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## **ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF TRADE COMPANIES IN SERBIA**

**ABSTRACT:** The issue of analysis of economic performance in commercial enterprises in this paper is investigated from the angle of the impact of labor process factors (fixed, working capital and human capital) on profitability and efficiency, on the example of trade enterprises in Serbia. performance. The economic performance of trade companies in Serbia is significantly affected by fixed and working capital. The impact of human capital is moderate. In the future, in order to improve the economic performance of trade companies in Serbia, it is necessary to more efficiently manage human capital through training, salary, improvement of managerial position, compensation.

*Key words* : fixed assets, current assets, earnings per employee, ratio analysis, statistical analysis, DEA models, Serbian trade

### **INTRODUCTION**

In order to improve the economic performance of commercial enterprises, it is generally necessary to manage fixed, working and human capital as efficiently as possible. With this in mind, the subject of research in this paper is the impact of labor process factors (fixed assets, working capital

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and human labor) on the economic performance of trade enterprises in Serbia. The purpose and goal of the given research is to deal with the treated issues as complex as possible, and to propose adequate measures for improving the economic performance of trade companies in Serbia in the future. This, among other things, reflects the scientific and professional contribution of this paper.

In recent times, as is well known, there is a very rich literature dedicated to the analysis of economic and financial performance in trade from different research angles - factors and measurement (Berman, 2018; Frei, 2022). Also, a very rich world literature is devoted to evaluating the efficiency and productivity of all enterprises, including trade, based on DEA (Data Envelopment Analysis) models, application of AHP (Analytical Hierarchical Process) and TOPSIS methods, econometrics, regression analysis (Malmquist, 1953; Asmild, 2004; Andersen, 1993; Donthu, 1998; Tone, 2001; Tone, 2002; Tone, 2009; Tone, 2010; Asmild, 2004; Fare, 1994; Fare, 1995; Moreno, 2010; Vaz, 2010; Wang, 2011; Moreno, 2011; Vaz, 2012; Lau, 2013; Lee, 2013; Gandhi, 2014; Al-Refaae, 2015; Anand, 2015; Majumdar, 2017; Barros, 2004; Barros, 2006; Bambe, 2017; Qiu, 2017; Sarmiento, 2017; Ko, 2017; Hsu, 2018; Haidar, 2018; Camanho, 2009; Caves, 1982; Jorge, 2009; Melo, 2018; Yu, 2009; Busu, 2020; Cheng, 2020; Ali, 2018; Bhargava, 1998; Cheng, 2020; JCTrejo García et al. 2017; Karan, 2008; Keener, 2013; Kingyens, 2012; Laitinen, 1999; Manini, 2018; Mihalovič, 2016; Rogova, 2018; Sami Mestiri, 2012; Simbolon, 2017). However, when it comes to literature in Serbia, it is still not at an enviable level, i.e. there are few extensive papers dedicated to the analysis of economic and financial performance of trade companies in Serbia using modern mathematical models and methods (Analytical Hierarchical Process - AHP, Data Envelopment Analysis - DEA, TOPSIS and others), econometric and statistical analysis (Lukic, 2011; Lukic, 2015; Lukic, 2018; Lukic, 2019; Lukic et al., 2019; Lukic et al., 2020). This gap should be filled to some extent by this paper, and this, among other things, reflects his scientific and professional contribution.

A complex analysis of the economic performance of trade in Romania was carried out (Busu et al., 2020). Almost the same analysis is applied in this paper on the example of trade in Serbia.

The basic research hypothesis in this paper is that continuous monitoring of the economic situation of all companies, which means trade, provides a basis for improvement in the future and taking appropriate measures. This is especially true in the case of trading companies in Serbia.

The research methodology of the treated issues in this paper is based on ratio analysis, comparative analysis, statistical analysis and DEA (Data Envelopment Analysis) approach. The comparative results obtained by applying the given methodology enable a better understanding of the situation

regarding the economic performance of trade in Serbia as a function of strengthening it in the future by applying relevant measures.

Necessary empirical data for the research of the treated issues in this paper were collected from the Agency for Business Registers of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2013 – 2021. They are “manufactured” in accordance with relevant international standards and there are no restrictions on international comparison.

