

The Impact of Board Composition on Corporate Dividends Pay-Out: "An Empirical Examination of Industrial Companies Listed in Amman Stock Exchange"

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Abstract

This study investigates the impact of board composition on corporate dividends pay-out of a sample of 30 Jordanian industrial companies listed on the Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) during the period (2007-2017). The study examine the impact of a certain variables that represent board composition (Board size , Independent (non-executive) director , duality of chief executive officer (CEO) and chairman position , Director nationality , Institutional investors) .Panel-Data analysis was used to test the empirical model in the current study using a fixed affect model and Random effect model. Relevant data were collected from the (ASE) website and from the annual reports of the sampled companies.The result of the study revealed that there is a negative significant effect between Institutional investors, audit firm and dividend per share (DPS) at the 1% level. Moreover, there is a negative significant effect between Independent director and DPS at the 5% level. In contrast, board of director size and firm profitability positively affect the DPS at the 5% level. Furthermore, Duality of CEO and chairman position, director nationality, firm size and financial leverage were found to have no effect on DPS at the 5% level.

Keywords: Board Composition, Corporate Governance, Pay-out, ASE

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1. Introduction

The system of corporate governance is introduced to solve agency cost and minimize manager tendency toward pursuing objective that lead to harm stockholder wealth (Joshua Abor, Vera Fiador, 2013) The characteristic of board of director and the important role played by them in monitoring the firm consider an important corporate governance mechanism. (John and Senbet, 1998).

The board has the obligation to determine the firm's overall strategy, and to ensure that adequate controls are in place to protect shareholder value (Keenan, 2004). This study focuses on one of such decisions of corporate boards – the dividend pay-out decision. There is an important need to understand the central drivers of corporate dividend pay-out in Jordan. Therefore, this study seek to contribute to the extant literature by investigating the impact of board composition on dividend pay-out of Jordanian listed industrial companies during period of 2007-2017.

A dividend policy could make significant impact on the corporate future value when it is well established and carefully followed. Corporate governance should institute an effective mechanism of how much and when to pay as share dividends, taking into account a variety of factors relating to the company's current status, its future as well as market and economic circumstances (Abdulrahman, 2007). Beside this decision company must ensure competitive position sustainability to attract capital and to combat corruption and in order to achieve this goal companies need to take in consideration good governance practices (Abdelkareem, 2013).

Effective corporate governance and dividend payout policy are very important components of every company, this is vital to ensure the credibility of internal control and monitor the financial affairs of stockholder rightfully, thus, the research problem can be expressed through the following question:

Is there an impact of board composition (board size, CEO duality, board independence, board nationality, institutional investor) on dividends payout of Jordanian industrial companies listed on the ASE during the period of 2007-2017?

2. Literature review

(Adjaoud and Hermassi, 2017) explore the impact of board composition, board independence and CEO duality on the dividend policy. Using 117- Canadian firms listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange during the period 2008-2011.Researchers examine the relationship between dividend pay-out and governance mechanisms using logistic regressions where the dependent variable is the chance of the firm to pay or not pay a dividend to shareholders.

The researchers included variables related to profitability, leverage, growth opportunities and firm size. The results declared that the likelihood to pay dividends is impacted strongly by board composition, board

independence and CEO duality. (Mehdi, et al., 2017) tested whether the effects of corporate governance on dividend policy change during crisis periods using a panel regression approach on a sample of 362 non-financial listed firms from East Asian and Gulf Cooperation Council countries and found that dividend pay-out decision increases with institutional ownership and board activity, they also found that in emerging countries, dividend policy of firms with CEO duality and without CEO duality does not depend on the same set of factors.

It is shown that the ownership concentration and board independency affect significantly the dividend policy of firms with CEO duality. Moreover the results show that during the recent financial crisis, dividend decision is negatively related to CEO duality, board size and the frequency of board meetings of board meetings. (Elmagrhi.et al ,2017) examine the extent to which corporate board characteristics influence the level of dividend pay-out ratio using UK small- and medium-sized enterprises from 2010 to 2013 listed on the Alternative Investment Market by employing multivariate regression techniques, including estimating fixed effects, lagged effects and two-stage least squares regressions. The results show that board size, the frequency of board meetings, board gender diversity and audit committee size have a significant relationship with the level of dividend pay-out.

