

***The Effect of COVID-19 and Financial Distress on Tax Avoidance with Earnings Management as a Mediating Variable***

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***Abstract***

*This research is a quantitative study that aims to determine the effect of COVID-19 and financial distress on tax avoidance with earnings management as a mediating variable. Observations were made using secondary data in the form of financial reports of manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange for the period 2019–2022. A total of 304 observation data was collected from 76 sample companies. Hypothesis testing in this study uses panel data regression analysis, as well as the sobel test to test the mediating variable, using STATA analysis tool with a significant level of 5% and 10%. The results of these tests indicate that (1)there is no effect of COVID-19 on tax avoidance, (2)there is no effect of financial distress on tax avoidance, (3)COVID-19 has a negative effect on earnings management, (4) financial distress has a negative effect on earnings management, (5)earnings management has a positive effect on tax avoidance, (6)earnings management mediates the relationship between COVID-19 on tax avoidance, and (7)earnings management mediates the relationship between financial distress on tax avoidance.*

***Keywords:*** *COVID-19, financial distress, earnings management, and tax avoidance.*

# **Pengaruh COVID-19 dan *Financial Distress* terhadap Penghindaran Pajak dengan Manajemen Laba sebagai Variabel Mediasi**

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## **Abstrak**

Penelitian yang dilakukan merupakan penelitian kuantitatif yang bertujuan untuk mengetahui pengaruh COVID-19 dan *financial distress* terhadap penghindaran pajak dengan manajemen laba sebagai variabel mediasi. Pengamatan ini menggunakan data sekunder berupa laporan keuangan perusahaan manufaktur yang terdaftar di Bursa Efek Indonesia periode 2019–2022. Sejumlah 304 data observasi berhasil dikumpulkan dari 76 perusahaan sampel. Pengujian hipotesis dalam penelitian ini menggunakan analisis regresi data panel, serta uji sobel untuk menguji variabel mediasi, menggunakan alat analisis STATA dengan tingkat signifikansi 5% dan 10%. Hasil pengujian yang diperoleh adalah (1)tidak terdapat pengaruh COVID-19 terhadap penghindaran pajak, (2)tidak terdapat pengaruh *financial distress* terhadap penghindaran pajak, (3)COVID-19 berpengaruh negatif terhadap manajemen laba, (4)*financial distress* berpengaruh negatif terhadap manajemen laba, (5)manajemen laba berpengaruh positif terhadap penghindaran pajak, (6)manajemen laba memediasi hubungan COVID-19 pada penghindaran pajak, dan (7)manajemen laba memediasi hubungan *financial distress* pada penghindaran pajak.

**Kata kunci:** COVID-19, *financial distress*, manajemen laba, dan penghindaran pajak