



## The application of Seasonal Trend Decomposition Using Loess for Export Forecasting by Economic Commodity Group in North Sumatra

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### ABSTRACT

In export data, there are often seasonal fluctuations caused by various factors, and STL (Seasonal Trend decomposition using Loess) can help effectively separate these seasonal components. STL is an algorithm developed to decompose a time series into three components: trend, seasonal, and remainder, aiding in a better understanding of the underlying patterns and variations in the data. The data taken in this study are data on the number of exports (tonnes) in the period January 2018 to December 2022 sourced from bps. From the forecasting results it can be concluded that the largest BM export value is 6357.6131 (tons), the largest BP export value is 859804.0 (tons) and the largest BP export value is 113157.64 (tons).

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Exports and imports play a crucial role in the economic stability of a country as they influence the amount of foreign exchange reserves. The need for foreign exchange is a vital factor in the monetary system of every country because it determines a nation's financial resilience. Many countries strive to bolster their foreign exchange reserves by promoting and increasing exports as one of the sources of foreign exchange. Exports are a crucial sector of the economy that plays a significant role in expanding markets between countries, potentially leading to the growth of various industries. This, in turn, can stimulate other sectors of the economy (Baldwin, 2005). The problem in this research is that the number of exported goods changes every time or season. That's why we need a mathematical model to predict the amount of exports in the future.

Time series analysis is an analysis using statistical techniques through the operation of models that use data from the past to predict the future. (Wei, W. W.S., 2006). STL is a method for decomposing a time series data into three components: seasonal, trend, and remainder. The definition of Loess is a non parametric regression method. This regression method has the advantage of high flexibility because the data automatically forms curve estimates that are not influenced by subjective factors (outliers) (Haritsah, 2015). In export data, there are often seasonal fluctuations caused by various factors, and STL can help effectively separate these seasonal components.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODE

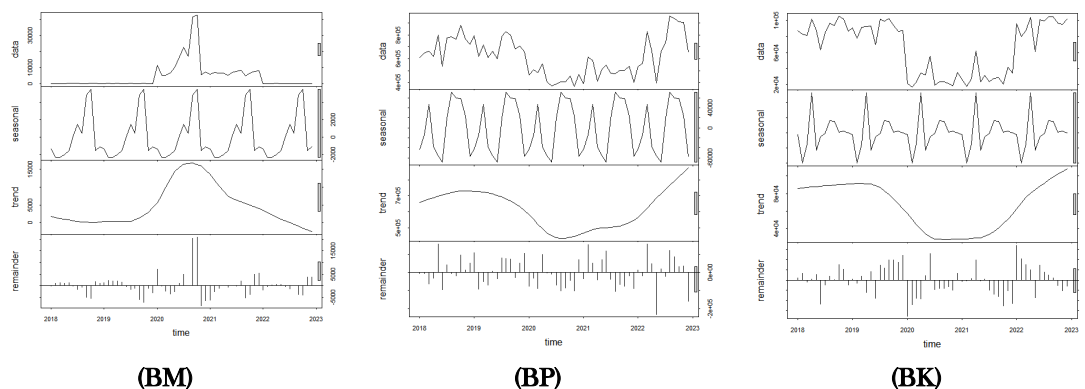
This research uses quantitative research. The form of data used in this research is in the form of time series which is secondary data, the acquisition of data used for this research is the total value of exports by economic goods group in North Sumatra and consists of 3 influential variables, namely barang modal (BM), bahan baku/penolong (BP), and barang konsumsi (BK). The data taken in this study are data on the number of exports (tonnes) in the period January 2018 to December 2022. The stages in the data analysis process in this study include:

1. Data description
2. Application of STL to each export data component
3. Applying seasonal, trend, and residual components to each component
4. Data is analysed descriptively to see any trends or seasonal patterns that may exist.
5. Apply the STL method to the time series data using an appropriate library, such as STL plus or forecasting in R. Select appropriate parameters, such as LOESS windows for seasonal and trend components.
6. Perform forecasting on each component of export data
7. Calculate MAE and MAPE values
8. Interpretation of results

## 3. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

### 3.1 Data Description

Data graph of the number of exports by group of economic goods (tonnes) for the period January 2018 - December 2022 can be seen in Figure 3.1.



