

## The Influence of Special Autonomy Funds and Regional Original Income on Economic Growth in Papua Province (2013–2022)

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### ABSTRACT

This study examines the impact of Special Autonomy Funds (SAF) and Regional Original Income (PAD) on the economic growth of Papua Province during the 2013–2022 period. Utilizing a quantitative and descriptive approach, the research relies on secondary data from the Papua Province Statistics Bureau (BPS) and the Regional Financial Management Agency (BPKAD), focusing on annual financial reports. The data were analyzed using linear regression to measure the relationship between SAF, PAD, and economic growth. The findings reveal that SAF has a positive but statistically insignificant influence on economic growth. This outcome is attributed to suboptimal management and utilization of SAF, which limits its effectiveness in addressing community development needs. Conversely, PAD exhibits a significant positive influence on economic growth, primarily driven by high levels of government expenditure on regional development projects and financing. These results highlight the critical role of efficient resource allocation and fiscal management in promoting sustainable economic progress.

**Keywords:** Economic growth; Indonesia; Papua Province; Regional Original Income (PAD); Special Autonomy Fund (SAF)

## **INTRODUCTION**

Regional autonomy in Indonesia, regulated by Law No. 32 of 2014, grants regions the authority to manage their own governmental affairs according to community aspirations and legal regulations. This aims to enhance regional independence in managing local resources and potentials for the benefit of the local population (HSB & Julianthy, 2019).

Special Autonomy, specifically for Papua Province, is governed by Law No. 21 of 2001. It provides special rights and authority to Papua to regulate and manage the interests of its people based on their aspirations and fundamental rights. The goal is to address social disparities and improve the living standards of the Papuan people through active participation in development (Iryanti, 2014). The local government of Papua receives special autonomy funds from the central government equivalent to 2% of the National General Allocation Fund, which must be prioritized for education, health care, economic empowerment, and infrastructure (Iryanti, 2014).

Regional original fund (PAD), which is income obtained from local sources such as taxes and levies, is also crucial for financing regional development. The larger the PAD, the greater the financial independence of the region (Widiprana, 2022). Research shows that PAD has a significant positive impact on economic growth in Papua, while special autonomy funds have a insignificant effect on Regional Gross Domestic Product (PDRB) (Widiprana, 2022).

The economic growth rate of Papua Province from 2013 to 2022 showed significant fluctuations influenced by changes in production and prices of goods and services. These fluctuations are largely due to the suboptimal management of Regional original fund (PAD) and the region's dependence on special autonomy funds from the central government. These funds are used for community economic empowerment in education, health care, and infrastructure.

This study seeks to examine the influence of Special Autonomy Funds (SAF) and Regional Original Revenue (PAD) on economic growth in Papua Province during the period from 2013 to 2022. Specifically, it aims to assess the extent to which special autonomy funds contribute to economic development and to evaluate the impact of regional original revenue on the province's economic performance. Through this analysis, the research intends to provide a clearer understanding of how these fiscal instruments have shaped economic outcomes in Papua over the past decade.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Special autonomy is a form of development from regional autonomy granted by the central government to certain regions in Indonesia that possess unique characteristics not found in other areas. Currently, five regions that have been granted special autonomy status are Aceh Province, the Special Region of Yogyakarta, the Special Capital Region of Jakarta, Papua, and West Papua. This status is established through legislation as an acknowledgment of the specific characteristics and needs of these regions (Safrida, 2020).

Law No. 32 of 2004 regulates special autonomy in Article 225, which affirms the state's recognition of regions with special status. Special autonomy for Papua Province is further governed by Law No. 21 of 2001. This autonomy aims to address disparities between Papua and other regions in Indonesia and to improve the living standards of the Papuan people, particularly the indigenous Melanesian population. With this principle, special

autonomy expands community participation in development and resource management (Iryanti, 2014)

Special autonomy for Papua Province reflects the Indonesian government's efforts to address various issues faced by the region, including political conflicts, social conflicts among residents, and poor economic conditions. The political conflict is related to the independence demands of Papua, while social conflicts arise from the lack of solutions to these political issues. The economy of the Papuan people, especially the indigenous population, is notably low with a high poverty rate.

The transfer funds from the central government to the local government under special autonomy are expected to address these three fundamental problems and improve the welfare of the Papuan people. These funds are aimed at enhancing public services, which will be more effective when brought closer to the community rather than distanced from it (Muallim, 2017).

