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Investment, Absorbed Labor, Infrastructure and Exports on the GDP of Kotabaru District from Special Economic Zone

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Abstract---The purpose of this study was to provide an overview of the current conditions of investment, labor, and exports in contributing to the value of GRDP of Kotabaru Regency. This research was also expected to increase understanding to local governments, developers, and community institutions with an interest in developing a Special Economic Zone in Kotabaru Regency. Thus this research can become a reference in preparing a strategic plan for the development of special economics. For data collection, we obtained data at the service center and statistics in Kotabaru Regency. Then followed by multiple linear regression analysis that was carried out to see the influence of the independent variable on the dependent variable through the use of E-views software for regression analysis. The results of this analysis indicate that investment has a significant effect and probability has a positive effect on the GRDP of Kotabaru Regency, while labor, infrastructure, and exports do not have a significant effect on the GRDP of the Special Economic Zone of Kotabaru Regency.

Keywords---absorbed labor, exports on GDP, infrastructure, investment, special economic zone.

Introduction

Various efforts have been made to improve export performance, attract investment-both domestic and foreign, and boost the pace of economic growth (Barua, 2013). In connection with this objective, the Indonesian government has planned development in the form of strategic areas. For this kind of development, the government has started with the establishment of the Free Port and Free Trade Zone (FPFTZ) in 1970 which then continued to grow until 2009 with the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZ). The SEZ development target is pursued as an alternative solution to problems related to investment and the business climate in Indonesia. However, there are some major challenges in the government's efforts to achieve development targets through SEZ development, including institutional, infrastructure, and legal umbrella issues. This challenge needs to be anticipated properly so that foreign investors are interested in investing (Deining, 2011; Meyer and Nguyen, 2005; Borrás Jr and Franco, 2012; White et al., 2012).

For SEZ to develop and attract large investments in new and more competitive foreign investment compared to similar SEZ in various countries, Pakdeenurit (2014), Kinyondo et al. (2016) suggested that SEZ has to be seen as fact that it may play a potential role to create a wider opportunity for the various investor to come. It is necessary to provide facilities and facilities in the form of taxation, customs and excise, traffic of goods, employment, immigration, land, as well as licensing and non-licensing. The development of SEZ is one of Indonesia's strategies to encourage investment and increase Indonesia's competitiveness. Currently, in Indonesia, various economic zones are operating: Integrated Economic Development Zone (IEDZ), Bonded Zone (BZ), Free Port and Free Trade Zone (FPFTZ), and Industrial Estate (IE). However, the development of the area has not provided optimal results and there are still various obstacles in its implementation (Rahmani et al., 2014).

Related to this, the South Kalimantan regional government also developed SEZ as an effort to attract domestic and foreign investment, one of them is the Mekar Putih Special economic zone in Kotabaru district. The designation of a special economic zone in the Mekar Putih area in Kotabaru district with the main goal of establishing SEZs is to: (1) stimulate economic growth through export promotion, (2) attract foreign investment and increase foreign exchange income, (3) increase employment and (4) creating technology and management transfers.

While the purpose of this study is to provide an overview of the current conditions of investment, labor, and exports in contributing to the value of the GDP of Kotabaru Regency. And this research can increase understanding to local governments, private parties, and community institutions with an interest in developing special economic zones in Kotabaru district. Where this research can be a reference in the preparation of strategic plans in the development of SEZ. [Farole, \(2011\)](#), [Farole & Akinci, \(2011\)](#) have specialized the several zones for economic development in some developing countries such as Africa and Asia through a study comparison over the government performance and learning outcome from an international perspective and lived experiences.

Literature Review

The concept of a special economic zone and its urgency

According to Government Regulation No. 2 (2011) regarding the implementation of economic zones which specifically explains that special economic zones are carried out through the preparation of areas that have geo-economic and geostrategic advantages which are prepared to maximize industrial activities, exports, imports, and other economic activities that have high economic value. The development of SEZ is also intended to accelerate regional development and serve as a breakthrough model for developing regions for economic growth, including industry, tourism, and trade so that they can recruit domestic workers.

