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Examining the relationships between busy auditors with the quality and timeliness of financial reporting of companies listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange

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Abstract

According to the study of Sinaq and his colleagues in 2022, companies seek help from auditors in order to improve the quality of financial reporting or to improve the timeliness of financial reporting. Timeliness of financial reporting is effective or not. Sinagh and his colleagues have dealt with this issue, and therefore, an attempt is made to assess the issue and his assumptions in Iran as well. In order to analyze the hypotheses of the research, the statistical population was selected from 2016 to 2021 and for 6 years, and they included listed companies, and the statistical sample was selected using the elimination method, with the number of 82 companies. The research method used is a descriptive-analytical method, and historical research data was collected and classified by referring to financial statements and reports of companies listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange. The panel data method was used to analyze the statistical data; and in the analysis section, descriptive and inferential statistics and various related tests were performed and data analysis was done using Eviews software version 9. According to the regression model analysis, the research findings show that there is a negative and significant relationship between busy auditors and the quality and timeliness of financial reporting of companies listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange, so that in this research, the effectiveness of special hypotheses was determined based on the t-statistics. Auditors' workload has a negative and opposite effect on two indicators of the quality of financial reporting and the timeliness of the company's financial reporting, but the effect is greater on the timeliness of financial reporting.

Keywords

Busy auditors, quality of financial reporting, timeliness of financial reporting, auditing firm

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1. Introduction

By reviewing past studies, such as the 2022 study by Sink et al., which examined whether audit partners with multiple clients can complete their audits in a timely manner, this is an important but largely unexplored area of academic research. One view is that having multiple clients increases the knowledge and experience of the audit partner, resulting in a more efficient and therefore faster audit. On the other hand, having multiple clients may overburden the audit partner, resulting in a slower audit process and longer completion times. They found that audit partners with multiple clients took longer to complete their annual audits. More importantly, they also found that companies with busy auditors who took longer to complete their audits also had poorer financial reporting quality. Furthermore, in terms of consequences for busy auditors, firms with long audit report delays changed auditors the following year, concluding that busy audit partners may lose clients if their workload be too much and they will not be able to maintain the audit quality. Their results are robust to alternative measures of audit report delay and audit partner busyness and a range of endogeneity tests. They also conducted simultaneous multivariate regression to assess changes in audit reporting delay depending on the number of audit clients per partner, where they found preliminary evidence of a knowledge spillover effect. As a result, their results have implications for companies, audit institutions, regulators and other key stakeholders (Sinaq et al., 2022). Regulatory concerns have been expressed that auditor workload threatens the quality of financial reporting. Key regulators, including those in the United States such as the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, the Center for Auditing Quality, and the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, reduce risks to financial reporting quality from conditions such as excessive workload of audit partners and staff. Consistent with the busyness hypothesis that is related to multiple audit tasks, past studies have generally hypothesized a negative relationship between audit partner busyness and audit quality to limit the effort and time available to audit partners (Goll et al., 2017). However, using Australian demand data, Goodwin and Wu (2016) find that audit partner busyness does not impair audit quality and argue that busyness is optimally selected by each partner in a balanced manner. Therefore, according to them, consider the possibility that busy audit partners experience knowledge; Their busyness benefits from in-depth knowledge of the operations and characteristics of multiple clients, which allows them to perform audit assignments faster and more efficiently while maintaining audit quality. Of course, an attempt is made to add more explanations to the audit partner, the discussion of busyness by evaluating the busyness of the audit partner against the criterion of timeliness of financial quality, that is, the delay of the audit report. Audit reporting delay is defined as the time from the end of a company's year to the date of the auditor's report, which is considered to be only the most important. Measuring the timeliness of financial statements is and continues to be an area of interest for various stakeholders (Clattordi and Peele, 2016). Considering the limitations given in the conclusion section. The present research can expand accounting texts in different ways. The present research is the first research that provides empirical evidence about the role of the busyness of audit firm partners on the quality of financial reporting and its timeliness provided by auditors in a competitive audit market without the presence of large international audit firms. Considering that in Iran, expertise in the industry at the level of partners of audit institutions is not very prominent and clear, the research environment of the

present study is more reliable than similar foreign studies in which the effect of the auditor's expertise in the industry with the effect of the audit partner's workload on the audit error and type The audit report is mixed. Therefore, this study aims to measure the relationship between busy auditors with the quality and timeliness of financial reporting of companies listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange.

