Published by Yayasan Amerta Insan Unggul

DOI: 10.65246

p-ISSN 3063-9840 | e-ISSN 3063-8194

GoodWill Journal of Economics, Management, and Accounting

journal homepage: https://jurnal.amertainstitute.com/index.php/GoodWill/index



The Effect of Unemployment Rate on the Increase in Poverty Rate in North Buton Regency, Indonesia

Lulu Indriani, Asriati, Waode Rayyani

Development Economics Study Program, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar

Email: luluindriani314@gmail.com; asriati@unismuh.ac.id; waode.rayyani@unismuh.ac.id

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
Unemployment; Poverty; North Buton Regency; Simple Linear Regression; Regional Development

Publication History:
Received: 11 April 2026
Screening: 25 April 2026
Review: 9 May 2026
Revision requested: 18 July 2026
Revised: 13 August 2026
Accepted: 27 October 2026

ABSTRACT

Unemployment and poverty are important socioeconomic issues that can affect regional development and community welfare. Understanding the relationship between unemployment and poverty is essential for developing effective policies to improve living standards, particularly in regions such as North Buton Regency. This study aimed to determine the effect of the unemployment rate on poverty levels in North Buton Regency during the 2015–2024 period. A quantitative approach was employed using secondary data on unemployment and poverty rates obtained from the Central Statistics Agency of North Buton Regency. Data were collected through documentary research, which involved gathering and examining relevant statistical records. The data were analyzed using simple linear regression with the assistance of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26. The results indicated that the unemployment rate had no statistically significant effect on poverty levels in North Buton Regency. This finding was supported by a regression coefficient of 0.436 and a significance value of 0.087, which exceeded the 0.05 significance threshold. These results suggest that changes in the unemployment rate were not significantly associated with changes in poverty levels during the study period. This study contributes to the understanding of regional socioeconomic conditions by providing empirical evidence on the relationship between unemployment and poverty in North Buton Regency. The findings highlight the importance of considering other potential determinants of poverty when formulating regional development policies and poverty reduction strategies.

1. Introduction

Poverty is a multidimensional development problem that reflects limited access to income, employment, education, health services, housing, and other basic needs. In developing economies, poverty reduction is therefore not only a matter of raising household income but also of expanding productive opportunities and improving access to social and economic resources. From a macroeconomic perspective, employment and income are important determinants of household welfare and economic well-being (Sukirno, 2017). Unemployment is frequently identified as one of the labor-market conditions associated with poverty because the absence of employment can reduce household earnings and weaken the capacity to meet basic needs. Previous studies, however, have reported different findings concerning the magnitude and direction of this relationship across regions. Research examining economic growth, human development, unemployment, education, and government expenditure indicates that poverty is associated with multiple economic and social determinants rather than a single factor (Estrada & Wenagama, 2020; Erliza Milenia & Zaini, 2021; Panggabean & Ekawaty, 2024). This suggests that the unemployment–poverty relationship is context dependent and should be examined at the regional level.

In Indonesia, local governments face the challenge of reducing poverty while improving labor-market absorption. North Buton Regency in Southeast Sulawesi has economic potential in agriculture, fisheries, and tourism, but the region continues to face socioeconomic challenges related to employment opportunities, poverty, and human-

DOI: 10.65246

resource quality. Previous regional studies have examined various determinants of poverty, including economic growth, human development, unemployment, and other socioeconomic characteristics. For example, Febrianti et al. (2022) investigated factors influencing poverty in Gowa Regency, while Karimah et al. (2024) examined the relationship between gross regional domestic product per capita, the Human Development Index, unemployment, and poverty in West Nusa Tenggara during 2020–2022. Similarly, Khairunnisa et al. (2023) examined population size, human development, unemployment, and poverty in South Sumatra. These studies demonstrate the relevance of examining unemployment alongside broader regional economic and social conditions. The thesis data show that the open unemployment rate in North Buton Regency fluctuated during 2015–2024, reaching its highest recorded level of 4.11% in 2020 before declining to 2.13% in 2024. Poverty also fluctuated, declining from 15.86% in 2015 to 14.10% in 2020, rising to 14.89% in 2021, and then moving to 14.09% in 2024. These movements indicate that changes in unemployment and poverty did not occur in a simple one-to-one pattern.

