
STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE QUALITY OF ACCOUNTING INFORMATION IN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND THE QUALITY OF AUDITING: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES LISTED ON THE IRAQ STOCK EXCHANGE

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Abstract

Financial reports produced or issued by all joint stock companies are among the most important means by which to measure the outcome of those companies' ongoing activity and know their financial position within a certain period of time. The concept of accounting information has been addressed in terms of its definition, characteristics and importance in improving users' decisions. The concept of quality has been addressed in the audit process by its importance and objectives, with an indication of the role of the internal auditor and auditor who belongs to the Audit and Audit Profession Board and who is the external auditor of these companies.

The researcher used the analytical description using an identification for the purpose of achieving the research objective consisting of (10) Paragraphs for the collection and analysis of preliminary information on the research sample using the statistical programme (SPSS) was distributed to a group of financial managers, internal auditors and management, as well as auditors and external audit offices, in order to achieve research objectives and thereby arrive at conclusions and research recommendations drawn from theoretical and practical aspects.

Keywords: accounting information, quality, financial reports, comptroller, internal auditor, joint stock companies, occupation board.

Introduction

The accounting information system is an integral part of the public system of participating companies to help them make the right decisions at all levels of that system, and measurement and fair accounting disclosures are always the primary means of quality of financial statements.

It is important to examine the relationship between oversight elements of scrutiny and the quality of information of reliability, honest representation, consistency, comparability and

evaluation of its effectiveness in shareholding companies In order to activate this, an internal audit device must be designed to reassure management that internal control methods are applied by employees of these companies, Internal control has been defined by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) are plans, activities and operations designed and implemented by those concerned in accordance with regulations and instructions governing the supervisory process whose implementation is to be carried out for the purpose of ensuring the achievement of the Unit's objectives as previously planned (Wahab, 2011:73).

While users and investors, both external and internal, need high quality accounting information that enables them to make their investment decisions in a timely manner that is of great benefit to them.

As a result of the increased use of available accounting information, the United States Accounting Standards Board (IASB) 1980 Issuance of Concept List No. (2) entitled (Accounting Information Quality Standards) which aims to increase the usefulness and effectiveness of the financial lists published by various global economic institutions as well as the beneficiaries' audience, and thus the policies have demonstrated that the information system and its accounting information have good quality characteristics that enable management to rely on the outputs of the system and are therefore useful inputs to the management decision-making process (Suleiman, 2010:12).

High-quality accounting information provides investor protection and maintains the continuity and development of financial markets and the role played by quality in the characteristics of information available in reports and financial statements to serve and develop investment in securities and contribute to economic efficiency, economic development and equitable distribution of accessible economic resources (Abdul Fattah, 2013:9).

This information is always the basis for any decision-making process, whether it be administrative, regulatory or forecasting decisions, relying on qualitative and high-quality qualities governed by translated bases and rules into figures formulated as financial statements to serve their intended purpose and enable shareholders to continue their work (Balaid, 2014:42).

Based on the foregoing, this study complements previous studies, highlighting the extent to which shareholders can use useful and high-quality accounting information features on their financial lists and the extent to which they are interconnected with the quality of internal control elements. In order to achieve the study's objective, it has been divided into four themes:

The first Research: Research Methodology and Previous Studies.

The second Research: The theoretical framework of the research.

The third Research: the practical framework of the research.

The Fourth Research: Conclusions and Recommendations.

First: research methodology and previous studies

Research Methodology

First: the problem of research.

The importance of the information accounting system is reflected in its useful and high-quality information in the form of lists or financial statements, statistical tables and other reports, such as explanations and observations detailing the items contained therein. and through research and study on some shareholding companies operating in the Iraqi securities market, they show that they pay little attention to the quality of the qualitative characteristics of accounting information, Consequently, this affects the users of these lists as a result of the inexperience of those companies' workers and their failure to keep pace with developments in information technology. Thus, the main research question assumed is the following (what are the criteria by which the quality requirements of key and secondary information qualitative characteristics in the financial lists by shareholders can be improved).

