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Role of External Audit and its Impact on Improving the Quality of Accounting Information–an Analytical Study in the Opinions of a Sample of Leaders in the IBN Majid General Company

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Abstract: ***The research aims to identify Role External Auditing improvement The quality of accounting information in a companye General Ibn Majid,The researchers used the questionnaire as a main tool for data collection by selecting a random sample with a size of (100) Respondent with the aim of displaying and analyzing the responses of the sample members and their perceptions of the study variables and its sub-dimensions and testing the study hypotheses using descriptive and inferential statistics methods, as well as using personal interviews and field observations as auxiliary tools in data collection. The researcher relied on statistical programs (16).SPSS V.25; Excel V) in processing and analyzing data by using the most appropriate statistical methods.The researcher reached a number of results, the most important of which are having a relationship Effect And the link Between the independent variable, external audit and its dimensions(The importance of external audit for the organization, the effectiveness of the external auditor's procedures In the organization, the means that contribute to the effectiveness of the external audit)The dependent variable is the quality of accounting information and its dimensions (efficiency of accounting information,Effectiveness of accounting information,The reliability of the accounting information).***

Keywords: ***External Audit, Quality of Accounting Information, Ibn Majid General Company.***

1. INTRODUCTION

The quality of accounting information is one of the topics that has received a great deal of attention in the recent period, whether locally or globally, especially after the major collapses

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in a number of international companies, where investors became suspicious of the published financial statements and I sincerely about the financial position of the company. Where the accounting information represents a link between its compilers, "accountants" and its users"decision makers", It is a message with important news content on which decision-makers depend, and it has very important economic and future decisions and results, as it has become like an economic commodity. Precious and rare, it has become like a precious and rare economic commodity, maintaining that information and increasing its quality through the effective role that the external auditor plays in improving the quality of accounting information and ensuring the greatest amount of confidence in accounting information.
This research consists of four axes, the first axis of which dealt with the research methodology, while the second axis came to present the theoretical aspect of the research represented by: External audit and return and quality of accounting informationAs for the third axis, it was concerned with presenting the field aspect related to diagnosing the reality of the investigated variables and testing the hypotheses on which the research was based. Companies researched.

Research problem:
The profession of external audit is considered a sensitive profession because it considers the application of its ethics and code of conduct a prerequisite for its professionalism in order to reach a final report of value and that contains quality information of quality.

Importance of the research:
1.To highlight the important role that external audit plays in improving the quality of accounting information to ensure the greatest degree of confidence in accounting information, and this is throughevaluating accounting information
2. The current study is an important study that gains its importance from being a modern and qualitative study. This is what makes it an addition to the Arabic library that is concerned with topics related to auditing and accounting information systems. The research also contributes researchers and academics to conduct more in-depth studies and research to reach more accurate results related to the topic of research..

Research aims:
1. Highlighting the importance of external audit and the role that external audit plays in promoting the quality of accounting information.
2. Identifying the level of quality of accounting information applied in Ibn Majid General Company.
3. Identifying the impact of external auditing on the quality of accounting information in Ibn Majid General Company.