### **INFLUENCE OF WORK PROCESS ON ECONOMIC PERFORMANACE OF TRADE COMPANIES IN SERBIA**

Three important factors of the work process in all companies, which means in trade, are fixed assets, working capital and human labor (Lukic, 2020a,b,c, 2021a,b,c,d,e,f, 2022a,b,c,d,e,f,g). Their effective control can significantly affect the achievement of targeted economic performance. We will analyze the impact of work process factors on the economic performance of trade companies in Serbia by applying ratio analysis and statistical analysis. In the context of ratio analysis, in this paper we will pay special attention to the return on fixed and working capital and earnings per employee in trade companies in Serbia.

Table 1 shows the initial input / output data for the analysis of economic performance of trade enterprises in Serbia. Table 2 shows the input / output data statistics.

*Table 1.* – Initial input / output data for the analysis of economic performance of trade enterprises in Serbia

<b>Year</b>	<b>(I) Fixed assets</b>	<b>(I) Current assets</b>	<b>(I) Number of employees</b>	<b>(O) Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT)</b>	<b>(O) Net profit</b>
2013	790448	1361155	193210	124241	89730
2014	750729	1318032	191621	112922	79234
2015	802193	1424135	159621	135916	102303
2016	800659	1503476	206092	133277	102002
2017	817685	1568615	208020	159613	126734
2018	856181	1638588	219373	148905	116386
2019	932421	1744078	222049	171642	139409
2020	962951	1861105	230139	198377	162184

2021	1099726	2057718	234727	245546	208075
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*Note: Data are expressed in millions of dinars. Number of employees in the whole number*

*Source: Agency for Business Registers of the Republic of Serbia*

**Table 2. – Data input / output statistics**

	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	
Fixed assets	750729.00	1099726.00	868110.3333	110773.44380	
Current assets	1318032.00	2057718.00	1608544.6670	244196.45690	
Number of employees	159621.00	234727.00	207205.7778	23336.38395	
Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT)	112922.00	245546.00	158937.6667	41576.34872	
Net profit	79234.00	208075.00	125117.4444	40235.82024	
N Valid N (listwise)	9	9	9	9	
N Missing	0	0	0	0	
Correlations					
		1	2	3	4
1 Fixed assets	Pearson Correlation	1	.975**	.747*	.978**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.021	.000
	N	9	9	9	9
2 Current assets	Pearson Correlation	.975**	1	.820**	.974**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.007	.000
	N	9	9	9	9
3 Number of employees	Pearson Correlation	.747*	.820**	1	.732*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.021	.007		.025
	N	9	9	9	9
4 Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT)	Pearson Correlation	.978**	.974**	.732*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.025	
	N	9	9	9	9
5 Net profit	Pearson Correlation	.978**	.979**	.740*	.999**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.023	.000
	N	9	9	9	9

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*Note: Author's calculation using the SPSS software program*

There is a strong correlation between the analyzed variables at the level of statistical significance.

**Return on fixed and working capital** is a significant indicator of profitability. In this paper, it is expressed as: earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) / fixed assets, net profit / fixed assets, earnings before interest and taxes

(EBIT) / current assets and net profit / current assets. Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) are determined as the sum of net profit, interest and taxes. Table 3 shows the return on fixed and working capital of trade companies in Serbia for the period 2013 - 2021.

*Table 3. – Return on fixed and working capital of trade companies in Serbia, 2013 - 2021*

Year	Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) / Fixed assets	Net profit / Fixed assets	Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) / Current assets	Net profit / Current assets
2013	15.72%	11.35%	9.13%	6.59%
2014	15.04%	10.55%	8.57%	6.01%
2015	16.94%	12.75%	9.54%	7.18%
2016	16.65%	12.74%	8.86%	6.78%
2017	19.52%	15.50%	10.18%	8.08%
2018	17.39%	13.59%	9.09%	7.10%
2019	18.41%	14.95%	9.84%	7.99%
2020	20.60%	16.84%	10.65%	8.71%
2021	22.32%	18.03%	11.93%	10.11%

*Note:* Author's calculation

The data in the given table show the tendency to increase the return on fixed and working capital (as indicators of profitability) in Serbian trade companies. This means, in other words, that the efficiency of managing all assets (fixed and current assets) has increased.

