
# Value Added Tax And Minimum Wage Influence On Purchasing Power: Maslahah View

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**THIS ARTICLE IS AVAILABLE IN:**
https://e-journal.umc.ac.id/index.php/JPK

**DOI: 10.32534/jpk.v12i4.7928**

**CITATION:**
Amaliah, R. ., Harahap, M. I., & Rahmani, N. A. B. (2025). Value Added Tax And Minimum Wage Influence On Purchasing Power: Maslahah View. Jurnal Proaksi, 12(4), 553–570. https://doi.org/10.32534/jpk.v12i4.7928

**ARTICLE HISTORY:**
**Received:**
August 22, 2025

**Reviewed:**
September 8, 2025

**Revised:**
September 12, 2025

**Accepted:**
September 25, 2025

**Abstract**

**Main Purpose -** The purpose of this study is to determine the influence of Value Added Tax and the City Minimum Wage on the purchasing power of the community in Medan City during the period 2015–2024.

**Method -**This research employs a quantitative approach utilizing secondary data obtained from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) and other official government sources. The dataset for this study comprises all annual data related to Value Added Tax, City Minimum Wage, and public purchasing power in Medan City from 2015 to 2024, resulting in 10 observations. Data analysis was conducted using EViews software to examine the relationships among the variables.

**Main Findings -** The results show that both VAT and CMW meaningfully influence the community's purchasing power. Increases in VAT and minimum wage adjustments have been shown to affect people's ability to meet their consumption needs, emphasizing the strategic role of fiscal and labor policies in sustaining public welfare.

**Theory and Practical Implications -** The results show that VAT, which does not have a significant effect on purchasing power, can be positioned as *maslahah 'ammah*, with its revenue managed transparently for public benefit. Meanwhile, the minimum wage has a significant effect on purchasing power, so wage policies should be set fairly to safeguard *maslahah dharuriyah* in fulfilling basic needs.

**Novelty -** The novelty of this research lies in the use of the *maslahah* perspective in analyzing the simultaneous influence of VAT and minimum wage on the purchasing power of Medan City's community, thereby providing a new contribution in examining the linkage between fiscal and labor policies with societal welfare.

**Keywords:** Value Added Tax, Minimum Wage, Purchasing Power, Maslahah, Islamic Economics

***Abstrak***

***Tujuan Utama -*** *Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui pengaruh Pajak Pertambahan Nilai (PPN) dan UMK (Upah Minimum Kota) terhadap daya beli masyarakat di Kota Medan selama periode tahun 2015–2024.*

***Metode -*** *Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah penelitian kuantitatif dengan menggunakan data sekunder yang diperoleh dari Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) dan sumber resmi pemerintah lainnya. Populasi dalam penelitian ini adalah seluruh data terkait UMK, PPN, dan daya beli masyarakat di Kota Medan, dan teknik pengambilan sampel dilakukan secara purposive sampling berdasarkan kriteria yang telah ditentukan. Jumlah observasi dalam penelitian ini meliputi data tahunan selama 10 tahun, yaitu dari tahun 2015 – 2024.*

***Temuan Utama -*** *Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa PPN dan UMK memiliki pengaruh yang nyata terhadap daya beli masyarakat. Kenaikan tarif PPN dan penyesuaian upah minimum berperan dalam memengaruhi kemampuan masyarakat memenuhi kebutuhan konsumsi, menegaskan pentingnya peran kebijakan fiskal dan ketenagakerjaan dalam menjaga kesejahteraan publik.*

***Implikasi Teori dan Kebijakan -*** *Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa PPN yang tidak berpengaruh signifikan terhadap daya beli dapat diposisikan sebagai maslahah 'ammah dengan hasil penerimaan yang dikelola transparan bagi kemanfaatan publik. Sementara itu, UMK berpengaruh signifikan terhadap daya beli, sehingga kebijakan upah minimum perlu ditetapkan secara adil untuk menjaga maslahah dharuriyah berupa pemenuhan kebutuhan dasar.*

***Kebaruan Penelitian -*** *Kebaruan penelitian ini terletak pada penggunaan perspektif maslahah dalam menganalisis pengaruh simultan PPN dan UMK terhadap daya beli masyarakat Kota Medan, sehingga memberikan kontribusi baru dalam melihat keterkaitan kebijakan fiskal dan ketenagakerjaan dengan kesejahteraan umat.*

***Kata Kunci:*** *Pajak Pertambahan Nilai, Upah Minimum Kota, Daya Beli, Maslahah, Ekonomi Islam.*

# INTRODUCTION

As one of the key instruments of fiscal policy, Value Added Tax (VAT) plays a strategic role in increasing state revenue. This tax is levied incrementally at every stage of the production and distribution chain of goods and services, both domestically and internationally. Its primary objective is to strengthen the nation's fiscal independence, particularly in financing national development (Yani et al., 2024). However, in practice, VAT often generates secondary effects in the form of rising prices of goods and services, which directly affect public purchasing power. As an indirect tax, the burden is frequently passed entirely on to end consumers rather than being borne by business actors (Hasibullah et al., 2020).

