

# The Effect of Financial Distress, Debt Default and Audit Tenure on Going Concern Opinion

Bambang Leo Handoko, Mahdi Kusuma



**Abstract:** *One of the accounting assumptions is going concern. Going concern is how company can survive in long time business operation. Going concern becomes very crucial for users of financial statements, namely investors and creditors. If the company in which the investor invests funds and the creditors lend their funds is bankrupt, then the investment and credit lent are in vain and the investor and creditor suffer losses. This study aims to examine the effect of financial distress, debt default, and audit tenure on the acceptance of going concern audit opinion in the period 2014-2018. This study uses secondary data from manufacturing companies financial report which listed in Indonesian Stock Exchange, using purposive sampling method, we obtained 28 companies that are feasible, so that the sample from the study amounted to 140 samples. Statistical tests were performed using SPSS version 24.0 using logistic regression analysis. The results of this study show that financial distress variables have a significant negative effect while debt default and audit tenure have a positive effect on the acceptance of going-concern audit opinion.*

**Keywords :** *financial, distress, debt, default, audit, tenure, opinion, going, concern*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The survival of the company is the main focus of stakeholders, especially investors. [1] states: "Going concern is the survival of a business entity. An entity is considered to be able to maintain its business in the long term, with the understanding that the entity will not go bankrupt in the short term.". Basically, the company's ability to continue to operate (going concern) is often associated with the ability of management to manage the company's operations in order to stay in business. When there is a problem in the company's economy, shareholders expect to get an early warning of the company's financial failure, one of which is through a statement given by an independent party, namely an external auditor [2].

Auditing Standards Statement (PSA) 30 paragraph 02 SA Section 341 states that: "the auditor is responsible for evaluating whether there is great doubt about the entity's ability to maintain its survival in a reasonable period of time, no more than one year from the date of the financial statement being audited". Therefore, in addition to assessing and providing fairness information on financial statements presented by management, auditors are also expected to be able to assess and provide information about the company's ability to go concern to users of financial statements based on conditions and events at the time of the audit. However, the auditor is not responsible for the conditions and events that will occur after the audit period. The auditor pours the going concern information by adding an explanatory paragraph to the audit opinion regarding the auditor's consideration that there is significant uncertainty about the viability of the company in carrying out its operations [3].

This going concern opinion is very useful for users of financial statements, especially for investors to avoid mistakes in investment decisions while management can immediately take corrective actions in their business. In assessing the viability of a company, the auditor considers various aspects, especially the effect of providing such information. Because going concern opinion that is intended to be an evaluation for management often creates additional problems for the company. [4] states that this is supported by the self-fulfilling prophecy hypothesis which assumes that "if the auditor gives a going concern opinion, then the company will go bankrupt faster because it will cause investors to cancel their investment or creditors withdraw funds ". Nevertheless, audit information related to going concern needs to be disclosed appropriately as a form of company transparency and for the benefit of stakeholders [5].

There are many aspects used by auditors to be able to assess the viability of a company, one of which is the failure of the company to pay its debt obligations (debt default) [6]. [7] defines a default Debt as the failure of the debtor (company) to pay the principal debt and / or interest at maturity. Debt default can occur due to various things, one of which is due to the company's poor financial condition or experiencing financial distress. Financial distress is a condition where a company's financial condition during a certain period generates negative net profit and the company's operating cash flow is not sufficient to make improvements. In other cases, there are factors outside the company that can affect the acceptance of going concern audit opinion, namely the auditor's independence factor [8].

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When the public accounting firm undergo a long audit engagement with the same company, it is likely that the public accounting firm assesses the company as a source of income and to avoid loss or decline in revenue, the auditor becomes not independent in carrying out his duties, it is also called audit tenure [9].

## A. Problem Identification

Based on the discussion of the background of the above research, this study is intended to analyze the influence of the factors that are suspected of receiving going concern opinion.

The identification of research problems is as follows:

1. Does financial distress affect going concern opinion?
2. Does debt default affect going concern opinion?
3. Does audit tenure affect going concern opinion?

