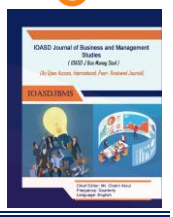
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# Corporate Tax Avoidance and the Ethical Implications for Shareholder Value Maximization of Listed Manufacturing Firms in Nigeria

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## ABSTRACT

Despite a growing number of manufacturing firms in Nigeria, the revenue from corporate tax is declining due to widespread tax avoidance practices. This action hampers the government's ability to fulfill its fiscal responsibilities. This study investigated corporate tax avoidance and the ethical implications for shareholder value maximization of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria, covering the period from 2014 to 2023. The study employed an ex-post facto research design, focusing on a population of 173 listed manufacturing firms. Ten manufacturing firms were purposefully selected as the sample size. The study employed Secondary panel data, which were analyzed using descriptive statistics, a correlation matrix, and Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model. The research concluded that Effective Tax Rate and Return on Assets do not contribute meaningfully to Dividend Yield, whereas a rise in Board Independence leads to a decrease in Dividend Yield. Conversely, an increase in Firm Size enhances Dividend Yield. The paper recommended among others that manufacturing firms in Nigeria should focus on increasing their scale through the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), as the size of a firm plays a crucial role in maximizing shareholder value.

**Keywords**: Corporate tax avoidance, Effective tax rate, Shareholder value, Dividend yield, Ethics.

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## INTRODUCTION

Tax revenue plays a crucial role in the income of the Nigerian government. Taxes are mandatory contributions imposed on individuals' earnings and business profits, or added to the prices of certain goods and services to support government expenditure. While taxes provide essential funding for the government, they can be viewed as burden by companies and their shareholders, leading to reduce profits and lower dividends. To mitigate this financial strain, companies often resort to tax avoidance strategies aimed at maximizing shareholder wealth.

Although tax avoidance is legally permitted, it is important to discourage such practices, as corporations are expected to fulfill their civic responsibility by paying their full taxes as at and when due (Saminus & Bitrus, 2024).

Tax avoidance, according to Agbaeze *et al*. (2023), encompasses a range of strategies employed to reduce tax liabilities and protect a taxpayer's income from higher taxes that would normally be imposed. Nevertheless, Adegbite and Bojuwon (2019) view corporate tax as taxes impose on a company's profit. They also emphasize that a major hurdle in this tax framework is achieving compliance with tax regulations. Corporate tax avoidance involves strategies used by management to reduce or entirely eliminate the company's tax liabilities, aiming to maximize shareholder value and their interest (Michael, 2020). Igbinovia and Ekwueme (2018) posit that corporate managers, acting as agents for shareholders, implement tax avoidance strategies with the intention of serving the interests of their principals. Ultimately, the financial burden of tax payments falls on the shareholders, as these taxes reduce the profits that serve as the basis for dividend distribution.

In Nigeria, corporate tax avoidance and its impacts on shareholder value maximization has not been adequately explored by the previous studies. However, previous related studies have presented inconsistent

findings regarding the relationship between corporate tax avoidance and shareholder value. Igbinovia and Ekwueme (2018) have analyzed the moderating effect of monitoring on the corporate tax avoidance and shareholders returns in Nigeria. They found that corporate tax avoidance positively impact shareholders returns in quoted non-financial firm in Nigeria and the effect is improved with better monitoring mechanism in place. Nebie and Cheng (2023) argue that corporate tax avoidance is negatively correlated with firm value.

It is against this background that this paper aims to investigate corporate tax avoidance and the ethical implications for shareholder value maximization of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria.

**Statement of the problem**

Corporate tax avoidance refers to legal strategies that companies employ to mitigate their tax liabilities, ultimately aiming to enhance profits and shareholder value. However, government rely on tax revenue to fund essential services such as improved road infrastructure, efficient telecommunications, reliable electricity and water supply services that corporates also benefit from, while at the same time meet the recurrent expenditure.

Unfortunately, the prevalence of corporate tax avoidance hampers government efforts to meet these fiscal responsibilities as well as the recurrent expenditure due to lack of funds. This is why Saminus and Bitrus (2024) argue that corporate tax avoidance should be discouraged, as companies have a civic duty to pay their full taxes promptly.

In addition, previous studies have presented mixed results on the relationship between corporate tax avoidance and shareholder value. Igbinovia and Ekwueme (2018) in their study found that corporate tax avoidance positively impact shareholders returns in quoted non-financial firms in Nigeria. They examined the relationship between the variables but did not investigate the extent of their relationship. Nebie and Cheng (2023) argue that corporate tax avoidance is negatively correlated with firm value. Zhu *et al*. (2019) analyzed corporate tax avoidance and firm profitability in Ghana. The study concluded that tax avoidance translates into profitability or value due to the balance of expertise and professionalism exhibited. This paper seeks to investigate corporate tax avoidance and the ethical implications for shareholder value maximization of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria.

**Objectives of the study**

The primary objective of this study is to examine corporate tax avoidance and the ethical implications for shareholder value maximization of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria. Specifically, the study attempts to:

1. Ascertain the impact of effective tax rate on dividend yield of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria.

**Research question**

1. To what extent does effective tax rate impact on dividend yield of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria.

**Research hypothesis**

The following null hypothesis which is subject to test is established based on the objectives of the study and the research question to guide the research.

**Hypothesis 1**

$HO_1$: Effective tax rate does not have significant impact on dividend yield of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

**Corporate tax avoidance**

According to Michael (2020), corporate tax avoidance refers to the reduction or complete elimination of a company's explicit tax liabilities. Tax avoidance involves using lawful methods to reduce a tax payer's income tax liability (Israel & Ebimobowei, 2021). As noted by Adegbite and Bojuwon (2019), corporate tax avoidance refers to practice of corporations paying minimal cash taxes in naira based on their pre-tax earnings.

**Effective tax rate**

Saminus and Bitrus (2024) define effective tax rate as the total tax expense divided by the pre-tax income. This rate plays a crucial role in assessing tax avoidance, which is determined by the ratio of taxes paid to pre-tax income over a specific period.

