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Improving Audit Quality: The Contribution of Auditor Experience, Time-Budget Pressure Management, and Competency Development

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the influence of auditor experience, time budget pressure, and auditor competence on audit quality. The research is motivated by the increasing number of financial reporting fraud cases, which have raised public concerns regarding the integrity and capability of auditors. Audit quality is a crucial factor in maintaining the credibility of a company's financial statements. This research adopts a quantitative approach using a survey method involving 64 auditors working at Public Accounting Firms (KAP) in Bandung and Jakarta. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire based on dimensions and indicators for each variable, and analyzed using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM). The results indicate that all three independent variables—auditor experience, time budget pressure, and auditor competence have a positive and significant effect on audit quality. Among them, auditor competence has the most dominant influence, followed by auditor experience, and lastly, time budget pressure. These findings highlight the importance of enhancing technical and professional auditor capabilities, effective time management, and accumulated work experience as key determinants of audit success.

Keywords: *audit quality, auditor experience, time budget pressure, auditor competence, PLS-SEM*

INTRODUCTION

Globalization has triggered an increase in accounting fraud cases, making financial statements a primary target. This phenomenon erodes public trust in the auditor's role in ensuring the quality of financial information. Stakeholder doubts about auditor independence not only impact the profession's reputation but also potentially cause financial losses for various interested parties (Junisa & Kuntadi, 2024).

Financial statement fraud, particularly manipulation presenting false information, can mislead shareholders and investors by portraying an inaccurate company condition. This carries the potential for significant business losses and threatens economic stability by damaging market trust and spreading misinformation through inaccurate financial reports (Yousefi Nejad et al., 2024). Inaccurate financial reporting can trigger stricter oversight and regulatory reforms. Furthermore, financial reporting fraud exposes weaknesses in the audit process and raises concerns about auditor behavior and independence. Consequently, audit quality has become a crucial topic in management and accounting, especially concerning the factors driving auditors to deliver high-quality results (Samagaio et al., 2024). Although financial statements must be audited by independent and objective professionals to ensure fairness and freedom from material misstatement, recent corporate collapses linked to business failures often reveal auditor failures. Accounting fraud perpetrated by management frequently involves public accountants, while audit processes in both private and public sectors still frequently show violations impacting audit quality (Aswar et al., 2021a).

High audit quality is essential to ensure financial statements are audited according to applicable standards and accounting principles. However, the performance of external auditors has recently been questioned again due to several prominent cases (Salsadilla et al., 2023). A current example is the case of the startup eFishery, embroiled in allegations of financial statement falsification. The alleged financial manipulation was reportedly intentionally conducted by former CEO Gibran Huzaifah to secure Series A funding. According to internal eFishery sources, the financial manipulation was carried out by Gibran and CFO Chrisna Adita since 2018. A 52-page draft report circulating among investors and reviewed by Bloomberg News estimates that management inflated

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revenues by nearly US$600 million (approx. Rp 9.7 trillion at Rp 16,197/USD) during January-September 2024. The report also states that over 75% of the reported figures were fictitious. An investigation report drafted by FTI Consulting suggests potential company losses could be far larger than previously estimated. Despite being audited by reputable firms (eFishery used PricewaterhouseCoopers/PwC and Grant Thornton – both declined to comment), venture capital (VC) investors often heavily rely on audited reports. Prior to eFishery, several other major fraud cases occurred in Indonesian startups like TaniFund, Investree, and KoinP2P.

Auditors with longer experience are generally perceived to deliver higher-quality audit results compared to novices. Work experience hones technical competence and builds professional maturity in performing audit tasks (Pramitasari, 2024). Through experience, auditors learn how to approach audit assignments, process relevant information, and enhance their ability to predict and detect fraud or errors, thereby influencing their decision-making. Consequently, the more frequently auditors perform their duties, the more experience they gain, leading to higher proficiency and more accurate decisions (Ruth & Kurniawati, 2025). This aligns with research by Ardillah & Chandra (2022), which found that auditor experience positively influences audit quality. They argue that auditor experience is crucial because auditors are entrusted by principals to meticulously evaluate audit evidence, enabling them to produce higher audit quality.