Audit committee size and board size have a positive association with the level of dividend pay-out, while the frequency of board meetings and board gender diversity have a significant negative relationship with the level of dividend pay-out.

(Abdel Razeg et al., 2016) examine the impact of Board of Directors composition and Audit Committee on stock returns, the board of directors and the audit committee are used to measure the corporate governance mechanisms. Within a fundamental analysis on the financial Jordanian companies' listed on the Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) over the period 2007 to 2012. The results revealed that there is a statistical relationship between stock return and each of the board of directors and the audit committee.

The researchers recommend the financial Jordanian companies to reduce the number of board of director's members, to adjust the proportion of the external directors and non-executive in each of the board of director and the audit committee. (Riaz, et al., 2016) investigate the influence of board composition (Board Size, Board Independence and Board Meetings) on dividend policies using Pakistani firms during the period of 2009 to 2015 ,By employing the regression analysis, Results indicate that Board size , Board independence and foreign ownership impact significantly the divided policies of the firm. They also observed that CEO ownership has significant negative influence on the dividend pay-out ratio of the firm due to entrepreneurial effect.

(Musa Shehu, 2015) examine the relationships between board characteristics and dividend pay-out ratio using 164 Malaysian public listed companies for the year 2013 ,Multiple regressions were used to examine the relationship between independent nonexecutive directors, board size, CEO, proportion of family member on board and concentrated ownerships and dividend pay-out among the Malaysian listed companies.

Results shows that independent non-executive director and firm size have significant positive influence on dividend pay-out ratio .

However the relationship between dividend pay-out ratio and the board size and proportion of family members on the board was found insignificant and negative between dividend pay-out ratio and the board size and proportion of family members on the board. (Benjamin, Mat Zain, 2015) investigate whether corporate governance attributes are substitutes to control agency problem within the Malaysian context by examine the relationship between frequency of meetings and board independence with dividend pay-out. Using panel data on a sample of 114 Malaysian firms for seven years from 2002 to 2008.

results show significant negative (inverse) relationship between (board independence, board meeting frequency) and dividend pay-out. Indicating that firms with weak corporate governance need to establish reputation by paying more dividends. Specifically, the findings indicate that firms with a higher proportion of independent directors and boards of director that meet more frequent pay lower dividends. (Yarram, Dollery, 2015) examine the influence of board structure on dividend policy using 413 non-financial Australian corporate firms during the period 2004-2009. The causal analysis was undertaken in three stages. In the first stage, the authors analyse the likelihood of paying dividends. And classify all firms as either dividend payers or non-payers.

The authors then model this binary variable as a function of different sets of variables. In the second stage, the authors analyze the factors determining the magnitude of dividend pay-out by those firms that have paid a dividend. In contrast, stage three employs all firms – those which did not pay any dividend and those firms which paid a dividend during. The result show that both of board independence and board size have a significant positive influence on the dividend pay-out of Australian firms.

(Al-rahahleh, 2015) tested the impact of corporate governance quality and gender diversity of dividends payout policy for all non- financial firms listed in ASE during the period 2009 to 2015, Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression analysis was performed, the results indicates that woman representative at board of director in Jordan is low and there is a positive association between the board of director composition of and dividends payout policy. (Paul McGuinness, et al., 2015) investigate the association between Chinese board characteristics and dividends policy using more than 9000 firm-year observation of Chinese firms. The researchers tested the

gender of CEO, number of board members, board age, board independent on cash flow distributions, by employing the regression analysis, the results indicates a difference in the dividend distributions of female- and male Chinese firms. It also show that the CEO age have significantly cash distributions.

However the results also show that greater independent director presence in firms acts as a brake against cash distributions.

Those previously mentioned studies support findings of La Porta 2000 that managers pay dividends as a result of good corporate governance and thus they manage free cash flow effectively and reducing agency cost enabling manager to make better decision that achieve share holder objective.

3. Agency problem

Agency problem as developed primarily by Jensen and Meckling (1976) is referring to the conflict of interest between principles and agents. This problem occurs due to separation between ownership and management. More specific, it arises when the shareholder assigns the power of the decision making to a manager while the last executes their duties on behalf of the shareholder (Jensen and Meckling, 1976). This transfer of decision control enhances managers to stop following the principle's instructions and intentionally perform improbably. In the sense that decision making may be directed for their own good rather than for shareholders' best interest.

