

**To:** United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

**Subject:**

Concern Regarding the Reliability and Accuracy of Indonesia's GDP Data by BPS

**Date:**

Friday, 8 August 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are from the Center of Economic and Law Studies (CELIOS) an independent research institute based in Jakarta, Indonesia. CELIOS is committed to promoting data-based policy advocacy, economic justice, and institutional transparency in Indonesia.

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the increasing number of inconsistencies and anomalies found in the national economic data (the second quarter 2025 GDP) recently published by Indonesia's national statistics agency, Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS).<sup>1</sup> These issues, particularly those related to the calculation of GDP, have raised questions regarding the transparency, accuracy, and independence of statistical practices in Indonesia.

Indonesia is one of the most populous and strategically significant economies in Southeast Asia. Reliable macroeconomic data is essential not only for domestic policy decisions but also for international assessments, investments, and development partnerships. When the credibility of national data is in doubt, the impacts are far-reaching, affecting investor confidence, international comparisons, and the ability of civil society to engage in evidence-based policy discussions.

Several inconsistencies in the second quarter 2025 GDP release suggest a potential misrepresentation of economic reality in Indonesia. These include significant disconnects between GDP components and other leading indicators, Government revenue, unexplained data volatility, and the lack of adequate methodological disclosure. A summary of these issues is presented in the attached appendix for your reference.

Such inconsistencies have triggered critical reactions from academics, civil society groups, and independent economists in Indonesia.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, rather than being addressed transparently, these issues appear to be downplayed, raising suspicions of political interference in what should be neutral statistical reporting. We are deeply worried that

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<sup>1</sup> Tempo. 2025. Indonesia's Economy Grows 5.12% in Q2, but Expert Flags Data Anomalies. <https://en.tempo.co/amp/2036277/indonesias-economy-grows-5-12-in-q2-but-expert-flags-data-anomalies>.

<sup>2</sup> VOI. 2025 This Economist Does Not Believe That The Indonesian Economy In The Second Quarter Of 2025 Will Grow 5.12 Percent. <https://voi.id/en/economy/502240>.

macroeconomic data is being used to support political narratives of the current government, thereby undermining public trust in official statistics.

We are deeply concerned that this situation may reflect institutional pressures or interference in data compilation, which would compromise the professional independence of BPS as outlined in the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the UN Statistical Commission. These issues are not merely technical concerns; they have direct and damaging implications for Indonesia's policy landscape, international reputation, and the wellbeing of its citizens:

- For economic policy, unreliable data impairs the government's ability to diagnose structural weaknesses and respond effectively. When headline growth is overstated, urgent fiscal responses such as stimulus, subsidies, or labor protection may be delayed or denied under the assumption that the economy is solid. This puts millions at risk of 'underprotection' in a fragile post-pandemic environment.
- For investors and development partners, conflicting signals between official statistics and real-sector indicators damage Indonesia's credibility. It introduces uncertainty for foreign direct investment (FDI), disrupts multilateral support decisions, and increases risk premia on borrowing and sovereign debt.
- For the general public, the overstate economic data creates a false narrative of prosperity, which may be used to justify the withdrawal of social protection, reduce pressure for structural reforms, or delegitimize concerns raised by civil society. This erodes public trust not only in BPS, but in the wider institutional ecosystem, fostering cynicism and disengagement from democratic processes.
- For local communities, especially those in industrial and rural areas, the lack of accurate data obscures the severity of job losses, rising inequality, and declining household resilience. Misrepresented statistics contribute to the misallocation of development funds and undermine efforts to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods.

In light of these serious consequences, we respectfully request the UNSD to consider the following:

1. Launch a technical diagnostic review of Indonesia's GDP calculation framework, with particular attention to anomalies in Q2 2025 reporting.
2. Facilitate peer-review mechanisms with participation from independent statistical experts and UN-accredited professionals to ensure compliance with global best practices.
3. Provide technical support for transparency reforms within BPS, including publication of full metadata and explanations for major revisions.
4. Encourage Indonesia's formal alignment with the SDDS Plus and active monitoring under the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

To support our concerns, we have included a technical annex summarizing methodological flaws and inconsistencies in BPS data. Additionally, we have compiled a set of links to major media sources and expert commentaries that have raised public alarms about the credibility

of BPS data. These sources reflect an urgent need for international engagement to prevent further erosion of data integrity.

We would greatly appreciate your response and follow-up to this letter. Should there be any clarification required or interest in further dialogue, please feel free to contact us directly at [research@celios.co.id](mailto:research@celios.co.id) or [admin@celios.co.id](mailto:admin@celios.co.id). We are open to any constructive communication and stand ready to contribute technical input where needed.

