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The Impact of Auditor Switching, Audit Fee and Audit Opinion on Audit Delay with KAP Reputation as a Moderating Variable (Empirical Study on Property and Real Estate Companies Listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange 2022-2024)

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Abstract

Developments in various business sectors today are marked by the increasing number of companies going public. This forces these companies to compete to provide relevant and timely financial information for use by financial report users (stakeholders). Timely delivery of financial reports means the resulting information can be useful for stakeholders because it provides information for decision-making and can be used for future conditions. This study aims to examine the impact of Auditor Switching. Audit Fee, Audit Opinion, on Audit Delay with Public Accounting Firm Reputation as a Moderating Variable. The research method used is a quantitative method using the SPSS test tool as a data analysis technique. The results of the study indicate that Auditor Switching, Audit Fee, Audit Opinion has an impact on audit delay.

Introduction

Current developments in various business sectors are marked by the increasing number of companies going *public* (George & George, 2023; D'Agaro et al., 2022; Arena et al., 2023). This forces companies to compete to provide relevant and timely financial information for use by stakeholders. In this regard, *publicly traded companies* listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange are required to submit financial reports audited by an independent party within the specified timeframe (Go Tommy, 2020; Nugrahanti et al., 2023; Arnindya & Kusumawati, 2025; Astuti et al., 2022). Timely submission of financial reports means the resulting information is useful for stakeholders because it provides information for decision-making and can be used for future situations (Dianova, 2021; Basiru et al., 2023; Sciulli & Adhariani, 2023).

Timeliness in presenting financial reports is a crucial factor for companies whose shares are traded on the Stock Exchange (Rante Simbolon, 2022). Delays in completing audits are a problem for companies, particularly property and real estate companies. According to a report published by CNBC Indonesia on April 25, 2025, the IDX stated that 128 issuers had not yet submitted their financial reports, including 15 companies in the property and real estate sector, an increase from last year. In 2024, there were 12 companies, but in 2025, the number increased to 15. Considering this phenomenon, many *public companies still* face challenges in submitting their financial reports on time. One factor contributing to the delay is the lack of time required to publish audited financial reports.

The impact of late submission of financial reports is that investors will perceive the company as underperforming. Furthermore, investors will be hesitant to make timely decisions (Puspita, 2012). Completion of the financial statement audit process is calculated based on the difference

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between the closing date and the date of signing the audit report, or audit delay (Prabasari, 2017; Hendi & Sitorus, 2023; Inneh et al., 2022; Harymawan & Putri, 2023).

In relation to the above phenomenon and the results of previous research, several factors influence audit delay. These factors include *auditor switching, audit fees, audit opinions, and* the reputation of the public accounting firm (Naibaho & Amanda, 2024; Nursiam et al., 2023; Saktiawan et al., 2024). *Audit switching* is one factor that can influence audit delay. This is because when an auditor changes, the auditor needs more time to learn about the characteristics and systems of the company being audited compared to the previous auditor who has audited the company before (Feliciano & Quick, 2022; Zanra & Zubir, 2023).

An audit fee is the amount of honorarium collected by an auditor as compensation for audit services provided to a public accounting firm with an independent auditor. According to Sinaga and Rachmawati (2018), an audit fee can demonstrate company loyalty if they are satisfied with the services provided by the independent auditor. Nurkholis (2020) and Budhiarta (2019) state that *Audit fees* have an impact on audit delays, because KAPs usually create better audit procedures with qualified human resources and longer audit procedures and the higher the fee, the shorter the audit time.

In addition to *auditor switching and audit fees*, audit opinions also influence audit delay. An audit opinion is a conclusion on the fairness of financial statements, which is the responsibility of the auditor (Putri, 2020; Diana et al., 2023; Azizan & Shailer, 2023; Hung, 2023). The audit opinion provided by the auditor is based on findings and evidence during the audit process. Financial statements audited with an unqualified opinion typically result in the company publishing the financial statements promptly, as this opinion is good news for financial statement users. Conversely, if the opinion is not provided, the auditor will need more time to review the financial statements.

The audit process carried out by the auditor also depends on the reputation of the KAP, this is because the reputation of the KAP has an influence on audit delay. Research conducted by Setyawan (2016) stated that KAPs included in the big four have more influence on the timeframe for submitting audit reports. KAPs included in the big four are believed to work more efficiently from planning, the audit process, to reporting audit results (Febrianti, 2015). This differs from research conducted by Tiffany (2024) who stated that audit quality or KAP reputation does not affect audit delay. In this regard, it can be seen how the influence of KAP reputation strengthens or weakens the influence of *auditor switching, audit fees, and audit opinions* on Audit Delay.

Problem solving approach

This research uses a causal method with a quantitative approach, namely measuring the relationship between research variables or analyzing how one variable affects another. This research presentation is conducted by analyzing data from the annual financial reports of property and real estate companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange, each company taken during 2022-2024. The analysis will be carried out using classical assumption tests and multiple linear regression analysis using *SPSS software.* The following is the development of a hypothesis to understand the research model.

***Auditor switching* has an effect on Audit Delay**

Audit switching or auditor change is one of the factors that can affect audit delay, this is because when an auditor change occurs, the auditor needs more time to learn information related to the characteristics and systems in the company to be audited compared to the previous auditor who has audited the company (Vitali & Giuliani, 2024; Cahyanti et al., 2022; Imoniana et al., 2023).