**Figure 3.1** Chart of export data pattern January 2018 - December 2022 (tonnes)

Figure 3.1 shows that the number of exports by economic goods group is unstable and has a seasonal pattern.

### 3.2 Application of STL and forecasting on each component of economic goods groups

STL application and forecasting can be assisted by using the R Studio application with packages library(stlplus) and library (forecast).

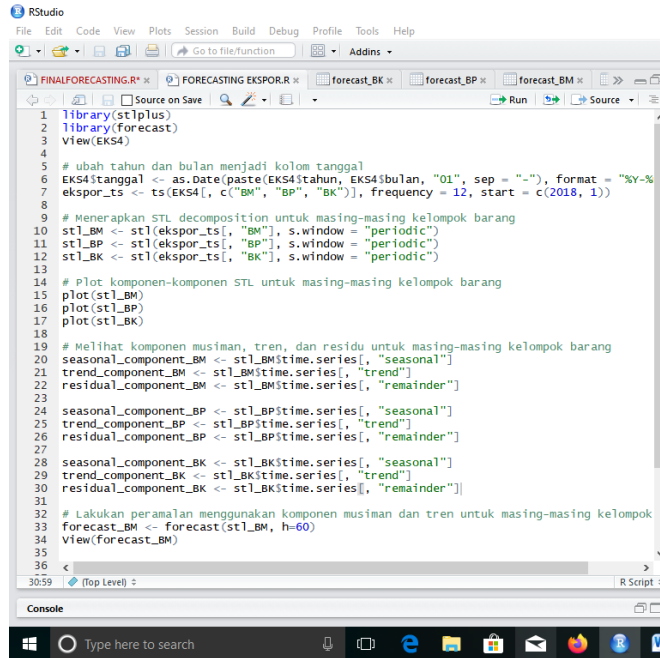


Figure 3.2 Application of STL and forecasting on each export component in R studio

From the application of STL, forecasting is obtained:

a. BM forecasting results

	Point Forecast	Lo 80	Hi 80	Lo 95	Hi 95
Jan 2023	-553.8839	-7932.212	6824.444	-11838.06	10730.29
Feb 2023	-1488.0702	-10656.289	7680.149	-15509.65	12533.51
Mar 2023	-1535.6552	-12197.398	9126.087	-17841.38	14770.07
Apr 2023	-1167.1157	-13137.465	10803.234	-19474.19	17139.95
May 2023	-736.7759	-13886.141	12412.589	-20846.99	19373.44
Jun 2023	878.5531	-13352.480	15109.586	-20885.93	22643.04
Jul 2023	2348.0819	-12888.021	17584.185	-20953.53	25649.69
Aug 2023	1296.9646	-14881.890	17475.820	-23446.46	26040.39
Sep 2023	5687.4548	-11382.163	22757.073	-20418.27	31793.18
Oct 2023	6357.6131	-11558.536	24273.762	-21042.77	33758.00
Nov 2023	-699.8387	-19424.285	18024.608	-29336.41	27936.73
Dec 2023	-256.7289	-19755.996	19242.538	-30078.28	29564.83
Jan 2024	-553.8839	-20798.338	19690.571	-31515.11	30407.34
Feb 2024	-1488.0702	-22451.239	19475.099	-33548.47	30572.33
Mar 2024	-1535.6552	-23193.702	20122.391	-34658.78	31587.47
Apr 2024	-1167.1157	-23498.428	21164.196	-35319.91	32985.68
May 2024	-736.7759	-23721.641	22248.089	-35889.09	34415.54
Jun 2024	878.5531	-22741.788	24498.894	-35245.64	37002.75
Jul 2024	2348.0819	-21891.082	26587.245	-34722.52	39418.68
Aug 2024	1296.9646	-23545.611	26139.540	-36696.48	39290.41
Sep 2024	5687.4548	-19744.220	31119.130	-33206.94	44581.84
Oct 2024	6357.6131	-19649.820	32365.047	-33417.32	46132.55

