

How banking sanctions influence on performance of foreign currency portfolio management

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ABSTRACT

A good portfolio optimization on banks' currency holdings not only helps meet their needs but also it increases banks' total profits. During the past few Years, sanctions against Iran have influenced profitability of banking currency portfolio holding. The proposed model of this paper considers the weekly information of two years before and two years after sanctions occurred in Iranian banking system. Therefore, the study uses 210 weekly data and proposes a method to analyze the data to measure the performance of banking currency portfolio before and after sanction happens. The proposed model of this paper provides lost profit and unrealized loss and using the idea of Technique for Order of Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS) to measure the performance of foreign currency portfolio management. We rank the resulted data. Next, we use some parametric and non-parametric methods to see whether there is any change as a result of sanction on the performance of the portfolio. The results indicate that both of the performance of foreign currency portfolio management and its variance are changed after sanction happened

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1. Introduction

Currency market is one of the biggest markets and many believe that Forex is the biggest financial market in the world. Most banks in the world must deal with customers who hold different currencies and there must be a good currency management to manage the profitability. During the past few years, there has been a conflict on peaceful nuclear programs between the government of Iran and some western countries and we have seen several economic pressures on Iranian banking system. There is no doubt that any economic sanction could impact overall market in any country but the effects on foreign currency portfolio management needs to be investigated. During the past few years, several studies have been devoted on currency market in the world. According to Khodaei Valahzaghari et al. (2012), there have been tremendous fluctuations on different currencies, for instance, European common currency, Euro, has been fluctuated between 0.60 to 0.9 against US dollar.

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These fluctuations can provide opportunities for management to earn some no-interest based profits by optimizing the foreign currency portfolios. Sanctions can effect these opportunities.

Daghighi Asl and Yarifard (2012) performed a study on relationship between no-interest based activities on performance of Iranian banks over the period of 2006-2011 using Pearson correlation as well as regression analysis. They implemented two independent variables where the first one was considered as a difference between other no-interest incomes with commission fee and the second one was the commission fee income. The result of their survey indicated that no-interest based activities had meaningful impacts on the performances of banks. In addition, there are some meaningful relationships among interest free activities, which were mostly in terms of negative relationships.

Khodaei Valahzaghari and Taherinejhad (2012) did a survey on selected Iranian banks operating actively over the period 2005- 2010. They studied the effects of four important variables including degree of financial leverage, bank size, working capital and liquidity on return on asset as a primary source of measuring profitability of Iranian banking system. They implemented Pearson correlation test along with simple and multi regression analysis to investigate the behavior of these four factors on profitability of banking system. Based on the survey, a high level of working capital and financial leverage resulted a lower profitability in Iranian private banks.

In this paper, we investigate the effects of US sanctions on Iranian banking system in an empirical investigation one of the biggest Iranian banks.

2. The proposed model

The proposed model of this paper uses the idea originally developed by Fonseca et al. (2010) to find the optimum allocation of various currencies, we domesticated their model and develop *Khodaei-Ansar Model (KA Model)* to use it in this paper. The following notation summarizes details of our survey,

- n Number of foreign currencies in portfolio,
- u_i The amount of i^{th} currency, which could be managed,
- x_{ij} The percentage of i^{th} currency converted to j^{th} currency,
- c_{ij} The exchange rate that convert i^{th} currency to j^{th} currency,
- $a_{\$j}$ Exchange rate of j^{th} currency to US dollar at the end of period,
- $b_{\$}$ Central bank base rate of US dollar at the end of period,
- x_{ii} The amount of i^{th} currency, which is not converted to another currency,
- b_i Central bank base rate of currency i at the end of period,
- u_j Amount of other currencies excluding i^{th} currency, which could be managed,
- x_{ji} Amount of other currencies excluding i^{th} currency, which are exchanged to i^{th} currency,
- b_j Central bank base rate of j^{th} currency at the end of period,
- cb Base capital of the bank at the end of period determined by central bank,
- b_i^- Central bank base rate of the i^{th} currency at the beginning of period i ,
- cb^- Base capital of the bank at the beginning of period determined by central bank,
- o_i Permitted open position on i^{th} currency determined by central bank,
- e_i The maximum deviation on permitted open position on i^{th} currency determined by experts,

o_t Total permitted open position on foreign currency portfolio determined by central bank,

e_t The maximum deviation on total permitted open position on foreign currency portfolio determined by experts.