In its development in Indonesia, this SEZ relies on the development of industrial estates that existed in the era of 1970. [Palit & Bhattacharjee \(2008\)](#) findings urged that the SEZ in several developing countries such as India have to be *seen both myths idea and economic realities*. So based on this experience, many developing countries in that era established special economic development zones. But formally, SEZ has only been born since the issuance of Law Number 39 of 2009 concerning Special Economic Zones (KEK). The main purpose of establishing this special area is to integrate the companies operating in it with the global economy, by protecting them from various distortions such as tariffs and complicated bureaucracy.

[Tarzi, \(2005\)](#), [Anyanwu, \(2012\)](#) evaluated that the roles played by the foreign indirect investment have been into most developing nations. This role and strategy have strongly impacted many regional and national policies. As a result, many decision-makers in the government of a country in determining a region and foreign roles as an SEZ is based on the advantages possessed by the region which generally have: 1) Geographical advantage, the location of an area that is very close to the country/border and / or world trade. routes with various specificity (Export Orientation, Import Substitution, and so on). 2) Natural resources, certain natural resources become an attraction in determining an area to become an SEZ. And Indonesia as a country that has many rich natural resources needs to create SEZ clusters in various regions so that each region has its economic center within the SEZ framework.

As a comparison of special economic zones in several countries in Asia such as Malaysia, Thailand and China, the SEZ policy in Indonesia has relatively good objectives, namely to develop a strong economy as well as to help and support the domestic economy, as well as to encourage job creation and improve industrial structure at that location. So that at the end of this regency city area can increase the value of exports and increase the value of the country's foreign exchange reserves ([Wahyuni et al., 2013](#); [Huijing, 2019](#)). In the investment development area approach, the criteria that must be met are 1) Sustainable: Long-term oriented, and; 2) Fair: Economically, socially, and politically feasible. 3) Measurable: Clear in instrument and targets.

The empirical study of special economic zones

Research by [Munyororo et al., \(2017\)](#) explained that the existence of SEZ in Zimbabwe has a significant effect on the economic growth of local governments. Also, they also concluded that although the economic zone was particularly important for the development of the Zimbabwean economy, government policies were no longer in line with the developments and demands of the times. So they recommended that some new policies should be consistent and should use a bottom-up approach rather than a top-down approach to formulate and implement economic policies towards success targets.

Meanwhile [Kumar \(2008\)](#) and [Kaushika, \(2018\)](#) explain that the SEZ policy encourages FDI, exports and encourages infrastructure development in India. Likewise, [Warr & Menon, \(2016\)](#), [Pongpiachan *et al.*, \(2018\)](#) explained that the role of the SEZ region in Cambodia's trade policy, SEZ has attracted a significant amount of foreign investment followed by the absorption of 68,000 local workers, with the same pay, so that it has an impact on improving the economic welfare of workers in the country.

Other findings related to SEZ were also presented by [Cizkiewicz *et al.* \(2017\)](#), [Ragulina *et al.* \(2017\)](#) and [Ambroziak \(2016\)](#) in the period 2003-2012 that SEZ has a substantial positive effect on workers both local Poland and neighboring countries. The SEZ's influence on investment is rather weak, but it still has a positive and significant impact on the country's economic growth. It is different from the study by [Cotula & Mouan \(2018\)](#) which examined the condition of the existence of SEZ in developing countries such as Pakistan and Kamboza which has spread rapidly over the last 20 years. Their study includes many low- and middle-income countries, where they have succeeded in attracting private investors for industrial development, giving rise to fears of land grabbing, poor labor conditions, and loss of community income. The concern is rooted in a law made by a regime that only supports SEZ but they fail to understand sustainability, protect the lands of communities affected by SEZ so that weak communities only receive negative impacts from the formation of these special economic zones. A similar story also comes to the work of [Levien \(2012\)](#) who saw the old commitment can not sustainable what being said inSEZearly plan as the political situation later that affected the economic development in the dispossession in some developing nations such as India.

