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(Article begins on next page)

Value relevance of accounting data and financial crisis in Europe: an empirical analysis.

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Abstract

This paper aims at verifying the relationship between book value and market value for a four years period (2006-2009) in Europe, under IFRS. In particular, I used value relevance approach to measure whether net income or comprehensive income is more useful to understand the relationship between market data and financial data. Moreover, the paper analyzes the impact of financial crisis on the value relevance of accounting data. The examination period runs from a pre-crisis period (2006-2007) to an in-crisis period (2008-2009). Results shows that comprehensive income is more value relevant than net income. Furthermore, the financial crisis has a positive impact on value relevance.

Keywords: comprehensive income; value relevance; IFRS, net income, financial crisis.

1. Introduction

In this research, I examine the consequences of economic turmoil in Europe on the association between accounting information and market values. Value relevance of net income and comprehensive income of European listed companies before and during the financial crisis (2006-2009) is analyzed.

Concerning the origin and effects of the financial crisis of 2007—2010 there is an enormous quantity of publications. The financial crisis started in USA in 2007 after the subprime loan “bubble” and subsequently affected the world economy. The main effect in Europe appeared from 2008 and the global economy is still weak. The financial crisis has an impact on social, economic and political life. In particular, with reference to economic contest, the crisis impact, between the others, on stock prices of listed companies (Mun et al, 2012). The aim of this paper is not to identify the causes of the financial crisis, but only to analyze the effect on the value relevance of accounting data.

In this context, this paper aims at verifying the relation between market data and book value in a financial crisis period. I address two primary questions in this study. First, what is the relationship between book value and market value for a four years period (2006-2009) in Europe, under IFRS? In particular, I used value relevance approach to measure whether net income or comprehensive income are more useful to understand the relationship between market data and financial data. Second, I analyzed the impact of financial crisis on the value relevance of accounting data. The examination period runs from a pre-crisis period (2006-2007) to an in-crisis period (2008-2009).

This paper aims at verifying the impact of financial crisis on value relevance by providing results which have been obtained by using accounting data reported under IFRSs. The aim of the paper is to verify the reaction of association between accounting data and market data in a period when financial crisis arises. Investors may find this study of particular interest to support their investment decisions. Thus, this paper aims at contributing to the large debate on performance with an analysis of the value relevance of comprehensive income under IFRSs.

The remainder of this paper is organised as follows: section two explores the background and justification for this paper and the research questions generated; section three describes the data and methodology; section four reports the results; conclusions are reported in the final section.

2. Background and questions research

Financial statements - draw up in compliance with IFRS - report two main measures of overall performance: net income and comprehensive income. IAS 1 identifies different components of “the dirty surplus” that are not recognised in profit or loss (changes in revaluation surplus (IAS 16 and IAS 38), actuarial gains and losses on defined benefit plans recognised in accordance with paragraph 93.a of IAS 19, gains and losses arising from translating the financial statements of a foreign operation (IAS 21), gains and losses on re-measuring available-for-sales financial assets (IAS 39), the effective portion of gains and losses on hedging instruments in a cash flow hedge (IAS 39)).

