

# THE EFFECT OF PSBB (LARGE SCALE SOCIAL RESTRICTIONS) ON THE REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS AT 4 (FOUR) MAIN AIRPORTS IN INDONESIA DURING COVID-19 PERIOD

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***Abstract.** This research is intended to verify and analyze the effect of the PSBB (Large-Scale Social Restrictions) on the number of passengers at 4 (four) main airports in Indonesia during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study is qualitative. The primary data was obtained from the air transport management companies. The secondary data was obtained from the published and verified journals and some government regulations. The results of the study show that there was a large decrease in the number of passengers at 4 (four) main airports in Indonesia during the COVID-19 pandemic and PSBB. The 4 (four) main Indonesian airports mentioned here are Polonia, Soekarno-Hatta, Juanda and Ngurah Rai.*

***Keywords:** Covid-19 Pandemic, PSBB and decrease the number of passengers*

## Introduction

PSBB (Large-Scale Social Restrictions) has caused the economy in Indonesia down and make some companies closed. Some policy measures that are used by almost all countries to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are prohibiting or limiting travel, closing the borders, and restricting human traffic between countries/regions. In the domestic scale, some countries use the lockdown system, which is to close the territory and to stop all public activities except those related to food supply and medical needs.

In Indonesia, the government established a public health emergency status and implemented PSBB starting from March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The PSBB periods determined by the governor of Jakarta started in first phase on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and ended in the third phase on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Other provinces implemented PSBB based on requests from their governors. Meanwhile, the implementation of PSBB in a city/district was based on the request form its mayor/regent.

In the aviation sector, many airlines in Indonesia and in other countries have suffered losses due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The government and the stakeholders of air transportation management must take steps and introduce new policies to save the air transportation system in Indonesia.

Dr. Ahmad AlBattat (2018) in the international journal "Current Issues in Tourism: Diseases Transformation as a Potential Risks for Travelers" revealed that international travel is a significant risk factor for infectious diseases because tourists can easily move from one place to another place in the world. Traveling to the less developed areas has also made tourists vulnerable to existing diseases. According to Monterrubio. J.C. (2010) in the international journal "Short Term Economic Impacts of Influenza (H1N1) and Government Reaction on the Mexican Tourism Industry", the impact of travel restrictions can interfere economically, socially, and psychologically.

Based on the data from BPS (Indonesian Central Statistics Agency) as per July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, it can be seen that there has been a reduction in the number of passengers at the international departure terminals of 4 (four) main Airports in Indonesia.



*Figure 1*

In the previous years (2018 and 2019), the graph shows that the number of passengers was quite good.



*Figure 2*



*Figure 3*

Based on the data obtained from BPS, the average of the total reduction of the number of passengers departing for international flights at 4 (four) main Indonesian Airports from February 2020 to February 2019 was 22% (twenty-two percent). In

March, the average of the total reduction of the number of passengers was 67% (sixty-seven percent). In April, it was 99% and it increased to 99% (ninety-nine percent) in May.

## Literature Review

### 1. PSBB Theory

COVID-19 virus was designated as a pandemic by the WHO (World Health Organization) on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. According to the WHO, the term pandemic refers to the situation when the population of the entire world is likely to be affected by an infection and potentially some of them will fall ill. These are the things that make some countries implement policies to impose lockdowns in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

PSBB is a limitation of certain activities of the residents in an area suspected of being infected by COVID-19 in such a way as to prevent the possibility of spreading COVID-19.

The implementation of PSBB includes:

- a. the closing of schools and workplaces;
- b. the restrictions on religious activities;
- c. the restrictions on activities in public places or facilities;
- d. the restrictions on social and cultural activities;
- e. the restrictions on modes of transportation; and
- f. the restrictions on other activities specifically related to defense and security aspects.

### 2. Passenger Theory

Passenger is every person who is transported or has to be transported in an aircraft or other modes of transportation, based on the approval of the company or agency that organizes the transportation (Damardjati: 1995). Passengers can be grouped into 2 (two) categories; the first is a passenger who rides a vehicle without paying and driven by the passenger himself or his family members, and the second is a public passenger who takes part in a trip on a vehicle by paying. The vehicle can be in the form of taxis, buses, trains, ships or aircraft.

The definition of a passenger can be concluded as an individual or group/company that use transportation services for a particular trip by spending a sum of money as fare for the carrier. In other words, a person who has purchased a ticket.

### 3. Airport Theory

According to Annex 14 of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), an airport is a specific area on land or water (including buildings, installations and equipment) that is intended either in the whole of the part for the arrival, departure, and movement of aircraft.

