
STOCK PRICE REACTIONS TO CAPITAL STRUCTURE CHANGES IN CHILEAN FIRMS: EXAMINING THE EFFECTS OF OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE, GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES AND LEVERAGE

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Research Article

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Reacción del precio de las acciones a los cambios de estructura de capital en empresas chilenas: Examinando los efectos de la estructura de propiedad, oportunidades de crecimiento y leverage*

Jorge A. Muñoz Mendoza^a, Sandra M. Sepúlveda Yelpo^b, Carmen L. Veloso Ramos^c

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a. Profesor Asistente, departamento de Gestión Empresarial, Universidad de Concepción, Chile. Grupo de Investigación en Economía y Negocios (GEN) Universidad de Concepción.
E-Mail: jormunozm@udec.cl
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6775-5307>.

b. Profesor Asistente, departamento de Gestión Empresarial, Universidad de Concepción, Chile. Grupo de Investigación en Economía y Negocios (GEN) Universidad de Concepción.
E-Mail: ssepulveday@udec.cl
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2614-7356>.

c. Profesor, departamento de Gestión Empresarial, Universidad de Concepción, Chile. Grupo de Investigación en Economía y Negocios (GEN) Universidad de Concepción.
E-Mail: carmenveloso@udec.cl
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9390-9974>.

Abstract

We analyzed the effects of ownership structure, capital structure and growth opportunities on stock price reactions when companies issued debt or equity. Our results, based on event study methodology and IV regressions from a sample of 70 Chilean firms, indicate that controlling shareholder ownership has a negative effect on stock price reactions for debt issuances and a positive effect for equity issuance. These results indicate that debt issuances are a substitute for majority shareholder monitoring, and that equity issuances are associated with superior corporate performance. Equity issuances are a means for expropriating wealth from non-controlling shareholders. Debt and growth opportunities have a non-linear effect.

Resumen

En este artículo analizamos los efectos de la estructura de propiedad, estructura de capital y las oportunidades de crecimiento sobre la reacción del precio de las acciones cuando las empresas emiten deuda o capital. Nuestros resultados, basados en la metodología de análisis de eventos y regresiones IV sobre una muestra de 70 empresas chilenas, indican que la propiedad de los accionistas controladores tiene un efecto negativo en la reacción del precio de las acciones cuando las empresas emiten deuda y positivo cuando emiten acciones. Este

* Economics and Business Research Group of the Universidad de Concepción.

resultado indica que las emisiones de deuda son un sustituto del control mayoritario de los accionistas y las emisiones de capital se asocian con un mayor desempeño corporativo. Las emisiones de capital son un medio para expropiar riqueza de los accionistas no controladores. Las oportunidades de deuda y crecimiento tienen un efecto no lineal.

1. Introduction

Capital structure decisions have been widely researched in recent decades. Many researchers have focused their attention on the relationship between information asymmetry and stock price reactions to changes in firms' capital structure, due to the possible effects of this relationship on shareholder wealth. In general, stock price reactions are associated with abnormal negative returns during security issuance periods, and positive returns during preceding periods ([Asquith and Mullins, 1986](#); [Mikkelsen and Partch, 1986](#); [Mitto, 1996](#); [Welch, 2004](#); [Vithessonthi, 2008a](#)).

According to [Masulis \(1980\)](#), it is possible for controlling shareholders to expropriate wealth from minority shareholders through capital structure changes. This would depend on the firm's ownership structure, and especially on the participation of controlling and minority shareholders ([Armitage, 2002](#); [2010](#); [Liu et al., 2016](#)). For the Chilean market, it is relevant to analyze this empirical relationship as Chile has weak investor protections, while firm ownership is highly concentrated among controlling shareholders. As a result, this favors wealth redistribution away from minority shareholders through capital structure changes.

Market reactions and potential shareholder wealth changes can depend on other characteristics of the business, such as debt ([Ross, 1977](#); [Leland and Pyle, 1977](#)) and growth opportunities ([Myers, 1977](#); [Myers and Majluf, 1984](#)). However, there is no clear consensus on their effects on stock price reactions. For example, some studies have indicated that stock prices react positively to debt issuance mainly in firms with low leverage ([Cai and Zhang, 2011](#)). This reaction implies that markets associate debt issuance as a means of control over the principal agent problem ([Harris and Raviv, 1990](#)). Other studies provide a different view and document a negative reaction ([Diekerns, 1991](#)). This market response indicates that higher debt may increase firms' bankruptcy risk ([Raymar, 1993](#)). Regarding growth opportunities, empirical studies have demonstrated that their effects on stock prices depend on their valuation ([Smith and Watts, 1992](#); [Quynh-Nhu, 2009](#)). The lack of consensus on market interpretations could be explained by the non-linear effect of these factors on stock price reactions. For the Chilean market, these relationships are still unanswered questions and their implications are relevant for firms' corporate governance and investors, especially when inferring the possible market reaction to capital structure changes and how it may alter shareholders' wealth.

This paper analyzes the effect of ownership structure, growth opportunities and leverage on stock price reactions associated with capital structure changes in Chilean companies. Our research contributes to the empirical literature in two aspects. First, it quantifies stock price reactions to capital structure changes. These reactions measure changes in shareholder wealth. Second, it analyzes the impacts of ownership structure and the possible non-monotonous effects of debt and growth opportunities on shareholder wealth. This is relevant for investors and firms because it reveals that the stock market interprets these qualities in different ways during capital structure change processes.

We used a sample of 70 companies listed on the Santiago Stock Exchange. We studied 172 announcements of equity issuances and 319 announcements of corporate bond issuances. The results

showed that debt and equity issuances generated positive stock price reactions, and therefore positive effects on shareholder wealth. The figures indicate an abnormal return of 2.43% and 0.92% associated with debt and equity issuances respectively. Controlling-shareholder ownership has a negative effect on stock market reactions for debt and a positive effect on equity issuances. This suggests that the stock market responds positively to controlling shareholder ownership, associating it with tighter corporate control and firm performance. Minority shareholder ownership negatively affects stock market reactions only in the case of equity issuances, which indicates a possibility for wealth expropriation from these investors. Finally, debt and growth opportunities have non-linear effects on stock market reaction. This supports the finding that the stock market interprets these qualities in different ways during capital structure adjustments.

This paper is organized as follows. After this introduction, [section 2](#) presents the theoretical framework for stock price reactions to capital structure changes, and its determining factors. This section also includes the research hypothesis. [Section 3](#) presents the data and methodologies used, while [section 4](#) shows the results. Finally, [section 5](#) indicates the main conclusions of this article.

2. Theoretical framework and hypothesis

2.1. Background on stock price reaction and shareholder wealth

Capital structure has been widely researched, starting with the seminal works proposed by [Modigliani and Miller \(1958, 1963\)](#). Various theories have tried to explain how stock prices react to firms' capital structure adjustments, and which factors explain that reaction.

