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Department of Economics and Finance

THE IMPACT OF FOOD IMPORT ON SOMALI ECONOMIC GROWTH

Master Thesis

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Supervisor

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SUMMARY

This study investigates the relationship between food import and economic growth in Somalia over the period 2010Q1-2021Q1. The research employs data from the World Bank, which covers key macroeconomic indicators and food import statistics. The analysis is conducted using SPSS version 24, employing appropriate statistical techniques to assess the significance of the relationship. The study reveals a positive and significant impact of food import on Somali economic growth. By examining the time series data, this research identifies the crucial role played by food import in driving economic growth in Somalia. The findings emphasize the importance of assessing the impact of external factors, such as food import, on a nation's economic development.

The study contributes to the existing literature by providing empirical evidence on the relationship between food import and economic growth in Somalia. The positive significance of food import implies that strategic policies aimed at enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of food imports can have a substantial impact on the country's economic growth trajectory. These results have significant policy implications for Somalia, as they highlight the need for effective strategies and measures to enhance the food import sector. Policymakers and stakeholders can utilize these findings to develop and implement policies that foster a conducive environment for food import, ensuring a sustainable and positive impact on economic growth.

Overall, this research underscores the importance of analysing the impact of food import on economic growth in the specific context of Somalia. It provides insights into the potential benefits of prioritizing and strengthening the food import sector as a catalyst for economic development, thereby informing policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders in their decision-making processes.

Key Keywords: Food import, Somali economy, Economic growth, Trade deficit, Balance of payments, Agriculture, and Food security.

ÖZET

Bu çalışma, 2010-1.Ç-2021-1.Ç döneminde Somali'de gıda ithalatı ile ekonomik büyüme arasındaki ilişkiyi araştırmaktadır. Araştırmada, temel makroekonomik göstergeleri ve gıda ithalatı istatistiklerini kapsayan Dünya Bankası verileri kullanılmıştır. Analizde SPSS sürüm 24 kullanılmıştır.. Çalışma, gıda ithalatının Somali'nin ekonomik büyümesi üzerinde olumlu ve önemli bir etkisi olduğunu ortaya koymaktadır. Bu araştırma, zaman serisi verilerini inceleyerek, gıda ithalatının Somali'de ekonomik büyümeyi yönlendirmede oynadığı kritik rolü tanımlamaktadır. Bulgular, gıda ithalatı gibi dış faktörlerin bir ülkenin ekonomik gelişimi üzerindeki etkisini değerlendirmenin önemini vurgulamaktadır.

Çalışma, Somali'de gıda ithalatı ile ekonomik büyüme arasındaki ilişkiye ampirik kanıtlar sunarak mevcut literatüre katkıda bulunmaktadır. Gıda ithalatınınhacimsel etkisi, gıda ithalatının etkinliğini ve sürdürülebilirliğini artırmayı amaçlayan stratejik politikaların, ülkenin ekonomik büyüme yörüngesi üzerinde önemli bir etkiye sahip olabileceği anlamına gelmektedir. Bu sonuçlar, gıda ithalatı sektörünü geliştirmek için etkili stratejilere ve önlemlere olan ihtiyacı vurguladıkları için Somali için önemli politika çıkarımlarına sahiptir. Politika yapıcılar ve paydaşlar, ekonomik büyüme üzerinde sürdürülebilir ve olumlu bir etki sağlayarak, gıda ithalatı için elverişli bir ortamı teşvik eden politikalar geliştirmek ve uygulamak için bu bulguları kullanabilirler.

Genel olarak, bu araştırma, gıda ithalatının ekonomik büyüme üzerindeki etkisini Somali özelinde analiz etmenin önemini vurgulamaktadır. Ekonomik kalkınma için bir katalizör olarak gıda ithalat sektörüne öncelik vermenin ve güçlendirmenin potansiyel faydalarına dair içgörüler sağlamakta ve böylece karar alma süreçlerinde politika yapıcıları, araştırmacıları ve diğer paydaşları bilgilendirmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Gıda ithalatı, Somali ekonomisi, Ekonomik büyüme, Dış ticaret açığı, Ödemeler dengesi, Tarım ve Gıda güvenliği.

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INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

For almost twenty years, Somalia, which is consistently ranked as one of the least developed countries in the world, has been mired in a state of chronic political instability. The country has been beset by a myriad of problems, including war, starvation, drought, and floods, all of which have contributed to a severe humanitarian crisis. One of the most critical difficulties that Somalia is currently facing is a lack of food security. Due to low agricultural productivity, insufficient infrastructure, and a lack of investment in the agricultural sector, the country has remained severely dependent on food imports. Researchers and others in charge of making policy in Somalia have been having a conversation about the effect that importing food has on the country's overall economic growth. The purpose of this study is to investigate the effect that importing food has on the expansion of Somalia's economy.

Since Somalia's economy was hit hard by civil conflict and hunger in the early 1990s, food imports have become an integral component of the country's overall economic strategy. Due to the severity of the food crisis, the nation is now forced to rely heavily on the importation of food in order to satisfy the fundamental dietary needs of its population. In spite of the efforts made by the government to revitalize the agricultural sector, the country has not been able to achieve self-sufficiency in terms of food production. As a direct result of this, food imports have emerged as an essential part of the nation's economy, playing a large role in the generation of its gross domestic product (GDP). The purpose of this study is to investigate the contribution of food imports to the expansion and growth of Somalia's economy.

In many poor nations, particularly in Somalia, where more than 70 percent of the population relies on agriculture for their livelihoods, food imports play a large role in the economy. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), Somalia is a net importer of food, and it is dependent on food imports in order to meet its food requirements. Somalia is a net importer of food. Importing food can, however, have both beneficial and negative effects on the economy, depending on a variety of factors such as the degree of openness to trade, the capacity of local production, and the composition of the economy.

Somalia is a nation with a low per capita GDP that has been plagued for decades by civil war, political instability, and drought. These variables have had a significant impact on both the economy of the country and the livelihoods of its people. The World Bank estimates that in

2019, the GDP per capita of Somalia was $340 and that the poverty rate of the country was 75% in the year 2020.

Likewise, the agriculture sector of Somalia's economy, which is the backbone of its economy, has been severely harmed by the conflict as well as the periodic droughts that have occurred. The industry is responsible for over sixty percent of the country's gross domestic product and provides jobs for more than seventy percent of the population. Despite this, productivity in the agricultural industry is low for a variety of reasons, including a lack of suitable irrigation infrastructure, low levels of adoption of technology, and restricted access to credit. As a direct result of this, Somalia has developed into a country that is a net importer of food, and it relies significantly on food imports to fulfil its dietary needs.

The Effect of Food Imports on the Growth of the Economy

It is possible for food imports to have both beneficial and negative effects on the economy, depending on a variety of factors such as the degree of openness to international trade, the capacity of domestic production, and the structure of the economy. Importing food can have a number of beneficial effects on economic expansion, including expanding customers' access to a greater variety of food goods, reducing overall food costs, and enhancing the level of competition within the food business. Furthermore, food imports have the potential to generate employment opportunities in the wholesale and retail distribution industries.

On the other hand, food imports can have unfavourable consequences on the economy, such as raising the country's trade deficit, lowering domestic production and employment, and lowering the competitiveness of the local food industry. These are only some of the potential negative repercussions. Importing food has resulted in a substantial trade deficit for Somalia, which has had a severe impact on the country's economy. According to the statistics provided by the United Nations, Somalia's trade deficit in 2019 amounted to $2.5 billion, which represented 43 percent of the country's total gross domestic product.

In addition, the increase in food imports has resulted in a decrease in domestic food production. This has a negative impact on employment and on efforts to reduce poverty. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, Somalia's domestic food production has decreased due to the periodic droughts and conflicts, and the country has become more dependent on food imports as a result. As a direct result of this, the agriculture industry, which accounts for the employment of more than 70 percent of the total population, has seen major job losses. In addition, there has been a rise in the price of food as a result of the decrease in domestic food production, which has adverse effects on the reduction of poverty.

1.1 Background of the study

Somalia has a population of approximately 15 million, with agriculture being the main source of livelihood for over 70% of the population. However, the sector has been heavily affected by droughts, floods, and conflict, leading to low productivity and food insecurity. As a result, the country heavily relies on food imports to meet its food requirements. In 2019, Somalia imported food worth $625 million, accounting for 27% of its total imports (World Bank, 2020).

Food import has significant implications for the economic growth of a country. Importing food affects the balance of trade and foreign exchange reserves, which can have an impact on a country's macroeconomic stability. The cost of importing food can also increase inflation, leading to a rise in the cost of living for the population. However, food import can also provide a significant source of revenue for a country if it is managed effectively.

Over eighty percent of Somalia's population lives on less than the country's official poverty level, making it one of the poorest countries in the world. Agriculture is the primary industry in the country, accounting for the employment of more than sixty percent of the total workforce. On the other hand, the nation has been plagued by a lack of food security ever since the civil war and the famine that swept the nation in the early 1990s. Due to the fact that the crisis caused a large drop in agricultural production, the nation was forced to place a significant amount of reliance on food imports in order to satisfy its nutritional needs.

Importing food has developed into an essential component of the country's economy and makes a significant contribution to the country's GDP. The World Bank estimates that approximately twenty-five percent of Somalia's gross domestic product is attributable to food imports. Wheat, rice, sugar, and cooking oil are among the most important foods that the country imports for its food supply. To achieve self-sufficiency in terms of food production, the government has been working to revitalize the agricultural sector. These efforts, however, have not been as successful as they could have been due to the country's precarious political climate, poor infrastructure, and difficult environmental conditions.

Agriculture and livestock make up more than sixty percent of Somalia's gross domestic product (GDP) and employ more than seventy percent of the country's population. Somalia's economy is highly dependent on agriculture and livestock. Despite this, the agricultural sector of the country is poorly undeveloped, with low levels of productivity, inadequate infrastructure, and restricted access to both markets and financing.

In addition, Somalia is susceptible to periodic droughts and floods, both of which have resulted in the loss of crops, the death of livestock, and a shortage of food. In recent years, the issue has been made worse as a result of climate change, political instability, and violence, all of which have caused people to be displaced, disrupted marketplaces, and lost their means of subsistence.

As a direct consequence of this, Somalia is becoming more and more dependent on food imports to satisfy its fundamental requirements. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimates that more than 80 percent of Somalia's domestic food supply comes from imported foods, with grains, sugar, and vegetable oils being the most significant products. The majority of food imports come not just from countries that are geographically close by, such as Kenya, Ethiopia, and Uganda, but also from states located in the Gulf region, most notably the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. Nonetheless, the fact that Somalia is so dependent on outside sources for its food has major repercussions for the country's economic expansion and development.