Method

This quantitative research aimed to discuss how the influence of labor absorption, exports, infrastructure, and investment on Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) in the framework of forming a special economic zone in Kotabaru Regency. [Loeb *et al.* \(2017\)](#) said that in working in quantitative, the descriptive analysis can be in researching social and economic field. Descriptive analysis is used to describe the conditions of employment, exports, and investment in Kotabaru Regency, especially in terms of GRDP and where the author connects some variables in series and provides an analysis of the implementation of special economic areas (SEZ) in Kotabaru Regency, precisely in Mekar Putih Village, Kota Baru District.

Results and Discussion

Table 1. Research result

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	3.064324	4.097343	0.747881	0.4828
LOG (INVEST)	0.550394	0.098181	5.605887	0.0014
LOG(TK)	0.200889	0.437902	0.458752	0.6626
LOG (INFRASTRUCTURE)	0.005914	0.033185	0.178200	0.8644
LOG (EXPORT)	0.071220	0.043375	1.641956	0.1517
R-squared	0.967205	Mean dependent var		16.35743
Adjusted R-squared	0.945342	S.D. dependent var		0.170797
F-statistic	44.23918	Durbin-Watson stat		2.258043
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000138			

Source of results of data
processing 2019

Table 1 above shows that only the investment variables have a significant and positive effect on SEZ Kotabaru Regency. With an investment probability value of 0.001 has a smaller value than the real level used, namely 0.05. Meanwhile, the probability of the labor force variable is 0.662 and the infrastructure is 0.8644 and the export value is 0.151 which has no significant effect on GRDP in SEZ. The R square coefficient shows a value of 0.967, which means that the equation model used can explain the relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variable by 96.7 percent, while the rest is explained by other factors outside the model. The F-statistic value obtained after regression is 44,239, while the F probability value of 0.0001 has a smaller value than the real level used 0.05 so that it can be said that the independent variables used are significant and jointly affect the company's GRDP in SEZ MekarPutih, Kotabaru Regency.

Mekar Putih special economic zone

Mekar Putih economic area is located in the TanjungSelayar Island Laut District (PLTS) which is a fraction of the PulauLaut Barat District. To accelerate regional development, the TanjungSelayar Island Subdistrict was formed. Many potential natural resources can be developed as special economic activities, including mining iron ore, coal, oil palm, rubber plantations, forestry (wood), and energy. Meanwhile, the industrial potential based on natural resources is in the form of:

- 1) Agroindustry; Palm Oil Agro-Industry: CPO and its derivatives
- 2) Mining Industry; Iron Ore Industry, Coal Industry
- 3) Forestry Industry; Pulp / Pulp Industry, Plywood Industry
- 4) Steam Power Plant (Coal) Energy Industry.



Figure 1. Administrative map of Kotabaru Regency
Source: Kotabaru Regency BAPPEDA

Investment as an economic benchmark

Yigitcanlar & Bulu (2015) study which has acknowledged that the development of Dubai with the city of Istanbul has inspired the journey of a country in urban development efforts employing government policies to improve the country's economy so that it is easier to develop. What they have done is more or less what has happened by the Indonesian government, especially the city of Kotabaru. By accelerating the growth rate of investment value, it will participate and be able to increase production capacity so that it can have an impact on increasing the value of GRDB that will be received. The low quality of regional investment, which is generally in the form of construction and

maintenance of non-excludable and / or non-rivalry public infrastructure, has an irreplaceable role compared to the role of the private sector. The role of government is increasingly important in relatively underdeveloped regions, where private investment is still low. In these areas, government investment is expected to increase regional attractiveness through the development of regional infrastructures such as roads, electricity, irrigation, and other transportation infrastructure, as well as enhancing human resources (HR). Without it, it is difficult to expect regional businesses to develop.