However, inherent in any principle-agent relationship, it's expected that management assumes an obligation of loyalty to the owners thus management will not take personal advantage of the business opportunities the agency position uncovers, In turn, owners return confidence and trust in agent (Schulder ,2002) similarly , Miller and Modigliani (1958) ignored the presence of agency problem by assuming information are symmetries; where outsiders and insider have the same access to information relating performance and future prospect of the firm thus managers are not well informed or have better information advantage over outsider which make work on behalf shareholder effective. Creating no conflict of interest. By contrast (Malonis, 2000) argues that principle – agent relationship that exists between management and owners contains some conflict similarly, (Myers and Majluf, 1984) argue that conflict between owners and managers is possible due to difference of information available for each party.

In order to solve this problem, the interest of the managers should be aligned with the interest of the shareholders. To accomplish this goal several mechanism can be used for instance: incentives and monitoring by principles (Seth , 1995) .However , (laffont ,2010) argue that it's so difficult for a principle to monitor the agent completely as result an information asymmetries might arise which eventually will increases the agency problem (janssen ,2009).

Asymmetric information problem arises as a result of information differences between insider and outsider so when good or bad news released in the market the investors who cannot distinguish between those two type of information will value the both at an average level, Therefore, well informed investors will make benefit of such a situation by mitigating the miss valuation problem (krepes, 1990). Agency problem and asymmetric information remained a conflict for all firms all over the world and a puzzle to academia until birth of corporate governance at 2000.

4. Sample, data and variables

Sample

The population of this study includes all manufacturing companies listed on the Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) for the period 2007-2017 which is 55 companies. The reason behind the choice of the manufacturing sector is its importance for the Jordanian economy. It contributes to about 25% of Jordan GDP, suggesting that this sector have a large contribution to the GDP. However, the sample of the study contains all listed manufacturing companies for the period (2007-2017) for which all information needed to calculate the variables of the study is available. Of the 55 industrial companies listed on the ASE, 30 companies met the selection criteria and are included in the study sample.

Data

The data for this study come from secondary sources. Data needed to measure the variables of the study were taken from the sampled companies annual reports for the period (2007-2017). With respect to this, the annual reports for listed companies in Jordan are available on the ASE's website. Other data came from sources that are available in the internet, books and articles.

Variables

Dependent Variables

The dependent variable in this study is the "Dividends Pay-Out". This variable is measured by dividend per share (DPS), The aggregate declared dividends of a company paid out per year divided by number of common shares issued (Yarram, 2012).

$DPS = \text{dividends paid out per year} / \text{number of share outstanding.}$

Independent and control variables and their measurement

Table (1) provides a summary of variables used by the study and their measurements.

Table 1: Summary of variables used by the study and their measurements

Variable	Measurement
Board size	Number of director in the board
Independent director	Number of Independent members / Total Number of members (Board Size).
Duality of chairman and CEO positions	Dummy Variable equal to 1 if CEO is also Board Chairman and 0 otherwise
Institutional investors	Percentage of directors representing institutional shareholders on the board
Foreign director	Percentage of non-Jordanian directors on the board
Firm size	Natural logarithm of total assets
Firm profitability	Return on assets (Net operating profit divided by total assets)
Firm leverage	Ratio of the book value of total liabilities to total assets
Audit Firm	Dummy Variable equal to 1 if audit firm is one of the big four and 0 otherwise

5. Theoretical model

For the purpose of empirical analysis, this study uses descriptive analysis and panel data (Fixed Effect) linear multiple regression as the underlying statistical tests. A descriptive analysis of the data is conducted to obtain sample characteristics. The multiple regression analysis is performed on the dependent variable dividends pay-out ratio, to test the relationship between the independent variables with dividends pay-out. Table 1 shows the variables and their description in this study. The regression models utilized to test the relationship between the board characteristics and firm dividends pay-out as follows:

$$DPS_{it} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 BODSIZE_{it} + \alpha_2 BODIND_{it} + \alpha_3 INSIN_{it} + \alpha_4 CEODUL_{it} + \alpha_5 BODNAT_{it} + \alpha_6 FSIZE_{it} + \alpha_7 FLEV_{it} + \alpha_8 PROF_{it} + \alpha_9 AUD_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$$

Where:

DPS : Dividends Per Share.

