

# The Effect of Auditor Experience, Independence, and Integrity on Audit Quality with Professional Ethics as a Moderating Variable: Empirical Study at Public Accounting Firms in Palembang City, Indonesia

Dedek Anjelita<sup>1</sup>, Lukita Tripermata<sup>2</sup>, Leriza Desitama Anggraini<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup> Department of Management, Faculty of Economics, Universitas Indo Global Mandiri, Palembang, Indonesia.  
Email: [2021520042@students.uigm.ac.id](mailto:2021520042@students.uigm.ac.id)<sup>1</sup>, [lukita@uigm.ac.id](mailto:lukita@uigm.ac.id)<sup>2</sup>, [leriza@uigm.ac.id](mailto:leriza@uigm.ac.id)<sup>3</sup>

## ARTICLE HISTORY

Received: March 09, 2025

Revised: May 17, 2025

Accepted: May 25, 2025

## DOI

<https://doi.org/10.52970/grar.v5i2.1332>

## ABSTRACT

This research analyzes the influence of the auditor's experience, independence, and integrity on audit quality with professional ethics as a moderating variable in the Public Accounting Firm (KAP) in Palembang. The research method used is quantitative, with data collection techniques through distributing questionnaires to the auditors of the KAP. Of the 100 questionnaires distributed, a total of 30 questionnaires were returned and processed. The research shows that the auditor's experience, independence, and integrity do not significantly influence audit quality. However, professional ethics have a positive and significant influence on audit quality. In addition, professional ethics has not been proven to be able to strengthen or weaken the relationship between the auditor's experience, independence, and integrity on audit quality. These findings indicate that although professional ethics are important in audit practice, other factors may be more dominant in determining audit quality. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen policies and improve training and supervision for auditors in implementing professional ethics to improve audit quality.

**Keywords:** Auditor Experience, Independence, Professional Ethics, Audit Quality.

**JEL Code:** M42, M41, D91.

## I. Introduction

The stable and long-term development of the economy depends on the financial statements of companies that can carry out their duties well. A quality audit can minimize the risk of errors in financial statements. Audit quality describes how auditors find and disclose errors when checking financial statements. Companies with increasing growth tend to need auditors of better quality (Pebriani et al., 2022). According to Anggraini (2020), to produce good audit quality, an auditor must maintain and improve his/her independence in carrying out audit duties, one of which is not having a particular interest in his/her client. An audit of accounting is carried out on financial statements to assess whether the statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles and are presented fairly. A quality audit is necessary to protect the needs of the public. Audit quality explains the auditor's opportunity to detect fraud in the accounting system

and record it in the financial statements disclosed to management. The auditor must be able to show fraud in the audited financial statements to maintain their independence and increase (Septiana & Jaeni, 2021). The role of the auditor is vital in the business field. The auditor is responsible for ensuring ethical standards of behavior in his workplace, organization, and society. In general, ethics are actions and moral principles that serve as guidelines for a person's actions so that the actions taken are considered reasonable by society and can increase a person's honor and dignity. This can also help improve the quality of the audit (Alfhedo, 2024). One of the main factors contributing to audit quality is the auditor's work experience. More experienced auditors can better detect fraud in financial statements because they have a deeper understanding of the various situations encountered in an audit. In addition, auditors must have adequate experience, which can be obtained through formal education, length of service, implementation of audit responsibilities, training, or other activities related to the auditor's expertise (Evia et al., 2022). In addition to experience, independence is an important factor in determining audit quality. The auditor's independence is regulated in the Public Professional Accounting Standard (SPAP, 2011:220.1), which states that the auditor must maintain an independent attitude in all matters relating to the engagement. This independent attitude means that interested parties do not easily influence the auditor and always act in the public interest, not the personal interests of the company he is auditing. Independent auditors can maintain objectivity and ensure that financial reports are audited honestly and fairly (Giyatri & Rahmaita, 2024).

In addition to experience and independence, integrity is another important aspect that affects audit quality. Integrity in auditing refers to the honest, fair, ethical, and impartial attitudes and behaviors demonstrated by auditors in carrying out their duties. Integrity has core values in audit journal practices that ensure auditors carry out their work honestly, follow strict ethical standards, and are committed to objectively disclosing the truth (Giyatri & Rahmaita, 2024). In such a situation, professional ethics is a moderating variable affecting the relationship between work experience, independence, and integrity to audit quality. Professional ethics includes standards that govern auditor behavior in their work (Giyatri & Rahmaita, 2024). To reduce the misalignment between management and owners, auditors must produce quality audits. Many business cases have "fallen" due to auditor errors, threatening the credibility of their financial statements. This threat then affects the public's views regarding the quality of audits, especially users of financial reports. With audit quality, the auditor may discover and report violations of the client's accounting system. The auditor's conclusion and the choices made by entities outside the company are indirectly influenced by the quality of the auditor's work. So, auditors must have a sense of responsibility (accountability) and professionalism (Arnita et al., 2023).

Recently, a phenomenon has emerged that causes failure in the audit profession; there are cases like those in Indonesia, the PT cases. Garuda Indonesia. This case is one of Indonesia's most prominent corporate scandals involving the manipulation of financial reports. This impacts international aviation companies and shakes the public's confidence in the financial sector and management of Indonesian companies. Some manipulation actions include inflating income, delaying recognition of expenses, and unreasonable transactions. In this case, KAP Tanubrata, Sutanto, Fahmi, Bambang, and colleagues are the KAP involved. This KAP is responsible for auditing PT's financial statements. Garuda Indonesia in 2018, but their audit results do not reflect the actual financial conditions. In this case, the Public Accounting Firm of KAP should have been able to act independently, but KAP Tanubrata, Sutanto, Fahmi, Bambang, and colleagues did not do this. The Financial Services Authority (OJK) has imposed administrative sanctions on PT. Garuda Indonesia and the KAP are involved. The sanctions are fines and suspension of practice permits for KAP (Ministry of Finance, 2019). In the SNP Finance case (2018-2019), PT Sunprima Nusantara Financing (SNP Finance) was found to have committed fraudulent practices in its financial reporting. KAP Satrio Bing Eny and Partner (Deloitte affiliate) is considered less experienced in auditing financing companies, not implementing adequate audit procedures, lacking professional skepticism, and possibly relying too much on management statements. OJK sanctioned KAP by banning new clients for 12 (twelve) months. The Ministry of Finance also provides sanctions to public accountants involved (Tempo.co, 2018)

