

Foreign Trade and Renewable Energy Consumption: The Case of OECD and Turkey

Dış Ticaret ve Yenilenebilir Enerji Tüketimi: Türkiye ve OECD Örneği

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Abstract

In this study, the impact of renewable energy consumption (REC) on foreign trade (FT) over the period of 2004-2017 in 27 OECD countries is analyzed via panel data analysis. In the study, the relationship between REC and FT is tested using the Driscoll-Kraay estimator within the framework of the panel regression model. The results obtained in the study indicate that the increase in REC raises exports and decrease imports. We also present the importance of the renewable energy (RE) trend in order to improve the FT balance as a policy suggestion in the study. As we move from non-RE to renewable energy, the FT balance would improve.

Jel Codes: F18, Q47, Q56

Keywords: Renewable energy consumption, Export, Import, Driscoll-Kraay estimator.

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Öz

Bu çalışmada, 27 OECD ülkesinde 2004-2017 döneminde yenilenebilir enerji tüketiminin (YET) dış ticaret (DT) üzerindeki etkisi panel veri analizi ile incelenmektedir. Çalışmada, panel regresyon modeli çerçevesinde Driscoll-Kraay tahmincisini kullanarak yenilenebilir enerji tüketimi ile dış ticaret ilişkisi test edilmektedir. Çalışmada elde edilen sonuçlar, yenilenebilir enerji tüketimindeki artışın ihracatı arttırdığı, ithalatı ise azalttığını göstermektedir. Ayrıca dış ticaret dengesini iyileştirmek için yenilenebilir enerjiye yönelimin önemini de çalışmada politika önerisi olarak sunmaktayız. Yenilenemeyen enerjiden yenilenebilir enerjiye geçtikçe, dış ticaret bilançosu düzelecektir.

Jel Kodları: F18, Q47, Q56

Anahtar Kelimeler: Yenilenebilir enerji tüketimi, İhracat, İthalat, Driscoll-Kraay tahmincisi

1. Introduction

One of the biggest problems in the world as of today is the increase in the demand for energy. As a result of such an increase, energy is crucial for the world and has become the most important instrument for the development of countries. It is also the most fundamental factor for the advancement of technology. So much so that as countries keep producing and developing technologically, their demands for energy would rise, thus their level of development would increase.

Energy resources in the world are discussed under two categories such as primary and secondary energy resources. Primary energy resources are divided into two parts: non-renewable (coal, petroleum, natural gas) and RE. Secondary energy resources include electricity, LPG, and diesel fuel. Since RE resources are considered in the study, these resources are discussed. RE resources, which are valued by all countries in the world due to the decline in energy resources in the world, cover resources such as solar, wind, geothermal energy, wave, and hydraulic energy. Hydraulics, geothermal, biomass, wave, solar, wind, and hydrogen are among the RE resources. RE resources are used both globally and in Turkey. Turkey, especially in the solar energy field, is one of the leading countries in the world (Kanberoglu & Parker, 2017: 159).

Since various countries of the world are dependent on foreign energy resources and the energy resources in the world are decreasing, the countries of the world have given more importance to RE. Countries tend to concentrate on boosting the share of RE in total EC. In this regard, in order to meet their increasing demand for energy; countries have had a tendency towards RE instead of traditional energy resources such as coal, gas, and petroleum (Kutan et al., 2018: 1762, Karadağ, 2021:11). One can claim that countries have become conscious and hedged themselves by giving importance to their economy, environment, human health, and technologies. In particular, substituting RE resources for fossil fuels yields astonishing results. In 2010, 300 million tons of fossil fuel worth of energy was saved; whereas it reached approximately 600 million tons as of 2020 (Yuan et al., 2015: 178). Due to such benefits of RE, the share of renewable resources in fulfilling the global demand for energy is anticipated to increase by one-fifth to reach 12.4% as of 2023, according to the projections of



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the IEA (2018) (Chen et al., 2020: 1). All technology components required for producing RE would reduce production costs. It would also promote innovation in cleaner energy technologies, as it would encourage “green trade” (Zhao et al., 2016: 1281).