BODSIZE : Board size.

BODIND : Percentage of non-executive directors.

INSIN : Institutional investors.

CEODUL : Duality of CEO and chairman positions.

BODNAT : Board Nationality FOR DIR

FSIZE : Firm Size.

PROF : Firm Profitability.

FLEV : Firm's Financial leverage.

AUD: Audit firm

α_0 : Intercept.

α_1-9 : Variables coefficients.

e : Error term.

i : Represents the observation (Firm).

t : Represents the time (year).

6. Finding and discussion

The descriptive analysis for the dependent and the independent and control variables of this study are presented in Table (2). The descriptive statistics include the minimum value, maximum value, mean, and standard deviation for each variable.

Table 2: Descriptive statistics

Variables	Mean	Std.Dev.	Min	Max
DPS	0.0587	0.107	0	0.65
Board Size	7.849	2.322	4	13
Independent director	4.896	2.647	0	13
Institutional investors	3.57	2.277	0	11
Director nationality	0.657	1.142	0	7
Firm Size	7.406	0.619	6.124	9.524
Leverage	0.354	0.295	0.0039	2.275
ROA	-0.001	0.108	-0.636	0.432

*Sample size (n) = 318 firm year observations during the years 2007 – 2017, based on the availability of data.

As seen from Table 2, the dependent variable Dividends per Share (DPS) has a mean of (0.0587), with a standard deviation of (0.1076), while the minimum value reaches (0) and the maximum value reaches (0.65).

As for the independent variables, the board size mean is about (8) members with a standard deviation of (2) members while the minimum value reaches (4) members and the maximum value reaches (13) members this indicate that most of sample companies apply corporate governance code. The next mean value is related to the independent directors as shown in the table 2 which is about (5) board members ~ near to two third of board size mean~, with standard deviation of (3) members, while the minimum value (0) members and the maximum value (13) members this result indicate that most of sample companies adhere in applying corporate governance code. The next mean value is related to the institutional investors in board as shown in the table 2 which is about (4) members, with standard deviation (2) members, while the minimum value was (0) members and the maximum value (11) members. The next variable is the director nationality (Non-Jordanian) that have a mean of about (1) member, with a standard deviation of (1) member, while the minimum value (0) members and the maximum value (7) foreign members. Firm size variable has a mean of (7.406) with standard deviation (0.619) and minimum value (6.124), the maximum value is (9.524). The next mean value is related to leverage as shown in the table 2 which is (0.354), with standard deviation (0.295), while the minimum value was (0.0039) and the maximum value (2.275) this indicate that the sample companies on average depends on equity not in debt in financing. The final mean value is related to ROA as shown in the table 2 which is (-0.001), with standard deviation (0.108), while the minimum value was (-0.636) and the maximum value (0.432) and this give an evidence of that the sample companies on average faces losses.

Table (3) provides descriptive information about the dummy variables included in the regression model. It can be seen from the table that 64.8% of the sampled companies audited by local companies and 35.2% of companies audited by big four companies on the other hand 82% of the sampled companies haven't CEOs duality, and 18% of sampled companies have a CEO Duality.

Table 3: Frequencies of dummy variables

Variable	Type	Frequencies	Percentage
Audit Firm	Big Four	112	35.2%
	Local	206	64.8%
CEO Duality	Duality	57	18%
	No Duality	261	82%

This study uses panel data analysis to examine the association between the independent variables and the dependent variable. There are some assumptions that have to be satisfied before the data is analysed: normality, multicollinearity, autocorrelation, Heteroskedasticity and unit root. To test the effect of independent variables (Bord size, independent director, Institutional investors, CEO Duality, Foreign director, Firm size, leverage and ROA) on the dividend Per share (DPS).

7. Multicollinearity

The aim of this analysis is to investigate any multicollinearity problems between the independent variables and the association among dependent variables (Shukeri & Nelson, 2010). According to Hair et al. (2010) and Tabachnick and Fidell (2007), a multicollinearity problem occurs if the correlation among independent variables is above 0.80 or 0.75 for some of it. Two methods are used to discover multicollinearity problems in the model of this study: Pearson Correlation (correlation matrix).

Table (4) shows the Pearson Correlation among the variables. All the correlation coefficients among the independent variables in the correlation matrix are less than 0.80. This implies that multicollinearity is not a problem in the regression model.