When a company's effective tax rate is lower than the official statutory tax rate, it suggests that the firm is engaging in tax avoidance strategies (Oshota, 2024).

**Firm's profitability**

Yahaya and Yusuf (2020) explain that profitability ratios serve a key indicator of a company's overall efficiency. These ratios are typically used to access the earnings generated by the firm over a specific period, taking into account factors such as sales, assets, capital employed, net worth, and earnings per share. Profitability ratios reflect the firms earnings potential and are viewed as indicators of effectiveness.

**Firm size**

A variety of research, such as the works of Adegbite and Bojuwon (2019), Nebie and Cheng (2023), Igbinovia and Ekwueme (2018), and Zhu *et al*. (2019), highlight firm size as an important factor in evaluating corporate tax avoidance. These studies measure firm size by taking the natural logarithm of total assets.

**Board independence**

Board independence, as defined by Israel and Ebimobowei (2021), refers to the ratio of non-executive directors on a board who contribute to its oversight functions. A board is deemed independent when its members do not have any financial stakes in the company and are not significantly involved with the firm (Saminus & Bitrus, 2024).

**Shareholder value**

Shareholder value, often referred to as shareholder value maximization, is a key concept in the business world. It emphasizes that a company's main objective should be to enhance the wealth of its shareholders (owners) through methods such as paying dividends and boosting the stock price. This idea gained significant traction in the $1980_s$ and $1990_s$, coinciding with the emergence of value-based management principles (Wikipedia, n.d.).

**Dividend yield**

The dividend yield is a financial metric that indicates the amount a company distributes as dividends each year in relation to its stock price. To calculate the dividend yield, divide the annual dividend per share by the price per share, and then multiply that result by 100 (Investopedia, n.d.).

**Theoretical framework**

This study reviews two theories that form the foundation of the research.

**Agency theory**

This paper is anchored on agency theory, which examines the relationship between principals (shareholders) and agents (managers). In this dynamic, shareholders entrust managers with the responsibility of acting in their best interests, which includes minimizing tax liabilities within legal boundaries. Managers are expected to prioritize shareholder satisfaction by maximizing profits while legally reducing tax obligations.

However, this may lead managers to engage in tax avoidance strategies that serve their interests, potentially depleting company resources from tax savings and harming the interests of other shareholders. It is equal for directors to serve as a safeguard for shareholders, ensuring that managers do not exploit their position to detriment of shareholders (Sanimus & Bitrus, 2024).

**Tax avoidance theory**

This paper is hinged on tax avoidance theory, which suggests that companies often redirect their profits away from government authorities. The theorist posit that tax avoidance aims to reroute funds that would typically be paid in taxes to corporate entities instead. This implies that businesses should consider tax avoidance practices to allocate their resources towards enhancing other ventures, ultimately leading to greater returns (Saminus & Bitus, 2024)

**Empirical review**

Oshota (2024) explored the effect of tax avoidance on the cost of capital in Nigeria from 2010 to 2022, using a sample of thirty (30) listed companies. Tax avoidance was measured by effective tax rate, while the cost of capital served as the dependent variable. Return on assets, return on equity, leverage, firm size, and board size were incorporated into the model as control variables. The study employed secondary data extracted from the annual reports of the sampled firms.

The analysis was conducted using panel fixed effects and regression methods, chosen after a Hausman pre-test, with the aid of E-views version 10. Findings from the panel fixed effects analysis revealed that tax avoidance has a significant positive influence on both the cost of equity and the cost of debt, underscoring its importance in corporate financing decisions and investor preferences. The paper recommended that policymakers take action to establish regulatory measures that promote voluntary tax compliance and provide clearer interpretations of tax laws, which could help mitigate aggressive tax avoidance and lower companies' cost of capital.

Nebie and Cheng (2023) conducted a study on corporate tax avoidance and firm value of publicly listed companies in Taiwan, spanning the years 2009 to 2019. The analysis focused on a sample of 374 companies listed on the Taiwan Stock Exchange, excluding depository receipts. To measure tax avoidance, effective tax rate was used, while debt, firm size, return on equity, cash dividends paid, and return on assets were considered as control variables. Firm value was represented by Tobin's Q. Using secondary data, the paper adopted pooled OLS, fixed effects, and random effects models for the analysis. Findings showed a negative correlation between the effective tax rate and firm value.

Additionally, the paper discovered that debt, firm size and return on equity also negatively impacted firm value, whereas cash dividends paid and return on assets did not show a positive correlation with Tobin's Q.

Zhu *et al*. (2019) empirically examined corporate tax avoidance and firm profitability in Ghana, focusing on companies listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange. The paper used the Effective Tax Rate (ETR) as a measure of corporate tax avoidance, while firm profitability was proxied by Return On Assets (ROA). To account for other influencing factors, the paper introduced control variables such as firm size, leverage, capital intensity, inventory intensity and board independence. The data for the study was sourced from the annual reports and financial statements of the firms.

Adopting a standard ordinary least square regression model and SPSS statistical tools, the results from the analysis revealed a negative relationship between tax avoidance and profitability. The conclusion drawn was that tax avoidance does not necessarily lead to increased profitability or value, highlighting the importance of expertise and professionalism in such matters. The study recommended that companies establish a robust corporate governance framework, particularly regarding board structure, as it plays a crucial role in shaping management decisions to maximize the benefits of tax avoidance practices.

Igbinovia and Ekwueme (2018) investigated the moderating effect of monitoring on the corporate tax avoidance and shareholders returns in Nigeria for the period 2010 to 2016. The study used an ex-post facto research design and selected a sample of fifty-four (54) non-financial firms listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE). Annual financial data were gathered from the sampled firms, with shareholder returns serving as the dependent variable, was represented by stock returns and cash tax savings as the independent variable. Control variables included return on assets, capital intensity, leverage and expected growth, while corporate governance monitoring acted as the moderating variable. The data analysis was performed using the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression method within the E-view version 9.0. framework. The findings indicated that corporate tax avoidance has a positive effect on shareholders returns for quoted non-financial firms in Nigeria, and this effect is enhanced by effective monitoring mechanisms. In addition, the study noted improvements in liquidity, profitability, expected growth, and asset tangibility when tax avoidance practices are closely monitored. The study recommended that shareholders implement monitoring systems to oversee management's use of tax savings, ensuring alignment with shareholder interests.

