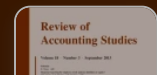


[Home](#) > [Review of Accounting Studies](#) > [Article](#)

Do differences in financial reporting attributes impair the predictive ability of financial ratios for bankruptcy?

| Published: 03 April 2012

| Volume 17, pages 969–1010, (2012) [Cite this article](#)



[Review of Accounting Studies](#)

Your privacy, your choice

We use essential cookies to make sure the site can function. We, and our 93 **partners**, also use optional cookies and similar technologies for advertising, personalisation of content, usage analysis, and social media.

By accepting optional cookies, you consent to allowing us and our partners to store and access personal data on your device, such as browsing behaviour and unique identifiers. Some third parties are outside of the European Economic Area, with varying standards of data protection. See our **privacy policy** for more information on the use of your personal data. Your consent choices apply to nature.com and applicable subdomains.

You can find further information, and change your preferences via 'Manage preferences'. You can also change your preferences or withdraw consent at any time via 'Your privacy choices', found in the footer of every page.

We use cookies and similar technologies for the following purposes:

- > **Store and/or access information on a device**
- > **Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development**

[Accept all cookies](#)

[Reject optional cookies](#)

[Manage preferences](#)



This is a preview of subscription content, [log in via an institution](#)  to check access.

Access this article

Log in via an institution →

Subscribe and save

✓ Springer+

from €37.37 /Month

- Starting from 10 chapters or articles per month
- Access and download chapters and articles from more than 300k books and 2,500 journals
- Cancel anytime

Your privacy, your choice

We use essential cookies to make sure the site can function. We, and our 93 **partners**, also use optional cookies and similar technologies for advertising, personalisation of content, usage analysis, and social media.

By accepting optional cookies, you consent to allowing us and our partners to store and access personal data on your device, such as browsing behaviour and unique identifiers. Some third parties are outside of the European Economic Area, with varying standards of data protection. See our **[privacy policy](#)** for more information on the use of your personal data. Your consent choices apply to nature.com and applicable subdomains.

You can find further information, and change your preferences via 'Manage preferences'. You can also change your preferences or withdraw consent at any time via 'Your privacy choices', found in the footer of every page.

We use cookies and similar technologies for the following purposes:

Store and/or access information on a device

Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development

Accept all cookies

Reject optional cookies

Manage preferences

Explore related subjects

Discover the latest articles and news from researchers in related subjects, suggested using machine learning.

[Accounting](#)[Corporate Finance](#)[Financial Law](#)[Financial Reporting](#)[Financial History](#)[Financial Accounting](#)

Notes

1. McNichols ([2000](#)) and Dechow and Schrand ([2004](#)) provide reviews of this literature.

Your privacy, your choice

We use essential cookies to make sure the site can function. We, and our 93 **partners**, also use optional cookies and similar technologies for advertising, personalisation of content, usage analysis, and social media.

By accepting optional cookies, you consent to allowing us and our partners to store and access personal data on your device, such as browsing behaviour and unique identifiers. Some third parties are outside of the European Economic Area, with varying standards of data protection. See our **privacy policy** for more information on the use of your personal data. Your consent choices apply to nature.com and applicable subdomains.

You can find further information, and change your preferences via 'Manage preferences'. You can also change your preferences or withdraw consent at any time via 'Your privacy choices', found in the footer of every page.

We use cookies and similar technologies for the following purposes:

Store and/or access information on a device

Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development

[Accept all cookies](#)[Reject optional cookies](#)[Manage preferences](#)

6. We assume there is no tax benefit associated with interest for loss firms. For firms that are profitable, the tax benefit for a given year is calculated based on the maximum statutory tax rate for that year.
7. Woodruff-Sawyer is a full-service insurance brokerage and consulting firm based in San Francisco.
8. Given that our sample period begins in 1962 and therefore that cash flow statement information is not available for most of the sample, we compute current accruals using a balance sheet approach. In particular, current accruals are equal to the change in current assets minus change in current liabilities and in cash plus the change in short term debt (i.e. Compustat $\Delta \text{data}4 - \Delta \text{data}5 - \Delta \text{data}1 + \Delta \text{data}24$).