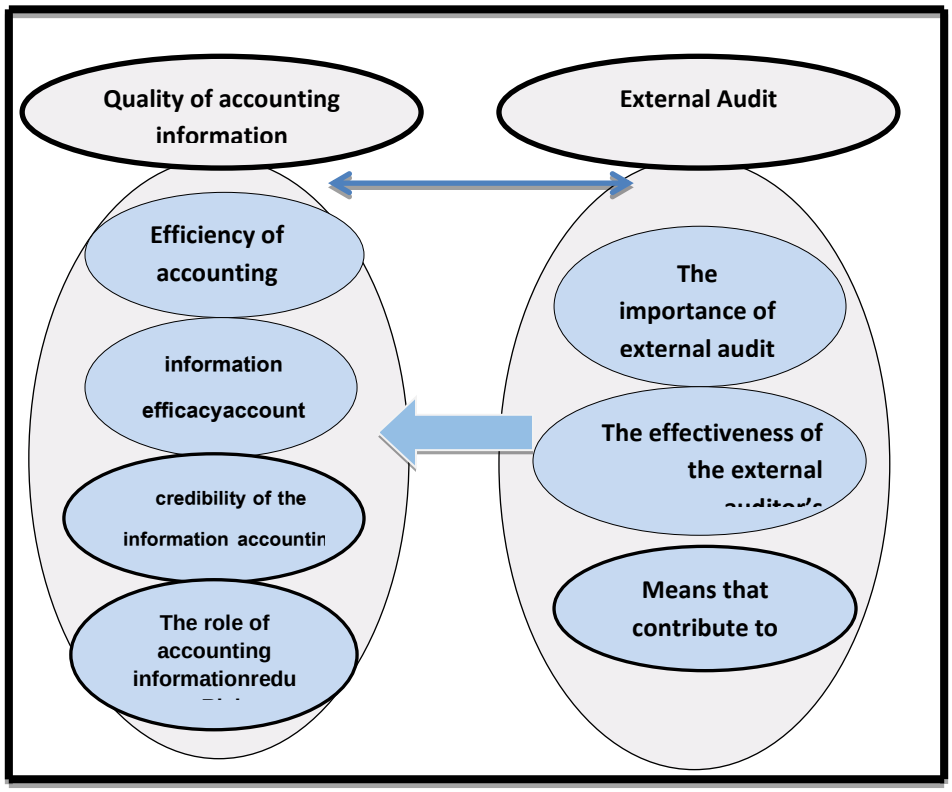
Research assumes:
In light of the research problem and taking into account the achievement of its objectives, the following two hypotheses were formulated:
A. Correlation hypothesis: There is a significant correlation between the external audit in improving the quality of accounting information at the general level and its sub-dimensions.

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B. Effect hypothesis: There is a significant effecttofor external audit into improveAnd the quality of accounting information at the general level for the two variables and their sub-dimensions.

Figure (1)



Source: Created by researchers

Techniques Data and information collection:
1.Various scientific sources have access to a group of Arab and foreign literature, including books, periodicals, master's theses, doctoral thesis, research and articles in a field related to research variables, as well as what the global information network provides from sources that enriched the theoretical aspect of research.
2. Field visits and personal interviews:
3. The questionnaire: - The questionnaire was used to collect the descriptive data obtained from the sample members, and the following steps were followed in preparing the questionnaire, its arbitration, its final preparation, its distribution and finally its collection.

The research sample
1. Spatial sample: The sample was a spatial searchIbn Majid General Company.
2. Human sample for research: The human sample consisted of (100) an individual, represented by members of the senior management, heads of departments and the people.

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Research time limits

The limits of the research included the time period adopted in conducting this research, which extended from the date of 2022

The second axis / theoretical side

Independent variable External Audit

The main objective of the external audit is the process of critically and systematically examining the internal control systems, data, documents and accounts of the project, with the intent of expressing an impartial technical opinion on whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, and in accordance with the applicable accounting framework. Those data about the extent to which the financial statements indicate the financial position of that project at the end of a known period of time and the extent to which they depict the results of its business, such as profit or loss. (32012: Abbott et al).

Dimensions External Audit:

1. The importance of external audit for the organization

The importance of audit quality is due to the fact that the outputs of the audit process represented in the auditor's report depend on it by many users in making their decisions and drawing up their policies. Therefore, audit quality is a necessary requirement for all parties benefiting from the audit process, and the importance of audit quality varies from one side to another and according to their field of work. (2016: 98,Cory).

2. Effectiveness of the external auditor's procedures in the enterprise

Supervision in the field of auditing is defined as "the process of directing the efforts of the assistants responsible for implementing and achieving the objectives of the audit, while determining the extent of implementation and achievement of these objectives." The follow-up and supervision process includes issuing instructions to the assistants, and continuously identifying important problems.
(Hussein & Hanefah, 2013: 85-86).

