



Article

# Accounting Information and Stock Price of Listed Oil and Gas Firms in Nigeria

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**Abstract:** Stock price (SP) of companies is not stable in the stock market in Nigeria; it changes upward and downward, and this affects companies SP. Investors need information about changes in SP to help them make judgments about their stock investments. This study investigated the impact of accounting information: book value per share (BVPS), return on assets (ROA), leverage (LEV), asset turnover ratio (ATR), and operating activities cash flow per share (CFOA) on the SP of oil and gas companies listed on the NGX. An ex-post facto research design was used. Ten oil and gas companies that were listed on the NGX as of December 31, 2021, made up the population; seven of them were chosen through the use of the purposive sampling method. Over a fifteen-year period, information was taken from the chosen companies' financial statements (2007–2021). Regression analysis and descriptive methods were used to analyse data. The results revealed that accounting information had a significant effect on the MPS ( $\text{Adj.R}^2 = 0.25$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) of oil and gas companies listed on the NGX. The study concluded that accounting information influenced the SP of oil and gas companies on the NGX. The study recommended that management should improve ROA by using company assets efficiently and reducing business expenses in order to improve net income. This will boost MPS, which will result in an increase in the company's value. Also, investors should consider accounting information before making a decision whether to invest in stocks of oil and gas companies; this will minimize the risk of their investment.

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**Keywords:** Accounting information, Market price per share, Nigerian Exchange Group, Oil and Gas Companies, Signaling theory

## 1. Introduction

Stock price changes upward and downward in the NGX, and this increases the uncertainty of investors' future dividends and capital gains on stocks. Fatmasari et al. (2021) opined that high stock prices affect the value of a firm, and firms that have high values are attractive to investors. Enung et al. (2021) opined that stocks are attractive instruments in the capital market for investors due to the fact that they provide attractive returns. However, SP fluctuates. Jianying (2021) opined that changes in SP have a great influence on individual consumers, firms, and the economy of a country. Investors need information about changes in SP, as they usually consider factors that can influence SP before making investment decisions about stocks. Rahman & Liu, 2021. Investors consider accounting information as measure of performance of a firm before investing their capital on stocks.

Companies release their financial statements to provide useful information to investors (Ali et al., 2022). Akintoye et al. (2019) explained that financial reports are used to communicate information to various stakeholders about growth of a business. Stock return is influenced by the stability of stock prices. The ability to predict stock returns becomes difficult where stock prices are not stable, and this may affect investor confidence. Investment risk tends to increase where there is high stock volatility, and this may result in losses. (Obida et al., 2019)

#### **Statement of Problem:**

Investors invest in stocks in the NGX in order to obtain dividends and capital gains on their investments; however, in the NGX, the stock price is volatile, and according to Toby and Glory (2021), volatility in stocks in the NGX affects stock returns. It can result in low returns and losses of millions of naira suffered by investors. Furthermore, Ezeagu et al. (2022) noted that occasionally, and often against their expectations, investors experience large losses in the NGX. However, investors can use accounting variables such as NPM, ATR, LEV, DER, BVPS, and CFOA, which can be obtained in the annual reports published by companies to predict stock prices in order to estimate future returns on their investment. Ngoc et al. (2022) contend that investors can depend on accounting information to ascertain SP over time when making decisions regarding investment in stocks. But if accounting information has no connection with SP, investors won't depend on accounting information. Hence, this study investigated the effect of accounting information on stock price of listed oil and gas companies on the NGX.