Your privacy, your choice

We use essential cookies to make sure the site can function. We, and our 93 [partners](#), also use optional cookies and similar technologies for advertising, personalisation of content, usage analysis, and social media.

By accepting optional cookies, you consent to allowing us and our partners to store and access personal data on your device, such as browsing behaviour and unique identifiers. Some third parties are outside of the European Economic Area, with varying standards of data protection. See our [privacy policy](#) for more information on the use of your personal data. Your consent choices apply to nature.com and applicable subdomains.

You can find further information, and change your preferences via 'Manage preferences'. You can also change your preferences or withdraw consent at any time via 'Your privacy choices', found in the footer of every page.

We use cookies and similar technologies for the following purposes:

Store and/or access information on a device

Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development

[Accept all cookies](#)

[Reject optional cookies](#)

[Manage preferences](#)

13. We assess the significance of the difference using a χ^2 test. In all further comparisons, we refer to a subsample as having higher or lower predictive ability if the difference is significant with $p < 0.01$.
14. In untabulated analysis we use the “untainted” coefficients to predict the hazard for the entire sample. This doesn’t change our results.
15. In the basic specification that merely includes the BSM score and the annual bankruptcy rate, both variables have magnitudes that are comparable to Hillegeist et al. ([2004](#)). In particular, the coefficient on the BSM score is 0.31 (vs. 0.27) and on the annual rate 0.43 (vs. 0.54)

Your privacy, your choice

We use essential cookies to make sure the site can function. We, and our 93 **partners**, also use optional cookies and similar technologies for advertising, personalisation of content, usage analysis, and social media.

By accepting optional cookies, you consent to allowing us and our partners to store and access personal data on your device, such as browsing behaviour and unique identifiers. Some third parties are outside of the European Economic Area, with varying standards of data protection. See our **[privacy policy](#)** for more information on the use of your personal data. Your consent choices apply to nature.com and applicable subdomains.

You can find further information, and change your preferences via 'Manage preferences'. You can also change your preferences or withdraw consent at any time via 'Your privacy choices', found in the footer of every page.

We use cookies and similar technologies for the following purposes:

Store and/or access information on a device

Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development

[Accept all cookies](#)

[Reject optional cookies](#)

[Manage preferences](#)

Beaver, W. H. (1966). Financial ratios as predictors of failure. *Journal of Accounting Research*, 4, 71-102.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Beaver, W. H. (2002). Perspectives on recent capital market research. *The Accounting Review*, 77, 453-474.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Beaver, W. H., & Engel, E. (1996). Discretionary behavior with respect to allowances for loan losses and the behavior of security prices. *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, 22, 177-206.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Your privacy, your choice

We use essential cookies to make sure the site can function. We, and our 93 **partners**, also use optional cookies and similar technologies for advertising, personalisation of content, usage analysis, and social media.

By accepting optional cookies, you consent to allowing us and our partners to store and access personal data on your device, such as browsing behaviour and unique identifiers. Some third parties are outside of the European Economic Area, with varying standards of data protection. See our **privacy policy** for more information on the use of your personal data. Your consent choices apply to nature.com and applicable subdomains.

You can find further information, and change your preferences via 'Manage preferences'. You can also change your preferences or withdraw consent at any time via 'Your privacy choices', found in the footer of every page.

We use cookies and similar technologies for the following purposes:

Store and/or access information on a device

Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development

[Accept all cookies](#)

[Reject optional cookies](#)

[Manage preferences](#)

Brown, S., Lo, K., & Lys, T. (1999). Use of R2 in accounting research: Measuring changes in value relevance over the last four decades. *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, 28, 83–115.

Campbell, J., Hilscher, J., & Szilagyi, J. (2008). In search of distress risk. *Journal of Finance*, 63, 2899–2939.

Your privacy, your choice

We use essential cookies to make sure the site can function. We, and our 93 **partners**, also use optional cookies and similar technologies for advertising, personalisation of content, usage analysis, and social media.

By accepting optional cookies, you consent to allowing us and our partners to store and access personal data on your device, such as browsing behaviour and unique identifiers. Some third parties are outside of the European Economic Area, with varying standards of data protection. See our **privacy policy** for more information on the use of your personal data. Your consent choices apply to nature.com and applicable subdomains.