Asymmetric information theory has provided important answers. Financing security issuances can be associated with an adverse selection problem, which would explain stock price reactions. [Myers and Majluf \(1984\)](#) have found that equity contains higher information asymmetry, encouraging managers to issue overvalued equity. Even when managers are aligned with shareholder interests, the incentive to underinvest transmits negative information about the company that can be related to negative stock price reactions at the moment of announcement/issuance. [Ross \(1977\)](#), and [Leland and Pyle \(1977\)](#) add that managers use capital structure as a false signaling mechanism regarding the firm's quality. This moral risk problem associates positive abnormal stock returns with firms whose performance has been exaggerated, while negative abnormal returns are related to undervalued firms. However, uncertainty is reduced during issuance, generating a negative reaction in stock prices for overvalued firms.

Several studies have highlighted the downward adjustments of abnormal returns at the moment of issuance. [Asquith and Mullins \(1986\)](#) analyzed 266 equity issuances between 1963 and 1981 and found that stock prices experience negative abnormal returns of 2.7% during issuance. [Lucas and McDonald \(1990\)](#) corroborated this result, although they also documented positive abnormal returns prior to issuance. The authors note a positive correlation between information asymmetry reduction and stock price increases prior to issuance. They even warn that if abnormal returns are higher prior to announcement, the decreases during the issuance period will be less severe, thereby encouraging companies to issue equity. [Mikkelson and Partch \(1986\)](#) conducted an empirical study for 360 US companies, corresponding to 595 announcement events. Their results supported [Asquith and Mullins \(1986\)](#) and [Masulis and Korwar \(1986\)](#), which showed that stock price reactions were positive during periods preceding announcements and issuances, and negative at the moment of announcement and

issuance. Other international studies have corroborated these findings for developed markets ([Healy and Palepu, 1990](#); [Eckbo and Masulis, 1992](#); [Mitto, 1996](#); [Burton et al., 2000](#); [Welch, 2004](#); [Barnes and Walker, 2006](#)) as well as emerging markets ([Leal and Amaral, 2000](#); [De Medeiros and Matsumoto, 2005](#); [Vithessonthi, 2008a, 2008b, 2008c](#); [Chen and Shehu, 2009](#); [Liu et al., 2016](#)). Furthermore, these papers have documented that abnormal returns decrease more for equity issuances than for debt issuances.

In Chile, such evidence is scarce. [Saens \(1999\)](#) analyzed ADRs of Chilean companies on the NYSE and found positive abnormal returns. At the local level, [Castillo \(2004\)](#) analyzed 172 bond and equity issuances for the period 1993-2002. The results indicated that bond issuances do not generate significant stock price reactions, while equity issuances cause negative abnormal returns. However, the analysis does not reveal the factors that explain these reactions. According to the empirical literature, we expect that capital structure adjustments generate significant shareholder wealth changes. Therefore, we proposed this hypothesis:

H1: Corporate debt and equity issuances generate changes in shareholder wealth.

2.2. Stock price reactions and ownership structure

International studies have shown that the announcements and issuances of debt or equity can have significant impacts on stock prices. This process has the potential to become a means of wealth expropriation from minority shareholders to majority shareholders ([Masulis, 1980](#)).

Firms' ownership structures can be related to stock price reactions, and therefore to changes in shareholder wealth. Market perceptions of investors who buy the issued stocks would be relevant to stock price reactions. [Barnes and Walker \(2006\)](#) analyzed UK firms and showed that equity issuances generated both positive and negative abnormal returns. Positive reactions are concentrated in equity issuances, especially if shareholders also bought these securities. [Armitage \(2002\)](#) corroborated this result and added that UK companies have less concentrated ownership structures, leading to a favorable market reaction when shareholders then bought a greater proportion of issued stocks. Stock markets positively correlate firm performance with higher shareholder participation ([Leland and Pyle, 1977](#)). [Armitage \(2010\)](#) adds that the UK market has an institutional context that promotes investor protections. This context associates a positive stock price reaction with majority and minority shareholder ownership, inhibiting opportunities for wealth redistribution.

Emerging markets have different features. Weak legal protection for investors' rights and higher ownership concentration are some qualities that favor wealth expropriation. [Vithessonthi \(2008a, 2008b\)](#) and [Liu et al. \(2016\)](#) indicate that, for Thai and Chinese markets, respectively, equity issuances generate a positive reaction only if controlling shareholders buy these stocks. However, if minority shareholders buy securities, the stock price reaction is negative. This result may be associated with the pessimistic market perceptions surrounding conflicts of interest between controlling and minority shareholders. Chile has similar conditions to emerging markets, but there is no evidence regarding this relationship. Therefore, we propose these hypotheses:

H2a: Controlling-shareholder ownership has a positive effect on stock price reactions for equity issuances.

H2b: Minority-shareholder ownership has a negative effect on stock price reactions for equity issuances.

Empirical evidence has demonstrated that shareholder wealth increases when firms issue corporate debt ([Mikkelson and Partch, 1986](#); [Eckbo and Masulis, 1992](#); [Burton et al., 2000](#)). Normally stock price reactions to corporate debt issuances are greater than the reactions experienced during equity issuances. This market reaction implies that issued debt represents a means for external monitoring on corporate governance. [Myers and Majluf \(1984\)](#) add that debt issuances generate more positive stock price reactions because they reduce incentives to underinvest. In the context of information asymmetry, this effect indicates that issued debt constitutes a means of control over managerial discretion and agency conflicts ([Jensen and Meckling, 1976](#); [Demsetz and Lehn, 1985](#); [Jensen, 1986](#)). For this reason, corporate debt is a substitute means of control in relation to ownership concentration. During debt issuances, this fact generates a stock price reaction negatively related to controlling-shareholder ownership ([Chong and López de Silanes, 2007](#)). On the other hand, [Céspedes et al. \(2010\)](#) have replicated these results in Latin American countries, and added that debt is positively associated with minority shareholder ownership. In this case, debt is considered as a means of control that complements the monitoring role of minority shareholders and alleviates wealth expropriation and agency problems. As a result, stock price reactions to debt issuances can be positively related to minority-shareholder ownership. In Chile, this subject has not yet been analyzed and its implications are relevant for firms' corporate governance. Therefore, we formulate these hypotheses:

H3a: Controlling-shareholder ownership has a negative effect on stock price reactions for debt issuances.

H3b: Minority-shareholder ownership has a positive effect on stock price reactions for debt issuances.

2.3. Role of growth opportunities and debt level

[Bayless and Chaplinsky \(1996\)](#) have argued that debt or equity issuances and stock price reactions to these processes may depend on firm characteristics, such as growth opportunities ([Myers and Majluf, 1984](#)) and debt level ([Ross, 1977](#)).

Regarding growth opportunities, [Chung et al. \(1998\)](#) note that the quality of firm investment sets could determine stock price reactions to capital structure changes, although there is no clear consensus on this effect. Some international studies have documented that growth opportunities increase shareholder wealth. This is due to the fact that the market perceives that these opportunities are undervalued or valued enough to offset the information asymmetry cost ([Dierkens, 1991](#); [Pilotte, 1992](#); [Denis, 1994](#); [Burton et al., 2000](#); [Quynh-Nhu, 2009](#)). Thus, as growth opportunities increase, stock prices experience positive abnormal returns during debt or equity issuances. [Myers and Majluf \(1984\)](#), [Ambarish et al. \(1987\)](#) and [Cooney and Kalay \(1993\)](#) add that if not, stock prices will react positively only to debt issuances, while reactions to equity issuances may be negative.