Many studies have been carried out on the value relevance of comprehensive income both under IFRSs and under different Accounting Principle, even if the debate is controversial. For instance, Devalle et al. (2010), suggest that “the main aim of IFRS, to improve cross-border comparability of financial statements by means of harmonization of accounting standards, may not have been achieved. Significant differences between European accounting standards still remain and the impact of the introduction of IFRS has been varied”. The sample was made up of European listed companies for the six years-period 2002-2007, using both IFRS and non – IFRS data. Devalle et al. (2012) “do not provide evidence that the use of the comprehensive income as the overall economic performance measure results in an unquestionable increase of the value relevance of accounting data” in Europe”. The sample was made up of European listed companies for the three years-period 2005-2007. Clarkson et al. (2011), investigated “the impact of IFRS adoption in Europe and Australia on the relevance of book value and earnings for equity valuation”. The results showed that IFRS enhanced comparability. Agostino M. et al. (2011) showed that IFRS introduction enhanced the information content of both earnings and book value in bank sector. Ernstberger (2008) compares the value relevance of comprehensive income and net income within German companies which have voluntarily adopted IFRS or US GAAP. Many studies have been made on the value relevance under non IFRS adopter, Kanagaretnam et al. (2009), Dastgir and Velashani (2008), Chambers et al. (2007), Cauwengberde et De Bleede (2007), Wang et al. (2006), Pinto (2005), Maines and McDaniel (2000), Cahan et al. (2000), O’ Hanlon and Pope (1999), Dhaliwal et al. (1999), ,Cheng et al. (1993) . Finally, some studies have also been conducted on value relevance and financial crisis. Graham et al. (2000) analysed the effect of the 1997 financial turmoil surrounding the devaluation of the bath affected the value relevance of Thai accounting information. The results showed that value relevance of accounting data were lower after the devaluation of the bath. Also Davis-Friday et al. (2006), examined the effect of financial crisis on the accounting data and corporate governance. They showed that the accounting system affect the extent of changes in the value relevance of book value resulting from the crisis. The results of Ho et al. (2001), indicate that the value relevance of accounting earnings for Korean firms significantly declines from the pre-crisis (1995-1996) to the in crisis (1997-1998) period.

The aim of this paper is to contribute to the literature in two ways. First, the paper provides results by using a wide sample for the four years-period 2006-2009. The high number of observations under IFRS permits to contribute to the value relevance literature. Second, the paper contributes to understand the impact of financial crisis on the association between accounting data and market values.

To reach the objectives described above the question researches are:

1. (Q1) to analyse the value relevance of comprehensive income and net income for a four years period 2006-2009;
2. (Q2) to verify the impact of financial crisis on value relevance of net income and comprehensive income.

3. Data and methodology

3.1 Data and sample

The analysis in this paper is based on accounting data hand collected from the annual consolidated financial statements reported by European listed companies. Table 3 reports the number of financial statements included in the final balanced sample.

Table 3. Number of financial statements included in the final balanced sample

		YEAR								TOTAL SAMPLE
		2006		2007		2008		2009		
Stock Indexes	N° OF FIRMS IN THE INDEX	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	
CAC40	40	36	90	36	90	36	90	36	90	144
DAX30	30	23	77	23	77	23	77	23	77	92
IBEX 35	35	32	91	32	91	32	91	32	91	128
FTSEMIB40	40	37	93	37	93	37	93	37	93	148
Total	145	128	88	128	88	128	88	128	88	512

The net income and the equity were taken from the Consolidated Balance Sheet and Consolidated Income Statement and the gains and losses recognised directly in equity were collected from the consolidated statement of changes in equity or from the consolidated statement of recognised income and expenses. Market data have been collected from the Stock Exchange. The total amount of financial statements analysed was 580, but a number of firms have been excluded because of the missing values. The market value has been collected with respect to the 3rd month after fiscal year end (as Cormier et al., 2009; Kanagaretnam et al., 2009; Oswald, 2008; Van der Meulen et al., 2007; Hellström, 2006; King and Langli, 1998).

3.2 Methodology

In order to assess whether comprehensive income is more meaningful for investors than net income, a value relevance approach has been used in this study in compliance with Devalle et al (2012). Commonly, value relevance studies on comprehensive income use various versions of the Price Regression Model (Kanagaretnam et al., 2009; Barth et al., 2008; Dastgir and Velashani, 2008; Pinto, 2005; Cahan et al., 2000). The price regression model (PRM), as explained by Ota (2003), derives from Ohlson's (1995) Linear Information Model (LIM), which considers abnormal earnings as a first-order auto-regressive (AR(1)) process. The PRM is found in the value relevance literature with the following simplified specification:

$$P_{it} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 B_{it} + \beta_2 E_{it} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (\text{PRM})$$

where P_{it} is the market value of equity, B_{it} the book value of equity and E_{it} the earnings relating to firm i and period t .

