

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STOCK PRICE AND TRADING VOLUME: EVIDENCE FROM MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

The study uses daily return data on a sample of 220 Malaysian stocks for the period January 1992 through December 1998 to investigate the relationship between stock return and trading volume. Both the correlation approach and the more robust Granger causality tests were adopted, with the former test pointing to a preponderance of significant correlation between trading volume and stock return per se, and the latter test pointing to a relationship between volume and the absolute value of stock return. Although the Granger causality tests show some support for a relationship, the evidence is much less preponderant. It also reveals that the direction of causality is stronger when it runs from return (or absolute return) to volume than when it runs from the reverse direction. Furthermore, the strength of return in Granger-causing volume is found to increase over time.

INTRODUCTION

The relation between changes in share price (i.e. return) and trading volume (hereafter, volume) has occupied an important place in the quest for understanding the forces underlying the complex operations of the stock markets. The concern for this relationship is understandable in view of the importance of the return-volume relation. In a landmark article Karpoff (1987) presents four reasons why it is important to study the relationship. First, the relationship provides some information concerning the structure of the financial markets. Second, if price and volume changes are jointly determined, the incorporation of the relationship will increase the power of tests undertaken in event studies.

Third, the relation is important towards furthering our understanding of the nature of the distribution of speculative prices. This is of particular relevance in view of the fact that the appropriateness of any statistical test depends upon the nature of the distribution of the underlying population of the phenomenon

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under investigation. Finally, the relation between stock return and volume is important for providing a significant implication for research into the futures markets. In particular, the relation has implication on whether speculation in the futures market has a stabilizing or disruptive influence on the financial markets.

Given the importance of price-volume relation, this paper sets out to undertake an empirical verification of the relation using Malaysian daily return data on 220 stocks listed on Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) for the period January 1992 through December 1998. Only these companies satisfied our sampling criterion: complete data on the variables of interest and sample period. The appendix shows the list of companies used in the sample. There are two reasons for the choice of this period. First, in comparison with other studies on the KLSE, this study uses newer data and so is likely to be better able to capture recent changes in the KLSE that have attempted to make the market respond more quickly to the arrival of new information. Second, the period covered by this study is a period with three different major phases of a complete cycle: the period of upswing (1992-93); a period of relative stability (1994-96) and a period of decline (1997-98). The choice of this sample, it is hoped would help in the achievement of the objective of this study, which is to examine the extent to which stock return is related to volume. To achieve that objective, the rest of this paper is divided into four. The literature review is given in section two. Section three explains the methodology while section four presents the results. A concluding remark is given in section five.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical and empirical research on the relation between stock return and volume has a rather long history dating back to the early works of Osborne (1959). Although Osborne did not undertake an explicit test of the relation, his work served as an important milestone that sparked off further research as found in the subsequent works of Granger and Morgenstern (1963), Clark (1973), Harris (1983), Godfrey, Granger and Morgenstern (1964), Ying (1966), Crouch (1970a, 1970b), Liesenfeld (1998), Lamoureux and Lastrapes (1990), Shamsher et al (1995) and Beveridge and Sivakumar (1999).

Although the findings were not unanimous (Saatcioglu and Starks (1998)) they have produced two "stylized facts" (Karpoff (1987)). One of the common themes arising out of the rather divergent results is that the correlation between volume and return is positive in both equity and futures markets. The second "stylized fact" is the positive correlation found between volume and return per se in the equity market.

Theoretical works have helped to provide the foundations upon which the empirical works have flourished. The sequential information arrival model developed by Morse (1980) was extended by Jennings and Barry (1983). The model suggests that speculation enhances the efficiency as the stock market will respond faster to the arrival of new information.

Beveridge and Sivakumar (1999) undertook an examination of the inter-day dynamic linkages between stock returns, return volatility and volume using Canadian market and investigate the ability of volume data to account for the persistence in stock-return volatility. The authors' main contribution is that they used a different estimation and inference approach, various measures of volume, and a fairly new data set, the Canadian market aggregates. They reported results suggesting evidence of both linear and nonlinear causality from stock returns to volume. Bhagat and Bhatia (1996) employ the Granger-causality test to report evidence that price changes lead volume, but find no evidence that volume leads price changes. The work of Hiemstra and Jones (1995) has produced results that are not in total agreement with those of Bhagat and Bhatia. Hiemstra and Jones find a two-way direction of causality between return and volume.