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Research by (Praptika & Rasmini, 2016) states that auditor change affects audit delay, which means that when an auditor change occurs, the company tends to experience delays in submitting the results of the financial statement audit.

H1: *Auditor switching* has an effect on Audit Delay

***Audit fee,* affects Audit Delay**

Management and auditors reach an agreement regarding the fee to be paid for audit services. The amount of the fee paid is expected to encourage auditors to complete their audit reports on time and in accordance with procedures. It is assumed that the higher the audit fee, the shorter the required audit delay (Modugu et al., 2012). The results of research by Modugu et al. (2012) where audit fees negatively affect audit delay, stated that higher audit fees from an entity will have a shorter time span in the audit process compared to low audit fees. This is reinforced by research by Eka et al. (2018) which provides results that there is an influence between audit fees and audit delay. Nurkholis and Krisnawan (2018) state that audit size has a significant positive effect on audit fees.

H2: ***Audit fees* have an effect on Audit Delay**

***Audit Opinion,* influences Audit Delay.**

Based on research by Nainggolan et al. (2022), companies that receive an unqualified opinion tend not to publish their financial statements on time. This is because the auditor is still conducting further examinations related to the findings and evidence discovered during the audit process, requiring more time. This is inversely proportional to the audit opinion given by the auditor, which means the company will publish its financial statements promptly for use by users (Putri, 2020).

H3: ***Audit opinion* has an effect on Audit Delay**

The Role of KAP Reputation in the Relationship Between Auditor Switching and Audit Delay

Public accounting firm reputation can moderate the relationship between *auditor switching* and audit delay. Research by (Lubis & Pusposari, 2023) suggests that the *Big Four public accounting firms* are believed to have more efficient and effective auditing capabilities. Public accounting firms with good reputations typically have robust procedures and systems, reducing the time required for auditors to adapt to new clients, even if there has been a change of auditor within the last three years.

H4: KAP reputation moderates the effect of *Auditor Switching* on *Audit Delay*

The Role of Public Accountant Firm Reputation in the Relationship between Audit Fee and Audit Delay

Public accounting firms with good reputations tend to have higher audit quality, resulting in faster audit processes, even with relatively high audit fees. Public accounting firms with good reputations have their own incentives to maintain their reputation for conducting good, high-quality audit procedures (Ichwan et al., 2023; DeAngelo, 1981). Hernandi (2022) also stated that the higher the audit fee, the faster the financial statement audit results, and this is in line with the firm's reputation. Public accounting firms with good reputations will conduct audits more efficiently, allowing for shorter audit periods.

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H5: Public Accounting Firm Reputation moderates the effect of *Audit Fee* on *Audit Delay*

The Role of KAP Reputation in the Relationship between Audit Opinion and Audit Delay

Public accounting firms with a good reputation tend to have high audit quality, thus providing more accurate and reliable audit opinions, thereby increasing the trust of financial statement users, thereby reducing audit delays (Siahaan et al., 2019). A good public accounting firm reputation can reduce the risk of audit delays because the firm has good experience and capabilities and is efficient in managing the audit process and providing timely audit opinions (Hasmi & Pe'Pan, 2024). This proves that public accounting firm reputation plays a role in the relationship between audit opinions and audit delays.

H6: KAP reputation moderates the effect of *Audit Opinion* on *Audit Delay*

Based on the development of the hypothesis above, the framework for thinking in this research is as follows:

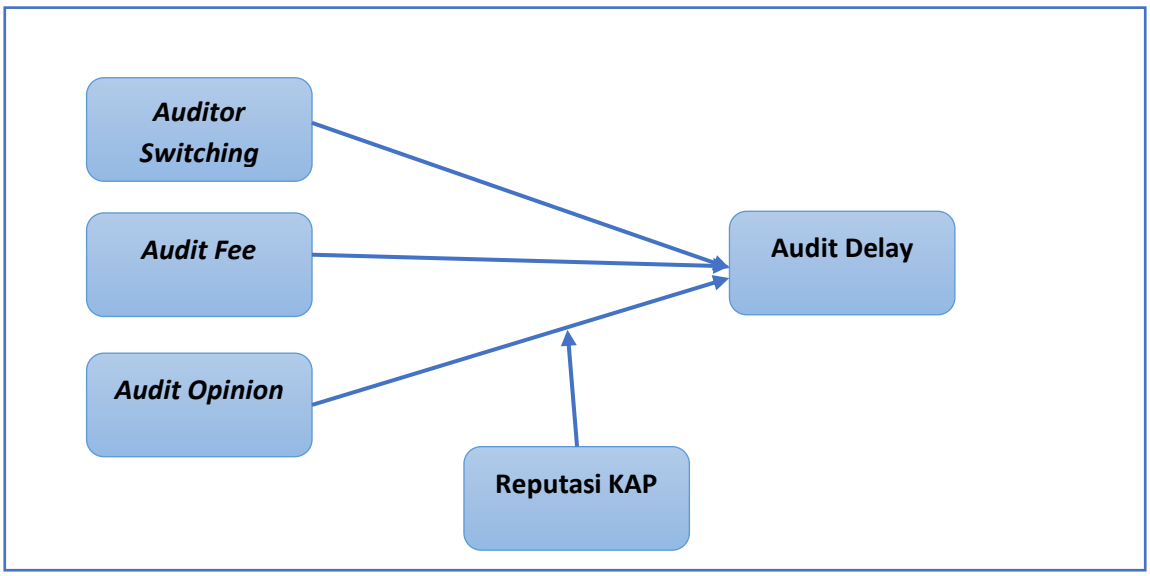

Figure 1. Model Penelitian Audit Delay dengan Reputasi KAP sebagai Variabel Pemoderasi

Methods

The method used in this research is a causal method with a quantitative approach, namely measuring the relationship between research variables or analyzing how one variable influences another. This research is presented by analyzing data from the annual financial reports of property and real estate companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange from 2022 to 2024.

