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# **Does The Dividend Policy Affect the Stock Price?**

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#### ABSTRACT

Stock prices have long been a fascinating topic for researchers, especially in the financial industry, in this digital era. Stock price fluctuations are caused by a variety of variables, one of which is corporate dividend distribution. Dividends are not only a source of income for investors, but they also serve as a barometer of a company's performance. Companies with a bigger market capitalization are better equipped to pay dividends than companies with a smaller market capitalization, hence this will affect the stock price. With firm size as the moderating variable, the point of this study is to re-examine and affirm the impact of dividend policy on stock prices. In this study, the population is manufacturing enterprises that listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in 2020. The sample was determined using a non-probability method and purposive sampling technique, and a total of 72 companies were collected. Path analysis is the analytical technique utilized. The findings of this study show that dividend policy has a positive impact on stock prices, and that firm size has no effect on dividend policy's impact on stock prices.

**Keywords:** dividend policy, stock price, firm size, manufacturing company.

JEL Classification: M41, L11

#### INTRODUCTION

Stock prices have long been a fascinating topic for researchers, especially in the financial industry, in this digital era. Stock price fluctuations are caused by a variety of variables, one of which is corporate dividend distribution. Dividends serve as a barometer of large firms' performance, one of which is in the manufacturing industry. Manufacturing companies' outstanding performance can be measured not just in terms of asset management, but also in terms of their ability to pay dividends, resulting in a rise in their stock price. As a result, one of the most essential considerations for management and investors is determining the proper dividend policy for the company. Previous studies have shown inconsistent results, this resulted in a gap or research gap between one study and the next. Ermiati, et al. (2019), Samosir, et al. (2019), Salam, and Rohaida (2019) are among the studies that claim dividend policy has a favorable impact on stock prices. Dividend policy, according to Pebrianti (2020), Novitasari, et al. (2020), Latifah and Suryani (2020), Levina and Dermawan (2019), has no effect on stock prices.

One of the most essential criteria that firms consider when developing their dividend policy is the size of the company. Companies with a bigger market capitalization are better equipped to pay dividends than companies with a smaller market capitalization, hence this will affect the stock price. The firm size in this study is calculated using the company's total assets. Previous studies on the impact of firm size on dividend policy and stock prices were conducted, but the results were mixed. These studies include Prastya and Jalil (2020), Gunawan and Harjanto (2019), which found that the size of a firm has a beneficial impact on dividend policy. However, according to Zulkifli and Latifah's research (2021), firm size has little bearing on dividend policy. Salam and Rohaida also conducted research on the impact of firm size on stock prices (2019). The point of this research is to re-examine and confirm the effect of dividend policy on stock prices with firm size as the moderating variable, based on the phenomena and differences in the results of these studies.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### Signaling Theory

According to Ross (1977), companies that greatly raise dividend payments would see a commensurate increase in share prices, while companies that significantly reduce or abolish dividend payments will see a corresponding reduction in share prices. The market views a corporation's announcement of dividend distribution as a favorable indication. Dividends, according to signal theory, transmit information about future or current income levels. The signal can be delivered by releasing accounting data such as financial statements.

#### Stock Price

The stock price in the capital market will always fluctuate in response to market conditions and other variables. The dynamics of demand and supply from investors are mostly responsible for the price of shares formed in the stock market. Year-end closing stock price data that will be used as stock price data in this study.

#### Dividend Policy

Financial decisions made by management after the company makes a profit are often called dividend policies. Companies must decide whether to pay profits in the form of dividend cash or utilize them to finance investments (Jaara, 2018). The Dividend Payout Ratio (DPR) is used to assess the dividend policy in this research. Previous research on

the impact of dividend policy on stock prices has been done, but differing research outcomes have resulted in a gap or research gap between one study and the next. Ermiati, et al. (2019), Samosir, et al. (2019), Salam, and Rohaida (2019) are among the studies that claim dividend policy has a favorable impact on stock prices. Dividend policy, according to Pebrianti (2020), Novitasari, et al. (2020), Latifah and Suryani (2020), Levina and Dermawan (2019), has no effect on stock prices.