Second: Research objectives.

Studying the relationship between the characteristics of information and its impact on the quality of the audit process in the financial statements and the continuity of the work of joint-stock companies and their share prices in the Iraqi market and their impact on the efficiency of the market, and the requirements that must be taken into account in this information according to international standards, including International Accounting Standard No. (1) Presentation of Financial Statements to meet the needs of the management of joint-stock companies in planning, organizing and controlling performance.

Third: the importance of research.

The quality of accounting information is an important topic in modern accounting science in the light of the evolution in the issuance of international accounting standards that meet the needs of all economic companies, including IAS 1. Accounting information is a fundamental and important basis for decision makers, especially the management of the company, which always depends on the accounting disclosure principle, the transparency of the financial statements and the company's ability to compare these lists with previous years' lists.

Fourth: Research hypothesis.

This research is based on a main hypothesis, which is (there is a positive relationship between the quality of accounting information and disclosure and the quality of auditing of financial statements in influencing administrative and financial decision-makers).

Fifth: Research method.

To achieve the objectives and hypothesis of the research, the scientific curriculum was adopted as a method of research. In the first phase of the research, the theoretical information obtained from books, previous research and periodicals of master's theses and theses of a university doctoral in the field of qualitative characteristics of accounting information will be relied upon. Either in the second phase, the spatial and temporal determination came in a

selected sample of shareholders listed in the Iraq Stock Exchange, either the time limitation is periods fixed between (2023-2021), A questionnaire form (attached to the research) was designed and distributed to operators, third parties clients, chartered accountants, auditors and audit offices of companies. The results of the research hypothesis were drawn through which the full perception of the relationship between the quality of accounting information and accounting disclosures and the quality of the audit of the financial statements published by those companies and their impact on users.

Previous Studies:

First: the Suleiman Study (2010), "The Role of Accounting Information in Decision-Making under Uncertainty Conditions", aimed to demonstrate the impact of the use of accounting information by management decision-making by the company's management. The study relied on the descriptive curriculum through journals, books and periodicals and therefore on the scientific curriculum. One of the most important findings of the study is the ability of decision-making methods to improve the quality of the Department's decision-making. The most important recommendations are not to rely on traditional decision-making methods but on modern scientific methods that maximize profits.

Second: The Najm study (2014), "The extent to which investors are aware of the importance of using accounting information to rationalize their investment decisions", aimed at identifying the extent to which investors influence the use of accounting information to improve their investment decisions. One of the study's most important findings is that the accounting information contained in the financial reports is sufficient to assist investors in making their correct decisions. The most important recommendations of the study are to urge companies to publish periodic or biannual reports that contribute to the process of rationalizing investors' decisions as well as fair disclosure of that information in financial reports and to comply with these instructions.

Third: Al-Shalabi Study (2017) "The Importance of Applying the IPFR Standard in Improving the Quality of Accounting Information". The objective of this study is to present the progress financial reports, their concept and objectives, their suitability for investment decision-making and the extent to which they benefit from increased reliability and comparability.

Its main findings are the application of the International Accounting Standard (IAS34) by companies operating in the Damascus Securities Market to improve the quality of information to enable users to see the real economic and financial situation of those companies. The most important recommendations are to oblige companies to apply the International Accounting Standard (IAS34) and to work towards issuing progress financial reports on a quarterly or biannual basis that provide useful information of high quality that meets the needs of all users of these companies' financial reports.

Second Research: Theoretical framework for research.

First: Accounting information (concept, relevance, quality, characteristics).

Concept of accounting information:

Accounting information reflects the final output of the accounting system by enabling beneficiaries to make the right management decisions of high quality, and with less risk enabling shareholders to achieve their goals and increase earnings per share that lead to the entry of other investors and improve the company's financial position. These companies become a competitive advantage in the financial market (Moses, 2011:51).

