



Monetary Policy and the Nexus between Cash Reserve Ratio and Inflation Rate in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study evaluates monetary policy and the nexus between cash reserve ratio and inflation rate in Nigeria. The specific objective of the study is to determine the impact of cash reserve ratio on inflation rate in Nigeria. The study was anchored on Fisher's theory of money quantity. Data was sourced from CBN and Ordinary Least Square was used. The finding revealed that inflation rate is not significantly affected by cash reserve ratio and it was recommended that the CBN should stabilize exchange rate and lending rate through effective monetary policy control.

Keywords: Monetary policy, Cash reserve ratio and inflation rate

Introduction

Under the jurisdiction of the monetary authorities, monetary policy is a general macroeconomic management tool used to accomplish political and economic goals. In order to progress the government's overall economic policy and accomplish the set goals, it also requires managing money and credit. Different countries, distinct eras, and various historical and economic contexts have had different monetary policy goals. Selecting the proper purpose for a country's monetary policy is difficult since various goals conflict with one another. The monetary authority will choose the appropriate goal for the monetary policy while taking into account the unique circumstances and demands of the economy. With the new monetary framework, monetary policy outcomes are improved. The Nigerian government continues to implement monetary policy in conjunction with its monetary authority in order to control the economy. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) implements both contractionary and expansionary measures as a result of adopting monetary policy to manipulate the fluctuations already experienced in the economy. The various monetary policy regimes' intended goals of decreasing inflation were not met by their target targets. Consistency in policies is a significant issue that hinders the efficiency of monetary policy in Nigeria. In Nigeria, succeeding administrations reject the idea that government exists in a continuum and instead change every policy put forth by their predecessors, regardless of whether those policies were beneficial or not, impeding economic growth.

Due to how it is implemented, the impact of monetary policy on Nigeria's economic growth has long been a contentious issue. Numerous experts, like Udude (2014), Amassoma and Olaiya (2011), believe that Nigeria's monetary policy had little impact on the country's economic expansion. This, however, contradicts the conclusions of Adigwe, Echeboba, and Onyeagba (2015), Abdulazeez (2016), and Ismail, Adegbemi and (2013). Various research on the connection between monetary policy and inflation in Nigeria demonstrates varied effects by different researchers. According to Gbadebo and Mohammed (2015), monetary policy has a considerable beneficial impact on inflation both in the short and long periods, suggesting that the monetary impulses are what are causing the inflationary scenario in Nigeria. Monetary policy, according to Ajaude, Nkamare, Ekpo, and Bassey (2015), has a favorable effect on macroeconomic aggregate (inflation). According to Nebbe and Madume (2011), in the long run, only 47% of all price changes could be accounted for by the monetary policy variables Money Supply (MS) and Minimum Policy Rate (MPR). They came to the conclusion that monetary policy had a variable impact on inflation. The main objective of this study is to checkmate the impact of cash reserve ratio on inflation rate in Nigeria.

Conceptual Review

Modern Monetary Policy and its Objectives

Around the world, monetary policy frameworks have changed as circumstances have changed. Every government has goals and objectives, which are reflected in the framework chosen. Economic growth was a common goal of monetary policy in the 1970s, hence monetary aggregates were typically chosen as the ideal framework. Price stability was consequently regarded as the primary goal, with Central Banks changing to inflation targeting via interest rate restrictions as a result of the excessive inflation of the 1970s.

Inflation targeting and a targeted level of exchange rate were found to be the most important objectives of their monetary policies in a thorough study of 94 Central Banks performed by the Bank of England in 2000. (Mahadeva & Sterne, 2000). Financial stability, money targeting, the balance of payments, output growth, and interest rates were listed as the other five objectives. Now let's take a look at each of these goals.

In reality, several goals could conflict with one another. As a result, it is crucial for a central bank to select sensible goals for its monetary policy and defer to other organizations responsible for setting other goals. The monetary authority typically chooses the goals of monetary policy while taking into account the unique circumstances and demands of the economy. The following is a discussion of some of the most crucial goals.

