

ANALYSIS OF QRIS USE ON THE UNITED STATES TRADE WAR POLICY TOWARDS INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

The issue of trade war tariffs issued by the United States to Indonesia is one of the triggers for the use of the QRIS (Quick Response code Indonesia Standard) payment system which was discussed during trade tariff negotiations between Indonesia and America. America considers the use of QRIS to hinder trade with Indonesia, while according to Indonesia, QRIS makes transactions easier for Indonesian people and countries in Asia that use QRIS. The problem of this research is about the use of QRIS which is a threat to the United States which makes America impose a trade tariff of 32%. Previous research only looked at the trade war between America and China and also the use of QRIS only for UMKM. While this study looks at the use of QRIS which has an impact on the world economy and is still in a trade war situation. The research method used is descriptive qualitative with a literature method through library studies sourced from journals and access to data obtained from websites as information publications. The results of this study user active use of QRIS has the potential to shift the use of ATM cards with the visa or Mastercard logo in the buying and selling transaction process, besides addition to its practical use, the use of QRIS in terms of cost is also quite low. The conclusion of this study is that the use of the QRIS payment system threatens the income from the use of Visa and Mastercard cards, where Visa and Mastercard are payment systems owned by the United States, and the implication of this study is that we should be proud of the QRIS payment system which makes the transaction process easier and cheaper.

Keywords: QRIS, Trade War

INTRODUCTION

The trade war between America and China that occurred in 2018 was not just a trade tariff conflict that occurred on both sides, this war was a strategic competition involving economic, technological, and geopolitical dimensions that caused developing countries, especially Indonesia, to experience the domino effect of the trade war. America's high tariff policy on more than USD 550 billions of Chinese products was responded to by China with similar tariffs on more than USD 185 billions of American products (<https://www.kemhan.go.id/>).

In 2025 the United States trade war with China heated up again with the high tariff policy of President Donald Trump's government with an additional tariff of 32% on Chinese products and a planned tariff of 10-20% for all major trading partners of both countries. Indonesia also experienced the impact of the 32% tariff imposed by the United States on Indonesia, this caused Indonesia's exports to America to experience a significant decline, based on export data the United States is number 2 from China, the following data is presented (<https://databoks.katadata.co.id/>):



Sumber:
Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS)

Informasi Lain:

This trade war has resulted in companies in Indonesia that export to the United States experiencing a significant impact on their business income. The companies that have been affected by the trade war are those engaged in wooden furniture, paper, frozen shrimp, instant noodles and kitchen spices, as well as automotive component manufacturing.

The issue of trade war tariffs issued by America to Indonesia is one of the triggers for the use of the QRIS (Quick Response code Indonesia Standard) payment system which was discussed during the trade tariff negotiations between Indonesia and America. America considers the use of QRIS to hinder trade with Indonesia, while according to Indonesia, QRIS makes transactions easier for Indonesian people and countries in Asia that use QRIS. Since its launch, QRIS has been adopted by various sectors, including retail, restaurants, and transportation services. This shows that Indonesian people are increasingly open to technological innovation in financial transactions, thus contributing to the ease and convenience of digital transactions (Ghana & Indiani, 2023). The implementation of the Quick Response Indonesian Standard

(QRIS) has become a useful practice in simplifying non-cash transactions, thus providing benefits for sellers and buyers. For micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), the use of QRIS can potentially increase operational efficiency and encourage business growth (Nadhifa Alifia et al.)

In December 2024, the QRIS transaction volume reached 779 million transactions, up 159% compared to December 2023 (*year-on-year/yoy*). The strengthening of the QRIS transaction trend is supported by the growth of its users, both from consumer and merchant groups. ASPI noted that in December 2024 there were already 55 million QRIS consumer users, growing by around 20% (yoy). During that period, there were also 36 million *merchants* serving payments using QRIS, an increase of 20% (yoy). (<https://www.aspi-indonesia.or.id/statistik-QRIS/>) and countries that have collaborated using QRIS are Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Brunei Darussalam, Japan, South Korea.

Based on the description above, the author wants to conduct research on the use of QRIS which is a threat to the United States which makes America impose a trade tariff of 32% outside of other issues besides geopolitics. Previous research only looked at the trade war between America and China and also the use of QRIS only for MSMEs. While this study looks at the use of QRIS which has an impact on the world economy and is still in a trade war situation. The purpose of this study is to determine the extent to which the use of QRIS affects America's trade war policy towards Indonesia. Therefore, the author wants to conduct research with the title Analysis of QRIS Use Against America's Trade War Policy

LITERATURE REVIEW

Understanding the Indonesian Standard Quick Response Code (QRIS)

According to Bank Indonesia, the Quick Response Code Indonesia standard or known as QRIS is a system that combines various types of QR codes from various payment system service providers that develop QRIS to simplify, accelerate, and improve the security of transaction processes using efficient and easy-to-use QR Codes. According to the official QRIS website, it provides information on various benefits that merchants can enjoy by using QRIS. Easy and fast in making transactions, Minimizing the use of cash. Supporting safer non-cash transactions. And Expanding payment access for small business actors.

