

Does the Phillips Curve Dominant the Fluctuations of Inflation

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Abstract

We used the panel smooth transition regression (PSTR) model to investigate whether the relationship between inflation and macro variables remain consistent and identify the macro variables that dominate the fluctuations of inflation based on the uncertainty of interest rates and exchange rates for G7 over the period from 19841Q to 20114Q. The results of the empirical tests show that the real activity variables have superior explanatory power to CPI than unemployment rates based on the volatility of interest rates. The real activity variables have greater exploratory power to CPI because the volatility of the exchange rate is over than 40.95%.

Keywords: Phillips curve, CPI, PSTR model

1. Introduction

We investigated the macro variables that dominate inflation based on the volatility of interest rates and exchange rates. The question we want to know whether the unemployment rate, which is used as an explanatory variable to CPI in the traditional Phillips theory, has a persistent influence on inflation. Moreover, we empirically investigated whether the other main driving factors of inflation and sustainability change based on the uncertainty of the interest rate and exchange rate. We applied the PSTR model to estimate the relationship between macro variables and inflation in G7 countries.

Inflation remains a crucial issue worldwide. Therefore, a number of negative factors cause volatility in inflation, such as oil price; commodity prices are strictly monitored by the ruling authority of countries. The issues regarding inflation are being addressed in macroeconomics; however, the results are inconsistent. Since the Phillips curve was first proposed in 1958, it has been applied in several studies to address the trade-off relationship between the inflation rate and unemployment rate to create policies and forecast inflation. Consistent with the findings of the Phillips curve, Blinder (1997) indicated that the unemployment rate is a suitable factor to explain inflation. Similar findings were obtained by Tella et al. (2001), Meltzer (2006), Zaman et al. (2011), and Doh (2011).

We examined whether the relationship between inflation and macro variables will remain stable based on the uncertainty of the interest rate and exchange rate. To distinguish from prior studies, which often examined a time breakpoint in the regression, we applied PSTR modeling to account for a change of regime in the determinants of the variations of inflation.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents a review of some relevant literature. Section 3 presents the characteristics of the data; Section 4 presents the methodology used to construct the measures in our empirical tests; Section 5 presents the statistical tests to control the interest rate and exchange rate as a threshold; and lastly, Section 6 provides a summary and conclusion.

2. Literature Review

To observe the response of CPI to aggregate demand and aggregate supply shocks, Blanchard (1989) showed that the change of aggregate demand and aggregate supply shocks push the price in the short-term and long-term, respectively. Stock and Watson (1999) indicated that real activity and economic indicators have a higher explanatory power to CPI than the unemployment rate. However, Atkeson and Ohanian (2001) obtained contrasting results. Bagliano and Morana (2003), Gerlach and Yiuc (2004), Kemalc (2006), Ribba (2006),

Gachet et al. (2008), and Liu and Jansen (2011) found that both aggregate supply (monetary supply) and aggregate demand play a dominant role in the determination of inflation. Cheng and Tan (2002) and Haque and Qayyum (2006) showed that central banks worldwide investigate the origins of variations in inflation to create monetary policies. Mallik and Chowdhury (2011) conducted an empirical test to verify that powerful monetary policies can reduce the variation in inflation. Owen and Palmer (2012) proposed that the volatility of exchange rates has a negative effect on inflation. Similar empirical tests were conducted by Brun-Aguerre et al. (2012), Büttner and Hayo (2012), Zhou (2013), Bahmani-Oskooe et al. (2013), and Yilmazkuday (2013).

Past inflation rate information can be used as an adaptive factor to forecast future inflation rates, as proposed by Jacobs and Jones (1980). Other studies, including Mullineaux (1980), Tella et al. (2001), and Cogley and Sbordone (2008) also indicated that the influence of the series of distributed lags of past prices on future inflation rates is statistically significant.