Along with the challenges faced by the audit sector in Indonesia, such as a lack of understanding of professional ethics, this research aims to provide insight into how professional ethics can function as a strengthener in the relationship between work experience, independence, and integrity towards audit quality. Hopefully, this will provide recommendations for audit practitioners and educational institutions. This study is also expected to contribute to the development of literature on auditing and professional ethics and audit practices in Indonesia. By analyzing the relationship between these variables, this study's results can guide auditors in improving audit quality. The problem is that junior auditors in KAP Palembang City have limited work experience. More experienced auditors usually have a deeper understanding of accounting practices and audit procedures, a phenomenon that can affect the quality of the final audit. Audit quality depends not only on the auditor's technical skills but also on their attitudes and values. By considering work experience, independence, integrity, and professional ethics, auditors are expected to significantly contribute to maintaining public trust in financial reporting. Based on the results of previous research by Arnita et al. (2023), this supports the idea that auditor experience variables positively and significantly influence audit quality. The higher the auditor's experience, the higher the level of audit quality will be produced. Moreover, the research results conducted by Cahyaning and Suci (2024) show that auditor independence plays a significant role in determining audit quality. However, the research results (Wahzuni & Setiawati, 2022) show that integrity does not significantly influence audit quality, although integrity is still important in maintaining public trust in audit results. Then, according to Suhitha et al. (2022), auditor ethics moderately affect audit quality. Apart from that, the auditor's integrity and ethics on audit quality have a significant influence (Giyatri & Rahmaita, 2024).

## II. Research Method

Researchers will discuss this quantitative descriptive research on the influence of audit quality on KAP in Palembang City. This research aims to provide insight into how professional ethics can reinforce the relationship between work experience, independence, and integrity to audit quality. It is expected to provide recommendations for audit practitioners and educational institutions. It is also expected to contribute to the development of literature on auditing and professional ethics and audit practices in Indonesia. Moreover, it can guide auditors in improving audit quality.

The object of the research is the influence of the auditor's experience, independence, and integrity on audit quality, with professional ethics as a moderating variable in the KAP Palembang City. This includes professional ethics, which refers to the standards of behavior that auditors must adhere to in carrying out their duties, including compliance with moral principles and regulations that apply within the audit profession, which includes all auditors. Meanwhile, the research object is the Public Accountant's Office KAP Palembang City.

The sample for this research consists of 30 respondents who were selected using the Convenience Sampling method, namely, respondents who were available and willing to participate in this research. This research requires auditors who meet specific criteria, especially those relevant to the research variables. The sample is chosen strategically so that the research results can reflect the actual situation.

The type of data used in this research is primary data. Primary data was obtained directly from the first source: auditors who work at the Public Accounting Office (KAP) in Palembang. This primary data is collected using a survey method, namely a list of questionnaires (questions) that respondents will fill in or answer. The respondents in this research are auditors who work at the Public Accounting Office in Palembang City. In this research, questionnaires will be distributed to auditors working in the Public Accounting Office (KAP) in Palembang. This questionnaire aims to obtain data related to the variables studied: auditor experience, independence, integrity, professional ethics, and audit quality.

### III. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Statistical Result

The validity and reliability of the SEM-PLS model are evaluated using the measurement model (outer model). First, enter all the data in the SmartPLS application and select the calculate menu for this test. Then, select the PLS algorithm and select the start calculation menu. At the bottom, there are several menu options, select menu construct reliability and validity, and the menu and data will be displayed. This is an explanation of the results of the reliability test.

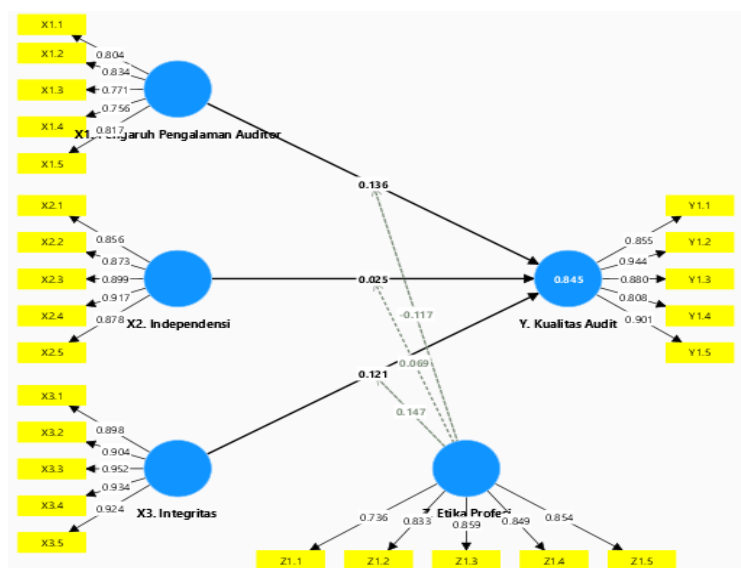


Figure 1. Results of the Measurement Model (Outer Model)

##### 3.1.1. Convergent Validity

Table 1. Outer Loading Factor

Variable	Standard	Loading Factor	Description
X1.1 <- X1. Influence of Auditor Experience	0.700	0.804	Valid
X1.2 <- X1. Influence of Auditor Experience		0.834	Valid
X1.3 <- X1. The Influence of Auditor Experience		0.771	Valid
X1.4 <- X1. Influence of Auditor Experience		0.756	Valid
X1.5 <- X1. The Influence of Auditor Experience		0.817	Valid
X2.1 <- X2. Independence		0.856	Valid
X2.2 <- X2. Independence		0.873	Valid
X2.3 <- X2. Independence		0.899	Valid
X2.4 <- X2. Independence		0.917	Valid
X2.5 <- X2. Independence		0.878	Valid
X3.1 <- X3. Integrity		0.898	Valid
X3.2 <- X3. Integrity		0.904	Valid
X3.3 <- X3. Integrity		0.952	Valid
X3.4 <- X3. Integrity		0.934	Valid
X3.5 <- X3. Integrity		0.924	Valid
Y1.1 <- Y. Audit Quality	0.855	Valid	
Y1.2 <- Y. Audit Quality	0.944	Valid	
Y1.3 <- Y. Audit Quality	0.880	Valid	
Y1.4 <- Y. Audit Quality	0.808	Valid	