Output Growth (Economic Growth)

Every framework for monetary policy has this as its ultimate goal. In contrast to real interest rates, which in turn affect the overall amount of investment, monetary policy can have an impact on economic growth. Expanding total investment can help some emerging economies, where the financial system is still underdeveloped, achieve economic growth, demonstrating the value of the money targeting approach. The Central Bank may view economic growth as the implied goal following success in upholding income and price stability in more developed economies with fully established financial systems. Therefore, targeting inflation is more suitable for these economies.

Preferred Targets and Monetary Policy

A common organizational technique for articulating a specific goal (such as inflation at 3 percent per year) and evaluating success is to target a particular measure (as in inflation was close to our target value, or not). It is obvious that any "joined up policy" operates under the presumption that hitting the target would help achieve one, some, or all of the selected goals. The foundation for such an assumption, however, can be murky or perhaps unknown to many. Highlighting the connections between target preferences and objectives is one of the research's goals. The following discussion centers on five monetary policy aims.

Monetary Targeting

In the 1980s, many countries employed a money targeting strategy to monetary policy, based on the notion that a small continuous expansion in the money supply would be beneficial for the economy. The strategy was further modified to take into account various credit and money classes (M0, M1, etc.). A money targeting strategy focuses on changes in monetary amounts in the economy rather than price signals, which are the focus of the majority of monetary interventions.

Inflation Targeting

Price stability has evolved into many governments' top priority worldwide since the 1980s. Then, many developed countries saw the need for inflation targeting and greater central bank independence in monetary policy frameworks. In 1990, New Zealand became the first nation to use inflation targeting as part of its monetary policy framework. In accordance with this framework, the Central Bank projects and makes public a projected inflation rate, or "target," and then makes an effort to influence actual inflation in the direction of the target by using a variety of monetary tools (Bernanke, Laubach, Mishkin, & Posen, 2001). Inflation targeting was adopted by 27 Central Banks as of 2012, including those in the European Union, the United Kingdom, Korea, Brazil, and Canada (Hammond, 2012b).

Inflation targeting is criticized for the following significant flaws as well, though: (1) it is too rigid; (2) it allows too much discretion; (3) it may cause output instability; (4) it may lower economic growth; (5) it may result in weak Central Bank accountability because inflation is occasionally difficult to control; (6) it could not prevent fiscal dominance; and (7) the requirement of exchange rate flexibility may result in financial instability.

Mishkin (2007) gave a thorough explanation of such points. He argued against the first four drawbacks, but expressed worry about the last three, which he claimed could pose significant challenges in developing economies.

Price Level Targeting

In that both create targets for a price level, such as using the Consumer Price Index, price level targeting is akin to inflation targeting. The distinction is that while inflation targeting just considers the future (for example, target inflation at 2% annually), price level targeting also considers previous values while carrying out operations. Nevertheless, if the price level increased by 2% the year before (rising from 100 to 102), the price level would have to decrease the following year in order to return to the target level of 100. Targeting the price level would assist to reduce a lot of the ambiguity surrounding the price level in the future. Nevertheless, this might imply that in order to achieve price level targeting, it

Targeting prices also has the benefit of fostering greater output and inflation stability. Price-level targeting would greatly increase the expectations of a positive inflation rate, particularly in the event of the low-inflation scenario where nominal policy rates have decreased to the zero bound. As a result, inflation expectations would keep real interest rates at a negative level, promoting expenditure and aiding in the recovery of the economy (Kahn, 2009). Because the real price is not set by economic indicators or straightforward market forces, price targeting may not be beneficial for a liberal economy.

