# Quality Audit: Audit Committee Independence, Accounting Expertise and Financial Expertise

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#### **ABSTRACT**

This study aims to examine the impact of audit committee characteristics, namely independence, accounting expertise membership and financial expertise membership of the audit committee on audit quality. This study analyzes the effect of audit committee independence, accounting expertise and financial expertise of the audit committee on the audit quality of Manufacturing Companies listed on the IDX during the period 2018-2023. By using Eviews 12 in statistical analysis, Panel data regression is the analysis method used with the GLS (Generalized Least Squared) approach, this study found that audit committee independence has an effect on audit quality. This means that the more independent audit committee members, the higher the audit quality. Accounting expertise and financial expertise were not found to have an effect on audit quality. The results of this study have implications that the importance of audit committee independence in maintaining the independence and skepticism of external auditors so that audit quality can be improved. This study provides findings that both accounting expertise and financial expertise of the audit committee contribute little to audit intensity. This study focuses on audit committees that have members who are accounting experts and financial experts who are different disciplines so that they can see how they affect. In addition, data testing is carried out using the balanced panel data method so that the data has the same cross-section unit and number of time series observations.

Keywords: Quality audit, Independence committee audit, audit committee accounting expertise, audit committee financial expertise on quality audit.

#### INTRODUCTION

The development of accounting and auditing is currently very rapid. Accounting is a process of recording to make a financial report. Financial report information is used as a means of communication between the company and the public. Therefore, financial reports are required to describe the actual condition of the company. The preparation of financial reports is made to present information about the performance, financial condition and transformation of the company's financial position which is used to make decisions(Alpriyatna & Muhyarsyah, 2023). Investors need assurance to gain confidence that the financial statements presented depict the actual state of the company. Therefore, data verification is carried out with audit activities. (Tandiontong, 2015). Auditing is an activity of denial, namely an argumentative statement that rejects the thesis through the Internal Auditor, Audit Committee and External Auditor.(Apollo, 2021). Financial reports can be used by the public including investors after going through several criticisms including Internal Auditors, Audit Committees and External Auditors. A quality audit will maintain investor trust so as to attract more investors and

describe the company's performance. (Fachruddin et al., 2017; Suryanto et al., 2017; KPMG, 2022). The current phenomenon is that investor confidence in audit quality is increasingly being questioned. Several cases have emerged due to the failed audits of AP Marlinna, AP Merliyana Syamsul and KAP Satrio, Bing, Eny and Rekan (Rekan, one of Delloite Indonesia's partners) for the company PT SNP(OJK, 2018), The case of KAP Purwantono, Sungkoro & Surja due to failure to apply professional skepticism and failure to obtain audit evidence on ISAT(PCAOB, 2017), AISA in 2019 in the 2017 financial statements the company directors beautified the financial statements. KAP Tanubrata, Sutanto, Fahmi, Bambang & Partners, namely Kasner Sirumapea, violated Article 66 of the PM Law jis, OJK No. 13 / PJOK.03 / 2017, SA 315 SPAP, SA 500 SPAP, SA 560 SPAP and SA 700 SPAP(OJK,

In its implementation, there are internal and external parties that play a role in improving the quality of the company's audit. External parties are auditors and internal parties are the audit committee and management.(KPMG, 2022)so that two-way communication between the audit committee and



auditors is the key to audit quality.(KPMG, 2022; Tandiontong, 2015). The audit committee was formed with the aim of improving the quality of financial reporting and audit quality, which is a corporate governance mechanism.(Dewi & Eriandani, 2022). In carrying out its function as a supervisor, the audit committee has characteristics including size, independence, frequency of meetings, and the total number of committee members who are financial experts.(Syofyan, 2021). It is emphasized that an effective and independent audit committee with relevant expertise contributes to audit quality.(Sulaiman, 2017).