Variable	Standard	Loading Factor	Description
Y1.5 <- Y. Audit Quality		0.901	Valid
Z1.1 <- Z. Professional Ethics		0.736	Valid
Z1.2 <- Z. Professional Ethics		0.833	Valid
Z1.3 <- Z. Professional Ethics		0.859	Valid
Z1.4 <- Z. Professional Ethics		0.849	Valid
Z1.5 <- Z. Professional Ethics		0.854	Valid
Z x X3 -> Professional Ethics x X3. Integrity		1.000	Valid
Z x X1 -> Professional Ethics x X1. Auditor Experience		1.000	Valid
Zix I2 -> Z. Professional Ethics		1.000	Valid

Based on the data in Table 1. It shows that all of the items, each of the variables Auditor Experience (X1), Independence (X2), Integrity (X3), audit Quality (Y), and Professional Ethics (Z) have factor loading values  $i > 0.70$ ; it can be concluded that all indicators are valid. Here is a test of the validity of the convergent icon using AVE.

**Table 2. Average Variance Extracted (AVE)**

Variable	AVE	Result
X1. Influence of Auditor Experience	0.635	Reliable
X2. Independence	0.783	
X3. Integrity	0.851	
Y. Audit Quality	0.772	
Z. Professional Ethics	0.685	

Table 2 shows that the generally accepted standard AVE value is more than 0.50, and all AVE values show good convergent validity. This shows that the variables measured by Auditor Experience (X1), Independence (X2), Integrity (X3), Audit Quality (Y), and Professional Ethics (Z) have sufficient correlation with the items in their constructs. Overall, the AVE results of this study indicate that the variables measured by these variables have sufficient correlation with the items in their constructs.

### 3.1.2. Discriminant Validity

**Table 3. Discriminant Validity-Cross Loading**

Variable	X1	X2	X3	Y	Z	Z x X1	Z x X3	Z x X2	Result
X1.1	0.804	0.443	0.316	0.546	0.533	0.231	0.135	0.131	Valid
X1.2	0.834	0.644	0.651	0.517	0.512	0.510	0.227	0.323	
X1.3	0.771	0.428	0.378	0.560	0.537	0.561	0.387	0.294	
X1.4	0.756	0.610	0.490	0.582	0.596	0.287	0.128	0.154	
X1.5	0.817	0.733	0.618	0.580	0.582	0.309	0.050	0.098	
X2.1	0.644	0.856	0.752	0.603	0.656	0.150	-0.054	-0.031	
X2.2	0.745	0.873	0.702	0.657	0.641	0.325	0.031	0.050	
X2.3	0.549	0.899	0.846	0.651	0.657	0.127	0.134	0.059	
X2.4	0.656	0.917	0.717	0.717	0.713	0.093	0.064	-0.023	
X2.5	0.591	0.878	0.716	0.661	0.692	0.274	0.337	0.276	
X3.1	0.497	0.718	0.898	0.640	0.708	0.207	-0.049	0.191	
X3.2	0.626	0.803	0.904	0.575	0.605	0.191	-0.007	0.072	
X3.3	0.564	0.809	0.952	0.746	0.737	0.081	-0.065	0.034	
X3.4	0.586	0.787	0.934	0.648	0.666	0.233	-0.013	0.108	
X3.5	0.575	0.770	0.924	0.697	0.717	0.330	0.049	0.198	
Y1.1	0.632	0.600	0.444	0.855	0.686	0.229	0.342	0.285	
Y1.2	0.635	0.712	0.726	0.944	0.900	0.295	0.225	0.339	
Y1.3	0.558	0.687	0.717	0.880	0.860	0.191	0.073	0.168	
Y1.4	0.741	0.681	0.634	0.808	0.707	0.380	0.246	0.248	
Y1.5	0.531	0.585	0.615	0.901	0.784	0.303	0.347	0.410	

Variable	X1	X2	X3	Y	Z	Z x X1	Z x X3	Z x X2	Result
Z1.1	0.635	0.518	0.507	0.573	0.736	0.494	0.365	0.388	
Z1.2	0.570	0.722	0.710	0.748	0.833	0.080	-0.025	0.012	
Z1.3	0.543	0.544	0.568	0.748	0.859	0.291	0.228	0.278	
Z1.4	0.617	0.651	0.586	0.814	0.849	0.178	0.101	0.209	
Z1.5	0.541	0.691	0.705	0.816	0.854	0.233	0.147	0.279	
Z x X3	0.231	0.118	-0.019	0.273	0.183	0.636	1.000	0.830	
Z x X2	0.248	0.075	0.130	0.329	0.272	0.740	0.830	1.000	
Z x X1	0.474	0.218	0.224	0.316	0.291	1.000	0.636	0.740	

Based on Table 3. Cross-loading shows that the outer value of each indicator to its variable is higher than its relationship with other variable constructs, so it can be concluded that the data is valid. Furthermore, the validity of the discriminant was tested using the Fornell-Larcker test, namely, by comparing the root of the average variance extracted (AVE). With the correlation between construct variables.

**Table 4. Fornell-Larcker Criterion Discriminant Validity**

	X1. The Influence of Auditor Experience	X2. Independence	X3. Integrity	Y. Quality Audit	Z. Professional Ethics
X1. The Influence of Auditor Experience	0.797				
X2. Independence	0.720	0.885			
X3. Integrity	0.616	0.842	0.923		
Y. Audit Quality	0.701	0.745	0.721	0.879	
Z. Professional Ethics	0.695	0.760	0.748	0.902	0.828

Based on the presentation of Table 4, the root value of AVE of each variable, Auditor Experience (X1), Independence (X2), Integrity (X3), Audit Quality (Y), and Professional Ethics (Z), is higher than the correlation between the constructs and other constructs. Thus, it can be concluded that all constructs or latent variables have good discriminant validity, where the indicator block of the construction is better than the indicator block of other constructs, so it can be concluded that the discriminant validity has been met.

