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1 **Sectoral carbon emissions and economic growth in the US: Further evidence from**
2 **rolling window estimation method**

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12 **ABSTRACT**

13 The Environmental Kuznets Curve Hypothesis (EKC) which argues that an inverted U-shaped
14 relationship exists between economic growth and environmental degradation has been
15 examined by numerous studies for different countries or country groups. However, the validity
16 of the EKC hypothesis at the sectoral level is mostly ignored. In addition, most of these studies
17 have modeled the nexus between per capita income and CO₂ emissions based on the assumption
18 of non-linearity. Unlike previous studies, the main purpose of this paper is to investigate the
19 validity of EKC hypothesis for sub-elements of carbon dioxide emissions (i.e. total CO₂
20 emission, commercial CO₂ emission, electrical CO₂ emission, industrial CO₂ emission,
21 residential CO₂ emission and transportation CO₂ emission) in the United States for the annual
22 data of 1973-2015. In doing so, the rolling window estimation procedure is employed to
23 observe the effect of per capita income on sectoral CO₂ emission for each sub-sample period
24 instead of the non-linear assumption. The results of the rolling window coefficients show that
25 inverted U-shaped EKC hypothesis is valid for total CO₂ emission, industrial CO₂ emission,
26 electrical CO₂ emission and residential CO₂ emission. However, the inverted U-shaped
27 relationship between economic growth and CO₂ emission is not supported for commercial and
28 transport sector of the US.

29 Keywords: Sectoral CO₂ emission, economic growth, EKC hypothesis, rolling window
30 estimation.

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34 **1.Introduction**

35 Since industrial revolution, the pressures on environment have been increased and
36 environmental awareness has begun to arise after these pressures reached to global dimension
37 such as global warming and climate change. In addition, human-induced greenhouse gas
38 emissions have reached to the highest levels in the recent period and economic development is
39 accepted as the main reason of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions (IPCC, 2014).
40 Therefore, the link between economic growth and environment degradation has gain attention
41 from policymakers and researchers. However, the effect of economic growth on carbon dioxide
42 has still been a controversial issue in the field of environmental economics. In this regard, the
43 mostly accepted explanation called as Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) hypothesis is that
44 environmental degradation is increased with the first stages of economic growth to a turning
45 point, and after this point, economic growth leads to decrease in environmental degradation by
46 increased environmental sensitivity.

47 Although many researchers examined the effect of economic activities on environmental
48 quality, it is mostly ignored that environmental effects of sectoral activities. According to the
49 US Energy Information Administration (EIA), commercial sector, electrical sector, industrial
50 sector, residential sector and transportation sector are responsible for 13.01 %, 26.66 %, 20.06
51 %, 14.48 % and 25.81% total carbon dioxide emissions of the US in 2015, respectively. The
52 annual share of these sectors for the period of 1973-2015 is illustrated in Fig 1. As a shown in
53 Fig 1, CO₂ emission sourced from transportation, electrical and commercial sector is increased
54 for the period from 1973 to 2015 in the United States. However, it can be said that as a result
55 of using eco-friendly technologies, environmental damage of industrial and residential sector
56 has been decreased.

57

58

[INSERT FIGURE 1 HERE]

59

60 Based on above reasons, the main aim of this study is to investigate the validity of EKC
61 hypothesis for different sectors by examining the relationship between economic growth and
62 environmental degradation indicators (i.e. total CO₂ emission, commercial CO₂ emission,
63 electrical CO₂ emission, industrial CO₂ emission, residential CO₂ emission and transportation
64 CO₂ emission) for the period from 1973 to 2015 in the United States. For this aim, we used the
65 rolling window estimation methodology which can be used to detect the causal relationships
66 and coefficients for sub-sample periods. In addition, the previous studies which investigate the
67 validity of EKC hypothesis examined the possible non-linear relationship between economic
68 growth and CO₂ emission with using both the real GDP and the square of the real GDP as
69 explanatory variables. However, in this study, used methodology gives us a chance to determine
70 whether the non-linear relationship is valid by computing each coefficient for all sub-sample
71 periods.