We hope this letter and its attachments will be received in the spirit of improving national and global statistical systems.

Sincerely,

Bhima Yudhistira Adhinegara  
Executive Director

Media Wahyudi Askar  
Director of Fiscal Study

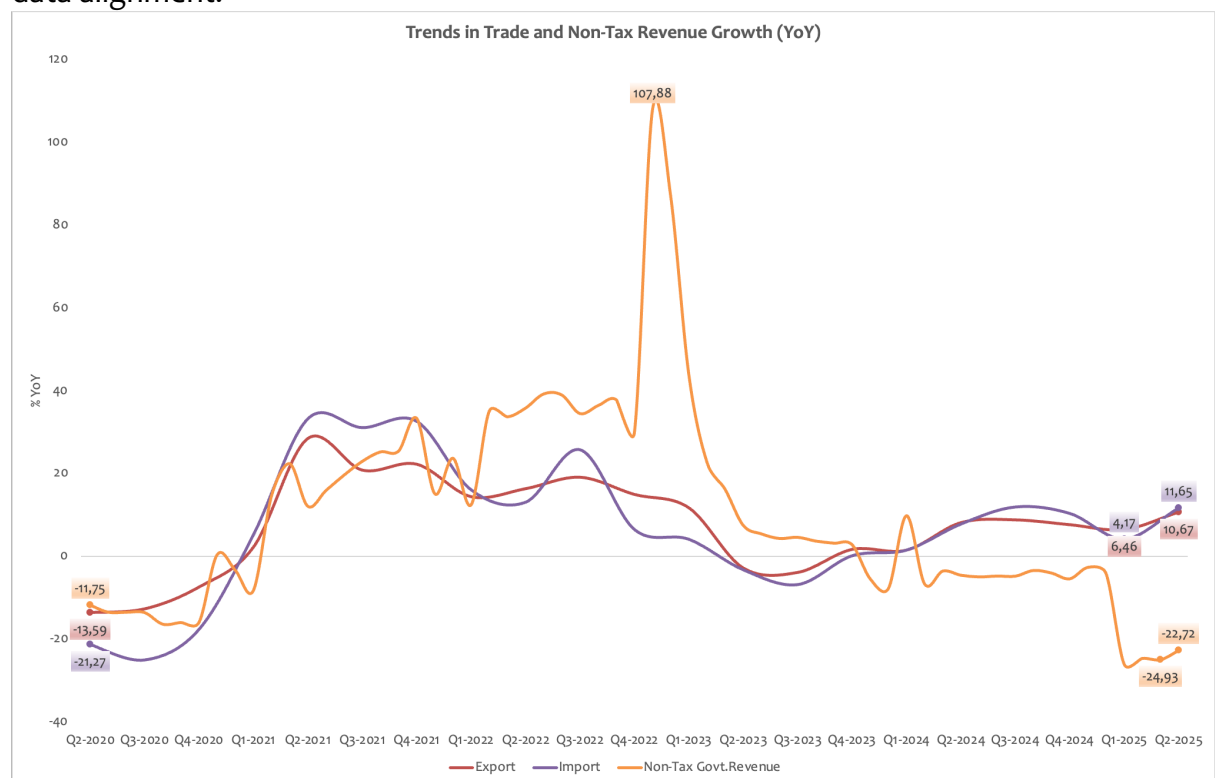
Nailul Huda  
Director of Economic Study

## Appendix

### Summary of Key Issues in Indonesia's Q2 2025 GDP Data

#### 1. Trade-Government Revenue Anomaly

While BPS reported export and import growth of 10.67% and 11.65% (YoY) respectively in Q2 2025, Indonesia's Non-Tax State Revenue (PNBP) declined by 22.72% YoY as of June 2025, a contradiction that undermines the credibility of external sector and fiscal data alignment.



Source: Statistics Indonesia (BPS), Directorate General of Treasury (DJPb), 2025. Data processed by CELIOS.

