

The Effect of Leverage, Liquidity, and Profitability on Tax Avoidance with Institutional Ownership as a Moderating Variable

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Abstract

This study examines the effect of leverage, liquidity, and profitability on tax avoidance while also investigating the moderating role of institutional ownership in these relationships. A quantitative approach was employed using secondary data obtained from food processing manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange during the observation period. The research sample consisted of 47 firm-year observations selected through purposive sampling. Panel data regression analysis was performed using Microsoft Excel and Stata. The empirical findings reveal that leverage, liquidity, profitability, and institutional ownership do not have a significant direct effect on tax avoidance. Furthermore, institutional ownership does not moderate the relationship between leverage and tax avoidance or between liquidity and tax avoidance. However, institutional ownership positively and significantly strengthens the relationship between profitability and tax avoidance. These findings suggest that the monitoring function of institutional investors becomes more effective in firms with higher profitability, thereby reinforcing the influence of profitability on corporate tax avoidance practices.

Keyword: *Tax Avoidance, Leverage, Liquidity, Profitability, Institutional Ownership.*

Pengaruh *Leverage*, Likuiditas, Dan Profitabilitas Terhadap *Tax Avoidance* Dengan Kepemilikan Institusional Sebagai Variabel Moderasi

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menguji pengaruh *leverage*, likuiditas, dan profitabilitas terhadap *tax avoidance* serta menganalisis peran kepemilikan institusional sebagai variabel moderasi pada hubungan tersebut. Penelitian menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif dengan data sekunder yang diperoleh dari perusahaan manufaktur sub sektor *food processing* yang tercatat di Bursa Efek Indonesia selama periode penelitian. Sampel dipilih menggunakan teknik *purposive sampling* sehingga diperoleh 47 observasi yang memenuhi kriteria penelitian. Analisis data dilakukan menggunakan regresi data panel dengan bantuan perangkat lunak Microsoft Excel dan Stata. Hasil pengujian menunjukkan bahwa *leverage*, likuiditas, profitabilitas, dan kepemilikan institusional tidak memiliki pengaruh yang signifikan terhadap *tax avoidance*. Pengujian moderasi menunjukkan bahwa kepemilikan institusional tidak mampu memoderasi hubungan *leverage* maupun likuiditas terhadap *tax avoidance*. Sebaliknya, kepemilikan institusional terbukti memperkuat pengaruh profitabilitas terhadap *tax avoidance* secara positif dan signifikan. Temuan tersebut mengindikasikan bahwa efektivitas fungsi pengawasan investor institusional lebih terlihat ketika perusahaan memiliki tingkat profitabilitas yang tinggi, sehingga kepemilikan institusional berperan dalam memperkuat hubungan antara profitabilitas dan *tax avoidance*.

Keyword: *Tax Avoidance*, *Leverage*, Likuiditas, Profitabilitas, Kepemilikan Institusional