72 The contribution of this study is fivefold. First, this is the first study which examines the
73 relationship between economic growth and CO₂ emission in the US using with rolling window
74 procedure. Second, using rolling window causality method leads to determine the possible
75 changes in causality between environmental degradation indicators and economic growth.
76 Third, the effects of economic growth on environmental degradation indicators can be observed
77 for each sub-sample period. Fourth, used bootstrapping technique minimizes the distortions
78 sourced from small samples therefore obtained findings will be reliable for policy implications.
79 Fifth, examining the relationship for sectoral level leads to a more detailed observation of the
80 success of eco-friendly policies in which sectors and gives us a chance on more detailed policy
81 implications based on this observation.

82 **2. Literature review**

83 Since the pioneer studies of Grossman and Krueger (1991), Shafik and Bandyopadhyay (1992)
84 and Panayotou (1993), many studies investigate the existence of EKC hypothesis. Although the
85 validity of EKC hypothesis is searched for total CO₂ emission by many researchers, the studies
86 on the relationship between economic growth and sectoral CO₂ emission is relatively limited.
87 Therefore, the literature section is categorized with two parts. In first part, the recent studies on
88 the relationship between economic growth and total CO₂ emission are summarized with
89 obtained results on the validity of EKC hypothesis. The literature on EKC hypothesis for total
90 CO₂ emissions is illustrated in Table 1.

91 As a seen in Table 1, different results are found based on using methodology and observing
92 time period for same countries. For instance, Fodha and Zaghoud (2010) utilized with
93 Johansen cointegration and VECM Granger causality method to examine the existence of EKC
94 hypothesis for the period from 1961 to 2004 in Tunisia and the findings supported the inverted
95 U-shaped EKC hypothesis. Similarly, Shahbaz et al. (2014a) and Farhani et al. (2014b)
96 confirmed the inverted U-shaped relationship between real GDP and environmental pollution.
97 However, Jebli and Youssef (2015) examined the validity of EKC hypothesis in Tunisia and
98 found the evidence of U-shaped relationship between real GDP and environmental pollution
99 for same country. In addition, in case of Malaysia, Saboori et al. (2012a) investigated the
100 existence of EKC hypothesis using with ARDL bound test approach for 1980-2009 period and
101 confirmed the inverted U-shaped connection between real GDP and CO₂ emission. On the other
102 hand, Begum et al. (2015) searched the real GDP-emission nexus for same country and also
103 used same methodology for the period from 1970-2009 but found the U-shaped relationship
104 between real GDP and CO₂ emission. Moreover, Dogan and Turkekul (2016) used ARDL
105 bound test approach to examine the validity of EKC hypothesis in the US for the period from
106 1960 to 2010 and concluded that the U-shaped relationship exists between real GDP and
107 environmental pollution. However, Atasoy (2017) examined the relationship between real GDP
108 and CO₂ emission in 50 US states for the same period and used panel data methodology. This
109 study found that there is inverted U-shaped relationship between economic growth and
110 environmental pollution in the US.

111

112

[INSERT TABLE 1 HERE]

113

114 In second part, the studies on the relationship between economic growth and disaggregated CO₂
115 emission are given in detail. Alper and Onur (2016) examined the validity of EKC hypothesis
116 for different environmental pollution indicators (i.e. gaseous fuel pollution, liquid fuel
117 pollution, solid fuel pollution, residential buildings and commercial and public services
118 pollution, industrial pollution, transportation pollution and electricity and heat pollution) using
119 with fully modified OLS method for the period of 1977-2013 in China. The results show that
120 the evidence of EKC hypothesis is found for gaseous, liquid, solid and transportation pollution.

121 Congregado et al. (2016) investigated the existence of the EKC hypothesis for sectoral CO₂
122 emissions (i.e. total CO₂ emission, commercial, electrical, industrial, residential and transport)
123 using with dynamic OLS method under structural breaks spanning the quarterly period of
124 1973:1 – 2015:2 in the United States. The results supported the EKC hypothesis for all sectors
125 excluding industrial sector.