## B. Research Scope

The scope of this research is:

1. Manufacturing companies that are listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX) and present their financial statements using The Rupiah (Rp) as the currency exchange rate.
2. Companies that have not been delisted for 5 years in a row, between: 2014-2018.
3. Factors that influence the acceptance of going concern audit opinion are financial distress, debt default, and audit tenure. Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 5 of 2011 concerning Public Accountants.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW AND HYPOTHESIS

### A. Going Concern Opinion

Going concern is defined as the survival of an entity to be able to continue to run its operations. [1] states: "Going concern is the survival of a business entity. An entity is considered to be able to maintain its business in the long term, with the understanding that the entity will not go bankrupt in the short term. "

In the audit process, auditors not only assess the fairness of the presentation of financial statements, but also are responsible for evaluating the viability of the company. Auditors must decide whether they believe that the company will survive in the future. This assessment can be done by evaluating the effect of each transaction that significantly influences the company's operational activities.

A going concern audit opinion is an opinion stating that the auditor issued by adding an explanatory paragraph regarding the auditor's consideration that there is a significant inability or uncertainty over the survival of the company in carrying out its operations in the future [10]. An audit report that has a modified explanatory paragraph about going concern is an indication that in the auditor's judgment there is a risk that the company cannot survive in its business. Many studies state that after the issuance of SAS 59 about going concern, about 40-50% of companies that went bankrupt turned out to have received a going-concern audit opinion on the latest financial statements before bankruptcy [8].

### B. Financial Distress

Financial distress is a condition in which a decline in the economy experienced by a company, which can cause bankruptcy or liquidation [8]. Financial distress is a condition where a company's finances are in an unhealthy state or are experiencing difficulties [4].

A company can be described financial condition through financial ratios. If the company's financial ratios are bad, there is a possibility that the company is experiencing financial distress. [4] said that financial distress will cause companies to experience problems in finance such as negative cash flow, bad financial ratios, and failure to pay debt agreements. Because the company does not have good cash flow, it is very likely that the company will go bankrupt. In companies with good financial condition, auditors tend not to issue going-concern audit opinions.

H1: Financial distress significantly effects going concern opinion.

### C. Debt Default

In providing a going concern audit opinion, the auditor takes into consideration various factors, one of which is the default status. Default status can be detected by checking the debt obligations of the company [6]. If the company has a large enough debt, it is probable that the operations of the company can be disrupted because most of the cash flow is allocated to pay interest. Failure to meet debt and or interest obligations is a going concern indicator that is widely used by auditors in assessing the viability of a company [7]. [11] founds a strong relationship between default status and going concern opinion. His findings suggest that difficulties in adhering to debt agreements, facts of default payments or breach of agreement, clarify the going concern problem of a company.

H2: Debt default significantly effects going concern opinion.

### D. Audit Tenure

Audit tenure is the period of engagement that exists between a public accounting firm and the same company [12]. The longer the auditor's relationship with the company, it is feared the lower the independence and objectivity of the auditor so that the impact on disclosure of going-concern audit opinion. When the relationship between the auditor and the client of a public accounting firm has been going on for years, the client can be seen as a regular source of income that can continue, potentially reducing the independence of the public accounting firm [13].

In a study conducted by [14] proves that the longer the auditor's relationship with the company, the less likely the company will get a going concern audit opinion. This is evidence of research results that show that auditor independence is disturbed by the length of the engagement between the auditor and the client.

H3: Audit tenure significantly effects going concern opinion.

## III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data used in this research is secondary data. The data collection method in this study uses the documentation method.

Data collected in the form of financial statements from manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange for the period 2014 - 2018. The populations in this study were manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in 2014 to 2018. The research sample was taken by purposive sampling technique.

**A. Population, Criteria and Sample**

Criteria for selecting samples in this study include:

1. Manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange and published audited complete financial statements during the observation period, namely 2014-2018.
2. Manufacturing companies that have not been delisted from the Indonesia Stock Exchange during the observation period, namely 2014-2018
3. Manufacturing companies that experienced negative comprehensive net income for at least 1 period during the 2014-2018 observation year
4. Manufacturing companies that present their financial statements using the Rupiah exchange rate (Rp)

**B. Data Analysis Method**

Based on these criteria in sample method, 28 out of 144 manufacturing companies listed on the Stock Exchange, were found that could become research samples. This research was conducted for 5 years of observation so that the number of samples to be studied was 140 samples. Analysis will be performed using logistic regression with SPSS 24

This analysis aims to determine the effect of the variables Financial Distress (X1), Debt Default (X2), and Audit Tenure (X3) with Going Concern Opinion (Y).