Empirical Review

Shahriyar, Mustafa, Mayis and Farid (2020) examined the impact of monetary policy (proxied by money supply and interest rate) and tax revenue on foreign direct investment (FDI) in Jordan employing time series data period from 1991 to 2017. The Vector Error Correction

Model (VECM), the Canonical Cointegrating Regression (CCR) and the Fully Modified Ordinary Least Squares (FMOLS) methods are applied in empirical estimations. Estimation results reveal that money supply has a positive and statistically significant impact on the FDI while, tax revenue has a negative impact on FDI in Jordan. Also, we find that the impact of interest rate is statistically insignificant. The results of current study are useful for the policymakers to formulate appropriate policies and support the literature for further researches in the case of developing economies

Sanusi (2020) attempted to estimate degree of fiscal dominance by econometrically analyzing degree of fiscal and monetary policies interdependence in Nigeria and South Africa. This is done to define the extent at which fiscal authority actions confine the monetary policy actions. The empirical confirmation offered in the study on the basis empirical findings showed that the degree of fiscal and monetary policies interdependence for both Nigeria and South Africa are 0.84 and 0.67. This shows that degrees of fiscal dominance in both economies are 0.16 and 0.33 respectively. The evidence shows that both economies are under low fiscal dominance, though Nigerian economy is seen to be under a lower fiscal dominance hypothesis when compared with South African economy. Therefore, the Nigerian monetary authority has greater freedom to fight inflation. However, the Nigerian economy still has a higher inflation than South Africa. The study concludes based on the empirical findings, that monetary policy authorities in Nigeria and South Africa should strive more to maintain the current level of their autonomy given their higher degree of fiscal and monetary policies interdependence.

Ajayi (2014), in his paper, compares the economic performance of selected African countries including: Ghana, Cameroon, South Africa and Kenya respectively over the last 30 years and it also make an econometric analysis for these countries for the period of 1980- 2010 so as to show the relationship between economic variables highlighted in this study and the growth of these countries. The countries were chosen for the sake of comparability only. This study investigates six hypotheses on several macro-economic variables such as investment rate; inflation rate, trade openness, foreign direct investment, government expenditures, government debt and saving rate as it affect the gross domestic product (GDP). The relationship between these variables was tested using multiple regression analysis with ordinary least square method (OLS), alongside with the panel regression analysis. The study shows that investment, fdi, debt, consumption expenditure have positive relationship with growth, whereas inflation has a negative effect on growth with their respective significance at 1%, 10% and 5% as the case may be. Policies were also drawn from the differences in performance of these countries

Amarasekara (2009) examined the impact of monetary policy on inflation and economic growth in Sri Lanka. The impact of money supply growth, changes in exchange rate and interest rate on inflation and economic growth was analyzed using a vector autoregressive (VAR) framework using two lags. The study adopted a quarterly, seasonally adjusted data from 1978 to 2005 on variables such as interest rate, money supply, inflation and real GDP in Sri Lanka. Results from the study indicated that inflation in Sri Lanka does not fall after contractionary changes in monetary policy. Furthermore, inflation reduced immediately exchange rate appreciated and the rate of interest also rose following a contractionary reserve shock.

Cheng (2006) found that monetary policy shocks effectively affect prices and exchange rates in Kenya through the interest rate channel, but have no effect in output. Specifically, through a VAR (composed by output, Consumer Price Index (CPI), M3, repo interest rate and nominal exchange rate) he observes that a positive shock in the policy interest rate results in a fall in prices and nominal exchange rate appreciation that persists for more than 12 months. And, using variance decomposition he shows that monetary policy explains, respectively, 1/3 and 1/5 of prices and exchange rate fluctuations.

Equally, Peiris and Lledo (2008) found that shocks in the money base explain changes in prices, but not in output and exchange rates in Mozambique. Divergent from the above, other studies find the lending transmission channel to output or other aggregate demand components, but not to prices.

Mangani (2011) found no predictive effect of money supply on prices for Malawi, and that the only variable able to explain prices was the exchange rate, but the latter was completely unresponsive to the monetary policy stance. Further, he found an ambiguous negative relationship between money supply and the broad monetary aggregates, with the latter reducing under expansionary shocks. He suggests that a credit channel should be surveyed.

