

## The Effect of Real Profit Management and Green Accounting Disclosure on Stock Returns with Profitability as a Moderating Variable

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**ABSTRACT :** The purpose of this study was to see the effect of real earnings management, green accounting disclosure, and profitability as a moderating variable on stock returns. Using multiple linear regression with secondary data derived from annual financial reports and sustainability reports. The samples taken came from companies that have been listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in the basic and chemical industry sub-sector for 2019–2021, with a total sample of 40 companies. The t test results show that REM has an effect on stock returns and that ROA can moderate REM. Green accounting has no significant effect, and ROA cannot moderate the effects of green accounting on stock returns.

**WORD KEY:** Stock returns, REM, Green Accounting, ROA

### I. PENDAHULUAN

The Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX) reported that the number of capital market investors reached 8.8 million in early June 2022 and continued to grow to 9 million in June 2022 (CNBC Indonesia, 2022). Based on data released by the Indonesian Central Securities Depository (KSEI), the number of capital market investors increased by 5%, from 7.45 million at the end of December 2021 to 7.86 million at the end of January 2022. Looking at the beginning of 2022, the number of capital market investors increased by 1,607,018. According to a report by the Financial Services Authority (OJK), the number of capital market investors in Indonesia reached 8.88 million as of June 3, 2022. This number increased by around 18.66% from 7.48 million in 2021. In 2019, the number of capital market investors was only 2.48 million. Then it rose to 3.88 million in 2020 and dramatically to 7.48 million investors in 2021.

The capital market creates an efficient allocation of funds in the capital market so that investors can choose investment options that will provide optimal returns. The primary goal of investment investors is to maximize their returns. Investors want to invest in the capital market, so investors evaluate company performance to determine which stocks will be profitable. Successful companies attract investors because company results affect market share prices (Mayuni & Suarjaya, 2018).

Stock return is the return generated by investors from buying and selling activities in the stock market. Hence, one can conceive of this return as a product of the price discovery mechanism. The price discovery process can be influenced by several factors. For example, stock returns are affected by a company's earnings management practices. Examining the relationship between accounting earnings and stock returns has been a subject of interest to international researchers for many years. Bansal and Choudhary (2021) find that investors perceive a decrease in REM as an element of risk, and hence they discount stock prices at a higher rate.

According to Tong Fang, Zhi Su, and Libo Yin (2018), over the past 30 years, China has experienced a period of high economic growth that is a great cost to the environment, with the country suffering from air, soil, and water pollution. In recent years, the Chinese government has established policies to encourage the development of enterprises in green industries to promote economic development at lower environmental costs. The Chinese stock market, in turn, has responded efficiently to these policies. Share prices of companies in green industries perform better than those of companies in non-green industries. Higher cash flow in a company indicates better economic performance and thus results in a higher share price.

According to Qodratillah (2021), "green accounting" is the application of accounting where companies must

apply costs for environmental preservation or the welfare of the surrounding environment, which is often referred to as "environmental accounting costs" in company expenses. Companies with good environmental disclosure will provide more reliable information to stakeholders. The greater the company's level of disclosure, the clearer the signals sent to stakeholders and shareholders. Stock prices are used to evaluate the implementation of green accounting to enhance a good corporate image so that it can easily help management raise funds from investors. By building a good corporate image, the company can attract investors and increase capital.

Based on the background above, the formulation of the problems in this study is as follows:

1. Does real earnings management affect stock returns in companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in 2019–2021?
2. Does Green Accounting disclosure affect stock returns for companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in 2019–2021?
3. Does profitability moderate the effect of real earnings management on stock returns in companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in 2019–2021?
4. Can profitability moderate the effect of green accounting disclosure on stock returns at companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in 2019–2021?

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW AND HYPOTHESES

### Stakeholder Theory

According to Freeman et al. (2010: 28), stakeholder theory explains the creation of corporate value as much as possible in the eyes of stakeholders without making trade-offs. In other words, this theory is basically a theory that explains how a business is run effectively to produce value by taking into account the relationships between stakeholders and the needs of these stakeholders in the context of making business decisions. According to Seay (2015), stakeholder theory explains that the stronger the company's relationship with external parties, the easier it is for companies to achieve company goals.