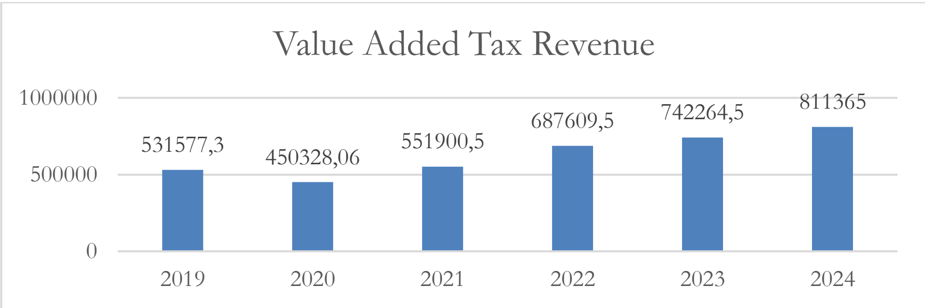


**Figure 1. Value Added Tax Revenue Graph**

Source: https://pajak.go.id

A significant change occurred on April 1, 2022, when the government raised the VAT rate from 10% to 11%. This policy was implemented to strengthen the State Budget (APBN) in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic (Natalia & Fajriana, 2023). Although Indonesia's VAT rate remains relatively low compared to the international average, which ranges from 11% to 30%, its impact is quite tangible, particularly for low-income groups. Data from the Ministry of Finance recorded that VAT's contribution to state revenue increased by 7.36% during this period, reaching IDR 470.81 trillion or 58.03% of the revenue target. From 2019 to 2023, VAT accounted for approximately 26%–28% of total state revenue (BPS, 2024). These facts reaffirm VAT's position as a primary source of national income as well as a policy with direct implications for public purchasing power.

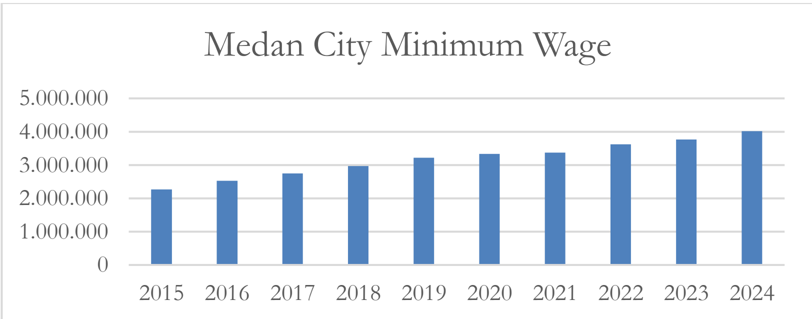


**Figure 2. Medan City Minimum Wage Graph**

Source: https://sumut.bps.go.id

On the other hand, the government also seeks to maintain purchasing power through the determination of the City Minimum Wage (UMK). In Medan, for example, the UMK in 2024 increased by 4%, from IDR 3,624,117 in 2023 to IDR 3,769,082. This increase was intended to ensure that wages remain aligned with inflation and the rising cost of living. The Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) recorded Medan's inflation rate at 2.19% in 2023, which served as one of the main indicators in determining the minimum wage. Nevertheless, an increase in nominal wages does not always correspond directly to a real increase in purchasing power, since purchasing power is influenced by two main factors: income levels and the prices of goods and services consumed. It is the latter that is directly affected by VAT policy.

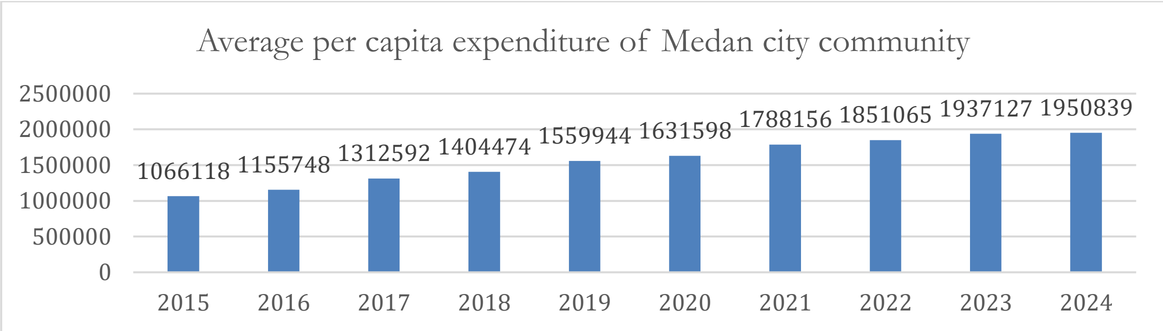


**Figure 3. Average Per Capita Expenditure of Medan City Residents Graph**

Source: https://sumut.bps.go.id

The phenomenon in Medan reveals a notable complexity. As a metropolitan city and the economic hub of North Sumatra, its social structure is dominated by formal workers in the industrial and service sectors, alongside informal workers engaged in small-scale trade. Data from BPS indicate that the average per capita expenditure of Medan residents has consistently increased, from IDR 1,066,118 at the beginning of the observation period to IDR 1,950,839 in the final year. This trend reflects relatively stable purchasing power, despite pressures from rising VAT rates and living costs. However, the impacts of fiscal policies such as VAT and labor policies such as the minimum wage are not evenly distributed: low-income groups are more vulnerable to price increases (Kwan & Sarjono, 2024), while informal workers benefit less directly from minimum wage adjustments (Sukmawati & Aprirachman, 2023).

From the perspective of Islamic economics, public policies are assessed not only in terms of fiscal effectiveness and economic growth but also through the lens of *maslahah* that is, the extent to which such policies generate collective benefit, uphold justice, and minimize potential harm (*madharat*) (Ayu & Mawardi, 2025; Thian, 2021). Therefore, it is essential to critically examine whether fiscal policies such as VAT increases and labor policies such as minimum wage adjustments truly generate *maslahah* for society or, conversely, exacerbate socioeconomic disparities.

However, previous empirical studies have produced inconsistent findings. Farina (2021) concluded that VAT significantly affects purchasing power, whereas Odi and Budiantara (2024) reported that VAT exerts a positive influence on purchasing power. Zahara (2022) and Gisna (2024) found that minimum wage positively impacts purchasing power, while Febrisha and Kadunci (2023) revealed that the 11% VAT rate had no significant effect on purchasing power, although income levels showed a positive effect. Similarly, Huda (2018) reported that, simultaneously, minimum wage and non-taxable income (PTKP) did not significantly influence the purchasing power of Malang City residents.