The literature reviewed in the thesis provides mixed empirical evidence regarding the relationship between unemployment and poverty. Hilmi et al. (2022) found a negative and statistically insignificant effect of unemployment on poverty in Tolitoli Regency, while Hastin and Siswadhi (2021) reported that unemployment did not significantly affect poverty in Jambi Province. Other studies have reported significant effects, indicating that the role of unemployment can differ according to regional economic structures and other socioeconomic factors. Research by Estrada and Wenagama (2020) and Panggabean and Ekawaty (2024) further situates unemployment within the broader relationships among economic growth, human development, education, and poverty. Erliza Milenia and Zaini (2021) also examined minimum wages, unemployment, education, and government expenditure in relation to poverty in Indonesia. In addition, the studies by Febrianti et al. (2022), Karimah et al. (2024), and Khairunnisa et al. (2023) highlight the relevance of examining poverty in different regional settings while considering economic and demographic conditions. Collectively, this literature suggests that poverty is influenced by a combination of factors rather than by unemployment alone. Nevertheless, differences in regional characteristics and empirical findings support the need for further investigation of the unemployment–poverty relationship in North Buton Regency.

The research problem addressed in this article is whether the open unemployment rate significantly affects the poverty rate in North Buton Regency during 2015–2024. The objective is to estimate the direction and statistical significance of this relationship using simple linear regression. By focusing on the relationship between one labor-market indicator and the poverty rate, this study provides local empirical evidence for North Buton Regency and assesses whether unemployment alone is sufficient to explain changes in the regional poverty rate.

The study has both theoretical and practical relevance. Theoretically, it examines the commonly expected relationship between labor-market exclusion and poverty in a regional economy, contributing to the discussion of whether unemployment consistently predicts poverty across different local contexts. Practically, the results can assist local policymakers in determining whether poverty-reduction policies should focus narrowly on unemployment or adopt a broader strategy that also addresses education, income, investment, social protection, and regional economic development. The novelty of the study lies in its specific examination of North Buton Regency over the 2015–2024 period using available official regional statistics. By providing evidence from a region that has received less attention in the cited studies, this research complements existing regional findings and contributes to a more context-sensitive understanding of the relationship between unemployment and poverty.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual and Theoretical Foundations

Unemployment refers to a condition in which members of the working-age labor force do not have employment and are seeking work or are otherwise classified as unemployed under labor-force statistics. From a macroeconomic perspective, unemployment represents underutilized labor resources and can reduce household income and aggregate economic

DOI: 10.65246

activity. The thesis also relates unemployment to the inability of households to satisfy basic needs and notes the importance of employment as a source of income and welfare.

Poverty refers to a condition in which individuals or households are unable to meet basic living needs. In the regional context examined here, the poverty variable is measured as the percentage of the population living below the poverty threshold reported by the Central Statistics Agency. Poverty can be influenced by employment, education, income, economic growth, investment, and access to public services. Consequently, unemployment is theoretically relevant but cannot automatically be treated as the sole determinant of poverty.

The expected relationship is generally positive: when unemployment increases, more households may experience reduced labor income, potentially increasing poverty. Keynesian reasoning also emphasizes the relationship between weak economic activity, employment, income, and household purchasing power. Nevertheless, the observed statistical relationship can be weaker or even negative when households substitute into informal employment, receive social assistance, maintain other income sources, or when changes in employment occur in sectors that do not immediately alter poverty status.

2.2 Review of Empirical Studies

Several empirical studies cited in the thesis provide a basis for comparison. Hilmi et al. (2022), studying Tolitoli Regency, found that unemployment had a negative and insignificant effect on poverty. Hastin and Siswadhi (2021) similarly found that unemployment did not significantly affect poverty in Jambi Province after accounting for other economic variables. Dandi and Ompusunggu (2024) examined population, human development, and unemployment in relation to poverty in Palangka Raya, while Hidayah (2024) investigated education, housing, unemployment, and poverty across districts and cities in East Java. Prasetya and Sumanto (2022) and Padli (2021) reported significant relationships in other contexts, illustrating that empirical conclusions are not uniform.