International trade facilitates access to the technology required by inexhaustible energy and is a key ingredient for sustainable energy. In other words, international trade generates various trade opportunities by guiding the export of countries, from the raw material need for the production of RE to the energy produced by the use of inputs (Sebri & Ben-Salha, 2014: 15). Imports of energy products lead to trade openness (TO) in energy-dependent countries. In other words, the energy problem in those countries surpasses trade openness. Energy is required for the export and import of goods. This situation adversely affects the trade of countries that do not have an adequate level of energy supply. Due to the FT deficit, there would be a rise in domestic production and a new demand for energy would occur. With the decrease in energy density, more production would be made with less energy (Zeren & Akkuş, 2020: 323).

In previous studies in literature, the relationship between RE and economic growth has often been explicated. In this study, the relationship between RE and foreign trade is investigated. In this regard, it is thought to contribute to the literature. The ultimate aim of the study is to examine the relationship between REC and foreign trade using the panel regression method. Accordingly, the data obtained from 26 OECD countries are analyzed via second-generation panel unit root tests, and then the relationship among them is tested by determining the appropriate regression method.

Following the introduction, a literature review is included in the study. Later on, the status of RE in Turkey and OECD countries are discussed in the study, and methodology is determined along with the data. In the last part of the study, empirical results are presented.

2. Literature Review

Numerous studies have been conducted on the relationship between REC and various variables. Most of those studies have dealt with the relationship between REC and economic growth. Trade is another variable that is as popular as economic growth. In this study, the relationship between REC and FT is discussed. Accordingly, a literature review containing 23 studies explicating the relationship between REC and FT is introduced in Table 1.

Table 1: Review of Literature

Author(s)	Country(s)	Method	Variables	Result
Sadorsky (2011)	8 Middle Eastern countries (1980-2007)	PCO	EC, export, import and GDP	Export→EC
Sadorsky (2012)	7 South American countries (1980-2007)	PCO	Output, EC, labor, export and import	EC→import
Dedeoglu & Kaya (2013)	25 OECD countries (1980-2010)	PCO and PCA	EC, real GDP, export and import	Economic growth, exports and imports increase EC. 1% increase in exports, 0.21% increase in EC and 1% increase in imports increase EC by 0.16%.
Shakeel et al. (2013)	5 South Asian countries (1980-2009)	PCO and PCA	EC, export, import and GDP	Export→EC
Aissa et al. (2014)	11 African countries (1980-2008)	PCO and PCA	REC, real GDP, export and import	No causality FT with REC
Nasreen & Anwar (2014)	15 Asian countries (1980-2011)	PCO and PCA	Economic growth, TO and total EC	EC↔TO
Sebri & Ben-Salha (2014)	BRICS countries (1971-2010)	Panel ARDL	Real GDP, REC, CO2 emission and TO	TO increases REC.
Jebli & Youssef (2015)	69 countries (1980-2010)	PCO and PCA	GDP, REC and FT	REC increases FT.
Siddique & Majeed (2015)	5 South Asian countries (1980-2010)	PCO and PCA	EC, FT, financial development and economic growth	FT →EC
Akar (2016)	12 Balkan countries (1998-2011)	Panel data analysis	REC, CO2 emission, GDP per capita and commercial openness	Despite its limited power, high trade increases REC.
Jebli et al. (2016)	25 OECD countries (1980-2010)	PCO and PCA	Real GDP, REC and non-REC, real export and import	REC↔import export→REC
Vaona (2016)	Different time zones for 26 countries	Panel regression	Import, export, exchange rate, GDP, renewable sources, others energy sources	RE production reduces the increase in imports.
Amri (2017)	72 countries (1990-2012)	Panel data analysis	REC, FT and economic growth	REC↔FT