Local Own Revenue (PAD) is the income obtained from sources within the region itself, such as local taxes, regional levies, the results of separated asset management, and other legitimate revenues. The greater the contribution of PAD to the regional financial structure, the higher the financial capacity of the region to carry out development activities. PAD is considered adequate for financing development if its achievement percentage exceeds 70% of the total PAD revenue (Carunia, 2017)

An important indicator for assessing the economic condition of a region over a specific period is the Gross Regional Domestic Product (PDRB), which can be calculated based on current or constant prices. Economic growth, according to Sukirno (2008), is the increase in per capita output over the long term, emphasizing three aspects: process, per capita output, and long-term perspective. Economic growth is not merely a snapshot of the economy but a continuous process. Therefore, regional and sectoral development must be conducted in alignment so that development in the regions can leverage existing potentials and priorities.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This research utilizes two types of data: time series data and qualitative descriptive data with a quantitative approach. Time series data is a series of data collected from observed values measured over a specific period with regular time intervals. This data can be used to explain and predict certain phenomena. Meanwhile, qualitative descriptive data with a quantitative approach includes numerical data that can be measured and expressed in counting units

The data source in this research is secondary data, which refers to data that has been collected for purposes other than addressing the current research problem. This secondary data can be quickly accessed and includes literature, articles, journals, and relevant websites related to the research conducted.

The research employs documents focusing on annual financial reports, reports on special autonomy funding, local own revenue, and the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) of Papua Province from 2013 to 2022 from the Papua Province Statistics Bureau [BPS]) and the Regional Financial Management Agency (BPKAD).

This study used a multiple linear regression method and utilizing the SPSS program. The independent variables in this study are special autonomy funding and PAD, while the dependent variable is the economic growth of Papua Province.

The model used to analyze the relationship between the three variables is as follows:

$$Y=a+b_1X_1+b_2X_2+e$$

Note:

Y = Economic Growth constant  
a = constant  
X1 = Special Autonomy funding Variable  
b1 = Sp. Autonomy Funding constant  
X2 = PAD Variable  
b2 = PAD constant  
e = Error variable

## RESULTS

### Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test

Table 1 shows the results of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for the special autonomy fund and regional original fund variables in relation to economic growth, with a significance value greater than 0.05, indicating that the data is normally distributed.

**Table 1.** Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test Result

#### One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test

		Dana Otsus	PAD	Economic Growth
N		11	11	11
Normal Parameters <sup>a,b</sup>	Mean	720983794685	121997595	4.8445
	Std. Deviation	194597161320	691932398	7.80504
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	.129	.250	.254
	Positive	.129	.250	.197
	Negative	-.108	-.194	-.254
Test Statistic		.129	.250	.254
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.200 <sup>c,d</sup>	.053 <sup>c</sup>	.057 <sup>c</sup>

a. Test distribution is Normal.

b. Calculated from data.

c. Lilliefors Significance Correction.

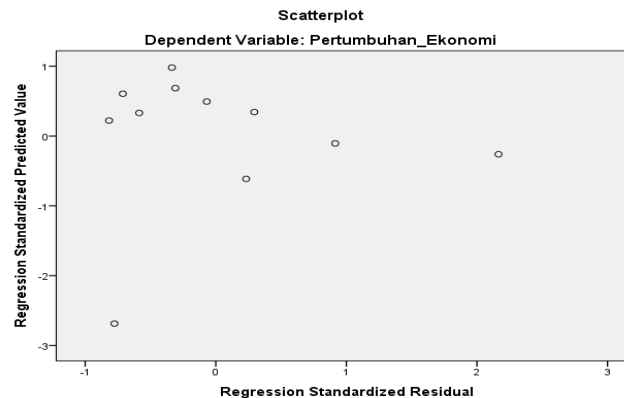
d. This is a lower bound of the true significance.

### Heteroscedasticity Test

The heteroscedasticity test is conducted by examining the presence or absence of a specific pattern in the graph, where the X-axis represents the predicted Y values, and the Y-axis represents the standardized residuals (predicted Y - actual Y).

Figure 1, shows points scattered without any clear pattern above and below or around the zero line, indicating that there are no signs of heteroscedasticity.

**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of Standardized Residuals vs. Predicted Values



### Multicollinearity Test

The multicollinearity test is used to determine whether there is a high correlation among the independent variables in a multiple linear regression model. If there is a high correlation among the independent variables, it can disrupt the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable. The results of the multicollinearity test can be seen in Table 2 below.

**Table 2.** Multikolinearitas Test for Economic Growth

Variabel	Collinearity Statistics	
	Tolerance	VIF
Dana Otsus	0,790	1.266
PAD	0,790	1.266

Table 2, results show that the tolerance values for each variable are as follows: special autonomy fund = 0.790, regional original fund (PAD) = 0.790. The Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) for the special autonomy fund = 1.266, PAD = 1.266.

This indicates that all variables have tolerance values greater than 0.10 and VIF values less than 10. It can be concluded that there is no multicollinearity among the independent variables in this study.