International Trade

International trade according to Ignatius Henry (2020) is a transaction between one country and another based on mutual agreement and needs in the form of exports and imports. Export activities can be referred to as the sale of a commodity or service sold abroad, while imports are the purchase of a commodity or service purchased from abroad. International trade provides an opportunity for both parties or countries to expand their main commodity markets and also increase the provision of goods and services that may not be produced in their country. The practice of international trade is based on geographical differences and the needs of each country which causes a variety of main commodities

Protectionism

Protectionism According to Ignatius Henry (2020) international trade can have two different perspectives as free trade and protectionism. The first perspective is free trade where there are no barriers such as tariff policies and quota restrictions on the trade carried out, while the second point of view is protectionism which is contrary to the practice of free trade. Protectionism is a form of policy that regulates restrictions on both the quantity and quota of commodities in international trade practices. The trade war

that occurred was caused by the policy of restricting international trade in the form of tariffs imposed on US and Chinese products imposed by the two countries. Furthermore, according to Ignatius Henry (2020), the tariff policy imposed in trade restrictions is based on the government's decision to reduce the trade deficit and protect domestic industries so that they can compete with foreign products by raising the prices of these foreign products. Then, this policy can also increase the number of jobs because previously sluggish industries can grow again. However, this policy has other impacts that can be detrimental to several parties, one of which is consumers. Consumers can feel that an industry's products do not appear innovative due to the lack of business competition. In fact, consumers can be harmed by the high price of a product that is not benefited by the implementation of this policy.

Trade War

Trade War Trade wars are not a new phenomenon. According to Ignatius Henry (2020), trade wars have occurred since the past, for example in 1930 when the US implemented a policy of increasing tariffs on agricultural and livestock products from Europe known as "The Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act". Ironically, this policy had a "boomerang" effect for the US where they not only received resistance from Europe but their trade was attacked by all countries. This is because the US protectionist policy resulted in a decline in world economic activity which led to a global recession. Therefore, protectionist policies do not always benefit a country that implements them and these policies can affect other countries that trade with that country, so that they can harm themselves as the US felt in 1930. Even the US as the country with the largest economy in the world has a significant influence on the global economy. Based on these facts, a trade war is a result of protectionist policies implemented between countries which can harm various parties that trade with that country.

METHOD, DATA, AND ANALYSIS

This research is a qualitative descriptive with a literature method through a literature study sourced from previous research journals (Fatma et al, 2024) and Ignatius (2020) related to the title, also through access to data obtained from the website as an information publication. Qualitative descriptive study can be interpreted that the researcher is a key instrument where data collection is carried out by combining and analyzing data inductively (Sugiyono, 2017) so as to produce and process descriptive data such as narrating the results of observation interviews

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

QRIS is a combination of various QR codes from various Payment System Service Providers (PJSP). The use of the QR code payment system is a non-cash payment system that is very popular today. With QRIS, non-cash transaction activities become safer, faster, and easier. Therefore, people know QRIS as the easiest and most efficient payment method today.

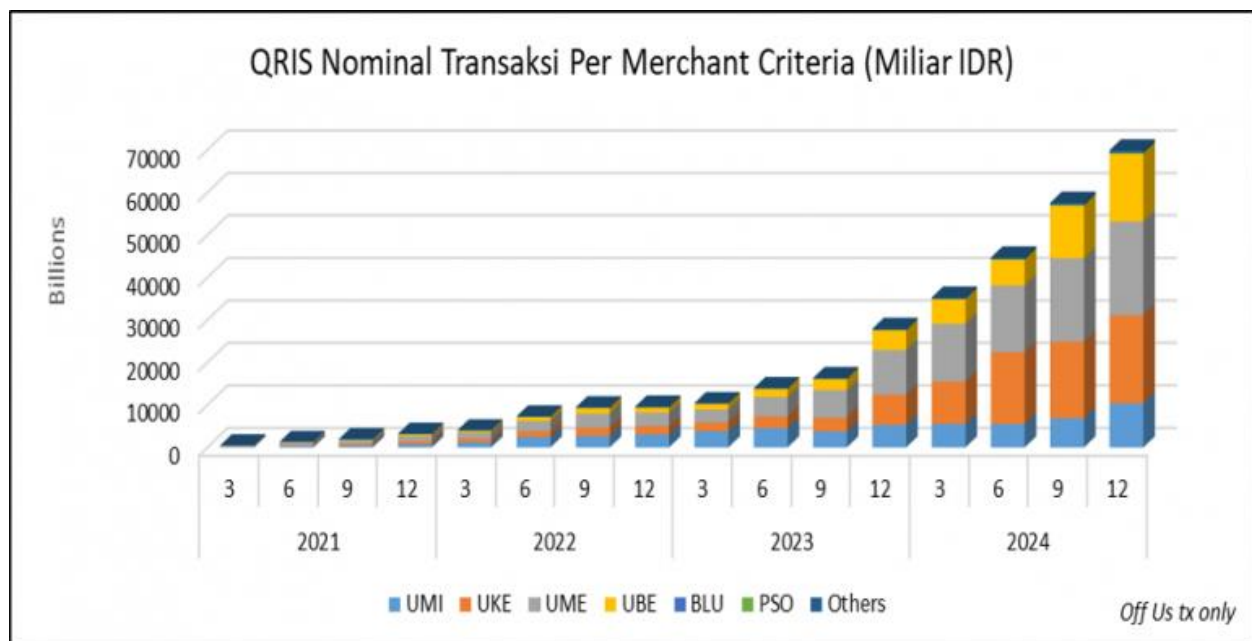
The Use of the QRIS Payment System Impacts Trade War Policies.