### 3.1.3. Composite Reliability

**Table 5. Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability**

	Cronbach's alpha	Composite reliability (rho_a)	Composite reliability (rho_c)
X1. The Influence of Auditor Experience	0.856	0.856	0.897
X2. Independence	0.930	0.933	0.947
X3. Integrity	0.956	0.962	0.966
Y. Audit Quality	0.926	0.933	0.944
Z. Professional Ethics	0.885	0.894	0.916

Table 5 above shows that Cronbach's alpha and composite reliability values of each variable have met the standard of > 0.70. This indicates that the reliability of the study has been met. In addition, the composite reliability value is higher than Cronbach's alpha value. This indicates that all variables have met the requirements regarding the appropriate reliability criteria as the basis for SEM research that can be analyzed using SmartPLS.

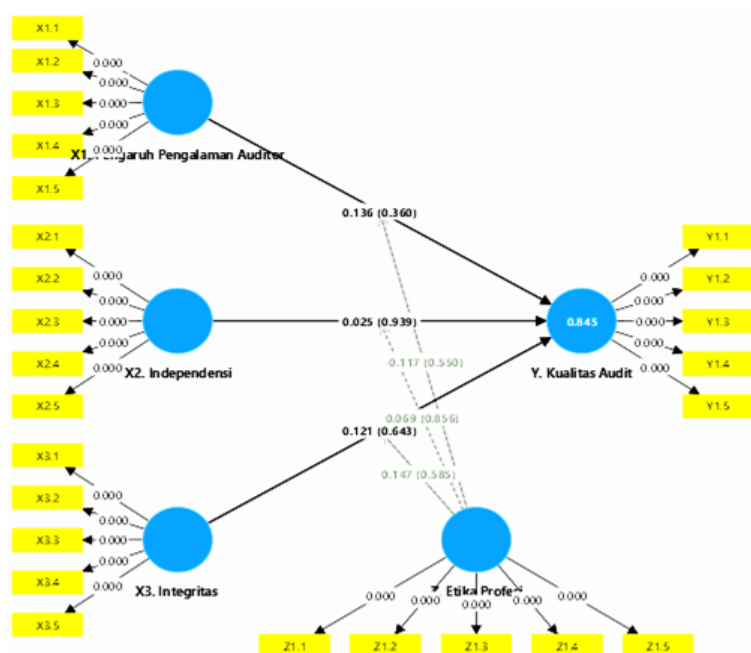
3.1.4. R-squared (R<sup>2</sup>)

**Table 6. R-squared (R<sup>2</sup>)**

	R-square	R-square adjusted
Y. Audit Quality	0.845	0.796

Based on table 6, the adjusted R-square value of the Audit Quality variable (Y) is 0.796, this means that 79.6% of the variance or change in audit quality (Y) is influenced by auditor experience (X1), independence (X2), and integrity (X3) while other causes explain the remaining 20.4%. So it can be said that the R-squared on the audit quality variable is a strong model.

3.1.5. Hypothesis Testing



**Figure 2. Bootstrapping output**

To determine the structural relationship between latent variables, hypothesis testing must be carried out on the path coefficients between variables by comparing the P-value <0.05 (at a significance level of 5%) or the statistic of >2.042. The magnitude of the P-value and the statistics are obtained from the output of Smart-PLS using the bootstrapping method. This test is intended to test the hypothesis consisting of the following seven hypotheses:

- H1: Work experience positively and significantly influences audit quality in public accounting firms.
- H2: Independence has a positive and significant effect on audit quality in public accounting firms
- H3: Integrity has a positive and significant effect on audit quality in public accounting firms
- H4: Professional ethics has a positive and significant influence on audit quality in public accounting firms
- H5: Work experience influences audit quality, with professional ethics as a moderating variable in public accounting firms
- H6: Independence influences audit quality, with professional ethics as a moderating variable in public accounting firms

H7: Integrity Influence on audit quality with professional ethics as a moderating variable in Public Accounting Firms

**Table 7. Path Coefficients**

	<b>Original sample (O)</b>	<b>Sample means (M)</b>	<b>Standard deviation (STDEV)</b>	<b>T statistics ( O/STDEV )</b>	<b>P values</b>	<b>Description</b>
X1 -> Y	0.136	0.145	0.149	0.915	0.360	Rejected
X2 -> Y	0.025	-0.064	0.328	0.077	0.939	Rejected
X3 -> Y	0.121	0.182	0.260	0.464	0.643	Rejected
Z -> Y	0.690	0.714	0.239	2.890	0.004	Accepted
Z x X1 -> Y	-0.117	-0.146	0.196	0.598	0.550	Rejected
Z x X2 -> Y	0.069	0.035	0.381	0.182	0.852	Rejected
Z x X3 -> Y	0.147	0.201	0.270	0.546	0.585	Rejected

Based on Table 7 path coefficients, it shows that the influence of Auditor Experience (X1) on Audit Quality (Y) produces a t-statistic on the original sample of 0.136, sample mean 0.145, standard deviation 0.149, t-statistic 0.915, and P-value 0.360 > 0.05 (5% probability). So H1 is rejected, meaning that the influence of Auditor Experience (X1) does not significantly affect Audit Quality (Y).