The literature explains the relationship between audit committee characteristics and audit quality which are complementary. (Mustafa et al., 2018;), The audit committee has a significant influence on audit quality(Suryanto et al., 2017).(Al-Rawashdeh Abdalwahab Alkabbii, 2020)recommends the need to activate the role of the audit committee because it has a positive impact on increasing audit efficiency. Independence has succeeded in solving the independence problem for external auditors.(Nik Abdul Majid et al., 2022)A experienced and independent audit committee will make supervision effective so that it can achieve the goal of providing reliable and highquality financial information to investors.(Paul Munter, 2021). The presence of independent directors of the audit committee has higher supervision so that it requires higher requirements in audit efforts, ultimately resulting in higher audit costs. The proportion of financial expertise, the proportion of accounting expertise has an influence on audit quality.(Dewi & Eriandani, 2022)Other studies have shown that there is a relationship between a higher level of financial expertise of the audit committee and higher audit fees.(Ghafran & O'Sullivan,. 2017), besides that, the audit committee's expertise has a positive relationship with audit quality.(Khudhair et al., 2019).Based on the results of the literature review in the public and private sectors, it was revealed that the financial expertise of the audit committee, audit committee size and audit committee meetings have a main effect on audit quality.(Sharhan & Bora, 2020).

Most researchers test that financial and accounting expertise is the same, but researchers see that both accounting and finance are different disciplines. Then supported by OJK regulation no. 55/PJOK.04/2015 which stipulates that one of the requirements to become a member of the audit committee is to have at least one person's financial and accounting expertise.

#### **METHODS**

This research is a descriptive analysis research where the researcher analyzes the data by describing the collected data as it is. (Sugivono. 2019) (Pugu, 2024).. The independent variable in this study is audit quality, which is interpreted as a process (input, process, output context)(Tandiontong, 2015; Asiriuwa et al., 2018). Based on the literature, many measurements are used in measuring audit quality.(Tandiontong. 2015). In order to enrich the analysis, audit quality is measured by audit fees by viewing the audit contract and client as important inputs in the audit process so that audit fees are a key aspect of the contractual environment between the auditor and the client, where higher audit fees indicate more cost inputs required in staff hours. experience and checking.(Dewi & Eriandani, 2022). researchers use audit fees as a measure of audit quality because audit fees have proven to be valid.(Rajgopal et al., 2020). Measurement is in the form of the natural logarithm of the audit fee.

Meanwhile, the dependent variable of this study is the independence of the audit committee, which is measured by comparing the number of independent members with the total number of audit committee members. (Mustafa et al. 2018), the accounting expertise of the audit committee can be measured by comparing the total number of members who have accounting expertise with the number of audit committee members, the expertise of the audit committee who are financial experts is measured by the ratio of the total number of members who have expertise in finance to the total number of audit committee members. (Dewi & Eriandani, 2022).

Manufacturing companies listed on the IDX in the period 2018-2023 are the population in this study. The manufacturing sector is one of the important sectors which contributed the highest GDP in the second quarter of 2023 at 18.25 percent. (BPS, 2023). This is something important where Manufacturing companies must always maintain audit quality to be able to provide assurance to investors. Sampling was carried out using the purposive sampling method with several research criteria.

Eviews software is used to test and analyze balanced panel data to obtain good results. REM (Random Effect Model) was selected as the best model from FEM (Fixed Effect Model) and CEM (Common Effect Model) after testing the selection of the best model with the Chow test, Hausman test and LM test. After that, a classical assumption test



was carried out with the GLS (Generalized Least Squared) approach, namely the normality test, multicollinearity test, Autocorrelation Test. The REM model with the GLS approach does not need to be tested for heteroscedasticity because the GLS method assumes that it is free from heteroscedasticity(Gujarati & Porter, 2009). After the data is feasible, a hypothesis test is carried out in the form of a regression test with the T-test.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on purposive sampling, there are 220 panel data samples. **Table 1** shows that on average the audit committee Independence value of the

