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| Journal Name: | [**Asian Journal of Economics, Business and Accounting**](https://journalajeba.com/index.php/AJEBA) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_AJEBA\_132144** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **TRADE OPENNESS, EXCHANGE RATES AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN ECOWAS COUNTRIES** |

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| **PART 1: Comments** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment**  **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | **Author’s Feedback** *(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | This study contributes valuable insights by empirically exploring the link between trade openness, exchange rate fluctuations, and unemployment in the ECOWAS region—a subject that is relatively underexplored. The use of robust econometric techniques such as FMOLS and DOLS on panel data spanning three decades makes the findings relevant for both policy formulation and further academic inquiry. Its results help clarify the nuanced impact of trade policies and macroeconomic variables on labour markets, which is critical for emerging economies. Overall, the study addresses an important gap in regional economic research, thereby providing a  useful reference point for scholars and policymakers alike. | The corrections have been effected in the manuscript as suggested by the reviewers |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | The current title is clear and descriptive. However, to enhance its specificity and appeal, an alternative could be: ***“Trade Openness, Exchange Rate Dynamics, and Unemployment in ECOWAS Countries: A Panel Econometric Analysis.”*** This revised title emphasizes the methodological approach and may attract a broader academic readership. | The corrections have been effected in the manuscript as suggested by the reviewers |
| **Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.** | The abstract is generally comprehensive—it outlines the aims, data sources, methods, key findings, and policy implications succinctly. To further improve clarity, I suggest briefly mentioning the limitations of the study or areas for future research. Additionally, reinforcing the theoretical framework in a sentence could provide context for the empirical findings. | The corrections have been effected in the manuscript as suggested by the reviewers |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.** | The manuscript is scientifically sound and methodologically robust. The application of panel unit root tests, cointegration analysis, and the employment of both FMOLS and DOLS techniques is appropriate given the mixed order of integration among the variables. The interpretation of results is coherent and aligns well with the theoretical and empirical literature. Some minor clarifications in the methodological sections—such as a more detailed justification of the sample period and the potential limitations of the chosen econometric techniques—  could further strengthen the scientific rigor. | The corrections have been effected in the manuscript as suggested by the reviewers |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | The references are largely sufficient and include key studies relevant to trade openness, exchange rates, and unemployment. However, incorporating a few more recent studies would help ensure that the manuscript reflects the latest developments in the field. Overall, the literature cited provides a solid foundation for the study.  Butt, J. (2024). From Dollar Dependency to BRICS Autonomy: Legal and Economic Impacts on Global Trade Governance. Acta Universitatis Danubius. Œconomica, 20(6). Published 20-12-2024 [https://dj.univ-](https://dj.univ-danubius.ro/index.php/AUDOE/article/view/3074) [danubius.ro/index.php/AUDOE/article/view/3074](https://dj.univ-danubius.ro/index.php/AUDOE/article/view/3074) | The corrections have been effected in the manuscript as suggested by the reviewers |
| **Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?** | The manuscript is written in generally clear and understandable English. While the language is suitable for scholarly communication, there are minor grammatical and stylistic issues that would benefit from careful  proofreading. Addressing these minor language concerns would improve the overall readability of the article. | The corrections have been effected in the manuscript as suggested by the reviewers |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s comment** *(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and*  *highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)* | The corrections have been effected in the manuscript as suggested by the reviewers |