Likewise, the commitment of local governments to prioritizing public investment can be seen from the ratio of local government capital expenditures to total district/ city and provincial government spending in South Kalimantan. What the local government of Kalimantan is doing is the same as the study of [Pujadas et al. \(2017\)](#) which examines various development approaches by prioritizing and prioritizing community choices for industrial and investment opportunities. Although these efforts and conditions are not sufficient to spur efforts to improve people's welfare, especially poverty reduction and improvement of the quality of human resources, at least the government has made efforts to develop poverty alleviation programs and increase human resources appropriately and sustainably, with adequate budget allocations.

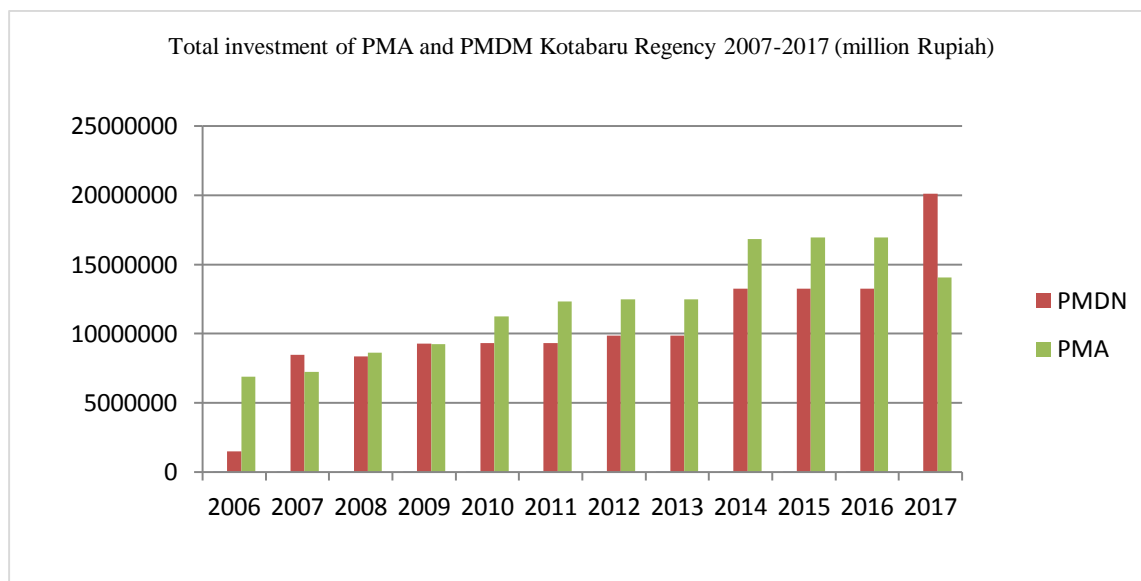


Figure 2. The total investment of PMA and PMDM Kotabaru Regency 2007-2017
Data source processed 2019

Investment in Kotabaru Regency is indeed very developing due to industrial growth which makes the value of incoming investment also increase. This shows that the investment sector plays an important role in driving economic growth, particularly GDP. [Henderson \(2002\)](#) study has successfully revealed the urbanization program in building and improving the community economy. That is why it is considered the importance of establishing an SEZ in Kotabaru so that the dream of accelerating development can continue to be realized. The formation of SEZ is believed to increase investor interest because in the area special facilities will be provided to facilitate procedures related to investment licensing. So that it will be able to increase the value of an incoming investment and will also increase the value of GRDP that will be received.

Potential labor absorption

In Kotabaru Regency, many industries are growing very rapidly. However, the large number of these industries is not accompanied by the absorption of local workers, especially from industries around Kotabaru Regency. In other words, employment from the industrial sector in Kotabaru Regency is still very low. Although the absorption of labor from the local population will cause a slowdown in economic growth, the labor sector is an important part of increasing the Gross Domestic Product (GRDP) of an area but if the laborforce is used from outside the region or not a native workforce will slow down the acceleration of economic growth.

