

## THE EFFECT OF UNEMPLOYMENT, POVERTY, AND INCOME INEQUALITY ON ECONOMIC GROWTH IN INDONESIA

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### Abstrak:

This study aims to analyze the impact of unemployment, poverty, and income inequality on economic growth in Indonesia. This study uses an associative quantitative approach. The data used in this study is secondary data from the Central Statistics Agency. The analysis method used is panel data regression by combining cross-sectional and time-series data for the 2020-2024 period from 34 provinces in Indonesia, and the model used is the Fixed Effect Model. The results of this study indicate that the unemployment rate has a negative and significant impact on economic growth, with a coefficient value of -3.083497 and a probability value of 0.0000. Conversely, poverty has a positive but insignificant impact on economic growth, with a coefficient value of 0.706846 and a probability value of 0.0779. In addition, income inequality has a negative and significant impact on economic growth, with a coefficient value of -84.82510 and a probability value of 0.0076. The simultaneous test shows that these three variables collectively have a significant impact on economic growth, with an F-statistic probability value of 0.00000. This study concludes that although poverty does not have a significant impact on economic growth, reducing unemployment and income inequality should be key factors in supporting sustainable economic development in Indonesia.

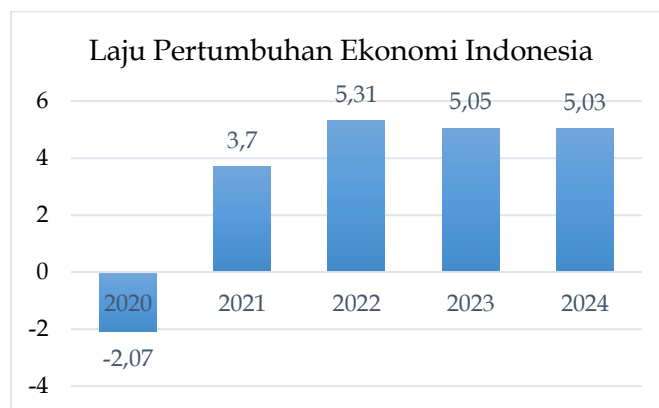
**Keywords:** Unemployment Rate, Poverty, Income Inequality, Economic Growth.

## INTRODUCTION

Every country in the world has the fundamental goal of promoting peace, security, and progress. One of the key requirements for economic growth is, fundamental parameter in a country's economic system. Economic growth can be understood as a phase in which a country's economic conditions show improvement over time (Gramedia, 2021). Rapid economic growth is a key indicator of a country's level of prosperity, security, and progress. This is because a country's political, economic, and security stability increases in line with economic growth (Utomo & Tambunan, 2024). A country's economy can be considered to have made economic progress if the economic activities of its people have a direct impact on increasing the production of goods and the provision of services. The progress of a country's economic growth is closely related to the level of welfare of its people, which determines whether or not a country's economic conditions are good (Kasiyati et al., 2024). In fact, the economic conditions in various countries in the world today still show instability, such as Russia, Ukraine, and China. The rate of economic growth fluctuates, increasing in certain periods and then decreasing in the following periods. This condition is referred to as the business cycle. This phenomenon is almost considered an economic cycle by a country, especially in Indonesia (Rizal et al., 2025).



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Source: Central Statistics Agency (2024)

**Figure 1.** Economic Growth in Indonesia

In Figure 1, it can be seen that Indonesia's economic growth rate fluctuated, reaching -2.07 in 2020. This was due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social restrictions affecting the decline in economic activity in Indonesia. Although Indonesia was still in a pandemic situation, its economic growth rose to 3.70% in 2021. Meanwhile, in 2022, or precisely after the COVID-19 pandemic, economic growth in Indonesia continued to improve. The Central Statistics Agency recorded Indonesia's economic growth rate at 5.31% in 2022. Even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, Indonesia's economic recovery was stronger than in the previous two years (Pitoko, 2023). Not only did it exceed economic growth in 2021, but before COVID-19, this economic growth rate was well above the average of 5% (Cholifah, 2024). However, in the last two years, 2023 and 2024, economic growth has declined to 5.03%. Economic growth in Indonesia has declined due to a decline in net export performance, where import growth exceeds exports, resulting in a slowdown in the contribution of net exports to economic growth (Central Statistics Agency, 2024). In addition, economic growth in Indonesia has declined due to weakening purchasing power as a result of layoffs, which have led to high unemployment rates, and global economic uncertainty, which has caused people's incomes to decline, thereby reducing their ability to purchase goods and services. This is a result of uneven economic growth in Indonesia. Economic growth without equity will cause disparities between regions, while economic equity without economic growth will result in poverty in various regions of Indonesia. Income equity is closely related to poverty alleviation efforts. Therefore, concrete steps are necessary to reduce poverty levels and achieve a more equitable income distribution (Sarjito, 2023).