Based on the real balance effect, Benderly and Zwick (1985) indicated that stock returns are not closed to the rate of inflation in the long-term. To incorporate variables related to real activity, which includes real consumption, real investment, and current account, Mallick and Mohsin (2010) proposed that the correlation between real activity and inflation is consistent. Mallik and Chowdhury (2011) indicated that government expenditure is a critical factor to the violation of the inflation rate. Several studies have provided evidence of the effect of the external environment on inflation. Goodman and McMahon (1979) found that oil price increases 0.9 percent and could resulting in increasing 0.6 percentage to 0.7 percentage points to the inflation rate. Using various samples for empirical tests, McGuire and Willman (1999), Roeger (2005), Ajuzie and Ike (2009), and Bachmeier and Cha (2011) indicated that the fluctuations of oil prices have a significant effect on CPI.

Another crucial issue for CPI is to determine whether the relationship between inflation and variables remain stable in the long-term. Consistent with the findings of Phillips (1958), Blinder (1997) indicated that the tradeoff relationship between CPI and unemployment does not change over time. A number of studies estimated the empirical results to achieve an opposing conclusion. Stock and Watson (1999) used the United States data as the sample, and indicated that a stable tradeoff relationship did not exist. Razin and Yuen (2002), Matheson (2008), and Ormerod et al. (2013) obtained the same results under different scenarios.

3. Data and Summary Statistics

Our investigation used balanced panel data for a sample of G7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States) for the period from 1984:1Q to 2011:4Q. The sources of our sample were obtained from the “DATASTREAM” database.

We gathered variables related to the fluctuations of CPI from related studies, such as Goodman and McMahon (1979), Blanchard (1989), Stock and Watson (1999), and Haque and Qayyum (2006). In addition to the unemployment rate, we used the industrial production index, government expenditure, and ratio of real trade balance to GDP as the proxy for real activity, which were calculated as annual percentages and denoted as IP_{it} , GOV_{it} , TB_{it} , respectively. The annual percentage change of money supply was measured as the proxy for monetary instrument. We also included the volatility of oil price (WTI), which is frequently related to CPI ($VOIL_t$) (Note1), and $\Delta\pi_{it}$ ($\Delta\pi_{it}$ is the difference between the π_{it} and $\pi_{i,t-1}$, which reflects information regarding past changes of inflation). We explored whether the dominant factors of inflation are stable based on the uncertainty of the interest rate (VIR_{it}) and exchange rate (VER_{it}) (Note 2). The average annual percentage change of the industrial production index (1%) was lower than the average speed of inflation rate (2.47%) for G7 from 1984 to 2011, as shown in Table 1. The average unemployment rate was 7.35%. It implies that the inflation rate increased in conjunction with the unemployment rate in the low-growth economy during the studied period. Table 1 also shows the value of average government expenditure (14.35%) and average percentage change of money supply (7.19%). It indicates that the governments of G7 preferred an easy policy over the period to stimulate the economy.

Table 1. Summary statistics of G7 countries

	π_{it}	UNP_{it}	IP_{it}	GOV_{it}	TB_{it}	$\Delta\pi_{it}$	MS_{it}	$VOIL_t$	VIR_{it}	VER_{it}
Mean	2.47	7.35	0.01	14.35	-5.38	-0.04	7.19	8.39	0.65	3.43
Median	2.15	7.76	0.02	5.28	-0.12	-0.01	6.85	4.67	0.52	2.53
Maximum	11.44	12.70	0.30	1141	85.21	3.10	32.15	69.80	4.25	26.65
Minimum	-2.23	2.17	-0.33	-89.9	-795	-3.69	-9.21	0.52	0.00	0.20
Std. Dev.	1.86	2.18	0.05	63.62	48.89	0.59	5.12	11.02	0.62	3.16
Skewness	0.93	-0.61	-1.37	11.76	-12.5	-0.42	0.65	3.72	1.65	2.97
Kurtosis	4.84	2.61	10.11	177.5	188.7	7.15	4.94	18.71	6.87	16.07