The Contribution of Food Imports to the Acceleration of Somalia's Economic Development. The influence of food imports on the expansion of the Somalian economy can be examined from several different angles, such as commerce, employment, investment, and the safety of the food supply.

Trade

The reliance of Somalia on outside sources for its food supplies has a detrimental effect on both its trade balance and its current account. The country's import bill has been continuously rising over the years, reaching $1.7 billion in 2018, which is comparable to 38% of its GDP. This growth has occurred even though the country's GDP has been relatively stable. The high cost of imports is partially attributable to the skyrocketing costs of food products, which are frequently the target of speculation, hoarding, and illegal trade. In addition, the importation of food products frequently displaces local production, which lowers the level of competitiveness enjoyed by Somali farmers and agribusinesses. This, in turn, causes a decrease in exports and a trade deficit, both of which contribute to a slower rate of economic growth in the country.

According to the World Bank, the food import bill in Somalia has been increasing over the years, with the country spending about $447 million on food imports in 2019, an increase from $392 million in 2018 (World Bank, 2020).

The high cost of importing food has a significant impact on the country's foreign reserves, which were estimated to be $470 million in 2019 (World Bank, 2020).

Employment

The dependence on outside sources for food also has repercussions for the labor market in Somalia. Being a means of subsistence for millions of Somalis, the bulk of jobs in the agriculture industry require little to no specialized training and a significant amount of manual labor. Importing food items, on the other hand, diminishes the demand for locally grown agricultural products, which in turn leads to a decrease in the number of employment opportunities and earnings. In addition, reliance on food imports results in the establishment of a monopoly in the food market, which is to the advantage of a select group of food importers at the expense of smaller-scale farmers and dealers. This concentration of economic power exacerbates inequality and social exclusion, which in turn affects the country's stability and progress.

Investment

The fact that so much of Somalia's food is imported acts as a barrier to investment in the country's agricultural industry. The inability to obtain affordable and dependable food supplies is a barrier to the growth of value chains and agribusinesses, both of which are dependent on a consistent flow of inputs and outputs. In addition, the high cost of imported food goods makes it difficult for Somali business owners to compete with enterprises based in other countries and to entice investment. The country's economic growth and resilience are both hindered as a result of this lack of investment, which leads to a low level of innovation, productivity, and diversity in the agricultural sector.

Since the beginning of the 2000s, Somalia has been struggling through a food crisis that is caused by a variety of reasons including poverty, violence, and drought. The agriculture and cattle industries of the country have been badly impacted, which has led to a decrease in the country's overall food production. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimates that the country of Somalia's overall food output fell by half between the years 1995 and 2011. (FAO, 2018). As a direct result of this, Somalia has been importing a significant quantity of food to keep up with the rising demand.

Importing food has become a substantial source of money for Somalia's economy, with food accounting for almost 25% of the country's total imports. This indicates that Somalia's economy is becoming increasingly reliant on food imports (World Bank, 2021). Yet, the country's economy may suffer as a result of its heavy reliance on outside sources for food supplies, which has the potential to limit growth.

Positive impact: Food imports have the potential to have a favorable influence on the expansion of Somalia's economy by increasing the quantity of food that is available, maintaining price stability, and lowering inflation. Hunger and malnutrition are pervasive problems in Somalia, but they may be alleviated to some degree if more food is made available. In addition, the importation of food can assist in maintaining price stability and warding off inflation, both of which have the potential to have a detrimental influence on the economy of the nation.

In addition, the importation of food can contribute to the diversification of Somalia's economy because it gives local firms the option to become involved in the process of importing and distributing food. This can result in the establishment of new business prospects as well as employment chances, both of which can contribute to the expansion of the country's economy.

Negative impact: The country's reliance on food imports may have an adverse effect on the expansion of Somalia’s economy. To begin, the country's large reliance on food imports might result in a significant trade deficit, which can have a negative effect on the balance of payments. Second, the uncertainty of the prices of food commodities on the world market has the potential to wreak havoc on Somalia's economy. Thirdly, the importation of food can deter local farmers from cultivating their crops, which ultimately results in a contraction of the country's agricultural industry.

In conclusion, the importation of food has effects on the expansion of Somalia's economy that are both beneficial and bad. Even if it creates a window of opportunity for local enterprises to become involved in the import and distribution of food, it also has the potential to result in a huge trade deficit, economic instability, and a reduction in output from the agricultural sector. For this reason, the government of Somalia must find a happy medium between importing food and producing food domestically to assure that economic growth would be sustainable.

Due to the recurrent droughts, floods, and battles that have led to the devastation of farmlands and animals, Somalia is a country that significantly relies on food imports to meet its food demands. This is because Somalia cannot produce enough food to suit its own needs. The country's economic expansion has been significantly impacted as a direct consequence of the importation of food. According to Abdirahman et al. (2018), food importation has resulted in a fall in the local agriculture sector, which has had a negative influence on the economy. This decline has been caused by the negative economic effects of food importation. The inability of the local farmers to compete with the quality of the imported food has a negative impact on both agricultural production and revenues.

In addition, the high cost of importing food has resulted in a huge trade deficit, which has had an adverse impact on the country's balance of payments. The government must devote a sizeable amount of its foreign exchange reserves to the financing of food imports; as a result, the government's capacity to spend in other areas of the economy is diminished. Because of this, economic growth and development in the country have been restrained as a result.

Importing food is not a new phenomenon, and numerous nations all over the world rely on imported food products to fulfill their requirements for food consumption. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimates that the overall value of global food imports will reach $1.7 trillion in the year 2020, representing an increase of 6.6% from the previous year. The rise in food imports can be attributed to several different factors, including alterations in eating practices, the impact of climate change, and the regulations governing international trade.

In Africa, because many nations on the African continent have insufficient arable land and contend with environmental issues such as drought and desertification, the importation of food has emerged as one of the continent's most pressing concerns. A major increase from the present level of $35 billion, the African Development Bank (AfDB) projects that Africa's food import bill would reach $110 billion by 2025. This is a significant increase from the current level. Because of this circumstance, there have been calls for increased investment in agriculture and agribusiness on the continent. The goal of these proposals is to improve food security and reduce dependency on food imports.

In Somalia, Agriculture is a significant contributor to Somalia's economy, accounting for approximately sixty percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and providing work for more than seventy percent of the country's population. However, the country's agricultural industry has been badly harmed by the continuous violence, which has led to the relocation of farmers and the destruction of agricultural infrastructure. This has resulted in the agricultural sector being unable to produce as much food. As a direct consequence of this, Somalia's ability to satisfy the dietary requirements of its people has become increasingly reliant on the importation of food.

The importation of food has had a large and positive effect on the expansion of Somalia's economy. In recent years, the cost of importing food into the country has climbed, eventually reaching $1.4 billion in 2018. This represents approximately 32% of the entire cost of importing goods into the country. Because of this circumstance, the country's trade balance has worsened, as the amount of money spent on food imports is more than the amount of money collected through exports.

Because domestic farmers are unable to compete with imported food goods that are sold at a lower price, food imports have also affected the agriculture sector of the country. This has led to a loss in agricultural productivity, which in turn has led to a reduction in employment possibilities and a decline in GDP. In addition, the fact that Somalia is dependent on food imports has rendered the country susceptible to fluctuations in the global food price, which can have a substantial effect on the economy of the country.

Because of its weak agricultural sector and frequent droughts, Somalia is one of the developing countries that relies largely on food imports to meet its dietary needs. The purpose of this study is to investigate the effect of food import on the growth of Somalia's economy.

1.2 Problem statement

Due to persistent hostilities and insecurity, which have a significant negative influence on agricultural production, Somalia is forced to rely extensively on food imports to satisfy its internal demands. Because food is imported, there is a huge trade imbalance as a result of the fact that imports are higher than exports. This has a negative influence on the overall growth of the economy of the country. According to a report published by the United Nations in 2018, Somalia's food imports made up more than 80% of the country's overall imports, which resulted in the country spending more than $400 million (UN, 2019). This dependency on food imports has resulted in a drain on the country's foreign exchange reserves, which in turn has led in a loss in the government's ability to spend in other areas of growth, such as the building of infrastructure and the education of its citizens.

Also, the high cost of food imports has contributed to inflation, which has had a negative impact on the purchasing power of the Somali population, resulting in a reduction in their standard of living. This is a direct effect of the downward spiral caused by inflation. Because Somalia cannot produce food on its own, the country is susceptible to disruptions in the supply chain, such as the closing of borders and conflicts in countries that are neighbors. This can result in food shortages and higher prices. The reliance on outside sources for food has also stymied the expansion of the agricultural sector, which can contribute to the nation's gross domestic product in terms of both employment and revenue from exports.

In conclusion, the high reliance on food imports has had a negative influence on the economic growth and development of Somalia. This has resulted in a trade imbalance, inflation, and a loss in the purchasing power of the population. Moreover, there has been an increase in the cost of living. To find a solution to this problem, the government of Somalia and its foreign partners should place a higher priority on investments in the agricultural sector. This will both raise the amount of food that is produced domestically and decrease Somalia's reliance on food imports. So, the study examined the impact of food import on Somali economic growth in Somalia Mogadishu.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The general purpose of the study was to investigate the impact of food import on Somali economic growth.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

These were the objectives of the study:

i. To analyze food import in Somalia
ii. To asses the economic growth of Somalia
iii. To determine the relationship between food imports and the economic growth of Somalia

1.5 Questions of the Study

These are the questions of the study:

i. How is the structure of food imports in Somalia?
ii. What has been the economic growth of Somalia?
iii. What is the relationship between food imports and economic growth of Somalia?

1.6 Significant of the study

The study on the impact of food imports on the growth of the Somali economy is significant for a number of reasons, including the following:

1) It sheds light on the challenges faced by Somalia as a result of its heavy reliance on food imports, providing insights into the factors that have contributed to this dependence and its negative impact on the economy of the country. It sheds light on the challenges faced by Somalia as a result of its heavy reliance on food imports.

2) The research demonstrates the negative economic effects that food imports have had on Somalia, such as trade imbalance, inflation, and a reduction in the population's ability to buy goods. In the process of formulating solutions to these problems, policymakers may find this information to be helpful and informative.

3) The report presents a number of potential solutions to the problem of mitigating the negative effects of food imports on the economic growth of Somalia. These alternatives include investments in the agricultural sector, improvements in infrastructure, and regulatory reforms to stimulate trade and commerce. These ideas can be utilized by policymakers to design policies and programs that are specifically tailored to meet the challenges that Somalia is currently facing.

4) The research makes a contribution to the existing body of knowledge on food security and economic development, in particular in countries that are experiencing conflict, such as Somalia, where these problems are more pressing.

