

# **THE EFFECT OF FINANCIAL DISTRESS, FIRM SIZE, INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONER, AND AUDIT COMMITTEE TOWARDS VALUE OF FIRM WITH TAX AVOIDANCE AS AN INTERVENING VARIABLE ON BASIC AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRY SUBSECTOR AT INDONESIAN STOCK EXCHANGE**

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## **Abstract**

This research aims to analyze and prove the impact of Financial Distress, Firm Size, Independent Commissioner and Audit Committee towards Value of Firm with Tax Avoidance as an intervening variable. This research utilizes quantitative approach. The population of this research comes from basic and chemical industry, whereas the sample that is used in this research amounts to 7 companies which are taken using purposive sampling technique. The data collection is done by examining the yearly financial reports from Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX). The data analysis techniques are inspected thoroughly using classic assumption test, multiple linear regression analysis, and hypothesis test by way of Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS). The results of this research show that: (1) financial distress, firm size, and audit committee have an insignificant effect towards value of firm partially; (2) independent commissioner has a positive and significant effect towards value of firm; (3) tax avoidance has a negative and significant effect towards value of firm; (4) financial distress, firm size, independent commissioner, and audit committee have an insignificant effect towards tax avoidance; (5) tax avoidance is able to mediate firm size and value of firm; (6) tax avoidance is unable to mediate financial distress, independent commissioner, and audit committee towards value of firm.

**Keywords:** agency theory, signaling theory, financial distress, firm size, independent commissioner, audit committee, tax avoidance, value of firm

## **BACKGROUND**

According to Christiawan & Teagan (2007) in Listiadi (2015:198), the benchmark of a successful result of financial functions of a company lies in its financial performances. However, financial performances also receive an impact from the taxes mandated by the government. To them, tax is a source of income for the country. On the other hand, for the companies, taxes become a liability. In that regards, companies tend to do tax avoidance to minimize the tax being paid.

One of the reasons companies are able to avoid paying taxes is when they experience financial distress. Financial distress is affected by the global economy as the financial crisis strikes. Financial distress happens as a result of the declining state of the economy and company's finance which increases the possibility of being bankrupt. In order to avoid that, companies do tax avoidance so that they can survive (Campello et al.,

2012:15). Furthermore, it is done to avoid being delisted from Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX) due to the decreasing financial performance experienced by the company.

The second possibility why companies do not want to pay taxes is affected by the size of the firm. According to Lanis & Richardson (2013:88), larger companies will have a complex transaction reports which enables them to have tax avoidance. Consequently, firm size also affects value of firm. Large companies have the opportunity to grow to affect its profitability. The higher the profit a company has, the higher the value of firm will be to attract possible investors interested in the company.

The third instance companies avoid taxes is because of an agency conflict caused by a conflict of interest and an abusive practice between minority shareholders and corporate as a company. Good corporate governance (GCG) stands by to integrate a balance of power and authority to all management and employees within a company. In order to avoid tax avoidance, GCG is enacted to embrace transparency, accountability, responsibility, independency and fairness in every aspect of the company (Tandean, 2015). In this retrospect, the mechanism used in GCG is proxied through independent commissioner and audit committee as the eye to monitor the activities of the company.

Independent commissioners are proven to affect tax avoidance. It is due to the few amounts of independent commissioners to objectively pay attention thoroughly (Putra and Merkusiwati, 2016:707). Furthermore, it is also proven that independent commissioners hold an effect on value of firm as well. The possibilities of the company are trusted less by investors with the few numbers of independent commissioners (Dewi and Nugrahanti, 2014:75).

In addition, audit committee becomes another factor to affect companies to do tax avoidance. The correlation stood by the argument on how many members of audit committee who have a background in accountant or finance. Hence, it is safe to assume that companies that have less audit members who have accountant and finance management background will give an impact to the value of firm as well (Widyaningsih 2018:48).

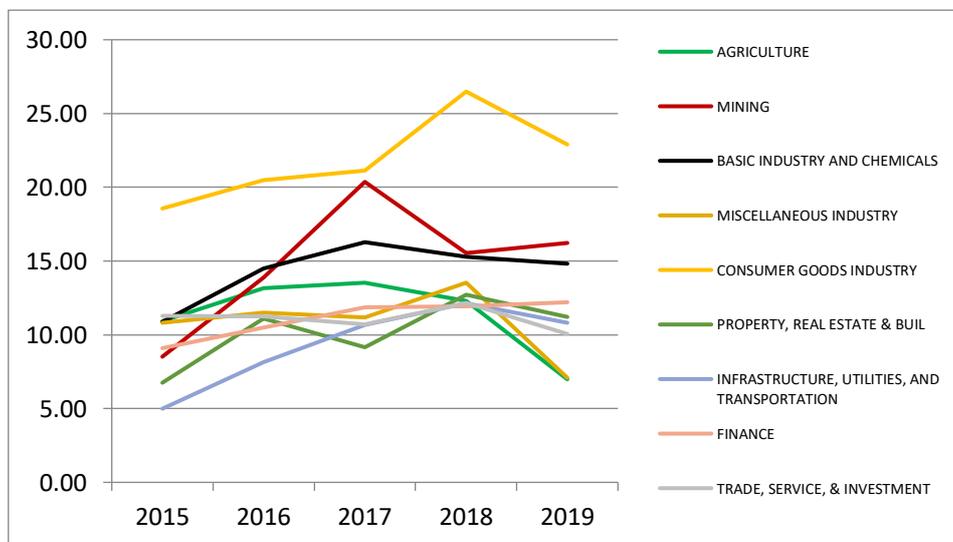


Figure 1 Percentage of Dividend Distribution by Companies Listed in Indonesian Stock Exchange Between 2015-2019

