

Analysis of the Effect of Minimum Wage, Economic Growth, and Industry on Unemployment in Banten

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ABSTRACT

PURPOSE - This study aims to analyze the impact of the Regency/City Minimum Wage (UMK), economic growth, and the number of large and medium industries on the unemployment rate in Banten Province.

METHODOLOGY - The research employs panel data from eight regencies/cities in Banten Province covering the period 2014–2023. The data were analyzed using multiple linear regression with a Fixed Effect Model estimated through EViews 12.

FINDING - The results indicate that the minimum wage and economic growth have a significant negative impact on the unemployment rate, while the number of large and medium industries has a negative but insignificant impact. These findings emphasize the importance of proportional wage policies and inclusive economic growth, as well as the need to optimize the contribution of large and medium industries in supporting job creation in Banten Province.

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INTRODUCTION

Banten Province is one of Indonesia's national economic growth centers, primarily driven by the manufacturing, trade, and construction sectors. Despite ranking fourth nationally in the number of large and medium industries, Banten continues to face a relatively high open unemployment rate. Theoretically, an increase in the number of industries and economic growth should expand employment opportunities and reduce unemployment levels. However, in 2023, Banten's open unemployment rate reached 7.52%, even though both economic growth and minimum wages continued to increase (Badan Pusat Statistik Provinsi Banten, 2023). This phenomenon indicates a persistent imbalance between economic growth and labor absorption in the region. Previous studies have examined the relationship between minimum wages, economic growth, and industrial development on unemployment. (Suhendra & Wicaksono, 2020) as well as (Mulya Pratomo & Setyadharma, 2020) found that rising minimum wages and economic growth had a positive effect on unemployment. In contrast, (Hertzmark & Chavez, 2018) reported that economic growth could reduce unemployment rates. Similarly, (Pramudjasi, 2019) suggested that proportional wage increases may suppress unemployment by boosting household purchasing power. Meanwhile, (Rohmah, 2019) and (Putra & Hidayah, 2023) found that

minimum wage and GRDP have a significant negative effect on unemployment, while HDI is not significant. These varied findings suggest that the relationship among these variables remains debatable in the context of Indonesia's regional economies.

The Problem

Despite Banten's strategic position as an industrial hub, research that specifically analyzes the effects of District/City Minimum Wage (UMK), economic growth, and the number of large and medium industries on the open unemployment rate in Banten remains limited. Previous studies have generally focused on other regions such as Central Java and East Java. Moreover, few studies have simultaneously examined these three variables within a single empirical model to explain Banten's labor market dynamics. This gap highlights the need for more comprehensive regional-based empirical evidence. The main issue raised in this study is why Banten's economic growth and industrial expansion have not significantly reduced unemployment, even though the region's macroeconomic indicators show positive trends. According to Okun's Law (Mankiw, 2022), an increase in real output should lead to lower unemployment. However, empirical evidence in Banten suggests otherwise. Additionally, the policy of increasing minimum wages may have a dual effect – while it improves worker welfare, it may also discourage formal sector employment absorption

The Proposed Solution

To address this issue, the study adopts a quantitative approach using panel econometric models. The analysis employs data from eight districts/cities in Banten Province covering the 2014–2023 period, analyzed through multiple linear regression using the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) estimated in EViews 12. This approach is expected to provide robust empirical evidence regarding the determinants of unemployment at the regional level and offer policy insights for local governments in formulating labor market strategies.

Accordingly, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To analyze the effect of District/City Minimum Wage (UMK) on the open unemployment rate in Banten Province.
2. To analyze the effect of economic growth on the open unemployment rate in Banten Province.
3. To analyze the effect of the number of large and medium industries on the open unemployment rate in Banten Province.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Unemployment occurs when individuals in the labor force are not working but are willing and able to work (Olander, 2020). According to Sukirno (as cited in Asrahmaulyana dan Qarina, 2020), the unemployment rate reflects the proportion of the labor force not absorbed in productive activities. High unemployment leads to reduced income, poverty, and social instability. Okun's Law explains the negative relationship between economic growth and unemployment – higher output leads to more labor demand (Mankiw, 2022). Efficiency Wage and Sticky Wage Theories describe that higher or rigid wages can reduce employment, though moderate wage increases may stimulate aggregate demand and job creation (Rineliana et al., 2025). Agglomeration Theories (MAR and Jacobs) state that industry clustering increases productivity and innovation, which boosts labor absorption (Glaeser et al., 1992 as cited in Prastiwi & Khoirunurrofik, 2025).

