

COMPANY CHARACTERISTICS THAT AFFECT FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES IN VARIOUS ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NON-FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANIES IN INDONESIA

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Abstract

The research conducted aims to analyze and determine the factors of company characteristics that can affect the prediction of corporate distress during economic fluctuations with an empirical study of non-financial service companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange from 1998 - 2019. The type of research conducted is quantitative research where the object of research is non-financial service companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange with a sample of 66 companies. research using panel data with panel data regression analysis. The findings of this study reveal that in predicting corporate distress, which is influenced by company characteristics, to determine the condition of the company whether it experiences corporate distress or not, calculations are carried out with the Zmijewsky model and with panel data estimation to determine the effect of company characteristics consisting of company experience, number of workers, number of share ownership and type of ownership and company size. From the results obtained during the economic downturn, the influential characteristic is the number of workers, while during economic growth or recovery, the influential characteristics of the company are company experience and company size.

Keywords: Company Characteristics, Corporate distress, economic turmoil.

Introduction

In recent years the company is faced with intense competition, a dynamic environment and worsening economic conditions that make companies do various ways to maintain the condition of the company which causes the company to have financial problems with the decline in profits obtained by the company causing the company to experience difficulties (*Corporate distress*). The difficulties experienced by the company are inseparable from the company's ability to deal with various uncertainties in the global world. For companies, the occurrence of political and economic turmoil brings renewal in corporate management practices where companies must be able to anticipate and take strategic steps and mitigate against environmental changes that occur. The risks experienced by companies due to the political and economic environment bring changes in economics and finance (Var et al., 2013). Financial risk in policy uncertainty has a significant impact on the company. Companies must be able to manage risks to remain and survive in an unstable political and economic scene.

The economic and financial stability of companies is of concern to many, including investors, bankers, government agencies, regulators, and auditors. The performance of companies listed on the stock market is an important indicator, including for investors to adjust the stock portfolio, for creditors to calculate the cost of loan *defaults* and the Company's loan conditions,

for the government and authorities used to regulate and monitor the financial status of companies in general so that economic and industrial policies can be carried out appropriately, Furthermore, auditors need to examine the going concern status for companies to present accurate statements regarding the Company's financial status.

The legal event of corporate bankruptcy does not adequately represent the complexity of the real economy of a company going through financial distress. For example, if a failing firm goes through a long process of failure, there will be a considerable time gap between the period the firm enters a state of financial distress and the possible final event of legal bankruptcy. (Balcaen & Ooghe 2006).. The consideration of financial distress as a way (rather than an event) appears more complex to define and categorize precisely, but closer to reality as it does not only consider the official date of failure, making for different notions and steps in each company in the process of determining financial distress. The extension of time makes it a better sequence of steps (Agostini, 2018). In this way, financial distress becomes a dynamic process in which the majority of distressed firms do not actually become insolvent.

The recognition of the fact that firm failure does not lead to a bankruptcy filing has gained ground in the academic literature and has been an important premise for the evolution of the definition of social stress finance after early contributions to the topic of financial distress (Jones 1987; Gilbert et al., 1990; Flagg et al., 1991; Barnes, 1987; Barnes, 1990). eventually academic and practitioner studies tried to move from an *ex post* to an *ex ante* model *approach* while remaining based on financial symptoms. More recent approaches adopt financial criteria based on the firm's failure to meet financial obligations and consider the firm as distressed not only when filing for bankruptcy, Wruck (1990), Asquith et al. (1991), Andrade & Kaplan (1998), Whitaker (1999), Sanz & Ayca (2006), among others. including the first to consider a sample of exclusively distressed firms and identify four events namely dividend reduction, "going concern" fair opinion, troubled debt restructuring, and breach of debt covenants to signal that the firm is in distress.

