ABSTRACT

By using regression analysis, this study revises the macroeconomic determinants of Small and Medium Enterprises export growth: a case of apparel and textile industry of Thailand over the period of eleven years from November 2005 to November 2016. The study has focused on SMEs in order to identify the success factors that developing countries need to learn from Thailand's export economy for export growth which will eventually lead to economic growth. The apparel and textile industry has been selected due to its employment capacity and SMEs oriented industry, hence easier to be adopted by developing countries as no huge capital investments are needed. Furthermore, the industry is considered to be more labor intensive even in developed countries; hence it is a way in solving unemployment crisis.

The results indicate that employment, foreign direct investment and interest rate have significant positive relationship; while exchange rate, inflation rate and world GDP have no significant relationship with world GDP having a negative insignificant impact on apparel and textile export of Thailand.

The findings from the study will not only be of benefit to the exporting SMEs in apparel and textile industry and the government of Thailand, but also to other developing countries relying on SMEs for growth. Also, this study will benefit the academicians for their future studies.

Keywords: Small and Medium Enterprises, Growth, Employment, Foreign Direct Investment, World GDP, Inflation Rate, Interest rate, Exchange rate, Apparel and Textile Exports.