Recently, as it is known, the **earnings per employee** is one of the most important indicators of the performance of all companies, which means trade. It shows, among others, the influence of "invisible" characteristics of employees (for example, skill, creativity) on performance. Table 4 shows the earnings per employee in Serbian trade companies for the period 2013 - 2021.

*Table 4. – Earnings per employee in trade companies of Serbia, 2013 -2021*

Year	Fixed assets per employee	Current assets per employee	Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) per employee	Net profit per employee	Coefficient of ratio of current and fixed assets
2013	4091.134	7044.951	643.0361	464.417	1.722004
2014	3917.78	6878,328	589.2987	413.4933	1.755669
2015	5025.611	8921.978	851,492	640.9119	1.775302

2016	3884.959	7295.169	646.6869	494.9343	1.877798
2017	3930.8	7540.693	767.2964	609.2395	1.918361
2018	3902.855	7469.415	678.7754	530.5393	1.913834
2019	4199.168	7854.474	772.9915	627.8299	1.870483
2020	4184.214	80086.873	861.987	704.721	1.932709
2021	4685.247	8766.430	1046.118	886.455	1.871118

*Note:* Data are expressed in millions of dinars. Author's calculation

The data in the given table show the tendency to increase earnings per employee (as performance indicators) in Serbian trade companies. This was influenced, in addition to external ones, by the significant improvement of internal business conditions of a material and technical nature, as well as the increased efficiency of human resources management.

Using the **linear regression model**, we will look at the impact of fixed, working capital and human capital on the performance of trading companies in Serbia. The linear regression equation is:

$$Y = a + b_1 X_1 + b_2 X_2 + b_3 X_3 + e \quad (1)$$

where:  $Y$  - net profit,  $X_1$  - fixed assets,  $X_2$  - current assets,  $X_3$  - number of employees,  $a$  and  $b$  - coefficients, and  $e$  - random error.

In Table 5 shows the results of linear regression.

*Table 5.* – Results of the application of linear regression in the analysis of the influence of work process factors on the economic performance of trade enterprises in Serbia

Model Summary <sup>b</sup>											
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics					Durbin-Watson	
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change		
1	.987 <sup>a</sup>	.975	.960	8070.11161	.975	64.621	3	5	.000	2.329	
a. Predictors: (Constant), Number of Employees , Fixed Assets , Current Assets											
b. Dependent Variable: Net profit											
ANOVA <sup>a</sup>											
Model			Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.				
1	Regression		12625736340.000	3	4208578779.000	64.621	.000 <sup>b</sup>				
	Residual		325633507.100	5	65126701.410						

		Total	12951369840.000			8								
a. Dependent Variable: Net profit														
b. Predictors: (Constant), Number of Employees , Fixed Assets , Current Assets														
<b>Coefficients<sup>a</sup></b>														
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B		Correlations			Collinearity Statistics		
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Zero-order	Partial	Part	Tolerance	VIF	
1	(Constant)	-133952.104	37672.133		-3.556	.016	-230791.404	-37112.804						
	Fixed Assets	.120	.126	.330	.951	.385	-.204	.444	.978	.391	.067	.042	23.961	
	Current Assets	.127	.066	.770	1.909	.114	-.044	.298	.979	.649	.135	.031	32.332	
	Number of Employees	-.237	.234	-.137	-1.013	.358	-.838	.365	.740	-.413	-.072	.273	3.661	
a. Dependent Variable: Net profit														
<b>Collinearity Diagnostics<sup>a</sup></b>														
Model	Dimension	Eigenvalue	Condition Index	Variance Proportions										
				(Constant)	Fixed assets	Current assets	Number of employees							
1	1	3.985	1.000	.00	.00	.00	.00							
	2	.012	18.587	.28	.00	.01	.00							
	3	.003	35.021	.12	.03	.00	.67							
	4	.000	116.738	.60	.96	.98	.33							
a. Dependent Variable: Net profit														
<b>Residuals Statistics<sup>a</sup></b>														
		Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	N								
Predicted Value		77880.5000	203352.5781	125117.4444	39726.77991	9								
Residual		-8229.65723	12921.76367	.00000	6379.98342	9								
Std. Predicted Value		-1.189	1.969	.000	1.000	9								
Std. Residual		-1.020	1.601	.000	.791	9								
a. Dependent Variable: Net profit														

*Note:* Author's calculation using the SPSS software program

There is a strong correlation between net profit and fixed and working capital (at the level of statistical significance). There is a moderate correlation between net profit and employment. This means, in other words, that even more work should be done to motivate employees to achieve the target profit in Serbian trade companies (through training, salary increases, better managerial positions, and compensation - bonuses). All three factors of the work process (fixed, working capital) are significantly integrated and determine the economic performance (net profit) of trade companies in Serbia (Adjusted R Square .844, Sig. .036).