analysis unit is 0.99 and this value is quite low compared to the highest value of 1.00. This analysis unit also has an average audit committee accounting expertise of 0.65, audit committee financial expertise of 0.53 with an average audit fee of 1,525,018,722. Statistically, the average value of the independence variable, expert accounting membership and expert financial membership of the audit committee is above the standard deviation value which means that the panel data of this study is good. While the average value of audit quality has a value below the standard deviation.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics						
	AcIndepi (X1)	AcExpertise (X2)	ExpertiseKeu (X3)	Audit Quality (Y)		
Mean	0.9920	0.6542	0.5307	1,525,018,722		
Median	1,0000	0.6667	0.3333	774,000,000		
Maximum	1,0000	1,0000	1,0000	8,900,000,000		
Minimum	0.7500	0.3333	0.2500	40,000,000		
Std Deviation	0.043979	0.222843	0.250138	1,877,252,252		
Observations	220	220	220	220		

Next, determine the best model by conducting a model suitability test. The first test is the Chow test, which shows that the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) is better than the Common Effect Model (CEM). The second test is the Hausman Test, which shows that the Random Effect Model (REM) is better than the Fixed Effect Model (FEM), and the third test is the LM Test, which shows that the Random Effect Model (REM) is better than the Common Effect Model (CEM). Therefore, the best model chosen in this study is the REM (Random Effect Model). By

applying the approachGeneralized Least Squared (GLS) on REM, the data meets the requirements of the classical assumption test, so a regression test is carried out.

Based on Table 2, the R-Square value of 0.034 shows that the variables of audit committee independence, audit committee accounting membership expertise and audit committee financial membership expertise can explain 3.4 percent of audit quality, while the remaining 96.6 percent can be explained by other variables outside this study.

Table 2. Hypothesis Testing

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C X1 X2	18.30753 2.162848 0.168326	0.861097 0.864835 0.209009	21.26071 2.500878 0.805353	0.0000 0.0131 0.4215
X3	-0.005831	0.155057	-0.037607	0.9700

# Independence of the Audit Committee on Audit Quality

Based on the study output, the audit committee independence variable has a positive impact on the audit quality of manufacturing companies listed on the IDX in the 2018-2022 period, this is evidenced by a significance value of 0.0131 < 0.05. This result can be interpreted that the independence of the audit committee affects the

audit quality with the proxy of audit fees of manufacturing companies listed on the IDX in the 2018-2022 period.

The results of this study are in line with other research conducted by(Rani, 2018),(Al-Hajaya, 2019). In his research, the results obtained were that the independence of the audit committee has a higher demand for supervision, thus requiring stricter requirements in audit efforts. This will have an



impact on high audit costs and higher audit quality. In addition, with the existence of an independent audit committee, auditor independence will be better maintained. As found from the research results(Nik Abdul Majid et al., 2022)who found that a fully independent audit committee successfully resolved the problem of external auditor independence so that the audit committee needs to be careful in establishing rules and policies to maintain auditor independence.

This is in line with what was conveyed by (Paul Munter, 2024) that the independence of the audit committee and supervision of independent auditors is the first step in the commitment to audit quality. The audit committee in providing recommendations for the appointment of independent auditors must prioritize audit quality and encourage auditors to be able to compete in obtaining assignments based on their expertise in conducting quality audits and the level of professional skepticism.

The audit committee must ensure audit quality by always evaluating the process of assessing auditor performance including the relevant level of assignment. Based on this, the formation of the audit committee must consider the duties and authorities of supervision and consideration of the company's internal supervision of the audit quality reporting of other companies, have the appropriate industry expertise of the audit team and whether there is sufficient engagement and leadership to the engagement team, whether the composition of the engagement team staff and total working hours such as the composition of experience on the team and the use of specialist auditors. Based on this, the audit committee is required to work to support in maintaining auditor independence and is required to facilitate the application of auditor professional skepticism in order to maximize audit quality.

