



ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΟ  
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ  
ΑΘΗΝΩΝ  
ΒΙΒΛΙΟΘΗΚΗ  
ΣΙΟ. 69930  
Αρ. 332.63221  
ταξ. 810

***Athens University of Business and Economics***  
***MSc in Banking and Finance***

***The Relevance of Earnings and Book Values in Equity Valuation***

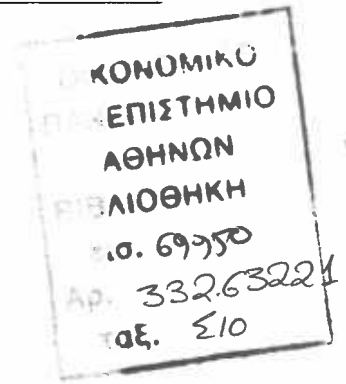
ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ  
ΚΑΤΑΛΟΓΟΣ



***Author***  
***Siougle Georgia***

***Supervisor***  
***Ghicas Dimitrios***





**ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ**  
**ΜΕΤΑΠΤΥΧΙΑΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ**  
**ΣΤΗ ΧΡΗΜΑΤΟΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΗ ΚΑΙ ΤΡΑΠΕΖΙΚΗ**  
**ΓΙΑ ΣΤΕΛΕΧΗ**

**The Relevance of Earnings and Book  
Values in Equity Valuation**

**Σιουγλέ Γεωργία**

Διατριβή υποβληθείσα  
προς μερική εκπλήρωση των απαραίτητων προϋποθέσεων  
για την απόκτηση του Μεταπτυχιακού Διπλώματος



Αθήνα, Φεβρουάριος 2000



Εγκρίνουμε την διατριβή της Σιουγλέ Γεωργίας

Γκίκας Δημήτριος



Γεωργούτσος Δημήτριος

.....

Αθήνα, Φεβρουάριος 2000



**CONTENTS**

<i>Value Relevance of Price, Earnings and Book Values</i> _____	<b>2</b>
<i>I. Introduction</i> _____	<b>7</b>
<i>II. Sample Selection and Data</i> _____	<b>8</b>
<i>III. Methodology and Models Proposed</i> _____	<b>11</b>
<i>IV. Estimations and Results</i> _____	<b>15</b>
1. The Simple Earnings Capitalization Model _____	15
2. The Simple Earnings Capitalization Model Including Book Value _____	19
<i>V. Conclusions</i> _____	<b>24</b>
<i>VI. Appendix</i> _____	<b>25</b>
1. The Error Component Model _____	25
2. Supplementary Tables _____	29
3. Data _____	32
<i>VII. References</i> _____	<b>41</b>
1. Papers _____	41
2. Books _____	41
3. Newspapers _____	41



---

**TABLES**


---

- Table 1** : Coefficient estimates on earnings for the 12-year period
- Table 2** : Annual coefficient estimates from regressing price on earnings
- Table 3** : Slope and constant estimations using dummy variables in the simple earnings capitalization model
- Table 4** : Coefficient estimates on earnings and book value of equity for the 12-year period
- Table 5** : Annual coefficient estimates on earnings and book value of equity for profit firms versus loss firms
- Table 6** : Slope and constant estimations using dummy variables in the simple earnings capitalization model with book value
- Table 7** : Median of 12 annual coefficient estimations on earnings and book value of equity for profit firms versus loss firms
- Table 8** : The significant variables for which dummy variables have been activated in the error component model
- Table 9** : Coefficient,  $R^2$  and T-statistics estimates from time series cross sectional regressions using the error correction model
- Table 10** : Sample firms
- Table 11** :  $R^2$  and T-statistics estimates on the coefficients of earnings for the 12-year period
- Table 12** :  $R^2$  and T-statistics estimates on the coefficients of earnings and book value of equity for the 12-year period

---

**FIGURES**


---

**Figure 1** : Percent of Firms Reporting Positive EPS During 1985 - 1996

**Figure 2** : Percent of Firms Reporting Negative EPS During 1985 - 1996



### **Abstract**

This study is dealing with the problem of the anomalous negative price-earnings relation using the simple earnings capitalization model for firms that report losses. This study verifies a negative price-earnings relation for those firms that report losses (loss firms) and a positive price-earnings relation for those firms that report profits (profit firms). These findings are consistent with the results of recent studies which claim that investors consider losses temporary thus they are not affected in their investments by the appearance of reported losses. They consider losses as temporary due to the fact that they have the option to liquidate the firm when current losses are projected to perpetuate. This can be observed by the low explanatory power in the coefficient of loss firms in comparison with the coefficient of profit firms. Furthermore, this study seeks to examine whether the inclusion of book value of equity in the simple earnings capitalization model eliminates the negative price-earnings relation for loss firms. In the last stage pooling estimations are performed based on the error component model in an effort to take into consideration the different attributes of specific firms of the sample.



## *I. Introduction*

Equity valuation models have been used extensively in accounting research to examine the value relevance of accounting data. In these models returns or stock prices are regressed on a scaled earnings variable or on an earnings per share variable. Both price and return models rely on the hypothesis that current earnings contain information about expected future net cash flows. Since the market's expectation of future cash flows are unobservable, empirical specifications of the price earnings relation often use current earnings as a proxy for the market's expectations. One equity valuation model is the simple earnings capitalization model. In this model stock price is expressed as a function of earnings under the assumption that earnings reflects information about expected future cash flows<sup>1</sup>.

In earlier studies it has been suggested by Beaver, Lambert and Morse (1980), that earnings do not reflect the underlying economic events in a timely manner and, therefore, are not synchronized with stock price movements.

Carla Hayns (1995) suggests that there is a different return-earnings relation when firms report losses from that when firms report profits. This is due to the fact that because shareholders have a liquidation option, losses are not expected to perpetuate and thus are less informative than profits about the firm's future prospects.

Daniel Collins, Morton Pincus and Xong Xie in a very recent paper (January 1999) are also trying to provide an explanation for the negative price to earning relation in the simple capitalization model for loss firms. Daniel W. Collins in a previous paper of his (1997) is also trying to investigate the changes in the value – relevance of earnings and book value over the past forty years.

Furthermore, Kothari and Zimmerman (1995) evaluate return-earnings and price-earnings models, trying to show whether the coefficient on earnings is biased or not.

Using both the simple earnings capitalization model and its modifications this study will try to answer the question that raises in most of the recent studies about the assumption of a positive relation between price and earnings across profit and loss firms. Also, the intercept and the slope, commonly referred as the earnings response coefficient, will be estimated. Furthermore, there will be investigated the hypothesis whether book value of equity is a correlated omitted variable in the simple earnings capitalization model thus the simple earnings capitalization model is misspecified due to this problem. Finally, pooling estimations will be performed, using the error component model, which allows flexibility and variation on different sets of parameters.

There is a great interest in the scientific world about the price to earnings relation and the uses of the simple earnings capitalization model.

<sup>1</sup>Studies using this type of model includes Bowen (1981), Daley (1984), Olsen (1985), Tse (1989), Kothari (1992) and Kothari and Zimmerman (1995).



## II. Sample Selection and Data

Part of the necessary data of this study are obtained from the annual report published by the Athens Stock Exchange, which includes the Economic Statements of all the listed companies in the ASE. These data sets span the 12-year period from 1985 to 1996. Data are, also, collected from the daily press and especially the “Ναυτεμπορική» newspaper. These data regard stock prices and stock dividends. All data<sup>2</sup> are measured in real terms, are uniform and are not adjusted.

All data are collected in hard copies and then entered in the SPSS and EVIEWS program for further investigation.

This paper identifies a total of 40 \* 12 (480) firm-year observations for both profit and loss<sup>3</sup> firms for 12 years. There has been an exclusion of extreme observations, which is consistent with a similar practice in previous research. The resulting sample size is 36 \* 12 (432) firm-year observations for the cross-sectional analysis. All variables are measured on a per-share basis and adjusted for stock splits and stock dividends.

The structure of the simple earnings capitalization model that is used for the purposes of this study has the following form:

$$P_t = \alpha + \beta X_t + e_t$$

where :

- $P_t$  is the firm's stock price 6 months after the end of fiscal year t (approximately 28<sup>th</sup> of June) in order to reflect more precision and reality
- $X_t$  is the earnings per share of its company. For the computation of earnings per share the following formula is used:

$$\text{Earnings per Share} = \frac{\text{Net income} - \text{preferred dividends}}{\text{Weighted average of common shares outstanding}}$$

The numerator is the net income available to common stockholders minus dividends for preferred stocks and in the denominator is the weighted average of common shares outstanding.

<sup>2</sup>All data are available at any request.



The structure of the simple earnings capitalization model including book value appears to be:

$$P_t = \alpha + \beta X_t + \gamma BV_t + e_t$$

where :

- $BV_t$  is the book value of equity per share for its firm at period t. For the computation of book value of equity we use the following formula:

$$\text{Book Value of Equity} = \frac{\text{Total common Shareholders' equity}}{\text{Number of shares outstanding}}$$

The numerator is the total number of Shareholders' equity and the denominator is the number of shares outstanding as published in the annual balance sheet of its company.

Figures 1 and 2 show the percentages of firms reporting negative earnings (loss firms) and firms reporting positive earnings (profit firms) in the total of this sample.

Figure 1 reveals a general increase in the proportion of firms reporting positive earnings. In particular, the percentage of profit firms in the population increases from a range of 20 percent in the 1985 – 86 period to a range of 30 to 35 percent from 1987 to 1993. The magnitude falls sharply in year 1994 and 1996 but remains at the same levels in year 1995.

Figure 2 reveals an almost steady proportion of firms reporting negative earnings in the 1986 – 1996 period to a 75 – 80 percent. These percentages highlight the growing significance of negative earnings.