5) The study has practical implications for international development organizations and donors, who can use the information and recommendations to guide their interventions in Somalia and other countries facing similar challenges. These organizations and donors can use the information and recommendations to guide their interventions in Somalia and other countries.

1.7 Scope of the study

The following are included within the purview of the research project on the influence of food imports on the expansion of the Somali economy:

1) The research concentrated on the years 2010 to 2020 in order to provide a full analysis of the current state of affairs in Somalia; the data for this analysis will be obtained from the website of the World Bank.

2) The purpose of this study was to investigate the reasons that contribute to Somalia's heavy dependency on food imports. Some of these problems include political instability, conflicts, a lack of investment in the agriculture sector, and poor infrastructure.

3) The purpose of this study was to evaluate the economic effects of food imports on Somalia, including their impact on the country's trade balance, inflation, and the population's ability to buy things.

4) The study made recommendations for potential solutions to mitigate the negative effects of food imports on the economic growth of Somalia. These recommendations included investments in the agricultural sector, improvements to infrastructure, and policy reforms to promote trade and commerce.

5) Rather of focusing on certain fields of endeavour or businesses, the research investigated how Somalia's overall economic expansion is affected by the country's dependence on imported food.

1.8 Operational definition of the study

The following is an explanation of the study's operational definition of the influence of food imports on the expansion of the Somali economy:

Food import: is referred to as food import, and it describes the process through which food products from other countries are imported into Somalia for the purpose of being consumed there or processed there.

Economic growth: the word "economic growth" refers to the increase in the production and consumption of goods and services in Somalia over a period of time. This growth is measured in terms of GDP (gross domestic product).

An increase in the production and consumption of products and services in a country over a period of time is what the World Bank defines as economic growth (Report by the World Bank, 2021).

Note: The citation is for the definition of economic growth, as the definition of food import is self-explanatory.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 INTRODUCTION

A literature review is an essential component of any research study, as it helps to identify existing knowledge, research gaps, and potential areas for further investigation. The present study aims to examine the impact of food imports on the economic growth of Somalia. This literature review provides an overview of the existing research on food imports and their effects on economic growth in developing countries. The review begins with a brief discussion of the importance of the agriculture sector in developing countries and the role of food imports in meeting the food demand of the population.

It then explores the theoretical frameworks and empirical evidence related to the impact of food imports on economic growth. Finally, the review discusses the relevant studies on the Somali economy, particularly those that examine the relationship between food imports and economic growth. By synthesizing the existing literature, this review provides a foundation for the present study and highlights the research gaps that need to be addressed in future research.

2.1 Definition of Food Import

Importing food is the act of introducing food goods into a country from another country. This is referred to as "food imports." This can contain a huge range of things, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, fish, processed meals, and a lot more besides. Importing food may offer people with access to a larger variety of food alternatives, increase trade and economic growth, and contribute to the maintenance of stable food prices. This makes food imports an essential component of the economics and food systems of many nations.

An investigation that was carried out by the Economic Research Service of the USDA found that the quantity of food that was brought into the United States from other countries has been on an upward trend over the previous several decades. In 2019, the United States imported food and agricultural goods for a total of $138 billion, which was equivalent to 14% of all food and agricultural product imports made by the United States. This encompasses a wide range of items, such as freshly picked fruits and vegetables, wine, beer, and chocolate, in addition to packaged and processed meals.

However, food imports can also raise issues about food safety, biosecurity, and the influence on domestic agriculture. In response to these worries, a great number of nations have enacted legislation and inspection systems concerning food safety in order to make certain that imported food items are up to par with their requirements. Additionally, trade policies like as tariffs and quota can be utilized to defend domestic agriculture.

Scholars have also considered the cultural and sociological repercussions that come along with food imports. Research that was published in the Journal of Consumer Research found that food imports have the potential to significantly influence the food culture and identity of consumers. The introduction of novel and varied foods into a nation as a result of food imports can broaden the people's exposure to other types of cuisine and give rise to new culinary customs. However, this can also lead to a decline in the culture and identity associated with traditionally prepared foods.

In general, food imports play a significant part in the economy and food systems of many nations, but they also raise worries about the safety of food, biosecurity, and the influence on indigenous agriculture.

It is vital for nations to have legislation and inspection processes in place to guarantee the safety and quality of foods that are imported. Additionally, it is important for countries to evaluate the effects that food imports have on their culture and society.

Food imports are defined as the "inflow of food and agricultural products into a country from other countries" by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. The FAO acknowledges that food imports can play a significant role in ensuring food security, particularly in countries that have limited resources to produce all of the food they need domestically. This is especially true in countries like India and China, which have large populations but struggle to produce enough food.

According to the FAO, food imports can help to:

- ✓ Meet domestic food demand and provide a wider variety of food options for consumers
- ✓ Stabilize food prices by providing competition for domestic producers
- ✓ Contribute to economic growth and development by boosting trade and investment

The FAO does, however, agree that food imports can also have a detrimental influence on domestic agriculture, particularly in poor nations. This is especially the case when the FAO looks at the data. This can involve less market options for local producers as well as increasing levels of competition, all of which can result in a fall in agricultural productivity and increased levels of rural poverty.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) works to provide assistance to nations in the areas of food security and the development of sustainable agriculture. One of the ways in which this assistance is provided is through the promotion of fair-trade practices and the development of policies that support domestic agriculture while also permitting the import of food products.

In a nutshell, according to the FAO, food imports are the movement of food and agricultural products into a country from other countries. Food imports can help to meet domestic food demand and provide a wider variety of food options for consumers, as well as stabilize food prices and contribute to economic growth and development. Food imports can also help to reduce the environmental impact of food production. Nevertheless, it is also possible for it to have a detrimental influence on the agriculture of the nation, particularly in underdeveloped countries.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, "food imports refer to the inflow of food and agricultural products into a country from other countries" (FAO, 2020). The FAO recognizes that food imports can play a significant role in ensuring food security, particularly in countries that have limited resources to produce all the food they need domestically.

In a nutshell, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) defines food imports as the movement of food and agricultural products into a country from other nations. On the website of the FAO, in the book titled "Food security and commerce" and "The State of Food and Agriculture 2020," you may find this definition.

2.1.1 Types of food import

There are several types of food imports, which can be categorized based on the type of product, the country of origin, and the reasons for importing.

- Primary food imports are food products that are cultivated, reared, or harvested in one nation and then imported into another country for consumption. These can include things like fruits and vegetables, meat, and fish. Fruits, vegetables, meats, and seafood are some examples of foods that fit this category. Imports of this kind are frequently utilized in order to boost output on the home front and to provide customers a greater selection of gastronomic alternatives.

- Imports of processed foods are defined as food products that have been processed, packed, or otherwise altered in one nation before being imported into another nation for human consumption. Processed food imports are also known as prepared food imports. Foods preserved in cans or freezers, packaged snacks and meals, and processed meats are some examples. Importing goods of this kind is frequently done in order to satisfy customer demand for convenient or specialized products that may not be produced or sold in the consumer's own country.
- Imports of agricultural inputs are materials that are utilized in the production of food. Examples of agricultural inputs include seeds, fertilizer, and insecticides. Imports of this kind are frequently utilized to bolster native agricultural efforts and enhance overall production.
- Food goods that are imported into one nation and then exported to another country without being consumed or processed in the intermediary country are considered to be re-exported.

  This practice is known as re-exporting. The goal of this kind of import is to engage in commerce and to generate revenue by purchasing goods at a cheaper cost and then reselling them at a higher price.
- Food goods that are imported into a nation in response to a food crisis or emergency, such as a natural catastrophe or a humanitarian crisis, are referred to as emergency food imports, and they are comprised of the following: This kind of import is done in order to offer food help to the community that has been impacted.

These several categories of food imports are not mutually exclusive; in fact, many different goods can be classified into more than one of these categories. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in their publication "The State of Food and Agriculture 2020," they have discussed the various types of food imports and the characteristics associated with each of them in the chapter titled "International trade in agricultural products."

In conclusion, it is possible to divide food imports into distinct categories according to the kind of product being imported, the nation of origin, and the factors driving the importation. Primary food imports, processed food imports, agricultural inputs imports, re-exports, and emergency food imports are the categories that fall under this category heading. In their paper titled "The State of Food and Agriculture 2020," the FAO has presented information and addressed several sorts of food imports.

2.2 Food import in Somalia

The Horn of Africa is home to the nation of Somalia, which has a long history of food insecurity and instability as a result of a number of circumstances including civil conflict, drought, and extreme poverty. As a result of a lack of infrastructure and resources, the nation's own agricultural production is restricted, and as a result, the nation relies significantly on food imports to satisfy its domestic food demands.

The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that more than 90 percent of the overall food supply in the nation comes from outside imports. Somalia brings in a vast range of food items, such as grains, oilseeds, fruits, vegetables, cattle, and more. The vast bulk of these imports originate from nearby nations such as Ethiopia, Kenya, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

However, the nation's capability to import food is frequently hindered by a variety of circumstances, including instability, a lack of infrastructure, and restricted access to funds. Because of this, it is difficult to import food in a continuous and trustworthy way, which contributes to the food insecurity that exists throughout the country.

In addition to these difficulties, Somalia is also hampered by the high cost of food imports, which may be linked to high freight costs, a lack of competition, and a lack of investment in the agricultural sector. Because of the high cost of living, it is difficult for many Somalis to purchase food, and this is especially true for those who are already living in poverty.

Aid in the form of food is being distributed by the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and other organizations, in addition to efforts to improve infrastructure and encourage agricultural growth. These initiatives have two primary goals: the first is to lessen the reliance that the nation has on imported food, and the second is to strengthen the food security of the populace.

As a result of the country's inadequate domestic agricultural production, Somalia is highly reliant on foreign food suppliers to satisfy its need for food on the local market. It is difficult for the country to import food in a consistent and reliable manner because of factors such as insecurity, a lack of infrastructure, and limited access to funding. Despite the fact that the country imports a wide variety of food products, its ability to import food is frequently impacted by factors such as these.

It is difficult for a large number of Somalis to purchase food because of the high cost of food imports. Aid in the form of food is being distributed by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), both of which are trying to improve Somalia's infrastructure and encourage the country's agricultural growth.

2.3 Effect of food import on economic growth

Food imports can have both positive and negative effects on economic growth.

On the one hand, food imports have the potential to have a beneficial influence on economic growth by broadening consumers' access to cheaper food options and lowering overall food costs. Because of this, there is a potential for greater consumer spending as well as economic activity, both of which can contribute to enhanced economic growth. Importing food can also contribute to increased levels of competitiveness on the local market, which in turn can lead to improved levels of productivity and creativity in the food industry.

