

2022

The Determinants of Profitability of Insurance Companies in Palestine

Islam Abdeljawad

Department of Finance Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine, islamjawad@najah.edu

Layth Dwaikat

Palestine Capital Market Authority, Ramallah, Palestine

Ghassan Oweidat

Palestine Polytechnic University, Hebron, Palestine

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.aaru.edu.jo/anujsr_b

Recommended Citation

Abdeljawad, Islam; Dwaikat, Layth; and Oweidat, Ghassan (2022) "The Determinants of Profitability of Insurance Companies in Palestine," *An-Najah University Journal for Research - B (Humanities)*: Vol. 36 : Iss. 2 , Article 7.

Available at: https://digitalcommons.aaru.edu.jo/anujsr_b/vol36/iss2/7

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Arab Journals Platform. It has been accepted for inclusion in An-Najah University Journal for Research - B (Humanities) by an authorized editor. The journal is hosted on [Digital Commons](#), an Elsevier platform. For more information, please contact rakan@aarj.edu.jo, marah@aarj.edu.jo, u.murad@aarj.edu.jo.

The Determinants of Profitability of Insurance Companies in Palestine

محددات الربحية في شركات التأمين في فلسطين

Islam Abdeljawad^{1,*}, Layth Dwaikat² & Ghassan Oweidat³

اسلام عبد الجواد¹، وليث دويكات²، وغسان عويضات³

¹Department of Finance Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine. ²Palestine Capital Market Authority, Ramallah, Palestine. ³Palestine Polytechnic University, Hebron, Palestine

¹ قسم العلوم المالية والمصرفية، كلية الاقتصاد والعلوم الاجتماعية، جامعة النجاح الوطنية، نابلس، فلسطين. ² هيئة سوق رأس المال الفلسطينية، رام الله، فلسطين. ³ جامعة بوليتكنك فلسطين، الخليل، فلسطين

*Correspondence: islamjawad@najah.edu

Received: (29/10/2019), Accepted: (2/2/2020)

Abstract

This study aimed to examine the factors that affect the profitability of insurance companies in Palestine. Unbalanced panel data was utilized from seven insurance companies operating in Palestine from 2006 to 2018 to estimate a linear model between determinants theoretically expected to affect performance and the profitability of insurance firms. Findings revealed that size, growth and liquidity significantly positively affect the insurance firm's profitability while motor claims, on the other hand, have a significant negative effect on the insurance company's profitability. Other factors including claims ratio and leverage ratio have no significant effect on profitability of insurance firms. The main implications of these results are that Palestinian insurance companies should diversify their insurance portfolio away from motor insurance and keep higher liquidity levels to enhance profitability. Further, some

insurance companies are recommended to merge with other companies to increase size and to gain economies of scale.

Keywords: Insurance Companies, Profitability, Palestine.

ملخص

اختبرت هذه الدراسة العوامل التي تؤثر في ربحية شركات التأمين في فلسطين، وقد استخدمت بيانات طولية مقطعية غير متوازنة من سبع شركات تأمين تعمل في فلسطين من سنة 2006 وحتى 2018 لتقدير نموذج انحدار خطي بين محددات الربحية التي تم تحديدها نظريا وبين ربحية شركات التأمين، أظهرت النتائج ان حجم الشركة ومعدل نموها وسيولتها تؤثر ايجابيا على الربحية بينما حصة تأمين السيارات من اجمالي محفظة التأمين تؤثر سلبا على الشركة، بعض العوامل الاخرى كنسبة الادعاءات ونسبة الرفع المالي لم يكن لها تأثير على الربحية، التوصيات الاساسية للدراسة هي ان على شركات التأمين في فلسطين تنويع محفظتها التأمينية خارج تأمين السيارات لتحسين الربحية، وأيضا تنصح بعض شركات التأمين بالاندماج لزيادة الحجم وتحقيق اقتصاديات الحجم الكبير في عملياتها.