---

<sup>3</sup> Calra Hayns separates firms to those reporting losses and those reporting profits for cross sectional analysis



Figure 1

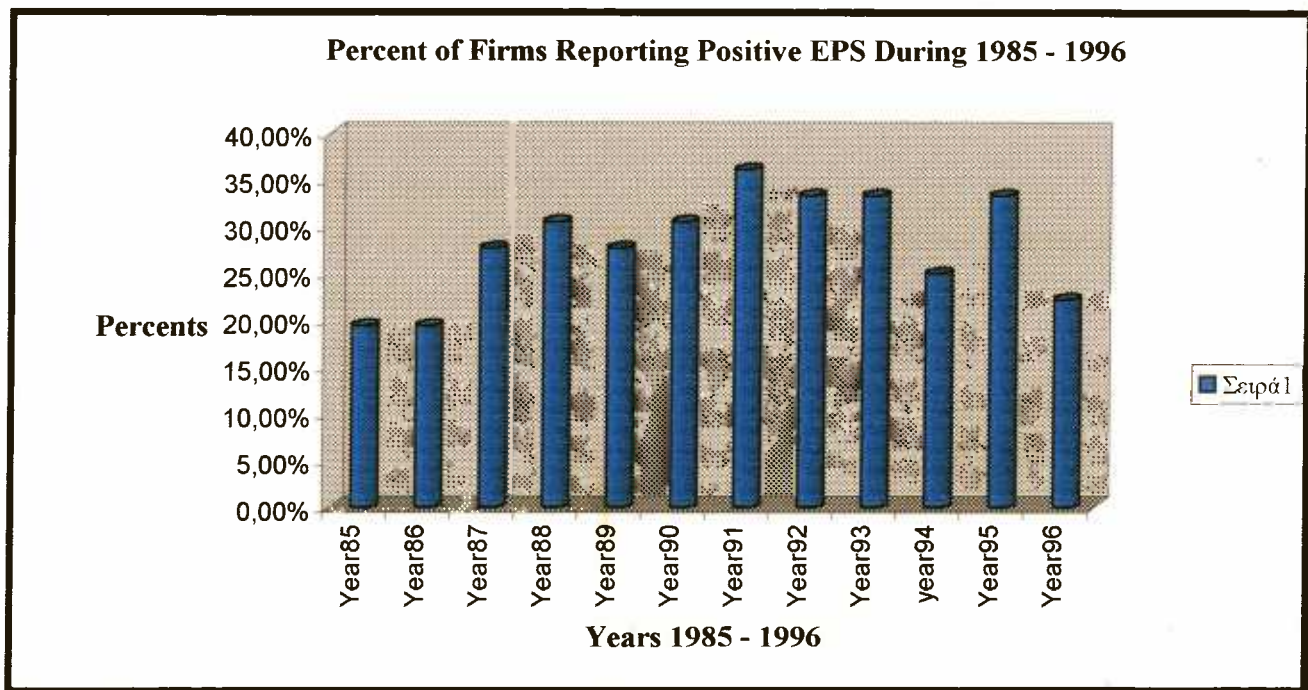
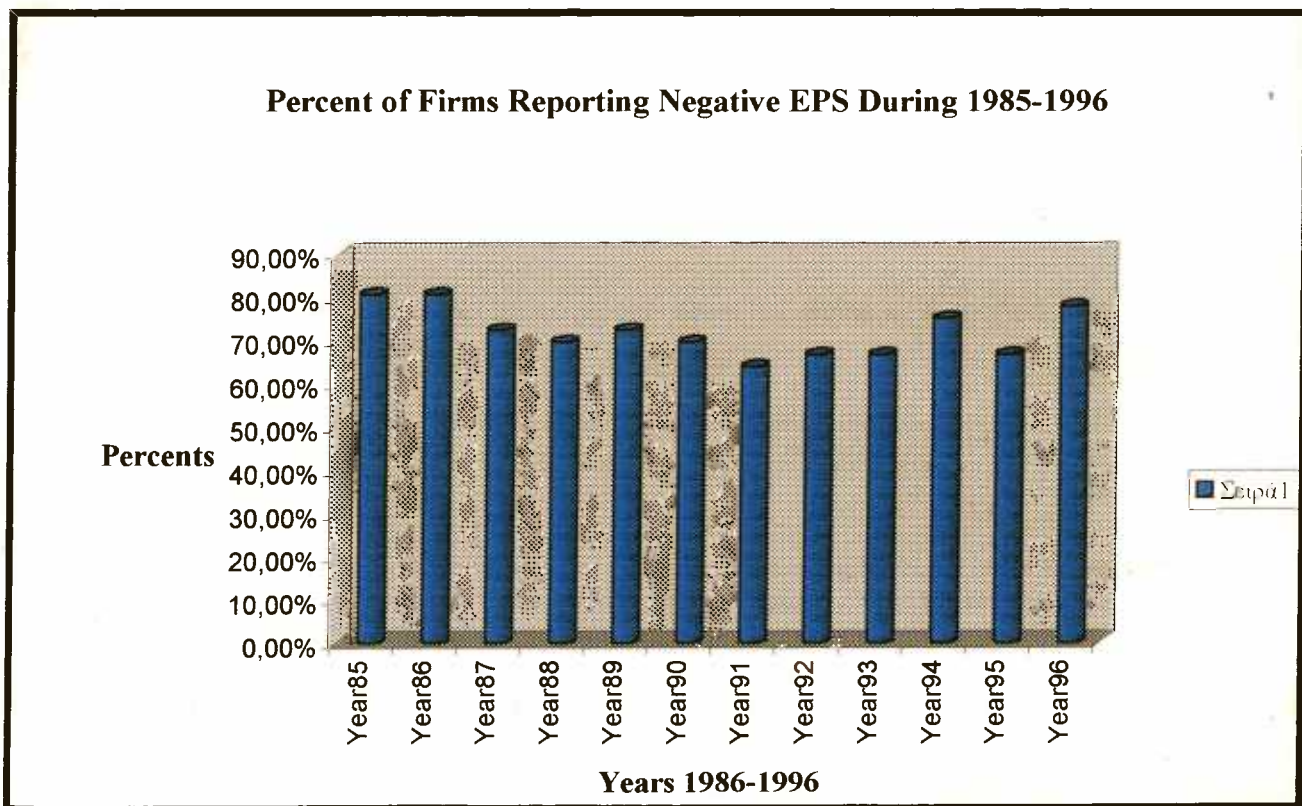


Figure 2



### III. Methodology and Models Proposed

The simple earnings capitalization model that is used for the purposes of this study has the following structure:

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + e_{it} \quad (1)$$

where :

- $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  (number of firms),
- $t = 1985 - 1996$  (years),
- $P_{it}$  = is the stock price of the firm  $i$  at time  $t_1$  and the dependent variable,
- $\alpha$  = is the constant,
- $\beta$  = is the slope, referred as earnings response coefficient,
- $X_{it}$  = is the earnings per share of firm  $i$  in period  $t$  and the independent variable.
- $e_{it}$  = is assumed to be white noise (w.n.)

Initially, cross-sectional regression is run for the total of 36 firms in this sample (loss and profit firms together – *all firms*) using the model referred in equation (1). Periodical (right hand column of table 1) and annual (right hand column of table 2) estimates are taken for the coefficients  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  and t-statistic and  $R^2$  values for those estimates.

In a following step the sample is separated to those firms reporting losses (loss firms) and those firms reporting profits (profit firms) and the above simple earnings capitalization model (equation 1) is run for profit and loss firms separately.

Therefore, cross sectional regression is run only for those firms of the sample that report positive earnings (*profit firms*) using model 1:

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + e_{it}$$

where :

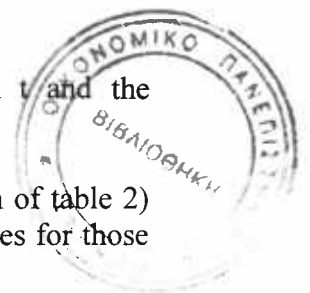
$X_{it}$  = is the *positive* earnings per share of firms  $i$  in period  $t$  and the independent variable

Periodical (middle column of table 1) and annual (middle column of table 2) estimates are taken for the coefficients  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  and t-statistic and  $R^2$  values for those estimates.

The experiment is replicated by running cross sectionals for only those firms that report negative earnings (*loss firms*) of the sample. The model mentioned in equation (1) is used for the regressions:

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + e_{it}$$

Where this time:



$X_{it}$  = is the *negative* earnings per share of firm  $i$  in period  $t$  and the independent variable

Periodical (left hand column of table 1) and annual (left-hand column of table 2) estimates are taken for the coefficients  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  and t-statistic and  $R^2$  values for those estimates.

In a following step the simple earnings capitalization model is modified with the use of dummy variables for the constant and the earnings per share variable for two purposes:

1. In order to verify the results taken when separating the sample to those firms reporting positive earnings and those reporting negative earnings
2. Because the use of dummy variables allows to have more information about the difference in the slope between the two cases (loss and profit firms).

The structure of the simple earnings capitalization model using dummy variables is the following:

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \alpha' DC_{it} + \beta X_{it} + \beta' DX_{it}$$

where :

- $\alpha'$  = the difference of the constant between the two cases
- $\beta'$  = is the difference in the slope of EPS between the two cases
- $DC_{it} = 1$  if  $X_{it} \leq 0$ , 0 otherwise
- $DX_{it} = X_t$  if  $X_{it} \leq 0$ , 0 otherwise

The interpretation of the relative coefficients is straightforward if we consider the expected value of price on each of the two cases. So,  $\alpha'$  accounts for the incremental or the difference in constant as we move from a profit case (with constant  $\alpha$ ) to the loss case (the constant being  $\alpha + \alpha'$ ). The meaning of  $\beta'$  which accounts for the difference in the slope is analogous.

