

DETERMINANTS OF INCOME INEQUALITY IN WEST JAVA: GROWTH, WAGES, INDUSTRY, AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (2013–2024)

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Abstract

This study is motivated by the high income inequality in West Java Province, as indicated by the Gini index, which consistently exceeds the national average. This inequality presents a significant challenge to achieving inclusive and sustainable development. Despite high economic growth, equity has not been guaranteed, factors such as disparities in regional minimum wages, the concentration of the industrial sector in urban areas, and variations in the quality of human resources exacerbate this inequality. This study aims to analyze the effects of economic growth, district/city minimum wage (UMK), industrial sector contribution, and Human Development Index (HDI) on income inequality in West Java during the period from 2013 to 2024. This research employs a quantitative approach through panel data regression analysis. Model selection was performed using the Chow test to determine the appropriate method between Common Effects and Fixed Effects. The results indicate that economic growth and the contribution of the industrial sector significantly affect income inequality, while the DMW and HDI variables do not have a significant impact. The low coefficient of determination suggests that other variables outside the model also influence inequality. These findings underscore the necessity for fairer income redistribution policies that prioritize equitable industrialization and enhanced access to education and health services, which are essential for promoting inclusive and equitable economic growth.

Keywords: economic growth, gini index, human development index, industrial sector, district minimum wage.

INTRODUCTION

Economic growth is a key indicator of development, reflecting an increase in production capacity and national income, both of which are directly related to societal welfare. It measures the rise in goods and services produced in a country, which in turn increases the income of the community that owns the production factors (Chendrawan, 2017; Marcal et al., 2024).

High economic growth does not always ensure an equitable distribution of development outcomes, as it is often accompanied by an increase in income inequality. The rise in economic growth has resulted in increased income inequality and a higher number of impoverished individuals across various provinces. This occurs because the benefits of economic growth are often enjoyed by specific groups, while low-income individuals struggle to meet their basic needs (Istiqamah et al., 2018). While the economy is growing, unequal income distribution can impede the attainment of inclusive prosperity (Amri Khairul, 2017; Istiqamah et al., 2018).

Income inequality is notably pronounced in West Java Province, a region characterized by a high concentration of industries. Data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) indicates that by 2024, West Java's Gini index will rise to 0.421, surpassing the national average of 0.380. This suggests significant income inequality in the province. The disparity in minimum wages across regions in West Java is believed to be a primary factor contributing to this inequality. Industrial cities like Bekasi, Karawang, and Depok have significantly higher minimum wages compared to agrarian areas such as Banjar and Ciamis (Khairunnisak, 2025).

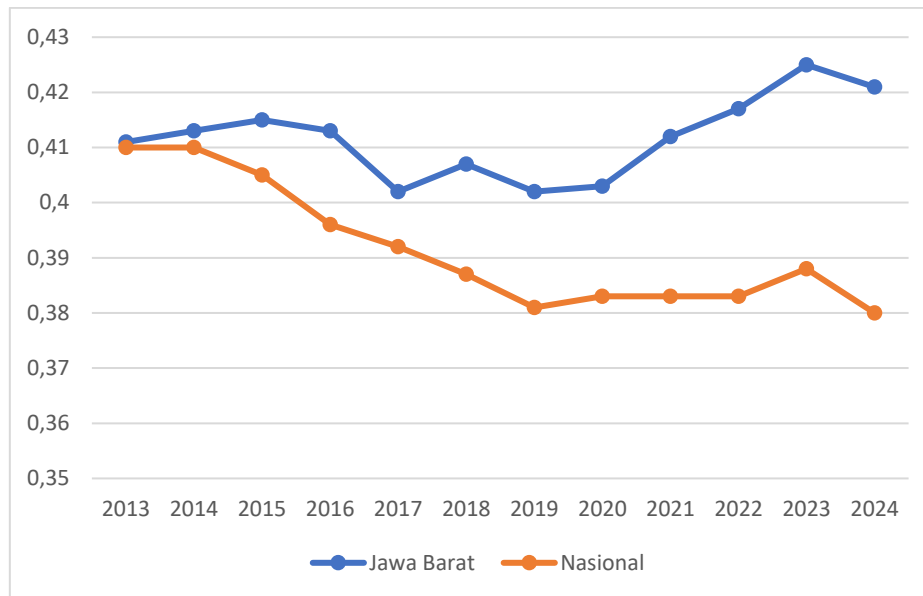


Figure 1. West Java and National Income Inequality by Gini Index (2013-2024)