Khodaei-Ansar Model (KA Model) is the proposed model of this paper and formulated as follows,

$$\frac{\max}{\min} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n (u_i x_{ij} c_{ij} a_{\$j} b_{\$i}) \quad (1)$$

subject to

$$\frac{[(u_i x_{ii} b_i) + \sum (u_j x_{ji} b_j)]}{cb} \leq \max \left[\left(\left| \frac{u_i b_i^-}{cb^-} \right| + e_i \right), (o_i + e_i) \right] \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{[(u_i x_{ii} b_i) + \sum (u_j x_{ji} b_j)]}{cb} \geq -\max \left[\left(\left| \frac{u_i b_i^-}{cb^-} \right| + e_i \right), (o_i + e_i) \right] \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\sum (u_i x_{ij} b_i)}{cb} \leq \max \left[\left(\left| \frac{\sum (u_i b_i^-)}{cb^-} \right| + e_t \right), (o_t + e_t) \right] \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{\sum (u_i x_{ij} b_i)}{cb} \geq -\max \left[\left(\left| \frac{\sum (u_i b_i^-)}{cb^-} \right| + e_t \right), (o_t + e_t) \right] \quad (5)$$

$$\sum x_{ij} = 1 \quad (6)$$

Eq. (1) is the objective function of the proposed model, which optimizes the gain from changes in different currencies. Eq. (2) to Eq. (5) determine the maximum changes in asset allocation from different currencies and finally Eq. (6) is the budget constraint. The results of portfolio optimization determines lost profit and unrealized loss and using the idea of Technique for Order of Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS) (Yoon & Hwang, 1995) we rank the resulted data as follows,

$$\text{foreign currency portfolio management performance} = \frac{\text{unrealized loss}}{\text{unrealized loss} + \text{lost profit}} \quad (7)$$

TOPSIS, developed by Hwang and Yoon in 1981, is a straightforward but sophisticated ranking technique implemented in many real-world applications of science and engineering (Chang et al., 2010). The standard TOPSIS method selects various alternatives, which have the shortest distance from the positive ideal solutions and the longest distance from the negative-ideal solutions. The positive ideal solution maximizes the suitable criteria and minimizes the undesirable criteria, whereas the negative ideal solution maximizes the undesirable criteria and minimizes the desirable criteria (Chen & Hwang, 1992; Yoon & Hwang, 1995).

There are literally various applications of TOPSIS used in different areas of scientific societies and there are different extensions of TOPSIS such as fuzzy TOPSIS. Amiri (2010) studied project selection for oil-fields development by implementing the AHP and fuzzy TOPSIS techniques.

The proposed model of this paper considers the weekly information two years before and after sanctions occurred in Iranian banking system. Therefore, the study uses 210 weekly data and proposes a method to analyze the data to measure the performance of bank's foreign currency

portfolio management before and after sanction happens. We solve the proposed model 420 times to generate two pairs of data and using Eq. (7) we may be able to calculate foreign currency portfolio management performance. The main question of this survey considers whether there is a difference between the foreign currency portfolio management performance before and after sanctions happen.

3. The results

We first present details of our 105 statistical observations before sanctions happen including mean, standard deviation as well as Kolmogorev-smirnov test (KS) (Boes et al., 1974) to find out whether data are normally distributed or not. Table 1 shows the results.

Table 1
Basic statistics for 105 observations before sanction period

Currency	Mean	Median	min	max	Std. dev.	Variance	Skewness	Kurtosis	Normality test
base rate of US dollar	9,291	9,256	8,957	9,906	167	27,732	6.4	8	Rejected
base rate of Euro	13,188	13,239	11,722	14,535	867	751,570	-0.10	-3	Confirmed
base rate of Won	10	10	0	11	1	2	-22.6	70	Rejected
base rate of Turkish Lire	0	0	0	0	0	0	-4.3	-4	Rejected
base rate of Japanese Yen	83	81	75	100	6	31	3.0	0.5	Confirmed
base rate of UAE Dirham	2,530	2,522	2,439	2,697	45	2,044	6.3	8	Rejected
Net foreign assets (billion Rials)	-9,122	-8,820	-20,501	965	5,419	29,361,946	-1.1	-2	Rejected
Manageable US dollar (million)	146	83	11	1,008	196	38,430	13.8	22	Rejected
Manageable Euro (million)	304	273	74	796	149	22,089	3.4	1	Rejected
Manageable Won (million)	141	129	0	430	151	22,788	2.3	-2	Rejected
Manageable Turkish Lire (million)	0	0	0	0	0	0	---	---	Rejected
Manageable Japanese Yen (million)	3,443	3,492	878	8,266	1,537	2,362,901	2.3	1	Confirmed
Manageable UAE Dirham (million)	334	373	25	868	205	41,845	0.3	-2	Confirmed
lost profit (thousand US dollar)	3,175	2,117	130	25,408	3,715	13,802,006	15.9	37	Rejected
unrealized loss (thousand US dollar)	6,315	4,902	687	47,089	6,860	47,065,865	24.3	-64	Rejected
Rank of portfolio management (%)	64.0%	65.2%	9.1%	97.9%	21.7%	4.7%	-1.7	-3	Confirmed

As we can observe from the results of Table 1, most data are not normally distributed. We have also performed similar investigation after sanction happened. Table 2 demonstrates details of our results.