In general, the formulation of multiple regressions can be written as follows:

$$Y = \alpha + b1X1 + b2X2 + b3X3 + \epsilon$$

Information:

- Y: Going Concern Opinion
- X1: Financial Distress
- X2: Debt Default
- X3: Audit Tenure
- α: Constants
- β1, β2, β3: Regression Coefficient
- ε: Error

**C. Descriptive Statistical Test**

The data in this study were analyzed with descriptive statistics in order to provide an overview or description of the data seen from the maximum value, minimum value, mean value, and standard deviation.

**D. Multicollinearity Test**

According to [15], multicollinearity is a symptom of correlation between independent variables, which is indicated by a significant correlation between independent variables. This test was conducted to test whether the regression model found a correlation between independent variables. A good regression model is shown in the absence of strong correlation symptoms among the independent variables.

Correlation between independent variables can be detected by using a correlation matrix between independent variables to see the magnitude of the correlation that occurs between independent variables. If there is a correlation between variables that exceeds 0.90, it can be concluded that there is an indication of multicollinearity and vice versa [15].

**E. Goodness of Fit Model test**

The feasibility of the regression model was assessed using Hosmer and Lemeshow's Goodness of Fit Test.

The basis for decision making is to pay attention to the value of I measured by the chi-square value at the bottom of the Hosmer and Lemeshow's Goodness of Fit Test:

1. H0 is not rejected (accepted), if probability > 0.05
2. H0 is rejected, if probability < 0.05

**F. Overall Model Fit Test**

This test is used to assess whether the hypothesized model is fit or not with the data. The overall model evaluation is done by comparing the value between -2 Log Likelihood (-2LL) at the beginning (Block Number = 0), where the model only includes constants with the value of -2 Log Likelihood (-2LL) at the end (Block Number = 1), where the model includes constants and free variables. If the value of -2LL Block Number = 0 > value of -2LL Block Number = 1, this shows a good regression model or in other words the model is hypothesized fit (in accordance) with the data [16].

**G. Matrix Classification Test**

The classification matrix is one of the tests used to measure the accuracy of the predictions of a logistic regression model for the dependent variable. The classification matrix can be analyzed from the classification table in the SPSS program output there are columns consisting of the dependent variable and the independent variable to be analyzed the actual data obtained. Analysis is used to predict going concern audit opinion on the company.

**H. Determination Coefficient Test**

The coefficient of determination (R square) is an important key in regression analysis. The value of Nagelkerke R square shows the value of the coefficient of determination in the logistic regression model. Nagelkerke R square value shows how much the ability of the independent variable can explain the variance of the dependent variable [17].

**I. Hypothesis Testing Using Logistic Regression**

Data analysis using logistic regression is intended to examine the effect of independent variables on the dependent variable if the dependent variable is expressed as a dummy variable (1 or 0).

Each data will be tested by comparing the significance value of the probability (sig) with the significance of the data (α = 5%). The rules of decision making are:

1. If the probability result (sig.) < A = 5%, then the hypothesis is accepted
2. If the probability result (sig.) > A = 5% then the hypothesis is rejected

**J. Operation of Variable**

Operation of variable is the actual description of the variable within the scope of the object under study so that it can be measured factors. Operational variables can be divided into 2 groups, namely dependent variables and independent variables



**Table-I : Operation of Variable**

Variable	Formula
Going Concern Opinion [1]	This variable is proxies with dummy with categorization company that accepts going concern audit opinion (number 1) and non-going opinion concern (number 0)
Financial Distress [18]	This variable is proxies by the results of the calculation of the Altman revised Z-score model
Debt Default [7]	This variable is proxies with dummy with categorization companies with default status (number 1) and non Default (number 0)
Audit Tenure [14]	This variable is measured based on the period of company engagement with the same public accounting firm

**IV. RESEARCH RESULT**

**A. Descriptive Statistic**

Descriptive statistical analysis was carried out to provide a general description of the mean (mean), biggest (maximum) value, smallest value (minimum), and standard deviation. Table 2 below presents descriptive statistics.