Beyond experience, time budget pressure is a critical variable influencing audit quality. A study by Meini et al. (2022) revealed that time budget pressure is positively associated with auditor quality *when* experienced auditors can efficiently allocate resources. Thus, auditor experience doesn't operate in isolation; it interacts with time budget pressure to achieve optimal audit outcomes. Time pressure encourages auditors to optimize time and resources to complete the audit on schedule, ensuring report reliability – except when further investigation of specific findings is necessary. Furthermore, Siregar et al. (2024) state that during the audit process, auditors are required to perform their duties with time cost efficiency. Time budget pressure enables an auditor to complete audit stages within the allocated timeframe (Siregar et al., 2024). This is consistent with research by Safaruddin et al. (2022), which found that Time Budget Pressure significantly affects audit quality. This indicates that higher Time Budget Pressure for auditors at the Southeast Sulawesi Provincial Inspectorate leads to increased audit quality. This suggests that under high time budget pressure, auditors can execute audit steps punctually, resulting in quality audit reports.

Besides external factors like time budget pressure, audit quality also heavily depends on the auditor's internal capacity, particularly professional competence. Auditors must possess adequate professional competence to detect violations and produce high-quality audits, as stipulated in the State Financial Audit Standards (2017) (Tandilangi et al., 2022). High-quality audits can only be produced by auditors meeting two main requirements: competence (mastering technology and applying audit procedures appropriately) and independence (Yuriski et al., 2022). This statement aligns with research by Colette & Lukman (2024), which found that auditor competence has a positive and significant influence on audit quality. The higher the competence (knowledge and skills) possessed by auditors, the better their ability to identify non-compliance with financial reporting standards, thereby producing higher-quality audits.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Audit Quality

Audit quality is defined as the extent of an auditor's ability to identify and report errors, irregularities, or non-compliance within the client's accounting system during the audit of financial statements, while adhering to applicable auditing standards and professional ethical principles (Novaldi et al., 2023). Audit quality also refers to the likelihood that an auditor will detect and disclose accounting violations, which depends on their technical expertise and independence, making it a key indicator of the quality of audit work (Fauzi et al., 2023). A high-quality audit aims to improve the performance of financial statement examinations so that the results are useful to stakeholders and enhance trust in the information presented—particularly for investors—by ensuring its reliability and minimizing the risk of inaccurate accounting data (Alecya & Pangaribuan, 2022). Based on these definitions, audit quality can be described as the auditor's professional ability to detect and report a client's accounting issues, which in turn enhances the reliability of financial reports for stakeholders and reduces the risk of misinformation.

Audit quality is the probability that an auditor will detect and report errors in the client's accounting system, which is measured through four indicators: input (such as personnel assignment and professional development), process (including independence and competence), output (including auditor performance and client acceptance), and follow-up on audit recommendations (Purba & Umar, 2021).

Auditor Experience

Auditor experience is a learning process that combines performance improvement, which may occur through formal and informal training, where a particular technique can lead to better behavioral design (Mohsin et al., 2023). Auditor experience refers to a set of practical competencies acquired through the repeated execution of audit procedures, including mastery of auditing techniques, problem-solving in the field, and managing the dynamics of the examination process (Pramitasari, 2024b). An auditor's work experience—shaped by educational background, technical competence, and analytical ability—is a crucial predictor of audit performance, as it enhances audit accuracy, error detection precision, and the overall quality of audit reports. It also reflects comprehensive job mastery through the accumulation of knowledge and skills over time (Napitupulu et al., 2023).

Several indicators of auditor experience include the following (Ruth & Kurniawati, 2025):

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1. **Length of service as an auditor**

Work experience can be measured by how long an individual has been practicing as an auditor.

2. **Intensity in performing audit tasks**

The more frequently an auditor performs audit assignments, the more experience, skills, and knowledge they gain, which in turn supports the effectiveness of future audits.

3. **Types of companies handled**

The more diverse the auditing experience an auditor has in handling various types of companies, the more refined their ability to identify potential fraud committed by clients.

