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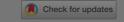
Original Articles

# Mean reverting financial leverage: theory and evidence from Pakistan

Tanveer Ahsan, Wang Man & Muhammad Azeem Qureshi 🔀

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# Abstract

Grounding concepts of the two competing theories of capital structure (trade-off theory, pecking order theory) are quite opposite to each other. Trade-off theory claims that there is an optimal (target) capital structure and firms try to achieve that optimal (target) point. Whereas pecking order theory argues that there is no optimal (target) capital structure but the firms follow a specific pattern of financing. Using the two

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data into prontable and lossmaking firm-year observations explains that profitable firms

clearly follow trade-off financing behaviour while the results for lossmaking firms do not support trade-off financing behaviour. Our study indicates that it is important for the government to ensure policies to develop well-balanced financial markets and to improve accountability systems.

Q KEYWORDS: Target capital structure Pakistan unit root analysis panel data

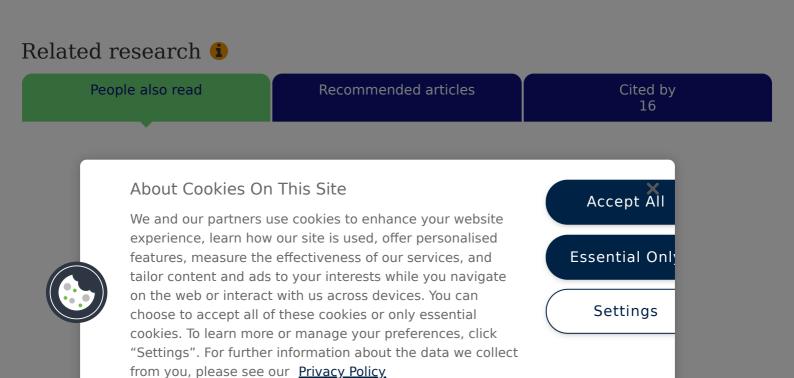
Q JEL Classification: C23 G30 G32

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# Notes

<sup>1</sup> <a href="http://www.sbp.org.pk/ecodata/NPL.pdf">http://www.sbp.org.pk/ecodata/NPL.pdf</a> of State Bank of Pakistan reports PKR 594 billion (approximately US\$ 7 billion) as nonperforming loans of banking sector in Pakistan. Apex court of Pakistan is currently hearing a case in this regard.



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