الكلمات المفتاحية: شركات التأمين، الربحية، فلسطين

1. Introduction

The growth of an economy depends on the success of industries and individual companies which make up that economy. Therefore, the performance of individual companies working in different industries is an important indicator of how well the whole economy is doing. One of those crucial sectors that constitute modern economies is the financial sector represented by financial institutions that perform the role of transferring funds between different economic units to achieve economic efficiency. Drawbacks in the function of financial institutions could be devastating to the whole economy as more funds will stay idle and, therefore, investment will fall back (Ahmed, Ahmed & Usman, 2011; Birhan, 2017). Having that said, insurance companies are fundamental financial institutions that play significant roles which encompass, in addition to facilitating the transfer of funds, financial losses indemnity and reduction of uncertainty that people and businesses face. Those functions of insurance companies lead to a high-scale investment and well-performing economy. Therefore, the study of insurance companies' determinants of performance is important to understand how to increase

efficiency of this sector (Mazviona, Dube & Sakahuhwa, 2017; Angoff & Brown, 2007).

Performance of a company, i.e. insurance companies, is evaluated by the maximization of owners' wealth, and profitability is a main determinant of whether the owners' wealth is maximized (Zelege, 2007; Browne, Carson & Hoyt, 2001; Abdeljawad & Masri, 2020). The enhancement of profits, in general, enables the firm to maintain its continuity and survival. Moreover, losses lead to the deterioration of financial condition and erosion of owners' wealth which may lead to liquidation (Westall, 2002). Profitability is also an important tool for measuring the efficiency of management in exploiting available resources (Greene & Segal, 2004). In case of insurance companies, profitability enhances solvency of the company which is very important to face risks and meet obligations towards policyholders and, as a result, fulfil insurance goals (Burca & Batrinca, 2014).

Profitability depends on different factors including economic, industry and firm-specific factors that need to be identified to be able to control the profitability of insurance companies. In contrast to economic and industry factors, firm-specific factors can be controlled and managed by the executives of the firm in order to achieve the objective of profit maximization. Consequently, this research aims to study the firm-level determinants of profitability of insurance companies operating in Palestine. Specifically, this paper aims to study the impact of identified factors from previous literature including company size, liquidity, leverage, growth, claims ratio and motor claims ratio on the profitability of insurance companies operating in Palestine.

The insurance sector in Palestine is relatively new with paucity in studies dealt with the determinant of profitability in this sector. Moreover, there are contradicted findings of previous studies from other countries (Kramaric, Mileticand & Pavic, 2017). This study should help decision makers to avoid poor performance and provide them with recommendations to improve financial performance by determining the factors that affect profitability. It may also help other researchers to make