Other studies have taken a different point of view. [McLaughlin et al. \(1998\)](#), [Smith and Watts \(1992\)](#), and [Gombola et al. \(1998\)](#) found that growth opportunities negatively affect stock price reactions. These authors support the view that markets associate greater growth opportunities with overvalued firms and higher information asymmetries ([Jensen et al., 1994](#)). In fact, [Smith and Watts \(1992\)](#) add that market responses are more negative for firms with greater growth opportunities than for those experiencing low levels of growth. This lack of consensus can be explained through the non-linear effect of growth opportunities on stock price reactions. This relationship might separate the negative perception associated with overvalued firms from the positive reaction linked to undervalued growth

opportunities ([Denis, 1994](#)). In Chile, this phenomenon has not yet been studied, and it also is relevant for corporate financing decisions. We therefore formulated this hypothesis:

H4: Growth opportunities have a non-linear effect on stock price reactions during debt and equity issuances.

Empirical evidence indicates that stock price reactions are also affected by levels of corporate debt. [Diekerns \(1991\)](#) and [Raymar \(1993\)](#) found that stock price reactions during equity issuances are positively affected by leverage. This relationship is observed mainly in firms with high debt levels. In this case, the market perceives that equity issuances are associated with information asymmetry reduction and bankruptcy risk mitigation. In this same scenario, debt issuances may generate negative stock price reactions as the stock market perceives that marginal debt increases bankruptcy risk ([Raymar, 1993](#)).

However, [Quynh-Nhu \(2009\)](#) found that debt levels have a negative effect on stock price reactions during equity issuances, and argued that equity has higher information asymmetry in comparison to other financing sources. In addition, [Cai and Zhang \(2011\)](#) support the view that stock prices react positively to leverage during debt issuances because debt controls agency conflicts. According to these findings, the firm's leverage has a non-linear effect on stock price reactions during debt or equity issuances. This kind of relationship would separate the market's perception of higher information asymmetry during equity issuances on the one hand, and agency cost control and bankruptcy risks associated with debt issuances on the other. We proposed the following hypothesis:

H5: Debt has a non-linear effect on stock price reactions during debt and equity issuances.

3. Data and Methods

3.1. Data

The data covers the period between January 1990 and December 2013, and was obtained from two sources. Information on daily stock prices, quarterly financial statements and market data was extracted from the Economatica® database, while information related to corporate bond issuances was obtained from the Financial Markets Commission of Chile (FMC).

Table 1. Variables

Variables	Definition	
A. Shareholders wealth changes		
AR	Abnormal Returns	Residuals obtained from the market model
AAR	Average Abnormal Returns	AR average from each analysis window
CAR	Cumulative average abnormal returns	AAR accumulated of each analysis window
B. Ownership structure		
P1	Controlling-shareholder ownership	Percentage of shares of the first shareholder
P5	Minority-shareholder ownership	Percentage of shares of the fifth shareholder
C. Leverage and growth opportunities		
GOQ	Tobin's Q	Asset market value to asset book value ratio
LEV	Leverage	Debt to total assets ratio
D. Others control variables		
AC	Agency costs	Assets turnover ratio
FD	Financial deficit	Financial needs according to source-funding identity
SIZE	Firm size	Natural logarithm of total assets
ROA	Firm profitability	Return on assets
TANG	Asset tangibility	Long-term assets to total assets ratio
BIS	Bond issue	Natural logarithm of the bond issues in billions (pesos)
EIS	Equity issue	Natural logarithm of the equity issue in billions (pesos)
SLIQ	Stock liquidity	Quoted spread ratio

Source: Own elaboration.

The original sample is composed of 183 open-equity companies with business activity to December 31, 2013. These firms have a market presence equal to or greater than 70% over the time period, or since the company went public. In addition, we have chosen firms that have a presence of greater than 80% during the time interval of issuance processes or public offerings. Therefore, the final sample corresponds to 70 companies. Table 1 details the variables used in this study.

Cumulative abnormal return (CAR) is the dependent variable that measures stock market reactions and, therefore, shareholder wealth changes. This measure has been widely used in research based on event studies ([Brown and Warner, 1985](#); [Mikkelson and Partch, 1986](#); [Corrado, 1989](#)).

We used ownership structure, growth opportunities, debt, agency costs, firm size, firm profitability, asset tangibility, financial deficit, issuance size and stock liquidity as control variables.

Ownership structure was measured through the ownership of the first (P1) and fifth (P5) largest shareholders. According to [Jensen and Meckling \(1976\)](#), ownership structure can generate shareholder wealth changes as well as wealth expropriation. This topic is relevant to the Chilean market because minority investor protection is weak and ownership structures are concentrated. These conditions facilitate wealth expropriation.

Growth opportunities (GO) were measured through Tobin's Q. This variable allows control over the future growth prospects of the firm associated with financing instrument issuances ([Myers, 1977](#); [Myers and Majluf, 1984](#); [Cooney and Kalay, 1993](#); [Denis, 1994](#)).

Capital structure (LEV) was measured through the debt to total assets ratio. This measure was used by [Quynh-Nhu \(2009\)](#) to quantify market reactions to capital structure changes according to corporate debt levels.

Agency costs (AC) were measured by the asset turnover ratio. [Jensen \(1986\)](#), [Ang et al. \(2000\)](#) and [Fleming et al. \(2005\)](#) argue that this measurement is an inverse indicator of agency costs because firms with higher agency costs are less efficient in using their assets.

Financial deficit (FD) was measured based on source-funding identity. In other words, the sum of cash flows committed to dividend payments, working capital changes and capital expenses, minus operational flow. [Myers and Majluf \(1984\)](#) state that this variable is useful to quantify information asymmetries in stock price reactions during debt or equity issuances.

Following [Rajan and Zingales \(1995\)](#), we included other control variables such as *firm size* (SIZE), *firm profitability* (ROA) and *asset tangibility* (TANG). In addition, [Castillo \(2004\)](#) proposes controlling Chilean markets by *issue size* (IS). Finally, we used the *stock liquidity* (SLIQ) as a control variable due to it being a relevant factor in equity issuance ([Lipson and Mortal, 2009](#)).

3.2. Event study methodology and econometric model

The analysis uses two methodologies. First, we used the events study methodology to quantify the stock market reaction to the issuance announcements of corporate bonds and equity. Second, we used an econometric model to determine the factors that explain the stock market reaction.