Relationship Between Variables

Minimum Wage (X_1): Excessively high minimum wages may increase unemployment, while moderate increases can enhance purchasing power and stimulate job growth. Economic Growth (X_2): According to Okun's Law, higher economic growth reduces unemployment by increasing production and labor demand. Large and Medium Industries (X_3): Industrial expansion and agglomeration effects enhance labor absorption and reduce unemployment

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual model links the District/City Minimum Wage (X_1), Economic Growth (X_2), and Large-Medium Industries (X_3) as independent variables affecting the Open Unemployment Rate (Y).

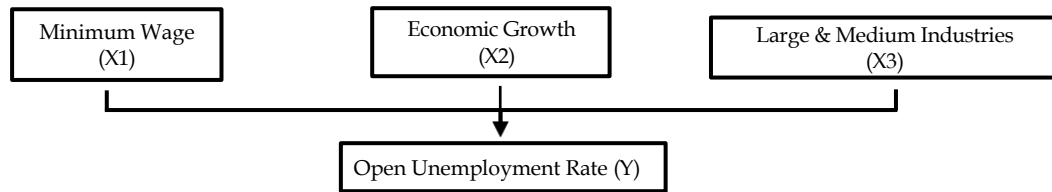


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework

Research Hypotheses

- H1: District/City Minimum Wage (UMK) has a significant positive effect on the unemployment rate.
- H2: Economic Growth has a significant negative effect on the unemployment rate.
- H3: Large and Medium Industries have a significant negative effect on the unemployment rate.

METHODOLOGY

Research design

This study employs a quantitative approach with panel data regression analysis to examine the influence of District/City Minimum Wage (UMK), economic growth, and the number of large and medium industries on the open unemployment rate in Banten Province during the period 2014–2023. The panel data design was chosen because it allows for the analysis of both cross-sectional (spatial) and time-series (temporal) variations, thus providing more accurate and efficient estimation results (Sugiyono, 2021)

Participant

The research covers eight regencies/cities in Banten Province, namely Pandeglang, Lebak, Tangerang, Serang, Tangerang City, Cilegon City, Serang City, and South Tangerang City. The selection of these areas was based on purposive sampling, considering the availability and completeness of economic data within the 2014–2023 period. The dataset consists of 80 observations.

Instrument

The research instrument consists of quantitative secondary data documents, categorized as follows:

Table 1. Research Variables and Data Sources

Type	Variable	Unit	Data Source
Dependent	Open Unemployment Rate (Y)	Percent (%)	BPS Banten Province
Independent	District/City Minimum Wage (X ₁)	Rupiah (Rp)	BPS Banten Province
Independent	Economic Growth (X ₂)	Percent (%)	BPS Banten Province
Independent	Large and Medium Industries (X ₃)	Industrial Units	BPS Banten Province

Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using multiple linear regression with a panel data model, estimated through EViews 12. The following equation represents the analytical model used:

$$TPT_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1UMK_{it} + \beta_2PE_{it} + \beta_3IBS_{it} + e_{it}$$

Explanations :

- 1) TPT_{it} = Open Unemployment Rate of regency/city i in year t
- 2) UMK_{it} = District/City Minimum Wage (Rp)
- 3) PE_{it} = Economic Growth (%)
- 4) IBS_{it} = Number of Large and Medium Industries (units) e_{it} = Error term
- 5) Model selection was performed using the Chow Test, Hausman Test, and Lagrange Multiplier (LM) Test to determine the most appropriate model among Common Effect, Fixed Effect, and Random Effect. The best model was then tested for classical assumptions, including Normality (Jarque–Bera), Multicollinearity (VIF < 10), Heteroskedasticity (Breusch–Pagan–Godfrey), and Autocorrelation (Breusch–Godfrey) (Ghozali, 2018). Hypothesis testing was conducted using the F-test (simultaneous) and t-test (partial), with a significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$ (5%). The coefficient of determination (R^2) was used to measure the explanatory power of the independent variables on the dependent variable.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Descriptive Statistics