The linear regression equation for trading companies in Serbia can therefore be formulated as:

$$Y = -133952.104 + .120X_1 + .127X_2 - .237X_3$$

Based on it, a projection of net profit for future observed time can be made period.

Using the **binary logistics model**, we will also investigate the impact of labor process factors (fixed, working capital and human capital) on the economic performance (net profit) of trade companies in Serbia.

Log analysis is a form of regression analysis in which the dependent variable is dichotomous, of the binary type known as the *dummy* variable. The binary logistics model is used to estimate the probability of an event occurring. It is formulated as:

$$Prob(event) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}} \quad (2)$$

For one independent variable

$$z = b_0 + b_1x_1$$

For multiple independent variables

$$z = b_0 + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_nx_n$$

where:  $b_0$  and  $b_1, b_2$  - coefficients (estimated from data),  $x_1, x_2$  - independent variables,  $n$  - number of independent variables, and  $e$  - basis of natural logarithm (2,781).

Due to the nonlinearity of the model, the maximum probability method is used to calculate the coefficients, instead of the most commonly used least squares method. If the independent variable is equal to 0, the probability of



the event is determined by the segment ( $b_0$ ). If the regression coefficient is positive (negative), the risk factor increases (decreases) the probability of the event.

Table 6 shows the initial data for the application of the binary logistics model in the analysis of the impact of labor process factors on the economic performance (net profit) of trade enterprises in Serbia.

*Table 6.* – Initial data for the application of the binary logistics model in the analysis of the impact of labor process factors on economic performance (net profit) of trade enterprises in Serbia, 2013 - 2021

Year	(I) Fixed assets (in millions of dinars)	(I) Current assets (in millions of dinars)	(I) Number of employees	Economic performance, good 1, bad 0 *
2013	790448	1361155	193210	1
2014	750729	1318032	191621	1
2015	802193	1424135	159621	1
2016	800659	1503476	206092	0
2017	817685	1568615	208020	1
2018	856181	1638588	219373	0
2019	932421	1744078	222049	1
2020	962951	1861105	230139	1
2021	1099726	2057718	234727	1

*Note:* \* Author's calculation

Table 7 shows the results of the application of the binary logistics model in the analysis of the impact of labor process factors on the economic performance (net profit) of trade enterprises in Serbia.

*Table 7.* – The results of the application of the binary logistics model in the analysis of the impact of labor process factors on the economic performance (net profit) of trade enterprises in Serbia.

Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients				
		Chi-square	df	Sig.
Step 1	Step	9.535	3	.023
	Block	9.535	3	.023
	Model	9.535	3	.023
Model Summary				
Step	-2 Log likelihood	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square	
1	.000 <sup>a</sup>	.653	1.000	

a. Estimation terminated at iteration number 20 because maximum iterations has been reached. Final solution cannot be found.						
<b>Hosmer and Lemeshow Test</b>						
Step	Chi-square		df		Sig.	
1	.000		5		1.000	
<b>Contingency Table for Hosmer and Lemeshow Test</b>						
		Economic performance = .00		Economic performance = 1.00		Total
		Observed	Expected	Observed	Expected	
Step 1	1	1	1.000	0	.000	1
	2	1	1.000	0	.000	1
	3	0	.000	1	1.000	1
	4	0	.000	1	1.000	1
	5	0	.000	1	1.000	1
	6	0	.000	1	1.000	1
	7	0	.000	3	3.000	3
<b>Classification Table<sup>a,b</sup></b>						
				Predicted		Percentage Correct
				VAR00004		
		Observed		.00	1.00	
Step 0	VAR00004	.00	0	2	.0	
		1.00	0	7	100.0	
	Overall Percentage					77.8
a. Constant is included in the model.						
b. The cut value is .500						
<b>Classification Table<sup>a</sup></b>						
				Predicted		Percentage Correct
				Economic performance		
		Observed		.00	1.00	
Step 1	Economic performance	.00	2	0	100.0	
		1.00	0	7	100.0	
	Overall Percentage					100.0
a. The cut value is .500						