4. **Continuous education**

The core qualifications of an auditor include two fundamental aspects: formal education in auditing and sufficient practical experience. It is the field experience that plays a vital role in refining professional expertise by applying and expanding theoretical knowledge gained during formal education.

Time Budget Pressure

Time budget pressure is a situation in which auditors are required to complete the audit on time and are expected to manage the allocated time efficiently (Aswar et al., 2021b). Time budget pressure in auditing arises when auditors face limited resources and tight deadlines, forcing them to accelerate their work significantly affecting the audit process and outcomes making time planning a crucial aspect (Meini et al., 2022). Time budget pressure allows auditors to complete audit phases according to the established schedule, thereby improving performance efficiency. Based on the definitions above, time budget pressure can be described as an audit situation where auditors are expected to complete their tasks efficiently within tight deadlines and limited resources. This situation accelerates the audit process, potentially affecting audit quality, but may also enhance performance efficiency if managed properly.

In this study, the indicators of time budget pressure are (Primandini & Latrini, 2025):

1. Understanding of the time budget
2. Performance evaluation by superiors
3. Auditor's responsibility for the time budget
4. Frequency of time budget revisions
5. Fee allocation for audit costs

Auditor Competence

Competence reflects a person's expertise, where an expert is defined as an individual with a high level of knowledge and skills in a specific field, acquired through relevant education and experience (Junisa & Kuntadi, 2024). Competence refers to an individual's ability, expertise, and capacity to carry out responsibilities in accordance with their role or position (Lestari & Ardiami, 2024a). Auditor competence is the capability of an individual to apply technical knowledge and skills aligned with audit procedures, which are gained through experience (Hanum et al., 2024). To become a professionally competent auditor, one must meet certain qualifications through education, training, certification exams, practical experience, and continuous development of knowledge and skills in line with career growth and applicable professional standards (Alsughayer, 2021).

Based on the definitions above, auditor competence can be described as an auditor's ability to carry out audit tasks professionally. This ability does not come instantly, but rather through a long process that includes formal education, specialized training, certification exams, and practical field experience. In addition, auditors must continuously update their knowledge and skills to keep up with the latest developments in auditing standards.

Auditor competence can be measured through three aspects (Setyana et al., 2021):

1. Mastery of accounting and auditing standards
2. Understanding of governance
3. Skill enhancement

Hypothesis

H1: Auditor experience has a positive effect on audit quality.

Experience is a learning process that shapes an individual's behavior, whether through formal education or everyday life, helping a person to grow and improve (Ardillah & Chandra, 2022c). Work experience reflects the length of time someone has worked professionally. Auditors with experience handling complex cases tend to be more efficient in examinations because they possess in-depth understanding and a range of solutions for various audit issues, ultimately enhancing the quality of audit outcomes (Arnita et al., 2023). Less experienced auditors tend to make more mistakes in their work compared to experienced auditors, who demonstrate better performance, are more capable of identifying, understanding, and even detecting indications of fraud—thus producing higher-quality audits (Ardillah & Chandra, 2022). Research conducted by Arnita et al. (2023) shows that auditor experience has a significant effect on audit quality, stating that the quality of an audit is strongly influenced by the auditor's experience, including their ability to work within their area of specialization and their consistency in applying applicable standards and ethical principles. These findings align with the research by Sihombing et al. (2021), which states that auditor experience has a significant impact on audit quality at public accounting firms in Medan. According to their findings, the longer an auditor works in the field, the more experience they accumulate, thereby improving their ability to produce high-quality audit reports.

H2: Time budget pressure has a positive effect on audit quality.