**Summary of literature review**

The literature review for this study was structured into three subheadings namely the conceptual framework, the theoretical framework, and empirical studies. Notably, previous empirical studies related to this research have not incorporated board independence as a control variable in the model when measuring corporate tax avoidance, particularly in the Nigerian context.

Furthermore, Igbinovia and Ekwueme (2018) explored the moderating effect of monitoring on the corporate tax avoidance and shareholders returns in Nigeria from 2010 to 2016. While their study investigated the relationship between corporate tax avoidance and shareholders returns, it failed to examine the extent of the relationship between these variables, thereby presenting a methodological gap.

However, to the best of the researcher's knowledge, there have been limited studies focused on the corporate tax avoidance and shareholder value. This study seeks to fill the above gaps and contribute to the existing literature on corporate tax avoidance.

## METHODOLOGY

The study adopted an *ex-post facto* research design. This is because the necessary data required for the research already exist and could not be manipulated (Yahaya & Yusuf, 2020). The study population consisted of one hundred and seventy-three (173) listed manufacturing firms on the Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE). Using purposive sampling, a sample size of ten (10) listed manufacturing firms (Cadbury, Champion, Dangote Plc, Guinness, Nigerian breweries, Pz cussion, Unilever, Vita foam, Dunlop tyre, and Int'l brewery) from 2014 to 2023 were selected. based on firms with complete information for ten financial years studied. Secondary panel data were gathered from published financial statements of listed manufacturing firms for the same period. To analyze the data, descriptive statistics, a correlation matrix and Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model were employed. The purpose of using ARDL model is due to its effectiveness of mixed order integration within the stationary results. The analysis was conducted with the aid of E-views version 10.0.

**Table 1: Operational measurement of variables**

| Variables | Proxy | Abbreviations | Measurement | A-priori Expectation | Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dependent Variable Shareholder Value Maximization | Dividend Yield | DY | Annual dividen d per share divided by price per share multiplied by 100 | | (Investopedia,n.d) |
| Independent Variable CorporateTax Avoidance | Effective Tax Rate | ETR | Cash taxes paid divided by pre-tax income | ± | Oshota (2024) |
| Control Variables Profitability | Return On Asset | ROA | Pre-tax income divided by total assets | + | Yahaya and Yusuf (2020) |
| Board Independence | - | BIND | The ratio of independent | + | (Saminus & Bitrus, 2024) |

| Variables | Proxy | Abbreviations | Measurement | A-priori Expectation | Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | directors to the total number of directors on the board | | |
| Firm Size | - | FSIZE | The natural logarithm of total assets | + | Adegbite and Bojuwon (2019) |

**Source:** Researcher's Compilation, 2026

**Model specification**

The model formulated by Igburu and Orife (2024) to evaluate the effect of tax avoidance on firm value was adopted by this study to measure corporate tax avoidance and the ethical implications for shareholder value maximization.

The model is presented below:

Tobin's Q = $\beta_0 + \beta_1 + Def\ T_{it} + \beta_2 Tax\ C_{it} + \beta_3\ DIV\ P_{it} + \beta_4\ Emp\ \beta_{it} + \mu_{it}$… (1)

Where: Firm Value (FV) series as the dependent variable measured using Tobin's Q, while Tax Avoidance (TA) is the independent variable, assessed by Deferred Tax (Def T), Tax Credit (Tax C), Dividend Payout (DIV P), and Employee Benefits (Emp B).

The original model was modified by this present study to include the variables in focus.

Consequently, the modified study model which is first stated in functional relationship form is presented as follows: DY = $f$(ETR, ROA, BIND, FSIZE) … (2)

The resulting econometrics model, suitable for testing, is based on the aforementioned functional relationship model. The model is presented thus:

$DY_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1\ ETR_{it} + \beta_2 ROA_{it} + \beta_3\ BIND_{it} + \beta_4 FSIZE_{it} + \mu_{it}$ … (3)

Where:

DY = Dividend Yield

ETR = Effective Tax Rate

ROA = Return On Asset

BIND = Board Independence

FSIZE = Firm Size

$\beta_0$ = Regression Intercept/ Constant

$\beta_{1-4}$ = Regression Coefficients

it = Panel data employed for the study

i = Cross-Sectional data

t = time series data

μ= Error term

**Decision rule**

In this present study, the decision rule is that the null hypothesis is accepted if p value is greater than 0.05 level of significance, otherwise reject.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Descriptive statistics**

Table 2 shows the descriptive statistics for the variables employed.

**Table 2: Descriptive statistics**

| | DY | ETR | ROA | BIND | FSIZE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mean | 9.210000 | 0.172265 | 0.036627 | 0.443579 | 7.474473 |
| Min | 6.000000 | 0.006733 | -0.003020 | 0.250000 | 5.301941 |
| Max | 18.00000 | 1.146778 | 0.246676 | 0.666667 | 8.493746 |
| Std. Dev. | 2.889532 | 0.137006 | 0.049364 | 0.104372 | 0.846908 |
| Jarque – Bera | 55.39669 | 2713.194 | 291.2516 | 0.837665 | 21.06213 |
| Probability | 0.000000 | 0.000000 | 0.000000 | 0.657814 | 0.000027 |
| Observations | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

**Source:** Researcher's computation with the aid of E-views version 10.0

Table 2 above presents the mean value for Dividend Yield (DY) of 9.210000, with a minimum of 6.000000 and a maximum of 18.000000 respectively. The standard deviation stands at 2.889532. This indicates that, on average, the firms included in the sample paid out 9.21% of their net profits as annual dividends to their shareholders. The dividends varied from a minimum of 6.000000 naira to a maximum of 18.000000 naira. The standard deviation suggests that there is a modest fluctuation in dividend yields among the sampled firms during the period under study.