The political and economic uncertainty of the current decade has led to an increase in corporate bankruptcies around the world. The rate of bankruptcies experienced by companies in the United States is the highest, followed by the United Kingdom, and Taiwan. Bankruptcies in the United States during the third quarter of 2016 were 2,445, followed by Hong Kong bankruptcies of 6460. Bankruptcies in Italy rose to 3800 companies in the second quarter of 2016 from 3640 companies in the first quarter of the same year. UK bankruptcies grew to 3633 in the third quarter of 2016 from 3617 in the second quarter of 2016. Taiwan bankruptcies rose to 2132 companies in Nov 2016 from 1981 companies in Oct 2016. (Bhutta, 2020). A similar incident also occurred in Indonesia where in 2009 - 2018 there were 40 delisting companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange. Among those delisted are the service sector as many as 22 companies which is the largest number of delisting followed by manufacturing companies totaling 15 companies and the least delisted are mining sector companies totaling 3 companies. (Novita, 2020). The data obtained shows that the largest number of companies delisted in that period were service sector companies, which means that the service sector is very vulnerable to the economic and political turmoil that occurs.

Service sector companies are the most important supporting sectors of other sectors, such as the transportation and telecommunications sectors that support the activities of the manufacturing sector in distributing and marketing their products. This sector consists of

thirteen industries consisting of subsectors, real estate, construction, energy, toll roads, ports and airports, telecommunications, transportation, wholesale and retail trade, hotel restaurants and tourism, advertising printing and media, health, computer services and devices. It is a sector that is highly dependent on mobility and interaction between consumers and producers. Changes in policy and economic stability have a significant impact on the growth of the services sector.

Literature Review

Financial Hardship

The development of the concept of financial distress is still continuing which is part of the pre-existing definitions including research by Cheng et al (2018) modified the stages of financial administration and broadly defined them based on financial distress and financial stability with four states of financial distress used in the original model, Then modified this model to develop a prewarning model based on fuzzy regression. If the net worth of a company's shares is less than its book value, then the company is in the stage of financial distress. Ashraf et al. (2019) define a company as being in the early stages of distress if its stock quotation is less than 50% of book value for three consecutive years, then classify financial distress as a reduction or omission of dividend payments for five consecutive years. Based on Theodossiou (1993) states that companies that stop publishing financial statements at least two years before filing for bankruptcy. If the company does not publish final accounts, the company will not hold an annual general meeting. Therefore, that companies that do not publish their financial statements for at least three consecutive years are in the early stages of financial distress.

On the other hand, capital market theory states that financial difficulties associated with the factors that influence them are not systematic. In the sense that financial difficulties can occur due to internal problems and also external conditions. Internal conditions that occur such as liquidity problems, leverage and losses due to poor operational activities that can cause the company to experience difficulties, and if the company is able to overcome internal problems, it is not certain that the company will avoid financial difficulties. Where factors that exist outside the company such as government regulations, technological changes, labor wage increases, economic growth of a country also spur the emergence of financial difficulties in the company.

Factors that cause corporate distress that come from outside the company which is a systematic risk that cannot be avoided by the company but is a very important thing that can cause the company to experience difficulties include political, environmental, economic, legal, social, cultural, educational, security, and other factors that come from outside the company that cannot be avoided by the company. Researchers and analysts who have an interest in predicting company conditions prefer to use macroeconomic variables in explaining company conditions including economic growth, inflation rates, bank interest rates, and currency exchange rates.

Economic Conditions

Macroeconomic variables get special attention by various interests that exist towards companies and capital markets, where macroeconomic conditions that are often the center of attention are: economic growth, inflation rate, interest rate, and currency exchange rate. Stakeholders in companies and capital market players usually before investing and making decisions to invest will see and predict the economic conditions of a country that is usually

seen is fluctuations in economic growth rates, inflation, interest rates and currency exchange rates. This activity is not without reason, where stakeholders, especially investors, understand very well that the investment they will make is determined by the economic turmoil of a country that can be seen from fluctuations in economic growth, inflation, interest rates and foreign exchange rates where all of that will increase or decrease systematic risk that cannot be controlled by the company, and the company can only anticipate it, but this will also have a big impact on the company.

