RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Effect Of Economic Growth And Human Development Index On The Unemployment Rate In South Sumatra In 2018-2022

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Abstract

This study aims to determine the effect of economic growth and human development index on the unemployment rate in South Sumatra. The data used in this research is secondary data sourced from   with a five-year observation period, namely 2018-2022. The analysis method used in this research is panel data regression. The results showed that economic growth had no effect on unemployment and human development index (HDI) had an effect on unemployment. Meanwhile, together the variables of economic growth and human development index affect the variable unemployment rate in South Sumatra.

Keyword: Economi Growth,Human Development Index, Unemployment Rate

Introduction

Unemployment is one of the social and economic problems faced by almost all countries, including developing countries such as Indonesia. A high unemployment rate not only reflects the inability of a region's economy to provide sufficient employment opportunities for its population, but also has a negative impact on various aspects of people's lives. A high unemployment rate hampers national productivity and causes economic potential to be underutilised. When many people are out of work, people's purchasing power decreases, which reduces demand for goods and services and hinders economic growth. This condition also slows down the development process due to a decrease in tax revenue that can be allocated to infrastructure and community welfare. (Setiawan & Muafiqie, 2017)

According to Kuncoro (2020) Unemployment can trigger various social problems, such as increased poverty, income inequality, and social insecurity. People who are unemployed are vulnerable to economic hardship, which can have an impact on their quality of life, mental health, and children's education. In addition, widespread unemployment can also trigger criminal behaviour, such as theft and violence, as a result of the economic pressures experienced by individuals.

Unemployment can be categorised into several types, including structural, fractional, cyclical and seasonal unemployment. Structural unemployment occurs due to a mismatch between the skills of the workforce and the needs of industry, which is often influenced by technological change or globalisation. Frictional unemployment occurs when a person moves from one job to another, while cyclical unemployment is usually caused by a downturn in the economic cycle or recession. Understanding these types of unemployment is important so that the government can design targeted policies.

According to Rahmawati (2024) Technological development and globalisation accelerate changes in the labour market, often resulting in an increase in structural unemployment. Automation and digitalisation have made certain jobs irrelevant,

especially for low-skilled workers. On the other hand, globalisation triggers international labour competition, with companies often moving their operations to countries with cheaper labour costs. This requires the government to upskill the workforce through education and training in order to compete in the global market.

Unemployment rates are often influenced by economic growth and the quality of human resources. Good economic growth is usually accompanied by the creation of new jobs, but if this growth is not inclusive or only occurs in sectors that are not labour-intensive, then the unemployment rate can remain high. On the other hand, the Human Development Index (HDI), which includes indicators of education, health, and living standards, also plays an important role in influencing a person's ability to find decent work.

According to Khodijah (2018) The government plays an important role in addressing unemployment through various policies, such as job training programmes, improving education, incentives for companies that create new jobs, and infrastructure development that can absorb labour. In addition, economic policies that encourage domestic and foreign investment can also help create more jobs. According to Kuncoro (2020a) unemployment triggered by technological change, the government can support re-skilling and up-skilling programmes for affected workers. With the various aspects above, research on unemployment is very important because it not only impacts the economic aspect, but also affects social stability and the overall welfare of society. Understanding the factors that cause unemployment and finding effective solutions are important steps in creating inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Quality economic growth is inclusive growth that creates decent jobs. Stiglitz emphasises that economic growth that only focuses on increasing GDP will not be enough to reduce unemployment if there is no effort to improve inequality, especially in developing countries. Economic growth must be balanced with efforts to improve the quality of labour so that it can be accessed by all levels of society. This shows the importance of HDI in supporting economic growth to reduce unemployment . (Stiglitz, 2018).

Investments in health and education will have a direct impact on an individual's ability to find employment. People with better access to education and health tend to be better prepared to enter the labour market and have higher productivity levels. HDI, as an indicator of the quality of education and health, plays an important role in ensuring that the labour force has the skills needed by the market. This is in line with efforts to reduce structural unemployment and

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improve labour competitiveness in the market (Banerjee & Duflo, 2019).

