



Integration of Location Quotient, Shift Share, and Klassen Typology for Leading Sector Identification and Regional Economic Strategy in Bengkulu

Ledia Sesita^{1*)}; Ketut Sukiyono²⁾; Bambang Agoes Hermanto³⁾

^{1,2)}Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas of Bengkulu

³⁾Department of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bengkulu

*Correspondent Author: lediasesita96@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: This study aims to identify leading sectors and formulate development strategies for Bengkulu Province, with a focus on Bengkulu City and Rejang Lebong Regency. The research addresses the need for more targeted regional economic policies based on sectoral potential. **Methodology:** The study employs constant-price Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) data from 2020 to 2024. Analytical methods include Location Quotient (LQ), Shift Share Analysis, Klassen Typology, and SWOT Analysis. **Results:** The results indicate that Bengkulu City is dominated by the tertiary sector, particularly trade, transportation, information and communication, business services, education, and health, which serve as the base sectors. Rejang Lebong Regency remains dependent on agriculture but has begun to diversify through the growth of services and trade. **Findings:** Klassen Typology classifies Rejang Lebong as a fast-growing and advanced region, while Bengkulu City functions as a regional service hub. The integration of LQ, Shift Share, and Klassen Typology identifies agriculture, tourism, trade, and modern services as priority sectors. SWOT analysis suggests strengthening urban services and tourism in Bengkulu City and increasing agricultural value-added through agrotourism and agro-processing in Rejang Lebong Regency. **Novelty & Originality:** The novelty of this study lies in integrating quantitative regional analysis with SWOT to develop a regional value chain-based strategy, positioning Bengkulu City as a service and distribution center and Rejang Lebong as a production area. **Conclusions:** These findings provide empirical support for more focused and sustainable regional development policies. **Type of Paper:** This paper is an empirical research paper.

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INTRODUCTION

Since the implementation of the broader regional autonomy policy in accordance with Law Number 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government, each region has the right and authority to manage its own domestic affairs (Setiasih, 2008). This has encouraged the development of regional planning that can serve as a basis for regional development planning policy through economic growth (Roni, Luntungan, & Niode, 2016). Regional economic growth is heavily influenced by the presence of key sectors, regional potential, and specific models. The optimal development and

utilisation of all regional potentials is the key to supporting sustainable economic development, as this will accelerate improvements in income, consumption and investment (Wahidin, Yuniarti, & Astuti, 2023).

Aziza & Srimarchea (2023) state that the distribution of areas with high development or those classified as developed regions remains concentrated on Java Island. In line with this, the contribution of the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) in 2023 shows that 57.27% originates from regions on Java Island, followed by Sumatra Island at 21.94%, Kalimantan at 8.32%, Sulawesi Island at 7.13%, Bali and Nusa Tenggara at 2.77%, and finally Papua Island with a contribution of 2.57%. Interestingly, the ten provinces in Sumatra have yet to contribute a higher GRDP compared to Java Island, which accounts for more than 50% of Indonesia's total Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

One of the provinces in Sumatra with a relatively low contribution is Bengkulu Province in terms of its contribution to the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP). Bengkulu Province contributes only about 0.47% to the national GDP from 2022 to 2024, placing it in the 10th position among the ten provinces on Sumatra Island. This contribution is lower compared to other provinces such as the Bangka Belitung Islands (0.50%), Aceh (1.10%), and Riau, which has the highest contribution at 5.18%. This indicates that Bengkulu's economic potential has not been optimally utilised due to a lack of investment, accessibility, and added value from commodities (Djarwadi, 2019).

Economic growth in most districts and cities in Bengkulu shows a fluctuating pattern with a positive trend, yet it has not been able to catch up with other regions. Economic disparity is also reflected in the relatively significant differences in Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) values across regions. Structurally, this condition is influenced by the dominance of the primary sector, which has not been balanced with a transformation towards the secondary and tertiary sectors. In addition, Bengkulu's geographical location on the western coast of Sumatra contributes to higher distribution costs for goods and services compared to provinces located on the main trade routes. On the other hand, the low purchasing power of the population also acts as a constraining factor in driving regional economic growth.

