



# The Effect of the Tourism Sector on Labor Absorption in Sumbawa Regency

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**Abstract.** Tourism plays an important role in the Indonesian economy both as a source of foreign exchange earnings and as a creator of employment and business opportunities. This study aims to determine how much influence the number of hotels, the number of restaurants, the number of tourist objects, and the number of tourists have on labor absorption in Sumbawa Regency. The method used in this research is quantitative research method. The data used is secondary data taken from the Nusa Tenggara Barat Provincial Statistics Agency, the Sumbawa Regency Statistics Agency, and the Sumbawa Regency Youth, Culture and Tourism Office. The data analysis method uses multiple linear regression through the evIEWS10 program. The data in this study are time series data (data from 2013-2023). The results of this study indicate that the variables of Number of Hotels, Number of Restaurants, Number of Tourist Objects, and Number of Tourists have a positive and significant effect on Labor Absorption in the tourism industry in Sumbawa Regency. From the test value of the coefficient of determination (R<sup>2</sup>) that the variable effect of the number of hotels, the number of restaurants, the number of tourist objects and the number of tourists on the labor absorption variable produces a value of 0.94051 or 94%. While the remaining 6% is explained by other variables that do not exist or outside the study.

**Keywords:** Labor Absorption, Hotels, Restaurants, Tourist Objects, Tourists.

## Article Info:

Accepted: 18/03/2024    Approve: 01/05/2024    Published: 04/05/2024    <https://doi.org/10.59535/ets.v2i1.248>

## 1. Introduction

A country's economic growth is influenced by increased input of labor, capital and technology [1]. Therefore, economic growth is often a top priority in the development process, because it is expected to trigger the absorption of production inputs, one of which is labor [2], [3]. Labor is a key factor in the production process, because humans are the drivers of all production factors [4]. In this context, labor refers to the working age population (15 - 64 years) or the total population who have the potential to produce goods and services if there is demand for their labor, and if they are willing to participate in these activities, according to the definition of Widiyanti [5].

The development of a region is strongly influenced by the sectors that develop in it, and the tourism sector is one of the sectors that has the potential for great influence. The tourism sector is considered not only as an economic driver, but also as a means to expand employment opportunities and increase labor absorption [6]. The tourism industry is one of the important instruments in increasing employment because it is labor-intensive and experiencing rapid development [7]. Tourism plays an important role in the Indonesian economy both as a source of foreign exchange earnings and as a creator of employment and business opportunities. To improve people's welfare, tourism development needs to be continued and improved through the utilization of national tourism resources [8]. Indonesia has great potential in the tourism industry, and one of the prominent regions is Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB), which is known for its rich natural and human resources [5].

The growth of the tourism industry in NTB is proven to increase employment, as seen in the data on the development of the number of workers in the tourism industry in NTB Province from 2017 to 2021. However, fluctuations in the number of workers each year indicate challenges that need to be addressed to ensure sustainable growth. Sumbawa Regency is the focus of the research because it has great potential as a tourist destination and the second largest number of workers in the tourism sector in NTB. Optimal tourism development efforts are needed in Sumbawa Regency to ensure that this potential can develop and be recognized by the wider community.

Variables such as the number of hotels, restaurants, tourist attractions, and the number of tourists are considered as factors that influence employment in the tourism sector. Previous studies show that the growth of these variables has a positive effect on employment in the tourism sector [9], [10]. By considering

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these aspects, this study aims to investigate the influence of the tourism sector on labor absorption in Kabupaten Sumbawa in more detail.

## 2. Method

This research is a quantitative research with a descriptive approach that aims to find facts with the interpretation of data obtained during the research. This research was conducted in Sumbawa Regency, Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB) Province, Indonesia, using data from 2013 to 2023. The data collection methods used were literature study and preliminary survey through the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) website and related agencies. The data collection technique used was a literature study using secondary data. The research variables consisted of dependent variables, namely employment, and independent variables, namely the number of hotels, the number of restaurants, the number of attractions, and the number of tourists. Data analysis was conducted using multiple linear regression to determine the effect of independent variables on the dependent variable. Statistical tests were conducted partially (t-test) and simultaneously (F-test) to test the significance of the influence of the independent variables. In addition, the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) analysis was conducted to measure how well the model was able to explain the variation in the dependent variable. Classical assumption tests were also conducted to ensure the validity of the regression model, including tests for normality, autocorrelation, multicollinearity, and heteroscedasticity.