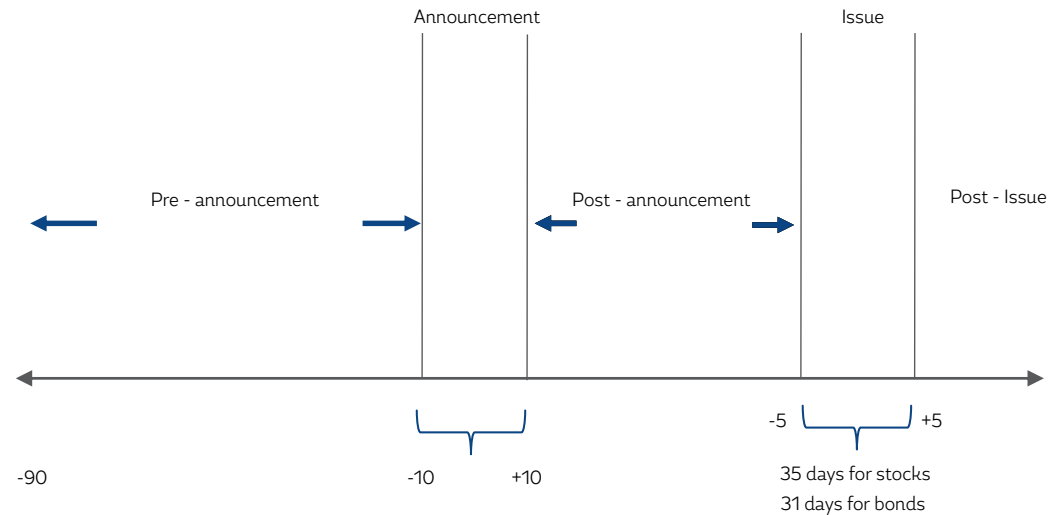
Figure 1 shows the stages of the events study methodology. The analysis window has a median extension of 161 days for equity issuances and 157 days for corporate bond issuances. Our results also indicate that corporate bonds are issued in 46 days on average from their registration and 31 days in median, while equities are issued in 44 days on average and 35 days in median.

Figure 1 shows that window analysis is divided in five stages. The first stage corresponds to the pre-announcement period, which consists of an 80-day period between $t=-90$ to $t=-10$. The potential stock price reaction at this stage could reveal whether the stock market is receiving relevant information from firms or from any other specific agent. However, we expect this reaction to be null as Chilean Stock Market Laws prevent companies from disclosing information about securities issuance processes before registration.

The second stage corresponds to *announcement*, which is defined as $t=0$. According to [Castillo \(2004\)](#), this period ranges from $t=-10$ to $t=+10$. The announcement is defined as a securities issuance approval by the FMC. Chilean stock market regulations only allow firms to announce or disclose information regarding such processes once they have been registered and authorized by the FMC.

The third stage is the post-announcement period, which differs according to the kind of security issued. The fourth stage corresponds to the issuance period, which ranges from $t=+30$ to $t=+40$ for equity issuances, and $t=+26$ to $t=+36$ for bond issuances. Finally, the analysis window concludes with the post-issuance period.

Figure 1. Temporary analysis window for issuances



Source: Own elaboration.

In accordance with [Mikkelson and Partch \(1986\)](#) and [MacKinlay \(1997\)](#), we measured stock price reactions to capital structure changes for each stage. The market model was used to determine this reaction on shareholder wealth change. The expected return of security i is:

$$E(r_{it}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 r_{mt} \quad (1)$$

Where r_{mt} is daily market returns measured by the General Stock Price Index (IGPA), while β_0 and β_1 are the OLS coefficients. The market reaction is measured as:

$$AR_{it} = r_{it} - E(r_{it}) \quad (2)$$

Where AR_{it} is the daily abnormal return of security i in period t , r_{it} is the effective return of security i in period t and $E(r_{it})$ is the expected return of security i in period t based on the market model. Thus, abnormal returns correspond to market model residuals:

$$AAR_{it} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_t^T AR_{it} \quad (3)$$

Where AAR_{it} is the average abnormal return of firm i in period t and T is the size of each stage. Finally, we calculated this accumulated measure:

$$CAR_{it} = \sum_t^T AAR_{it} \quad (4)$$

Where CAR_{it} is the cumulative average abnormal return of firm i in period t . These measures were applied both to debt and equity issuance announcements.

Following [Corrado \(1989\)](#), [Corrado and Zivney \(1992\)](#) and [Brown and Warner \(1985\)](#), we used a traditional t -student test to determine the statistical significance for AARs. However, the significance of CARs was measured through this test:

$$t_{CAR} = \frac{CAR_L}{\sqrt{T * V(AAR)}} \quad (5)$$

Where $V(AAR)$ is the variance of AAR and CAR_L is the cumulative average of the abnormal return of window L . This statistic was used to measure the significance of $CARs$ across different windows, especially if they showed different behavior. In both cases, the null hypothesis indicates that both AAR and CAR are equal to zero, which shows that there are no significant shareholder wealth changes.

Finally, we applied instrumental variable (IV) regression to each stage and to the full process. From this regression, we focused on the effects of ownership structure, capital structure and growth opportunities on stock price reactions. The empirical model is:

$$\begin{aligned} CAR_{is} = & \beta_0 + \beta_1 P1_{is} + \beta_2 P5_{is} + \beta_3 GO_{is} + \beta_4 GO_{is}^2 + \beta_5 LEV_{is} + \beta_6 LEV_{is}^2 \\ & + \beta_7 AC_{is} + \beta_8 FD_{is} + \beta_9 SIZE_{is} + \beta_{10} ROA_{is} + \beta_{11} TANG_{is} + \beta_{12} IS_{is} \\ & + \beta_{13} SLIQ_{is} + \delta_0 DSector_i + \delta_1 DTime + \delta_2 DStage + \varepsilon_{is} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Where CAR_{is} is the CAR associated with issuances developed by firm i in stage s . This measure was calculated in order to obtain one observation per stage during the event and another for the whole process. Each observation was matched with quarterly data for issuing firms in order to estimate regression (6). Within the control variables, $P1$ is controller-shareholder ownership, $P5$ is minority-shareholder ownership, GO represents the growth opportunities measured by Tobin's Q , LEV is the firm's capital structure, AC represents agency costs, FD is the financial deficit, $SIZE$ indicates firm size, ROA measures firm profitability, $TANG$ is asset tangibility, IS is issuance size and $SLIQ$ represents the stock liquidity. Note that GO^2 and LEV^2 measure the potential non-linear effect of growth opportunities and debt level on stock price reactions, respectively. We used robust variances to correct for heteroskedasticity patterns. In addition, dummy variables were included to control the differences across economic sectors ($DSector$), respective emission trimester ($DTime$) and stage of analysis ($DStage$). The IV estimator was used due to the endogeneity problem between stock market reaction, measured through CAR_{is} , and issuance size. According to [Myers and Majluf \(1984\)](#) and [Baker and Wurgler \(2002\)](#), the equity (debt) issuance depends on stock prices, in this case on CAR . To correct this endogeneity problem we used the financial expense ratio, defined as operational income to financial expense ratio, and current liquidity, expressed as current assets to current liability ratio. These instruments are correlated with issuance size, but not with CAR . Finally, we used the Sargan test to evaluate the instrumental overidentification of the models.

4. Empirical results

4.1. Statistical analysis of debt and equity issuances in Chile

Table 2 presents information on corporate bond issuances registered by firms between 1990 and 2013. The total number of events associated with debt issuances corresponds to 319 authorized, issued and completed records. Bonds denominated in Unidad de Fomento (hereafter referred to as U.F.) represent 91.90% of corporate bond issuances in Chile, followed by issuances denominated in US dollars (5.33%) and Chilean pesos (3.76%). During the nineties, most issuances were denominated in U.F. due to the high inflation rates that characterized this period. Issuances denominated in pesos

became recurrent during periods of lower inflation. This context is associated with the reduction in U.F. bond rates from 6.93% in the late 1990s to 3.97% in 2013.