The selection of Bengkulu City and Rejang Lebong Regency as research locations is based on differences in economic structure and sectoral growth characteristics that reflect the two main economic poles in Bengkulu Province. Bengkulu City has the highest GRDP in the province, with a dominance of the tertiary sector, particularly trade, transport services, and communication, which serve as the main drivers of urban economic activity. This condition indicates that Bengkulu City functions as a centre of economic growth and regional consumption, while simultaneously facing challenges in maintaining growth sustainability amidst limited productive sector diversification. In contrast, Rejang Lebong Regency still relies on the primary sector, especially agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, although the contribution of these sectors has tended to decline in recent years. This structural economic difference is crucial to examine in order to assess the extent to which economic transformation can be carried out from traditional sectors towards high-value-added sectors.

Furthermore, both regions have a significant contribution to the formation of Bengkulu Province's GRDP and can represent two contrasting patterns of regional development: an urban area based on services and trade (Bengkulu City) and an agrarian area with natural resource potential (Rejang Lebong Regency). With fluctuating economic growth rates and different sectoral dominance, the analysis of these two regions is expected to provide a more comprehensive picture of regional economic dynamics. This research is important for identifying leading sectors and formulating adaptive, competitive, and sustainable regional economic development policies in Bengkulu Province.

Within the framework of effective regional development, a data-based approach capable of identifying leading sectors in each region is essential. Thus far, development policies in most districts and cities in Bengkulu have tended to remain general and have not been fully based on

sectoral and spatial potential analysis. As a result, development focus is often fragmented and has not been optimally directed towards sectors that genuinely possess comparative and competitive advantages in each region. For instance, some areas continue to allocate resources to sectors with relatively small contributions to GRDP, while leading sectors receive insufficient support.

Several previous studies have employed the same methods, such as those conducted by Wahidin, Yuniarti, & Astuti (2023); Metubun, Leiwakabessy, & Hahury (2024); Asyafina & Muljaningsih (2022); Rosyidah (2022); Amalina & Marseto (2024); and Negara & Putri (2020). Their findings, conducted in various locations, indicate that the agricultural sector remains a leading sector. Meanwhile, Simanjuntak (2025); Putra & Pratiwi (2019); Pratama & Asmara (2023); Ahman, Rohmana, Pinayani, & Utami (2023); Haryanto (2021); Chumayda & Marseto (2023); Ananta & Aulia (2024); and Kia & Ichsan (2023) found that the tertiary sector constitutes the leading sector in their respective research locations.

Based on the above, this means that the three approaches are complementary and can be used in an integrated manner to provide a comprehensive overview of the structure, growth, and sectoral position of the region. However, previous studies have not provided follow-up in the form of recommendations for more applicable sectoral economic development strategies, for instance through SWOT analysis, so that their results remain limited to mapping without strategic direction that can be implemented. This research combines quantitative analysis and SWOT to formulate development strategies that not only map the position of the economic sector but also provide concrete recommendations for local governments in enhancing competitiveness and sustainable growth.

METHOD

Method of Analysis

This study employs a descriptive comparative quantitative approach. The type of data used in this research is quantitative secondary data. These data were obtained from the website of the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) of Bengkulu Province and the two regencies/cities. The data period used in this study is annual data within the last five-year range, namely 2020–2024 (5 years). Furthermore, to support information in formulating strategies for developing leading sectors, interviews were conducted with three informants who understand regional development planning, namely lecturers in Applied Economics Master's programme and the Head of Planning or officials representing BAPPEDA or the Regional Secretariat (SEKDA) of Bengkulu City and Rejang Lebong Regency. The data analysis methods include Location Quotient (LQ) to identify the base or leading sectors in each regency/city. Second, Shift Share analysis to examine sectoral growth performance in greater depth. Third, Klassen Typology to map regencies/cities based on two main indicators, namely regional economic growth and its contribution to the provincial GRDP. In addition, SWOT analysis is used to deepen the study and incorporate development strategies (Rangkuti, 2006).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