	Point Forecast	Lo 80	Hi 80	Lo 95	Hi 95
Oct 2024	6357.6131	-19649.820	32365.047	-33417.32	46132.55
Nov 2024	-699.8387	-27270.558	25870.880	-41336.25	39936.57
Dec 2024	-256.7289	-27379.038	26865.580	-41736.72	41223.26
Jan 2025	-553.8839	-28216.786	27109.018	-42860.64	41752.87
Feb 2025	-1488.0702	-29681.202	26705.061	-44605.74	41629.60
Mar 2025	-1535.6552	-30249.227	27177.916	-45449.27	42377.96
Apr 2025	-1167.1157	-30391.860	28057.629	-45862.51	43528.27
May 2025	-736.7759	-30463.905	28990.354	-46200.50	44726.95
Jun 2025	878.5531	-29342.611	31099.717	-45340.73	47097.83
Jul 2025	2348.0819	-28359.169	33055.333	-44614.61	49310.77
Aug 2025	1296.9646	-29888.798	32482.727	-46397.54	48991.47
Sep 2025	5687.4548	-25969.587	37344.497	-42727.81	54102.72
Oct 2025	6357.6131	-25763.794	38479.020	-42767.84	55483.07
Nov 2025	-699.8387	-33278.994	31879.316	-50525.36	49125.68
Dec 2025	-256.7289	-33287.288	32773.830	-50772.61	50259.15
Jan 2026	-553.8839	-34029.761	32921.993	-51750.82	50643.05
Feb 2026	-1488.0702	-35403.419	32427.279	-53357.12	50380.98
Mar 2026	-1535.6552	-35884.853	32813.543	-54068.22	50996.91
Apr 2026	-1167.1157	-35944.751	33610.520	-54354.92	52020.69
May 2026	-736.7759	-35937.634	34464.083	-54571.84	53098.29
Jun 2026	878.5531	-34740.500	36497.606	-53596.09	55353.19
Jul 2026	2348.0819	-33684.313	38380.477	-52758.71	57454.87