126 Wang et al. (2017) probed the validity of EKC hypothesis for mining, manufacturing, electricity
127 and heat sectors utilizing with semi-parametric panel fixed effect estimator for the period from
128 2000-2013 in 30 provinces of China. The results show that inverted U-shaped EKC hypothesis
129 is confirmed just in electricity and heat sector. Pablo-Romero and Sanchez-Braza (2017)
130 examined the existence of EKC hypothesis for residential sector for the period from 1990 to
131 2013 using with multilevel mixed-effect model in EU-28 countries. It is concluded from this
132 study is that the EKC hypothesis is valid for residential sector.

133 To sum up, it can be concluded from previous studies that using different methodology or
134 utilizing different control variables (urbanization, trade openness, population, energy
135 consumption, renewable energy consumption etc.) may lead to obtain different results for both
136 the same countries and the same periods. Additionally, most of these studies constructed the
137 empirical model in quadratic or cubic form based on the assumption of non-linear relationship
138 between real GDP and CO₂ emission for full-sample period. Unlike previous studies, we used
139 the rolling window estimation method to examine the validity of non-linear relationship
140 between real GDP and CO₂ emission without the assumption of non-linearity by computing the
141 coefficient for each sub-sample period.

142 **3. Data and methodology**

143 The data used in this study consists of annual observations from 1973 to 2015 for the United
144 States. The real gross domestic product (GDP) is measured in constant 2009 US dollars. There
145 are some reasons to use the total GDP instead of the sectoral value added as an indicator of
146 economic development. The response of sectors to emission reducing pressure is in different
147 directions and these reactions are not solely dependent on the output from that sector. Because
148 different sectors have different energy intensities and some sectors generate more emissions
149 due to the production structure (Bowden and Payne, 2010; Congregado et al., 2016). In this
150 case, high-cost production innovations in the direction of reducing emissions may change

151 depending on the proportional share allocated from the national income or technological
 152 developments in the other sectors. Based on these reasons and following the studies of Hamit-
 153 Hagggar (2012), Xu and Lin (2015), Alper and Onur (2016), Congregado et al. (2016), Pablo-
 154 Romero and Sanchez-Braza (2017) that utilized with the data of total GDP and sectoral
 155 emissions to examine the validity of EKC hypothesis, we also used the total gross domestic
 156 product as proxy for economic development. Environmental pollution indicators are measured
 157 in million metric tons of carbon dioxide. In addition, the environmental pollution indicators are
 158 distinguished by total CO₂ emission (TCO), CO₂ emission of commercial sector (COM), CO₂
 159 emission of electrical sector (ELC), CO₂ emission of industrial sector (IND), CO₂ emission of
 160 residential sector (RES) and CO₂ emission of transportation sector (TRA). The data of GDP is
 161 sourced from US Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and environmental pollution indicators
 162 are retrieved from US Energy Information Administration (EIA). Moreover, all variables are
 163 used natural log form for empirical analyses. The descriptive statistics of included variables are
 164 illustrated in Table 2. EViews 9 software is used for empirical analysis.

165 In order to investigate the validity of Environmental Kuznets Curve hypothesis, we utilized
 166 with rolling window estimation methodology developed by Balcilar et al. (2010). The rolling
 167 window estimation method is mainly based on bootstrap causality test of Hacker and Hatemi-J
 168 (2006). In the first step of bootstrap causality method is as following;

$$169 \quad y_t = \varphi_0 + \varphi_1 y_{t-1} + \dots + \varphi_p y_{t-p} + \varepsilon_t, \quad t = 1, 2, \dots, T$$

170 (1)