Although the QRIS payment system is a non-cash payment system that has a positive impact on the ongoing Indonesian economy, the presence of QRIS is very supportive in terms of the transaction process carried out and provides many benefits, especially in terms of increasing income. Here is the number of QRIS users until the end of 2024 (<https://databoks.katadata.co.id/>)

Table 1. Number of QRIS Consumers

Year	user	Year	Users	Year	Users
03-2022	17.88Million	03-2023	32Million	03-2024	48Million
06-2022	21.17Million	06-2023	37Million	06-2024	51Million
09-2022	25.16Million	09-2023	42Million	09-2024	53Million
12-2022	28.76Million	12-2023	46Million	12-2024	55Million

From the data above, the use of QRIS from year to year has experienced a significant increase and the number of transactions that occur can be seen in the following graph (<https://aspi-indonesia.or.id/statistik-QRIS/>):



Based on the number of users and transactions that occurred until the end of 2024, this shows that the amount of money circulating in the country is quite large and the use of automated teller machines (ATM) transactions is decreasing. Based on data from Bank Indonesia (BI), the volume of ATM transactions fell 8.62% from 7.60 billion in 2023 annually or year on year (yoy) to 6.95 billion (yoy) in 2024. The transaction value also decreased 7.80% from IDR 7.80 quadrillion (yoy) in 2023 to 7.19 quadrillion (yoy) in 2024. This decrease in ATM usage is one of the reasons why the United States imposed a trade tariff policy on Indonesia. If examined more closely, the income from Visa and Mastercard cards has decreased due to the use of QRIS in Indonesia and in ASEAN.

The active use of QRIS has the potential to shift the use of ATM cards with the Visa or Mastercard logo in the buying and selling transaction process and the use of cash has also decreased. In addition to its practical use, the use of QRIS in terms of cost is also quite low. Merchants who use QRIS services will be charged a fee called *the merchant discount rate* (MDR). MDR is a service fee charged to sellers by payment service providers (PJP). The MDR fee is borne by the seller and may not be charged to consumers. The

amount of MDR varies depending on the category of business actors. Micro businesses are subject to an MDR rate of 0 percent for transactions less than or equal to IDR 500,000, while above IDR 500,000 it is 0.3 percent. Then, small business actors, medium businesses, and large businesses are charged an MDR rate of 0.7 percent. The MDR rate for educational services is 0.6 percent, public fuel stations (SPBU) is 0.4 percent, and Public Service and Public Service Agencies or *Public Service Obligations* (PSO) is 0 percent. Meanwhile, the amount of Visa card transaction fees at each acquiring bank can vary. Visa cards that charge interest rates on cash withdrawal transactions and shopping transactions, each of 1.75 percent as of July 1, 2021. then charge domestic and foreign cash withdrawal fees, each of 4 percent or a minimum of IDR 40,000. While the use of Mastercard with interest rates on cash withdrawal transactions and shopping transactions, each of 1.75 percent as of July 1, 2021. Then, domestic and foreign cash withdrawal fees, each of 4 percent or a minimum of IDR 40,000.

CONCLUSION

The use of the QRIS payment system threatens the income from the use of visa and Mastercard cards where visa and Mastercard are payment systems owned by the United States so that the use of QRIS is one of the factors that makes the United States issue a trade war policy against Indonesia and for Indonesia the use of QRIS is the first step to be able to compete in the digital money system and simplify the payment process and minimize the costs incurred by QRIS users.

IMPLICATION/LIMITATION AND SUGGESTIONS

This study has limitations where data for QRIS users in ASEAN is not yet available, there is only the use of QRIS in Indonesia and also the lack of data on the amount of fees charged in other countries for the use of QRIS. As for future suggestions for subsequent research to pay attention to the year of the incident because this study is still a trade war and negotiation stage between the United States and Indonesia.

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