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New evidence on purchasing power parity from 17 OECD countries

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Abstract

There is a large literature that investigates whether or not real exchange rates are stationary in an attempt to unravel support for purchasing power parity (PPP). At best, the empirical results are mixed. This paper applies a unit root test that allows for a simultaneous structural break in the intercept and slope, shown by Sen ([2003](#)) to minimize power distortions, to examine PPP for 17 OECD countries. Our results on PPP are mixed. When the real exchange rate is based on the US dollar, evidence is found of PPP for only France, Portugal and Denmark. When the real exchange rate is based on the Deutschmark, we find evidence of PPP for Austria, Belgium, Norway, Spain, Netherlands, Switzerland, and Denmark.

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Notes

Arguing in favour of using a time trend in testing for a unit root in real exchange rates, Shively ([2001](#), p. 202) states that ‘rejection of the random walk hypothesis in favour of the trend stationary alternative is evidence that the real exchange rate returns to a long-run equilibrium and therefore evidence in favour of a true long-run purchasing power parity relationship’. For further importance of incorporating a time trend in the model, see Marcela et al. ([2003](#)).

This section draws heavily on the work of Sen ([2003](#)).

He tests for the presence of a unit root in postwar US quarterly real GNP and all Nelson and Plosser ([1982](#)) series, except the unemployment series, based on Model C, unlike previous studies. His results are comparable to that of Zivot and Andrews ([1992](#)). Sen ([2003](#)) is able to reject the unit root null hypothesis for money stock, real wages and quarterly real GNP in addition to all series for which Zivot and Andrews ([1992](#)) rejected the unit root null. His results on real per GNP was much stronger than Zivot and Andrews ([1992](#)). Moreover, Sen ([2003](#)) finds different break dates than Zivot and Andrews ([1992](#)) for some of the series.

In a recent contribution, Coakley et al. ([2004](#)) generalize the concept of long-run relative PPP to the case where the long-run elasticity of the nominal exchange rate with respect to relative national prices is unity, without restricting the innovation sequence to be stationary. They term this general relative PPP and develop panel regression techniques to test for PPP.

PPP and structural breaks. The peseta-sterling rate, 50 years of a floating regime

Source: Journal of International Money and Finance

Nonlinear Mean-Reversion in Real Exchange Rates: Toward a Solution To the Purchasing Power Parity Puzzles

Source: International Economic Review

Distribution of the Estimators for Autoregressive Time Series with a Unit Root

Source: Journal of the American Statistical Association

Tests of long-run Purchasing Power Parity using alternative methodologies

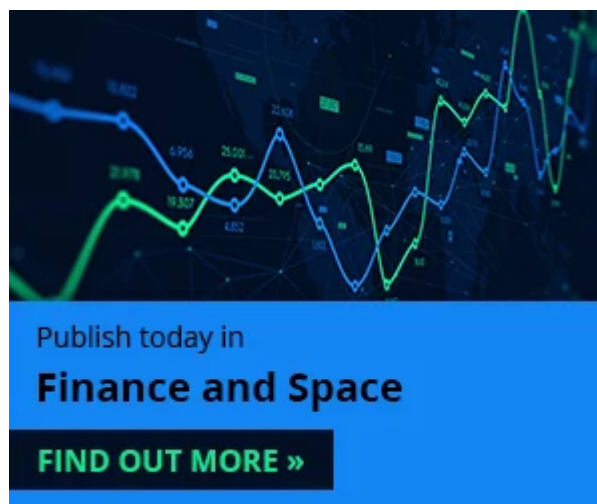
Source: Journal of Macroeconomics

Lessons from Empirical Models of Exchange Rates (Enseignements tires des modeles empiriques de comportement des taux de change) (Ensenanzas que nos brindan los modelos empiricos de tipos de cambio)

Source: International Monetary Fund Staff Papers

Purchasing power parity: A quantitative reassessment of the 1920s experience

Source: Journal of International Money and Finance



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