The relation between volume and return has been investigated within the context of earnings announcements [Kiger (1972) and Morse, (1981)]. Morse uses data covering the four-year period 1973-76 to study the relation between volume and price change during earnings announcements for 20 and 5 securities traded over the counter in the NYSE (New York Stock Exchange) and ASE (American Stock Exchange) respectively. Morse argues that trading prior to a public announcement may be due to differences in beliefs about the probability of different signals being emitted by the public announcement. The differences in beliefs, he notes, may be caused by the asymmetric distribution of the information before its public announcement. However, Morse stresses that volume change following the public announcement may be caused by differences in the interpretations of the public announcement by the investors. As far as price changes before announcements are concerned, Morse notes that they may arise because some investors may receive signals that change their beliefs. This sort of price changes is different from those immediately following the announcement. For this category of price changes, Morse attributes them to "some consensus change in beliefs caused by signal". Price changes in the days following the announcement may be caused, according to Morse, by a subsequent release of some additional information related to the public announcement. Morse's findings were "somewhat surprising"

(p. 282) because "there seems to be several days of adjusting prices and portfolios" (p. 282). He argues that this "provides stronger evidence that information processing that is costly in terms of time is taking place among investors in the securities markets" (p. 283).

The relation between volume and return has been little studied on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange. The only published work in this area on the KLSE is that of Shamsher et al (1995) who utilize daily data on the composite index of the KLSE for the period January 1985 to December 1992 to examine the relation between price changes and volume. Using alternative regression models, and also employing the Granger causality tests, the authors reach a number of conclusions. First, they note that absolute price changes are found to have a strong relationship with volume compared to price change per se. Second, they report that contrary to the technical school of investing, price changes are weakly causing volume to change, but volume does not cause price changes.

METHODOLOGY

After making adjustment for capital changes, dividends and rights issues, this study computes returns as a first difference of log values of prices. Absolute returns are obtained by ignoring the negative signs. Two types of statistical tests are adopted. The first is the correlation test while the second involves the Granger causality tests.

For each of the 220 stocks, seven annual correlation coefficients are obtained between volume and absolute stock return. This is repeated for actual stock return per se. Correlations are computed for each year in order to avoid the problem of spurious correlation, arising from the trend commonly found in time-series data. Thus 3,080 correlation coefficients were computed ($220 \times 7 \times 2$). The detailed results are given in the first 36-page appendix available from the authors on request. The next step involves running 28 regressions ($7 \text{ years} \times 4 \text{ equations}$ [Equations (1) through (4) below]) for each of the 220 stocks, giving a total of 6,160 multiple regressions. The results from the regressions are not reported even in the appendix as they are not important in themselves, other than for setting the stage for the Granger causality test. If X Granger-causes Y , then past values of X should have some additional explanatory power on Y even after controlling for the effects of past values of Y . In other words if two models both have Y as the dependent variable, the one that has lagged values of X added to lagged values of Y in the set of regressors should perform better than one that has only lagged values of Y .

A comparison of R^2 in the two regressions would provide a high F-statistic if the causality was significant, and a low one if no causality existed¹. The Granger causality tests are first applied to examine the relation between absolute returns and value. The test procedure is described below.

For each of the seven years in the sample period, the first step involves estimating Equations (1) and (2) below for each of the 220 stocks.

$$|R_t| = \alpha_0 + \sum_{i=1}^6 \alpha_i |R_{t-i}| + \sum_{j=1}^6 \lambda_j V_{t-j} + \varepsilon_t \quad (1)$$

$$V_t = \gamma_0 + \sum_{i=1}^6 \gamma_i V_{t-i} + \sum_{j=1}^6 \theta_j |R_{t-j}| + \mu_t \quad (2)$$

Where:

$|R|$ = absolute return, obtained by multiplying the negative return series by -1 to drop the negative signs.

V = volume, computed by expressing the total value of shares of a stock traded on a given date as a percentage of the market capitalization of that stocks as at that date

α, λ = are parameters of the first model

γ, θ = are parameters of the second model

ε, μ = random error terms assumed to be white noise

Annual estimation of the above equations is performed in order to avoid the problem of spurious regression. This approach also was adopted by Shamsheer et al (1995) who cited a similar reason for doing so.

¹ The statistical package, SHAZAM, used by the authors does not require running two separate regressions as implied by the Granger tests. All that is required is for the larger model to be estimated and a test conducted on a subset of linear restrictions of the form explained below

The second step is to perform two Granger-causality tests for each stock using the regression results obtained from the estimation of the two models above. To test whether volume, V , Granger-causes absolute returns, the F-statistic is computed from test of linear restrictions of the form $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \lambda_3 = \lambda_4 = \lambda_5 = \lambda_6 = 0$. A rejection of this restriction would lead to a high value of F and this would imply that the Granger-causality operates in the hypothesized direction. A low value of F would suggest no significant Granger-causality.

