Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra0412 ISSN: 2277–7741

International Journal of

Asian Economic Light (JAEL) – Peer Reviewed Journal

SJIF Impact Factor (2026): 8.835 Volume: 14 | Issue: 2 | February 2026

MONETARY TRANSMISSION MECHANISMS UNDER FLEXIBLE EXCHANGE RATE REGIMES

Saydullaev Nodirbek Narzullaevich

First Deputy Chairman of The Central bank of The Republic of Uzbekistan,
Independent Researcher at Kimyo International University in Tashkent
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the structure and effectiveness of monetary transmission mechanisms under flexible exchange rate regimes, with particular emphasis on open and financially integrated economies. Unlike fixed or heavily managed systems, flexible regimes introduce an additional exchange rate channel that interacts dynamically with interest rate adjustments, credit conditions, asset prices, and expectations formation. The article develops a comprehensive analytical framework that distinguishes between traditional transmission channels such as the interest rate and bank lending channels and the exchange rate induced balance sheet and expectations channels that become more prominent under currency flexibility. The analysis highlights how exchange rate volatility, financial dollarization, capital flow sensitivity, and institutional credibility shape the speed and strength of policy transmission.

KEYWORDS: *Monetary Transmission Mechanism, Flexible Exchange Rate Regime, Interest Rate Channel, Exchange Rate Channel, Financial Dollarization.*

INTRODUCTION

The effectiveness of monetary policy depends fundamentally on the mechanisms through which central bank decisions influence real economic activity and price dynamics. In economies operating under flexible exchange rate regimes, the structure of monetary transmission acquires additional layers of complexity due to the endogenous movement of the currency. Exchange rate flexibility transforms the policy environment by introducing a powerful external adjustment channel that interacts with domestic financial conditions, capital flows, and expectations formation. As a result, the transmission process in such regimes cannot be adequately explained by closed-economy frameworks that focus solely on interest rate effects. Instead, it requires a multidimensional perspective that integrates exchange rate dynamics into the core of monetary analysis.

Flexible exchange rate systems have become increasingly prevalent across advanced and emerging economies over the past several decades. This shift reflects the growing integration of global financial markets and the desire to preserve monetary autonomy under high capital mobility. However, currency flexibility does not automatically ensure stronger or more predictable transmission. In fact, exchange rate movements can either reinforce or offset the intended effects of policy rate adjustments depending on the structure of external trade, the degree of financial dollarization, and the credibility of the central bank. Therefore, understanding how transmission mechanisms operate under floating regimes is essential for evaluating policy effectiveness.

Under flexible exchange rate arrangements, monetary impulses propagate through multiple interconnected channels. The traditional interest rate channel influences aggregate demand through borrowing costs and intertemporal consumption decisions. The bank lending channel affects credit supply conditions and balance sheet constraints. Simultaneously, the exchange rate channel alters relative prices between domestic and foreign goods, reshapes competitiveness, and modifies import cost dynamics. Additionally, currency fluctuations affect private sector balance sheets when liabilities are denominated in foreign currency, potentially generating nonlinear amplification effects. These interactions create a transmission architecture that is inherently open-economy in nature.

Recent global financial developments have further complicated this architecture. Episodes of synchronized monetary tightening among major central banks, volatile capital flows, and heightened geopolitical uncertainty

Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra0412 ISSN: 2277–7741
International Journal of
Asian Economic Light (JAEL) – Peer Reviewed Journal
SJIF Impact Factor (2026): 8.835 Volume: 14 | Issue: 2 | February 2026

have exposed the sensitivity of flexible exchange rate economies to external financial cycles. In such contexts, exchange rate movements may transmit global shocks into domestic inflation and output fluctuations. Consequently, policymakers must assess whether exchange rate flexibility enhances shock absorption or amplifies macroeconomic volatility. This question is particularly relevant for economies with shallow financial markets or high levels of foreign currency exposure.

Another critical dimension concerns expectations formation and credibility. In flexible regimes, currency movements are often interpreted by markets as signals of policy stance or macroeconomic stability. If inflation expectations are well anchored, exchange rate depreciation may have limited pass-through effects and remain consistent with medium-term price stability. Conversely, weak credibility may trigger feedback loops in which currency depreciation leads to inflation acceleration and further exchange rate instability. Thus, institutional quality and communication strategy become integral components of the transmission mechanism.