Poverty is one of the most fundamental and complex social issues faced by various countries, especially developing countries such as Indonesia. Although the government continues to implement various poverty alleviation programs and policies, this problem continues to grow and remains a major challenge in national development. According to the World Bank in 2024, Indonesia ranks second with the highest poverty rate in Southeast Asia at 60.3%, Laos ranks first with a poverty rate of 68.9%, and the Philippines ranks third with 50.6%. The high poverty rate in Indonesia can be attributed to several factors, namely that Indonesia is an underdeveloped region with limited natural resources, especially in the agricultural sector (Yamin & Dartanto, 2016). In addition to poverty, economic growth is also influenced by income inequality in a country. Income inequality is a condition where there is an uneven distribution of income among various groups in a region or area. Stunted economic growth prevents a country from moving forward or remaining in the



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middle-income group (Wibowo, 2023). The causes of income inequality vary greatly from country to country. Some of the main causes are high demand for skills related to technical changes and globalization, weakening labor protection, and limited access to financial services in developing countries. In addition to poverty and income inequality, economic growth also occurs due to unemployment. The unemployment rate also contributes to economic growth. In Indonesia, high unemployment rates indicate problems in the utilization of available human resources, which has a negative impact on economic growth. In addition, other impacts of high unemployment rates include an increase in the social and fiscal burden on the state, such as the potential for increased crime, social unrest, and reduced community productivity (Central Statistics Agency, 2025). This condition poses a major challenge for the government to spur inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Therefore, accelerating quality investment and job creation are key to ensuring that economic growth in Indonesia continues to increase despite the pressure from high unemployment rates (Kontan, 2025).

Based on previous research Maya et al. (2024), the unemployment rate has a negative and significant effect on economic growth in Indonesia. On the other hand, research from Rahmadi et al. (2019) found that income inequality and poverty have a significant effect on economic growth. In addition, research from Nurvia & Nurul (2024) found that income inequality has a negative and significant effect on economic growth, whereas education levels and poverty have a positive and significant effect on economic growth in Indonesia. In this study, it is important to examine how stable economic growth contributes to poverty alleviation and increases employment and community income by creating many high-quality jobs, which play an important role in the economy. This study aims to fill the research gap by comprehensively examining the actual effects in response to previous research results that showed differing findings. Therefore, the researchers are interested in examining **"The Effect of Unemployment, Poverty, and Income Inequality on Economic Growth in Indonesia"**.

## OPERATIONAL DEFINISI

### a. Economic Growth

Simon Kuznetz (1971) An economist stated that economic growth is a condition in which a country can increase its economic output or production, in line with technological developments, followed by adjustments in the ideology of the country. In addition, increased economic growth will accelerate regional output growth and improve the prospects for the development of the region (Putrohadi Nugroho & Hidayat, 2024). Furthermore, according to Arsyad (1999) Economic growth is an increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or Gross National Income (GNI), which are the main indicators for assessing the economic progress of a country or region. Economic growth explains the factors that influence and determine the rate of economic growth in the long term, while also describing how these factors interact to produce stages of economic growth (Solo, 2018). Meanwhile, economic growth occurs when economic activity and national income increase, indicating that a country's economy is developing.

According to Arsyad (1999), the main factor in the economic growth of a region is the demand for goods and services, especially from outside the region, which drives production and exports in sectors that have a comparative advantage. In addition, economic growth is also influenced by investment that increases production capacity, a productive workforce, and technological advances that accelerate the production process. Increased demand will drive an



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increase in output and per capita income, resulting in economic growth (Nikijuluw, 2014). The Classical Economic Theory in the book *The Principles of Political Economy and Taxation* in 1817, developed by David Ricardo, states that an increase in population will increase the labor force, which in turn will cause a decline in wages. This decline in wages has an impact on increasing poverty and unstable economic conditions or reaching a state of stagnation (stationary state) (Faradilla & Edy, 2025). In addition, according to Sir William Petty in his book *Treatise of Taxes and Contributions* in 1662, there are two main concepts in national income that are used to measure economic growth, namely Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Product (GNP). GDP refers to national income that includes the total output or income generated by the population of a country, including foreign residents operating in the country's territory, which in the context of Indonesia, is known as Gross Domestic Product. Meanwhile, GNP refers to the total national income that calculates the output and income generated by all native citizens, both at home and abroad. In Indonesia, this concept is known as Gross National Product.

### **b. Unemployment Rate**

Sukirno (2006) states that unemployment is a situation in which a person who is part of the labor force wants to work but has not yet obtained a job. Meanwhile, according to Sidauruk (2011), the open unemployment rate is measured as the percentage of unemployed or job seekers in relation to the total existing labor force. This definition shows that the unemployment rate is an important indicator in measuring the health of the labor market and the overall economic condition. The relationship between unemployment and economic growth can be explained by Okun's law, named after Arthur Okun, the economist who first studied it. It states that there is an empirical relationship between unemployment and output in the business cycle. Empirical studies show that a 1% increase in unemployment reduces gross domestic product (GDP) by 2%. This indicates that there is a negative relationship between unemployment and economic growth. In addition, the Classical Theory in his book *The Principles of Political Economy and Taxation* in 1817, developed by David Ricardo, views the labor market as a mechanism that will automatically adjust the supply and demand for labor so that equilibrium is achieved without the need for government intervention. In the Classical Theory perspective, unemployment occurs only as a temporary phenomenon due to short-term imbalances and will decrease as the market mechanism works through wage adjustments (Mankiw, 2019).

