

## **Crime and police personnel in Malaysia: an empirical investigation**

### **ABSTRACT**

The economic theory on crime behavior proposed by Becker (1968) suggests that an increase in the number of policemen can deter crimes. However, recent studies found a positive relationship between police personnel and crime rates. The purpose of the present study is to investigate the effect of police personnel on 15 categories of crime rates in Malaysia for the period of 1973 to 2005 by using the vector error-correction model. Our results suggest that 8 categories of crime rates support Becker's crime economic theory, while 6 categories of crime support the long-run natural rate of crime hypothesis.

**Keyword:** Crime rates; Police personnel; Cointegration