#### **Gap in Literature:**

According to Indrayono (2022), accounting ratios can be grouped into five: liquidity ratios (LRs), efficiency ratios (ERs), profitability ratios (PRs), leverage ratios (LEVs), and stock market ratios (SMs). Most of the researchers that studied how accounting information influence stock price used accounting ratios to represent accounting information but the majority of the researchers selected accounting ratios at random without taking into account how accounting ratios are classified in order to reach their conclusions; as a result, there is a chance that significant accounting variables were overlooked in these earlier studies, which increases the likelihood of omitted accounting variables bias, such as Denny, 2022; Ogbodo & Osisioma, 2020; Oladunjoye et al., 2021; Olaoye et al., 2022. For instance, Denny (2022) studied how accounting information influence MPS using only stock market ratios and leverage ratios to represent accounting information. Ogbodo and Osisioma (2020) studied the influence of only stock market ratio on MPS, Oladunjoye et al. (2021) studied how accounting information influence SP using only profitability and leverage ratios to represent accounting information while Olaoye et al. (2022) studied how accounting information influence SP using only profitability and stock market ratios.

In this study, accounting information was represented by five accounting ratios that covered all categories of accounting ratios: CFOA is a liquidity ratio, ATR is an efficiency ratio, ROA is a profitability ratio, DER is a leverage ratio and BVPS is a stock market ratio. Furthermore, the influence of accounting information on SP of oil and gas companies in Nigeria has not been fully explored. Only a few studies worked on this area such as Aliyu et al., 2020; Chiek & Akpan, 2016; Mmadubuobi et al. 2022 and Oliver & Ugah, 2015. Also, results of past studies on how accounting information influence SP are not the same. For instance, Ame et al., 2023; Ezeagu et al., 2022; Lingesiya & Jeyan, 2019; Mmadubuobi et al., 2022; Shahida, 2019; Yani et al., 2023 reported that accounting information influence SP. Others such as Akani et al., 2023; Bankole & Ukolobi, 2020; Oliver & Ugah, 2015 documented that accounting information has no relationship with SP hence there is need to carry out this study, this study therefore hypothesized that: **Accounting information has no significant impact on stock price of listed oil and gas firms in Nigeria**

## Literature Review

### Conceptual Review

#### a. Accounting information:

Anachedo et al. (2021) noted that the information disclosed in the financial statements of firms for public use is called accounting information. The information is used by numerous users such as management, shareholders, employees, payables, government and banks.

#### b. Stock price (SP)

According to Fatmasari et al. (2021), SP is the amount at which a share is traded currently on a stock exchange. Novitawati and Rujiman (2022) opined that the SP reflects the company's success thus, it is the most important component that investors should take into consideration. A company's value is represented by its SP. It is a suitable measure for measuring a business' efficiency. Melinda et al. (2020) also noted that the SP can indicate a company's performance.

### Theoretical Framework

This study adopted signaling theory. Andrew Michael Spence propounded the signaling theory in 1973. According to Enung et al. (2021), signaling theory is a voluntary disclosure of information from the management to the investors so that it can have positive effect on prices of stocks. Investors are expecting a signal, and information in the financial statements is a signaling medium. hence, companies prepare financial statements with the aim of providing reliable information to investors to attract them

The study adopted signaling theory because it explained how investors respond to different information and it also indicate how managers disclose information regarding their company's performance to various stakeholders. Managers use accounting information such as the measures of VRAI that were considered in this study (NPM, LEV, BVPS, CFOA, ROA and ATR) to provide signal about performance of their companies so that it can have an effect on increasing share prices. Previous studies that adopted signaling theory include Arif & Harlina, 2022; Chabachib et al., 2020; Enung et al., 2021; Ferdaous & Barua, 2020; Ujang et al., 2018.

