

The Influence Of The Audit Committee, Leverage, Profitability On Tax Aggressiveness With Independent Commissioners As A Moderating Variable

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ABSTRACT

Tax aggressiveness is an action taken by a company to reduce its cost in fulfilling its tax obligations. Companies that engage in tax aggressiveness to save on tax payments will generate higher profits in the future. The purpose of this research is to examine and explain the influence of the audit committee, leverage, profitability, and independent commissioners on the value of manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange. The sample size in this study consisted of 107 manufacturing companies from 2021-2023, with 49 outlier data points and a total of 272 companies in the research. Data collection used the non-participant observation method. The data analysis technique used is moderation regression analysis. The analysis results show that the audit committee has a positive and significant effect on tax aggressiveness, leverage has a negative and significant effect on tax aggressiveness, profitability has a positive effect on tax aggressiveness, independent commissioners weaken the influence of the audit committee on tax aggressiveness, independent commissioners weaken the influence of leverage on tax aggressiveness, and independent commissioners strengthen the influence of profitability on tax aggressiveness. The theoretical implication of this research is to provide knowledge and strengthen the theory of corporate agency value related to the audit committee, leverage, profitability, and independent commissioners. The implication of this research is that manufacturing sector companies should be more careful in formulating tax policies that align with the principles of good corporate governance.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Taxes are the largest source of state revenue in Indonesia. State taxes come from mandatory taxes that individuals or entities are responsible for paying. A company is a taxable entity according to Article 2 Paragraph (1) of Law Number 36 of 2008, which establishes tax provisions calculated from the amount of net profit before tax multiplied by the applicable tax rate [1]. Tax revenue is very important for the

country, so taxes must be collected optimally to increase tax revenue and finance national and regional expenditures.

Table 1. Comparison Table of APBN Targets and Realizations

Year	Target APBN-P (Triliun Rupiah)	Realisasi (Triliun Rupiah)	Persentase (%)
2021	2.748.124	2.784.400	101,32
2022	1.846.137	2.034.500	114,00
2023	2.463.000	2.774.300	112,60

Source: Kementerian Keuangan RI [2]

Although tax contributions to state revenue are the largest, the realization of tax revenue from 2021 to 2023 met the targets set in the revised state budget (APBN-P). The comparison between the realization and the tax revenue budget is shown in Table 1.1. Table of Comparison between Target and Realization of the State Budget (APBN). In measuring the performance of state tax revenue, the tax ratio is used. Tax Ratio is the comparison or percentage of tax revenue to gross domestic product (GDP). This ratio indicates the amount of tax collected at a given time compared to the national income or GDP at the same time. [3].

Tax aggressiveness-related phenomena are that At PT. Bentoel International Investama, a case phenomenon is occurring. PT. Bentoel Internasional Investama, a company owned by British American Tobacco (BAT), uses two different techniques to avoid paying taxes in Indonesia by transferring part of the business's profits to other countries. Tax aggressiveness is an action taken by a company to reduce its costs in fulfilling its tax obligations. Tax aggressiveness has two methods: legal tax planning or tax avoidance, where the practice of tax avoidance carried out by taxpayers aims to reduce the tax burden by exploiting loopholes in regulations. This phenomenon aligns with the research [4] on agency theory, which focuses on the relationship between the principal and the agent. The factors influencing companies to engage in aggressive tax actions are audit committee, leverage, and profitability.

Research [5] and [6] found that independent audit committees have a positive and significant effect on tax aggressiveness. Research by Muriani [7] and Krisna and Supadmi [8] states that leverage has a significant effect on tax aggressiveness. The relationship between profitability and tax avoidance is such that if the generated profit is high, the taxes paid will also increase, which will trigger tax avoidance actions [9]. The inconsistency of results in previous studies may be caused by other factors that are suspected to influence the effect of audit committee, profitability, and leverage on tax avoidance [10]. Therefore, this study adds a moderating variable in the form of independent commissioners.