Table (1): Main Indicators for the Insurance Sector from 2006 to 2016.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total Assets	217,540,815	231,258,381	279,524,471	300,517,572	298,372,951	323,563,814	339,991,583
Total Liabilities	168,407,809	178,027,746	203,858,074	216,022,406	202,766,372	222,436,622	231,201,550
Total Equity	49,133,006	53,230,635	75,666,397	84,495,166	95,606,579	101,127,192	108,790,033
Investments	127,687,889	134,562,793	145,600,617	160,812,755	180,314,797	180,655,300	184,619,450
Technical Reserves	112,616,062	117,488,484	138,647,803	146,420,893	145,411,293	158,548,489	160,264,776
Paid in capital	39,436,696	41,819,719	53,295,009	55,599,143	62,247,650	63,062,143	67,187,306
Gross Written Premium	72,208,915	75,459,539	94,310,529	104,304,394	125,801,552	150,461,249	144,465,157
Paid Claims	43,402,982	46,668,238	51,333,750	56,201,425	66,430,926	75,572,381	88,420,157
Net Income	2,958,895	5,357,304	6,985,205	11,438,794	4,566,709	6,816,464	7,273,404
Insurance companies	8	8	9	10	10	10	10
Employees	734	758	795	875	1,007	1,028	1,035
Agents and Producers	146	145	220	225	265	239	229
Table 1: Continued							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Total Assets	367,002,222	383,040,500	352,357,813	387,078,907	528,410,447	541,431,384	
Total Liabilities	247,185,251	246,382,990	227,750,689	252,329,040	339,770,639	355,178,862	
Total Equity	119,816,971	136,657,510	124,607,124	134,749,867	188,639,808	186,252,522	
Investments	187,044,275	193,549,682	176,684,826	192,860,697	248,887,118	249,330,540	
Technical Reserves	177,883,913	170,118,470	164,193,960	179,788,685	251,712,136	261,035,374	
Paid in capital	67,874,606	69,687,306	58,700,000	59,550,000	71,200,000	90,000,000	
Gross Written Premium	158,707,973	171,002,187	164,814,461	195,618,330	255,421,729	279,370,598	
Paid Claims	88,700,399	108,070,231	97,893,567	113,814,080	144,320,228	166,307,996	
Net Income	12,435,880	13,950,946	7,252,966	16,621,084	25,963,459	15,442,849	
Insurance companies	10	10	9	9	9	10	
Employees	1,075	1,175	1,156	1,192	1,245	1,401	
Agents and Producers	225	215	206	224	262	271	

The determinants of the profitability of insurance companies are of theoretical and practical interest. Few researchers have examined the determinants of profitability in insurance companies whether conventional or Islamic. The results of previous studies are mixed. This study will investigate the factors found to be the most important in past literature. Most studies have highlighted the internal determinants of profitability which are under the control of management (Ayele, 2012; Chen & Wong, 2004). Following are a discussion of few relevant past research from different countries to rationalize the basis for this study.

The study of Almajali, Alamro and Al-Soub (2012) aimed to investigate the factors that mostly affect financial performance of Jordanian insurance companies by studying a sample of twenty-five insurance companies listed in Amman Stock Exchange. This study investigates the effect of five independent variables namely: age of company, size, leverage, liquidity, and management competence index on the dependent variable, return on assets, using multiple regression

namely leverage, size, liquidity, premium growth, underwriting risk, and capital are investigated. Charumathi found that profitability of life insurers is positively and significantly influenced by the size and liquidity. The leverage, premium growth and equity capital have negatively influenced the profitability of Indian life insurers while no evidence exist for the relationship between underwriting risk and profitability.

In Zimbabwe, Mazviona, Dube and Sakahuhwa (2017) studied the factors that affect the performance of insurance companies in Zimbabwe in a sample of 20 insurance companies. They used nine independent variables namely leverage, growth, expense ratio, inflation, retention, size, liquidity, equity and claims ratio. Using multiple linear regression and factor analysis on the panel data, they found that expense ratio, claims ratio, retention ratio, size of company and equity capital have a negative significant effect on the profitability of insurance companies while liquidity has a positive significant effect on the profitability of the insurance companies.

In Poland, Kozak (2011) studied the determinants of profitability of non-life insurance companies for a sample of 25 non-life insurance companies, and found that reduction in the share of motor insurance of the company's portfolio, with simultaneous increase of other types of insurance, has a positive impact on profitability. The growth in GDP is also found to have a positive effect on profitability.

In Ethiopia, Mehari and Aemiro (2013) investigated the firm specific factors that determine insurance companies' performance for a sample of 9 insurance companies. Their findings state that insurer's size, tangibility and leverage have a significant positive effect on performance. However loss ratio, which reflects the risk of the firm, has a negative significant relationship with the performance. Also, the study found that growth in written premiums, age, and liquidity have insignificant relationship with insurers performance. Another study in Ethiopia, Birhan (2017) studied the determinants of insurance company profitability as a case study on one insurance company and found that size, leverage, tangibility of assets, loss ratio, growth and managerial efficiency are significant

significant impact on the financial performance, whereas risk and solvency have a positive impact on the financial performance.