Research Population and Sample

The population used in this study was all companies in the property and real estate sector listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange between 2022 and 2024. The sampling technique used in this study was *purposive sampling.* The criteria used in this technique were: 1) Companies that are included in the property and real estate sector companies from 2022-2024 consistently; 2) Property and real estate sector companies that issue audited financial reports; 3) Companies that issue financial reports in Rupiah currency.

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Data collection technique

The data used in this study is secondary data, sourced from annual reports and company financial reports from the official website of the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX) at www.idx.co.id. After all data was collected, it was analyzed using the SPSS test tool.

Table 1. Operational Definition

Variables	Proxy
Auditor Switching	Performing Auditor Switching: 1 No Auditor Switching: 0
Audit Opinion	WTP: 1 Non WTP: 0
Audit Fee	Log Audit Fee
Public Accounting Firm Reputation	Big Four Public Accounting Firms: 1 Non-Big Four: 0
Audit Delay	*Audit delay* = Audit report date – Financial report date

Data Analysis Techniques

Classical Assumption Test

Normality Test

This test aims to test whether or not there is a normal distribution in the regression model between the dependent and independent variables. The method usually used to determine the level of normality of the regression model is by using the non-parametric *Kolmogorov-Smirnov test* and the *normal probability plot of standardized regression residuals* . The criteria used in the non-parametric *Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistical test* is to look at the *Asymp. Sig (2-tailed) line* , with the provision that if the *Asymp. Sig (2-tailed) value is obtained > 0.05 then the data has a normal distribution or has met the normality test, but conversely if the Asymp. Sig (2-tailed)* value is obtained < 0.05 then the data has an abnormal distribution or in other words does not meet the normality test (Ghozali, 2018:12).

Multicollinearity test

This multicollinearity test is intended to test whether there is a high or perfect correlation between independent variables or not in the regression model. To detect the presence of a high correlation between independent variables can be done in several ways, one of which is by using Tolerance and Variance Inflation Factor (VIF). According to Ghozali (2018: 36) tolerance measures the variability of selected independent variables that are not explained by other independent variables. Therefore, a low tolerance is equal to a high VIF value. The assumptions of Tolerance and Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) can be stated as follows: 1. If VIF > 10 and Tolerance value < 0.10 then multicollinearity occurs. 2. If VIF < 10 and Tolerance value > 0.10 then multicollinearity does not occur.

Heteroscedasticity Test

Heteroscedasticity Test According to Ghozali (2018:47), heteroscedasticity means that there are unequal variances of variables in a regression model. If the opposite occurs, where the variances of variables in a regression model have the same value, it is called homoscedasticity. To detect heteroscedasticity problems, graphical analysis methods can be used.

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Coefficient of Determination (R2)

Coefficient of Determination (R2) Ghozali (2018: 21) The coefficient of determination aims to measure the extent to which a model can explain variations in the dependent variable. A small R2 value means that the independent variables are very limited in explaining variations in the dependent variable. There are assumptions regarding the coefficient of determination as follows: The R2 value is between 0 and 1 or (0 < R2)

Model Feasibility Test (F Test)

Model Feasibility Test (F Test) The F statistical test essentially shows whether all independent variables have an overall influence on the dependent variable (Ghozali, 2018:22). This study conducted a hypothesis test aimed at measuring the influence of *Auditor Switching, Audit Fee, and Audit Opinion on Audit Delay with* KAP Reputation as a Moderating Variable . The criteria for simultaneous testing with a significance level of α=5% include: 1) If the significance value of the F test > α, namely 0.05, then the null hypothesis is accepted; 2) If the significance value of the F test < α, namely 0.05, then the null hypothesis is rejected.

Hypothesis Test (T-Test)

Hypothesis Testing In research, hypothesis testing uses the t-test. This t-test aims to examine the extent of the influence of one independent variable on the dependent variable, assuming the other independent variables are constant (Ghozali, 2018:23). The t-test is used to examine the effect of *Auditor Switching. Audit Fee and Audit Opinion on Audit Delay with* KAP Reputation as a Moderating Variable partially. The criteria in this t-test use a significance level of α = 5%.

Results and Discussion

Based on the sample selection criteria, 35 companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in the Property and Real Estate Companies were found as research samples, so that N was 140 (35 companies multiplied by 4 years of research).

The following are the results of purposive sampling:

Table 1. Sample Determination Table

No	Sample Selection Criteria	Number of Companies
1	Total Property and Real Estate Companies (2021-2024)	368 Companies
2	Companies that are included in the property and real estate sector companies from 2022-2024 consistently	(160)
3	Property and real estate sector companies that issue audited financial reports	(40)
4	Companies that issue financial reports in Rupiah currency.	(28)
5	Total number of companies sampled	35 Companies (140 Data)

Based on the table above, the sample used in this study was 35 companies multiplied by 4 years, namely from 2021-2024, so the sample collected was 140 samples.

