



# **The Relationship between the Financial Reporting Frequency and the Value Relevance of Accounting Information: Does the Financial Reporting Lag Matter? “An Egyptian Evidence”**

**Dr. Safaa Ahmed Mahmoud Saleh**

Lecturer of Accounting, Faculty of Commerce, Alexandria University.

[Safaa\\_ahmed@alexu.edu.eg](mailto:Safaa_ahmed@alexu.edu.eg)

*Scientific Journal for Financial and Commercial Studies and Researches (SJFCSR)*

Faculty of Commerce – Damietta University

Vol.3, No.2, Part 1., July 2022

## **APA Citation:**

**Saleh, S. A. M.** (2022). The Relationship between the Financial Reporting Frequency and the Value Relevance of Accounting Information: Does the Financial Reporting Lag Matter? “An Egyptian Evidence”, *Scientific Journal for Financial and Commercial Studies and Research*, Faculty of Commerce, Damietta University, 3(2)1, 419 - 473.

**Website:** <https://cfdj.journals.ekb.eg/>

Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh

---

---

**The Relationship between the Financial Reporting Frequency and the Value Relevance of Accounting Information: Does the Financial Reporting Lag Matter? “An Egyptian Evidence”**

*Dr. Safaa Ahmed Mahmoud Saleh*

**Abstract**

**Purpose** – This research aims to study and investigate the relationship between the financial reporting frequency, in terms of the quarter, semi-annual, and annual reporting, and the value relevance of accounting information, as measured through the extent of the reflection of the accounting information related to the book value of equity and earnings per share in stock prices. In addition, it examines the influence of the financial reporting lag, as a moderating variable, on this relationship.

**Design/Methodology** – Multiple regressions are used to test research hypotheses using a sample of 90 non-financial firms listed on the Egyptian Stock Exchange (EGX) during 2016–2019. The sample is divided into 3 samples, according to the financial reporting frequency, including 288 firm-quarter observations, 331 firm-semiannual observations, totaling 619 firm-interim observations, and 335 firm-year observations. The sample is selected based on some conditions and is constrained by the availability of data.

**Findings** – The researcher concludes that the more frequent reporting in terms of publishing interim financial statements, enhances the value relevance of the accounting information. That is, results indicate that the accounting information provided by the interim financial statements has more value relevance than that provided by the annual financial statements. However, the longer the period till issuing the interim/annual financial statements, the more likely the accounting information loses its relevance, especially that provided periodically. Unexpectedly, results revealed that the accounting information provided by the semi-annual financial statements has a higher value relevance than that quarterly provided, however, both are similarly affected by the financial reporting lag. These findings are robust since the results of the sensitivity analyses, using different methods in measuring the effect of the financial reporting lag, support the results of the basic analysis.

**Originality/value** – To the best of the researcher’s knowledge, there is relatively limited evidence on the timeliness of the interim financial reporting, as measured by the frequency of reporting and the financial reporting lag, and its association with the value relevance of the accounting information in the Egyptian context. Furthermore, the findings of this research have some implications for researchers, financial statements’ preparers and users, and regulatory bodies who seek to enhance the quality of the financial statements in emerging economies.

**Keywords:** Financial Reporting Frequency; Interim Financial Statements; Timeliness; Value Relevance of Accounting Information

## **1. Introduction**

The value relevance of the accounting information provided by the financial statements can be defined as the ability of this information to make a difference in users’ decisions. For the information to be more value relevant, it should be available to users in a timely manner before losing its benefits (IASB, 2018a). Empirically, the value relevance of accounting information can be proxied by the relationship between current earnings and future earnings and return (e.g., Ben Rejeb Attia et al., 2019), also, by the ability of the published accounting information such as book value of equity and earnings to change stock prices (e.g., Bepari et al., 2013; Elbakry et al., 2017; El-Diftar & Elkalla, 2019; Almujaheed & Alfraih, 2020; Rahman & Liu, 2021). However, these studies have focused on the value relevance of the information provided by the annual financial statements, while little attention paid to the value relevance of the accounting information provided by the interim financial statements (e.g., Butler et al., 2007; Mensah & Werner, 2008; Martani & Khairurizka, 2009; Zulu et al., 2017) which find that the interim information is value relevant.

In this regard, accounting standards require for preparing the interim financial statements applying the same accounting principles used in preparing the annual financial statements for consistency and comparability purposes (King, 2018). Nevertheless, the International Accounting Standard “Interim Financial Reporting” (IAS 34) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) does not determine how many times should firms prepare their financial statements nor the

reporting lag, the period between the interim period-end and the date of issuing the financial statements, since this matter is left for each country's regulatory authorities and stock exchanges (IASB, 2018b).

In fact, timeliness is one of the enhancing characteristics of the useful information that could be expressed in terms of the frequency of publishing financial statements, and the reporting lag. However, there is no consensus among stock exchanges in different countries about the frequency of financial reporting nor the accepted delay period. For instance, US-listed firms are required to quarterly reports within 45 days from the quarter-end, but for larger firms, the accepted delay period is only 35 days. In the UK, listed firms must issue semi-annual financial statements within 90 days from the period-end (Ismail & Chandler, 2007; Link, 2012; Tan, 2016; King, 2018).

In this context, some studies (e.g., Butler et al., 2007; Cuijpers & Peek, 2010; Zulu et al., 2017) find that providing more frequent financial information via preparing quarterly financial statements, especially if it is voluntary, (i) reduces the level of information asymmetry, and cost of equity; (ii) improves earnings timeliness, and stock trading activity; and (iii) leads to more rational management investment decisions avoiding unprofitable projects. While others (e.g., Van Buskirk, 2012; Ernstberger et al., 2017; Kraft et al., 2018; Kajüter et al., 2019) find negative consequences associated with the quarterly reporting reflected in the increase of real earnings management, and focusing on the short-term investment decisions which, in turn, negatively affect the firm value on the long run. Accordingly, whether mandating the quarterly reporting is useful for users of the financial statements needs more empirical evidence.

Concerning interim financial statements, although the information provided by the quarterly financial statements is more timely than the semi-annual, it may lack accuracy and, in turn, its value relevance may be negatively affected (Mensah & Werner, 2008). In this context, prior studies have examined the determinants of the timeliness of the accounting information provided by the interim financial statements (e.g., Ismail & Chandler, 2004; Boritz & Liu, 2006; Rahman et al., 2007; Al-Tahat, 2015), and the implications for the stock equity market (Mensah & Werner, 2008;

Das et al., 2009; Nallareddy et al., 2017; Lee & Tong, 2018; Kajüter et al., 2019).

Regarding the financial reporting lag, prior studies have investigated the determinants of the annual financial reporting lag in different countries (e.g., Al-Ghanem & Hegazy, 2011; Efobi & Okougbo, 2014; Ohaka & Akani, 2017; Durand, 2019; Fujianti & Satria, 2020), and analyzed its association with corporate governance and firms' characteristics (e.g., Chukwu & Nwabochi, 2019; Aifuwa & Saidu, 2020). While other studies (e.g., Asthana, 2014; Agyei-Mensah, 2018; Lestari & Nuryatno, 2018) have examined the effect of the financial reporting lag on earnings quality, firm performance, and firm value.

Therefore, it can be concluded that prior studies have focused on the determinants of the financial reporting lag and its consequences in terms of the impact on earnings quality and firm value. While regarding the relationship between the financial reporting lag and the value relevance of accounting information, to the best of the researcher's knowledge, there are relatively few studies that directly investigated this relationship. For example, Ben Rejeb Attia et al. (2019) have used data of the annual financial statements for the banking sector in 12 MENA countries. However, the evidence on the relationship between the financial reporting lag and the value relevance of the accounting information provided by the interim financial statements is limited.

Accordingly, this research differs from prior studies in aiming to investigate the value relevance of the accounting information provided by the interim financial statements and the potential effect of the financial reporting lag on this expected value relevance among the listed non-financial firms on the Egyptian Exchange (EGX). Thus, the current research addresses the following **research questions** in the Egyptian environment: (i) Does increasing the financial reporting frequency associate with greater value relevance of accounting information among listed non-financial firms on the EGX? and (ii) To what extent delaying the issuance of the interim/annual financial statements affects the value relevance of accounting information among the listed non-financial firms on the EGX? Hence, the **current research aims** at examining whether the mandatory quarterly financial reporting is valued at the Egyptian stock

equity market. In addition, it aims to investigate the extent to which the listed firms on the EGX delay the issuance of their financial statements, and whether this delay affects the value relevance of the accounting information published through the interim/annual financial statements.

The **importance of this research** stems from adding to two streams of literature. **The first stream** is the literature examining the value relevance of the accounting information. The current research adds to this stream by being applied to the listed firms on the EGX and by focusing on interim reporting. More specifically, this research concerns with the frequency of financial reporting, namely, quarterly, semi-annually, and annually, and its impact on the value relevance of the accounting information provided by the interim/annual financial statements. **The second stream** of studies have concerned with the financial reporting lag or audit report delay. The current research contributes to this stream by examining the interaction effect of the financial reporting lag and the financial reporting frequency on the value relevance of the accounting information provided by both interim and annual financial statements.

**Moreover**, despite the importance that timeliness has gained recently in the empirical research, there is relatively scarce evidence, to the best of the researcher's knowledge, concerning the timeliness by its two aspects, the financial reporting frequency and lag, in the Egyptian empirical research. To the best of the researcher's knowledge, prior studies conducted in Egypt concerning the value relevance of accounting information concerned with the annual financial statements (e.g., Ragab & Omran, 2006; Hassan et al., 2009; Ebaid, 2012; Mostafa, 2016). Therefore, the current research differs from prior studies by investigating the value relevance of the accounting information provided by the interim financial statements; specifically, whether the mandatory quarterly provided financial information is more value relevant than that provided semi-annually. In addition, this research examines the potential impact of the financial reporting lag on the value relevance of the accounting information periodically provided. **Finally**, the current research provides more insights to policymakers interested in enhancing the usefulness of the financial statements in an emerging economy such as Egypt. That is, it focuses on one of the enhancing characteristics, timeliness, that would

improve the value relevance of accounting information which, in turn, would benefit financial statements' users and preparers, as well.

To achieve the research objectives, the researcher utilizes data for 90 non-financial listed firms on the EGX over the period 2016-2019, constrained by the availability of data. The sample is divided into quarterly reporting, 288 firm-quarter observations, and semi-annual reporting, 331 firm-semiannual observations, totaling 619 firm-interim observations. In addition to the annual reporting sample of 335 firm-year observations.

Using multiple regression for the interim versus annual samples, findings indicate that the accounting information provided by the interim financial statements is more value relevant than that provided annually, as measured by the Ohlson (1995) model with some modifications. Besides, the late issuance beyond the legal reporting period affects the value relevance of the interim accounting information greater than the annually provided information. However, results revealed that the semi-annual reporting has more value relevance than the quarterly reporting, which is contrary to what was hypothesized. In addition, the late issuance of the financial statements affects both the quarterly and semi-annually provided accounting information by the same degree.

The remainder of this research proceeds as follows. **Section 2** discusses the related theory and literature to derive the research hypotheses. **Section 3** demonstrates the research design. In **Section 4**, the results of the statistical analysis are presented and discussed. Results of the sensitivity and additional analyses are summarized in **Sections 5 and 6**, respectively. Finally, **Section 7** concludes the research.

## **2. Theoretical Background and Hypotheses Development**

This section aims to build the theoretical background from which research hypotheses, that will be tested in the Egyptian environment, are to be derived. Accordingly, the following sub-sections discuss the interim financial reporting setting in Egypt, and the theories interpreting the financial reporting frequency issue. Then, related literature is analyzed to build the theoretical foundation necessary to the development of the research hypotheses.

## **2.1 Financial Reporting Institutional Setting in Egypt and the Related Theories**

The revised framework for preparing and presenting the financial statements, issued by the decree of the Ministry of Investment (MOI) No. 110 for the year 2015, is consistent with the revised IASB's Conceptual Framework. According to this framework, timeliness is one of the attributes that enhances the usefulness of the accounting information via enhancing the value relevance as one of the essential characteristics of the accounting information (MOI, 2015a; IASB, 2018a). Therefore, the listed firms on the EGX are required to provide periodic financial statements to satisfy the needs of the stock equity market participants (FRA, 2021).

The recognition and disclosure requirements related to the interim reporting are determined by the revised Egyptian Accounting Standard (EAS) No. (30). This standard has been revised twice; one by the decree of the MOI No. 110/2015, and the other time by the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation (MOIIC) in 2019 amending the other disclosures requirements (MOI, 2015b; MOIIC, 2019). However, it has not determined the required financial reporting frequency nor the allowed financial reporting lag. These issues have been left to the Egyptian Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA), which issued its latest revised listing and delisting rules on the EGX in June 2021. According to these rules, listed firms must prepare quarterly financial statements accompanied by a limited review report within 45 days after the date of the financial statements, while for the annual financial statements, they must be issued within 90 days from the year-end accompanied by an audit report (FRA, 2021).