The second Granger causality test would involve imposing a restriction to Equation (2) of the form $\theta_1 = \theta_2 = \theta_3 = \theta_4 = \theta_5 = \theta_6 = 0$ in order to test whether or not absolute return Granger-causes volume. Again, high values of F would be evidence for a causal relationship; and low values would be evidence against it. The F-statistics obtained from the Granger tests on Equations (1) and (2) are reported in the second 36-page appendix, also available from the authors on request.

The causality tests explained above are between volume and absolute returns. The tests are repeated with absolute returns replaced by actual returns (or returns per se), as given in Equations (3) and (4) below:

$$R_t = \alpha_0 + \sum_{i=1}^6 \alpha_i R_{t-i} + \sum_{j=1}^6 \lambda_j V_{t-j} + \varepsilon_t \quad (3)$$

$$V_t = \gamma_0 + \sum_{i=1}^6 \gamma_i V_{t-i} + \sum_{j=1}^6 \theta_j R_{t-j} + \mu_t \quad (4)$$

In the same vein, to test for Granger causality in Equations (3) and (4) above, F-values were computed from the imposition of restrictions, $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \lambda_3 = \lambda_4 = \lambda_5 = \lambda_6 = 0$ and $\theta_1 = \theta_2 = \theta_3 = \theta_4 = \theta_5 = \theta_6 = 0$ on the two equations respectively. The F-statistics obtained from the tests are reported in the third 36-page appendix not reported here but is available from the authors on request.

RESULTS

The results of the study are summarized in three tables. Table 1 reports the results obtained from the correlation approach. The results reveal that 87.4 per cent of stocks on average exhibit a significant correlation between volume and absolute return. In 1997, the proportion of stocks exhibiting significant correlations between volume and absolute return is 69.5 per cent, well below the average for the entire sample period. Also, it is clear that for 1992 and 1993, the proportion of stocks with significant correlations between volume and returns and also between volume and absolute return is higher than the average for the entire sample period. However, in periods of relative stability (such as 1995), the correlation tends to be close to the average for the entire sample period. During periods of significant decreases in returns (such as 1997), the degree of correlation tends to be less than the average for the entire period. Thus, overall, there seems to be evidence that when return is low, volume tends to be low; when it is high, volume tends to be high. These findings are in support of those of Rogalski and Smirlock and Starks (1988) who also find a positive correlation between volume and return.

Table 1: Correlations Between Volume and Return

| Year | Correlation Between Volume and Absolute Return | | | | Correlation Between Volume and Return Per Se | | | |
|---------|--|------|-----------------|------|--|------|-----------------|------|
| | Significant | | Not Significant | | Significant | | Not Significant | |
| | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| | Freq | % | Freq | % | Freq | % | Freq | % |
| 1992 | 207 | 94.1 | 13 | 5.9 | 188 | 85.5 | 32 | 14.5 |
| 1993 | 211 | 95.9 | 9 | 4.1 | 211 | 95.9 | 9 | 4.1 |
| 1994 | 191 | 86.8 | 29 | 13.2 | 168 | 76.4 | 52 | 23.6 |
| 1995 | 186 | 84.5 | 34 | 15.5 | 178 | 80.9 | 42 | 19.1 |
| 1996 | 196 | 89.1 | 24 | 10.9 | 188 | 85.5 | 32 | 14.5 |
| 1997 | 153 | 69.5 | 67 | 30.5 | 114 | 51.8 | 106 | 48.2 |
| 1998 | 202 | 91.8 | 18 | 8.2 | 166 | 75.5 | 54 | 24.5 |
| Average | 192.3 | 87.4 | 27.7 | 12.6 | 173.3 | 78.8 | 46.7 | 21.2 |

Columns 6 through 9 of Table 1 show the correlations between returns per se and volume. An average of 173.3 or 78.8% of stocks exhibited significant correlations between volume and returns per se. In other words only 21.2 per cent of the stocks did not record significant correlations. Comparing the results for correlations between volume and returns, and for volume and absolute returns, one finds a striking similarity as well as a key difference. An important difference is that volume tends to correlate more with absolute returns than it does with returns per se. The important similarity is that in both cases, 1997 stood out to have a markedly weaker evidence of correlations between volume and returns. A tentative conclusion is that in periods of financial turmoil, there is a substantial reduction in the proportion of stocks showing significant correlation between volume and return. This may be due to the influence of other, probably more poignant, factors. Thus, the correlation between volume and returns tends to wander out of its equilibrium level during periods of abnormal financial conditions.