The mixed evidence is important for interpreting the North Buton case. A regional economy with substantial informal activities may not transmit changes in the measured unemployment rate directly into poverty. Likewise, poverty may respond to educational attainment, household income, economic growth, investment, inflation, social assistance, and infrastructure. Therefore, an insignificant coefficient does not mean that employment is irrelevant to welfare; rather, it indicates that the unemployment rate alone did not statistically explain poverty variation in the study period.

2.3 Identification of the Research Gap

The literature reviewed in the thesis contains evidence from several Indonesian provinces and regencies, but there is limited focused evidence for North Buton Regency using a decade of regional annual statistics. This study addresses that contextual gap by concentrating on one regency and directly testing the unemployment–poverty relationship for 2015–2024. The study also highlights an important empirical issue: a theoretically expected positive relationship should not be assumed without statistical testing in the local context.

2.4 Development of the Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework positions the open unemployment rate as the independent variable (X) and the poverty rate as the dependent variable (Y). The framework assumes that changes in unemployment may affect household income and welfare and therefore may be reflected in poverty. The empirical test determines whether this proposed relationship is statistically significant.

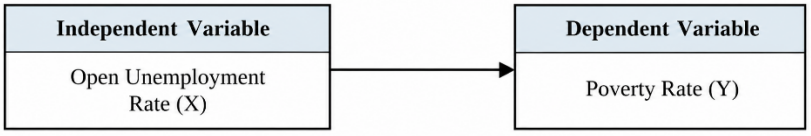


Fig. 1. Conceptual Framework of the Study

2.5 Hypotheses or Research Propositions

Based on the theoretical argument and the research question, the original thesis proposed the following hypothesis: H1: The unemployment rate has a positive and significant effect on the poverty rate in North Buton Regency. The empirical test

DOI: 10.65246

evaluates this hypothesis at a 5% significance level.

3. Research Methods

3.1. Research Design

This study employed a quantitative research design to measure the relationship between the open unemployment rate and the poverty rate using numerical secondary data. A quantitative approach was appropriate because the research involved statistical analysis to examine the relationship between variables and test the proposed hypothesis (Sugiyono, 2012). The study was conducted as an explanatory regional time-series analysis covering the 2015–2024 period

3.2. Research Context and Setting

The research setting was North Buton Regency, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia. Data were obtained through the Central Statistics Agency (Badan Pusat Statistik/BPS, 2025) of North Buton Regency. The thesis states that data collection was conducted during January–February 2026. North Buton was selected because the region continues to face challenges involving unemployment, poverty, and human-resource development while also possessing potential in agriculture, fisheries, and tourism.

3.3. Population and Sample / Research Participants

The unit of analysis was the annual regional observation of unemployment and poverty for 2015–2024. Because the unemployment observation for 2016 was unavailable in the thesis dataset, the regression analysis used the available paired observations. No human participants were involved. The study therefore relied on documentary population data rather than survey sampling.

3.4. Data Sources and Data Collection

This study used secondary quantitative data obtained from BPS North Buton Regency. Data collection was conducted through documentation, which involved gathering, recording, and reviewing official statistical information relevant to the research objectives. The data collection procedure followed a systematic approach to obtaining and organizing information required for quantitative analysis (Sugiyono, 2014). The unemployment measure was the open unemployment rate, while the poverty measure was the percentage of the population classified as poor. The thesis identifies BPS North Buton Regency (2025) as the source of the 2015–2024 data series.

3.5. Measurement of Variables and Research Instruments

The independent variable (X) was the open unemployment rate, expressed as a percentage. The dependent variable (Y) was the poverty rate, also expressed as a percentage. The research instrument was documentary data rather than a questionnaire or interview instrument. The operational data series were taken from BPS regional statistics.