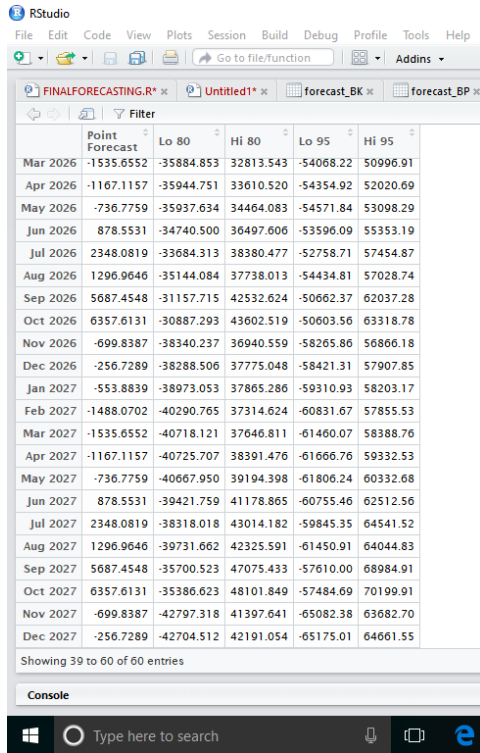
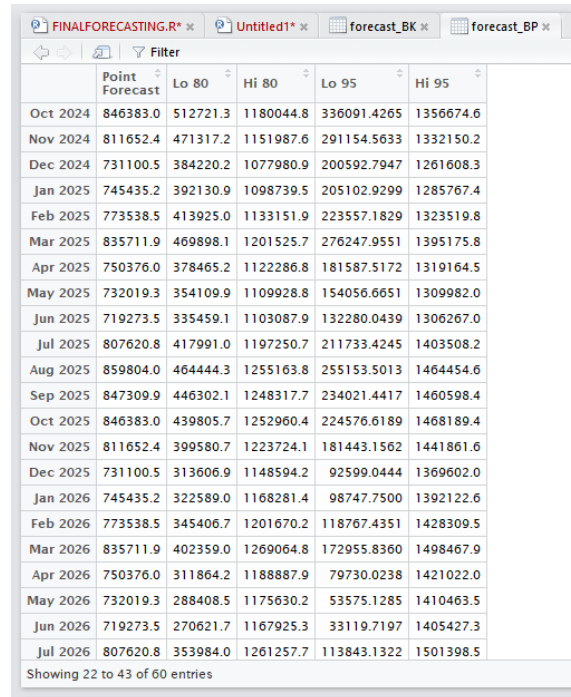
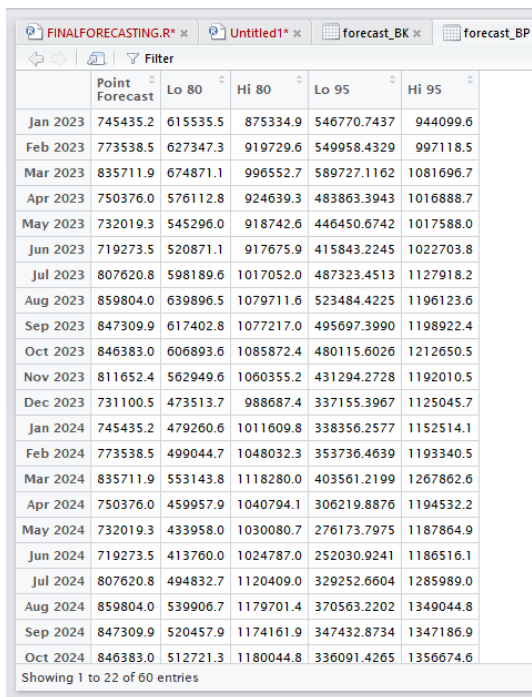


Figure 3.3 BM forecasting results

Based on Figure 3.3, the largest BM export value is 6357.6131 (tonnes).

b. BP forecasting results



	Point Forecast	Lo 80	Hi 80	Lo 95	Hi 95
Mar 2026	835711.9	402359.0	1269064.8	172955.8360	1498467.9
Apr 2026	750376.0	311864.2	1188887.9	79730.0238	1421022.0
May 2026	732019.3	288408.5	1175630.2	53575.1285	1410463.5
Jun 2026	719273.5	270621.7	1167925.3	33119.7197	1405427.3
Jul 2026	807620.8	353984.0	1261257.7	113843.1322	1501398.5
Aug 2026	859804.0	401236.4	1318371.7	158485.3052	1561122.8
Sep 2026	847309.9	383863.9	1310755.9	138530.3683	1556089.4
Oct 2026	846383.0	378109.5	1314656.6	130220.4051	1562545.7
Nov 2026	811652.4	338600.5	1284704.2	88182.0248	1535122.8
Dec 2026	731100.5	253318.2	1208882.9	395.5024	1461805.6
Jan 2027	745435.2	262968.7	1227901.6	7566.4085	1483304.0
Feb 2027	773538.5	286432.9	1260644.0	28574.8466	1518502.1
Mar 2027	835711.9	344011.0	1327412.7	83720.3476	1587703.4
Apr 2027	750376.0	254122.4	1246629.6	-8578.3553	1509330.4
May 2027	732019.3	231254.4	1232784.3	-33834.5902	1497873.3
Jun 2027	719273.5	214037.5	1224509.5	-53418.3551	1491965.4
Jul 2027	807620.8	297952.9	1317288.7	28151.0180	1587090.6
Aug 2027	859804.0	345742.5	1373865.6	73614.7106	1645993.4
Sep 2027	847309.9	328891.9	1365727.9	54458.0120	1640161.8
Oct 2027	846383.0	323644.9	1369121.1	46924.0894	1645842.0
Nov 2027	811652.4	284629.6	1338675.2	5640.5659	1617664.2
Dec 2027	731100.5	199827.6	1262373.5	-81411.3332	1543612.4