Table 4: Pearson Correlation among the variables

	AUD	FSIZE	FLEV	PROF	BODSIZE	CEO DUL	FORDIR	INSIN	BODIND
AUD	1								
FSIZE	0.522	1							
FLEV	0.001	0.167	1						
PROF	0.107	0.234	-0.512	1					
BODSIZE	0.152	0.429	-0.068	0.138	1				
CEO DUL	-0.104	0.064	0.022	0.065	-0.007	1			
FORDIR	0.435	0.195	-0.002	-0.049	-0.008	-0.104	1		
INSIN	0.182	0.365	-0.037	-0.023	0.392	0.248	0.168	1	
BODIND	-0.005	0.266	0.062	0.027	0.545	-0.095	0.054	0.266	1

Note: AUD: Audit Firm, FSIZE: Firm Size, FLEV: leverage, BODSIZE: Board Size, CEODUL: Duality of CEO and chairman position, FORDIR: Foreign director, INSIN: Institutional Investors, BODIND: Independent Director.

NORMALITY

The study used Kolmogrov Semirnov test of normality among regression residuals to test the normality in the regression formed by this study (Hair et al., 2010) suppose that the normality problem exist when the probability in the Kolmogrov Semirnov test is lower than 5%, Table (5) provide evidence about the residuals normality and its shows that the residuals in regression are normally distributed. Moreover, this study covers the whole sample and involves a large amount of data (318 observations), and the normality assumption is probably not seriously affected.

Table 5: Test of Kolmogrov-Semirnov

Variables	Ch ²	Sig
Residuals ϵ	5.23	0.0732

Unit Root Test

In statistics, a unit root test examines whether a time series variable is non-stationary and possesses a unit root. The null hypothesis is generally defined as the presence of a unit root depending on the test used. Stationary of series is a prerequisite before conducting any econometric work. Granger and Newbold (1974) discussed that working with non-stationary variables may bring spurious results that may lead to incorrect results. The study uses unit root test namely ADF (Augmented Dickey–Fuller). Therefore, table (6) presents the unit root test for the explanatory variables and DPS. It shows all explanatory variables and DPS are stationary.

Table 6: The Unit Root Test

Variables	T-Statistic	P-Value
Firm Size	-6.097	0.000
Leverage	-14.023	0.000
ROA	-15.289	0.000
DPS	-6.0793	0.000
Board Size	-20.266	0.000
Institutional investors	-2.383	0.000
Board Independence	-2.515	0.000

AUTOCORRELATION

The presence of autocorrelation is checked using Wooldridge statistics, a test to detect the existence of autocorrelation in the residuals from a regression analysis. According to Kazmier (1996), the value for Wooldridge statistics more than 5% indicates the presence of a strong series problem of correlation among errors, and a value less than 5% indicates that there is no series problem of autocorrelation. As presented in Table (7), the value of Wooldridge P-value of the Models is 0.001 Thus; there is no problem of autocorrelation among errors in regression.

Table 7: Test of Wooldridge

	F	Sig
Error Term	19.72	0.0001

Heteroscedasticity

As for test for homoscedasticity, it assumes that the dependent variable shows an equal degree of variance throughout the predictor variables' range. This is a desirable result as the dependent variable variance should not be concentrated on a limited range of the independent variables. In this context, violation of homoscedasticity refers to heteroscedasticity. The latter condition has a tendency to make the coefficient estimate to be underestimated, and in some cases, it makes insignificant variables seem significant (Hair et al., 2010). In this study, homoscedasticity and the independence of error terms were examined with Likelihood Ratio test, in the heteroscedasticity test using this method the probability of residuals should be less than 5% level of significance. Table 8, shows the test of heteroscedasticity, and indicate that there is no problem of heteroscedasticity.

