

Factors Affecting Tax Avoidance

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History of article: Received: 25 Januari 2024, Revision: 6 Februari 2024, Published: 31 Maret 2024

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33197/jabe.v9i2.1570>

ABSTRACT

This research is included in quantitative research that aims to determine the effect of profitability, leverage, company size, sales growth, audit quality and the proportion of independent commissioners on partial or simultaneous tax avoidance in basic industrial and chemical sector companies listed on the IDX for the 2019-2022 period. The number of samples used was 20 companies with samples with purposive sampling method sampling techniques and using secondary data and obtained from annual financial statements, this regression analysis uses panel data regression using Eviews 12 software as a measuring tool. The results of the study stated that profitability affects tax avoidance in this study also states that leverage, company size and sales growth do not affect tax avoidance on audit quality variables and the proportion of independent board of commissioners is stated to have an effect on avoidance The R² value in the regression dependent variable is 12.22% while the rest was described by other variables other than the variables used in this study.

Keywords: *profitability; leverage; company size; sales growth; audit quality; proportion of independent commissioners*

INTRODUCTION

Tax is a mandatory levy given by an individual or company based on legislation for the benefit of the state and the general welfare. The participation of taxpayers to increase the amount of tax revenue is still a problem in Indonesia today ([Resmi:2019](#)). According [Mardiasmo \(2019\)](#), taxpayers do not comply, so the development of the country does not run properly because taxpayers still have efforts to carry out avoidance, evasion and negligence of their tax obligations ([Pitaloka 2022](#)).

In Indonesia, taxpayers are divided into two parts, namely both individual tax and agency tax. Tax evasion forms a scheme that will be used unlawfully to carry out tax evasion. Tax avoidance is an effort to reduce levies in accordance with legal regulations. The company is included in the corporate taxpayer section, so the size of the company is calculated to have an effect on the company to complete its contribution responsibilities which is a factor that causes tax avoidance.

Based on information on the 2022 annual financial statements, there was a phenomenon of tax avoidance in Indonesia to PT Japfa Comfeed Tbk, known to occur in 2016, 2017 and 2018 The Directorate General of Taxes (DJP) has provided an Underpayment Tax Assessment Letter (SKPKB) on income tax in 2013 to 2017 amounting to IDR 214,340,000,000. In November 2019, the Directorate General of Taxes provided an underpayment tax assessment letter in 2017 with a budget of IDR 1,186,000,000. In November 2020, January, May, and October 2021, the company received an underpayment tax certificate from the Directorate General of Taxes in 2013-2015 with a budget of IDR 134,471,000,000, In December 2022 the company received an underpayment tax certificate for the year 2016-2017 with a nominal value of IDR 79,872. 000,000 (www.idx.co.id)

Profitability is an index that will be used in evaluating the company's performance in obtaining profits with income generated by companies that aim to obtain maximum profits with a certain period ([Irianto, 2017](#)). The main purpose of the company is to carry out business activities to obtain maximum profit. In research conducted ([Prapitasari & Safrida, 2019](#)), ([Mahdiana & Amin, 2022](#)), ([Anggraeni & Oktaviani, 2021](#)) proved that profitability has a significant influence on tax avoidance.

Leverage i.e. interest expense will be used for tax deduction based on taxable income. In the company's operational activities, there are still costs in carrying out the company's operational activities in which there are interest costs. Recorded interest costs are able to reduce tax avoidance, which will result in the company's debt at interest expense. Increased interest expense can reduce the tax burden on corporate taxable income, which is a tax avoidance technique. The term used in leverage is to analyze the company's capacity to pay off short-term and long-term debts ([Arinda & Dwimulyani, 2019](#)).

Company size is one of the variables that have an impact on tax avoidance. Better tax management can be seen from the size of the company. Since the complexity of transactions will increase as the size of the organization increases, the government will take care of it. [Anggraini & Destriana's \(2022\)](#) research shows that company size has no effect on tax avoidance. The existence of good organization in the company can help reduce spending on taxes.