Knowing the phenomenon, this study looks at the influence of financial distress, firm size, independent commissioners, audit committees and tax avoidance have on value of firm. To find out the small amount of the company's value can be known through the dividend distribution of each sector's company for five years listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (Syaizamari, 2019). The percentage results of dividend distribution are shown in Figure 1. The basic industry and chemicals sector in 2015 to 2017 showed consecutive declines from a scale of 16.28 to a scale of 15.28 and a scale of 14.81. The basic industrial & chemical sector is considered unstable and successive declines in dividends can cause financial distress.

In addition to having a low dividend distribution, the second reason the researcher wants to analyze basic and chemical industry sector is because the manufacturing industry sector is one of the important sectors in national economic development. This sector contributes significantly to Indonesia's economic growth. The third reason why the researcher chooses basic and chemical industry sector is because most research on financial distress is only focused on manufacturing companies as a whole while for researches that are more focused on only one sector, especially the basic industrial and chemical sectors are still very rare (Agnes, 2014:5-6).

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Finance Management**

According to Fahmi (2015), finance management is a combination of knowledge and art which discusses, reviews and analyzes about how a finance manager utilizes all of the company's resources to seek, manage and disperse funds. The purpose of finance management is to maximize value of firm, stabilize company's finance, and minimize company's risks in the present and the future. In general, the main purpose of finance management is to give added value to the existing asset owned by shareholders.

### **Agency Theory**

According to Jensen & Meckling (1976:309), agency theory is a contract where one or more (principal) involves another person (agent) to control the company. The conflict of agency theory usually lies in the conflict of interest of different sides. To decrease that, companies can increase insider ownership, earnings after tax, and institutional holdings.

### **Signaling Theory**

According to Brigham & Houston (2001), signaling theory is an action taken by the company's management to provide a clue to the investors about how management with a beneficial prospect is able to avoid selling their stock and make new capital with other ways. Moreover, signaling theory explicitly tells why a manager of a company has an incentive to willingly share company's financial information to market share which will affect how investors will react. Through annual financial reports, companies are able to give out relevant information regarding financial and non-financial aspects the public gets to know.

### **Financial Performance**

According to Fahmi (2014), a good financial performance can be seen from the financial reports which has completed the standards and fulfilled the requirements within General Accepted Accounting Principle (GAAP).

### **Financial Distress**

According to Whitaker (1999) in Atmini (2005:461), financial distress happens if the company has a negative profit for several years. Other specific criteria when companies have financial distress are when companies stopped paying out dividends and experienced a large management reshuffle. Financial distress is calculated using Zmijewski model with financial ratios of return on asset, debt to asset ratio, and current ratio (Maulida et al., 2018) which is listed as so:

$$X = -4,3 - 4,5 \times ROA + 5,7 \times DAR - 0,004 \times CR$$

### **Firm Size**

According to Asri and Suardana (2016:83), firm size is the size of a company which is measured through how large or small the total asset a company has. Asset is used as a proxy of firm size because a large company is always identical to the large asset as well. Therefore, firm size is calculated as so:

$$SIZE = Ln (Total Asset)$$

### **Independent Commissioner**

According to Diantari and Ulupui (2016:713), the role of independent commissioner is not affiliated to any of the stakeholders, directors and other commissioners. The appearance of independent commissioner is hoped to minimize tax avoidance which the management reports in order to improve the integrity of the financial reports. The proportion of independent commissioner is calculated as so:

$$IC = \frac{\sum Independent\ Commissioner}{\sum Members\ Board\ of\ Commissioner} \times 100\%$$

### **Audit Committee**

According to Diantari and Ulupui (2016), audit committee is an additional committee to control the process of arranging financial reports so as to avoid the deception made by the management. According to Forum for Corporate Governance in Indonesia (FCGI) quoted by Surya and Yustiayanda (2008), audit committee holds responsibilities in three different aspects including financial reporting, corporate governance, and corporate control. The audit committee members who have a background in accountant and/or finance is calculated as so:

$$AC = \frac{\sum Audit\ Committee\ with\ Accountant\ Background}{\sum Members\ of\ Audit\ Committee} \times 100\%$$

## Tax Avoidance

According to Dewinta and Setiawan (2016:1586), tax avoidance is an attempt of minimizing taxes being paid. However, the practice still abides by the rules of tax regulations. Tax avoidance is a unique and complicated problem because it does not technically break the law. Tax avoidance is calculated with cash effective tax rate (Dyrenge et al, 2008) as so:

$$\text{Cash ETR} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^N \text{Cash Tax Paid}}{\sum_{t=1}^N \text{Pretax Income}}$$