Table 1. Location Quotient Calculation Results

Business Fields	Location Quotient									
	Bengkulu City					Kab. Rejang Lebong				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis
Mining and Quarrying	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis
Processing Industry	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis

Business Fields	Location Quotient									
	Bengkulu City					Kab. Rejang Lebong				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Electricity and Gas Supply	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis
Water Supply; Waste Management, Waste Management, And Recycling	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis
Construction	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Car and Motorcycle Repair	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis
Transportation and Warehousing	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis
Accommodation and Food and Beverage Provision	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis
Information and Communication	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis
Financial and Insurance Services	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis
Real Estate	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis
Corporate Services	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis
Government Administration, Defense, and Mandatory Social Security	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Non Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis
Education Services	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis
Healthcare Services and Social Activities	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis
Other Services	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis	Basis

Source: Processed Data, 2026

In Bengkulu City, the economy is dominated by the tertiary sector. Sectors with LQ values > 1 as base sectors include wholesale and retail trade, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service activities, information and communication, as well as education and health services. In addition, utility sectors such as electricity, gas, and water and waste management also demonstrate relative advantages. This indicates that Bengkulu City functions as a centre of services and service-based economic activity. In contrast, the primary sector such as agriculture and the manufacturing sector have LQ values < 1, signifying their relatively small role in the regional economy.

Meanwhile, the economic structure of Rejang Lebong Regency remains dominated by the primary sector, particularly agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, which constitute the main base sectors with LQ values > 1. In addition, several service sectors such as education, health, public administration, and other services are also included as base sectors supporting regional economic activity. However, the majority of industrial, financial, and professional service sectors remain non-base, indicating that economic transformation towards modern sectors has not yet been optimised. Based on the proportional growth component (PGC), the resulting values tend to be negative overall. This indicates that the growth rate of economic sectors in Bengkulu City is relatively slower

compared to the reference regions, both at the provincial and national levels. Nevertheless, several sectors exhibit positive PGC values, such as the information and communication sector, accommodation and food service activities, and electricity and gas, reflecting that these sectors are experiencing structurally faster growth.

Table 2. Results of Shift Share Calculation for Bengkulu City

Business Fields	PB	Description	KPP	Description	KPPW	Information
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	-0.010	Reverse	-0.054	Slow Growth	0.0444	Have competitiveness
Mining and Quarrying	-0.100	Reverse	-0.028	Slow Growth	-0.0720	Has no competitiveness
Processing Industry	-0.084	Reverse	-0.085	Slow Growth	0.0002	Have competitiveness
Electricity and Gas Supply	0.047	Progressive	0.088	Fast Growth	-0.0410	Has no competitiveness
Water Supply; Waste Management, Waste Management, and Recycling	0.024	Progressive	0.007	Fast Growth	0.0169	Have competitiveness
Construction	-0.043	Reverse	-0.032	Slow Growth	-0.0105	Has no competitiveness
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Car and Motorcycle Repair	0.013	Progressive	-0.008	Slow Growth	0.0210	Have competitiveness
Transportation and Warehousing	0.132	Progressive	0.113	Fast Growth	0.0189	Have competitiveness
Accommodation and Food and Beverage Provision	0.154	Progressive	0.147	Fast Growth	0.0074	Have competitiveness
Information and Communication	0.190	Progressive	0.203	Fast Growth	-0.0135	Has no competitiveness
Financial and Insurance Services	-0.149	Reverse	-0.152	Slow Growth	0.0035	Have competitiveness
Real Estate	-0.054	Reverse	-0.034	Slow Growth	-0.0200	Has no competitiveness
Corporate Services	0.105	Progressive	0.114	Fast Growth	-0.0083	Has no competitiveness
Government Administration, Defense, and Mandatory Social Security	-0.005	Reverse	0.006	Fast Growth	-0.0112	Has no competitiveness
Education Services	-0.008	Reverse	0.024	Fast Growth	-0.0328	Has no competitiveness
Healthcare Services and Social Activities	0.183	Progressive	0.179	Fast Growth	0.0040	Have competitiveness
Other Services	0.118	Progressive	0.143	Fast Growth	-0.0253	Has no competitiveness