On average, corporate bond maturity was 10.36 years. Debt denominated in U.F. had an average maturity of 15.90 years, while issuances denominated in dollars and pesos do not exceed 10 years. Corporate bond issuances had specific motivations. 55.49% of bond issuances were made to replace existing liabilities and 30.72% were made to finance new investments. Substitutions for foreign currency liabilities (6.27%) and short/medium-term liabilities (5.64%) were less common motivations. Finally, we did not observe a clear pattern regarding the volume and number of bond issuances.

Table 2. Corporate debt issuances in Chile, 1990-2013

Year	Unit	Registered Amount (thousands)	Average issue rate	Average maturity	Reason for issuance						Total Issues
					SSM	GP	FI	OF	SLF	LR	
1990	U.F.	4950	6.84	16.40	4	0	1	0	0	0	5
1991	U.F.	7175	6.50	14.25	2	0	2	0	4	0	8
1992	U.F.	1950	6.25	17.00	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
1993	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1994	U.F.	5300	6.17	13.33	2	0	4	0	0	0	6
1995	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1997	US\$	ND	6.00	9.00	0	0	0	6	0	0	6
1998	U.F.	2200	6.75	16.50	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
1999	US\$ (*)	100000	Libor+1.5	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
	U.F.	18500	6.93	22.29	0	0	5	0	0	2	7
2000	U.F.	22056	7.15	16.94	2	0	4	5	0	6	17
2001	U.F.	36830	6.18	12.56	3	0	4	2	0	7	16
	US\$	100000	8.00	5.00	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
2002	U.F.	44608	5.86	15.76	4	0	0	0	0	4	8
2003	U.F.	61300	5.08	12.25	0	0	2	0	0	12	14
2004	U.F.	24650	4.41	15.56	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
2005	U.F.	85250	3.56	15.29	0	0	4	0	0	22	26
2006	U.F.	49600	3.92	18.46	0	0	0	2	0	10	12
2007	U.F.	76800	3.55	15.53	0	0	7	3	0	10	20
	US\$	600000		20.00	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
2008	U.F.	149300	4.01	16.34	0	0	20	2	0	15	37
	US\$ (*)	565680	Libor +2.53	8.33	0	0	2	0	0	1	3
	\$	74800000	7.50	5.00	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
2009	U.F.	138500	4.11	14.93	0	0	14	0	0	18	32
	US\$	196000	8.00	10.00	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	\$	383740000	6.40	5.40	0	0	3	0	0	2	5
2010	\$	106030000	7.13	5.00	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
	U.F.	43000	5.92	15.80	0	0	5	0	0	10	15
2011	U.F.	41800	3.74	15.73	0	0	7	0	0	8	15
2012	U.F.	99050	4.02	18.12	0	0	7	0	0	19	26
	\$	101200000	6.50	6.00	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
2013	U.F.	30300	3.97	15.07	0	2	0	0	0	13	15
	\$	96300000	6.50	6.00	0	0	0	0	0	2	2

Year	Unit	Registered Amount (thousands)	Average issue rate	Average maturity	Reason for issuance						Total Issues
					SSM	GP	FI	OF	SLF	LR	
1990-2013	U.F	47156	5.25	15.90	18	2	89	14	4	163	290
	US\$	312336	7.33	9.72	0	0	5	6	0	6	17
	\$	152414000	6.81	5.48	0	0	4	0	0	8	12

(*) It includes corrections for issuances at the Libor rate of 180 days. (N/A) indicates information not available. (**) Issuances proposed: substitution of short-medium term liabilities (SSM), general purposes (GP), financing investment (FI), company-owned financing (OF), substitution of local currency and foreign liabilities (SLF) and liability replacement (LR). Source: own elaboration

Table 3 shows the equity issuances summary across 172 events. Equity issuances fluctuated between 0.77% and 284.65% of firms' capital, with an average of 54.61%. Regardless of the number of stocks issued, there was no clearly defined pattern in issuance size. However, the largest number of issuances was concentrated in the periods 1997-1998 and 2008-2009, which coincided with the Asian and Subprime crises respectively. It should be noted that 73.62% of the issuances were issued by manufacturing firms, followed by real estate, banking and financial service sector firms.

Table 3. Equity issuances in Chile, 1990-2013

Years	Issued capital (M\$)	Factor	Stocks subscribed (Thousands)	Amount (M\$)	Total Issue
1990	-	-	-	-	0
1991	6.961.962	0,0077	53.263	1.288.969	1
1992	1.317.005	0,1197	131.703	79.156.498	5
1993	7.081.055	0,2467	963.497	279.241.022	9
1994	15.610.423	0,1896	954.192	159.878.113	4
1995	19.610.936	0,2513	4.525.975	359.514.639	14
1996	27.268.990	2,8465	25.245.676	133.944.627.888	9
1997	22.255.806	0,1966	4.336.872	529.058.991	11
1998	2.619.395	0,2407	529.153	249.582.203	9
1999	22.911.895	0,3618	5.412.243	304.612.240	11
2000	28.914.569	0,3635	7.645.426	678.063.590	7
2001	8.843.029	0,1396	821.778	48.239.850	2
2002	9.812.098	2,1460	3.346.883	88.148.863	3
2003	39.904.270	2,6301	32.130.491	1.853.215.351	5
2004	15.110.738	0,2201	2.838.219	490.423.690	7
2005	37.353.382	0,2755	4.931.481	762.795.945	7
2006	2.971.932	0,2465	437.730	95.836.208	4
2007	22.503.970	0,0969	1.719.906	534.316.933	9
2008	34.298.179	0,2249	4.747.946	770.567.022	9
2009	20.690.392	0,2496	6.822.770	475.091.945	12
2010	11.968.903	0,2612	3.661.224	20.337.657.183	7
2011	37.657.441	0,3382	10.747.355	1.371.807.825	11
2012	5.796.339	0,6691	1.804.052	1.103.962.191	6
2013	69.102.084	0,2387	26.710.725	171.488.009.664	10
Mean 1990-2013	20.459.339	0,5461	6.550.135	14.609.326.723	7.17
Total 1990-2013	470.564.793	-	150.653.100	336.014.514.635	172

Source: Own elaboration

4.2. Stock market reaction and shareholder wealth changes

Table 4 shows the event analysis results. These results consider 172 and 319 events, associated with equity and bond issuances respectively. Corporate bonds and equity issuances generated significant stock price reactions, and therefore relevant shareholder wealth changes. Corporate debt issuances caused an abnormal increase of 2.43% on stock prices, which was higher than 0.92% experienced in equity issuances. According to previous studies, these results show that information asymmetry content is potentially greater in equity issuances (Myers and Majluf, 1984; Mikkelsen and Partch, 1986; Asquith and Mullins, 1986; Masulis and Korwar, 1986; Leal and Amaral, 2000; De Medeiros and Matsumoto, 2005). Finally, these results support hypothesis H1.