In fact, there are different theories that can interpret the preference of the more frequent financial reporting. According to the agency theory, providing more financial information would reduce the information asymmetry among managers, owners, and creditors (Watson et al., 2002; Khlifi & Bouri, 2010; Urquiza et al., 2010). Therefore, providing more frequent reporting would reduce the information asymmetry, then mitigate agency problems which, in turn, would be positively reflected in the quality of the financial statements and the value relevance of the provided financial information.



In addition, the signaling theory complements the agency theory in achieving its objective of reducing the level of information asymmetry. According to this theory, firms with better performance would prefer providing more financial information to send signals to the equity market participants. Also, signaling theory can interpret the financial reporting lag, since the lateness in issuing the financial statements would send a negative signal which, in turn, would negatively affect firms' market values (Watson et al., 2002; Urquiza et al., 2010, Akeem et al., 2020).

Moreover, whether stock prices will reflect all publicly available information depends on the form of the market efficiency and type of investors. Under the weak and semi-strong forms of market efficiency, if the provided financial information is perceived as being less reliable, or market participants are less sophisticated, then they would undervalue the disclosed information which would lead to its lower value relevance (Yalçın, 2010; Asthana, 2014). This agrees with the findings of Ismail & Chandler (2005) that the usefulness of the more frequent financial reporting depends on the type of investors. That is, the more experienced investors need more financial information to be provided timely and, in turn, they would value the more frequent financial reporting.

Unlike financial statements' users who may prefer the quarterly reporting, from the perspective of Proprietary Costs Theory, preparers will bear greater costs and may harm the competitive positions of their firms. Therefore, they may prefer semi-annual reporting instead of the more frequent quarterly reporting (Ismail & Chandler 2007; Khelifi & Bouri, 2010).

**In conclusion**, the more frequent financial reporting would mitigate agency problems, send positive signals to the market, in turn, improve the information quality in efficient markets. However, it may be costly from the perspective of financial statements' preparers, particularly in markets with less sophisticated investors.

## **2.2 Related Literature and Hypotheses Development**

This section aims to analyze prior studies that have examined the association between the financial reporting frequency and the value relevance of the accounting information provided by the interim/annual

financial statements. Then, it is followed by studies that have investigated the role of the financial reporting lag in affecting the value relevance of interim and annually provided accounting information. This constitutes the theoretical foundation for the research which, in turn, leads to the development of research hypotheses.

### **2.2.1 Frequent Reporting and the Value Relevance of Accounting Information**

The value relevance of the accounting information provided by the financial statements represents its ability to influence the financial statements users' decisions. Therefore, providing timely information would benefit users when making their decisions (IASB, 2018a). There is extant literature analyzed the value relevance of the accounting information provided by the annual financial statements with different methodologies and in different environments (e.g., Al-Hares et al., 2012; Bepari et al., 2013; Martínez et al., 2014; Elbakry et al., 2017; García et al., 2017; Badu & Appiah, 2018; El-Diftar & Elkalla, 2019), while there is a little attention directly paid to the value relevance of the accounting information provided by the interim financial statements (e.g., Martani & Khairurizka, 2009; Alali & Foote, 2012; Zulu et al., 2017) which indicate that the interim financial reporting provides relevant accounting information, especially that prepared semi-annually.

In this context, the findings of some recent studies have provided mixed evidence regarding whether investors would prefer the more frequent disclosure within shorter periods accompanied by an auditor assurance. For instance, some studies (e.g., Saravanakumar et al., 2012; Van Buskirk, 2012; Bédard & Courteau, 2015; Nallareddy et al., 2017) find that the quarterly reporting does not affect the information content, information asymmetry, or management investment decisions compared to the semi-annual reporting. While there are other findings in two opposite directions. On one hand, some studies (e.g., Mensah & Werner, 2008; Ernstberger et al., 2017; Lee & Tong, 2018; Kajüter et al., 2019) find negative consequences of the quarterly reporting compared to the semi-annual reporting represented by the increased cost, real earnings management, higher stock price volatility, and lower firm value. On the other hand, some studies (e.g., Cuijpers & Peek, 2010; Gigler et al., 2014; Zulu et al., 2017) provide evidence supporting the positive consequences

of increasing the reporting frequency as reflected in the more value relevance, decreased level of information asymmetry, higher stock trading activity, and avoiding unprofitable investment projects.

Unlike the study of Butler et al. (2007) which find that voluntary quarterly reporting has a significant effect on earnings timeliness, Nallareddy et al. (2017) find improvement in the predictive ability of earnings in case of the mandatory quarter reporting, while Fu et al. (2012) find that whether firms voluntary or mandatorily increase their financial reporting frequency, they experienced benefits in terms of a decrease in the information asymmetry level and cost of equity. Moreover, the existence of a review report enhances the quality of the interim financial statements by reducing the potential of earnings management (Lightstone et al., 2012; Lee et al., 2014), and improving the information content (Manry et al., 2003; Kajuter et al., 2016; Malek et al., 2016).

Therefore, there is still a debate about how many times should firms prepare their financial statements; quarterly or semi-annually. Indeed, the more frequent financial reporting can be considered a double-edged weapon. On one hand, this helps financial statements users periodically assess a firm's financial position and performance to make sound decisions at the appropriate time. Moreover, it could improve the information quality of stock prices since the periodic reporting could imply reflecting the most recent firm information in stock prices which would, in turn, improve the stock market efficiency. On the other hand, the shorter the period over which the financial statements are prepared, the more likely preparing less reliable financial statements since it increases the potential of the intentional manipulation using accruals. In addition, providing quarterly financial information could impair the accuracy of its predictive ability and increase stock price volatility (Mensah & Werner, 2008; Gigler et al., 2014; Bédard & Courteau, 2015; King, 2018; Kajüter et al., 2019).

In Egypt, some prior studies have focused on the annual financial statements providing conflicting evidence. For example, Ragab and Omran (2006) find that the annual earnings of the Egyptian listed firms are value relevant, while Hassan et al. (2009) find an inverse relationship between the mandatory disclosure and firm value. In addition, Ebaid (2012) has provided evidence that the value relevance of the financial

information depends on the item of interest, since the net income has the highest value relevance, while sales have relatively more value relevance than the cash flows from operating activities. However, Mostafa (2016) concludes that earnings are value relevant, but the cash flow is not.

**In sum**, there is disagreement among findings of prior studies regarding the benefits of the interim financial reporting, and whether the quarter reporting has more positive implications for the equity stock market than the semi-annual reporting. However, providing timely accounting information via preparing more frequent financial statements is expected to improve the usefulness of accounting information for investors which can be reflected in the improved market value of equity. With respect to the Egyptian context, prior studies have focused on the value relevance of the accounting information provided by the annual financial statements with relatively little attention paid to the interim reporting. Accordingly, the **first and second research hypotheses** can be developed, in their alternative forms, as follows:

- H<sub>1</sub>**: The interim, quarterly and semi-annually, provided accounting information has more value relevance than the annually provided accounting information of listed firms on the EGX.
- H<sub>2</sub>**: The quarterly provided accounting information has more value relevance than the semi-annually provided information of listed firms on the EGX.

### **2.2.2 Financial Reporting Lag and the Value Relevance of Interim/Annual Accounting Information**

Financial reporting lag refers to the period between the end of a firm's fiscal period and the time of issuing the reviewed/audited financial statements (Agyei-Mensah, 2018; Ben Rejeb Attia et al., 2019). In this context, prior studies have examined the determinants of the interim financial statements' timeliness (e.g., Ismail & Chandler, 2004; Boritz & Liu, 2006; Rahman et al., 2007; Al-Tahat, 2015). Moreover, some studies (Mensah & Werner, 2008; Das et al., 2009; Nallareddy et al., 2017; Lee & Tong, 2018; Kajüter et al., 2019) have examined the relationship between the financial reporting timeliness and the related implications for the stock equity market, providing inconclusive findings.

However, few studies have investigated the relationship between the value relevance of the annually provided accounting information and the financial reporting lag. For instance, Asthana (2014) has provided evidence that the audit delay negatively affects earnings quality which, in turn, negatively affects the value relevance of the accounting information provided by the annual financial statements using a sample of US firms from different sectors. Moreover, Ben Rejeb Attia et al. (2019) find that the financial reporting lag positively affects the relationship between the current return and future earnings using a sample of the banking sector in 12 of the MENA region countries.

Accordingly, the timeliness of financial reporting, as measured by the financial reporting lag or audit report delay, is an important issue for the stock equity market, since the financial information can lose its relevance in case of delaying the publishing of financial statements, especially for the interim reporting which mainly aims to provide timely information for the stock equity market participants. Therefore, shortening this period is important for the information to be timely. In contrast, delaying the issuance of the interim/annual financial statements would negatively affect the usefulness of the provided accounting information. However, delaying the issuance of the financial statements may be valued by the equity market, since the financial statements accompanied by an auditor's assurance represent the most reliable source of financial information. In this context, the **third and fourth research hypotheses** can be developed, in their alternative forms, as follows:

- H3:** Financial reporting lag affects the value relevance of the interim accounting information more than the annually provided accounting information of listed firms on the EGX.
- H4:** Financial reporting lag affects the value relevance of the quarterly provided accounting information more than the semi-annually provided accounting information of listed firms on the EGX.

### **3. Research Design**

This section aims to empirically test the research hypotheses to determine whether the more frequent financial reporting affects the value relevance of the accounting information, and whether the lateness of the issuance of the interim financial statements affects the relevance of the

**Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh**

---

---

accounting information they provide. The following sub-sections depict the sample selection process, variable measurements, and the research model estimated to test the research hypotheses.

### **3.1 Sample Selection**

The initial sample consists of all firms listed on the EGX during the period 2016–2019 with fiscal year ends on December 31, and with financial statements in local currency. The required financial and stock data are obtained from the websites of the Egyptian Stock Exchange, Mubasher Misr Information, and listed firms' official websites. Data are collected for the first quarter, the second quarter (semi-annual), and the annual financial statements, over the four-year period of 2016–2019, constrained by the availability of data.

**Panel A of Table 1** presents the sample selection process, after excluding the financial services-related sectors, and firms with insufficient required data, and those with year-end on June 30 and with financial statements in foreign currency. The final sample size is 90 firms resulting in 288 firm-quarter observations and 331 firm-semiannual observations with a total of 619 firm-interim observations, and 335 firm-year observations. **Panels B and C of Table 1** depict the distribution of the sample-firm observations by industry and year, respectively, based on quarter, semi-annual, and annual samples (see Appendix A for more details).

### **3.2 Models Specification**

Following prior studies (Badu & Appiah, 2018; Bepari et al., 2013; El-Diftar & Elkalla, 2019; Elbakry et al., 2017), this research utilizes the Ohlson (1995) model in its basic version with modifications to compare the value relevance of interim and annually provided accounting information. Accordingly, to test  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  which investigate to what extent the reported book values and earnings are reflected in the market values of firms, the following model is estimated for both the interim versus annual and the quarter versus semi-annual samples:

$$MVPS_{it} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 BVPS_{it} + \beta_2 EPS_{it} + \beta_3 QAO_{it} + \beta_4 Loss_{it} + \beta_5 Size_{it} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad \text{Model (1)}$$

**Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh**

---

---

Where,  $\alpha$ , is the intercept;  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$ ,  $\beta_3$ ,  $\beta_4$ , and  $\beta_5$  are the coefficients of the regression model.  $MVPS_{it}$  is the dependent variable measured by the market value per share for the firm (i) at the end of the period (t), with the prevailing market price after three days from the issuance of the reviewed/audited financial statements; BVPS is the book value of owners' equity per share; EPS is the reported earnings from continuing operations scaled by the number of outstanding shares (El-Diftar & Elkalla, 2019); and  $\varepsilon_{it}$  is an error term. **Table 2** summarizes all main variables used in this research and the way of measuring each variable.

In addition, the qualified audit opinion, loss, and firm size are included to control for their potential impact on the value relevance and timeliness of the accounting information. The presence of a qualified audit opinion indicates greater audit effort which is supposed to late the issuance of financial statements (Durand, 2019), therefore, a dummy variable is included taking the value of 1 if the financial statements are accompanied by a qualified limited review/audit opinion, and 0 otherwise (Bailey et al., 2018). Also, reporting loss represents bad news which is expected to motivate firms to delay the release of this information (Durand, 2019), therefore, a dummy variable is included taking the value of 1 if the firm reports loss, and 0 otherwise (Bailey et al., 2018; Kajüter et al., 2019). Moreover, large firms need to provide their financial information on a timely basis due to external pressure (Durand, 2019), therefore, the natural logarithm of total assets is used as a proxy for firm size (Bailey et al., 2018; Kajüter et al., 2019; Almujaed & Alfraih, 2020; Fujianti & Satria, 2020).

Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh

**Table 1: Sample Selection Process**

<b>Panel A: Sample selection criteria</b>				<b>Firms</b>					
All listed firms during the period 2016-2019				220					
Less: Financial services				46					
Firms with financial year-end other than December 31				40					
Firms with insufficient financial data of interest				44					
<b>Final sample size</b>				<b>90</b>					
<b>Panel B: Samples by industry</b>									
<b>Industry</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Sample</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Quarter</b>		<b>Semi-annual</b>		<b>Annual</b>	
				<b>Obs.</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Obs.</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Obs.</b>	<b>%</b>
Basic Resources	16	8	50	28	10	30	9	32	10
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	28	13	46	41	14	47	14	52	16
Industrial goods, Services and Automobiles	6	3	50	10	3	10	3	10	3
Textile & Durables	9	3	33	11	4	11	3	11	3
Building Materials	13	12	92	35	12	44	13	42	13
Real Estate	32	18	56	62	22	66	20	68	20
Contracting & Construction Engineering	11	6	55	18	6	23	7	22	7
Paper & Packaging	5	2	40	7	2	8	2	8	2
Trade & Distributers	4	2	50	6	2	7	2	8	2
Health Care & Pharmaceuticals	17	9	53	25	9	33	10	32	10
Travel & Leisure	16	10	63	32	11	37	11	34	10
IT, Media & Communication Services	5	2	40	7	2	7	2	8	2
Utilities	1	1	100	2	1	4	1	4	1
Shipping & Transportation Services	4	1	25	4	1	4	1	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Panel C: Samples by year</b>									
<b>Year</b>				<b>Obs.</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Obs.</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Obs.</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2016</b>				82	28.47	83	25.08	87	26
<b>2017</b>				82	28.47	83	25.08	82	24
<b>2018</b>				45	15.63	82	24.77	84	25
<b>2019</b>				79	27.43	83	25.08	82	24
<b>Total (619 Interim obs.)</b>				<b>288</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh**

---

---

Furthermore, to test H<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>4</sub>, the model is expanded to include reporting lag variable to examine whether the delay of publishing the financial statements influences the value relevance of the financial information as follows:

$$MVPS_{it} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 BVPS_{it} + \beta_2 EPS_{it} + \beta_3 FRL_{it} + \beta_4 FRL_{it} * BVPS_{it} + \beta_5 FRL_{it} * EPS_{it} + \beta_6 QAO_{it} + \beta_7 Loss_{it} + \beta_8 Size_{it} + \epsilon_{it} \quad \text{Model (2)}$$

Where, the  $FRL_{it}$  is the difference in days between the period-end and the auditor's report date (Agyei-Mensah, 2018; Bailey et al., 2018). Although the auditor's report date might differ from the date of issuing the financial statements, it is used as a proxy for the financial reporting lag in prior studies (e.g., Adebayo & Adebisi, 2016; Agyei-Mensah, 2018; Chukwu & Nwabochi, 2019; Efobi & Okougbo, 2014; Firmanti & Karmudiandri, 2020; Iyoha, 2012), since there is no available data regarding the date of publishing the financial statements. In addition, the interactive variables  $FRL_{it} * BVPS_{it}$  and  $FRL_{it} * EPS_{it}$  are included to investigate the difference in the value relevance of the book value and earnings information after considering the financial reporting lag. This model is estimated for both the interim versus annual and the quarter versus semi-annual samples.

**Figure 1** demonstrates the research hypotheses to be tested using the multiple regressions as indicated above. As research hypotheses point out, there is a main independent variable represented by the financial reporting frequency, which is divided for analysis into interim versus annual reporting, and then the interim reporting is classified as quarterly versus semi-annual reporting. That is, the quarterly reporting represents the more frequent financial reporting, then the semi-annual, followed by the annual reporting. The BVPS and EPS, as accounting information, are to be tested for whether they are reflected in the MVPS under each classification of the financial reporting frequency. However, this effect is expected to be moderated by the financial reporting lag.

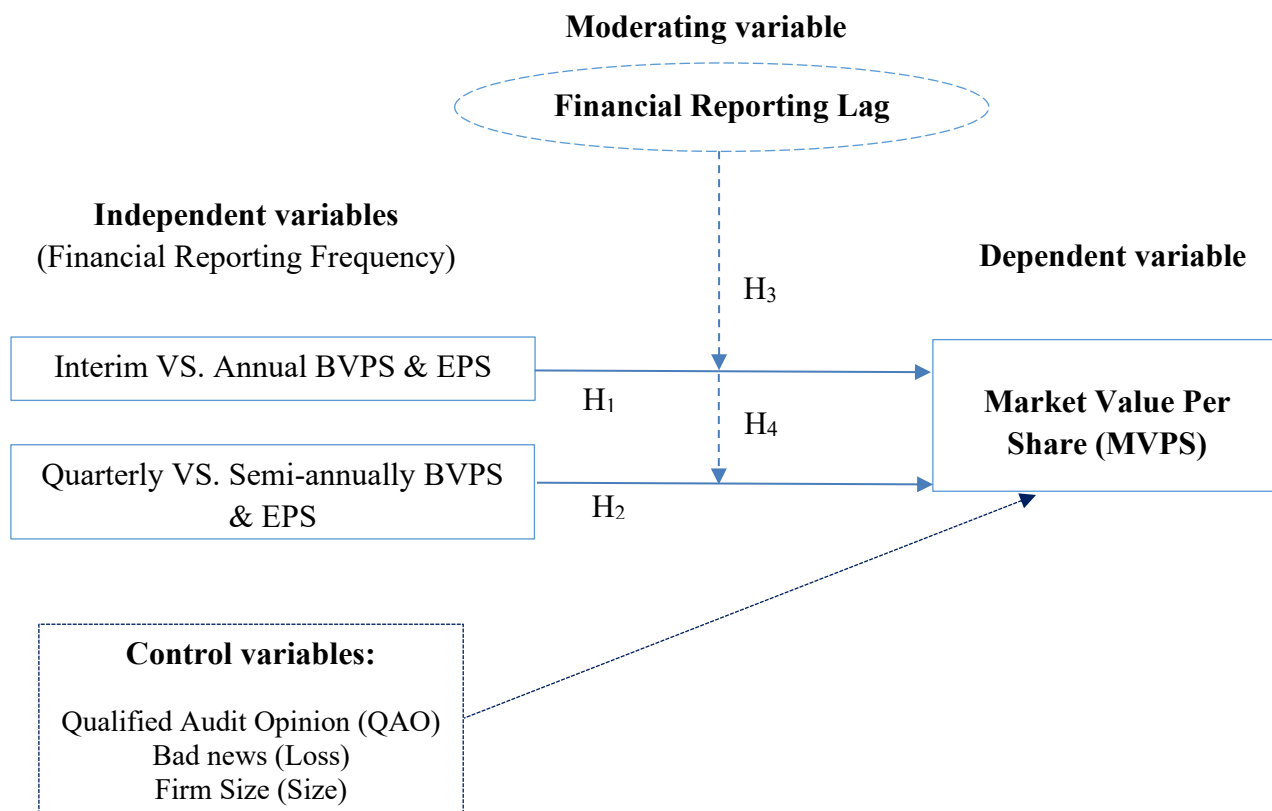
Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh

**Table 2: Metrics of Research Variables**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Measurement/proxy</b>
<b>Dependent</b>		
Market Value Per Share	MVPS	Market value of equity per outstanding common shares at period-end, using the prevailing market price three days after the issuance of the reviewed/audited financial statements (Bepari et al., 2013; El-Diftar & Elkalla, 2019).
<b>Independent</b>		
Book Value Per Share	BVPS	Book value of equity at the period-end divided by the outstanding common shares (Almujamed & Alfraih, 2020; Bepari et al., 2013; El-Diftar & Elkalla, 2019).
Earnings Per Share	EPS	The portion of net income allocated to each share of common shares, measured by dividing the net income by outstanding common shares as reported in the income statement (Almujamed & Alfraih, 2020; Bepari et al., 2013; El-Diftar & Elkalla, 2019).
<b>Moderating</b>		
Financial Reporting Lag	FRL	The difference in days between the period-end and the auditor's report date (Agyei-Mensah, 2018; Bailey et al., 2018).
Financial Reporting Delay	Delay	A dummy variable takes the value of 1 if the firm reports after the statutory allowed period, and 0 otherwise (Bailey et al., 2018).
<b>Control</b>		
Qualified Audit Opinion	QAO	A dummy variable takes the value of 1 if the financial statements are accompanied by a qualified limited review/audit opinion, and 0 otherwise (Bailey et al., 2018; Habib et al., 2019).
Bad news	Loss	A dummy variable takes the value of 1 if the firm reports loss, and 0 otherwise (Bailey et al., 2018; Kajüter et al., 2019).
Firm size	Size	The natural logarithm of total assets (Bailey et al., 2018; Fujianti & Satria, 2020; Kajüter et al., 2019).

**Source:** Developed by the researcher.

Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh



**Figure 1: Research Model**

Source: Developed by the researcher

#### 4. Results and Discussion

This section presents and discusses the results of the descriptive statistics for research variables used in the regression models, followed by the results of hypotheses testing.

##### 4.1 Descriptive Statistics

**Panel A of Table 3** shows the descriptive statistics for all variables used in the analysis in terms of the mean, median, standard deviation, the minimum and maximum values for research variables during the covered period 2016-2019, organized by the frequency of reporting; quarterly, semi-annually, and annually. It indicates that the mean of the research

**Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh**

---

---

variables is within the range of the minimum and maximum values which implies that there are no odd values. Noting that the standard deviation of the FRL and Size is less than their mean indicating the homogeneity of the sample data in terms of size and the reporting lag. However, the standard deviation of the remaining research variables is greater than their mean implying the variance of their related data extracted from the financial statements of the sample firms. This is rational since the sample includes 90 firms from different sectors over different years.

The MVPS for the annual data are slightly higher than those for both the quarter and semi-annual data, since the mean (median) of the MVPS, dependent variable, estimated using the first-quarter, semi-annual, and annual data are 16.232 (6.525), 16.112 (6.560), and 17.529 (6.980), respectively. The mean of the FRL estimated using the first quarter and semi-annual data are 47.948 (44) and 45.359 (44), respectively. It is noted that the mean of the FRL under the quarter reporting is greater than 45 days the legal reporting period, which reflects firms' more compliance with the required period under the semi-annual reporting. Also, the maximum FRL is 199 days under the quarter reporting and 160 under the semi-annual reporting. This lateness in issuing the interim financial statements may affect the value relevance of the resulting accounting information.

**Panel B of Table 3** indicates that 67.4% and 74.3% are complied with the required reporting lag period, which is within 45 days from the period-end, for the quarter and semi-annual reporting, respectively. It also reports that 85.4% of the sample complies with the required reporting lag period which is within 90 days from the year-end. This is consistent with the mean (median) of the FRL is 68.937 (63) reported in Panel A of Table 3 under the annual reporting. When comparing the interim with the annual data, it would be noticed that 28.9% of the interim sample have exceeded the required period of issuing the interim financial statements, versus 14.6% for the annual sample, i.e., double those delay the issuance of the annual financial statements. Moreover, Appendix (B) demonstrates via Charts the mean of the FRL over the sample period 2016-2019, and the frequency of firms delaying their financial reporting and those do not delay under each of the reporting periods, quarter, semi-annual, and annual.

**Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh**

---

---

**Table 4** summarizes the results of the Pearson correlation between the research variables. It depicts that there is a weak correlation between research explanatory variables, since the degree of correlation between the independent, control, and moderating variables is less than 0.7, therefore, there is no multicollinearity problem. **Panels A and B of Table 4** show the correlation matrix of the variables using the quarter and semi-annual samples, respectively. The quarter-based sample is like to some extent the semi-annual sample in terms of their Pearson correlation coefficients and significance levels (p-values). That is, there is a significant positive strong relation between MVPS and the independent variables BVPS and EPS.

For the quarter-based sample, the correlation coefficients of the main variable (MVPS) are 0.939 with BVPS, 0.571 with EPS, and 0.210 with FRL, all are significant as indicated in **Panel A of Table 4**. For the semi-annual sample, the correlation coefficients of MVPS are 0.931 with BVPS, 0.726 with EPS, and 0.232 with FRL, as indicated in **Panel B of Table 4**. These positive relationships support the value relevance of the interim financial information. Regarding the correlation between variables using the annual-based sample, **Panel C of Table 4** shows that the correlation coefficients of MVPS are 0.821 with BVPS, 0.473 with EPS, and 0.118 with FRL, all are significant. Concerning the control variables, only Size has a significant relationship with MVPS under all samples.

Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh

**Table 3: Summary Statistics**

<b>Panel A: Descriptive statistics for the main research variables</b>							
<b>Variable</b>	<b>Period-end</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev.</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Obs.</b>
<b>MVPS</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	16.232	56.131	0.055	6.525	618.800	<b>288</b>
	<b>Semi-annual</b>	16.112	54.132	0.050	6.560	642.600	<b>331</b>
	<b>Annual</b>	17.529	59.572	0.048	6.980	665.210	<b>335</b>
<b>BVPS</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	12.663	31.487	0.014	6.319	370.526	<b>288</b>
	<b>Semi-annual</b>	12.312	27.384	0.015	6.421	308.212	<b>331</b>
	<b>Annual</b>	14.010	46.374	0.0144	6.174	636.259	<b>335</b>
<b>EPS</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	0.446	3.670	-22.250	0.106	53.370	<b>288</b>
	<b>Semi-annual</b>	0.869	7.115	-36.720	0.200	110.470	<b>331</b>
	<b>Annual</b>	1.379	15.547	-166.900	0.400	169.660	<b>335</b>
<b>FRL</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	47.948	17.279	12	44	199	<b>288</b>
	<b>Semi-annual</b>	45.359	16.178	11	44	160	<b>331</b>
	<b>Annual</b>	68.937	23.826	15	63	177	<b>335</b>
<b>Delay</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	0.326	0.469	0	0	1	<b>288</b>
	<b>Semi-annual</b>	0.257	0.437	0	0	1	<b>331</b>
	<b>Annual</b>	0.146	0.354	0	0	1	<b>335</b>
<b>QAO</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	0.149	0.357	0	0	1	<b>288</b>
	<b>Semi-annual</b>	0.148	0.356	0	0	1	<b>331</b>
	<b>Annual</b>	0.134	0.342	0	0	1	<b>335</b>
<b>Loss</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	0.187	0.391	0	0	1	<b>288</b>
	<b>Semi-annual</b>	0.193	0.395	0	0	1	<b>331</b>
	<b>Annual</b>	0.170	0.376	0	0	1	<b>335</b>
<b>Size</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	8.794	0.730	7.483	8.846	10.575	<b>288</b>
	<b>Semi-annual</b>	8.777	0.725	6.082	8.814	10.579	<b>331</b>
	<b>Annual</b>	8.818	0.729	7.512	8.853	10.629	<b>335</b>

**Panel B: Frequency of the late issuance of the interim and annual financial statements**

	<u>Quarter</u>		<u>Semi-annual</u>		<u>Total Interim</u>		<u>Annual</u>	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>Delay</b>	94	32.6	85	25.7	179	<b>28.9</b>	49	<b>14.6</b>
<b>No delay</b>	194	<b>67.4</b>	246	<b>74.3</b>	440	<b>71.1</b>	286	<b>85.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Developed by the researcher.

Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh

**Table 4: Correlation Coefficients Matrix**

<b>Panel A: Quarter-based sample, n= 288</b>									
	<u>MVPS</u>	<u>BVPS</u>	<u>EPS</u>	<u>FRL</u>	<u>FRL* BVPS</u>	<u>FRL*EPS</u>	<u>QAO</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Size</u>
<b>MVPS</b>	1								
<b>BVPS</b>	0.939**	1							
<b>EPS</b>	0.571**	0.511**	1						
<b>FRL</b>	0.210**	0.223**	0.013	1					
<b>FRL*BVPS</b>	0.936**	0.956**	0.341**	0.316**	1				
<b>FRL*EPS</b>	0.505**	0.389**	0.963**	0.029	0.258**	1			
<b>QAO</b>	-0.026	-0.008	-0.011	0.220**	-0.013	-0.007	1		
<b>Loss</b>	0.016	0.041	-0.152**	0.116*	0.079	-0.155**	0.073	1	
<b>Size</b>	0.273**	0.272**	0.087	0.062	0.267**	0.070	-0.012	0.061	1
<b>Panel B: Semiannual-based sample, n= 331</b>									
<b>MVPS</b>	1								
<b>BVPS</b>	0.931**	1							
<b>EPS</b>	0.726**	0.582**	1						
<b>FRL</b>	0.232**	0.247**	0.069	1					
<b>FRL*BVPS</b>	0.915**	0.956**	0.468**	0.352**	1				
<b>FRL*EPS</b>	0.723**	0.546**	0.971**	0.105	0.475**	1			
<b>QAO</b>	-0.021	0.017	-0.032	0.146**	0.001	-0.030	1		
<b>Loss</b>	-0.004	0.058	-0.134*	0.053	0.084	-0.120*	0.205**	1	
<b>Size</b>	0.259**	0.276**	0.116*	0.072	0.258**	0.114*	0.008	0.054	1
<b>Panel C: Annual-based sample, n= 335</b>									
<b>MVPS</b>	1								
<b>BVPS</b>	0.821**	1							
<b>EPS</b>	0.473**	0.067	1						
<b>FRL</b>	0.118*	0.179**	-0.104	1					
<b>FRL*BVPS</b>	0.667**	0.951**	-0.228**	0.238**	1				
<b>FRL*EPS</b>	0.210**	-0.251**	0.945**	-0.144**	-0.0525**	1			
<b>QAO</b>	-0.023	-0.023	-0.010	-0.025	-0.027	0.001	1		
<b>Loss</b>	-0.027	-0.024	-0.005	-0.003	-0.028	0.007	0.124*	1	
<b>Size</b>	0.257**	0.249**	0.059	0.034	0.214**	-0.010	0.040	0.013	1

\*, \*\* correlation is significant at 0.05 and 0.01, respectively.

Source: Developed by the researcher.

## **4.2 Empirical Results**

This section presents and discusses the results of the regression models estimated to test the research hypotheses.

### **4.2.1 The Value Relevance Model**

Results of testing  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  are reported in **Table 5**. It shows the results of the multiple regression that examines whether the reported interim/annual book values and earnings are reflected in the market values of firms. Results of the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) show that there is no violation of the multi-collinearity assumption. Since the maximum VIF value reported in **Table 5** is 1.662, which is lower than 10. Accordingly, the multiple regression models are estimated without the presence of the multi-collinearity problem (Pallant, 2016). This is also supported by the results reported in Table 4 concerning the correlation between variables. Under all samples, there is a significant positive relationship between the BVPS and EPS and the dependent variable MVPS.

**For the interim-based model**, the coefficients of the BVPS and EPS are 1.532 and 2.047, respectively, and their p-values are less than 0.05. For the annual-based model, also, p-values are less than 0.05, and the coefficient of the BVPS is 1.007 and EPS is 1.604, as reported in **Panel A of Table 5**. Both models are significant (p-values < 0.05), with the interim-based model has a higher adjusted  $R^2$  than the annual-based model, since 90.6% of changes in the MVPS can be interpreted by the variation in both the BVPS and EPS for the interim-based model, while the adjusted  $R^2$  is 84.9% for the annual-based model. Noting that, the adjusted  $R^2$  has been used as a metric for model selection in prior studies measuring the value relevance of accounting information (e.g., Zulu et al., 2017; Badu & Appiah, 2018). Also, using the Akaike info criterion,<sup>1</sup> the interim-based model is relatively better, since it has the lower value 8.4957 compared to 9.1366 for the annual-based model. Accordingly, both the interim and annually provided accounting information are value relevant, however, the

---

<sup>1</sup> User's Guide: Information Criteria: Using Information Criteria as a Guide to Model Selection. Available at EViews' Website:  
[http://www.eviews.com/help/helpintro.html#page/content%2Finfoapp-Using Information Criteria as a Guide to Model S.html%23](http://www.eviews.com/help/helpintro.html#page/content%2Finfoapp-Using%20Information%20Criteria%20as%20a%20Guide%20to%20Model%20S.html%23) (Last retrieved September 16, 2021).



**Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh**

---

---

interim accounting information has more value relevance than those provided annually. Therefore, **H<sub>1</sub> is supported.**

For the **quarter versus semi-annual based models**, results also revealed the overall significance of the model (P-value < 0.05) when separately conducted for both samples. Regarding the quarter-based model, the coefficient of the BVPS is 1.547 and EPS is 1.918 and the p-values are less than 0.05. Under the semi-annual based model, also, the p-values are less than 0.05, and the coefficient of the BVPS is 1.515 and EPS is 2.103, as shown in **Panel B of Table 5**. In addition, the results of the adjusted R<sup>2</sup> are 0.892 and 0.918 for the quarter and semi-annual models, respectively. This indicates that the model's independent variables explain 89.2% of the changes in the MVPS under the quarter model, and 91.8% under the semi-annual model.

Although both models are significant, the quarter-based model has a lower adjusted R<sup>2</sup> than the semi-annual based model. Also, according to the Akaike info criterion, the semi-annual based model is relatively better, since it has a lower value 8.3357 compared to 8.6862 for the quarter-based model. Accordingly, both the quarterly and semi-annually provided accounting information are value relevant, however, the semi-annual accounting information has more value relevance than those provided quarterly. Therefore, **H<sub>2</sub> is not supported.** This result is unexpected but is consistent with findings of some prior studies (e.g., Mensah & Werner, 2008; Ernstberger et al., 2017; Lee & Tong, 2018; Kajüter et al., 2019).

Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh

**Table 5: Results of the Value Relevance Regression Model**

**Model 1:**  $MVPS_{it} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 BVPS_{it} + \beta_2 EPS_{it} + \beta_3 QAO_{it} + \beta_4 Loss_{it} + \beta_5 Size_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$

**Panel A: Interim versus annual samples**

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Interim</u>				<u>Annual</u>			
	$\beta$	t-statistics	P-value	VIF	$\beta$	t-statistics	P-value	VIF
Intercept	-17.392	-2.052	0.041	NA	-25.569	-1.623	0.106	NA
BVPS	1.532	54.323	<b>0.000</b>	1.492	1.007	35.682	<b>0.000</b>	1.071
EPS	2.047	14.629	<b>0.000</b>	1.421	1.604	19.650	<b>0.000</b>	1.006
QAO	-3.368	-1.751	0.080	1.021	-0.181	-0.049	0.961	1.018
Loss	-0.322	-0.182	0.856	1.061	-0.976	-0.288	0.774	1.016
Size	1.551	1.598	0.111	1.085	3.058	1.705	0.089	1.071
F-statistic (Sig.)	1196.226 ( <b>0.000</b> )				377.898 ( <b>0.000</b> )			
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	<b>0.906</b>				<b>0.849</b>			
Akaike info criterion	<b>8.4957</b>				<b>9.1366</b>			
Sample size	<b>619</b>				<b>335</b>			

**Panel B: Quarter versus semi-annual samples**

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Quarter</u>				<u>Semi-annual</u>			
	$\beta$	t-statistics	P-value	VIF	$\beta$	t-statistics	P-value	VIF
Intercept	-20.787	-1.532	0.127	NA	-14.430	-1.351	0.178	NA
BVPS	1.547	36.830	<b>0.000</b>	1.479	1.515	37.756	<b>0.000</b>	1.662
EPS	1.918	5.440	<b>0.000</b>	1.415	2.103	13.943	<b>0.000</b>	1.585
QAO	-2.777	-0.909	0.364	1.006	-3.797	-1.551	0.122	1.044
Loss	-0.045	-0.016	0.988	1.051	-0.502	-0.223	0.824	1.092
Size	1.932	1.245	0.214	1.086	1.221	0.996	0.320	1.087
F-statistic (Sig.)	476.175 ( <b>0.000</b> )				741.451 ( <b>0.000</b> )			
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	<b>0.892</b>				<b>0.918</b>			
Akaike info criterion	<b>8.6862</b>				<b>8.3357</b>			
Sample size	<b>288</b>				<b>331</b>			

Source: Developed by the researcher.

**In sum,** under all models, the quarter versus semi-annual and interim versus annual models, the BVPS and EPS have a positive and significant effect on the MVPS. Regarding the control variables, the coefficients of the QAO and Loss are negative as expected, but

insignificant, also, Size has a positive, but insignificant coefficient. Generally, results suggest that the accounting information provided by the interim financial statements has more value relevance than that provided annually as evidenced by the higher adjusted  $R^2$  and the lower Akaike info criterion. However, the quarterly provided accounting information has a relatively lower value relevance than the semi-annually provided information. These findings support the results of some previous studies (e.g., Martani & Khairurizka, 2009; Alali & Foote, 2012; Zulu et al., 2017).

#### **4.2.2 The Financial Reporting Lag Model**

Results of the multiple regression estimated to test  $H_3$  and  $H_4$  are summarized in **Table 6. Panel A** presents the results of testing the third research hypothesis regarding the moderating effect of the financial reporting lag on the value relevance of the interim versus the annual financial information. For both samples, the models are significant, and there is a significant negative relationship between the FRL and the dependent variable MVPS.

**Panel A of Table 6** shows that the models are significant under both the interim and annual samples. **For the interim-based sample**, the adjusted  $R^2$  is increased from 90.6% to 95%, and the coefficients of the interactive variables, FRL\*BVPS and FRL\*EPS indicate decreasing the positive impact of the BVPS and EPS on the MVPS after considering the FRL, as a moderating variable, since the coefficient of the FRL\*BVPS is 0.017 and FRL\*EPS is 0.025 and statistically significant (p-value < 0.05). Regarding **the annual-based sample**, also, the adjusted  $R^2$  is increased from 84.9% to 90.9%, and there is a decrease in the positive impact of the BVPS and EPS on the MVPS after considering the FRL since the coefficient of the FRL\*BVPS is 0.028 and FRL\*EPS is 0.115, and statistically significant (p-value < 0.05).

Accordingly, the value relevance of both the interim and annually provided accounting information are affected by the delay in issuing the financial statements, however, the interim-based model has a higher adjusted  $R^2$  and lower Akaike info criterion value of 7.8805 compared to 8.6456 for the annual-based model. Therefore, the results **support  $H_3$**  indicating that the financial reporting lag affects the value relevance of the accounting information provided by the interim financial statements more

**Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh**

---

---

than affecting the annually provided accounting information. This result agrees in substance with the findings of Asthana (2014), and Ben Rejeb Attia et al. (2019) in that the financial reporting lag affects the value relevance of the financial information.