If the case where earnings per share are positive (profit firms) is considered then equation (2) (If  $X_{it} > 0$ ) reduces to the following:

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it}$$

Similarly, if the case where earnings per share are negative (loss firms) is considered then equation (1) (If  $X_{it} < 0$ ) reduces to the following:

$$P_{it} = (\alpha + \alpha') + (\beta + \beta') X_{it}$$

Results (table 3) are taken for the slope and the constant for profit and loss firms separately for the 12-year period of this sample.



The simple earnings capitalization model is a restricted model in the sense that it implicitly accounts for a common constant and a common slope over all firms and throughout the time range. Moreover, it imposes the implicit restriction that the marginal effect of book value to price is zero. To the extent that this is not true, the omission of the book value of equity leads to inefficient estimates of the earnings per share effect or even to bias. More precisely the bias depends on the correlation between earnings per share and book value and on the true effect of the relative contribution of book value in explaining the variations of price.

So, in a second stage we consider the simple earnings capitalization model including book value of equity by removing the restriction  $\gamma = 0$  so as to test its significance. Therefore, there will be investigated the hypothesis whether the simple earnings capitalization model is misspecified due to the correlated omitted variable problem.

The structure of the simple earnings capitalization model including book value of equity is the following:

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + e_{it} \quad (2)$$

where  $P_{it}$  is the stock price of firm  $i$  at time  $t$  and  $X_{it}$  is the earnings per share of firm  $i$  in period  $t$ ,  $BV_{it}$  is the book value of equity per share of firm  $i$  at period  $t$  and  $e_{it}$  is white noise.

This paper will test whether the negative coefficient on earnings for loss firms results from omitting book value of equity in the simple earnings capitalization model. If this hypothesis is true then incorporating book value of equity in equation (2) should eliminate the negative coefficient on earnings per share. (January 1999 Collins είναι στη σελίδα 19)

We run periodical and annual cross sectional regressions based on equation (2) for the total (profit and loss firms together – all firms), profit and loss firms (separately) of the sample and estimate coefficients  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  and, also, t-statistic values and  $R^2$  values for those estimates.

Since there is an argument in recent studies that loss firms exhibit a different behavior we augment the above (2) model by inserting appropriate dummies to capture this attribute.

The structure of the simple earnings capitalization model including book value of equity and the dummy variables has the following form:

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \alpha' DC_{it} + \beta X_{it} + \beta' DX_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + \gamma' DBV_{it} + e_{it} \quad (3)$$

where :

- $\alpha'$  = the difference of the constant between the two cases (profit and loss firms)
- $\beta'$  = is the difference in the slope of earnings per share between the two cases



- $\gamma'$  = is the difference in the slope of book value between the two cases
- $DC_{it} = 1$  if  $X_{it} \leq 0$ , 0 otherwise
- $DX_{it} = X_{it}$  if  $X_{it} \leq 0$ , 0 otherwise
- $DBV_{it} = BV_t$  if  $X_{it} \leq 0$ , 0 otherwise

Therefore,  $\alpha'$  accounts for the incremental or the difference in constant as we move from a profit case to the loss case. The meaning of  $\beta'$  and  $\gamma'$ , which account for the corresponding slopes, is analogous. The advantage of this approach is that the significance of the different effects can be tested easily by examining the t-values of the coefficients.

If the case where earnings per share are positive (profit firms) is considered (If  $X_{it} > 0$ ) then equation (3) reduces to the following:

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + e_{it}$$

Similarly if the case where earnings per share are negative (loss firms) is considered (If  $X_{it} < 0$ ) then equation (3) reduces to the following:

$$P_{it} = (\alpha + \alpha') + (\beta + \beta') X_{it} + (\gamma + \gamma') BV_{it} + e_{it}$$

Results are taken (table 6) for the slope and the constant for profit and loss firms separately for the 12 year period of our sample.

However, even the last model is very restrictive in the sense that it doesn't allow to take into consideration the different effects over firms and time effects, if there are any. Based on this observation we use the error component model trying to incorporate in the estimations the above effects. The analysis of this approach is presented in the appendix.



#### **IV. Estimations and Results**

##### **1. The Simple Earnings Capitalization Model**

###### **Price – Earnings Relations for All Firms**

After running the simple earnings capitalization model for the total of the firms of the sample (profit and loss firms together) for a 12-year period the estimations of the coefficients are:

$$\alpha = 1928,69$$

and

$$\beta = 1,393$$

$$P_{it} = 1928,69 + 1,393 X_{it}$$

These results reveal a positive price – earnings relation between stock prices and earnings for 36 firms listed on the ASE for a 12-year period (right hand column of table 1).

The same positive relation is observed when running 12 annual cross sectional regressions for the total (loss and profit) firms of this sample as  $\beta$  (coefficient on earnings per share) is reliably positive (right hand column of table 2).

###### **Price – Earnings Relations for Profit Firms**

In a following step we run the simple earnings capitalization model for the same 12-year period only for profit firms (earnings per share -  $X_{it} > 0$ ).

The results

$$\alpha = 1501,326$$

and

$$\beta = 2,38$$

$$P_{it} = 1501,326 + 2,38 X_{it}$$

Confirm that there is a positive price – earnings relation when we regress stock prices to earnings for profit firms (middle column of table 1).

The same conclusion is reached when running 12 annual cross sectional regressions (one for each year 1985 to 1996) for only profit firms (middle column of table 2).

The coefficient on earnings is reliably positive in all the 12-years in our study (table 2).



**Price – Earnings Relations for Loss Firms**

The coefficient estimations for only the firms that report losses (loss firms), after running the following simple earnings capitalization model

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + e_{it}$$

for a 12-year period (earnings per share -  $X_{it} < 0$ ) are:

$$\alpha = 1080,162$$

and

$$\beta = - 5,704$$

$$P_{it} = 1080,162 - 5,794 X_{it}$$

These results confirm a negative coefficient on earnings for loss firms. This means that there is a negative price earnings relation for the whole 12-year period for loss firms (left hand column of table 1).

Furthermore the experiment is replicated by running 12 annual cross – sectional regressions (one for each year 1985 to 1996) for loss firms (left hand column of table 2).

We find that when stock price is regressed on earnings for loss firms the coefficient on earnings is reliably negative in 11 for the 12 years in this study (table 2). In all tables of this paper the number in parenthesis is the t-statistic value for the corresponding estimation.

**TABLE 1**

**Coefficient estimates on earnings for the 12-year period**

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + e_{it}$$

<i>Loss Firms</i>			<i>Profit firms</i>			<i>All Firms</i>		
$\alpha$	$\beta$	$R^2$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$R^2$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$R^2$
080,162 (2,454)	-5,04 (-4,664)	0.1534	1501,326 (8,383)	2,38 (8,507)	0.1902	1928,691 (11,027)	1,393 (4,578)	0.0465



TABLE 2

## Annual coefficient estimates from regressing price on earnings

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + e_{it}$$

<i>Loss Firms</i>			<i>Profit Firms</i>			<i>All Firms</i>		
$\alpha$	$\beta$	$R^2$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$R^2$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$R^2$
662,81 (1.18)	-0,083 (-0.053)	0.0005	276,99 (3.33)	1,326 (2.933)	0.2417	461,89 (4.506)	0,186 (0.417)	0.0051
407,49 (1.48)	-0,162 (-0.166)	0.0055	297,36 (2.47)	0,925 (2.192)	0.1510	399,89 (4.350)	0,534 (1.651)	0.0742
845,42 (1.51)	-0,40 (-0.045)	0.0002	365,37 (3.199)	2,966 (9.512)	0.7903	863,41 (4.779)	1,040 (2.598)	0.1657
1149,48 (0.76)	-12,435 (-1.199)	0.1377	72,05 (0.245)	6,287 (8.308)	0.7501	1377,83 (2.911)	3,299 (2.318)	0.1365
-371,28 (-0.495)	-14,691 (-9.158)	0.9129	190,32 (0.844)	5,022 (13.132)	0.877	2250,05 (3.128)	0,066 (0.051)	0.00007
-1088,02 (-0.582)	-27,592 (-5.243)	0.7534	1334,62 (1.319)	13,804 (5.770)	0.5914	4456,61 (3.558)	2,969 (0.956)	0.0261
359,08 (0.3622)	-17,698 (-4.814)	0.6781	250,64 (0.570)	9,434 (10.560)	0.8415	2517,99 (3.385)	3,659 (2.093)	0.1141
1709,38 (1.789)	-0,447 (-0.128)	0.0016	244,69 (0.674)	11,135 (12.556)	0.8775	1655,02 (3.665)	7,489 (6.128)	0.5248
1498,95 (1.99)	0,50 (0.297)	0.0087	2081,87 (3.391)	0,753 (2.241)	0.1858	1897,31 (4.26)	0,787 (2.680)	0.1744
2945,66 (1.207)	-0,064 (-0.007)	0.000009	730,04 (1.375)	9,151 (5.871)	0.5796	2081,31 (3.157)	5,162 (2.588)	0.1646
969,06 (1.117)	-2,744 (-1.064)	0.1017	1660,20 (3.235)	3,818 (2.322)	0.1968	1975,85 (5.098)	1,634 (1.350)	0.0509
-879,00 (-1.309)	-19,119 (-5.818)	0.8494	2161,56 (4.857)	0,894 (1.056)	0.4114	2174,95 (5.145)	0,480 (0.537)	0.0084

*Variable definition:*  $P_t$  = the firm's stock price 6 months after the end of fiscal year  $t$  (approximately 28<sup>th</sup> of June) measured on a per-share basis and adjusted for stock splits and stock dividends;  $X_t$  = the earnings per share in period  $t$  (net income minus preferred dividends divided by weighted average of common shares outstanding adjusted for stock splits and stock dividends). The value in parenthesis is the  $t$ -statistic of the corresponding estimation.