Source: Processed Data, 2026

Furthermore, viewed from the regional share component (RSC), several sectors exhibit positive values, indicating a competitive advantage at the regional level. The trade, transportation, accommodation, financial services, health services, and some agricultural sectors are able to grow faster compared to the average of the reference regions. This suggests that these sectors possess strong potential to be continuously developed as regional leading sectors. On the other hand, sectors such as mining, construction, real estate, as well as public administration and education show negative RSC values, meaning that they have a relatively low level of competitiveness. In terms of net shift, it appears that several modern service sectors such as health services and business services have experienced positive shifts, indicating progressive and adaptive development in response to changes in economic structure. Conversely, the manufacturing industry, mining, and some financial sectors have experienced negative shifts, indicating a decline in their relative role in the regional economy.

Based on the proportional growth component (PGC), most sectors in Rejang Lebong Regency follow the sectoral growth trends at the provincial level, with several service sectors demonstrating relatively faster growth performance. Sectors such as information and communication, education services, health services, and accommodation and food service activities have experienced an

increased contribution to the regional economy. This indicates that these sectors fall into the category of structurally rapidly growing sectors and are beginning to play an important role in supporting regional economic transformation.

Furthermore, viewed from the regional share component (RSC) or regional shift, the trade sector shows a high value, reflecting a competitive advantage at the regency level. This sector is able to grow faster compared to the same sector at the provincial level, making it one of the sectors with high potential for further development. In addition, the development of the service sector also demonstrates a positive trend, indicating an increase in service-based economic activity within the community.

Table 3. Results of Shift Share Calculation for Rejang Lebong Regency

Business Fields	PB	Description	KPP	Description	KPPW	Information
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	-0.041	Reverse	-0.054	Slow Growth	0.0131	Have competitiveness
Mining and Quarrying	-0.077	Reverse	-0.028	Slow Growth	-0.0491	Has no competitiveness
Processing Industry	-0.063	Reverse	-0.085	Slow Growth	0.0218	Have competitiveness
Electricity and Gas Supply	0.054	Progressive	0.088	Fast Growth	-0.0334	Has no competitiveness
Water Supply; Waste Management, Waste Management, and Recycling	0.008	Progressive	0.007	Fast Growth	0.0007	Have competitiveness
Construction	-0.056	Reverse	-0.032	Slow Growth	-0.0232	Has no competitiveness
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Car and Motorcycle Repair	-0.011	Reverse	-0.008	Slow Growth	-0.0024	Has no competitiveness
Transportation and Warehousing	-0.015	Reverse	0.113	Fast Growth	-0.1279	Has no competitiveness
Accommodation and Food and Beverage Provision	0.125	Progressive	0.147	Fast Growth	-0.0215	Has no competitiveness
Information and Communication	0.198	Progressive	0.203	Fast Growth	-0.0056	Has no competitiveness
Financial and Insurance Services	-0.121	Reverse	-0.152	Slow Growth	0.0312	Have competitiveness
Real Estate	-0.041	Reverse	-0.034	Slow Growth	-0.0071	Has no competitiveness
Corporate Services	0.095	Progressive	0.114	Fast Growth	-0.0188	Has no competitiveness
Government Administration, Defense, and Mandatory Social Security	-0.004	Reverse	0.006	Fast Growth	-0.0096	Has no competitiveness
Education Services	0.013	Progressive	0.024	Fast Growth	-0.0115	Has no competitiveness
Healthcare Services and Social Activities	0.216	Progressive	0.179	Fast Growth	0.0367	Have competitiveness
Other Services	0.220	Progressive	0.143	Fast Growth	0.0773	Have competitiveness

Source: Processed Data, 2026

In terms of net shift, there are a number of sectors that are progressive or growing faster compared to the reference regions, including the information and communication sector, health services, education services, business services, as well as accommodation and food service activities. This indicates that Rejang Lebong Regency is experiencing acceleration in service-based and public service sectors. On the other hand, several sectors such as manufacturing, mining, construction, and some agricultural sectors are experiencing negative shifts, indicating that their growth is relatively slower compared to the provincial average.

