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RELATIONS BETWEEN MACROECONOMIC VARIABLES AND THE STOCK MARKET INDEX: **EVIDENCE FROM SRI LANKA**

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Degree of Master of Science

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November 2017



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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Master of Science in Operational Research.

Department of Mathematics

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November 2017

CD Included

DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work and this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any other University or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text and a list of references is given.

Signature : lellsy

Date: 26 /11/2017

The above candidate has carried out research for the Masters thesis under my supervision,

Signature of the supervisor UOM Verified Signature Date: 26 [1] 2017 U

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ABSTRACT

This study examines whether the performance of Colombo Stock Exchange(CSE), as measured by the All Share Price Index (ASPI), is affected by a set of macroeconomic variables namely, Interest rate, Broad money supply, Index of Industrial Production and Inflation by using quarterly data obtained from Central Bank of Sri Lanka from 2004:Q1 to 2016:Q3. The Vector. Autoregressive (VAR) framework was adopted by initially looking at the long run and short run relationship between stock market and the macroeconomic variables via the Johansen cointegration technique. To further explore the dynamic co-movement among the variables and the adjustment process towards the long run equilibrium, vector error-correction model (VECM) was used. Finally, Impulse Response Function (IRF) and Variance Decomposition (VDC) are employed in order to illustrate the importance of each macroeconomic variable to the stock market movement when a shock is imposed to the system. The analysis reveals that macroeconomic variables and the stock market index are co-integrated and, hence, a long-run equilibrium relationship exists between them. It is observed that the stock prices positively relate to the industrial production but negatively relate to inflation. The interest rate and money supply are found to be insignificant in determining stock prices in the long run. The results showed that both inflation and money supply significantly and inversely affect stock return in the short run. The results of Granger causality test further indicate that there exists unidirectional causality from inflation to stock return. Furthermore, based on the results of impulse response function and variance decomposition analysis, it is confirmed that that stock market index has stronger dynamic relationship with industrial production index and inflation as compared to money supply and interest rate. Therefore Central Bank of Sri Lanka must undertake pragmatic policies aimed at controlling inflation within acceptable limits, since inflation is seen to inversely affect stock return.

Key Words: All Share Price Index, causality, cointegration, Macroeconomic variables

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
ADF	Augmented Dickey-Fuller
AIC	Akaike Information Criterion
AR	Autoregressive
ARCH	Auto Regressive Conditional Heteroscedasticity
ARDL	Autoregressive Distributed Lag
ASPI	All Share Price Index
BP	Balance of Payment
CCPI	Colombo Consumer Price index
CSE	Colombo Stock exchange
DSE	Dhaka Stock Exchange
ECM	Error Correction Mechanism
EGARCH	Exponential Generalized Autoregressive Conditional Heteroskedasticity
ER	Exchange Rate
GDP	Gross Domestic Production
GDS	Gross Domestic Savings
GNP	Gross National Production
HQ	Hannan-Quinn
IIP	Index of Industrial Production
IR	Interest Rate
IRF	Impulse Response Function
ISE	Istanbul Stock Exchange
ISE	Istanbul Stock Exchange
JB	Jarque-Bera
KSE	Karachi Stock Exchange
M2	Broad money Supply
OLS	Ordinary Least Squares
PP	Phillips-Perron
SC	Schwartz Criterion
SMI	Stock Market Index
VAR	Vector Auto Regression
VDC	Variance Decomposition
VECM	Vector Error Correction Model
WPI	Wholesale Price Index