In addition to reports that inform the financial aspects of a company, companies are also expected to voluntarily disclose reports that inform matters relating to the social and environmental impacts of the company's activities. According to Guthrie et al. (2006), companies voluntarily choose to disclose information about their intellectual, social, and environmental activities to meet the actual expectations of stakeholders. More responsible reporting by the company on the impact of the company's activities on society and the environment, as well as open and honest communication, strengthens the company's image and its relationship with stakeholders and ultimately increases the value of the company in the eyes of those stakeholders.

### Real Earnings Management

According to Gumanti (2013), dividends are part of the profits distributed to investors and can be in the form of cash dividends or stock dividends. Dividends are the percentage of profits paid to investors in cash and are also a major aspect of real earnings management that can affect company value for shareholders (Holder, 2013). Dividends can be paid at certain intervals, namely semi-annually or annually. Dividends are decided at a general meeting, and the method of payment depends on the manager's discretion.

Related to the value of the company, real earnings management is one of the factors that can affect the value of the company. If the company can determine the right real earnings management for shareholders, then this will have an impact on increasing the value of the company, which can be seen from the share price. According to Sartono (2010), real earnings management is a decision about whether the profit earned by the company will be distributed to shareholders as dividends or will be retained in the form of retained earnings to finance future investment. So when dividends to shareholders are higher, it means lower retained earnings. However, if the company is more concerned with business growth, retained earnings will be higher, so dividend payments will be lower.

### Green Accounting

"Green accounting" is accounting that identifies, measures, evaluates, and discloses costs associated with the company's environmental activities (Aniela, 2012). Green accounting is a way in which the consequences of environmental events are included in financial reports. Green accounting is a method of reporting to companies on environmental issues. The aim is to provide information about the company's ability to operate in an environmentally friendly manner. The motivation of companies to report environmental problems tends to be dominated by voluntary factors (Ball, 2005).

Environmental accounting creates reports for the company's internal and external stakeholders. The purpose of environmental accounting is as a tool for environmental management and as a means to communicate with the public and increase the amount of material information provided to those who need or can use it, so that they know the company's operation and make an effort to overcome environmental pollution and corporate obligations through appropriate financial reports.

Environmental accounting is a means of reporting company activities related to environmental costs (Carolina and Martusa, 2009). Companies that want to achieve sustainability must consider environmental aspects in addition to economic and social aspects in order to maintain the company's existence and environmental sustainability (Sunaryo, 2013).

#### Hypothesis Development

H1: Green accounting has an effect on stock returns

The green accounting variable has a significant effect on the growth of stock prices in award-winning companies in the green industry listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX). This can prove that the better the implementation of green accounting, the higher the stock price (Qodratilah, 2021)

H2: How real earnings management affects stock returns

Bansal and Choudhary's (2021) research results show lower (higher) returns for upward (downward) REM. Research shows a premium for stocks that experience REM declines. These findings are consistent across all levels of analysis. Furthermore, our results show that firms with higher betas, larger firms, overvalued firms, and firms with higher momentum quantiles are more likely to engage in upward earnings management. The relationship between REM and stock returns was found to be consistent for all the moderating effects considered.

H3: ROA can moderate the effect of green accounting disclosures on stock returns.

According to research by Chasbi and Dani, Rizal, and Satria (2019), green accounting has a positive effect on profitability, whether profitability is measured using ROE or ROA. In addition, environmental performance also has a positive effect on company profitability. According to Qodratilah (2021), green accounting has a significant effect on the level of profit achievement in green industry award-winning companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX). This proves that the better the application of green accounting in companies, the level of achievement of company profits will increase.

H4: ROA moderates the effect of real earnings management on stock returns.

ROA has a positive effect on abnormal operating cash flows and negatively affects abnormal production costs as well as total real transaction profit management. This indicates that when a company's ROA is low, management will carry out sales management, reduce operating costs, and real transaction management when viewed as a whole. On the other hand, ROA does not have a significant effect on abnormal operating costs, and the company's ROA does not motivate management to achieve profits by reducing operating costs.

### III. RESEARCH METHOD

#### Research Design

This study uses multiple linear regression methods using SPSS version 26 software. Multiple linear regression analysis is used to determine causal relationships by determining the value of Y as the dependent variable and estimating values related to X as the independent variable. The purpose of the regression equation in this study is to find out how much influence the independent (independent) variables, namely Green Accounting (X1) and Real Profit Management (X2), have on the dependent variable, namely Stock Return (Y), with the addition of a moderating variable in the form of ROA (Z) and Firm Size as the control variable.

