

**School holidays in Morocco:  
Evaluation of an atypical calendar effect with seasonal adjustment approach**

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**Abstract**

The school rhythms represent an undeniably important part in the social life of the Moroccan population, as in many other countries. However, the research in calendar effects seems not to give importance to these events. In fact, it is generally considered “a priori” that these holidays are regarded simply as explanatory elements of seasonality and / or traditional calendar. Consequently, seasonal adjustment, according to good practice is usually able to eliminate their effects. This is true in developed countries, generally governed by the Gregorian calendar, but did not in Morocco because these holidays are programmed in a very different way.

This work measures first the interdependencies between the school holidays in Morocco with seasonality and the conventional calendar (as is defined in calendar effects research). In order to evaluate the impacts of these holidays, we build some specific regressors, which will be incorporated in REG-ARIMA models, which are running in seasonal adjustment approach.

Three economic sectors (rail transport, local tourism, monetary activity) are considered to test and evaluate these impacts. Calculations show that their effects can be very important in morocco: an additional day of school holiday can generate from 0.6% to 1% additional growth depending on whether one is in rail transport sector or local tourism sector. Obviously, sometime these impacts may not be significant, as evidenced by the case of the monetary activity.

**Keywords:** School holidays, calendar effects, seasonal adjustment