In Quadrant I (advanced and fast-growing sectors), Bengkulu City is dominated by tertiary sectors such as trade, transportation, financial services, information and communication, as well as accommodation and food service activities. This indicates that Bengkulu City has a more modern and service-based economic structure, with these sectors able to make significant contributions

while growing faster than the reference regions. Meanwhile, Rejang Lebong Regency also has several sectors that fall into this quadrant, such as trade, education services, health services, and information and communication. However, the number and dominance of advanced sectors in Rejang Lebong are relatively more limited compared to Bengkulu City.

In Quadrant II (advanced but stagnant sectors), a notable difference is observed between the two regions. Rejang Lebong Regency places the agricultural sector as the main sector in this quadrant, indicating that although its contribution to the regional economy is substantial, its growth tends to slow down. In contrast, in Bengkulu City, the sectors that fall into this category are generally certain service sectors or sectors that have reached saturation, thus experiencing slower growth despite still having a significant contribution. Furthermore, in Quadrant III (fast-growing sectors), both Bengkulu City and Rejang Lebong Regency have sectors that show high growth potential, yet with relatively small contributions. In Bengkulu City, these sectors are generally related to modern services and tourism, whereas in Rejang Lebong Regency they are predominantly dominated by small-scale service sectors and local economic support sectors such as accommodation and food service activities. This indicates that both regions have opportunities for developing new sectors, albeit with different characteristics.

As for Quadrant IV (relatively lagging sectors), both regions have sectors that have not yet developed optimally, such as manufacturing, mining, and construction. However, the degree of lag in these sectors tends to be greater in Rejang Lebong Regency compared to Bengkulu City. This is due to limited infrastructure, investment, and the relatively small economies of scale in the regency area.

Table 4. Results of Klassen Typology Calculation

Business Fields	Kudran	
	Bengkulu City	Kab. Rejang Lebong
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)
Mining and Quarrying	3 (relatively lagging behind)	3 (relatively lagging behind)
Processing Industry	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)
Electricity and Gas Supply	4 (developing rapidly)	4 (developing rapidly)
Water Supply; Waste Management, Waste Management, and Recycling	4 (developing rapidly)	4 (developing rapidly)
Construction	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Car and Motorcycle Repair	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)
Transportation and Warehousing	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)
Accommodation and Food and Beverage Provision	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)
Information and Communication	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)
Financial and Insurance Services	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)
Real Estate	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)
Corporate Services	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)	1 (progressing rapidly)
Government Administration, Defense, and Mandatory Social Security	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)	3 (relatively lagging behind)
Education Services	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)
Healthcare Services and Social Activities	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)
Other Services	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)	1 (progressing and growing rapidly)

Source: Processed Data, 2026

SWOT Matrix Analysis of Bengkulu City In terms of strengths, Bengkulu City has an advantage in the dominance of the rapidly growing tertiary sector, such as trade, services, transportation, and tourism (Afriani & Yanti, 2019). Its strategic geographical location as a centre of

economic activity in the surrounding areas also serves as an added value in driving economic growth (Arini, Astuti, & Sismanto, 2021). In addition, the availability of public service facilities, basic infrastructure, and access to education and health services is relatively better compared to the surrounding regency areas (Hadiyanto, 2022). This condition positions Bengkulu City as a centre of regional economic growth.

Nevertheless, there are several weaknesses that are still being faced. The economic structure, which tends to rely on the service sector, leads to a high dependency on public consumption. Moreover, the manufacturing industry sector has not yet developed optimally, so the resulting economic value added is relatively limited. Other issues encountered include limited investment, suboptimal integration of development planning data, and the quality of human resources that still needs to be improved to support regional competitiveness.