## Value of Firm

According to Ridwan (2000), value of firm is a perception made by the investors towards the company which relates to the stock price. The higher stock price means that the value of firm higher. On the other hand, value of firm can be translated to market value as well because shareholders can be at ease with the price stock being listed (Pristiana et al., 2018). Value of firm is calculated by using price earnings ratio as so:

$$\text{PER} = \frac{\text{Market Value per Share}}{\text{Earnings per Share}}$$

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND HYPOTHESIS

### Conceptual Framework

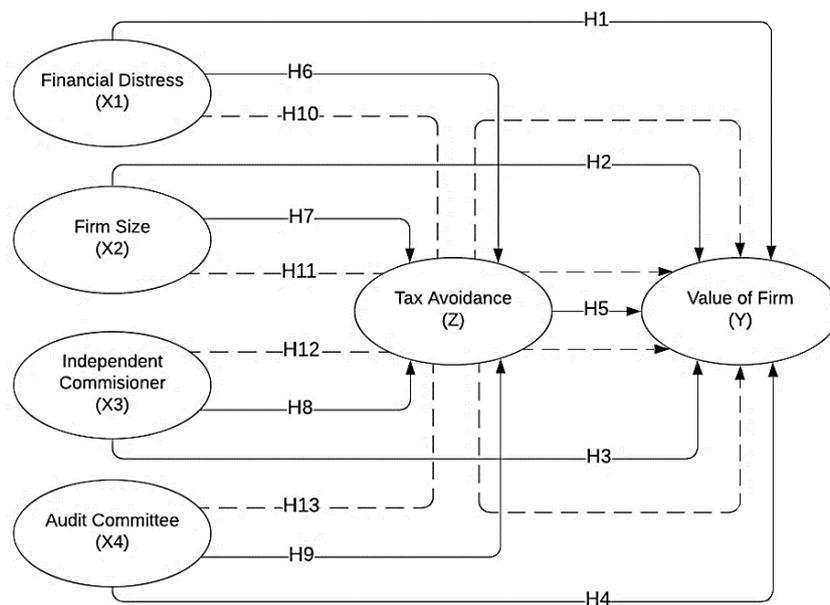


Figure 2 Conceptual Framework

### Research Hypothesis

- H1: Financial distress has a significant effect towards value of firm
- H2: Firm size has a significant effect towards value of firm
- H3: Independent commissioner has a significant effect towards value of firm
- H4: Audit committee has a significant effect towards value of firm
- H5: Tax avoidance has a significant effect towards value of firm

- H6: Financial distress has a significant effect towards tax avoidance  
 H7: Firm size has a significant effect towards tax avoidance  
 H8: Independent commissioner has a significant effect towards tax avoidance  
 H9: Audit committee has a significant effect towards tax avoidance  
 H10: Tax avoidance is able to mediate the effect of financial distress towards value of firm  
 H11: Tax avoidance is able to mediate the effect of firm size towards value of firm  
 H12: Tax avoidance is able to mediate the effect of independent commissioner towards value of firm  
 H13: Tax avoidance is able to mediate the effect of audit committee towards value of firm

## RESEARCH METHOD

### Research Design

This research is a causal research because it aims to find proof of the influence of independent variables has towards dependent variables. The variables of this research are financial distress, firm size, independent commissioner, audit committee, tax avoidance, and value of firm. This study uses secondary data in the form of documentation from the annual financial reports within 2017-2019 obtained through Indonesia Stock Exchange's website ([www.idx.co.id](http://www.idx.co.id)). The type of research used is quantitative with descriptive analysis because the data used relates to company's financial statements and performance summaries. The population of this research is basic and chemical industry sector.

In order to find the samples needed for the research, the researcher uses purposive sampling method with various criterias listed as so:

Table 1 Data Samples for Basic & Chemical Industry

NO	CRITERIAS	TOTAL
1	Manufacturing companies in basic and chemical industry which is listed in Indonesia Stock Exchange as of 2019.	80
2	Manufacturing companies in basic and chemical industry which does not provide annual financial reports throughout 2017-2019 in a row.	(3)
3	Manufacturing companies in basic and chemical industry which does not experience financial distress with Zmijewski model throughout 2017-2019	(66)
4	Manufacturing companies in basic and chemical industry which is not listed in Indonesian Stock Exchange after 2017	(2)
5	Manufacturing companies in basic and chemical industry which does not provide financial reports in Rupiah (IDR)	(2)
TOTAL SAMPLE		7

Based on table 1, the number of samples is amounted to 7 companies.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Normality Test

The normality test is useful for confirming the data assumptions of each variable research to be analyzed forms a normal distribution. To know whether the data in this study are normally distributed or not, it is using the Chi Square method. If the value of Asymp. Sig. > 0.05, the distribution the data is declared to meet the normality assumption, and if the value is < 0.05 then the distribution is interpreted as abnormal.