In audit practice, the pressure to complete work within a predetermined time budget often does not align with the complexity of the tasks, potentially leading auditors to engage in inappropriate audit behavior (Djirimu, 2023). Time budget pressure refers to a situation in which auditors are required to work efficiently within a strictly defined and binding time budget (Safaruddin et al., 2022). Time budget pressure becomes a critical consideration in audit planning, where auditors must optimize work efficiency to complete the

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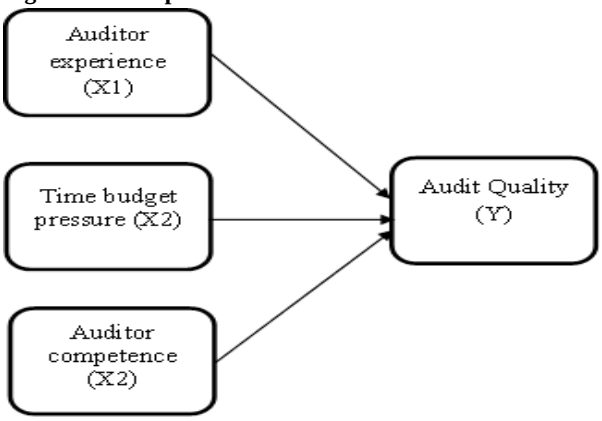
examination within the established time frame (Siregar et al., 2024). According to a study conducted by Meini et al. (2022), time budget pressure has a positive effect on audit quality. The pressure motivates auditors to optimize time and resource management to ensure timely audit completion, which in turn supports reliable financial reporting while allowing for necessary follow-up procedures. These findings are consistent with the research conducted by Safaruddin et al. (2022), which shows that time budget pressure significantly influences audit quality. Their study indicates that the implementation of time budget pressure on auditors at the Inspectorate of Southeast Sulawesi Province has the potential to improve audit quality, as structured time pressure encourages timely completion of audit stages, resulting in higher-quality audit reports.

H3: Auditor competence has a positive effect on audit quality.

Competence in the context of auditing reflects a combination of expertise, conceptual understanding, and experience that enables an auditor to carry out audit work effectively. Auditors who meet competency standards must be equipped with sufficient knowledge, training, skills, and experience (Ahmadi et al., 2022). In performing their duties, auditors are required to consistently apply sound professional judgment at every stage of the examination, where precision in assessment becomes a determining factor for the accuracy of audit opinions and the quality of audit reports (Hanum et al., 2024). Auditor competence which includes theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and field experience—simultaneously enhances audit quality, where higher levels of competence not only lead to better examinations but also sharpen the ability to detect potential irregularities (Alsughayer, 2021b). This is in line with the findings of studies by Nurbaiti & Prakasa (2022), Cisadani & Wijaya (2022), Lestari & Ardiami (2024), and Welly et al. (2022), all of which state that audit quality is influenced by the variable of auditor competence. Investors require high-quality financial statements; thus, competent auditors with sufficient knowledge and relevant experience are needed to assess management performance. The higher the level of auditor competence, the more positively it impacts the quality of audit results (Lestari & Ardiami, 2024).

Framework

Figure 1. Conceptual Model.



METHODOLOGY

Type of Research

This research employs a quantitative methodology, which relies on numerical data that is processed using statistical analysis techniques to verify hypotheses, draw conclusions, and explore correlations between the variables studied (Candra Susanto et al., 2024). In a quantitative approach, research data is essentially measurable, whether intrinsically numerical or qualitative data that can be converted into numerical form.

Population and Sample

The population in a study includes all elements we aim to investigate whether people, objects, or events as long as they are related to or possess characteristics aligned with the research objectives (Candra Susanto et al., 2024). The population in this study consists of Public Accounting Firms (KAP) in Bandung City. Meanwhile, the sample is a portion of the population selected to represent the overall research subjects (Leon et al., 2023).

The sampling method used in this study is non-probability sampling with a purposive sampling technique. Purposive sampling is a selective sampling method based on the researcher's subjective judgment. In this approach, the researcher sets specific criteria aligned with the research objectives and characteristics of the target population (Iskandar et al., 2023).

The sample size in this study was determined using Cohen's statistical analysis table, where for three constructs, with a 5% significance level and a minimum R^2 value of 0.25, the required minimum sample size is 59 auditors (Musyaffi, 2021).

The sample selection criteria are as follows:

A. Minimum education of a bachelor's degree in accounting
B. Respondents must have at least 3 years of work experience
C. Respondents must hold a position of at least senior auditor

Data Collection Technique

This study relies on primary data obtained through the distribution of questionnaires, supplemented by interviews to enrich the data analysis. The researcher uses questionnaires as a tool to understand the perceptions and behavioral patterns of a population based on data gathered from respondents (Abdillah et al., 2021). Data collection was conducted through a survey by distributing questionnaires both directly (hard copy) and online using the Google Forms platform.