Similarly, the study reveals that the mean value for Effective Tax Rate (ETR) stands at 0.172265, which is approximately 17% lower than the corporate income tax statutory rate of 30% in Nigeria. Within the sample, the Effective Tax Rate for the firms vary significantly, with a minimum of 0.006733 and a maximum of 1.146778. the standard deviation of 0.137006 implies that the Effective Tax Rate showed minimal variation throughout the study period. The mean value for Return On Assets (ROA) stands at 0.36627, with a minimum of -0.003020 and a maximum of 0.246676. this indicates that, on average, the sampled firms earn 0.036627 naira

in profit for every naira invested, with the potential for losses as minimum as -0.003020 naira and profits as maximum as 0.246676 naira. The standard deviation of 0.049364 highlights considerable fluctuations in ROA throughout the study period. Additionally, Board Independence (BIND) has a mean of 0.443579, with a minimum and a maximum of 0.250000 and 0.666667 respectively. This average translates to 44%, indicating that, on the whole, the boards of the sampled firms are not particularly independent, as this figure fails below the 50% threshold. The minimum level of board independence is 25% of outside directors, while the maximum level is 67% of outside directors. The standard deviation of 0.104372 suggests that there is insignificant variation in board of independence during the study period. The mean value for firm size is 7.474473, with a minimum and a maximum of 5.301941 and 8.493746. the standard deviation of 0.846908, suggesting that there is little variation in firm size across the sampled firms during the period under study. However, the Jargue – Bera statictics is a test of normality. The null hypothesis for JB posits that a dataset is normally distributed, which holds true when the P – value exceeds the significance level of 0.05. In this study, only BIND is found to be normally distributed, while DY, ETR, ROA, and FSIZE do not meet this criterion. This conclusion is drawn from their respective P – values. Specifically, BIND has a P – value of 0.657814, which is higher than 0.05, indicating normality. In contrast, DY, ETR, ROA, and FSIZE have P – values of 0.000000, 0.000000, 0.000000, and 0.000027 respectively, all of which are less than 0.05 level of significance. This suggests that the model fails to satisfy the normality assumption, making the use of Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) unsuitable. Consequently, the Auto – Regressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model is more appropriate choice for the analysis.

**Stationarity (Unit root test)**

To avoid the occurrence of a spurious regression, a unit root test is conducted to determine if the variables used in this study are stationary. For the purpose of this study, the Augmented Dickey – Fuller (ADF) test is applied to assess the stationarity of the data. A summary of a unit root test result is provided in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: ADF stationarity (Unit root test) results**

| Variables | P – value | Difference | Order | Remark |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DY | 0.0000 | 1st Difference | 1(1) | Stationary |
| ETR | 0.0000 | Level | 1(0) | Stationary |
| ROA | 0.0050 | Level | 1(0) | Stationary |
| BIND | 0.0372 | Level | 1(0) | Stationary |
| FSIZE | 0.0000 | 1st Difference | 1(1) | Stationary |

**Null hypothesis: the variables have a unit root**

**Source:** Researcher's computation with the aid of E – views version 10.0.

Table 3 shows the preliminary test results necessary for evaluating the individual stationarity of the variables utilized in this present study. To examine the stationarity of the data employed, the Augmented Dickey – Fuller (ADF) test is carried out. The result from the unit root test at 5% level as illustrated in Table 3 above indicates that certain variables such as ETR, ROA, and BIND are stationary at level. Similarly, other variables like DY and FSIZE fail to exhibit stationary at level but become stationary at first difference. This suggests that ETR, ROA, and BIND are categorized as having an integration order of zero, that is, 1(0) series with corresponding p- values of 0.0000, 0.0050, and 0.0372 respectively. On the other hand, DY and FSIZE are classified as having an integration order of one, that is, 1(1) series with p-values of 0.0000 and 0.0000 respectively. This mixed order of integration suggests a need for the use of ARDL model and a cointegration test.

**Table 4: Long – run cointegration (Bound Test)**

| Test Statistic | Value | K |
|---|---|---|
| F – Statistic | 1.003975 | 4 |
| Critical value Bounds | | |
| | 10 Bound | 11 Bound |
| Significance | | |
| 10% | 2.45 | 3.52 |
| 5% | 2.86 | 4.01 |
| 2.5% | 3.25 | 4.49 |
| 1% | 3.74 | 5.06 |

**Null hypothesis: No long – run relationship exist.**

**Source:** Researcher's computation with aid of the E-views version 10.0.

Table 4 presents the result of the ARDL bound test, which is used to determine whether a long-term relationship exists among the variables. This test evaluates all variables collectively rather than focusing on their individual connections. Its primary goal is to understand how the independent variables collectively

influence the dependent variable over the long – term. The assessment of long – run cointegration among the study variables is carried out through the ARDL bound test. Given that the F – statistic value of 1.003975 less than the lower bound threshold of 2.86 at 5% level of significance, the study concludes that there is no long – run relationship among the variables in the model.

**Table 5: Correlation Matrix**

| Variables | DY | ETR | ROA | BIND | FSIZE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DY | 1.0000 | | | | |
| ETR | -0.0906 | 1.0000 | | | |
| ROA | 0.2455 | -0.0202 | 1.0000 | | |
| BIND | -0.5873 | 0.1797 | -0.1530 | 1.0000 | |
| FSIZE | 0.3561 | 0.0776 | -0.3342 | 0.0068 | 1.0000 |

**Source: Researcher's computation with aid of E – views version 10.0.**

Table 5 shows a negative correlation between Effective Tax Rate (ETR) and Dividend Yield (DY) evidenced by a correlation co-efficient of -0.0906, which points to a very weak inverse relationship. This implies that ETR and DY are moving in opposite directions. In particular, as ETR increases, DY generally decreases across the sampled firms. In a similar vein, there is a weak positive relationship between ROA and DY, with a correlation coefficient of 0.2455. This positive value suggests that ROA and DY are moving in the same direction, indicating that as ROA rises, DY also tends to rise. BIND and DY exhibit a moderate negative relationship, with a coefficient of -0.5873. This indicates that they tend to move in opposite directions; when BIND rises, DY tends to fall. Consequently, an increase in BIND does not lead to an increase in DY across the sampled firms.