In Pakistan, Rahman, Jan and Iqbal (2018) identified the profitability determinants in the insurance industry of Pakistan using a panel data of 41 diversified insurance companies (life, non-life and takaful insurance). They found that leverage, business risk and inflation have a significant negative effect on profitability, whereas size and GDP have significant positive impacts. Moreover, they found that liquidity and growth have insignificant effects in the study.

In Kuwait, AlAli, AlSalem, AlAwadhi, AlForaih and AlSabah (2019) studied the nexus between internal factors and profitability of insurance companies for 7 insurance companies listed in Kuwait stock exchange. They found that leverage and age have a negative impact on the profitability of insurers. On the other hand, tangibility and size have a positive impact. Liquidity, growth and management efficiency have no impact on the profitability of insurance companies in Kuwait.

In 2018, Banerjee and Majumdar have investigated the impact of firm-specific factors and macroeconomic factors on the profitability of insurance companies for 20 insurance companies in UAE. They found that investment ratio, size and leverage have a negative impact on the profitability of insurers, while growth, market share and per-capita GDP have a positive impact.

To conclude, factors of size, liquidity, leverage, growth, claims ratio and share of motor insurance of the company's portfolio are found to be the main internal factors that affect profitability. Table 2 summarizes the results and presents our expectation about the relationship in the Palestinian context. The sample and period of each study are presented in Table 3 in Section 3.1 with the data discussion.

Based on the above discussion, this study will investigate the following hypotheses:

H1: There is a positive relationship between size and profitability of insurance companies in Palestine.

...continue table (2)

Factors	Studies	Empirical relationship from literature	Expected relationship
Liquidity	Almajali, Alamro and Al-Soub (2012)	Positive	Positive
	Kripa and Ajasllari (2016)	Negative	
	Boadi, Antwi and Lartey (2013)	Positive	
	Birhan (2017)	Positive	
	Charumathi (2012)	Positive	
	Mazviona, Dube and Sakahuhwa (2017)	Positive	
Leverage	Almajali, Alamro and Al-Soub (2012)	Positive	Negative
	Mehari and Aemiro (2013)	Positive	
	Malik (2011)	Negative	
	Birhan (2017)	Positive	
	Boadi, Antwi and Lartey (2013)	Positive	
	Banerjee and Majumdar (2018)	Negative	
	AlAli, AlSalem, AlAwadhi, AlForaih and AlSabah (2019)	Negative	
	Lee (2014)	Negative	
	Rahman, Jan and Iqbal (2018)	Negative	
	Charumathi (2012)	Negative	
	Alhassan, Addisson and Asamoah (2015)	Negative	
	Burca and Batrinca (2014)	Negative	

Table (3): Number of firms and periods for selected previous studies.

Studies	Country	Firms	Period
Almajali, Alamro and Al-Soub (2012)	Jordan	25	2002-2007
AlAli, AlSalem, AlAwadhi, AlForaih and AlSabah (2019)	Kuwait	7	2010-2017
Alhassan, Addisson and Asamoah (2015)	Ghana	36	2007-2011
Boadi, Antwi and Lartey (2013)	Ghana	16	2005-2010
Banerjee and Majumdar (2018)	UAE	20	2009-2013
Burca and Batrinca (2014)	Romania	21	2008-2012
Charumathi (2012)	India	23	2009-2011
Derbali and Jamel (2014)	Tunis	8	2005-2015
Guendouz and Ouassaf (2018)	Saudi Arabia	6	2010-2016
Kozak (2011)	Poland	25	2002-2009
Kripa and Ajasllari (2016)	Albania	7	2008-2013
Lee (2014)	Taiwan	15	1999-2009
Rahman, Jan and Iqbal (2018)	Pakistan	41	2007-2017
Malik (2011)	Pakistan	35	2005-2009
Mazviona, Dube and Sakahuhwa (2017)	Zimbabwe	20	2010-2014
Mehari and Aemiro (2013)	Ethiopia	9	2005-2010
Birhan (2017) (case study)	Ethiopia	1	2016