Table 1. Annual Unemployment and Poverty Rates in North Buton Regency

Year	Open Unemployment (%)	Poverty (%)
2015	1.02	15.86
2016	—	15.78
2017	1.48	15.58
2018	1.76	14.93
2019	2.70	14.38
2020	4.11	14.10
2021	3.00	14.89
2022	2.10	14.26
2023	1.93	14.06
2024	2.13	14.09

Source: BPS North Buton Regency (2025), as reported in the thesis

3.6. Data Analysis Techniques

Simple linear regression was used to estimate the relationship between unemployment and poverty. The regression model was specified as: $Y = \alpha + \beta X + \varepsilon$, where Y is the poverty rate, X is the unemployment rate, α is the constant, β is the regression coefficient, and ε is the error term. Statistical processing was conducted using SPSS

DOI: 10.65246

version 26. The analysis included regression estimation, a partial t-test, coefficient of determination (R^2), and classical assumption checks involving normality, heteroskedasticity, and autocorrelation.

3.7. Validity, Reliability, and Trustworthiness

Because the study used official secondary statistics, instrument reliability testing such as Cronbach's alpha was not applicable. Data quality was assessed through the regression assumptions reported in the thesis. The residuals were judged to be normally distributed from the P–P plot, and the Glejser test indicated no heteroskedasticity because the unemployment significance value was 0.255. The thesis also reported a Durbin–Watson value of 0.612, indicating positive autocorrelation.

3.8. Ethical Considerations

The research did not involve human participants, interviews, or personally identifiable information. It relied on published regional statistical data. Academic integrity was maintained by identifying the statistical source and retaining the analytical results reported in the thesis.

3.9. Research Procedure

The research procedure consisted of identifying the regional problem, formulating the research question and hypothesis, collecting unemployment and poverty statistics from BPS, organizing the annual observations, processing the data using SPSS version 26, conducting regression and assumption tests, interpreting the statistical results, and drawing conclusions and policy implications.

3.10. Methodological Limitations

The study is limited by its use of one explanatory variable and a small annual time-series dataset. The unemployment observation for 2016 was unavailable, reducing the paired observations used in regression. In addition, the Durbin–Watson result reported in the thesis indicates positive autocorrelation, which should be considered when interpreting the regression estimates. The model therefore should not be interpreted as a complete causal explanation of poverty dynamics.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Research Results

4.1.1. Sample Description and Descriptive Statistics

This study examined the relationship between the open unemployment rate and the poverty rate in North Buton Regency during the 2015–2024 period. The units of analysis consisted of annual secondary data on open unemployment and poverty obtained from the Central Statistics Agency (Badan Pusat Statistik/BPS, 2025) of North Buton Regency. The observation period covered ten years, providing a time-series description of changes in both variables.

The descriptive data indicate that the open unemployment rate fluctuated throughout the observation period. It increased from 1.02% in 2015 to 1.48% in 2017 and 2.70% in 2019, before reaching 4.11% in 2020. Subsequently, the rate declined to 1.93% in 2023 and increased slightly to 2.13% in 2024.

The poverty rate exhibited a different pattern. It declined from 15.86% in 2015 to 14.10% in 2020, increased to 14.89% in 2021, and subsequently decreased to 14.06% in 2023 before reaching 14.09% in 2024. These descriptive trends demonstrate that unemployment and poverty did not move uniformly throughout the study period.

4.1.2. Data Quality and Preliminary Analysis

The preliminary assessment considered the reported regression statistics and the characteristics of the annual time-series data. The Durbin–Watson statistic was 0.612, which the thesis interpreted as indicating positive autocorrelation. This result suggests that the possibility of serial dependence should be considered when interpreting the regression estimates. Because the observations cover a relatively short annual period, the statistical results should be interpreted cautiously. The available results do not report additional diagnostic statistics for normality or other regression assumptions. Therefore, no conclusions regarding those unreported diagnostic tests are presented.