1. The influence of Independence (X2) on Audit Quality (Y) produces a t-statistic on the original sample of 0.025, sample mean -0.064, standard deviation 0.328, t-statistic 0.077, and P-value 0.939 > 0.05 (5% probability). So H2 is rejected, meaning that the influence of Independence (X2) does not significantly affect Audit Quality (Y).
2. The effect of Integrity (X3) on Audit Quality (Y) produces a t-statistic on the original sample of 0.121, sample mean 0.182, standard deviation 0.260, t-statistic 0.464, and P-value 0.643 > 0.05 (5% probability). So H3 is rejected, meaning the effect of integrity X3 does not significantly affect Audit Quality (Y).
3. The effect of Professional Ethics (Z) on Audit Quality (Y) produces a t-statistic on the original sample of 0.690, sample mean 0.714, standard deviation 0.239, t-statistic 2.890, and P-value 0.004. < 0.05 (5% probability). So, H4 is accepted, meaning that professional ethics (Z) significantly affect audit quality (Y).
4. The Effect of Auditor Experience (X1) on Audit Quality (Y) by moderating Professional Ethics (Z) produces a t-statistic on the original sample of -0.117, sample mean -0.146, standard deviation 0.196, statistic 0.598, and P-value 0.550 > 0.05 (5% probability). So H5 is rejected, meaning that the effect of professional ethics (Z) moderates the effect of auditor experience (X1), which does not have a significant effect on audit quality (Y).
5. The Effect of Independence (X2) on Audit Quality (Y) by moderating Professional Ethics (Z) produces a t-statistic on the original sample of 0.147, sample mean 0.201, standard deviation 0.270, it-statistic 0.546, and P-value 0.585 > 0.05 (5% probability). So H6 is rejected, meaning the influence of professional ethics (Z) moderates the influence of Independence (X2), which does not have a significant effect on audit quality (Y).
6. The influence of Integrity (X3) on Audit Quality (Y) by moderating Professional Ethics (Z) produces a t-statistic on the original sample of 0.069, sample mean 0.035, standard deviation 0.381, t-statistic 0.182, and P-value 0.856 > 0.05 (5% probability). So H7 is rejected, meaning the influence of professional ethics (Z) moderates the influence of Integrity (X3), which does not have a significant effect on audit quality (Y).

## 3.2. Discussion

### 3.2.1. The Effect of Auditor Experience on Audit Quality

The first hypothesis (H1) shows the results of data processing; it is known that the P-value is  $0.360 > 0.05$  (5% probability) or with a t-statistic of  $0.915 < 2.042$ . So, H1 in this study is rejected. It can be concluded that auditor experience does not significantly affect audit quality. This means that although an auditor's work experience is expected to improve understanding of public accounting professional standards, as stipulated in the Decree of the Minister of Finance No. 43 / KMK.017 / 1997 dated January 27, 1997, which requires at least three years of work experience with a good reputation in the audit field, the reality in the field shows that this is not necessarily reflected in an increase in audit quality. Respondent data in this study shows that most auditors have more than three years of work experience, which should give them an advantage in better implementing audit standards and principles. However, the study's results indicate that the length of work experience is not always a determining factor in audit quality. This can be caused by various other factors, such as the auditor's ability to keep up with the latest developments in the audit field, the effectiveness of ongoing training, or even the influence of organizational culture and management support for quality audit practices. This suggests that although experience can improve technical skills, inhibiting factors such as lack of advanced training or technological innovation affect the application of experience in the audit process. In addition, experienced auditors may face routines that reduce sensitivity to new complex issues. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected, and these results provide an opportunity to evaluate how experience can be better integrated in professional development.

The results of this study are relevant to the results of previous research conducted by (Septiana & Jaeni, 2021) in the journal *The Effect of Competence, Independence and Auditor Work Experience on Audit Quality with Auditor Ethics as a Moderating Variable (Empirical Study of Public Accounting Firms in Semarang, Solo and Yogyakarta)* stating that independence and work experience do not affect audit quality. The following is the relationship with the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB). In this context, auditor experience reflects perceived behavioral control, where experienced auditors should have a better ability to implement audit standards. However, constraints such as a lack of continuous training, limited technological innovation, or the influence of organizational culture can reduce such experience's effectiveness, so perceived control is not entirely optimal. In addition, even though auditors have a positive attitude toward the importance of audit quality (attitude toward the behavior), the results can be hampered by subjective norms, such as pressure from clients or management that influence their decisions. Thus, although auditor experience is expected to contribute to audit quality, the interaction between the three TPB elements shows that experience alone is insufficient without adequate environmental support and resources.

### 3.2.2. The Effect of Independence on Audit Quality

The second hypothesis (H2) shows the results of data processing; it is known that the P-value is  $0.939 > 0.05$  (5% probability) or with a t-statistic of  $0.077 < 2.042$ . So H2 in this study is rejected. It can be concluded that auditor independence does not have a significant effect on audit quality at the Palembang City Public Accounting Firm (KAP). This finding contradicts the theoretical view that independence is one of the main pillars in audit practice, where an independent auditor is considered capable of carrying out their duties with complete objectivity, free from external pressure or influence that can interfere with professionalism. Normatively, independence allows auditors to provide an unbiased assessment of the credibility of the audited financial statements, resulting in high-quality audits that are free from fraud. In literature, independence is often considered a fundamental prerequisite for auditors to maintain the profession's integrity and meet public expectations regarding financial transparency and accountability. However, the results of this study indicate that although auditors are believed to have the freedom to act without being influenced by certain powers or interests, this independence does not significantly affect the quality of the

audit produced. This can be caused by other factors that may be more dominant in influencing audit quality, such as technical competence, professional experience, or strong internal quality control in the audit process.

This finding indicates that auditor independence, although conceptually important, is not always the primary determinant in creating a quality audit. There may be pressure from clients or conflicts of interest that are difficult to avoid in daily practice. In addition, an organizational culture that does not support auditor independence can weaken its influence on audit quality. Thus, this hypothesis is rejected, highlighting the importance of addressing systemic barriers affecting auditor independence. The results of this study are relevant to the results of previous research conducted by (Giyatri & Rahmaita, 2024) in the journal *The Effect of Competence, Independence, Objectivity, Accountability and Integrity on Audit Quality with Auditor Ethics as a Moderating Variable (Empirical Study of KAP Gafar Salim)* states that independence does not have a significant effect on audit quality.

The following relationship is with the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB). In this context, auditor independence is related to the attitude toward the behavior, where an independent auditor is expected to have a positive attitude to act objectively and professionally. However, this attitude alone is insufficient if subjective norms, such as pressure from clients, management, or an organizational culture that does not support independence, hinder its implementation. In addition, perceived behavioral control is an important factor because even though auditors have formal freedom to act independently, practical constraints such as conflicts of interest, external pressure, or lack of support within the organization can weaken the influence of this independence on audit quality. This finding underlines that auditor independence, although theoretically significant, may lose its relevance if environmental and systemic factors do not support its optimal implementation.