Following previous literature, all the data available about insurance companies will be utilized. The number of insurance companies in Palestine as the end of 2017 was nine and, during 2018, an additional company was authorized but not included in this study due to data limitation. Data are collected manually from annual reports (statement of financial position and income statement) of insurance companies disclosed on the Palestine Stock Exchange website for the period from 2006 to 2018 based on the availability of data. For variables that require

Measurement of variables

Measurement of variables for this study adheres to previous literature. Summary of measurement of variables is presented in Table 6. Discussion of variable measurement is following:

1. **Performance:** Performance is usually measured using accounting profitability, mainly the return on assets (ROA) and return on equity (ROE) (Damodaran, 2007; Adams & Buckle, 2003; Derbali & Jamel, 2014). This study used ROA and ROE, alternatively as the dependent variable in the regression model. ROA is measured by dividing profit before tax by total asset and ROE is measured by dividing net income by total equity.
2. **Liquidity:** liquidity of an insurance company reflects its ability to pay for short-term liabilities and claims including operating expenses and payment of compensations (Almajali, Alamro & Al-Soub, 2012; Birhan, 2017; Mazviona, Dube & Sakahuhwa, 2017). Liquidity in this study is represented by current ratio measured by dividing current assets by current liabilities.
3. **Leverage:** leverage is an indicator of the degree to which business is utilizing borrowed money. In this study leverage is defined as total liabilities to total equity (Almajali, Alamro & Al-Soub, 2012).
4. **Company Size:** the size of insurance companies is found to affect its financial performance (Malik, 2011; AlAli, AlSalem, AlAwhadi, AlForaih & AlSabah, 2019). Company size was proxied by the logarithm of total assets.
5. **Growth:** Growth prospects of insurance firms are represented by the percentage change in the gross premiums of the insurance company (Kripa & Ajasllari, 2016; Banerjee & Majumdar, 2018). Another proxy for growth prospects is the percentage change in assets.
6. **Claims Ratio:** This ratio measures the amount of compensation incurred plus commission paid by the company in comparison to the amount of its premiums earned and commission received from reinsurers (Ortynski, 2016; Mazviona, Dube & Sakahuhwa, 2017).

Lev is Leverage Ratio,

Size is size of the company,

Grow is Growth of the company, which is measured by growth in assets in one model and growth in premiums in the other.

CL is Claims ratio for the company,

Motor claims is Share of Motor insurance claims

e is the error term, and

b_i 's are the regression coefficients.

To estimation this model, a panel GLS multiple linear regression were employed in this study to overcome the heteroscedasticity and autocorrelations problems.

Findings

This section presents the results of this investigation. Descriptive statistics and correlation analysis are presented first; estimation results of the model are discussed later.

Descriptive statistics

Table 7 below presents the descriptive statistics indicators of the variables used in this study. It can be noted that ROA for Palestinian insurance companies ranges from minimum minus18.2% to maximum of 14.8% with a mean and median of 3.4%. ROE fluctuate much higher with a mean of 4.5%. Growth in premiums and growth in assets have means of 19.6% and 11.2%, respectively, among Palestinian insurance companies which indicate the prospects of this industry. As to leverage, it has an average of 2.644 times the owners' equity which points to the heavy dependence of this sector on debt. The liquidity ratio has an average of almost 1. Besides, 61.1% of received premiums are paid out as claims to policyholders and 67.4% of these paid claims are paid to motor policyholders.

Table (8): Correlation Coefficients.