You can find further information, and change your preferences via 'Manage preferences'. You can also change your preferences or withdraw consent at any time via 'Your privacy choices', found in the footer of every page.

We use cookies and similar technologies for the following purposes:

Store and/or access information on a device

Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development

[Accept all cookies](#)

[Reject optional cookies](#)

[Manage preferences](#)

Dechow, P., Sloan, R., & Sweeney, A. (1995). Detecting earnings management. *The Accounting Review*, 70, 193-225.

[Google Scholar](#)

Easton, P., Monahan, S., & Vasvari, F. (2009). Initial evidence on the role of accounting earnings in the bond market. *Journal of Accounting Research*, 47, 721-766.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). (2001). Accounting for the impairment or disposal of long-lived assets. *FASB statement no. 144*. Stamford, CT: FASB.

Your privacy, your choice

We use essential cookies to make sure the site can function. We, and our 93 **[partners](#)**, also use optional cookies and similar technologies for advertising, personalisation of content, usage analysis, and social media.

By accepting optional cookies, you consent to allowing us and our partners to store and access personal data on your device, such as browsing behaviour and unique identifiers. Some third parties are outside of the European Economic Area, with varying standards of data protection. See our **[privacy policy](#)** for more information on the use of your personal data. Your consent choices apply to nature.com and applicable subdomains.

You can find further information, and change your preferences via 'Manage preferences'. You can also change your preferences or withdraw consent at any time via 'Your privacy choices', found in the footer of every page.

We use cookies and similar technologies for the following purposes:

Store and/or access information on a device

Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development

[Accept all cookies](#)

[Reject optional cookies](#)

[Manage preferences](#)

Franzen, L., Rodgers, K., & Simin, T. (2007). Measuring distress risk: The effect of R&D intensity. *Journal of Finance*, 57, 2931–2967.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Givoly, D., & Hayn, C. (2000). The changing time-series properties of earnings, cash flows and accruals: Has financial reporting become more conservative? *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, 29, 287–320.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Graham, B., & Dodd, D. (1934). *Security analysis*. New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

[Google Scholar](#)

Your privacy, your choice

We use essential cookies to make sure the site can function. We, and our 93 **partners**, also use optional cookies and similar technologies for advertising, personalisation of content, usage analysis, and social media.

By accepting optional cookies, you consent to allowing us and our partners to store and access personal data on your device, such as browsing behaviour and unique identifiers. Some third parties are outside of the European Economic Area, with varying standards of data protection. See our **privacy policy** for more information on the use of your personal data. Your consent choices apply to nature.com and applicable subdomains.

You can find further information, and change your preferences via 'Manage preferences'. You can also change your preferences or withdraw consent at any time via 'Your privacy choices', found in the footer of every page.

We use cookies and similar technologies for the following purposes:

Store and/or access information on a device

Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development

Accept all cookies

Reject optional cookies

Manage preferences

Landsman, W., & Maydew, E. (2002). Has the information content of quarterly earnings announcements declined in the past three decades? *Journal of Accounting Research*, 40, 797-808.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Lev, B. (2001). *Intangibles: Management, measurement, and reporting*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.

[Google Scholar](#)

Lev, B., & Sougiannis, T. (1996). The capitalization, amortization, and value-relevance of R&D. *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, 21, 107-138.

Your privacy, your choice

We use essential cookies to make sure the site can function. We, and our 93 **partners**, also use optional cookies and similar technologies for advertising, personalisation of content, usage analysis, and social media.

By accepting optional cookies, you consent to allowing us and our partners to store and access personal data on your device, such as browsing behaviour and unique identifiers. Some third parties are outside of the European Economic Area, with varying standards of data protection. See our **privacy policy** for more information on the use of your personal data. Your consent choices apply to nature.com and applicable subdomains.

You can find further information, and change your preferences via 'Manage preferences'. You can also change your preferences or withdraw consent at any time via 'Your privacy choices', found in the footer of every page.

