
Analysis of The Determination of Youth Unemployment in Jambi Province

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to analyze the effect of the working-age population, provincial minimum wage, human development index, inflation, economic growth, and investment on youth unemployment in Jambi Province. The analysis method uses quantitative descriptive analysis with secondary data, and the analytical tool employed is multiple linear regression. The research object is Jambi Province for the period 2000-2024. The F-statistic estimation results indicate that the simultaneous test shows all independent variables, namely the working-age population, provincial minimum wage, human development index, inflation, economic growth, and investment, collectively affect youth unemployment in Jambi Province. The results of the estimated t-statistics indicate that, partially, the test shows that the human development index, economic growth, and investment variables have a significant effect on youth unemployment in Jambi Province, while the working-age population, provincial minimum wage, and inflation variables do not have a significant effect on youth unemployment in Jambi Province.

Keywords: *working-age population, provincial minimum wage, human development index, inflation, economic growth.*

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1 INTRODUCTION

Poverty alleviation and reducing the number of unemployed people are top priorities in development. This aligns with the five objectives of the Indonesia Golden Vision 2045, which include per capita income equal to that of developed countries, reduced poverty, and decreased inequality. However, per capita income alone does not reflect the population's level of prosperity. Economic inequality between the rich and the poor is a major issue that hinders economic development.

The goal of economic development is to address unemployment. Unemployment occurs due to an imbalance between the number of the labor force and the number of available job opportunities. According to Keynes, the economy always faces unemployment problems, and full employment is rarely achieved (Sukirno, 2014). If the unemployment rate decreases, economic disparities will become more evenly distributed. Unemployment is a macroeconomic problem that directly affects humans and has the most severe impact on a country's economic development.

Unemployment is one of the main short-term problems faced by every country. Therefore, every economy and country faces the issue of unemployment, namely natural unemployment (the natural rate of unemployment). Natural unemployment is a level of unemployment that is natural and cannot be eliminated. This means that if the unemployment rate is at most 2-3 percent, it signifies that the economy is in a state of full employment (Sukirno, 2014).

The high unemployment rate caused by regional disparities also results in higher unemployment levels in various areas of Jambi Province, both in cities and regencies. The low quality of education and skills possessed by the workforce becomes an obstacle to obtaining jobs with the right qualifications. However, many young people in Jambi who graduate from schools or universities also face difficulties finding suitable employment. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency, Jambi Province has an interesting unemployment trend to analyze, especially among the youth.

Young people are the group most vulnerable to unemployment, due to limited work experience and skills that are not fully developed. The digitalization of work reduces the need for labor in some traditional sectors, while young people have yet to acquire relevant skills for new sectors. In fact, the economic potential of young people includes a productive workforce that could significantly drive economic growth if properly empowered. Furthermore, young people tend to have high expectations for salaries and rapid career paths, which do not always align with the conditions of the local labor market.

The definition of youth in Indonesia is regulated in Law Number 40 of 2009 concerning Youth. According to this regulation, youth are Indonesian citizens who are in an important period of growth and development, aged between 16 and 30 years. Internationally, the World Youth Organization (United Nations) defines youth as individuals aged 15 to 24 years. At this age, individuals often face significant challenges in education, employment, and the formation of social identity (Rahman, 2023).

The first factor contributing to unemployment is the working-age population. An increase in the number of working-age people will lead to a rise in the unemployment rate if it is not supported by proportional growth in job opportunities. There is still a significant gap between the number of working-age people and labor absorption, which remains an important issue in the employment sector (Sukirno, 2017). The second factor affecting unemployment is the provincial minimum wage. An increase in the provincial minimum wage can boost workers' purchasing power, potentially increasing consumption and demand for goods and services. This can stimulate economic growth and create new jobs. However, if the minimum wage is raised too high, companies may face higher operational costs. This can lead companies to reduce the number of employees or even carry out layoffs (PHK) to maintain company stability (Arsyad, 2011). The third factor that affects unemployment is the Human Development Index (HDI), because a high HDI is often correlated with a higher level of a person's ability or knowledge (Education). Good education enhances an individual's skills and abilities, which creates a society ready to enter the labor market (Sukirno, 2017).