## 3. Result and Discussion

### 3.1 Description of Research Variables

#### 3.1.1 Labor Absorption

Based on the growth in the number of industrial sector employment in Kabupaten Sumbawa from 2013 to 2023. The data regarding the amount of employment in the tourism industry sector in Kabupaten Sumbawa is as follows:

**Table 1 Number and Percentage Growth of Labor in the Tourism Industry in Sumbawa Regency 2013 - 2023**

Year	Total	Growth (%)
2013	2850	-
2014	3012	6
2015	3050	1
2016	3104	2
2017	3365	8
2018	3443	2
2019	3510	2
2020	3109	-11
2021	3007	-3
2022	3356	12
2023	3577	7

Table 2 shows that the number of workers in the tourism industry in Nusa Tenggara Barat Province has increased. The highest labor absorption in 2022, this is due to the Motorcross Grand Prix event or commonly called MXGP which is held internationally in Samota, Sumbawa Regency which is made with the aim of increasing the level of regional economic income and developing tourism areas, thus requiring the absorption of more labor.

#### 3.1.2 Number of Hotels

In this study, the data used to explain the infrastructure of the number of hotels is secondary and the accumulation of the number of star hotels and non-star hotels. Kabupaten Sumbawa, which has now begun to be recognized for its tourism potential, has led to intensive hotel development. Below is presented data on the number of star and non-star hotels in Kabupaten Sumbawa as follows:

**Table 2 Number of Hotels in Sumbawa Regency 2013 - 2023**

Year	Number of Star hotels	Number of non-star hotels	Total	Growth (%)
2013	4	31	35	-
2014	4	35	39	11

2015	4	38	42	8
2016	5	42	47	12
2017	5	45	50	6
2018	5	48	53	6
2019	5	48	53	0
2020	5	44	49	-8
2021	6	43	49	0
2022	6	49	55	12
2023	6	51	57	4

Table 2 above reflects that in the hospitality industry from 2013 to 2023, shows an increase in the number of star and non-star hotels, which includes home stays, guesthouses, and other accommodation. In 2013, there were 4 star hotels and 31 non-star hotels. Over the next few years, both star and non-star hotels experienced gradual growth. Growth in the number of star hotels occurred slowly, showing the addition of one hotel each year from 2013 to 2016. Thereafter, from 2017 to 2023, the number of star hotels remained consistent at six units.

On the other hand, the number of non-star hotels has also increased, albeit at a slightly faster rate. From 2013 to 2018, there was a steady increase. However, in 2019 and 2020, there was a decline caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, the number of non-star hotels managed to recover and increased again in 2022 and 2023. Some of the well-known hotels in Sumbawa Regency are Grand Samota Hotel, Kaloka Airport Hotel, and several homestays on Moyo Island.

### 3.1.3 Number of Restaurants

In this study, restaurant data is used based on the development of the number of restaurants in Sumbawa Regency in 2013-2023. The data regarding the number of restaurants in Sumbawa Regency are as follows:

**Table 3 Number of Restaurants in Sumbawa Regency 2013 - 2023**

Year	Number of Restaurants	Growth (%)
2013	110	-
2014	110	0
2015	125	1
2016	144	15
2017	160	11
2018	174	9
2019	190	9
2020	82	-57
2021	110	34
2022	202	84
2023	202	0

Table 3 above reflects that the growth in the number of restaurants fluctuates every year. In 2013 and 2014, the number of restaurants remained consistent at 110. However, in 2015, there was a significant increase to 125, signaling growth in the restaurant industry. The growth continued, reaching its peak in 2019 with 190 restaurants. However, in 2020, there was a drastic drop to 82. This decline was most likely influenced by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which restricted restaurant operations and changes in consumer behavior. Despite the decline in 2020, the restaurant industry recovered in 2021, reaching a total of 110 restaurants again. In 2022 and 2023, the number of restaurants suddenly increased significantly to 202, indicating a notable surge in the industry.