Types and Sources of Data Judging from the source, this study uses secondary data. Secondary data is data obtained indirectly through intermediary media, namely by being obtained and recorded by other parties (Ghozali, 2017). This secondary data

is data that has been published by the company through an official institution and has been set for general use. The data source for this research comes from the annual reports of each company (samples for 2019–2021) obtained from the official website of the Indonesia Stock Exchange (<https://www.idx.co.id/>) and supporting data from other websites. Sampling in this study used purposive sampling, namely, a sampling technique determined by the following sample criteria:

**Table 1 Sample Criteria**

No	Criteria	Amount
1	Basic industry and chemical sub-sector companies listed on the Indonesian stock exchange for 2017–2021	75
2	Submit financial reports during the research period, namely 2019–2021	56
3	Basic and chemical industry sub-sector companies listed on the Indonesian stock exchange experienced stock price fluctuations during 2019–2021.	40

Companiesthatmeetthecriteria	40
Totalobservation data:40 x3 years(2017-2021).	120

### DefenisiOperasionaldanPengukuranVariabel

Stock returns can be interpreted as a return on profits obtained by investors on their investment. Of course, without the benefits of investing, investors will not bother making investments that ultimately do not pay off. In this study, the calculation of return only uses total return, where total return compares the stock price of the current period with the stock price before the previous period. Stock returns will be calculated using the following formula (Jogiyanto, 2012):

$$R_{it} = \frac{P_{it} - P_{it-1}}{P_{it-1}}$$

Information:

Rit : realized return for stock i was at time t  
Pit: The stock price during period t

Pit-1: The stock price prior to period t.

Real earnings management is measured through three proxy measures: abnormal cash flow operations, abnormal production costs, and abnormal discretionary expenses (Roychowdhury, 2006).

1. Abnormal cash flow operations (Abnormal CFO).

Profit manipulation through operating cash flow, which has a lower cash flow than the normal level, is the abnormal CFO of a company. The formula is as follows:

$$CFO_t / A_{t-1} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 (1/\log.A_{t-1}) + \beta_1 (S_t / A_{t-1}) + \beta_2 (\Delta S_t / A_{t-1}) + \epsilon_t$$

2. Abnormal production cost (Abnormal PROD)

Profit manipulation through operating cash flow, which has a lower cash flow than the normal level, is the abnormal CFO of a company. The formula is as follows:

$$PROD_t / A_{t-1} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 (1/\log.A_{t-1}) + \beta_1 (S_t / A_{t-1}) + \beta_2 (\Delta S_t / A_{t-1}) + \beta_3 (\Delta S_{t-1} / A_{t-1}) + \epsilon_t$$

3. Abnormal discretionary expenses (Abnormal DISC)

Abnormal DISC is profit manipulation that is carried out through research and development costs, advertising costs, selling costs, administration costs, and general expenses. Formula for Abnormal DISC:

$$DISC_t / A_{t-1} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 (1/\log.A_{t-1}) + \beta (\Delta S_{t-1} / A_{t-1}) + \epsilon_t$$

Information:

CFO<sub>t</sub> : operating cash flow of company i in year t

PROD<sub>t</sub> : cost of goods sold plus changes in inventory

DISC<sub>t</sub> : research and development costs plus advertising costs plus expenses sales, administration, and general.

A<sub>t-1</sub> : Total assets of the company at the end of year t-1

S<sub>t</sub> : Company sales at the end of year t

ΔS<sub>t</sub> : Change in company sales in year t compared to sales at the end of year t-1

ΔS<sub>t-1</sub> : Change in company sales in year t-1 compared with sales at the end of year t-2

α, β : Regression coefficient

ε<sub>t</sub> : errors

Green accounting is a way in which the consequences of environmental

events are included in financial reports. Green accounting is a method of reporting to companies on environmental issues. The aim is to provide information about the

company's ability to operate in an environmentally friendly manner. Green accounting is measured by a dummy variable (Rosaline and Wuryani, 2020), namely:

- A value of 0 is used for companies that do not have environmental cost components (waste recycling costs, environmental R&D costs) in their annual financial statements.
  - Value 1 is used for companies that have components related to environmental costs (waste recycling costs, environmental R&D costs) in their annual financial statements.
- The moderating variable is return on assets (ROA), which is one of the profitability ratios used to measure the ability of a company to generate profits on the assets owned by the company.