However, FSIZE shows a weak positive relationship with DY, represented by a correlation coefficient of 0.3561. This positive coefficient means that FSIZE and DY move in the same direction; as FSIZE rises, DY also tends to rise. This indicates that FSIZE plays a significant role in influencing DY across the sampled firms.

**Table 6: summary of model estimation results**

| Variables | Coefficient | t – statistic | Prob. |
|---|---|---|---|
| DY (-1) | 0.971129 | 11.99094 | 0.0000 |
| DY (-2) | -0.095745 | -1.399292 | 0.1652 |
| ETR | -0.163443 | -0.230938 | 0.8179 |
| ROA | 3.971470 | 1.773951 | 0.0795 |
| BIND | -12.04799 | -7.365239 | 0.0000 |
| BIND (-1) | 9.982138 | 5.620917 | 0.0000 |
| FSIZE | 2.011758 | 7.713038 | 0.0000 |
| FSIZE (-1) | -1.685629 | -0.464032 | 0.6438 |
| Constant | -0.518295 | -0.464032 | 0.6438 |
| R – squared | | | 0.905266 |
| Adjusted R-Squared | | | 0.896751 |
| F – Statistic | | | 106.3095 |
| Prob.(F – Statistic) | | | 0.000000 |
| Durbin – Watson Stat. | | | 2.047353 |

**Source:** Researcher's computation with the aid of E-views version 10.0.

Table 6 above shows that the coefficient for independent variable, Effective Tax Rate (ETR) is -0.163443, with a t – value of -0.230938 and a p-value of 0.8179. This indicates a negative relationship between Effective Tax Rate (ETR) and Dividend yield (DY). To put it simply, a 1% rise in ETR is anticipated to result in an average decline of 16.34% in DY. This result is consistent with economic a priori expectations. Meanwhile, the t – value records a value of -0.230938, with a p – value of 0.8179. This suggests that the p – value for ETR is higher than 5% level of significance, indicating that the effective tax rate has a negative and statistically insignificant impact on dividend yield of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria. This finding is consistent with the study conducted by Nebie and Cheng (2023), which examined corporate tax avoidance and firm value of listed manufacturing firms in Taiwan from 2009 to 2019. Their study found a negative correlation between effective tax rate and firm value but negates the findings of Igbinova and Ekwueme (2018), who claimed that corporate tax avoidance has a positive effect on shareholders returns in quoted non-financial firms in Nigeria.

The disparity in these findings may stem from the methodologies employed, while Igbinovia and Ekwueme used OLS, the present study utilized ARDL model.

Similarly, the positive coefficient of 3.971470 for the control variable, Return On Assets (ROA) indicates a direct relationship between ROA and DY. It implies that a 1% increase in ROA, on average, results in about a 3.971470% increase in DY, which aligns with economic a priori expectations. However, with a t – value of 1.773951 and a p-value of 0.0795, which is higher than the 5% level, it shows that ROA has a positive and statistically insignificant influence on DY. This finding contrasts with the findings of Zhu *et al*. (2019), who examined corporate tax avoidance and firm profitability in Ghana. They used Return on Assets (ROA) as one of control variables in their study and discovered a negative relationship between ETR and ROA but agrees with Adebite and Bojuwon (2019), who found a positive relationship between ROA and corporate tax avoidance. The discrepancies in these findings may stem from geographical differences, as Zhu *et al*., conducted their study in Ghana, while the present study focuses on Nigeria. The coefficient for the control variable, Board Independence (BIND) is -12.04799, indicating a negative relationship with DY. This suggests that a 1% rise in BIND typically results in a 12.0477% decline in DY, which is contrary to economic a priori expectations. With t-value of -7.365239 and a p-value of 0.0000, which is lower than the 5% level, it confirms that BIND has a negative and statistically significant effect on DY. This finding negates the findings of Zhu *et al*. (2019) who discovered a positive and significant relationship between BIND and corporate tax avoidance. Nevertheless, the coefficient for the control variable, FSIZE is 2.011758, suggesting a direct relationship between FSIZE and DY. This means that a 1% increase in FSIZE leads to an equivalent increase of 2.011758% in DY. This result aligns with economic a priori expectations. With t-value of 7.713038 and a p-value of 0.0000, which is lower than the 5% level, it can be concluded that FSIZE has a positive and statistically significant influence on DY. This finding contradicts with the findings of Nebie and Cheng (2023), who reported a negative correlation between firm size and firm value. However, it supports the conclusion of Yahaya and Yusuf (2020), who found that firm size positively influenced aggressive tax avoidance. The discrepancies in these findings can be attributed to differences in sample sizes, Nebie and Cheng analyzed 374 publicly traded companies in Taiwan, while the present study focuses on ten (10) listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria.

Additionally, the R – Squared value is 0.905266, indicating that the model's explanatory variables (ETR, ROA, BIND and FSIZE) explain approximately 90.53% of the variation in the dependent variable (DY). This leaves about 9.47% of the variation unexplained, likely due to unknown factors represented by the error term. Therefore, the model shows strong explanatory power, suggesting that the included variables are effective predictors of DY. The adjusted R – squared being nearly equal to the R –squared suggests minimal penalties for irrelevant variables in the model.