Notes: This table shows the descriptive statistics of the annual percentage change of CPI (π_{it}), annual percentage change of unemployment rate (UNP_{it}), annual change of industrial production index (IP_{it}), annual percentage change of government expenditure (GOV_{it}), annual percentage change of real trade balance to GDP ratio (TB_{it}), the differential of the CPI ($\Delta\pi_{it}$), annual percentage change of money supply (MS_{it}) (Note 3).volatility of WTI oil price ($VOIL_t$), volatility of discount rate (VIR_{it}), and volatility of exchange rate (VER_{it}). The G7 countries refer to Canada, France, the United States, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

4. Methodology

This section presents the two-regime PSTR approach, a non-dynamic panel model, developed by González et al. (2005). The general PSTR model is defined as follows:

$$y_{it} = \mu_i + \alpha_0 x_{it} + \alpha_1 x_{it} h(q_{it}; \gamma, c) + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (1)$$

where $i=1,\dots,N$, and $t=1,\dots,T$. y_{it} is the dependent variable, x_{it} is the k-dimensional vector of explicative variables, μ_i proxies the fixed individual effect, and the error term is denoted by ε_{it} . The transition function $h(q_{it}; \gamma, c)$ is a continuous and bounded function of the transition variable q_{it} .The transition function $h(q_{it}; \gamma, c)$ is bounded between 0 and 1, and is a continuous function of the observable variable q_{it} . Its cumulative distribution function is derived by the following formula:

$$h(q_{it}; \gamma, c) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\gamma(q_{it} - c)}} , \gamma > 0 \quad (2)$$

Following the work of Granger and Teräsvirta (1993), González et al. (2005) considered the following logistic transition function:

$$h(q_{it}; \gamma, c) = \left[1 + \exp \left(-\gamma \prod_{j=1}^m (q_{it} - c_j) \right) \right]^{-1} \quad \text{with } \gamma > 0 \text{ and } c_1 \leq \dots \leq c_m \quad (3)$$

where $c = (c_1, \dots, c_m)$ is an m-dimensional vector of the location parameters, and the slope of transition function is denoted by γ , which determines the smoothness of the transitions.

Generally, $m = 1$ or $m = 2$ is sufficient, because these values allow for the commonly encountered types of variation in the parameters (Note 4). For $m = 1$, the model implies that the two extreme regimes are associated with low and high values of q_{it} . When $\gamma \rightarrow \infty$, the logistic transition function $h(q_{it}; \gamma, c)$ becomes an indicator function $I[A]$, which has a value of 1 when Event A occurs; otherwise, the value is 0. Thus, the PSTR model in (1) is the same as the two-regime panel threshold model (Hansen, 1999). For $m = 2$, the transition function has a minimum of $(c_1 + c_2)/2$ and a value of 1 for both low and high values of q_{it} . Therefore, if $\gamma \rightarrow \infty$, the model becomes a three-regime threshold model. Finally, for any value of m , the transition function (3) becomes constant when $\gamma \rightarrow 0$, in which case the model is reduced to a homogenous or linear fixed effects panel regression.

González et al. (2005) generalized the PSTR model to allow more than two different regimes, and constructed the additive model as follows:

$$y_{it} = \mu_i + \alpha_0 x_{it} + \sum_{j=1}^r \alpha_j x_{it} h_j(q_{it}^{(j)}; \gamma_j, c_j) + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (4)$$

where the transition functions $h_j(q_{it}^{(j)}; \gamma_j, c_j)$, $j = 1, \dots, r$, are of the logistic type (2). The PSTR model building procedure consists of specification, estimation, and evaluation stages. The specification includes testing homogeneity and selecting the transition variable q_{it} . A nonlinear least square method is the first step of the test procedure, which examines the linearity against the PSTR model. If the tests fail to show homogeneity, (3) is used to determine the appropriate form of transition function, that is, the proper value of m .

The estimated model was subjected to misspecification tests to examine whether it provides an adequate data description during the evaluation stage. Parameter constancy, remaining heterogeneity, and autocorrelation of the errors were included at the null hypotheses test. The number of regimes in the panel model must be determined in the final step, that is, a value must be selected for r in (4) (Note5).