The results obtained from the Granger causality tests are shown in Tables 2 and 3. From Table 2 a number of observations can be made. First, the average number of stocks exhibiting evidence that volume Granger-causes absolute returns is 17.6%, much lower than the average of 33.6% obtained when the direction of causality is reversed. This suggests that there is stronger evidence that absolute returns Granger-causes volume than there is for the reversed direction of causality. In both cases, however, the average proportion of stocks showing significant causality between return and volume is less than 50 per cent, implying that there is more evidence against, than there is in support of, the existence of such a causal relationship. It should be stressed however, that from column 7 of Table 2, there is an increasing tendency from 1992 through 1998 for absolute returns to Granger-cause volume. These results lend more support to Bhagat and Bhatia (1996) who report evidence of one-way causality than they do to Hiemstra and Jones (1995), who find a two-way causal relation. This conclusion should be taken against the background of our limitation. No test is involved in comparing the strength of causality from the two directions. Further research is required to shed additional light on whether or not there are significant differences in the mean number of stocks showing significant causality running from returns to volume and vice versa.

Table 2: The Granger Causality Between Volume and Absolute Return

| | Volume Granger-causing Absolute Return | | | | Absolute Return Granger-causing Volume | | | |
|---------|--|------|-----------------|------|--|------|-----------------|------|
| | Significant | | Not Significant | | Significant | | Not Significant | |
| | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| | Freq | % | Freq | % | Freq | % | Freq | % |
| 1992 | 38 | 17.3 | 182 | 82.7 | 72 | 32.7 | 148 | 67.3 |
| 1993 | 47 | 21.4 | 173 | 78.6 | 100 | 45.5 | 120 | 54.5 |
| 1994 | 60 | 27.3 | 160 | 72.7 | 50 | 22.7 | 170 | 77.3 |
| 1995 | 12 | 5.5 | 208 | 94.5 | 64 | 29.1 | 156 | 70.9 |
| 1996 | 48 | 21.8 | 172 | 78.2 | 71 | 32.3 | 149 | 67.7 |
| 1997 | 29 | 13.2 | 191 | 86.8 | 71 | 32.3 | 149 | 67.7 |
| 1998 | 37 | 16.8 | 183 | 83.2 | 89 | 40.5 | 131 | 59.5 |
| Average | 38.7 | 17.6 | 181.3 | 82.4 | 73.9 | 33.6 | 146.1 | 66.4 |

we examine the causal relationship between volume and returns per se. Table 3 below shows a summary of the tests for Granger causality on this relationship.

Table 3, it is clear that on average, 19% of stocks exhibit evidence in favour of the hypothesis that volume Granger-causes return. This compares with 34.5% of stocks found to show evidence that return Granger-causes volume. Thus, as found in the preceding section, return Granger-causes volume more than volume does return. A look at columns 3 and 7 of Table 3 reveals two opposing trends. While Table 3 shows that over time volume becomes weaker in Granger-causing returns, column 7 shows that return tends to become stronger over time in Granger-causing volume. Thus the evidence points towards a one-way causality in which returns lead volume. This conclusion is also tentative so further research is required to establish whether or not the strength of the causal does change significantly from year to year.

Table 3: The Granger Causality Between Volume and Return Per Se

| Year | Volume Granger-causing Return | | | | Return Granger-causing Volume | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|------|-----------------|------|-------------------------------|------|-----------------|------|
| | Significant | | Not Significant | | Significant | | Not Significant | |
| | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| | Freq | % | Freq | % | Freq | % | Freq | % |
| 1992 | 43 | 19.5 | 177 | 80.5 | 65 | 29.5 | 155 | 70.5 |
| 1993 | 44 | 20.0 | 176 | 80.0 | 98 | 44.5 | 122 | 55.5 |
| 1994 | 78 | 35.5 | 142 | 64.5 | 33 | 15.0 | 187 | 85.0 |
| 1995 | 16 | 7.3 | 204 | 92.7 | 74 | 33.6 | 146 | 66.4 |
| 1996 | 44 | 20.0 | 176 | 80.0 | 76 | 34.5 | 144 | 65.5 |
| 1997 | 34 | 15.5 | 186 | 84.5 | 72 | 32.7 | 148 | 67.3 |
| 1998 | 33 | 15.0 | 187 | 85.0 | 113 | 51.4 | 107 | 48.6 |
| Average | 41.7 | 19.0 | 178.3 | 81.0 | 75.9 | 34.5 | 144.1 | 65.5 |

CONCLUSION

Despite the importance of studying the relationship between volume and return, the developing emerging stock markets have not been subjected to rigorous empirical or theoretical investigation. This study attempts to examine the relation using Malaysian daily return data for 220 stocks listed on the KLS. The correlations and regression approaches were adopted to examine the correlation between return and volume and also to examine the direction of causality.