With respect to the quarter versus semi-annual samples, results are reported in **Panel B of Table 6**. For the **quarter-based sample**, the model is significant ( $p\text{-value} < 0.05$ ), and the adjusted  $R^2$  is increased from 89.2% to 95.6%. In addition, the coefficients of the interactive variables,  $FRL*BVPS$  and  $FRL*EPS$  indicate decreasing the positive impact of the BVPS and EPS on the MVPS after considering the FRL, as a moderating variable, since the coefficient of the  $FRL*BVPS$  is 0.023 and  $FRL*EPS$  is 0.032, and statistically significant ( $p\text{-value} < 0.05$ ). Regarding the **semi-annual sample**, the model is also significant ( $p\text{-value} < 0.05$ ), and the adjusted  $R^2$  is increased from 91.8% to 95.5%. Moreover, there is a decrease in the positive impact of the BVPS and EPS on the MVPS after considering the FRL, since the coefficient of the  $FRL*BVPS$  is 0.017 and  $FRL*EPS$  is 0.014, and statistically significant ( $p\text{-value} \leq 0.05$ ).

Accordingly, the delay in issuing the financial statements affects the value relevance of both the quarterly and semi-annually provided accounting information, however, the adjusted  $R^2$  for both models are approximately equal. Similarly, the Akaike value for the semi-annual based model is 7.7517 compared to 7.8095 for the quarter-based model. Therefore, the **results do not support H<sub>4</sub>** as anticipated, indicating that the financial reporting lag equally affects the value relevance of both the quarter and semi-annually provided financial information to the same degree.

Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh

**Table 6: Results of the Financial Reporting Lag Regression Model**

$$\text{Model 2: } MVPS_{it} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 BVPS_{it} + \beta_2 EPS_{it} + \beta_3 FRL_{it} + \beta_4 FRL_{it} * BVPS_{it} + \beta_5 FRL_{it} * EPS_{it} + \beta_6 QAO_{it} + \beta_7 Loss_{it} + \beta_8 Size_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

**Panel A: Interim versus annual samples**

Variable	Interim			Annual		
	$\beta$	t-statistics	P-value	$\beta$	t-statistics	P-value
Intercept	-4.527	-0.707	0.480	9.555	0.741	0.459
BVPS	0.191	2.140	<b>0.033</b>	1.070	4.715	<b>0.000</b>
EPS	1.184	2.408	<b>0.016</b>	7.759	10.206	<b>0.000</b>
FRL	-0.213	-6.259	<b>0.000</b>	-0.309	-6.221	<b>0.000</b>
FRL*BVPS	0.017	16.415	<b>0.000</b>	0.028	12.481	<b>0.000</b>
FRL*EPS	0.025	3.829	<b>0.000</b>	0.115	13.933	<b>0.000</b>
QAO	0.107	0.074	0.941	1.115	0.382	0.702
Loss	-1.937	-1.485	0.138	-0.433	-0.164	0.870
Size	1.711	2.395	<b>0.017</b>	1.802	1.278	0.202
F-statistic (Sig.)	1456.062 ( <b>0.000</b> )			416.333 ( <b>0.000</b> )		
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	<b>0.950</b>			<b>0.909</b>		
Akaike info criterion	<b>7.8805</b>			<b>8.6456</b>		
Sample size	<b>619</b>			<b>335</b>		

**Panel B: Quarter versus semi-annual samples**

Variable	Quarter			Semi-annual		
	$\beta$	t-statistics	P-value	$\beta$	t-statistics	P-value
Intercept	-3.608	-0.401	0.689	-5.502	-0.673	0.501
BVPS	0.313	1.946	<b>0.035</b>	0.153	1.185	<b>0.037</b>
EPS	2.556	1.906	<b>0.030</b>	1.792	3.309	<b>0.001</b>
FRL	-0.277	-5.950	<b>0.000</b>	-0.197	-4.329	<b>0.000</b>
FRL*BVPS	0.023	13.193	<b>0.000</b>	0.017	11.214	<b>0.000</b>
FRL*EPS	0.032	2.031	<b>0.043</b>	0.014	1.966	<b>0.050</b>
QAO	1.280	0.630	0.529	-0.200	-0.107	0.915
Loss	-0.287	-0.156	0.876	-1.843	-1.098	0.273
Size	2.055	2.047	<b>0.042</b>	1.789	1.953	<b>0.052</b>
F-statistic (Sig.)	773.149 ( <b>0.000</b> )			871.607 ( <b>0.000</b> )		
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	<b>0.956</b>			<b>0.955</b>		
Akaike info criterion	<b>7.8095</b>			<b>7.7517</b>		
Sample size	<b>288</b>			<b>331</b>		

Source: Developed by the researcher.

**To summarize**, under all models, the quarter versus semi-annual and interim versus annual models, the FRL has a negative and significant effect on the MVPS. The interactive variables, FRL\*BVPS and FRL\*EPS are statistically significant. Regarding the control variables, only the size has a significant positive effect on the MVPS in the quarter, semi-annual, and interim models, while the coefficients of the other control variables are insignificant. Generally, results suggest that the lateness of issuing the interim financial statements affects the value relevance of the accounting information and the effect is greater for the interim financial statements than those provided annually. However, the negative impact of the financial reporting lag on the value relevance is equal for both the quarter and semi-annually provided accounting information.

#### **4.2.3 Summary of the Hypotheses Testing Results**

To sum up, **Table 7** summarizes the results of the hypotheses testing. It can be concluded that both the interim and annually provided accounting information are value relevant. As hypothesized, findings support that the interim provided accounting information has more value relevance than those provided annually. In addition, the financial reporting lag affects the value relevance of the interim accounting information more than the annual accounting information. In contrast to what was expected, results show that the semi-annually provided accounting information has more value relevance than the quarterly provided information. However, the delay in issuing the interim financial statements equally affects the value relevance of both quarterly and semi-annually provided accounting information.

Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh

**Table 7: Summary of Hypotheses Testing**

	<b>Research Hypotheses</b>	<b>Result</b>
<b>H<sub>1</sub></b>	The interim, quarterly and semi-annually, provided accounting information has more value relevance than the annually provided accounting information of listed firms on the EGX.	<b>Supported</b>
<b>H<sub>2</sub></b>	The quarterly provided accounting information has more value relevance than the semi-annually provided information of listed firms on the EGX.	<b>Not supported</b>
<b>H<sub>3</sub></b>	Financial reporting lag affects the value relevance of the interim accounting information more than the annually provided accounting information of listed firms on the EGX.	<b>Supported</b>
<b>H<sub>4</sub></b>	Financial reporting lag affects the value relevance of the quarterly provided accounting information more than the semi-annually provided accounting information of listed firms on the EGX.	<b>Not supported</b>

**Source:** Developed by the researcher.

## **5. Sensitivity Analysis**

To further check the robustness of the results, the researcher adopts an alternative measure of the FRL variable. More specifically, Model (2) used to test research hypotheses H<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>4</sub> is re-tested using (i) the natural logarithms of the difference in days between the period-end and the auditor's report date following Lin (2020), representing **Model (3)** as reported in **Table 8**, and (ii) using the delay variable as indicated later and reported in Table 9.

**Panel A of Table 8** shows that the two models are significant (p-value < 0.05). For the interim-based model, the adjusted R<sup>2</sup> is increased from 90.6% to 94.9%, and from 84.9% to 89.1% for the annual-based model. Under both models, the Log\_FRL has a negative and significant effect on the MVPS, also, the coefficients of the interactive variables, Log\_FRL\*BVPS and Log\_FRL\*EPS are statistically significant.

With respect to the quarter versus semi-annual samples, results reported in **Panel B of Table 8** indicate that both models are statistically significant. For the quarter-based sample, the adjusted R<sup>2</sup> is increased from 89.2% to 95.3%, and from 91.8% to 95.5% for the semi-annual based model. In addition, the coefficients of the interactive variables,

**Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh**

---

---

Log\_FRL\*BVPS and Log\_FRL\*EPS are statistically significant, and the Log\_FRL has a negative and significant effect on the MVPS under both models.

Accordingly, for the interim versus annual-based models, the value relevance of the accounting information provided by the interim financial statements are negatively affected by the financial reporting lag greater than the effect on the annually provided accounting information. Moreover, for the semi-annual versus quarter-based models, both the quarter and semi-annually provided information are equally influenced by the financial reporting lag. Therefore, the results of the sensitivity analysis greatly support the results of the fundamental analysis.

Additionally, to examine whether the delay of publishing the financial statements impacts the value relevance of the interim/annual financial information, the following model is estimated for all samples:

$$\text{MVPS}_{it} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 \text{BVPS}_{it} + \beta_2 \text{EPS}_{it} + \beta_3 \text{Delay}_{it} + \beta_4 \text{Delay}_{it} * \text{BVPS}_{it} + \beta_5 \text{Delay}_{it} * \text{EPS}_{it} + \beta_6 \text{QAO}_{it} + \beta_7 \text{Loss}_{it} + \beta_8 \text{Size}_{it} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad \text{Model (4)}$$

Where,  $\text{Delay}_{it}$  is an indicating variable takes the value of 1 if the firm (i) reporting for the period (t) after the statutory allowed period of 45 (90) days for the interim (annual) financial statements, and 0 otherwise (Bailey et al., 2018). To determine this variable, first, the financial reporting lag is calculated as the difference in days between the period-end and the auditor's report date (Agyei-Mensah, 2018). Then, all samples, the quarter, semi-annual, and annual, are divided into two groups according to the lateness in issuing the financial statements. The interactive variables  $\text{Delay}_{it} * \text{BVPS}_{it}$  and  $\text{Delay}_{it} * \text{EPS}_{it}$  are included to investigate the difference in the value relevance of the book value and earnings information when firms issue their financial statements late beyond the allowed period.



Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh

**Table 8: Results of the Financial Reporting Lag Model Robustness Test**

$$\text{Model 3: } MVPS_{it} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 BVPS_{it} + \beta_2 EPS_{it} + \beta_3 \text{Log\_FRL}_{it} + \beta_4 \text{Log\_FRL}_{it} * BVPS_{it} + \beta_5 \text{Log\_FRL}_{it} * EPS_{it} + \beta_6 QAO_{it} + \beta_7 \text{Loss}_{it} + \beta_8 \text{Size}_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$$

**Panel A: Interim versus annual samples**

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Interim</u>			<u>Annual</u>		
	$\beta$	t-statistics	P-value	$\beta$	t-statistics	P-value
Intercept	38.337	3.914	0.000	67.449	3.239	0.001
BVPS	3.440	11.090	<b>0.000</b>	5.995	6.919	<b>0.000</b>
EPS	6.788	3.397	<b>0.001</b>	34.425	9.394	<b>0.000</b>
Log_FRL	-31.456	-7.024	<b>0.000</b>	-44.700	-5.198	<b>0.000</b>
Log_FRL*BVPS	2.658	16.364	<b>0.000</b>	3.804	8.771	<b>0.000</b>
Log_FRL*EPS	5.226	4.867	<b>0.000</b>	18.749	10.081	<b>0.000</b>
QAO	0.004	0.002	0.998	0.841	0.264	0.792
Loss	-2.558	-1.946	<b>0.052</b>	-0.333	-0.115	0.908
Size	1.684	2.342	<b>0.020</b>	2.018	1.310	0.191
F-statistic (Sig.)	1437.660 ( <b>0.000</b> )			342.484 ( <b>0.000</b> )		
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	<b>0.949</b>			<b>0.891</b>		
Akaike info criterion	<b>7.8925</b>			<b>8.8218</b>		
Sample size	<b>619</b>			<b>335</b>		

**Panel B: Quarter versus semi-annual samples**

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Quarter</u>			<u>Semi-annual</u>		
	$\beta$	t-statistics	P-value	$\beta$	t-statistics	P-value
Intercept	55.963	3.866	0.000	30.290	2.494	0.013
BVPS	4.957	9.190	<b>0.000</b>	3.235	7.759	<b>0.000</b>
EPS	14.767	2.915	<b>0.004</b>	3.445	1.619	<b>0.016</b>
Log_FRL	-42.228	-6.355	<b>0.000</b>	-26.883	-4.798	<b>0.000</b>
Log_FRL*BVPS	3.479	12.527	<b>0.000</b>	2.515	11.547	<b>0.000</b>
Log_FRL*EPS	10.445	3.911	<b>0.000</b>	3.325	2.903	<b>0.004</b>
QAO	0.965	0.466	0.641	-0.328	-0.177	0.859
Loss	-0.965	-0.512	0.609	-2.586	-1.545	0.123
Size	1.784	1.731	0.085	1.779	1.952	<b>0.052</b>
F-statistic (Sig.)	733.774 ( <b>0.000</b> )			880.852 ( <b>0.000</b> )		
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	<b>0.953</b>			<b>0.955</b>		
Akaike info criterion	<b>7.8594</b>			<b>7.7416</b>		
Sample size	<b>288</b>			<b>331</b>		

Source: Developed by the researcher.

**Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh**

---

---

Regarding the regression results of testing H<sub>3</sub>, addressing the moderating effect of delaying the issuance of the interim financial reports on the value relevance of the interim accounting information versus the annually provided information, **Panel A of Table 9** shows that the models are significant (p-value < 0.05). The Delay variable has a negative and significant effect on the MVPS, and both interactive variables, Delay\*BVPS and Delay\*EPS, are statistically significant. Furthermore, the adjusted R<sup>2</sup> is increased from 90.6% to 91.8% for the interim-based model, and from 84.9% to 86.6% for the annual-based model. Generally, results suggest that the lateness in issuing the financial statements affects the value relevance of the accounting information. However, the effect is greater for the interim-based model than the annual-based model.

For the quarter versus semi-annual based models, **Panel B of Table 9** indicates that the Delay variable has a negative and significant effect on the MVPS, and both interactive variables, Delay\*BVPS and Delay\*EPS, are statistically significant (p-value < 0.05) under the two models. The adjusted R<sup>2</sup> is increased from 89.2% to 93.2% for the quarter-based model, and from 91.8% to 93.7% for the semi-annual based model. Accordingly, the lateness in issuing the interim financial statements affects the value relevance of the accounting information. However, the effect is approximately equal for both the quarter and semi-annual reporting samples.

Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh

**Table 9: Robustness Test Results of the Lateness in Issuing the Financial Statements**

$$\text{Model 4: } MVPS_{it} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 BVPS_{it} + \beta_2 EPS_{it} + \beta_3 Delay_{it} + \beta_4 Delay_{it} * BVPS_{it} + \beta_5 Delay_{it} * EPS_{it} + \beta_6 QAO_{it} + \beta_7 Loss_{it} + \beta_8 Size_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

<b>Panel A: Interim versus annual samples</b>						
<b>Variable</b>	<b>Interim</b>			<b>Annual</b>		
	<b>β</b>	<b>t-statistics</b>	<b>P-value</b>	<b>β</b>	<b>t-statistics</b>	<b>P-value</b>
Intercept	-18.491	-2.324	0.020	-30.732	-2.046	0.042
BVPS	0.802	9.514	<b>0.000</b>	0.955	33.080	<b>0.000</b>
EPS	3.694	4.223	<b>0.000</b>	1.321	14.355	<b>0.000</b>
Delay	-9.093	-5.464	<b>0.000</b>	8.027	1.973	<b>0.049</b>
Delay*BVPS	0.809	9.231	<b>0.000</b>	-0.751	-3.273	<b>0.001</b>
Delay*EPS	-1.825	-2.078	<b>0.038</b>	2.545	5.119	<b>0.000</b>
QAO	-1.041	-0.570	0.569	0.366	0.101	0.919
Loss	-0.708	-0.407	0.684	-0.721	-0.220	0.826
Size	2.401	2.626	<b>0.009</b>	3.656	2.144	<b>0.033</b>
F-statistic (Sig.)	864.283 ( <b>0.000</b> )			271.252 ( <b>0.000</b> )		
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	<b>0.918</b>			<b>0.866</b>		
Akaike info criterion	<b>8.3685</b>			<b>9.0274</b>		
Sample size	<b>619</b>			<b>335</b>		
<b>Panel B: Quarter versus semi-annual samples</b>						
<b>Variable</b>	<b>Quarter</b>			<b>Semi-annual</b>		
	<b>β</b>	<b>t-statistics</b>	<b>P-value</b>	<b>β</b>	<b>t-statistics</b>	<b>P-value</b>
Intercept	-19.284	-1.449	0.148	-17.179	-1.820	0.070
BVPS	1.020	6.605	<b>0.000</b>	0.642	6.651	<b>0.000</b>
EPS	2.643	1.023	<b>0.037</b>	4.230	4.969	<b>0.000</b>
Delay	-8.445	-3.124	<b>0.002</b>	-9.614	-4.694	<b>0.000</b>
Delay*BVPS	0.577	3.647	<b>0.000</b>	1.000	9.788	<b>0.000</b>
Delay*EPS	0.866	0.334	<b>0.038</b>	2.392	2.803	<b>0.005</b>
QAO	-1.458	-0.483	0.629	-0.188	-0.085	0.932
Loss	-0.523	-0.181	0.856	-0.682	-0.322	0.748
Size	2.388	1.569	0.118	2.310	2.123	<b>0.035</b>
F-statistic (Sig.)	315.224 ( <b>0.000</b> )			610.337 ( <b>0.000</b> )		
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	<b>0.932</b>			<b>0.937</b>		
Akaike info criterion	<b>8.6458</b>			<b>8.0893</b>		
Sample size	<b>288</b>			<b>331</b>		

Source: Developed by the researcher.

## **6. Additional Analysis**

The researcher conducted an additional analysis to make sure that the assumptions and findings of the fundamental analysis are accurate. **Table 10** summarizes the results of the independent sample t-test conducted for examining whether there are significant differences between firms reporting beyond the statutory period and those reporting within the required period. More specifically, the differences in the mean of the MVPS, dependent variable, between firms belong to the delay sub-sample and those belong to the no-delay sub-sample under each of the main samples, the quarter, semi-annual, total interim, and annual are tested. As indicated in the previous section, the delay group takes the value of (1), while the no-delay group takes the value of (0).

For the quarter, semi-annual, and the interim samples, results reported in **Table 10** indicate that there is a significant difference in the MVPS according to the delay in publishing the interim financial reporting. However, results of the t-test revealed an insignificant difference in the MVPS for the annual sample between the delay and no delay sub-samples. These results indicate that the interim financial information is affected more than the annually provided information. However, the mean of the MVPS of the delay sub-sample is greater than that of the no-delay sub-sample under all main samples. This may be interpreted that the market participants do not undervalue the late in issuing the interim/annual financial statements as long as they are accompanied by the auditor's limited review/audit report.

Moreover, it is noticed that under each of the main samples, the percentage of firms late in the issuance of their financial statements beyond the statutory period (delay group) is relatively small; that is most firms reporting within the required period. This is also supported by the mean (median) of the Delay variable, reported above in Table 3, 0.326 (0.00) (estimated using first-quarter data) and 0.257 (0.00) (estimated using the semi-annual data). With respect to the annual-based sample, the mean (median) of the Delay is 0.146 (0.00). This indicates that most sample firms comply with the statutory period for both the interim and annual reporting, with the greater compliance is for the annual reporting.

Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh

**Table 10: Results of the T-Test for Delay Versus No Delay Sub-Samples**

MVPS	Delay = 1				No-Delay = 0				t-test p-value
	Mean	Median	n	%	Mean	Median	n	%	
<b>Quarter (n= 288)</b>	25.562	5.510	94	<b>32.6</b>	11.712	6.995	194	<b>67.4</b>	<b>0.024</b>
<b>Semi-annual (n= 331)</b>	29.916	6.210	85	<b>25.7</b>	11.342	6.810	246	<b>74.3</b>	<b>0.003</b>
<b>Interim (n= 619)</b>	27.629	6.020	179	<b>28.9</b>	11.504	6.835	440	<b>71.1</b>	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Annual (n= 335)</b>	29.797	8.650	49	<b>14.6</b>	15.428	6.905	286	<b>85.4</b>	0.060

Source: Developed by the researcher.

## 7. Conclusion

This research aims at investigating the value relevance of the accounting information provided by the interim financial statements in comparison with the annual financial statements, and whether this value relevance is significantly affected by the financial reporting lag. The statistical results of hypotheses testing presented in this research can be interpreted as evidence supporting the following inferences concerning the Egyptian context. Both the interim and annual financial statements are value relevant, as measured by the relationship between the book value per share and the earnings per share as independent variables, and the market value per share as a dependent variable. In addition, the accounting information provided by the interim financial statements has a relatively higher value relevance compared to that annually provided. These findings are as expected since it is logical that the more frequent financial reporting be valued by the stock market participants as reflected in the market value per share.

Regarding the interim financial reporting, results revealed that the semi-annually provided accounting information has a relatively higher value relevance than the quarterly provided one. However, both the quarterly and semi-annually provided accounting information are similarly affected by the financial reporting lag. These results contrast with what was expected since the more frequent financial reporting, in terms of the

quarterly provided accounting information, has a relatively lower value relevance.

The current research differs from the study of Bailey et al. (2018), which addresses factors affecting audit delay and the likelihood of a late annual filing, and Ben Rejeb Attia et al. (2019), which analyze the impact of the reporting lag on the relationship between the annual stock return and the future earnings, by examining the effect of delaying the issuance of financial statements on the value relevance of interim provided accounting information.

Furthermore, the findings are also supported by the results of the sensitivity and additional analyses which can be interpreted either by that (i) the market participants value the late in issuing the interim/annual financial statements if they are accompanied by the auditor's limited review/audit report, or (ii) the lower market efficiency, and the level of sophistication of the EGX's market participants. **In conclusion**, to enhance the timeliness of accounting information for firms listed on the EGX, it is not necessarily to obligate firms to report quarterly, however, it is recommended to reduce the financial reporting lag without affecting its reliability.

Research results must be interpreted considering some **limitations**. **First**, the research is conducted in the Egyptian setting using data for only listed non-financial firms. Therefore, findings may not be generalizable to other institutional settings such as the financial sector, those whose financial reports are in foreign currency, and the non-listed firms. **Second**, this research excludes other factors that may affect the value relevance and the financial reporting lag such as corporate governance mechanisms, auditor's attributes, firm age, leverage, conservatism, and earnings management practices. **Finally**, the inference of the findings of the current research should be in the light of the research objectives, the covered period, and the sample used, and the specific conditions for its selection, as well.

However, the results of the current research have some **implications and recommendations** that can improve the Egyptian financial reporting environment. **First**, the findings of the current research

**Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh**

---

---

would be of interest to the Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA) and regulatory bodies in Egypt who are responsible for setting the accounting standards and listing rules on the EGX, since findings point out that there is no need for obligating the quarterly financial reporting. Accordingly, the FRA and the EGX should be concerned with seeking to improve the regulatory and financial reporting environment by activating the corporate governance mechanisms and encouraging firms to comply with the legal reporting period for the interim reporting, and to use technology in preparing and publishing of the interim financial reports to enhance the timeliness of accounting information.

**Second**, it would be beneficial to establish a separate monitoring authority to oversee firms' compliance with the corporate governance code. This is expected to increase firms' compliance with applicable laws in order to improve the timeliness of the accounting information, and hence improve the financial reporting quality. **Third**, preparers of the financial statements may be concerned with the results of this research since it would be less costly if they prepare the interim financial statements semi-annually instead of the mandated quarterly reporting. Findings would also be of concern to investors when analyzing the interim financial statements.

**Finally**, results may be of concern to researchers interested in the value relevance of the financial information. Therefore, it is recommended to conduct more **future research** in this area to provide a more in-depth understanding of ways to improve the accounting information timeliness and relevance for firms listed on the EGX. **For example**, examining the impact of digitalization and the usage of technology in preparing and publishing of financial reports on the accounting information timeliness and relevance. Also, it is recommended to investigate the determinants of the financial reporting lag for interim reporting. Furthermore, it would be beneficial to study the implications of the enhanced timeliness in terms of its effect on the earnings management practices, and the cost of equity and debt, as well. The perception of the financial statements' preparers about costs and benefits of the more frequent reporting can be fruitful for further research. Regarding the limitations of the current research, it is recommended conducting future research using larger sample size, covering a longer period, and including a dummy variable to control for the potential impact of the industry type on the financial reporting lag.

**References**

- Adebayo, P. A., & Adebisi, W. K. (2016). Effect of firm characteristics on the timeliness of corporate financial reporting: Evidence from Nigerian deposit money banks. *International Journal of Economics, Commerce and Management*, 4(3), 369-381.
- Agyei-Mensah, B. K. (2018). Impact of corporate governance attributes and financial reporting lag on corporate financial performance. *African Journal of Economic and Management Studies*, 9(3), 349-366.
- Aifuwa, H. O., & Saidu, M. (2020). Audit committee attributes and timeliness of corporate financial reporting in Nigeria. *Accounting and Finance*, 88(2), 115-124.
- Akeem, L. B., Rufus, A. I., Abiodun, S. W., & Olawum, L. B. (2020). Audit reporting lag and firm value in Nigerian food and beverage companies. *Market Forces*, 15(2), 25-36.
- Alali, F. A., & Foote, P. S. (2012). The value relevance of international financial reporting standards: Empirical evidence in an emerging market. *The International Journal of Accounting*, 47(1), 85-108.
- Al-Ghanem, W., & Hegazy, M. (2011). An empirical analysis of audit delays and timeliness of corporate financial reporting in Kuwait. *Eurasian Business Review*, 1(1), 73-90.
- Al-Hares, O. M., AbuGhazaleh, N. M., & Haddad, A. E. (2012). Value relevance of earnings, book value and dividends in an emerging capital market: Kuwait evidence. *Global Finance Journal*, 23(3), 221-234.
- Almujamed, H. I., & Alfraih, M. M. (2020). Corporate governance and value relevance of accounting information: Evidence from Kuwait. *International Journal of Ethics and Systems*, 36(2), 249-262.