The study adopted signaling theory because it is concerned with reducing information asymmetry. Managers of oil and gas companies prepare financial statements that contained all the measures of VRAI (NPM, LEV, BVPS, CFOA, ROA, and ATR) that this study considered. to provide signals about the performance of their companies. Also, signaling theory also explained how investors respond to different information

### Empirical Review

Ame et al. (2023) studied how accounting information influence SP of DMBs listed in Nigeria during the period 2012-2021. Twelve chosen banks' annual reports and accounts were used to obtain data. The panel regression results revealed that ROA has insignificant positive effect on SP. However, all the explanatory variables (PER, EPS and ROA) jointly influence SP. Akani et al. (2023) studied how accounting information influence SP of companies listed in Nigeria during the period 2011-2014. Four chosen companies' data were derived from NGX. The researchers documented that accounting information has no significant influence on SP. Ezeagu et al. (2022) explored the influence of accounting information on MPS of listed DMBs in Nigeria during the period 2011-2020. Three chosen banks' annual reports and accounts were used to obtain data. The regression results revealed that MPS is significantly positively influenced by EPS and DPS, and significantly positively influenced by BVPS.

Olaoye et al. (2022) looked into how accounting information affected SP of listed DMBs in Nigeria from 2010 to 2019. Ten chosen banks' annual reports and accounts were used to obtain data. The Pooled OLS regression results revealed that SP is significantly positively influenced by BVPS, EPS and DPS while ROA has insignificant positive effect

on SP. Mmadubuobi et al. (2022) also documented that CFOA and financing activities cash flow (CFF) have insignificant positive influence on SP while the influence of CFOA on SP is positive and significant. However, jointly, all the explanatory variables (CFOA, CFF, CFIA, age, size, growth and leverage) significantly affect SP. Oladunjoye et al. (2021) studied how accounting information influence SP of companies listed on NGX during 2009-2018 accounting period. The regression analysis outcome showed that DER significantly influence SP negatively while ROA significantly influence SP positively.

Aliyu et al. (2020) explored how accounting information influence MPS of oil and gas companies on the NGX during the period 2011 to 2018. The multiple regression results showed that MPS is positively and significantly influenced by LEV, and negatively and insignificantly by BVPS. Chiek and Akpan (2016) studied how accounting information affect MPS of oil and gas firms in Nigeria during 2009 to 2013. Six chosen companies' yearly reports were used to obtain data. The multiple regression analysis showed that accounting information significantly affects MPS. Bankole and Ukolobi (2020) studied how accounting information influence SP of companies listed on the NGX from 2012 to 2018. MPS was used to represent the dependent variable while EPS, CFOA, DPS, RONW, ROE, LEV and BVPS were used to represent accounting information. The regression results showed that accounting information has no influence on SP. Uniamikogbo et al. (2018) studied how accounting information influence MPS of companies on the NGX from 2013 to 2017. The researchers documented that BVPS significantly influence SP.

Oliver and Ugah (2015) also studied how accounting information influence SP of oil and gas companies on the NGX during the period 2002-2014. The correlation analysis results showed that accounting information has insignificant relationship with MPS. Ogbodo and Osisisoma (2020) worked on how accounting information influence MPS of 60 chosen companies that were listed on the NGX from 2010 to 2019. The regression analysis's results revealed that DPS affects MPS.

Festus and Adebola (2020) also worked on how accounting information influence SP of DMBs in Nigeria from 2008 to 2017. The regression analysis's results revealed that BVPS affects MPS whereas EPS has no impact. Bhatia and Mulenga (2019) looked into how Indian stock prices were affected by accounting variables. The researchers documented that ATR significantly affects SP.

Tri et al. (2019) studied the variables that affected the IDX SP of oil and gas companies between 2011 and 2016. The study also documented that SP was influenced negatively by DER. Yani et al. (2023) studied how accounting information influence SP of firms quoted on IDX. From 2015 to 2017, four chosen companies provided secondary data. The multiple linear regression showed that the SP is significantly influenced jointly by all the explanatory variables (EPS, ROA, ROE, and DER). Fatmasari et al. (2021) empirically studied how accounting information influence SP of companies listed on IDX. The regression analysis's results showed that DER, NPM, and ROA all positively affect SP. Anachedo et al. (2021) studied how accounting information influence SP of twenty-one manufacturing companies quoted on the NGX during the period 2011-2019. The results revealed that OCF has significant positive influence on SP, and ROA has insignificant positive influence on SP. Melinda et al. (2020) also documented that CF, BVPS and earnings significantly affect MPS

## 2. Materials and Methods

The study design that was used was ex-post facto. Ten listed oil and gas companies on the NGX made up the study's population.

