

ABSTRACT

International trade has a crucial role in ensuring food availability, particularly in Southeast Asia where several countries remain dependent on imports to meet domestic demand. This study aims to examine the effect of the trade war, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and the official exchange rate on food import values in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. The research employs annual panel data covering the period 2013–2022, obtained from international institutions such as World Bank and WITS. The analysis was conducted using panel data regression with the Fixed Effect Model (FEM), selected based on model specification tests.

The results indicate that the trade war variable has a negative but statistically insignificant effect on food import values, indicating that global trade competition does not have a direct impact on changes in food imports. The Consumer Price Index has a positive and significant effect, suggesting that increasing domestic inflationary pressures lead to higher food imports to maintain supply availability. In contrast, the exchange rate has a negative and significant effect on food import values, indicating that domestic currency depreciation raises import prices and constrains import capacity. Simultaneously, trade competition, the Consumer Price Index, and the official exchange rate have a significant effect on food import values, with a coefficient of determination of 0.75527.

These findings confirm that food import values in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines are more strongly influenced by fundamental domestic demand factors and macroeconomic conditions particularly inflation and exchange rate stability than by global trade conflicts directly. International trade competition primarily acts as an external shock, with its effects mediated through price levels and exchange rate movements. Therefore, food security policies should focus on inflation control, maintaining exchange rate stability, diversifying import sources, and strengthening food reserves to reduce vulnerability to global economic fluctuations.

Keywords: *food imports, trade war, consumer price index, exchange rate, panel data regression*

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