- Al-Tahat, S. S. Y. (2015). Company attributes and the timeliness of interim financial reporting in Jordan. *International Journal of Application or Innovation in Engineering & Management (IJAIEM)*, 4(3), 6-16.
- Asthana, S. (2014). Abnormal audit delays, earnings quality and firm value in the USA. *Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting*, 12(1), 21-44.
- Badu, B., & Appiah, K. O. (2018). Value relevance of accounting information: An emerging country perspective. *Journal of Accounting & Organizational Change*, 14(4), 473-491.
- Bailey, C., Collins, D. L., & Abbott, L. J. (2018). The impact of enterprise risk management on the audit process: Evidence from audit fees and audit delay. *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*, 37(3), 25-46.
- Bédard, J., & Courteau, L. (2015). Benefits and costs of auditor's assurance: Evidence from the review of quarterly financial statements. *Contemporary Accounting Research*, 32(1), 308-335.
- Ben Rejeb Attia, M., Lassoued, N., & Sassi, H. (2019). Financial reporting timeliness and the value relevance of earnings: Evidence from banks in the MENA countries. *The International Trade Journal*, 33(3), 277-301.
- Bepari, K., Rahman, S. F., & Mollik, A. T. (2013). Value relevance of earnings and cash flows during the global financial crisis. *Review of Accounting and Finance*, 12(3), 226-251.
- Boritz, J. E., & Liu, G. (2006). Determinants of the timeliness of quarterly reporting: Evidence from Canadian firms. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=875288> (Last retrieved September 16, 2021).
- Butler, M., Kraft, A., & Weiss, I. S. (2007). The effect of reporting frequency on the timeliness of earnings: The cases of voluntary and mandatory interim reports. *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, 43(2-3), 181-217.

- Chukwu, G. J., & Nwabochi, N. (2019). Audit committee characteristics and timeliness of corporate financial reporting in the Nigerian insurance industry. *International Journal of Managerial Studies and Research*, 7(4), 86-95.
- Cuijpers, R., & Peek, E. (2010). Reporting frequency, information precision and private information acquisition. *Journal of Business Finance & Accounting*, 37(1-2), 27-59.
- Das, S., Shroff, P. K., & Zhang, H. (2009). Quarterly earnings patterns and earnings management. *Contemporary Accounting Research*, 26(3), 797-831.
- Durand, G. (2019). The determinants of audit report lag: A meta-analysis. *Managerial Auditing Journal*, 34(1), 44-75.
- Ebaid, I. E. S. (2012). The value relevance of accounting-based performance measures in emerging economies: The case of Egypt. *Management Research Review*, 35(1), 69-88.
- Efobi, U., & Okougbo, P. (2014). Timeliness of financial reporting in Nigeria. *South African Journal of Accounting Research*, 28(1), 65-77.
- Elbakry, A. E., Nwachukwu, J. C., Abdou, H. A., & Elshandidy, T. (2017). Comparative evidence on the value relevance of IFRS-based accounting information in Germany and the UK. *Journal of International Accounting, Auditing and Taxation*, 28, 10-30.
- El-Diftar, D., & Elkalla, T. (2019). The value relevance of accounting information in the MENA region: A comparison of GCC and non-GCC country firms. *Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting*, 17(3), 519-536.
- Ernstberger, J., Link, B., Stich, M., & Vogler, O. (2017). The real effects of mandatory quarterly reporting. *The Accounting Review*, 92(5), 33-60.

- Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA). (2021). The revised listing and delisting rules on the Egyptian stock exchange. *Available at the Financial Regulatory Authority's Website: <https://fra.gov.eg> (Last retrieved September 16, 2021).*
- Firnanti, F., & Karmudiandri, A. (2020). Corporate governance and financial ratios effect on audit report lag. *Accounting and Finance Review, 5*, 15-21.
- Fu, R., Kraft, A., & Zhang, H. (2012). Financial reporting frequency, information asymmetry, and the cost of equity. *Journal of Accounting and Economics, 54*(2-3), 132-149.
- Fujianti, L., & Satria, I. (2020). Firm size, profitability, leverage as determinants of audit report lag: Evidence from Indonesia. *International Journal of Financial Research, 11*(2), 61-67.
- García, M. d. P. R., Alejandro, K. A. C., Sáenz, A. B. M., & Sánchez, H. H. G. (2017). Does an IFRS adoption increase value relevance and earnings timeliness in Latin America? *Emerging Markets Review, 30*, 155-168.
- Gigler, F., Kanodia, C., Sapra, H., & Venugopalan, R. (2014). How frequent financial reporting can cause managerial short-termism: An analysis of the costs and benefits of increasing reporting frequency. *Journal of Accounting Research, 52*(2), 357-387.
- Habib, A., Bhuiyan, M. B. U., Huang, H. J., & Miah, M. S. (2019). Determinants of audit report lag: A meta-analysis. *International Journal of Auditing, 23*(1), 20-44.
- Hassan, O. A., Romilly, P., Giorgioni, G., & Power, D. (2009). The value relevance of disclosure: Evidence from the emerging capital market of Egypt. *The International Journal of Accounting, 44*(1), 79-102.

- International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). (2018a). *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*. London, U.K.:IASB.
- International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). (2018b). *Statement of International Accounting Standards No. 34. Interim Financial Reporting*. London, U.K.:IASB.
- Ismail, K. N. I. K., & Chandler, R. (2004). The timeliness of quarterly financial reports of companies in Malaysia. *Asian Review of Accounting, 12*(1),1-18.
- Ismail, K. N. I. K., & Chandler, R. (2005). Perceptions of professional investors in Malaysia on the usefulness of quarterly financial reports. *UKM Journal of Management, 24*, 105-124.
- Ismail, K. N. I. K., & Chandler, R. (2007). Quarterly financial reporting: A survey of Malaysian users and preparers. *Accounting, Banking and Corporate Financial Management in Emerging Economies, 7*, 53-67.
- Iyoha, F. O. (2012). Company attributes and the timeliness of financial reporting in Nigeria. *Business Intelligence Journal, 5*(1), 41-49.
- Kajüter, P., Klassmann, F., & Nienhaus, M. (2016). Do reviews by external auditors improve the information content of interim financial statements? *The International Journal of Accounting, 51*(1), 23-50.
- Kajüter, P., Klassmann, F., & Nienhaus, M. (2019). The effect of mandatory quarterly reporting on firm value. *The Accounting Review, 94*(3), 251-277.
- Khelifi, F., & Bouri, A. (2010). Corporate disclosure and firm characteristics: A puzzling relationship. *Journal of Accounting, Business & Management, 17*(1), 62-89.
- King, T. A. (2018). How frequently should listed companies report results? *Research in Accounting Regulation, 30*(2), 176-179.
- Kraft, A. G., Vashishtha, R., & Venkatachalam, M. (2018). Frequent financial reporting and managerial myopia. *The Accounting Review, 93*(2), 249-275.

- Lee, J. W., Kang, M., Oh, Y., & Pyo, G. (2014). Does continuous auditing enhance the quality of financial reporting? Korean evidence. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Accounting & Economics*, 21(3), 284-307.
- Lee, Y. T., & Tong, W. H. (2018). The impact of reporting frequency on the information quality of share price: Evidence from Chinese state-owned enterprises. *Frontiers of Business Research in China*, 12(1), 1-18.
- Lestari, S. Y., & Nuryatno, M. (2018). Factors affecting the audit delay and its impact on abnormal return in Indonesia Stock Exchange. *International Journal of Economics and Finance*, 10(2), 48-56.
- Lightstone, K., Young, N. M., & Mcfadden, T. (2012). Information quality of interim financial statements. *Accounting Perspectives*, 11(4), 297-313.
- Lin, C. C. (2020). Relationship between Individual Auditor Characteristics and Audit Report Lag: Evidence from Taiwan. *Journal of Business and Social Science Review*, 1(7), 24-34.
- Link, B. (2012). The struggle for a common interim reporting frequency regime in Europe. *Accounting in Europe*, 9(2), 191-226.
- Malek, M., Saidin, S. F., Osman, M. N. H., & Noor, M. (2016). Audited quarterly accounts and earnings response coefficients. *DLSU Business & Economics Review*, 25(2), 53-62.
- Manry, D., Tiras, S. L., & Wheatley, C. M. (2003). The influence of interim auditor reviews on the association of returns with earnings. *The Accounting Review*, 78(1), 251-274.
- Martani, D., & Khairurizka, R. (2009). The effect of financial ratios, firm size, and cash flow from operating activities in the interim report to the stock return. *Chinese Business Review*, 8(6), 44-55.
- Martínez, J. A., Martínez, D. A., & Lin, H. (2014). The value relevance of accounting numbers under International Financial Reporting Standards. *Australian Accounting Review*, 24(3), 237-254.

- Mensah, Y. M., & Werner, R. H. (2008). The capital market implications of the frequency of interim financial reporting: An international analysis. *Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting*, 31(1), 71-104.
- Ministry of Investment (MOI). (2015a). *The Revised Framework for Preparing and Presenting the Financial Statements*. Available at the Financial Regulatory Authority's Website: <https://fra.gov.eg/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/158-a.pdf> (Last retrieved September 16, 2021).
- Ministry of Investment (MOI). (2015b). *The Revised Egyptian Accounting Standard (EAS) No. (30): The Interim Financial Statements*. Available at the Financial Regulatory Authority's Website: <https://fra.gov.eg/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/158-a.pdf> (Last retrieved September 16, 2021).
- Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation (MOIIC). (2019). Decree No. 69/2019 concerning the amendment of some provisions of the Egyptian Accounting Standards issued by Decree No. 110/2015. Available at the Financial Regulatory Authority's Website: <https://fra.gov.eg/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/acount-2019.pdf> (Last retrieved September 16, 2021).
- Mostafa, W. (2016). The value relevance of earnings, cash flows and book values in Egypt. *Management Research Review*, 39(12), 1752-1778.
- Nallareddy, S., Pozen, R., & Rajgopal, S. (2017). Consequences of mandatory quarterly reporting: The UK experience. *Columbia Business School Research Paper No. 17-33*, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2817120> (Last retrieved September 16, 2021).
- Ohaka, J., & Akani, F. N. (2017). Timeliness and relevance of financial reporting in Nigerian quoted firms. *Management and Organizational Studies*, 4(2), 55-62.

- Pallant, J. (2016). *SPSS survival manual: A step by step guide to data analysis using IBM SPSS*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Open University Press. London, U.K.
- Ragab, A. A., & Omran, M. M. (2006). Accounting information, value relevance, and investors' behavior in the Egyptian equity market. *Review of Accounting and Finance*, 5(3), 279-297.
- Rahman, A. R., Tay, T. M., Ong, B. T., & Cai, S. (2007). Quarterly reporting in a voluntary disclosure environment: Its benefits, drawbacks and determinants. *The International Journal of Accounting*, 42(4), 416-442.
- Rahman, J. M., & Liu, R. (2021). Value relevance of accounting information and stock price reaction: Empirical evidence from China. *Accounting and Management Information System*, 20(1), 5-27.
- Saravanakumar, S., Mahadevan, A., Sairam Subramaniam, B., & Aarthy, R. (2012). An empirical investigation on the announcement of corporate quarterly results. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, 2(1), 162-176.
- Tan, B. S. (2016). Interim financial reporting: How frequent should it be? *International Journal of Economics and Accounting*, 7(2), 116-126.
- Urquiza, F. B., Navarro, M. C. A., Trombetta, M., & Lara, J. M. G. (2010). Disclosure theories and disclosure measures. *Spanish Journal of Finance and Accounting*, 39, 393-420.
- Van Buskirk, A. (2012). Disclosure frequency and information asymmetry. *Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting*, 38(4), 411-440.
- Watson, A., Shrivies, P., & Marston, C. (2002). Voluntary disclosure of accounting ratios in the UK. *The British Accounting Review*, 34(4), 289-313.
- Yalçın, K. C. (2010). Market rationality: Efficient market hypothesis versus market anomalies. *European Journal of Economic and Political Studies*, 3(2), 23-38.
- Zulu, M., De Klerk, M., & Oberholster, J. G. (2017). A comparison of the value relevance of interim and annual financial statements. *South African Journal of Economic and Management Sciences*, 20(1), 1-11.

**Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh**

---

---

**Appendices**

**Appendix (A): Sample Firms Observations**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Firms</b>	<b>First Quarter</b>	<b>Semi- annual</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>Basic Resources</b>	1. Arab Aluminum	3	3	4
	2. Asek Company for Mining - AscM	4	4	4
	3. Egyptian Financial & Industrial	4	3	4
	4. EL Ezz Aldekhela Steel - Alexandria	4	4	4
	5. Kafr El Zayat Pesticides	4	4	4
	6. Misr Fertilizers Production Company - Mopco	3	4	4
	7. Misr National Steel - Ataqa	3	4	4
	8. Sidi Kerir Petrochemicals	3	4	4
<b>Food, Beverages and Tobacco</b>	1. Mansourah Poultry	4	4	4
	2. Sharkia National Food	4	4	4
	3. Delta Sugar	4	4	4
	4. Ismailia National Food Industries	3	4	4
	5. Ismailia Misr Poultry	2	3	4
	6. Arabian Food Industries DOMTY	2	4	4
	7. The Arab Dairy Products Co. Arab Dairy - Panda	4	4	4
	8. Cairo Poultry	2	3	4
	9. Egyptian Starch & Glucose	4	4	4
	10. Edita Food Industries S.A.E	3	3	4
	11. Juhayna Food Industries	4	4	4
	12. Obour Land for Food Industries	2	2	4
	13. AJWA for Food Industries company Egypt	3	4	4



Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh

Sector	Firms	First Quarter	Semi-annual	Annual
<b>Industrial goods, Services and Automobiles</b>	1. Delta For Printing & Packaging	3	4	4
	2. El Arabia Engineering Industries	4	3	4
	3. Modern Shorouk Printing & Packaging	3	3	2
<b>Textile &amp; Durables</b>	1. Arab Polvara Spinning & Weaving CO.	3	4	4
	2. Dice Sport & Casual Wear	4	4	3
	3. Oriental Weavers	4	3	4
<b>Building Materials</b>	1. Torah Cement	2	2	1
	2. Sinai Cement	3	4	2
	3. Alexandria Portland Cement - TiTan	4	4	4
	4. Modern Company for Water Proofing (Bitumode)	2	3	3
	5. Suez Cement	3	3	4
	6. Arabian Cement Company	4	4	4
	7. The Arab Ceramic CO.- Ceramica Remas	3	4	4
	8. Arab Valves Company	2	4	4
	9. El Ezz Porcelain (Gemma)	4	4	4
	10. Rubex International for Plastic and Acrylic Manufacturing	3	4	4
	11. Misr Beni Suef Cement	3	4	4
	12. Misr Cement (Qena)	2	4	4
<b>Real Estate</b>	1. Gulf Canadian Real Estate Investment Co.	3	2	4
	2. Development & Engineering Consultants	2	4	3
	3. Delta Construction & Rebuilding	4	4	4
	4. Egyptians For Investment & Urban Development	3	4	4
	5. El Shams Housing & Urbanization	3	4	3

Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh

Sector	Firms	First Quarter	Semi-annual	Annual
	6. Emaar Misr for Development	4	4	4
	7. Gharbia Islamic Housing Development	4	4	4
	8. International Co for Investment & Development	3	4	4
	9. Ismailia Development and Real Estate Co	4	4	4
	10. Mena Touristic & Real Estate Investment	4	3	3
	11. Medinet Nasr Housing	4	4	4
	12. National Housing for Professional Syndicates	4	4	4
	13. El Obour Real Estate Investment	4	4	4
	14. Six of October Development & Investment (SODIC)	4	4	4
	15. Orascom Development Egypt	4	4	4
	16. Palm Hills Development Company	3	2	4
	17. Elsaeed Contracting& Real Estate Investment Company SCCD	2	3	3
	18. Zahraa Maadi Investment & Development	3	4	4
<b>Contracting &amp; Construction Engineering</b>	1. Acrow Misr	3	4	2
	2. Giza General Contracting	2	4	4
	3. Engineering Industries (ICON)	4	3	4
	4. National Real Estate Bank for Development	2	4	4
	5. The Egyptian Company for Construction Development	4	4	4
	6. Nasr Company for Civil Works	3	4	4

Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh

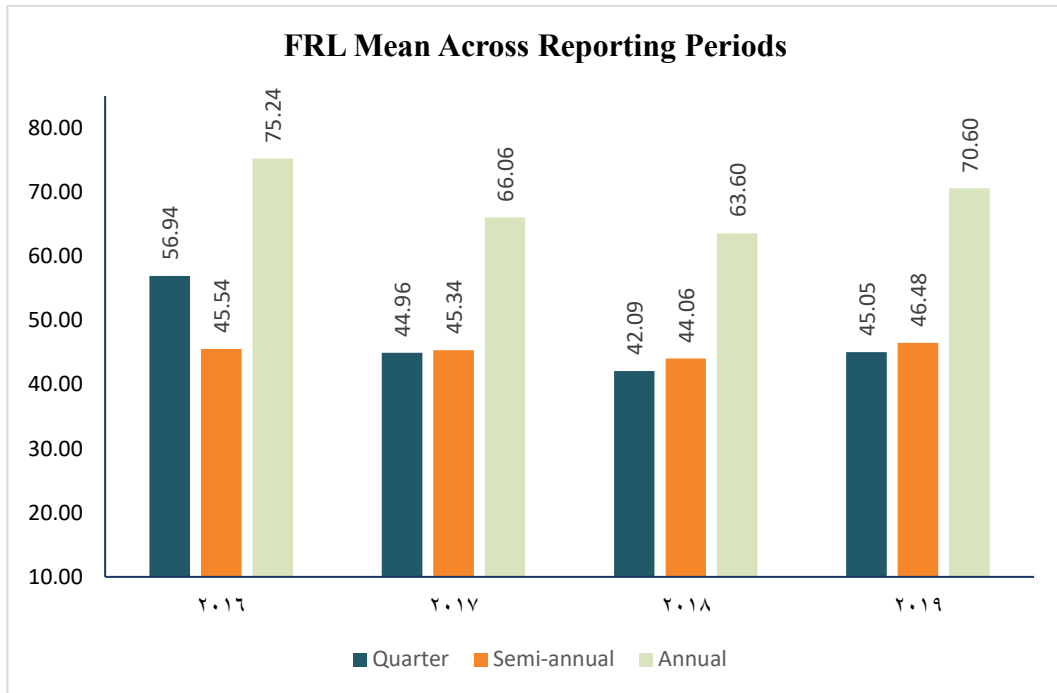
Sector	Firms	First Quarter	Semi-annual	Annual
<b>Paper &amp; Packaging</b>	1. El Ahram Co. For Printing and Packing	3	4	4
	2. Universal For Paper and Packaging Materials (Unipack)	4	4	4
<b>Trade &amp; Distributers</b>	1. MM Group for Industry and International Trade	3	3	4
	2. GMC Group for Industrial Commercial & Financial Investments	3	4	4
<b>Health Care &amp; Pharmaceuticals</b>	1. Glaxo Smith Kline BIOC.CA	---	3	2
	2. Cleopatra Hospital Company CLHO.CA	4	4	4
	3. Ibsina Pharma	2	2	4
	4. Minapharm Pharmaceuticals MIPH.CA	4	4	4
	5. Nozha International Hospital NINH.CA	3	4	4
	6. October Pharma OCPH.CA	3	4	4
	7. Sabaa International Company for Pharmaceutical and Chemical SIPC.CA	3	4	4
	8. Alexandria New Medical Center AMES.CA	3	4	4
	9. Medical Packaging Company MEPA.CA	3	4	2
<b>Travel &amp; Leisure</b>	1. Assiut Islamic Trading	3	4	4
	2. Egyptian International Tourism Projects	3	4	4
	3. Egyptian for Tourism Resorts	4	4	4
	4. El Wadi for International and Investment Development	2	4	3
	5. Golden Coast Company	3	3	2
	6. Remco for Touristic Villages Construction	3	3	3

**Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh**

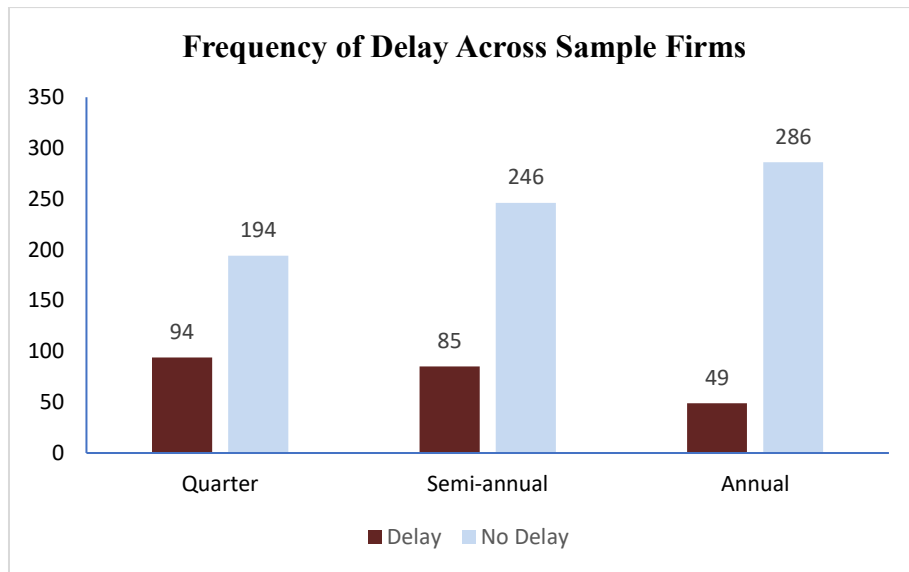
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Firms</b>	<b>First Quarter</b>	<b>Semi-annual</b>	<b>Annual</b>
	7. Rowad Tourism (Al Rowad)	3	4	3
	8. Sharm Dreams Co. for Tourism Investment	4	4	4
	9. TransOceans Tours	4	4	4
	10. Marsa Marsa Alam for Tourism Development	3	3	3
<b>IT, Media &amp; Communication Services</b>	1. Egyptian Media Production City	3	3	4
	2. Telecom Egypt	4	4	4
<b>Utilities</b>	1. Natural Gas & Mining Project (Egypt Gas)	2	4	4
<b>Shipping &amp; Transportation Services</b>	1. Egyptian Transport (EGYTRANS)	4	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>90 firms</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>335</b>

Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh

Appendix (B)



**Dr. Safaa Ahmed Saleh**



**العلاقة بين معدل تكرار إصدار القوائم المالية والدور التقييمي للمعلومات المحاسبية: هل تأخر إعداد القوائم المالية ذا أهمية؟  
"دليل من الواقع المصري"**

د. صفاء أحمد محمود صالح

مدرس المحاسبة، كلية التجارة، جامعة الإسكندرية

**مستخلص البحث**

**الهدف** – يستهدف هذا البحث دراسة واختبار العلاقة بين معدل تكرار إصدار القوائم المالية – إذا كان ربع سنويًا، أو نصف سنويًا، أو سنويًا – والدور التقييمي للمعلومات المحاسبية المقاس من خلال مدى انعكاس المعلومات المحاسبية المتعلقة بكل من القيمة الدفترية لحقوق الملكية وربحية السهم في أسعار الأسهم. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، فإنه يختبر أثر تأخر إعداد القوائم المالية – كمتغير تفاعلي – على هذه العلاقة.

**المنهجية** – تم استخدام أسلوب الانحدار المتعدد في اختبار فروض الدراسة، وذلك بالاعتماد على بيانات عينة من ٩٠ شركة من الشركات غير المالية المقيدة ببورصة الأوراق المالية المصرية خلال الفترة من عام ٢٠١٦ إلى عام ٢٠١٩. لذا، بلغ عدد المشاهدات ٢٨٨ مشاهدة ربع سنوية، و ٣٣١ مشاهدة نصف سنوية، بإجمالي عدد المشاهدات للقوائم المالية المرحلية ٦١٩ مشاهدة، و ٣٣٥ مشاهدة سنوية. وقد تم اختيار العينة استناداً إلى عدد من الشروط ووفقاً لما هو متاح من بيانات.

**النتائج** – توصل البحث، في ظل التحليل الأساسي، إلى أن زيادة معدل تكرار إصدار القوائم المالية يعزز من الدور التقييمي للمعلومات المحاسبية، حيث تشير النتائج إلى أن المعلومات المحاسبية التي توفرها القوائم المالية المرحلية لها دور تقييمي أكبر من تلك التي توفرها القوائم المالية السنوية. ومع ذلك، فكلما طالت الفترة حتى إصدار القوائم المالية المرحلية أو السنوية، كلما زاد احتمال فقدان المعلومات المحاسبية دورها التقييمي، وبصفة خاصة تلك التي توفرها القوائم المالية المرحلية. وعلى عكس ما هو متوقع، كشفت النتائج أن المعلومات المحاسبية التي توفرها القوائم المالية نصف السنوية لها دور تقييمي أكبر من تلك التي توفرها القوائم المالية ربع السنوية، ولكن تأثرت المعلومات المحاسبية التي توفرها كل من القوائم المالية ربع السنوية ونصف السنوية بتأخر إعداد القوائم المالية بنفس الدرجة. كما تم التأكد من مدى قوة هذه النتائج، حيث توصلت الدراسة من تحليل الحساسية – باستخدام طرق مختلفة في قياس تأثير تأخر إعداد القوائم المالية – إلى نتائج تدعم بدرجة كبيرة نتائج التحليل الأساسي.

**المساهمة العلمية** – توجد ندرة نسبية في الدراسات الأكاديمية – في حدود علم الباحث – التي تناولت وقتية المعلومات المحاسبية التي توفرها القوائم المالية المرحلية مقاسة من خلال معدل تكرار إصدار القوائم المالية ومدى تأخر إعدادها، وتأثيرها على الدور التقييمي للمعلومات المحاسبية في بيئة إعداد التقارير المالية في مصر. كما انتهت الدراسة بعدد من التوصيات التي قد تكون محل اهتمام كل من الأكاديميين، ومُعدي ومستخدمي القوائم المالية، والجهات التشريعية والرقابية المسنولة عن بيئة التقرير المالي وتحسين جودة القوائم المالية في البلدان الناشئة.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** معدل تكرار إصدار التقارير المالية، القوائم المالية المرحلية، وقتية المعلومات، الدور التقييمي للمعلومات المحاسبية.