Therefore, information is considered one of the basic elements of any information system for various economic institutions. Therefore, through it, useful, beneficial and high-quality information can be provided that enables all its users to reach sound administrative or investment decisions for internal or external parties. This information always enables management to express an opinion, plan, organize or predict future operations. This information is represented in different forms and images in the form of lists, statements, quantitative tables, etc., and secondary statements are attached to it, such as clarifications, notes or reservations in those lists (Juma and others, 2007: 8).

(Qadi, Hamadan) believes that the concept of preliminary data and information is shortened by the accounting system's accounting and compilation of data as raw material, which reflects the financial operations that occurred in the economic unit during this year. and thus processing and converting such data into more useful and reliable information for the beneficiaries of such information, whether quantitative or non-quantitative, and reporting it in lists or financial reports, which represent final outputs reflecting the results of those economic institutions' work (Qadi & Hamadan, 2010:130).

Others express the concept of financial data and information as key components of any accounting system and that any information is originally preliminary data processed through the phases or steps of the accounting system by compiling, compiling, compiling and summarizing the data and then analyzing it into financial or non-financial information and showing it on the picture of key statements or lists stored to become valuable and meaningful for its users to make useful administrative or investment decisions (Hamza, 2007:147).

The importance of accounting information:

Data and information are currently one of the items of any indispensable production process in any economic or financial institution. and to seek the best means of preparing, presenting and using such information in accordance with the concept of cost-benefit, Thus, the accounting system is one of the most important systems that issues such information with high quality and most useful for making administrative, financial and economic decisions and corporate governance always needs sufficient information to be used in its various regular activities in a timely manner (Shabir, 2006:58).

Accounting information has many important roles, especially in the stock market, because of the need for securities prices and company share prices, which reflect the relationship between return on investment and risk It also helps all shareholders to form portfolios of invested securities and get the most investment return for a little risk and uncertainty, This

information helps to increase the number of clients, the volume of transactions in financial markets and the increase in economic development (Najm, 2006:30).

Information is a language and means of communication between the parties preparing such information and the parties receiving it. This information is the main basis for the management of economic companies, including financial institutions, because information is an integral part of the Department's work and an essential resource on which it relies to assist them in administrative or financial decision-making. Accounting information is always characterized by credibility, reliability, quality, and freedom from distortion and misleading. It is prepared according to the requirements of international standards and local professional rules in order to contribute to knowing the previous and current financial status of joint-stock companies. It is presented in a transparent manner that is easy to understand in the form of reports, final financial statements, or statistical tables, with a statement of all changes that occurred in its regular activity and its financial position during the current year (Hind, 2019: 52).

AL Waked, considers that the underlying purpose of the financial statements and the adequate and highly useful information contained therein on the real financial situation of the Company is only to contribute to the supply of ownership owners and shareholders in making their decisions and to determine the optimal use of available resources in order to achieve and evaluate a greater return and reduce the risk of that return. and low quality of information will result in a reduction in investment efficiency as well as return on investment (Al Waked, 2011:105).

Quality of accounting information:

The concept of quality is defined as a series of means, procedures and rules that have the ability to achieve a competitive advantage in the quality of products or to provide services to others to achieve a high level of economic efficiency and productive effectiveness both in the product industry and in its design which is offered to customers (Al Nawas, 2016:17). Quality has also been defined as the credibility and reliability of the production of accounting information in the body of the published financial statements clearly and simply and its ability to predict the future and its suitability for achieving the goals, provided that it is free from irregularities, errors and fraud and gives that information a true picture of the financial position and the results of those economic institutions (Musa, 2017:47). The quality of financial data and information reflects the ability and accuracy of that information, which is presented in the financial reports, of any difference or change in the decisions of the beneficiaries, in particular the cash flows expected to be obtained to the participating companies. In order to ensure that reliable and appropriate financial and accounting information is provided, it is required that it be prepared in accordance with international standards clearly and transparently and without prejudice or manipulation by the management of those companies (Nasr & Al-Sayrafi 2015:9).