To date, no study has simultaneously examined the effects of VAT and minimum wage on purchasing power using a *maslahah* approach within the context of Medan City. In other words, the research gap lies in the absence of studies that integrate fiscal and labor policy variables within an Islamic analytical framework oriented toward collective welfare.

Based on this rationale, the present study aims to analyze the impact of VAT and minimum wage on the purchasing power of Medan City residents through the lens of *maslahah*. The novelty of this research lies in introducing *maslahah* as an analytical tool for evaluating the effectiveness of fiscal and labor policies, thereby contributing not only empirically to the conventional economic literature but also normatively by providing a foundation for formulating fairer policies that prioritize the welfare of society at large.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Purchasing Power

The capacity of an individual, family, or entire community to obtain goods and services necessary for their everyday requirements is termed purchasing power. This concept also reflects a consumer's inclination to acquire a product or to act in a particular manner. Moreover, a community's choices represent actions that originate from selecting among multiple available options (Silvia et al., 2021). Several factors influence purchasing power, including price levels, real income, taxation, exchange rates, and interest rates (Argyanti et al., 2024). Rising prices or higher taxes such as Value Added Tax (VAT) tend to weaken purchasing power, while increases in real income or a strong currency can strengthen it. Thus, purchasing power serves as a key measure of how economic policies and market dynamics affect the daily lives of households.

### Value Added Tax

According to Rochmat Soemitro, tax is a contribution paid by the people to the state in accordance with prevailing legal provisions, without any direct reciprocal benefit to the taxpayer (Sihombing & Alestriana, 2020) .Value Added Tax (VAT) is an indirect tax imposed on the consumption of goods and services, with the tax base calculated from the value added at each stage of production and distribution. Ultimately, the burden of VAT is borne by the final consumer (Fadilah et al., 2024). Since April 1, 2022, the VAT rate in Indonesia has increased to 11 percent. Goods and services subject to VAT include non-essential daily consumer goods, electronic products, motor vehicles and spare parts, certain properties or housing, digital services, and imported goods. With such a broad scope, this policy directly affects the prices of goods and services and has the potential to influence public purchasing power.

### City Minimum Wage

Wages represent compensation for work performed, serving to fulfill decent living needs for workers and their families, while also motivating increased (Lestari et al., 2022; Akbar et al., 2024). Strategically, wages play a crucial role in worker welfare and in promoting the efficiency and sustainability of company operations. Therefore, the determination of a minimum wage is a critical regulatory instrument for maintaining balance between the interests of workers and businesses. The setting of minimum wages aims to protect workers from unfair payment practices and to encourage income growth, especially for low-income workers or those in the informal sector (Daulay et al., 2023). Minimum wages also have a redistributive function, acting as a form of state intervention to create socio-economic justice. Key considerations in determining minimum wages include the inflation rate in each province, regional economic growth rates, and the decent living needs index (KHL) (Suhartono et al., 2024). According to Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 36 of 2021 concerning Wages, the city minimum wage is set by the Governor based on recommendations from the Regent/Mayor and considers the economic and employment conditions of each region. The UMK is intended as a social safety net, ensuring that workers receive a minimum income that enables them to meet basic needs.

### Consumption Theory

As a human endeavor, consumption entails diminishing or exhausting the usefulness of a product or service. This process, whether occurring incrementally or instantly, aims to fulfill various human needs. The party engaging in consumption is called a consumer. In Islamic economics, consumption holds a similar meaning but differs in its surrounding aspects. The fundamental difference from conventional economic consumption lies in the ultimate goal of consumption itself; its achievement must adhere to the principles of Islamic Sharia (Zakiah, 2022).

According to Yusuf al-Qardawi, several conditions must be met in consumption, including: consuming good (halal) items, being thrifty, avoiding extravagance, shunning debt, and steering clear of stinginess and miserliness (Imsar et al., 2024). For a Muslim, the fundamental objective of consumption is to facilitate acts of devotion to Allah. When an individual consumes anything with the deliberate intention of strengthening their vigor for divine obedience and unwavering devotion, that very act of consumption is transmuted into a form of worship, yielding spiritual rewards (Hani, 2017).

### Maslahah Theory

In Islamic economics, *Maslahah* is a principle that emphasizes balancing the provision of benefits (*manfa'ah*) and the avoidance of harm or detriment (*mafsadah*). The main objective of this theory is to create societal welfare that aligns with Sharia values (Soemitra, 2021). *Maslahah* is also closely related to the protection of five fundamental aspects within *maqashid syariah*: safeguarding religion (*ad-din*), life (*an-nafs*), intellect (*al-'aql*), progeny (*an-nasl*), and property (*al-maal*) (Batubara et al., 2024).

*Maslahah* in public policy does not solely concern immediate benefits but also considers the long-term impact on social justice and wealth distribution. As explained by Chapra, economic policies in Islam must be designed to create a balance between economic growth and equitable distribution, to prevent disparities that could harm vulnerable groups in society (Ulya, 2021).