### Multiple Regression Analysis

**Table 3.** Correlation Coefficient Test (SPSS Output)

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients
	B	Std. Error	Beta
1 (Constant)	5.207	6.622	
Dana_Otsus	1.622	.000	.404
PAD	-9.884	.000	-.876

Based on the results of the multiple linear regression analysis using the model  $Y = a + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + e$ , the estimated regression equation is:

$$\text{Economic Growth (Y)} = 5.207 + 1.622(\text{SAF}) - 9.884(\text{PAD}) + e.$$

This equation can be interpreted as follows: the constant value of 5.207 represents the predicted level of economic growth when both the Special Autonomy Fund (SAF or  $X_1$ ) and the Regional Original Fund (PAD or  $X_2$ ) are held at zero. In other words, it reflects the baseline level of economic growth in the absence of both independent variables.

The regression coefficient for the Special Autonomy Fund is 1.622, indicating that for every 1-unit increase in SAF, while holding PAD constant, economic growth is predicted to increase by 1.622 units. This suggests a positive relationship between special autonomy funding and economic growth, highlighting its potential role in stimulating regional development in Papua.

Conversely, the coefficient for the Regional Original Fund (PAD) is -9.884, meaning that for every 1-unit increase in PAD, with SAF held constant, economic growth is expected to decrease by 9.884 units. This negative coefficient suggests an inverse relationship, possibly implying inefficiencies or structural issues in the management or allocation of PAD that may be hindering rather than supporting economic progress. These findings offer insight into how different funding sources influence economic performance and can help inform future fiscal policy decisions in the region.

### **Partial Significance Test (T Test)**

**Table 4.** Partial Significant Test (T Test)

	Model	T	Sig
1	(Constant)	0.786	0.454
	User_Involvement	1.621	0.144
	Top_Management_Support	-3.513	0.008

Based on the results of the multiple regression analysis, the influence of the independent variables on the dependent variable economic growth was examined individually. The first hypothesis (H1) proposed that the Special Autonomy Fund (X1) significantly affects the economic growth of Papua Province during the period from 2013 to 2022. However, the analysis shows that the significance value for this variable is 0.144, which is greater than the commonly used threshold of 0.05. This indicates that although the coefficient for the Special Autonomy Fund is positive, its effect on economic growth is statistically insignificant. As a result, the first hypothesis is rejected, suggesting that changes in the Special Autonomy Fund do not have a meaningful impact on economic growth in Papua when considered in isolation.

In contrast, the second hypothesis (H2) posits that the Regional Original Fund (PAD or X2) has a significant effect on economic growth in the same region and time period. The regression results reveal a significance value of 0.008 for PAD, which is well below the 0.05 threshold. This confirms that the Regional Original Fund has a statistically significant influence on economic growth. Interestingly, the effect is negative, meaning that as PAD increases, economic growth tends to decrease. This leads to the acceptance of the second hypothesis, and it may point to inefficiencies or misallocations in the use of local revenue that adversely impact economic development in Papua.

### **Simultaneous Significance Test (F Test)**

Simultaneous Significance Test (F Test) is a statistical method used to determine whether all independent variables in a multiple regression model have a joint effect on the dependent variable.

**Table 1.** Simultaneous Significance Test (F Test) of Special Outonomy Funding and PAD effect on Economic Growth



Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	369.566	2	184.783	6.169	.024 <sup>b</sup>
Residual	239.621	8	29.953		
Total	609.187	10			

a. Dependent Variable: Economic\_Growth

b. Predictors: (Constant), PAD, Dana\_Otsus

The calculation results show that the calculated F value is 6.169, with the first degree of freedom (df1) = 2 and the second degree of freedom (df2) = 8, resulting in a critical F value of 3.113118.

Since the calculated F value (6.169) is greater than the critical F value (3.113118), this result falls within the acceptance region for the hypothesis. This indicates that there is a significant effect of regional income (X1) and regional original fund (PAD) (X2) on economic growth (Y) in Papua Province from 2013 to 2022.

### Coefficient of Determination (R2 values)

**Table 2.** Coefficient of Determination Test

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.779 <sup>a</sup>	.607	.508	5.47290

a. Predictors: (Constant), PAD, Dana\_Otsus

b. Dependent Variable: Economic\_Growth

The value of the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) (see Table 6) shows that the calculated R square is 0.607. This value indicates that the special autonomy fund variable (X1) and regional original fund (PAD) variable (X2) contribute to the economic growth (Y) of Papua Province from 2013 to 2022 by 60.7%, while the remaining 39.3% is explained by other variables not included in this study.