- a. Total Energies Marketing Nigeria Plc,
- b. Oando Plc,
- c. Ardova Plc

- d. Eterna Plc
- e. Conoil Plc
- f. Japaul Gold & Ventures Plc
- g. MRS Oil Nigeria Plc
- h. Capital oil Plc
- i. Rak Unity Petroleum company Plc
- j. Seplat Energy Plc

*Source: Nigerian Exchange Group (2021)*

The study selected the following seven firms using purposive sampling technique: Ardova Plc, Total Energies Marketing Nigeria Plc, Oando Plc, Eterna Plc, Japaul Gold & Ventures Plc, Conoil Plc and MRS Oil Nigeria Plc, the study used secondary data that was gathered between 2007 and 2021 from the seven companies' annual reports that were chosen. The independent variable, accounting information, was represented by five accounting ratios: BVPS, ROA, LEV, ATR and CFOA. while the dependent variable, SP, was represented by MPS. Data analysis was performed using E-View 9 version statistical software. The table below displays the variable measurement:

**Table 1.** Measurement of variables

| Variables                                    | Abbreviations | Measurement                                                   | Source                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Market price per share                       | MPS           | This is the value of one share of stock in a company.         | Anachedo et al. (2021)<br>Bankole and Ukolobi (2020)<br>Bhatia & Mulenga (2019) |
| Cashflow from operating activities per share | CFOA          | Cashflow from operating activities / no of outstanding shares | Kiki and Evi (2021)                                                             |
| Return on assets                             | ROA           | Net profit after tax / Assets total x 100                     | Yani et al. (2023)                                                              |
| Leverage                                     | LEV           | Total debts / Equity x 100                                    | Yani et al. (2023)                                                              |
| Book value per share                         | BVPS          | Equity / number of outstanding shares                         | Olaoye et al. (2022) and Aliyu et al. (2020)                                    |
| Assets turnover ratio                        | ATR           | Sales /Total assets                                           | Bhatia and Mulenga (2019)                                                       |

*Source: researcher's Computation (2024)*

### 3. Results

#### Data Analysis

##### a. Descriptive Statistics

**Table 2.** Descriptive statistics

| Variables | Mean   | Standard deviation (SD) | Minimum | Maximum |
|-----------|--------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| MPS       | 57.269 | 76.427                  | 0.200   | 330.00  |
| LEV       | 3.639  | 5.915                   | -21.530 | 47.350  |
| CFOA      | 9.657  | 26.470                  | -34.030 | 179.660 |
| ROA       | -0.560 | 12.293                  | -71.360 | 17.230  |
| BVPS      | 27.596 | 28.396                  | -10.380 | 122.580 |
| ATR       | 1.788  | 1.322                   | 0.030   | 8.040   |

*Source: Output of analysis (2024) using E View*

In Table 2, The MPS averaged 57.269 and varied from a minimum of 0.200 to a maximum of 330.00. The standard deviation (SD) of the MPS is 76.427. The high



range of minimum and maximum MPS of the companies shows that the companies included in the sample vary significantly in MPS. Also, Table 2 indicates that the average value of LEV was 3.639 and the SD was 5.915.. The minimum of -21.530 and the maximum value of 47.350 imply that the selected companies have different levels of LEV; that is, some of the of the sampled companies experienced high leverage while others experienced low leverage. The average of CFOA was 9.657. It has a minimum amount of -34.030 and a maximum amount of 179.660, with a SD of 26.470. Also, table 2 shows that the average value of ROA was -0.560 and varied from a minimum of -71.360 to a maximum of 17.230. The SD of 12.293 revealed that the ROA was above average for most of the companies. Furthermore, table 2 also revealed that the average value of BVPS was 27.596 and varied from a minimum of -10.380 to a maximum of 122.58. The SD was 28.396, which was very close to the average, meaning that BVPS is not prone to change. The ATR average value was 1.788 and varied from a minimum of 0.030 to a maximum of 8.040. The SD (1.322) was lower than the mean value, which indicated that the ATR does not contain many fluctuations.