171 where p is the lag order, $\varepsilon_t = (\varepsilon_{1t}, \varepsilon_{2t})'$ is zero mean white noise process with covariance
 172 matrix Σ . y_t is splitted in two vectors; CO (y_{1t}) and GDP (y_{2t}) and finally obtain;

$$173 \quad \begin{bmatrix} y_{1t} \\ y_{2t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \varphi_{10} \\ \varphi_{20} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \varphi_{11}(L) & \varphi_{12}(L) \\ \varphi_{21}(L) & \varphi_{22}(L) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_{1t} \\ y_{2t} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_{1t} \\ \varepsilon_{2t} \end{bmatrix}$$

174 (2)

175 where $\varphi_{ij}(L) = \sum_{k=1}^p \varphi_{ij,k} L^k$, $i, j = 1, 2$ and L is the lag operator. The null hypothesis of real
 176 GDP (GDP) does not Granger-cause environmental pollution (CO) can be examined by
 177 imposing zero restrictions $\varphi_{12,i} = 0$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, p$ and the null of environmental pollution
 178 (CO) does not Granger-cause real GDP (GDP) can be computed by imposing zero restrictions
 179 $\varphi_{21,i} = 0$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, p$. Furthermore, the critical values of test are obtained from bootstrap
 180 testing procedure of Efron (1979).

181 In empirical analysis, researchers call different methods (splitting the sample into pieces, using
 182 dummy variables etc.) to determine the structural changes. This study uses rolling window
 183 causality method of Balcilar et al. (2010) to consider the changes of causal relationship between
 184 economic growth and environmental pollution for sub-sample periods. Balcilar et al. (2010)
 185 utilized above methodology of Hacker and Hatemi-J (2006) and developed a causality method
 186 to investigate the bootstrap causality in rolling window sub-samples for $t = \tau - 1 + l, \tau -$
 187 $1, \dots, \tau, \tau = l, l + 1, \dots, T$, where l is the rolling window. Possible changes in the causal
 188 connections between growth and CO₂ emissions are determined with computing the bootstrap
 189 p -values of LR-statistic rolling through T-1 sub-samples. Furthermore, the effect of economic

190 growth on environmental pollution is calculated as $B^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^P \hat{\varphi}_{21,k}^*$ with $\hat{\varphi}_{21,k}^*$ obtained from
191 bootstrap estimation of vector autoregressive (VAR) model by Eq.2 and B is the bootstrap
192 repetition number. Similarly, the effect of environmental pollution on economic growth is
193 computed as $B^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^P \hat{\varphi}_{12,k}^*$ where $\hat{\varphi}_{12,k}^*$ is obtained from bootstrap estimation of VAR model
194 by Eq.2 and B refers to bootstrap repetition number.

195 **4. Empirical results and discussion**

196 In order to examine the existence of EKC hypothesis, we first test the stationary level of
197 variables using with Phillips-Perron (PP) unit root test. The results of unit root test are illustrated
198 in Table 3. As a shown in Table 3, the null of unit root process is not rejected of the level form
199 of variables. However, all variables become stationary in first differenced forms due to the null
200 hypothesis is rejected.

201 **[INSERT TABLE 2 HERE]**

202 The main argument of this study is that full sample estimation methods may not give reliable
203 information about the validity of EKC hypothesis because of the assumption of stable
204 parameters. Before this procedure, we utilized with Schwarz Information Criteria (SIC) to
205 determine optimal lag order of vector autoregressive (VAR) model. We sequentially increase
206 the lag of VAR model and the optimal lag order is selected 2 which minimize the SIC value.
207 Therefore, this study examines stability properties of long-run parameters of cointegrated
208 VAR(2) model using with L_C test of Hansen (1992). Additionally, we used Sup-LR, Exp-LR
209 and Mean-LR tests of Andrews (1993) and Andrews and Ploberger (1994) to investigate the
210 stability properties of estimated short-run parameters. As illustrated in Table 4, in case of GDP
211 equation, the null of short-run parameter stability cannot be rejected for equations which TCO,
212 COM, ELC, IND and TRA are used as explanatory variables while the long-run parameter
213 instability is valid for TCO and RES equations. The models which environmental pollution
214 indicators are used as dependent variable, the null hypothesis of parameter stability is rejected
215 for both short and long-run. To sum up, the findings of previous studies which assume the long-
216 run parameter stability may not be reliable because estimated parameters of cointegrated VAR
217 model are not stable and obtained parameters do not reflect full sample.