## HYPOTHESIS

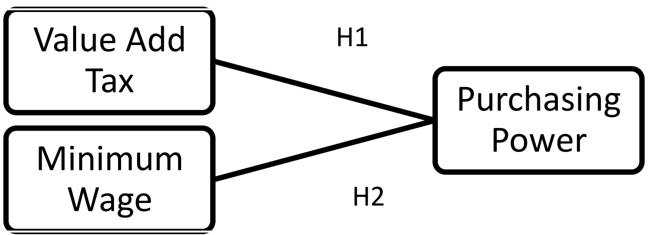


**Figure 4. Conceptual Framework of the Study**
Source: Adapted from the research framework developed

Based on the formulation of the problem and the conceptual framework, the research hypotheses are as follows:

### The Effect of VAT on Public Purchasing Powers

Value Added Tax (VAT) is an indirect tax imposed on consumers through price increases in goods and services at every stage of distribution. According to the theory of tax incidence, end consumers bear the largest portion of the burden from VAT, as the selling prices of goods and services are adjusted upward. This condition reduces real income, thereby weakening the capacity for consumption. Research conducted by Farina (2021) shows that VAT has a significant effect on reducing purchasing power, consistent with consumption theory which states that an increase in prices decreases the quantity of goods and services consumed. Low-income groups are the most affected, as the majority of their income is allocated to basic consumption needs. Based on this explanation, the hypothesis can be formulated as follows:

**H1: VAT has a negative effect on the purchasing power of the people in Medan City.**

### The Effect of Minimum Wage on Public Purchasing Power

The City Minimum Wage (UMK) is established as a protective instrument for workers to ensure that their income is aligned with the cost of living and the inflation rate. Keynes' consumption theory explains that there is a stable empirical relationship between consumption and income, meaning that an increase in real income will increase public consumption. In this context, an increase in UMK raises household capacity to purchase goods and services, although the rise in consumption is not always proportional to wage growth, as a portion of income may also be diverted to savings. Research conducted by Zahara (2022) and Gisna (2024) demonstrates that an increase in UMK has a positive effect on purchasing power. This indicates that raising the minimum wage provides a tangible impact on improving household consumption, particularly among formal sector workers. Based on this explanation, the hypothesis can be formulated as follows:

**H2: The City Minimum Wage (UMK) has a positive effect on the purchasing power of the people in Medan City.**

## RESEARCH METHOD

### Type and Research Approach

This study employs a quantitative approach with a time series analysis method. The purpose of the research is to analyze the effect of Value Added Tax (VAT) and City Minimum Wage (UMK) on the purchasing power of the community in Medan City from the perspective of *maslahah*.

### Population and Sample

The population of this research consists of all macroeconomic data of Medan City related to the research variables (VAT, UMK, and purchasing power) during the period 2015–2024. The sample was determined using a purposive sampling technique with the following criteria: (1) the data are available on a monthly basis, (2) the data originate from official government institutions, and (3) the data correspond to the research variables. With a period of 10 years (2015–2024) and monthly frequency, a total of 120 observations (n = 120) were obtained.

### Data Collection Technique

The research relies on secondary data, which were obtained from:

- The Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) of Medan City,
- The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia,
- Official government reports and publications on macroeconomic indicators.

The preparation stage was conducted through desk study (collecting official published documents), verification of data completeness, and adjustment of the time series format prior to analysis using EViews software.

**Table 1. Variable Operational Definitions**

| Variable | Definition | Indicator | Scale | Data Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| VAT (X1) | An indirect tax imposed on the consumption of goods and services | Annual VAT rate (%) | Ratio | Ministry of Finance, BPS |
| Minimum Wage (X2) | The minimum wage set annually by the local government | Medan City minimum wage (Rp/month) | Ratio | BPS, Medan City Government |
| Purchasing Power (Y) | The community's ability to purchase goods and services | Average monthly per capita expenditure (Rp) | Ratio | BPS Medan |

Souce: Ministry of Finance, BPS, and Medan City Government (processed data)

**Data Analysis Technique**

Data analysis was conducted using EViews software, as it is suitable for processing time series data. The stages of analysis included:

1. Stationarity Test using the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) method.
2. Time Series Linear Regression Model Estimation to examine the effect of VAT and the Minimum Wage on purchasing power.
3. Classical Assumption Tests, including the Breusch-Godfrey test for autocorrelation and the White test for heteroscedasticity.
4. Partial Significance Test (t-test) and Simultaneous Significance Test (F-test).
5. Coefficient of Determination ($R^2$) to measure the explanatory power of the independent variables on the dependent variable.
6. Interpretation of Results was then linked to the principle of *maslahah* in Islamic economics, to assess the extent to which fiscal policy (VAT) and wage policy (Minimum Wage) provide benefits for society.

## RESULTS

To analyze the influence of Value Added Tax and city minimum wage on the purchasing power of the community in Medan City during the 2015–2024 period, multiple linear regression analysis was employed. However, before conducting the regression analysis to test the hypotheses, classical assumption tests were performed. The purpose of these tests is to ensure that the fundamental assumptions of linear regression are not violated. Classical assumption tests are crucial prerequisites for the regression model to yield accurate and reliable estimates. A regression model that meets these criteria is known as a BLUE (Best Linear Unbiased Estimator), signifying the best linear unbiased estimator.

**Descriptive Statistical Analysis**

Descriptive statistics provide an overview of the characteristics of the research data, which consist of Value Added Tax (VAT) (X1), Regional Minimum Wage (UMK) (X2), and Community Purchasing Power (Y) in Medan City over the period 2015–2024, with a total of 120 monthly observations.