				This means that openness to FT must spend more on REC.
Brini et al. (2017)	Tunisia (1980-2011)	CO and CA	REC, exports and imports	REC \leftrightarrow FT
Hassine & Harrathi (2017)	Gulf Cooperation Council countries (1980-2012)	PCO and PCA	REC, exports, imports and economic growth	EC \rightarrow import
Shakouri & Yazdi (2017)	South African countries (1971-2015)	ARDL	REC, GDP and TO	REC \leftrightarrow TO
Murshed (2018)	4 South African countries (2000-2017)	PCA	REC, commercial openness and FDI	No causality TO with REC
Chen et al. (2019)	China (1980-2014)	CO and CA	RE production and FT	FT \leftrightarrow RE generation
Jebli et al. (2019)	22 Central and South American countries (1995-2010)	PCO and PCA	REC, commercial openness, FDI and CO2 emissions	REC \rightarrow TO
Alam & Murad (2020)	25 OECD countries (1970-2012)	ARDL	RE use, TO and GDP per capita	TO significantly affects the use of RE.
Murshed (2020)	71 countries (2000-2017)	Panel regression	REC and commercial openness	In low-income countries, as TO increases by 1%, the share of RE increases by 0.24%; it decreases 0.19% in lower-middle income countries.
Rahman & Vu (2020)	Australia and Canada (1960-2015)	ARDL	REC per capita, FT and real GDP	FT \leftrightarrow REC
Zeren & Akkuş (2020)	Bloomberg's best developing countries (14) (1980-2015)	PCO and PCA	REC and TO	Negative relationship (REC and TO)

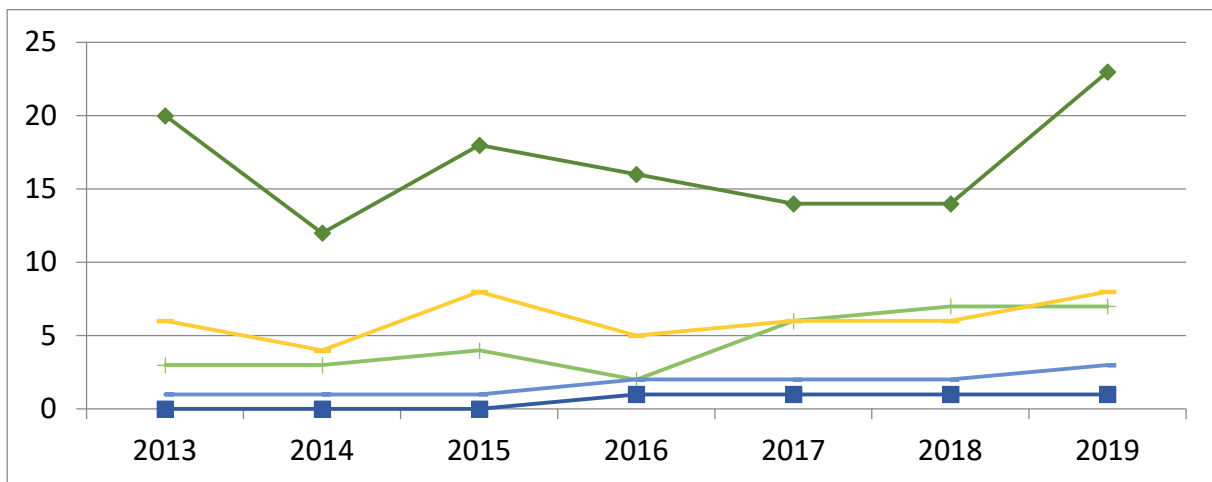
Note: PCO: Panel cointegration, PCA: Panel Causality

Although there are studies for different country groups in the literature review; Dedeoglu & Kaya (2013), Jebli et al. (2016) and Alam & Murad (2020) have discussed RE-foreign trade relationship in OECD countries, as in this study. As seen in these studies, there is either unilateral or bilateral causality between TO or FT and REC; whereas Aissa et al. (2014) could not detect any causality between trade REC in their study conducted on African countries.

3. RE in Turkey and OECD Countries

Turkey is a country with considerable potential in terms of RE sources. Nonetheless, the country could not utilize such potential properly. So that; Turkey has utilized 70.2% of its economic hydropower potential, 30.7% of its geothermal potential, 17.3% of its biomass potential, and 0.452% of its solar power potential (Ozcan, 2018: 2635). In spite of this fact, Turkey is dependent on foreign energy. RE reduces a country's energy dependence on other countries (Huang et al., 2020: 669). As the share of RE in Turkey increases, such a dependence would decline. Figure 1 illustrates the Cumulative Electricity Production based on RE Resources between the years 2013-2019 in Turkey.