Changes in shareholder wealth showed similar patterns in both kinds of issuances. The pre-announcement and post-announcement periods showed positive AARs and CARs. These facts materialized mainly during the period prior to issuances (post-announcement). Despite this, equity issuances did not significantly affect stock prices during the pre-announcement period. Debt issuances generated an accumulated abnormal return of 0.89%. This result is evidence that, in Chile, debt issuances are a signaling mechanism that transmits information to the markets prior to FMC authorization.

Table 4. t-tests for market reactions/shareholder wealth, percentage

Stage at analysis window	Financing policy event							
	Debt issue				Equity issue			
	AAR	t-statistics	CAR	t-statistics	AAR	t-statistics	CAR	t-statistics
Pre-announcement	0.889	(1.92)*	0.889	(1.84)*	0.360	(0.43)	0.360	(0.74)
Announcement	-0.772	(-1.69)*	0.117	(0.94)	-0.480	(-0.75)	-0.120	(-0.27)
Post- announcement	3.156	(5.42)***	3.273	(3.85)***	2.234	(4.27)***	2.114	(3.77)***
Issuance	-0.945	(-1.89)*	2.328	(2.97)***	-0.778	(-1.85)*	1.336	(2.36)**
Post-Issuance	0.102	(1.03)	2.430	(2.67)***	-0.415	(-0.91)	0.921	(1.99)**

Superscripts ***, **, * indicate statistical significance at 1, 5, and 10 percent, respectively.
Source: Own elaboration.

The AAR and CAR figures were generated mainly in the post-announcement period. This also supports the occurrence of significant shareholder wealth changes. CARs on debt and equity issuances were 3.27% and 2.11%, respectively. These results are consistent with international empirical evidence (Mikkelsen and Partch, 1986; Asquith and Mullins, 1986; Masulis and Korwar, 1986; Healy and Palepu, 1990; Eckbo and Masulis, 1992; Mitto, 1996; Burton et al., 2000; Welch, 2004; De Medeiros and Matsumoto, 2005; Chen and Shehu, 2009; Liu et al., 2016).

The announcement and issuance periods were characterized by negative AARs. During the announcement period, debt issuances generated a significant AAR equal to -0.77%, while equity issuances generated a non-significant AAR of -0.48%. The fall experienced during the issuance period was comparatively greater than that experienced during the announcement period. Both debt and equity issuances generated negative and significant AARs equal to -0.94% and -0.77%, respectively. These results suggest that downward adjustments in stock prices occurring during the issuance period reduce information asymmetry more than those occurring during the announcement period. Finally, positive AARs generated between the announcement and the issuance periods support the positive CARs for all processes.

4.3. What factors can explain shareholder wealth changes?

Table 5 presents a statistical analysis of the variables. Chilean firms have high ownership concentration, where controlling shareholders own on average 61.64% of company shares. This characteristic is common in civil law countries like Chile, where weak legal protections for investor rights motivates controllers to concentrate ownership as a way to protect their investments. The fifth-largest shareholders only concentrate 3.38%. Due to the weak legal protections that the Chilean market offers its investors, it is probable that discretionary decisions by controllers could serve to expropriate wealth from these shareholders.

Other average results showed that asset turnover for firms was 0.66, while 58.93% of the assets corresponded to long-term investments (tangibility). Regarding firm performance, the results indicated that the average return on assets was 14.39%, which is consistent with future growth opportunities described by Tobin's Q equal to 7.70.

Table 5. Summary statistics for Chilean firm

Variables		Mean	S.D.
A. Ownership structure			
P1	Controlling-shareholder share (%)	61.64	29.56
P5	Minority-shareholder share (%)	3.38	2.82
B. Leverage and growth opportunities			
GOQ	Tobin's Q	7.70	15.09
LEV	Leverage (%)	62.73	35.51
C. Others control variables			
AC	Agency costs	0.66	0.35
FD	Financial deficit (billions pesos)	9.2	27.59
SIZE	Firm size (billions pesos)	499.78	556.35
ROA	Firm profitability (%)	14.39	21.46
TANG	Asset tangibility (%)	58.93	74.21
BIS	Bonds issue (billions pesos)	17576.84	14857.32
EIS	Equity issue (billions pesos)	14609.33	16282.34
SLIQ	Stock liquidity (%)	4.02	23.49

Source: Own elaboration.

On average, funding requirements amounted to \$9.2 billion. In general, the firms financed their investments and/or their financial needs mostly through debt. The total debt to total assets ratio was 62.73% on average. This could be related to the fact that bond issuances are greater than equity issuances.

Tables 6 and 7 present the results of model (6) for corporate debt and equity issuances, respectively. In both cases, the Hausman test indicates that the OLS estimator is biased due to an endogeneity problem caused by the size of issuance. In all cases, the IV estimator is better than OLS. The Sargan test indicates that the models are overidentified and the instruments used are exogenous.

Table 6 shows that some control variables have the expected effects, mainly in the pre-announcement and post-announcement periods. According to Table 6, variables such as firm size (SIZE), returns on

assets (ROA), asset tangibility (TANG) and financial deficits (FD) had a positive and significant effect on stock price reactions. The results indicate that markets react favorably to debt issuance when firms are large, profitable and have investments in long-term assets. Regarding the effect of financial deficits (FD), the positive relationship observed suggests that the market associates less information asymmetry content to debt issuances (Myers and Majluf, 1984). Bond issue size (BIS) had a significant negative effect. Asset turnover ratio, as an agency costs (AC) inverse measure, had a significant and negative effect on stock price reactions. When firms have higher agency costs, their stock prices react positively because the debt issued is perceived as a control means on agency conflicts (Jensen, 1986; Ang et al., 2000). Finally, stock liquidity (SLIQ) variables had a positive and significant impact on CAR. This result suggests that higher quoted spread (lower stock liquidity) generates a positive reaction on stock prices for corporate debt issuances (Lipson and Mortal, 2009).

Ownership structure had a significant effect on stock price reactions. Controlling shareholder ownership (P1) had a negative and significant effect, which supports hypothesis H3a. These findings suggest that when firms issue debt, the market perceives debt as a substitute means of control in relation to the monitoring role of ownership concentration (Jensen and Meckling, 1976; Demsetz and Lehn, 1985; Jensen, 1986; Chong and López de Silanes, 2007; Céspedes et al., 2010). On the other hand, minority shareholder ownership (P5) had a positive but not significant effect on stock price reactions. This result contradicts hypothesis H3b. Thus, there is no significant evidence to support the hypothesis that stock price reactions can be explained by the complementary relationship between debt issued and minority shareholder ownership.