David Ricardo's Classical Theory implies the importance of labor market flexibility and the creation of conditions for dynamic wage adjustments so that unemployment can be reduced naturally. However, the reality on the ground shows that there are structural barriers, such as labor regulations and skill gaps, that cause unemployment to persist and negatively affect national economic growth. Therefore, although classical theory suggests minimal government intervention, conditions in Indonesia require policies that support the creation of inclusive employment so that economic growth can proceed optimally (Todaro, 2015). In addition, classical theory also reinforces the importance of capital accumulation as the main driver of economic growth. High unemployment reduces the capacity of the community to save and invest, thereby hampering capital accumulation and long-term economic growth. Therefore, a significant reduction in unemployment can have a positive impact on economic growth through increased productivity and investment capacity (Blanchard, 2017).



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### c. Poverty

According to the Central Statistics Agency (2024), poverty is defined as a condition in which a person's per capita expenditure is below the poverty line, which is the minimum standard of expenditure to meet food and non-food needs. According to Mubyarto (1997), poverty is the inability to meet basic economic needs, including food, clothing, shelter, education, and health. Meanwhile, according to Todaro (2000), poverty is a situation in which a person lives below the minimum standard of needs that enable a healthy and active life. Thus, poverty is measured operationally through expenditure or income data that is below the poverty line as the main indicator for assessing the level of community welfare.

The social democratic theory of poverty originated from the book *The Philosophy of Poverty* in 1847, developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, which argued that poverty is not an individual issue, but rather a collective problem. Poverty is caused by inequality and income gaps in society, which arise due to limited access of certain groups to various social resources (Pinontoan, 2020). According to Ragnar Nurkse (1953), based on the Vicious Circle of Poverty theory, poverty is a problem often experienced by many developing countries. This is due to low savings capacity, which leads to low income. Conversely, low income reflects low productivity. If this condition persists, there will be a reduction in capital, which then becomes the main source of low savings capacity. Thus, if income is low, productivity will also decline (Nadhifah, 2018).

### d. Income Inequality

Income inequality is the difference in income resulting from various economic activities, indicating that income distribution is uneven in society (Violin & Lutfi, 2022). Sukirno (2010) states that income inequality is measured by the Gini index, which indicates the level of fairness in income distribution. If the Gini index is close to 0, then income distribution is relatively even, while if it is close to 1, it indicates high inequality. In addition, according to Mestor & Sudarsana (2024), income inequality is also defined as an imbalance in income distribution among different groups in society, and is measured using indicators such as the Gini ratio or income distribution level. Kuncoro (2006) states that in the early stages of economic growth in developing countries, poverty and income inequality tend to increase. However, as development progresses, poverty and income inequality will decrease. This pattern of change is known as an "inverted U" curve, which illustrates the dynamic relationship between economic growth and income distribution.

Income inequality is a phenomenon that often arises in a country's economy. This disparity can be caused by imbalances in the distribution of natural resources and demographic conditions in each region. The impact of income inequality is negative, namely, it can cause social instability, hinder social mobility, and affect the overall welfare of society (Mara & Rambey, 2018). To overcome this gap, various countries have implemented social, educational, and economic policies aimed at reducing disparities and increasing equal access to economic and educational opportunities (Mara & Rambey, 2018). Income inequality also reflects social disparities in society that can exacerbate gaps in access to health services, education levels, and social opportunities, which have the potential to cause fragmentation and social instability. According to Todaro & Smith (2006), inequality has dual effects, both positive and negative. The positive effects include increasing the competitiveness of disadvantaged regions, promoting economic growth, and ultimately improving the welfare of the community. Conversely, the negative impacts of inequality include economic inefficiency, weakened social stability and solidarity, and the



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perception that high inequality is detrimental to social welfare and justice (Taufiqurrachman & Jayadi, 2023).

### METHOD

This study uses an associative quantitative approach. It uses panel data that combines data from 34 provinces in Indonesia in the form of cross-section and time series data for the period 2020-2024. The data used is secondary data, which is data that has been collected and processed by previous researchers relevant to the topic discussed in this study. The source of secondary data was obtained from the official website of the Central Statistics Agency. This study uses economic growth with the presentation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate as the dependent variable in percent (%). The independent variables consist of the open unemployment rate in percentages (%), poverty in terms of the percentage of the population living in poverty (%), and income inequality in terms of the Gini ratio in percentages (%). This study focuses on the population of Indonesia. This study uses a saturated sample approach, which involves sampling 34 provinces in Indonesia according to population value.

