

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Exchange rate is undoubtedly a significant factor determining exports. Theoretically the link has been established by economists decades ago that exchange rate depreciation is positively affecting exports. However, despite many empirical studies supporting the theory, there are also some studies that found contrary results. This paper used the real effective exchange rate as an independent variable and it combines the effect of domestic and foreign prices as well as the exchange rate of Indonesian export partners.

The regression results show that devaluation of the real effective exchange rate is positive and significant, affecting agricultural and manufacturing exports in the long run. Devaluation of the real effective exchange rate by 1% will increase agricultural exports by 3.62% and manufacturing exports by 3.87%. Otherwise, devaluation has no effect on mining exports in the long run. This result indicates that mining exports are not influenced by changes in price or exchange rate. It is probably because the mining sector needs a long time to adjust its input. In the short run, manufacturing and agricultural exports are negatively and significantly affected by the real effective exchange rate. This is consistent with the J-curve theory, in which exchange rate depreciation will deteriorate exports in the short run because demand is inelastic. The mining sector also did not show any significant result affected by exchange rate.

Regarding this result, the Indonesian government should pay more attention to the movement of domestic and foreign prices as well as the exchange rate. Depreciation of the exchange rate in the last several years should be a momentum to encourage manufacturing and agricultural exports by investing more in those sectors. Support from the government, as well as exchange rate depreciation, will help the industry expand more internationally.

However government in the long run cannot depend on devaluation of exchange rate. Government have to increase the quality of the product as well as more focus on final product rather than basic product. Devaluation of exchange rate could only be done in the short run. Depreciation of exchange rate in a long time could deteriorate economy since it will hurt the industry that depend on import of raw material and increase the price. It will also increase the foreign debt since government have to pay with foreign currency.