The fourth factor that influences unemployment is economic growth. Strong economic growth often contributes to a decline in the unemployment rate. The impact of economic growth on the unemployment rate is not always linear (Arsyad, 2011), especially for young age groups who are vulnerable to labor market instability, with the number of young people

seeking jobs or engaged in formal economic activities still showing significant figures. The fifth factor that influences unemployment is inflation, which is a financial issue or an annual rise in prices. If this condition continues, many unemployment problems will arise. The rate of inflation and unemployment are major issues in the economy that receive special attention from the government (Jhingan, 2018). This also applies in Jambi Province, which, by and large, experiences a relatively high level of inflation and requires intensive government oversight. The sixth factor that influences the unemployment rate is investment. Investment plays a significant role in integrating the workforce into the economy, where the amount of investment made affects the demand for labor. From a theoretical perspective, an increase in investment is directly proportional to an increase in labor demand (Suparmoko, 2008). Investment acts as a component of economic activity that directly affects labor absorption. As investment increases, its impact on reducing the unemployment rate becomes more significant. However, a decrease in investment tends to increase the number of unemployed.

Various studies discuss unemployment issues. Pricella & Khusnul's research (2023) in West Java Province shows that although economic growth has increased quite rapidly in recent years, its impact on reducing unemployment is still limited. Further research by Dewi et al. (2024), Putra & Aisyah (2021), Syafitri (2023), and Azzikra et al. (2023) analyzes that inflation is a factor that affects unemployment. Then, research by Salsabila & Saukina (2024), Dewi & Timbang (2024), Putra & Aisyah (2021), Kartika & Muslim (2020) shows that the minimum wage level significantly affects unemployment. Furthermore, Syafitri (2023) states that the wage level has a positive effect on the unemployment rate. Research conducted by Dewi & Timbang (2024), Kurniawan, et al. (2021) found that the Human Development Index (HDI) has an effect on a country's unemployment rate. Furthermore, research by Shakira & Kusuma (2024), Kurniawan, et al. (2021), Bucevska & Kozheski (2022) found that economic growth has a negative and significant effect on unemployment.

Based on the explanation provided, the researcher is interested in analyzing the factors that influence unemployment. The author will examine the impact of the working-age population, Provincial Minimum Wage (UMP), Human Development Index (HDI), inflation, economic growth, and investment on youth unemployment in Jambi Province. It is hoped that the results of this study can be used by policymakers to reduce the unemployment rate among young people.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Dependent Variable

2.1.1 Unemployment

According to Gatingsih (2022), unemployment refers to the working-age population who have not yet obtained a job. Meanwhile, according to Sukirno (2014), unemployment is a measure used when a person does not have a job but has been actively making efforts in the past four weeks to find work.

2.2 Independent Variable

2.2.1 Workforce

According to Gatingsih (2022), labor is defined as the main driver for achieving the goals and existence of an organization, consisting of people within the organization who have both physical and psychological potential.

2.2.2 Minimum Wage

According to Jhingan (2018), wages are all types of payments arising from a work contract, regardless of the type of job and the agreement reached between the worker and the employer. Wages indicate the income received by the worker as compensation for the work performed. Wages can be given in cash or other forms as agreed, or in cash along with goods according to the worker's needs.

2.2.3 Human Development Index

According to Efendi (2024), the Human Development Index (HDI) is a comparative measure of life expectancy, literacy, education, and living standards. The HDI explains how the population can access the results of development in obtaining income, health, education, and so on.

2.2.4 Inflation

Inflation is an economic problem that occurs in both developed and developing countries like Indonesia. Inflation is the tendency for prices to generally rise continuously, caused by the amount of money in circulation being too much compared to the available goods (Abidin, 2020).

2.2.5 Economic Growth

Economic growth is one of the key measures and indicators to assess the success of a region's economic development from an economic perspective. According to Abidin (2020), economic growth is the development of the economy that leads to an increase in the goods and services produced within society.

2.2.6 Investment

According to Sukirno (2017), economic theory related to investment describes the allocation of funds for the purchase of capital goods and production tools, with the aim of replacing and adding capital goods in an economy used in the production of goods or services.