The ability of the industrial sector to absorb labor is determined by the suitability between the skills of the workforce and the investment made. As [Todaro \(1981\)](#) states, there is an asynchronous relationship between investment and employment due to the accumulation of capital for the purchase of sophisticated machinery and equipment which not only wastes domestic finances and foreign exchange but also hinders efforts to create new job creation growth.

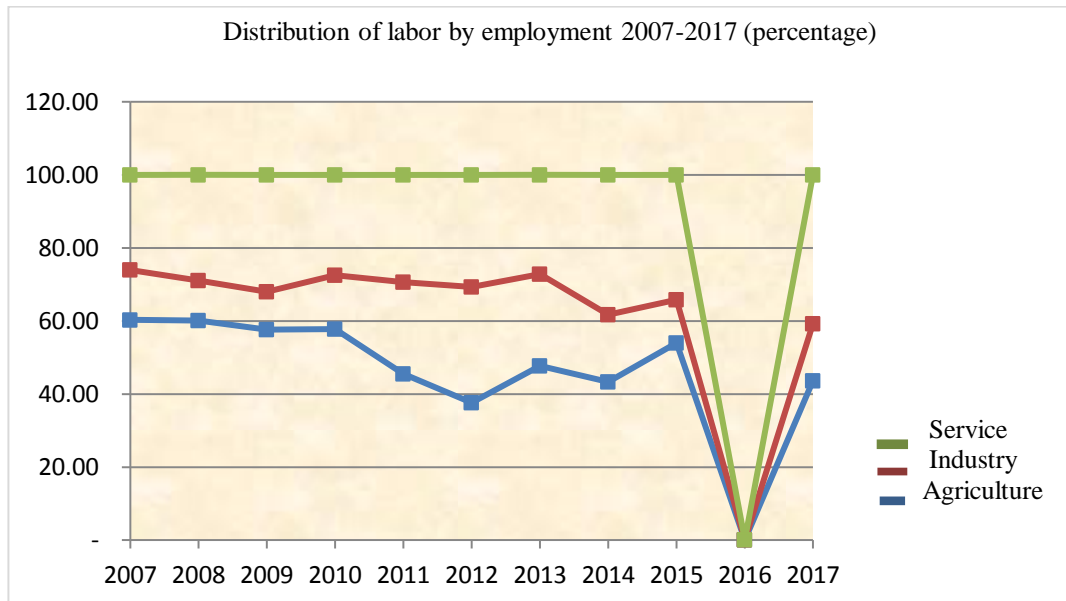


Figure 3. Distribution of labor by employment 2007-2017
Data source processed 2019

The higher the quality of human resources in an area, the more productive the workforce, and the higher the chance of giving birth to innovation which is the key to sustainable growth. The following data illustrates how the conditions for the development of labor absorption in Kotabaru district, especially in the study period. It is seen that the absorption of labor each year is quite stable, only in 2016 which dropped dramatically. This is experienced in all sectors, both services, industry, and agriculture, with the sector that absorbs the most labor in Kotabaru district, the service sector. In fact, in the distribution of contributions, the value of Kotabaru's GRDP in the Industrial sector was the most dominant in contributing value to GRDP. This is what drives the need to establish a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Kotabaru district. It is expected that SEZs can increase Labor Absorption especially in the Industrial sector which aims to improve the economy in Kotabaru district.

Infrastructure connectivity ways of economic growth

Research conducted by [Mian et al. \(2010\)](#) raised the importance of developing regions through knowledge in several developing nations with innovation in various infrastructure facilities. This is evidence of work from several developing countries such as Mexico and other countries. So with this international spirit, it is easier for world leaders to innovate their respective regions towards equitable development progress. The need for infrastructure to strengthen connectivity is a major factor in a region's economic growth. This facility will accelerate the completion of the development of land, sea and air transportation, national strategic roads, and the acceleration of clean water, electricity, and telecommunication infrastructure.