We used two “candidates”; that is, the moving average standard deviation of the percentage change of discount rate for each country (Model A, if $q_{it}^j = VIR_{it}^j$) and the moving average standard deviation of the percentage change of effective exchange rate for each country (Model B, if $q_{it}^j = VER_{it}^j$). We set up two panel smooth transition regressions, Model A and Model B, as follows:

$$\pi_{it} = \mu_i + \sum_{i=0}^6 \alpha_i X_{it} + \sum_{i=0}^6 \sum_{j=1}^r \beta_i h_j(q_{it}^j; \gamma, c)$$

$$X_{it} = f(UNP_{it}, IP_{it}, GOV_{it}, TB_{it}, \Delta\pi_{it}, MS_{it}, VOIL_t)$$

Model A:

$$\pi_{it} = \mu_i + \sum_{i=0}^6 \alpha_i X_{it} + \sum_{i=0}^6 \sum_{j=1}^r \beta_i h_j(VIR_{it}^j; \gamma, c)$$

Model B:

$$\pi_{it} = \mu_i + \sum_{i=0}^6 \alpha_i X_{it} + \sum_{i=0}^6 \sum_{j=1}^r \beta_i h_j(VER_{it}^j; \gamma, c)$$

where π_{it} is the annual percentage change of the inflation rate for each country. The unemployment rate in each country is denoted as UNP_{it} . The variables of IP_{it} , TB_{it} , and GOV_{it} , are proxies of the real activity; where IP_{it} is the annual percentage change of the industrial production index for each country, GOV_{it} is the annual percentage change of government expenditure for each country, and TB_{it} is the annual percentage change of the ratio of trade balance to GDP for each country. $\Delta\pi_{it}$ is the difference between the π_{it} and $\pi_{i,t-1}$, which reflects information about past changes of inflation. The annual percentage change of monetary supply for each country was used as a proxy of the monetary instrument (MS_{it}). The measurement of oil risk was conducted using the moving average standard deviation of the percentage change of WTI oil spot prices ($VOIL_t$). We used the volatility of interest rate (VIR_{it}) and volatility of exchange rate (VER_{it}) as the candidates for the threshold variables.

5. Empirical Results

5.1 Panel Unit Root Tests

We used panel data as the sample, which included both time series and cross section. To improve the low power of traditional unit test used univariate tests, we selected Im et al. (IPS test; 2003) and Levin et al. (LLC test; 2002) as stationary tests. As shown in Table 2, the test results indicate that we rejected the null hypothesis of unit root for each variable, which ensures an I(0) type series.

Table 2. Panel unit root tests

	LLC		IPS	
	Intercept	Intercept&Trend	Intercept	Intercept&Trend
π_{it}	-1.3943*	0.0521	-2.2032**	-1.5216*
UNP_{it}	-2.9519***	-0.0140	-1.2598*	3.3330
IP_{it}	0.4086	1.7311	-5.3135***	-5.1953***
GOV_{it}	-0.7227	-1.6350*	-4.9061***	-5.0516***
TR_{it}	-4.8202***	-5.2219***	-7.2424***	-6.5441***
$\Delta\pi_{it}$	-11.4951***	-12.1636***	-14.9327***	-14.5291***
MS_{it}	-3.4030***	-2.1778***	-5.3037***	-4.6107***
$VOIL_t$	-6.4509***	-8.0229***	-6.4271***	-7.0502***
$VOIR_{it}$	-10.5606***	-15.3550***	-9.6923***	12.1860***
$VOEX_{it}$	-10.4012***	-12.2931***	-10.0267***	-10.1197***

Notes: π_{it} indicates the annual percentage change of CPI, (UNP_{it}) denotes the annual percentage change of unemployment rate, (IP_{it}) denotes the annual change of industrial production index, (GOV_{it}) denotes the annual percentage change of government expenditure, (TR_{it}) denotes the annual percentage change of real trade balance to GDP ratio, ($\Delta\pi_{it}$) denotes the differential of the CPI, (MS_{it}) denotes the annual percentage change of money supply volatility of WTI oil price ($VOIL_t$), (VIR_{it}) denotes the volatility of the discount rate, and (VER_{it}) denotes the volatility of the exchange rate. LLC and IPS represent the panel root techniques by Levin et al. (2002) and Im et al. (2003), respectively. The coefficients differ significantly from zero at the 1%, 5%, and 10% levels, as denoted by ***, **, and *, respectively.