Data Analysis Technique

This study implements Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) analysis using the Partial Least Squares (PLS) approach. PLS is a multivariate statistical analysis technique that enables the simultaneous evaluation of relationships between multiple dependent and independent variables. This method is a variant of SEM specifically developed to address data limitations

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such as small sample sizes, missing values, and multicollinearity among variables (Viddy, 2024).

Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) is a structural equation modeling approach that is assessed through two main components: the structural model (inner model), which tests the relationships between constructs, and the measurement model (outer model), which evaluates the relationships between indicators and their corresponding constructs (Musyaffi et al., 2021).

RESULT ANALYSIS

This study involves three independent variables: auditor experience, time budget pressure, and auditor competence, as well as one dependent variable, namely audit quality. Research data were collected from 64 respondents, consisting of auditors working at Public Accounting Firms (KAP) located in Bandung and Jakarta.

Outer Model Evaluation

Convergent Validity Test

a. *Outer Loading*

The initial step in testing convergent validity is to assess the outer loading value of each indicator in relation to the latent construct it measures. Outer loading reflects the strength of the relationship between the observed indicator and the latent variable it represents. According to guidelines in SEM-PLS analysis by Hair et al. (2017), an indicator is considered to meet the initial criteria for convergent validity if it has a loading factor of at least 0.70. Below are the outer loading values for each indicator used in this study:

Variabel	Indikator	Outer Loading
Auditor experience (X1)	X1.1	0,884
	X1.2	0,728
	X1.3	0,771
	X1.4	0,730
Time Budget Preasure (X2)	X2.1	0,722
	X2.2	0,743
	X2.3	0,855
	X2.4	0,721
Auditor competence (X3)	X3.1	0,751
	X3.2	0,790
	X3.3	0,838
	X3.4	0,773
Audit Quality (Y)	Y1.1	0,934
	Y1.2	0,905
	Y1.3	0,912
	Y1.4	0,939

Table 1. Outer Loading

Based on the outer loading results presented in the table, all indicators for the variables Auditor Experience (X1), Time Budget Pressure (X2), Auditor Competence (X3), and Audit Quality (Y) are declared valid because their outer loading values exceed 0.70. These outer loading values represent the strength of the correlation between each indicator and the latent variable being measured, as well as the proportion of indicator variance explained by that variable. The higher the outer loading value (closer to 1), the stronger the indicator reflects its construct. Convergent validity of an indicator is considered adequate when the outer loading value is greater than 0.70, indicating a strong relationship between the indicator and the latent variable it is intended to measure.

a. Average Variance Extracted (AVE)

Tabel 2. Average Variance Extracted (AVE)

Variabel	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)
Auditor experience (X1)	0,610
Time Budget Preasure (X2)	0,581
Auditor competence (X3)	0,622
Audit Quality (Y)	0,851

Based on the results of the SEM-PLS analysis, all variables in the model have met the criteria for convergent validity, as indicated by Average Variance Extracted (AVE) values above 0.50. The Auditor Experience (X1) variable has an AVE of 0.610, Time Budget Pressure (X2) is 0.581, Auditor Competence (X3) is 0.622, and Audit Quality (Y) is 0.851. These values indicate that the indicators used are able to represent each construct well, where a higher AVE value reflects a greater proportion of indicator variance explained by the construct. A construct meets the requirement for convergent validity if its AVE value exceeds 0.50. Therefore, this model satisfies one of the measurement adequacy requirements in SEM-PLS, particularly regarding convergent validity.