Table 2
Basic statistics for 105 observations after sanction period

Currency	Mean	Median	min	max	Std. dev.	Variance	Skewness	Kurtosis	Normality test
base rate of US dollar	10,036	9,979	9,560	10,537	239	57,041	2.1	-1	Rejected
base rate of Euro	13,610	13,574	12,177	14,946	689	475,011	0.3	-2	Confirmed
base rate of Won	8	8	6	9	1	0	-2.9	-1	Rejected
base rate of Turkish Lire	7,374	7,431	0	11,394	4,084	16,677,834	-3.9	-1	Rejected
base rate of Japanese Yen	110	109	99	128	7	50	3.5	0	Rejected
base rate of UAE Dirham	2,733	2,717	2,603	2,869	65	4,240	2.1	-1	Rejected
Net foreign assets (billion Rials)	1,130	3,261	-16848	7,433	5,148	26,501,830	-7.7	6	Rejected
Manageable US dollar (million)	586	425	88	1,720	422	178,118	2.9	-1	Rejected
Manageable Euro (million)	1,325	1,192	625	2,811	562	316,254	2.6	-1	Rejected
Manageable won (million)	299	246	0	888	235	55,262	2.4	-1	Rejected
Manageable Turkish Lire (million)	2	0	0	50	8	67	21.2	53	Rejected
Manageable Japanese Yen (million)	2,152	1,885	380	6,672	1,469	2,158,113	4.7	2	Rejected
Manageable UAE Dirham (million)	873	897	265	1,633	324	104,864	-0.3	-2	Confirmed
lost profit (thousand US dollar)	6,449	4,976	448	32,164	5,295	28,038,212	8.8	13	Rejected
unrealized loss (thousand US dollar)	6,318	4,799	550	25,821	-4,829	-23,315,954	6.5	-6	Rejected
Rank of portfolio management (%)	49.5%	48.8%	9.7%	93.6%	25.2%	6.4%	0.5	-3	Confirmed

We now investigate whether two sets of data are normally distributed using Kolmogorev-smirnov test (KS). Note that the sanction against Iranian banking system was posed on October, 25, 2008. Table 3 demonstrates summarizes details of our findings.

Table 3
The results of Kolmogorev-smirnov test (KS) before/after the sanction posed on Iranian banks

Period	Number of observations	Z	Sig.	Results
Before sanction	105	0.955	0.322	Data are normally distributed
After sanction	105	1.218	0.103	Data are normally distributed
Before/After sanction	210	1.109	0.171	Data are normally distributed

We also need to make sure two sets of data maintain the same variances and this is accomplished using Homogeneity of Variances based on Levene Statistic (Levene, 1960). Table 4 summarizes the results of our tests between the ranking of two sets of data.

Table 4

The results of comparing mean and variances of two sets of data using parametric test

Period	N	Mean rank	Std. Dev.	Leven		t-test	
				Hypothesis	Sig.	Hypothesis	Sig.
Before	105	64.0%	21.7%	$H_0 : \sigma_1^2 = \sigma_2^2$	0.020	$H_0 : \mu_1 = \mu_2$	0.000
After	105	49.7%	24.6%	$H_1 : \sigma_1^2 \neq \sigma_2^2$		$H_1 : \mu_1 \neq \mu_2$	

As we can observe from the results of Table 4, both null hypotheses are rejected when the level of significance is five percent. In other words, two sets of data have different mean and variances. In order to validate the results of Table 4, we have decided to use non-parametric tests to examine the results using U - Mann-Whitney test and Table 5 shows the results.

Table 5

The results of comparing mean and variances of two sets of data using U - Mann-Whitney

Period	N	Mean rank	Hypothesis	Z	Sig.
Before	105	123.27	$H_0 : \sigma_1^2 = \sigma_2^2$	-4.239	0.000
After	105	87.73	$H_1 : \sigma_1^2 \neq \sigma_2^2$		

The result of Table 5 rejects the null hypothesis and we can conclude that there are, indeed, some differences between the mean rank of foreign currency portfolio management performance, which confirms our findings based on parametric survey.

4. Conclusion

In this paper, we have analyzed the impact of sanction posed on performance of foreign currency portfolio management in Iranian banks. The proposed model of this paper has gathered the necessary data for two years before and after the sanction, which was originally started on 25, October, 2008. The survey was performed over the period 2006-2010. The proposed study of this paper developed a mathematical model to find the optimal allocation of currency allocation from profitability view and the results are ranked based on an idea similar to what we have seen in TOPSIS technique. Finally, we have compared the means of two set of data based on parametric and non-parametric analysis. The results of both statistical tests have revealed that sanction has influenced the performance of foreign currency portfolio management, significantly.

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