Sales Growth is a form of successful companies in investing and being compared to increased sales. If there is a decline in increasing sales growth so that the Company will find it difficult to improve its operational performance. Sales growth has a significant impact on tax avoidance. Other studies ([Aprianto & Dwi, 2019](#)) and ([Primasari, 2019](#)) show that sales growth does not have a significant impact on tax avoidance.

Quality Audit is a study conducted to evaluate and find out the results of financial statements examined by an auditor based on auditing standards and quality control standards that are the responsibility of an auditor. Understanding audit quality is a systematic process in obtaining and evaluating evidence objectively about statements of economic activities and events with the aim of knowing the level of adjustment of these statements. In the study, [Tri \(2021\)](#) stated that audit quality has no effect on tax avoidance, this is different from the research proposed by [Mayasari & Al-Musfiroh \(2020\)](#) stating that audit quality has an influence on tax avoidance.

The proportion of Independent Commissioners is expected to affect tax avoidance. The independent board of commissioners is a comparison between an independent committee and the number of other deputies who have significant business considerations. To encourage company management not to engage in tax avoidance practices, there are commissions that are more independent than before, so it is expected that corporate governance will be better ([Primasari, 2019](#)).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Agency Theory

Agency theory is a framework based on the interaction between employees in the organization, namely between the principal (owner) and agent (agent) as the main decision maker. ([Jensen & Meckling, 1976](#)). Unlike the agent, who receives a mandate from the owner to launch the company, the owner is the party who gives the agent the mandate to retain the owner's name. In their analysis, ([Jensen and Meckling, 1976](#)) also mentioned that the relationship between agents arises when one or more main agents work as agents to provide a single service or to later be given decision-making power to the agent, in a journal written ([Anggraini & Destriana, 2022](#)).

The relationship between agency theory and tax avoidance, namely investors want a management in managing financial statements that can benefit investors, therefore management will do a way by compiling large profits and very small tax burdens. ([Novatiani, Saudi, Kusumah, Fadjar, & Yuniarti, 2018](#)), with management arranging financial statements so that it can obtain a way to do tax

avoidance ([Anggraeni & Oktaviani, 2021](#)). Differences in principals and agents can impact how a business operates in several ways, including corporate tax policy.

Tax Avoidance

Tax avoidance is defined as an attempt to take advantage of weaknesses in tax regulations illegally to reduce or simplify the tax burden, because it does not interfere with the Law on taxes ([Puspitasari 2017](#)). Conversely, tax evasion, on the other hand, is a framework for cutting the amount of tax debt by interfering with tax laws (illegal) ([Sari, 2021](#)). Many companies carry out tax avoidance that do not operate secretly and use programs in obtaining tax avoidance ([Anggraeni & Febrianti, 2019](#)). But because tax liabilities don't always mention all relevant facts, tax avoidance practices don't always happen. Tax avoidance aims to reduce the tax burden by using loopholes in state tax rules, as a result of which taxation experts can declare legal, because it does not contradict tax rules ([Puspitasari 2017](#)). It can be interpreted as an effort to reduce increasing tax liabilities by using inadequate provisions in tax regulations.

Hypotesis:

H1: Profitability affects Tax Avoidance.

H2: Leverage affects Tax Avoidance.

H3: Company Size affects Tax Avoidance.

H4: Sales Growth affects Tax Avoidance.

H5: Audit Quality affects Tax Avoidance.

H6: Proportion of Independent Commissioners Affecting Tax Avoidance

H7: Profitability, Leverage, Company Size, Sales Growth, Audit Quality and Proportion of Independent Commissioners simultaneously.

RESEARCH METHODS

The research method used in this case is quantitative by using panel data regression in data analysis ([Ghozali, 2016](#)). In this study, we collect data using secondary data by means of literature research and field research by publishing financial statements for the last four years using the www.idx.co.id website or website of each company, the total research data includes annual reports that have gone through an audit process by independent auditors. Using the basic chemical industry sector research population, as well as purposive sampling are techniques used in statistical sampling that will include criteria such as the financial statements announced on December 31. Of the 90 companies studied, 22 companies were sampled during the 2019-2022 period with a total of 88 observational data processed.