2. Theoretical foundations and an overview of research background

Consistent with the theory of Barua and Ragunanden, 2010, they proxy auditor effort using audit report lag calculated in days, although audit fee is a quantitative publicly observable proxy for auditor effort, audit fee It is a product of both quantity (audit effort/hour) and price (riyals per unit of work). Considering these two dimensions of audit fees, any analysis using audit fees will be susceptible to confusing interpretation; Also, using the delay of the audit report, which is only calculated on the day, does not cause a problem (Sinaq et al., 2022). Past studies show that both the timeliness and quality of financial reports are equally important in enhancing communication and affect the credibility of the external audit process (Defond and Zhang, 2014). Given that the presentation of unaudited financial statements increases uncertainty, pressure is placed on these statements so that the external auditor completes the audit without undue delay and reliable financial performance may be released to the market quickly (Tadros, 2021).). As such, auditors are under more pressure to finalize the year-end audit using limited resources, while facing tighter deadlines. Reflecting objective evidence, as well as past empirical studies report that longer delay of audit report increases the probability of renewal of future presentations and indicates the poor quality of financial reporting (Blankley et al., 2015). Based on empirical evidence and past findings in studies, it can be seen that when busy auditors take longer to issue an audit report, time pressure has a negative effect on auditors, which also affects the quality of the external audit process. If audit partners with multiple clients have a shorter time to complete a financial audit, such partners can be considered more competent. As a result, more experiences and the benefits of working with knowledge come from these numerous customers. This leads to such audits and the ability to maintain audit quality levels that lead to faster audits and thus reduce audit reporting delays; On the other hand, if audit partners are faced with multiple clients, using the theory of bounds, they may need more time to complete the audit. devote less time to their audit efforts, which leads to a longer time to issue an audit report; This longer delay in issuing the audit report could also potentially occur. Adverse consequences, including competitive disadvantages, are seen for both clients and auditors. Therefore, at first, its nature is investigated and the relationship between busy partners and audit report delay is investigated before the consequences of this relationship on the quality of financial reporting and auditor change (Sinaq et al., 2022). Although some studies examine the impact of audit partner busyness by focusing on the quality of audit work performed, research conducted on audit partner busyness and audit report timeliness is scarce. According to the study of Suniq et al. in 2022, they examined the relationship between busy auditors, timeliness and quality of financial reporting; Considering that companies in Iran also use auditors to audit their activities, this study seeks to determine the role of auditors who are more active and busy on the quality of information and the timeliness of financial reporting. have a negative effect; Because these types of auditors cannot report to their clients in a certain period of time due to

their busy schedule, and there is a possibility that the quality of financial information and the timeliness of financial reporting will also be affected by the delay of the audit report. Take and face the company with problems. Therefore, it seems necessary to investigate and identify the relationship between busy auditors with the quality and timeliness of financial reporting of companies admitted to the Tehran Stock Exchange; In the following, we will get acquainted with the variables of the research.