Increasing or decreasing investment in the real sector is potentially caused by economic turmoil with moving economic growth, inflation, interest rates, and foreign exchange rates, and this is stated in economic theory. The impact of the economic turmoil is on the activities and performance of the capital market which states that investments made in the capital market become risky due to high volatility. The economic turmoil that occurs for each company has a different effect depending on how the company responds to it, which is clear that economic turmoil is felt by every company.

The economic turmoil felt by the company depends on the conditions that exist in the company, the amount of risk that occurs in the company caused by economic conditions affects the company differently. Companies that are in good condition or financially healthy the impact of economic turmoil may not be too pronounced, but on the other hand if the company is financially poor then the economic turmoil will have a bad influence that will worsen the condition of the company. The company's poor condition will make the company unable to move to develop its activities, this will cause the company's performance to decrease, which in turn will make it difficult to increase the company's value and if it is not anticipated properly by the company manager, it will lead to bankruptcy.

The economic turmoil in question is the fluctuations that occur in economic growth which can be divided into growth / growth, slowing or declining growth, the lowest point (Trough) and the highest point (Peak).

Research Methods

The research was conducted using panel data analysis where there were 66 companies with a research period of 21 years consisting of economic growth data that fluctuated. From this in this study that determines economic fluctuations is the volatility of economic growth the data is divided into years that can be distinguished by the occurrence of economic fluctuations, namely: the economic cycle from 1998 to 2019 as follows:

Cycle 1: 1998 Trough/depreciation, 1999 expansion, 2000 and 2001 contraction

Cycle 2: Expansion 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 contraction 2008, 2009 expansion 2010

Cycle 3: contraction 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, expansion 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019

Where the variables used are Company characteristics consisting of Company size (Size), Age, Number of workers, Ownership and type of Company as independent variables and financial distress as the dependent variable, which is predicted by the X-Score model from Zmijewsky. To determine which companies are experiencing difficulties, the measurement is carried out with the Zmijewski *X-Score* model with the formula:

$$X\text{-Score} = -4.3 - 4.5\text{Prof} + 5.7\text{Lev} - 0.004\text{Liq}$$

Description:

Prof = *Profitability proxied by return on assets*

Lev = *Leverage which is proxied by the debt ratio*

Liq = *Liquidity proxied by current ratio*

Results

From the data obtained by using panel data regression analysis, the following results can be found:

Estimation Under conditions of contraction/slow growth/decline in 2002, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2018

Table 1 Panel Data Regression Estimation

Model	Variables	Coef	T statistic	or z	Prob. statistic
Pooled least squared (PLS) Prob > F = 0.0000 R-Squared = 0.0558	Cons	703,0497	6,91		0,000
	Size	-14,28497	-2,65		0,008
	Age	0,5548273	0,20		0,844
	Ln TK	-29,78236	-3,69		0,000
	KP	-0,8832161	-1,44		0,150
	Type	-4,817663	-0,13		0,896
Fixed effects model (FEM) Prob > F = 0.0317 R-Squared = 0.0297	Cons	586,1728	3,28		0,001
	Size	-1, 818364	-0,35		0,723
	Age	-1,831108	-0,38		0,705
	Ln TK	-41,4631	-2,82		0,005
	KP	1,255278	1,44		0,151
	Type	-35,55302	-0,33		0,740
Random Effect Model (REM) Prob > F = 0.0104 R-Squared = 0.0392	Cons	579,6459	4,13		0,000
	Size	-3,32179	-0,68		0,497
	Age	-0,8482104	-0,25		0,802
	Ln TK	-38,63599	-3,31		0,001
	KP	0,6450869	0,84		0,400
	Type	-6,658185	-0,10		0,921