This study uses quantitative data analysis techniques in the form of panel data regression to analyze the relationship between independent and dependent variables. The panel data regression equation model used in this study reveals the relationship between unemployment, poverty, income inequality, and economic growth in Indonesia. The regression model used in this analysis is as follows:

$$PE_{it} = \alpha + \beta_0 + \beta_1 TP_{it} + \beta_2 TK_{it} + \beta_3 KP_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

### Description:

|                             |                                                   |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| PE                          | : Economis Growth                                 |
| TP                          | : Unemployment Rate                               |
| TK                          | : Percentage of poor population                   |
| KP                          | : Income Inequality                               |
| i                           | : Provinces in Indonesia ( <i>cross section</i> ) |
| t                           | : Year ( <i>time series</i> )                     |
| $\alpha$                    | : Constant                                        |
| $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$ | : Independent variable coefficient                |
| $\varepsilon$               | : error term                                      |

The analysis was conducted using Eviews 12 statistical software, where, before estimating or selecting a regression model, the data were tested for stationarity to ensure data stability and prevent spurious regression. Next, the best regression model was selected based on statistical test results such as the Chow test and the Hausman test. In addition, classical assumption tests were



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also conducted, such as normality tests, heteroscedasticity tests, multicollinearity tests, and autocorrelation tests. This approach allows researchers to provide deeper insights into how unemployment, poverty, and income inequality affect economic growth in Indonesia.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Estimation Model Selection

Testing was conducted to select the most appropriate estimation model among the three types of models. This will be demonstrated based on the results of each estimation model used, as follows:

**Table 1.** Panel Data Regression Analysis

| Variable | Common Effect Model |        | Fixed Effect Model |        | Random Effect Model |        |
|----------|---------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
|          | t-statistic         | prob.  | t-statistic        | prob.  | t-statistic         | prob.  |
| C        | 4.087320            | 0.0001 | 4.533162           | 0.0000 | 4.675191            | 0.0000 |
| X1       | -3.731720           | 0.0003 | -9.272075          | 0.0000 | -6.991329           | 0.0000 |
| X2       | 1.523205            | 0.1301 | 1.781764           | 0.0779 | 2.119597            | 0.0359 |
| X3       | -1.676734           | 0.0960 | -2.724397          | 0.0076 | -1.747309           | 0.0829 |

Source: Data processed by researchers (2025)

Based on the results of the panel data analysis estimation test in the table obtained, the next step is to conduct a test to determine the best panel data regression model. The regression models selected are the Common Effect Model (CEM), Fixed Effect Model (FEM), and Random Effect Model (REM), by conducting three tests, namely the Chow Test, Hausman Test, and Lagrange Multiplier Test. These tests aim to determine which model is best suited to the characteristics of the data and provide valid results for further analysis.

### Model Selection Test

#### a. Chow Test

The Chow test is a test used to compare estimation models, both the Common Effect Model (CEM) and Fixed Effect Model (FEM), to determine which is most suitable for panel data estimation. In this Chow test, decisions are made based on cross-sectional F probability.

**Table 2.** Chow Test

| Effect Test              | Statistic  | d.f     | Prob.  |
|--------------------------|------------|---------|--------|
| Cross-Section F          | 6.453263   | (33,99) | 0.0000 |
| Cross-Section Chi-Square | 156.093679 | 33      | 0.0000 |

Source: Data processed by researchers (2025)

Based on the Chow Test results in the table, it can be seen that the Chi-Square probability value in Cross-Section is  $0.0000 < 0.05$ , so it can be concluded that the model used is the Fixed Effect Model (FEM). Then, the Hausman Test was conducted to determine whether the model used the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) or the Common Effect Model (CEM).



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## b. Hausman Test

The Hausman test is a statistical test to compare the most appropriate Fixed Effect Model (FEM) or Random Effect Model (REM).

**Table 3.** Hausman Test

| Test Summary         | Chi-Sq. Statistic | Chi-Sq. d.f. | Prob.  |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------|
| Cross-section random | 46.509863         | 3            | 0.0000 |

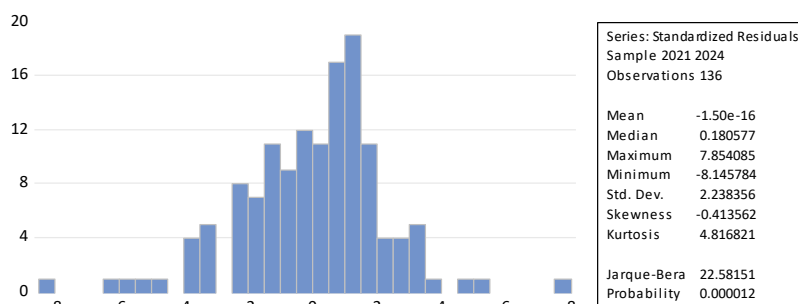
Source: Data processed by researchers (2025)

