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The risk level of Viet Nam human resource and medical equipment industry under financial leverage during and after the global crisis 2009-2011

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Abstract: This paperwork evaluates the impacts of external financing on market risk for the listed firms in the Viet nam HR and medical equipment industry, esp. during and after the financial crisis 2009-2011. First of all, by using quantitative and analytical methods to estimate asset and equity beta of total 6 listed companies in Viet Nam HR and medical equipment industry with a proper traditional model, we found out that the beta values, in general, for many institutions are acceptable. Second, under 3 different scenarios of changing leverage (in 2011 financial reports, 30% up and 20% down), we recognized that the risk level, measured by equity and asset beta mean, decreases when leverage increases to 30% but increases more if leverage decreases down to 20%. Third, by changing leverage in 3 scenarios, we recognized the dispersion of risk level, measured by equity beta var, decreases from 0,404 to 0,387 if the leverage increases to 30% whereas decreases to 0,388 if leverage decreases to 20%. But the dispersion measured by asset beta var decreases to 0,138 (leverage down 20%), showing leverage impact. Finally, this paper provides some outcomes that could provide companies and government more evidence in establishing their policies in governance.

Keywords: equity beta, financial structure, financial crisis, risk, external financing, HR industry



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1. Introduction

Financial leverage has certain effects on the risk level of listed companies on stock exchange. Flifel (2012) stated today, the assumption of efficient capital markets is very controversial, especially in these times of crisis, and is challenged by research showing that the pricing was distorted by detection of long memory. Gabrijelcic et al (2013) find a significant negative effect of leverage on firm performance. And firms that had some foreign debt financing performed better than their counterparts.

Measuring beta is a popular method used in many models such as the famous CAPM model. The Viet Nam HR and medical equipment industry is selected for the research because until now there is no research published with the same scope and because Viet Nam HR and medical equipment industry is considered as one of active economic sectors in local financial markets, which has some positive effects for the economy. The purpose of this study, therefore, to find out how much market risk for this industry in changing contexts of financial leverage.

We mention some issues on the estimating of impacts of external financing on beta for listed HR and medical equipment industry companies in Viet Nam stock exchange as following:

Issue 1: Whether the risk level of HR and medical equipment industry firms under the different changing scenarios of leverage increase or decrease so much.

Issue 2: Whether the disperse distribution of beta values become large in the different changing scenarios of leverage estimated in the HR and medical equipment industry.

Beside, we also propose some hypotheses for the above issues:

Hypothesis 1: because using leverage may strongly affect business returns, changing leverage scenarios could strongly affect firm risk.

Hypothesis 2: as external financing is vital for the business development, there will be large disperse in beta or risk values estimated.

This paper is organized as follow. The research issues and literature review and methodology will be covered in next sessions 2 and 3, for a short summary. Next session presents empirical results and findings. The last session shows discussion and will conclude with some policy suggestions. This paper also supports readers with references, exhibits and relevant web sources.

2. Theoretical background

A. Conceptual theories. The impact of financial leverage on the economy

Financial development and economic growth are positively interrelated. The interaction between these two (2) fields can be considered as a circle, in which good financial development causes economic growth and vice versa. A sound and effective financial system has positive effect on the development and growth of the economy. Financial institutions and markets can enable corporations to solve liquidity needs and enhance long-term investments. This system include many channels for a firm who wants to use financial leverage or FL, which refers to debt or to the borrowing of funds to finance a company's assets.

In a specific industry such as HR and medical equipment industry, on the one hand, using leverage with a decrease or increase in certain periods could affect tax obligations, revenues, profit after tax and technology innovation and compensation and jobs of the industry.

During and after financial crises such as the 2007-2009 crisis, there raises concerns about the role of financial leverage of many countries, in both developed and developing markets. On the one hand, lending programs and packages might support the business sectors. On the other hand, it might create more risks for the business and economy.

B. Methodology

For calculating systemic risk results and leverage impacts, in this study, we use the live data during the crisis period 2009-2011 from the stock exchange market in Viet Nam (HOSE and HNX and UPCOM).

In this research, analytical research method is used, philosophical method is used and specially, leverage scenario analysis method is used. Analytical data is from the situation of listed HR and medical equipment industry firms in VN stock exchange and current tax rate is 25%.

Generally speaking, quantitative method is mainly used in this study with a note that risk measure asset beta is mainly derive from equity beta and financial leverage.

Finally, we use the results to suggest policy for both these enterprises, relevant organizations and government.