	ROA	Claims Ratio	Growth in Assets	Leverage D/E	Liquidity	Motor Claims	Ln(assets)	Growth in Premiums	ROE
ROA	1.00								
Claims Ratio	-0.11	1.00							
Growth in Assets	0.21	-0.03	1.00						
Leverage D/E	-0.24	0.19	-0.18	1.00					
Liquidity	0.24	0.20	0.18	-0.23	1.00				
Motor Claims	-0.13	-0.21	-0.02	0.15	-0.30	1.00			
Ln(assets)	0.06	0.17	-0.47	-0.29	0.03	-0.31	1.00		
Growth in Premiums	0.10	-0.37	0.43	-0.14	0.08	0.07	-0.32	1.00	
ROE	0.89	-0.02	0.21	-0.03	0.15	-0.17	-0.03	0.08	1.00

Estimation Results

There are two dependent variables, ROA and ROE, and two models were fitted for each dependent. The difference between the two models fitted for each dependent variable is in the proxy for the insurance company growth. One model uses growth in assets and the other uses growth in premiums. As a result, four models were fitted. Models 1 and 2 were fitted to investigate the effect of the explanatory variables on ROE as a measure of profitability, where models 3 and 4 were used to explore the effect on ROA. As previously mentioned, models 1 and 3 use growth in assets as a measure of insurance company growth, while models 2 and 4 use the growth in premiums.

Table 9 presents the regression results of the four research models. Model 1 explains 14.1% of the variability in ROE as measured by the R-square. Furthermore, the F-statistic shows that this model is a well-fit at 10% level of significance. On the other hand, Model 2 is a better fit of the effects of the independent variables on ROE since it explains 23.3% of the variability as measured by the R-square and it is adequate at 1% level of significance according to F-statistic. Similarly, Model 4 is better than Model 3 in clarifying the effect of the set of independent variables on ROA. In terms of R-square, Model 3 explains only 16.8% of the variability in ROA, while Model 4 explains 29.1% of that variability. In addition, Model 3 is significant at 5% level whereas Model 4 is significant at 1% level. These results indicate that growth in premiums is

The results of the first model Shows that ROE as a measure of the performance of insurance companies is significantly affected by the size of the company, growth in assets, and the ratio of the motor claims to the total claims paid by the company. Size of the insurance company has a significant positive relationship with its performance which indicates the importance of scale economies. The ability of large companies to provide their services with low costs and their ability to control premiums make them more competitive and able to achieve higher profits (Robins and Wiersema, 1995). Moreover, the ability of insurance companies to predict future losses increases as the number of risks which they insure increases, as indicated by the law of large numbers, which enhances the control over their performance (Cummins and Nini, 2002). This result agrees with the results found by Almajali et al. (2012), Charumathi (2012), Kozak (2011), Malik (2011) and Rahman et al. (2018) who investigated the profitability of insurance companies in Jordan, India, Poland, and Pakistan, for the last two, respectively. However, this result contradicts the result of Mazviona et al. (2017), Derbali and Jamel (2014) and Banerjee and Majumdar (2018) who explored this relationship in Zimbabwean, Tunisian and UAE insurance companies, respectively.

Model 1 shows a significant negative association between Palestinian insurance companies' profitability and the ratio of motor claims to the total claims paid by the insurance company. The higher ratio of claims related to vehicles insurance means that this type of insurance constitutes a large part of the insurance company's operations. Motor insurance costs the insurance company more in terms of marketing and claims to be paid to policyholders which adversely affect the company's profitability. In Palestine, unlike most other countries, compensations to motor insurance are unlimited. Personal (bodily) injury can cost the company millions of Dollars for some motor accidents. At the same time, premiums from this type of insurance are almost set at the floor tariff imposed by regulators not according to the risk-based pricing because of high competition in the market. Re-insurance should cover this high risk but some companies do not release all the data about all vehicle accidents to reinsurer to prevent the upward adjustment of re-insurance price in the future. In addition, for

profitability in Tunisia and Kripa and Ajasllari (2016) who found negative association between the two variables in Albania.