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Classical Assumption Test

Normality Test

The normality test aims to determine whether the residual variables in the regression model in the study have a normal distribution (Ghozali, 2018). In this study, the *Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used*. The basis for decision-making is a probability value with a significance greater than 0.05, which means the data being tested is normally distributed. However, if the probability is less than or equal to 0.05, the data being tested is not normally distributed.

Tabel 2. Hasil Uji *One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test*

One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test		
		Unstandardized Residual
N		140
Normal Parameters[a,b]	Mean	.0000000
	Std. Deviation	23.88061621
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	.200
	Positive	.200
	Negative	-.171
Test Statistic		.200
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.0505[c]
a. Test distribution is Normal.		
b. Calculated from data.		
c. Lilliefors Significance Correction.		

The results of the normality test using *one sample KS* show that the *Asymp Sig.* (2-tailed) value in the table above is 0.505. These results explain that the regression model meets the normality assumption because the resulting value is greater than the 0.05 significance level, indicating that the residual data is normally distributed.

Multicollinearity test

The multicollinearity test aims to determine whether a correlation exists between independent variables in the regression model (Ghozali, 2018). Multicollinearity can be seen from the *Variance Inflation Factor* (VIF) and *tolerance values*.

Table 3. Hasil Uji Multicollinearities

Coefficients[a]								
Model		**Unstandardized Coefficients**		**Standardized Coefficients**	**t**	**Sig.**	**Collinearity Statistics**	
		B	**Std. Error**	**Beta**			**Tolerance**	**VIF**
1	(Constant)	240.460	43.918		5.475	.000		
	Auditor Switching	-2.793	5.394	-.038	-.518	.605	1.901	1.110
	Audit Fee	-3,546	2,085	-.144	-1,701	.091	1,674	1,484
	Audit Opinion	-78,948	9,575	-.584	-8,245	.000	1,963	1,038
	Public Accounting Firm Reputation	1,524	7,581	.016	.201	.841	1,721	1,387

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If we look at the table above, it shows that the VIF value is <10, and the *tolerance value is* >0.1, so the data tested is free from symptoms of multicollinearity.

Heteroscedasticity Test

The heteroscedasticity test aims to determine whether there is inequality in residual variance from one observation to another in a regression. Detecting the presence or absence of heteroscedasticity can be done by looking at the presence or absence of certain patterns in the scatter plot graph between SRESID and ZPRED where the Y axis is the predicted Y, and the X axis is the studentized *residual.*

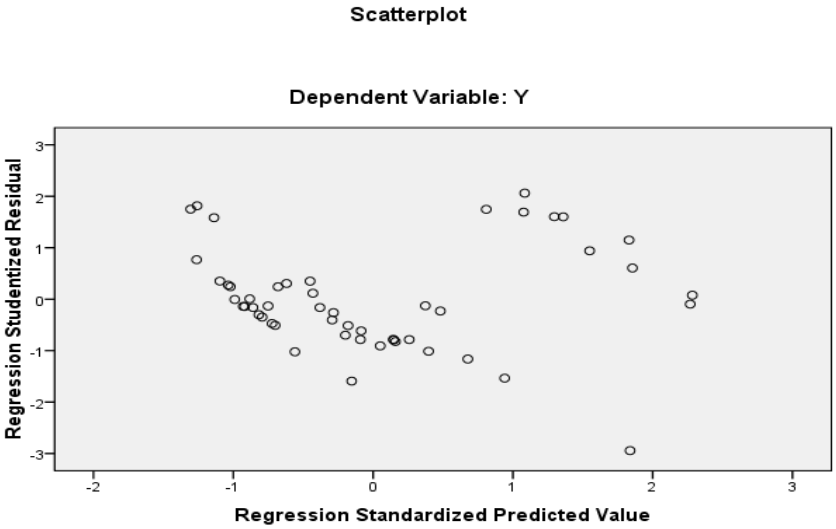

Figure 2. Residual Distribution Pattern in Linear Regression Model

Based on the image above, we can see that the points are spread above and below the number 0 on the Y-axis, meaning there is no heteroscedasticity. The regression model is a model that exhibits homoscedasticity, meaning there is no heteroscedasticity.

Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

The results of the regression coefficient estimation are presented in Table 5 below (SPSS *output source*):

Table 5. Multiple Linear Regression Equation

Variable	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
Constanta	240.460	43.918	–	5.475	0.000
Auditor Switching	-2.793	5.394	-0.038	-0.518	0.003
Audit Fee	-3.546	2.085	-0.144	-1.701	0.001
Opini Audit	-78.948	9.575	-0.584	-8.245	0.000
Reputes KAP	1.524	7.581	0.016	0.201	0.041

The resulting multiple linear regression equation is as follows:

AD = 5.474 -0.518AS-1.701AF-,8.245OA+ 0.201RK + e. Based on this regression equation, it can be interpreted that: the value of the constant is 5.475, this shows: 1) If the independent variables consisting of changes in variables, profitability, *leverage* , company size and audit quality are equal to zero, then *the audit delay* will be 5.475 units; 2) The Auditor Switching coefficient is -0.518, this indicates a negative relationship between the Auditor Switching variable and *audit delay* , which means that for every increase in the Auditor Switching variable, assuming other factors remain constant, *the audit delay* in the company will decrease

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by 0.518; 3) The Auditor Fee coefficient is -1.701, this indicates a negative relationship between the Auditor Fee variable and *audit delay* , which means that for every increase in the Auditor Fee variable, assuming other factors remain constant, *the audit delay* in the company will decrease by 0.518; 4) *audit opinion* regression coefficient is -8.245, this shows a negative relationship between the *audit opinion variable* and *audit delay,* which means that for every increase in the *audit opinion variable,* assuming other factors remain constant, *the audit delay* in the company will decrease by 8,245.