2. METHOD

The quantitative research approach is a research method based on the philosophy of positivism, used to study a specific population or sample, data collection using research instruments, and data analysis that is quantitative or statistical in nature. The object of this research is focused on tax aggressiveness, which is assumed to have an interest in the independent variable and the moderating variable represented by non-financial and financial ratios in manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX) for the period 2021-2023. The sample in this study is part of the population of manufacturing companies in Indonesia from 2021-2023 that meet the criteria set by the researcher to be selected as the research sample. The sample in this study consists of 321 observations with 49 outlier data, resulting in a research sample of 272 companies. The value of tax avoidance is measured by large BTB (measured on tax returns and using deferred tax expenses from financial statements) and is more likely to be audited by tax authorities. According to PJO Regulation No. 55 of 2015, the number of audit committees that a company must have consists of at least 3 members.

Leverage is measured by the Debt to Equity Ratio (DER). Profitability is measured by Return on Assets (ROA) to see the company's ability to generate profit from its total assets.

2.1 Analisis Regresi Moderasi (MRA)

$$Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 Z + \beta_6 X_1.Z + \beta_7 X_2.Z + \beta_8 X_3.Z + \varepsilon \dots (1)$$

Tabel 1. Hasil Statistik Deskriptif

	<i>N</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>
BTD	272	.00	1.34	0.0265	.08220
Komite Audit	272	2.00	5.00	3.0147	.24254
Leverage	272	0.1	86.70	1.5286	7.23633
Profitabilitas	272	.00	12.40	0.1338	.73194
Komisaris Independen	272	1.00	5.00	1.7279	.94081
Valid N (listwise)	272				

Sumber: Data Penelitian, 2025

Tabel 2. Hasil Uji Moderated Regression Analysis

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	-0.042		0.023	-1.845	0.066
Ka (X1)	0.019	0.008	0.057	2.559	0.011
Le (X2)	0.002	0.000	0.134	3.653	0.000
Pr (X3)	0.083		0.007	0.739	12.064
KI (Z)	0.041		0.008	0.467	4.996
KAx KI	-0.014	0.003	-0.486	-5.435	0.000
Le x KI	-0.014	0.000	-0.151	-3.986	0.000
Pr x KI	0.027	0.007	0.252	4.050	0.000

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on Table 2, it is known that the coefficient of determination (R²) value is 0.997, indicating that the proportion of the influence of the Audit Committee variable (X1), Leverage (X2), Profitability (X3), and Independent Commissioners (Z) and the interaction of the Independent Variables with the Moderating Variable on the Tax Aggressiveness of Manufacturing Companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange during the period 2021-2023 is 99.7 percent, while the remaining 0.03 percent is influenced by other variables not examined in this study.

The t-test result show that the audit committee has a positive influence on the tax aggressiveness of manufacturing sector companies listed on the Indonesia stock exchange during the period 2021-2023, meaning that the more audit committees there are, the greater the increase in tax aggressiveness of manufacturing sector companies listed on the Indonesia stock exchange during the period 2021-2023. The results of this study are in line with the research concluded by Puteri [11], research by Puspitaningrum [12], and research by Sandra [13], which concluded that the audit committee has a positive influence on tax aggressiveness. If the Audit committee variable increases, then the variable for tax aggressiveness will also increase.

The t-test results show that leverage has a positive effect on the tax aggressiveness of manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange during the period 2021-2023, meaning that the higher the leverage, the greater the increase in tax aggressiveness of manufacturing

companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange during the period 2021-2023. This study is in line with the research conducted by Noviyanti [14], the study by Awaliyah et al. [15], and the study by Cahyadi et al. [16], which concluded that Leverage has a positive and significant effect on Tax Aggressiveness. If the leverage variable increases, then tax aggressiveness will also increase.