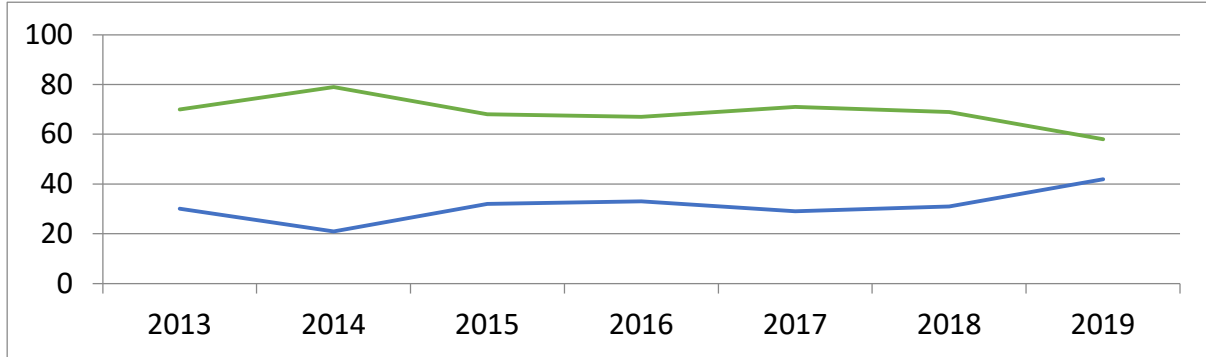
Figure 1: Turkey's RE-based Cumulative Electricity Production (2013-2019)



Source: Energy Statistics Bulletin, (<https://www.enerji.gov.tr/tr-TR/EIGM-Raporlari#>)

In Figure 1, dark green indicates dam HPP; yellow hydroelectric powerplants (HPP) stream; light green the wind; light blue geothermal energy and dark blue indicates waste. According to Figure 1, electricity is generated mostly from water-based hydroelectric powerplants (HPP) rather than other RE resources in Turkey. Despite the fluctuations that have been occurring since 2013, a large increase in hydraulic energy-based electricity production was observed as of 2019, and 23% of the demand for electricity is fulfilled by hydroelectric plants built on water dams, whereas 7% by hydroelectric plants built on rivers in Turkey. An increasing momentum has been observed in the share of wind energy. The share of geothermal energy is quite low. As illustrated in Figure 1, its share in the cumulative electricity production based on RE has increased slightly since 2013 and reached 3% in 2019. Distribution of Cumulative Electricity Production in Turkey between the years 2013-2019 is illustrated in Figure 2.

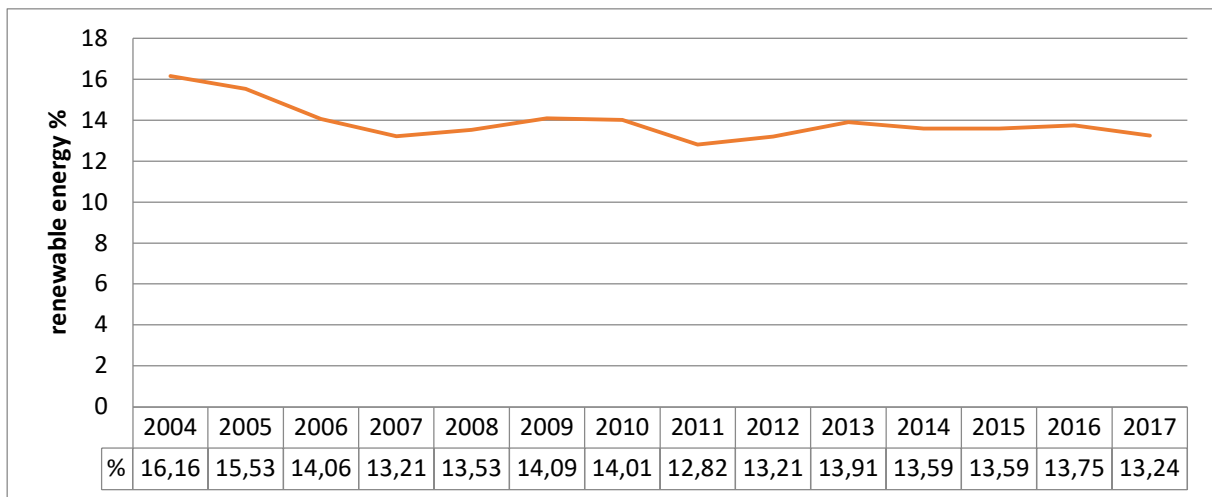
Figure 2: Distribution of Cumulative Electricity Production in Turkey (2013-2019)