4.1.3. Main Analytical Results

The descriptive series show that open unemployment in North Buton Regency was 1.02% in 2015, increased to 1.48% in 2017 and 2.70% in 2019, and reached 4.11% in 2020. It subsequently declined to 1.93% in 2023 before increasing slightly to 2.13% in 2024. Poverty moved differently: it declined from 15.86% in 2015 to 14.10% in 2020,

DOI: 10.65246

increased to 14.89% in 2021, and then declined to 14.06% in 2023 before reaching 14.09% in 2024.

Table 2. Simple Linear Regression Results

Statistic	Coefficient / Value
Constant	15.598
Unemployment coefficient	-0.436
Standard error	0.223
Standardized beta	-0.567
t-statistic	-1.949
Significance (p-value)	0.087
R	0.567
R^2	0.322
Adjusted R^2	0.237
Durbin–Watson	0.612

Source: SPSS version 26 results reported in the thesis

The estimated regression equation was Y = 15.598 − 0.436X. The coefficient of -0.436 indicates a negative estimated association between unemployment and poverty. However, the partial t-test produced a significance value of 0.087, which is greater than 0.05, and a t-statistic of -1.949. Therefore, the unemployment coefficient was not statistically significant at the 5% level.

The coefficient of determination was 0.322. Thus, the unemployment variable accounted for 32.2% of the variation in poverty within the estimated model, while 67.8% was associated with factors outside the model. The thesis identifies education, economic growth, household income, investment, and other socioeconomic conditions as possible factors beyond the single-variable model.

4.1.4. Hypothesis Testing Results / Key Findings

The hypothesis test assessed whether the open unemployment rate had a statistically significant effect on the poverty rate in North Buton Regency. The estimated t-statistic was -1.949, with a significance value of 0.087. Since the p-value exceeded the 0.05 significance threshold, the null hypothesis could not be rejected.

Consequently, the hypothesis that the open unemployment rate had a positive and statistically significant effect on poverty was not supported. The estimated coefficient was negative rather than positive, and the relationship did not reach statistical significance. These findings indicate that the study did not establish a statistically significant effect of the open unemployment rate on poverty during the 2015–2024 period.

4.2. Research Discussion

4.2.1. Interpretation of Key Findings

The central finding is that unemployment did not have a statistically significant effect on poverty in North Buton Regency during the study period. Although the estimated coefficient was negative, the p-value of 0.087 indicates that the evidence was insufficient to reject the null hypothesis at the 5% level. Accordingly, the original hypothesis that unemployment would have a positive and significant effect on poverty was not supported. The result should be interpreted as evidence about the statistical relationship in this dataset, not as proof that employment conditions are irrelevant to household welfare.

The negative coefficient may reflect the complexity of the regional labor market. A rise in measured unemployment can coexist with continued income generation through informal activities, household enterprises, agriculture, fisheries, social assistance, or other livelihood strategies. In such circumstances, changes in the open unemployment rate may not translate proportionally into changes in the official poverty rate. The result is therefore consistent with the broader argument that poverty is multidimensional and influenced by multiple socioeconomic conditions.

The finding is consistent with Hilmi et al. (2022), who reported a negative and insignificant effect of unemployment on poverty in Tolitoli Regency, and with Hastin and Siswadhi (2021), who found no significant effect of unemployment on poverty in Jambi Province. At the same time, it differs from studies reporting significant unemployment effects, such as Prasetya and

DOI: 10.65246

Sumanto (2022) and Padli (2021). These differences reinforce the importance of regional context, model specification, and the inclusion of other determinants of poverty.

From a theoretical perspective, the finding qualifies a simple labor-income explanation of poverty. Unemployment may reduce potential income, but the poverty outcome depends on how households respond and on the availability of alternative economic resources. The result therefore supports a multidimensional understanding of poverty rather than a single-factor explanation. The R^2 of 0.322 further indicates that most variation in the dependent variable remained outside the one-predictor model.