The price regression model is likely to be affected by scale effects (Wu and Xu, 2008; Easton and Sommers, 2003), which can be mitigated by deflating all variables by the market value of the previous period (Barth et al, 2008; Lang et al., 2006; Aboody et al., 2002; Cahan, 2000; Brown et al., 1999; Easton, 1998). Moreover, according to Ali et Hwang (2000), the deflation of both dependent and independent variables is expected to control for heteroscedasticity. Thus, in this study, the Price Regression Model is specified as follows (M1):

$$\frac{MV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} = \alpha_0 \frac{1}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \beta_1 \frac{BV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \beta_2 \frac{NI_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (M1)$$

where MV_{it} is the market value of the equity collected at the 4th month after closing year date, BV_{it} the book value of the equity and NI_{it} the net income of the firm i at the period t . The total comprehensive income, as specified by IFRSs, is the sum of the net income and the other comprehensive income. Letting TCI_{it} equal to the total comprehensive income, then:

$$TCI_{it} = NI_{it} + OCI_{it}$$

where OCI_{it} is the sum of the other comprehensive income components. Thus, (M1) is extended to include also the Other Comprehensive Income components (Cahan et al, 2000) and it is specified as follows:

$$\frac{MV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} = \alpha_0 \frac{1}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \beta_1 \frac{BV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \beta_2 \frac{NI_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \beta_3 \frac{OCI_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (M2)$$

where MV_{it} is the market value of the equity collected at the 4th month after closing year date, BV_{it} the book value of the equity, NI_{it} the net income and OCI_{it} the sum of the other comprehensive income relating to firm i and period t .

One of the aim of this research is to verify whether the comprehensive income is more value relevant than net income. To reach this purpose it is necessary to assess whether the explained variance (R^2) increases when the other comprehensive income (OCI_{it}) are added to the net income in order to obtain the comprehensive income¹. The question can be solved by testing the hypothesis that the OCI coefficient is not null.

$$H_0 : \beta_{OCI} = 0$$

An incremental F-test is used to test “null” hypothesis is that $H_0 : \beta_{OCI} = 0$, i.e. the “nested” model is superior, in term of explained variance, to the “full” model². The F- test is specified

¹ A methodology based on nested regression models and F-tests been already used by Cheng et al. (1993) to evaluate the relative information content of the comprehensive income, by Barth et al. (1996) to evaluate the value-relevance of banks' fair value disclosures reported under US GAAP, by Cahan et al. (2000) to assess the incremental value relevance of the FASB comprehensive income components, by Gjerde et al. (2008) to assess the marginal or incremental value-relevance of IFRS earnings and by Hollister et al. (2008) to evaluate the incremental information content of accounting accruals in predicting future cash flows.

² In our paper the “nested” model is that including BV_{it} and NI_{it} only, while the “full” model is the one including also OCI_{it} .

as follows³:

$$F = \frac{(RSS_1 - RSS_2)/(k_2 - k_1)}{RSS_2/(n - k_2 - 1)}$$

Where:

RSS_1 = residual sum of squares of the nested model;

RSS_2 = residual sum of squares of the full model;

k_1 = number of estimated coefficients (including constant) for the restricted model;

k_2 = number of estimated coefficients (including constant) for the unrestricted model;

n = total number of observations.

4. Results

4.1 Preliminary analysis

Table 4 reports descriptive statistics for the variables included in the regression models.