Busy auditors: auditing by independent professionals can help to increase the credibility of financial information provided by management; however, the quality of services provided by auditors is heterogeneous and is affected by various factors such as audit fees, workload and the structure of the audit institute (number of personnel and audit partners). In Iran, although the competition between audit institutions has increased sharply after the liberalization of the audit market (Baghrepour et al., 2014). But a number of audit institutions are facing a high volume of work. In this regard, in 2013, based on the data of the Certified Public Accountants Society of Iran, Boghour Asal states that 57% of the total income of the private auditing institutions that are members of the Certified Public Accountants Society of Iran belongs to 21% of these institutions. While the remaining 166 private auditing institutions in 2019 accounted for only 43% of the total revenue of private auditing institutions. This statistic is supported by the fact that, on average, the trusted auditing institutions of the first tier stock exchange have more number of tasks than the trusted auditing institutions of other tiers (Mohammed Rezaei and Mehrabanpour, 2015). In such a situation, if the structure of auditing institutions with a high volume of work is not appropriate and optimal, it can have adverse effects on the quality of financial information. The list of trusted auditing institutions of the Securities and Exchange Organization shows that most institutions (whether large or small) have three or four partners. This shows that the ratio of partners to the number of audit works is not balanced among the audit institutions that are members of the public accountant's community. In large private audit firms, audit firm partners have a large number of audit assignments. The busy work of the partners of some audit institutions can be one of the reasons for the low quality of services provided by auditors in Iran. Previous researches in Iran show that after the liberalization of the audit market, the issuance of unacceptable audit reports and the number of conditional clauses in the audit report decreased (Mohammed Rezaei et al., 2016), while the re-presentation of financial statements (audit error) in the next financial year is still highly It is high (Sarikhani and Barzegar, 2015).

Financial reporting quality: the quality of financial information is very important in Iran; Because retail investors don't have the right knowledge and information to invest in the stock market, and their decisions are based on audited financial statement information. The findings of these researchers show that non-transparent and manipulated financial information, along with the delay in disclosing financial information, is one of the main concerns of capital market activists in the country (Mohammed Rezaei and Golchareh, 2017). Providing financial information to internal and external users in the form of financial reports is the final product of the financial accounting process. Financial reporting is related to the fact that the business unit is responsible for the resources it has. Therefore, it provides a basis for making economic decisions. The important and main part of the financial reporting process in evaluating the financial status, financial performance and financial flexibility of the business unit is the financial statements that investors make decisions based on such financial

information. Therefore, in order to obtain such financial information, certain qualitative features must be considered in its preparation. Qualitative features are the information provided in financial statements to be useful for users in order to evaluate the financial status, financial performance and financial flexibility of the business unit (Shams al-Dini and Shahab al-Dini Parisi, 2021).

Timeliness of financial reporting: Having relevant information and a frame of reference will lead to favorable economic decision-making. In this context, auditing solves the need of users of financial reports to evaluate the quality of financial reporting information before using them in the decision-making process and provides a suitable basis for making favorable economic decisions. The usefulness of reports published by companies depends on the accuracy of the information and their timeliness. Timeliness is one of the quality characteristics of information; And according to the opinion of the American Accounting Association, it is classified as a subset of the qualitative characteristics of information relevance (Bartov and Konchitcheki, 2017). Due to the ever-increasing expansion of societies and their specific complexities, the need for relevant economic information has increased, and as a result, the demand for systems and processes that provide such information has been created, and these factors have led to the increase and expansion of the need for auditing as a part of the information transfer process. has been However, this point cannot be ignored that the implementation of the audit process and commenting on the fairness of presenting financial statements has become one of the factors that usually leads to a time gap in presenting financial statements to users (Barzideh and Meiri, 2015).

3. An overview of experimental research results in Iran and the world

Heydari Sureshjani and Jodaki Chegani (2022), the delay in the audit report: the auditor's workload and the rating of the audit institutions were investigated. The results of the first hypothesis show that there is no significant relationship between the trusted audit institutions and the delay in the audit report. In addition, the busyness of the auditing institutions has led to an increase in the delay in the auditor's report, and finally, the busyness has an effect on the relationship between the first-ranked auditing institutions and the delay in the audit reports. The absence of a significant relationship between trusted audit institutions and the delay in the audit report is due to the greater concentration and workload of these types of institutions. Also, the busy time of the auditor can challenge the usefulness of financial information.

Shams al-Dini and Shahab al-Dini Parisi (2021), investigated the relationship between audit quality and the timeliness of the audit report, taking into account the moderating role of geographic proximity between the auditor and the employer. Finally, the results showed that there is a positive and significant relationship between the audit quality and the timeliness of the audit report, and the geographic location of the auditor and the employer has a significant effect on the relationship between the quality of the audit and the timeliness of the audit report. Therefore, it can be concluded that the increase in audit quality increases the timeliness of the audit report and the geographical proximity of the auditor and the employer strengthens the relationship between the quality of the audit and the timeliness of the audit report.