Based on the results of the Hausman test in the table, it can be seen that the Chi-Square probability value is  $0.0000 < 0.05$ , so it can be concluded that the best model chosen is the Fixed Effect Model (FEM). Because the best model in the Hausman test is the Fixed Effect Model (FEM), there is no need to continue with the Lagrange Multiplier test. Based on the results of testing the Fixed Effect Model (FEM), it was selected as the best model for estimating all variables. Therefore, classical assumption testing needs to be carried out. The classical assumption tests used are normality testing, multicollinearity testing, heteroscedasticity testing, and autocorrelation testing (Tasya, 2024).

## Classical Assumption Test

### a. Normality Test

Normality tests are used to test whether a regression model is normal or not, using two methods to detect this, namely the graphical approach and the Jarque-Bera test. The graphical approach is a simple but subjective method, as the results are based on the interpretation of graphical histograms. Meanwhile, the Jarque-Bera test is a statistical test used to determine whether a distribution is normal or not.



Source: Data processed by researchers (2025)

**Figure 2.** Normality Test Results

Based on the results of the normality test, the aim is to determine whether the regression model is normally distributed. According to the Central Limit Theorem proposed by Dielman in 1961 in Pranadipta (2023), if  $N > 30$ , the data can be assumed to be normally distributed. The normality test results in the figure show a probability value of 0.000000, which indicates that the data is not normally distributed because the value is  $< 0.05$ . However, the data is still considered to be normally distributed because the sample size is 136, which, according to the Central Limit Theorem, is  $136 > 30$  and is considered to be normally distributed, so the data is considered to be normally distributed.



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## b. Multicollinearity Test

Multicollinearity tests are used to describe the relationship between independent variables in a regression model. A good model does not have a perfect correlation between independent variables. Multicollinearity can be said to exist when the correlation coefficient between two independent variables exceeds 0.85.

**Table 4.** Multicollinearity Test

|    | X1         | X2         | X3         |
|----|------------|------------|------------|
| X1 | 1          | -0.0206028 | 0.06762739 |
| X2 | -0.0206028 | 1          | -0.0038408 |
| X3 | 0.06762739 | -0.0038408 | 1          |

Source: Data processed by researchers (2025)

Based on the results of the Multicollinearity Test in the table, it shows that the correlation value between variable X1 (Unemployment Rate) and variable X2 (Poverty) is  $-0.0206028 < 0.85$ , so it can be concluded that there is no multicollinearity between Unemployment Rate and Poverty. The correlation value between variable X1 (Unemployment Rate) and X3 (Income Inequality) is  $0.06762739 < 0.85$ , so it can be concluded that there is no multicollinearity between the Unemployment Rate and Income Inequality. Then, the correlation value between variable X2 (Poverty) and X3 (Income Inequality) is  $-0.0038408 < 0.85$ , so it can be concluded that there is no multicollinearity between Poverty and Income Inequality.

## c. Heteroscedasticity Test

The heteroscedasticity test is used to indicate the presence of inequality in the regression model. An effective regression should be free of heteroscedasticity. These results indicate that there is no evidence of heteroscedasticity if the significance value of the correlation between the independent variable and the residual is above 0.05.

**Table 5.** Heteroscedasticity Test

| Variable | Coefficient | Std.Error | t-Statistic | Prob.  |
|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| C        | -2.438631   | 2.220584  | -1.098193   | 0.2748 |
| X1       | 0.0941111   | 0.068056  | 1.382836    | 0.1698 |
| X2       | -0.012530   | 0.081185  | -0.154336   | 0.8777 |
| X3       | 8.176397    | 6.371722  | 1.283232    | 0.2024 |

Source: Data processed by researchers (2025)

Based on the results of the Heteroscedasticity Test in the table, this study uses a Glejter test that does not show any heteroscedasticity problems, because the probability value of X1 (Unemployment Rate) is  $0.1698 > 0.05$ , followed by the probability value of X2 (Poverty) of 0.8777, and the probability value of X3 (Income Inequality) of 0.2024. Therefore, there are no signs of heteroscedasticity, and the heteroscedasticity test is satisfied.

## d. Autocorrelation Test

According to Salwanisa et al. (2025), autocorrelation arises due to the relationship between consecutive observations in a given time series. The Durbin-Watson (DW) test for testing autocorrelation was developed by James Durbin and Geoffrey Watson in 1950 as a statistical method



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for analyzing autocorrelation problems in time series regression models. This test is used to detect the presence of time series autocorrelation, particularly first-order autocorrelation in regression model residuals. The commonly used testing rule is:

- If the value of Durbin-Watson ( $dW$ )  $>$  Durbin Upper ( $dU$ ), it means that there is no autocorrelation.
- If the value of  $dW < dU$ , it means there is autocorrelation.