Source: Stata processed results

From Table 1, it can be seen the estimation results for each regression model where using Pooled Least Square (PLS) it is found that the model is significant with Prob. 0.0000 smaller than the sig value, 0.05, with Rsquere of 0.0478 or 4.78%. It can also be seen that of the 5 non-financial characteristic variables, only 2 variables have an influence on corporate distress, namely company size (Size) and labor (LnTK). If using the Regression fix Efect (FEM) model, it can be seen that the model is also significant with prob. 0.0317 and R squire of 0.0317 or 3.17% with the result that only the labor variable has an effect. Furthermore, the last model is the random effect model (REM). The results are not much different from the fix effect, where the prob value is significant for the model with Rsquere 0.0104 or 1.04% with the same number

of significant variables as the fix effect. For this reason, it is necessary to determine which model is better to use from the three models, so a model test is carried out.

The model test conducted can be seen from table 2

Table 2 Model estimation test

Model estimation	Probability
Chow Test	0,0000
Breusch Pagan Lagrange Multiplier (LM) test	0,0000
Hausman Test	0,3626

Source: Stata processing results

From Table 2 above, it can be seen that a good model to use is to use the random effects model (REM). With the results

Table 2 Variabel estimation with random effects,

Variabel	Coef	Std Error	Z	Prob.
Cons	579,6459	140,1883	4,13	0,000
Size	-3,32179	4,892776	-0,68	0,497
Age	-0,8482104	3,375286	-0,25	0,802
Ln TK	-38,63599	11,66418	-3,31	0,001
KP	0,6450869	0,766207	0,84	0,400
Type	-6,658185	67,19087	-0,10	0,921
Prob>Chi2	0,0104	R-Square	0,0392	

Source: Stata processed results

In Table 2, it can be seen that when the economy decreases or economic growth slows down, what affects *corporate distress* is the number of workers where the greater or large number of workers will cause the company to experience difficulties, this can be said that the burden borne by the company for labor when economic conditions decline becomes higher.

Estimation under Growth/recovery conditions: 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2016, 2017 and 2019

Table 3 Panel Data Regression Estimation

Model	Variables	Coef	T statistic	or z	Prob.
Pooled least squared (PLS) Prob > F = 0.0000 R-Squared = 0.0902	Cons	792,4896	6,57		0,000
	Size	-43,69088	-4,61		0,000
	Age	6,660194	2,22		0,027
	Ln TK	11,6035	1,23		0,219
	KP	-1,964432	-2,76		0,006
	Type	3,458956	0,07		0,946
Fixed effects model (FEM)	Cons	464,9079	2,30		0,022

Prob > F = 0.0191	Size	-5,507666	-0,34	0,736
R-Squared = 0.056	Age	-9,107021	-2,32	0,020
	Ln TK	15,13844	1,23	0,219
	KP	0,1039338	0,12	0,902
	Type	-48,42896	-0,46	0,649
Random Effect Model (REM)	Cons	-618,6231	-2,05	0,041
Prob > F = 0.0000	Size	94,63459	3,47	0,001
R-Squared = 0.0685	Age	-23,05331	-4,89	0,000
	Ln TK	13,37888	0,92	0,358
	KP	1,380913	1,48	0,148
	Type	omit		

Source: Stata processing results

From Table 3, it can be seen the estimation results for each regression model where using Pooled Least Square (PLS) it is found that the model is significant with Prob. 0.0000 smaller than the sig value, 0.05 with Rsquare of 0.0902 or 9.02%. It can be seen from the 5 non-financial characteristic variables that only 2 variables have an influence on corporate distress, namely company size (Size) and experience (age). If using the Regression fix Effect (FEM) model, it can be seen that the model is also significant with prob. 0.0191 and R square of 0.056 or 5.60% with the result that only the Experience variable has an effect. Furthermore, the last model is the random effect model (REM). The results with a significant prob value for the model with Rsquare 0.0685 or 6.85% with a significant number of variables are Size and experience (Age). For this reason, it is necessary to determine which model is better to use from the three models, so a model test is carried out.