Amiri and Fakhari (2021), the purchase of the auditor's opinion and the quality of financial reporting: with the simultaneous equations model approach. The findings of this research

showed that there is an inverse and significant two-way effect between the purchase of the auditor's opinion and the quality of financial reporting in listed companies. These results can be useful for auditors as well as policy-making institutions and organizations.

Sinaq et al. (2022) investigated the relationship between busy auditors, quality and timeliness of financial reporting in Australia. Their results showed that busy auditors delay the audit report due to lack of time and high activity; This process can also affect the quality and timeliness of financial reporting and have a role in the duration of its presentation, causing it to be prepared later and thus creating a problem for shareholders and investors in making decisions.

Mohammad et al. (2020), investigated the role of gender diversity of busy auditors in modeling the prediction of the quality of IPO management earnings management. In this research, the gender composition of the board of directors and the audit committee is considered as one of the important governmental issues facing the management and shareholders of organizations. The results of this research show that female managers introduce a set of special characteristics to the board of directors, which leads to the support of investors and effective supervision of management. According to the findings, it can be said that there is a positive and significant relationship between the audit committee and the profit forecast error, which shows that the high number of female managers in the audit committee can cause more mistakes and less accuracy in the profit forecast. .

Bills et al. (2020) have studied the factors that affect the ability of internal audit in monitoring financial reporting. Also, they have investigated how the change of audit executive director affects the quality of financial reporting and audit risk assessment. Using data from Taiwanese companies, they have found that the event of a change in the audit executive is associated with a significant increase in the likelihood of financial statements and an increase in discretionary liabilities.

According to the study of Sinaq et al. (2022), the main and special assumptions are compiled as follows:

Main hypothesis: There is a significant relationship between busy auditors, quality and timeliness of financial reporting of companies admitted to Tehran Stock Exchange.

The first sub-hypothesis: There is a significant relationship between busy auditors from auditing firms and the quality of financial reporting of companies admitted to the Tehran Stock Exchange.

The second sub-hypothesis: There is a significant relationship between busy auditors from auditing firms and the timeliness of financial reporting of companies listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange.

4. Methodology

The method used is the type of post-event semi-experimental research in the field of accounting proof research, which was carried out using multivariate regression and econometric models. Research hypotheses have been tested based on panel data. Based on the selected topic, the research method is descriptive-analytical and applied. Based on the purpose of this topic, the correlational research method has been used because it seeks to investigate the relationship between busy auditors with the quality and timeliness of financial reporting of companies admitted to the stock exchange.

The selected statistical population in this research includes all companies admitted to the Tehran Stock Exchange between 2016 and 2021. Therefore, in order to determine the sample size, they must have the following conditions:

1. Their financial information should be available in the period under review and should not have any defects.
2. Their financial year should be at the end of March and the financial year has not been changed during the period under review.
3. Companies must be accepted by the stock exchange during the research period and more than 2 years have passed since their membership. The end of their financial year is at the end of March and the financial year has not been changed during the period under review.
4. During the research period, their equity should not be negative
5. Companies should not have accumulated losses.
6. Don't have a tax break of more than four months.
7. The company should not be in the group of financial intermediation companies, including investment companies, insurance companies, banks, because the nature and type of their activities are different from other stock exchange member companies.