3. Means that contribute to the effectiveness of external audit

is a topic Auditor Independence Among the most important topics covered by academic studies and professional publications, especially with regard to the expectations gap and threats that affect the independence of the auditor, And that independence is one of the most important concerns that users of financial statements care about to give confidence to the information of those statements. Accordingly, it can be said that independence is the cornerstone of the practice of the audit profession. The independence of the auditor is a state of mind that makes him devoid of any interests when expressing his opinion and looking at all facts objectively. (Awadi, 2016: 33) Auditor ExperienceThe personal characteristics of the audit team mainly affect the quality of the audit, and one of the most important of these qualities that have a great impact on the process of issuing judgments and personal appreciation in the audit is the professional experience of the audit team(Mousavi2009: 121)

4. Quality of accounting information

Data quality is an important issue for most organizations and local governments without exception. It is defined as the process of identifying, measuring and communicating economic information for use in making rational decisions (2014).Bukenya 185) As for (Beest et al), they defined it as "information related to the reporting unit that is useful to both existing and potential equity investors, lenders and others in order to make their decisions as

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capital financiers" (6: 2009, Beest et al). He also defined it as "the accuracy with which financial statements convey information about the value of an economic unit's operations." (18: 2013, Pounder), while (Shigufta) defined it as dependent on the availability of qualitative characteristics of the accounting information contained in the financial reports, taking into consideration the essential role that this information plays in the field of financial evaluation of the company's performance, to enable potential and prospective investors to evaluate the company's financial position and the results of its work. Correctly, and thus help them rationalize their current and future investment decisions. (2016:198, Shigufta)It is also defined as "a set of qualitative features and characteristics that help investors make the decision to invest in the resources of the institution."(Céline Micha¨ılesco, 2009, p1023).

Dimensions of the quality of accounting information:

1. Efficiency of accounting information

Accounting information is considered appropriate if it affects the decision process, and if otherwise, it is considered inappropriate for this decision. The appropriate information helps its users to make predictions on the outcome of past, current and future events (the predictive value of the information) as well as to confirm or correct previous expectations (the value of the information). information return).(Mohammed, 2015,153)Its linguistic meaning is achieved if the recipients of the information understand the intended meaning of the information, which is the primary objective of accounting, and appropriateness requires the possibility of relying on the information in a useful way or its restricted connection with the actions or results desired to be achieved, and in order for the information to be appropriate, it must be meaningful enough to affect business decisions(2011: 52, Reimers).

2. Effectiveness of accounting information

The information is useful and reliable if it can be easily verified by users through the use of the same measurement and disclosure methods, for example to verify the amounts in the fund. This information is verified through direct counting of it, and the verification feature affects the link between the cost and benefit of the information (Al-Hakim, 2007;226).

3. The credibility of accounting information

It is the focus of our interest in this research, and credibility means freedom from error and bias and honest presentation, as this characteristic is necessary, especially for decision makers who do not have the time or experience necessary to evaluate the actual content of the information. The accounting information is considered credible when the following sub-characteristics are available (186: 2014:Bukenya) In order for financial reporting to be useful, the accounting information must honestly represent the economic phenomenon that it expresses. The characteristic of honest representation is achieved when the economic phenomenon is depicted completely, impartially and free from material errors. Also, the accounting information that honestly represents the economic phenomenon that lies behind it, it necessarily depicts the economic essence of the base transaction, and the events or conditions, which are always similar in terms of their legal form (Chis & Achim. 95: 2014).