Table 2 Results of Normality Test

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	DEPENDENT VARIABLES	ASYMP. SIG. (> 0,05)	EXPLANATION
Financial Distress	Value of Firm	0,236	Normal Distribution
Firm Size	Value of Firm	0,236	Normal Distribution
Independent Committee	Value of Firm	0,384	Normal Distribution
Audit Committee	Value of Firm	0,371	Normal Distribution
Tax Avoidance	Value of Firm	0,247	Normal Distribution
Financial Distress	Tax Avoidance	0,247	Normal Distribution
Firm Size	Tax Avoidance	0,247	Normal Distribution
Independent Committee	Tax Avoidance	0,227	Normal Distribution
Audit Committee	Tax Avoidance	0,188	Normal Distribution

From table 2, it can be seen that all relationships between independent and dependent variables have a normal distribution in fulfilling the criteria of Asymp. Sig. > 0.05. Accordingly, the assumptions or requirements for normality in the regression model has been met.

### Linearity Test

Linearity test to determine whether each variable is independent the dependent variable has a linear relationship. Linearity test with using comparing the F test with table F. Furthermore, the F value obtained consulted with the F table value. If the value of F count  $\leq$  F table, then the correlation between the independent variables and the dependent variable is linear. Otherwise, if the value of F count  $>$  F table then the correlation between the independent variable and the variable bound is not linear.

Table 3 Results of Linearity Test

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	DEPENDENT VARIABLES	F COUNT	F TABLE (Sig. 0,05)	EXPLANATION
Financial Distress	Value of Firm	1,810	< 2,96	Linear
Firm Size	Value of Firm	0,772	< 2,96	Linear
Independent Committee	Value of Firm	0,090	< 2,96	Linear
Audit Committee	Value of Firm	0,460	< 2,96	Linear
Tax Avoidance	Value of Firm	0,250	< 2,96	Linear
Financial Distress	Tax Avoidance	0,000	< 3,16	Linear
Firm Size	Tax Avoidance	0,531	< 3,16	Linear
Independent Committee	Tax Avoidance	0,358	< 3,16	Linear
Audit Committee	Tax Avoidance	0,121	< 3,16	Linear

Looking at the linearity test data obtained from table 3, it is known that each independent variable has a correlation value F count  $<$  F table so that the assumptions or linearity requirements in the regression model have been met.

### Multicollinearity Test

Multicollinearity test is used to test whether the variable has a linear relationship with more than one variable. If the tolerance  $> 0.1$  or VIF  $< 10$ , then multicollinearity does not occur.

Table 4 Results of Multicollinearity Test

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	DEPENDENT VARIABLES	TOLERANCE ( $> 0,1$ )	VIF ( $< 10$ )	EXPLANATION
Financial Distress	Value of Firm	0,878	1,138	No Multicollinearity
Firm Size	Value of Firm	0,891	1,123	No Multicollinearity
Independent Committee	Value of Firm	0,845	1,184	No Multicollinearity
Audit Committee	Value of Firm	0,777	1,287	No Multicollinearity
Tax Avoidance	Value of Firm	0,840	1,190	No Multicollinearity
Financial Distress	Tax Avoidance	0,886	1,129	No Multicollinearity
Firm Size	Tax Avoidance	0,894	1,118	No Multicollinearity
Independent Committee	Tax Avoidance	0,858	1,165	No Multicollinearity
Audit Committee	Tax Avoidance	0,869	1,151	No Multicollinearity

Looking at the multicollinearity test data obtained from table 4, it is known that all variables meet the criteria of the tolerance value  $> 0.1$  and a VIF value  $< 10$ . It can be concluded that there is no multicollinearity.

### Autocorrelation Test

The autocorrelation test aims to see whether the regression model is linear there is a correlation between interrupting error at a certain period and the previous period. The autocorrelation test used in this research is the run test where if Asymp. Sig.  $< 0.05$  then there are symptoms of autocorrelation.

Table 5 Results of Autocorrelation Test

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	DEPENDENT VARIABLES	ASYMP. SIG. ( $> 0,05$ )	EXPLANATION
Financial Distress	Value of Firm	0,661	No Autocorrelation
Firm Size	Value of Firm		
Independent Committee	Value of Firm		
Audit Committee	Value of Firm		
Tax Avoidance	Value of Firm		
Financial Distress	Tax Avoidance	0,375	No Autocorrelation
Firm Size	Tax Avoidance		
Independent Committee	Tax Avoidance		
Audit Committee	Tax Avoidance		

Equation I (the dependent variable is value of firm) and equation II (the dependent variable is tax avoidance) have an Asymp Sig. value of 0.661 and 0.375 respectively. Because both equations' value are greater than 0.05, there is no deep autocorrelation linear analysis of this study.

### Heteroscedasticity Test

Heteroscedasticity test aims to test whether the regression model occurs the inequality of variance and residuals from one observation to another. The heteroscedasticity test type used in this study is called Glesjer test. If value significant > 0.05, there is no symptom of heteroscedasticity. On the contrary if the value significant <0.05, there is a symptom of heteroscedasticity.

Table 6 Results of Heteroscedasticity Test

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	DEPENDENT VARIABLES	SIG. (> 0,05)	EXPLANATION
Financial Distress	Value of Firm	0,904	No Heteroscedasticity
Firm Size	Value of Firm	0,420	No Heteroscedasticity
Independent Committee	Value of Firm	0,562	No Heteroscedasticity
Audit Committee	Value of Firm	0,329	No Heteroscedasticity
Tax Avoidance	Value of Firm	0,858	No Heteroscedasticity
Financial Distress	Tax Avoidance	0,485	No Heteroscedasticity
Firm Size	Tax Avoidance	0,070	No Heteroscedasticity
Independent Committee	Tax Avoidance	0,738	No Heteroscedasticity
Audit Committee	Tax Avoidance	0,763	No Heteroscedasticity

Looking at data of the heteroscedasticity test obtained from table 6, the relationship between the independent and dependent variable have a significant > 0.05, so the linear regression analysis is free of heteroscedasticity.

### Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

Table 7 Results of Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	DEPENDENT VARIABLES	UNSTANDARDIZED COEFFICIENTS	
		B	STD. ERROR
Financial Distress	Value of Firm	-0,940	1,277
Firm Size	Value of Firm	1,247	1,081
Independent Committee	Value of Firm	105,696	49,277
Audit Committee	Value of Firm	-6,278	20,874
Tax Avoidance	Value of Firm	-66,150	17,045
Financial Distress	Tax Avoidance	0,004	0,019
Firm Size	Tax Avoidance	-0,002	0,016
Independent Committee	Tax Avoidance	0,225	0,721
Audit Committee	Tax Avoidance	0,380	0,291

According to table 7, multiple linear regression analysis test results can be yielded into the formula as a result:

$$Y = -53,603 - 0,940X_1 + 1,247 X_2 + 105,696X_3 - 6,278X_4 - 66,150Z + e$$

$$Z = -0,264 + 0,004X_1 - 0,002X_2 + 0,225X_3 + 0,380X_4 + e$$

## T-Test

The t test aims to determine whether or not the independent variable partially affects the dependent variable. If  $\text{sig} < 0.05$  or  $\text{t count} > \text{t table}$ , then there is an effect of independent variable towards dependent variable or hypothesis is accepted.

Table 8 Results of T-Test

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	DEPENDENT VARIABLES	T COUNT (> 2,13145)	SIG (< 0,05)	EXPLANATION
Financial Distress	Value of Firm	-0,736	0,473	H1 is rejected
Firm Size	Value of Firm	1,154	0,267	H2 is rejected
Independent Committee	Value of Firm	2,145	0,049	H3 is accepted
Audit Committee	Value of Firm	-0,301	0,768	H4 is rejected
Tax Avoidance	Value of Firm	-3,881	0,001	H5 is accepted
		T COUNT (> 2,11991)	SIG (< 0,05)	
Financial Distress	Tax Avoidance	0,210	0,836	H6 is rejected
Firm Size	Tax Avoidance	-0,113	0,911	H7 is rejected
Independent Committee	Tax Avoidance	0,312	0,759	H8 is rejected
Audit Committee	Tax Avoidance	1,307	0,210	H9 is rejected

Table 8 shows the results of the t test output on the independent variable and dependent variable which can be described as follows:

1. Financial distress (X1) has t count of  $-0.736 < \text{t table}$  amounting to 2.13145 and a significance of  $0.473 > 0.05$ . This shows that H1 is rejected, so it can be concluded that financial distress has no effect on firm value.
2. Firm size (X2) has a t count of  $1.154 < \text{t table}$  of 2.13145 and a significance of  $0.267 > 0.05$ . This shows that H2 is rejected, so it can be concluded that firm size has no effect on company value.
3. Independent commissioner (X3) has t count of  $2.145 > \text{t table}$  of 2.13145 and a significance of  $0.049 < 0.05$ . This shows that H3 is accepted, so it can be concluded that independent commissioner has a positive and significant effect on firm value.
4. Audit committee (X4) has t count of  $-0.301 < \text{t table}$  amounting to 2.13145 and a significance of  $0.768 > 0.05$ . This shows that H4 is rejected, so it can be concluded that audit committee has no effect on firm value.
5. Tax avoidance (Z) has a t count of  $-3.381 > \text{t table}$  of -2.13145 and a significance of  $0.001 < 0.05$ . This shows that H5 accepted, so it can be concluded that tax avoidance has a negative and significant effect on firm value.
6. Financial distress (X1) has t count of  $0.210 < \text{t table}$  amounting to 2.11991 and significant  $0.836 > 0.05$ . This shows that H6 is rejected, so it can be concluded that financial distress has no effect on tax avoidance.
7. Firm size (X2) has t count of  $-0,113 < \text{t table}$  of 2.11991 and a significance of  $0.911 > 0.05$ . This shows that H7 rejected, so it can be concluded that firm size has no effect on tax avoidance.
8. Independent commissioner (X3) has t count of  $0.312 < \text{t table}$  of 2.11991 and a significance of  $0.759 > 0.05$ . This shows that H8 is rejected, so it can be concluded that independent commissioner has no effect on tax avoidance.

9. Audit committee (X4) has t count of 1.307 < t table of 2.11991 and a significance of 0.210 > 0.05. This indicates that H9 rejected, so it can be concluded that audit committee has no effect on tax avoidance.

### F-Test

Table 9 Results of F-Test

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	DEPENDENT VARIABLES	F	Sig
Financial Distress	Value of Firm	5.113	.006 <sup>b</sup>
Firm Size	Value of Firm		
Independent Committee	Value of Firm		
Audit Committee	Value of Firm		
Tax Avoidance	Value of Firm		
Financial Distress	Tax Avoidance	.732	.583 <sup>b</sup>
Firm Size	Tax Avoidance		
Independent Committee	Tax Avoidance		
Audit Committee	Tax Avoidance		

Table 9 shows the results of the F test calculated from equation I (the dependent variable is value of firm) is 5,113 while the value of F table is 2.85, so F count > F table and the significance is 0.006 < 0.05. This shows that the financial distress variable, firm size, independent commissioner, audit committee and tax avoidance simultaneously have an effect on firm value.