Model Feasibility Test

The Model Feasibility Test is used to test the regression model used in the study (Ferdinand, 2012:297). The Model Feasibility Test is measured from the coefficient of determination value and the F statistic value (Ghozali, 2018). The Model Feasibility Test in this study can be explained as follows:

Coefficient of Determination (R2)

Adjusted R-Square values obtained are presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Adjusted R-Square Value

Model Summary [b]				
Model	**R**	**R Square**	**Adjusted R Square**	**Standard Error of the Estimate**
1	.589 [a]	.547	.672	24.2318
a. Predictors: (Constant), KAP Reputation, Auditor Switching, Audit Opinion, Audit Fee				
b. Dependent Variable: Audit Delay				

Adjusted R2 value is 0.675. This shows that 67.2% of the variation in *audit delay* can be explained by the *Auditor Switching variable. Audit Fee, and Audit Opinion on Audit Delay*, while the remaining 32.8% is explained by other variables that are not included in the research model.

F Statistical Test

The F statistical test basically shows whether all independent variables included in the model have a joint influence on the dependent variable (Ghozali, 2018). Testing criteria: a) *P-value* <ά = 0.05 indicates that this model test is suitable for use in research. b) P-value >ά = 0.05 indicates that this model test is not suitable for use in research.

Tabel 7. Uji F

ANOVA[a]						
Model		**Sum of Squares**	**df**	**Mean Square**	**F**	**Sig.**
1	Regression	42076.798	4	10519.199	17.915	.000[b]
	Residual	79269.452	135	587.181		
	Total	121346.250	139			
a. Dependent Variable: Audit Delay						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Reputasi KAP, Auditor Switching, Opini Audit, Audit Fee						

The results of the F statistical test show an F count value of 17.915 with a significance level of 0.000, because the probability of significance is much smaller than ά = 0.05, so the conclusion is that the model used in the study is suitable for use in research.

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Hypothesis Test (T-Test)

The t-test shows how far the influence of one independent variable individually in explaining the variation of the dependent variable (Ghozali, 2018). The t-test is conducted to determine whether there is a partial influence between the independent variables (profitability, *leverage*, company size, and audit quality) on the dependent variable (*audit delay*). The partial testing criteria with a level *of significance* @ = 0.05 are as follows: a) If *the p-value* < alpha 0.05 then Ho is rejected, meaning the independent variable partially affects the dependent variable. b) If *the p-value* > alpha 0.05 then Ho is accepted, meaning the independent variable does not partially affect the dependent variable. From the results of partial hypothesis testing using SPSS, the t-test results are obtained as presented in Table 8 below.

Tabel 8. Hasil Uji T

Coefficients[a]						
Model		**Unstandardized Coefficients**		**Standardized Coefficients**	**t**	**Sig.**
		B	**Std. Error**	**Beta**		
1	(Constant)	240.460	43.918		5.475	.000
	Auditor Switching	-2.793	5.394	-.038	-.518	.003
	Audit Fee	-3.546	2.085	-.144	-1.701	.001
	Audit Opinion	-2,948	9,575	-.584	-8,245	.000
	Public Accounting Firm Reputation	1,524	7,581	.016	.201	.041
a. Dependent Variable: Audit Delay						

The Effect of Auditor Switching on Audit Delay

Auditor Switching, measured by the number of auditor exchanges, is based on the partial regression coefficient value of -2.793 and the t-value of -0.518, with a significance level of 0.03 < 0.05. This means that *auditor switching* has an effect on *audit delays* in properties and real estate companies. listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange for the 2021-2024 period. Therefore, H1, which states that *auditor switching* has an effect on *audit delay,* is accepted.

The Influence of *Audit Fees* on *Audit Delay*

Audit fees are seen based on the amount of fees, as shown in Table 8. The partial regression coefficient value is -3.546 and the t-value is -1.701 with a significance level of 0.001 < 0.05. This means that *audit fees* have a negative effect on *audit delay* in the company. Properties and Real Estate listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange for the 2021-2024 period. Thus, H2 states that *audit fees* have a negative effect on *audit delay.* accepted.

Company Audit Opinion on *Audit Delay*

The audit opinion obtained from the analysis results in Table 8 partially shows a regression coefficient value of -2.948 and a t value of -8.245 with a significance of 0.000 <0.000. These results partially have a significant effect on *audit delay.* It is known that the company size regression coefficient of -0.518 indicates a negative direction, thus the first hypothesis (H3) in this study states that audit opinion has a significant negative effect on *audit delay*. Therefore, the third hypothesis is accepted.