218

219 **[INSERT TABLE 3 HERE]**

220

[INSERT TABLE 4 HERE]

221

222 Based on these reasons, the main aim of this study is to examine the causal relationship between
223 economic growth and environmental pollution indicators in sub-sample periods and
224 investigating the validity of Environmental Kuznets Curve hypothesis by rolling sample
225 coefficients. The bootstrap p -values of observed LR statistics are computed rolling through all
226 sample period from 1973 to 2015. Pesaran and Timmermann (2005) examined the optimal

227 window size for rolling window estimation to minimize the bias in autoregressive parameters
228 in case of frequent breaks. Based on the Monte Carlo simulation results of this study, we use a
229 window size of 15 in order to reduce the risk of ignoring possible structural breaks in windowed
230 sample.

231

232 **[INSERT FIGURE 2 HERE]**

233

234 The results of rolling window estimation are separated with six environmental pollution
235 indicators. For all causality test results, the blue line indicates bootstrap p -values and red line
236 implies 10% statistical significance level. The null hypothesis of there is no any causal
237 relationship between variables can be rejected when the p -values (blue line) are below the 10%
238 significance level (red line). In case of total CO₂ emissions, the findings are illustrated in Fig 2.
239 The panel a of Fig 2 shows that economic growth causes total CO₂ emissions in 1994-1996,
240 1999-2000 and 2009 sub-sample period. In addition, total CO₂ emission causes economic
241 growth in 1990-1996 sub-sample periods. In addition, as a shown in panel c of Fig 2, the
242 coefficient of economic growth on total CO₂ emission is positive in 1988-2006 periods.
243 However, it becomes negative in period of 2007-2015. When the coefficient of economic
244 growth on total CO₂ emission is evaluated in terms of trend, it has increasing trend from 1988
245 to 2000 while it has decreasing trend from 2001 to 2015. Moreover, it can be seen that the effect
246 of total CO₂ emission on economic growth is negative in most of the sub-sample periods.
247 Overall, the inverted U-shaped EKC hypothesis is confirmed for total CO₂ emissions.

248

249 **[INSERT FIGURE 3 HERE]**

250

251 The rolling window estimation between economic growth and commercial CO₂ emission is
252 shown in Fig 3. In panel a and b of Fig 3, it seems economic growth causes commercial CO₂
253 emission in 1999-2005 sub-sample period and commercial CO₂ emission causes economic
254 growth in 2010-2013 sub-sample period. Furthermore, in panel c of Fig 3, the coefficient of
255 economic growth on commercial CO₂ emission is positive in the period from 1988 to 2008
256 except of 2006 and it is negative in the period of 2009-2015. As a shown in panel d of Fig 3,
257 the effect of commercial CO₂ emission on economic growth is mostly negative in selected
258 sample. When the results are evaluated in terms of trend, we concluded that the inverted U-
259 shaped EKC hypothesis is not valid for commercial CO₂ emission.

260 In Fig 4, according to the findings of rolling window estimation for electrical CO₂ emission,
261 economic growth causes electrical CO₂ emission in 1990-1996, 1999-2005, 2009 and 2011 sub-
262 sample periods. CO₂ emission from electrical sector causes economic growth in 1995-1996 and
263 2000 sub-sample periods. The coefficient of economic growth on electrical CO₂ is shown in
264 panel c of Fig 4. According to the results, the effect of economic growth on electrical CO₂

265 emission is positive in 1988-2007 periods while it becomes negative in 2008-2015 periods.
266 When the results are interpreted with regard to trend, it seems the effect of real GDP has
267 increasing trend for the period from 1988 to 2001, and it has decreasing trend between 2001
268 and 2015. Therefore, the inverted U-shaped relationship is supported in case of electrical CO₂
269 emission.

