An examination of the relationship between size and growth of listed firms in the United Arab Emirates

Julie Ann Elston
Alois Weidinger
Melanie Widmer
Oregon State University, USA

Keywords
Gibrat’s law, Growth, United Arab Emirates

Abstract
The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between firm size and growth as shaped by the context of country-specific context of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The UAE constitutes an emerging market, with smaller less developed stock exchanges than most Western countries, which may limit access to capital. Empirical results reveal a statistically significant and negative relationship between firm size and growth in the UAE across most industries, except for energy, telecommunications, and industrial manufacturing sectors. We conclude that size growth relationships are similar to those for Western countries in that smaller UAE firms tend to grow faster, with a few notable exceptions, an outcome which warrants further investigation.