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Table 9. Test Results with Moderating Variables

Coefficients [a]						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	5,953	5,202		5,220	.000
	Auditor Switching*KAP Reputation	3,262	2,188	.013	.162	.002
	Audit Fee*Reputation of Public Accounting Firm	-5,240	1,036	-1.236	-.522	.036
	Audit Opinion*Reputation of Public Accounting Firm	4,964	9,028	1,242	.525	.019
a. Dependent Variable: Audit Delay						

Based on Table 9, the results of the regression test with the independent variable moderated by the KAP Reputation variable also show that all independent variables have an influence on the dependent variable. This is evidenced by the significance value below 0.05.

The Effect of Auditor Switching on Audit Delay with Public Accounting Firm Reputation as a Moderating Variable

variable, when moderated by the reputation of the public accounting firm, shows a positive direction, where the B value = 3.262 and a significance of 0.002 (<0.05). A positive value in the B coefficient indicates that the reputation of the public accounting firm strengthens the positive relationship between auditor switching and audit delay. Thus, the more frequently a company switches auditor (auditor switching), and the replacement auditor has a high reputation, the longer the audit completion time (audit delay) tends to be.

The Effect of Audit Fee on Audit Delay with Public Accountant Firm Reputation as a Moderating Variable

The regression results show that the interaction of Audit Fee × KAP Reputation has a coefficient value of B = –5.240 with a significance of 0.036 (<0.05). This negative value indicates that KAP reputation weakens the relationship between audit fees and audit delay or in other words, the higher the audit fee paid to an auditor with a high reputation, the faster the audit completion (reduced audit delay).

The Effect of Audit Opinion on Audit Delay with Public Accountant Firm Reputation as a Moderating Variable

The analysis results show that the interaction of Audit Opinion × KAP Reputation has a B value of 4.964 and a significance of 0.019 (<0.05). This result means that KAP reputation strengthens the positive relationship between audit opinion and audit delay. In other words, when a highly reputable auditor provides a complex audit opinion (e.g., a qualified or adverse opinion), audit delay tends to increase.

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The Effect of Auditor Switching on Audit Delay

Based on the regression test results in the table above, the Auditor Switching variable has a B coefficient value of -2.793, a *t- value* of -0.518, and a significance level of 0.003. Because the significance value is less than 0.05, this variable has a negative and significant effect on Audit Delay. This means that the more frequently a company switches auditor, the shorter the audit completion time or audit delay tends to be. These results empirically indicate that new auditors who replace previous auditors are motivated to demonstrate good performance at the beginning of the engagement period. New auditors usually seek to improve their professional reputation in the eyes of clients and the public by completing the audit process quickly and efficiently. Auditor switching often occurs due to mandatory rotation factors, conflicts of interest, or client dissatisfaction with the previous auditor's performance. When new auditors take over, they tend to adapt quickly to the internal control system and company characteristics to avoid delays in the audit process.

According to Arens, Elder, and Beasley (2020) in their book *Auditing and Assurance Services: An Integrated Approach*, new auditors have a responsibility to quickly understand audit risks and the company's internal control system so that the audit process runs according to the financial reporting schedule. The efficient performance of the new auditor can accelerate the completion of audited financial statements. Thus, the findings of this study strengthen the theory that auditor switching can have a positive impact on audit time efficiency. However, on the other hand, the literature also notes that auditor switching can delay audits if the new auditor faces difficulties in understanding the company's financial condition and accounting policies. In this context, Rahmawati & Dewi (2019) in *the Journal of Business and Management Accounting* state that the impact of auditor switching on audit delay is highly dependent on the quality of communication between the old and new auditors, as well as the new auditor's readiness to understand the client's financial reporting system.

Furthermore, changing auditors can also increase efficiency due to the new perspective on the audit process. New auditors bring a fresher audit approach, more sophisticated methodology, and a high level of professional skepticism to ensure timely and accurate audits. As explained by Setiawan & Rahmawati (2021) in *the Journal of Accounting Science and Research*, auditor changes often signal a company's desire to improve audit quality, including accelerating audit completion. Theoretically, this study's findings support the agency theory proposed by Jensen and Meckling (1976), which states that auditor switching can be used by management as a mechanism to reduce information asymmetry with shareholders. When a company replaces an auditor perceived as less independent or inefficient, the new, reputable auditor will strive to meet management and investor expectations by completing the audit report on time.

Thus, the results of the study indicate that Auditor Switching has a significant negative effect on Audit Delay, where the more frequent auditor changes are made, the faster the audit report is completed. This is in line with the findings of Yendrawati & Rofika (2019) that auditor switching has a significant negative effect on audit delay in financial sector companies in Indonesia, because new auditors have an incentive to improve the professional image and reputation of the KAP.

The Influence of Audit Fees on Audit Delay

From the regression results, the Audit Fee variable has a coefficient value of -3.546, a *t- value* of -1.701, and a significance level of 0.001 (<0.05). This indicates that audit fees have a negative and significant effect on audit delay. This means that the higher the audit fee received by the auditor, the faster the audit report is completed. Audit fees reflect the level of complexity of the audit work, audit risk, and auditor competence. High fees are often given to auditors with

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better experience, reputation, and resources, which ultimately can increase the efficiency of audit implementation. Auditors with higher fees have an economic incentive to maintain good relationships with clients by completing audits on time without sacrificing quality.