Table 9 also shows the results of the calculated F test from equation II (the dependent variable is tax avoidance) is 0.732 while the value of F table is 2.95, so the F count < F table and the significance is 0.538 > 0.05. This shows that the variable financial distress, firm size, independent commissioner, and audit committee simultaneously have no effect on tax avoidance.

### Regression Coefficient Analysis

Table 10 Results of Regression Coefficient Analysis

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	DEPENDENT VARIABLES	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
Financial Distress	Value of Firm	.794 <sup>a</sup>	.630	.507	21.351650
Firm Size	Value of Firm				
Independent Committee	Value of Firm				
Audit Committee	Value of Firm				
Tax Avoidance	Value of Firm				
Financial Distress	Tax Avoidance	.393 <sup>a</sup>	.155	-.057	.313172
Firm Size	Tax Avoidance				
Independent Committee	Tax Avoidance				
Audit Committee	Tax Avoidance				

Based on table 10, it can be seen that the value of R Square in equation I (the dependent variable is value of firm) is equal to 0.630. This shows that financial distress, firm size, independent commissioners, audit committee, and tax avoidance are able to explain the variations of value of firm to about 0.630 or 63% while the rest is 0.370 or 37% is influenced by other variables or factors that are not examined in this research.

On the other hand, the value of R Square in equation II (the dependent variable is tax avoidance) is 0.155. This shows that financial distress, firm size, independent commissioner and audit committee was able to explain the variations of tax avoidance to about 0.155 or 15.5% while the rest of 0.845 or 84.5% is influenced by other variables or factors that are not examined in this study.

**Path Analysis**

Path analysis is a part of regression analysis. However, path analysis does not just test effect partially, but it also describes whether or not there is influence directly given from the independent variable through an intervening or mediating variable to the dependent variable.

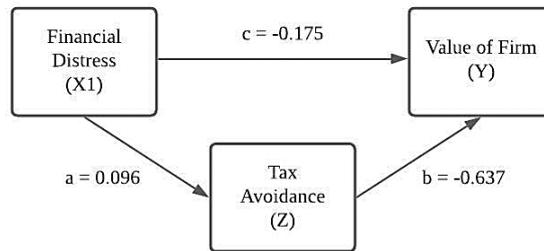


Figure 3 Path Analysis of Tax Avoidance as a Mediating Variable for Financial Distress and Value of Firm

Based on figure 3, significant value of a is 0.096 and b is -0.637, so it can be concluded that sig a > 0.05 and sig b < 0.05. As a result, tax avoidance is not able to mediate the relationship between financial distress and value of firm. Although the significant value of c is -0.175 < 0.05, it can be concluded that there is no mediation in the model (unmediation)

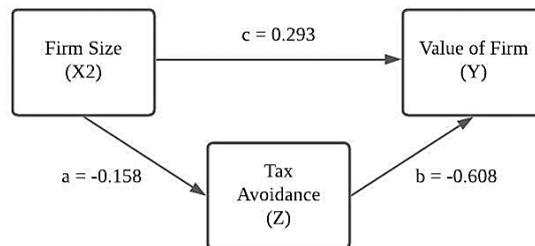


Figure 4 Path Analysis of Tax Avoidance as a Mediating Variable for Firm Size and Value of Firm

Based on figure 4, the significant value of a is -0.158 and b is -0.608, so it can be concluded that sig a and sig b < 0.05. As a result, tax avoidance is able to mediate the relationship between firm size and value of firm. Looking from the significant value of c is 0.293 > 0.05, it can be concluded that there is a full mediation in the model.

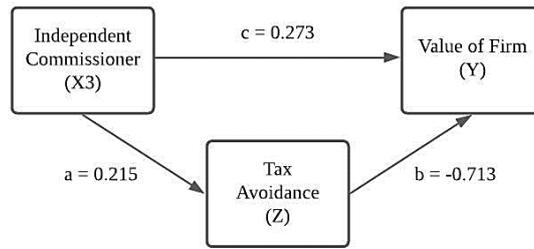


Figure 5 Path Analysis of Tax Avoidance as a Mediating Variable for Independent Commissioner and Value of Firm

Based on figure 5, the significant value of  $a$  is 0.215 and  $b$  is -0.713, so it can be concluded that  $\text{sig } a > 0.05$  and  $\text{sig } b < 0.05$ . As a result, tax avoidance is not able to mediate the relationship between financial distress and value of firm. Although the significant value of  $c$  is  $0.273 > 0.05$ , it can be concluded that there is no mediation in the model (unmediation).