3 METHODOLOGY

This research is a quantitative study, and the data used are secondary data. The data analysis method used to achieve the research objectives is multiple linear regression analysis to examine the influence of the working-age population, provincial minimum wage, human development index, inflation, economic growth, and investment in Jambi Province. This study aims to identify the impact of independent variables on the dependent variable (Sugiyono, 2018a). The multiple linear regression model applied in this study is as follows (Bambang & Junaidi, 2012).

$$\text{Log}(Y) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \log(X_1) + \beta_2 \log(X_2) + \beta_3 \log(X_3) + \beta_4 \log(X_4) + \beta_5 \log(X_5) + \beta_6 \log(X_6) + e$$

Description:

- Y : Unemployment (People)
- X1 : Working-Age Population (People)
- X2 : Provincial Minimum Wage (Rupiah)
- X3 : Human Development Index (Index)
- X4 : Inflation (Percent)
- X5 : Economic Growth (Percent)
- X6 : Investment (Rupiah)
- β_0 : Constant
- $\beta_1 - \beta_6$: Regression Coefficients
- Log: Logarithm

e : Error Term (Residual Error Value)

Coefficient of Determination Test

According to Ghozali (2018), the coefficient of determination (R^2) aims to determine the extent to which the independent variables can explain the dependent variable. An R^2 value of 1 means that the fluctuations in the dependent variable can be entirely explained by the independent variables, and no other factors cause the fluctuations in the dependent variable.

Simultaneous Test with F Statistics

The F test is used to determine the extent to which the independent variables simultaneously affect the dependent variable. The decision-making criteria are if the calculated F is greater than the table F and the probability is < 0.10 significance level, then H_a is accepted. Meanwhile, if the calculated F is less than the table F and the probability is > 0.10 significance level, H_a is rejected.

Partial Test with t Statistic

The t-test is used to determine the extent to which the independent variable affects the dependent variable partially. The decision-making criteria are if $t\text{-count} > t\text{-table}$ or $-t\text{-count} < -t\text{-table}$ and the probability < 0.10 , then H_a is accepted, which means the proposed hypothesis is accepted. Meanwhile, if $t\text{-count} < t\text{-table}$ or $-t\text{-count} > -t\text{-table}$ and the probability > 0.10 , then H_a is rejected, which means the proposed hypothesis is rejected.

4 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The research results are to analyze the influence of the Working Age Population, Provincial Minimum Wage, Human Development Index, Inflation, Economic Growth, and Investment on Youth Unemployment in Jambi Province using multiple linear regression analysis, with time series data from the period 2000 – 2024 or a total of 25 years of analysis. The following are the results of the multiple linear regression coefficient estimates:

Table 1
Results of Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

		Coefficients				
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-5.595	3.523		-1.588	.130
	Log(X1)	.034	.697	.028	.049	.961
	Log(X2)	-.017	.121	-.072	-.139	.891
	Log(X3)	3.815	.770	1.185	4.955	.000
	Log(X4)	-.004	.009	-.017	-.472	.643
	Log(X5)	-.020	.020	-1.040	-3.005	.003
	Log(X6)	-.045	.025	-.188	-1.803	.088

a. Dependent Variable: Log(Y)

Source: processed data, 2025

Based on Table 1, the research results show the regression equation as follows:

$$\text{Log}(Y) = -5.595 + 0.034 \text{ Log}(X1) - 0.017 \text{ Log}(X2) + 3.815 \text{ Log}(X3) - 0.004 \text{ Log}(X4) - 0.020 \text{ Log}(X5) - 0.045 \text{ Log}(X6)$$

Coefficient of Determination

The magnitude of the effect explained by the independent variable on the dependent variable can be seen from the value of the coefficient of determination as follows:

Table 2

Coefficient of Determination

MODEL SUMMARY ^b					
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.994 ^a	.988	.983	.01105	1.843
a. Predictors: (Constant), Log(X1), Log(X2), Log(X3), Log(X4), Log(X5), Log(X6)					
b. Dependent Variable: Log(Y)					

Source: processed data, 2025

Based on Table 2, the residual coefficient of determination of 0.988 indicates that the level of youth unemployment in Jambi Province is influenced by the variables of working-age population, provincial minimum wage, human development index, inflation, economic growth, and investment by 98.80 percent, while the remaining 1.20 percent is explained by other variables outside the study.