270 **[INSERT FIGURE 4 HERE]**

271

272 In case of industrial CO₂ emissions, the causal relationship between economic growth and
273 environmental pollution from industrial sector can be shown in panel a and b of Fig 5. At a first
274 glance, it seems economic growth causes industrial CO₂ emission in 1996-1997, 1999-2000,
275 2006, 2010-2015 sub-periods and industrial CO₂ emission causes economic growth in 1988-
276 1996, 2010-2015 sub-periods. In addition, the coefficient of economic growth on industrial CO₂
277 emission is negative in 1988-1992 sub-periods, the coefficient of economic growth is positive
278 in 1993-2000 sub-periods and it becomes negative in 2001-2015 sub-periods again. When the
279 findings are commented with trend, it seems the coefficient of economic growth has increasing
280 trend in 1988-1999 period and has decreasing trend in 1999-2015 period. Therefore, the validity
281 of inverted U-shaped EKC hypothesis is confirmed for industrial sector of the United States.
282 Moreover, in panel d of Fig 5, it can be seen that industrial CO₂ emission negatively affects
283 economic growth for most of the periods.

284 **[INSERT FIGURE 5 HERE]**

285

286 The rolling window estimation of the economic growth-residential CO₂ emission nexus can be
287 seen in Fig 6. In panel a and b of Fig 6, the results show that economic growth causes residential
288 CO₂ emission in 1999-2002 and 2004 sub-periods; residential CO₂ emission causes economic
289 growth in 1988-1996 and 1999-2000 sub-periods. The coefficient of economic growth on
290 residential CO₂ emission is positive in 1988-2010 sub-periods, and it becomes negative in 2011-
291 2015 sub-periods. The increasing trend of the coefficient of economic growth is valid in the
292 period from 1988 to 2002, and decreasing trend is valid in the period of 2003-2015. Therefore,
293 the inverted U-shaped EKC hypothesis is found for residential sector too.

294

295 **[INSERT FIGURE 6 HERE]**

296

[INSERT FIGURE 7 HERE]

297

298 The results of rolling window estimation for the relationship between economic growth and
299 transportation CO₂ emission are illustrated in Fig 7. In panel a, there is causal relationship from
300 economic growth to transportation CO₂ emission is found in 1988-1994, 1999-2000 and 2004-

301 2005 sub-periods. In panel b, it can be seen that transportation CO₂ emission causes economic
302 growth in 2010-2015 sub-period. In addition, the coefficient of economic growth on
303 transportation CO₂ is positive in 1988-2011 periods, and it becomes negative in 2011-2015
304 periods. On the other hand, the inverted U-shaped relationship between economic growth and
305 transportation CO₂ emission is not confirmed. We found that the effect of economic growth on
306 transportation CO₂ emission seems fluctuating trend in the period of 1988-2015.

307 Overall, inverted U-shaped relationship between real income and CO₂ emission is confirmed
308 for industrial sector, electrical sector and residential sector. These findings are consistent with
309 the studies of Hamit-Hagggar (2012) for industrial sector; Congregado et al. (2016) and Wang
310 et al. (2017) for electrical sector and Pablo-Romero and Sanchez-Braza (2017) for residential
311 sector. However, the inverted U-shaped EKC hypothesis does not hold for commercial and
312 transport sector. The rejection of the validity of EKC hypothesis is also found by Alper and
313 Onur (2016) for commercial sector and Chandran and Tang (2013) for transport sector. Based
314 on the findings, the United States seems to have been successful in using environmentally
315 friendly technologies except in commercial and transport sector. In case of transport sector, it
316 may be sourced from that the energy consumption of the transportation sector is still largely
317 composed of motor gasoline and distillate fuel oil. However, in case of industrial sector, it is
318 seen that coal consumption has decreased by 56% from 1990 to 2016 and that the energy
319 demand is met by increasing natural gas and renewable energy consumption in the US. The
320 findings from commercial sector also show that inverted U-shaped EKC hypothesis is not
321 supported. Although there are many environmental regulations, a large proportion of energy
322 consumption of the commercial sector has still met by fossil fuels during this period in the US.
323 Fossil fuel energy consumption of the commercial sector was 28% in 1990 and it could be
324 reduced to 22% in 2016 (EIA, 2017). These results indicate that the environmental regulation
325 in the commercial sector has failed to achieve its goal and new regulations are needed to achieve
326 environmental optimization in the commercial sector.