**Table 2. Descriptive Statistical Analysis**

| | X1 | X2 | Y |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mean | 10.30000 | 2987224. | 1565766. |
| Median | 10.00000 | 3105579. | 1595692. |
| Maximum | 11.16551 | 3803751. | 1957307. |
| Minimum | 9.834491 | 1936457. | 1044719. |
| Std. Dev. | 0.464981 | 554669.1 | 307431.5 |
| Skewness | 0.872732 | -0.301768 | -0.255309 |
| Kurtosis | 1.843686 | 1.891440 | 1.691583 |
| Jarque-Bera | 21.91854 | 7.965807 | 9.863425 |
| Probability | 0.000017 | 0.018631 | 0.007214 |
| Sum | 1236.000 | 3.58E+08 | 1.88E+08 |
| Sum Sq. Dev. | 25.72871 | 3.66E+13 | 1.12E+13 |
| Observations | 120 | 120 | 120 |

Source: Data processed with EViews 13

**Value Added Tax (VAT) (X1)**

The average VAT rate is 10.30%, with a minimum value of 9.83% and a maximum of 11.16%. This indicates that during the study period, the VAT rate varied according to government policies, particularly after the rate increase in 2022. The standard deviation of 0.46 indicates that the data variation is relatively low, as VAT is essentially uniform at the national level. Positive skewness (0.87) shows that the data distribution is right-skewed, while the kurtosis value (1.84) is lower than the normal value (3), meaning the data distribution tends to be platykurtic or relatively flat.

**Regional Minimum Wage (UMK) (X2)**

The average UMK in Medan City is IDR 2,987,224 per month, with a minimum of IDR 1,936,457 and a maximum of IDR 3,803,751. This indicates an upward trend in the minimum wage each year, following regional government policies. The standard deviation of IDR 554,669 shows considerable fluctuation. Negative skewness (-0.30) indicates that the data distribution is slightly left-skewed, while the kurtosis (1.89) < 3 shows that the distribution is relatively flatter than the normal distribution.

**Community Purchasing Power (Y)**

The average per capita monthly expenditure, used as an indicator of purchasing power, is IDR 1,565,766, with a minimum of IDR 1,044,719 and a maximum of IDR 1,957,307. This shows that during the study period, community purchasing power increased along with income growth and minimum wage policies. The standard deviation of IDR 307,431 indicates considerable variation in per capita expenditure over time. Negative skewness (-0.25) shows that the data distribution is left-skewed, while the kurtosis (1.69) indicates a relatively flat (platykurtic) distribution.

**Normality Test**

To confirm that the error terms within a regression model follow a normal distribution, a normality test is performed. The Jarque-Bera test is a common technique for this, accessible through the Histogram-Normality Test function in EViews software.

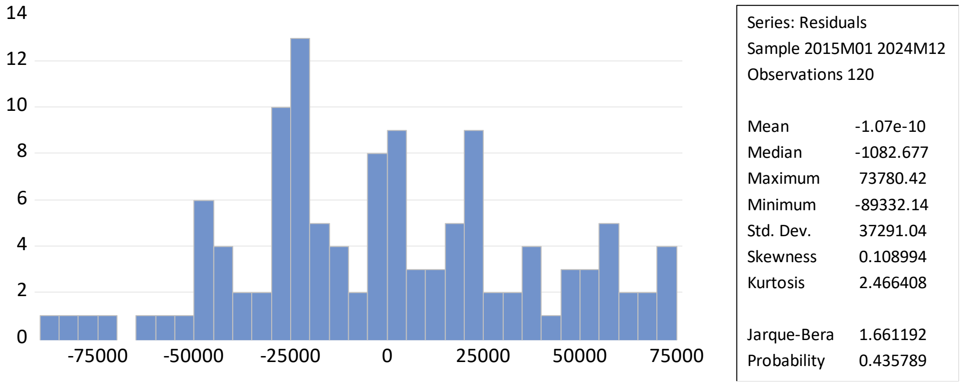


**Figure 5. Normality Test**
Source: Data processed with EViews 13

The aforementioned test findings indicate a probability value of 0.435789. Given that this figure surpasses the 0.05 significance threshold, it can be inferred that the model's residuals exhibit a normal distribution.

**Multicollinearity Test**

To ascertain if a substantial linear association exists between the predictor variables within a regression model, a multicollinearity test is carried out. A common method for identifying such a relationship involves examining the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) values.

**Table 3. Multicollinearity Test**

| | Coefficient | Uncentered | Centered |
|---|---|---|---|
| Variable | Variance | VIF | VIF |
| C | 8.37E+09 | 710.3098 | NA |
| X1 | 1.10E+08 | 994.3061 | 2.005421 |
| X2 | 7.75E-05 | 60.66074 | 2.005421 |

Source: Data processed with EViews 13

Based on the multicollinearity test results using EViews software, the VIF value for variable X1 (PPN) is 2.005421 and for variable X2 (UMK) is also 2.005421. Since both values are less than 10.00, it can be concluded that there is no multicollinearity among the independent variables in the regression model.

**Heteroscedasticity Test**

The heteroscedasticity test aims to ascertain whether the variance of the residuals is constant. One method utilized is the Glejser Test by examining the probability value of Obs*R-squared.

**Table 4. Heteroscedasticity Test**

| Heteroskedasticity Test: White | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| F-statistic | 2.014522 | Prob. F(4,5) | 0.2307 |
| Obs*R-squared | 6.170955 | Prob. Chi-Square(4) | 0.1867 |
| Scaled explained SS | 1.653966 | Prob. Chi-Square(4) | 0.7991 |

Source: Data processed with EViews 13

The test results show a probability value of 0.0721, which is greater than 0.05. Therefore, it can be concluded that heteroscedasticity is not present, meaning the model has satisfied the homoscedasticity assumption.

**Autocorrelation Test**

To ascertain if a correlation exists among the error terms within a regression model, an autocorrelation test is carried out. A common technique for this involves utilizing the Breusch-Godfrey Test, which requires scrutinizing the probability value of Obs*R-squared.

**Table 5. Autocorrelation Test**

| Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test: | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Null hypothesis: No serial correlation at up to 2 lags | | | |
| F-statistic | 0.456226 | Prob. F(2,5) | 0.6577 |
| Obs*R-squared | 1.543272 | Prob. Chi-Square(2) | 0.4623 |

Source: Data processed with EViews 13

The findings from the test revealed a p-value of 0.4623. As this figure surpasses the 0.05 threshold, it can be confidently asserted that no autocorrelation is present, thereby confirming the model's adherence to the no-autocorrelation assumption.

### Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

**Table 6. Multiple Linear Regression Analysis**

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | -493845.6 | 362952.7 | -1.360634 | 0.2158 |
| X1 | 48814.19 | 41724.24 | 1.169924 | 0.2803 |
| X2 | 0.521161 | 0.034797 | 14.97740 | 0.0000 |
| R-squared | 0.986567 | Mean dependent var | | 1565766. |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.982729 | S.D. dependent var | | 321331.6 |
| S.E. of regression | 42229.31 | Akaike info criterion | | 24.38294 |
| Sum squared resid | 1.25E+10 | Schwarz criterion | | 24.47372 |
| Log likelihood | -118.9147 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | | 24.28336 |
| F-statistic | 257.0502 | Durbin-Watson stat | | 1.878703 |
| Prob(F-statistic) | 0.000000 | | | |

Source: Data processed with EViews 13

Based on the regression results above, using the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method, the model can be formulated as:

Purchasing $\text{Power}_t = \beta 0 + \beta 1 \cdot \text{VAT}_t + \beta 2 \cdot \text{City MW}_t + \varepsilon t$

Substituting the coefficients from the EViews output, the estimated regression equation is:
Y = -508824.7 + 50848.23 * X1 + 0.519162 * X2

- The constant (C) value obtained is -508824.7. This implies that if the independent variables (VAT and city minimum wage) were zero, the purchasing power would be -508824.7.
- VAT (X1) has a positive and significant influence on the purchasing power of Medan City residents. This means that for every one-unit increase in VAT, purchasing power will increase by 50848.23 units, with a very high level of significance ($p = 0.0000$).
- City minimum wage (X2) has a positive and significant influence on the purchasing power of Medan City residents. This indicates that for every one-unit increase in UMK, purchasing power will increase by 0.519162 units, also with a very high level of significance ($p = 0.0000$).

**t-test (Partial Test)**

The t-test is used to partially examine the significance of each independent variable on the dependent variable in the regression model.

**Table 7. t-test**

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | -508824.7 | 91499.41 | -5.560962 | 0.0000 |
| X1 | 50848.23 | 10499.75 | 4.842806 | 0.0000 |
| X2 | 0.519162 | 0.008802 | 58.98245 | 0.0000 |

Source: Data processed with EViews 13

Based on the t-test results:

- Variable X1 (VAT) has a probability value of 0.0000 ($p < 0.05$), indicating a partial significant influence on purchasing power.
- Variable X2 (city minimum wage) has a probability value of 0.0000 ($p < 0.05$), indicating a partial significant influence on purchasing power.

**F-test (Simultaneous Test)**

The F-test is used to examine the overall significance of the regression model simultaneously, to determine whether all independent variables together influence the dependent variable.

**Table 8. F-test (Simultaneous Test)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| R-squared | 0.985287 | Mean dependent var | 1565766. |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.985035 | S.D. dependent var | 307431.5 |
| S.E. of regression | 37608.41 | Akaike info criterion | 23.93253 |
| Sum squared resid | 1.65E+11 | Schwarz criterion | 24.00221 |
| Log likelihood | -1432.952 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | 23.96083 |
| F-statistic | 3917.475 | Durbin-Watson stat | 0.051479 |
| Prob(F-statistic) | 0.000000 | | |

Source: Data processed with EViews 13

Based on the results above, the probability value of the F-statistic is 0.000000, which is less than the alpha level of 0.05. This means that VAT and city minimum wage, when considered simultaneously, have a significant influence on purchasing power.

**Coefficient of Determination ($R^2$) Test**

The R-squared value, or coefficient of determination, quantifies the extent to which the variation observed in the outcome variable can be accounted for by the explanatory variables within a regression model.

**Table 9. Coefficient of Determination ($R^2$) Test**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| R-squared | 0.985287 | Mean dependent var | 1565766. |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.985035 | S.D. dependent var | 307431.5 |
| S.E. of regression | 37608.41 | Akaike info criterion | 23.93253 |
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| Log likelihood | -1432.952 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | 23.96083 |
| F-statistic | 3917.475 | Durbin-Watson stat | 0.051479 |
| Prob(F-statistic) | 0.000000 | | |

Source: Data processed with EViews 13

The analysis yielded an Adjusted R-squared of 0.985035, indicating a robust fit for the model. This high coefficient of determination signifies that the combined effect of the predictor variables (VAT and city minimum wage) accounts for an impressive 98.5% of the observed variability in the response variable. Consequently, only a small fraction, specifically 1.5%, of this variability is attributable to factors external to the present research framework.

## DISCUSSION

**Influence of VAT on Purchasing Power in Medan City**

The hypothesis testing revealed a significant influence of the VAT variable on public purchasing power. This is evidenced by the t-test results, where the probability value for the VAT variable (X1) is 0.0000 ($p < 0.05$), leading to the conclusion that VAT significantly influences the purchasing power of the community in Medan City during the 2015–2024 period. Based on the regression analysis, the coefficient value for VAT (X1) was found to be 50848.23. This implies that, assuming other variables remain constant, every one-unit (e.g., one percentage point) increase in VAT will lead to an increase in purchasing power by 50848.23 units (IDR). The positive value of the unstandardized coefficient indicates a positive relationship between the VAT variable and purchasing power. In other words, in this context, an increase in the VAT rate is actually followed by an increase in public purchasing power. These findings are consistent with the results of Farina et al. (2021), who stated that VAT significantly affects public purchasing power. Similar findings were also reported by Odi and Budiantara (2024), as well as Lestari et al. (2023), indicating that VAT increases do not directly affect public consumption behavior.

