

EFFECTS OF TOURISM ON THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY

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ABSTRACT

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The purpose of this study was to determine the effects of tourism on the following selected macroeconomic variables: inflation rate, unemployment rate, and real gross domestic product. This study aimed to describe the trend of tourism over time, describe the trends of the selected macroeconomic variables vis-a-vis tourism over time, and estimate the effects of tourism on the selected macroeconomic variables. Tourism was expressed in terms of number of visitor arrivals and tourist receipts. Tourism was treated as independent variable and each selected macroeconomic variables as dependent variable. Descriptive analysis was used to describe the trends of tourism in the Philippines, as well as the trends of the selected macroeconomic variables vis-a-vis tourism, over time. Pairwise Granger Causality test was employed to determine causation among the variables.

Vector Autoregression (VAR) analysis was utilized to evaluate the pass through effect of tourism on the selected macroeconomic variables. Two VAR models were made for this study. The first model consisted of number of visitor arrivals, inflation rate, unemployment rate, and real GDP while the second model included tourist receipts, inflation rate, unemployment rate, and real GDP. The



optimal lag length for each model was determined through the use of Akaike Information Criterion by rank (rows) and model (columns).

Number of visitor arrivals positively affects inflation rate and real GDP in the long run. Unemployment rate negatively responds to number of visitor arrivals in the long run. Tourist receipts positively affect unemployment rate and negatively affects inflation rate in the long run. VAR model suggests that tourist receipts negatively affects real GDP in the long run. In general, tourism has positive effect on the Philippine economy.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TABLE OF CONTENTS	i
APPROVAL SHEET	ii
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	iv
ABSTRACT	viii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	x
LIST OF TABLES.	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xv
LIST OF APPENDIX TABLES.	xvii
LIST OF APPENDIX FIGURES	xix
INTRODUCTION	1
Introduction	1
Background of the Study	3
Statement of the Problem	4
Objectives of the Study	6
Hypotheses of the Study	6
Significance of the Study	7
Scope and Limitations of the Study	8



Definition of Terms	9
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	11
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK	26
METHODOLOGY	32
Research Design.	32
Sources of Data	32
Methods of Data Analysis	33
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	41
Tourism in the Philippines	41
Number of visitor arrivals	42
Tourist receipts	56
Trends of the Selected Macroeconomic Variables	61
Real GDP	61
Unemployment rate	65
Inflation rate	69
Effects of Tourism on the Selected Macroeconomic Variables	71
Inflation rate	80
Unemployment rate	85



Real GDP	88
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS	93
Summary	93
Conclusions	95
Recommendations	96
REFERENCES	98
A PPENDIYES	103





LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Number of Visitor Arrivals in the Philippines, 1980-2009	. 43
2	Visitor Arrivals in the Philippines by Country of Residence, 2002-2009	. 48
3	Tourist Receipts in the Philippines, 1980-2009	57
4	Real Gross Domestic Product in the Philippines,	62
5	Unemployment Rate in the Philippines, 1980-2009	66
6	Inflation Rate in the Philippines, 1980-2009	70
7	Summary Table of the Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test	75
8	Summary Table of the Lag Optimality Test (for the First Model: Number of Visitor Arrivals, Inflation Rate, Unemployment Rate, and Real GDP) Using Akaike Information Criterion by Rank (rows) and Models (columns)	. 76
9	Summary Table of the Lag Optimality Test (for the Second Model: Tourist Receipts, Inflation Rate, Unemployment Rate, and Real GDP) Using Akaike Information Criterion by Rank (rows) and Models (columns)	. 76
10		
10	Summary Table of the Granger Causality Test	. 78
11	Quantitative Effect of Number of Visitor Arrivals On the Selected Macroeconomic Variables From the VAR Impulse Response Function	82







LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Conceptual framework showing the relationship between tourism (number of visitor arrivals) and the selected macroeconomic variables.	. 27
2	Conceptual framework showing the relationship between tourism (tourist receipts) and the selected macroeconomic variables	. 28
3	Trend of the number of visitor arrivals in the Philippines from 1980 to 2009	. 44
4	Top 10 visitor markets in the Philippines (Department of Tourism), 2010-2011	. 55
5	Trend of the tourist receipts in the Philippines from 1980 to 2009	. 58
6	Trend of real GDP vis-a-vis number of visitor arrivals in the Philippines from 1980 to 2009	. 63
7	Trend of real GDP vis-a-vis tourist receipts in the Philippines from 1980 to 2009	. 64
8	Trend of unemployment rate vis-a-vis number of visitor arrivals in the Philippines from 1980 to 2009	. 67
9	Trend of unemployment rate vis-a-vis tourist receipts in the Philippines from 1980 to 2009	. 68
10	Trend of inflation rate vis-a-vis number of visitor arrivals in the Philippines from 1980 to 2009	. 72
11	Trend of inflation rate vis-a-vis tourist receipts in the Philippines from 1980 to 2009	. 73



12	Impulse response result of VAR model showing the response of inflation rate to number of visitor arrivals	83
13	Impulse response result of VAR model showing the response of inflation rate to tourist receipts	86
14	Impulse response result of VAR model showing the response of unemployment rate to number of visitor arrivals.	87
15	Impulse response result of VAR model showing the response of unemployment rate to tourist receipts	89
16	Impulse response result of VAR model showing the response of real GDP to number of visitor arrivals.	91
17	Impulse response result of VAR model showing the response of real GDP to tourist receipts	92



LIST OF APPENDIX TABLES

Appendix Table		Page
1	Motivation in Choosing Philippines as a Place to Visit, 2000	106
2	Unit Root Test for Number of Visitor Arrivals	107
3	Unit Root Test for Number of Visitor Arrivals (First Difference)	108
4	Unit Root Test for Tourist Receipts	109
5	Unit Root Test for Tourist Receipts (First Difference)	110
6	Unit Root Test for Inflation Rate.	111
7	Unit Root Test for Inflation Rate (First Difference)	112
8	Unit Root Test for Unemployment Rate	113
9	Unit Root Test for Unemployment Rate (First Difference)	114
10	Unit Root Test for Real GDP	115
11	Unit Root Test for Real GDP (First Difference)	116
12	Lag Optimality Test on the Vector Autoregressive Model (First Model)	117
13	Lag Optimality Test on the Vector Autoregressive Model (Second Model)	118



]	14	Vector Autoregressive Estimation (First Model)	119
1	15	Vector Autoregressive Estimation (Second Model)	124
1	16	Quantitative Effect of Number of Visitor Arrivals on the Selected Macroeconomic Variables From the VAR Impulse Response Function	128
]	17	Quantitative Effect of Tourist Receipts on the Selected Macroeconomic Variables From the VAR Impulse Response Function	121



LIST OF APPENDIX FIGURES

Appendix Figure		Page
1	Activities undertaken by visitors in the Philippines, 2000	104
2	Main places visited in the Philippines outside Metro Manila, 2000	105