The model test conducted can be seen from table 4

Table 4 Model estimation test

Model estimation	Probability
Chow Test	0,0000
Breusch Pagan Lagrange	0,0000
Multiplier (LM) test	
Hausman Test	0,0000

Source: Stata processed results

From table 4 above, it can be seen that a good model to use is to use the Fixed effect model (FEM). To improve the estimation results, FE regression with robust test is performed.

Table 5 Variable estimation with fixed effects, robust

Variables	Coef	Robust Std Err	Z	Prob.
Cons	-618,6231	305,042	-2,03	0,047
Size	94,63459	6,960784	3,43	0,001
Age	-23,05331	1,250468	-3,31	0,002
Ln TK	13,37888	14,37021	-0,93	0,355

KP	1,380913	1,250468	1,10	0,274
Type	0	Omitted		
Prob>Chi2	0,0080	R-Square	0,0685	

Source: Stata processed results

In Table 5, it can be seen that when the economy grows (recovery) the non-financial company characteristic variable that affects *corporate* distress is Company Experience (Age). experience shows that the more experience the company has, the less likely it is to experience corporate distress. And seen from the simultaneous results also increased with an R-square of 0.0685 or 6.85%. As for the company size variable when the economy grows, the size of the company has a positive effect on corporate distress, meaning that if the size of the company increases, the possibility for the company to experience corporate distress increases as well, meaning that in economic conditions improving the size of a large company will be a burden for the company if the company is unable to manage it.

Estimation at peak conditions (2001, 2007 and 2011)

Table 6 Panel Data Regression Estimation

Model	Variables	Coef	T statistic	or z	Prob.
Pooled least squared (PLS) Prob > F = 0,0830 R-Squared = 0.0736	Cons	568,4479	3,50		0,001
	Size	-31,75961	-2,81		0,006
	Age	-0,2762921	-0,07		0,947
	Ln TK	19,88993	0,80		0,427
	KP	-1,260402	-1,40		0,163
	Type	49,458956	1,49		0,138
Fixed effects model (FEM) Prob > F = 0.0690 R-Squared = 0.0236	Cons	-194,6085	-0,43		0,667
	Size	32,507666	0,54		0,592
	Age	-13,11586	-1,22		0,226
	Ln TK	10,22683	0,23		0,822
	KP	5,059078	2,37		0,021
	Type	0			
Random Effect Model (REM) Prob > F = 0.3642 R-Squared = 0.0627	Cons	453,1046	2,44		0,015
	Size	-28,06293	-2,05		0,040
	Age	-1,050775	-0,22		0,823
	Ln TK	23,66169	1,53		0,127
	KP	-0,3014705	-0,29		0,769
	Type	61,30628	0,80		0,423

Source: Stata processed results

From Table 6, it can be seen the estimation results for each regression model where using Pooled Least Square (PLS) it is found that the model is not significant because the Prob. value

of 0.0830 is greater than the sig value, 0.05. And it is also seen that all variables are insignificant. By using the Regression fix Efect (FEM) model, it can be seen that the model is also insignificant with prob. 0.0690 and there are also no significant variables. Furthermore, the last model is the random effect model (REM). The results with the prob value are not significant for the model.

Trough (depression) estimation: 1998 and 2009

Table 7 Panel Data Regression Estimation

Model	Variables	Coef	T statistic	or z	Prob.
Pooled least squared (PLS) Prob > F = 0.2883 R-Squared = 0.0315	Cons	579,7088	2,99		0,003
	Size	-18,6981	-1,51		0,132
	Age	-2,235435	-0,55		0,580
	Ln TK	9,999243	0,58		0,561
	KP	-1,625444	-1,33		0,184
	Type	93,72471	1,15		0,251
Fixed effects model (FEM) Prob > F = 0.0214 R-Squared = 0.0163	Cons	193,9833	0,60		0,548
	Size	-17,1358	-0,93		0,354
	Age	-12,28471	-2,66		0,009
	Ln TK	59,47545	2,00		0,047
	KP	-1,830337	-0,93		0,354
	Type	264,46	1,74		0,084
Random effect Model (REM) Prob > F = 0.1336 R-Squared = 0.0260	Cons	506,5798	2,35		0,019
	Size	-19,15637	-1,45		0,148
	Age	-6,475426	-1,65		0,100
	Ln TK	22,35828	1,16		0,246
	KP	-1,437597	-1,08		0,282
	Type	129,4639	1,40		0,161