**Price – Earnings Relations with Dummy Variables**

Initially, a cross-sectional regression for the total of 36 firms (loss and profit firms together) of the sample is run for the 12-year period. In a following step, in order to verify the previous results, with the help of dummy variables for the earnings per share variable, the observations for loss and profit firms are separated and the experiment is replicated for the same 12-year period.

The results, after running the modified model, are the following:

$$\alpha = 1501,326$$

$$\beta = 2,38$$

and

$$\alpha' = 1501,326$$

$$\beta' = 2,38$$

These results are consistent with the results that were taken when running loss firms and profit firms separately as equation (1) for profit firms is

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + e_{it}$$

thus

$$P_{it} = 1051,326 + 2,38 X_{it}$$

and for loss firms equation (1) becomes

$$P_{it} = (\alpha + \alpha') + (\beta + \beta') X_{it}$$

thus

$$P_{it} = (1501,326 - 421,1638) + (2,48 - 8,085) X_{it}$$

$$P_{it} = 1080,102 - 5,70 X_{it}$$

---

**TABLE 3**

**Slope and constant estimations using dummy variables in the simple earnings capitalization model**

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \alpha' DC_{it} + \beta X_{it} + \beta' DX_{it}$$

$$\frac{\alpha'}{-421,1638}$$

$$\frac{\beta'}{-8,085}$$



## 2. The Simple Earnings Capitalization Model Including Book Value

### Empirical Model

The simple earnings capitalization model modified by the inclusion of book value<sup>5</sup> of equity as a correlated omitted variable is the following:

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + e_{it} \quad (2)$$

where  $P_{it}$  is the stock price of firm  $i$  at time  $t_1$  and  $X_{it}$  is the earnings per share of firm  $i$  in period  $t$  and  $BV_{it}$  is the book value of equity per share of firm  $i$  at period  $t$ . Equation (2) is estimated using the same data set we use to estimate the simple capitalization model without book value (equation 1).

This study seeks to examine whether the negative coefficient on earnings for loss firms results from omitting book value of equity in the simple earnings capitalization model. If this correlated omitted variable hypothesis is true, then incorporating book value of equity should eliminate the negative coefficient on earnings. In addition the coefficient on book value should be reliably positive (Daniel W. Collins, Morton Pincus, Xong Xie - January 1999). So, in order to explain the anomalous negative – price earnings relation for loss firms, we modify the simple earnings capitalization model including book value of equity.

Replicating the experiment for profit firms as well, this study will try to reveal whether the coefficient of earnings is biased or not due to the omission of book value for profit firms too.

### All Firms (Empirical Results)

After running the model for the total of firms in the sample (profit and loss firms together) for a 12 year period we take the following results:

$$\alpha = 1544,87$$

$$\beta = 1,1948$$

$$\gamma = 0,3505$$

$$P_t = 1544,87 + 1,1948X_t + 0,3505BV_t$$

These results reveal a positive price – earnings relation between stock price and earnings and a positive price – book value relation between prices and book value of equity for all firms of our sample (right hand column of table 4).

The same conclusion is reached when running 12 annual cross sectional regressions (one for each year 1985 to 1996) for all the firms of our sample (right hand column of table 5).

<sup>5</sup>We have excluded negative book value observations for our analysis purposes



Loss Firms (Empirical Results)

Equation (2), the earnings capitalization model augmented by book value of equity, using loss firms is estimated. The earnings coefficient (left hand column of table 4) remains reliably negative for all the 12-year of the study. Furthermore, the coefficient on book value is also reliably negative. Book value of equity is a statistical significant variable. These results are inconsistent with the hypothesis.

There is no apparent bias in the coefficient on earnings in the simple capitalization model for loss firms. The direction of the expected sign in the coefficient of earnings remains the same, thus, is not revealing a bias. The same results are taken whether we run 12 annual cross sectional regressions (left hand column of table 5) or one cross sectional regression for the total of the years. Furthermore, the inclusion of book value of equity in the simple earnings capitalization model increases the explanatory power of the model as, for example,  $R^2$  for loss firms in (left hand column) of table 11 is a little less than  $R^2$  for loss firms in (left hand column) of table 12 (in the appendix). Thus the model provides more efficient estimations in the presence of book value despite the fact that it doesn't introduce a bias. The fact remains that the negative coefficient on earnings per share for loss firms was not eliminated, so the omission of book value of equity is not the only reason for this anomalous relation.

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + e_{it}$$

$$\text{Earnings per share} - X_{it} < 0$$

$$P_{it} = 1419,299 - 6,963 X_t - 0,649 BV_{it}$$

Profit Firms (Empirical Results)

The experiment is replicated for profit firms as well. However, for profit firms the earnings coefficients are slightly smaller (middle column of table 5) in each year compared to the earnings coefficients when book value is omitted in the simple earnings capitalization model (middle column of table 2). This does not suggest a bias in the coefficient of earnings because the difference is insignificant.

The results after running one cross sectional regression for the total of our firms for the 12 year in this study are the following:

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + e_{it}$$

$$\text{Earnings per share} - X_{it} > 0$$

$$P_{it} = 943,29 + 1,979 X_{it} + 0,514 BV_{it}$$

The results after running 12 annual cross-sectional regressions (one for each year 1985 to 1996) for the profit firms are presented in table 5 (middle column of table 5).



TABLE 4

## Coefficient estimates on earnings and book value of equity for the 12-year period

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + e_{it}$$

	Loss Firms			Profit Firms				All Firms			
	$\beta$	$\gamma$	$R^2$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\gamma$	$R^2$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\gamma$	$R^2$
99	-6,963	-0,649	0.207	943,29	1,979	0,514	0.251	1544,87	1,194840	0,3505	0.0712
	(-5.493)	(-2.852)		(4.601)	(7.042)	(5.030)		(7.4735)	(3.9010)	(3.3836)	

TABLE 5

## Annual coefficient estimates on earnings and book value of equity for profit firms versus loss firms

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + e_{it}$$

	Loss Firms				Profit Firms				All Firms			
	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\gamma$	$R^2$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\gamma$	$R^2$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\gamma$	$R^2$
831,58	-0,488	-0,454	0.0374	77,82	0,502	0,383	0.5435	241,31	-0,024	0,322	0.1212	
(1.108)	(-0.24)	(-0.39)		(0,95)	(1,22)	(4,14)		(1,676)	(-0,05)	(2,08)		
396,42	-0,139	0,024	0.0060	185,93	0,322	0,270	0.2193	244,74	0,167	0,277	0.1718	
(1.029)	(-0.11)	(0.04)		(1,34)	(0,56)	(1,50)		(1,79)	(0,46)	(1,97)		
707,45	-7,39	-1,259	0.4060	377,44	2,987	-0,011	0.7909	708,45	1,228	0,097	0.2086	
(1.52)	(-2.14)	(-2.18)		(2,99)	(9,08)	(-0,25)		(3,32)	(2,92)	(1,33)		
1373,05	-12,56	-0,147	0.1444	157,94	6,571	-0,074	0.7594	1379,74	3,302	-0,001	0.1365	
(0.75)	(-1.14)	(-0.25)		(0,51)	(8,02)	(-0,92)		(2,54)	(2,16)	(-0,007)		
122,01	-14,84	-0,285	0.9435	191,51	5,023	-0,0009	0.8778	2303,37	0,065	-0,034	0.0007	
(0.17)	(-10.7)	(-1.94)		(0,77)	(12,8)	(-0,01)		(2,82)	(0,05)	(-0,14)		
2933,20	-26,35	-6,784	0.8427	493,29	8,569	1,982	0.6336	948,35	-5,699	4,828	0.2425	
(1.19)	(-5.86)	(-2.13)		(0,44)	(2,13)	(1,59)		(0,59)	(-1,43)	(3,070)		
2271,15	-17,01	-4,073	0.7403	-101,39	7,455	0,720	0.8561	528,55	-2,728	2,880	0.3018	
(1.46)	(-4.87)	(-1.54)		(-0,20)	(4,55)	(1,42)		(0,55)	(-1,02)	(2,97)		
1742,70	-0,43	-0,040	0.0018	108,75	10,736	0,177	0.8781	946,25	6,136	0,766	0.5491	
(1.40)	(-0.11)	(-0.45)		(0,118)	(6,83)	(0,31)		(1,36)	(3,88)	(1,33)		
1519,35	0,50	-0,034	0.0089	-446,15	0,165	2,084	0.5671	283,64	0,292	1,572	0.4135	
(1.52)	(0.28)	(-0.03)		(-0,59)	(0,57)	(4,30)		(0,48)	(1,02)	(3,66)		
5627,48	-13,86	-5,971	0.2380	974,41	10,289	-0,396	0.5871	1792,49	4,660	0,314	0.1696	
(1.86)	(-1.08)	(-1.36)		(1,493)	(4,408)	(-0,661)		(1,92)	(2,014)	(0,414)		
2073,81	-6,78	-3,222	0.0374	386,64	1,649	1,220	0.5435	799,98	0,403	1,128	0.1212	
(2.14)	(-2.16)	(-1.89)		(0,830)	(1,284)	(1,284)		(1,70)	(0,36)	(0,36)		
-236,12	-20,35	-1,342	0.0060	1299,20	0,036	0,736	0.2193	1414,17	-0,404	0,710	0.1718	
(-0.46)	(-9.03)	(-2.86)		(2,495)	(0,043)	(0,043)		(2,69)	(-0,43)	(-0,43)		

Variable definition:  $P_t$  = the firm's stock price 6 months after the end of fiscal year  $t$  (approximately 28<sup>th</sup> of June) measured on a per-share basis and adjusted for stock splits and stock dividends;  $X_t$  = the earnings per share in period  $t$  (net income minus preferred dividends divided by weighted average of common shares outstanding adjusted for stock splits and stock dividends);  $BV_t$  = book value of equity at the end of year  $t$  divided by total number of shares outstanding adjusted for stock splits and dividends;  $D=1$  if  $(EPS > 0)$ ;  $D=0$  otherwise. The value in parenthesis is the  $t$ -statistic of the corresponding estimation.