According to Prawoto & Tri Basuki (2020) The success of human development cannot be separated from the role of the government in establishing rules or regulations. Human development goals can be seen from the Human Development Index (HDI). The government plays a role in human development through public sector spending, which is reflected in the budget in the health sector, which aims to increase life expectancy and reduce mortality. In addition, the budget in education serves to increase people's access to good and affordable education, with the hope that the unemployment rate will decrease.

Unemployment is a problem that is very difficult for a country or region to avoid and can lead to social problems such as crime and economic problems. These conditions can reduce the level of welfare and purchasing power of the community. The lower the unemployment rate, the more prosperous the life of a country's people and vice versa.
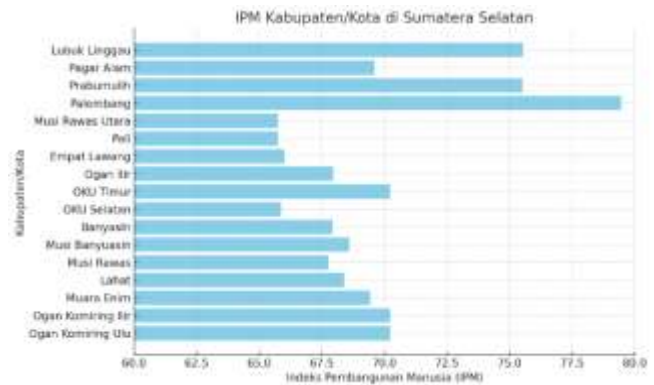
According to Anggoro in Rohmah et al. (2022) that the high growth rate of the labour force that is not matched by the availability of jobs makes the creation of available jobs very minimal so that the absorption of labour is not optimal and ultimately results in unemployment. One of the reasons why the unemployment rate in urban areas is always higher than in regencies is because cities are the development of villages, in cities there are settlements that are centralised and have a multifunctional character, including the central business district (CBD). In terms of demographics, the population in a city usually has a larger population than the population in a village. This is because cities have more access and facilities than villages, resulting in the movement of people from villages to cities (urbanisation). With the higher population growth in urban areas due to migration, there is an increase in the number of people included in the workforce in urban areas so that the unemployment rate increases. This is the reason why the unemployment rate in cities is always higher than that in regencies. In addition, the urban unemployment rate is three times higher than that in rural areas. This is due to the limited employment opportunities in the city, which in turn leads to tighter competition for jobs (Kuncoro, 2019: 228).

In South Sumatra Province, the unemployment rate is also an important issue that becomes an annual problem in economic development in South Sumatra Province. The local government as an extension of the central government must also take a role in solving the unemployment problem in South Sumatra Province. Based on data from the Central Bureau of Statistics, the unemployment rate in South Sumatra each year is quite large, which is greater than the national unemployment rate and other provinces on the island of Sumatra.

Local governments in Indonesia often use labour indicators to assess the Human Development Index (HDI) in their region, including the South Sumatra Provincial Government. In 2022, South Sumatra Province's HDI level is 70.90%, which places it in the middle category between 50-79.9.

The following graph shows the Human Development Index (HDI) values for various regencies/cities in South Sumatra. This graph visualises the HDI comparison between regions, with Palembang, Prabumulih, and Lubuk Linggau having higher HDI values than other regions.
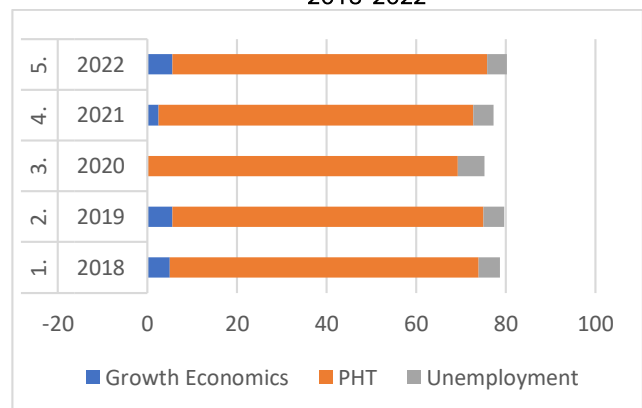
Fig 1. Human Development Index Chart of South Sumatra Province 2022