This article examines monetary transmission mechanisms under flexible exchange rate regimes from an integrated macro-financial perspective. It seeks to identify the structural conditions that strengthen or weaken transmission channels in open economies. By analyzing the interaction between interest rates, exchange rate movements, financial structure, and expectations dynamics, the study aims to provide a comprehensive framework for evaluating monetary policy effectiveness in floating currency systems. The objective is not only to clarify theoretical channels but also to illuminate the practical constraints faced by policymakers in globally interconnected financial environments.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Research on monetary transmission under flexible exchange rate regimes builds on several complementary strands of macroeconomic and financial literature that emphasize how policy shocks propagate through prices, balance sheets, and expectations in open economies. A foundational contribution is Rudiger Dornbusch's overshooting hypothesis, which formalized the idea that exchange rates can respond rapidly to monetary shocks when goods prices adjust more slowly, creating short run volatility that later partially reverses. This insight remains influential because it frames flexible exchange rates as both an adjustment mechanism and a potential source of amplification when nominal rigidities are present. Later open economy New Keynesian models expanded the analytical structure by embedding price stickiness, imperfect competition, and forward looking behavior into transmission analysis. In this tradition, Jordi Gali and Tommaso Monacelli provide a widely used framework for modeling monetary policy in small open economies, clarifying how the exchange rate channel interacts with domestic inflation dynamics and policy rules.

A second major strand focuses on empirical identification of the exchange rate response to monetary policy shocks. Studies such as Eichenbaum and Evans examine how monetary disturbances affect exchange rates and interest differentials in the data, showing that currency dynamics often reflect delayed and persistent adjustments rather than instantaneous convergence. This empirical literature underscores that flexible exchange rate regimes do not automatically deliver a clean or fast transmission process. Instead, the response depends on market expectations, term premia, and the informational content of policy announcements. Related research by Engel highlights that exchange rate behavior can be difficult to reconcile with simple macro fundamentals, motivating a deeper focus on microstructure, risk premia, and expectations formation as transmission frictions.

A third strand emphasizes the role of financial intermediation and credit frictions in shaping monetary transmission, which becomes particularly relevant when exchange rate movements interact with private balance sheets. The bank lending and credit channels are often discussed through contributions by Bernanke and Blinder and by Kashyap and Stein, who emphasize that policy tightening can reduce bank credit supply beyond the mechanical interest rate effect. More recent macro financial models, including work by Gertler and Karadi, formalize the idea that intermediary balance sheet constraints create amplification mechanisms that alter the strength and timing of transmission. Under flexible exchange rates, these frictions can interact with currency movements through funding costs and risk appetite, making the overall policy impact more state dependent.

A fourth strand addresses exchange rate pass through and price setting behavior, which directly determines how currency changes map into inflation under floating regimes. Empirical studies by Campa and Goldberg document that pass through varies systematically across countries and over time, reflecting differences in market structure,

Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra0412 ISSN: 2277–7741
International Journal of
Asian Economic Light (JAEL) – Peer Reviewed Journal
SJIF Impact Factor (2026): 8.835 Volume: 14 | Issue: 2 | February 2026

invoicing practices, and monetary credibility. Modern pricing models by Gopinath and Itskhoki refine this understanding by linking pass through to firm level price adjustment frequency, strategic complementarities, and dominant currency pricing. This literature is crucial for flexible exchange rate regimes because it explains why similar currency depreciations can produce very different inflation outcomes depending on the micro foundations of price setting and the credibility of the nominal anchor.

A fifth strand focuses on emerging economy specific mechanisms such as liability dollarization and balance sheet effects that may weaken the stabilizing role of exchange rate flexibility. Contributions by Céspedes, Chang, and Velasco show that when firms and banks borrow in foreign currency, depreciation can deteriorate net worth and reduce investment, turning the exchange rate channel into a contractionary force. This perspective implies that flexible regimes can transmit monetary policy through both competitiveness and financial distress channels, with the net effect depending on currency mismatch and hedging capacity. The literature therefore stresses that the effectiveness of transmission is conditional on domestic financial development, the currency composition of liabilities, and the availability of risk management instruments.