Based on Gini Index data from 2013 to 2024, it appears that the level of income inequality in West Java Province is consistently higher than the national average. The West Java Gini Index ranges from 0.405 to 0.425, whereas the national value has steadily declined from approximately 0.41 in 2013 to around 0.38 in 2024. Overall, income inequality at the national level has shown an improving trend, particularly during the period from 2013 to 2019. Although there was a slight increase in 2023, the figure declined again in 2024, reflecting the success of nationwide income redistribution efforts. However, inequality in West Java exhibits significant fluctuations. After declining from 2016 to 2019, the Gini Index has increased consistently since 2020, peaking in 2023 at over 0.425. Despite a slight decrease in 2024, the figure remains relatively high and well above the national average. This phenomenon indicates that economic growth in West Java has not been inclusive, benefiting primarily certain groups, particularly in urban areas and industrial centers. Spatial inequality between regions, along with disparities in the quality of human resources and access to infrastructure, exacerbates income distribution.

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The concentration of industry in West Java is believed to contribute to inter-regional income inequality. Industries clustered in major cities like Bekasi, Karawang, and Depok have driven significant economic growth and productivity in these areas, resulting in a rapid increase in local incomes. However, other regions far from industrial centers, such as Banjar, Ciamis, and Kuningan, are still dependent on the agrarian and informal sectors with much lower productivity and income (Azizah & Suhartini, 2021; Khairunnisak, 2025). Additionally, the Human Development Index (HDI) in West Java significantly influences income inequality in the province. An increase in the Human Development Index (HDI), which encompasses health, education, and a decent standard of living, typically signifies an improvement in people's quality of life. This improvement can help reduce economic disparities between regions and social groups (Carla et al., 2024; Ersad et al., 2022).

This study aims to analyze economic growth in West Java and its effects on income inequality from 2013 to 2024, focusing on the district minimum wage, industrial sector contribution, and Human Development Index (HDI).

LITERATURE REVIEW AND HYPOTHESIS FORMULATION

Economic Growth

The Harrod-Domar theory of economic growth, developed by Roy F. Harrod and Evsey Domar, extends Keynesian analysis by emphasizing the importance of capital accumulation in long-term economic growth (Purwanti & Kurnia, 2022). According to this theory, the growth rate of an economy's output is determined by the savings ratio (s) and the capital-output ratio. The more savings invested to increase the capital stock, the greater the potential for economic growth. This theory also assumes an economy in a state of full employment and a production function with fixed coefficients, meaning that growth can only occur if new investments continuously add to the existing capital stock (Hadi, 2018; Maharani & Isnawati, 2014; Purwanti & Kurnia, 2022).

Meanwhile, the Solow-Swan economic growth theory extends the Harrod-Domar model by incorporating labor and technological progress as key variables in the growth process. Solow's theory emphasizes that economic growth relies not only on capital accumulation but also on enhancing the quantity and quality of labor, as well as on exogenous technological progress. In this model, output (Y) is a function of capital (K), labor (L), and technology (A) (Purwanti & Kurnia, 2022). Solow also introduced the concept of diminishing returns to capital and labor individually, indicating that long-term growth can only be sustained through technological progress. Therefore, Solow's theory offers a more realistic perspective on the factors influencing economic growth than the simpler Harrod-Domar model (Martadinata, 2022; Nada & Desmintari, 2024).

Income inequality

Income inequality refers to the unequal distribution of national income, leading to significant disparities between rich and poor groups in society. One widely used method for measuring income inequality is the Gini Index, which assigns a value between 0 and 1. Values close to zero indicate a more even distribution of income, while values close to one signify high levels of inequality (Rifaldo & Rejekiingsih, 2024; Saputri & Arif, 2023).