**Table 6.** Autocorrelation Test

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Durbin-Watson stat | 2.258229 |
|--------------------|----------|

Source: Data processed by researchers (2025)

Based on the autocorrelation test in the table, it shows that the  $dW$  (Durbin Watson) value is  $2.258229 > dU 1.6529$ . Thus, it can be concluded that the  $dW$  value is greater than the  $dU$  value (upper limit), which can be interpreted as the absence of autocorrelation.

#### Panel Data Regression Analysis

**Table 7.** Panel Data Regression Test

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob.  |
|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| C        | 49.18874    | 10.850087  | 4.533162    | 0.0000 |
| X1       | -3.083497   | 0.332557   | -9.272075   | 0.0000 |
| X2       | 0.706846    | 0.396711   | 1.781764    | 0.0779 |
| X3       | -84.82510   | 31.13537   | -2.724397   | 0.0076 |

Source: Data processed by researchers (2025)

Based on the Panel Data Regression Test in the table, the panel data regression equation is as follows:

$$Y_{it} = 49.18874 - 3.083497 + 0.706846 - 84.82510$$

It can therefore be concluded that the constant value of 49.18874 indicates that the levels of unemployment, poverty, and income inequality are constant, resulting in economic growth of 49.18874%. The regression coefficient of variable X1 (unemployment rate) is -3.083497, which means that a 1% increase in the unemployment rate will cause economic growth to decline by 3.083497%. This coefficient has a negative effect. The regression coefficient of variable X2 (Poverty) is 0.706846, indicating that there will be an increase in economic growth of 0.706846% if the poverty rate rises by 1%. This coefficient has a positive effect. The regression coefficient of variable X3 (Income Inequality) is -84.82510, which means that a 1% increase in income inequality will cause economic growth to decline by 84.82510%. This coefficient has a negative effect.

#### Statistical Hypothesis

##### a. T-test (partial significance test)

The t-test or partial test is used to evaluate how each independent variable has an individual effect on the dependent variable. This testing stage involves comparing the  $t_{\text{calculate}}$  value with the  $t_{\text{table}}$  value or observing the significance column for each  $t_{\text{calculate}}$  value. In the context of t-testing, this approach is similar to the F-test.



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**Table 8. T-test (Partial)**

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob.  |
|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| C        | 49.18874    | 10.850087  | 4.533162    | 0.0000 |
| X1       | -3.083497   | 0.332557   | -9.272075   | 0.0000 |
| X2       | 0.706846    | 0.396711   | 1.781764    | 0.0779 |
| X3       | -84.82510   | 31.13537   | -2.724397   | 0.0076 |

Source: Data processed by researchers (2025)

Based on the results of the T-test in the table, the t-statistic value of X1 (Unemployment Rate) is  $-9.272075 < t\text{-table of } 1.69726$ , and the probability value is  $0.0000 < 0.05$ . Therefore, it can be concluded that the unemployment rate has a significant effect on economic growth. This is in line with Rahmadina et al. (2021) research, which states that the unemployment rate has a significant effect on economic growth. However, this research is not in line with Nairizi (2019) research, which states that the unemployment rate does not have a significant effect on economic growth.

The t-statistic value of X2 (Poverty) is  $1.781764 < \text{the } t\text{-table value of } 1.69726$ , and the probability value is  $0.0779 > 0.05$ . Therefore, it can be simulated that poverty does not have a significant effect on economic growth. This is in line with the study by Yuniarti & Imaningsih (2022), which states that poverty does not have a significant effect on economic growth. However, this study is not in line with the study by Nurvia & Nurul (2024), which states that poverty has a significant effect on economic growth. The t-statistic value of X3 (Income Inequality) is  $-2.724397 < \text{the } t\text{-table value of } 1.69726$ , and the probability value is  $0.0076 < 0.05$ . Therefore, income inequality has a significant effect on economic growth. This is in line with the research by Nurvia & Nurul (2024) and Lestari et al. (2024), which found that income inequality has a significant effect on economic growth.

#### b. F-test (simultaneous significance test)

The F-test, also known as the simultaneous test, is used to evaluate the significance of a regression model that has been created or the correlational impact of all independent variables on the dependent variable. If the model is proven to be significant, it can be used for prediction or forecasting purposes. Conversely, if it is not significant, the regression model cannot be relied upon for forecasting activities.

**Table 9. F-test (Simultaneous)**

|                    |           |                       |          |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------|
| R-squared          | 0.724851  | Mean dependent var    | 3.536176 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.624797  | S.D. dependent var    | 4.267222 |
| S.E. of Regression | 2.613836  | Akaike info criterion | 4.986098 |
| Sum squared resid  | 676.3819  | Schwarz criterion     | 5.778511 |
| Log likelihood     | -302.0546 | Hannan-Quinn criter.  | 5.308114 |
| F-statistic        | 7.244590  | Durbin-Watson stat    | 2.258229 |
| Prob(F-statistic)  | 0.000000  |                       |          |

Source: Data processed by researchers (2025)

Based on the F-test results in the table, the F-statistic value is  $7.244590$ , and the probability value (F-statistic) is  $0.000000 < 0.05$ . Therefore, it can be concluded that the variables of unemployment rate, poverty, and income inequality, which are independent variables, have an effect on economic growth.