## DISCUSSION

### Special Autonomy Fund Effects on Economic Growth

The research findings indicate that the special autonomy fund (otsus) has a positive but insignificant effect on the economic growth of Papua Province from 2013 to 2022, with a coefficient value of 1.622. This means that when the special autonomy fund increases by 1 unit, the Gross Regional Domestic Product (PDRB) is expected to rise by 1.622, assuming other variables remain constant. This suggests that the special autonomy fund does not have a strong impact on the economic growth of districts and cities in Papua during this period.

These findings align with previous studies by Juliarini and Hatmoko (2020), which state that the special autonomy fund has a minimal effect on the Human Development Index (IPM) in West Papua due to geographical, demographic, sociological factors, or local government policies.

It is suggested that a greater allocation of special autonomy funds to districts/cities is necessary to ensure equitable development across Papua, particularly since government services in education and health would be more effective if managed at the district level. Similar findings were reported in Aceh Province, where Akbar et al. (2021)

noted insufficient oversight of special autonomy funds, leading to corruption and inadequate improvements in community welfare.

### **Regional Original Fund (PAD) Effects on Economic Growth**

The research findings indicate that regional original funding (PAD) has a significant negative effect on the economic growth of Papua Province from 2013 to 2022, with a coefficient value of -9.884. This means that for every 1 unit increase in PAD, the Gross Regional Domestic Product (PDRB) is expected to decrease by 9.884, assuming other variables remain constant. This suggests that PAD, which reflects the level of independence of a district or city in Papua, has a stronger impact compared to the special autonomy fund in influencing PDRB.

This study supports the findings of Fadhy (2016), which also identified a significant negative relationship between PAD and the Human Development Index (IPM). An increase in PAD derived from local taxes and levies can burden the community with higher taxes. The use of special autonomy funds should focus on public services through sustainable infrastructure development. Good economic growth must be accompanied by improvements in education, health services, and affordable housing provision.

Although PAD has increased, most of it is used to finance routine and operational expenditures, which does not significantly contribute to economic growth. The average economic growth in districts/cities of Papua during this period shows fluctuations that reflect suboptimal performance by local governments. Therefore, there is a need for improvements in human resource quality and governance so that economic growth can be enhanced.

### **Special Autonomy Fund and Regional Original Fund (PAD) Effects on Economic Growth in Papua Province 2013-2022.**

The research findings indicate that there is a significant effect of regional income (X1) and regional original fund (X2) on the economic growth (Y) of Papua Province from 2013 to 2022, with an R square value of 0.607. This means that the special autonomy fund and regional original fund variables contribute 60.7% to economic growth, while the remaining 39.3% is explained by other variables outside this study.

The high regional financing for local expenditures indicates the local government's dependence on special autonomy funds from the central government. Therefore, each region is expected to be able to finance itself through local resources. The district/city governments in Papua play a crucial role in the success of development and community welfare. Effective management of special autonomy funds is essential to avoid excessive dependency.

An increase in Regional original fund (PAD) will have a positive impact on economic growth, encouraging local governments to utilize local potential to enhance PAD. The main source of regional financing is PAD; its increase will contribute to the rise in regional funds used for infrastructure and other facilities development. With the increase in PAD, it is expected that development will also improve, which in turn will enhance community welfare.

## **CONCLUSION**

The research shows that the special autonomy fund (Otsus) has a positive but statistically insignificant effect on the economic growth of Papua Province from 2013 to 2022, with a coefficient of 1.622. This suggests that while Otsus is intended to boost



regional development, its impact remains limited likely due to poor fund management, geographical challenges, limited local capacity, and weak oversight resulting in benefits that are not widely felt at the community level.

In contrast, Regional Original Income (PAD) has a significant negative effect on economic growth, with a coefficient of -9.884. This indicates that increasing PAD often through higher local taxes and levies—may impose a financial burden on communities, especially when funds are used mainly for routine expenditures rather than productive investments, thereby limiting PAD's potential to support long-term growth.

Together, Otsus and PAD explain 60.7% of the variation in economic growth ( $R^2 = 0.607$ ), while the remaining 39.3% is influenced by other factors such as investment, infrastructure, labor productivity, and broader economic dynamics.

These findings underline the importance of strengthening financial governance and improving the effectiveness of fund utilization. Enhancing local government capacity, ensuring strategic spending, and focusing on inclusive development are critical for achieving sustainable and equitable growth in Papua.

#### **LIMITATION**

For future researchers, it is recommended to conduct qualitative descriptive research, as this study still employs a quantitative method. Qualitative research can be carried out by engaging directly with the community. An additional data collection method that could be used is in-depth interviews ("depth interviews") with individuals who have received the Special Autonomy Fund as well as those who have not.

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#### **DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS**

The authors have declared no potential conflicts of interest concerning the study, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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