Similarly, Rungo and Manjate (2011) found no effect of monetary policy operational variables in prices and output for Mozambique. They also found ambiguous results, that is, monetary expansionary shocks caused the nominal exchange rate appreciation and price fall. They suggest the credit channel is worth being investigated for the Mozambique case and justify that the results may be linked with an accommodative policy stance and data span limitations. However, using higher frequency data (monthly data from 2000 to 2010) with more degrees of freedom and including lending rates to capture the lending channel

Abradu-Otoo et al. (2003) report for Ghana, through a VECM, that interest rate raise in a tight monetary policy lead to temporary increases in inflation before it starts to fall, at the expense of a fall in output that lasts for 3 to 4 years. More, they show that allowing credit growth impulses GDP growth, reduces inflation and depreciates the exchange rate. According to the authors this occurs because interest rates act as

IFLR_t = Inflation rate for period t

CRR_o = Cash reserve rate
 β_1 = Coefficient
 μ_t = error term for period t

Decision Rule

Accept the alternative hypothesis, if the P-value of the test is less than 0.05. Otherwise reject.

Data Descriptive Properties

	Mean	Median	Maximum	Minimum	Std. Dev.	Skewness	Kurtosis	Jarque-Bera	P-value	Obs
INFR	19.19844	12.05000	72.80000	5.400000	17.33700	1.738084	4.935157	21.10477	0.000026	32
MPR	13.62094	13.50000	26.00000	6.000000	3.853807	0.768492	5.030646	8.647789	0.013248	32
CRR	8.098437	7.650000	24.00000	1.000000	6.241077	1.132227	3.715386	7.519376	0.023291	32

Source: Output data from E-views 9.0

Unit Root Test Result

To prevent the occurrence of spurious regression result, the data were subjected to unit root test of Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF). The essence of the unit root test is to unveil that the time series data are free from stationarity defect that characterized most time series data due to the nature of data generation. The unit root was first performed at level but due to the fact that stationarity is not normally achieved at level estimation, the first difference was estimated. The result of the ADF results envisage that the data were not stationary at level form but become stationary at first difference.

Result of ADF Test at Level

Variables	Intercept	Trend & Intercept	None	Remark
INFR	-3.860680 (0.00)*	-2.393792 (0.37)	-1.769575 (0.07)	Stationary
MPR	-3.106136 (0.04)**	-3.813888 (0.03)**	-0.274475 (0.57)	Stationary
CRR	-1.391986 (0.57)	-5.381669 (0.00)**	0.470109 (0.81)	Stationary

Source: Data output via E-views 9.0

Note: The optimal lag for ADF test is selected based on the Akaike Info Criteria (AIC), p-values are in parentheses where (*) & (**) denote significance at 1% and 5% respectively.

Result of ADF Test at First Difference

Variables	Intercept	Trend & Intercept	None	Remark
INFR	-3.738197 (0.05)**	-3.455849 (0.05)**	-2.699503 (0.00)*	Stationary
MPR	-4.454765 (0.00)*	-4.325685 (0.01)*	-4.239900 (0.00)*	Stationary
CRR	-3.530700 (0.02)**	-4.543274 (0.00)*	-2.318554 (0.02)**	Stationary

Source: Data output via E-views 9.0

Note: The optimal lag for ADF test is selected based on the Akaike Info Criteria (AIC), p-values are in parentheses where (*) & (**) denote significance at 1% and 5% respectively.

Preliminary Test

Serial Correlation LM Test

The serial Correlation test is an alternative to the Q-statistic test for serial correlation. Unlike the Durbin Watson statistic for AR(1) errors, the LM test may be used to test for higher order ARMA errors and is applicable whether there are lagged

dependent variables or not. The null hypothesis of LM test is that there is no serial correlation up lag order 2. The p-value of the Breusch-Godfrey serial correlation test suggests that the null hypothesis could not be rejected thus the models are free from autocorrelation.

Serial Correlation LM Test		
Estimated Models	F-statistic	P-value
INFR →CRR	0.573721	0.5710

Source: Output data from E-views 9.0

Heteroskedasticity Test

The rationale behind choosing this heteroskedasticity specification was based on the fact that in many financial time series data, the magnitude of residuals appears to be related to the magnitude of recent residuals. The probability of the Chq. statistic for models 1-4 in Table are insignificant at 5% level of significance, suggesting that there is no existence of heteroskedasticity in the models.