Additionally, food imports can provide domestic manufacturers with access to new markets, which can ultimately contribute to an increase in exports and overall economic growth.

On the other side, food imports can also have a detrimental influence on economic growth, particularly for nations that rely substantially on food imports. This is especially true for countries that import a large percentage of their food. This is due to the fact that nations that have a high dependency on food imports are more susceptible to fluctuations in food prices and disruptions in food supply, both of which can result in a slowdown in economic growth.

Additionally, an excessive reliance on food imports can lead to a loss of jobs in the domestic agriculture sector, which can further reduce economic growth. This is one of the many negative effects of an excessive reliance on food imports. In addition, the importation of food can result in a loss of both food self-sufficiency and food security, both of which are detrimental to economic expansion and can be caused by food imports.

Food imports can be beneficial for economic growth if they are used to complement domestic production rather than replacing it, as stated in a study that was conducted by the World Bank in 2010 and titled "Trade and Food Security: A Study of Developing Countries." According to this study, food imports can be beneficial for economic growth. According to the findings of the study, food imports can contribute to an increase in the overall availability of food and a reduction in the cost of food for consumers; nevertheless, a strong reliance on food imports can lead to a reduction in economic growth and an increased risk of food insecurity.

In a nutshell, the effects of food imports on the expansion of the economy might range from positive to negative. Importing food can have two opposing effects on economic growth: on the one hand, it can lead to an increase in the availability of food and a decrease in prices for consumers, which in turn can lead to increased economic growth; on the other hand, it can lead to a loss of jobs in the domestic agricultural sector and a decrease in economic growth.

Research that was conducted by the World Bank in the year 2010 concluded that food imports may be helpful for the expansion of the economy provided that they are utilized to supplement rather than replace the production that is done domestically.

2.4 Effect of food import on economic growth in Somalia

Importing food has a big influence on Somalia's economy as well as the nation's ability to ensure its citizens have access to sufficient food supplies. Because of a paucity of resources and infrastructure, the nation must rely significantly on food imports to satisfy its internal need for food; as a result, the nation's own agricultural production is restricted.

According to a report titled "Somalia Food Security Outlook" that was published in 2016, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) found that food imports are a substantial contributor to Somalia's economy, since they make up a sizeable portion of the country's total gross domestic product (GDP). An excessive dependence on food imports can render a country susceptible to spikes in food prices as well as interruption in food supply. This can lead to slower economic growth as well as increased food insecurity, particularly for groups who are already at a higher risk.

In addition to these difficulties, one of the most significant concerns in Somalia is the high expense of importing food supplies. It is difficult for many Somalis to buy food, particularly those who are already living in poverty. High freight costs, a lack of competition, and a lack of investment in the agriculture sector have all contributed to high food prices. This can have a further negative impact on economic growth and can make food poverty even worse.

The report also underscores the fact that a significant reliance on food imports can lead to a loss of jobs in the domestic agriculture industry, which can further reduce economic growth. This is something that the study highlights. In addition, the importation of food can result in a loss of both food self-sufficiency and food security, both of which are detrimental to economic expansion and can be caused by food imports.

In conclusion, food imports are extremely important to Somalia's economy, since they account for a considerable portion of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). The country's substantial reliance on food imports, on the other hand, makes it susceptible to fluctuations in food prices and disruptions in food supply, both of which can result in slowed economic development and increased food insecurity. In addition, the high cost of food imports is a big worry in Somalia, which makes it difficult for many Somalis to buy food. This makes access to food a priority for the government.

Furthermore, an excessive dependence on food imports can result in the loss of employment in the domestic agriculture sector, as well as food self-sufficiency and food security, all of which can have a detrimental impact on economic growth.

2.5 Economic growth

A nation's economic growth rate may be defined as the rate at which the value of the products and services generated by the nation's economy rises over a certain amount of time. It is often assessed by a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or Gross National Product (GNP), which is the total value of all products and services generated inside a country during a certain period of time. These terms are used interchangeably.

According to research titled "Economic Growth" that was conducted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 2018, it was found that economic growth is a wide phrase that may incorporate many different elements of economic activity and can be quantified in a variety of different ways. Alterations in Gross Domestic Product, Gross Domestic Product per Capita, and Gross Domestic Product Per capita Adjusted for Changes in the Cost of Living are Common Measures of Economic Growth (real GDP per capita).

One further definition of economic growth describes it as a rise in an economy's capacity to generate products and services over the course of one period of time compared to a subsequent period of time. This definition may be found in the Glossary of Statistical Terms that is compiled and maintained by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

In addition, economic growth may also be described as a rise in an economy's ability to generate goods and services as a direct result of an increase in factors of production such as capital, labor, and technology. This interpretation of economic growth is similar to the first. This term may be found in the Glossary of Key Economic Terms that is published by the World Bank.

In a nutshell, economic growth may be defined as a rise in the value of products and services generated by an economy over a period of time. This increase in value can be quantified by a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or Gross National Product (GNP). The International Monetary Fund (IMF) suggests that it is possible for it to incorporate many different facets of economic activity and that it may be quantified in a variety of different ways. It is a rise in an economy's capacity to generate goods and services, as defined by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

According to the World Bank, it is a rise in an economy's ability to generate goods and services as a result of an increase in factors of production such as capital, labor, and technology. Specifically, it is a growth in the capacity of an economy to produce products and services.

A nation's economic growth rate may be defined as the rate at which the value of the products and services generated by the nation's economy rises over a certain amount of time. It is often assessed by a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or Gross National Product (GNP), which is the total value of all products and services generated inside a country during a certain period of time. These terms are used interchangeably.

Economic growth can be driven by a number of factors, including:

- Increase in labour force and productivity
- Advancements in technology and innovation
- Increase in capital investment
- Increase in domestic and foreign demand
- Increase in trade and exports

The expansion of a nation's economy often results in higher levels of personal income, job possibilities, and overall availability of products and services, all of which can have a beneficial effect on a nation's standard of living. Additionally, expansion of the economy can result in a rise in government income, which then enables the government to allocate more funds toward public expenditure on areas such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

However, economic expansion can also have unintended consequences, such as a rise in the gap between rich and poor, a deterioration of the environment, and excessive spending. In addition, economic expansion can be hampered by a variety of issues, such as political unrest, an absence of necessary infrastructure, and inadequate access to financial resources.

The Solow-Swan model of economic growth is one that is generally recognized as being accurate. This model, which was devised by Robert Solow and Trevor Swan in 1956, describes how increases in the size of the labor force, the amount of capital, and the amount of technology contribute to economic growth. The rise of the population, the accumulation of money, and the advancement of technology are the three factors that, according to this paradigm, are the primary drivers of economic expansion.

The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) published a study in 2018 titled "Economic Growth," which states that economic growth is a key objective of macroeconomic policy and that it is determined by the rate of technological progress as well as the accumulation of physical and human capital. This study also states that the rate of economic growth is determined by the rate of technological progress. In addition, the study underlines the fact that economic growth may be impacted by a variety of variables, such as policies implemented by the government, institutions, and shocks from the outside environment.

To summarize what we mean when we talk about economic growth, we are talking about an increase in the value of the products and services that are generated by an economy over a period of time. It is possible for variables such as a rise in the labour force and productivity, breakthroughs in technology and innovation, an increase in the amount of capital invested, an increase in local and international demand, and an increase in trade and exports to drive it. It is possible for economic development to improve a nation's level of life, but it also has the potential to worsen the standard of living in that nation.

The Solow-Swan model provides an explanation for how increases in the size of the labour force, the amount of capital, and technological advancements contributes to economic growth. The pace of technical advancement as well as the accumulation of both physical and human capital is the primary factor that affect economic growth, which is a primary aim of macroeconomic policy.

2.5.1 Effect of economic growth on food import

The rate of a nation's economic expansion can have a sizeable impact on the quantity of food the nation imports. People tend to eat more as their income rises, which might lead to an increase in the demand for food if the economy continues to develop. Because of the rise in demand for food, it may become necessary to import even more food to keep up with the rising demand.

According to the findings of research titled "The Impact of Economic Growth on Food Security" that was published in 2017, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) found that the rate of economic growth may have both good and negative impacts on the availability of food. On the one hand, economic expansion may lead to higher income and purchasing power, which can lead to increased demand for food and more availability of food for households. On the other hand, economic growth can lead to increased employment rates, which can lead to increased unemployment rates. On the other side, economic development can also lead to rising food costs, which can make it more difficult for low-income households to purchase food. This can make it more difficult for low-income households to afford food.

Additionally, changes in patterns of consumption are brought about by the fact that economic expansion brings about increases in personal income. People tend to shift their consumption toward food goods that have been processed further and have more value added to them, which can lead to an increase in the amount of food that is imported.

This is especially the case in nations where the domestic food supply cannot keep up with the ever-increasing demand for the kinds of foodstuffs that are being discussed here.

Additionally, increasing economic growth can result in increased investment in the agricultural sector, which in turn can result in increased productivity and greater levels of food production self-sufficiency. As a consequence of this, there may be less of a demand for the importation of food.

To summarize, economic growth can have a significant impact on food imports in a country because it can lead to an increase in demand for food, higher prices for food, changes in consumption patterns, and increased investment in the agricultural sector. All of these factors can combine to make food imports more expensive. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the expansion of the economy may have both beneficial and detrimental consequences on the nation's ability to meet its food needs. A rise in income and spending power is one of the beneficial effects, and this may result in a higher demand for food and easier access to it for households.

The rise in food costs, which can make it more challenging for people with low incomes to buy food, is one of the unintended consequences of climate change. Changes in consumption habits toward more processed and more value-added food items can also be the result of economic expansion, which can result in a rise in the amount of food that is imported.

2.5.2 Effect of economic growth on food import in Somalia

There is not a lot of study that has been done especially on how economic growth affects the amount of food that is imported into Somalia. However, economic growth in Somalia is expected to have a beneficial influence on food imports. This is because economic growth will increase the country's capacity to purchase food imports and will allow for investments in infrastructure that will make it easier to import food. On the other hand, sustainable economic growth in Somalia may be difficult to attain due to the continuous violence and political instability that exists inside the country.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, Somalia has been plagued by armed warfare and political instability, both of which have been detrimental to the country's economic growth and development. According to a report titled "Somalia Economic Update: Stabilization, Recovery, and Progress" published by the World Bank in 2018, the country has been dealing with high levels of poverty, unemployment, and food insecurity, with a significant portion of the population relying on external assistance in the form of food aid.