Several infrastructure developments to strengthen connectivity in South Kalimantan include 1) Development of land transportation networks: the southern intercity rail network, the construction of the Bajai Pelaihari Batu Licin-Sengayam Tanah Grogot railway, the construction of the Tanjung-Balikpapan railway, and the development of the Banjarmasin railway-Palangkaraya; construction of the Kota Baru bridge, construction of the Sei Ulin and Batu Licin ring roads; 2) Development of land transportation: development of a semi BRT transit and system for the city of Banjarmasin; construction of an access road to the Batulicin Industrial Estate. 3) Development of GustiSyamsirAlam and Syamsudin Noor Airports, Banjarmasin.

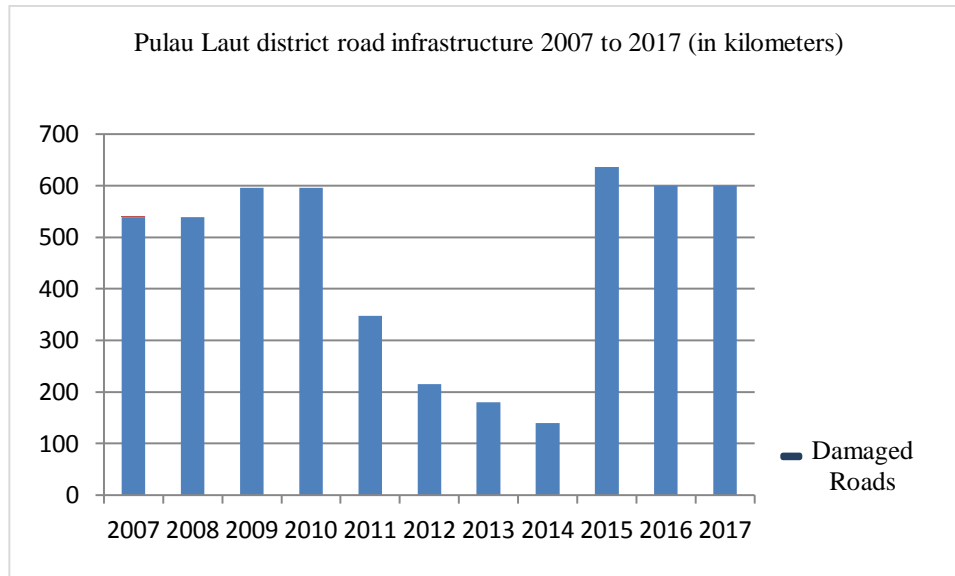


Figure 4. Pulau Laut district road infrastructure 2007 to 2017
Data source processed 2019

Some of the findings of this study indicate that much of the road infrastructure is still damaged. City access from industrial areas is constrained by various obstacles. In the last few months, many people in Kotabaru Regency have complained about the condition of infrastructure, especially road infrastructure, which is currently considered very disruptive to traffic when leaving for work or delivering goods to be sold to the domestic market or for export. Damage to several roads resulted in inefficiencies in driving time and disrupted the distribution of goods and services. Based on the condition of Kotabaru Regency infrastructure in 2017, for damaged roads along 600.03 km, of course, this shows that this is not sufficient. Inadequate infrastructure conditions will reduce the attractiveness of foreign and domestic investors as well as tourists who will enter Kotabaru Regency so that in the end it will disrupt the economic activities of the people of Kotabaru Regency. Infrastructure development is an absolute requirement for boosting economic growth. From the allocation of public and private financing, infrastructure is seen as the locomotive of national and regional development. According to Fischer & Amekudzi (2011), the figures for various means of development will certainly improve the quality of people's lives. So the sustainability of public facilities is closely related to sustainable development. This is the choice of choice for the government to prioritize its development. This is very supportive of this study which has tried to tug at the weaknesses of the Kalimantan regional government in terms of road development and other aspects.