### 3.1.4 Number of Tourism Objects

In this study, tourism objects are used based on the development of the number of tourism objects in Kabupaten Sumbawa from 2013-2023. The data on the number of tourist attractions in Kabupaten Sumbawa are as follows:

**Table 4 Number of Tourism Objects in Sumbawa Regency 2013 - 2023**

Year	Nature tourism	Cultural tourism	Artificial tourism	Total	Growth (%)
2013	88	29	3	120	-
2014	88	29	3	120	0
2015	88	29	3	120	0
2016	89	30	4	123	3
2017	89	30	4	123	0
2018	89	30	4	123	0
2019	90	30	5	125	2
2020	87	30	5	122	-2
2021	87	30	5	122	0
2022	92	30	5	127	4
2023	92	30	5	127	0

Table 4 above shows that the number of tourism objects from 2013 to 2019 in Kabupaten Sumbawa fluctuated. This condition reflects the unstable tourism industry during that period. However, in the following years, namely 2020 and 2021, the number of tourist attractions decreased to 122 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which limited tourist visits and activities. In 2022 and 2023, an increase was seen again to 127 attractions. This increase can be interpreted as the recovery and growth of the tourism sector after a period of uncertainty related to the pandemic, or the existence of policies and investments that support the development of tourist destinations.

### 3.1.5 Number of Travelers

In this study, data on the number of tourist visits used is based on the number of foreign tourists and domestic tourists visiting Sumbawa Regency in 2013-2023. The data on the number of tourists in Sumbawa Regency are as follows:

**Table 5 Number of Tourists in Sumbawa Regency 2013 - 2023**

Year	Foreign Tourists (people)	Domestic Tourists (people)	Total (people)	Growth (%)
2013	10,567	8,259	18,826	-
2014	10,865	6,587	17,452	-7
2015	10,844	7,272	18,116	4
2016	11,089	10,467	21,556	19
2017	14,334	12,623	26,957	25
2018	14,122	12,106	26,228	-3
2019	18,741	12,057	30,798	17
2020	11,076	11,497	22,573	-27
2021	9,765	8,157	17,922	-21
2022	19,345	14,392	33,737	88
2023	20,598	14,152	34,750	3

Table 5 above reflects the dynamics of the number of tourists from 2013 to 2023 experiencing fluctuations. The number of tourist visits was quite high in 2013 with 18,826 tourists. However, in the next few years, there was a significant decline, reaching its lowest point in 2014 with 17,452 tourists. A change in trend occurred in 2016, where a very sharp spike was seen, reaching 21,556 tourists. This increase continued into 2017, reaching 26,957 tourists, indicating a very positive growth in the tourism industry. Although there was a decline in 2018, with 26,228 tourists, the number remained high. In 2019, the number of tourists reached a new high of 30,798. However, the trend changed again in 2020, with a sharp decline to 22,573, which was most likely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and globally implemented travel restrictions. In 2021, a further significant decline was seen, reaching 17,922 travelers, which could be a continued impact of the pandemic. However, the following years, 2022 and 2023, saw a remarkable increase, reaching a new peak in 2023 with 34,750 tourists due to the Motorcross Grand Prix (MXGP) event in Sumbawa Regency.

### 3.2 Classical Assumption Test Results

The basis for decision making according to Singgih Santoso can be done based on the probability of Asymptotic Significance. The results of the normality test are presented in Figure 1.