Source: BPS South Sumatra Province, 2022

Over the past five years, South Sumatra Province has experienced good economic growth, although the increase is not too large. This is in line with the increase in HDI from 2018 to 2022. The high number of unemployment is due to the imbalance between the number of labour force and the creation of employment opportunities. This imbalance has an impact on the shift of labour (migration) between villages and cities or sectorally. This condition occurs as a result of the government's lack of providing jobs as a result of the increasing population so that the labour force is not fully absorbed, the consequence is the creation of unemployment. (Suhandi et al., 2020). The unemployment rate in South Sumatra is presented in Figure 2 below:

Fig 2. Economic Growth and HDI on Unemployment in South Sumatra Province in 2018-2022 Economic Growth and HDI on Unemployment in South Sumatra Province in 2018-2022

South Sumatra: BPS South Sumatra Province, 2022

However, the unemployment rate in South Sumatra Province did not follow the same trend as the HDI. Although generally declining, in 2019, the unemployment rate actually increased sharply by 4.53% compared to 2018. This raises a big question because according to theory, the unemployment rate should increase when HDI is low and decrease when HDI increases. This phenomenon also occurred in 2021, where the unemployment rate rose by 4.98%, even though the HDI increased by 70.24% compared to the previous year.

In theory, economic growth and unemployment have a negative relationship. This means that if economic growth increases, the unemployment rate will decrease, and vice versa. Economic growth itself can occur due to an increase in GRDP so that it will encourage the absorption of labour in a region (Marliana, 2022) . Furthermore, in 2021, research Soeharjoto & Mitha Rachma Oktavia, (2021) revealed that, the human development index has a negative and significant influence on unemployment in Indonesia. Similarly, the study (Susanto et al., in Saptenno & Maatoke, 2022) on the effect of the human

development index on unemployment and poverty. Where the research findings show that the human development index has a direct and significant effect on unemployment in South Sumatra.

According to Lapian (2017) Unemployment is a labour problem that has currently reached a condition that is quite alarming. The number of unemployed and part-time workers is increasing. Employment that supports increased employment opportunities is one of the important issues in economic development that can be realised by various development activities. If examined further, the unemployment rate of cities in South Sumatra has a high unemployment rate value when compared to other districts. Based on the problems that occurred above, the researcher conducted a study with the title "The Effect of Economic Growth and Human Development Index on Unemployment in South Sumatra 2018-2022".

LITERATURE REVIEW

Unemployment

According to BPS in Latiffa et al. (2017)), unemployed people are those who are looking for work or are preparing a business, have been accepted to work but have not started working, and are not looking for work because they feel it is impossible to get a job. The unemployment rate is measured as the percentage of the labour force that does not have a job against the entire labour force. Unemployment can occur as a result of the high rate of change in the labour force which is not matched by the existence of sufficiently large employment opportunities and the absorption of labour which tends to be a small percentage, this is due to the low growth rate of job creation to accommodate labour who are ready to work. . (Lamatenggo et al., 2019).

Based on *Okun's Law*, one of the factors that cause unemployment is a shortage of aggregate expenditure. Okun's Law explains that every increase in the percentage of unemployment in a country is equivalent to a decrease in the size of GDP by 2 per cent (Mahroji & Nurkhasanah, 2019). The higher the unemployment, the more inefficient the economy of the region. Unemployment can be divided into two types, namely based on its cause and based on its nature. Unemployment based on its cause consists of natural unemployment, frictional unemployment, and structural unemployment. Meanwhile, unemployment based on its nature consists of open unemployment, hidden unemployment, seasonal unemployment, and underemployment . (Aprillia, 2015).

Economic Growth

Economic growth is one of the important measures and indications to assess the success of a region's economic development in terms of its economy. An increase in the economic growth of a region indicates an increase in community welfare (Anggraini et al., 2023). According to Adam Smith's classical theory, rapid and high economic growth can reduce unemployment in the region. This happens because when economic growth in a region increases, the production process will also increase. And this will absorb a lot of labour to produce the requested production output. The absorption of labour will be able to reduce unemployment in the region. (Garnella et al., 2020).