Table 6. 2SLS regression model for shareholder wealth changes during debt issuance processes

Explanatory variables	Dependent variable: Stock price reaction/shareholder wealth changes measured by CAR					
	Stage at analysis window					Full process
	Pre-announcement	Announcement	Post-announcement	Issue	Post-Issue	
Constant	0.0112 (0.48)	0.0551*** (3.27)	0.0055 (0.41)	0.0791*** (3.88)	0.0632** (2.27)	0.1119*** (2.81)
Ownership structure						
Controller-shareholder	-0.0104*** (-3.09)	0.0003 (0.91)	-0.0244*** (-3.39)	-0.0083*** (-2.92)	0.0095*** (3.13)	-0.0322*** (-2.64)
Minority-shareholder	0.0060** (2.04)	0.0007 (0.66)	0.0108** (2.47)	-0.0142*** (-3.18)	0.0051 (0.89)	0.0010 (0.45)
Leverage and growth opportunities						
Tobin's Q	0.0084*** (3.49)	-0.0007 (-0.29)	0.0110*** (3.06)	-0.0023** (-2.01)	0.0072*** (3.19)	0.0238*** (3.41)
Tobin's Q squared	-0.0006*** (-2.67)	-0.0001 (-0.51)	-0.0009*** (-3.15)	-0.0002 (-0.74)	-0.0006** (-2.51)	-0.0023*** (-2.89)
Leverage	0.0248*** (3.11)	0.0019 (1.08)	0.0181*** (3.45)	-0.0104** (-1.98)	0.0132*** (2.73)	0.0441*** (2.99)
Leverage squared	-0.0021*** (-2.91)	0.0001 (0.45)	-0.0019** (-2.56)	0.0007 (0.99)	-0.0022** (-2.49)	-0.0051*** (-2.77)
Other control variables						
Agency costs	-0.0223** (-1.97)	0.0052 (0.88)	-0.0321** (-2.53)	0.0023 (0.54)	-0.0211** (-2.03)	-0.0465** (-2.48)

Explanatory variables	Dependent variable: Stock price reaction/shareholder wealth changes measured by CAR					
	Stage at analysis window					Full process
	Pre-announcement	Announcement	Post-announcement	Issue	Post-Issue	
Financial deficit	0.0191** (2.16)	-0.0084 (-0.93)	0.0283*** (3.11)	-0.0052 (-0.28)	0.0162* (1.79)	0.0458*** (2.61)
Firm size	0.0053** (2.10)	-0.0011 (-0.59)	0.0047* (1.71)	0.0024 (1.27)	0.0013 (0.82)	0.0072** (1.98)
Firm profitability	0.0004 (0.33)	-0.0013 (-0.65)	0.0302** (2.51)	0.0011 (1.03)	0.0113* (1.69)	0.0195** (2.29)
Asset tangibility	0.0169** (2.31)	-0.0022 (-0.47)	0.0227** (2.44)	0.0010 (0.26)	0.0056 (0.49)	0.0376** (2.21)
Issue size	-0.0058 (-0.95)	-0.0889*** (-3.14)	0.0121 (1.14)	0.0033 (0.51)	0.0017 (0.36)	-0.0357** (-2.03)
Stock liquidity	0.0357*** (3.18)	0.0028 (1.12)	0.0211*** (2.75)	0.0039 (1.03)	0.0015 (0.89)	0.0392*** (2.67)
Adjusted R-squared	0.39	0.21	0.43	0.31	0.29	0.41
Global F-test	(51.21)***	(48.57)***	(60.58)***	(46.19)***	(55.10)***	(49.35)***
White test	(21.42)***	(26.02)***	(19.49)***	(27.36)***	(20.35)***	(16.98)***
Hausman test	(28.39)***	(35.23)***	(38.01)***	(30.22)***	(37.75)***	(32.06)***
Sargan test	(46.01)	(40.93)	(37.56)	(39.61)	(41.35)	(36.19)
Sector dummy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Time dummy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stage dummy	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Robust variance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	319	319	319	319	319	1595

Superscripts ***, **, * indicate statistical significance at 1, 5, and 10 percent, respectively.

Source: Own elaboration.

According to previous studies, growth opportunities (GO) had a positive and significant effect on stock price reactions (Myers and Majluf, 1984; Ambarish et al., 1987; Dierkens, 1991; Pilotte, 1992; Denis, 1994; Burton et al., 2000; Quynh-Nhu, 2009). This suggests that the growth opportunities of Chilean firms offer high return that offsets information asymmetry costs. In addition, growth opportunities have a non-linear effect, which supports hypothesis H₄ for debt issuances. Thus, when firms' bond issuers have considerable growth opportunities, stock price reactions become negative because the stock market perceives that growth opportunities are overvalued and have high information asymmetry content (Smith and Watts, 1992; Gombola et al., 1998).

Capital structure (LEV) had a positive and significant effect on stock price reactions, and therefore on shareholder wealth changes. Such an impact reveals that the stock market considers marginal debt as a control means on agency conflicts (Cai and Zhang, 2011). In addition, corporate debt has a non-linear effect on stock price reactions. This supports hypothesis H₅. Therefore, when firms issue bonds, the initial positive effect on stock price reactions is reversed. This second effect is observable in firms with high leverage. For this reason, the market perceives that additional debt increases bankruptcy risk and debt agency costs.

Table 7 shows the model (6) results for stock price reactions during equity issuances. Variables such as firm size, firm profitability, asset tangibility and issuance size had similar effects to those described in Table 6. The asset turnover ratio showed a significant and positive effect. This suggests that higher agency costs have a negative effect on stock price because capital diffusion is attributed to higher agency conflicts. The financial deficit variable had a significant and negative effect, which indicates that capital issuances have higher information asymmetry. Finally, the stock liquidity (SLIQ) variable had a negative and significant impact on CAR. This result suggests that a higher quoted spread (lower stock liquidity) generates a negative reaction in stock prices for equity issuance (Lipson and Mortal, 2009).

Table 7. 2SLS regression model for shareholder wealth changes during equity issuance process

Explanatory variables	Dependent variable: Stock price reaction/shareholder wealth changes measured by CAR					
	Stage at analysis window					Full process
	Pre-announcement	Announcement	Post-announcement	Issuance	Post-Issue	
Constant	0.0107 (0.57)	0.0321*** (3.75)	0.0006 (1.08)	0.0622*** (2.69)	0.0712*** (3.27)	0.0952*** (3.56)
Ownership structure						
Controller-shareholder	0.0127*** (3.26)	0.0002 (0.58)	0.0219*** (3.69)	-0.0029 (-1.60)	0.0113** (1.97)	0.0246*** (3.13)
Minority-shareholder	-0.0094** (-2.08)	-0.0001 (-0.31)	-0.0157*** (-3.15)	0.0033 (1.29)	0.0048 (1.38)	-0.0135*** (-2.79)
Leverage and growth opportunities						
Tobin's Q	0.0111*** (3.14)	-0.0010 (-0.52)	0.0156*** (3.69)	0.0077** (1.99)	0.0025 (0.83)	0.0127*** (4.24)
Tobin's Q squared	-0.0009** (-2.47)	-0.0003 (-1.51)	-0.0012*** (-3.29)	-0.0007** (-2.23)	-0.0003 (-0.86)	-0.0012*** (-3.34)
Leverage	-0.0212*** (-3.21)	0.0007 (0.43)	-0.0213*** (-3.14)	-0.0098** (-1.99)	-0.0029 (-1.01)	-0.0197*** (-3.71)
Leverage squared	0.0020* (1.95)	0.0003 (0.24)	0.0019** (2.33)	0.0006 (0.57)	-0.0013 (1.12)	0.0028** (2.11)
Other control variables						
Agency costs	0.0353*** (3.59)	0.0002 (0.22)	0.0429*** (4.47)	0.0001 (0.26)	0.0017 (1.36)	0.0459*** (4.66)
Financial deficit	-0.0135*** (-3.28)	-0.0029 (-0.72)	-0.0184*** (-2.83)	-0.0106** (-2.11)	0.0013 (0.64)	-0.0198*** (-2.91)
Firm size	0.0008 (1.05)	0.0064 (1.37)	0.0005 (0.39)	0.0003 (0.55)	0.0009 (0.81)	0.0017 (0.62)
Firm profitability	0.0125 (0.69)	0.0019 (0.31)	0.0505** (2.47)	0.0102 (0.75)	0.0017 (0.27)	0.0311** (2.55)
Asset tangibility	0.0296*** (3.48)	0.0024 (0.43)	0.0159 (1.18)	0.0054 (0.86)	0.0081 (1.03)	0.0247* (1.86)
Issue size	-0.0127** (-2.15)	0.0011 (0.68)	-0.0245*** (-2.74)	0.0051 (0.54)	0.0055 (0.91)	-0.0201*** (-3.02)
Stock liquidity	-0.0496*** (-3.21)	-0.0098 (-0.73)	-0.0291*** (-2.77)	-0.0163 (-1.48)	-0.0116 (-1.09)	-0.0417*** (-3.36)