For policy, the evidence suggests that North Buton's poverty reduction strategy should not rely exclusively on reducing the measured unemployment rate. Employment creation remains relevant, but it should be integrated with education and vocational training, productivity improvement, income-generating opportunities, support for agriculture, fisheries, micro and small enterprises, tourism, social protection, and equitable infrastructure. These directions are consistent with the recommendations in the thesis, which call for broader employment opportunities and human-resource development.

The study also contributes to the research gap by providing focused evidence from North Buton Regency. Its main contribution is not the claim that unemployment never affects poverty, but the empirical observation that unemployment alone did not significantly explain poverty changes in this particular regional dataset. The result highlights the need for future models that incorporate multiple socioeconomic variables and stronger time-series methods.

A further limitation concerns the reported Durbin–Watson statistic of 0.612, which the thesis interpreted as evidence of positive autocorrelation. Because the observations are annual time-series data, serial dependence can affect conventional regression inference. This limitation means the results should be treated as a localized empirical association rather than a definitive causal estimate.

4.2.2. Comparison with Previous Studies

The findings are consistent with Hilmi et al. (2022), who reported a negative and statistically insignificant effect of unemployment on poverty in Tolitoli Regency. Similarly, Hastin and Siswadhi (2021) found that unemployment did not have a significant effect on poverty in Jambi Province. These similarities suggest that the relationship between unemployment and poverty may vary across regional settings and may not always be statistically significant when examined using a particular empirical model.

However, the findings differ from those of Prasetya and Sumanto (2022) and Padli (2021), whose studies reported significant effects of unemployment on poverty. These differences indicate that the relationship may depend on regional economic conditions, the characteristics of the observation period, the variables included in the model, and the analytical methods employed.

The comparison demonstrates that unemployment should not automatically be treated as a sufficient predictor of poverty in every regional context. Differences in empirical findings underscore the importance of examining local socioeconomic characteristics and employing appropriate analytical specifications when investigating poverty determinants. Nevertheless, because the present study uses a single-predictor model and a limited annual observation period, the results do not establish why its findings differ from those of other studies.

4.2.3. Theoretical Contributions

The findings contribute to the understanding of poverty by qualifying a simple explanation that directly associates unemployment with household income deprivation. Although unemployment can reduce an individual's opportunity to earn income, its relationship with poverty may depend on household income-sharing arrangements, alternative livelihood opportunities, and other socioeconomic conditions.

The absence of a statistically significant relationship in North Buton Regency suggests that the open unemployment rate alone may not adequately explain changes in the regional poverty rate. This finding supports the analytical value of a multidimensional perspective on poverty, in which labor-market conditions are considered alongside other economic and social determinants.

The study does not establish that unemployment is theoretically irrelevant to poverty. Rather, it demonstrates that the proposed relationship was not statistically supported in the

DOI: 10.65246

particular regional dataset and model examined. The R^2 value of 0.322 further illustrates the limited explanatory coverage of a model containing only one independent variable. Accordingly, the study provides a contextual qualification of single-factor explanations of poverty and highlights the need for more comprehensive empirical models.

4.2.4. Practical and Policy Implications

The findings suggest that poverty reduction policies in North Buton Regency should not rely exclusively on reducing the measured open unemployment rate. Employment creation remains an important policy objective, but it should be integrated with broader measures addressing the socioeconomic conditions that influence household welfare.

Relevant policy directions include improving access to education and vocational training, strengthening labor productivity, expanding income-generating opportunities, supporting agriculture and fisheries, facilitating the development of micro and small enterprises, promoting tourism where locally appropriate, strengthening social protection, and improving equitable access to infrastructure. These measures can help expand livelihood opportunities and address potential constraints that may not be captured by the open unemployment rate alone.

The reported findings do not establish the individual effects of these policy measures, because they were not separately examined in the regression model. Nevertheless, the results provide a rationale for policymakers to consider a broader range of poverty determinants and to complement employment policies with initiatives that strengthen household economic resilience and access to productive opportunities.

For regional planning, poverty indicators should therefore be assessed alongside labor-market conditions and other relevant socioeconomic indicators. This approach can support more comprehensive policy formulation and reduce the risk of relying on a single indicator to understand a complex development problem.