Others see many factors affecting the quality of financial reports and accounting information, the most important being the length and size of companies' operations, which lead to a decrease in the quality of financial disclosures The other factor is fluctuations in sales

volume, which leads to an increase in uncertainty, error and personal estimation by management, as well as fluctuations in the volume of revenue, profits and cash flows, All these factors lead to a decrease in the quality of data and information (Abdelfattah, 2013:68).

Characteristics of accounting information

The accounting information is the basic product of the accounting system, as the initial statements compiled and subsequently produced and exported in the form of financial statements demonstrate the importance of the numbers and elements contained in those lists as the financial publication of all financial operations during a given financial period. (Kieso, Weygandt & Warfield, 2007,P. 36). As indicated (Hanan, 2005: p. 71) Through information in financial disclosures the profitability of companies to develop investment in them increases, the Accounting Professional Boards have developed description characteristics of accounting information called qualitative characteristics of accounting information in List No. 2. (FASB) 1980. The notions of qualitative characteristics of accounting information are those that must be characterized by useful accounting information, so that they are of great benefit to both those responsible for the development of appropriate international standards and the company's management of the number of financial reports, in assessing the quality of information that results from the application of alternative accounting methods and methods (Alsabbagh, 2008: p.32).

The FASB indicated that the characteristics of relevance and credibility are the two main characteristics that make information useful for making administrative decisions. It was explained in List (2) that the characteristics that define the best information (most useful) and the lowest information (least useful) are the characteristics of relevance and reliability in addition to some other secondary characteristics (Kiso and Jerry, 2005: 69). Below are the most important characteristics that information contains:

First: the main (basic) characteristics.

Relevance is considered one of the main characteristics of all information, whether financial or accounting, as it is always related to the usefulness and quality of that information, reducing the state of uncertainty among the user audience, the extent of benefit from it, determining the best alternative for the decision-maker from several available alternatives, the arrival of this information at an appropriate time, and the possibility of achieving predictive ability in decision-making (Al-Dahrawy, 2011: 37).

The second main characteristic is credibility or trust, in order to create a sense of reassurance among decision-makers, and to be of great benefit because it is free of fundamental errors and is neutral and honest in expressing all the actual economic operations that took place in the company or economic institution when presenting and reporting on them in the published financial statements (Al-Buhaisi, 2012: 46).

Second: Secondary properties of information.

The comparability of information increases its usefulness for having the ability to compare current financial lists with those of other companies operating in the same economic sector,

as well as comparing with the same company lists for previous years in order to identify differences and variables in the company's performance for the current period and in its financial position, The understanding feature means that when this information is presented, it is easy to understand, free from complexity and use clear terms because it assumes that the recipient or user has an acceptable and reasonable level of economic and financial activities. Consistency means using the same accounting policies, procedures and principles from one fiscal year to another without any change in these policies to assist management and users in the process of comparing current corporate lists with previous years' lists (Saidi, 2022:45).

Second: Quality of audit. (Concept, relevance, parameters and determinants, objectives).

In the realm of business and finance, making any sound decision requires accurate and reliable information, as a result of the large size of economic projects and the different aspects of their activities and operations. The management of the project is unable to avoid errors resulting from misuse, as most of these accounting and financial information relates to the occurrence of the past, Thus, there was a need to find a tool to assist management in this area and to make it more useful and effective in using the available resources relied upon in the project activity as well as information that accurately reflects the financial situation and the results of implementation. This tool is the accounting audit process and more attention to the internal control system. Through the follow-up of these control systems due to their effective role in the project before any administrative decision is taken.