Theoretically, VAT is a fiscal instrument imposed on the consumption of goods and services at the final consumer level. When VAT rates increase, the prices of taxed goods and services are expected to rise, thereby reducing purchasing power, particularly for low-income households (M. I. Harahap & Sugianto, 2023). This condition should increase household expenditure burdens, decrease consumption capacity, and encourage people to seek cheaper alternatives. Therefore, in theory, VAT is expected to negatively affect purchasing power.

However, the empirical findings of this study show a positive relationship. Several explanations can be provided for this phenomenon. First, the structure of consumption in Medan tends to be adaptive to price changes, with households shifting to substitute goods or adjusting expenditure patterns without significantly reducing total consumption. Second, middle- to high-income groups, whose consumption includes a larger share of non-essential goods, may maintain their consumption levels despite increases in VAT. Third, supporting factors such as rising minimum wages and stable real income may offset the negative effects of higher VAT, thereby increasing aggregate purchasing power.

The findings of this study are consistent with several previous studies which indicate that Value Added Tax (VAT) policy does not always directly suppress household purchasing power. Warwick et al. (2022) emphasized that the impact of VAT largely depends on the redistribution mechanism and the utilization of tax revenues, where compensation through social transfers can help maintain household purchasing power. Similarly, Dabla-Norris et al. (2023) found that the macroeconomic effects of changes in tax rates and bases depend on how the revenues are allocated, particularly when directed toward productive public spending that can enhance real household income. This is further supported by Setiyaningsih et al. (2021), who showed in the Indonesian context that increases in VAT revenues at the provincial level may coincide with rising household expenditures, especially when essential goods are exempted from VAT. A similar conclusion was drawn by the Harris et al., (2018), which noted that VAT policies accompanied by exemptions for essential items can mitigate the regressive effects of consumption taxes. Therefore, the positive VAT coefficient in this study can be understood as a consequence of fiscal compensation policies and household consumption patterns that adapt to changes in tax rates.

Thus, although theoretically VAT is expected to reduce purchasing power, the empirical results of this study reveal that in the context of Medan City, VAT is positively associated with public purchasing power. This indicates that purchasing power is not solely shaped by price increases due to VAT, but is also moderated by adaptive household consumption behavior, compensatory fiscal mechanisms, rising minimum wages, and the resilience of middle- to high-income groups in maintaining their consumption levels.

**Influence of UMK on Purchasing Power in Medan City**

The hypothesis testing revealed a significant relationship between the City Minimum Wage (UMK) and public purchasing power. This is evidenced by the t-test results, where the probability value for the UMK variable (X2) is 0.0000 ($p < 0.05$), leading to the conclusion that UMK significantly influences purchasing power in Medan City during the 2015–2024 period. Based on the regression analysis, the coefficient for UMK (X2) was found to be 0.519162. This indicates that, assuming other variables remain constant, every one-unit increase in the UMK will raise public purchasing power by

0.519162 units. The positive value of the coefficient reflects a positive relationship between UMK and purchasing power, meaning that higher minimum wages are followed by higher purchasing power.

Theoretically, an increase in the minimum wage is a labor market policy instrument designed to ensure a decent standard of living for workers. Higher UMK is expected to increase workers' real income, which in turn stimulates greater consumption of goods and services. Therefore, in theory, UMK is expected to have a positive effect on purchasing power. The empirical findings of this study align with the theoretical expectation, as the results indicate that rising UMK contributes positively to strengthening public purchasing power. Several explanations can be offered for this outcome. First, the majority of workers' income at the UMK level is allocated to meet basic needs, meaning that when income increases, purchasing power increases almost proportionally. Second, household consumption patterns tend to adjust to income changes, where higher wages are reflected in increased quantity and quality of consumption. Third, the gradual increase in Medan's minimum wage over the observed period has supported household capacity to maintain consumption stability, even amid fluctuations in the prices of essential goods.

These findings are consistent with previous research. Zahara (2022) and Hidayat and Haryatiningsih (2024) both demonstrated that UMK significantly influences household purchasing power. Similarly, Yahya et al. (2022) highlighted that income serves as a key indicator of welfare and consumption capacity, where higher income generally translates into greater purchasing power, even though part of it may be saved as a precaution for future needs. Thus, the results of this study reinforce the view that increases in UMK serve as an effective policy tool for sustaining and improving household purchasing power in Medan City.

**Influence of Value Added Tax and City Minimum Wage on Public Purchasing Power in Medan City**

Based on the F-test results, the probability value of the F-statistic is less than the significance level (α) of 0.05, specifically 0.000000 < 0.05. This indicates that, simultaneously, city minimum wage and VAT significantly influence the purchasing power of the community in Medan City during the 2015–2024 period. As is known, both the minimum wage and taxation policies like VAT tend to change annually, depending on economic conditions and government policies. These changes can affect public purchasing power. If the minimum wage received by workers is not commensurate with living needs and the increase in goods prices due to tax policies, then the community's ability to purchase goods and services will also be affected. Conversely, a significant increase in city minimum wage can strengthen purchasing power, even if VAT rates rise, because the community has higher purchasing capacity to meet their consumption needs.

**Impact of VAT on Economic *Maslahah* (Maslahah Review)**

Value Added Tax (VAT) is an essential fiscal instrument used by the government to finance national development. From an Islamic economic perspective, VAT can be examined through the concept of *maslahah*, which refers to welfare or benefit aimed at creating prosperity for the community (*ummah*) (Oktavia & Batubara, 2024). If collected justly and its proceeds are used for public benefit, such as infrastructure, health, education, and social assistance, then VAT falls under *maslahah 'ammah* (public interest) that supports the achievement of *maqashid syariah* (objectives of Islamic law), namely the protection of religion (*din*), life (*nafs*), intellect (*'aql*), progeny (*nasl*), and property (*mal*) (M. A. Harahap et al., 2023).