5.2 Homogeneity Test

Before starting the process of the PSTR test, we examined the linear model against a nonlinear model (a single threshold model). If the null hypothesis was rejected, a single threshold model was estimated and tested against a double threshold model. The process continued until the hypothesis of no additional threshold was not rejected. We applied the LM test of homogeneity of the coefficients of PSTR models, assuming that response of the percentage change of CPI to macro variables does not change across countries. Table 3 shows the results of the linearity and specification tests of no remaining nonlinearity. It reveals that both Model A and Model B rejected the null hypothesis ($r = 0$) and did not reject the null hypothesis ($r = 1$).

Table 3. Wald tests (LM) for Remaining Nonlinearity

Model	Model A		Model B	
Threshold Variable	$VOIR_{it}$		$VOEX_{it}$	
Number of Location Parameters	$m = 1$	$m = 2$	$m = 1$	$m = 2$
$H_0 : r = 0$ vs $H_1 : r = 1$	118.568*** (0.000)	133.582*** (0.000)	184.794*** (0.000)	266.474*** (0.000)
$H_0 : r = 1$ vs $H_1 : r = 2$	8.508 (0.290)	14.061 (0.445)	10.848 (0.145)	20.266 (0.122)

Notes: For each model, the testing procedure was conducted as follows: first, the linear model ($r = 0$) was tested against a model with one threshold ($r = 1$). If the null hypothesis was rejected, the single threshold model was tested against a double threshold model ($r = 2$). The procedure continued until the hypothesis of no additional threshold was not rejected. The corresponding LM statistic had an asymptotic $\chi^2(mk)$ distribution under the null hypothesis, where m is the number of location parameters and k is the number of explicative variables, that is, $k = 2$ in our specifications. The corresponding probability values are in parentheses. The coefficients differ significantly from zero at the 1%, 5%, and 10% levels, as denoted by ***, **, and *, respectively.

5.3 Determine the Number of Location Parameters

Based on the results of the LM test, the following step is to select the optimal number of location parameters for the transition functions. We selected ($m=1, r=1$) and ($m=1, r=1$) as the optimal combinations of Model A and Model B, respectively, based on both AIC and SBC. The detailed information is shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Determination of the Number of Location Parameters

Model	Model A	Model B	
Threshold Variable	VOIR_{it}	VOEX_{it}	
Number of Location Parameters	$m = 1$	$m = 2$	$m = 1$
Optimal Number of Thresholds $r^*(m)$	1	1	1
Residual Sum of Squares	1444.025	362.934	1124.634
AIC	0.7122	0.7157	0.4622
SBC	0.8102	0.8198	0.5602

Notes: For each model, the optimal number of locations parameters in the transitions functions can be determined as follows: for each value of m , the corresponding optimal number of thresholds, denoted by $r^*(m)$, is determined according to a sequential procedure based on the LM_F statistics of the hypothesis of non remaining nonlinearity. Thus, for each couple (m, r^*) , the value the RSS of the model is reported. The total number of parameters is determined by the formula $k(r+1)+r(m+1)$, where k denotes the number of explicative variables, that is, $k = 2$ in our specifications.

5.4 Parameter Estimate for the PSTR Models

As shown in Table 5, the coefficients between the inflation rate and macro variables change according to the uncertainty of the discount rate and exchange rate. This implies that the relationship between the Phillips curve of the unemployment rate or real activity variables ($IP_{it}, GOV_{it}, TR_{it}$), which depend on the volatility of the interest rate or exchange rate, will be unstable. The findings of the empirical test are consistent with those of Ghironi and Giavazzi (1998), Stock and Watson (1999), Razin and Yuen (2002), Matheson (2008), and Ormerod et al. (2013).