F Test Statistics

To examine the influence simultaneously, a hypothesis test was conducted using the F Statistic; the estimation results are as follows:

Table 3

Simultaneous Test

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.175	6	.029	239.219	.000 ^b
	Residual	.002	18	.000		
	Total	.177	24			
a. Dependent Variable: Log(Y)						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Log(X1), Log(X2), Log(X3), Log(X4), Log(X5), Log(X6)						

Source: processed data, 2025

Based on Table 3, it shows that the F-statistic hypothesis test with a significance level of 90 percent indicates that the test simultaneously shows a significance value obtained of (0.000 < 0.10). This means that all regression coefficients or all independent variables, namely working-age population, provincial minimum wage, human development index, inflation, economic growth, and investment, collectively affect youth unemployment in Jambi Province.

t Test

To examine the partial influence, a hypothesis test was conducted using the t-statistic; the estimation results are as follows:

Table 4

Partial Test

Variable	Coefficient	Significant	Alpha	Conclusion
Log(X1)	0,034	0,961	0,10	Not Significant
Log(X2)	-0,017	0,891	0,10	Not Significant

Log(X3)	3,815	0,000	0,10	Significant
Log(X4)	-0,004	0,643	0,10	Not Significant
Log(X5)	-0,020	0,003	0,10	Significant
Log(X6)	-0,045	0,088	0,10	Significant

Source: processed data, 2025

Based on Table 4, the coefficient value of the working-age population variable is 0.034 or only 3.40 percent, with a significance value of $0.961 > 0.10$, so the hypothesis is rejected, indicating that at a 90 percent significance level, the working-age population variable does not have a significant effect on youth unemployment in Jambi Province. The coefficient value of the provincial minimum wage variable is -0.017 or only -1.70 percent, with a significance value of $0.891 > 0.10$, so the hypothesis is rejected, indicating that at a 90 percent significance level, the provincial minimum wage variable does not have a significant effect on youth unemployment in Jambi Province. The coefficient value of the human development index variable is 3.815 or 38.15 percent, with a significance value of $0.000 < 0.10$, thus the hypothesis is accepted, indicating that at a 90 percent significance level, the human development index variable has a significant effect on youth unemployment in Jambi Province. Therefore, with a 1 percent increase in the human development index, the youth unemployment rate increases by 38.15 percent.

The coefficient value of the inflation variable is -0.004, or only -0.40 percent, with a significance value of $0.643 > 0.10$, so the hypothesis is rejected, indicating that at a 90 percent significance level, the inflation variable does not have a significant effect on youth unemployment in Jambi Province. The coefficient value of the economic growth variable is -0.020, or -2.00 percent, with a significance value of $0.003 < 0.10$, so the hypothesis is accepted, indicating that at a 90 percent significance level, the economic growth variable has a significant effect on youth unemployment in Jambi Province. Thus, with a 1 percent increase in economic growth, the youth unemployment rate decreases by 2.00 percent. The value of the investment variable coefficient is -0.045 or -4.50 percent, with a significance value of $0.088 < 0.10$, so the hypothesis is accepted, indicating that at a 90 percent significance level, the investment variable has a significant effect on youth unemployment in Jambi Province. Therefore, with a 1 percent increase in investment, the youth unemployment rate decreases by 4.50 percent.

The Influence of the Human Development Index on Youth Unemployment

The human development index has a significant influence on youth unemployment because the HDI reflects the quality of human resources, including health, education, and living standards, all of which are key factors in an individual's ability to participate productively in the labor market. This study is in line with research conducted by Dewi & Timbang (2024), Dahma (2017), and Firdhania & Fivien (2017), who explained that the HDI affects unemployment. This affirms that, according to human capital theory, investing in human resources through education, health, and training increases individuals' productive capacity, thereby enhancing their chances of obtaining employment and earning a decent income. Therefore, an increase in the HDI would certainly help reduce the level of unemployment. According to Firdhania & Fivien (2017), when the Human Development Index (HDI) increases, it can be interpreted that regional autonomy development is improving. The increase in HDI can be caused by factors such as education and improved public welfare. When these factors increase and continuously improve, the quality of human resources or society will improve relatively well, thereby enhancing the quality and capabilities of the population, which will reduce the number of unemployed. The level of education is one of the factors that affect the quality of the workforce. If the workforce has a low level of education, it will be difficult to enter the labor market. Thus, education, which is one of the indicators of HDI, affects unemployment rates, as a low-educated workforce will have difficulty finding jobs, resulting in an increased number of unemployed (Burhanuddin, 2015).