Variables in the Equation							
		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1 <sup>a</sup>	Fixed assets	.001	.298	.000	1	.998	1.001
	Current assets	.001	.182	.000	1	.997	1.001
	Number of employees	-.014	2.336	.000	1	.995	.986
	Constant	1272.488	248875.231	.000	1	.996	.
a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: Fixed assets, Current assets , Number of employees .							
Correlation Matrix							
		Constant	Fixed assets	Current assets	Number of employees		
Step 1	Constant	1.000	-.285	.943	-.916		
	Fixed assets	-.285	1.000	-.452	-.093		
	Current assets	.943	-.452	1.000	-.836		
	Number of employees	-.916	-.093	-.836	1.000		

*Note:* Author's calculation using the SPSS software program

The data in the given table show that the factors of the labor process (fixed, working capital and human capital) affect the economic performance of trade companies in Serbia with about 70% (Cox & Snell R Square .653 ), or 100% ( Nagelkerke R Square 1.000). The binary regression model agrees well with the data ( Hosmer and Lemeshow Test - Sig. 1.000> .05 ), the observed and expected frequencies do not differ significantly ( Contingency Table for Hosmer and Lemeshow Test). The method is correct (Overall Percentage 100.0) and it is therefore significantly improved compared to the initial (zero) ( Overall Percentage 77.8%).

The binary logistics model for trade companies in Serbia can, therefore, be expressed as:

$$Prob(event) = \frac{1}{[1 + e^{-(1272.488 + .001x_1 + .001x_2 - .014x_3)}]}$$

$$Z = 1272.488 + .001x_1 + .001x_2 - .014x_3$$

Based on it, we can calculate the probability of the occurrence of a certain event, in our case the good or bad economic performance of trade companies in Serbia.

## ANALYSIS OF THE EFFICIENCY OF TRADE COMPANIES IN SERBIA BASED ON THE DEA MODEL

We will perform the analysis of the efficiency of trade companies in Serbia only on the basis of the DEA model of entry orientation, with a constant and variable returns. This is because the focus of this paper is on the analysis of the impact of labor process factors (fixed, working capital and human capital) on the performance / efficiency of trade companies in Serbia.

The two basic DEA models are: CCR (Constant Returns) and BCC (Variable Returns).

The **CCR model** is based on a fixed or constant scale returns. This means that a proportional increase in all inputs results in the same proportional increase in all outputs. The dual of CCR efficiency is expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{under restriction} && \text{Min } \theta \\
 & \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j x_{ij} \leq \theta x_{io} && i = 1 \dots m \\
 & \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j y_{kj} \geq y_{ko} && k = 1 \dots s \\
 & \lambda \geq 0 && j = 1 \dots n \quad (3)
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\theta$  technical efficiency of DMU units is 0,  $\lambda$  is a dual variable for identifying comparable inefficient units. If  $\theta^*$  is equal to the value of one, the observed DMU unit is technically efficient.

A firm is efficient (financially non-risky) if the value of the coefficient is equal to one. However, it is inefficient (financially risky) if the value of the coefficient is less than one. The closer it is to zero, the more "disturbing" it is.

The concept of the CCR model has been modified with the introduction of the **BCC model** (by *Banker-Charnes-Cooper*) by changing the constant returns from scale (CRS) with variable returns from scale (VRS). A DMU unit operates under a variable returns from the scale if an increase in input does not result in a proportional change in output. The BCC model is shown as follows:

$$\text{Min } \theta$$

under restriction

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j x_{ij} \leq \theta x_{io} \quad i = 1 \dots m$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j y_{kj} \geq y_{ko} \quad k = 1 \dots s$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j = 1 \quad j = 1 \dots n$$

$$\lambda_j \geq 0 \quad (2)$$

The BCC model divides the technical efficiency (*TE*) obtained by the CCR model into two parts: 1) pure technical efficiency (*PTE*), which ignores the influence of scale size by comparing DMU units with similar scale units and measures how DMU units use sources under exogenous conditions; and 2) scale efficiency (*SE*), which shows how scale size affects efficiency, and is expressed as:  $SE = TE / PTE$ .