Discriminant Validity Test

Tabel 3. Fornell-Larcker Criterion

	Auditor experience (X3)	Kualitas Audit (Y)	Pengalaman Auditor (X1)	Time Budget Preasure (X2)
Auditor experience	0,789			
Audit Quality	0,533	0,923		
Auditor competence	0,159	0,440	0,781	
Time Budget Preasure	0,131	0,339	0,126	0,762

Based on the results of the discriminant validity test using the Fornell-Larcker Criterion, it can be seen that the square root of the AVE (√AVE) for each construct—Auditor Competence (0.789), Audit Quality (0.923), Auditor Experience (0.781),

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and Time Budget Pressure (0.762)—is higher than the correlations with other constructs, such as the correlation between Auditor Competence and Audit Quality (0.533) or between Auditor Experience and Audit Quality (0.440). These √AVE values indicate the extent to which each construct explains the variance of its indicators compared to the variance explained by other constructs.

The higher the √AVE, the better the construct represents its indicators.

Meanwhile, the inter-construct correlation values reflect the relationships between the latent variables, and the fact that all correlations are lower than the respective √AVE values indicates that there is no issue of construct overlap. Thus, the model satisfies the discriminant validity requirement, meaning that each variable can be clearly distinguished from one another and there is no redundancy or duplication in construct measurement.

Reliability Test

Reliability testing is used to measure the internal consistency of indicators within each construct (latent variable). In other words, this test ensures that each indicator used to measure a construct provides consistent and stable results. A research instrument is considered reliable if its Cronbach's Alpha value exceeds 0.60, indicating that the items in the questionnaire are sufficiently consistent. Additionally, reliability can also be assessed using Composite Reliability, where a value above 0.70 indicates that the instrument consistently measures the intended construct.

Tabel 4. Cronbach's Alpha & Composite Reliability

Variabel	*Cronbach's Alpha*	*Composite Reliability*
Auditor experience (X1)	0,805	0,861
Time Budget Preasure (X2)	0,759	0,846
Auditor competence (X3)	0,799	0,868
Audit Quality (Y)	0,942	0,958

The results of the reliability test indicate that all constructs in the model meet the criteria for good reliability. The Cronbach's Alpha values for each construct are: Auditor Experience (0.805), Time Budget Pressure (0.759), Auditor Competence (0.799), and Audit Quality (0.942). All values exceed the minimum threshold of 0.70, indicating adequate internal consistency among the indicators. In addition, the Composite Reliability values are also satisfactory: 0.861 for Auditor Experience, 0.846 for Time Budget Pressure, 0.868 for Auditor Competence, and 0.958 for Audit Quality. All of these values are above the recommended minimum of 0.70, suggesting that the indicators within each variable are consistent and reliable in measuring their respective constructs. Thus, the model is considered to have passed the reliability test, ensuring that the analysis results are stable and trustworthy.

Structural Model Evaluation (Inner Model)

Coefficient of Determination (R^2)

The Coefficient of Determination (R^2) indicates how much of the variability or changes in the dependent variable (Audit Quality) can be explained by the independent variables in the model, namely Auditor Experience, Time Budget Pressure, and Auditor Competence. A higher R^2 value suggests that the model is better at explaining the data. In other words, the greater the R^2, the more effectively the model accounts for the factors influencing audit quality.

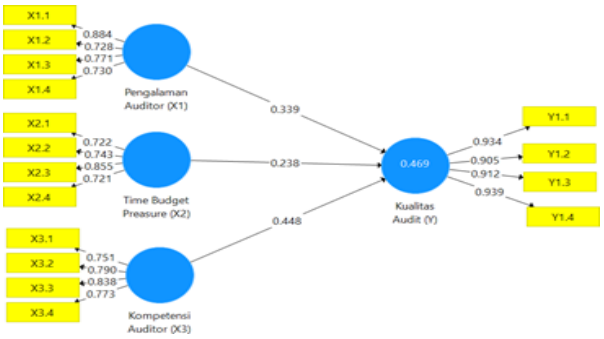
Table 5. R Square

	R Square	R Square Adjusted
Audit Quality (Y)	0,469	0,442

The results of the coefficient of determination show that the model has an R Square value of 0.469 and an Adjusted R Square of 0.442, which means that approximately 46.9% of the variation in the Audit Quality variable can be explained by the independent variables in the model, namely Auditor Experience, Time Budget Pressure, and Auditor Competence. This value falls into the moderate category, indicating that the model is reasonably capable of explaining the influence of the independent variables on Audit Quality. However, it also implies that around 53.1% of the variation in audit quality is influenced by other factors outside the scope of this research model.