According to Elder, Beasley, and Arens (2018), audit fees are one of the factors that determine an auditor's priority level for a client. When fees are high, auditors are motivated to allocate their best resources, including an experienced audit team and longer working hours, to ensure faster audit completion. Conversely, when audit fees are low, auditors may lower the client's priority or delay audit work. Furthermore, Habib & Bhuiyan (2019) found in the *Managerial Auditing Journal* that high audit fees are negatively correlated with audit delays across OECD countries. They explained that high fees compensate for the need for fast and efficient audit completion by experienced auditors. In the Indonesian context, Sari & Nugroho (2020) suggested that the size of the audit fee often indicates the auditor's professionalism and the quality of the working relationship with the client. Companies willing to pay higher audit fees typically prioritize the timeliness of financial reporting, prompting auditors to work more quickly to meet these expectations.

Based on resource-based theory, auditors with strong resources (team, technology, and experience) will be able to complete audits more efficiently. High audit fees enable auditors to utilize these resources optimally. Therefore, this finding confirms that audit fees not only reflect the economic value of audit services but also influence the effectiveness and speed of audit implementation. Thus, the results of this study indicate that audit fees have a significant negative effect on audit delay, where high audit fees encourage auditors to work more efficiently and complete audit reports quickly.

The Influence of Audit Opinion on Audit Delay

Audit Opinion variable shows a B coefficient value of –78.948, a *t- value* of –8.245, and a significance value of 0.000 (<0.05). These results indicate that audit opinion has a negative and significant effect on audit delay. This means that companies that receive an unqualified audit opinion have a shorter audit completion time than companies that receive other opinions. This is because companies with an unqualified opinion usually have good governance, a strong internal control system, and financial statements that comply with accounting standards. Auditors do not need to perform additional procedures to ensure the reliability of financial statements, so the audit process is faster. Conversely, companies that receive a modified opinion (qualified opinion, adverse opinion, or disclaimer) require a longer audit time because the auditor needs to conduct additional testing and discuss findings with management.

According to Suhartati & Marsono (2020), an adverse audit opinion reflects problems in financial reporting, requiring auditors to spend additional time to obtain reasonable assurance regarding the fairness of the financial statements. The more complex the problems identified, the longer the audit process takes. Furthermore, Owusu-Ansah & Leventis (2018) state that companies that obtain an unqualified opinion typically have a transparent reporting system and a low audit risk level, enabling auditors to complete the audit more quickly. From a signaling theory perspective, an audit opinion signals the market about the quality of corporate governance. Companies committed to good governance will strive to obtain an unqualified opinion, one way being to provide adequate documentation and information to auditors to expedite the audit process. Therefore, the results of this study indicate that an audit opinion has a significant negative effect on audit delay. Companies with a favorable opinion tend to have shorter audit delays because they do not require additional audits by auditors.

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The Effect of Auditor Switching on Audit Delay with Public Accounting Firm Reputation as a Moderating Variable

Based on the results of the regression coefficient test, the interaction variable Auditor Switching × KAP Reputation has a B value = 3.262 and a significance of 0.002 (<0.05). A positive value in the B coefficient indicates that KAP reputation strengthens the positive relationship between auditor switching and audit delay. Thus, the more frequently a company switches auditor, and the replacement auditor has a high reputation, the longer the audit completion time (audit delay) tends to be. Theoretically, this result can be explained using agency theory. In the relationship between management and auditors, auditor switching creates *information asymmetry problems* because the new auditor does not fully understand the company's internal conditions, accounting systems, and the risks faced by the client. The new auditor needs additional time to recognize the company's characteristics and make adjustments to the previous audit system. This adaptation process causes the audit to take longer until the audit report is issued.

Audit firm reputation as a moderating variable strengthens this relationship because highly reputable auditors (e.g., large audit firms or international affiliates) have stricter audit standards, robust internal quality control systems, and a higher level of care in the audit process. Highly reputable auditors will not rush audit completion simply to meet deadlines, but rather place greater emphasis on the quality and accuracy of audit results. Therefore, the interaction between auditor switching and audit firm reputation increases the likelihood of audit delay **.**

This research aligns with the findings of Ala, Djakman, and Rahmawati (2024) , who found that auditor switching had a significant positive effect on audit delay in the property and real estate sector in Indonesia. They explained that new auditors require additional time to learn the company's systems and structure, especially for complex clients. Furthermore, research by Rahayu and Sari (2021) also stated that auditor changes cause delays in financial reporting because the new auditor requires a thorough understanding of the client's audit systems and risks.

In the context of moderation, this study reinforces the findings of Indriyanto (2024) who stated that the reputation of the public accounting firm can strengthen the relationship between company risk factors and audit delay. Highly reputable auditors are more cautious and tend to perform additional audit procedures to ensure the accuracy of financial statements, which naturally extends the audit duration. From a practical perspective, these results provide an important message for companies to consider timeliness risk *when* deciding to change auditors, especially if the new auditor comes from a highly reputable public accounting firm. Management must provide adequate data and documentation to expedite the adaptation process for new auditors to prevent excessive audit delays.