The auditor's opinion on these financial lists gives greater confidence to the users of these lists. Therefore, the need arose for the entrepreneurs to ascertain the computational accuracy of the records and match this to the realities of the project, especially after the development in accounting science following the double-entry system and the spread of its application, which helped to develop the science of accounting and auditing, and the need for scrutiny increased after the expansion of the size of the companies and the emergence of the money companies and the separation between the ownership and management of the enterprise, which called on shareholders to appoint auditors as agents of their own to oversee the administration's business, Thus, the audit function is important in the organization derives its origin from the organizations' need to verify the authenticity of the accounting data on which it relies in making decisions and to ensure that those data match the actual reality (Abu Nassar, 2019:12).

Audit quality concept

Audit is defined as a structured process of gathering evidence or evidence by examining internal control systems, data, records and final financial statements of the outcome of the project's work and financial position at the end of a specified period to determine compatibility and conformity with established standards and to communicate the results of the audit to the parties concerned. An audit is a process of investigation and research aimed at evaluating the accounting, administrative and other procedures within the enterprise in order to provide assurances to users of the project owners, partners, shareholders, banks and

others about the validity and credibility of the information placed at their disposal that represents the enterprise's reality. The audit process therefore includes examination, investigation and report: (Reqrailiya, 2018:23).

Examination: is to ensure the correctness, integrity and accuracy of the financial transactions that have been recorded, analysed, classified and recorded in the books and records related to the specific financial transactions of the project, i.e. its regular or natural activity.

Investigation: It is intended that the validity of the final financial statements can be judged as a valid expression of the project's operation for a given financial period and as an indication of its financial position at the end of that period.

Report: It is a technical opinion neutral by the Comptroller of Financial Statements by means of a report showing the results of the inspection and investigation in that report and submitted to the Project Management Board. It is the conclusion of the audit process where the auditor reflects his impartial technical opinion in the financial statements as a whole in terms of its portrayal of the financial position of the enterprise and the results of its work during the current period. (Abbas, 2014:23).

The word audit means listening. This means that the auditor was writing his report in the light of what he listens to from parties related to the institution. Therefore, the audit process is intended to detect error, cheat and hold those responsible accountable (Houaré, 2016:80). Audit quality is defined as the possibility that financial and accounting data and information may not contain material errors or misrepresentations when published and presented to the beneficiaries. The concept of quality auditing is a process of effective performance and evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of auditing in accordance with the requirements of international auditing standards and local professional rules and evidence and in accordance with the rules of professional conduct issued by the trade unions of accountants and auditors, Ensuring that fraud, errors, forgery and all irregularities are disclosed to the public of users and beneficiaries of the auditor's report, in order to achieve the expected objectives of the audit process and the impartial professional auditor's opinion on the credibility and fairness of the financial statements and their expression of the results of the business and the financial position of those companies, The American Institute of Chartered Accountants (AICPA) has also identified the quality of auditing as adhering to international auditing standards by economic and financial institutions and external auditors' offices and applying all the guidance contained in these standards to improve the reality of the auditor's work and the considerations of the audit profession and to detect errors and irregularities if found in financial reports (Yazi and others, 2020:45).

The importance of quality auditing.

Increased attention in the past years on the importance of the quality of comprehensive audit and how to manage the risks of published data and the emergence of the term corporate

governance and creative accounting. Increased attention to audits and planning and the preparation of programmes by audit offices, certified auditors and the added value it provides to each of the audited industrial companies or financial companies, senior management and all beneficiaries of auditors' reports, The subject of inspection and verification of the audit results, the disclosure of the RA and the extent to which the author adheres to accepted accounting principles are no longer generally accepted (GAAP) When presenting financial statements, the need has arisen to ascertain and implement audit quality programs by auditors' offices to achieve the objectives of the profession and to upgrade them to the highest levels, applying, implementing and constantly developing them to protect the rights of shareholders, investors, property owners and the beneficiaries of the audit results (Soliman, 2015:22).