In addition, the theory of income inequality is associated with the inverted U-curve hypothesis proposed by Kuznets (1955). This hypothesis states that in the early stages of economic development, income inequality tends to increase with economic growth. However, after reaching a certain point, inequality begins to decline due to improved income distribution (Oktarina & Yuliana, 2023). Income inequality continues to be a significant issue, even amid positive economic growth. This stems from regional disparities in development and variations in the quality of human resources, which result in unequal income distribution. Such inequality poses a barrier to achieving inclusive and sustainable prosperity (Aisyah & Sishadiyati, 2024; Shalehah et al., 2022).

RESEARCH METHODS

This research employs a quantitative approach that involves collecting, analyzing, and interpreting numerical data to address research questions and test hypotheses. The analysis starts by calculating economic growth in West Java from 2013 to 2024 using the following formula:

$$EG = \frac{GRDP_t - GRDP_{t-1}}{GRDP_{t-1}} \times 100\%$$

Description :

EG : Economic Growth

$GRDP_t$: Gross Regional Domestic Product year t

$GRDP_{t-1}$: Gross Regional Domestic Product of the year before t ($t-1$)

Furthermore, this study analyzes the effects of economic growth, district minimum wage (UMK), industry contribution, and Human Development Index (HDI) on income inequality in West Java from 2013 to 2024 using panel data regression analysis. Panel data is a dataset that observes the behavior of cross-sectional units (e.g., individuals, firms, countries) over time. Panel data is often referred to as pooled data, which combines time series and cross-sectional data (Ghozali, 2018). The equation model is as follows:

$$GR = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 EG_1 + \beta_2 DMW_2 + \beta_3 IND_3 + \beta_4 HDI_4 + e$$

Description :

GR : Gini Ratio
Y_i : Per capita income in study area *i*
E : Economic Growth
DMW : District Minimum Wage
IND : Industry sector contribusion
HDI : Human Development Index

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Economic Growth in West Java

Economic growth is a crucial factor in measuring income inequality in West Java. It reflects the increase in production capacity and income in the region; however, it does not necessarily indicate how these benefits are distributed. The graphical results of the economic growth calculation for West Java from 2013 to 2024 are presented for further details.

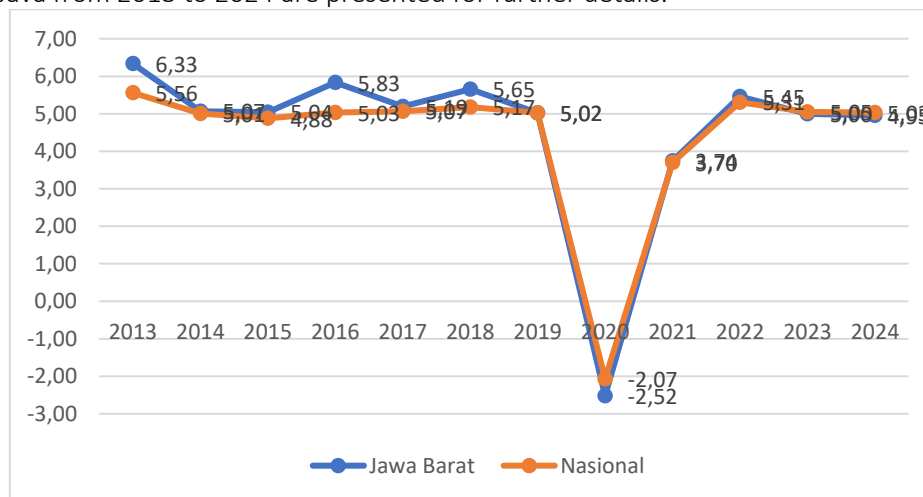


Figure 2. Economic Growth in West Java Compared to National Trends

From 2013 to 2019, West Java's economic growth consistently exceeded the national average. In 2013, West Java recorded a growth rate of 6.33 percent, surpassing the national rate of 5.56 percent. This trend continued for most years leading up to the pandemic, with West Java achieving growth rates exceeding 5.5 percent on several occasions, while the national rate remained around 5 percent. This indicates that West Java's economic performance is relatively stronger than the national average. However, in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, both regions faced a significant economic contraction. West Java's economic growth experienced a sharper decline of -2.52 percent, compared to the national decline of -2.07 percent. This suggests that the pandemic's impact on the West Java economy is somewhat greater than the national average.