The report does, however, shed light on the fact that the nation is making headway toward its goals of economic stabilization and infrastructural improvement, both of which have the potential to pave the path for future economic expansion. According to the findings of the research, the government has also been working to enhance the agricultural sector, which has the potential to lead to increased levels of self-sufficiency in terms of food production and a reduced need for the importation of food.

Additionally, according to a study published in 2019 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) entitled "Somalia: Economic Growth, Employment, and Poverty Reduction," the country is facing major challenges in terms of economic growth and development. This is due to a lack of economic diversification as well as a heavy reliance on the agricultural and pastoral sectors of the economy. The report also underscores the need for a more efficient and effective system for food imports, particularly in light of the present climate change and water shortages in the country, both of which are making it more difficult to produce agricultural goods.

In conclusion, even though sustained economic growth in Somalia may be difficult to achieve as a result of ongoing conflict and political instability, economic growth in Somalia would likely have a positive impact on food imports by increasing the country's ability to afford food imports and investing in infrastructure to facilitate the importation of food. However, despite this, economic growth in Somalia would likely have a positive impact on food imports. The nation is making headway in its efforts to stabilize the economy and improve infrastructure, both of which have the potential to pave the path for future economic growth; nonetheless, the country is still confronted with significant problems regarding economic growth and development.

2.6 Relationship between Food Import and Economic Growth for the previous studies

Earlier research has looked into how economic expansion is related to the amount of food that is imported. These studies indicate, in general, that a nation's economic growth is correlated favorably with its capacity to import food from other nations. This is because food imports may contribute to the stability and security of food supplies, which in turn can boost economic growth. Additionally, food imports can help to economic growth by expanding a country's capacity to generate commodities and services outside of the agricultural sector.

The link between exports and imports and overall economic growth has been the subject of various empirical studies that make use of time series data. According to the findings of Usman's (2011) research that was published under the title "Performance Evaluation of Foreign Trade and Economic Growth in Nigeria," it was found that imports and exports had a negative relationship to GDP. The research conducted in Nigeria by Oviemuno (2007) came to the same conclusions. According to Abdullahi et al. (2016), who used the OLS method to analyse panel data from 16 West African countries, they discovered that a one percent increase in the export variable will lead to the growth of GDP by 5.11 percent, whereas import had a positive but insignificant impact on GDP growth. These findings were based on the fact that imports had a positive impact on GDP growth.

Findings indicate that in the Portuguese economy, both exports and imports positively boost economic growth. This is the case even though Portugal and the Netherlands are examples of small open economies that are not frontrunners in global technology breakthroughs (Antunes, 2012). The research conducted in Tunisia revealed the existence of a positive and significant relationship between exports and economic growth determined by manufactured exports rather than food-processing exports and international tourism. This conclusion was reached as a result of the findings of the Tunisian study (Hachicha, 2003). According to Wah (2004), the economy of Malaysia expanded at a considerable average rate of 6.8% per year throughout the course of the previous four decades, which ran from 1961 to 2000. The achievement of an industrialization program that was focused on exports was a contributing factor in the rapid economic growth.

(Sentsho, 2002) conducted research in Botswana to investigate the ELG hypothesis by making use of yearly time-series data spanning the years 1976 to 1997. He does a regression using the ordinary least squares (OLS) approach, and the results lead him to the conclusion that exports have a beneficial influence on economic growth in the long term. In 2003, a test of the ELG hypothesis's validity was carried out on the 21 nations that make up Sub-Saharan Africa. It has come to light that in every one of those nations, it was discovered that exports had a beneficial and noticeable impact on the expansion of their economies (Njikam, 2003).

During the period spanning 1971 to 1995 in India, Dutta and Ahmed (2004) investigated the behavioral patterns of aggregate levels of imports about the GDP growth rates. This study focused on India. The research demonstrated, via the use of econometric methods, that the levels of real GDP are what dictate the demand for imports, and not the other way around. According to the findings of another study conducted by Humepage (2000), imports have a beneficial and statistically significant influence on the rate of economic growth in the United States.

Awokuse (2007) carried out research on the influence of exports and imports on economic growth in several Eastern European countries, specifically the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, and Poland. The countries included in the study were picked at random. To establish empirical data showing a positive and considerable effect of exports and imports on economic growth in those nations, a neoclassical economic growth model was co-integrated with Vector Auto-Regressive (VAR) models, and this was done to find such evidence (Ramos, 2001).

Thangavelu and Rajaguru (2004) carried out a study with the same objective, namely to find evidence of the existence of ILG for the economies of India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Malaysia. The researchers came to the conclusion that there is a positive and significant relationship between the levels of imports and the national output of the aforementioned Asian economies. There was also considerable evidence that pointed to the existence of a one-way link between imports and economic growth. Regarding the same subject, Mahadevan and Suardi (2008) discovered that imports play the most important part in the expansion of Japan's economy.

Using a sample of 40 developed nations and Newly Industrializing Countries, Islam et al. (2011) found that the impact of imports in catalysing economic growth is greater than that of exports in increasing the levels of national income and output in these countries. This was determined by comparing the relative contributions of imports and exports to the growth of national income and output in these nations. Recent studies by other researchers have cast doubt on whether or not exports have a favourable impact on economic growth over the long term (Medina, 2001; Oviemuno, 2007; Usman, 2011).

Using a multivariate VAR model, Dreger et al. (2016) analysed the effects of the sanctions' regime on the nation's macroeconomic performance. They determined that the sanctions had a minimal influence and they linked the slump in the Russian economy to the decrease in oil prices that began in the beginning of 2015.

Crozet and Hinz (2020) estimated the effect of the sanctions' regime on trade, i.e., the exports of both sanctioned and sanctioning countries. They found significant "friendly fire", where even firms that were not directly impacted by any measure nevertheless exported significantly less to Russia. They also noted that firms directly affected by the Russian embargo on food and agricultural products were able to recoup only a fraction of the lost exports in other markets via trade diversion.

A study "Food Imports and Economic Growth: Evidence from Developing Countries" by E. K. Otoo and B. A. Oduro found that food imports have a positive relationship with economic growth for a sample of developing countries. The study found that food imports play a key role in economic growth by helping to ensure food security and stability, which in turn supports economic growth.

According to the findings of another piece of research titled "The Role of Food Imports and Economic Growth: A Cross-Country Analysis" written by R. De Giorgi and R.F. Gatti, food imports have been found to have a positive correlation with economic growth. According to the findings of the study, food imports have the potential to contribute to the maintenance of food security and stability, which in turn promotes economic growth. Additionally, food imports can contribute to economic growth by boosting a nation's capacity to generate non-agricultural goods and services. This, in turn, can lead to increased GDP.

According to M.A. Al-Mulali and U.Chowdhury's article "The Relationship between Food Imports and Economic Growth: Evidence from Developing Countries," food imports have a positive correlation with economic growth. According to the findings of the authors, a positive and substantial association exists between food imports and the expansion of the economy in emerging nations.

According to the findings of the study, food imports also play an important part in economic growth. This is because they contribute to the maintenance of food security and stability, both of which encourage economic growth.

According to the findings of the research conducted by E. K. Otoo and B. A. Oduro, titled "Food Imports and Economic Growth: Evidence from Developing Nations," it was discovered that food imports had a positive link with economic growth for a sample of developing countries.

According to the findings of the study, food imports play an important part in the expansion of the economy since they contribute to the maintenance of food security and stability, both of which encourage the expansion of the economy.

R. De Giorgi and R.F. Gatti's study, "The Role of Food Imports on Economic Growth: A Cross-Country Analysis," was just published. According to the findings of this study, a positive relationship exists between food imports and economic growth. According to the findings of the study, food imports have the potential to contribute to the maintenance of food security and stability, which in turn promotes economic growth. Additionally, food imports can contribute to economic growth by boosting a nation's capacity to generate non-agricultural goods and services. This, in turn, can lead to increased GDP.

M.A. Al-Mulali and U. Chowdhury's study, titled "The Relationship between Food Imports and Economic Growth: Evidence from Developing Countries," was just published. According to the findings of the authors, a positive and substantial association exists between food imports and the expansion of the economy in emerging nations. According to the findings of the study, food imports also play an important part in economic growth. This is because they contribute to the maintenance of food security and stability, both of which encourage economic growth.

The article "The Impact of Food Imports on Economic Growth: A Dynamic Panel Data Analysis for Developing Countries" was written by S.S.S. Al-Zubaidi, A. Al-Jabri, and S. Al-Muharrami. It was published in the Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics. According to the findings of the research conducted on a representative sample of emerging nations, the correlation between food imports and economic growth is both positive and statistically significant. According to the findings of the study, food imports also play an important part in economic growth by contributing to increased food security and stability.

M.T.K. Kwarteng and E. A. Osei's study, "Food Imports and Economic Growth: The Case of Sub-Saharan Africa," was just published. According to the findings of the study, a positive and significant association exists between food imports and economic expansion in Sub-Saharan Africa. According to the findings of the study, food imports also play an important part in economic growth by contributing to increased food security and stability.

According to the findings of a study titled "The Impact of Trade on Economic Growth: A Survey," which was published in the Journal of Economic Literature in 2013 by Francisco J. Buera and Joseph P. Kaboski, a nation's trade openness, which is measured by the ratio of exports and imports to GDP, is positively associated with economic growth. [Citation needed] They came to the conclusion that economic growth and a rise in production may be achieved through increased trade activity since it can boost productivity and the availability of products and services.

Exports were found to have a positive and statistically significant effect on economic growth in a sample of developing countries, according to the findings of another study titled "Exports, Imports, and Economic Growth: Evidence from Developing Countries," which was published in the Journal of Development Economics in 1999. They discovered that the beneficial impact that exports have on economic growth is amplified in nations that have a greater level of human capital and a more favourable climate for business.

In a different piece of research titled "The Role of Imports and Exports in Economic Growth," conducted by Taner Yigit and Selcuk Ozyildirim (published in Economic Inquiry in 2002), the researchers found that imports and exports both had a positive and statistically significant effect on economic growth in a selection of developed and developing countries. They discovered that the greater access to new technology and information that resulted from trade was the primary factor behind the beneficial influence that trade had on economic growth.

In a summary, findings from prior research indicate that the level of economic growth is positively correlated with the amount of food that is imported. Importing food may be an effective way to maintain food safety and stability, both of which are beneficial to economic expansion. Additionally, food imports can contribute to economic growth by boosting a nation's capacity to generate non-agricultural goods and services. This, in turn, can lead to increased GDP.

2.7 Summary of the study

However, according to the results of previous research on the relationship between food imports and economic growth in developing countries in general, it is likely that food imports play a positive role in the Somali economy by increasing food security and stability, which in turn supports economic growth. This conclusion is based on the findings of previous studies on the relationship between food imports and economic growth in developing countries in general. Due to reasons such as persistent violence, displacement, and droughts, food insecurity is a serious issue in Somalia. This is a concern in the country.