Table 5. Parameter Estimates for the PSTR Models

Model	Model A		Model B	
Threshold Variable	VIR_{it}		VER_{it}	
(m, r^*)	(1,1)		(1,1)	
Variables	Coefficient	Standard error	Coefficient	Standard error
α_0	-0.0769	0.0585	0.5066***	0.0713
α_1	2.8914***	1.4370	2.3003	1.9968
α_2	-0.5715	0.0007	0.0000	0.0007
α_3	1.1160	0.0070	0.0008	0.0010
α_4	2.7730***	0.1538	0.4459***	0.1409
α_5	-3.5621	0.0125	-0.0256*	0.0139
α_6	4.1086***	0.3283	1.8091***	0.2488
β_0	0.0978***	0.0350	-0.3392***	0.0755
β_1	-7.3139**	3.5099	2.7858	2.4740
β_2	0.0371***	0.0086	0.3325***	0.0333
β_3	-0.0061	0.0073	-0.0166	0.0579
β_4	-0.3145	0.2646	-0.1736	0.1972
β_5	0.1408***	0.0253	0.0191	0.0184
β_6	-0.9006*	0.4812	-1.1204***	0.3417
c	0.6785		0.4095	
γ	4.9092		341.9490	

Note: standard errors in parentheses are corrected for heteroskedasticity. For each model and each value of m , the number of transition functions r is determined by a sequential testing procedure (Table 4). For each transition function, the estimated location parameters c_j and the corresponding estimated slope parameter γ_j are reported. The PSTR parameters cannot be directly interpreted as elasticities. *, **, and *** denote significance at 10%, 5% and 1% levels, respectively.

The findings shown in Table 5 and Table 6 indicate that all real activity variables, money supply side, the differential of inflation, and the volatility of the oil price have a higher influence on CPI than unemployment based on the uncertainty condition of discount rate in low and high regimes. The findings are consistent with those of Stock and Watson (1999). The relationship between the volatility of the oil price and CPI was most consistent in the low regime (the volatility of the discount rate was lower than 67.85%) and the percentage change of government expenditure dominated the fluctuations of CPI in the high regime. This implies that the volatility of the oil price has a direct and significant influence on CPI, especially in a stable economy (low volatility of discount rate implies that governments are not eager to eliminate the factors that negatively affect the economy). This is supported by the importance of commodity prices at present. By contrast, the government may implement more aggressive actions, such as adjusting the interest rate or increasing government expenditure to reduce the effect of the mainstream to stabilize the economy. Additional information shown in Table 6 indicates that the tradeoff relationship will disappear in the high regime ($C > 67.85\%$); the government may implement alternative actions to reduce the negative influence, such as CPI.

Table 6. Parameter Estimates for Model A

$\pi_{it} = \mu_i + \sum_{i=0}^6 \alpha_i X_{it} + \sum_{i=0}^6 \sum_{j=1}^r \beta_i h_j(VIR_{it}^j; \gamma, c)$		
Threshold Variable	VIR_{it}	
Regime (C)	Low Regime ($C < 67.85\%$)	High Regime ($C > 67.85\%$)
UNP_{it}	-0.0769	0.0209
Real Activity Variables		
IP_{it}	2.8914	0.8076
GOV_{it}	-0.5715	3.7668
TR_{it}	1.1160	0.2835
Past inflation information		
$\Delta\pi_{it}$	2.7730	1.5445
Money Supply Side		
MS_{it}	-3.5621	2.0092
External impulse		
$VOIL_t$	4.1086	2.2369

Note: For each model and each value of m , the number of transition functions r is determined by a sequential testing procedure (Table 4). For each transition function, the estimated location parameters c_j and the corresponding estimated slope parameter r_j are reported.