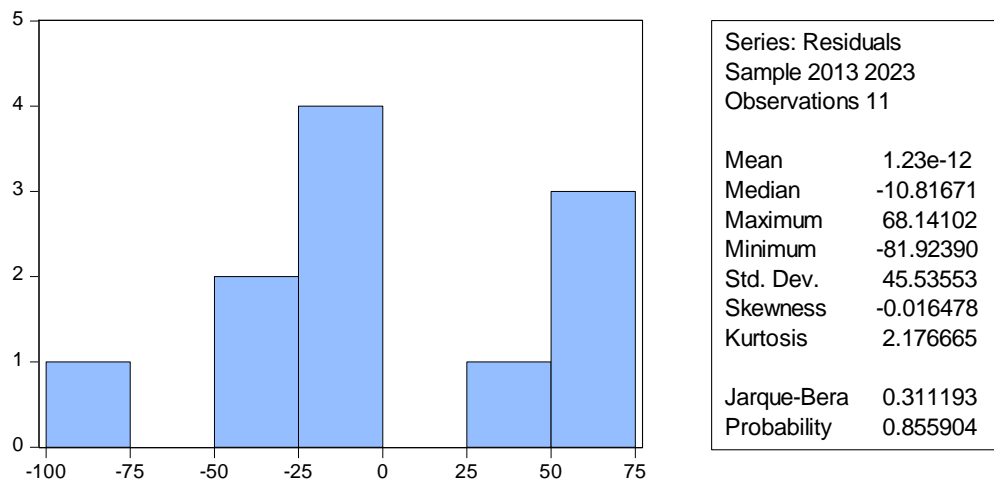


Figure 1 Bar Graph in Normality Test

Figure 1 above can be seen the probability value of 0.855904, where this probability value is greater than the real level value ( $\alpha$ ) or  $0.855904 > 0.05$ . Thus the distribution and regression model are normal. Based on the results of calculations using the SPSS program, it can be seen that the Durbin Watson probability value is 1.9054, where this probability value is greater than the real level value ( $\alpha$ ) of 0.05, which means  $H_0$  is accepted, in other words, in this regression model there is no autocorrelation. Value of Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) is smaller than 10, meaning that in this regression model the relationship between the independent variables does not occur multicollinearity. The results of the heteroscedasticity test in appendix 5 with a probability value of  $0.1534 > 0.05$ , meaning that in this model there is no heteroscedasticity.

### 3.3 Multiple Linear Regression Analysis Results

Multiple linear regression is used to determine the effect of the number of hotels, the number of restaurants, the number of attractions, and the number of tourists on employment in the tourism sector. Based on the results of calculations using the SPSS program, the constant value and regression coefficient of each independent variable were obtained, as follows:

Table 6 Constant Value, Regression Coefficient and Coefficient of Determination of Independent Variables

No	Description	Coefficient	t count	Significance	R Square
1	Constant	130.6832	-	-	
2	Number of Hotels (X1)	26.49887	4.40591	0.0045	
3	Number of Restaurants (X2)	2.463998	2.52112	0.0452	0.940508
4	Number of Tourism Objects (X3)	100.1004	3.52352	0.0125	
5	Number of Tourists (X4)	0.033411	3.21187	0.0183	

Description: F count is 40.52234 with a probabilistic value of 0.000177.

Based on the table above, the multiple linear regression estimation model is as follows:

$$\hat{Y} = 130,683 + 26,499X_1 + 2,464X_2 + 100,004X_3 + 0,0341X_4 \quad (1)$$

The regression equation can be explained as follows:

- The constant value is 130.683 or 131, meaning that if the number of hotels (X1), the number of restaurants (X2), the number of attractions (X3), the number of tourists (X4) is 0, then the amount of employment (Y) in the tourism sector is 130.683 people or 131 people.
- The regression coefficient value of the variable number of hotels (X1) is 26.499 or 26, this value shows a positive influence (+), meaning that if the number of hotels increases by one unit, employment (Y) in the tourism sector will increase by 26 people assuming the number of restaurants (X2), the number of tourist objects (X3), the number of tourists (X4) is constant. The variable number of hotels (X1) has a t value of

4.405906 > 2.3646 and a probability value of 0.0060 < 0.05, so the variable number of hotels has a significant effect on employment.

- c. The regression coefficient value of the variable number of restaurants (X2) is 2.464 or 2, this value shows a positive influence (+), meaning that if the number of restaurants increases by one unit, employment (Y) in the tourism sector will increase by 2 people with the assumption that the number of hotels (X1), the number of tourist objects (X3), the number of tourists (X4) is constant. The variable number of restaurants (X2) has a t value of 2.521116 > 2.3646 and a probability value of 0.0045 < 0.05, so the variable number of restaurants has a significant effect on employment.
- d. The regression coefficient value of the variable number of tourist objects (X3) is 100.1004 or 100, this value shows a positive influence (+), meaning that if the number of tourist objects increases by one unit, the absorption of labor (Y) in the tourism sector will increase by 100 people assuming the number of hotels (X1), the number of restaurants (X2), the number of tourists (X4) is constant. The variable number of tourist objects (X3) has a t value of 3.523519 > 2.3646 and a probability value of 0.0125 < 0.05, so the variable number of tourist objects has a significant effect on employment.
- e. The regression coefficient value of the variable Number of Tourists (X4) is 0.033, this value shows a positive influence (+), meaning that if the number of tourists increases by one person, employment (Y) in the tourism sector will increase by 0 people with the assumption that the number of hotels (X1), the number of restaurants (X2), the number of tourist attractions (X3) is constant. The variable number of tourists (X4) has a t value of 3.211873 > 2.3646 with a probability value of 0.0183 < 0.05, so the variable number of tourists has a significant effect on employment.