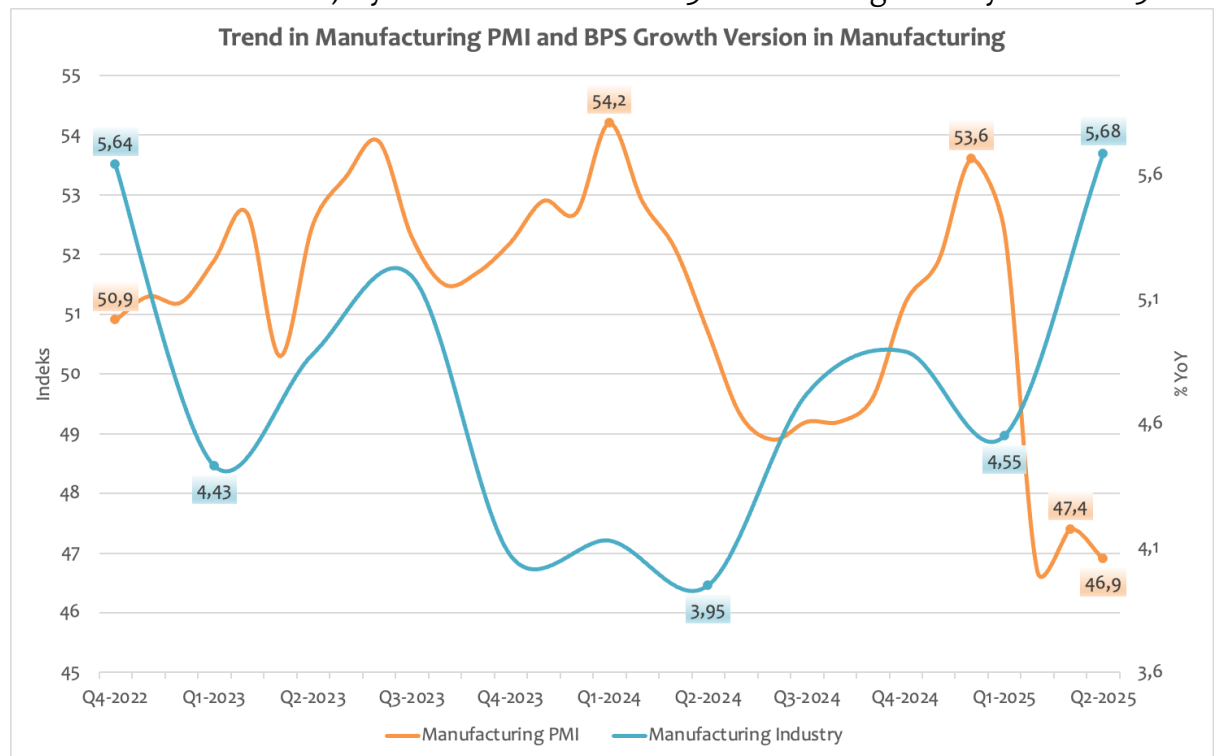
#### 2. Questionable Seasonal Growth Pattern

Economic growth in Q2 2025 (5.12%) was higher than Q1 2025 (4.87%), despite the absence of the Ramadan-Eid seasonal boost that traditionally elevates Q2 GDP. In past years, such religious holidays consistently drove higher quarterly performance.

#### 3. Manufacturing-Indicator Inconsistency

The manufacturing sector reportedly grew by 5.68% (YoY), despite Indonesia's Manufacturing PMI staying below 50 throughout April–June 2025 — indicating

contraction. Meanwhile, layoffs in the sector rose 32% YoY during January–June 2025.



Source: Statistics Indonesia (BPS), Purchasing Managers' Index S&P Global-Indonesia. Data processed by CELIOS.