Table 1 - Determining the statistical sample

All observations related to the statistical sample from 2016 to 2021	492
The financial information of the companies was not available or was incomplete.	(97)
The end of the financial year of the companies is not in March or the financial year has changed.	(98)
Companies have accumulated losses and their equity is negative.	(95)
The companies are not members of the stock exchange during the research period or 2 years have not passed since their membership.	(66)
Companies have a tax break of more than 4 months.	(28)
Be part of investment companies, insurance and banks.	(26)
Selected sample	82

The regression model adapted from Sinagh et al.'s model (2022) is as follows:

The model related to the first sub-hypothesis:

$$FRQ = \beta_0 + \beta_1 BA_{it} + \beta_2 Size_{it} + \beta_3 Growth_{it} + \beta_4 Profit_{it} + \beta_5 Lev_{it} + \beta_6 ROA_{it} + \varepsilon$$

The model related to the second sub-hypothesis:

$$TFR = \beta_0 + \beta_1 BA_{it} + \beta_2 Size_{it} + \beta_3 Growth_{it} + \beta_4 Profit_{it} + \beta_5 Lev_{it} + \beta_6 ROA_{it} + \varepsilon$$

The dependent variables:

- Financial reporting quality (FRQ) i in year tFall of stock market (Cash factor) i in year t
- Timeliness of financial reporting (TFR) i in year t
- independent variable:
- Busy auditors (BA)i in year t
- Control variables:
- Company size (Size) i in year t
- Growth rate of company (Growth) i in year t
- Profit i in year t
- Financial leverage (Lev) i in year t

- Return on assets (ROA) i in year t

5. The method of measuring research variables

The dependent variables; Financial reporting quality (FRQ): To measure this variable, a composite index criterion is used, so that it is obtained from indicators such as the quality of accruals, accounting conservatism, profit stability, profit smoothing, and the value relationship of profit; Finally, the values whose values are higher than the median are considered as the final proxy for the quality of financial reporting, and a value of one is assigned to them, and values lower than the median are considered as low quality of financial reporting and a value of zero. Attributed to it. Finally, after separating the companies with high and low reporting quality, the composite index of financial reporting quality has been obtained with the algebraic sum of the actual values of the above 5 criteria (Amiri and Fakhari, 2020; Sinaq et al., 2022).

Timeliness of financial reporting (TFR): according to Choi et al.'s research, the timeliness of financial reporting is the time interval between the date of the financial report and the end of July of the following year. This score is based on the time of providing information related to the forecast of the income of each share; unaudited interim financial statements of three months, six months and nine months; The auditor's opinion regarding the forecast of the income of each initial share and six months; The auditor's opinion regarding the six-month interim financial statements; The unaudited year-end financial statements and the difference between the forecasts and the actual audited performance were obtained by the publisher's information company (Hematfar and Moghdisi, 2013; Sineq et al., 2022).

independent variable; Busy auditors (BA): Three replaceable variables have been used to measure the variable of busy auditors or auditors' workload: 1) the ratio of the number of audit work to the number of audit partners in the institution; 2) the ratio of the audit firm's income to the number of partners of the audit firm, 3) the ratio of the number of personnel of the audit firm to the number of partners of the audit firm (Mohammed Rezaei and Golchareh, 2016; Sinaq et al., 2022). According to the study of Sinaq et al., to measure this index using the audited financial statements on the Kodal site and the auditing organization, it is obtained from the number of auditors listed in the audited financial statements of the company for the current period; If the name of the auditing firm is mentioned more than the average of all companies, the number is considered as one and otherwise it is considered as zero.

Control variables:

Size of the company: the natural logarithm of the sum of the company's assets.

Growth rate of the company (Growth): the change in the current year's sales compared to last year divided by last year's sales.

Profit: one if the company has profit, otherwise zero.

Financial leverage (Lev): ratio of total liabilities to assets.

Return on assets (ROA): the ratio of net profit to assets.

6. Findings Research

Table 2- Descriptive statistics of variables

Variable name	Symbol	Average	Middle	standard deviation	crookedness	Prominence
financial reporting quality	Y	0.75	0.74	0.90	1.90	1.21
Timeliness of financial reporting	Y1	0.81	0.79	0.68	1.26	1.15
Busy auditors	X1	0.31	0.30	0.45	0.42	1.20
size of the company	X2	0.65	0.62	0.27	0.58	1.64
Company growth rate	X3	0.38	0.37	0.76	1.34	1.45
profitability	X4	0.62	0.61	0.66	1.56	1.86
Financial Leverage	X5	0.48	0.45	0.62	0.88	1.74
Return on assets	X6	0.44	0.41	0.59	0.82	1.31

As can be seen, according to the above table, in most cases, the median and mean values are close to each other, which indicates the proper distribution of the data. The skewness obtained for all variables is reported with positive values, which indicate the asymmetric distribution of data with stretching towards higher values or positive skewness.