Explanatory variables	Dependent variable: Stock price reaction/shareholder wealth changes measured by CAR					
	Stage at analysis window					Full process
	Pre-announcement	Announcement	Post-announcement	Issuance	Post-Issue	
Adjusted R-squared	0.49	0.33	0.47	0.37	0.35	0.51
Global F-test	(55.26)***	(48.94)***	(60.13)***	(49.15)***	(40.24)***	(56.37)***
White test	(29.47)***	(32.58)***	(27.04)***	(35.29)***	(30.18)***	(28.16)***
Hausman test	(23.90)***	(29.02)***	(27.46)***	(33.07)***	(29.62)***	(25.08)***
Sargan test	(39.27)	(42.51)	(50.73)	(44.95)	(41.34)	(40.04)
Sector dummy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Time dummy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stage dummy	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Robust variance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	172	172	172	172	172	860

Superscripts ***, **, * indicate statistical significance at 1, 5, and 10 percent, respectively.

Source: Own elaboration.

Ownership structure effects were statistically significant. Controlling shareholder ownership (P1) had a positive effect on stock price reactions when firms issue equity, while minority shareholder ownership (P5) had a negative effect. These results support hypotheses H2a and H2b respectively. The positive effect of controlling-shareholder ownership suggests that the market associates equity issuance with an increasing probability that current controllers will acquire the stocks issued. This implies improved corporate performance and decreased risk (Armitage, 2002; Barnes and Walker, 2006). In addition, the negative effect of minority shareholder ownership is a reflection of wealth expropriation opportunities (Liu et al., 2016).

Growth opportunities had a positive and non-linear effect on stock price reactions, which supports hypothesis H4. As in bond issuances, growth opportunities had an effect that offset information asymmetry costs. However, greater growth opportunities contain a higher degree of information asymmetry, which can lead to the overvaluation of a firm.

Finally, corporate debt also had significant effects on stock price reactions. The negative impact of this variable indicates that equity issuances have greater information asymmetry than other financing sources. However, debt's non-linear effect suggests that when the firm's financial leverage is high, equity issuances have a positive impact on stock price reactions because additional equity mitigates bankruptcy risks and debt agency costs. This corroborates hypothesis H5.

5. Conclusions and discussion

The analysis of capital structure in Latin American (and particularly Chilean) firms has become more relevant in recent years. Capital structure changes, whether due to debt or equity issuances, can lead to significant changes in stock prices, and therefore redistribute shareholder wealth. An extensive literature review reveals that when firms issue debt or equity, stock prices experience positive abnormal returns mainly during the pre-announcement and post-announcement periods. This stock price reaction is sufficient to compensate for the negative abnormal returns that occur during the announcement and issuance periods.

In Chile, few studies have been conducted in this field, and those that have been conducted generally endorse the results described by international evidence. This paper contributes to empirical evidence for emerging markets, and especially for the Chilean market, in two respects. First, we conclude that capital structure changes generate a significant stock price reaction. Our research indicates that debt issuances generated 2.43% abnormal returns and equity issuances generated 0.92%. In contrast to previous studies, which have tended to state that this reaction is generated during the pre-announcement period, our results show that this positive stock price reaction is more significant during the period preceding issuance. According to regulations established by the FMC, our results also show that the information transmitted by firms prior to capital structure changes does not generate significant changes in stock price. Only debt issuances generated a 0.89% abnormal return during the pre-announcement period. This indicates that debt issuances are a signaling means for the stock market. This first result is relevant for firms, investors and policymakers. For firms this result implies that capital structure changes can generate shareholder wealth changes, while for investors this result may contribute to the improvement of investment decision-making. For policymakers this result provides them with a guide to design financial policies aimed at improving the securities issuance processes.

Some studies have indicated that stock price reactions depend on firms' specific characteristics, but there is little clear consensus on this point. As a secondary contribution of this article, our results show that stock price reactions are affected by firms' ownership structure, growth opportunities and leverage. Controlling-shareholder ownership negatively affects stock price reactions when debt is issued, but positively affects them when equity is issued. These results indicate that, for companies with concentrated ownership, the market perceives debt issuances as a substitute means of control in relation to controllers' monitoring role. The positive reaction observed during equity issuances shows that the market associates ownership concentration by controlling shareholders with greater control and corporate performance. On the other hand, minority-shareholder ownership had a negative and significant effect on stock price reactions. This impact was only observed during equity issuances. This indicates that equity dilution is associated with greater agency conflicts between non-controlling and controlling shareholders. Therefore, this last result also illustrates that equity issuances are a means of wealth expropriation because a reduction in minority-shareholder ownership had a positive effect on market reaction. These results are relevant for firms because they reveal that the market interprets their ownership structure in a differentiated way. In addition, this is particularly relevant for Chile due its weak legal protections for investors' rights.

Growth opportunities also had significant effects on stock price reactions during issuance processes. Future growth opportunities of issuing firms had a positive and non-linear effect on shareholder wealth changes. According to [Myers and Majluf \(1984\)](#), this reaction implies that growth opportunities are positively valued by markets and offset information asymmetry costs. Nonetheless, the non-linear relationship (inverted-U) suggests that, when firms have greater growth opportunities, the market associates capital structure changes with the overvaluation of these opportunities, and therefore with higher information asymmetry in issued securities.

The effects of debt on shareholder wealth changes vary according to the kind of issuance. Debt had a positive effect on stock price reactions when firms issued corporate bonds, while it had a negative effect when firms issued equity. Our results show that the market assesses the financial risks of issuances. Thus, the market interprets marginal debt as a means of external control capable of increasing firm performance and mitigating agency costs. In any case, the non-linear effects of debt

show that when debt is high, previous impacts are reversed. For the market, additional debt increases the firm's risk, while equity issuances would constitute a control that reduces this risk. These results are relevant for investors because they may help to guide their investment decisions. The findings may also be of use to firms, helping them to infer the market reaction to securities issuance processes according to their specific characteristics, such as growth opportunities and leverage.

Future studies should analyze the effects of the adoption of the OECD corporate governance practices on stock price reaction, and their role in controlling wealth expropriation.

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