Source: Energy Statistics Bulletin, (<https://www.enerji.gov.tr/tr-TR/EIGM-Raporlari#>)

In Figure 2, the green color indicates thermal, and the blue color indicates RE. Upon overall examination, the increase in the use of RE resources in Turkey from past to present is illustrated in Figure 2. Upon considering the cumulative electricity production data obtained over the period 2013 - 2019, it is determined that an adverse relationship exists between thermals and RE. Because when the share of electricity produced using thermals decreases (increases), the share of electricity produced by RE resources increases (decreases). For instance, while 70% of the total electricity production was produced using thermals and 30% by RE resources in 2013, this ratio has declined to 58% regarding thermals and increased to 42% regarding RE resources in 2019. The share of RE in gross final EC in Turkey is illustrated in Figure 3.

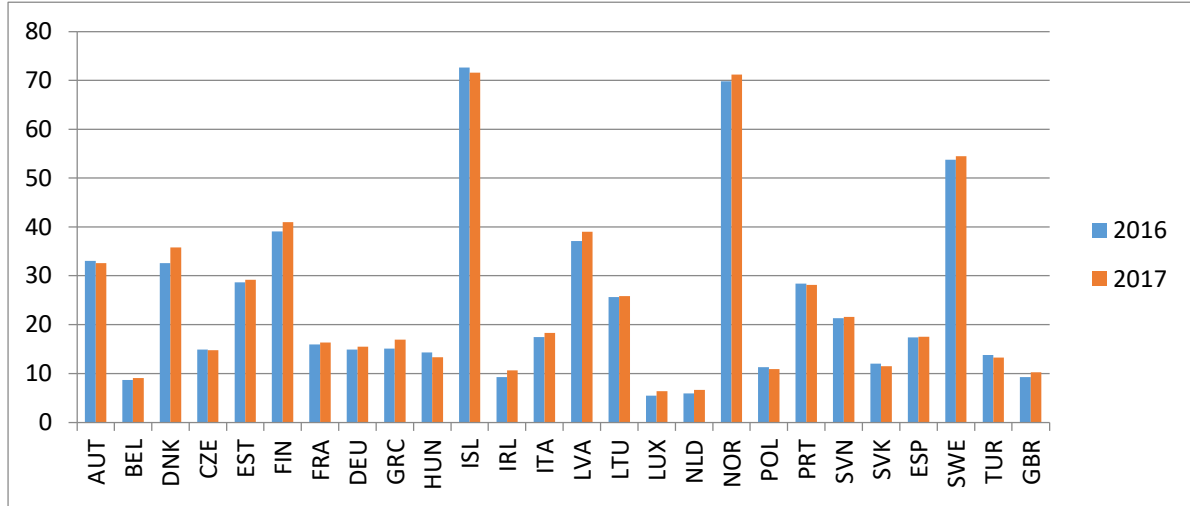
Figure 3: The Share of RE in Gross Final EC (Turkey)



Source: Eurostat

According to Figure 3, despite slight fluctuations, the share of RE in gross final EC in Turkey is reduced. The reason for this is due to the fact that innovation in EC is a result of the increasing population and industry in Turkey, rather than the rise in RE usage. The shares of RE in gross final EC in 26 OECD countries included in the study are illustrated in Figure 4.