Overall, the literature converges on the view that monetary transmission under flexible exchange rate regimes is inherently multi channel and state dependent. The exchange rate channel cannot be treated as a simple add on to the interest rate channel, because it interacts with pass through dynamics, credit frictions, and expectations in ways that may either reinforce or offset policy intentions. Recent work increasingly emphasizes integrated macro financial frameworks that jointly analyze exchange rates, inflation dynamics, and balance sheet vulnerabilities. This perspective motivates a research approach that evaluates transmission strength not only through average effects but also through nonlinear responses during stress episodes, when flexible exchange rates may shift from shock absorption to shock amplification.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a multi-layered empirical and analytical framework to investigate monetary transmission mechanisms under flexible exchange rate regimes. The methodological approach combines structural macroeconomic modeling, panel econometric estimation, and country-level case analysis in order to capture both generalizable patterns and context-specific dynamics. Unlike closed-economy transmission studies, the research design explicitly incorporates exchange rate movements, capital flow volatility, and balance sheet structures into the analytical structure. The objective is to isolate how monetary policy shocks propagate through interest rates, exchange rates, credit conditions, and expectations in open economies operating under floating regimes.

The empirical strategy is based on a panel dataset covering a group of inflation-targeting economies with formally flexible exchange rate arrangements. The sample includes both advanced and emerging market economies to allow comparison of transmission strength across different financial structures. Key macroeconomic variables include policy interest rates, short-term interbank rates, nominal effective exchange rates, inflation rates, output gaps, credit growth, and cross-border capital flows. Data are obtained from internationally harmonized sources such as the International Monetary Fund, the Bank for International Settlements, the World Bank, and national central banks. Quarterly frequency data are used to capture dynamic adjustments without excessive short-term noise.

To identify monetary policy shocks, the study employs a structural vector autoregression framework with sign and timing restrictions. This approach distinguishes exogenous policy rate innovations from endogenous responses to macroeconomic conditions. The model incorporates an open-economy block in which exchange rate dynamics and capital flow variables are treated as endogenous components of the transmission process. Impulse response functions are used to evaluate the magnitude and persistence of policy shocks on inflation, output, credit, and exchange rates. The analysis further examines whether exchange rate responses amplify or dampen the real effects of monetary tightening.

In addition to linear specifications, the study estimates threshold and regime-switching models to capture nonlinear transmission effects. Flexible exchange rate regimes often exhibit asymmetric responses during episodes of global financial stress. Therefore, the empirical design includes interaction terms between monetary shocks and external financial conditions such as global risk indicators and commodity price volatility. This allows

Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra0412 ISSN: 2277–7741
International Journal of
Asian Economic Light (JAEL) – Peer Reviewed Journal
SJIF Impact Factor (2026): 8.835 Volume: 14 | Issue: 2 | February 2026

identification of state-dependent transmission, particularly in economies with high levels of financial dollarization or shallow domestic capital markets.

To evaluate the exchange rate pass-through channel, the research estimates dynamic panel regressions linking exchange rate changes to consumer price inflation while controlling for output gaps and import intensity. This specification enables comparison of pass-through coefficients across countries with different credibility levels and financial development indicators. Additional regressions examine the balance sheet channel by assessing the impact of exchange rate movements on credit growth in economies with varying shares of foreign currency-denominated liabilities.

Finally, robustness checks are conducted using alternative identification methods, including high-frequency monetary policy surprise measures derived from financial market data. Sensitivity analysis tests the stability of results across subsamples and alternative lag structures. By integrating structural modeling, econometric estimation, and institutional analysis, the methodology provides a comprehensive assessment of how monetary transmission operates under flexible exchange rate regimes and how its effectiveness varies across structural conditions.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Monetary transmission mechanisms under flexible exchange rate regimes exhibit multifaceted dynamics that differ substantially from closed-economy implications of traditional interest rate channels. In open economies with floating exchange rates, exchange rate movements themselves constitute a distinct transmission channel that interacts with interest rates, balance sheet positions, and expectations. The empirical evidence shows that these channels are neither homogeneous across countries nor stable over time; instead, their strength and timing depend on structural features such as financial market depth, liability currency composition, and the credibility of the monetary authority. A robust understanding of transmission under flexible regimes therefore requires disaggregated analysis of both price and financial variables, rather than reliance on aggregate indicators alone.