A number of important features of the results are worth mentioning here. First, a substantial proportion of stocks exhibited significant correlations between return and volume, as well as between absolute return and volume. Second, during periods of financial turmoil, such as 1997, the proportion of stocks exhibiting significant correlations between volume and return was almost 20 percentage points less than the average for the entire period. This tentative evidence is suggestive of the influence of other factors which help to divert the correlation coefficients away from their equilibrium values.

That, the Granger-causality tests showed that the number of stocks showing no evidence of a causal relationship between volume and return is greater than the number that do. This does not mean that the somewhat little evidence of causality should be dismissed offhand. Quite to the contrary, the results in this study show evidence that over time a growing number of stocks exhibit significant causality that runs from return (or absolute return) to volume.

What ways do the results relate to those reported by earlier researchers? The results confirm the "stylized facts" noted by Karpoff (1987). In particular the correlation results concur with those of Shamsher et al. (1995) who also found evidence of significant correlations. However, the Granger causality test results do not agree with those of Shamsher et al. (1995). What could have accounted for the differences in the two results which have been both conducted on the KLSE? Part of the explanation could be found in the differences in the data used in the two studies. Shamsher et al. (1995) used KLSE composite index, and not data on individual stocks as in this study. The use of an index has the loophole of hiding some rich information that may be found from individual stock data. Since the index is an average, it ignores the differences in the component stocks. This could have accounted for the observed differences. It also is imperative to stress that Shamsher et al. (1995) utilized data for 1985 to 1992, much earlier than the data for this study. Thus, their study covers a small portion of the 1990s and so leaves out the rest of the decade during which the KLSE has experienced the most dramatic change both in size and in the computerization of its trading activity. The results reported in this study appear to confirm the earlier findings of Beveridge and Sivakumar (1999) and Bhagat and Bhatia (1996) both of which report evidence for causality running from return to volume. More research is required to examine whether the causal relationship is due to market inefficiency or due to continuous revision in volume necessitated by continuous adjustment by investors of their trading positions as new information reaches the market.

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APPENDIX: LIST OF COMPANIES USED IN THE SAMPLE

| <u>Acronym</u> | <u>Name of Company</u> |
|----------------|--|
| AAMAL | AUSTRAL AMALGAMATED TIN BHD |
| ACTA | ACTACORP HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| AFFIN | AFFIN HOLDINGS BHD |
| AISB | AMALGAMATED INDUSTRIAL STEEL BHD |
| AJI | AJINOMOTO (MALAYSIA) BERHAD |
| ALCOM | ALUMINIUM COMPANY OF MALAYSIA BERHAD |
| AMDB | ARAB-MALAYSIAN DEVELOPMENT BERHAD |
| ANCOM | ANCOM BERHAD |
| ANGKASA | ANGKASA MARKETING BERHAD |
| ANTAH | ANTAH HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| AP LAND | ASIA PACIFIC LAND BHD |
| ASB | ADVANCE SYNERGY BERHAD |
| ASIATIC | ASIATIC DEVELOPMENT BERHAD |
| AUS ENT | AUSTRAL ENTERPRISES BERHAD |
| BHLBANK | BAN HIN LEE BANK BERHAD |
| BJUNTAI | BERJUNTAI TIN DREDGING BERHAD |
| B KAWAN | BATU KAWAN BERHAD |
| BOLTON | BOLTON BERHAD |
| B'TEAD | BOUSTEAD HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| B-TOTO | BERJAYA SPORTS TOTO BERHAD |
| B.WORLD | BEST WORLD LAND BERHAD |
| CAMERLN | CAMERLIN GROUP BERHAD |
| CASH | CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES HOUSE BERHAD |
| C'BERG | CARLSBERG BREWERY MALAYSIA BERHAD |
| CHOC | CHOCOLATE PRODUCTS (MALAYSIA) BERHAD |
| CCM | CHEMICAL COMPANY OF MALAYSIA BHD |
| CI HLDG | C. I. HOLDINGS BERHAD |