6-1. Pearson correlation test

Table 3- Correlation between variables using Pearson's correlation coefficient

	Y	Y1	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6
Y	1.000 0.000							
Y1	0.130 0.000	1.000 0.000						
X1	0.138 0.000	0.075 0.01	1.000 0.000					
X2	0.038 0.21	0.002 0.92	0.027 0.23	1.000 0.000				
X3	0.103 0.000	0.054 0.08	0.003 0.90	0.025 0.41	1.000 0.000			
X4	-0.028 0.36	0.002 0.92	-0.024 0.23	-0.001 0.98	0.050 0.10	1.000 0.000		
X5	0.011 0.70	0.003 0.91	0.013 0.67	0.025 0.38	-0.025 0.41	-0.013 0.67	1.000 0.000	
X6	-0.032 0.32	0.008 0.79	0.002 0.93	0.007 0.81	-0.029 0.34	-0.028 0.35	0.26 0.39	1.000 0.000

In the above table, the degree of correlation is written in the first line and the significance of the correlation is written in the second line. If the significance is less than 0.05, the desired correlation is statistically significant.

6-2. Checking the model using Chow and Hausman tests

Table 4-Result of Chow

title of exam	Test statistics	Degrees of freedom	Significance level	Result
The first regression model	3.43	(81 , 491)	0.000	Using the panel model
The second regression model	2.15	(81 , 491)	0.000	Using the panel model

It can be seen that the significance level of Chau's test is less than $\alpha = 0.05$, so with 95% confidence, the null hypothesis can be rejected and the opposite hypothesis (H1) can be accepted. Therefore, it can be said that the possibility of estimating the model using the panel method is confirmed.

Considering that the zero hypothesis of Chau's test based on the equality of the origin was rejected, in order to detect the presence of fixed effects or the presence of random effects, Hausman's test is used.

Table 5-Result of Hausmann

title of exam	Test statistics	Degrees of freedom	Significance level	Result
The first regression model	0.000	6	1.000	Presence of fixed effects
The second regression model	0.000	6	1.000	Presence of fixed effects

It can be seen that the significance level of the Hausman test is more than $\alpha=0.05$, but considering that the Hausman test is exactly equal to one, it is necessary to estimate the model using the fixed effects method.

6-3. Testing hypotheses

As can be seen in this table, the results obtained from the estimation of the regression model related to the first sub-hypothesis show the confirmation of busy auditors' relationships with auditing institutions and the quality of financial reporting of companies.

Table 6- The results of fitting the first regression model

Response variable = financial reporting quality				
Independent variables	Coefficients Regression	standard deviation	Test statistic t	Level meaningful
Equation constant (α)	-2.6975	1.2536	-4.4140	0.000
Busy auditors	-0.0568	0.2319	-4.1252	0.000
size of the company	0.0545	6.2561	0.3562	0.000
Company growth rate	0.0383	0.2225	1.2565	0.000
profitability	0.0279	0.0212	2.5574	0.000
Financial Leverage	3.0235	1.5829	0.5898	0.000

Response variable = financial reporting quality				
Independent variables	Coefficients Regression	standard deviation	Test statistic t	Level meaningful
Return on assets	0.0658	0.0892	3.9847	0.000
Statistical test F = 11.22 Significance level = 0.000 Statistics D.W: 2.11 Adjusted coefficient of determination = 0.87				

As can be seen in the above table, the relationship between busy auditors from audit institutions and the quality of financial reporting of companies admitted to the Tehran Stock Exchange has been measured. According to the significance level that is reported as zero and Durbin Watson's statistic which is 2.11 and this number is between 1.5 and 2.5, two conditions are necessary to verify a hypothesis and the above hypothesis is confirmed with more than 87 The percentage approves. Although the F test statistic and coefficient of determination also play an effective role in confirming the above hypothesis.