#### **RESEARCH METHOD**

The study is based on data from the year 2020. This study employs quantitative methodologies and relies on secondary data gathered by visiting each company's website. Data acquisition in this research comes from each company's annual report as of December 31, 2020.

The study's population consists of 194 manufacturing enterprises that are listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange. Purposive sampling was utilized, and a total of 72 firms were acquired. The goal of this research was to employ a purposive sampling strategy to create a representative sample that met preset criteria. The research sample selection is presented in Table 1 below:

#### Table 1. Research Sample Selection

194
0
122
72
1
72

Source: Data Processed, 2022

Table 1 illustrates that the total population in this research is 194 companies manufacturing listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in 2020, while the sample size is 72 companies based on preset criteria. Hypothesis testing was also performed utilizing path analysis using the Partial Least Square (PLS) approach with SmartPLS software version 3.3.6 to acquire the study's results. The next step is to interpret the findings of the analysis based on theoretical and empirical studies in order to answer the research question and to provide evidence to support the theory and prior empirical investigations. The final phase is to draw findings and give recommendations for further research.

#### RESULTS

#### R<sup>2</sup> Test Results

The R<sup>2</sup> value in this study has two variable constructs, namely DPR and PRICE. The R<sup>2</sup> values for these constructs are presented in Table 2 below:

#### Table 2. R<sup>2</sup> Value

Variable	R <sup>2</sup> Value
PRICE	0.188

Source: Data Processed, 2022

Table 2 reveals that the coefficient of determination  $(R^2)$  is 0.188, or 18.8%, which suggests that the DPR variable can explain 18.8% of the fluctuation in stock prices, while the remaining 81.2 percent is influenced by other variables outside the research variable.

#### **Statistical Test Results**

Statistical tests were carried out by looking at the significant effect between the variables tested. This is presented in Table 3 below:

Table 3. Statistical Test Results

$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	Variable Relationship	Original Sample	Standard Deviation	T Statistic	P Values	Information
	DPR → PRICE	0.436	0.186	2.342	0.011	Significant
	3	-0.210	0.147	1.429	0.079	

Source: Data Processed, 2022

Based on Table 3, show that the dividend policy variable has a positive effect on stock prices with a T statistic value of 2.342 and a p-value of 0.011. Meanwhile, the moderating effect of the firm size variable with a T statistic of 1.429 and a p-value of 0.079 is not able to moderate the effect of dividend policy on stock prices, so it is not a moderating variable.

#### DISCUSSION

#### The Effect of Dividend Policy on Stock Prices

The results of the analysis state that dividend policy has a positive impact on stock prices with a T statistic of 2,342 and a p value of 0.011. The findings of this study are backed up by research by Husein and Kharisma (2020), Ermiati, et al. (2019), Samosir, et al. (2019), Salam and Rohaida (2019), all of whom found that dividend policy had a favorable impact on stock prices. This demonstrates that a firm's dividend policy can entice investors to purchase stock in the company. When the company announces that it will deliver dividends, investors desire to register as holders of rights to receive dividends, so the share price tends to rise.

#### Firm Size Moderating Effect

The results of the analysis state that company size is not able to strengthen or weaken the effect of dividend policy on stock prices with a T statistic of 1.429 and a p value of 0.079. The role of business size is not a moderating variable, according to statistical findings. Because the corporation has various options in developing its business, the size of the company is not a decisive factor in delivering dividends to shareholders. Companies that recognize investment opportunities will prioritize keeping profits in order to fund more profitable investments, resulting in higher profits later.

#### CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis and empirical research, the following conclusion can be drawn:

- 1) Dividend policy has a positive effect on stock prices. This means that the higher the dividend paid, the higher the increase in the company's stock price.
- 2) Firm size is not able to strengthen or weaken the effect of dividend policy on stock prices, so it is not classified as a moderating variable.

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#### DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS

We declare that we have no conflict of interest with the 2022 Malang ICPM committee or staff from AIBPM or any conflict regarding this article.

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