Figure 4: The Share of RE in Gross Final EC (26 OECD Countries)



Source: Eurostat

As illustrated in Figure 4, the highest increase from 2016 to 2017 was seen in Denmark, Latvia, Finland, and Norway. The share of RE in gross final EC is over 70% in Norway and Iceland. In Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, this rate is below 10%.

4. Data, Model, Methodology, and Evaluation of Results

4.1. Data and Model

The following models (1) and (2) are used for testing the impact of REC on FT on the basis of the theoretical arguments above.

$$MGS_{it} = \alpha + \beta REC_{it} + u_{it} \quad (1)$$

$$XGS_{it} = \alpha + \beta REC_{it} + u_{it} \quad (2)$$

Here i denotes countries; t denotes time; REC denotes the share of REC in total EC; MGS denotes the share of total imports in GDP, and XGS denotes the share of total exports in GDP.

In this study, the relationship between REC and imports and exports is tested with the help of annual data obtained over the period 2004-2017 in 27 OECD countries⁴. RE series are obtained from the European Union's database, whereas export and import data from the World Bank's database. In the model, the dependent variables are export and import, and the independent variable is REC.

⁴ Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

4.2. Descriptive statistics

Some descriptive statistics for REC, export, and import are presented in Table 3 (Observations, Mean, Standard deviation, Maximum and Minimum).

Table 3: Descriptive statistics

Summary statistics (REC, export and import)					
Vari.	Ob.	Me.	St. De.	Mi.	Ma.
REC	364	20.3915	17.32392	0.9	72.658
XGS	364	57.00211	34.15033	18.98219	221.1966
MGS	364	54.06956	28.13279	23.0196	187.1654

The REC variable, which represents the REC, was observed as 0.9 at the lowest in Luxembourg in 2004, whereas 72,658 at the highest in Iceland in 2016. This situation indicates that Luxembourg mostly uses non-RE resources in EC, whereas Iceland attaches importance to RE.

4.3. Empirical Results

If a cross-sectional dependence exists among the series and analyses are conducted without considering these results, the obtained results would be erroneous and inconsistent. Therefore, it is tested whether or not cross-sectional dependence exists in series (Menyah et al., 2014: 839). If the probability values are lower than 5%, it is concluded that a cross-sectional dependence exists among the units (Pesaran & Yamagata, 2008: 17).

Breush-Pagan (1980) CDLM test is the first test that was developed to determine cross-sectional dependence. Afterward, the Pesaran (2004) CD test and Pesaran et al. (2008) Adjusted LM tests have been developed. When the time dimension exceeds the cross-section dimension ($T > N$), Breush-Pagan (1980) CDLM test is performed; if T and N are close to each other or $N > T$, Pesaran (2004) CD test is performed; and Pesaran et al. (2008) adjusted CDLM test (CDLMadj) is performed to avoid deviations.

When $N > T$, Pesaran (2004) suggests a new CD test to be performed. This test is shown in Equation (3).

$$CD = \sqrt{\frac{2T}{N(N-1)}} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^N (\hat{\rho}_{ij}) \quad (3)$$

In order to correct the deviations that may occur, Pesaran et al. (2008) developed the adjusted CDLM (CDLMadj) test as shown in Equation (4).

$$CD_{adj} = \sqrt{\frac{2T}{N(N-1)}} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^N (\hat{\rho}_{ij} \frac{(T-k)\hat{\rho}_{ij}^2 - u_{Tij}}{\sqrt{v_{Tij}^2}}) \quad (4)$$

u_{Tij} and v_{Tij}^2 denote the newly added means, whereas $(T-k)\hat{\rho}_{ij}^2$ denotes the variance. Accordingly, the results of cross-sectional dependence of the variables are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Cross-Sectional Dependence Test of the Variables

Va.	CD Test	t-sta.	Pr.
XGS	CDLM1 (BP LM)	36.71	0.000
MGS	CDLM1 (BP LM)	44.09	0.000
REC	CDLM1 (BP LM)	53.84	0.000

According to Table 4, the probability value of all CDLM tests is lower than 5%. Therefore, there is a cross-sectional dependence among the units that make up the panel for RE, export, and import variables. Since cross-sectional dependence exists, second-generation unit root test should be applied in series.