As can be seen in this table, the results obtained from the estimation of the regression model related to the second sub-hypothesis show the confirmation of busy auditors' relationships with audit institutions and the timeliness of financial reporting of companies.

Table 7- The results of fitting the second regression model

Response variable = Timeliness of financial reporting				
Independent variables	Coefficients Regression	standard deviation	Test statistic t	Level meaningful
Equation constant (α)	0.0776	6.5149	-4.4140	0.000
Busy auditors	-0.0922	0.2319	-5.2450	0.000
size of the company	0.0900	6.5567	3.4962	0.000
Company growth rate	0.0806	0.0399	6.9590	0.000
profitability	0.0881	0.0415	5.6732	0.000
Financial Leverage	0.0766	6.5829	5.5091	0.000
Return on assets	0.0780	0.0892	2.9532	0.000
Statistical test F = 13.47 Significance level = 0.000 Statistics D.W: 2.15 Adjusted coefficient of determination = 0.88				

As can be seen in the above table, the relationship between busy auditors from audit institutions and the timeliness of financial reporting of companies admitted to the Tehran Stock Exchange has been measured. Considering the significance level that is reported as zero and Durbin Watson's statistic which is 2.15 and this number is between 1.5 and 2.5, two necessary conditions to verify a hypothesis are established and the above hypothesis is confirmed with more than 88 The percentage is approved. Although the F test statistic and coefficient of determination also play an effective role in confirming the above hypothesis.

6-4. Examining hypotheses at a glance

The final confirmation or rejection of the assumptions is summarized in the following table:

Table 7. The results of checking the hypotheses

Row	theories	Result
The main hypothesis	There is a significant relationship between busy auditors and the quality and timeliness of financial reporting of companies admitted to the Tehran Stock Exchange.	confirmation
The first sub-hypothesis	There is a significant relationship between busy auditors from audit institutions and the quality of financial reporting of companies admitted to the Tehran Stock Exchange.	confirmation
The second sub-hypothesis	There is a significant relationship between busy auditors from audit institutions and the timeliness of financial reporting of companies admitted to the Tehran Stock Exchange.	confirmation

7. Discussion and conclusion

Based on the obtained results and the analysis, it was found that there is an influence relationship between busy auditors with the quality and timeliness of financial reporting of companies listed in the Tehran Stock Exchange, so that busy auditors can focus on two financial reporting indicators (quality and timeliness) have a negative and opposite effect; Therefore, the auditor's busy work causes the auditor to prepare his report later or with a lower quality, which leads to a review, this process can also affect the preparation of financial reporting and lead to low quality or lack of timely preparation and issuance. Therefore, it can have a negative effect on the performance of the company or its activities, because with the lack of timely and quality financial reporting, it disrupts decision-making and the continuation of the company's activities.

The results of the research regarding the main hypothesis indicate that the relationship between busy auditors with the quality and timeliness of financial reporting of companies admitted to the Tehran Stock Exchange was confirmed; According to the regression model analysis, the presence of busy auditors can simultaneously affect the quality and timeliness of financial reporting of companies; Because the busier the auditor is, the less time he has to prepare the audit report, and the delay in the audit report or the lack of accuracy of the information can affect the quality and timeliness of the financial reporting and lead to the lack of quality or lack of accuracy. be its time; In other words, the auditor's workload can have a negative effect on the preparation of the audit report and components of financial statements or financial reporting. Therefore, the busy auditor also creates an opposite effect on the company's performance, because when the quality and timeliness of financial reporting happens, it can lead to managers not making timely decisions; These results are consistent with the research of Sinaq et al. (2022), Warsoul Karim et al. (2019), Amiri and Fakhari (2020).