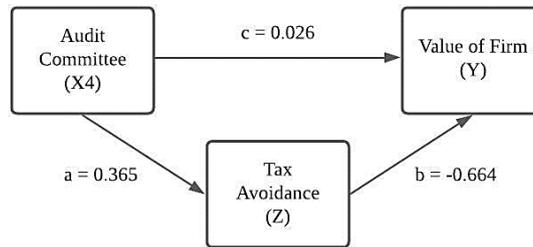


Figure 6 Path Analysis of Tax Avoidance as a Mediating Variable for Audit Committee and Value of Firm

Based on figure 6, the significant value  $a$  is 0.365 and significant  $b$  amounting to -0.664, so it can be concluded that  $\text{sig } a > 0.05$  and  $\text{sig } b < 0.05$ . As a result, tax avoidance is not able to mediate the relationship between audit committee and value of firm. Looking from the significant value of  $c$  is  $0.026 < 0.05$ , it can be concluded that there is no mediation in the model (unmediation)

## Discussion

After testing all thirteen hypotheses, the next step is to discuss the test results by comparing it to previous researchers which became a reference for researchers to increase this research's accuracy. This research can be described as follows:

1. The effect of financial distress on value of firm

The first hypothesis examines the effect of financial distress towards value of firm with  $t$  value of  $-0.736 < t$  table amounting to 2.13145 and a significance value of  $0.473 > 0.05$ , so the first hypothesis in this study is rejected. Therefore, it can be concluded that financial distress has no significant effect on firm value. It can be assumed that although the financial distress possibilities are low or high, value of firm will not be affected. This result is in accordance with the previous research made by Anggrahini et al. (2018) which stated that financial distress has no significant effect on value of firm.

2. The effect of firm size on value of firm

The second hypothesis examines the effect of firm size on value of firm with t count of  $1.154 < t$  table of  $2.13145$  and a significance value  $0.267 > 0.05$ , so the second hypothesis in this study is rejected. Therefore, it can be concluded that the firm size has no significant effect to value of firm. It can be assumed that firm size, whether large or small, will not affect value of firm. This result is consistent with previous researches of Suffah & Riduwan (2016) and Indriyani (2017) which founded that firm size has no significant effect on value of firm.

3. The effect of independent commissioner on value of firm

The third hypothesis examines the effect of independent commissioner to value of firm with t value of  $2.145 > t$  table amounting to  $2.13145$  and a significance of  $0.049 < 0.05$ , so the third hypothesis in this research is accepted. Therefore, it can be concluded that the commissioner independent has a significant positive effect on value of firm. It can be assumed that the greater the proportion of independent commissioner in the company's board of commissioners, the more impact it has to value of firm. This result is in accordance with the previous researches of Ayu Fitriyani (2017) and Valensia & Khairani (2019) which stated that independent commissioner has a positive and significant effect on value of firm.

4. The effect of audit committee on value of firm

The fourth hypothesis examines the effect of audit committee on value of firm with t value of  $-3.381 > t$  table of  $-2.13145$  and a significance of  $0.001 < 0.05$ , so the fourth hypothesis in this research is rejected. Therefore, it can be concluded that the audit committee has no a significant effect on value of firm. It can be assumed that the number of members of the audit committee who are competent has no impact on value of firm. This result is in accordance with previous researches made by Rohmah (2019), Valensia & Khairani (2019) as well as Nurul Fauzi & Isroah (2019) which stated that the audit committee has no significant effect on firm value.

5. The effect of tax avoidance on value of firm

The fifth hypothesis examines the effect of tax avoidance on value of firm with t value of  $-3.381 > t$  table of  $-2.13145$  and a significance of  $0.001 < 0.05$ , so the fifth hypothesis in this research is accepted. Therefore, it can be concluded that tax avoidance significant negative effect on firm value. It can it is assumed that the more often companies do tax avoidance, the worse the impact on it has on value of firm. This result is in accordance with previous researches made by Apsari & Setiawan (2018) and Ampriyanti & Aryani (2016) which stated that tax avoidance has a negative and significant effect on value of firm.

6. The effect of financial distress on tax avoidance

The sixth hypothesis examines the effect of financial distress on tax avoidance with the t value of  $0.210 < t$  table of  $2.11991$  and significant  $0.836 > 0.05$ , so the sixth hypothesis in this research is accepted. Therefore, it can be concluded that financial distress has no significant effect on tax avoidance. It can be assumed that the degree of financial distress happening will not impact the possibility or be a factor of tax avoidance. This result is consistent to previous researches belonging to Puspita Rani (2017) and Valensia & Khairani (2019) which stated that financial distress has no significant effect on tax avoidance.

7. The effect of firm size on tax avoidance

The seventh hypothesis examines the effect of firm size on tax avoidance with the t value of  $-0,113 < t$  table of 2.11991 and a significance of  $0,911 > 0,05$ , so the seventh hypothesis in this study is rejected. Therefore, it can be concluded that the firm size has no significant effect on tax avoidance. It can be assumed that whether firm size is large or small, it will not give an impact on tax avoidance. The result of this study are in accordance with previous researches owned by Warih (2019), Nugraheni & Pratomo (2018) and Kalbuana et al. (2020) which states that firm size has no significant effect on tax avoidance.