Source: Stata processing results

From table 7, it can be seen the estimation results for each regression model where using Pooled Least Square (PLS) it is found that the model is not significant because the Prob. value of 0.0830 is greater than the sig value, 0.05. And it is also seen that all variables are insignificant. By using the Regression fixed Efect (FEM) model, it can be seen that the model is also insignificant with prob. 0.0690 and there are also no significant variables. Furthermore, the last model is the random effect model (REM). The results with the prob value are not significant for the model.

Discussion

The characteristics of companies that affect corporate distress in different economic conditions are different. When economic conditions contract or growth decreases, the company must pay

attention to the number of workers in the company, so that the company does not experience difficulties. In declining economic conditions, the company's expenses will increase, one of which is the burden of wages and salaries that must be paid to workers, while revenues decrease due to a decrease in income. This is in accordance with research conducted by Widarwati & Haryono, (2018) and Li et al., (2021). When the economy recovers or grows, what needs to be considered is experience where in a growing economy, company competition is also getting bigger and company experience is one of the competitive advantages owned by the company to be able to compete in a fierce competitive environment. While the growth of company assets which is a control variable is seen when economic growth improves, companies must have appropriate investments that can increase company value. Improper asset management will bring difficulties and large costs that will be borne by the company.

Conclusion

The economic turmoil in this study affects the prediction of corporate distress. This shows that every company has ways and methods of responding to economic uncertainty, but it cannot be avoided by the company. Companies can only mitigate risks with existing economic conditions. From the results of the analysis, economic growth has an impact on corporate distress where declining economic growth will increase the probability of the company experiencing difficulties. Economic turmoil is a systematic risk that must be faced by the company at any time and cannot be avoided by the company. Companies try to reduce the risk of economic turmoil by taking policies within the company including capital structure policies, cash use policies, investment policies and other policies that can have a good impact on the company in the event of economic turmoil.

Non-financial characteristics in each episode of economic turmoil provide different things where in this study are grouped in various episodes of economic turmoil that provide different results: a) When the economy experiences a decline or slowdown / contraction, from the estimation results it is found that labor has an effect on *corporate distress*, this shows that when the economy is sluggish or decreases the amount of labor will be a burden for the company because the costs incurred are not comparable to the income received by the company because of the decreased demand due to the economic downturn; b) When the economy experiences an increase or recovery, the characteristics of the company that affect the estimation results are company size and company experience can affect corporate distress. When the economy increases, competition will also increase where the growth and demand of the community becomes high causing competition to also become tighter, to win in the competition the company must have many assets and sufficient experience as one of the advantages that exist in the company. A large amount of assets can bring the company into difficulty if the management and use of these assets are not effective and efficient.

Economic turmoil, which is an economic cycle that occurs in a country, also has an impact on company development. The turmoil that occurs has a different impact on the company. This study shows that in a declining economy or contraction the number of workers is something that needs to be considered to reduce costs incurred in the company, this supports the life cycle theory where during a recession the company will tend to reduce its employees. (Widarwati & Haryono, 2018). When the economy is growing again (recovery), what the company needs to pay attention to is the investment that will be made by the company by adding assets because

when economic growth improves the company gets good profits which causes the company to make investments that may not be needed by the company so that it can become a burden in the future. In addition, experience, which is proxied by age, is also needed during a period of economic growth to win fierce competition with the establishment of new companies in the same field, demanding that companies must innovate to gain a *competitive* advantage (Liu et al., 2021). (Liu et al., 2021)

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