Table 1 presents the descriptive statistics of the variables used in this study, including the Open Unemployment Rate (TPT), District/City Minimum Wage (UMK), Economic Growth, and the Number of Large and Medium Industries in Banten Province during the 2014–2023 period.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics of Research Variables

Variable	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Open Unemployment Rate (%)	4.15	12.40	7.89	2.15
District/City Minimum Wage (Rp)	1,800,000	4,930,000	3,250,000	720,000
Economic Growth (%)	2.14	7.24	5.03	1.05
Large and Medium Industries (units)	142	2,750	1,260	480

Note: Source – BPS Banten (processed)

The table shows that the unemployment rate in Banten Province varied between 4.15% and 12.40% during the observation period. The increase in minimum wages across districts/cities also coincided with the growth of medium and large industries, reflecting regional economic

development.

Model Selection Test

Model selection was conducted using the Chow Test, Hausman Test, and Lagrange Multiplier (LM) Test. The results are summarized in Table 2.

Table 3. Model Selection Test Results

Test	Probability	Selected Model
Chow Test	0.0000	Fixed Effect Model
Hausman Test	0.0012	Fixed Effect Model
Lagrange Multiplier Test	0.0000	Fixed Effect Model

Note: Source – EViews 12 Output (2024)

Based on the test results, the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) was chosen as the most appropriate estimation method.

Panel Regression Estimation

The estimation results using the Fixed Effect Model are presented in Table 3.

Table 4. Fixed Effect Model Estimation Results

Variable	Coefficient	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	10.823	6.215	0.0000
UMK	-0.0000014	-3.547	0.0007
Economic Growth	-0.252	-2.181	0.0320
Large and Medium Industries	-0.00018	-1.084	0.2824

Note: Source – EViews 12 Output (2024)

Table 5. Simultaneous Test and the Coefficient of Determination

Instrument	Value
R ²	0.821
F-Statistic	19.09

Note: Source – EViews 12 Output (2024)

The estimation results show that the District/City Minimum Wage (UMK) and Economic Growth significantly and negatively affect the Open Unemployment Rate, while the Number of Large and Medium Industries has a negative but insignificant effect. The R² value of 0.821 indicates that 82.1% of the variation in unemployment can be explained by the independent variables used in the model.

DISCUSSIONS

The Effect of Minimum Wage on the Open Unemployment Rate

The results show that the District/City Minimum Wage (UMK) has a significant negative effect on the Open Unemployment Rate (TPT). An increase in the minimum wage tends to reduce unemployment because it raises purchasing power, increases aggregate demand for goods and services, and encourages companies to expand production and recruit more workers (Nugroho & Arif, 2024). According to (Kaufman & Hotchkiss, 2000), minimum wage policies have a dual impact on the labor market. If the wage level is set too high, exceeding worker productivity, firms may reduce employment to minimize production costs, resulting in higher unemployment. Conversely, when the wage level remains within the productive capacity of firms, minimum wage increases can lower unemployment by improving worker welfare and stimulating demand-driven job creation. These findings are consistent with (Prakoso, 2020) and (Rohmah, 2019), who found that a proportional increase in minimum wages effectively suppresses unemployment. This confirms that the current minimum wage policy in Banten remains at a level acceptable to businesses, making it effective in reducing unemployment and improving worker welfare.

The relationship between the variables is expressed in the following equation:

$$TPT_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 UMK_{it} + \beta_2 PE_{it} + \beta_3 IBS_{it} + e_{it} \quad (1)$$

where,

TPT_{it} = Open Unemployment Rate of district/city i in year t

UMK_{it} = District/City Minimum Wage (Rp)

PE_{it} = Economic Growth (%)

IBS_{it} = Number of Large and Medium Industries (units)

e_{it} = Error term

Equation (1) shows that the coefficient of UMK is negative and statistically significant, implying that higher minimum wages are associated with lower unemployment rates in Banten Province.