The coefficient of determination of 0.94 means that 94% of the variation in the rise and fall of employment in the tourism sector in Sumbawa Regency can be explained by the number of hotels (X1), the number of restaurants (X2), the number of tourist attractions (X3), the number of tourists (X4). While 6% is explained by variables outside the study.

### 3.4 Simultaneous Test Results (F Statistical Test)

Basically, it is used to test statistically that all independent variables (free) simultaneously affect the dependent variable (bound). Based on the results of the F statistical test, the calculated F value is 40.52234 with a probability value of 0.000177 < 0.05, then the variable number of hotels, number of restaurants, number of tourist attractions and number of tourists together (simultaneously) affects employment.

## 3.5 Discussion

### 3.5.1 The Effect of the Number of Hotels on Labor Absorption in Sumbawa Regency

Based on the test results with multiple linear regression, it is found that the number of hotels has a positive and significant effect on employment, this is indicated by the results of the number of hotel variables having a probability value of 0.0045 < 0.05 (the probability of t count is smaller than the real level of 5 percent). Based on the results of multiple linear regression, the coefficient on the variable number of hotels is 26.499, meaning that if the number of hotels increases by one unit, employment will increase by 26.499 people or 26 people. This shows that, if the number of hotels increases, the absorption of labor will also increase in Sumbawa Regency.

In the time span between 2013 and 2018, there has been a significant increase in the number of hotels in Sumbawa Regency. This phenomenon not only reflects the growth of the hospitality industry, but also has a positive impact on employment. The development gained momentum in 2022-2023, when Sumbawa Regency hosted the motocross event or often referred to as MXGP which attracted the attention of many tourists. The MXGP event, which was held in 2022-2023, triggered an increase in tourist visits where these tourists needed lodging. In response to this surge in demand, a number of new hotels were established, increasing accommodation capacity and creating wider employment opportunities. Thus, the growth of the hospitality industry not only has a positive impact on the economic and tourism sectors, but also makes a real contribution to employment in Sumbawa Regency.

This research is supported by Susanto et al. [11], the variable number of hotels has a positive and significant effect on employment, the impact of the increasing number of hotels affects the increase in employment. Supported by research by Zhdanov et al. [12], the variable number of hotels has an effect on

labor absorption. Likewise, research by Chi et al. [13] in his statement that the variable number of hotels has a positive and significant effect on hospitality employment, because the function of the hotel is not only as a place to stay for tourist purposes but also for other purposes such as carrying out business activities, holding seminars, or just to get peace. Hospitality has a role as a driver of regional development, needs to be developed properly and correctly so that it can increase industry revenue, employment and business expansion.

### **3.5.2 The Effect of the Number of Restaurants on Labor Absorption in Sumbawa Regency**

Based on the test results with multiple linear regression, it is found that the number of restaurants has a positive and significant effect on employment, this is indicated by the results of the variable number of restaurants having a probability value of  $0.0452 < 0.05$ . Based on the results of multiple linear regression, the coefficient on the variable number of hotels is 2.464, meaning that if the number of restaurants increases by one unit, employment will increase by 2.464 people or 2 people. This shows that, if the number of hotels increases, the absorption of labor will also increase in Sumbawa Regency.

The increase in the number of restaurants in an area can have a positive impact on employment, in line with tourism theory that links the hospitality and culinary sectors. An increase in the number of restaurants often means growth in the tourism sector and the diversity of culinary experiences offered to tourists and locals. First, restaurants play a key role in creating jobs at various levels. From chefs, waiters, cashiers, cleaners, to restaurant managers, each position creates job opportunities that require a variety of skills. This research is in line with the research of Ampofo [14] researching in Central Java and found that the number of restaurants has a positive and significant effect on employment, supported by research from Yan et al. [15] the variable number of restaurants has a positive effect on employment.

### **3.5.3 The Effect of the Number of Tourism Objects on Labor Absorption in Sumbawa Regency**

Based on the test results with multiple linear regression, the results show that the number of tourist objects has a positive and significant effect on employment, this is indicated by the results of the variable number of tourist objects (X3) which has a probability value of  $0.0125 < 0.05$  (the probability of t count is smaller than the real level of 5 percent). Based on the results of multiple linear regression, the coefficient on the variable number of hotels is 100.1004. This means that if the number of restaurants increases by one unit, the employment will increase by 100.1004 people or 100 people. This shows that, if the number of hotels increases, the absorption of labor will also increase in Sumbawa Regency.