Tables 8: Test of Heteroscedasticity

	LR Ch2	Sig
Residual	544.94	0.000

Regression Analysis

This section discusses the results of the regression analysis between the independent variables and dividend per share (DPS). To test the hypotheses, the multiple regression analysis is used to examine the association between board composition and dividend per share (DPS). The test shows that panel data analysis is better than pooled ordinary least square regressions. The chi2 of L-M test is found to be statistically significant which suggest that Pooled analysis results will not be efficient So, the study used the panel-Data analysis to test the empirical Model in the current study using a fixed effect model and Random effect Model. However, the result of Hausman test shows that fixed effect Model will be the more appropriate for the study data set. Therefore, For the purpose of accomplish the study objectives; discussion will be restricted to the model that has been found more efficient in

Table (9).
 Table 9: Test of Regressions

Dependent Variables	Explanatory Variables	Beta	T	Sig
DPS	Audit firm	-0.084	-2.77	0.006***
	Board Size	0.0121	2.1	0.037**
	Independent director	-0.0071	-2.5	0.013**
	Institutional investors	-0.016	-2.69	0.008***
	CEO DUL	0.0398	1.53	0.128
	Director nationality	0.0056	0.57	0.57
	Firm Size	0.0005	0.01	0.989
	Leverage	0.0535	1.44	0.152
	ROA	0.349	5.85	0.000***
	Cons.	0.0517	0.17	0.866
	F	9.36		
	Sig	0.000***		
	R ²	23.12%		
	Hausman test	Chi2 statistic = 18.35		
		Prob. > Chi2 = 0.0187**		
	L-M Test	Chi2 statistic = 57.70		
Prob. > Chi2 = 0.000***				

Denote variable is significant level at *** 1%, **5%, and *10%

Table (9) suggests that the panel data analysis – Fixed effect model is more appropriate to estimate the impact of board composition with R²= 23.12%, in addition, the value of F-Statistics is (9.36) and Sig. value of (0.000) which indicates acceptance of the statistical model and the main hypothesis which states "There is a significant impact of board composition on the dividends pay out of Jordanian industrial companies listed on the ASE"

Also table (9) shows that there is a positive significant effect between board size and DPS value where (t = 2.10, Sig = 0.037) at the 5% level. This result indicate when the board size increase the DPS will increase. On the other hand there is a negative significant effect between Independent director and DPS value where (t = -2.50, Sig = 0.013) at the 5% level. This result indicate when the independent director increase the DPS will decrease. Table 9 also shows that There is a negative significant effect between Institutional investors and DPS value where (t = -2.69, Sig = 0.008) at the 1% level. This result indicate when the Institutional investors increase the DPS will decrease. On the other hand there is no significant effect between duality and DPS value where (t = 1.53, Sig = 0.128). On the other hand There is no significant effect between Foreign Director and DPS value where (t = 0.57, Sig = 0.570). There is no significant effect firm size and DPS value where (t = 0.01, Sig = 0.989). There is no significant effect leverage and DPS value where (t = 1.44, Sig = 0.152). There is a positive significant effect between return on assets (ROA) and DPS value where (t = 5.85, Sig = 0.000) at the 1% level. This result indicate when the ROA increase the DPS will increase. Also it shows that there is a negative significant effect between Audit firm and DPS value where (t = -2.77, Sig = 0.006) at the 1% level. This result indicate if audit Firm is one of big four firm the DPS will decrease.

7. CONCLUSION

As stated in chapter one, the main objective of this study was to examine the impact of Board Composition on Corporate dividends pay-out for a sample of manufacturing companies listed on the ASE for the period (2007-2017). To accomplish this objective, dividends per share was used as measures dividends pay-out.

The results of the multiple regression analysis showed relatively moderate explanatory power for the model where the R² value was 23.12% of the variations in companies' dividends pay-out was explained by the independent variables incorporated in the model.

As for the independent variables, the results of the regression analysis indicate that there is a positive effect of board size on DPS. This result indicate when the board size increase the DPS will increase because the board members investors in the company. Also there is a negative effect of Independent director on DPS. This result indicate when the independent director increase the DPS will decrease. Because independent members seek to achieve the interests of the company rather than their personal interests. Also there is a negative effect of Institutional investors on DPS. This result indicate when the Institutional investors increase the DPS will decrease. Because Institutional investors look to the future of the company instead of making a current profit. There is a positive effect of return on assets (ROA) on DPS at the 1% level. This result indicate when the ROA

increase the DPS will increase. Because when companies increase their profits they have achieved the required reserve level and distribute the rest of the profits. Also there is a negative effect of Audit firm on DPS at the 1% level. Because the large audit firms want to keep companies at a high rate of reserve. On the other hand there is no significant effect of duality, Director Nationality, firm size and leverage on DPS.

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