b. Model specification

$$MPS_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 LEV_{it} + \beta_2 CFOA_{it} + \beta_3 ROA_{it} + \beta_4 BVPS_{it} + \beta_5 ATR_{it} + \epsilon_{it} \dots (1).$$

$$MPS_{it} = 11.280 + 0.999LEV_{it} + 0.733CFOA_{it} + 0.955ROA_{it} + 0.536BVPS_{it} + 11.748ATR_{it}$$

c. Diagnostic Tests for the model

i. Hausman Test (HT)

In order to select the best estimation model among pooled OLS, fixed effect (FE), and random effect (RE), diagnostic tests were carried out. The Hausman test was conducted to select the best estimation model between FE and RE. The result of the Hausman test presented in Table 3 showed a probability of 0.11, which is greater than the 5% significance level, implying that the RE is the model that is appropriate for the study.

ii. Random Effect (RE) Test

The study further conducted a confirmation check on the Hausman test using the Breusch-Pagan Lagrange multiplier test for random effects. The result was presented in Table 3. The Breusch-Pagan LM test showed a probability of 0.00, which is lower than the 5% significance level; thus, the null hypothesis of no RE was rejected because the probability value was significant, and the alternative hypothesis that there is a RE was accepted. This result was in line with Hausman test, which found that the RE is the best estimation model for the study.

iii. Test for heteroscedasticity and serial correlation

The study examined the model for the presence of econometric problems, heteroscedasticity, and serial correlation problems using the Breusch-Pagan Godfrey test for heteroskedasticity and the Breusch-Godfrey serial correlation LM test for serial correlation. The probability values of 0.42 and 3.96 for the heteroscedasticity test and the serial correlation test, respectively, which are insignificant at the chosen significant level of 5 percent, imply that the model is homoscedastic and also free from the serial correlation problem.

iv. Multicollinearity

A multicollinearity problem (MCP) arises when the explanatory variables are correlated highly among themselves. The study used a correlation matrix, variance inflation factors, and tolerance values to check whether the independent variables are interrelated. Results presented in Table 3 below:

**Table 3.** Correlation Matrix, Variance Inflation Factors (VIF) and Tolerance Value (1/VIF)

|             | MPS   | LEV    | CFOA  | ROA   | BVPS  | ATR | VIF             | 1/VIF |
|-------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----------------|-------|
| <b>MPS</b>  | 1     |        |       |       |       |     |                 |       |
| <b>LEV</b>  | 0.072 | 1      |       |       |       |     | 5.790           | 0.173 |
| <b>CFOA</b> | 0.336 | -0.016 | 1     |       |       |     | 2.118           | 0.472 |
| <b>ROA</b>  | 0.362 | -0.134 | 0.175 | 1     |       |     | 1.051           | 0.951 |
| <b>BVPS</b> | 0.337 | -0.082 | 0.533 | 0.286 | 1     |     | 5.590           | 0.179 |
| <b>ATR</b>  | 0.272 | -0.080 | 0.050 | 0.389 | 0.032 | 1   | 2.543           | 0.393 |
|             |       |        |       |       |       |     | Mean VIF= 3.418 |       |

*Source: Output of analysis (2024) using E View*

According to Gujarati (2004, as cited in Aliyu et al. 2020), if the correlation among the explanatory variables all has values lower than 0.8, it implies that there is no MCP among the explanatory variables, and in addition, the highest value of VIF must be lower than 10, and the tolerance value (1/VIF) of each explanatory variable must also be lower than 1 and more than 10%. In Table 3, the correlation matrix results showed that the correlation among the explanatory variables all had values lower than 0.8. This implies that MCP does not exist among the explanatory variables. In addition, the maximum value of VIFs is 5.790, which is less than the benchmark of 10, and the tolerance values of each explanatory variable are all lower than 1 and more than 10%. Consequently, the study came to the conclusion that MCP is not present among the explanatory variables.