The effects of the independent variables on ROA are estimated in Model 3 and Model 4. Model 4 shows similar effects of the independent variables on ROA as Model 2. In other words, ROA is significantly negatively affected by motor claims and positively affected by liquidity. Model 3 shows significant effects of motor claims and size on the ROA. Motor claims effect is negative which conforms to the results of the other three models. Likewise, the effect of the insurance company size is positive which indicates the importance of the economies of scale, as found by Almajali et al. (2012) and Rahman et al. (2018). Table 10 summarizes these results.

Table (10): Summary of Results.

Hypothesis	Expected relationship	Empirical Result	Conclusion
H1: There is a positive relationship between size and profitability of insurance companies in Palestine.	+	+	supported
H2: There is a positive relationship between growth and profitability of insurance companies in Palestine.	+	+	supported
H3: There is a negative relationship between leverage and profitability for Palestinian insurance companies.	-	No relationship	No evidence

high liquidity that enables it to win bids and pay claims quickly which in turn improves the company's reputation and, as a result, profitability

Nevertheless, the sample included in the study may be criticized as not large enough to give power in modeling the variables and their impact on the profitability of insurance companies operating in Palestine. This limitation is not avoidable currently since all the available data are utilized in this paper. Future research may overcome this shortcoming by adding to the period of the study.

References

- Abdeljawad, I., & Masri, R. M. (2020). Board Characteristics and Corporate Performance: Evidence from Palestine. *An-Najah University Journal for Research-B (Humanities)*, 34(4), 745-770.
- Adams, M., & Buckle, M. (2003). The determinants of corporate financial performance in the Bermuda insurance market. *Applied Financial Economics*, 13(2), 133-143.
- Ahmed, N., Ahmed, Z., & Usman, A. (2011). Determinants of performance: A case of life insurance sector of Pakistan. *International Research Journal of Finance and Economics*, 61(1), 123-128.
- AlAli, M. S., AlSalem, A. S., AlAwadhi, K. M., AlForaih, E. O., & AlSabah, A. M. (2019). Examining the nexus between internal factors and profitability of insurance companies listed at Kuwait stock exchange. *Kuwait Chapter of the Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review*, 8(1), 30-37.
- Alhassan, A. L., Addisson, G. K., & Asamoah, M. E. (2015). Market structure, efficiency and profitability of insurance companies in Ghana. *International Journal of Emerging Markets*, 10(4), 648-669.
- Almajali, A. Y., Alamro, S. A., & Al-Soub, Y. Z. (2012). Factors affecting the financial performance of Jordanian insurance

companies listed at Amman Stock Exchange. *Journal of Management research*, 4(2), 266-289.

- Angoff, J., & Brown, R. (2007). An Analysis of the Profitability and Performance of the Michigan Auto Insurance Market. Roger Brown and Associates.
- Asteriou, D., & Hall, S. G. (2007). *Applied Econometrics: a modern approach*, revised edition. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Ayele, A. G. (2012). Factors Affecting profitability of insurance companies in Ethiopia: Panel evidence. Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.
- Banerjee, R., & Majumdar, S. (2018). Impact of firm specific and macroeconomic factors on financial performance of the UAE insurance sector. *Global Business and Economics Review*, 20(2), 248-261.
- Birhan, M. (2017). Determinants of insurance company profitability in Ethiopia (case study of Nile Insurance, Dire Dawa branch). *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications*, 7(6), 761-767.
- Boadi, E. K., Antwi, S., & Lartey, V. C. (2013). Determinants of profitability of insurance firms in Ghana. *International Journal of Business and Social Research*, 3(3), 43-50.
- Browne, M. J., Carson, J. M., & Hoyt, R. E. (2001). Dynamic financial models of life insurers. *North American Actuarial Journal*, 5(2), 11-26.
- Burca, A. M., & Batrinca, G. (2014). The determinants of financial performance in the Romanian insurance market. *International Journal of Academic Research in Accounting, Finance and Management Sciences*, 4(1), 299-308.