The airport functions as a place with all its equipment and buildings, used for departures, landings and services for the aircraft with all its load, as its passengers, and goods. Based on its classification or status, an airport can be categorized to the types of service: international and domestic airports.

## Method

On this study, the research was conducted using qualitative research methods. According to Creswell (2016), qualitative research is a type of research that explores and understands the meaning in a number of individuals or groups of people who originate from social problems. Qualitative research in general can be used for research on community life, history, behavior, concepts or phenomena, social problems, and others.

According to Sugiyono (2012: 2-3), in qualitative research, the instrument is the researcher itself so that to be able to become an instrument the researcher must have a broad theory and insight provision so that he is able to ask, analyze, photograph and construct the object under study clear and meaningful. In this research, both primary and secondary data collection sources are used. Primary data were obtained by interviewing informants who manage air transportation services and passengers who use air transportation services. Whereas secondary data were obtained by conducting research and recording, among others, by searching the verified and published journals on websites that have also been guaranteed, and also taking notes from several government regulations.

Triangulation is defined as a data collection technique that combines data from various data collection techniques and existing data sources (Sugiyono, 2013: 330). Researchers conduct interviews and observations with informants and documentation will be obtained from different data sources. Source triangulation means getting data from different sources with the same technique. So, the differences in the data obtained will give new freedom of knowledge to obtain reliable truth.

The informants in this research are as follow:

1. Staff of East Jakarta Immigration Office.
2. Staff of Ground Handling PT Jasa Angkasa Semesta.
3. Airlines Staff of PT. Garuda Indonesia.

**Table 1**

The Results of the Q & A to the Informants	
<u>Question:</u>	What is the impact of the PSBB on the volume of international flight departures passengers?
<u>Answer:</u> East Jakarta Immigration Office	During the PSBB period, starting from March 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 until June 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2020, the immigration office restricted the passport application. So. it has an impact on the volume of international departure passengers because we only accept emergency passports.
<u>Answer:</u> PT Jasa Angkasa	What we see is the number of passengers has reduced due to restrictions on going abroad. On the other hand, we have strict

Semesta	regulations, most of the airports in other countries are also closed. With the implementation of this PSBB in Indonesia, it has also been reduced. Also, a smaller number of passengers have been seen and most overseas airlines have canceled flights temporarily.
<u>Answer:</u> PT Garuda Indonesia	The impact is the reduction of passenger volume because this regulation requires the aircraft to be filled only 70% (seventy percent) of the total capacity. The aircraft also only serves for business purposes or those of an urgent nature.

## Results and Discussion

With the implementation of the PSBB, there are some transportation controls applied. One of them is the reduction in the capacity (slot time) at the airport. The number of passengers is also limited to a maximum of 50% (fifty percent) of the total seat capacity by implementing physical distancing and adjusting the upper limit rates and/or applying surcharges based on statutory provisions.

The economic activities have experienced obstacles and slowdowns caused by PSBB. Of course, this has a significant impact on the economic growth that has the potential to decline. From this PSBB policy, a number of influences arise which require the public not to travel or postpone the travel abroad. It can be said that the COVID-19 pandemic and this PSBB policy have an influence on the reduction of the number of passengers departing for international flights at 4 (four) main Indonesian airports.

PT. (Persero) Angkasa Pura and the stakeholders now have to prepare a strategy of aviation traffic recovery to support economic activities. The recovery strategy consists of 4 (four) steps: optimize the capacity (slot time) at the airport, reactivate domestic routes, increase the frequency of each route, and normalize airport operating hours. The national aviation stakeholders consist of regulators, airlines, KKP (Office of Health in Ports) Ministry of Health RI and Airport operators. Mr. Ilham Habibie as the Chairman of the Habibie Center's Board of Trustees in the webinar teleconference "Post-Pandemic Aviation Industry TechTalk: Take Off or Take Off" on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Channel revealed that for the aviation industry in several places in the world, the challenge is to be able to survive in the pandemic and to fight against the uncertainties.

## Conclusion

The transportation sector, particularly aviation services, is one of the sectors that was affected with the highest exposure levels due to the PSBB policy. When PSBB was implemented, the restrictions on travel activities on international departures had caused a decrease in the revenue of airline service management companies. The workers in the affected sectors will lose the income which they normally get every time and eventually it will create a domino effect of decreasing activities in other sectors. The most extreme impact is on existing airlines. If these are not handled optimally by the stakeholders, the

airlines can go bankrupt and the efforts to handle or save the air transportation sector will be difficult and long-lasting.

The efforts to save the air transportation sector are needed primarily to prevent mass bankruptcy and unemployment. The government's response is the key to mitigating the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the deeply affected air transportation sector.

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