Allah (SWT) states in the Qur'an:

خُذْ مِنْ أَمْوَٰلِهِمْ صَدَقَةً تُطَهِّرُهُمْ وَتُزَكِّيهِم بِهَا وَصَلِّ عَلَيْهِمْۖ إِنَّ صَلَوٰتَكَ سَكَنٌ لَّهُمْۗ وَٱللَّهُ
سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ

"*Take, [O Muhammad], from their wealth a charity by which you purify them and cause them increase, and invoke [Allah's blessings] upon them. Indeed, your invocations are reassurance for them. And Allah is Hearing and Knowing*." (QS. At-Taubah: 103)

Although this verse specifically refers to *zakat*, its spirit also indicates that taking a portion of wealth for public interest can be justified if it aims to create justice and *maslahah* (Putra *et al*., 2023). In practice, VAT directly influences public purchasing power because it is levied on the consumption of goods and services. An increase in VAT rates implies a rise in the prices of taxed necessities, thereby increasing the burden of household expenditure (Syahbudi et al., 2023). This impact is most acutely felt by low-income groups, who tend to allocate the majority of their income to basic necessities. Thus, VAT affects public purchasing power, as a reduction in purchasing power indicates a decline in the community's ability to optimally meet their living needs.

While VAT serves as a stable source of state revenue for financing public services and supporting *maslahah dharuriyah* (essential needs) like education and health, its regressive nature poses a potential for inequality. This is because VAT is imposed uniformly without considering income levels, causing low-income communities to bear a relatively larger burden compared to higher-income groups. Therefore, within the context of Islamic economics, VAT policy must be designed to balance the state's fiscal needs with the principle of social justice. Exempting essential goods from VAT, or implementing lower rates, represents a strategic step to safeguard public purchasing power. Furthermore, transparent and accountable management of tax revenues is a crucial prerequisite for VAT to genuinely function as a state financial instrument aligned with Islamic values of distributive justice and to provide *maslahah* for all segments of society.

**Relevance of City Minimum Wage to Community's *Dharuriyah* Needs**

The city minimum wage is an economic policy that guarantees a minimum income for workers to meet decent living needs. From an Islamic economic perspective, city minimum wage is closely related to *maslahah dharuriyah*, which is the fulfillment of basic necessities encompassing the preservation of religion (*din*), life (*nafs*), intellect (*'aql*), progeny (*nasl*), and property (*mal*). Failure to meet these needs can lead to societal disruption (Safriani, 2022). City minimum wage plays a vital role in ensuring the fulfillment of basic needs such as food, shelter, education, and healthcare. The city minimum wage determination provides certainty of fair and dignified income, in accordance with Islamic principles of justice. As narrated by the Prophet Muhammad (SAW):

أَعْطُوا الأَجِيرَ أَجْرَهُ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَجِفَّ عَرَقُهُ

"*Give the worker his wage before his sweat dries*." (HR. Ibnu Majah)

This Hadith emphasizes the importance of a worker's right to a decent wage. However, city minimum wage should not be viewed solely by its nominal value; it must also consider purchasing power relative to the prices of basic necessities. If city minimum wage is not balanced with inflation, workers are vulnerable to falling into poverty, which contradicts the goal of *maslahah*. Therefore, city minimum wage needs to be adjusted fairly and periodically. From an Islamic perspective, the state has an obligation to be a protector (*junnah*) and a guardian (*ra'in*) for its people, especially vulnerable groups. city minimum wage policies that consider the real needs of the community reflect values of social justice and support the achievement of *maslahah dharuriyah*. Hence, city minimum wage is not merely an economic policy but also a social welfare instrument with high moral value (Al Amin et al., 2022).

## CONCLUSION

The research findings indicate that Value Added Tax (VAT) and the City Minimum Wage (CMW) significantly affect public purchasing power, both partially and simultaneously ($p < 0.05$), with an Adjusted R-squared value of 0.985, showing that 98.5% of the variation in purchasing power is explained by these two variables. From a maslahah perspective, VAT functions to increase state revenue while influencing consumption, requiring fair implementation, whereas CMW helps meet the basic needs of society in accordance with the objectives of maqasid shariah to preserve wealth (hifzh al-mal) and life (hifzh an-nafs). The limitation of this study is its focus on only two variables, leaving other macroeconomic factors such as inflation, unemployment, and consumption patterns unexamined.

## SUGGESTION

### Practical Suggestion

The government is expected to establish minimum wage policies fairly and proportionally, meaning that the wage level should be balanced between workers' basic needs (*maslahah dharuriyah*) and employers' capacity, not set too low to harm workers nor too high to burden businesses. In addition, the management of VAT revenues should be carried out transparently, such as by publishing regular reports, ensuring public access to budget realization, and involving independent audits, while its allocation should be directed toward public welfare through education, health services, infrastructure development, and social assistance programs, so that it remains in line with the principles of justice in Islamic economics.

### Theoretical Suggestion

This study is limited to examining the effects of Value Added Tax (VAT) and the City Minimum Wage (CMW) on public purchasing power, without considering other macroeconomic indicators. Although factors such as inflation, unemployment rates, and consumption patterns have been widely studied in previous research, they were not included in this model. Therefore, future research is suggested to incorporate these variables to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the determinants influencing public purchasing power.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to express their deepest gratitude to Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara for academic support, to the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) and the Ministry of Finance for providing the required data, and to all parties who have contributed to the completion of this research.

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