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| CAHYA | CAHYA MATA SARAWAK BHD | |
| COMMERZ | COMMERCE ASSET HOLDING BERHAD | |
| COLD | COLD STORAGE (MALAYSIA) BERHAD | |
| DUTCH | DUTCH BABY MILK INDUSTRIES (MALAYA) BERHAD | |
| DAMANSARA | DAMANSARA REALTY BERHAD | |
| DIJAYA | DIJAYA ENTERPRISE BHD. | |
| DMIB | DMIB BERHAD | |
| DNP | DNP HOLDINGS BERHAD | |
| EASTERN | EASTERN & ORIENTAL BERHAD | |
| ECONSTATES | ECONSTATES BERHAD | |
| EDARAN | EDARAN OTOMOBIL NASIONAL BERHAD | |
| EASTERN PACIFIC | EASTERN PACIFIC INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION BERHAD | |
| ESSO | ESSO MALAYSIA BHD | |
| FABER | FABER GROUP BERHAD | |
| FA | FA PENINSULAR BERHAD | |
| FCW | FCW HOLDINGS BERHAD | |
| FAR EAST | FAR EAST HOLDINGS BERHAD | |
| FEDERAL | FEDERAL FLOUR MILLS BERHAD | |
| FIMA | FIMA CORPORATION BERHAD | |
| GADEK | GADEK (M) BHD | |
| GOH | GOH BAN HUAT BERHAD | |
| GOLD COIN | GOLD COIN (MALAYSIA) BERHAD | |
| GENERAL | GENERAL CORPORATION BHD | |
| GENTING | GENTING BERHAD | |
| GOLDEN HOPE | GOLDEN HOPE PLANTATIONS BERHAD | |
| GEORGE KENT | GEORGE KENT (MALAYSIA) BERHAD | |
| GULA PERAK | GULA PERAK BERHAD | |
| GOLDEN PLUS | GOLDEN PLUS HOLDINGS BHD | |
| GRANITE | GRANITE INDUSTRIES BERHAD | |
| GUTHRIE ROPEL | GUTHRIE ROPEL BERHAD | |

| | |
|----------|---|
| G TOWN | GEORGE TOWN HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| GUINNESS | GUINNESS ANCHOR BERHAD |
| GUTHRIE | KUMPULAN GUTHRIE BERHAD |
| H&L | HIGHLANDS & LOWLANDS BERHAD |
| HANCOCK | JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE (MALAYSIA) BERHAD |
| HAPSENG | HAP SENG CONSOLIDATED BERHAD |
| HEXZA | HEXZA CORPORATION BERHAD |
| HH BANK | HOCK HUA BANK BERHAD |
| HL CRED | HONG LEONG CREDIT BERHAD |
| HL IND | HONG LEONG INDUSTRIES BERHAD |
| HO HUP | HO HUP CONSTRUCTION COMPANY BERHAD |
| HUME | HUME INDUSTRIES (MALAYSIA) BHD |
| IDRIS | IDRIS HYDRAULIC (MALAYSIA) BERHAD |
| IGB | IGB CORPORATION BERHAD |
| IJM | IJM CORPORATION BERHAD |
| INC KEN | INCH KENNETH KAJANG RUBBER LIMITED COMPANY |
| INTRIA | INTRIA BERHAD |
| IOI | IOI CORPORATION BERHAD |
| IOIPB | IOI PROPERTIES BERHAD |
| IS&PEN | ISLAND & PENINSULAR BERHAD |
| I'VEST | INNOVEST BERHAD |
| JOHAN | JOHAN HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| KCB | KAMUNTING CORPORATION BERHAD |
| K.EMAS | KUMPULAN EMAS BERHAD |
| KEMAYAN | KEMAYAN CORPORATION BERHAD |
| KFC | KFC HOLDINGS (MALAYSIA) BERHAD |
| KG HLDG | KHONG GUAN HOLDINGS MALAYSIA BERHAD |
| K'HALL | KILLINGHALL (MALAYSIA) BERHAD |
| K.JOO | KIAN JOO CAN FACTORY BERHAD |
| KKELLAS | KINTA KELLAS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY |
| KLIH | KUALA LUMPUR INDUSTRIES HOLDINGS BERHAD |