Entering the recovery period in 2021 and 2022, both West Java and the nation experienced significant improvements. Both grew by 3.70 percent in 2021 and increased to approximately 5.4 percent in 2022, with West Java slightly outperforming the national average. In 2023 and 2024, economic growth in both regions stabilized at approximately 5 percent, showing only a slight difference between them.

Income Inequality in West Java

To analyze the impact of economic growth, district minimum wage, industrial sector contribution, and Human Development Index (HDI) on income inequality in West Java from 2013 to 2024, we employed panel data regression analysis. Before that, the panel data regression model estimation is conducted to identify the appropriate research model based on the available data. The first step in estimating the panel data regression model is the Chow test. The Chow test is used to identify the most suitable panel data regression model between the Common Effect Model (CEM) and the Fixed Effect Model (FEM). This test helps select a model that suits the characteristics of the analyzed panel data, based on the probability values of the statistical test results. If the probability value is less than 0.05, the Fixed Effect model is chosen, if it is greater than 0.05, the Common Effect model is used.

Table 1. Chow test

Redundant Fixed Effects Tests
 Equation: Untitled
 Test cross-section fixed effects

Effects Test	Statistic	d.f.	Prob.
Cross-section F	8.659144	(26,205)	0.0000
Cross-section Chi-square	174.898537	26	0.0000

Source: Eview Processing, 2025

Based on the Chow test results presented in Table 1, the Cross-section F probability value is 0.0000, which is below the 5 percent significance level (0.05). This indicates that H_0 is rejected and H_1 is accepted, suggesting that the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) is more appropriate than the Common Effect Model (CEM). There are differences in intercepts between cross-sections (regions/districts) in the model, which should be taken into account in panel data regression analysis.

Furthermore, the Hausman test was conducted to determine the most suitable model for panel data regression, comparing the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) and the Random Effect Model (REM) based on their estimation efficiency. The test utilizes chi-square statistics and probability values, where a probability of less than 0.05 indicates that FEM is more appropriate, while a probability greater than 0.05 favors REM. The results of the test help clarify whether the variation between entities in the data is fixed or random, ensuring a consistent and unbiased model.

Table 2. Hausman Test

Correlated Random Effects - Hausman Test
 Equation: Untitled
 Test cross-section random effects

Test Summary	Chi-Sq. Statistic	Chi-Sq. d.f.	Prob.
Cross-section random	6.172400	4	0.1866

Source: Eview Processing, 2025

Based on the Hausman test results in Table 2, the p-value is 0.1866, which is greater than the 5 percent significance level (0.05). Therefore, we accept H_0 and reject H_1 , indicating that the Random Effect Model (REM) is more appropriate than the Fixed Effect Model (FEM). This outcome confirms that the assumption that the disturbance variables are uncorrelated with the independent variables is satisfied, making REM an efficient and consistent model for panel data analysis in this study. The final step is to analyze the Lagrange Multiplier to determine the most suitable model. The Lagrange Multiplier test selects between the Common Effect Model (CEM) and the Random Effect Model (REM) by comparing the estimation efficiency of the two methods. This test utilizes the Breusch-Pagan statistic and the p-value, where a probability ≤ 0.05 indicates that REM is more appropriate, while a probability > 0.05 favors CEM. Typically, this test is conducted after the Chow Test or Hausman test indicates uncertainty in model selection.