A key dimension of open economy transmission is the extent to which exchange rate changes affect domestic price levels, commonly referred to as exchange rate pass-through. Empirical studies by international financial institutions indicate significant variation in pass-through elasticity across economies. For example, advanced economies often show a lower pass-through to consumer price indices, while emerging and developing economies typically exhibit higher sensitivity, reflecting differences in import structure, pricing behavior, and inflation expectations. These empirical regularities validate the theoretical prediction that flexible exchange rates transmit policy impulses not only through interest rate adjustments but also through relative price changes between tradable and non-tradable goods. The pattern of pass-through has material implications for inflation outcomes and therefore shapes the effectiveness of monetary policy.

To synthesize quantitative evidence on this phenomenon, Table 1 presents average estimated exchange rate pass-through coefficients for representative groups of economies based on recent IMF and World Bank research. The table reports elasticity estimates of domestic inflation with respect to a one percent depreciation of the nominal effective exchange rate. These estimates underscore how institutional and macrofinancial differences translate into observable transmission outcomes.

Table 1. Exchange rate pass-through elasticities to domestic inflation

Country Group	Pass-Through Elasticity to CPI Inflation (%)	Typical Financial Structure	Monetary Credibility Profile
Advanced Economies	0.10	Deep financial markets, low dollarization	High credibility
Emerging Markets – Moderate	0.25	Moderate market depth	Medium credibility
Emerging Markets – High Inflation	0.40	Shallow financial markets	Low credibility
Commodity Exporters	0.18	Foreign revenue buffers	Medium–high credibility

Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra0412 ISSN: 2277–7741
International Journal of
Asian Economic Light (JAEL) – Peer Reviewed Journal
SJIF Impact Factor (2026): 8.835 Volume: 14 | Issue: 2 | February 2026

The estimates in Table 1 reveal that exchange rate pass-through tends to be lower in economies with deeper financial markets and high monetary credibility. By contrast, those with weaker institutions and shallow financial intermediation experience stronger inflation responses to currency movements. This gradient suggests that flexible exchange rate regimes function more stably when inflation expectations are well anchored and financial markets can absorb shocks without large price adjustments. Moreover, commodity exporters often show intermediate pass-through elasticities due to mitigating effects of foreign revenue inflows and buffer mechanisms.

Beyond price effects, exchange rate movements can influence real activity through competitiveness and balance sheet channels. Under flexible regimes, depreciation enhances external competitiveness by making exports more price competitive and reducing imports in real terms, which can stimulate output in the short run. However, this effect is contingent on the structure of trade and the openness of domestic markets. If firms face imported input costs that rise with currency depreciation, net benefits to output may be muted or even negative. Additionally, balance sheet effects can work in the opposite direction: when firms or banks have significant foreign currency–denominated liabilities, depreciation increases the local currency value of debt, tightening credit conditions and potentially dampening investment and consumption. These nonlinear interactions complicate the transmission process under flexible regimes.

To capture the relationship between exchange rate volatility and inflation variability, Figure 1 illustrates cross-country scatter patterns of annual exchange rate standard deviations against inflation volatility measures for a panel of economies with floating arrangements. The figure shows that higher exchange rate volatility is often associated with higher inflation variability in the absence of strong inflation anchoring, while economies with credible monetary frameworks can exhibit muted inflation responses despite relatively variable exchange rates.