The Effect of Economic Growth on the Open Unemployment Rate

Economic growth also exhibits a negative and significant relationship with the Open Unemployment Rate. This implies that when economic growth slows, unemployment tends to rise due to a decline in production and investment activities across major sectors such as manufacturing, trade, construction, and services. A slowdown in these sectors reduces labor demand, leading firms to postpone expansion, shorten working hours, or even lay off workers to control costs (Marshan, 2023). This finding supports Okun's Law, which posits an inverse relationship between output growth and unemployment (Mankiw, 2022), as well as the classical development theory of (Todaro & Smith, 2011). Similar evidence was found by (Lee & Huruta, 2019) and (Neti & Permata Sari, 2024), who identified a significant negative correlation between GDP growth and unemployment in Indonesia. In the case of Banten, the post-COVID-19 economic recovery has played a vital role in reducing unemployment since 2021, reflecting the rebound of industrial and service sectors.

The Effect of Large and Medium Industries on the Open Unemployment Rate

The variable representing the number of large and medium industries shows a negative but insignificant effect on unemployment. This suggests that industrial expansion in Banten has not directly translated into large-scale employment creation, as most large industries in the province are capital-intensive rather than labor-intensive. The negative coefficient indicates that a decline in the number of industries correlates with higher unemployment, implying that industrial slowdown can reduce job opportunities both directly – through lower employment in

manufacturing—and indirectly—through reduced demand for supporting sectors such as logistics, trade, and transportation. This result aligns with the findings of (Nababan & Purba, 2023) and (Arjun et al., 2019), who argue that technological modernization reduces the need for manual labor in large industries. Nevertheless, industrial expansion remains crucial in the long run, as it generates multiplier effects on supporting sectors. According to Glaeser and Henderson (as cited in Prastiwi & Khoirunurrofik, 2025), industrial agglomeration enhances efficiency, productivity, and employment through inter-industry linkages and knowledge transfer. However, when industrial numbers decline due to economic pressure or lack of competitiveness, the benefits of agglomeration also diminish).

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of data analysis using multiple linear regression with a panel data model, this study aims to examine the effect of the District/City Minimum Wage (UMK), Economic Growth, and the Number of Large and Medium Industries (ISB) on the Open Unemployment Rate (TPT) in Banten Province during the 2014–2023 period. The findings reveal that the minimum wage (UMK) has a negative and significant effect on the unemployment rate, indicating that an increase in the minimum wage contributes to reducing unemployment. This result suggests that the wage policy in Banten has been set at a level that remains supportive of business sustainability while maintaining labor absorption capacity.

Furthermore, economic growth also shows a negative and significant influence on unemployment, implying that regional economic expansion effectively reduces the unemployment rate. This finding supports Okun's Law, which emphasizes the inverse relationship between output growth and unemployment. Meanwhile, the number of large and medium industries exhibits a negative but statistically insignificant effect on unemployment, suggesting that the increase in industrial establishments tends to reduce unemployment, but not strongly enough due to the dominance of capital-intensive industries in Banten Province. Overall, these findings reinforce the understanding that proportional minimum wage policies and inclusive economic growth can effectively suppress unemployment levels in industrial regions such as Banten Province.

Policy Recommendations

Based on the study's findings, several policy implications are proposed:

1. **Balanced Wage Policy**, The Banten Provincial Government should formulate minimum wage policies that maintain a balance between worker welfare and business affordability to sustain a conducive investment climate. Proportional wage policies should be complemented by workforce competency improvement through vocational training, labor-intensive sector development, and private sector partnerships to enhance formal employment absorption.
2. **Inclusive Economic Development**, Economic growth should be directed toward regional equity to ensure that the benefits of economic progress are distributed fairly among communities. Strengthening inter-regional connectivity and access to productive sectors is essential for reducing spatial disparities in employment.
3. **Industrial Expansion with Employment Orientation**, The government should promote labor-intensive industrial growth by providing fiscal incentives, infrastructure support, and training programs for industries that employ local workers. Encouraging industries with higher employment elasticity will help reduce the structural gap between industrial

output and labor absorption.

Future Research Directions, Future studies are encouraged to include additional explanatory variables such as education level, investment, and labor force participation to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the determinants of unemployment in Banten Province. Incorporating these variables will strengthen the empirical foundation for regional labor market policy formulation

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