Similarly, the F – statistic value of 106.3095, with a corresponding p – value of 0.000000, signifying that the overall model goodness of fit is quite satisfactory. The Durban – Watson statistic with a value of 2. 047353, falls within the acceptable range of 1 to 3 as suggested by Field (2009), indicating that the model is free from serial or autocorrelation problem.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study explores corporate tax avoidance and the ethical implications for shareholder value maximization of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria, covering a period of 10 years, from 2014 to 2023. Specifically, the study aims to find out how corporate tax avoidance, proxied by Effective Tax Rate (ETR) along with control variables like Return On Assets (ROA), Board Independence (BIND), and Firm Size (FSIZE), influence on shareholder value maximization proxied by Dividend Yield (DY) of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria. An ex – post facto research design was employed, focusing on a sample of ten (10) manufacturing firms listed on the Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE). The analysis was conducted on secondary panel data using Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model. Based on the research findings, the study concludes that Effective Tax Rate (ETR) has a negative and statistically insignificant impact on Dividend Yield (DY). This means that ETR does not have impact on DY. Similarly, Return On Assets (ROA) has a positive and statistically insignificant effect on Dividend Yield (DY), signifying that ROA does not have influence on DY. In contrast, Board Independence (BIND) has a negative and statistically significant effect on Dividend Yield (DY). This implies that BIND has a negative influence on DY, whereas firm size (FSIZE) has a positive and statistically significant impact on Dividend Yield (DY). This suggests that FSIZE has a positive impact on DY of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria. In all, the study deduces that corporate tax avoidance and the ethical implications for shareholder value maximization play a crucial role in maximizing shareholder value of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria. From the study findings the following recommendations are made:

i. To maximize shareholder value, manufacturing firms in Nigeria should consider reducing the number of independent directors. An excessive presence of independent directors can hinder their ability to achieve this goal.
ii. Manufacturing firms in Nigeria should focus on increasing their scale through the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), as the size of a firm plays a crucial role in maximizing shareholders value.
iii. Shareholders of manufacturing firms in Nigeria should establish a monitoring

system to ensure that effective tax rate and return on assets enhance shareholder value.

iv. Manufacturing firms in Nigeria ought to ensure they pay the average tax rate legally permitted by the government as at and when due, as these taxes contribute to the infrastructure development that benefits their operations.

## APPENPIX
## UNIT ROOT
## ETR (AT LEVEL)

Null Hypothesis: ETR has a unit root
Exogenous: Constant
Lag Length: 0 (Automatic - based on SIC, maxlag=12)

| | | t-Statistic | Prob.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Augmented Dickey-Fuller test statistic | | -6.822354 | 0.0000 |
| Test critical values: | 1% level | -3.497727 | |
| | 5% level | -2.890926 | |
| | 10% level | -2.582514 | |

*MacKinnon (1996) one-sided p-values.

Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test Equation
Dependent Variable: D(ETR)
Method: Least Squares
Date: 02/03/25 Time: 23:13
Sample (adjusted): 2 100
Included observations: 99 after adjustments

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ETR(-1) | -0.647895 | 0.094967 | -6.822354 | 0.0000 |
| C | 0.112147 | 0.020937 | 5.356326 | 0.0000 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| R-squared | 0.324251 | Mean dependent var | 0.000176 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.317285 | S.D. dependent var | 0.156548 |
| S.E. of regression | 0.129351 | Akaike info criterion | -1.232586 |
| Sum squared resid | 1.622961 | Schwarz criterion | -1.180160 |
| Log likelihood | 63.01303 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | -1.211375 |
| F-statistic | 46.54452 | Durbin-Watson stat | 1.892842 |
| Prob(F-statistic) | 0.000000 | | |

## ROA (AT LEVEL)

Null Hypothesis: ROA has a unit root
Exogenous: Constant
Lag Length: 1 (Automatic - based on SIC, maxlag=12)

| | | t-Statistic | Prob.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Augmented Dickey-Fuller test statistic | | -3.729274 | 0.0050 |
| Test critical values: | 1% level | -3.498439 | |
| | 5% level | -2.891234 | |
| | 10% level | -2.582678 | |

*MacKinnon (1996) one-sided p-values.

Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test Equation
Dependent Variable: D(ROA)
Method: Least Squares
Date: 02/03/q225 Time: 23:11
Sample (adjusted): 3 100
Included observations: 98 after adjustments

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ROA(-1) | -0.376094 | 0.100849 | -3.729274 | 0.0003 |
| D(ROA(-1)) | -0.277995 | 0.098672 | -2.817357 | 0.0059 |
| C | 0.013812 | 0.005692 | 2.426732 | 0.0171 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| R-squared | 0.317484 | Mean dependent var | -7.35E-05 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.303115 | S.D. dependent var | 0.050881 |
| S.E. of regression | 0.042475 | Akaike info criterion | -3.449654 |
| Sum squared resid | 0.171394 | Schwarz criterion | -3.370523 |
| Log likelihood | 172.0331 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | -3.417647 |
| F-statistic | 22.09545 | Durbin-Watson stat | 2.084898 |
| Prob(F-statistic) | 0.000000 | | |

**BIND (AT LEVEL)**

Null Hypothesis: BIND has a unit root
Exogenous: Constant
Lag Length: 0 (Automatic - based on SIC, maxlag=12)

| | | t-Statistic | Prob.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Augmented Dickey-Fuller test statistic | | -3.012287 | 0.0372 |
| Test critical values: | 1% level | -3.497727 | |
| | 5% level | -2.890926 | |
| | 10% level | -2.582514 | |

*MacKinnon (1996) one-sided p-values.

Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test Equation
Dependent Variable: D(BIND)
Method: Least Squares
Date: 02/03/25 Time: 23:10
Sample (adjusted): 2 100
Included observations: 99 after adjustments

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BIND(-1) | -0.171086 | 0.056796 | -3.012287 | 0.0033 |
| C | 0.075793 | 0.025848 | 2.932243 | 0.0042 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| R-squared | 0.085543 | Mean dependent var | 0.000000 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.076116 | S.D. dependent var | 0.061272 |
| S.E. of regression | 0.058894 | Akaike info criterion | -2.806158 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sum squared resid | 0.336445 | Schwarz criterion | -2.753732 |
| Log likelihood | 140.9048 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | -2.784946 |
| F-statistic | 9.073872 | Durbin-Watson stat | 2.165093 |
| Prob(F-statistic) | 0.003307 | | |

**FSIZE (1ST DIFF)**

Null Hypothesis: D(FSIZE) has a unit root
Exogenous: Constant
Lag Length: 0 (Automatic - based on SIC, maxlag=12)

| | | t-Statistic | Prob.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Augmented Dickey-Fuller test statistic | | -11.23478 | 0.0000 |
| Test critical values: | 1% level | -3.498439 | |
| | 5% level | -2.891234 | |
| | 10% level | -2.582678 | |

*MacKinnon (1996) one-sided p-values.

Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test Equation
Dependent Variable: D(FSIZE,2)
Method: Least Squares
Date: 02/03/25 Time: 23:08
Sample (adjusted): 3 100
Included observations: 98 after adjustments

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| D(FSIZE(-1)) | -1.136123 | 0.101126 | -11.23478 | 0.0000 |
| C | 0.005973 | 0.038994 | 0.153171 | 0.8786 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| R-squared | 0.567996 | Mean dependent var | 0.000123 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.563496 | S.D. dependent var | 0.584228 |
| S.E. of regression | 0.385991 | Akaike info criterion | 0.954190 |
| Sum squared resid | 14.30292 | Schwarz criterion | 1.006944 |
| Log likelihood | -44.75529 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | 0.975528 |
| F-statistic | 126.2203 | Durbin-Watson stat | 1.988014 |
| Prob(F-statistic) | 0.000000 | | |

**DYR (1ST DIFF)**

Null Hypothesis: D(DYR) has a unit root
Exogenous: Constant
Lag Length: 0 (Automatic - based on SIC, maxlag=12)

| | | t-Statistic | Prob.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Augmented Dickey-Fuller test statistic | | -9.523704 | 0.0000 |
| Test critical values: | 1% level | -3.498439 | |
| | 5% level | -2.891234 | |
| | 10% level | -2.582678 | |

*MacKinnon (1996) one-sided p-values.

Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test Equation
Dependent Variable: D(DYR,2)
Method: Least Squares
Date: 02/03/25 Time: 23:07
Sample (adjusted): 3 100
Included observations: 98 after adjustments

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| D(DYR(-1)) | -0.971617 | 0.102021 | -9.523704 | 0.0000 |
| C | -0.019829 | 0.149343 | -0.132774 | 0.8946 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| R-squared | 0.485809 | Mean dependent var | 0.000000 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.480453 | S.D. dependent var | 2.050899 |
| S.E. of regression | 1.478280 | Akaike info criterion | 3.639833 |
| Sum squared resid | 209.7900 | Schwarz criterion | 3.692588 |
| Log likelihood | -176.3518 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | 3.661171 |
| F-statistic | 90.70095 | Durbin-Watson stat | 1.999943 |
| Prob(F-statistic) | 0.000000 | | |

**DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS**

| | ETR | ROA | BIND | FSIZE | DYR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mean | 0.172265 | 0.036627 | 0.443579 | 7.474473 | 9.210000 |
| Median | 0.140630 | 0.018184 | 0.472222 | 7.764852 | 8.000000 |
| Maximum | 1.146778 | 0.246678 | 0.666667 | 8.493746 | 18.00000 |
| Minimum | 0.006733 | -0.003022 | 0.250000 | 5.301941 | 6.000000 |
| Std. Dev. | 0.137006 | 0.049364 | 0.104372 | 0.846908 | 2.889532 |
| Skewness | 4.050043 | 2.632363 | 0.037126 | -1.124151 | 1.576833 |
| Kurtosis | 27.19825 | 9.494847 | 2.557816 | 2.992872 | 4.862684 |
| Jarque-Bera | 2713.194 | 291.2516 | 0.837665 | 21.06213 | 55.89669 |
| Probability | 0.000000 | 0.000000 | 0.657814 | 0.000027 | 0.000000 |
| Sum | 17.22648 | 3.662708 | 44.35791 | 747.4473 | 921.0000 |
| Sum Sq. Dev. | 1.858292 | 0.241248 | 1.078459 | 71.00806 | 826.5900 |
| Observations | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

**CORRELATION MATRIX**

| | ETR | ROA | BIND | FSIZE | DYR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ETR | 1.000000 | -0.020187 | 0.179736 | 0.077586 | -0.090561 |
| CTS | -1.000000 | 0.020187 | -0.179736 | -0.077586 | 0.090561 |
| ROA | -0.020187 | 1.000000 | -0.152969 | -0.334173 | 0.245536 |
| BIND | 0.179736 | -0.152969 | 1.000000 | 0.006752 | -0.587342 |
| FSIZE | 0.077586 | -0.334173 | 0.006752 | 1.000000 | 0.356139 |
| DYR | -0.090561 | 0.245536 | -0.587342 | 0.356139 | 1.000000 |

**ARDL (AUTOREGRESSION DISTRIBUTION LAG)**
**SHORT RUN**

Dependent Variable: DYR
Method: ARDL
Date: 02/03/25 Time: 23:58
Sample (adjusted): 3 100
Included observations: 98 after adjustments
Maximum dependent lags: 2 (Automatic selection)
Model selection method: Akaike info criterion (AIC)
Dynamic regressors (2 lags, automatic): ETR ROA BIND FSIZE

Fixed regressors: C
Number of models evalulated: 162
Selected Model: ARDL(2, 0, 0, 1, 1)

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DYR(-1) | 0.971129 | 0.080989 | 11.99094 | 0.0000 |
| DYR(-2) | -0.095745 | 0.068424 | -1.399292 | 0.1652 |
| ETR | -0.163443 | 0.707736 | -0.230938 | 0.8179 |
| ROA | 3.971470 | 2.238771 | 1.773951 | 0.0795 |
| BIND | -12.04799 | 1.635791 | -7.365239 | 0.0000 |
| BIND(-1) | 9.982133 | 1.775891 | 5.620917 | 0.0000 |
| FSIZE | 2.011758 | 0.260826 | 7.713038 | 0.0000 |
| FSIZE(-1) | -1.685629 | 0.287018 | -5.872901 | 0.0000 |
| C | -0.518295 | 1.116938 | -0.464032 | 0.6438 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| R-squared | 0.905266 | Mean dependent var | 9.193878 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.896751 | S.D. dependent var | 2.916919 |
| S.E. of regression | 0.937276 | Akaike info criterion | 2.795663 |
| Sum squared resid | 78.18520 | Schwarz criterion | 3.033058 |
| Log likelihood | -127.9875 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | 2.891685 |
| F-statistic | 106.3095 | Durbin-Watson stat | 2.047353 |
| Prob(F-statistic) | 0.000000 | | |

*Note: p-values and any subsequent tests do not account for model selection.