Figure 3.4 BP forecasting results

Based on Figure 3.4, the largest BP export value is 859804.0 (tonnes).

c. BK forecasting results

	Point Forecast	Lo 80	Hi 80	Lo 95	Hi 95
Jan 2023	99145.38	77550.2042	120740.6	66118.4077	132172.4
Feb 2023	89672.76	63405.0497	115940.5	49409.7625	129845.8
Mar 2023	96101.75	65875.3696	126328.1	49874.4928	142329.0
Apr 2023	113157.64	79434.1307	146881.1	61581.9851	164733.3
May 2023	94004.74	57114.1455	130895.3	37585.4448	150424.0
Jun 2023	98409.36	58602.8693	138215.9	37530.5843	159288.1
Jul 2023	99682.98	57160.0644	142205.9	34649.7947	164716.2
Aug 2023	103847.10	58771.1738	148923.0	34909.4202	172784.8
Sep 2023	103631.63	56139.7320	151123.5	30999.0413	176264.2
Oct 2023	99963.03	50172.2567	149753.8	23814.6131	176111.4
Nov 2023	100310.24	48322.1433	152298.3	20801.3072	179819.2
Dec 2023	99864.26	45768.0240	153960.5	17131.2040	182597.3
Jan 2024	99145.38	43020.1259	155270.6	13309.2103	184981.6
Feb 2024	89672.76	31589.3280	147756.2	841.8151	178503.7
Mar 2024	96101.75	36124.0293	156079.5	4373.7443	187829.7
Apr 2024	113157.64	51343.6618	174971.6	18621.3201	207694.0
May 2024	94004.74	30407.5023	157602.0	-3258.8413	191268.3
Jun 2024	98409.36	33077.5211	163741.2	-1507.0670	198325.8
Jul 2024	99682.98	32661.4074	166704.5	-2817.6678	202183.6
Aug 2024	103847.10	35177.3702	172516.8	-1174.1886	208868.4
Sep 2024	103631.63	33352.3788	173910.9	-3851.2079	211114.5
Oct 2024	99963.03	28110.3076	171815.8	-9926.2264	209852.3

	Point Forecast	Lo 80	Hi 80	Lo 95	Hi 95
Oct 2024	99963.03	28110.3076	171815.8	-9926.2264	209852.3
Nov 2024	100310.24	26917.7688	173702.7	-11933.8587	212554.3
Dec 2024	99864.26	24963.6914	174764.8	-14686.2771	214414.8
Jan 2025	99145.38	22766.4777	175524.3	-17666.0717	215956.8
Feb 2025	89672.76	11843.6035	167501.9	-29356.0646	208702.2
Mar 2025	96101.75	16848.8650	175354.6	-25105.0757	217308.6
Apr 2025	113157.64	32506.1635	193809.1	-10188.1475	236503.4
May 2025	94004.74	11978.5167	176031.0	-31443.5426	219453.0
Jun 2025	98409.36	15031.0553	181787.7	-29106.7548	225925.5
Jul 2025	99682.98	14974.1613	184391.8	-29867.9765	229233.9
Aug 2025	103847.10	17828.3552	189865.8	-27707.2173	235401.4
Sep 2025	103631.63	16322.6048	190940.6	-29895.9997	237159.3
Oct 2025	99963.03	11382.5223	188543.5	-35509.1662	235435.2
Nov 2025	100310.24	10476.2405	190144.2	-37079.0063	237699.5
Dec 2025	99864.26	8794.0252	190934.5	-39415.6475	239144.2
Jan 2026	99145.38	6855.4602	191435.3	-41999.8731	240290.6
Feb 2026	89672.76	-3820.9304	183166.5	-53313.5020	232659.0
Mar 2026	96101.75	1419.5840	190783.9	-48702.1247	240905.6
Apr 2026	113157.64	17301.7408	209013.5	-33441.3053	259756.6
May 2026	94004.74	-3010.6917	191020.2	-54367.5585	242377.0
Jun 2026	98409.36	248.0935	196570.6	-51715.3438	248534.1
Jul 2026	99682.98	389.0893	198976.9	-52173.9191	251539.9

