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Are bad times good news for the Securities and Exchange Commission?

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SEC's funding follows a regulative cycle: A weak stock market results in increased resources for the SEC. A strong stock market results in reduced resources. Our findings underline the downside of regulation as the regulative cycle amplifies the technical procyclicality inherent in regulation.

(1)

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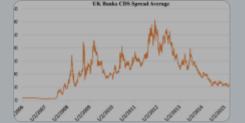
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- 3. There exists a substantial literature (e.g. Loebbecke et al. 1989; Beasley 1996; Bell and Carcello 2000) establishing that an individual firm's financial results might impact its probability of fraudulent reporting. The relation between stock-market wide conditions and a firm's probability to commit fraud is, however, unclear.
- 4. Bebchuk and Neeman's (2010, p. 1110) prediction 4 states: "Investor protection will be higher in growing economies in which the value of the new capital that needs to be raised from outside investors is largely relative to the value of the capital already in the hands of existing public firms."
- 5. Brown et al. (2013) study the impact of shareholder protection on (young)

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(2008). In respect to the SEC as a public enforcement institution, a recent study by Lohse et al. (2014) shows that increases in the SEC's resources improve compliance with financial market rules. Even Del Guerico et al. (Del Guercio et al. 2013) show that there is a deterrence effect associated with SEC enforcement.

- 10. The data is on fiscal year basis. Since 1976 the federal fiscal year ends in October. Prior to that, the fiscal year ended in June.
- 11. In order to avoid our results being driven by the financial crisis or the Madoff scandal, we consider only data up to 2007. We provide a robustness check for the time until 2010 in Sect. 3.2. The number of observations we use is comparable to Jackson and Roe (2009) who use, at most, 55 observations.

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is the number of usable observations.

- 16. Dickey-Fuller-tests indicate that $sec_stocks*$ is stationary. The finding that sec_stocks has a unit root can be explained by a number of factors. First, a rising complexity of the firms supervised and, second, a growth of the average market capitalization of the firms traded on the NYSE.
- 17. The results are very similar if we detrend *sec_budget* using a second degree polynomial. Lohse et al. (2014) use this approach.
- 18. The multivariate SBC are calculated as \(SBC = T*\log \left| \varOmega \right| + k*\log T \) where T is the number of usable observations; $|\Omega|$ is the determinant of the variance/covariance matrix of the residuals; and k is the

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