- Charumathi, B. (2012). On the Determinants of Profitability of Indian life insurers—an Empirical Study. In *Proceedings of the World Congress on Engineering* (Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 4-6). London.
- Chen, R., & Wong, K. A. (2004). The determinants of financial health of Asian insurance companies. *Journal of Risk and Insurance*, 71(3), 469-499.
- Cummins, J. D. and Nini, G. P. (2002). Optimal Capital Utilization by Financial Firms: Evidence from the Property-Liability Insurance Industry, *Journal of Financial Services Research*, 21(1), 15–53.
- Damodaran, A. (2007). Return on capital (ROC), return on invested capital (ROIC) and return on equity (ROE): Measurement and implications.
- Derbali, A., and Jamel, L. (2018). Determinants of performance of Tunisia insurance companies: Case of life insurance. *International Journal of Innovation and Applied Studies*, 6(1), 90-96.
- Greene, H, Segal, D (2004). Profitability and efficiency in the US life insurance industry. *Journal of Productivity Analysis*, 21(3), 229-247.
- Guendouz, A., and Ouassaf, S. (2018). Determinants of Saudi Takaful insurance companies' profitability. *Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies Journal*, (2018) Vol.22 No.5.
- Kozak, S. (2011). Determinants of profitability of non-life insurance companies in Poland during integration with the European financial system. *Electronic Journal of Polish Agricultural Universities*, 14(1), 01.
- Kramaric, T. P., Miletic, M. and Pavic, I. (2017). Profitability determinants of insurance markets in selected central and eastern European countries. *International Journal of Economic Sciences*, 6(2), 100-123.

- Kripa, D., and Ajasllari, D. (2016). Factors affecting the profitability of Insurance Companies in Albania. *European Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*, 1(1), 352-360.
- Lee, C. Y. (2014). The effects of firm specific factors and macroeconomics on profitability of property-liability insurance industry in Taiwan. *Asian Economic and Financial Review*, 4(5), 681-691.
- Malik, H. (2011). Determinants of insurance companies' profitability: An analysis of insurance sector of Pakistan. *Academic Research International*, 1(3), 315.
- Mazviona, B. W., Dube, M., & Sakahuhwa, T. (2017). An Analysis of Factors Affecting the Performance of Insurance Companies in Zimbabwe. *Journal of Finance and Investment Analysis*. 6(1), 11-30.
- Mehari, D., & Aemiro, T. (2013). Firm Specific Factors That Determine Insurance Companies' Performance In Ethiopia. *European Scientific Journal*, 9(10).
- Orzynski, K. (2016). Determinants of profitability of general insurance companies performance in Poland. *Central European Review of Economics and Finance*. 12(2), 53-66.
- Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute. (2016). The insurance sector in Palestine - achievements, failures and challenges. Retrieved from <http://www.mas.ps>.
- Rahman, S. U., Jan, M. F., & Iqbal, K. (2018). Determinants of Profitability in Life and Non-Life Insurance Sector of Pakistan: An Endogenous and Exogenous Evaluation. *Journal of Independent Studies & Research: Management & Social Sciences & Economics*, 16(2).
- Robins, J. and Wiersema, M. F. (1995). A Resource-based Approach to the Multibusiness Firm: Empirical Analysis of Portfolio

Interrelationships and Corporate Financial Performance, *Strategic management Journal*, 16, 277-299.

- Westall, O. (2002). The history of insurance. *Business History*, 44(1), 95-98.
- Zeleke, H. (2007). Insurance in Ethiopia: Historical Development, Present Status and Future Challenges. Addis Ababa: Master Printing Press.

Appendix

Firms in the sample from 2006 to 2018 depending on the availability of data

Insurance Company Name	Symbol
Trust International Insurance Company	Trust
National Insurance Company	NIC
Global United Insurance Company	Global
Takaful Palestinian Insurance Company	TIC
Mashreq Insurance Company	MIC
Palestine Insurance Company	PIC
Ahlia Insurance Company	AIG