## Result

### a. Regression Results

**Table 4.** Regression Analysis

| Dependent Variable: MPS | Random effects regression                       |          |        |       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
| Variable                | Coeff.                                          |          |        |       |
| Constant                | 11.280                                          | Std. Err | t-stat | Prob. |
| LEV                     | 0.999                                           | 10.932   | 1.03   | 0.31  |
| CFOA                    | 0.733                                           | 0.851    | 1.17   | 0.24  |
| ROA                     | 0.955                                           | 0.226    | 3.24   | 0.00  |
| BVPS                    | 0.536                                           | 0.460    | 2.07   | 0.04  |
| ATR                     | 11.748                                          | 0.213    | 2.52   | 0.01  |
| Adj. R <sup>2</sup>     | 0.25                                            | 4.021    | 2.92   | 0.00  |
| F-Stat                  | F <sub>(5, 105)</sub> = 2.84                    |          |        |       |
| Prob. F-Stat            | 0.00*                                           |          |        |       |
| Hausman Test            | chi <sup>2</sup> <sub>(5)</sub> = 9.00 (0.11)   |          |        |       |
| Breusch Pagan LM Test   | chi <sup>2</sup> <sub>(1)</sub> = 67.18 (0.00*) |          |        |       |
| Heteroskedasticity Test | chi <sup>2</sup> <sub>(1)</sub> = 4.97 (0.42)   |          |        |       |
| Serial Correlation Test | F <sub>(1, 7)</sub> = 3.96 (0.14)               |          |        |       |

*Source: Output of analysis (2024) using E View @ significant level of 5%.*





b. Model specification

$MPS_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 LEV_{it} + \beta_2 CFOA_{it} + \beta_3 ROA_{it} + \beta_4 BVPS_{it} + \beta_5 ATR_{it} + \epsilon_{it} \dots$  (equation 1).  
 MPS= Market price per share; LEV = Leverage; CFOA= cash flow from operating activities per share; ROA = Return on assets; ATR= Assets turnover ratio; i = Company; t = Year  $\beta$  = Intercept

$\beta_1 - \beta_5$  = coefficient of explanatory variables

$MPS_{it} = 11.280 + 0.999LEV_{it} + 0.733CFOA_{it} + 0.955ROA_{it} + 0.536BVPS_{it} + 11.748ATR_{it}$   
 ... (equation 2)

c. Interpretation of Regression Results

The individual effect of the explanatory variables on MPS was evaluated using the t-test probability values. The results revealed that CFOA, ROA, BVPS, and ATR have probability values (PV) of 0.00, 0.04, 0.01, and 0.00, respectively, which implies that CFOA, ROA, BVPS, and ATR have a significant effect on MPS since their PV are less than the chosen 5% level of significance. Leverage (LEV) has a PV of 0.24, which implies that LEV exerted an insignificant effect on MPS since the PV is greater than the 5% significance level. MPS is positively impacted by LEV, which has a coefficient of 0.999. This means that for every 1% increase in LEV, MPS will increase by 0.999%. Also, CFOA positively impacted MPS, with coefficients of 0.733 suggesting that MPS will rise by 0.733% for every unit increase in CFOA. Similarly, ROA positively affects MPS with coefficients of 0.955, which also implies that every 1% increase in ROA will increase MPS by 0.955%. In addition, with a coefficient of 0.536, BVPS had a positive impact on MPS, meaning that a 1% rise in BVPS would result in a 0.536% increase in MPS. ATR's coefficient of 11.748, on the other hand, suggests that the MPS will increase by 11.748% for every unit increase in ATR.