This can happen in cases where there is a permanent increase in demand for goods or services where the company can add new employees to the company so that there is an opportunity for employment. With the increase in the number of tourist objects, additional labor is needed to meet the needs of the number of employees needed in the tourism industry in order to serve the tourist visitors. Empirical evidence also states that this shows that an increase in tourist objects will result in an increase in the quantity of labor. If the tourist attraction increases, it will encourage the absorption of labor. This encourages opening up jobs in the tourism industry. So that labor is absorbed because of new tourist objects.

This is also in accordance with research conducted by Murniati et al. [16], number of tourist objects having a significant effect on labor absorption. If the labor force increases, then output will increase to maintain full employment opportunities if there is investment, real income must also increase to prevent idle capacity. This can be interpreted that if the population increases and employment also increases, employment opportunities will increase and unemployment can be resolved.

### **3.5.4 The Effect of the Number of Tourists on Labor Absorption in Sumbawa Regency**

Based on the test results with multiple linear regression, it is found that the number of tourists has a positive and significant effect on employment, this is indicated by the results of the number of tourists variable which has a probability value of  $0.0183 < 0.05$ . Based on the results of multiple linear regression, the coefficient on the variable number of hotels is 0.033, meaning that if the number of restaurants increases by one person, employment will increase by 0.033 people or 0 people. This shows that the relationship between the number of tourists and their labor absorption is an indirect relationship. In other words, an increase in tourist visits not only creates demand for tourism services, but also triggers the growth of related sectors

such as hotels, restaurants, transportation, and various tourist destinations. With increased tourism activity, there is a need for more labor in these sectors.

The continuation of the MXGP (Motocross Grand Prix) event in 2022-2023 in Sumbawa Regency has a more specific positive impact on employment. International events such as the MXGP attract not only local visitors, but also foreign tourists, resulting in a significant spike in visitation. This creates job opportunities not only in event organization, such as security, customer service, and logistics, but also in other sectors such as hospitality, culinary, and local transportation. The increase in tourist visits during the MXGP event directly contributes to the economic growth of the region. Hotels are able to expand their operations, local restaurants and merchants see an increase in demand for their products and services, and local transportation providers also benefit from the surge in passengers. Thus, the MXGP event is not only a prestigious sporting event, but also a strong economic driver, creating jobs and improving the lives of local people.

This research is in line with research conducted by Mujiatun et al. [17] number of tourist visits having a positive and significant effect on labor absorption. Supported by research conducted This means that the increasing number of tourists in the tourism sector will have an impact on the consumptive patterns of tourists so that entrepreneurs will increase the goods/services offered to tourists by Nababan et al. [18] who found a positive and significant effect of tourist visits on employment in the tourism sector in Bali. do higher labor absorption than usual. Rozikin et al. [19] found that the tourism sector has a positive impact on the development of the quality of economic development through several things, including its impact through the opening of wider employment opportunities and contributing to foreign exchange. However, in addition to these positive impacts, there are several negative impacts that need to be considered, including seasonal employment, resource dislocation and income inequality. Therefore, it is important for every region that has tourism potential to be able to maintain the quality of service and good infrastructure management in order to attract tourists to travel to the area.

#### 4. Conclusion

Based on the analysis and discussion that has been conducted, it can be concluded that partially or simultaneously, the number of hotels, the number of restaurants, the number of tourist attractions, and the number of tourists have a positive and significant influence on employment in the tourism industry in Kabupaten Sumbawa. This shows that the development of the tourism sector can be an effective solution in creating wider employment opportunities for the community, especially considering the population growth that continues to increase every year. For this reason, it is recommended that the Sumbawa Regency government continue to develop the tourism sector optimally and provide financial support and incentives for tourism industry players. In addition, the opening of new tourism sites also needs to be considered in order to increase the capacity of employment in the sector.

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## 6. Author Declaration

**Author contributions and responsibilities** - The authors made major contributions to the conception and design of the study. The authors took responsibility for data analysis, interpretation and discussion of results. The authors read and approved the final manuscript.

**Funding** - This research did not receive external funding.

**Availability of data and materials** - All data is available from the author.

**Competing interests** - The authors declare no competing interests.

**Did you use generative AI to write this manuscript?** - No.

**Declaration of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process** - The authors declare does not use the Generative AI.

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