Heteroskedasticity test

Estimated Models	F-statistic	P-value
INFR →CRR	1.338594	0.2834

Source: Output data from E-views 9.0

Ramsey RESET Test

The Ramsey RESET test determines whether the model is correctly specified/fitted or not. The rationale behind the test is that if non-linear combinations of the independent variable (s) have any power in explaining the dependent variable, then the model is not well specified. The p-values as depicted in Table are insignificant at 5% level of significance, hence the models were well-specified.

Ramsey Reset Specification			
Estimates	t-statistic	df	P-value
INFR →CRR	0.191100	25	0.8500

Source: Output data from E-views 9.0

Johansen Co-integration for INFR and CRR

Unrestricted Co-integration Rank Test (Trace) RGDPR and LPD				
Hypothesized Number of CE(s)	Eigen Value	Trace Statistic	0.05 Critical Value	Prob.**
None	0.276705	10.04204	15.49471	0.2775
At most 1	0.010738	0.323881	3.841466	0.5693
Unrestricted Co-integration Rank Test (Maximum Eigenvalue) INFR and CRR				
Hypothesized Number of CE(s)	Eigen Value	Maximum Eigen Statistic	0.05 Critical Value	Prob.**
None	0.276705	9.718156	14.26460	0.2311
At most 1	0.010738	0.323881	3.841466	0.5693

Trace test and Max-eigenvalue test indicate no co-integrating eqn(s) at the 0.05 level;

* denotes rejection of the hypothesis at the 0.05 level; **MacKinnon-Haug-Michelis (1999) p-values.

The ARDL regression output reveals that cash reserve ratio has insignificant negative relationship with inflation rate in Nigeria. A unit rise in cash reserve ratio results in 36.09% rise in inflation rate. When cash reserve ratio is held constant, inflation rate would be 12.44%. Fluctuation in the cash reserve ratio caused about 45.82% changes in inflation rate as evidence by the adjusted R-square coefficient (0.458205). Cash reserve ratio significantly explained the variation in inflation rate as adjudged by f-statistic (9.17) and p-value (0.00). The Durbin Watson coefficient of 1.77 is within the acceptable range of no autocorrelation in the model that is, inflation rate and cash reserve ratio are not serially correlated by virtue of included in the same model.

ARDL Regression: Inflation Rate and Cash Reserve Ratio

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
INFR(-1)	0.853996	0.184808	4.620979	0.0001
INFR(-2)	-0.323085	0.182454	-1.770774	0.0883
CRR	-0.360896	0.401441	-0.899002	0.3769
C	12.44200	5.607840	2.218679	0.0354
R-squared	0.514253	Mean dependent var		19.95833
Adjusted R-squared	0.458205	S.D. dependent var		17.64500
S.E. of regression	12.98790	Akaike info criterion		8.089479
Sum squared resid	4385.824	Schwarz criterion		8.276305
Log likelihood	-117.3422	Hannan-Quinn criter.		8.149246
F-statistic	9.175273	Durbin-Watson stat		1.773610
Prob (F-statistic)	0.000260			

Source: Data output via E-views 9.0

Test of Hypotheses

H₀: Cash reserve ratio has no significant effect on inflation rate.

H₁: Cash reserve ratio has significant effect on inflation rate.

Test of Hypothesis

Estimated Model	f-statistic	P-value	Decision
INFR → CRR			
CRR	0.63318	0.4329	Accept H ₀ and Reject H ₁

Source: Granger Causality Output in Table 27

As can be seen the p-value (0.4329) with f-statistic (0.63318) is greater than 0.05, an indication that cash reserve ratio has no significant effect on inflation rate. Consequently, the null hypothesis that cash reserve ratio has no significant effect on inflation rate is accepted, whereas the alternate hypothesis is rejected.

Finding

Inflation rate is not significantly affected by cash reserve ratio. Inflation rate is negatively but insignificantly correlated with cash reserve ratio

Recommendation

The core mandate of the Central Bank of Nigeria, which achieving price stability through inflation targeting is far from been achieved as inflation rate continues to grow quite above the single digit target, the Central Bank should stabilise exchange rate and lending rate through effective monetary policy control.

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