	Point Forecast	Lo 80	Hi 80	Lo 95	Hi 95
Mar 2026	96101.75	1419.5840	190783.9	-48702.1247	240905.6
Apr 2026	113157.64	17301.7408	209013.5	-33441.3053	259756.6
May 2026	94004.74	-3010.6917	191020.2	-54367.5585	242377.0
Jun 2026	98409.36	248.0935	196570.6	-51715.3438	248534.1
Jul 2026	99682.98	389.0893	198976.9	-52173.9191	251539.9
Aug 2026	103847.10	3433.3703	204260.8	-49722.4469	257416.6
Sep 2026	103631.63	2110.4076	205152.8	-51631.6797	258894.9
Oct 2026	99963.03	-2653.7277	202579.8	-56975.7582	256901.8
Nov 2026	100310.24	-3390.4837	204011.0	-58286.3309	258906.8
Dec 2026	99864.26	-4909.2107	204637.7	-60372.9383	260101.5
Jan 2027	99145.38	-6689.9728	204980.7	-62715.8251	261006.6
Feb 2027	89672.76	-17213.9217	196559.4	-73796.3145	253141.8
Mar 2027	96101.75	-11826.0283	204029.5	-68959.5405	261163.0
Apr 2027	113157.64	4198.7205	222116.6	-53480.6455	279795.9
May 2027	94004.74	-15975.6521	203985.1	-74195.7543	262205.2
Jun 2027	98409.36	-12583.1028	209401.8	-71338.9651	268157.7
Jul 2027	99682.98	-12312.4193	211678.4	-71599.2003	270965.2
Aug 2027	103847.10	-9142.3233	216836.5	-68955.3105	276649.5
Sep 2027	103631.63	-10343.1536	217606.4	-70677.7580	277941.0
Oct 2027	99963.03	-14988.6624	214914.7	-75840.4128	275766.5
Nov 2027	100310.24	-15610.1324	216230.6	-76974.6708	277595.2
Dec 2027	99864.26	-17016.7593	216745.3	-78889.8361	278618.4

Figure 3.5 BK forecasting results

Based on figures 3.4, the largest BP export value is 113157.64 (tons).

### 3.3 Calculating MAE and MAPE values

Mean Absolute Error (MAE) and Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE) are evaluation metrics used to measure the quality and accuracy of a forecasting model. Both provide information on how well the forecasting model matches the actual data. With the help of Microsoft Excel obtained:

- MAE BM = 5416.38199  
MAPE BM = 1357.237
- MAE BP = 187622.757  
MAPE BP = 38.21681
- MAE BK = 34043.7192  
MAPE BK = 120.3839

## 4. CONCLUSION

From this research, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. This research uses the STL method which functions to decompose and forecast the value of exports by group of economic goods in Sumatera Utara
2. It can be seen from the forecasting results that the export value is a component that has a trend and seasonal pattern.
3. From the forecasting results it can be concluded that the largest BM export value is 6357.6131 (tons), the largest BP export value is 859804.0 (tons) and the largest BK export value is 113157.64 (tons).

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