We use cookies and similar technologies for the following purposes:

Store and/or access information on a device

Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development

[Accept all cookies](#)

[Reject optional cookies](#)

[Manage preferences](#)

Shumway, T. (2001). Forecasting bankruptcy more accurately: A simple hazard model. *Journal of Business*, 74, 101-124.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Wahlen, J. (1994). The nature of information in commercial bank loan loss disclosures. *The Accounting Review*, 69, 455-478.

[Google Scholar](#)

Watts, R., & Zimmerman, J. (1990). Positive accounting theory: A ten year perspective. *The Accounting Review*, 65, 131-156.

[Google Scholar](#)

Your privacy, your choice

We use essential cookies to make sure the site can function. We, and our 93 **partners**, also use optional cookies and similar technologies for advertising, personalisation of content, usage analysis, and social media.

By accepting optional cookies, you consent to allowing us and our partners to store and access personal data on your device, such as browsing behaviour and unique identifiers. Some third parties are outside of the European Economic Area, with varying standards of data protection. See our **privacy policy** for more information on the use of your personal data. Your consent choices apply to nature.com and applicable subdomains.

You can find further information, and change your preferences via 'Manage preferences'. You can also change your preferences or withdraw consent at any time via 'Your privacy choices', found in the footer of every page.

We use cookies and similar technologies for the following purposes:

Store and/or access information on a device

Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development

[Accept all cookies](#)

[Reject optional cookies](#)

[Manage preferences](#)

Corresponding author

Correspondence to [Maureen F. McNichols](#).

Appendix

Variable definitions and data sources (Tables [11](#), [12](#)).

Table 11 Panel A: variable definitions

Your privacy, your choice

We use essential cookies to make sure the site can function. We, and our 93 **partners**, also use optional cookies and similar technologies for advertising, personalisation of content, usage analysis, and social media.

By accepting optional cookies, you consent to allowing us and our partners to store and access personal data on your device, such as browsing behaviour and unique identifiers. Some third parties are outside of the European Economic Area, with varying standards of data protection. See our **privacy policy** for more information on the use of your personal data. Your consent choices apply to nature.com and applicable subdomains.

You can find further information, and change your preferences via 'Manage preferences'. You can also change your preferences or withdraw consent at any time via 'Your privacy choices', found in the footer of every page.

We use cookies and similar technologies for the following purposes:

- Store and/or access information on a device**
- Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development**

Accept all cookies

Reject optional cookies

Manage preferences

JEL Classification

[M41](#)[G14](#)[G33](#)[C41](#)

Search

Search by keyword or author



Your privacy, your choice

We use essential cookies to make sure the site can function. We, and our 93 **[partners](#)**, also use optional cookies and similar technologies for advertising, personalisation of content, usage analysis, and social media.

By accepting optional cookies, you consent to allowing us and our partners to store and access personal data on your device, such as browsing behaviour and unique identifiers. Some third parties are outside of the European Economic Area, with varying standards of data protection. See our **[privacy policy](#)** for more information on the use of your personal data. Your consent choices apply to nature.com and applicable subdomains.

You can find further information, and change your preferences via 'Manage preferences'. You can also change your preferences or withdraw consent at any time via 'Your privacy choices', found in the footer of every page.

We use cookies and similar technologies for the following purposes:

Store and/or access information on a device

Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development

[Accept all cookies](#)[Reject optional cookies](#)[Manage preferences](#)

Your privacy, your choice

We use essential cookies to make sure the site can function. We, and our 93 [partners](#), also use optional cookies and similar technologies for advertising, personalisation of content, usage analysis, and social media.

By accepting optional cookies, you consent to allowing us and our partners to store and access personal data on your device, such as browsing behaviour and unique identifiers. Some third parties are outside of the European Economic Area, with varying standards of data protection. See our [privacy policy](#) for more information on the use of your personal data. Your consent choices apply to nature.com and applicable subdomains.

You can find further information, and change your preferences via 'Manage preferences'. You can also change your preferences or withdraw consent at any time via 'Your privacy choices', found in the footer of every page.

We use cookies and similar technologies for the following purposes:

Store and/or access information on a device

Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development

[Accept all cookies](#)

[Reject optional cookies](#)

[Manage preferences](#)