We find that the scope of the audit quality process has expanded with the recognition of the senior management of economic institutions. This has made these institutions design an effective and efficient auditing system to enhance the confidence of shareholders and owners in providing high assurance that the administration monitors the programs, laws and daily activities through the audit system, which assures the administration that the methods of control are applied by all working individuals. (Abdul Samad, 2018:54).

In addition to the importance of the quality of internal audit, which serves senior management and employees in institutions We find that the quality of external auditing is of greater importance to professional auditors by achieving effective external oversight of the scientific and professional expertise they possess in the course of their work as a result of the application of the requirements of international auditing standards, auditing rules and manuals and rules of professional conduct issued by local professional councils, All this helps auditors not to make mistakes and avoid any professional or legal penalties that may occur during the audit process and thus the beneficiaries' confidence in the audit profession and in the auditors enables them to make the best decisions in the light of the data and information contained in the external auditor's report (Issam, 2015:45).

Audit quality metrics and determinants.

The most important elements of the standards and determinants of audit quality are the academic qualification, professional experience and continuous practice of auditors and certified public accountants, the relationship between which is always positive, especially advanced skills in accounting, financial and administrative auditing, in addition to the size of the auditor's office and the number of assistants, which affects the quality of the auditor's work in terms of efficiency, auditor independence and ability to provide sound audit procedures that positively affect the confidence of the client and external parties, and the size of the office always enjoys a competitive advantage in terms of its possession of human resources trained to detect errors, fraud and manipulation of accounting data, and it is also interested in spending costs on training and developing the skills of its employees and improving their skills (Al-Shaheen, 2015: 43). The use of the auditor's office size measure requires consideration of the cost-benefit determinant, which is an accepted accounting determinant of the profession. This determinant is the most appropriate to measure the quality of the audit process as well as the reputation and professional experience of the office and

the time period maintained by the client audit office and the specialization of the office in the economic activity of the client (Al-Zahiri, 2014:63). The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) stated that the factors affecting audit quality are achieved through the commitment of economic institutions and audit offices to international auditing standards and their requirements by those institutions and offices. Al-Atawneh believes that the most important and most widely used measures of audit quality in the literature and previous studies are measures based on outputs that are frequently used and help determine the quality of all quality measures, including fundamental (material) errors and the auditor's report, which includes his neutral technical opinion on the fairness of the financial statements and the characteristics related to the quality of profits and the extent of their impact on the financial markets (Al-Atawneh, 2016: 15).

Attention has increased to factors affecting the quality of auditing and oversight in order to elevate the accounting and auditing profession to the highest levels because of its direct impact on the beneficiary's audience. The American Institute of Chartered Accountants has issued a list of audit concepts No. 65 concerning factors influencing quality in the control process, which includes eligibility: which determine the scientific level, professional certificates, and objectivity: measured through the party to which the auditor's report is submitted, the disclosure in the financial statements as well as the entity responsible for appointing the auditors (Al-Qadi,2008:103).

Audit quality objectives.

There are many objectives that can be achieved in the quality of auditing work, including the commitment of auditors and inspectors to provide guidance and instructions to their assistants and employees regarding the necessity of adhering to the main principles adopted by the auditor's office and its affiliated departments, which pertain to the procedures and methods in the auditing process, from the beginning of planning the process to writing the report and how to obtain evidence and proofs that support the auditor's opinion, in addition to written confirmations, examination according to inspection, and conducting calculations to provide complete conviction about the extent of companies' commitment and application of international standards and local rules and regulations (Ahmed, 2014: 19).

Others believe that the planning of the audit process and the identification of means, procedures and methods and the development of plans for the implementation of the audit process lead to an increase in the quality of the control and audit process, as well as a specialized group of assistants to the auditor to carry out the work entrusted to them and their technical and professional expertise and competence and their adherence to the requirements of international standards, especially international auditing standard No. (220) and the application of control procedures and their impact on audit performance more well (Tamimi, 2013:12).