4- The role of accounting informationin reducing risks

Risk assessment The management's risk assessment process is considered as part of the internal control design, in order to avoid committing errors and violations that may occur in the future and act as an obstacle to the economic unit to achieve its objectives(Arens, Lubeck: 2005,385) Risks are defined as the possibility of unexpected errors or exposing the unit to losses or fluctuations in performance due to external or internal factors, and this component

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aims(risk assessment)To identify and analyze risks, identify the extent of their effects on achieving the objectives of the economic unit, and develop appropriate treatments for the purpose of preventing their occurrence or reducing them to the lowest level. (Bo Krish, 2014: 71).

The third axis (practical side)

In this topic, the information resulting from the analysis of the collected data will be interpreted using the questionnaire designed in the light of the five-point Likerd scale, where the highest weight in the scale was placed equal to the degree (5) to represent the answer field (totally agree), while putting the least weight on the scale equal to the degree (1) to represent the answer field (totally agree), where a random sample of size (32) respondents was chosen in order to display and analyze the responses of the sample members and their perceptions of variables The study and its sub-dimensions and testing the hypotheses of the study using descriptive and inferential statistics methods.

First: Questionnaire validity test (reliability and validity):

The reliability test was conducted by the (half-splitting) method in order to know the stability value of the questionnaire (the scale), which means the stability of the results obtained (that the scale gives the same results if it is re-applied), and also the validity was tested by the (self-authenticity) method in order to know the validity of the scale Which means does the scale measure what it is designed to measure (how well the test represents the behavior to be represented).

Table (1) shows the values of the reliability and validity coefficients for the scale

The value of the self-honesty coefficient (square root of stability coefficient)	Stability coefficient value split half	Dimension/ Variable
40.9	0.90	The effectiveness of the external audit
30.9	0.87	Quality of accounting information
50.9	0.91	Total Scale (Resolution)

Source: Prepared by researchers based on program output spss. v25))

It is evident from the values of the above stability coefficients that all of them are greater than (0.67) and therefore the scale is characterized by high stability and the values of the subjective validity coefficient were high and close to the correct one, which indicates that the scale is characterized by acceptable validity and stability and is suitable for relying on the outputs obtained from it.

Secondly: Characteristics of the research sample (demographic information)

In this paragraph, we show the characteristics of the introductory research sample, which includes:(gender, age, years of service in the job, educational attainment)As in the following table:

1- **Gender:**It is clear from Table (4) that the majority of the respondents are females, and their number is (55) personally, at a rate of (55%), and the number of males is (45) people, constituting a percentage of (45%).

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Table No. (2)

Percentage	The Number	Sex
45%	45	Mention
55%	55	feminine
100%	100	the total

Source: Created by researchers

2- **Age group:** The data in Table (5) refer to the age group of the research sample, as we note from the table that the age group that ranges between (31-40) years of the respondents came in the first place with a percentage of (35%), and in the second place came the age group ranging from Between (20-30) years and it was (28%), while the age group ranging between (41-50) years (50 years and over) decreased by (22%) and (15%) for both categories, respectively.

Table No. (3)

Percentage	The Number	Years
28%	28	20-30 years old
35%	35	From 31-40 years old
22%	22	41-50 years old
15th%	15th	From 50 years and over
100%	100	the total

Source: Created by researchers

Qualification: The data in Table (6) indicates the scientific qualification of the research sample, as the majority of the people included in the research sample are those who have a bachelor's degree, with a percentage of (35%), and in the second place are those who hold a diploma certificate, and they constitute a percentage of (29%), while it is ranked In the third place, with a very low rate, those who hold a high school diploma with a percentage of (23%), and in the fourth rank are those who hold a preparatory certificate or less, with a percentage of (13%).