We analyzed the relationship between CPI and macro variables based on the volatility of the exchange rate from Model B (Table 7). Our findings indicate that the coefficient of all macro variables related to the percentage of CPI is unstable, which is consistent with the results from Model A. The results of our test indicate that the annual percentage of the industrial production index and the volatility of the oil price have higher explanatory power to CPI than the unemployment rate when the volatility of the exchange rate is higher than 40.95%. Both government expenditure and differential inflation are close to the fluctuation of CPI when the uncertainty risk of the exchange rate increases. As shown in Table 7, only the real activity macro is close to violation of the CPI. The exchange rate is an indicator of international competition. Regardless of the factors that push the violation of the exchange rate, the domestic economy is more unstable in contrast to the lower violation of the exchange rate. The exchange rate has a significant influence on domestic industry and policy direction. A possible explanation for our findings is that the unstable exchange rate results in violating price and increasing difficulties in controlling cost for real activity producers and government expenditure. The external environment violation reflects the production cost and influences market pricing. In other words, variations in the real activity result in violating the CPI indirectly.

Table 7. Parameter Estimates for Model B

$\pi_{it} = \mu_i + \sum_{i=0}^6 \alpha_i X_{it} + \sum_{i=0}^6 \sum_{j=1}^r \beta_i h_j(VER_{it}^j; \gamma, c)$		
Threshold Variable	VER _{it}	
Regime (C)	Low Regime (C<40.95%)	High Regime (C>40.95%)
UNP _{it}	0.5066	0.1674
Real Activity Variables		
IP _{it}	2.3003	5.0861
GOV _{it}	0.0000	0.3325
TR _{it}	0.0008	-0.0158
Past inflation information		
$\Delta\pi_{it}$	0.4459	0.2723
Money Supply Side		
MS _{it}	-0.0256	-0.0065
External impulse		
VOIL _t	1.8091	0.6887

Note: The coefficients of variables in high regime are equal to $(\alpha_i + \beta_i)$. For each model and each value of m the number of transition functions r is determined by a sequential testing procedure (see Table4). For each transition function, the estimated location parameters c_j and the corresponding estimated slope parameter γ_j are reported.

6. Summary and Conclusion

Inflation issues have become a crucial topic in macroeconomics since Phillips (1958) proposed that the unemployment rate is an excellent factor to explain the CPI. Those findings were disputed in several studies using various data and variables. We used the PSTR model, which can be used to discuss whether the coefficients between independent variables and dependent variables vary based on the uncertainty of the discount rate or exchange rate, to reexamine the factors that have a significant influence on the violation of CPI.

The results of our empirical tests show that the coefficients between CPI and macro variables are inconsistent based on the volatility of the discount rate or the exchange rate. We also verified that the mainstream fluctuations of CPI are influenced by real activity variables based on the volatility of the interest rate. When the volatility of the interest rate was lower than 67.85%, the main violation of CPI resulted from the volatility of the oil price; government expenditure has a higher exploratory power to CPI than other variables when the volatility of the interest rate is higher than 67.85%. The results also show that the importance of real activity on the violation of CPI cannot be ignored when the volatility of the exchange rate is higher than 40.95%. Compared to other macro variables, the annual percentage change of the industrial production index has excellent explanatory power for the fluctuation of CPI.

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Notes

Note 1. Following Nieh (2002), a time-varying proxy for σ_t to measure the volatility can be specified as $\sigma_{it} = \left[(1/m) \sum_{i=1}^m (\log ro_{t+i-1} - \log ro_{t+i-2})^2 \right]^{0.5}$, where ro is the percentage change of the oil price, discount rate, and exchange rate ($i=1,\dots,7$ denotes the market and t denotes the time period), and $m=3$, using seasonal considerations.

Note 2. The United States is the home country, and we measured the exchange rates of each country as the effective exchange rate.

Note 3. The money supply is measured as M1 in each country.

Note 4. m=1 corresponds to a logistic function with an S-shape, and m=2 corresponds to a exponential function with a U-shape.

Note 5. See González et al. (2005) or Colletaz and Hurlin (2006).