The percentage of the overall variation in MPS that can be explained by the explanatory variables combined is shown by the multiple coefficients of determination (Adjusted R<sup>2</sup>).

Thus, adjusted R<sup>2</sup> of 0.25, implies that the ability of all the explanatory variables (LEV, CFOA, ROA, BVPS and ATR,) to explain changes in MPS is 25 % and the rest of 75% can be explained by additional variables that the model does not account for. The joint effect of the explanatory variables on MPS was evaluated using F-test at 5% significance level. The F statistics of 2.84, with PV of 0.00 implies that the combined effect of all the explanatory variables (LEV, CFOA, ROA, BVPS and ATR) on the dependent variable (MPS) was significant. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected which states that accounting information has no significant effect on MPS and accepted the alternative. Hence, the study concluded that accounting information has significant effect on MPS of oil and gas companies quoted in Nigeria

#### 4. Discussion

The results of the RE model in Table 4 show that CFOA, ROA, BVPS, and ATR had a positive and significant influence on MPS, while LEV had a positive and insignificant effect on MPS. However, the combined F-statistic's overall results showed that all the explanatory variables significantly affect the MPS. The insignificant effect of LEV on MPS reported in this study is in line with the findings of Nelson and Rosinta (2020), who discovered that LEV has no significant influence on MPS. However, the result negates the findings of Aliyu et al. (2020) and Oladunjoye et al. (2021), which revealed that DER has a significant influence on share price. The positive relationship between BVPS and MPS reported in this study aligned with the studies of Joy et al. (2020) and Uniamikogbo et al. (2018), which discovered that BVPS has a positive relationship with SP. Similarly, Ezeagu et al. (2022) also concluded that BVPS has a positive and significant influence on MPS. The

outcome, however, conflicts with Bashu's (2019) findings, which found that BVPS had no significant influence on SP.

This study also reported that CFOA has a positive and significant influence on MPS. The result is in line with the finding of Anachedo et al. (2021), who discovered that CFOA has a significant positive influence on MPS. However, the result conflicts with the findings of Mmadubuobi et al. (2022), which revealed that CFOA has an insignificant positive impact on SP. The significant influence of ROA on MPS reported in this study is in line with the study of Nashar (2022), which discovered that ROA has a significant influence on SP. However, the result did not align with the findings of Ame et. al. (2023) and Olaoye et al. (2022), which revealed that ROA has an insignificant influence on SP. The significant influence of ATR on MPS reported in this study is in line with the findings of Bhatia and Mulenga (2019) who reported that that ATR has a significant influence on share price. However, the result did not align with the findings of Rakesh et al. (2020), who discovered that ATR has an insignificant influence on MPS. The result based on the joint statistics that accounting information has a significant influence on MPS supported the findings of Mmadubuobi et al. (2022), Shahida (2019), and Yani et al. (2023), who discovered that accounting information has an impact on MPS. However, the result negates the findings of Akani et al. (2023) and Bankole and Ukolobi (2020), who discovered that accounting information has no influence on SP.

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study investigated the effect of accounting information on MPS of listed oil and gas companies in Nigeria. The study concluded that accounting information affects MPS of oil and gas companies listed in Nigeria. The study recommends that management of quoted oil and gas companies on the NGX should improve ROA, which has a significant positive effect on MPS, by using company assets efficiently and reducing business expenses in order to increase net income. This will boost MPS, which will result in an increase in the company's value and invariably high returns for investors. In addition, management should improve CFOA since it has a significant influence on MPS. Improvements in CFOA will enable the companies to have enough cash to finance viable projects and also enable the companies to meet shareholder expectations in terms of cash dividends. Management should also improve BVPS and ATR in order to enhance their company's MPS.

Furthermore, investors should consider accounting information in the oil and gas companies' annual reports in predicting MPS when making investment decisions on stocks in order to ensure steady returns on their investments in the future.

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