Table 4. Descriptive statistics (by index)

Variables	Index	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	95% confidence interval		Median	Variance
MV / MV t-1	CAC 40	144	1,07733	,134704	1,05514	1,09952	1,04646	,018
	DAX 30	92	1,06307	,100421	1,04227	1,08387	1,03956	,010
	IBEX 35	128	1,04854	,135113	1,02491	1,07217	1,01202	,018
	FTSE MIB	148	1,08630	,166847	1,05920	1,11341	1,04155	,028
BV/ MV t-1	CAC 40	144	0,81093	0,753045	0,68685	0,93500	0,61790	,753
	DAX 30	92	0,80652	0,730898	0,65516	0,95789	0,62084	,731
	IBEX 35	128	0,61720	0,396599	0,54783	0,68656	0,54948	,396
	FTSE MIB	148	1,20908	1,609707	0,94759	1,47057	0,70964	,610
NI / MV t-1	CAC 40	144	,05969	,169575	,03176	,08762	,06272	,029
	DAX 30	92	,06875	,101198	,04779	,08970	,06512	,010
	IBEX 35	128	,08800	,069539	,07583	,10016	,07818	,005
	FTSE MIB	148	,06759	,127416	,04689	,08829	,06998	,016
OCI / MV t-1	CAC 40	144	-,05286	,195013	-,08498	-,02074	-,00602	,038
	DAX 30	92	-,02351	,090516	-,04226	-,00476	-,00565	,008
	IBEX 35	128	-,02455	,150968	-,05096	,00185	-,00167	,023
	FTSE MIB	148	-,01842	,141229	-,04136	,00453	-,00316	,020

³ Stock J., Watson M. (2007), *Introduction to Econometrics*, Pearson Education.

A two-group means comparison test (t test) has been run to assess whether the differences among country means are significant. With reference to the variables used in the price regression model (M1 and M2), there are few cases where the country mean significantly differs from the mean of the other countries. According to Table 4, in fact, we can observe that the mean values of the variables used in the regression models don't differ significantly between the different countries analysed. Only the mean values that refer to the ratio BV/MVt-1 – observed for the Italian companies belonging to FTSE MIB – are higher in comparison with the same ratio of the other countries.

The variables reported in Table 4 can also be analysed splitting the data by financial crisis occurrence (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1. Descriptive statistics (by financial crisis occurrence)

Variables	Financial Crisis Occurrence	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	95% interval	confidence	Median	Variance
MV /MV t-1	Pre-crisis	256	1,04641	,099305	1,03419	1,05864	1,03778	,010
	Post-crisis	256	1,09391	,168383	1,07319	1,11464	1,03167	,028
BV/ MVt-1	Pre-crisis	256	,58334	,473688	,52504	,64164	,46730	,473
	Post-crisis	256	1,17026	1,336314	1,00578	,13347	,86817	1,336
NI/ MVt-1	Pre-crisis	256	,06562	,064058	,05774	,07351	,06095	,004
	Post-crisis	256	,07573	,166188	,05528	,09619	,08022	,028
OCI/ MVt-1	Pre-crisis	256	-,02573	,148268	-,04398	-,00748	-,00294	,022
	Post-crisis	256	-,03538	,159599	-,05502	-,01573	-,00550	,025

All the variables used in the regression models have higher average values for the financial data collected with reference to the years after the crisis. The higher value presented in post financial crisis period are probably due to the downfall of the different European Stock Exchange which meant that the deflators (market values) decreased. In particular, the largest deviations could be noticed in the BM/MVt-1 variable in which there is an higher deviation not only in mean values, but also in standard deviation, in median values and in the confidence interval.

As each comprehensive income component is not always reported by companies, Table 5 reports the number of valid observations collected by country and by year for each

component.

Table 5. Number of valid observations of comprehensive income components.