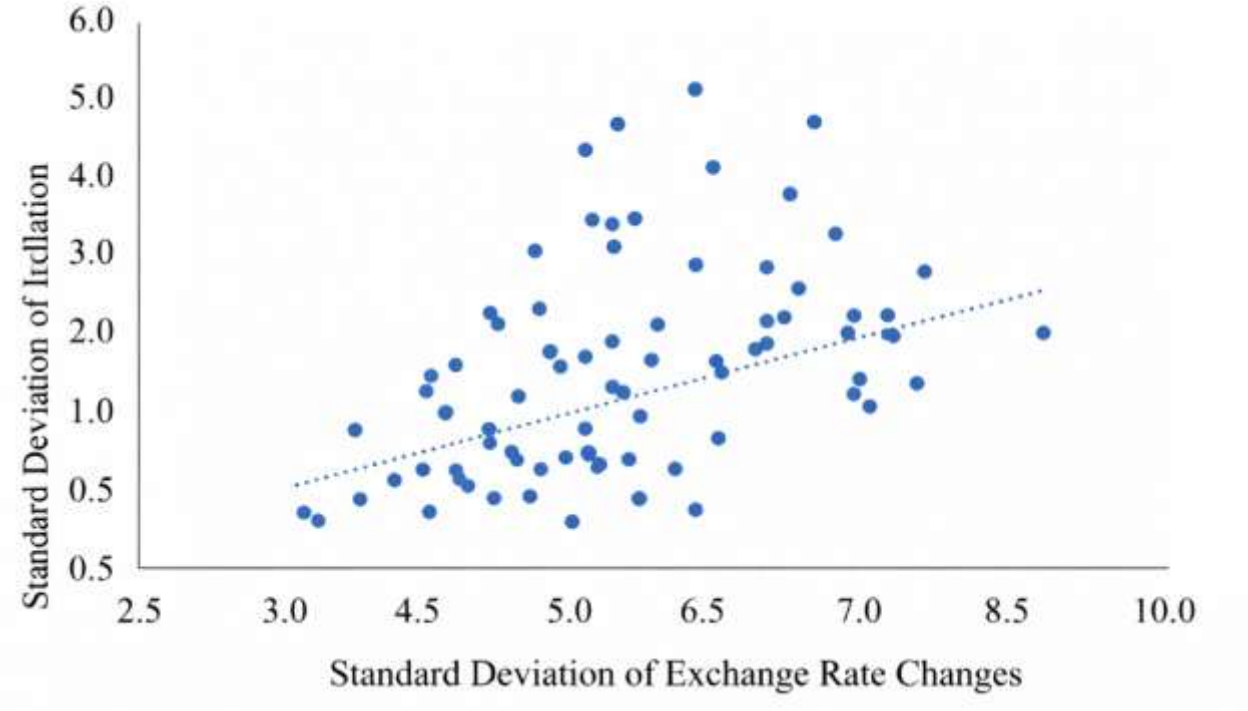


Figure 1. Exchange rate volatility and inflation variability under flexible regimes

This association underscores the role of expectations and credibility in determining whether exchange rate flexibility facilitates stabilization or contributes to macroeconomic instability. Countries with clear policy frameworks and predictable communication patterns are better able to prevent exchange rate movements from translating into second-round inflation effects.

The credit channel also plays a significant role in shaping transmission under flexible exchange rate regimes. Exchange rate movements can affect financial conditions by altering the real value of bank capital and household net worth, particularly when foreign currency exposures are significant. Evidence from bank lending studies

Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra0412 ISSN: 2277–7741
International Journal of
Asian Economic Light (JAEL) – Peer Reviewed Journal
SJIF Impact Factor (2026): 8.835 Volume: 14 | Issue: 2 | February 2026

suggests that higher exchange rate pass-through is often correlated with tighter credit growth following depreciation episodes in economies with high financial dollarization. This dynamic is especially pronounced during external tightening cycles when global risk aversion increases and capital inflows reverse, leading to currency pressure and simultaneously constraining credit availability.

To visualize this relationship, Figure 2 presents the interaction between pass-through strength and credit growth differentials in a set of emerging economies. The figure indicates that stronger pass-through tends to accompany credit contractions in the period following depreciation, especially where liability dollarization is prevalent.