327 **5. Conclusions and policy implications**

328 The previous studies examining the validity of the EKC hypothesis generally focus on total
329 CO₂ emissions, neglecting the sectoral decompositions of emissions, and use empirical models
330 based on the assumptions of quadratic or cubic functions. However, it is a crucial issue to
331 elaborate the policy proposals by observing the effect of economic output on sectoral emission.
332 Unlike previous studies, this study aims to examine the validity of Environmental Kuznets
333 Curve hypothesis for the period from 1973 to 2015 in different sectors of the United States. For
334 this aim, the relationship between economic growth and environmental pollution indicators (i.e.
335 total CO₂ emission, commercial CO₂ emission, electrical CO₂ emission, industrial CO₂
336 emission, residential CO₂ emission and transportation CO₂ emission) using with the rolling
337 window estimation method.

338 In study, first, the findings show that there is parameter instability in empirical models which
339 environmental pollution indicators are used as dependent variable. Therefore, it is concluded
340 that previous studies based on cointegrated VAR models may not be reliable for policy
341 implications and using rolling window estimation methodology gives more robust results on

342 the nexus of economic growth and environmental pollution. According to the results of rolling
343 window causality method, it seems there is causality from economic growth to total CO₂
344 emission in 1994-1996, 1999-2000 and 2009 sub-sample periods; to commercial CO₂ emission
345 in 1999-2005 sub-sample period; to industrial CO₂ emission in 1996-1997, 1999-2000, 2006,
346 2010-2015 sub-sample periods; to electrical CO₂ emission in 1990-1996, 1999-2005, 2009 and
347 2011 sub-sample periods; residential CO₂ emission in 1999-2002 and 2004 sub-periods and to
348 transportation CO₂ emission in 1988-1994, 1999-2000 and 2004-2005 sub-periods. Moreover,
349 it is obtained from rolling window coefficients, inverted U-shaped EKC hypothesis is valid for
350 total CO₂ emission, industrial CO₂ emission, electrical CO₂ emission and residential CO₂
351 emission. However, the inverted U-shaped relationship between economic growth and
352 environmental pollution is not supported for commercial and transport sector of the US.
353 Additionally, we also analyzed the effect of sectoral CO₂ emission on real GDP and found that
354 increased sectoral CO₂ emissions negatively affect the real GDP for most of the sub-sample
355 periods.

356 Our empirical results implied that the US government seems to have succeeded in reducing
357 environmental pollution through economic growth. However, the government should increase
358 its environmental regulatory policies, especially in the commercial and transportation sectors.
359 In case of transportation sector, the technological researches on the development of hybrid
360 engine and electric vehicle should be supported by the government to reduce CO₂ emission of
361 this sector. In case of commercial sector, when measured in terms of energy intensity, hotel and
362 catering industry and real estate industry consume more energy than other commercial
363 industries (Wang and Lin, 2017). Based on this reason, the government should redirect the
364 hotels and catering industry to the use of energy-saving appliances and should redirect the real
365 estate industry to energy-saving building materials.

366 There are some strengths and limitations in this paper that will form the basis for future studies.
367 Analyzing the validity of the EKC hypothesis through the method used in the study rather than
368 modelling it based on assumptions in quadratic or cubic form may be pioneer for future studies.
369 However, our study has periodic and geographical data set limitations. First, since the method
370 used in the study creates a trim in the sample, the model can be examined in a longer period for
371 future studies. Second, the geographical limitation is that the appropriate sample period to use
372 this methodology for indicators that represent sectoral emissions exists only for the US. The
373 development of data sets containing sectoral emission indicators for other countries or country
374 groups will allow the study to be carried out in a wider perspective.

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