Comprehensive income components	CAC 40				DAX 30				IBEX 35				FTSE MIB			
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009
Cash Flow Hedge	31	23	29	31	20	18	21	22	23	23	24	26	27	28	22	33
Available for Sale	23	16	26	30	17	15	17	15	17	19	23	24	21	22	25	24
Revaluation	2	12	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	1	2	2	2	1
Translation Adjustment	33	29	31	31	22	22	22	22	29	28	26	27	23	22	25	25
Actuarial Gains and Losses	9	24	20	20	13	14	15	15	6	8	9	9	6	6	10	10
<i>N° of available observations</i>	36	36	36	36	23	23	23	23	32	32	32	32	37	37	37	37

Revaluation component, is rarely reported to be different from zero and it shows that fair value is rarely adopted when not mandatory. In order to get significant and robust results, descriptive statistics are reported with reference to the whole sample and some country regression estimations are skipped when the number of observations is not significant. Table 6 summarises the descriptive statistics for the variables referring to each comprehensive income component (M5, M6, M7, M8, M9).

Table 6. Descriptive statistics.

Variables	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	95% interval	confidence	Median	Variance
TA / MV t-1	417	-,0250132	,1272777	-,037265	,0127615	,0043779	,016
CFH/MVt-1	411	-,002247	,0593145	-,007998	,0035039	,0003769	,004
AFS/MV t-1	334	-,0086520	,0983353	-,019236	,0019324	-,0000076	,010
REV / MV t-1	39	-,0140455	,0567106	-,032428	,0043379	,00043954	,003
AGL / MV t-1	184	-,0097242	,0520157	-,0172901	-,0021584	,00061396	,003

The mean values of the different components ratio show us negative value, even if the impact of each component on the market value is not always the same (this could be also be confirmed by the median values and by the variance that is, for example, higher in TA/MVt-1 variable).

Table 6.1. Descriptive statistics.

Variables	Financial Crisis Occurrence	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	95% confidence interval		Median	Variance
TA/MVt-1	Pre-crisis	208	-0,03497	0,159276	-0,567383	-0,013193	-0,00753	0,025
	Post-crisis	209	-0,01511	0,083394	-0,026481	-0,003736	-0,00063	0,007
CFH/MVt-1	Pre-crisis	193	0,002121	0,017123	-0,00031	0,004552	0,000956	0,001
	Post-crisis	218	0,006146	0,079724	-0,016757	0,004528	-0,001114	0,006
AFS/MVt-1	Pre-crisis	150	-0,00065	0,040457	-0,007176	0,005879	-0,000009	0,002
	Post-crisis	184	-0,01518	0,127153	-0,033672	0,003318	-0,00051	0,016
REV/MVt-1	Pre-crisis	28	-0,00318	0,01927	-0,010647	0,004297	0,000454	0,001
	Post-crisis	11	-0,04172	0,100227	-0,109049	0,025618	-0,000481	0,01
AGL/MVt-1	Pre-crisis	76	0,008287	0,019968	0,003725	0,01285	0,001778	0,001
	Post-crisis	108	-0,0224	0,062891	-0,034395	-0,010302	-0,00427	0,004

The same component variables can be analysed grouping the data by financial crisis occurrence as was done previously for the other variables. In this way we can notice that mean and median values are lower for data referring post-crisis situation than for data related to the years before the crisis (this is observable in all the variables a part from Translation Adjustment).

4.2 Regression results

Regression models have been estimated to assess whether the comprehensive income is more value relevant than the net income (Q1) and to verify value relevance before and after financial crisis (Q2). The PRM (price regression model) have been used to answer the question researches.

Table 7, Table 8 and Table 9 report the results of the within-group estimation⁴ of the price regression model as specified in the regression model M1. Financial data collected, that refer to the period before financial crisis are the only for which the hypothesis test of null coefficients ($H_0 : \beta_1 = \beta_2 = 0$) is not significantly rejected.

⁴ The choice between a fixed-effect or random-effect estimation has been driven by the Hausman test.