Table 5. SWOT Matrix of Bengkulu City

	Strength (S) 1. Potential for natural, historical, and cultural tourism 2. Strategic geographic location 3. Dominant service and trade sectors	Weakness (W) 1. Limited supporting infrastructure 2. Low quality and capacity of human resources 3. Digital promotion and inter-regional cooperation are not yet optimal
Opportunities (O) 1. Potential for developing new tourist destinations. 2. Support from local government programmes. 3. Increasing tourist interest in natural and local cultural tourism.	Strategi SO 1. Increasing tourism potential 2. Maintaining the service and trade sectors	Strategi WO 1. Encourage the development of Bengkulu Point 2. Enhance the Samisake program
Threats (T) 1. Competition with other regions in attracting investors and tourists 2. Dependence on certain sectors 3. The impact of climate change	Strategi ST 1. Leveraging local resource advantages 2. Strengthening the competitiveness of local products	Strategi WT 1. Improving human resource capacity 2. Strengthening bargaining power through various policies

Source: Processed Data, 2026

From an external perspective, there are various opportunities that can be leveraged to drive economic growth in Bengkulu City. The development of information technology and digitalisation opens opportunities for the growth of digital-based economies, including MSMEs and the service sector (Nafturahma, Angriani, & Nasution, 2023). In addition, the potential for tourism development, both natural and cultural tourism, can serve as a new source of economic growth (Anggreni, As'ad, & Siswanto, 2025). Policy support from the central and provincial governments in infrastructure development and enhancing connectivity also represents an important opportunity in improving regional competitiveness (Tawakal & Hasan, 2018).

On the other hand, there are also threats that need to be anticipated. Competition among regions in attracting investment is increasingly intense, so Bengkulu City must be able to enhance its appeal (Tawakal & Hasan, 2018). Furthermore, reliance on the service sector makes the economy vulnerable to economic fluctuations, such as declines in public purchasing power. Other threats include changes in macroeconomic conditions, regional fiscal constraints, and the potential impact of climate change, which can affect certain sectors, including tourism and trade.

Based on the SWOT matrix, Bengkulu City's economic development strategy can be directed towards leveraging strengths to capture opportunities (SO strategy), such as developing digital-

based services and tourism. Furthermore, the WO strategy can be implemented by improving the quality of human resources and encouraging investment to address existing weaknesses. The ST strategy focuses on enhancing the competitiveness of leading sectors to face inter-regional competition, while the WT strategy is aimed at minimising risks through economic diversification and strengthening productive sectors.

From a strengths perspective, Rejang Lebong Regency has a primary advantage in the agricultural sector, which forms the basis of the regional economy (Imelda & Ekaputri, 2023). The availability of abundant natural resources and supportive geographical conditions make this sector the main contributor to GRDP. In addition, there is potential in the trade and service sectors, which are beginning to develop, supported by fairly dynamic community economic activities. The existence of leading agricultural commodities also serves as important capital in developing agribusiness-based economic development (Nengsi, Reflis, Sihite, Rahmawati, & Zumrona, 2025).

Nevertheless, there are several weaknesses that remain as constraints. The high dependency on the agricultural sector results in a less diversified economic structure, making it vulnerable to commodity price fluctuations and weather conditions. Moreover, the manufacturing industry sector has not yet developed optimally, resulting in low added value from agricultural products. Limited infrastructure, market access, and human resource quality also serve as inhibiting factors in enhancing regional competitiveness (Oktoyoki, Gabrienda, Sari, Yulisa, & Ansiska, 2021).

Tabel 6. Matrik SWOT Rejang Lebong Regency

	Strength (S) 1. Has potential for natural tourism and agrotourism areas. 2. Natural resources and geographic conditions support the agricultural and plantation sectors. 3. Featured products in the agricultural and plantation sectors.	Weakness (W) 1. Limited infrastructure and inadequate tourism facilities 2. Lack of integration between tourism and agricultural management 3. Limited market access and digital promotion of agricultural products
Opportunities (O) 1. Potential for sustainable agrotourism development by combining agriculture and tourism 2. Investment support 3. Increased demand for nature tourism and local organic products	Strategi SO 1. Increase tourism potential 2. Increase agricultural and plantation yields	Strategi WO 1. Developing agrotourism 2. Encouraging investment into the region
Threats (T) 1. Competition between tourist areas 2. Risk of fluctuations in agricultural and plantation prices 3. The threat of regional isolation due to limited connectivity infrastructure	Strategi ST 1. Establishing inter-regional collaboration for tourism and investment development. 2. Accelerating the development of supporting infrastructure.	Strategi WT 1. Improving human resource capacity and the investment climate 2. Expanding market share, especially in the agriculture and plantation sectors