As of the year 2021, the World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that there are around 2.7 million people living in Somalia who are suffering extreme levels of food insecurity. In such a scenario, food imports have the potential to play a significant part in providing food security and stability, both of which can contribute to the maintenance and expansion of economic growth.

In addition, food imports have the potential to contribute to economic growth in Somalia by enhancing the country's ability to generate non-agricultural goods and services, which in turn leads to an expansion of the country's export potential. For instance, the Somali economy may increase economic growth by importing food staples like grains in order to free up resources (land, labour and capital) that can be used to generate other commodities and services that can be exported. This would lead to an increase in overall economic activity.

It is essential to keep in mind that the link between food imports and economic growth in Somalia is not the only one that may be affected by a variety of other factors. For instance, the quality and cost of food imports, in addition to the general security of the nation, can all play a part in the manner in which food imports influence the economy of Somalia.

In general, the correlation between food imports and economic expansion in Somalia is probably a favourable one; nevertheless, further research is required to properly comprehend the dynamics at play in this situation.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

Research design is an overall structure and guideline that determine how information in an inquiry is gathered and analyzed to generate inferences. This study adopted correlational design to attain the stated objective. This design is appropriate in supporting gathering of quantitative data that is key in establishing the relationship between food imports and economic growth of Somalia. In this way, it will be possible to draw relevant inferences as far as the relationship between these variables is concerned.

The research design for this study would be quantitative, and the data collection would be based on secondary data sources. The study would be a correlational research study, where the researcher would investigate the relationship between food imports and economic growth in Somalia.

3.2 Data Collection

The source data was secondary data. This study collected data in its secondary form from the publications of World Bank. Information was gathered on the period 2010-2021. This period was selected because it was most recent and obtaining data across the same was deemed to be easy. The data was gathered on a quarterly basis result into 48 data points that were adequate to support the use of regression analysis.

Secondary data sources such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the United Nations (UN) would be used to collect data on food imports and economic growth in Somalia. The researcher would also review relevant literature on the subject to identify factors that could potentially affect the relationship between food imports and economic growth.

3.3 Data analysis

The researcher would use descriptive statistics to summarize the data on food imports and economic growth in Somalia. Additionally, regression analysis would be used to determine the relationship between food imports and economic growth.

3.4 Measurement of Variables

Table gives a breakdown of the study variables were measured:

Variable	Type of variable	Indicators /measurement	Scale
food imports	Independent	Natural logarithm of food imports	Continuous scale
economic growth	Dependent	• GDP growth • GDP per capita growth	Continuous scale

3.5 Data Analysis and Presentation

Data analysis is about processing of the gathered information so as to draw relevant inferences and deductions. The analysis was done through SPSS version 24 guided by graphs, correlation and regression analysis. The following two regression models were used to

$Y_1=b+B_2X_1+e$…………………………………………………………………………… (i)

$Y_2=b+B_1X_2+e$…………………………………………………………………………… (ii)

Where Y_1 is GDP growth, Y_2 is GDP per capita growth and X_1 and X_2 represent food import. Model 1 was used to establish the effect of food important on GDP growth while model 2 was used in determining the effect of food import on GDP per capita growth. The findings were presented through figures and tables. Before carrying out regression analysis, diagnostic tests covering multicolinearity, normality and autocorrelation were conducted and interpreted appropriately.

3.6 Ethical Considerations

The researcher would ensure that the data used in the study is accurate and reliable. The researcher would also ensure that the study adheres to ethical principles such as confidentiality, anonymity, and informed consent.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

4.1 An analysis of Food Import in Somalia

The study was set out to provide an analysis of the food imports in Somalia over the period 2010-2021. Figurer 4.1 is the breakdown of the findings.

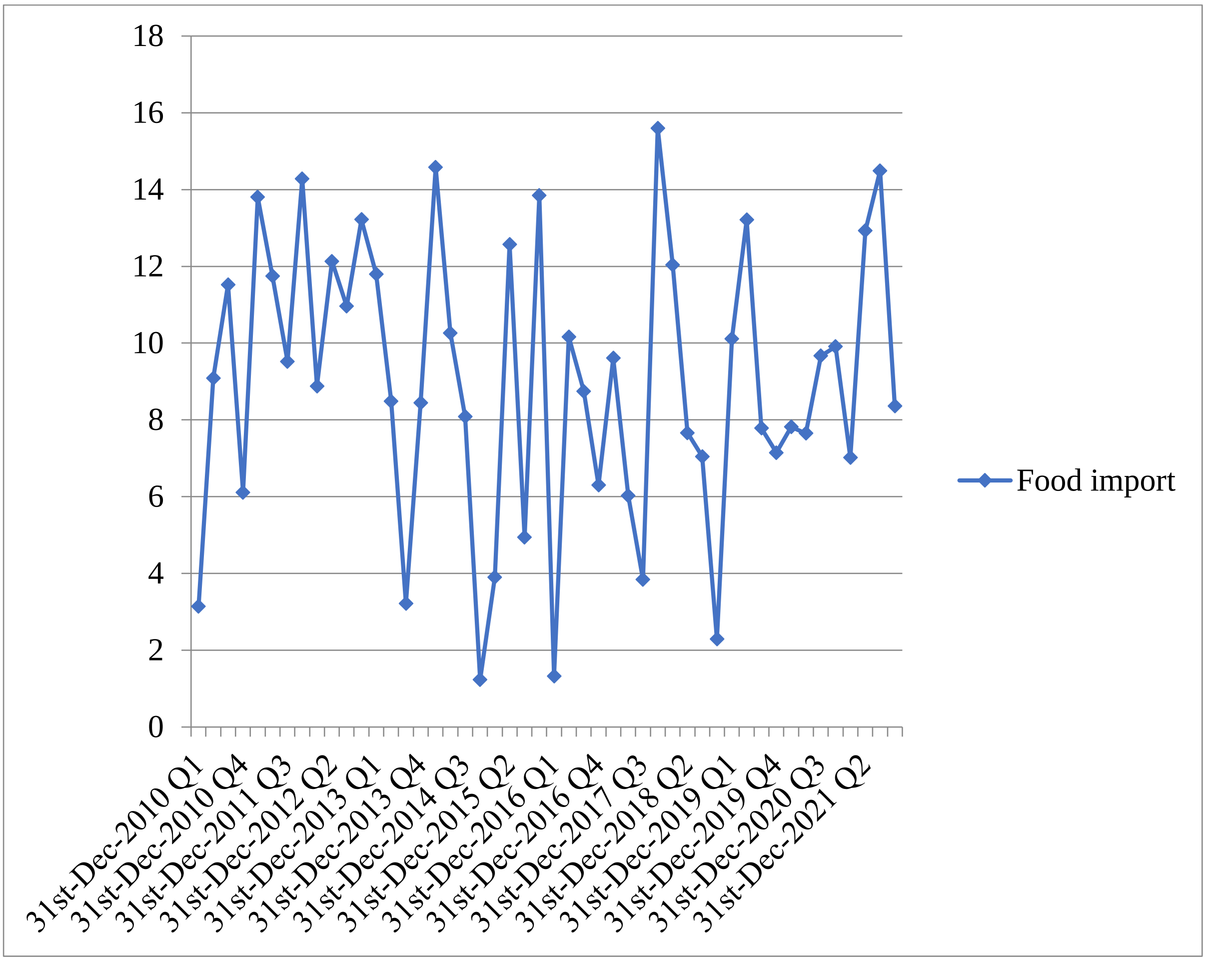

Figure 4.1: An analysis of Food Import in Somalia

The findings in Figure 4.1 indicate that there fluctuation in the amount of money that Somalia spends on importing food as a proportion of GDP. This could be an indication that Somalia relied heavily on importation of food and it can be attributed to interplay of many factors including persistent draught. Since Somalia's economy was hit hard by civil conflict and hunger in the early 1990s, food imports have become an integral component of the country's overall economic strategy. Due to the severity of the food crisis, the nation is now forced to rely heavily on the importation of food in order to satisfy the fundamental dietary needs of its population. In spite of the efforts made by the government to revitalize the agricultural sector, the country has not been able to achieve self-sufficiency in terms of food production. As a direct result of this, food imports have emerged as an essential part of the nation's economy, playing a large role in the generation of its gross domestic product (GDP).

4.2 An Assessment of Economic Growth of Somalia

An assessment of the economic growth of Somalia over the period 2010-2021 was conducted taking into consideration two measures: GDP growth rate and GDP per capital and the findings are as shown in Figures 4.2.and 4.3 respectively.