The Effect of Audit Fee on Audit Delay with Public Accountant Firm Reputation as a Moderating Variable

The regression results show that the interaction term Audit Fee × KAP Reputation has a coefficient value of B = –5.240 with a significance level of 0.036 (<0.05). This negative value indicates that KAP reputation weakens the relationship between audit fees and audit delay — or in other words, the higher the audit fee paid to an auditor with a high reputation, the faster the audit completion (reduced audit delay). This interpretation suggests that a high audit fee reflects commensurate compensation for the audit complexity, client risk level, and auditor workload. When a highly reputable auditor receives an adequate fee, the auditor tends to devote greater attention and resources to completing the audit efficiently and on time. Highly reputable

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auditors also have more experienced audit teams, modern audit infrastructure, and a rigorous internal quality control system, all of which contribute to accelerating the audit process.

These results are consistent with research by Juniarto and Prathivi (2022), which found that audit fees significantly negatively impact audit delays. They explained that high fees enhance auditor professionalism because auditors have a moral responsibility and reputation to maintain, thus striving to complete audits on schedule. Research by Rabaiyah, Zulfikar, and Nuraini (2023) also showed that high audit fees boost audit efficiency because auditors receive appropriate compensation to assign more audit staff and modern audit technology. However, other studies, such as those by Agista, Widhi, and Putri (2022) , found that audit fees do not significantly impact audit delays, as the fee amount does not always reflect the true level of audit difficulty. In the context of this research, the role of audit firm reputation explains this difference: highly reputable auditors have better resources and efficiency, allowing them to complete audits more quickly despite higher audit fees. Thus, these research findings reinforce the view that audit fees and audit firm reputation have a simultaneous effect on audit speed. High fees at highly reputable audit firms indicate professional commitment and sufficient resources to maintain audit quality without prolonging audit delays.

The Effect of Audit Opinion on Audit Delay with Public Accountant Firm Reputation as a Moderating Variable

The analysis results show that the interaction between Audit Opinion × Public Accounting Firm Reputation has a B value of 4.964 and a significance level of 0.019 (<0.05) . This result indicates that public accounting firm reputation strengthens the positive relationship between audit opinion and audit delay. In other words, when a highly reputable auditor issues a complex audit opinion (e.g., a qualified or adverse opinion), audit delay tends to increase. Logically, a modified audit opinion indicates certain issues or discrepancies in the company's financial statements. Auditors require additional time to investigate the causes, seek clarification from management, and perform additional procedures to ensure the reliability of the financial statements. This process can extend the audit completion time. Highly reputable auditors tend to be more thorough and conservative in this process because they are committed to maintaining the credibility and reputation of the public accounting firm.

This finding aligns with research by Anggraini, Wirakusuma, and Atmadja (2022), which found that audit opinions have a positive effect on audit delay, as auditors require additional time to conduct in-depth analysis when identifying indications of non-conformities in financial statements. Nandari and Wirama (2021) also found that companies receiving audit opinions other than *unqualified* tend to experience reporting delays because auditors must be more cautious in issuing their opinions. In a moderating context, the reputation of the public accounting firm (KAP) strengthens this relationship, as highly reputable auditors have a greater responsibility to maintain the integrity of their audits. Therefore, they are more cautious and perform more verification procedures when issuing audit opinions, ultimately prolonging audit delays.

Conclusion

Auditor Switching, measured by the number of auditor exchanges, results of the analysis show a regression coefficient value of -2.793 and a t-value of -0.518 with a significance level of 0.03 < 0.05. This means that auditor switching has an effect on audit delays in properties and real estate companies. listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange for the 2021-2024 period. Therefore, H1, which states that auditor switching has an effect on audit delay, is accepted.

Audit fees are measured based on the size of the fee, with a regression coefficient of -3.546 and a t-value of -1.701, with a significance level of 0.001 < 0.05. This means that audit fees

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have a negative effect on audit delay in the company. Properties and Real Estate listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange for the 2021-2024 period. Thus, H2 states that audit fees have a negative effect on audit delay. accepted.

The audit opinion obtained from the analysis results shows a regression coefficient value of -2.948 and a t value of -8.245 with a significance of 0.000 <0.000. These results partially have a significant effect on audit delay. It is known that the company size regression coefficient of -0.518 indicates a negative direction, thus the first hypothesis (H3) in this study states that audit opinion has a significant negative effect on audit delay. Therefore, the third hypothesis is accepted.

Variable, when moderated by the reputation of the public accounting firm, shows a positive direction, where the B value = 3.262 and a significance of 0.002 (<0.05). A positive value in the B coefficient indicates that the reputation of the public accounting firm strengthens the positive relationship between auditor switching and audit delay. Thus, the more frequently a company switches auditor (auditor switching), and the replacement auditor has a high reputation, the longer the audit completion time (audit delay) tends to be.

The regression results show that the interaction of Audit Fee × KAP Reputation has a coefficient value of B = –5.240 with a significance of 0.036 (<0.05). This negative value indicates that KAP reputation weakens the relationship between audit fees and audit delay — or in other words, the higher the audit fee paid to an auditor with a high reputation, the faster the audit completion (reduced audit delay).

The analysis results show that the interaction of Audit Opinion × KAP Reputation has a B value of 4.964 and a significance of 0.019 (<0.05). This result means that KAP reputation strengthens the positive relationship between audit opinion and audit delay. In other words, when a highly reputable auditor provides a complex audit opinion (e.g., a qualified or adverse opinion), audit delay tends to increase.

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