Table No. (4)

Percentage	The Number	Practical Qualification
13%	13	Preparatory and below
29%	29	diploma
35%	35	BA
23%	23	Master's Degree
100%	100	the total

Source: Created by researchers

4- Years of service: The data in Table (7) refer to the years of work service for the research sample, as we note from the table that those who spent the years of service between (6-10) years complain (34%) of the research sample and came in the first place, and in the second

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place came those who spent (More than 15 years) at a rate of (27%), while those who spent years of service (5 years and less) came in the third rank with a percentage of (22%), and in the fourth rank came those who spent their service years (11-15) (17) %)

Table No. (5)
Distribution of the interviewees according to years of service

Percentage	The Number	Practical Qualification
22%	22	5 years or less
34%	34	6 -10 years
17%	17	11-15 years old
27%	27	more than 15 years
100%	100	the total

Source: Created by researchers

Third: Sample trends about the study variables and their sub-dimensions:
In order to know the trends of the sample members about the research variables and their sub-dimensions, the researchers used for this purpose the weighted arithmetic means, standard deviations, and the relative importance (agreement ratio) in order to measure and evaluate the degree obtained and related to the responses of the study sample members, for the purpose of identifying the extent of consistency and compatibility in the opinions of the sample and their perceptions of variables The study, in general, is as follows:

Perceptions of the sample members about the independent variableExternal Audit) and its dimensions:
variable was measured independent External Audit Six sub-dimensions include (the means that contribute to the effectiveness of the external audit,The importance of external audit for the organization,The effectiveness of the external auditor's procedures in the organizationEach dimension consisted of several paragraphs (questions) included in the research questionnaire form, and the statistical outputs were as in the following table:

Table (6) shows the responses and perceptions of the sample membersExternal Auditand its sub-dimensions

Sort by importance	Agreement percentage (%)	standard deviation	Arithmetic mean	Dimensions/Statistical Indicators	
Third	59.2	0.72	3.03	Means that contribute to the effectiveness of the external audit	Dimensions of the independent variable
the first	60.9	0.74	3.06	The importance of external audit for the organization	
Second	60.7	0.63	3.04	The effectiveness of the external auditor's procedures in the organization	
	60.1	0.20	3.04	Total External Audit	

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Source: Prepared by researchers based on program output spss. v25

It is evident from the above table that the percentage of agreement among the study sample members is very close to the dimensions of the variable independent External Audit and ranked according to the arithmetic mean (the means that contribute to the effectiveness of the external audit,The importance of external audit for the organization,The effectiveness of the external auditor's procedures in the organization) respectively, where the percentage of agreement (relative importance) for each of them was about (59%-60%), which is an agreement percentage indicating close importance to the study sample for all dimensions of the independent variable, and the values of the arithmetic means for the variableThe effectiveness of the external audit And its dimensions to a neutral direction when classified on a five-graded Likerd scale, and that their answers are homogeneous on these dimensions, and this is evident from the value of the small standard deviation, where all dimensions were less than the correct one. Perceptions of the sample members about the dependent variableQuality of accounting information) and its dimensions: variable was measured subordinate Quality of accounting information Four sub-dimensions include (the efficiency of accounting information, the effectiveness of accounting information, the credibility of accounting information,The role of accounting information in reducing risksEach dimension consisted of several paragraphs (questions) included in the research questionnaire form, and the statistical outputs were as in the following table:

Table (7) shows the responses of the sample members and their perceptions ofQuality of accounting information and its sub-dimensions

Sort by importance	Agreement percentage (%)	standard deviation	Arithmetic mean	Dimensions/Statistical Indicators	
Third	61.1%	0.58	3.08	Efficiency of accounting information	Dimensions of the dependent variable
Second	61.8%	0.52	3.06	Effectiveness of accounting information	
the fourth	60.4%	0.48	3.04	The reliability of the accounting information	
the first	62.3%	0.69	3.15	The role of accounting information in reducing risks	
	61.4%	0.38	4.11	Total quality of accounting information	
	Source: Prepared by researchers based on program outputs spss. v25)).				