The results of the research regarding the first sub-hypothesis indicate that the relationship between busy auditors from audit institutions and the quality of financial reporting of companies admitted to the Tehran Stock Exchange was confirmed; According to the analysis of the regression model, busy auditors from audit institutions can affect the quality of

financial reporting of companies, so that according to the t-test in this research, the role of the independent variable on the dependent variable is negative and inverse; In other words, if the auditors are busy or the auditor's workload increases, it will reduce the quality of financial reporting; Because the more the auditor's workload increases, the auditing power in different companies decreases and as a result, it leads to a decrease in the quality of financial reporting; These results are in line with the research of Sinaq et al. (2022), Mohammad et al(2020).

The results of the research regarding the second sub-hypothesis indicate that the relationship between busy auditors from auditing firms and the timeliness of financial reporting of companies admitted to the Tehran Stock Exchange was confirmed; According to the regression model analysis, busy auditors from audit institutions can influence the timeliness of financial reporting of companies, so that according to the t-test in this research, the role of the independent variable is negative and inverse on the dependent variable; In other words, if the auditors are busy or the workload of the auditor increases, it will cause financial reporting not to be determined on time; Because the more the auditor's workload increases, he cannot prepare the audit report on time and it causes the reporting prepared by such auditors to not have the required quality; These results are in line with the research of Sinaq et al. (2022), Biles et al(2020).

8. Practical suggestions for future researchers

According to the results of the main hypothesis, it can be suggested to the Tehran Stock Exchange Organization to set up programs and provide them to the managers of the companies so that they can improve the quality and timeliness of financial reporting, considering the workload of auditing their activities. advance according to pre-determined plans; In order to improve the quality and timeliness of financial reporting, it is necessary to use auditors who are less busy and also use people in the company who can deliver their activities on time with the available time and conditions. Internal auditors can also help in preparing financial reporting, or the accountants and internal auditors of the company can pave the way for independent auditors with their timely activities, so that they can audit more easily, or the company can provide all the necessary documents and documents. Provide them with the use of the company on time so that audit activities are not delayed and the quality and timeliness of financial reporting can be improved.

According to the results of the first sub-hypothesis, it can be suggested that in order to improve the quality of financial reporting, company managers should pay attention to the workload of the auditor and try to use audits that are less busy in order to perform their activities and audit it in audit institutions; It is also suggested to make the audit process easier to ask the internal auditors to submit their reports on time so that independent auditors have a smaller role in the audits or to make financial reporting by auditors and people active in this field to be able to timely report on the company's activities. to register and record so that the audit is not done late, in other words, the company does not fail to carry out its activities to lead to a delay in the audit report.

According to the second sub-hypothesis, it can be suggested that in order to improve the timeliness of financial reporting in companies, the audit process by the auditor should be taken into account, because the auditor's workload leads to the lack of timeliness of the audit

report and ultimately financial reporting; Therefore, in order to reduce the time and accuracy in the operation process, the company should use audits that are less busy, or with the help of the company and internal auditors, they can help the independent auditor to deliver his report on time, and the company also uses The audit report can deliver its financial reporting on time. For this purpose, it is possible to use the executive instructions related to the activities and timeliness of the company's operational process and audit to deliver their reports on time according to the set schedule.

According to the results of the research, it can be suggested for future researchers:

• Investigate the relationship between busy auditors with the quality and timeliness of financial reporting with regard to the economic crisis, environmental factors and market uncertainty using fuzzy logic and compare the results with this research.

• The relationship between busy auditors should be measured with the quality and timeliness of financial reporting with regard to government ownership and real ownership.

• Investigate the relationship between busy auditors with the quality and timeliness of financial reporting, considering the role of financial statement preparers.

• Investigate the relationship between busy auditors with the quality and timeliness of financial reporting with regard to the role of tax avoidance and evasion.

• Investigate the relationship between busy auditors with the quality and timeliness of financial reporting, considering the role of cultural factors and its application.

• The relationship between busy auditors with the quality and timeliness of financial reporting should be investigated with regard to the auditor's role and audit fees.

• The relationship between busy auditors with the quality and timeliness of financial reporting should be investigated with regard to the role of risk and returns of companies' shares.

• The relationship between busy auditors with the quality and timeliness of financial reporting should be investigated based on the structural equation approach.

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