### 3.2.3. The Effect of Integrity on Audit Quality

The third hypothesis (H3) shows the results of data processing; it is known that the P-value is  $0.643 > 0.05$  (5% probability) or with a t-statistic of  $0.464 < 2.042$ . So H2 in this study is rejected. It can be concluded that auditor integrity does not significantly affect audit quality at the Palembang City Public Accounting Firm (KAP). This finding indicates that although integrity is an important foundation in the auditor profession, empirically, auditor integrity has not been proven to have a significant effect on the quality of the audit produced. It can be interpreted that audit quality may be more determined by other factors, such as technical competence or the quality control system implemented at the Public Accounting Firm. In addition, it is likely that the auditors involved in this study already have a relatively homogeneous level of integrity, so it is not varied enough to show differences in audit quality.

This finding indicates that although integrity is important in building trust in the auditor profession, this factor may not stand alone as the primary determinant of audit quality in specific contexts. This is likely due to the lack of a strict code of ethics enforcement in some organizations or a work culture prioritizing short-term results over integrity principles. In addition, auditor integrity may not be fully appreciated in specific work environments, reducing its impact on audit quality. Therefore, this hypothesis is rejected. Further research is needed to understand how integrity can be better supported through organizational policies and training. The results of this study are relevant to the results of previous research conducted by (Wahzuni & Setiawati, 2022) in the journal *The Effect of Competence, Independence, Integrity, Objectivity, and Experience on Audit Quality (Empirical Study of Central Java and DIY KAP)* stating that integrity does not affect audit quality.

The following relationship is with the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB). In this context, auditor integrity reflects the attitude toward the behavior, where auditors with a high level of integrity are expected to have a strong commitment to producing quality audits. However, this positive attitude may not be optimally realized if subjective norms, such as an organizational culture less supportive of integrity or pressure to meet short-term targets, influence auditor behavior. In addition, perceived behavioral control can also influence. However, auditors have high integrity; obstacles such as a lack of strict code of ethics enforcement,

an uncondusive work environment, or weak quality control can limit their ability to apply this integrity effectively. The homogeneity of integrity levels among respondents may also explain why this variable does not significantly affect audit quality, emphasizing the importance of other variables such as technical competence or quality control systems. Thus, these results indicate the need to support auditor integrity through organizational policies, training, and strengthening an ethical culture in the work environment.

#### 3.2.4. The Influence of Professional Ethics on Audit Quality

The fourth hypothesis (H4) shows the results of data processing; it is known that the P-value is  $0.004 < 0.05$  (5% probability) or with a t-statistic of  $2.80 > 2.042$ . So, H4 in this study is accepted. It can be concluded that professional ethics has a positive and significant influence on audit quality at the Palembang City Public Accounting Firm (KAP), in line with the theoretical concept that professional ethics is a moral foundation and behavioral guide for auditors in carrying out their duties. Professional ethics, as a set of principles and standards of behavior that include honesty, confidentiality, competence, and professional responsibility, aims to ensure that auditors work transparently, responsibly, and free from conflicts of interest, so that various stakeholders can trust the audit results. Professional ethics' positive and significant influence on audit quality reflects the importance of implementing these principles in maintaining the integrity of the audit process and producing reliable financial reports. Audit quality, which refers to the auditor's ability to detect and report material errors and provide objective and independent opinions, is greatly influenced by the level of application of professional ethics by the auditor. Auditors who uphold professional ethics will carry out their duties by considering high moral values and professional standards to maintain public trust in the audit results produced. This finding confirms that applying professional ethics is not only a normative guideline but also plays a fundamental role in improving audit quality, which ultimately supports accountability and transparency of financial reports.

#### 3.2.5. The Effect of Auditor Experience on Audit Quality with Professional Ethics as a Moderating Variable

The fifth hypothesis (H5) shows the results of data processing; it is known that the P-value is  $0.550 > 0.05$  (5% probability) or with a t-statistic of  $0.598 < 2.042$ . So, H5 in this study is rejected. Moderation of professional ethics does not significantly affect the relationship between auditor experience and audit quality at the Palembang City Public Accounting Firm (KAP). This finding indicates that the application of professional ethics has not been able to strengthen or change the impact of auditor experience on audit quality. Although professional ethics is important, these results show that the moderating effect of professional ethics is not strong enough to strengthen the relationship between auditor experience and audit quality. Theoretically, professional ethics is a set of principles and standards of behavior designed to regulate the practice of the auditor profession, such as honesty, confidentiality, competence, and professional responsibility. These principles aim to ensure that auditors carry out their duties with high moral and professional standards, thereby increasing public trust in audit quality. In this context, professional ethics is expected to strengthen the role of auditor experience in improving audit quality, considering that more experienced auditors have a deeper understanding of professional standards and the challenges faced in practice.

However, the findings of this study indicate that although professional ethics and auditor experience are both conceptually important, the combination of the two does not significantly affect audit quality. This may be due to several possibilities, such as the homogeneity of understanding and application of professional ethics among the auditors who were respondents, so that the variability of its effect on audit quality is not visible. In addition, although experienced auditors are expected to understand and apply professional ethics better, other factors such as external pressure, limited audit time, or quality control systems in the organization may be more dominant in influencing audit quality. Although professional ethics is important as a moral guideline in the audit profession, its existence may not always be a significant moderating factor in the relationship between auditor experience and audit quality, especially under certain conditions. This may be

due to the lack of consistent implementation of ethics or the practical challenges auditors face in balancing various aspects of their work.