If there is cross-sectional dependence in series, the second-generation panel unit root tests should be used. The CADF test can be applied in cases such as $N > T$, and $T > N$ (Pesaran, 2007: 269). Since there is a cross-sectional dependence in this study, the second-generation panel unit root test is used. The cross-section average of the CADF tests gives the CIPS test (Westerlund et al., 2016: 852). Nevertheless, the asymptotic distribution of the CIPS test is not standard and the values of the size are calculated on the basis of the tabulated critical values (Cerasa, 2008: 4).

Pesaran (2007) indicated the CIPS test as in Equation (5) by taking the mean of the CADF tests.

$$CIPS = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n CADF_i}{N} \quad (5)$$

Table 5 indicates the CIPS unit root test results.

Table 5: CADF Unit Root Test Results

Variables	CIPS	CIPS in 1 st
XGS	-1.334	-2.369*
MGS	-1.603	-3.030*
REC	-1.801	-3.070*
%5 critical value is -2.17.		

The CIPS test results are presented in Table 5. Upon evaluating the CIPS test statistics of all variables, it is seen that the variables are not stationary at the level, and they become stationary after taking their first differences.

In the next step, the appropriate regression estimator would be determined. If the number of countries (N) in the study is larger than the time dimension (T), the Driscoll-Kraay estimator is more appropriate, whereas the Parks-Kmenta estimator is more appropriate and the results are consistent if the time dimension is greater than the number of countries, (Tatoglu, 2013: 277). The Driscoll-Kraay estimator generates standard error estimators that become more durable in both time and space analysis of nonparametric covariance-variance estimation

techniques (Driscoll & Kraay, 1998). In this study, the Driscoll-Kraay estimator is used since the number of countries (N) is greater than the number of years (T). Driscoll-Kraay estimator results are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Driscoll-Kraay Estimator Results

REC	Co.	St.Er.	t	Pr.	95% Co. In.
XGS	0.4671343	0.1766042	2.65	0.020	0.0856041 0.8486646
MGS	-0.7352185	0.2170135	-3.39	0.005	-1.204048 -0.2663892
_cons	33.5168	2.645391	12.67	0.000	27.80178 39.23182
Heteroscedasticity	180.5015			0.0000	
Autocorrelation	33.50851			0.0001	

Upon examining the estimation results presented in Table 6, it is determined that the variables of REC, export, and import included in the model utilizing the data obtained from 27 OECD countries over the period 2004-2017 are significant at a 95% confidence level. According to the results of the study, while a 1-unit increase in REC increases exports by 0.46 units; it reduces imports by 0.73 units.

5. Conclusions and Discussion

In this study, the impact of renewable energy consumption (REC) on foreign trade (FT) is analyzed with panel data analysis. Our dataset covers 27 OECD countries over the period 2004-2017. The results are summarized as follows. The main contribution of the article involves the explanation of the impact of REC on FT along with parameter estimates using an up-to-date time-series and econometric methodology. We should notice that these results cover this group of developed and developing countries since the OECD is the world's largest economic institution. In this context, the rise in the consumption of RE increases the exports and decreases the imports in the countries included in the study. In other words, the increase in REC contributes positively to FT.

According to the findings of the study, a 1-unit increase in REC increases exports by 0.46 units. At the same time, a 1-unit increase in REC reduces imports by 0.73 units. In this regard, REC improves the FT balance of 27 OECD countries in the study. Therefore, countries should pay more attention to RE and solve the energy problem. As RE is used instead of non-RE resources, the world will be cleaner and greener, and the FT balance will be positively affected. As renewable energy consumption increases, countries' dependence on foreign energy will decrease relatively. However, this improvement is possible in the long term. Especially in developing countries, it may negatively affect foreign trade in the short term, as it necessitates investments in renewable energy.



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Etik Beyanı: Bu çalışmanın tüm hazırlanma süreçlerinde etik kurallara uyulduğunu yazarlar beyan eder. Aksi bir durumun tespiti halinde Fiscaeconomia Dergisinin hiçbir sorumluluğu olmayıp, tüm sorumluluk çalışmanın yazarlarına aittir.

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