**Table-II : Descriptive Statistic**  
**Descriptive Statistics**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Opini Going Concern	140	0	1	.21	.413
Financial Distress	140	-3.52528	8.71830	1.1985199	1.85963809
Debt Default	140	0	1	.36	.482
Audit Tenure	140	1	3	1.71	.785
Valid N (listwise)	140				

Based on the table above we can conclude that:

The going concern audit opinion variable is measured based on the dummy variable, of the 140 samples tested the minimum value produced is 0 which describes the company that received a non going concern audit opinion, and the maximum value of 1 that represents the company that received the going concern audit opinion. The average value generated at the reception of going concern opinion is 0.21 and the standard deviation is 0.413.

**B. Multicollinearity Test**

Multicollinearity test is one of the statistical tests conducted in the logistic regression test which aims to determine the correlation between independent variables in the regression model to be investigated.

Multicollinearity test is one of the statistical tests conducted in the logistic regression test which aims to determine the correlation between independent variables in the regression model to be investigated.

Based on the multicollinearity test, the correlation matrix results table does not show significant symptoms of

multicollinearity of the independent variables tested, as if observed, the largest correlation that occurs between the independent financial distress variable and the default debt is 0.463. However, the biggest correlation that occurs is still lower than 0.9 so it can be concluded that there are no significant symptoms of multicollinearity between variables to be studied.

**Table-III : Multicollinearity Test**  
**Correlation Matrix**

	Constant	Fin Dis	Debt Def	Aud Ten
Step 1 Constant	1.000	-.093	-.398	-.721
Fin Dis	-.093	1.000	.463	-.347
Debt Def	-.398	.463	1.000	-.203
Aud Ten	-.721	-.347	-.203	1.000

**C. Goodness of Fit Model Test**

The feasibility test of the regression model is carried out using the Hosmer and Lemeshow Test table with the aim of testing that empirical data matches the model so that it can be declared fit.

**Table-IV : Hosmer-Lemeshow Test**  
**Hosmer and Lemeshow Test**

Step	Chi-square	df	Sig.
1	4.308	8	.828

Based on the feasibility test of the regression model, the calculated Chi-Square value was 4,308 with a significance value of 0.828. When compared to the significance level of the feasibility test the model is worth 0.828 is greater than  $\alpha$  (0.05). From the results of the comparison it can be concluded that H0 is not rejected, which means the regression model is fit and can be interpreted.

**D. Overall Model Fit test**

The overall model test is performed by comparing the value of -2 log likelihood regression models when the independent variable has not been entered -2 log likelihood (Block Number = 0) with when the independent variable has been entered -2 log likelihood (Block Number = 1) . If there is a decrease in the value of -2 log likelihood or -2 log likelihood value (Block Number = 0) is greater than -2 log likelihood (Block Number = 1), then the whole model shows a good fit model

**Table-V : Overall Model Fit Test**

	-2 log likelihood
Block 0	87.289
Block 1	42.625

Based on the overall model test, it can be seen that the regression model which initially had a value of -2 log likelihood 87,289 decreased by 45,537 after the inclusion of 3 independent variables became 42,625. The decrease shows a better fit model after adding the independent variables in the model.

**E. Matrix Classification Test**

The classification matrix test aims to determine the predictive power of the regression model on the probability of going concern audit opinion.

**Table-VI : Matrix Classification Test**

Classification Table<sup>a</sup>

	Observed	Predicted		
		Opini Going Concern		Percentage Correct
		Non Going Concern Opinion	Going Concern Opinion	
Step 1	Opini Going Concern	124	8	93.9
	Non Going Concern Opinion	12	24	66.7
Overall Percentage				88.1

a. The cut value is .500

Based on the results of the classification matrix test, it can be seen that overall the predictive power of the regression model can predict the probability of receiving a going concern audit opinion is 88.1 percent.

**F. Determination of Coefficient Test**

Determination coefficient test is intended to be able to find out how much the proportion of independent variables is able to explain the dependent variable.

**Table-VII : Determination of Coefficient Test**

Model Summary

Step	-2 Log likelihood	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
1	42.625 <sup>a</sup>	.412	.638

a. Estimation terminated at iteration number 7 because parameter estimates changed by less than .001.

The table shows that the value of Nagelkerke R Square is 0.638, which means that the variability of the dependent variable that can be explained by the independent variable is 63.8 percent, 36.2 percent of the variability of the dependent variable is explained by other variables outside the research, for example company growth and quality variables an audit.