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### c. Determination Coefficient Test ( $R^2$ test)

The coefficient of determination test, or  $R^2$  test, is used to assess the effectiveness of a model by showing the impact of independent variables together on the dependent variable. The  $R^2$  test value can be considered equivalent to the adjusted R-squared value in terms of the model's ability to describe the relationship between independent and dependent variables. When  $R^2$  increases, it indicates that the recommended research prediction model is better. The  $R^2$  coefficient of determination test is used to evaluate and anticipate the impact of independent variables on dependent variables. The  $R^2$  value ranges from 0 to 1 and indicates how well the regression model explains changes in the dependent variable. A high  $R^2$  value indicates that the regression model better explains the dependent variable.

**Table 10.** Determination Coefficient Test ( $R^2$ )

|                    |           |                       |          |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------|
| R-squared          | 0.724851  | Mean dependent var    | 3.536176 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.624797  | S.D. dependent var    | 4.267222 |
| S.E. of Regression | 2.613836  | Akaike info criterion | 4.986098 |
| Sum squared resid  | 676.3819  | Schwarz criterion     | 5.778511 |
| Log likelihood     | -302.0546 | Hannan-Quinn criter.  | 5.308114 |
| F-statistic        | 7.244590  | Durbin-Watson stat    | 2.258229 |
| Prob(F-statistic)  | 0.000000  |                       |          |

Source: Data processed by researchers (2025)

Based on the  $R^2$  test results in the table, the R-squared value is 0.724851 or 0.724851%. This means that the ability of the independent variables (unemployment rate, poverty, and income inequality) to explain the dependent variable (economic growth) is 0.724851%, while the remaining 0.27149% is explained by other variables outside the model.

#### The Effect of Unemployment Rates on Economic Growth

The regression analysis results show that the unemployment rate has a negative and significant effect on economic growth in Indonesia, with a coefficient value of -3.083497 and a probability value of  $0.0000 < 0.05$ . This means that every 1% increase in the unemployment rate will reduce economic growth. The findings of this study are in line with Okun's law, which states that a 1% increase in the unemployment rate will reduce economic growth by 2%. This means that there is a negative relationship between the unemployment rate and economic growth. The relationship between unemployment rate has a negative effect on economic growth. Reducing the unemployment rate through the optimization of human resources can increase potential economic output. In addition, this study aligns with Keynesian theory, developed by British economist John Maynard Keynes in 1936, which also supports the view that government spending can reduce unemployment and stimulate economic growth. This is supported by empirical evidence showing that unemployment causes a decline in labor productivity and socio-economic burdens that hinder economic progress. Therefore, reducing unemployment through appropriate policies is very important to support sustainable economic growth in Indonesia (Sopiah, 2024). The unemployment rate has a very significant impact on economic growth. When a country's economy experiences growth and has a continuous trend, it means that the income of the country's people will certainly increase due to the large number of jobs available (Mustika Johan et al., 2024). However, this study using the open unemployment rate shows that an increase in economic growth causes a corresponding increase in the unemployment rate. This is because the increase in economic growth



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is only enjoyed by a portion of the country's population. A decrease in the unemployment rate in Indonesia has not balanced the uneven distribution of economic growth. Therefore, government policies that focus on job creation, skills training, and increasing labor force participation will be very important in reducing the unemployment rate and improving overall economic welfare.

The results of this study are in line with the studies by Allen & Prabowo (2024), which states that unemployment rates have a negative impact on economic growth in Indonesia, where an increase in unemployment tends to reduce GDP per capita growth. Unemployment reduces household consumption, which is a major component of GRDP, thereby weakening aggregate demand and slowing economic growth. In addition, high unemployment reduces the tax base and limits the government's fiscal space to invest in infrastructure and social services. This study is also in line with research by Yuniarti et al. (2020), Mindo et al. (2024), and Abdullah et al. (2024), which found that the unemployment rate has a significant effect on economic growth. However, this is not in line with the research by Dewi & Rahmawati (2021), which states that the unemployment rate has no significant effect on economic growth. In this study, the unemployment rate was found to have a negative relationship with economic growth, which means that an increase in the unemployment rate can slow down economic growth.