**Dummy Variables (Empirical Results)**

With the use of the model which includes dummy variables we verify that the results (table 6) are consistent with our previous conclusions.

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \alpha' DC_{it} + \beta X_{it} + \beta' DX_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + \gamma' DBV_{it} + e_{it} \quad (3)$$

where :

- $\alpha'$  = the difference of the constant between the two cases (profit and loss firms)
- $\beta'$  = is the difference in the slope of earnings per share between the two cases
- $\gamma'$  = is the difference in the slope of book value between the two cases
- $DC_{it} = 1$  if  $X_{it} \leq 0$ , 0 otherwise
- $DX_{it} = X_{it}$  if  $X_{it} \leq 0$ , 0 otherwise
- $DBV_{it} = BV_t$  if  $X_{it} \leq 0$ , 0 otherwise

For profit firms (If  $X_{it} > 0$ ) the modified model reduces to the following:

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + e_{it}$$

$$P_t = 943,29 + 1,979 + 0,514$$

For loss firms (If  $X_{it} < 0$ ) the modified model reduces to the following:

$$P_{it} = (\alpha + \alpha') + (\beta + \beta') X_{it} + (\gamma + \gamma') BV_{it} + e_{it}$$

$$P_t = (943,29 + 476) + (1,979 - 8,942) X_t + (0,514 - 1,164) BV_t$$

$$P_t = 1419,299 - 6,963 X_t - 0,649 BV_t$$

---

**TABLE 6**

**Slope and constant estimations using dummy variables in the simple earnings capitalization model with book value**

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \alpha' DC_{it} + \beta X_{it} + \beta' DX_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + \gamma' DBV_{it} + e_{it}$$

$\alpha'$	$\beta'$	$\gamma'$
476,00	-8,942	-1,164



In a final step, the median coefficients of earnings per share ( $\bar{\beta}$ ) and book value of equity ( $\bar{\gamma}$ ) are computed for the 12 year period for loss, profit and all firms (table 7). Using the new t-statistic  $\frac{\bar{\beta} - \beta_0}{\sigma^* / \sqrt{n}}$  and  $\frac{\bar{\gamma} - \gamma_0}{\sigma / \sqrt{n}}$  from the valuation of the hypothesis

that  $\beta \neq \beta_0$  and  $\beta_0 = 0$  and  $\gamma \neq \gamma_0$  and  $\gamma_0 = 0$  it is found that the medians for earnings per share and the median for book value are statistically significant for profit, loss and all firms. (The value in parenthesis in table 7 is the t-statistic of the corresponding estimation).

TABLE 7

Median of 12 annual coefficient estimations on earnings and book value of equity for profit firms versus loss firms

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + e_{it}$$

<i>Loss Firms</i>		<i>Profit Firms</i>		<i>All Firms</i>	
<i>Median of</i>	<i>Median of</i>	<i>Median of</i>	<i>Median of</i>	<i>Median of</i>	<i>Median of</i>
$\beta$	$\gamma$	$\beta$	$\gamma$	$\beta$	$\gamma$
$\bar{\beta} = -9,97475$ (-8,195)	$\bar{\gamma} = -1,96558$ (-4,987)	$\bar{\beta} = 4,52533$ (13,00)	$\bar{\gamma} = 0,59700$ (5,652)	$\bar{\beta} = 0,6165$ (1,518)	$\bar{\gamma} = 1,07158$ (7,049)

\*  $\sigma$  = the median standard error for the 12 year period



## ***V. Conclusions***

In this study, there is verified a negative relation between price and earnings for loss firms and a positive relation between price and earnings for profit firms. These findings are consistent with the results of recent studies which claim that investors consider losses temporary thus they are not affected in their investments by the appearance of reported losses. They consider losses as temporary due to the fact that they have the option to liquidate the firm when current losses are projected to perpetuate. This can be observed by the low explanatory power in the coefficient of loss firms ( $R^2$  in table 2) in comparison with the coefficient of profit firms. For the total of firms in the sample the price – earnings relation is reliably positive as is and the price – book value relation.

Furthermore, it is found that when stock price is regressed on earnings for loss firms the coefficient on earnings is reliably negative in 11 of the 12 years. Also, the coefficient on earnings remains negative for each year in our 12-year sample period even when the simple earnings capitalization model is augmented with book value of equity. This provides evidence that the simple earnings capitalization model is not misspecified due to the omission of book value of equity, therefore the omission of book value of equity doesn't induce a negative bias in the coefficient on earnings for loss firms. These results are consistent with the conclusion reached by Kothari and Zimmerman (1995) that the coefficient on earnings in the simple earnings capitalization model is unbiased.

Additionally, it is found that book value of equity is a statistically significant variable and that the inclusion of book value in the simple earnings capitalization model increases the explanatory power of the model and leads to more efficient estimations for the coefficients, despite the fact that it doesn't introduce a bias. However, the anomalous negative coefficient on earnings for loss firms cannot be attributed to the omission of book value of equity from the simple earnings capitalization model. The estimated coefficient from using such a model keeps the same direction whether we use book value of equity as an omitted variable or not both for profit and loss firms.

For future research we propose to further investigate the factors which have to do with specific attributes of companies. This may be referred to the size of the firm the future perspectives it may have, good will and clientele, the feature of the company and others.



## VI. Appendix

### 1. The Error Component Model

In this final step we consider, even, the simple earnings capitalization model including book value of equity as a quite restrictive model in the sense that it doesn't allow to take into consideration the different effects over firms and time effects, if there are any.

Therefore, the less restrictive approach would be to consider one model estimation for each firm of the sample. This implies that the estimation of the model:

$$P_{it} = \alpha_i + \beta_i X_{it} + \gamma_i BV_{it} + e_{it} \quad (4)$$

for a given  $i$  becomes the following :

$$P_t = \alpha + \beta X_t + BV_t + e_t \quad (5)$$

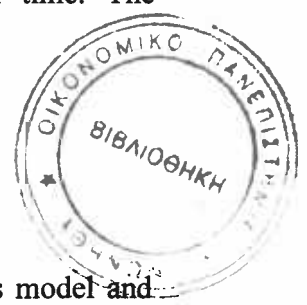
Since we have to estimate  $n$ , where  $n$  is the number of firms, (time series models) the appropriate method for efficient estimations in this case is the SUR (Seemingly Unrelated Equations). However, this approach is the final stage of an intermediate procedure the so-called error component model, rather than the start of our estimation.

The error component model is a generalization of model (3) (or model 2). This model assumes common constant and common slopes over all firms. So, the corresponding estimates have an "average" meaning. Deviations from this "average" are implicitly considered as random effects and are included to the stochastic term  $e$ , which is assumed to be white noise. However, to the extent that these deviations are associated with specific firms and with more or less systematical time cycle effects,  $e$  will no longer be white noise but a variable, in which except from the random errors there have been embodied systematic factors as well.

The error component model can be viewed as the model (5) described above. The difference with that model lies in the kind of the restrictions that are removed from the estimation procedure (which is a single estimation) each time. The restrictions that can be removed during the estimation are the following:

- Fixed (constant) effects over firms versus a common constant
- Slope effects over firms versus a set of common slopes
- Encountering time effects

We are not going to present in detail all the implications of this model and especially its estimation procedures which are rather complicated. It is not our purpose here.



For reasons, which pertain to the precision of our statistical computation, there is proposed a slightly different approach based on the dummy – variable use to capture such effects. For example:

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \Sigma \alpha_i' DC_{it} + \beta X_{it} + \Sigma \beta_i' DX_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + \Sigma \gamma_i' DBV_{it} + \quad (6)$$

$$+ \alpha'' \Sigma \alpha_i'' DCNE_{it}$$

$$+ \beta'' \Sigma \beta_i'' DXNE_{it}$$

$$+ \gamma'' \Sigma \gamma_i'' DBVNE_{it}$$

where :

- $\Sigma$  = the summation is over the total firms except the one considered as reference basis
- $DX_{it} = X_{it}$  for a given  $i$  (=firm), 0 otherwise
- $DBV_{it} = BV_{it}$  for a given  $i$  (=firm), 0 otherwise
- $DCNE_{it} = 1$  if  $X_{it} \leq 0$ , 0 otherwise
- $DXNE_{it} = X_{it}$  if  $X_{it} \leq 0$ , 0 otherwise
- $DBVNE_{it} = BV_{it}$  if  $X_{it} \leq 0$ , 0 otherwise

However, this model includes a large set of variables and can lead to imprecise estimations of the parameters. Before the practical approach to the estimation of this model is described we find it appropriate to clarify the following:

- A model is a representation of the real world in a formal way with a prospect to be quantified
- The explanation of the variation of the dependent variable is attempted in terms of two sets of factors-variables : systematic (explanatory) and random
- To the extent that what is assumed as random (e) term is purely random (white noise) no more reduction of the uncertainty or increment of the efficiency of the estimation can be attained within the framework of the model
- The systematic factors must be either quantitative variables or dummy variables and in any case expressed in terms of the observed variables
- The whole (and the maximum) information is spread over all the raw data
- Large sets of explanatory variables can have large  $R^2$  but usually lead into imprecise estimations of the specific contributions (parameters) due to multicollinearity problems. The degrees of freedom are another task under care. These are necessary but not sufficient to ensure preciseness. The last depends on the condition index, which gives a norm measurement of the quality of the sample data regarding a specific estimation procedure.

A model estimation is used in order to get a piece of information as much as compact and elegant. This, however, contradicts with precision. The choice of the model is a compromise of the two trends.