Export facilitation industrial zone

Exports are an important component in increasing GDP growth and economic growth. This export facility will support the domestic and foreign trade sectors. Trading activities occur because the level of the community's economy is increasing. The export value in Kotabaru Regency is quite high and Kotabaru Regency has a strategic geographical location so that the development of its export value is very fast. The export facilities in Kotabaru Regency are very supportive of oil palm and coal trading. This makes export facilities an important sector to accelerate the rate of economic growth, particularly the value of GDP. The increase in export facilities will also be able to boost the rate of economic growth and increase the value of GRDP received by the Kotabaru Regency Government. Kotabaru with a total investment value of 34,148.85 billion in 2017 (Investment Board 2017). The existence of palm oil, coal mining in Kotabaru will strengthen the plantation and mining industry because it spurs new investment by opening an iron ore mine. This unity will be carried out if the facilities are adequate. This is consistent with the study of Kessides (1993) which states that export and import facilities are a direct contribution to the development of regional and state economies. So it is very important to prioritize this kind of infrastructure improvement because this has been proven from various experiences of international donors in helping a country.

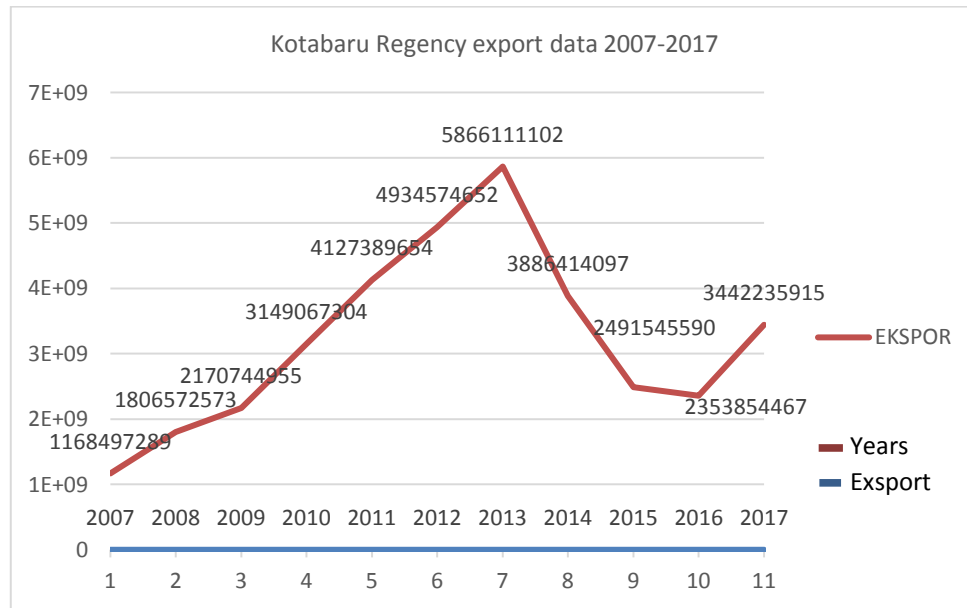


Figure 5. Kotabaru Regency export data 2007-2017
Data source processed 2019

Conclusion

The results of this study indicate that of the 4 factors that influence Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) in Kotabaru Regency, namely investment variables, labor variables, infrastructure variables, and export variables, it is proven that only investment variables have a significant effect on the GRDP in the Special Economic District New city. Labor variable does not have a significant effect on SEZ GRDP in Kotabaru Regency, this is due to the low productivity of the workers in the industrial sector, so even though there are large numbers, it does not significantly affect the GDP of the industrial sector of the plantation and mining itself. Also, the plantation and mining industries in Kotabaru District are more patterned in capital intensive industries. Infrastructure variables also have no significant effect on GRDP because the infrastructure in Kotabaru Regency is classified as poor with access to damaged roads as well as 600.03 km. The export variable has no significant effect because the industrial sector in Kotabaru Regency is still affected by inadequate infrastructure both land, sea, and air, whose businesses are oriented to export activities.

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