Thus, the hypothesis is rejected, highlighting the need for a more comprehensive approach to integrating ethics into every audit aspect. The results of this study are relevant to the results of previous research conducted by (Giyatri & Rahmaita, 2024) in the journal *The Effect of Auditor Competence, Independence and Work Experience on Audit Quality with Auditor Ethics as a Moderating Variable (Empirical Study of Public Accounting Firms in Semarang, Solo and Yogyakarta)*. Risky stated that auditor ethics cannot moderate the effect of independence and work experience on audit quality. The following relationship is with the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB). In this context, the attitude toward the behavior of experienced auditors towards professional ethics should strengthen audit quality. However, the homogeneity of the application of professional ethics among auditors, as reflected in the study results, indicates that positive attitudes towards ethics are not varied enough to show a significant moderating effect. In addition, subjective norms, such as pressure from clients or organizational culture, can reduce the ability of experienced auditors to make maximum use of ethical guidelines in improving audit quality. Perceived behavioral control also plays an important role, where even though auditors have experience and a deep understanding of ethical standards, constraints such as time pressure, efficiency demands, or lack of organizational support can reduce the effectiveness of professional ethics as a moderator. Thus, although professional ethics is conceptually designed to strengthen the relationship between experience and audit quality, practical obstacles or gaps in implementing codes of ethics reduce its influence. These findings suggest the need for a more integrated approach to applying professional ethics to ensure that moral and professional principles can maximize the potential of auditor experience in improving audit quality.

### 3.2.6. The Effect of Integrity on Audit Quality

The sixth hypothesis (H6) shows the results of data processing; it is known that the P-value is  $0.585 > 0.05$  (5% probability) or with a t-statistic of  $0.546 < 2.042$ . So H6 in this study is rejected. It can be concluded that the moderation of professional ethics does not significantly affect the relationship between auditor independence and audit quality at the Palembang City Public Accounting Firm (KAP). The relationship between independence, audit quality, and professional ethics is expected to act as a reinforcement that helps auditors maintain objectivity and freedom from the influence of external parties so that the quality of the resulting audit remains high and reliable.

However, the results of this study indicate that although professional ethics are normatively critical in audit practice, in reality, the existence of professional ethics cannot significantly moderate the relationship between auditor independence and audit quality. This finding can be caused by several factors, such as the homogeneity of understanding and application of professional ethics among auditor respondents, which causes a lack of variability in the moderation effect. In addition, in practice, auditor independence may be more influenced by institutional pressures, client relationships, or even strong internal organizational arrangements, so the role of professional ethics becomes relatively less visible in strengthening these relationships.

Thus, although professional ethics remains an important moral foundation for auditors, this study shows that in certain situations, its role as a moderator is not always effective in ensuring that independence contributes significantly to audit quality. This finding confirms that audit quality results from a complex interaction between various factors, where professional ethics may require support from other elements to show a more significant influence. In addition, these results can also reflect that auditors have not optimally internalized the application of professional ethics principles in daily practice. Professional ethics is the main guide that ensures auditors can carry out their duties independently, objectively, and responsibly, so that the audit results produced can be trusted. The results of this study are relevant to the research results obtained from previous research conducted by (Sumartono, Noch, 2021) in the journal *Time Budget Pressure*,

Competence, Independence, and Internal Control Systems: Their Influence on Audit Quality Moderated by Professional Ethics, which states that professional ethics do not moderate independence on audit quality.

In this context, the attitude toward the behavior of an independent auditor who adheres to professional ethics should result in better audit quality. However, homogeneity in the understanding and application of professional ethics among auditors can reduce the variability of the moderating effect, making its influence insignificant. In addition, subjective norms, such as institutional pressure, client relationships, or organizational culture, can reduce the effectiveness of applying professional ethics in strengthening independence. Perceived behavioral control is also an important factor, because even though auditors intend to act independently according to ethical principles, practical constraints such as time pressure, external influences, or weak organizational control structures can weaken the moderating effect of professional ethics. These findings indicate that although professional ethics is an important moral guideline, its implementation requires support from organizational systems, quality control, and ongoing training to internalize these principles in daily practice. In specific contexts, as shown by this study, the influence of professional ethics may not appear significant due to the presence of other external factors that are more dominant in determining audit quality, even though conceptually, professional ethics are designed to strengthen auditor independence.

### 3.2.7. The Effect of Integrity on Audit Quality with Professional Ethics as a Moderating Variable

The seventh hypothesis (H7) shows the results of data processing; it is known that the P-value is  $0.856 > 0.05$  (5% probability) or with a t-statistic of  $0.182 < 2.042$ . So, H7 in this study is rejected. It can be concluded that the moderation of professional ethics does not significantly affect the relationship between auditor integrity and audit quality at the Palembang City Public Accounting Firm (KAP). This finding indicates that the application of professional ethics has not been able to strengthen or change the impact of integrity on audit quality. This finding illustrates that although integrity is one of the main attributes that auditors must have, its existence does not automatically result in better audit quality without adequate support from applying professional ethics principles. In practice, auditors may face situations where pressure or conflicts of interest make it difficult to fully comply with ethical principles, even though they have high integrity. This underlines the importance of strengthening internal mechanisms in Public Accounting Firms, such as stricter supervision, internal audits of auditor work procedures, and training emphasizing the importance of professional ethics in every audit process.

## IV. Conclusion

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that the hypothesis in this study indicates that auditor experience does not significantly affect audit quality. The results of the hypothesis in this study indicate that auditor independence does not significantly affect audit quality. The results of the hypothesis in this study indicate that integrity does not significantly impact audit quality. The results of the hypothesis in this study indicate that Professional ethics have a positive and significant effect on audit quality. The results of the hypothesis in this study indicate that professional ethics do not moderate the relationship between experience and audit quality. The results of the hypothesis in this study indicate that professional ethics do not moderate the relationship between independence and audit quality. The results of the hypothesis in this study indicate that professional ethics do not moderate the relationship between integrity and audit quality.