The Impact of Economic Growth on Youth Unemployment

Economic growth has a significant impact on youth unemployment because high economic growth generally creates more job opportunities, increases labor demand, and expands economic sectors that can absorb young workers, both in the formal and informal sectors. This is in line with what Bucevska & Kristijan (2022), Septina (2018), and Azizah (2016) explained, stating that economic growth affects youth unemployment. This is affirmed by Okun's Law theory, which states that there is a negative relationship between economic output growth (GDP) and the unemployment rate; the higher the economic growth, the lower the unemployment rate. Septina (2018) stated that the increase in unemployment is caused by the growing labor force that has not yet found employment. The mismatch between the needs of job providers and the education sector, which is responsible for preparing students' skills, can also cause rising unemployment. In addition, economic growth can lead to increased unemployment when it is characterized by the establishment of many companies that use technology for profit efficiency, so that labor is not absorbed optimally. This study aligns with Azizah's (2016) research, which states that the economic growth variable has a positive relationship with open unemployment. This indicates that if economic growth increases, unemployment will also increase. This phenomenon occurs because capital-intensive economic growth causes many companies to reduce labor and replace it with technology to maximize profits. Thus, the results of this study are in line with Okun's law. Okun's law states that an increase in unemployment will result in a lower rate of economic growth.

The Effect of Investment on Youth Unemployment

Investment has a significant impact on youth unemployment. Large or small investments in the community will greatly affect the number of job opportunities created in that community. Investment will increase production activities, thereby creating new job opportunities. The availability of new job opportunities will reduce the number of unemployed individuals. There is a negative relationship between investment and unemployment, which means that if the level of investment rises, the unemployment rate will decrease (Jarniati, 2017). This study aligns with research conducted by Hasana et al. (2023), Yanti et al. (2019), and Erfit et al. (2020), which explains that investment affects unemployment; when investment increases, the unemployment rate tends to decline. This is due to the relatively small gap between realized investment in regency and city areas, resulting in high labor absorption in several regions in Jambi Province. The increase in investment accompanied by a decrease in unemployment is also because job opportunities fully absorb labor from the young workforce. According to Erfit et al. (2020), investment growth can offset the increase in the labor force and contribute to reducing unemployment. According to Yuli (2017), domestic investment and foreign investment are investment components that can affect unemployment. Therefore, investment is expected to boost economic growth, increase job opportunities, and address unemployment issues.

5 CONCLUSION

The conclusions obtained indicate that the F-statistic estimation results show that the simultaneous test reveals all independent variables, namely the working-age population, provincial minimum wage, human development index, inflation, economic growth, and investment, jointly affect youth unemployment in Jambi Province. The t-statistic estimation results show that the partial test indicates that the human development index, economic growth, and investment variables significantly affect youth unemployment in Jambi Province, whereas the working-age population, provincial minimum wage, and inflation variables do not significantly affect youth unemployment in Jambi Province.

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7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in the paper.

8 AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

Author's Muhammad Haikal Fahlevi Rawi ¹- contributed to the conceptualization, research design, and writing of the original draft.

Author's Junaedi ²- was responsible for data collection, analysis, and validation of the results.

Author's Erni Achmad ³- provided supervision, critical review, and editing of the final manuscript.

All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

9 ETHICS STATEMENT

This research was conducted in accordance with the ethical standards of [Jambi University] and adhered to the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki. Ethical approval was obtained from the [Institutional Ethics Committee/Review Board] under reference number [Approval Number, if applicable]. All participants were informed about the purpose of the study and provided written informed consent prior to participation. Participants' privacy and confidentiality were strictly maintained, and data collected were used solely for academic purposes.

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