It is evident from the above table that the percentage of agreement among the study sample members is very close to the dimensions of the variableQuality of accounting informationand arranged according to the arithmetic mean (The efficiency of accounting information, the credibility of accounting information, the effectiveness of accounting information, the role of accounting information in reducing risks) respectively, where the percentage of agreement

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(relative importance) for each of them was about (60%-62%), which is an agreement percentage indicating close importance to the study sample for all dimensions of the dependent variable, and the values of the arithmetic means for the variableQuality of accounting informationAnd its dimensions to a neutral direction when classified on a five-graded Likerd scale, and that their answers are homogeneous on these dimensions, and this is evident from the value of the small standard deviation, where all dimensions were less than the correct one.

Fourth: Measuring, testing and analyzing the correlation and effect relationships between the study variables (testing the study hypotheses)

In order to test the hypotheses of the study, the researchers used inferential statistics methods (normal distribution test, linear correlation, Pearson coefficient, simple linear regression) as follows:

1. Normal distribution test:

Conducting the statistical analysis of the data requires the fulfillment of certain conditions, the most important of which is the normal distribution of the data. (Shapiro-Wilk) for the independent variable and the dependent variable, where the null hypothesis, which indicates that the data are distributed normally, is tested against the alternative hypothesis, which indicates that the data do not follow a normal distribution, as shown below:

Table (8) shows the results of the Kolmkrov-Smirnov test (K_S) and Shapiro-Wilk (S_W) test for normal distribution

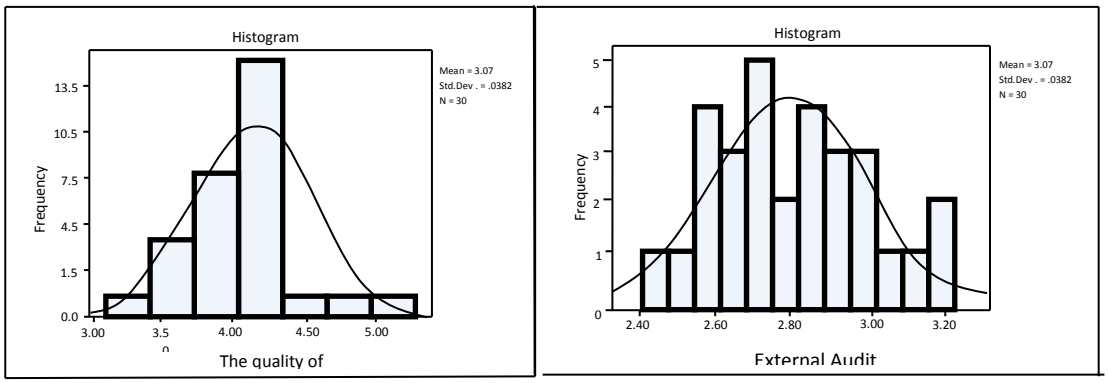
Shapiro-Wilk Test (S_W)	**Kolmkrov-Smirnov test (K_S)**	***Sample* volume (n)**	**variable**
0.968**	0.101**	100	:XExternal Audit
0.933**	0.162**		:YQuality of accounting information
The sign (**) The value of the test is significant assuming a significant level (0.01), meaning that the value of (P_value) is greater than (0.01).			
Source: Prepared by researchers based on program outputs spss. v25)).			

From the above table, it is clear that the independent variable and the dependent variable follow the normal distribution, where the null hypothesis is accepted, which indicates that the data follow the normal distribution, where the value of (P_**value**) for the two tests above is greater than (0.01) and the histogram below shows the normal distribution curve for the two variables:

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Figure (2)



Source: Prepared based on program by researchers outputs spss. v25

2. Testing for the existence of a correlation between the research variables:

In order to test the first hypothesis that states (There is a positive, statistically significant relationship betweenExternal AuditAnd theQuality of accounting informationinLeaders in Ibn Majid General CompanyThe simple linear correlation coefficient was calculated between the two variables.External Audit) and variable **(**Quality of accounting informationAnd as in the table below:

Table (9) of the correlation coefficient (Pearson) between the search variables

(P_value)	**:YQuality of accounting information**	**Y** / **x**
0	**0.77	:XExternal Audit
Brand (**)The highest value of the correlation coefficient indicates that the correlation is significant (statistically significant) assuming a level of significance (0.01), meaning that the (P_value) of the (t) test is less than (0.01).		