$$ROA = \frac{\text{Profit for the periode}}{\text{Total Asstes}}$$

so that the multiple linear regression equation is as follows:

$$R_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 GA + \beta_2 REM + \beta_3 ROA + \beta_4 GA \cdot ROA + \beta_5 REM \cdot ROA + \beta_5 SIZE + \epsilon$$

#### IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

##### 4.1 Assumption Test and Descriptive Statistics

A classical assumption test is performed before performing multiple linear regression testing to determine which model is used in the regression to show a significant relationship. The classical assumption test in this study includes the normality test, multicollinearity test, and heteroscedasticity test.

**Table 2 Classical Assumptions**

Model	Tolerance	VIF	Sig	Asymp Sig
Green Accounting (X1)	0,935	1,069	0,23	
REM (X2)	0,876	1,141	0,724	
ROA (Z)	0,899	1,113	0,31	0,2
SIZE (C)	0,924	1,082	0,612	
Return Saham (Y)				

Source: data processed with SPSS 26

The multicollinearity test is proven by tolerance > 0.05 and a variance inflation factor (VIF) of 10, indicating that there is no multicollinearity, according to Table 1 of the classical assumption test. Heteroscedasticity testing uses the Park test with a Sig score > 0.05, so there are no symptoms of heteroscedasticity. The normal test is proven by the results of the asymptotic Sig on the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test of 0.2 > 0.05, so that the data is normally distributed.

**Table 3 Descriptive Statistics**

Model	N	Min	Max	Mean	StdDev
Ri	120	0,004	5,8	0,442	0,695
GA	120	0,00	1,00	0,359	0,468
REM	120	0,01	3,64	0,694	0,634
ROA	120	0,03	36,36	4,88	5,846
SIZE	120	11,91	32,01	24,543	5,561

Sumber: data diolah dengan SPSS 26

Descriptive statistical analysis is explained through the average (mean), maximum, and minimum values. The results of the descriptive statistical analysis in this study indicate that the average stock return is 0.442%, meaning that the average stock return rate is relatively low. The highest stock return value of 5.8% was obtained by PT Pelangi Indah Canindo Tbk in 2019, while the lowest was 0.004% obtained by Charoen Pokphand Indonesia Tbk in 2021.

##### 4.2 Regression Test and Hypothesis

The results of the panel data regression equation with moderated regression analysis (MRA), which tested the independent variables namely "Green Accounting" and "Real Earning Management" on the dependent variable namely "Stock Return," moderation variable "Return on Assets," and control variable "firm size" in 40 companies in the



chemical and basic industrial manufacturing sub-sector listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in the 2019-2021 period, areas follows:

**Table 4 Panel Data Regression Analysis**

Model	B	Stderror	t-statistic	Sig
Constant	0,887	0,451	1,96	0,01
X1_GA	-0,22	0,324	-0,66	0,98
X2_REM	0,004	0,2	2,00	0,04
Z_ROA	0,15	0,163	9,19	0,03
C_SIZE	-0,13	0,12	-1,13	0,26
Z_GA.ROA	0,656	0,899	-1,14	0,59
Z_REM.ROA	-0,5	0,043	5,63	0,02
RSquare	0,29		F-statistik	5,47
AdjustRSquare	0,71		F-Sig	0,007

Source: data processed with SPSS 26

The results of the regression analysis are obtained from the multiple linear regression equation as follows:  
 $R_i = 0,887 - 0,22GA + 0,004REM + 0,15ROA + 0,656GA.ROA - 0,5REM.ROA - 0,13SIZE + (\text{Error})$

#### F Test

Based on the panel data regression analysis test in table 4,  $df_1 = k = 7$  and  $df_2 = 12$

$= n - k - 1$  ( $120 - 7 - 1 = 32$ ), where  $n$  is the number of observations and  $k$  is the number of variables, the calculation obtained a  $F_{table}$  value of 2.313. It is known that the result of the  $F_{count}$  is 5.47. This value is greater than the  $F_{table}$  value of 2.313, or

$5.47 > 2.313$ . These findings are supported by the F-statistic probability value of 0.007, which is less than the predetermined significance value ( $= 0.05$ ). So it can be concluded that green accounting, real earning management, ROA, and firm size together have an effect on stock returns.