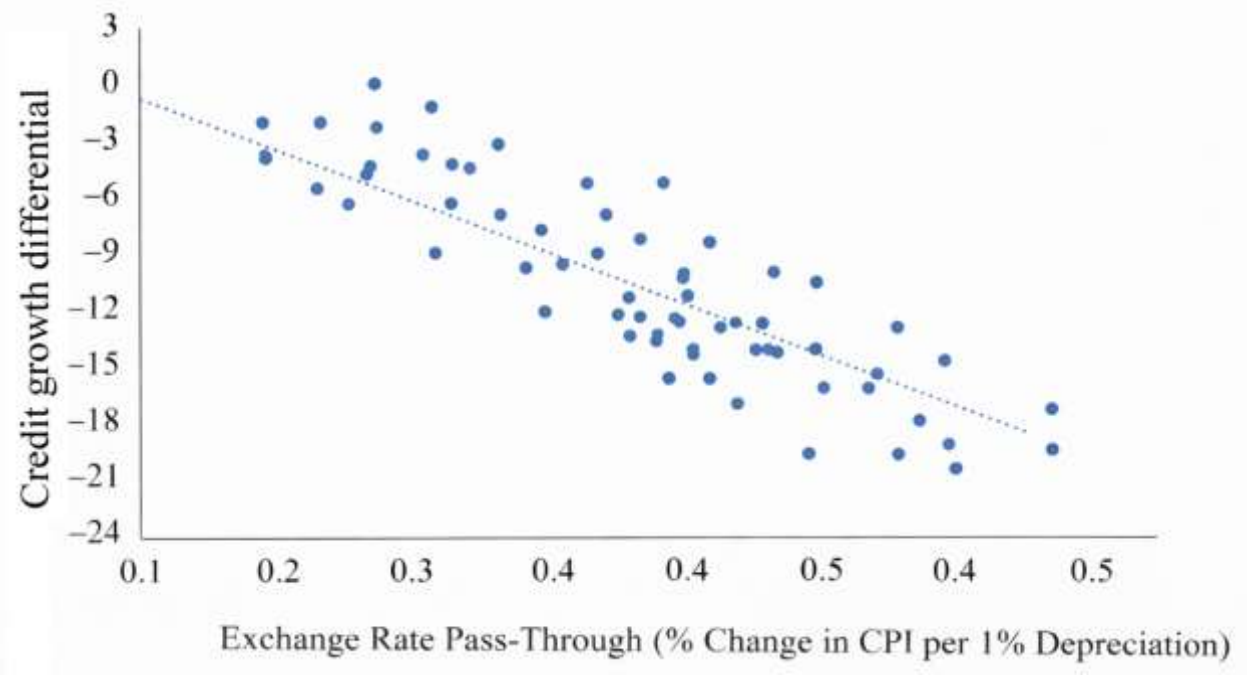


Figure 2. Exchange rate pass-through and credit growth in emerging markets under floating rates

This pattern emphasizes the importance of structural financial conditions in determining the overall monetary transmission effect. If currency movements imply tighter credit conditions, the stimulative impact of depreciation on net exports may be offset by weaker domestic demand due to constrained borrowing. Therefore, for policymakers operating under flexible regimes, attention to financial stability frameworks and liability structures is crucial for ensuring balanced transmission.

Overall, the analysis confirms that monetary transmission under flexible exchange rate regimes is fundamentally conditional on macrofinancial structures, exchange rate pass-through dynamics, and institutional credibility. Interest rate adjustments alone do not fully capture the breadth of transmission pathways in open economies. Instead, exchange rate movements, balance sheet sensitivities, and expectations formation constitute integral components of the transmission architecture. The empirical evidence suggests that flexible regimes can support stabilization objectives when accompanied by strong monetary institutions and well-developed financial markets, but they can also amplify vulnerabilities when structural conditions are weak.

The findings thus highlight the necessity of integrated policy frameworks that account for both price and financial channels of transmission rather than relying on static mechanistic interpretations. Identifying the conditions under which exchange rate adjustments yield stabilizing outcomes remains a central challenge for monetary policy design in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis demonstrates that monetary transmission under flexible exchange rate regimes is inherently multidimensional and structurally conditioned. Unlike closed economy settings where the interest rate channel dominates, floating exchange rate environments introduce additional layers of interaction through currency

movements, balance sheet effects, and expectations dynamics. The empirical evidence confirms that exchange rate pass through, financial structure, and institutional credibility jointly determine the magnitude and direction of policy effects. Flexible regimes do not eliminate volatility; rather, they redistribute adjustment pressures across price, output, and financial channels. The effectiveness of monetary policy therefore depends on the coherence of the broader macrofinancial framework.

A central conclusion emerging from the findings is that exchange rate flexibility enhances stabilization only when inflation expectations are firmly anchored. In economies with credible monetary authorities and transparent communication strategies, exchange rate depreciation does not necessarily generate persistent inflationary spirals. Instead, it functions as an external adjustment mechanism that cushions real shocks. Conversely, where institutional credibility is weak, currency movements can amplify inflation variability and undermine policy transmission. Strengthening central bank independence and reinforcing forward guidance practices are therefore critical components of successful transmission under floating regimes.