## References

Ajzen, I. (1991). The Theory of Planned Behaviour. *Organizational Behavior And Human Decision Processes*, 33(1), 180–211. <https://doi.org/10.47985/dcidj.475>

- Anggraini, L. D. (2020). Analysis of Competence and Independence of Internal Auditors on Internal Audit Quality. *Jurnal AKSI (Akuntansi Dan Sistem Informasi)*, 5(2), 96–102. <https://doi.org/10.32486/aksi.v5i2.594>
- Arnita, V., Diana, Y., & Andini Puspita Sari. (2023). Pengaruh Pengalaman Auditor Terhadap Kualitas Audit Di KAP. *ARBITRASE: Journal of Economics and Accounting*, 4(2), 153–159. <https://doi.org/10.47065/arbitrase.v4i2.1289>
- Cheng, X. (2020). Applying the Theory of Planned Behavior to Influence Auditors' Knowledge-Sharing Behavior. *Graduate Theses and Dissertations*, 1–119.
- Dini Haryati, Mulyati, Sasmita Nabila Syahrir, Fitria Ningrum Sayekti, Selvia Eka Aristantia, Nurchayati, Gusti Ayu Ratih Prmata Dewi, Nita Andriyani Budiman, Robiyatul Jasiyah, Rida Ristiyana, Arnadi Chairunnas, Parju, Tri Irawati, S. S. (2022). *Pengantar Audit* (M. E. Diana Purnama Sari (ed.)). PT Global Eksekutif Teknologi.
- Evia, Z., Santoso, R. E. Wi., & Nurcahyono, N. (2022). Pengalaman Kerja, Independensi, Integritas, Kompetensi dan Pengaruhnya terhadap Kualitas Audit. *Jurnal Akuntansi Dan Governance*, 2(2), 141. <https://doi.org/10.24853/jago.2.2.141-149>
- Febriyani, R. A., Maidani, M., & Eprianto, I. (2024). Pengaruh Integritas, Beban Kerja, Dan Tekanan Anggaran Waktu Auditor Terhadap Kualitas Audit (Studi Empiris Pada Kantor Akuntan Publik Di Wilayah Kota Bekasi Dan Dki Jakarta). *SENTRI: Jurnal Riset Ilmiah*, 3(3), 1560–1570. <https://doi.org/10.55681/sentri.v3i3.2433>
- Giyatri, G., & Rahmaita. (2024). Pengaruh Kompetensi, Independensi, Objektivitas, Akuntabilitas dan Integritas Terhadap Kualitas Audit Dengan Etika Auditor Sebagai Variabel Moderasi (Studi Empiris KAP Gafar Salim). *Jurnal Akuntansi Keuangan Dan Bisnis*, 01(04), 1060–1069. <https://jurnal.ittc.web.id/index.php/jakbs/index>
- Hari, K. K., & Kusuma, G. S. M. (2024). Pengaruh Independensi, Akuntabilitas Dan Kompetensi Terhadap Kualitas Audit. *Jurnal Akuntansi Dan Keuangan*, 29(1), 83–92. <https://doi.org/10.23960/jak.v29i1.2297>
- Hassan, R. (2019). Terhadap Pendeteksian Fraud Dengan Profesionalisme. *Jurnal Magister Akuntansi Trisakti*, 6(2), 145–172.
- Influence, T. H. E., Independence, O. F., On, O., Quality, A., Independensi, P., Objektivitas, P. D. A. N., & Audit, T. K. (2024). *AUDIT QUALITY*. 6(1), 1014–1027.
- Katadata.co.id. (2023). Wanaartha Manipulasi Laporan Keuangan, OJK Cabut Izin KAP Crowe. <https://katadata.co.id/finansial/keuangan/63fda113ae8b3/wanaartha-manipulasi-laporan-keuangan-ojk-cabut-izin-kap-crowe>
- Kemaryanthi, D. M., & Ramantha, I. W. (2023). Independensi, Etika Profesi, Integritas dan Kinerja Auditor KAP di Bali. *E-Jurnal Akuntansi*, 33(2), 440. <https://doi.org/10.24843/eja.2023.v33.i02.p11>
- kemenkeu. (2019). Ditemukan Pelanggaran pada Audit Laporan Keuangan Garuda, Izin AP Kasner Sirumapea Dibekukan. <https://pppk.kemenkeu.go.id/in/post/ditemukan-pelanggaran-pada-audit-laporan-keuangan-garuda,-izin-ap-kasner-sirumapea-dibekukan>
- M. Rizky Alfhedo. (2024). Pengaruh Kompetensi, Independensi dan Beban Kerja Auditor Terhadap Kualitas Audit ( Studi Pada Kantor Akuntan Publik di Palembang).
- Megayani, N. K., Nyoman, N., Suryandari, A., Putu, A. A., Bagus, G., & Susandya, A. (2020). Pengaruh Independensi, Due Professional Care dan Locus Of Control Terhadap Kualitas Audit Dengan Pengalaman Auditor Sebagai Variabel Moderasi Pada KAP di Provinsi Bali. *Jurnal Riset Akuntansi Dan Keuangan*, 8(1), 133–150.
- Nabilla Farrely Rachmaputri, Azizah Rahmi, Pingki Rosalia, & Trinandari Prasetya Nugrahanti. (2024). Pengaruh Etika Profesi Terhadap Kualitas Audit (Literature Review Audit). *Jurnal Riset Akuntansi*, 2(1), 109–116. <https://doi.org/10.54066/jura-itb.v2i1.1337>
- Pebriani, R. A., Anggraini, L. D., Romli, H., & Syafitri, L. (2022). Faktor-Faktor yang Memengaruhi Auditor Switching Pada Perusahaan Manufacture Sektor Industri Dasar dan Kimia yang Terdaftar di Bursa Efek

- Indonesia Tahun 2017 – 2021. *Jurnal Ilmiah Ekonomi Global Masa Kini*, 13(1), 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.36982/jiegm.v13i1.1951>
- Putri, D. A. (2020). Pengaruh Pengalaman Auditor Dan Time Budget Pressure Terhadap Kualitas Audit Dengan Etika Auditor Sebagai Variabel Moderasi. *Jurnal Magister Akuntansi Trisakti*, 7(1), 85–100. <https://doi.org/10.25105/jmat.v7i1.6492>
- Sugiyono. (2019). *Metode penelitian kuantitatif dan kualitatif dan R&D*. CV. ALFABETA.
- Syahrir, S. (2022). Pengaruh Independensi, Integritas dan Profesionalisme Auditor Internal Terhadap Kualitas Audit. *Journal of Management*, 5(1), 541–554. <https://doi.org/10.37531/yume.vxix.346>
- Tempo.co. (2018). Kasus SNP Finance, Kemenkeu Jatuhkan Sanksi ke Deloitte Indonesia. <https://bisnis.tempo.co/read/1130928/kasus-snp-finance-kemenkeu-jatuhkan-sanksi-ke-deloitte-indonesia>