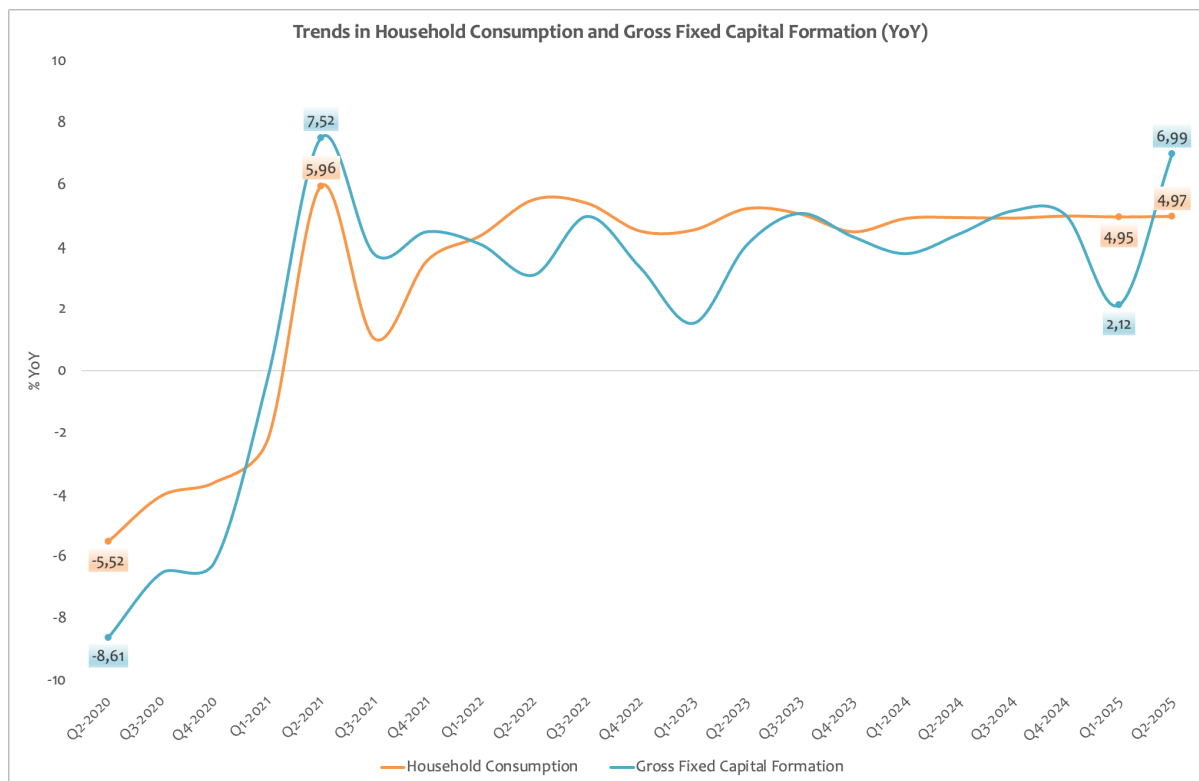
#### 4. Flat Growth of Household Consumption

Household consumption only grew marginally from 4.95% (Q1) to 4.97% (Q2), despite being the largest GDP contributor (54%). This minimal change contradicts the uptick in overall GDP, especially without any major consumption stimulus or seasonal factors.

#### 5. Capital Formation Ambiguity

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (PMTB) increased by 6.99% without clarification on sectoral contributors. Questions remain about whether imports of defense equipment

(e.g., military procurements) are now being included, and whether new indexes or methodologies have been introduced without disclosure.



Source: Statistics Indonesia (BPS), 2025. Data processed by CELIOS.

## 6. Mismatch with Leading Indicators

Disparities between GDP performance and leading indicators (e.g., PMI, layoffs, purchasing power, cement sales) have eroded trust in the reported data. We are concerned that methodological adjustments or index-based modifications are being made without public consultation or validation.

### Links to major media sources and expert commentaries

1. “Indonesian Economists Question Upside Surprise in Quarterly GDP,” *Reuters*, August 6, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/indonesian-economists-question-upside-surprise-quarterly-gdp-2025-08-06/>.
2. “Economist Cast Doubt on Indonesia’s Q2 GDP Data,” *Nikkei*, August 6, 2025, <https://asia.nikkei.com/economy/economists-cast-doubt-on-indonesia-s-q2-gdp-data>.
3. “Indonesia’s Economy Grows Faster Than Expected,” *The Investor*, accessed August 7, 2025, <https://theinvestor.vn/indonesias-economy-grows-faster-than-expected-d16575.html>.
4. “Sri Mulyani Stands Firm with Q2 Growth Numbers, Citing BPS Credibility,” *Jakarta Globe*, accessed August 7, 2025, <https://jakartaglobe.id/business/sri-mulyani-stands-firm-with-q2-growth-numbers-citing-bps-credibility>.
5. “Indonesia's Economy Grows 5.12% in Q2, but Expert Flags Data Anomalies,” *Tempo*, accessed August 7, 2025, <https://en.tempo.co/amp/2036277/indonesias-economy-grows-5-12-in-q2-but-expert-flags-data-anomalies>
6. “Gov’t Stands by Q2 Economic Data Despite Indef’s ‘Anomaly’ Claim,” *Jakarta Globe*, accessed August 7, 2025, <https://jakartaglobe.id/business/govt-stands-by-q2-economic-data-despite-indefs-anomaly-claim>
7. “The Paradox of 5.12 Percent Economic Growth,” *Kompas*, accessed August 7, 2025, <https://www.kompas.id/artikel/en-paradoks-pertumbuhan-ekonomi-512-persen>
8. “This Economist Does Not Believe That The Indonesian Economy In The Second Quarter Of 2025 Will Grow 5.12 Percent,” *VOI*, accessed August 7, 2025, <https://voi.id/en/economy/502240>