C. Previous Studies

Fama, Eugene F., and French, Kenneth R., (2004) also indicated in the three factor model that “value” and “size” are significant components which can affect stock returns. They also mentioned that a stock’s return not only depends on a market beta, but also on market capitalization beta. The market beta is used in the three factor model, developed by Fama and French, which is the successor to the CAPM model by Sharpe, Treynor and Lintner.

Dimitrov (2006) documented a significantly negative association between changes in financial leverage and contemporaneous risk-adjusted stock returns. Aydemir et al (2006) identified in an economy with more realistic variation in interest rates and the price of risk, there is significant variation in stock return volatility at the market and firm level. In such an economy, financial leverage has little effect on the dynamics of stock return volatility at the market level. Financial leverage contributes more to the dynamics of stock return volatility for a small firm. Then, Maia (2010) stated the main determinants of firms' capital structures are related to firms' sensitivities to these systematic sources of risk and they affect asymmetrically low and high leverage firms. And temporary shocks are relatively more important for low leverage firms, and that financial distress risk seems to be captured by the sensitivity of firms' cash flow innovations to market discount rate news.

Umar (2011) found that firms which maintain good governance structures have leverage ratios that are higher (forty-seven percent) than those of firms with poor governance mechanisms per unit of profit. Chen et al (2013) supported regulators' suspicions that over-reliance on short-term funding and insufficient collateral compounded the effects of dangerously high leverage and resulted in undercapitalization and excessive risk exposure for Lehman Brothers. The model reinforces the importance of the relationship between capital structure and risk management. Then, Alcock et al (2013) found evidence that leverage cannot be viewed as a long-term strategy to enhance performance, but in the short term, managers do seem to add significantly to fund excess returns by effectively timing leverage choices to the expected future market environment. And Gunaratha (2013) revealed that in different industries in Sri Lanka, the degree of financial leverage has a significant positive correlation with financial risk.

Finally, financial leverage can be considered as one among many factors that affect business risk of HR and medical equipment firms.

3. Empirical analysis

A. General Data Analysis

The research sample has total 6 listed firms in the HR and medical equipment industry market with the live data from the stock exchange.

Firstly, we estimate equity beta values of these firms and use financial leverage to estimate asset beta values of them. Secondly, we change the leverage from what reported in F.S 2011 to increasing 30% and reducing 20% to see the sensitivity of beta values. We found out that in 3 cases, asset beta mean values are estimated at 0,195, 0,140 and 0,199 which are sensitive and negatively correlated with the leverage. Also in 3 scenarios, we find out equity beta mean values (0,345, 0,276 and 0,358) are negatively correlated with the leverage. Leverage degree changes definitely has certain effects on asset and equity beta values.

B. Empirical Research Findings and Discussion

In the below section, data used are from total 6 listed HR and medical equipment industry companies on VN stock exchange (HOSE and HNX mainly). In the scenario 1, current financial leverage degree is kept as in the 2011 financial statements which is used to calculate market risk (beta). Then, two (2) FL scenarios are changed up to 30% and down to 20%, compared to the current FL degree.

Market risk (beta) under the impact of tax rate, includes: 1) equity beta; and 2) asset beta.

B.1 Scenario 1: current financial leverage (FL) as in financial reports 2011

In this case, all beta values of 6 listed firms on VN HR and medical equipment industry market as following:

Table 1. Market risk of listed companies on VN HR and medical equipment industry market

Order No.	Company stock code	Equity beta	Asset beta (assume debt beta = 0)	Note	Financial leverage
1	CMS	-0,063	-0,016	VCM as comparable	77,4%
2	ILC	0,635	0,226	SDA as comparable	67,1%
3	SDA	1,502	0,958		37,6%
4	VCM	-0,199	-0,058		73,9%
5	DNM	0,168	0,056		66,6%
6	JVC	0,025	0,003		88,5%
Average					68,5%

Source: Viet Nam stock exchange 2012

B.2. Scenario 2: financial leverage increases up to 30%

If leverage increases up to 30%, all beta values of total 6 listed firms on VN HR and medical equipment industry market as below:

Table 2. Market risks of listed HR and medical equipment industry firms (case 2)

Order No.	Company stock code	Equity beta	Asset beta (assume debt beta = 0)	Note	Financial leverage
1	CMS	-0,009	0,000	VCM as comparable	125,7%
2	ILC	0,307	0,049	SDA as comparable	109,0%
3	SDA	1,502	0,795		61,2%
4	VCM	-0,199	-0,015		120,1%
5	DNM	0,072	0,010		86,6%
6	JVC	-0,015	0,002		115,0%
Average					102,9%