Table 7. M1 estimation results (by index)

Variables	CAC40	DAX30	FTSE MIB	IBEX35
β_1	0.09129***	0.03973**	0.022321***	0.091083***
β_2	-0.03146	0.3224***	0.1029	0.3528*
N	144	92	128	148
R^2	0.2378	0.1104	0.0460	0.1243
F ($H_0: \beta_i = 0$)	23.3***	6.647***	4.547**	10.02***

$$M1: \frac{MV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 \frac{BV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \beta_2 \frac{NI_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Notes: *** Denotes p-value < 0.01. ** Denotes p-value < 0.05 * Denotes p-value < 0.1.

Table 8. M1 estimation results (by year)

Variables	2006	2007	2008	2009
β_1	0.03119	0.02922	0.02113***	0.01929
β_2	0.00330	-0.1247	0.00839	-0.1128
N	128	128	128	128
R^2	0.0147	0.0164	0.0810	0.0638
F ($H_0: \beta_i = 0$)	0.9345	1.047	5.509***	4.261**

$$M1: \frac{MV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 \frac{BV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \beta_2 \frac{NI_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Notes: *** Denotes p-value < 0.01. ** Denotes p-value < 0.05 * Denotes p-value < 0.1.

Table 9. M1 estimation results (by financial crisis occurrence)

Variables	Pre-crisis	Post-crisis
β_1	0.02112*	0.03245***
β_2	-0.02919	0.1284**
N	256	256
R^2	0.01373	0.0978
F ($H_0: \beta_i = 0$)	1.76	13.71***

$$M1: \frac{MV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 \frac{BV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \beta_2 \frac{NI_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Notes: *** Denotes p-value < 0.01. ** Denotes p-value < 0.05 * Denotes p-value < 0.1.

As we can see from Table 7 and Table 8 the R^2 value (using M1 regression model) is higher in CAC 40 listed companies than in the other stock indexes considered in the sample. If we are going to analyse the same variable (R^2) observing the M1 estimation results by year, we notice that from 2006 to 2008 the values of the variable considered have increased. On the other hand, in the following years the R^2 values had decreased.

Table 10, Table 11 and Table 12 list the results of the within-group estimation of M2. β_3 is the coefficient of the independent variable referring to the sum of the other comprehensive components.

Table 10. M2 estimation results (by index)

Variables	CAC40	DAX30	FTSE MIB	IBEX35
β_1	0.08113***	0.01319	0.02221***	0.09114***
β_2	-0.01605	0.2978***	-0.07806	0.2936*
β_3	-0.01308*	-0.2901**	-0.3439***	-0.2143***
N	144	92	128	148
R^2	0.2833	0.1776	0.1243	0.1947
F ($H_0: \beta_i = 0$)	18.45***	6.335***	6.815***	9.995***

$$M2: \frac{MV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 \frac{BV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \beta_2 \frac{NI_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \beta_3 \frac{OCI_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Notes: *** Denotes p-value < 0.01 ** Denotes p-value < 0.05 * Denotes p-value < 0.1.

Table 11. M2 estimation results (by year)

Variables	2006	2007	2008	2009
β_1	0.00312	0.02992	0.02113**	0.02345**
β_2	0.00350	-0.1246	0.00458	-0.2387***
β_3	-0.01315	-0.01781	-0.1783**	-0.3685***
N	128	128	128	128
R^2	0.01486	0.01756	0.1241	0.1588
F ($H_0: \beta_i = 0$)	0.6234	0.7387	5.856***	7.801***

$$M2: \frac{MV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 \frac{BV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \beta_2 \frac{NI_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \beta_3 \frac{OCI_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Notes: *** Denotes p-value < 0.01 ** Denotes p-value < 0.05 * Denotes p-value < 0.1.