#### **The Impact of Poverty on Economic Growth**

The poverty variable has a positive and insignificant effect on economic growth in Indonesia, with a coefficient value of 0.706846 and a probability value of  $0.0779 > 0.05\%$ . This means that the level of poverty in Indonesia does not affect the rate of economic growth in Indonesia. This study is not in line with Robert Solow's theory, which states that economic growth in a region caused by technological advances will reduce poverty in that region. In fact, poverty in several provinces in Indonesia in 2024 is still very high at 21.66%, which will certainly have an impact on economic growth. Theoretically, this study can be linked to the concept of inequality in modern economic development theory, such as the classical economic theory developed by Simon Kuznets in 1955, which states that in the early stages of development, poverty and inequality can increase even though the economy is growing. However, there is no specific economic theory that explicitly states that the effect of poverty on economic growth is positive and insignificant Muslihatinningsih (2020). This result is more of an empirical result from the analysis of economic data in Indonesia. This phenomenon shows that increased economic growth does not reflect the welfare of all groups in Indonesian society. The relatively small positive impact of economic growth on poverty reduction indicates that, despite progress in the economy, poverty levels tend to remain unchanged or even increase. To avoid the emergence of social inequality, it is necessary to implement policies that aim to promote fairness in the distribution of the benefits of growth (Amaliyah & Arif, 2023). Therefore, poverty alleviation is not only a moral obligation but also important for building a strong foundation for inclusive and sustainable economic growth, so that all segments of society can benefit from increased economic growth. It is hoped that the government can implement policies and programs that can effectively overcome poverty and that the community will be given equal opportunities.

The results of this study are in line with the findings of Bambang (2019), Elisabeth (2020), and Nesha et al. (2024), which states that poverty levels do not have a significant effect on economic growth. However, this study does not align with the findings of Nurvia & Nurul (2024), which states that poverty has a significant effect on economic growth. In addition, the results of this study differ from the findings of Yuli & Deden (2022), which states that poverty levels have a negative impact on economic growth in Indonesia.



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## The Effect of Income Inequality on Economic Growth

The income inequality variable has a negative and significant effect on economic growth. The regression results show that the income inequality variable has a coefficient value of -84.82510, which means that a 1% increase in income inequality will reduce economic growth in Indonesia by 84.82510. With a probability value of  $0.0076 < 0.05$  from the significance level, it can be interpreted statistically as having a significant relationship. This study is in line with the Neoclassical theory proposed by Robert Solow, which explains that if the level of income inequality decreases, it will affect the increase in economic growth and vice versa; if income inequality increases, it will affect the decline in economic growth. Thus, an increase in income inequality in Indonesia will affect economic growth. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (2025), income inequality in several provinces in Indonesia is still relatively high at 0.435%. Income inequality exists because low-income groups have difficulty meeting their basic needs, while high-income groups enjoy greater economic benefits. This shows that increasing income inequality can have an impact on the welfare of the population and will certainly have an impact on a country's economic growth. Rising income inequality is a serious challenge to creating a fair and inclusive society. Therefore, the government must consider the role of income inequality and find the best way to reduce income inequality and encourage economic growth.

The results of this study are in line with the findings of Mulia et al. (2024), which state that income inequality negatively and significantly affects economic growth across the Indonesian archipelago. This phenomenon is associated with a decrease in income inequality in the Indonesian islands and a decline in poverty rates. This study is also in line with the findings of Shekhar & Christian (2020) and Nurvia & Nurul (2024), which states that income inequality has a negative and significant impact on economic growth. However, the results of this study are not in line with the findings of Riyadi & Ghuzini (2022), which states that income inequality has a positive impact on economic growth.

## CONCLUSION

This study shows that unemployment and income inequality have a significant negative impact on economic growth in Indonesia. Conversely, poverty has a positive but insignificant effect on economic growth. These results indicate that although poverty has a slight impact on economic growth, its effect is not strong enough to be considered statistically significant. Simultaneously, these three variables together have a significant effect on economic growth in Indonesia. This confirms the importance of reducing unemployment and income inequality as key factors in supporting sustainable and inclusive economic development.

**Recommendations.** The government needs to focus on policies that create quality jobs and skills training to reduce unemployment and increase human resource productivity. Poverty alleviation efforts are carried out through effective programs to improve the welfare of the poor so that the benefits of economic growth can be felt evenly. These programs include reducing the burden of public expenditure through targeted subsidies, increasing public income through entrepreneurship development, and job creation. In addition, the government provides access to basic infrastructure such as clean water and sanitation, expands the coverage of employment social security, and supports public school programs to improve the quality of human resources capable of improving the welfare of the poor, so that the benefits of economic growth can be felt evenly. Furthermore, enhanced social protection as an effort to address income inequality includes various programs designed to serve vulnerable and poor communities. In addition, there is adaptive social



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protection that can respond quickly to crises such as natural disasters and pandemics. The government also focuses on improving the quality of human resources through scholarships and job training programs such as the Pre-Employment Card. This social protection is not only a safety net but also a long-term investment to improve individual capacity and competitiveness, to build an inclusive and equitable society. In addition, the government must also ensure that economic growth does not only focus on improving macroeconomic indicators but also on equitable and quality development that is felt by all levels of society.

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