Source: Viet Nam stock exchange 2012

B.3. Scenario 3: leverage decreases down to 20%

If leverage decreases down to 20%, all beta values of total 20 listed firms on the HR and medical equipment industry market in VN as following:

Table 3. Market risk of listed HR and medical equipment industry firms (case 3)

Order No.	Company stock code	Equity beta	Asset beta (assume debt beta = 0)	Note	Financial leverage
1	CMS	-0,056	-0,013	VCM as comparable	61,9%
2	ILC	0,594	0,195	SDA as comparable	53,7%
3	SDA	1,502	0,936		30,1%
4	VCM	-0,199	-0,052		59,1%
5	DNM	0,226	0,106		53,3%
6	JVC	0,080	0,023		70,8%
Average					54,8%

Source: Viet Nam stock exchange 2012

All three above tables and data show that values of equity and asset beta in the case of increasing leverage up to 30% or decreasing leverage degree down to 20% have certain fluctuation.

C. Comparing statistical results in 3 scenarios of changing leverage:

Table 4. Statistical results (FL in case 1)

Statistic results	Equity beta	Asset beta (assume debt beta = 0)	Difference
MAX	1,502	0,958	0,5436
MIN	-0,199	-0,058	-0,1412
MEAN	0,345	0,195	0,1499
VAR	0,4035	0,1495	0,2540

Note: Sample size : 6

Source: Viet Nam stock exchange 2012

Table 5. Statistical results (FL in case 2)

Statistic results	Equity beta	Asset beta (assume debt beta = 0)	Difference
MAX	1,502	0,795	0,7066
MIN	-0,199	-0,015	-0,1836
MEAN	0,276	0,140	0,1361
VAR	0,3872	0,1034	0,2838

Note: Sample size : 6

Source: Viet Nam stock exchange 2012

Table 6. Statistical results (FL in case 3)

Statistic results	Equity beta	Asset beta (assume debt beta = 0)	Difference
MAX	1,502	0,936	0,5653
MIN	-0,199	-0,052	-0,1469
MEAN	0,358	0,199	0,1585
VAR	0,3879	0,1382	0,2497

Note: Sample size : 6

Source: Viet Nam stock exchange 2012

Based on the above results, we find out:

Equity beta mean values in all 3 scenarios are low ($< 0,4$) and asset beta mean values are also small ($< 0,2$). In the case of reported leverage in 2011, equity beta value fluctuates in an acceptable range from -0,199 (min) up to 1,502 (max) and asset beta fluctuates from -0,058 (min) up to 0,958 (max). If leverage increases to 30%, equity beta moves in an unchanged range and asset beta moves from -0,015 (min) up to 0,795 (max). Hence, we note that there is an increase in asset beta min value if leverage increases. When leverage decreases down to 20%, equity beta value moves in an unchanged range and asset beta changes from -0,052 (min) up to 0,936 (max). So, there is an increase in asset beta min when leverage decreases in scenario 3.

Beside, Exhibit 4 informs us that in the case 30% leverage up, average equity beta value of 6 listed firms decreases down to -0,069 while average asset beta value of these 6 firms decreases little less to -0,055. Then, when leverage reduces to 20%, average equity beta value of 6 listed firms goes up to 0,013 and average asset beta value of 6 firms up to 0,005.

The below chart 1 shows us : when leverage degree decreases down to 20%, average equity and asset beta values increase to 0,358 and 0,199 compared to those at the initial reported leverage (0,345 and 0,195). Then, when leverage degree increases up to 30%, average equity beta decreases little less and average asset beta value also decreases less (to 0,276 and 0,140). However, the fluctuation of equity beta value (0,387) in the case of 30% leverage up is lower than ($>$) the results in the rest 2 leverage cases. And we could note that the decrease of leverage in the case of 20% leverage down causes a decrease in asset beta var to 0,138 (compared to 0,150).