Resource dependency theory of (Pfeffer & Salancik, 2015) According to the explanation of the independence of the audit committee, namely the use of external resources can help improve audit quality by ensuring that auditors work objectively and are not influenced by other interests.

Companies basically have the goal of being able to survive in the community. Therefore, one of the efforts made is to gain legitimacy from the community. Financial reports are a form of communication between the company and the community (investors, creditors and government). Therefore, financial reports are required to provide accurate and accountable information to their users.

The independence of the audit committee will help maintain this legitimacy by assisting the board of commissioners in overseeing the financial reporting and audit process.

This study identifies the importance of independence as part of the characteristics of the audit committee. In addition, this study supports OJK regulations regarding the requirements for the formation of an independent audit committee consisting of 1 independent board of commissioners and 2 independent members who are parties from outside the issuer or public company.

### Audit Committee Accounting Expertise on Audit Quality

Based on the study output, it shows that the audit committee accounting expertise variable has no influence on the audit quality of manufacturing companies listed on the IDX in the 2018-2022 period, this is evidenced by a significance value of 0.4215> 0.05. The results of this study are in accordance with previous research, namely(Seini Odudu al.. 2018).(Januarti 2020),(Simanullang et al., 2021)which explains that there is no influence between the audit committee's accounting expertise and quality. This is due to the lack of audit committee members' membership in the accounting field in carrying out their functions and responsibilities in supervising the company.

A total of 118 companies in the sample or 54% of companies have 2 accounting experts. This finding shows that the company has the ability to carry out the function of monitoring the financial reporting process and the audit process. However, in reality, empirical results do not show any influence of the audit committee's accounting expertise on audit quality. This is if examined more deeply from several aspects of the indicator findings that provide information that audit committee members who have a bachelor's degree in accounting economics are 32.9% (age range 24-81 people), then there are 12% of the total audit committee members who have supporting certification, while only 41% of audit committee members have adequate work experience in accounting. Which means that more than 50% (or precisely 59%) of members of the audit committee do not have adequate experience that can support the performance of the audit committee. In addition, there are 24-29 year olds among them who have work experience as external audits and accounting. An audit committee that has experience as an auditor is an important thing that can support implementation of its work. However, considering the age that is monitored as young, the



capacity to carry out supervision as a member of the audit committee cannot be ascertained as sufficient.

The researcher analyzed further and obtained information that as many as 7% of companies do not have audit committee members who are accounting experts. This shows that several companies do not comply with OJK provisions regarding the requirements for audit committee members where companies are required to have audit committee members who are accounting experts. Namely in OJK regulation No. 55 / PJOK.04 / 2015, the appointment of audit committee members must meet the requirements by having at least 1 audit committee member who is an accounting expert. If the company studied meets these requirements, the research results may be different.

From the explanation above, it can be seen that although based on OJK regulations, the Audit Committee is only required to have 1 member who is an accounting expert, it does not mean that the Company ignores other important requirements in placing members on the Audit Committee. The Company needs to increase attention to other aspects, considering the lack of support in terms of educational background, accounting certification, and relevant work experience. As the empirical results of the study(An, 2023) which shows that companies must focus on the optimal composition of the audit committee, not just the formation of the audit committee.

# Audit Committee Financial Expertise on Audit Quality

Based on the study output, it shows that the financial expertise variable of the Audit Committee has no effect on the audit quality of manufacturing companies listed on the IDX in the 2018-2022 period, as evidenced by a significance value of 0.9700> 0.05. This study has comprehensively evaluated the characteristics of the audit committee on audit quality, including independence, accounting expertise, and financial expertise. However, the results of the study show that accounting and financial expertise do not have a significant effect on audit quality. This finding can be explained by several factors, including the limitations of the sample dominated by companies with minimal expertise requirements, the limitations of measuring variables that emphasize the amount rather than the quality of contributions, and the strong influence of contextual factors in the manufacturing sector that affect the intensity and effectiveness of audit supervision. The researcher recommends that further research consider a multidimensional

approach in measuring the contribution of audit committee expertise to audit quality.