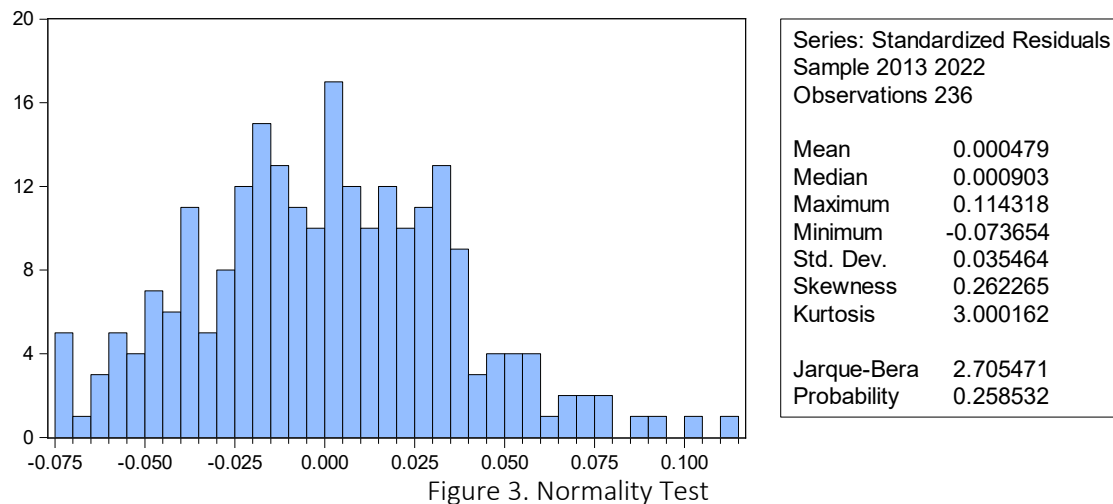
Table 3. Lagrange Multiplier Test			
Lagrange Multiplier Tests for Random Effects			
Null hypotheses: No effects			
Alternative hypotheses: Two-sided (Breusch-Pagan) and one-sided (all others) alternatives			
	Test Hypothesis		
	Cross-section	Time	Both
Breusch-Pagan	183.2033 (0.0000)	1.527457 (0.2165)	184.7307 (0.0000)
Honda	13.53526 (0.0000)	1.235903 (0.1082)	10.44479 (0.0000)
King-Wu	13.53526 (0.0000)	1.235903 (0.1082)	7.661096 (0.0000)
Standardized Honda	14.77748 (0.0000)	2.036206 (0.0209)	7.707835 (0.0000)
Standardized King-Wu	14.77748 (0.0000)	2.036206 (0.0209)	5.244417 (0.0000)
Gourieriou, et al. *	--	--	184.7307 (< 0.01)
*Mixed chi-square asymptotic critical values:			
	1%	7.289	
	5%	4.321	
	10%	2.952	

Source: Eviews Processing, 2025

Based on the Lagrange Multiplier (LM) test results presented in Table 3, the p-values are very small (less than 0.05) for most test methods, particularly in the cross-section effect tests using Breusch-Pagan ($p = 0.0000$), Honda ($p = 0.0000$), King-Wu ($p = 0.0000$), as well as the standard versions of Honda and King-Wu ($p = 0.0000$). This indicates that the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected, suggesting that the Random Effect model is more appropriate than the Common Effect model. In other words, there are significant individual (cross-section) effects in the panel data, allowing the Random Effect model to capture variation that is not explained by the ordinary model without effects (Common Effect).

Before processing panel data regression using the Random Effects Model, classical assumption testing is conducted. This testing ensures that the regression model meets the fundamental requirements for precise, unbiased, and consistent estimation results. By performing these tests, we

can confirm that the regression model is valid and appropriate for analysis and decision-making based on the data. The classical assumption tests employed include the normality test, multicollinearity test, and heteroscedasticity test.



Based on the results of the normality test using the Jarque-Bera method, the probability value is 0.258532, which exceeds the 5 percent significance level (0.05). Therefore, we accept H_0 , indicating that the residual data is normally distributed. This confirms that one of the classical regression assumptions—normality—has been met, allowing us to consider the regression model valid regarding its error distribution.