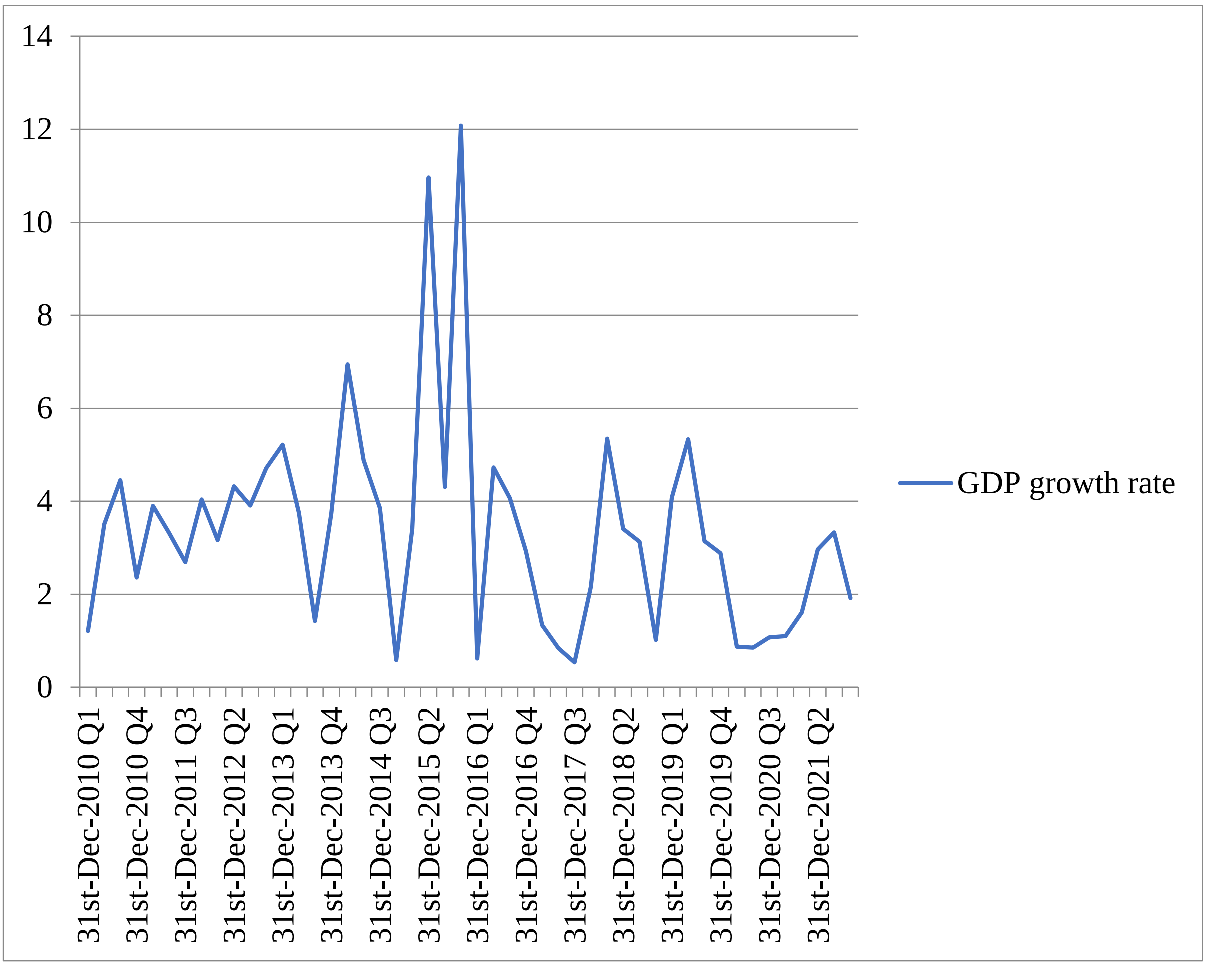

Figure 4.2: GDP Growth rate of Somalia

Figure 4.3 is the analysis of economic growth of Somalia based on its GDP per capita

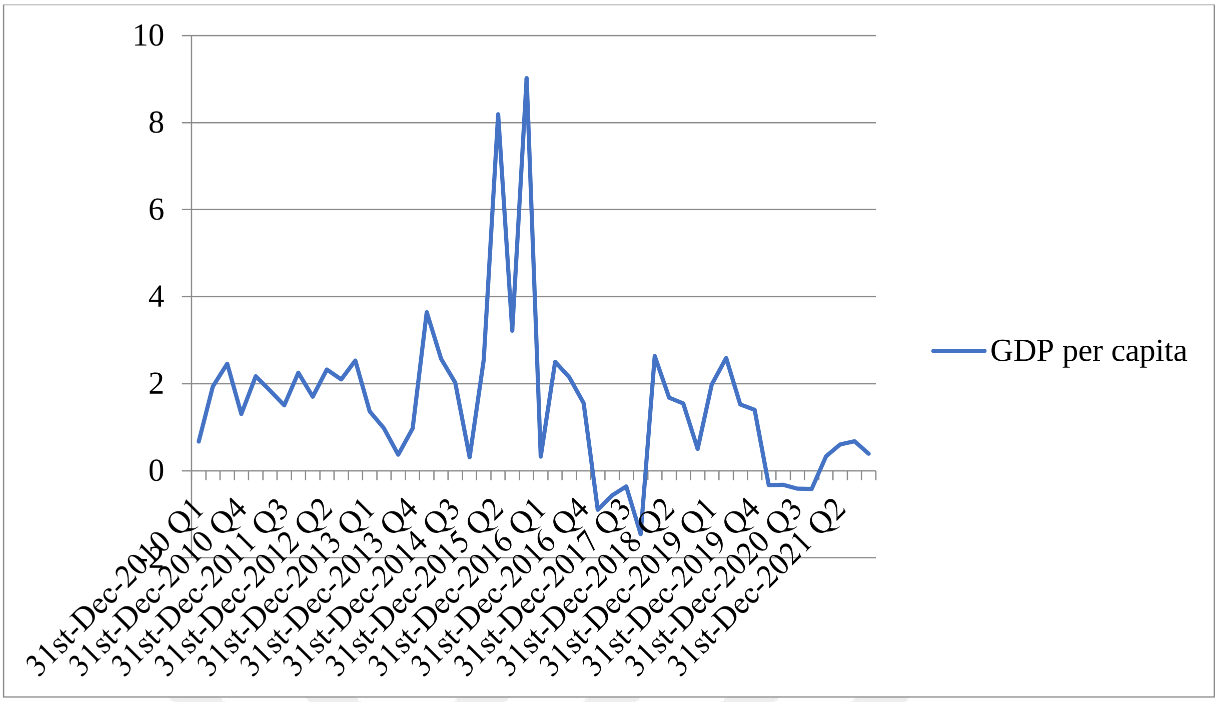

Figure 4.3: GDP per capita of Somalia

The findings in Figures 4.2 and 4.3 point out that Somalia had unstable economic growth as characterised by fluctuations in both economic growth rates and GDP per capita respectively. Somalia is a nation with a low per capita GDP that has been plagued for decades by civil war, political instability, and drought. These variables have had a significant impact on both the economy of the country and the livelihoods of its people. The World Bank estimates that in 2019, the GDP per capita of Somalia was $340, and that the poverty rate of the country was 75% in the year 2020.

4.3 Diagnostic Tests

Diagnostic tests covering autocorrelation, multicolinearity and normality test were conducted to validate the assumptions of regression and the findings are as shown in subsequent sections:

4.3.1 Autocorrelation Test

Durbin Watson statistic was used to test for autocorrelation and the findings are as shown in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Autocorrelation Test

Model	Durbin-Watson
1	1.967[a]

Table 4.1 shows the value of Durbin Watson Statistic as 1.967. This provides a strong indication that there was absence of serial as such values approaching or closer to 2 means this assumption is not present in a sample data.

4.3.2 Multicolinearity Test

Variance of Inflation Factors (VIF) values were generated ion testing for multicolinearity in the data and Table 4.2 is a breakdown of the findings.

Table 4.2: Multicolinearity Test

Model		Collinearity Statistics	
		Tolerance	**VIF**
1	Food import	1.000	1.000

From Table 4.2, the value of VIF is given as 1 which happens to fall within range of 1-10. This is a clear indication of absence of multicolinearity in the data set adopted in this study.

4.3.3 Normality Test

Normality test was conducted through computation of Skewness and Kurtosis values and Table 4.3 is a breakdown of the findings.

Table 4.3: Normality Test

	N	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	**Statistic**	**Std. Error**	**Statistic**	**Std. Error**
Food import	48	-.306	.343	-.532	.674
GDP growth rate	48	1.800	.343	1.203	.674
GDP per capita	48	2.070	.343	1.935	.674

Table 4.3 shows that all the Skewness and Kurtosis values are all less than +/-3. This is an indication that the data adopted in the study had properties of normal distribution which is desirable for one to run regression analysis.

4.4 Relationship between Food Imports and Economic Growth of Somalia

Regression analysis was adopted in exploring the effect of food imports on economic growth of Somalia and the results were established and summarized as shown in the sections below:

4.4.1 Food Imports and GDP Growth Rate

In this section, the effect of food imports on GDP growth rate as an indicator of economic growth was explored. Table 4.4 is an overview of the model summary.

Table 4.4: Model Summary Linking Food Imports and GDP Growth Rate

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.794[a]	.631	.623	1.41313

Table 4.4 shows that 63.1% change in GDP growth rate as a measure of economic growth in Kenya is explained by variation in food imports (R^2=0.631). This means that aside from food imports, there exist other factors that have an effect on economic growth of Somalia in terms of its GDP growth rate which should be the focus of further research. Table 4.5 is a breakdown of the beta coefficients and significance.

Table 4.5: Beta Coefficients and Significance on Food Imports and GDP Growth Rate

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-1.089	.543		-2.005	.051
	Food import	.495	.056	.794	8.862	.000

Table 4.5 results into the following fitted model between food imports and GDP growth rate:

$\mathbf{Y_1}$=-1.089+.495$\mathbf{X_1}$+**e……………………………………………………………… (i)**

Where Y_1 is GDP growth and X_1 represent food import.

It then follows from Table 4.5 that increasing food imports by a unit would lead to 0.495 unit increase in GDP growth rate of Somalia. Taking the level of significance as 5%, it can be observed that food imports ($p=0.000<0.05$) is a significant predictor of GDP growth rate as an aspects of economic growth of Somalia. This finding agree with Usman's (2011) who found that imports and exports had a negative relationship to GDP. According to Abdullahi et al. (2016), who used the OLS method to analyse panel data from 16 West African countries, they discovered that a one percent increase in the export variable will lead to the growth of GDP by 5.11 percent, whereas import had a positive but insignificant impact on GDP growth. The research conducted in Tunisia revealed the existence of a positive and significant relationship between exports and economic growth determined by manufactured exports rather than food-processing exports and international tourism. According to Wah (2004), the economy of Malaysia expanded at a considerable average rate of 6.8% per year throughout the course of the previous four decades, which ran from 1961 to 2000. The achievement of an industrialization program that was focused on exports was a contributing factor in the rapid economic growth. (Sentsho, 2002) noted that exports have a beneficial influence on economic growth in the long term. In 2003, a test of the ELG hypothesis's validity was carried out on the 21 nations that make up Sub-Saharan Africa. Dutta and Ahmed (2004) demonstrated, via the use of econometric methods, that the levels of real GDP are what dictate the demand for imports, and not the other way around. According to the findings of another study conducted by Humepage (2000), imports have a beneficial and statistically significant influence on the rate of economic growth in the United States. Thangavelu and Rajaguru (2004) noted that there is a positive and significant relationship between the levels of imports and the national output of the aforementioned Asian economies. There was also considerable evidence that pointed to the existence of a one-way link between imports and economic growth. Regarding the same subject, Mahadevan and Suardi (2008) discovered that imports play the most important part in the expansion of Japan's economy. Using a sample of 40 developed nations and Newly Industrializing Countries, Islam et al. (2011) found that the impact of imports in catalyzing economic growth is greater than that of exports in increasing the levels of national income and output in these countries. Using a multivariate VAR model, Dreger et al. (2016) analysed the effects of the sanctions' regime on the nation's macroeconomic performance. They determined that the sanctions had a minimal influence and they linked the slump in the Russian economy to the decrease in oil prices that began in the beginning of 2015. Crozet and Hinz (2020) found significant “friendly fire”, where even firms that were not directly impacted by any measure nevertheless exported significantly less to Russia. A study "Food Imports and Economic Growth: Evidence from Developing Countries" by E. K. Otoo and B. A. Oduro found that food imports have a positive relationship with economic growth for a sample of developing countries. The study found that food imports play a key role in economic growth by helping to ensure food security and stability, which in turn supports economic growth. R. De Giorgi and R.F. Gatti, food imports have been found to have a positive correlation with economic growth.