Having all these in mind we propose the estimation of a truncated model of equation (6) where only the significant variables have been retained. The stepwise procedure is described as follows:

1. Perform a pooling estimation of equation (4) trying different sets of restrictions and have an indication of the difference being made by individual firms
2. After that we use model (5) we activate only these dummies for which there was an indication that they make a difference
3. Perform the estimation disregarding those variables which are either (tested) non-significant or have at least t-value less than unit ( $t\text{-value} < 1$  which means that they do not increase the adjusted  $R^2$ )

Therefore, we run the truncated model of equation (6). This model is based on equation (6) but there have been activated (used) only those dummy variables that correspond to the significant variables of specific firms of our sample. We have concluded to these variables of these firms after performing pooling estimations with different sets of restrictions and observed the difference made (contributed) by each firm.

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \sum \alpha_i' DC_{it} + \beta X_{it} + \sum \beta_i' DX_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + \sum \gamma_i' DBV_{it} + \quad (6)$$

$$+ \alpha'' \sum \alpha_i'' DCNE_{it}$$

$$+ \beta'' \sum \beta_i'' DXNE_{it}$$

$$+ \gamma'' \sum \gamma_i'' DBVNE_{it}$$

The significant variables are related with 18 of the 36 (total number of firms) firms of our sample. In table 8 are presented the significant variables (for which dummy variables have been used) and the corresponding firms.

**TABLE 8**

**The significant variables for which dummy variables have been activated in the error component model**

<i>Significant Variables</i>	<i>Corresponding Firms</i>
LAMP SA	Constant
TITAN	Constant, Earnings per share
KARELIA	Constant, Earnings per share, Book value
HRAKLHS	Constant
TRIA ALFA	Constant, Earnings per share
ERMHS	Constant
NHNATEMPORIKH	Constant
KEKROPS	Constant, Earnings per share
KILINDROMILOI	Constant
ALLATINI	Constant
KERAMIA-ALLATINI	Constant, Earnings per share
DHMHTRIADHS	Earnings per share
LEBENTERIS	Constant
GENIKWN APOTHIKWN	Constant
XYLEMPORIA	Constant



ESKIMO	Constant
PAYLIDIS	Constant
ELAIS	Constant
ATHINAIA	Constant

Therefore, we run the time-series cross sectional regression model for the total of the firms of our sample including dummy variables only for the significant variables of 18 of the firms. Estimations are taken for the coefficients of the constant ( $\alpha$ ), earnings per share ( $\beta$ ) and book value of equity ( $\gamma$ ) (table 9).

TABLE 9

Coefficient,  $R^2$  and T-statistics estimates from time series cross sectional regressions using the error correction model

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \Sigma \alpha_i' DC_{it} + \beta X_{it} + \Sigma \beta_i' DX_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + \Sigma \gamma_i' DBV_{it} + \\ + \alpha'' \Sigma \alpha_i'' DCNE_{it} \\ + \beta'' \Sigma \beta_i'' DXNE_{it} \\ + \gamma'' \Sigma \gamma_i'' DBVNE_{it}$$

<i>All Firms</i>			
	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\gamma$
	656.1465	0.336535	0,073455
<i>Profit Firms</i>			
	<i>t-statistics</i>		
$R^2$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\gamma$
0,761810	4.830269	1,755181	1,236986

These results (table 9) reveal a positive price – earnings relation between stock price and earnings and a positive price – book value relation between prices and book value of equity for all firms of our sample. Furthermore, this final model appears to have incremental explanatory power as  $R^2$  (0,76) has the highest value of all estimations. Thus the model provides more efficient estimations.

From the estimation results there is reached the conclusion that the estimations are determined by the special characteristics of specific firms.

The final conclusion is that earnings per share and book value of equity play an important role in the variations of the stock's price. However, there are observed significant deviations for specific companies, especially those concerning the constant (fixed effects) and less the earnings per share. This means that in a unified estimation, where common parameters have been used, estimations are shaped by the prevailing trends of specific firms. The fact that a firm reports losses or profits plays a statistically important role in the formation of the stock's price. However, when we take into consideration the different attributes (characteristics) of specific firms (as we



did while using the error correction model) then the estimation (the result) appears to be attributed to those effects and is no longer statistically significant as a separate explanatory variable.

## 2. Supplementary Tables

---

**TABLE 10**

Sample firms

<b>Firms</b>
BIOSWL
BIS
LAMPSA
TITAN
FINTEXPOR
XALYBDOFYLLA
PAPOYTSANHS
KLAUDATOS
LAMPROPOULH
ALOYMINIO
KARELIA
HRAKLHS
ELAIS
TRIA ALFA
XALYPS
METKA
PARNASSOS
ERMHS
NHNATEMPORIKH
KEKROPS
KILINDROMILOI
MILOI AGIOU GEORGIU
ALLATINI
ZAMPA
KERAMIA-ALLATINI
KILINDROMILOI LOULI
DHMHTRIADHS
IPPOTOUR
PETZETAKIS
LEBENTERIS
GENIKWN APOTHIKWN
XYLEMPORIA
ESKIMO
RADIO-ATHINAI
PAYLIDIS
ATHINAIA



TABLE 11

**R<sup>2</sup> and T-statistics estimates on the coefficients of earnings for the 12-year period**

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + e_{it}$$

Years	Loss Firms			Profit Firms			All Firms		
	<i>t</i> -statistics			<i>t</i> -statistics			<i>t</i> -statistics		
	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	$\alpha$	$\beta$	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	$\alpha$	$\beta$	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	$\alpha$	$\beta$
1985	0.0005	1.18	-0.053	0.2417	3.33	2.933	0.0051	4.506	0.417
1986	0.0055	1.48	-0.166	0.1510	2.47	2.192	0.0742	4.350	1.651
1987	0.0002	1.51	-0.045	0.7903	3.199	9.512	0.1657	4.779	2.598
1988	0.1377	0.76	-1.199	0.7501	0.245	8.308	0.1365	2.911	2.318
1989	<b>0.9129</b>	<b>-0.495</b>	<b>-9.158</b>	0.877	0.844	13.132	0.00007	3.128	0.051
1990	<b>0.7534</b>	<b>-0.582</b>	<b>-5.243</b>	0.5914	1.319	5.770	0.0261	3.558	0.956
1991	<b>0.6781</b>	<b>0.3622</b>	<b>-4.814</b>	0.8415	0.570	10.560	0.1141	3.385	2.093
1992	0.0016	<b>1.789</b>	-0.128	0.8775	<b>0.674</b>	<b>12.556</b>	0.5248	3.665	6.128
1993	0.0087	1.99	0.297	0.1858	3.391	2.241	0.1744	4.26	2.680
1994	0.000009	1.207	-0.007	0.5796	1.375	5.871	0.1646	3.157	2.588
1995	0.1017	1.117	-1.064	0.1968	<b>3.235</b>	2.322	0.0509	5.098	1.350
1996	0.8494	-1.309	-5.818	<b>0.4114</b>	<b>4.857</b>	1.056	0.0084	5.145	0.537

*Variable definition:*  $P_t$  = the firm's stock price 6 months after the end of fiscal year  $t$  (approximately 28<sup>th</sup> of June) measured on a per-share basis and adjusted for stock splits and stock dividends;  $X_t$  = the earnings per share in period  $t$  (net income minus preferred dividends divided by weighted average of common shares outstanding adjusted for stock splits and stock dividends). The value in parenthesis is the  $t$ -statistic of the corresponding estimation.



TABLE 12

**R<sup>2</sup> and T-statistics estimates on the coefficients of earnings and book value of equity for the 12-year period**

$$P_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + \gamma BV_{it} + e_{it}$$

Year	Loss Firms				Profit Firms				All Firms			
	R <sup>2</sup>	t-statistics			R <sup>2</sup>	t-statistics			R <sup>2</sup>	t-statistics		
	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\gamma$		$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\gamma$		$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\gamma$	
1985	0.0374	1.108	-0.24	-0.39	0.5435	0,95	1,22	4,14	0.1212	1,676	-0,05	2,08
1986	0.0060	1.029	-0.11	0.04	0.2193	1,34	0,56	1,50	0.1718	1,79	0,46	1,97
1987	0.4060	1.52	-2.14	-2.18	0.7909	2,99	9,08	-0,25	0.2086	3,32	2,92	1,33
1988	0.1444	0.75	-1.14	-0.25	0.7594	0,51	8,02	-0,92	0.1365	2,54	2,16	-0,007
1989	0.9435	0.17	-10.7	-1.94	0.8778	0,77	12,8	-0,01	0.0007	2,82	0,05	-0,14
1990	0.8427	1.19	-5.86	-2.13	0.6336	0,44	2,13	1,59	0.2425	0,59	-1,43	3,070
1991	0.7403	1.46	-4.87	-1.54	0.8561	-0,20	4,55	1,42	0.3018	0,55	-1,02	2,97
1992	0.0018	1.40	-0.11	-0.45	0.8781	0,118	6,83	0,31	0.5491	1,36	3,88	1,33
1993	0.0089	1.52	0.28	-0.03	0.5671	-0,59	0,57	4,30	0.4135	0,48	1,02	3,66
1994	0.2380	1.86	-1.08	-1.36	0.5871	1,493	4,408	-0,661	0.1696	1,92	2,014	0,414
1995	0.3588	2.14	-2.16	-1.89	0.5965	0,830	1,284	4,561	0.3138	1,70	0,36	3,55
1996	0.9431	-0.46	-9.03	-2.86	0.2464	2,495	0,043	2,609	0.1386	2,69	-0,43	2,23

*Variable definition:*  $P_t$  = the firm's stock price 6 months after the end of fiscal year  $t$  (approximately 28<sup>th</sup> of June) measured on a per-share basis and adjusted for stock splits and stock dividends;  $X_t$  = the earnings per share in period  $t$  (net income minus preferred dividends divided by weighted average of common shares outstanding adjusted for stock splits and stock dividends);  $BV_t$  = book value of equity at the end of year  $t$  divided by total number of shares outstanding adjusted for stock splits and dividends;  $D=1$  if  $(EPS \geq 0)$ ;  $D=0$  otherwise. The value in parenthesis is the t-statistic of the corresponding estimation.