Economic growth is measured using Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP). There are 3 (three) important components in economic growth derived from various existing growth theories, namely the Harold Domar, Neoclassical, Solow, and Endogenous theories by Romer (Primandari, 2020) , among others:
1. Capital accumulation, which is all forms or types of investment in the form of land, equipment, or machinery as well as capital in the form of human resources.
2. Population growth, the increase in population will increase the number of workers.

3. Technological advances, the progress of a country's economy is influenced by technological advances.

Human Development Index

HDI is an important indicator to measure success in efforts to build the quality of human life, HDI explains how the population can access the results of development in obtaining income, health, education, and so on. (Rochmadi & Rohmah, 2019). HDI is measured by life expectancy at birth; education measured by average years of schooling and literacy rate of population aged 15 years and above; standard of living measured by per capita expenditure that has been adjusted to purchasing power parity. The value of this index ranges from 0-100 (Primandari, 2020). A high level of human development determines the population's ability to absorb and manage sources of economic growth, both in relation to technology and to institutions as an important means of achieving economic growth. (Utami, 2020).

Human development plays a key role in shaping a country's ability to absorb modern technology to develop its capacity to create employment opportunities to reduce unemployment and ultimately create sustainable growth and development (Lumi et al., 2021). New growth theory emphasises the importance of increasing *human capital* development to increase human productivity (Mahroji & Nurkhasanah, 2019). If the workforce has good health, high education, and a decent life, the results of the work done will be of good quality, otherwise if the three conditions of the workforce are poor, the results will be of low quality. Therefore, the Human Development Index can also be used as a reference to assess and absorb human resources (HR) and if the index value of human development is high, the percentage of unemployment in a region will decrease (Yuniarti & Imaningsih, 2022).

METHODS

This research uses a quantitative approach with panel data regression analysis. To collect the data needed in this study, secondary data is used. The secondary data used is presented in the form of panel data, namely a combination of *time series* data starting from 2018-2022 with *cross section* data from 17 districts / cities in South Sumatra Province which are processed using *Eviews-12 software*. The analysis model chosen is the *Random Effect Model* (REM). The panel data regression model equation form is written as follows:

$$Y_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1it} + \beta_2 X_{2it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Where:

Y	= Unemployment
X_1	= Economic growth
X_2	= Human Development Index
β_0	= Constant
β_1, β_2	= Independent Variable Coefficient
i	= Regency / City in South Sumatra
t	= year 2018 - 2022
ε	= Error Term

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Model Selection Test

Chow Test

Table 1.   Chi-Square Test Results Chow Test Results

Effect Test	Statistics	d.f.	Prob
Cross section F	6.446080	(16,66)	0.0000
Chi-squared part croaa	79.989753	16	0.0000

Source: Processed data Eviews 12

Based on the results of the chow test in table 1, the cross section F probability of 0.0000 < α (0.05) is obtained. Then the best model to use is the *Fixed Effect Model.*

Hausman Test

Table 2. Hausman Test Results Hausman Test Results

Test Summary	Chi-sq statistic.	Chi-sq. d.f	Prob
Random cross-section	1.135713	2	0.5667

Source: Processed data Eviews 12

Based on the results of the Hausman test in table 2, the cross-section random probability is 0.5667 > α (0.05). Then the best model to use in this study is the *Random Effect Model.*

LM test

Table 3. LM Test Results LM Test Results

Breusch-Pagan	Cross Section	Hypothesis Test Time	Both
	(0.0000)	(0.8907)	43.04271
	(0.0000)	(0.8907)	(0.0000)

Source: Processed Data Eviews 12

Breusch-Pagan probability of 0.0000 < α (0.05). The selected model is Random Effect Model.

Classical Assumption Test

Multicollinearity

Table 4. Multicollinearity Test Table 4. Multicollinearity Test

	Economic Growth	PHT
Economic Growth	1.000000	0.446378
PHT	0.446378	1.000000

Source: processed data Eviews 12

Based on table 4, there is no heteroscedasticity in the Human Development Index and Economic Growth variables because the coefficient value < is 0.90.

Panel Data Regression Analysis

The model specification test results show that the Random Effect Model (REM) is the best among the three.