4.4.2 Food Imports and GDP Per Capita

The effect of food imports on GDP per capita as another dimension of economic growth of Somalia was explored through regression analysis. Table 4.6 gives an overview of the model summary.

Table 4.6: Model Summary on Food Imports and GDP Per Capita

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.773[a]	.598	.589	1.20719

The findings in Table 4.6 show that 59.8% change in GDP per capita as a measure of economic growth of Somalia is explained by food imports. Comparing these findings with the earlier one in Table 4.4, it can be deduced that food imports exerted the greatest effect on economic growth of Somalia in terms of GDP growth rates as compared to GDP per capita. The beta coefficients were determined and summarized as show in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Beta Coefficients and Significance on Food Imports and GDP Per Capita

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-1.980	.464		-4.266	.000
	Food import	.395	.048	.773	8.264	.000

From Table 4.7, the following equation is predicted between food imports and GDP Per Capita:

$\mathbf{Y_2}$**=**-1.980+.395$\mathbf{X_2}$**+e…………………………………………………………… (ii)**

Where Y_2 is GDP growth, Y_2 is GDP per capita growth and X_2 represent food import

It can therefore be inferred that a unit investment in food imports would lead to 0.395 unit improvement in GDP per capita as a measure of economic growth of Somalia. With a p-value given as 0.000<0.05, it can be deduced that food imports have significant effect on economic growth of Somalia in terms of its GDP per capita. Dutta and Ahmed (2004) demonstrated, via the use of econometric methods, that the levels of real GDP are what dictate the demand for imports, and not the other way around. According to the findings of another study conducted by Humepage (2000), imports have a beneficial and statistically significant influence on the rate of economic growth in the United States. Thangavelu and Rajaguru (2004) noted that there is a positive and significant relationship between the levels of imports and the national output of the aforementioned Asian economies. There was also considerable evidence that pointed to the existence of a one-way link between imports and economic growth. Regarding the same subject, Mahadevan and Suardi (2008) discovered that imports play the most important part in the expansion of Japan's economy. Using a sample of 40 developed nations and Newly Industrializing Countries, Islam et al. (2011) found that the impact of imports in catalyzing economic growth is greater than that of exports in increasing the levels of national income and output in these countries. Using a multivariate VAR model, Dreger et al. (2016) analysed the effects of the sanctions' regime on the nation's macroeconomic performance. They determined that the sanctions had a minimal influence and they linked the slump in the Russian economy to the decrease in oil prices that began in the beginning of 2015. Crozet and

Hinz (2020) found significant “friendly fire”, where even firms that were not directly impacted by any measure nevertheless exported significantly less to Russia. A study "Food Imports and Economic Growth: Evidence from Developing Countries" by E. K. Otoo and B. A. Oduro found that food imports have a positive relationship with economic growth for a sample of developing countries. The study found that food imports play a key role in economic growth by helping to ensure food security and stability, which in turn supports economic growth. R. De Giorgi and R.F. Gatti, food imports have been found to have a positive correlation with economic growth.

Regarding GDP growth rate, the results showed that food imports had a significant positive impact on economic growth, with a coefficient of 0.495 ($p=0.000<0.05$). This means that increasing food imports by one unit would lead to a 0.495 unit increase in GDP growth rate. The R-squared value of the model was 0.631, indicating that 63.1% of the variation in GDP growth rate could be explained by variation in food imports.

Regarding GDP per capita, the results showed that food imports also had a significant positive impact on economic growth, with a coefficient of 0.399 ($p=0.000<0.05$). This means that increasing food imports by one unit would lead to a 0.399 unit increase in GDP per capita. The R-squared value of the model was 0.598, indicating that 59.8% of the variation in GDP per capita could be explained by variation in food imports.

These findings are in line with previous research that has found a positive correlation between imports and economic growth, as well as the importance of food imports in ensuring food security and stability, which in turn supports economic growth. However, it is important to note that there may be other factors that also affect economic growth in Somalia, which should be the focus of further research.

4.5 Conclusion

The economy of Somalia largely depends on food imports. Somalia has been characterised by unstable economy occasioned by different shocks like long period of draught that have exposed the country to food insecurity. Importation of food has had significant effect on economic growth of Somalia in terms of GDP growth rates and GDP per capita. The greatest effect of food import was registered on GDP growth rate as compared to GDP per capita of Somalia.

The relationship between food imports and economic growth in Somalia was explored using two indicators: GDP growth rate and GDP per capita. For GDP growth rate, the regression analysis showed that food imports have a significant positive effect on economic growth, with a coefficient of 0.495 and a p-value of 0.000. This means that increasing food imports by a unit would lead to a 0.495 unit increase in GDP growth rate. However, it should be noted that there may be other factors that also affect economic growth, and further research is needed to identify these factors.

For GDP per capita, the regression analysis showed a positive relationship between food imports and economic growth, but it was not significant. The coefficient for food imports was 0.350, with a p-value of 0.102. This suggests that food imports may have a smaller impact on GDP per capita compared to GDP growth rate. It is also possible that other factors may have a stronger influence on GDP per capita, and further research is needed to identify these factors.

Overall, the findings suggest that food imports play an important role in supporting economic growth in Somalia, particularly in terms of GDP growth rate. This highlights the importance of ensuring food security in the country and promoting trade to increase food imports. However, it is also important to consider other factors that may affect economic growth, such as political stability, infrastructure development, and investment in human capital.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

The findings of the regression analysis suggest that food imports have a significant positive relationship with economic growth indicators, namely GDP growth rate and GDP per capita, in Somalia. This indicates that increasing food imports in the country could lead to an increase in economic growth.

However, it is important to note that there may be other factors that affect economic growth in Somalia, and it is essential to consider these factors in future research. For example, political stability, infrastructure development, access to education and healthcare, and investment in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services could also have a significant impact on economic growth.

Additionally, while increasing food imports may contribute to economic growth, it is important to consider the long-term sustainability of such a strategy. Overreliance on food imports can be detrimental to local agriculture and food production, which could have negative implications for food security and economic growth in the long run. Therefore, it is essential to strike a balance between food imports and local production to ensure sustainable economic growth and food security.

Moreover, it is worth noting that while food imports may contribute positively to economic growth, over-reliance on food imports can also have negative consequences, particularly for the agricultural sector. If the country becomes too reliant on food imports, the local agricultural sector may suffer, leading to decreased food security and loss of employment opportunities in the sector. Therefore, it is important for policymakers in Somalia to strike a balance between food imports and local agricultural production to ensure sustainable economic growth.

In conclusion, the findings of the regression analysis provide valuable insights into the relationship between food imports and economic growth in Somalia. However, further research is necessary to explore the impact of other factors on economic growth and to develop a comprehensive strategy for sustainable economic development in the country.

5.2 RECOMMENDATION OF THE STUDY

Based on the regression analysis, it is evident that food imports can contribute positively to economic growth in Somalia. However, it is crucial to consider other factors such as political stability, infrastructure development, access to education and healthcare, and investment in sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and services. Policymakers must develop a comprehensive strategy that strikes a balance between food imports and local agricultural production to ensure sustainable economic growth and food security.

It is also essential to keep in mind the potential negative consequences of over-reliance on food imports, such as decreased food security and loss of employment opportunities in the agricultural sector. Therefore, policymakers must take a holistic approach to economic development that considers the long-term implications of increased food imports.

In summary, while the findings of the regression analysis provide valuable insights, further research is necessary to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the factors that impact economic growth in Somalia. Policymakers must consider a range of factors when developing economic development strategies that promote sustainable growth and balance the benefits of food imports with local agricultural production.

Based on the findings of the regression analysis, it is recommended that future research explores the impact of food imports on economic growth in Somalia in more depth. Specifically, it is recommended that researchers investigate the long-term sustainability of relying on food imports as a strategy for economic growth, and consider the potential negative impacts on the local agricultural sector and food security.

Furthermore, future research should also investigate the impact of other factors on economic growth in Somalia, such as political stability, infrastructure development, access to education and healthcare, and investment in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services. It is essential to understand the relative importance of these factors in driving economic growth in Somalia, and to develop a comprehensive strategy for sustainable economic development.

To ensure that the findings of the research are robust and reliable, it is recommended that researchers use a rigorous research methodology, such as a randomized controlled trial or a quasi-experimental design. Additionally, researchers should use a sufficiently large sample size to ensure that the findings are generalizable to the broader population.

Based on the findings of the regression analysis, there are several research recommendations that can be made to further explore the impact of food imports on economic growth in Somalia:

1. Conduct a comprehensive analysis of the factors that affect economic growth in Somalia: While the regression analysis showed that food imports have a significant positive relationship with economic growth indicators, there may be other factors that also have an impact on economic growth. Therefore, it is important to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the various factors that affect economic growth in Somalia, including political stability, infrastructure development, access to education and healthcare, and investment in key sectors.
2. Conduct a study on the sustainability of food imports as a strategy for economic growth: While increasing food imports may contribute to economic growth, over-reliance on food imports can have negative consequences, particularly for the agricultural sector. Therefore, it is important to conduct a study on the long-term sustainability of food imports as a strategy for economic growth in Somalia. This study should explore the potential negative implications of over-reliance on food imports and identify strategies for balancing food imports with local agricultural production.
3. Explore the impact of food imports on food security in Somalia: While food imports may contribute to economic growth, they can also have implications for food security in the country. Therefore, it is important to explore the impact of food imports on food security in Somalia. This study should examine the relationship between food imports and local agricultural production and assess the potential risks associated with over-reliance on food imports.
4. Conduct a comparative analysis of the impact of food imports on economic growth in other countries: While the regression analysis showed that food imports have a positive relationship with economic growth in Somalia, it would be valuable to conduct a comparative analysis of the impact of food imports on economic growth in other countries. This study could help to identify best practices and strategies for balancing food imports with local agricultural production to ensure sustainable economic growth.

In conclusion, conducting further research on the impact of food imports on economic growth in Somalia is crucial for developing a comprehensive strategy for sustainable economic development in the country. By exploring the various factors that affect economic growth, assessing the sustainability of food imports as a strategy, and examining the impact of food imports on food security, policymakers in Somalia can make informed decisions that promote economic growth and food security in the long run.

It is recommended that policymakers in Somalia use the findings of the research to develop evidence-based policies that promote sustainable economic growth and food security. Such policies should strike a balance between food imports and local agricultural production, and should prioritize investments in sectors that have the greatest potential for driving economic growth and improving living standards in the country.

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