This finding is consistent with previous research conducted by(Seini Odudu et al., 2018),(Januarti et al., 2020),(Widodo, 2019)which also states that the audit committee's financial expertise has no influence on audit quality.(Ghafran & O'Sullivan, 2017)This study also explains that there is no impact of expertisefinancial expertise on audit quality can be explained because the firm provides little room for financial expertise to influence audit intensity.

Based on the number of audit committees that have financial experts, there are 121 companies or 55% of the sample that have 1 financial expert. This information means that most audit committees choose the minimum requirement of financial experts in forming their audit committees. So that in the supervision process, financial experts only place a little financial expertise in influencing audit with research intensity. This is in line findings(Asiriuwa et al. 2018) which argues that the ineffectiveness of financial expert audit committee membership on audit quality is due to the nature of the audit committee members' work. requirement to have at least one financial expert audit committee member results in the member having so many responsibilities that they are less efficient in supervising the audit process.

Based on the data studied, 17% of companies do not have audit committee members who have expertise in finance. This shows that several companies do not comply with OJK regulations regarding audit committee member requirements.

In addition, based on the indicator aspect, there is information that the last educational background of a Bachelor's degree in finance still 6.1%, dominates around with supporting certifications such as CFP (Certified Financial Planner), CWM (Certified Wealth Manager), CSA (Certified Securities Analyst), CRP (Certified Risk Professional), CIB (Certified Investment Banker), CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) by 3%, this indicates that certification is not needed to become a member of the audit committee even though this certification is very important in supporting a person's expertise and with work experience in the financial sector such as Finance Director, Investment, analyst, and Banking by 35%.

From the explanation above, it can be seen that members of the Audit Committee who have educational backgrounds, financial certifications, and work experience have not yet reached the level



of relevance as financial experts. In general, the Company only places a little aspect of financial expertise in influencing the intensity of audits conducted by the audit committee. In addition, the average number of audit committee members who have minimal expertise in finance results in members having many responsibilities so that they are less efficient in supervising the audit process.

The findings above show that both accounting expertise and financial expertise have not influenced the intensity and supervision of the audit process which has resulted in several cases of fraud and failure of the role of the audit committee and external auditors in manufacturing companies **CONCLUSION** 

Based on the results discussed, this study shows that audit committee independence has a positive effect on audit quality, while membership with accounting and financial expertise on the audit committee has no effect on audit quality. This study has comprehensively evaluated the characteristics of the audit committee on audit quality, including independence, accounting expertise, and financial expertise. However, the results of the study indicate that accounting and financial expertise do not have a significant effect on audit quality. This finding can be explained by several factors, including the limitations of the sample dominated by companies with minimal expertise requirements, the limitations of variable measurement that emphasizes the amount rather than the quality of contributions, and the strong influence of contextual factors in the manufacturing sector that affect the intensity and effectiveness of audit supervision. The researcher recommends that further research consider a multidimensional approach in measuring the contribution of audit committee expertise to audit quality.

These findings contribute to stakeholders, including companies, governments, investors, and researchers regarding the importance of the characteristics of audit committees that have the task of supervising the financial reporting process and audit process in order to improve audit quality.

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such as PT Tiga Pilar Sejahtera, Tbk, PT Hanson Internasional Tbk, PT Waskita Karya Tbk and PT Indofarma Tbk. In addition, the audit committee of PT Waskita Karya Tbk failed to assess and recommend the appointment of an external auditor assigned to audit the financial statements for the 2021 and 2022 financial years because the KAP assigned, namely KAP Kosasih, Nurdiyaman, Mulyadi, Thajo & Rekan, was declared involved in the Adisarana Wanaartha Life Insurance default scandal. This resulted in(OJK, 2023)impose sanctions on KAP in the form of cancellation of KAP's registered certificate.

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