Significance of the Path (Path Coefficients)

Figure2. Complete Model Path Diagram (For Inner Model).



Path coefficients in the SEM-PLS model are quantitative measures that indicate the magnitude and direction of the influence between constructs (latent variables) within the structural model. In this study, the path coefficient analysis shows that all independent variables Auditor Experience (X1), Time Budget Pressure (X2), and Auditor Competence (X3) have a positive influence on the dependent variable, Audit Quality (Y). A path coefficient of 0.339 indicates that Auditor Experience positively influences Audit Quality, meaning that the higher the auditor's experience, the better the audit quality. The magnitude of this influence is 33.9%, which falls into the moderate category. A path coefficient of 0.238 indicates that Time Budget Pressure also has a positive impact on Audit Quality. Thus, when time pressure is well-managed and

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realistic during the audit process, audit quality tends to improve. This influence is considered weak to moderate, at 23.8%. Lastly, a path coefficient of 0.448 shows that Auditor Competence has the strongest positive effect on Audit Quality compared to the other variables. This suggests that the higher the auditor's skills or competence, the better the resulting audit quality, with an influence of 44.8%.

Effect Size Assessment

In addition to examining the path coefficients and the coefficient of determination (R^2), structural model analysis using SEM-PLS also involves testing the effect size, known as F-Square (F^2). This test is used to determine the magnitude of contribution or strength of influence that each independent variable (predictor) has on the dependent variable, specifically by assessing how much the R^2 value changes when a predictor is included in or removed from the model.

Tabel 6. F Square Model

Variabel Path	F Square
Auditor experience → Audit quality	0,209
Time Budget Preasure → Audit quality	0,103
Auditor competence → Kualitas Audit	0,364

Based on the results of the Effect Size (F^2) test in the SEM-PLS model, it can be concluded that the Auditor Competence variable has the strongest contribution to improving Audit Quality, with an F^2 value of 0.364, which falls into the strong category. Meanwhile, the Auditor Experience variable has a moderate effect with an F^2 value of 0.209, and Time Budget Pressure has a small effect with an F^2 value of 0.103. These results indicate that among the three independent variables, Auditor Competence is the most dominant factor influencing audit quality. Therefore, enhancing auditor competence is crucial in efforts to improve audit quality.

Hypothesis Testing

In SEM-PLS structural model analysis, the Bootstrapping test is used to determine the significance of the relationships between variables in the model. Bootstrapping is a non-parametric statistical testing technique performed by repeatedly conducting random resampling to obtain precise estimates of model parameters, such as path coefficients, standard deviations, t-statistics, and p-values.

Tabel 7. Bootstrapping Test Results

	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standar Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistik	P Value
Auditor experience → Audit quality	0,339	0,341	0,096	3,551	0,000
Time Budget Preasure → Audit quality	0,238	0,245	0,106	2,248	0,025
Auditor competence → Kualitas Audit	0,448	0,470	0,097	4,613	0,000

Based on the test results, the relationship between Auditor Experience and Audit Quality shows a path coefficient of 0.339, with a t-statistic of 3.551 and a p-value of 0.000, indicating a positive and statistically significant influence of auditor experience on audit quality at the 5% significance level. Furthermore, the relationship between Time Budget Pressure and Audit Quality has a coefficient of 0.238, with a t-statistic of 2.248 and a p-value of 0.025, which also demonstrates a positive and significant impact.

Additionally, the relationship between Auditor Competence and Audit Quality yields a coefficient of 0.448, a t-statistic of 4.613, and a p-value of 0.000, indicating a strong and significant positive influence.

All t-statistics exceeding 1.96 and p-values below 0.05 confirm that the three independent variables in this study have a statistically significant influence on improving audit quality. The positive direction of all relationships implies that better auditor experience, higher auditor competence, and more controlled time budget pressure are associated with higher levels of audit quality.