4.2.5. Integration with the Research Gap

This study addresses the need for region-specific empirical evidence concerning the relationship between unemployment and poverty by examining annual data from North Buton Regency during 2015–2024. Although previous studies have reported both significant and insignificant relationships, the findings from other regions cannot automatically be generalized to North Buton because local economic and social conditions may differ.

The study contributes to this research gap by documenting that the open unemployment rate was negatively associated with the poverty rate in the estimated model, but the relationship was not statistically significant at the 5% level. This evidence provides a localized empirical reference for understanding the relationship between the two indicators and complements findings from other regional studies.

The contribution lies in establishing the statistical outcome for the specific region and period examined, rather than claiming that unemployment never affects poverty. The results also identify a direction for further research: examining multiple socioeconomic determinants simultaneously and assessing whether the observed relationship changes when the model accounts for additional relevant variables and the characteristics of time-series data.

4.2.6. Acknowledgement of Study Limitations

Several limitations should be considered when interpreting the findings. First, the analysis covers annual observations from 2015 to 2024, representing a relatively short time series. Consequently, the results may not capture longer-term changes in the relationship between unemployment and poverty or fully represent structural changes in the regional economy. Second, the regression model includes only the open unemployment rate as an independent variable. Although the R^2 value was 0.322, the remaining 67.8% of variation was outside the explanatory coverage of this model. Potential factors identified in the thesis, including education, economic growth, household income, investment, and other socioeconomic conditions, were not separately incorporated into the estimated regression. Their individual contributions therefore cannot be established from the present results. Third, the reported Durbin–Watson statistic of 0.612 was interpreted in the thesis as indicating positive autocorrelation. Because serial dependence may affect conventional regression inference, the reported significance level should be interpreted cautiously. Further analysis using appropriate time-series diagnostic procedures and, where warranted,

DOI: 10.65246

estimation methods that account for serial correlation would help assess the robustness of the findings.

Finally, the observational design and single-predictor specification limit causal interpretation. The results establish neither a definitive causal effect nor the absence of a relationship under alternative model specifications. Future research could extend the observation period, incorporate additional theoretically relevant variables, and employ more comprehensive time-series methods to develop a stronger understanding of the factors associated with poverty in North Buton Regency.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Summary of Key Findings

This study examined the effect of the unemployment rate on poverty in North Buton Regency over 2015–2024. The descriptive data show substantial fluctuations in unemployment and a generally declining but still fluctuating poverty rate. The simple linear regression produced a negative unemployment coefficient of -0.436, a t-statistic of -1.949, and a significance value of 0.087. Because the significance value exceeded 0.05, unemployment did not have a statistically significant effect on poverty in the study period. The R^2 of 0.322 indicates that unemployment explained 32.2% of poverty variation in the estimated model, leaving 67.8% associated with other factors.

5.2 Theoretical Contributions

The study demonstrates that the unemployment–poverty relationship cannot be assumed to be uniform across regional contexts. The insignificant result supports an interpretation of poverty as a multidimensional socioeconomic outcome in which unemployment is only one possible determinant. The evidence also emphasizes the importance of contextual empirical testing rather than relying solely on the theoretically expected direction of a relationship.

5.3 Practical and Policy Implications

North Buton policymakers should pursue an integrated poverty-reduction strategy. Expanding employment opportunities should be accompanied by vocational education, skills development, support for productive sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, micro and small enterprises and tourism, and measures that improve household income and access to basic services. Because unemployment alone explained only part of the observed poverty variation, poverty policy should also address other socioeconomic constraints.

5.4 Limitations of the Study

The analysis was based on a small annual dataset, used only one independent variable, and had a missing unemployment observation for 2016. The reported autocorrelation statistic also indicates a potential violation of the independence assumption. These limitations restrict the generalizability and causal interpretation of the findings.