The t-test results show that Profitability has a positive effect on the Tax Aggressiveness of Manufacturing Sector Companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange during the period 2021-2023, meaning that the higher the Profitability, the greater the increase in Tax Aggressiveness of Manufacturing Sector Companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange during the period 2021-2023. This research is in line with studies conducted by Herlinda and Rahmawati [17], Awaliyah et al. [15], and Rosadani and Wulandari [18], which concluded that Profitability has a positive and significant effect on Tax Aggressiveness. If the profitability variable increases, then tax aggressiveness will also increase.

The t-test results show that Independent Commissioners weaken the influence of the Audit Committee on Tax Aggressiveness of Manufacturing Sector Companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange during the period 2021-2023, meaning that the more Independent Commissioners there are, the more the influence of the Audit Committee on Tax Aggressiveness of Manufacturing Sector Companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange during the period 2021-2023 will decrease. The results of this study are in line with the research conducted by Muliawati and Karyada [19], research by Ghifary et al. [20], and research by Sari, which concluded that Independent Commissioners weaken the influence of the Audit Committee on Tax Aggressiveness. If the Independent Commissioner variable increases, the influence of the audit committee variable on tax aggressiveness will decrease.

The t-test results show that Independent Commissioners weaken the influence of Leverage on Tax Aggressiveness of Manufacturing Sector Companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange during the period 2021-2023, meaning that the more Independent Commissioners there are, the more the influence of Leverage on Tax Aggressiveness of Manufacturing Sector Companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange during the period 2021-2023 will decrease. The results of this study are in line with the research conducted by Muliawati and Karyada [19], the study by Ghifary et al. [20], and the study by Sari, which concluded that Independent Commissioners weaken the influence of Leverage on Tax Aggressiveness. If the Independent Commissioner variable increases, the influence of the leverage variable on tax aggressiveness will decrease.

The t-test results show that Independent Commissioners strengthen the influence of Profitability on Tax Aggressiveness of Manufacturing Sector Companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange during the period 2021-2023, meaning that the more Independent Commissioners there are, the greater the influence of Profitability on Tax Aggressiveness of Manufacturing Sector Companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange during the period 2021-2023 will increase. The results of this study are in line with the research conducted by Munawar et al., the research by Arianti and the research by William and Indrati, which concluded that Independent Commissioners strengthen the influence of Profitability on Tax Aggressiveness. If the Independent Commissioner variable increases, the influence of the profitability variable on tax aggressiveness will also increase.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and hypothesis testing that have been conducted, this study can be concluded as follows The audit committee has a significantly positive influence on tax aggressiveness, proxied by a dummy variable, in manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange for the annual observation period of 2021-2023. Leverage has a significantly positive effect on tax aggressiveness, proxied by DER, in manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange for the observation period of 2021-2023. Profitability has a positive effect on tax aggressiveness, proxied by ROE, in manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange for the observation period of 2021-2023. Independent commissioners weaken the influence of the audit

committee on tax aggressiveness in manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange for the observation period 2021-2023, independent commissioners weaken the influence of leverage on tax aggressiveness in manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange for the observation period 2021-2023, independent commissioners strengthen the influence of profitability on tax aggressiveness in manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange for the observation period 2021-2023. The results of this study are expected to serve as additional information for considerations in selecting manufacturing companies, taking into account the various existing sectors. Investors and prospective investors should pay attention to the factors that influence corporate governance because the condition of a company is not separate from the influence of external and internal factors. With this knowledge, investors and prospective investors can understand the benefits that the company can provide. This research has limitations in several manufacturing sectors, making it unable to study all sectors present on the Indonesia Stock Exchange. Therefore, for future research, it is hoped that other sectors on the Indonesia Stock Exchange will be examined. Additionally, this research only covers observational data from the period 2021-2023, so it does not examine the entire period on the Indonesia Stock Exchange. Therefore, future research is expected to investigate more recent periods on the Indonesia Stock Exchange.

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