## 3. Data

Year	Stock Price	Earnings per Share	Book Value	Firm Name
1985	100	15,29	1131,72	<b>BIOSWL</b>
1986	125	32,36	1131,72	
1987	220	30,83	11404,51	
1988	360	32,88	11805,26	
1989	530	48,85	13061,89	
1990	1350	43,58	672,35	
1991	650	-0,96	663,85	
1992	350	1,38	685,32	
1993	432	-5,27	853,44	
1994	424	-38	847,93	
1995	132	-0,12	672,42	
1996	128	0,11	695,27	
1985	300	201,1	911,05	<b>BIS</b>
1986	385	386,13	1088,15	
1987	1350	218,78	1230,07	
1988	1670	-39,08	2128,63	
1989	1350	118,4	820,44	
1990	1900	-33,34	818,92	
1991	850	34,73	820,13	
1992	750	-4,07	1223,25	
1993	760	0,83	1219,02	
1994	903	115,21	1232,6	
1995	1130	338,17	2142,03	
1996	1200	1,25	2990,75	
1985	1175	4,83	162,8	<b>LAMPSA</b>
1986	1400	-51,01	162,8	
1987	1750	17,66	123,96	
1988	1875	-5,46	419,93	
1989	1500	21,48	155,51	
1990	3100	-15,05	145,7	
1991	1220	-56,95	91,59	
1992	870	-0,01	276,78	
1993	610	0,13	153,01	
1994	380	0,12	157,6	
1995	355	-4,09	153,98	
1996	465	-0,28	297,79	
1985	485	89,14	1104,82	<b>TITAN</b>
1986	450	73,18	1134	
1987	840	151,25	2070,98	
1988	2340	428,25	2953,96	
1989	5000	1162,29	3156,1	
1990	28200	1292,76	4920,21	
1991	16600	1432,84	5775,19	
1992	14700	1122,68	3818,69	
1993	8200	518,73	4131,31	
1994	7780	662,77	4554,95	

1995	8510	730,93	4969,51	
1996	6040	1067,74	6276,97	
1985	100	24,46	224,38	<b>FINTEXPORT</b>
1986	170	74,56	228,94	
1987	500	167,44	376,95	
1988	1000	49,77	516,38	
1989	850	28,33	533,86	
1990	1050	3,4	362,91	
1991	800	18,6	367,17	
1992	590	7,47	363,04	
1993	460	5,11	366,65	
1994	720	2,68	357,62	
1995	602	6,26	390,45	
1996	1160	61,44	502,8	
1985	42	10,92	158,01	<b>XALBDOFYLLWN</b>
1986	30	-20,84	158,01	
1987	50	-3,16	107,41	
1988	290	33,42	221,47	
1989	415	-0,94	200,22	
1990	500	27,04	211,26	
1991	1850	28,22	751,55	
1992	900	24,65	61,86	
1993	577	5,98	588,86	
1994	125	210,42	367,18	
1995	421	13,97	367,64	
1996	320	7,53	354,85	
1985	110	-25,26	319,48	<b>PAPOYTSANHS</b>
1986	90	48,8	333,54	
1987	305	23,15	345,85	
1988	900	-1,65	871,7	
1989	500	-39,36	301,36	
1990	2300	-146,09	385,92	
1991	1100	-14,53	377,75	
1992	720	-14,88	511,94	
1993	600	-13,13	50,68	
1994	1190	39,02	535,65	
1995	866	-355,69	247,01	
1996	472	7,14	445,42	
1985	150	49,66	302,33	<b>KLAOYDATOS</b>
1986	165	72,22	306,55	
1987	410	2,1	308,29	
1988	480	108,37	549,79	
1989	850	608,38	328,44	
1990	900	0,08	317,85	
1991	410	-11,06	307,27	
1992	290	-91,36	280,65	
1993	395	-10	237,86	
1994	420	1,46	216,19	
1995	273	11,05	226,78	
1996	220	-95,5	180,77	

1985	270	74,75	1227,65	<b>LAMPROPOYLH</b>
1986	380	215	1323,07	
1987	780	161,09	1376,9	
1988	1140	33,84	1403,13	
1989	900	0,35	1179,74	
1990	1500	-50,59	1130,24	
1991	1300	-300,73	863,54	
1992	790	-299,96	626,37	
1993	600	-9,99	616,96	
1994	780	14,45	631,71	
1995	1040	84,09	716,12	
1996	1500	164,03	992,65	
1985	3100	-182,12	83,7	<b>ALOYMINIO</b>
1986	2400	1,32	81,39	
1987	5000	-285,06	85,52	
1988	13000	-247,76	103,94	
1989	21500	-1372,8	84,77	
1990	33000	-993,36	87,25	
1991	19500	-798,98	90,4	
1992	9900	-188,49	99,29	
1993	7900	-6,02	94,62	
1994	18200	-143,51	93,46	
1995	9290	-382,37	89,23	
1996	9850	-479,17	86,75	
1985	440	261,83	1203,32	<b>KARELIA</b>
1986	460	458,13	1481,45	
1987	1880	913,46	2064,99	
1988	6320	1068,54	3005,08	
1989	7200	1549,18	1691,24	
1990	2600	974,1	1813,84	
1991	7600	851,28	2030,65	
1992	7150	757,3	2743,24	
1993	7330	8857,01	3386,41	
1994	7000	1080,43	4158,44	
1995	6410	62,64	4485,11	
1996	5200	906,78	5367,36	
1985	310	-913,46	1102,15	<b>HRAKLHS</b>
1986	270	-422,01	651,34	
1987	400	3,88	487,02	
1988	595	28,19	665,8	
1989	835	68,62	748,25	
1990	3850	91,31	814,43	
1991	3150	112,44	892,03	
1992	2520	101,89	1189,34	
1993	1965	108,91	1276,2	
1994	2020	110,29	1225,72	
1995	2385	127,7	1255,69	
1996	2815	150,58	1455,67	
1985	850	259,82	2040,86	<b>ELAIS</b>
1986	1000	814,18	2523,08	

1987	4500	1287,98	3607,9	
1988	10500	1042,52	5340,55	
1989	11500	1761,65	2074,34	
1990	15400	1033,29	2505,11	
1991	13150	1265,44	3032,66	
1992	16300	1222,28	2829,59	
1993	13800	887,98	3026,32	
1994	16850	910,54	1660,8	
1995	7300	637,58	1826,72	
1996	7780	494,41	2078,13	
1985	410	89,03	810,94	<b>TRIA ALFA</b>
1986	360	160,12	765,81	
1987	450	68,34	910	
1988	400	23,48	959,04	
1989	450	124,58	1007,57	
1990	740	202,48	108,49	
1991	750	318	1228,73	
1992	850	58,62	1367,42	
1993	2250	31,34	1376,44	
1994	2250	17,44	1386,1	
1995	1461	-197,92	1212,28	
1996	1900	81,11	1500,98	
1985	120	-72,62	48,33	<b>XALYPS</b>
1986	120	-59,68	483,37	
1987	175	-37,8	219,98	
1988	400	-35,95	1062,69	
1989	550	-18,53	493,65	
1990	3000	-27,56	607,02	
1991	1500	-443,69	522,38	
1992	1100	-854,27	698,02	
1993	635	-1164,77	532,04	
1994	835	-80,26	611,16	
1995	770	-58,65	567,64	
1996	500	0,56	659,85	
1985	95	205,41	495,03	<b>METKA</b>
1986	95	169,46	523,39	
1987	230	115,35	766,97	
1988	650	184,22	865,65	
1989	550	93,92	548,67	
1990	1850	79,66	591,82	
1991	2000	71,14	977,22	
1992	1600	39,05	1236,66	
1993	1480	144,8	1396,6	
1994	1750	273,74	1901,34	
1995	2185	205,64	1582,4	
1996	2360	99,04	1350,53	
1985	680	33,39	613,14	<b>PARNASSOS</b>
1986	680	2,28	615,42	
1987	680	14,45	837,69	
1988	600	202,7	1079,8	

1989	580	289,43	917,01	
1990	700	321,91	1106,92	
1991	3000	544,66	1001,05	
1992	2300	466,51	1425,71	
1993	4500	448,66	1268,28	
1994	3395	16,57	534,05	
1995	2750	36,24	538,98	
1996	2895	27,5	539,78	
1985	270	1,93	832,44	<b>ERMHS</b>
1986	230	267,42	1009,54	
1987	400	57,91	1062,98	
1988	840	125,14	1587,34	
1989	760	-28,29	827,22	
1990	400	60,78	866,27	
1991	500	422,33	1201,4	
1992	590	163,42	1807,72	
1993	1650	70,21	1852,37	
1994	2504	81,39	940,72	
1995	4002	83,57	953,61	
1996	4531	78,68	1304,71	
1985	360	102,16	319,04	<b>NHMATEMPORIKH</b>
1986	400	130,96	320	
1987	770	130,06	343,35	
1988	1070	131,46	645,89	
1989	900	104,37	219,09	
1990	700	90,42	223,95	
1991	600	42,57	226,58	
1992	610	18,89	404,06	
1993	1300	15,88	405,93	
1994	4085	14,71	423,2	
1995	2785	16,67	425,49	
1996	7145	15,03	463,07	
1985	280	138,22	348,7	<b>KEKROPS</b>
1986	360	120,67	389,37	
1987	900	-47,04	304,66	
1988	1200	47,21	383,67	
1989	1850	107,37	250,57	
1990	4400	29,19	230,62	
1991	4600	-86,27	144,56	
1992	2100	-46,25	188,3	
1993	1500	214,91	348,34	
1994	1550	-68,51	453,47	
1995	1593	-12,57	440,79	
1996	4310	159,39	916,48	
1985	900	-188,71	1500,86	<b>KILINDROMILOI</b>
1986	500	-65,64	1500,86	
1987	400	-20,69	1205,01	
1988	400	-10,82	2734,18	
1989	380	198,65	1584,88	
1990	380	-440,71	1375,13	