Source: Processed Data, 2026

From an external perspective, there are various opportunities that can be leveraged. The development of downstream agricultural products represents one of the main opportunities to increase added value and community income (Oktoyoki, Gabrienda, Sari, Yulisa, & Ansiska, 2021). In addition, the development of information technology opens opportunities for digital product marketing, including for local MSMEs. Government policy support in developing rural areas, modern agriculture, and infrastructure development also serves as a driving factor for regional economic

growth (Agustin, Frisdinawati, Pingki, & Yanuarti, 2025). The potential for developing nature-based tourism can also serve as a new source of growth.

On the other hand, there are several threats that need to be anticipated. Climate change impacting the agricultural sector is one of the main risks to the regional economy. Furthermore, fluctuations in agricultural commodity prices in the market can affect the stability of community income. Inter-regional competition in attracting investment also poses a challenge, particularly given the limited infrastructure and supporting facilities. Another threat is urbanisation, which can reduce the productive workforce in the agricultural sector.

Based on the SWOT matrix, the economic development strategy for Rejang Lebong Regency can be directed towards leveraging strengths to capture opportunities (SO strategy), such as developing agribusiness based on downstream processing and digital marketing. The WO strategy can be implemented by improving human resource quality, enhancing infrastructure, and encouraging investment in the manufacturing industry sector to address existing weaknesses. The ST strategy focuses on increasing the resilience of the agricultural sector to climate change and strengthening the competitiveness of local products. Meanwhile, the WT strategy is aimed at diversifying the economy and reducing dependency on the primary sector to minimise the risks faced.

DISCUSSION

There is a fundamental difference in the structure and direction of economic development between Bengkulu City and Rejang Lebong Regency, although both demonstrate positive growth performance. Bengkulu City tends to have a more modern economic structure with a dominance of the tertiary sector, such as trade, services, transportation, and tourism. This is reflected in the high Location Quotient (LQ) values in these sectors, supported by Shift Share results indicating strong competitiveness. In contrast, Rejang Lebong Regency remains dominated by the primary sector, particularly agriculture, although it is beginning to experience a shift towards the service and trade sectors as part of the economic transformation process.

In terms of growth dynamics, both regions exhibit different tendencies. Bengkulu City demonstrates more stable and competitive growth in the service and trade sectors, driven by high urban consumption activity and the development of the digital economy. Meanwhile, Rejang Lebong Regency exhibits more varied growth, where service sectors such as information and communication, education, and health are beginning to grow faster, although the agricultural sector remains the main backbone of the economy. This indicates that Bengkulu City has reached the service-based economic stage, while Rejang Lebong Regency remains in the transition phase from a natural resource-based economy towards a more diversified economy.

Based on the Klassen Typology, both regions fall into the "advanced and fast-growing" category. However, the meaning of this category differs in the context of each region (Hidayat, 2020). In Bengkulu City, this status reflects the maturity of the economic structure with a dominance of high-value-added tertiary sectors (MET, 2024). In contrast, in Rejang Lebong Regency, this category indicates significant growth potential, yet still supported by a dominant primary sector. In other words, Bengkulu City functions as a service-based growth centre, while Rejang Lebong Regency serves as a production-based support region.

The SWOT analysis further clarifies the differing characteristics of the two regions. Bengkulu City has strengths in terms of strategic location, infrastructure, and urban tourism potential, supported by development programmes such as Bengkulu Point and Samisake. However, the city faces challenges such as dependency on the consumption sector and the suboptimal development of the creative sector. On the other hand, Rejang Lebong Regency has strengths in natural resources and agricultural potential as well as nature-based tourism, but faces weaknesses in the form of limited infrastructure, low human resource quality, and minimal economic diversification.

