation increases, the real exchange rate

that is supposed to be appreciated becomes neutralized due to depreciation in the nominal exchange rate based on the purchasing power parity theory, so inflation does not affect balance of trade. In the long run, relative macroeconomic activity and relative interest rate do not have any significant effect on balance of trade.

Balance of trade in the short-term has a significant negative effect on real effective exchange rate at lag 0, lag 1, and lag 2. The estimation results of this study show that, when the balance of trade increases, the real exchange rate appreciates, and when the balance of trade falls, the real exchange rate depreciates. This can occur through nominal exchange rate channel. When the balance of trade strengthens (due to an increase in exports), the demand for domestic currency will increase because overseas buyers have to convert their currency into domestic currency. As a result, the nominal exchange rate appreciates, followed by the real exchange rate. An increase in the balance of trade (due to lower imports) reduces the demand for domestic currency, so the nominal exchange rate depreciates followed by the real exchange rate. In the long run, the balance of trade does not have any significant effect on real effective exchange rate, but the correlation is negative.

Inflation in the short term has a significant negative effect on real effective exchange rate at lag 0, lag 3, and lag 4, but it does not have any significant effect at lag 1 and lag 2. This study's estimation indicates that, when inflation increases, the real exchange rate will be appreciated, and when inflation decreases, the exchange rate will be depreciated. This is because, when the price of domestic goods rises, foreign countries will get fewer domestic goods than before. In other words, the real exchange rate improves. In the long run, inflation has a significant negative effect on real effective exchange rate.

Relative macroeconomic activities in the short term have a significant negative effect on real effective exchange rate at lag 0; while at lag 1, lag 2, and lag 4, the effect is significant and positive. Relative macroeconomic activities do not significantly affect real effective exchange rate at lag 3. Based on Table 5, the sum of the coefficient values for all lags is still positive, so in the short term, the correlation between relative macroeconomic activities and real effective exchange rate is positive. In other words, when the relative macroeconomic activities increase, as measured by Indonesia's GDP against other countries' GDP, real exchange rate depreciates. This occurs over a long course. An increase in

relative macroeconomic activities increases the demand for imports because domestic production still requires raw materials and capital goods from abroad. As a result, the balance of trade weakens, and real exchange rate depreciates. A vicious circle is formed from these variables. After the depreciation of real exchange rate, exports increase, and relative macroeconomic activities also increase, and so on. In the long term, relative macroeconomic activities have no significant effect on real effective exchange rate, but the correlation is positive. This is caused by technological advancement in the long run, as stated by Solow's (1956) long-term growth theory. In the long term, technological advancement can create new production techniques. However, there is still a possibility that the raw materials and capital goods still have to be imported, but such technological changes can at least reduce the imports. Hence, the increase in relative macroeconomic activities will not affect the real effective exchange rate in the long run.

Relative interest rate, in the short run, has a significant negative effect on real effective exchange rate at lag 2, while its effects at lag 0 and lag 1 are insignificant. In the long term, relative interest rate also has a significant negative effect. The estimation results in that, when the relative interest rate increases, the real

effective exchange rate will be appreciated because the higher the relative domestic interest rate against the foreign interest rate, the higher the demand for domestic currency. Thus, nominal exchange rate appreciates, followed by an increase in real exchange rate.

Balance of trade in the short term has a significant negative effect on inflation at lag 1, while at lag 0 it has no significant effect. In the long term, it also has a significant negative effect on inflation. The estimation results of this study indicate that, when the balance of trade improves, inflation decreases. When the balance of trade improves (due to increased exports), the nominal exchange rate appreciates and reduces inflation. Likewise, when the balance of trade improves due to decreased imports, domestic demand for foreign currencies also decreases so that nominal exchange rate improves and subsequently reduces inflation.

Real effective exchange rate in the short term has a significant negative effect on inflation at lag 0, lag 1, lag 2, and lag 3. The estimation results of this study indicate that, when real exchange rate depreciates, inflation decreases because, when the exchange rate depreciates, exports increases. In other words, balance of trade improves. What will happen next is that nominal exchange rate appreciates

and reduces inflation. In the long term, real effective exchange rate does not have any significant effect on inflation.

Relative macroeconomic activities have a significant negative effect on inflation at lag 0, lag 1, lag 2, and lag 3. The estimation results of this study indicate that an increase in relative macroeconomic activity will increase the domestic aggregate supply, so inflation decreases because demand in the short term cannot follow the aggregate supply unless expansionary fiscal policy, expansionary monetary policy, or changes in preferences are made and public expectations are raised. However, in the long term, the increase in relative macroeconomic activities has a positive significant effect on inflation. The relative interest rate has a significant positive effect on inflation at lag 1, while at lag 0 it has no significant effect. In the long term, relative interest rate has a significant negative effect on inflation. The higher the relative interest rate, the lower the inflation. This occurs because high interest rates can reduce aggregate demand and further reduce prices for goods and services in general.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The findings of this study lead to conclusions that dynamics occur between

exchange rate, inflation, and balance of trade in Indonesia and that, in the short term, causality appears between exchange rate and balance of trade, exchange rate and inflation, and balance of trade and inflation. The estimation results also show the occurrence of J-Curve phenomenon in Indonesia; that is when exchange rate depreciates, balance of trade will begin to improve in the second and fourth quarters. Given that most of Indonesia's imports are raw materials and capital goods, the depreciation of exchange rate will adversely affect domestic production activities. Therefore, Bank Indonesia must be able to maintain exchange rate stability better. In addition, as inflation has a negative effect on balance of trade through real exchange rate channel, Bank Indonesia must be able to improve their performance in maintaining price stability for domestic goods so that they remain competitive in the world market.

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