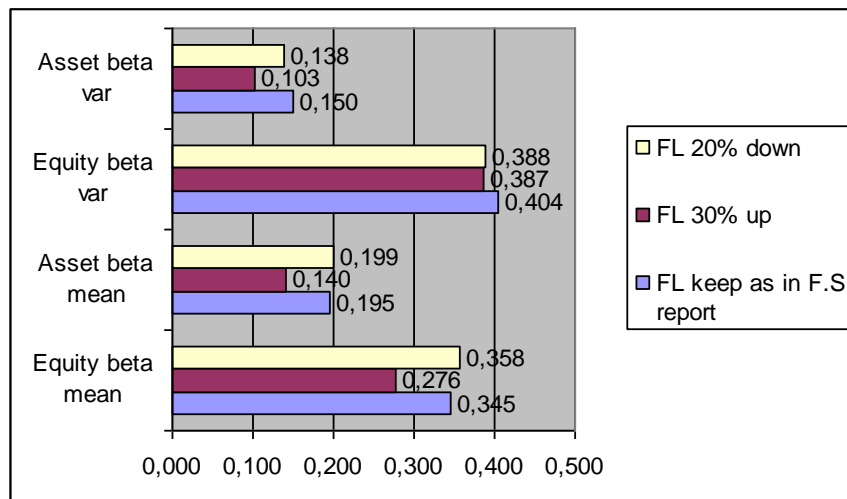


Figure 1. Comparing statistical results of three (3) scenarios of changing FL (period 2009-2011)

D. Empirical results

In scenario 1 (current FL), asset and equity beta mean reach the medium values (0,195 and 0,345) whereas asset beta var also reaches minimum (0,150), compared to the rest 2 cases.

In scenario 2 (FL 30%), asset and equity beta mean reach minimum values (0,140 and 0,276) whereas equity beta var reaches minimum (0,387), compared to the rest 2 cases.

And finally, in scenario 3 (FL down 20%), asset and equity beta mean reach maximum values while asset beta var reaches medium value (0,138), compared to the rest 2 cases.

E. Risk analysis

In short, the using of financial leverage could have both negatively or positively impacts on the financial results or return on equity of a company. The more debt the firm uses, the more risk it takes. Beside, the increasing interest on loans might drive the earning per share (EPS) lower.

On the other hand, in the case of increasing leverage, the company will expect to get more returns. The financial leverage becomes worthwhile if the cost of additional financial leverage is lower than the additional earnings before taxes and interests (EBIT). Considering risk vs. return, FL becomes a decisional variable for managers.

F. Discussion

Looking at exhibit 6, it is noted that in case leverage up 30%, during 2009-2011 period, asset and equity beta mean (0,140 and 0,276) of HR and medical equipment industry are lower than those of consumer good industry (0,336 and 0,694). This relatively shows us that financial leverage does affect asset beta values.

4. Conclusion

In general, the government has to consider the impacts on the mobility of capital in the markets when it changes the macro policies. Beside, it continues to increase the effectiveness of building the legal system and regulation supporting the plan of developing HR and medical equipment market. The Ministry of Finance continues to increase the effectiveness of fiscal policies and tax policies which are needed to combine with other macro policies at the same time. The State Bank of Viet Nam continues to increase the effectiveness of capital providing channels for HR and medical equipment companies as we could note that in this study when leverage is going to increase up to 30%, the risk level decreases as well as the asset beta var, compared to the case it is going to decrease down to 20%. And for the corporations, figure 2 tells us that increasing leverage can reduce risk both in the period 2009-2011 and in the 2007-2011 period.

Furthermore, the entire efforts among many different government bodies need to be coordinated.

Finally, this paper suggests implications for further research and policy suggestion for the Viet Nam government and relevant organizations, economists and investors from current market conditions.

Appendix. Supplementary material

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at <http://sepd.tntu.edu.ua/images/stories/pdf/2015/15hnttgc.pdf>

Appendix 1. Interest rates in banking industry during crisis

Source: Viet Nam commercial banks

Year	Borrowing Interest rates	Deposit Rates	Note
2011	18%-22%	13%-14%	
2010	19%-20%	13%-14%	Approximately
2009	9%-12%	9%-10%	(2007: required reserves ratio at SBV is changed from 5% to 10%)
2008	19%-21%	15%-16,5%	(2009: special supporting interest rate is 4%)
2007	12%-15%	9%-11%	

Appendix 2. Basic interest rate changes in Viet Nam

Source: State Bank of Viet Nam and Viet Nam economy

Year	Basic rate	Note
2011	9%	
2010	8%	
2009	7%	
2008	8,75%-14%	Approximately, fluctuated
2007	8,25%	
2006	8,25%	
2005	7,8%	
2004	7,5%	
2003	7,5%	
2002	7,44%	
2001	7,2%-8,7%	Approximately, fluctuated
2000	9%	