In this cancer, the input elements are: fixed assets, current assets and the number of employees, and as output: earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) and net profit.

Table 8 and Figures 1 and 2 show the results of the analysis of the efficiency of trade enterprises in Serbia based on the DEA model of entry orientation, with constant and variable returns.

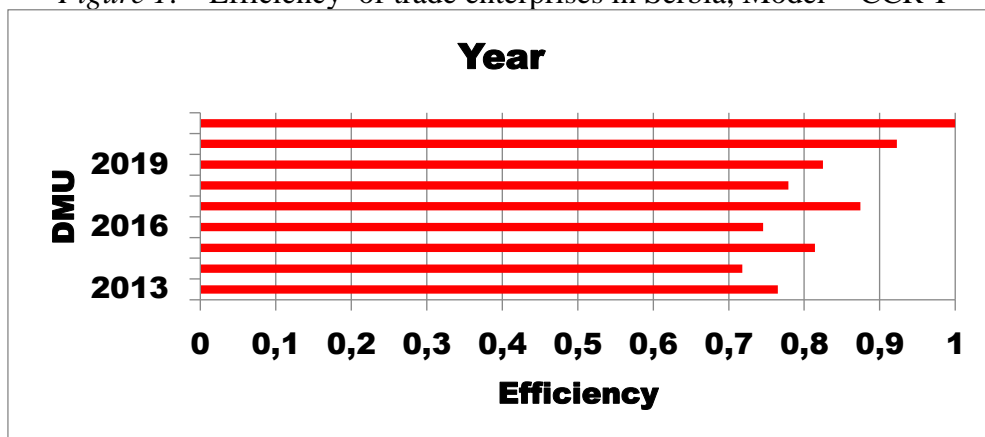
Table 8. – Efficiency of trade enterprises in Serbia, DEA models (CCR-I; BCC-I)

No.	DMU	Model = CCR-I		Model = BCC-I		RTS of Projected DMU
		Score	Rank	Score	Rank	
1	2013	0.7649	7	1	1	Increasing
2	2014	0.718	9	1	1	Increasing
3	2015	0.814	5	1	1	Increasing
4	2016	0.7455	8	0.9777	7	Increasing
5	2017	0.8742	3	1	1	Increasing

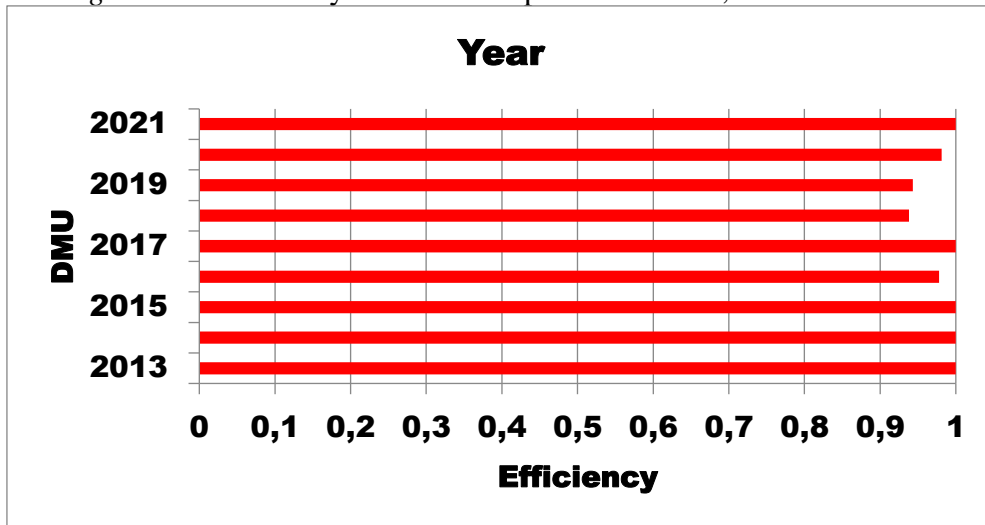
6	2018	0.7789	6	0.938	9	Increasing	
7	2019	0.8247	4	0.943	2	8	Increasing
8	2020	0.9227	2	0.981	3	6	Increasing
9	2021	1	1	1	1	1	Constant
	Average	0.827	No. of Efficient DMUs = 1	0.982	No. of Efficient DMUs = 2	No. of Efficient DMUs = 5	
	Max	1	No. of Inefficient DMUs = 8	1	No. of Inefficient DMUs = 4		
	Min	0.718		0.938			
	St Dev	0.091		0.025	2		