Table 5. Random Effects Model

Variables	Coeffcien	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob
C	-16.46991	4.149744	-3.968899	0.0002
GROWTH_X1	0.013322			0.1048
HDI_X2	-0.021853	0.061876	-1.640303	0.0000
	0.323224		5.223719	
BANYUASIN-C	0.197706			
FOUR LAWS-C	-0.256496			
LUBUK LINGAU-C CITY	-0.249681			
CITY OF PAGAR ALAM-C	-1.308853			
PALEMBANG-C CITY	1.280158			

PRABUMULIH-C CITY	0.140601		
LAHAT-C	-0.633455		
MUARA ENIM-C	0.3201221		
MUSI BANYUASIN-C	0.108079		
MUSI RAWS-C	-0.743818		
MUSI RAWAS UTARA-C	2.045045		
OGAN ILIR-C	-0.543975		
OGAN KEMIRING ULU-C	0.060704		
OGAN KEMIRING ILIR-C	-0.520604		
SOUTH OKU-C	-05897290		
EAST OKU-C	-0.589729		
PALI-C	0.795990		
R-squared	0.253244	Average dependent variable	1.575523
Adjusted R-squared	0.235030	S.D. dependent variable	0.935458
S.E. regret	0.818175	Sum of squares of resid	54.89171
F-statistic	13.90413	Durbin-watson statistic	1.715884
Prob (F-statistic)	0.000006		
R-squared	0.253244	Average dependent variable	4.249847
Sum of squares of resid	114.9007	Durbin-Watson stst	0.819732

Source: Processed data Eviews 12

Based on Table 5, the panel data regression equation can be expressed as follows:
UNEMPLOYMENT = -16.46991 + -0.021853 GROWTH$_{it}$ + 0.323224 $_{PHT(it)}$

Based on the table above, it is concluded that the HDI variable has a positive and significant effect on unemployment in South Sumatra while the economic growth variable has a negative but insignificant effect on unemployment in South Sumatra.

Test t

The HDI variable has a positive and significant effect, meaning that every increase in HDI by 1 unit will increase unemployment in South Sumatra province by 0.323224%.

F test

As can be seen in Table 5, the probability value of F-statistic is 0.000006 <0.05. This means that HDI and Economic Growth together have an effect on Unemployment.

Test R^2

The R-squared value = 0.253244 or 25.32%, which means that this model can explain 25.32% of the variation in the dependent variable. The remaining 74.68% is influenced by other variables not included in the model.

DISCUSSION

Effect of Economic Growth on Unemployment

Based on the results above, it shows that economic growth has no effect on unemployment. This can be seen from the probability of 0.1048> 0.05. The results of this study are in line with research conducted by Putri et al., (2023) concluded that economic growth has an insignificant effect on the level of open unemployment.

Effect of Human Development Index on Unemployment

Based on the research result, HDI has a positive effect on unemployment. When HDI increases by 1 unit, it will increase the unemployment rate in South Sumatra by 0.323224%. The results of this study are not in line with research conducted by Aisyah et al., (2022); Alfredo Mahihody et al., (2018) Human Development Index variables have a negative and significant influence on the Unemployment Rate.

In line with research conducted by Hasibuan, (2023) which shows that HDI has a positive and significant effect on unemployment, which means that when HDI rises, unemployment will increase. This is because although Indonesia's HDI continues to increase and create qualified and skilled resources, if it is not accompanied by the expansion of employment and labour absorption, it will still increase the unemployment rate. The higher quality of human resources will result in job seekers tending to choose jobs because they want to get higher wages in accordance with the quality of education they have.

CONCLUSIONS

Partially, economic growth variable has no effect on unemployment. Meanwhile, the human development index variable affects unemployment in South Sumatra province. The variables of economic growth and human development index in this study jointly affect the unemployment rate in South Sumatra province. Hopefully, the government should pay attention and care about the economy in South Sumatra province and establish integrated macro and micro policies and the government should establish and improve formal and informal education in order to produce competent human resources. By establishing free schools and skills training for underprivileged children, so that the land can open new jobs and easily get a decent job.

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