Table 4. Multicollinearity Test

Variable	EG	DMW	IND	HDI
EG	1.00	-0.24	-0.03	0.01
DMW	-0.24	1.00	0.59	0.50
IND	-0.03	0.59	1.00	0.11
HDI	0.01	0.50	0.11	1.00

Source: Eviews Processing, 2025

Based on the results of the multicollinearity test using the correlation method between independent variables, there are no pairs of variables that have a correlation coefficient above 0.80, which is used as a limit for indicating multicollinearity. All correlation values between variables such as economic growth, district minimum wage, industrial sector contribution, and Human Development Index (HDI) are smaller than 0.08 (critical limit), so it is concluded that there is no multicollinearity problem in the model.

Table 5. Heteroscedasticity Test

Dependent Variable: RES_ABS
 Method: Panel EGLS (Cross-section random effects)
 Date: 05/19/25 Time: 19:57
 Sample (adjusted): 2013 2022
 Periods included: 9
 Cross-sections included: 27
 Total panel (unbalanced) observations: 236
 Swamy and Arora estimator of component variances

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	-0.027176	0.027056	-1.004437	0.3162
EG	0.000934	0.000593	1.573962	0.1169

DMW	-1.10E-09	2.35E-09	-0.466885	0.6410
IND	0.000782	0.000426	1.836136	0.0676
HDI	-2.13E-08	2.03E-08	-1.049257	0.2952
Effects Specification				
			S.D.	Rho
Cross-section random			0.005399	0.0678
Idiosyncratic random			0.020022	0.9322
Weighted Statistics				
R-squared	0.035821	Mean dependent var		0.022125
Adjusted R-squared	0.019125	S.D. dependent var		0.020404
S.E. of regression	0.020188	Sum squared resid		0.094145
F-statistic	2.145500	Durbin-Watson stat		1.719132
Prob(F-statistic)	0.076026			
Unweighted Statistics				
R-squared	0.047959	Mean dependent var		0.028314
Sum squared resid	0.101303	Durbin-Watson stat		1.597662

Source: Eviews Processing, 2025

Based on Table 5, the heteroscedasticity test indicates that the probability values for economic growth, district minimum wage, industrial sector contribution, and the Human Development Index (HDI) are all greater than 0.05. This suggests that the research model is not affected by heteroscedasticity.

After the model is said to pass various classical assumption tests, the next step is panel data regression processing with the selected model, namely the Random Effect Model. Statistical hypothesis testing includes t test, F test, and coefficient of determination. The following panel data regression processing results are presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Panel Data Regression (Random Effect Model)

Dependent Variable: GR
 Method: Panel EGLS (Cross-section random effects)
 Date: 05/19/25 Time: 18:19
 Sample (adjusted): 2013 2022
 Periods included: 9
 Cross-sections included: 27
 Total panel (unbalanced) observations: 236
 Swamy and Arora estimator of component variances

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	0.035213	0.070647	0.498445	0.6186
EG	0.001606	0.000816	1.966805	0.0504
DMW	-2.52E-09	4.27E-09	-0.589554	0.5561
IND	0.004628	0.001089	4.251405	0.0000
HDI	1.21E-08	4.51E-08	0.268295	0.7887
Effects Specification				
			S.D.	Rho
Cross-section random			0.023921	0.4562
Idiosyncratic random			0.026119	0.5438
Weighted Statistics				

R-squared	0.125015	Mean dependent var	0.126441
Adjusted R-squared	0.109864	S.D. dependent var	0.027870
S.E. of regression	0.026254	Sum squared resid	0.159221
F-statistic	8.251159	Durbin-Watson stat	1.683663
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000003		
Unweighted Statistics			
R-squared	0.305693	Mean dependent var	0.365763
Sum squared resid	0.295610	Durbin-Watson stat	0.906853

Source: Eviews Processing, 2025

The results of panel data regression processing with the Random Effect Model, the following equation can be formed:

$$Gr = 0.035213 + 0.001606EG - 0.00000000252DMW + 0.004628IND + 0.0000000121HDI$$

The constant value of 0.035213, with a positive sign, indicates that if all variables—such as economic growth, district minimum wage, industrial sector contribution, and Human Development Index (HDI)—remain constant, income inequality will increase by 0.035213 per unit. The coefficient for the economic growth variable is 0.001606, also positive, suggesting that a 1 percent increase in economic growth will result in a 0.001606 increase in income inequality per unit. The coefficient for the district minimum wage, which is -0.00000000252, indicates that a 1 rupiah increase in the district minimum wage will decrease income inequality by 0.00000000252 per unit. The coefficient for the industrial sector contribution is 0.004628, indicating that an increase of 1 industrial labor unit will lead to a 0.004628 increase in income inequality per unit. Lastly, the coefficient for the Human Development Index (HDI) is 0.0000000121, which means that a 1-point increase in HDI will result in a 0.0000000121 increase in income inequality per unit.