*Note:* Author's calculation using DEA-Solver

*Figure 1.* – Efficiency of trade enterprises in Serbia, Model = CCR-I



*Source:* Authors

*Figure 2.* – Efficiency of trade enterprises in Serbia, Model = BCC-I

*Source:* Authors

In the period 2013-2021 according to the CCR-I model, trade companies in Serbia were efficient in 2021 and inefficient in other years. According to the BCC-I model, trade companies in Serbia were efficient in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2021, and inefficient in 2016 and 2018. According to both models, trade companies in Serbia were inefficient in 2018. They are also efficient according to both models were efficient in 2021. In order to further improve the efficiency of trade companies in Serbia, it is therefore necessary to manage assets, human capital and profits even more efficiently.

## CONCLUSION

The conducted empirical analysis in this paper shows the tendency to increase the return on fixed and working capital in Serbian trade companies. This means, in other words, that the efficiency of management of all assets (fixed and current assets) has increased.

In the observed period of time, earnings per employee, as an indicator of profitability, also tended to increase in Serbian trade companies. This was influenced, in addition to external ones, by significantly improved internal business conditions of a material and technical nature (for example, digitalization of the entire business), as well as the efficiency of human capital management.

There is a strong correlation between net profit and fixed and working capital (at the level of statistical significance). There is a moderate correlation between net profit and employment. This means, in other words, that even

more work should be done to motivate employees to achieve the target profit in trade companies in Serbia (through training, salary increases, better managerial positions, and compensation - bonuses). Significantly integrated, all three factors of the work process (fixed, working capital and human capital) determine the net profit of trade companies in Serbia (Adjusted R Square .960, Sig. .000).

The paper formulates a linear regression equation that can be used to predict the economic performance of trade enterprises with Serbia for the future observed time period. Also, a binary logistics model was formulated to assess the probability of occurrence of the event, ie the character of economic performance (good or bad) of trade companies in Serbia.

In the observed time period (2013 - 2021) according to the CCR-I model trade companies in Serbia were efficient in 2021 and inefficient in other years. According to the BCC-I model, trade companies in Serbia were efficient in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2021, and inefficient in 2016 and 2018. According to both models, trade companies in Serbia were inefficient in 2018. They are also efficient according to both models were efficient in 2021. In order to further improve the efficiency of trade companies in Serbia, it is therefore necessary to manage assets, human capital and profits even more efficiently.

## **REZIME**

### **ANALIZA EKONOMSKIH PERFORMANSI TRGOVINSKIH PREDUZEĆA U SRBIJI**

Problematika analiza ekonomskih performansi u trgovinskim preduzećima u ovom radu se istražuje iz ugla uticaja faktora procesa rada (fiksno, obrtno i ljudskog kapitala) na profitabilnost i efikasnost, na primeru trgovinskih preduzeća u Srbiji. Što je efikasnija kontrola faktora procesa rada, utoliko su bolje ekonomske performanse. Na ekonomske performanse trgovinskih preduzeća u Srbiji značajno utiče fiksni i obrtni kapital. Umeren je uticaj ljudskog kapitala. U budućnosti u cilju poboljšanja ekonomskih performansi trgovinskih preduzeća u Srbiji neophodno je što efikasnije upravljati ljudskim kapitalom putem treninga, visine plate, unapređenja menadžerske pozicije, kompenzacija i socijalnog i zdravstvenog osiguranja .

*Ključne reči:* fiksna imovina, obrtna imovina, zarada po zaposlenom, raco analiza, statistička analiza, DEA modeli, trgovina Srbije



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