8. The effect of independent commissioner on tax avoidance

The eighth hypothesis examines the effect of independent commissioner on tax avoidance with the t value of  $0,312 < t$  table of 2.11991 and a significance of  $0,759 > 0,05$ , so the eighth hypothesis in this research is rejected. Therefore, it can be concluded that independent commissioner has no significant effect on tax avoidance. It can be assumed that the proportion of independent commissioners in a company has no influence on the company's decision to do tax avoidance. This result is in accordance with previous researches made by Valensia & Khairani (2019), Diantari & Ulupui (2016) and Prasetyo & Pramuka (2018) which stated that independent commissioner has no significant effect on tax avoidance.

9. The effect of audit committee on tax avoidance

The ninth hypothesis examines the effect of audit committee on tax avoidance with the t value of  $1,307 < t$  table of 2.11991 and a significance  $0,210 > 0,05$ , so the ninth hypothesis in this study is rejected. Therefore, it can be concluded that audit committee has no significant effect towards tax avoidance. It can be assumed that the number of competent audit committee members do not have an impact on the company's desire to do tax avoidance. This result is consistent with previous researches of Warih (2019), Puspita Rani (2017) and Indiyani Lis (2019) which states that the audit committee has no significant effect on tax avoidance.

10. The effect of tax avoidance as a mediating variable of financial distress and value of firm

The tenth hypothesis examines the effect of financial distress on firm value that is mediated by tax avoidance with the value of significant a is 0.096 and significant of b is -0.637, so it can be concluded that sig. a  $> 0,05$  and sig. b  $< 0,05$ . Therefore, tax avoidance is not able to mediate the relationship between financial distress and value of firm. Although the significant value of c is  $-0,175 < 0,05$ , it can be concluded that the tenth hypothesis is rejected because tax avoidance is unable to mediate the financial distress and value of firm. It can be assumed that the possibility of tax avoidance caused by the effect of financial distress does not have a direct and significant impact on value of firm. This result is in accordance with the previous research owned by Valensia & Khairani (2019) who stated that tax avoidance is not able to mediate the relationship between financial distress and value of firm.

11. The effect of tax avoidance as a mediating variable of firm size and value of firm

The eleventh hypothesis examines the effect of firm size on value of firm that is mediated by tax avoidance with a significant value of a is -0.158 and significant of b is -0.608, so it can be concluded that sig a and sig b  $< 0,05$ . Therefore, tax avoidance is able mediate the relationship between firm size and

firm value. Since significant c's value is  $0.293 > 0.05$ , it can be concluded that the hypothesis the eleventh is accepted because tax avoidance is able to fully mediate firm size and company value. It can be assumed that the possibility of tax avoidance in accordance with the size of the firm will have an indirect impact on firm value. This result is consistent with the previous research by Ratnawati et al. (2018) which stated that tax avoidance is able to mediate the relationship between firm size and value of firm.

12. The effect of tax avoidance as a mediating variable of independent commissioner and value of firm

The twelfth hypothesis examines the effect of independent commissioner on value of firm that is mediated by tax avoidance with significant value of a is 0.215 and significant of b is -0.713, so it can be concluded that sig. a  $> 0.05$  and sig. b  $< 0.05$ . Therefore, tax avoidance is not able to mediate the relationship between independent commissioners and value of firm. Although the significant value of c is  $0.273 > 0.05$ , it can be concluded that the twelfth hypothesis is rejected because tax avoidance is unable to mediate independent commissioner and value of firm. It can be assumed that the possibility of tax avoidance caused by the number of independent commissioners has no significant impact on value of firm directly and indirectly. This result is in accordance with the previous research of Valensia & Khairani (2019) which stated that tax avoidance is not able to mediate the relationship between independent commissioner and value of firm.

13. The effect of tax avoidance as a mediating variable of audit committee and value of firm

The thirteenth hypothesis examines the effect of audit committee on firm value that is mediated by tax avoidance with a significant value of a is 0.365 and significant of b is -0.664, so it can be concluded that sig a  $> 0.05$  and sig b  $< 0.05$ . Therefore, tax avoidance is not able to mediate the relationship between the audit committee and value of firm. Although the significant value of c is  $0.026 < 0.05$ , it can be concluded that the thirteenth hypothesis is rejected because tax avoidance is not able to mediate audit committee and value of firm. It can be assumed that the occurrence of tax avoidance caused by the number of the competent audit committee members does not have a significant impact on value of firm directly or indirectly. This result is in accordance with the previous research belonging to Valensia & Khairani (2019) which states that tax avoidance is not able to mediate the relationship between audit committee and value of firm.

## CONCLUSION

According to this research, the results founded can be concluded as follows:

1. Financial distress has an insignificant effect towards value of firm
2. Firm size has an insignificant effect towards value of firm
3. Independent commissioner has a positive and significant effect towards value of firm
4. Audit committee has an insignificant effect towards value of firm
5. Tax avoidance has a negative and significant effect towards value of firm
6. Financial distress has an insignificant effect towards tax avoidance
7. Firm size has an insignificant effect towards tax avoidance
8. Independent commissioner has an insignificant effect towards tax avoidance
9. Audit committee has an insignificant effect towards tax avoidance

10. Tax avoidance is unable to mediate the effect of financial distress towards value of firm
11. Tax avoidance is able to fully mediate the effect of firm size towards value of firm
12. Tax avoidance is unable to mediate the effect of independent commissioner towards value of firm
13. Tax avoidance is unable to mediate the effect of audit committee towards value of firm

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