The t-test is used to determine whether there is a significant difference between the means of two groups or between a sample mean and a population mean. This test assists researchers in testing hypotheses about the effects of independent variables on dependent variables. The results of the t-test indicate whether the difference between the groups is statistically significant or merely due to random variation. Based on the panel data regression with the Random Effects Model presented in Table 6, the partial test results are as follows:

- 1). The t-statistic for the economic growth variable is 1.966805, with a probability of 0.0504. The t-statistic is greater than the critical value in the t-table ($1.97 \geq 1.97$), and the probability is less than or equal to 0.05 ($0.05 \leq 0.05$). This indicates that economic growth has a significant positive effect on income inequality in West Java.
- 2). The t-statistic value for the District Minimum Wage variable is -0.589554, with a probability of 0.5561. Since the t-statistic is smaller than the critical value from the t-table ($-0.59 < -1.97$) and the probability is greater than 0.05 ($0.556 > 0.05$), this indicates that the District Minimum Wage has no significant effect on income inequality in West Java.
- 3). The t-statistic value of 4.25 exceeds the critical value from the t-table of 1.97, and the probability is less than 0.05 ($0.000 < 0.05$). This indicates that the contribution of the industrial sector has a significant positive effect on income inequality in West Java.
- 4). The t-statistic value for the Human Development Index (HDI) variable is 0.268295, with a probability of 0.7887. Since the t-statistic value is smaller than the critical value from the t-table

($0.27 < 1.97$) and the probability is greater than 0.05 ($0.789 > 0.05$), this indicates that HDI has no significant effect on income inequality in West Java.

The F test evaluates whether the independent variables collectively have a significant effect on the dependent variable in the regression model. If the significance value of the F test is less than 0.05, it indicates that the independent variables have a simultaneous impact on the dependent variable. This test also assesses the overall feasibility of the regression model in explaining the dependent variable. According to Table 6, the F-statistic value is 8.251159, with a Prob (F-statistic) of 0.000003. Since the Prob(F-statistic) value is smaller than 0.05 ($0.000003 < 0.05$), it can be concluded that economic growth, the district minimum wage, the contribution of the industrial sector, and the Human Development Index (HDI) collectively affect income inequality in West Java.

Based on the regression results presented in Table 6, the coefficient of determination (R-squared) is 0.125, or approximately 12.50 percent. This indicates that 12.50 percent of the variation in income inequality in West Java can be explained by the independent variables in the regression model, including economic growth, the District Minimum Wage, industrial sector contribution, and the Human Development Index (HDI). The remaining 87.5 percent, or 0.8750, is attributed to other factors not included in the model.

CONCLUSION

In this study, the influence of economic growth, district minimum wage, industrial sector contribution, and human development index on income inequality in West Java is studied. The results show that income inequality in West Java during the period 2013-2024 is influenced by several main factors. Economic growth has a significant positive effect on inequality, meaning that the higher economic growth occurs, the more income inequality tends to increase because the benefits of growth have not been enjoyed equally by all people. On the other hand, an increase in the District minimum wage (DMW) has a significant negative effect, meaning that an increase in the minimum wage can reduce the level of income inequality between regions. The contribution of the industrial sector has a significant positive effect, as its dominance in urban areas contributes to a widening gap between industrial and agrarian regions. Conversely, an increase in the Human Development Index (HDI) significantly reduces inequality, indicating that improvements in education, health, and living standards lead to decreased income disparity. These findings underscore the importance of policies that promote not only economic growth but also wage equity, inclusive development of the industrial sector, and enhancement of human capital quality to mitigate income inequality in West Java.

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