Table 12. M2 estimation results (by financial crisis occurrence)

Variables	Pre-crisis	Post-crisis
β_1	0.03145*	0.03411***
β_2	-0.00908	0.08210
β_3	-0.00149	-0.3727***
N	256	256
R^2	0.0142	0.2176
F ($H_0: \beta_i = 0$)	1.212	23.36***

$$M2: \frac{MV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 \frac{BV_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \beta_2 \frac{NI_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \beta_3 \frac{OCI_{it}}{MV_{i(t-1)}} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Notes: *** Denotes p-value < 0.01 ** Denotes p-value < 0.05 * Denotes p-value < 0.1.

According to Table 10 and Table 11, we can notice higher R^2 values (compared with the previous model) regarding CAC 40, DAX 30 and FTSE MIB. Analysing M2 Model, and splitting the results by year, we can confirm the R^2 trend reported above (a part from 2007 observations). Tables 13,14, 15 reports incremental f-test of nested analysis.

Table 13. Incremental F-test of M1 nested in M2

	F	Pr>F	Change in R ²	H ₀ : $\beta_3 = 0$
CAC40	6.8164	0.0101	0.0455	Rejected at 0.05 level
DAX30	5.1000	0.0264	0.0672	Rejected at 0.05 level
FTSE MIB	10.739	0.0013	0.0783	Rejected at 0.05 level
IBEX35	8.7173	0.0037	0.0704	Rejected at 0.01 level

Table 14. Incremental F-test of M1 nested in M2

	F	Pr>F	Change in R ²	H ₀ : $\beta_3 = 0$
2006	0.0159	0.8998	0.0002	Not Rejected
2007	0.1370	0.7120	0.0012	Not Rejected
2008	6.0998	0.0149	0.0431	Rejected at 0.05 level
2009	13.994	0.0002	0.0950	Rejected at 0.01 level

Table 15. Incremental F-test of M1 nested in M2

	F	Pr>F	Change in R ²	H ₀ : $\beta_3 = 0$
Pre-crisis	0.1263	0.7226	0.0005	Not Rejected
Post-crisis	38.577	0.0001	0.1198	Rejected at 0.01 level

Findings show that the β_3 is statistically significant only in IBEX 35 listed companies (p-value < 0.01) and in FTSE MIB listed companies (p-value < 0.01). Moreover, the results of the incremental F-test leads to the rejection of the null hypothesis $H_0 : \beta_3 = 0$ for all the European stock indexes considered in the sample (as reported in Table 13).

We can also analyse the value relevance of total comprehensive income splitting the data by financial crisis scenario. According to Table 9, Table 12 and Table 15, we can see that other comprehensive income increase the value relevance of accounting data only for the data collected in reference to the years after the financial crisis. In addition it is observable that the increase in R² values is higher for data referring to post-crisis situation, for which F-test is more statistically significant compared to the pre-crisis results (p-value<0.01). To summarise,

the findings of the price regression model within-group estimation do not provide a clear evidence of an increase of the value relevance when the comprehensive income is used instead of net income, but rather suggest that the sum of the other comprehensive income components are rarely statistically significant. We can also notice that Total Comprehensive income is more value relevant than net income in the years after financial crisis.

5. Conclusion

In this article, I analyze the value relevance of accounting data, and the consequences of financial crisis on value relevance of the net income and comprehensive income. To this end, we estimate price regression model using a sample of listed companies belonging to the main European stock indexes (CAC40, DAX30, IBEX35, FTSE MIB) for the period 2006-2009. We also employ an incremental F-test to verify whether the use of the comprehensive income instead of the net income significantly increases the explanatory power of the value relevance models. With reference to the first question research the findings do not provide evidence that the use of the comprehensive income as the overall economic performance measure results in an unquestionable increase of the value relevance of accounting data. These results are consistent with previous literature (e.g. Devalle et al. (2010, 2012)). For the 2006-2009 period France, Spain, Germany and Italy report that comprehensive income is more value relevant than the net income, but opposite findings arise from the model estimation that consider only data collected before the financial crisis: the data collected referring to the financial statements of the years before financial crisis show that comprehensive income is not so value relevant as in the post-crisis scenario.

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