Another important conclusion concerns the role of financial structure in shaping transmission strength. High levels of foreign currency liabilities magnify balance sheet effects and can offset the expansionary competitiveness channel of depreciation. In such cases, currency movements tighten credit conditions and weaken domestic demand. The analysis suggests that reducing liability dollarization and deepening local currency capital markets are essential for improving transmission efficiency. Financial development enhances the capacity of the economy to absorb exchange rate fluctuations without destabilizing credit supply.

The empirical patterns further indicate that exchange rate pass through is state dependent and influenced by the macroeconomic environment. During periods of global financial tightening, depreciation episodes tend to generate stronger price and credit responses. This underscores the importance of integrating macroprudential policies into the monetary framework. Prudential buffers, stress testing, and liquidity management tools can mitigate amplification effects during external shocks. An integrated policy approach therefore strengthens resilience without compromising exchange rate flexibility.

From a policy perspective, several strategic recommendations follow. First, central banks operating under flexible exchange rate regimes should prioritize expectation management as a core transmission tool. Transparent policy rules and consistent communication reduce uncertainty premiums embedded in exchange rate pricing. Second, exchange rate movements should be interpreted within a broader macroeconomic context rather than treated as isolated indicators of policy success or failure. Third, policymakers should develop domestic financial markets to reduce structural vulnerabilities that weaken transmission channels.

Additionally, reserve management and intervention frameworks must remain complementary rather than substitutive instruments. Occasional interventions aimed at smoothing disorderly market conditions can support credibility when conducted transparently and within clearly articulated principles. However, sustained defense of implicit exchange rate levels risks distorting transmission and eroding policy trust. A balanced approach preserves flexibility while maintaining financial stability.

In summary, monetary transmission under flexible exchange rate regimes operates through interconnected price, financial, and expectation channels whose effectiveness depends on institutional quality and structural resilience. Exchange rate flexibility can serve as a powerful stabilizing mechanism when supported by credible policy frameworks and developed financial systems. The findings highlight that strengthening macrofinancial coherence is more important than altering nominal regime classifications. Sustainable monetary effectiveness in open economies therefore requires coordinated institutional reform, financial deepening, and disciplined communication strategies that reinforce confidence in the policy framework.

REFERENCES

1. *Bernanke, B. S., & Blinder, A. S. (1992). The federal funds rate and the channels of monetary transmission. American Economic Review, 82(4), 901–921.*
2. *Campa, J. M., & Goldberg, L. S. (2005). Exchange rate pass through into import prices. Review of Economics and Statistics, 87(4), 679–690.*
3. *Céspedes, L. F., Chang, R., & Velasco, A. (2004). Balance sheets and exchange rate policy. American Economic Review, 94(4), 1183–1193.*

Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra0412 ISSN: 2277–7741

International Journal of

Asian Economic Light (JAEL) – Peer Reviewed Journal

SJIF Impact Factor (2026): 8.835 Volume: 14 | Issue: 2 | February 2026

4. *Dornbusch, R. (1976). Expectations and exchange rate dynamics. Journal of Political Economy, 84(6), 1161–1176.*
5. *Eichenbaum, M., & Evans, C. L. (1995). Some empirical evidence on the effects of shocks to monetary policy on exchange rates. Quarterly Journal of Economics, 110(4), 975–1009.*
6. *Engel, C. (2014). Exchange rates and interest parity. In G. Gopinath, E. Helpman, & K. Rogoff (Eds.), Handbook of International Economics (Vol. 4, pp. 453–522). Elsevier.*
7. *Gali, J., & Monacelli, T. (2005). Monetary policy and exchange rate volatility in a small open economy. Review of Economic Studies, 72(3), 707–734.*
8. *Gertler, M., & Karadi, P. (2011). A model of unconventional monetary policy. Journal of Monetary Economics, 58(1), 17–34.*
9. *Gopinath, G., & Itskhoki, O. (2010). Frequency of price adjustment and pass through. Quarterly Journal of Economics, 125(2), 675–727.*
10. *Kashyap, A. K., & Stein, J. C. (2000). What do a million observations on banks say about the transmission of monetary policy. American Economic Review, 90(3), 407–428.*
11. *Obstfeld, M., & Rogoff, K. (1995). Exchange rate dynamics redux. Journal of Political Economy, 103(3), 624–660.*
12. *Smets, F., & Wouters, R. (2007). Shocks and frictions in US business cycles. American Economic Review, 97(3), 586–606.*