**G. Hypothesis Testing Using Logistic Regression**

The logistic regression test method is used to test the regression coefficient

**Table-VIII : Hypothesis Testing**

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1 <sup>a</sup>						
Fin Dis	-1.979	.555	12.719	1	.00036	.138
Debt Def	.198	.904	.048	1	.82657	1.219
Aud Ten	.328	.554	.350	1	.55422	1.388
Constant	-.937	1.023	.840	1	.35952	.392

Based on the results of testing the regression coefficients with logistic regression, the following logistical equations are obtained:

$$Y = -1.979 + 0.198X1 + 0.328X2 - 0.937X3 + \epsilon$$

Based on the results of regression tests conducted, the financial distress variable has a significance value of 0.00036. The significance of financial distress is smaller when compared to  $\alpha$ , so it can be concluded that this independent

variable has a significant influence on the dependent variable in the study (H1 accepted). From the regression results also obtained a constant value of -1.979, which means financial distress has a negative influence on the acceptance of going concern audit opinion. This result is in line with the research conducted by [8]

Based on the results of regression tests conducted, the debt default variable has a significance value of 0.82657. The significance of the default debt is greater when compared to  $\alpha$ , so it can be concluded that this independent variable has no significant effect on the dependent variable in the study (H2 rejected). From the regression results also obtained a constant value of 0.198 which means that debt default has a positive effect on the acceptance of going concern audit opinion. This result is supported previous study by [11], but opposite [7]

Based on the results of regression tests conducted, the Audit Tenure variable has a significance value of 0.55422. The significance of Audit Tenure is greater than  $\alpha$ , so it can be concluded that this independent variable has no significant effect on the dependent variable in the study (H3 is rejected). From the regression results also obtained a constant value of 0.328 which means that Audit Tenure has a positive influence on the acceptance of going-concern audit opinion. This result is supported previous study by [12] but in opposite result with [14], [19].

**V. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

Based on tests conducted using logistic regression, empirical evidence is obtained that the financial distress variable has a significant positive direction on the going concern audit opinion. The results of this study indicate that the greater the value of Z-Score, the less likely the company will accept going-concern audit opinion and apply otherwise.

Based on tests conducted using logistic regression, empirical evidence is obtained that the debt default variable does not have a significant effect on the going concern audit opinion. When reviewed again, this variable has a positive relationship, which means the effect of the default status is in line with the acceptance of going concern opinion. Based on the insignificant results of the research, the researcher is of the opinion that in giving a going-concern audit opinion, the auditor not only assesses the company's ability to pay obligations that will be due in the near future, but rather leads to the company's ability to pay all obligations.

Based on tests conducted using logistic regression, empirical evidence is obtained that the Audit Tenure variable does not have a significant effect on the going concern audit opinion. If reviewed again, this variable has a positive relationship, which means the longer the audit engagement is carried out, the more likely the going concern opinion will be issued. Based on the insignificant research results, the researcher is of the opinion that the length of the auditee engagement with the public accounting firm helps the auditor to better understand the scope of the business and provide a more accurate assessment related to going concern audit opinion [3].

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**Bambang Leo Handoko**, Assistant Professor, he holds double master degrees, Master Degree of Accounting from Trisakti University and Master of Management from Kalbis Institute, both in Jakarta, Indonesia. His research field is in the scope of financial and fraud auditing. He was expert in forensic accounting and fraud examination. He has become reviewer and keynote speech in some international conference. He is member of Indonesian Accounting Council. Currently work as faculty member and subject content coordinator in Bina Nusantara University. He earns best sit in peer review coordinator from Bina Nusantara University in 2016, and then won best teaching award from Bina Nusantara University in 2018.



**Mahdi Kusuma** holds bachelor degree in Accounting from Bina Nusantara University, Indonesia. His research scope is in the field of financial auditing. Currently he works in big four public accounting firm, Price Water House Coopers as auditor. He has outstanding performance as student. She graduates faster than the targeted time. He finished her study in the same time with finishing her internship work. He took internship in public accounting firm to enhance her skill and knowledge in audit environment. She was listed as one of the notable alumni of Bina Nusantara University undergraduate program; he will continue his study in Master Degree.