5.5 Directions for Future Research

Future research should extend the model by including economic growth, education, investment, inflation, income, social protection, and other relevant determinants of poverty. A longer time span and appropriate time-series estimation procedures could also improve statistical inference. Comparative studies across regencies in Southeast Sulawesi would help determine whether the North Buton pattern is region-specific or reflects a broader regional relationship.

6. References

Badan Pusat Statistik. (2025). Data kemiskinan dan pengangguran di Kabupaten Buton Utara.

Dandi, N., & Ompusunggu, D. P. (2024). Pengaruh indeks pembangunan manusia dan tingkat pengangguran terhadap kemiskinan di Kota Palangka Raya. Nian Tana Sikka: Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa, 2(1), 117–125.

Estrada, A. A. E., & Wenagama, I. W. (2020). Dampak pertumbuhan ekonomi, indeks pembangunan manusia, dan tingkat pengangguran terhadap tingkat kemiskinan. E-Jurnal Ekonomi Pembangunan Universitas Udayana, 9(2), 233–261.

Erliza Milenia, & Zaini, D. (2021). Dampak upah minimum, tingkat pengangguran, pendidikan, dan belanja pemerintah terhadap kemiskinan di Indonesia. Ecosains: Jurnal Ilmiah Ekonomi dan Pembangunan, 10(2), 106–114.

Febrianti, L., Agussalim, Hamrullah, & Atmansyah, L. (2022). Studi kasus Kabupaten Gowa: Analisis faktor-faktor yang memengaruhi tingkat kemiskinan di daerah. Development Policy and Management Review, 2(1), 22–45.

Hastin, M., & Siswadhi, F. (2021). Dampak pertumbuhan ekonomi, investasi, inflasi, dan

DOI: 10.65246

pengangguran terhadap tingkat kemiskinan di Provinsi Jambi. Jurnal Ekonomi Sakti, 10(1), 1–22.

Hidayah, N. R. (2024). Analisis dampak pendidikan, perumahan dan pengangguran terhadap tingkat kemiskinan di kabupaten/kota se-Jawa Timur. Jurnal Ilmiah Manajemen, Ekonomi, & Akuntansi (MEA), 8(1), 2095–2104.

Hilmi, H., Nasir, M., Ramlawati, R., & Peuru, C. D. (2022). Dampak jumlah penduduk serta pengangguran terhadap tingkat kemiskinan di Kabupaten Tolitoli. Growth: Journal of Economic Development Studies, 4(1), 19–26.

Karimah, F., Harsono, I., Astuti, E., Sutanto, H., & Suprapti, I. A. P. (2024). Dampak PDRB per kapita, IPM serta tingkat pengangguran pada tingkat kemiskinan di Nusa Tenggara Barat (2020–2022). LANCAH: Jurnal Inovasi dan Tren, 2(1), 99–105.

Khairunnisa, I., Yusnita, F., Suryani, I. W., & Panorama, M. (2023). Jumlah penduduk serta indeks pembangunan manusia, pengangguran, dan kemiskinan di Sumatera Selatan. Jurnal Ilmiah Manajemen, Ekonomi, & Akuntansi (MEA), 7(3), 1735–1750.

Padli. (2021). Dampak PDRB, pendidikan, dan pengangguran terhadap kemiskinan di kabupaten/kota Nusa Tenggara Barat tahun 2009–2013.

Panggabean, K. Y., & Ekawaty, M. (2024). Dampak pertumbuhan ekonomi, pendidikan, dan pengangguran terhadap kemiskinan. Journal of Economic Development and Social Studies, 3(3), 790–802.

Prasetya, G. M., & Sumanto, A. (2022). Dampak tingkat pengangguran dan tenaga kerja terhadap kemiskinan melalui pertumbuhan ekonomi. KINERJA: Jurnal Ekonomi dan Manajemen, 19(2), 467–477.

Sugiyono. (2012). Penelitian dengan pendekatan kuantitatif, kualitatif, dan R&D. Alfabeta.

Sugiyono. (2014). Metodologi penelitian kuantitatif, kualitatif, dan R&D. Alfabeta.

Sukirno, S. (2017). Teori pengantar ekonomi makro (Edisi ketiga).