1991	2000	35,38	191,86	
1992	700	-7,85	302,39	
1993	1620	127,93	406,18	
1994	1850	33,6	506,79	
1995	2050	50,05	680,62	
1996	2220	44,42	852,26	
1985	170	-64,92	535,07	<b>MILOI AG</b>
1986	175	113,78	527,37	
1987	460	-121,56	685,94	
1988	950	-61,55	1077,95	
1989	640	33,91	663,01	
1990	4400	76,6	881,54	
1991	2850	94,85	923,06	
1992	1580	46,54	859,52	
1993	1190	55,88	882,95	
1994	1350	83,85	936,07	
1995	1310	132,93	1006,5	
1996	1615	161,36	1117,49	
1985	680	134,43	1131,72	<b>ALLATINI</b>
1986	680	-588,23	1131,72	
1987	480	-1917,37	11404,51	
1988	1100	579,57	11805,26	
1989	1450	-292,94	13061,89	
1990	4000	-340,36	672,35	
1991	1050	-11,34	663,85	
1992	365	13,54	685,32	
1993	725	-15,03	853,44	
1994	475	-73,97	847,93	
1995	640	-35,94	672,42	
1996	644	28,6	695,27	
1985	240	60,85	244,16	<b>ZAMPA</b>
1986	230	135,6	272,46	
1987	700	209,41	333,67	
1988	1350	441,46	623,84	
1989	4700	804,55	1029,62	
1990	13000	554,18	1314,26	
1991	3600	548,63	1593,26	
1992	2700	603,18	1898,54	
1993	2325	401,38	2093,78	
1994	2500	523,21	2370,2	
1995	2850	483,8	2621,02	
1996	3295	534,18	2985,19	
1985	340	11,89	640,29	<b>KERAMIA-ALL</b>
1986	240	0,13	640,42	
1987	230	-169,33	531,9	
1988	150	-195,67	852,13	
1989	270	-46,55	468,24	
1990	700	-49,68	413,74	
1991	700	-7,14	404,92	
1992	550	-176,46	553,19	

1993	676	-194,41	358,78	
1994	426	78,04	1368	
1995	2300	4,22	1144,13	
1996	1530	5,45	1401,83	
1985	430	0,11	0,72	<b>LOYLI</b>
1986	450	0,15	0,85	
1987	550	0,03	0,96	
1988	600	0,04	1,49	
1989	720	209,95	1,49	
1990	10000	67,29	1,49	
1991	2900	89,25	682,14	
1992	1200	89,13	731,41	
1993	1195	89,29	825,85	
1994	1785	125,71	882,64	
1995	1000	51,8	891,91	
1996	914	72,96	924,75	
1985	82	13,09	218,93	<b>DHMHTRIADHS</b>
1986	30	0,48	242,45	
1987	165	31,36	258,31	
1988	430	38,24	487,55	
1989	395	44,63	504,02	
1990	690	26,42	504,33	
1991	510	-33,58	476,63	
1992	740	-51,83	695,8	
1993	580	-64,48	631,84	
1994	845	-82,97	313,72	
1995	402	-82,18	234,31	
1996	500	-103,52	327,65	
1985	75	29,8	303,77	<b>IPPOTOYR</b>
1986	90	22,72	307,85	
1987	165	38,79	320,43	
1988	400	179,88	584,57	
1989	770	9,69	294,65	
1990	670	-25,92	287,42	
1991	460	109,58	335,98	
1992	460	2,6	384,6	
1993	380	-31,43	355,19	
1994	394	-59,5	201,97	
1995	410	-60,82	541,69	
1996	380	-45,14	250,95	
1985	300	22,95	591,38	<b>PETZETAKIS</b>
1986	280	49,89	618,26	
1987	455	75,23	898,81	
1988	1075	68,15	796,09	
1989	780	141,31	668,99	
1990	4000	153,34	1127,67	
1991	2725	-83,28	1097,85	
1992	1900	44,84	1476,3	
1993	2025	45,88	1470,64	
1994	2400	-41,1	1469,62	

1995	1050	29,85	1197,93	
1996	945	41,1	1308,13	
1985	455	194,81	780,91	<b>LEBENTERIS</b>
1986	425	252,27	899,91	
1987	920	165,21	932,08	
1988	1275	219,4	1248,4	
1989	1700	350,6	693,46	
1990	2700	131,83	755,23	
1991	1600	79,18	805,97	
1992	840	82,61	1120,84	
1993	800	86,82	1154,78	
1994	1345	83,14	601,76	
1995	800	44,19	622,93	
1996	585	19,46	903,05	
1985	1650	73,56	3012,09	<b>GEN APOTH</b>
1986	1500	160,93	3019,39	
1987	1900	514,01	3378,51	
1988	3400	-190,35	7370,62	
1989	2400	-449,28	2814,79	
1990	3000	286,98	3067,77	
1991	2600	276,62	3067,77	
1992	2800	-45,27	3781,17	
1993	2438	-354,96	2651,03	
1994	1500	-859,69	2545,02	
1995	1565	-1013,59	1958,74	
1996	1050	-133,27	1444,26	
1985	280	95,87	430,56	<b>XYLEMPORIA</b>
1986	290	239,4	512,8	
1987	790	104,41	528,79	
1988	1050	59,74	706,96	
1989	800	205,69	781,38	
1990	6000	68,91	1002,75	
1991	1700	127,43	1042,47	
1992	1200	43,2	894,9	
1993	970	81,63	902,14	
1994	830	94,38	922,54	
1995	949	111,86	963,62	
1996	1465	119,82	1235,62	
1985	85	71,48	237,54	<b>ESKIMO</b>
1986	70	-130,97	314,64	
1987	190	-210,52	259,97	
1988	200	-299,15	135,49	
1989	140	-73,78	103,58	
1990	250	10,16	146,84	
1991	140	17,78	159,71	
1992	150	0,89	161,08	
1993	115	1,37	160,16	
1994	182	0,15	160,16	
1995	298	-37,74	133,59	
1996	239	-12,79	123,29	

1985	75	68,14	356,1	<b>RADIO-ATHINAI</b>
1986	105	108,48	403,92	
1987	330	39,67	415,23	
1988	650	86,16	443,91	
1989	680	135,75	642,67	
1990	4700	178,83	812,59	
1991	1350	154,05	862,59	
1992	990	146,72	1028,27	
1993	1335	271,97	1178,63	
1994	3540	285,61	1321,77	
1995	3100	296,89	1460,3	
1996	2465	112,71	808,13	
1985	51	-7,88	304,01	<b>PAYLIDIS</b>
1986	57	25	329,53	
1987	685	-15,74	620,12	
1988	3375	-12,3	883,13	
1989	3000	-39,29	242,4	
1990	2700	-241	166,66	
1991	2150	-1,71	84,59	
1992	1900	43,19	175,6	
1993	1220	-912,04	135,3	
1994	825	389,57	182,62	
1995	615	917,36	254,51	
1996	595	2253,7	495,37	
1985	1480	787,46	1955,15	<b>ATHINAIA</b>
1986	1710	953,98	2209,11	
1987	3570	686,98	2546,9	
1988	3650	762,05	2995,11	
1989	4050	838,81	2471,14	
1990	7100	361,26	2532,39	
1991	2200	371,83	2634,22	
1992	2350	127,95	2765,93	
1993	1470	90,93	2781,86	
1994	1405	49,07	2324	
1995	1230	27,17	2325,81	
1996	1750	-254,08	2157,15	

**VII. References****1. Papers**

1. Collins Daniel, Edward Maydew, Ira Weiss 1997, “*Changes in the Value – Relevance of Earnings and Book Values Over the Past Forty Years*”, *Journal of Accounting and Economics* 24, 39-67
2. Collins Daniel, Morton Pincus, Xong Xie 1999, “*Equity Valuation and Negative Earnings: The Role of Book Value of Equity*”, *The Accounting Review* 74, 29-61
3. Carla Hayns 1995, “*The Information Content of Losses*”, *Journal of Accounting and Economics* 20
4. Kothari S.P. 1992, “*Price Earnings Regressions in the Presence of Prices Leading Earnings: Earnings Level versus Change Specifications and Alternative Deflators*”, *Journal of Accounting and Economics* 15, 173-202
5. Kothari S.P. and Richard G. Sloan 1992, “*Information in Prices about Future Earnings: Implications for Earnings Response Coefficients*”, *Journal of Accounting and Economics* 15, 143 – 171
6. Kothari S.P. and Jerold Zimmerman 1995, “*Price and Return Models*”, *Journal of Accounting and Economics* 20, 155 - 192
7. Ravi Jagannathan, Ellen R. Mc Grattan, “*The CAPM Debate*”, *Federal Bank of Minneapolis Quarterly Review*, Fall 1995

**2. Books**

1. Laurence G. Grimm, “*Statistical Applications for the Behavioral Sciences*”
2. Leopold A Bernstein, John J. Wild, “*Financial Statement Analysis, Theory, Application and Interpretation*”
3. Glyde P. Stickney, Roman L. Weil, “*Financial Accounting: an Introduction to Concepts, Methods and Uses*”
4. Eugene F. Brigham, Louis C. Gapenski, Michael C. Ehrhardt, “*Financial Management Theory and Practice*”

**3. Newspapers**

1. “*Ναυτεμπορική*” Newspaper June 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996
2. Annual Report of the ASE 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996



### **Acknowledgments**

I would like to thank professor Chicas Dimitrios, supervisor of this study and Giaxalis Vassilios for their help.



Dupl<sup>i</sup>ca