#### Determination Coefficient Test (adjusted $r^2$ )

Based on the test of the coefficient of determination in Table 4, it is known that the adjusted R-squared value is 0.29. The adjusted R-squared value of 0.71 shows the ability of the independent variables used in this study, namely green accounting, real earnings management, ROA, and firm size, to explain the dependent variable, namely the stock return of 29%. The remaining 71% is explained by other variables that were not used in this research.

#### t Test

The t-test decision is made by looking at the t-table value, which is obtained by

calculating  $df$  (degrees of freedom) using the formula  $df = n(\text{sum of 1 observation data}) - k$  (number of independent variables plus the dependent variable). So in this study,  $df = 40 - 7 = 32$  and a significance level of 0.05 were obtained, so a t-table of 1.692 was obtained (two-way test).

#### H1: Green accounting has an effect on stock returns

Based on the results of hypothesis testing in Table 4, green accounting has no significant effect on stock returns. These results indicate that disclosure of green accounting has no effect on increasing or decreasing stock return variability. This study shows that the inclusion and disclosure of environmental costs in a company's green account does not give investors or consumers confidence in the company's valuation, so it does not affect the company's stock price. In addition, the environmental measures implemented by the company have become part of the corporate social responsibility report and also the cost of corporate social responsibility, so that disclosure of environmental costs in the company's income statement does not affect stock returns. according to Sapulette and Limba's research (2021). This could be influenced by the new green accounting phenomenon that was implemented in 2021 in accordance with regulations that require the issuance of sustainability reports so that no changes have been seen in the company's portfolio.

This is different from research based on testing the Qodratillah hypothesis (2021) that the green accounting variable has a significant effect on the increase in stock prices of companies that have won the Green Industry Award. This can prove that the better green accounting is implemented, the better the increase in stock prices.

#### H2: How real earnings management affects stock returns

Table 4 shows that REM has a significant effect on stock returns. According to Tang and Alvita's analysis (2021), earnings management has a significant effect on the stock return variable. This is because yield management practices can mislead investors into making investment transactions. Finally, investors believe that the company's development potential is reflected in its earnings. In that case, it is difficult for investors to know whether a company implements revenue management unless they have a direct relationship with the company or obtain information from a company insider. Yield management practices that are well known to investors and potential investors impact the unattractiveness of investment companies that employ yield management practices, resulting in lower returns from equities.

### H3: ROA can moderate the effect of green accounting disclosures on stock returns.

The results of the t test in Table 4 show that ROA cannot moderate the relationship between green accounting and stock returns. This may be caused by limiting factors that exist outside the company, including economic conditions, external conditions of the company, and outstanding issues. Market participants are currently making decisions not only by publishing environmental aspects in company financial reports but also by examining situations and phenomena that occur in companies (Kencana, 2021)

### H4: ROA moderates the effect of real earnings management on stock returns.

The results of the t test show that ROA can moderate the relationship between REM and stock returns. The indicators for each REM indicator, namely discretionary expenses, operating cash flows, and abnormal production, have total assets in the calculations so that ROA can strengthen the relationship between REM and stock returns. This is also supported by the research of Hisar et al. (2021) that ROA can provide an overview to users of financial statements about the company's financial performance in generating net profit by optimizing the use of funds dedicated to company operations, especially investors.

## V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of this research on the effect of real profit management and disclosure of green accounting on stock returns with profitability as a moderating variable for 2019–2021 in the basic and chemical industry sub-sectors areas follows:

1. With a t count of  $-0.66 < 1.692$ , Green Accounting has no significant effect on stock returns. Investors have not seen the application of green accounting as a basis for investment.
2. With a count of  $2.00 > 1.692$ , REM has a significant effect on stock returns. Earnings management can influence investors to invest based on the fundamentals that can be seen from the financial reports.
3. ROA cannot moderate green accounting on stock returns with a count of  $1.14 < 1.692$ , so it can be concluded that ROA does not strengthen or weaken the interaction of green accounting with stock returns.
4. ROA can moderate REM with stock returns with a t count of  $5.63 > 1.692$ . ROA is an element of profitability, which thereby strengthens REM, which influences stock return fluctuations. Suggestions for further research include a wider scope of the industrial sector because this research is only limited to the manufacturing sector, especially the basic and chemical industry sub-sector. The calculation of discretionary expenses in real earnings management must have a standard stated in the initial calculation so that the accounts that will be included in the discretionary account become clearer.

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