**LONG RUN**

ARDL Cointegrating And Long Run Form
Dependent Variable: DYR
Selected Model: ARDL(2, 0, 0, 1, 1)
Date: 02/04/25 Time: 00:00
Sample: 1 100
Included observations: 98

Cointegrating Form

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| D(DYR(-1)) | 0.095745 | 0.068424 | 1.399292 | 0.1652 |
| D(ETR) | -0.163443 | 0.707736 | -0.230938 | 0.8179 |
| D(ROA) | 3.971470 | 2.238771 | 1.773951 | 0.0795 |
| D(BIND) | -12.047993 | 1.635791 | -7.365239 | 0.0000 |
| D(FSIZE) | 2.011758 | 0.260826 | 7.713038 | 0.0000 |
| CointEq(-1) | -0.124616 | 0.050343 | -2.475330 | 0.0152 |

Cointeq = DYR - (-1.3116*ETR + 31.8696*ROA -16.5778*BIND + 2.6171 *FSIZE -4.1591 )

Long Run Coefficients

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ETR | -1.311574 | 5.696034 | -0.230261 | 0.8184 |
| ROA | 31.869582 | 17.745007 | 1.795975 | 0.0759 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BIND | -16.577769 | 8.011106 | -2.069348 | 0.0414 |
| FSIZE | 2.617064 | 1.139641 | 2.296394 | 0.0240 |
| C | -4.159125 | 9.455990 | -0.439840 | 0.6611 |

**BOUND TEST**

ARDL Bounds Test
Date: 02/04/25 Time: 00:01
Sample: 3 100
Included observations: 98
Null Hypothesis: No long-run relationships exist

| Test Statistic | Value | k |
|---|---|---|
| F-statistic | 1.003975 | 4 |

Critical Value Bounds

| Significance | I0 Bound | I1 Bound |
|---|---|---|
| 10% | 2.45 | 3.52 |
| 5% | 2.86 | 4.01 |
| 2.5% | 3.25 | 4.49 |
| 1% | 3.74 | 5.06 |

Test Equation:
Dependent Variable: D(DYR)
Method: Least Squares
Date: 02/04/25 Time: 00:01
Sample: 3 100
Included observations: 98

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| D(DYR(-1)) | 0.098120 | 0.069688 | 1.407977 | 0.1626 |
| D(BIND) | -12.19253 | 1.659666 | -7.346372 | 0.0000 |
| D(FSIZE) | 2.044244 | 0.267406 | 7.644711 | 0.0000 |
| C | -0.052081 | 1.142831 | -0.045572 | 0.9638 |
| ETR(-1) | 0.264735 | 0.717074 | 0.369188 | 0.7129 |
| ROA(-1) | 1.108340 | 2.315201 | 0.478723 | 0.6333 |
| BIND(-1) | -2.011924 | 1.253032 | -1.605644 | 0.1119 |
| FSIZE(-1) | 0.233870 | 0.151280 | 1.545936 | 0.1257 |
| DYR(-1) | -0.099711 | 0.051123 | -1.950432 | 0.0543 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| R-squared | 0.615983 | Mean dependent var | -0.020408 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.581465 | S.D. dependent var | 1.471233 |
| S.E. of regression | 0.951804 | Akaike info criterion | 2.826427 |
| Sum squared resid | 80.62784 | Schwarz criterion | 3.063822 |
| Log likelihood | -129.4949 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | 2.922448 |
| F-statistic | 17.84509 | Durbin-Watson stat | 1.993142 |
| Prob(F-statistic) | 0.000000 | | |

**HETEROSCADASCITY**

| Heteroskedasticity Test: Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| F-statistic | 3.960758 | Prob. F(8,89) | 0.0005 |
| Obs*R-squared | 25.72985 | Prob. Chi-Square(8) | 0.0012 |
| Scaled explained SS | 125.2920 | Prob. Chi-Square(8) | 0.0000 |

Test Equation:
Dependent Variable: RESID^2
Method: Least Squares
Date: 02/04/25 Time: 00:03
Sample: 3 100
Included observations: 98

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | 0.032865 | 2.944007 | 0.011163 | 0.9911 |
| DYR(-1) | -0.166840 | 0.213468 | -0.781566 | 0.4365 |
| DYR(-2) | 0.217928 | 0.180352 | 1.208350 | 0.2301 |
| ETR | -1.624875 | 1.865440 | -0.871041 | 0.3861 |
| ROA | -0.978352 | 5.900917 | -0.165797 | 0.8687 |
| BIND | -22.11341 | 4.311593 | -5.128827 | 0.0000 |
| BIND(-1) | 19.73945 | 4.680865 | 4.217052 | 0.0001 |
| FSIZE | -0.457926 | 0.687480 | -0.666093 | 0.5071 |
| FSIZE(-1) | 0.680518 | 0.756518 | 0.899540 | 0.3708 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| R-squared | 0.262549 | Mean dependent var | 0.797808 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.196262 | S.D. dependent var | 2.755623 |
| S.E. of regression | 2.470456 | Akaike info criterion | 4.734025 |
| Sum squared resid | 543.1807 | Schwarz criterion | 4.971420 |
| Log likelihood | -222.9672 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | 4.830047 |
| F-statistic | 3.960758 | Durbin-Watson stat | 2.000887 |
| Prob(F-statistic) | 0.000477 | | |

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