Eid considers that one of the objectives of quality in auditing works is the use and application of international and local professional standards, which are among the most important basic and indicative rules governing the performance in question and the technical of each practitioner of the accounting and auditing profession, which leads to increased reliability in

his final report, which expresses his neutral opinion in financial disclosures. in addition to confirming the possibility of detecting errors, manipulating figures or using unsustainable accounting policies from one financial period to another and the extent to which such accounting policies are disclosed in the statements annexed to those lists, Thus, the uncertainty between the client's interests and the management of the second party is reduced (The owner of the company) and third-party shareholders and investors, showing the financial statements submitted by senior management are more useful (The shehta, 2015:76).

**Third Research: The Practical Framework of the Research.
study population.**

The researcher used the analytical curriculum of information contained in the financial reports of some Iraqi joint stock companies and commercial banks representing the study community to draw results through statistical methods such as percentages, computational medium, standard deviation and statistical package programme (SPSS). The questionnaire form consisting of (10) questions and related to the most important factors influencing the quality of the audit process of corporate lists and commercial banks. The questionnaire was distributed to a group of financial managers and internal auditors as well as external auditors belonging to the Board of Auditors and Auditors. (18) Form on Category I and (20) Form on Category II, all of which have been received any form that has not been neglected. The form was designed according to Likert's penta-scale based on the T-test.

Table (1) Sample and Response Grade

details	number of forms	percentage
The form distributed to the sample	38	100%
neglected form	0	0%
Form subject to analysis	38	100%

Table (2) Likert Scale

classification	5	4	3	2	1
degree of acceptance	very high	high	medium	few	very few

The results of the main search hypothesis are as follows (there is a positive correlation between the quality of accounting information and disclosures and the quality of checking financial statements in influencing administrative and financial decision makers).

Table (3) Analysis of sample individuals' opinions and descriptive statistics according to the SPSS program

Seq	Statement	mean	standard deviation	Level	ranking	Ratio	Variation coefficient
1	Need for internal control system in the organizational structure of shareholders	3.71	0.51	Very high	10	74%	13.74
2	Financial statements should be subject to internal audit to identify unusual cases	3.90	0.54	high	7	78%	13.84

3	Adequacy of accounting information in annual or quarterly financial statements improves users' decisions	3.79	0.60	high	9	76%	15.83
4	Internal control efficiency helps external auditor implement the audit process with high quality	4.34	0.73	high	2	86%	16.82
5	Comparing financial lists with prior periods' financial lists helps in the audit quality process	4.12	0.61	high	5	82%	14.80
6	External auditors provide audit services to clients and answer their queries	3.98	0.45	Very high	6	80%	11.35
7	Good audit planning helps improve audit quality and reduces control and detection risks	4.18	0.64	high	4	83%	15.31
8	The management of joint stock companies is keen to periodically evaluate the performance of all employees in the audit department.	4.52	0.42	Very high	1	90%	9.29
9	External scrutiny contributes to the detection of fundamental manipulation and embezzlement in the search sample companies' lists	3.86	0.52	Very high	8	77%	13.47
10	External auditor assists in verifying adequacy of accounting disclosure in published financial statements	4.25	0.44	Very high	3	85%	13.48
Total		4.06	5.46			81%	13.48

Source: From the researcher's preparation based on computer outputs.

We note from the table above that paragraph (8) came with the highest arithmetic mean and standard deviation of (0.42) and a coefficient of variation of (9.29) and a percentage of support of (90%), which indicates that the degree of agreement is very high and the percentage of support was obtained by dividing the arithmetic mean by the value of the variable and it equals five.