DISCUSSION

The Influence of Auditor Experience on Audit Quality

The first hypothesis proposed is that Auditor Experience has a positive effect on Audit Quality. Based on the results of the structural model analysis using SEM-PLS, a path coefficient value of 0.339 was obtained, with a t-statistic of 3.551 and a p-value of 0.000. The t-statistic value greater than 1.96 and the p-value less than 0.05 indicate that this effect is statistically significant.

Thus, it can be concluded that auditor experience has a significant and positive influence on audit quality, meaning that the more experience an auditor has, the better the audit quality they can deliver. Therefore, H1 is accepted in this study. This finding is consistent with the research of Sihombing et al. (2021) and Arnita et al. (2023), which state that auditor experience plays an important role in determining audit quality, as longer work experience sharpens an auditor's ability to apply standards, ethics, and specialized knowledge to produce high-quality audit reports.

The Effect of Time Budget Pressure on Audit Quality

The second hypothesis proposed is that Time Budget Pressure has a positive effect on Audit Quality. Based on the results of the structural model analysis using SEM-PLS, this is evidenced by a path coefficient value of 0.238, a t-statistic value of 2.248 (>1.96), and a p-value of 0.025 (<0.05).

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Therefore, it can be concluded that Time Budget Pressure has a significant and positive influence on audit quality, meaning that the positive direction of the relationship indicates that the more controlled the time budget pressure is, the higher the resulting audit quality will be. Thus, H2 is accepted in this study.

This finding is in line with the research of Meini et al. (2022) and Safaruddin et al. (2022), which state that time budget pressure encourages auditors to manage their time and resources efficiently to complete the audit on time while ensuring reliable financial reporting. The implementation of structured time pressure, such as among auditors at the Provincial Inspectorate of Southeast Sulawesi, has been proven to improve audit quality by promoting the timely completion of each audit stage.

The Influence of Auditor Competence on Audit Quality

The third hypothesis proposed in this study is that Auditor Competence has a positive effect on Audit Quality. Based on the results of the structural model analysis using SEM-PLS, the path coefficient value is 0.448, with a t-statistic of 4.613 (>1.96) and a p-value of 0.000 (<0.05).

Therefore, it can be concluded that auditor competence has a positive and significant effect on audit quality, which means that the higher the auditor's competence in terms of knowledge, technical skills, and understanding of applicable audit standards and regulations the greater the likelihood of producing high-quality audit results.

Thus, H3 is accepted in this study. This finding is in line with the study by Lestari & Ardiami (2024), which states that investors require high-quality financial reports; therefore, competent auditors with adequate knowledge and relevant experience are needed to assess management performance. A higher level of auditor competence will positively contribute to improving the quality of audit outcomes.

Conclusion, limitations, and further research

Conclusion

Based on the research results and discussion, the following research results can be concluded:

1. Auditor Experience has a positive and significant effect on Audit Quality, meaning that the more experienced the auditor is, the better the quality of the audit produced.
2. Time Budget Pressure has a positive and significant effect on Audit Quality, indicating that well-structured time pressure can encourage auditors to complete audits on time and produce high-quality reports.
3. Auditor Competence has the strongest positive and significant influence on Audit Quality, suggesting that the higher the auditor's level of knowledge, skills, and understanding of auditing standards, the higher the resulting audit quality.

Limitations

This study has several limitations that should be taken into consideration:

1. The research only involved auditors from a specific government institution and did not include auditors from the private sector or other audit bodies. As a result, the findings cannot yet be generalized to all auditors across Indonesia.
2. The use of self-assessment questionnaires poses a risk of response bias. Respondents may have provided answers they perceived as correct or socially desirable, rather than responses that accurately reflect the actual situation.
3. This study was conducted within a limited timeframe, which prevented the researcher from applying a triangulation approach or conducting a long-term (longitudinal) study to obtain more comprehensive results.

Further Research

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the researcher offers the following suggestions:

1. Future research is recommended to involve auditors from various institutions, including the private sector, the Supreme Audit Board (BPK), Public Accounting Firms (KAP), as well as other regional inspectorates. This would help ensure that the results are more representative and can be generalized at the national level.
2. Future studies are expected to minimize potential bias by utilizing secondary and objective data or external assessments of audit performance, rather than relying solely on respondents' perceptions.

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