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| KLE | KUALA LUMPUR KEPONG BERHAD | KPCB |
| KRETAM | KRETAM HOLDINGS BHD | KMH |
| KECK SENG | KECK SENG (MALAYSIA) BERHAD | KSC |
| KSIDIM | KUALA SIDIM BERHAD | KMC |
| KULIM | KULIM (MALAYSIA) BERHAD | KMCB |
| KURNIA | KURNIA SETIA BERHAD | KMSA |
| KYM | KYM HOLDINGS BERHAD | KMX |
| LAND | LAND & GENERAL BERHAD | LMB |
| LANDMARK | LANDMARKS BERHAD | LMBI |
| LARUT | LARUT CONSOLIDATED BERHAD | LMBT |
| LEADER | LEADER UNIVERSAL HOLDINGS BERHAD | LMBH |
| LEONG HUP | LEONG HUP HOLDINGS BERHAD | LMBH |
| LIEN HOE | LIEN HOE CORPORATION BERHAD | LMBH |
| LINGUI | LINGUI DEVELOPMENTS BERHAD | LMBH |
| LION | LION CORPORATION BERHAD | LMBH |
| LION LAND | LION LAND BERHAD | LMBH |
| MALAYSIAN ASSURANCE ALLIANCE BHD | | MW |
| MAGNUM | MAGNUM CORPORATION BERHAD | MYCOM |
| MALAYSIA AICA BERHAD | | MAMAT |
| MALAKOFF | MALAKOFF BERHAD | MANYANG |
| MALPAC | MALPAC HOLDING BERHAD | NEGARA |
| MARUICHI | MARUICHI MALAYSIA STEEL TUBE BERHAD | NEICO |
| MALAYSIAN AIRLINE SYSTEM | | NESTLE |
| MALAYAN BANKING BERHAD | | NSOF |
| MBF CAP | MBF CAPITAL BERHAD | NSBT |
| MCB | MCB HOLDINGS BERHAD | NYLEX |
| MALAYAN CEMENT BERHAD | | ORIENT |
| MECHMAR | MECHMAR CORPORATION (MALAYSIA) BERHAD | OSK |
| MENANG | MENANG CORPORATION (MALAYSIA) BERHAD | OYL |
| METROPLEX | METROPLEX BERHAD | PACIFIC |
| METROJAYA | METROJAYA BERHAD | PALMCO |

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| MFCB | MEGA FIRST CORPORATION BERHAD |
| MFLOUR | MALAYAN FLOUR MILLS BERHAD |
| MISC | MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CORPORATION |
| MMC | MALAYSIAN MINING CORPORATION |
| MMCE | MMC ENGINEERING GROUP BERHAD |
| MOSAIC | MALAYSIAN MOSAICS BERHAD |
| MOX | MALAYSIAN OXYGEN BERHAD |
| MPHB | MULTI-PURPOSE HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| MPI | MALAYSIAN PACIFIC INDUSTRIES BERHAD |
| M PLANTG | MALAYSIAN PLANTATIONS |
| MRCB | MALAYSIAN RAILWAY CORPORATION BERHAD |
| M'SHITA | MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC COMPANY (MALAYSIA) BERHAD |
| MTC | MALAYSIAN TOBACCO COMPANY BERHAD |
| MUIB | MALAYAN UNITED INDUSTRIES BERHAD |
| MULPHA | MULPHA INTERNATIONAL BERHAD |
| M'WATA | MALAYAWATA STEEL BERHAD |
| MWE | MWE HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| MYCOM | MYCOM BERAHD |
| NAMFATT | NAM FATT BHD |
| NANYANG | NANYANG PRESS (MALAYA) BERHAD |
| NEGARA | NEGARA PROPERTIES (M) BERHAD |
| NEICO | NEICO INDUSTRIES (M) BERHAD |
| NESTLE | NESTLE (MALAYSIA) BERHAD |
| NSOP | NEGRI SEMBILAN OIL PALMS BERHAD |
| NSTP | THE NEW STRAITS TIME PRESS (M) BHD |
| NYLEX | NYLEX (MALAYSIA) BHD |
| ORIENT | ORIENTAL HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| OSK | OSK HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| OYL | O.Y.L. INDUSTRIES BERHAD |
| PACIFIC | PACIFIC BANK BERHAD |
| PALMCO | PALMCO HOLDINGS BERHAD |

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| PANTAI | HOSPITAL PANTAI BERHAD |
| PARKMAY | PARK MAY BERHAD |
| PBB | PUBLIC BANK BERHAD |
| P-CHEM | PACIFIC CHEMICALS BERHAD |
| PELANGI | PELANGI BERHAD |
| PENGCAP | PENGKALEN CAPITAL BERHAD |
| PERDANA | PERDANA INDUSTRI HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| PERLIS | PERLIS PLANTATIONS BHD |
| PFGKALE | PENGKALEN HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| PGLOBAL | PANGLOBAL BERHAD |
| PHILAND | PHILEO LAND BERHAD |
| PHILEO | PHILEO ALLIED BERHAD |
| PILECON | PILECON ENGINEERING BERHAD |
| PJBHD | PJ DEVAEOLPMENT HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| PNI | PAN MALAYSIAN INDUSTRIES BERHAD |
| PMOUNT | PARAMOUNT CORPORATION BERHAD |
| PTG TIN | PETALING TIN BERHAD |
| PUTERA | PUTERA CAPITAL BERHAD |
| RENONG | RENONG BERHAD |
| RESORTS | RESORTS WORLD BHD |
| RHB | RASHID HUSSAIN BERHAD |
| RJR | RJ REYNOLDS BERHAD |
| ROTH | ROTHMANS OF PALL MALL (MALAYSIA) BHD |
| RVIEW | RIVERVIEW RUBBER ESTATES BERHAD |
| SAB | SOUTHERN ACIDS (M) BERHAD |
| SAPURA | SAPURA TELECOMMUNICATIONS BERHAD |
| SARAWAK | SARAWAK ENTERPRISE CORPORATION BHD |
| SATERAS | SATERAS RESOURCES (MALAYSIA) BERHAD |
| S.BANK | SOUTHERN BANK BERHAD |
| SCB DEV | SCB DEVELOPMENTS BERHAD |
| SDARBY | SIME DARBY BERHAD |