Table (4) Main hypothesis test result for research

Seq	Statement	mean	Tabular Value	calculated value	result
1	Need for internal control system in the organizational structure of shareholders	3.71	1.341	13.51	accepted
2	Financial statements should be subject to internal audit to identify unusual cases	3.90	1.341	14.54	accepted
3	Adequacy of accounting information in annual or quarterly financial statements improves users' decisions	3.79	1.341	14.60	accepted
4	Internal control efficiency helps external auditor implement the audit process with high quality	4.34	1.341	13.73	accepted
5	Comparing financial lists with prior periods' financial lists helps in the audit quality process	4.12	1.341	12.61	accepted
6	External auditors provide audit services to clients and answer their queries	3.98	1.341	15.45	accepted
7	Good audit planning helps improve audit quality and reduces control and detection risks	4.18	1.341	14.64	accepted
8	The management of joint stock companies is keen to periodically evaluate the performance of all employees in the audit department.	4.52	1.341	13.42	accepted
9	External scrutiny contributes to the detection of fundamental manipulation and embezzlement in the search sample companies' lists	3.86	1.341	14.52	accepted
10	External auditor assists in verifying adequacy of accounting disclosure in published financial statements	4.25	1.341	13.44	accepted
Total		4.06	1.341	14.046	accepted

Source: From the researcher's preparation based on computer outputs.

By testing the main research hypothesis by T-test and statistical program (SPSS) To see and measure the calculative average and standard deviation, the researcher sees a positive correlation between the efficiency of the published financial statements and the degree of disclosure and the quality of the audit process as the calculated value (14.046) greater than the tabular value (1.341) under (T, SiG) (0.000) and since the general rule of acceptance of the research hypothesis (If the calculated value is greater than the tabular value accepts the main research hypothesis).

HO Hypothesis result	T SiG	T Tabular	T Calculated
acceptance	0.000	1.341	14.046

Source: From the researcher's preparation based on computer outputs.

Fourth Research: Conclusions and recommendations:

Conclusions

Through the theoretical and practical framework of the research and the various elements included in it, the following was reached:

- 1- A statistically significant relationship exists between the quality of accounting information in financial statements and the quality of external audit in Iraqi joint stock companies.

- 2- Most Iraqi joint-stock companies have their financial statements audited by auditing offices and accountants with a good reputation in the labor market, with care taken to apply the necessary professional care in planning and implementing the examination and auditing process and issuing the appropriate opinion.
- 3- The existence of a positive impact of external audit offices in improving the internal control system and providing other necessary services to internal audit workers through the auditor's opinion on the credibility and fairness of the published financial statements.
- 4- The high level of internal control environment in joint-stock companies operating in the Iraqi market and their keenness to design an organizational structure that clearly distributes powers and responsibilities among employees.
- 5- Positive attention by the management of companies contributing to the necessary protection on all the company's assets, programs, files and documents to ensure effective and efficient internal control.
- 6- Audit offices and comptrollers assist in the quality of rational decision-making by the management of those shareholders and thus lead to a more robust competitive advantage in the labor market.
- 7- Quality auditing, control and document examination is a key and important factor for judging the quality of accounting information, especially if such information is objective, honest, adequate disclosure, appropriate and reliable.

Recommendations

As a result of this research's findings in the theoretical and applied aspects, the researcher recommends that:

- 1- The need for external auditors to measure the level of internal control methods and procedures and assess internal audit stress performance to help reduce control and implied risks.
- 2- Auditors must analyses and follow up on all data provided by annual and quarterly financial reports and measure the adequacy and reliability of the means of protection on the assets and liabilities of the participating companies.
- 3- The need to pay attention to the internal control system, whether accounting or financial control, to the oversight reports produced by management, to compare them with previous periodic reports, and to work on performance appraisal.
- 4- Developing the accounting system in line with recent developments in the business environment and keeping pace with the training of employees in audit and accounting departments to develop their professional competence.
- 5- Further studies on the qualitative characteristics of accounting information in shareholders' financial lists so that such information is of high quality of credibility, objectivity and confidence among users.
- 6- The need to ensure the granting of powers and the distribution of responsibilities and to play a greater role in exercising control over the employees of accounts and financial management, thereby contributing to increasing the degree of competitive advantage in the labor market.

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