Opportunities in Bengkulu City are more related to the development of modern services and urban tourism, whereas in Rejang Lebong they are more directed towards agrotourism and downstream agricultural products.

The discussion on the development of leading sectors in Bengkulu City and Rejang Lebong Regency is further reinforced through interview findings with academics, which strengthen the research findings. In general, the development strategy for both regions needs to be directed towards alignment between base sectors, competitive sectors, and regional growth positions with development priorities in each region's RPJMD. In Bengkulu City, which falls into the advanced and fast-growing category with a dominance of the tertiary sector, the direction of economic development should not only focus on increasing the contribution of the service and trade sectors but also on strengthening an integrated modern service ecosystem. The development of a service hub is a strategic step by integrating trade, accommodation and food service activities, transportation, and information and communication sectors. This aligns with efforts to strengthen Bengkulu City's role as a regional service centre as well as the provincial economic growth hub, supported by digitalisation of public services, strengthening MSMEs, and developing urban tourism areas.

Meanwhile, Rejang Lebong Regency demonstrates a different development direction, where the agricultural sector remains the economic backbone, yet is beginning to undergo transformation towards the service and trade sectors (Nengsi, Reflis, Sihite, Rahmawati, & Zumrona, 2025). Based on the reinforcement from interview findings, the regional development strategy needs to focus on gradual structural transformation through agricultural downstream processing, agro-industry development, and integration with the tourism sector (Wijayanti, Pratiwi, & Adzan, 2025). The agropolitan and agrotourism approaches are key to increasing regional economic added value, supported by infrastructure modernisation, productivity improvement, and strengthening human resource capacity.

Furthermore, the integration of development between the two regions needs to be strengthened through a spatial approach and inter-regional linkages. Bengkulu City can serve as a centre for distribution, marketing, and service provision, while Rejang Lebong Regency functions as a supplier of raw materials, agricultural production centre, and agrotourism area. This synergy forms a mutually supportive regional value chain, so that the development strategy for leading sectors is not only sectoral and based on statistical data but also integrated regionally, capable of driving investment, improving coordination among regional apparatus, and supporting the implementation of sustainable and long-term oriented development.

CONCLUSION

The structure and dynamics of the economy in Bengkulu Province, particularly in Bengkulu City and Rejang Lebong Regency, exhibit characteristics that are different yet complementary. Bengkulu City has an economic structure dominated by the tertiary sector, such as trade, transportation, services, and information and communication, which positions it as a service hub and regional economic distribution centre. Meanwhile, Rejang Lebong Regency still relies on the primary sector, particularly agriculture, although it is beginning to undergo transformation towards the service and trade sectors as part of the economic diversification process.

The integrated results of the Location Quotient (LQ), Shift Share, and Klassen Typology methods indicate that both regions fall into the category of advanced and fast-growing areas, albeit with different strength bases. Bengkulu City excels in modern service sectors that possess high competitiveness and progressive growth, whereas Rejang Lebong Regency has a comparative advantage in the agricultural sector, which remains the backbone of the regional economy, although its growth is relatively slowing. Furthermore, the SWOT analysis reinforces that the economic development strategies in both regions need to be tailored to their respective potentials and

challenges. Bengkulu City should be directed towards strengthening digital-based service sectors, developing tourism, and enhancing competitiveness as a regional service centre. On the other hand, Rejang Lebong Regency should focus on downstream agricultural products, agro-industry development, and integration with the tourism sector through the agrotourism concept to increase economic added value.

This study has several limitations. First, this research only focuses on two out of ten regencies/cities in Bengkulu Province, which may not fully represent the diversity of economic structures across the entire province. Second, the five-year period (2020–2024) encompasses the COVID-19 pandemic period, which may have altered normal economic patterns. Third, the SWOT analysis was based on interviews with a limited number of respondents. Future research should expand the geographical coverage, extend the time period, and incorporate additional methods such as input-output analysis or spatial econometrics.

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