Appendix 3. Inflation, GDP growth and macroeconomics factors

Source: Viet Nam commercial banks and economic statistical bureau

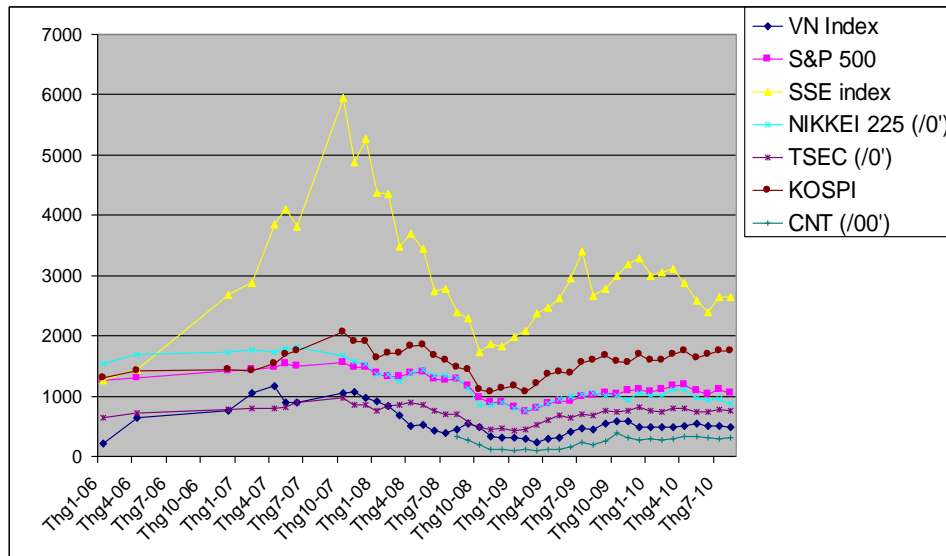
Year	Inflation	GDP	USD/VND rate
2011	18%	5,89%	20.670
2010	11,75% (Estimated at Dec 2010)	6,5% (expected)	19.495
2009	6,88%	5,2%	17.000
2008	22%	6,23%	17.700
2007	12,63%	8,44%	16.132
2006	6,6%	8,17%	
2005	8,4%		
Note		approximately	

Appendix 4. Increase/decrease risk level of listed medical equipment and HR industry firms under changing scenarios of leverage : in 2011 F.S reports, 30% up, 20% down in the period 2009 - 2011

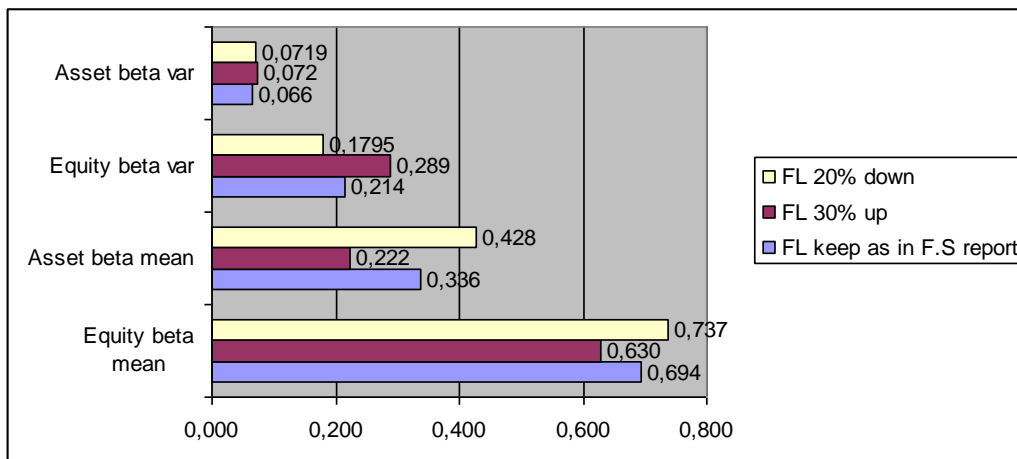
Order No.	Company stock code	FL keep as in F.S report		FL 30% up		FL 20% down	
		Equity beta	Asset beta	Increase /Decrease (equity beta)	Increase /Decrease (asset beta)	Increase /Decrease (equity beta)	Increase /Decrease (asset beta)
1	CMS	-0,063	-0,016	0,054	0,016	0,007	0,003
2	ILC	0,635	0,226	-0,329	-0,176	-0,042	-0,030
3	SDA	1,502	0,958	0,000	-0,163	0,000	-0,022
4	VCM	-0,199	-0,058	0,000	0,042	0,000	0,006
5	DNM	0,168	0,056	-0,096	-0,046	0,058	0,049
6	JVC	0,025	0,003	-0,040	-0,001	0,055	0,021
			Average	-0,069	-0,055	0,013	0,005

(source: Viet Nam stock exchange 2012)

Appendix 5. VNI Index and other stock market index during crisis 2006-10



Appendix 6. Comparing statistical results of three (3) scenarios of changing FL of 121 listed firms in the consumer good industry



(source: Viet Nam stock exchange 2012)

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