There are 6 (six) independent variables and 1 (one) dependent variable, each of which consists of: Profitability, Leverage, Company Size, Sales Growth, Audit Quality, Proportion of Independent Commissioners. and the dependent variable consists of Tax Avoidance, and has 7 hypotheses as a problem formulation. Here is the operational definition of the variable:

Tax Avoidance

Effective Tax Rate (ETR) calculation method. ETR is a profit-based performance measure, which is used to assess the effectiveness of tax reduction strategies and target high after-tax profits. ETR is used because it is believed to compensate for persistent differences between capital gains calculations and capital gains calculations ([Nurfadillah et al., 2017](#)). This can be summarized as follows:

$ETR = \text{tax expense} / \text{profit before tax}$

Return On Asset (ROA)

The profitability ratio is measured by comparing net profit and total assets at the end of the period which is used as a measure of the company's ability to generate profits. So the comparison used based on the financial statement analysis book using Return On Asset (ROA) as follows:

$ROA = \text{profit after tax} / \text{total assets}$

Leverage (Debt to Assets Ratio (DAR))

Leverage is a financial ratio used by a company to assess the ability to meet its long-term obligations, in showing its debt in managing the assets of a particular company. The leverage value uses the Debt to Asset Ratio (DAR) formula proposed by [Kasmir \(2016\)](#):

$$DAR = \text{total debt} / \text{total assets}$$

SIZE

Research conducted ([Sari, Yuniarti, and Rachman 2022](#)) states that the size of the company can be monitored from the business being run. The size of the company can be found based on total sales, total assets, and average sales level. The size of the company has a significant effect on tax avoidance. SIZE is a measuring instrument used in this study:

$$SIZE = \ln(\text{Total Aset})$$

Sales Growth

Sales growth is a criterion used to increase the number of transactions from one particular period. In predicting success or companies that have sales growth is used with clues for future time periods. So the formula that will be used according to cashmere 2012 in the journal ([Tri, 2021](#)):

$$\text{Sales Growth} = (\text{sales } t - \text{sales } t^{-1}) / \text{sales } t^{-1}$$

Audit Quality

To overcome the misalignment of financial statement information between a manager and investors, an audit process is also needed. In reducing profit management practices, it is necessary when presenting financial statements with high audit results. So the formula used according to ([Tri, 2021](#)) is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Adadit by Big Four} &= 1 \\ \text{Audited by Non Big Four} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Proportion of Independent Commissioners

Independent board of commissioners stands for other members of the board of commissioners who actively work to advance the interests of their respective organizations (Suardana & Maharani, 2014) with the board of commissioners as market participants believing that the level of fraud committed by managers can be reduced by the existence of independent commissions.

$$\text{Proportion of Independent Commissioners} = \text{independent commissioner} / \text{board of sommissioners}$$

In this study, researchers used quantitative research methods using panel data regression analysis which aimed to determine the influence between the dependent variable (Y) and the independent variable (X) assisted by statistical (software). Microsoft Excel 2010 and Eviews Software Version 12. Panel data is a type of data that combines time series and cross section data.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following are the results of statistical descriptive analysis:

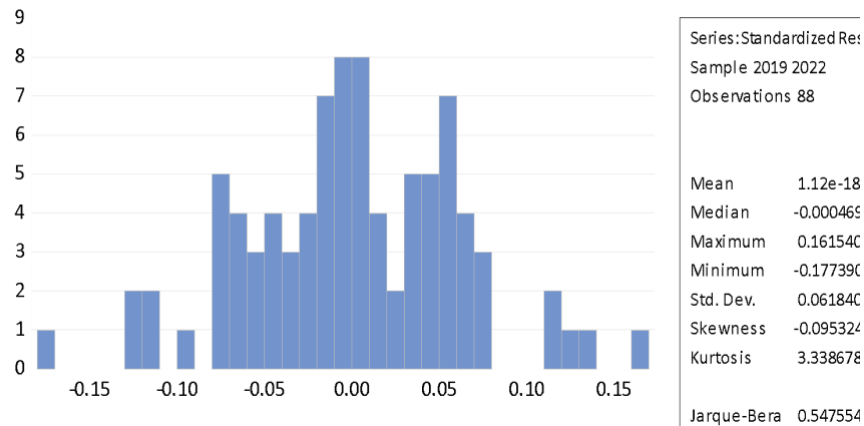
Table 1. Descriptive Analysis Results

	Y	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6
Mean	0.224828	0.063793	0.394828	28.89701	0.035172	0.402299	0.366092
Median	0.220000	0.050000	0.350000	28.66000	0.050000	0.000000	0.330000
Maximum	0.540000	0.230000	1.210000	32.05000	0.410000	1.000000	0.750000
Minimum	0.010000	0.010000	0.090000	26.48000	-0.620000	0.000000	0.000000
Std. Dev.	0.084631	0.045857	0.201574	1.516673	0.177193	0.493204	0.127410
Observations	88	88	88	88	88	88	88

Source: processed data (2023)

Classical Assumption Test
Normality Test

Figure 2. ETR Normality Test Histogram



Source: Data processed (2023)

From the output data above, it is explained that the residual ETR value is 0.760502 so that the data is concluded to be normally distributed data.

Multicollinearity Test

Table 2. Multicollinearity Test Results

	Y	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6
Y	1.000	-0.094	-0.178	-0.075	0.054	0.056	0.216
X1	-0.094	1.000	-0.338	-0.043	0.167	0.287	0.261
X2	-0.178	-0.338	1.000	0.379	-0.057	0.122	-0.058
X3	-0.075	-0.043	0.379	1.000	-0.028	0.632	0.166
X4	0.054	0.167	-0.057	-0.028	1.000	-0.033	0.043
X5	0.056	0.286	0.122	0.632	-0.033	1.000	0.096
X6	0.214	0.261	-0.058	0.166	0.043	0.096	1.000

Source: Data processed (2023)

From the output above, the correlation value of each variable of profitability, leverage, company size, sales growth, audit quality and the proportion of independent commissioners looks smaller than 0.8. Therefore, it can be concluded that the model does not show the presence of multicollinearity.

Heterokedacity Test

Table 3. Heterokedacity Test Results

Heteroskedasticity Test: Glejser
Null hypothesis: Homoscedasticity

F-statistic	2.509798	Prob. F(6,81)	0.0281
Obs*R-squared	13.79544	Prob. Chi-Square(6)	0.0320
Scaled explained SS	16.67379	Prob. Chi-Square(6)	0.0106

Source: Data processed *views* 12

From the output above, that heterokedacity test results > 0.05 which are influenced by independent variables. Thus, it can be concluded that there is no problem of Heteroscedacity.

Table 4. Autocorrelation Test Results

Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test:

Null hypothesis: No serial correlation at up to 2 lags

F-statistic	1.232035	Prob. F(2,79)	0.2972
Obs*R-squared	2.661764	Prob. Chi-Square(2)	0.2642

Source: Data processed *evIEWS 12*

**Panel Data Specification Test Model
Chow Water**

Table 5. Uji Chow Result

Redundant Fixed Effects Tests

Test cross-section fixed effects

Effects Test	Statistic	d.f.	Prob.
Cross-section F	1.487237	(21,59)	0.1178
Cross-section Chi-square	36.961643	21	0.0170

Source: Data processed *evIEWS 12*

In the results of the chow test probability value of 0.1178 shows that the probability value < 0.05 and Cross-section Chi-square $0.0170 < 0.05$, then the right model in the right study uses the fixed effect model used.

Hausman Test

Table 6. Uji Hausman Result

Correlated Random Effects - Hausman Test

Equation: Untitled

Test cross-section random effects

Test Summary	Chi-Sq. Statistic	Chi-Sq. d.f.	Prob.
Cross-section random	8.279716	6	0.2183

Source: Data processed *evIEWS 12*

Based on the results of the hausman test, it produces a value of $0.2183 > 0.05$, meaning that the right value is used, namely the random effect model used.