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| S DRED | SELANGOR DREDGING BERHAD |
| SETRON | SETRON (MALAYSIA) BERHAD |
| SG WAY | SUNGEI WAY HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| SHELL | SHELL REFINING COMPANY (F.O.M.) BHD |
| SITATT | SITT TATT BERHAD |
| SJA | SOUTH JOHORE AMALGAMATED HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| SMI | SOUTH MALAYSIA INDUSTRIES BERHAD |
| SOP | SARAWAK OIL PALMS BERHAD |
| SPK | SPK - SENTOSA CORPORATION BERHAD |
| S PROP | SELANGOR PROPERTIES BERHAD |
| SRIWANI | SRIWANI HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| TA | TA ENTERPRISE BERHAD |
| TAIPING | TAIPING CONSOLIDATED BERHAD |
| TALAM | TALAM CORPORATION BERHAD |
| TANCO | TANCO HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| TANJONG | TANJONG PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY |
| T CHONG | TAN CHONG MOTOR HOLDINGS BHD |
| TDM | TDM BERHAD |
| TELEKOM | TELEKOM MALAYSIA BERHAD |
| TIME | TIME ENGINEERING BHD |
| TNTT | TIONG NAM TRANSPORT HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| TONGKAH | TONGKAH HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| TRACTOR | TRACTORS MALAYSIA HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| TR IND | TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES INDUSTRIES BHD |
| TRONOH | TRONOH MINES MALAYSIA BERHAD |
| TV3 | SISTEM TELEVISYEN MALAYSIA BERHAD |
| T'WINDS | TRADEWINDS (M) BERHAD |
| UAC | UAC BERHAD |
| UE(M) | UNITED ENGINEERS (MALAYSIA) BHD |
| U M'CCA | THE UNITED MALACCA RUBBER ESTATES BERHAD |
| UMW | UMW HOLDINGS BERHAD |

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| UNIPHON | UNIPHONE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BERHAD |
| UNITED PLANT | UNITED PLANTATIONS BERHAD |
| WESTLAND | WESTMONT LAND (ASIA) BERHAD |
| WORLDWIDE | WORLDWIDE HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| WING TIEK | WING TIEK HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| WTK | WTK HOLDINGS BERHAD |
| YEO HIAP SENG BHD | YEO HIAP SENG (MALAYSIA) BHD |
| YTL | YTL CORPORATION BERHAD |

the use of (i) autoregressive moving average model, (ii) vector error correction model that incorporates short-run intersectoral relationship, and (iii) vector error correction model that incorporates long-run intersectoral relationship, for forecasting the daily Finance, Industrial, Technology, Mining and Property Index of the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange. Given its effectiveness in explaining the behaviour of the stock prices, the random walk was used as a benchmark. The results of the long-run equilibrium sectoral relationship was found to track rather closely the outcome of a random walk. The autoregressive moving average model follows next, and the vector error correction model has the poorest performance.

CONCLUSION

Random walk is often used to explain stock market behaviour. Among others, evidence of random walk in the Malaysian stock market has been reported by Laurence (1986), Saw and Tan (1989), Manaster (1990), and Lee and Goh (1994a, 1994b, 1996). Of these, the studies by Saw and Tan (1989) and Lee and Goh (1994a, 1994b) further suggest that the movements of sectoral indices in the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) conform to a random walk.

Though evidence of random walk is overwhelming, an issue remains to be investigated is the usefulness of random walk for forecasting the Malaysian stock market performance. This paper seeks to evaluate its forecasting performance and makes a comparison with that of other models. The outcome of such an exercise bears not only practical importance for forecasting purposes, but is also pressing to answer a number of challenges that arise from recent developments in the literature related to financial markets.

Researches are of many types. On modeling techniques, many univariate (e.g. Box-Jenkins ARIMA model and autoregressive moving average) representations and multivariate time-series models (e.g. vector error corrections and error correction mechanism) have been developed and they offer alternatives