Source: Prepared by researchers based on program outputs spss. v25)).

It is evident from the above table that the relationship betweenindependent variableExternal Audit And the dependent variableThe quality of the accountant's informationyeSignificant (statistically significant) below the level of significance (0.01), which is a direct (positive) and strong correlation, which means that the first hypothesis is accepted, and that the increase in presenting a modelExternal AuditinLeaders in Ibn Majid General CompanyThere will be an increase inThe quality of accounting information.

3. Test for the presence of an effect of the independent variableExternal Audit) in the variablesubordinate(The quality of accounting information):

In order to test the second hypothesis which states (There is a positive, statistically significant effectfor the effectiveness of the external auditon improvingThe quality of accounting informationinLeaders in Ibn Majid General Company(Simple linear regression analysis was used to determine whether the independent variable affects theExternal

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Audit(in the dependent variable)The quality of accounting information) And what is the size of the effect, as in the table below:

Table (10) values Test (F), coefficient of determination (R2) and regression coefficients

:YQuality of accounting information				**X/Y**
regression coefficient (B)	**constant gradient(A)**	**The coefficient of determination (R2)**	**Values (F) calculated**	
90.4	2.21	60%	**33.45	**:XExternal Audit**
Brand (**) highest value (F) indicates The effect is significant (statistically significant) assuming a level of significance (0.01), meaning that (P_value) is less than (0.01).				
The significance of the regression model is tested by the value of (F), and the value of the coefficient of determination (R2) represents the explanatory power of the independent variable for the changes that occur in the dependent variable.				
Source: Prepared by researchers based on program outputs spss. v25))				

There is a significant effect (statistically significant) below the level of significance (0.01) for the variableExternal Audit in variableQuality of accounting information Explain a variableExternal Audit About (60%) of the changes that occur inQuality of accounting information The rest is due to other variables and the random error factor, which means that the second hypothesis is acceptedQuality of accounting information It improves by applying a modelThe effectiveness of the external audit inLeaders in Ibn Majid General Company The regression equation for the dependent variable was (Quality of accounting information(on the independent variable)External Audit) which was equal to: (Quality of accounting information =2.21+0.49Quality of accounting information) This indicates that in a state of changeThe effectiveness of the external audit By one unit,Quality of accounting information will increase by (0.49), and in the case ofThe effectiveness of the external audit equal to zero the renewalThe effectiveness of the external auditwill equal (2.21).

2. CONCLUSIONS

1. The external audit is a process of monitoring and examining the financial statements in order to ascertain their validity and sincerity, and its importance lies in giving the true picture of the financial position.of the quality of accounting information.
2. The external audit increases the ability to communicate accounting information, and this is by preparing the final report of the auditor, which contains the extent of honest and disclosure of all the information contained in the financial statements..
3. The degree of quality of accounting information It has a significant impact on the accuracy of the decisions made by users of this information. No accounting information can independent external agency to determine its credibility.
4. Be judged to have qualitative characteristics unless it has been audited bycheckerAn Checker works the external information in the report that the accounting information is free from bias increases the confidence of the users of financial reportsThis information is of quality.

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Recommendations:

1. The need to work on improving the qualityaccounting information, by providing qualitative characteristics of accounting information by the external auditor.
2. Necessity in its improved checkers those who break the rules and ethics of the profession, to be the basis for completing the review processimproving the quality of accounting information.
3. It is necessary for the external auditor to disclose accounting information at a certain time, otherwise it will lose its importance, and to be disclosed in ways that are easy to understand and help in achieving its quality.
4. Working to ensure the integrity and transparency of the external auditor, as it affects the improvement of the quality and credibility of the accounting information.

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