Lagrange Multiplier Test (LM)

Table 7. Lagrange Multiplier Test

	Test Hypothesis		
	Cross-section	Time	Both
Breusch-Pagan	0.264795 (0.6068)	1.282691 (0.2574)	1.547486 (0.2135)

Source: processed data *evIEWS 12*

Based on the results of the Breusch-Pagan test above, it can be seen that H0 is accepted and the common effect model is used in this study.

Partial Test (t test)

Tabel 8. T -test

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	0.630495	0.226080	2.788812	0.0066
X1	-0.682679	0.227268	-3.003856	0.0036
X2	-0.092300	0.048974	-1.884659	0.0631
X3	-0.014701	0.008267	-1.778315	0.0792
X4	0.044833	0.049193	0.911377	0.3648
X5	0.056452	0.024844	2.272235	0.0258
X6	0.204492	0.071482	2.860762	0.0054

Source: processed data *eviews 12*

Simultan Test (Statistic F-Test)

Table 9. F test

F-statistic	2.995658
Prob(F-statistic)	0.010832

Source: processed data *eviews 12*

Based on the results of the table above, it is known that H7 is accepted. So Profitability, Leverage, Company Size, Sales Growth, Audit Quality and Proportion of Independent Commissioners simultaneously affect Tax Avoidance

Coefficient of Determination Test

Table 10.

Coefficient of Determination Test Results R^2

R-squared	0.183456
<i>Adjusted R-squared</i>	0.122216
S.E. of regression	0.079291
Sum squared resid	0.502968

Source: processed data *eviews 12*

From the results of the table above, it is known that the Adjusted R-squared value of 0.122216 or 12.22% which means that the value of the coefficient of determination shows that the independent variables Profitability, Leverage, Company Size, Sales Growth, Audit Quality and Proportion of Independent Commissioners can explain that the variable Tax Avoidance in the Basic Industrial and Chemical Sectors is 12.22% and the remaining 87.78 (100 – value Adjusted R-squared), influenced by other variables in the study

DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the research and discussions presented in the previous section, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The Loan to Deposit Ratio (LDR) (X1) significantly has a negative impact on Return on Asset (ROA) (Y) by 8.2%. This indicates that the independent variable LDR has the capacity to explain about 8.2% of the variation in ROA in banking companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange.
2. Net Interest Margin (NIM) (X2) significantly contributes a positive impact on Return on Asset (ROA) (Y) by 5.2%. This indicates that the independent variable NIM has the capacity to explain approximately 5.2% of the variation in ROA in banking companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange.
3. Both Loan to Deposit Ratio (LDR) (X1) and Net Interest Margin (NIM) (X2) simultaneously impact Return On Asset (ROA) (Y) by 22.8%. This indicates that the independent variables LDR and NIM have the capacity to explain approximately 22.8% of the variation in ROA in banking companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange. Meanwhile, the remaining 77.8% is explained by other factors not included in this research model.

Based on the results of the research and discussions presented in the previous sections, the following suggestions can be provided:

1. It is hoped that future researchers can add other variables that may influence Return On Assets (ROA) as independent variables.
2. Banking companies aiming to improve their performance should pay attention to liquidity levels, net interest income, and profits as indicators of effectiveness in generating profits and reducing the amount of non-performing loans, thereby enhancing their performance quality.
3. Companies need to focus their efforts on increasing profit value or earnings to optimize fund utilization and reduce operational costs, thereby creating efficiency and effectiveness in fund utilization.

It is recommended that the study consider extending and increasing the number of sampling periods, thus enlarging the sample size and yielding more accurate research results..

CONCLUSION

The results of the study stated that profitability affects tax avoidance in this study also states that leverage, company size and sales growth do not affect tax avoidance on audit quality variables and the proportion of independent board of commissioners is stated to affect tax avoidance. The R^2 value in the regression results of the dependent variable was 12.22% while the rest was explained by variables other than the variables used in this study.

Some limitations encountered by researchers and can be taken into consideration for future researchers.

1. This study only examined manufacturing companies in the basic and chemical sectors, so the results could not determine the current level of tax avoidance in Indonesia.
2. The year used used only 4 years of observation from 2019 to 2022. Manufacturing companies that publish financial statements on the IDX.
- 3.

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