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**THE ROLE OF ACCOUNTING INFORMATION IN ENHANCING FAIR VALUE  
MEASUREMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF LISTED INSURANCE FIRMS  
IN IRAQ**

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**ABSTRACT**

Fair value measurement is vital in financial reporting, especially for insurance firms with complex assets and liabilities. However, in Iraq's insurance sector, its implementation is hindered by market illiquidity, lack of active markets, inadequate valuation tools, and poor disclosure. This study evaluated how accurate, timely, and verifiable accounting information can enhance fair value measurement and improve financial reporting quality for listed insurance firms in Iraq. This study adopted *ex-post facto* research design, analysing existing data from 5 listed insurance firms in Iraq using a census sampling method due to the small population size. Covering the period from 2015 to 2024, the research spanned different financial and regulatory phases. Panel regression analysis was used to examine variable relationships, leveraging the longitudinal nature of the data to enhance accuracy, control for unobserved factors, and ensure robust results. The regression conducted found that accounting information proxied with faithful representation, timeliness, and value relevance had positive and significant effects on the fair value measurement of assets and liabilities of listed insurance firms in Iraq. The findings imply that when insurance firms in Iraq provide accounting information that is faithfully represented, timely, and value-relevant, they tend to have more reliable and accurate fair value measurements of their assets and liabilities. This strengthens investor confidence, transparency, and the quality of financial reporting in the insurance sector. The study concluded that the faithful representation, timeliness, and value relevance of accounting information are critical in supporting effective fair value measurement in Iraq's insurance sector. This study suggested that the regulatory bodies should establish more robust frameworks and standards to enforce timely, accurate, and verifiable accounting disclosures in the insurance industry.

**KEYWORDS:** - Accounting information, fair value measurement, faithful representation, timeliness, value relevance.

**JEL Classification Codes:** D24, M40, M41

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Fair value measurement has become a central element in modern financial reporting, particularly for entities in the insurance sector, where financial instruments and long-term liabilities dominate balance sheets. Fair value accounting, as defined under IFRS 13, provides a consistent framework for measuring and disclosing assets and liabilities at their current market value rather than historical cost. This approach enhances transparency and comparability, allowing investors, regulators, and other stakeholders to assess the real-time financial health of insurance firms (IFRS Foundation, 2023). In the context of Iraqi listed insurance companies, accurate fair value measurement is crucial due to their exposure to financial risks, actuarial liabilities, and market volatility. As such, the adoption of fair value principles supports informed investment decisions, regulatory oversight, and strengthens confidence in the insurance industry (Al-Saadi & Al-Tamimi, 2022).

Despite the recognized benefits, the implementation of fair value measurement in Iraq's insurance sector faces significant challenges. Many insurance firms still struggle with limited market liquidity, the absence of active markets for certain assets, inadequate actuarial valuation tools, and insufficient disclosure practices, which hinder reliable and objective fair value estimation (World Bank, 2023). Furthermore, Iraqi accounting professionals often lack the necessary training and technical expertise to fully apply IFRS 13, resulting in inconsistencies and reduced reliability in reported values (Jassim & Salman, 2024). This creates a gap between reported financial information and the economic reality, potentially misleading stakeholders and impairing decision-making processes. The persistent volatility in Iraq's economic and financial systems further complicates fair value estimation, especially when observable inputs are scarce or unreliable.

In today's dynamic and increasingly complex financial landscape, the role of accounting information in supporting accurate and transparent measurement of assets and liabilities has become critical. Fair value measurement, as defined by the International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS 13), emphasises the use of market-based data over historical cost, thereby enhancing the relevance and comparability of financial statements (IFRS Foundation, 2023). This shift toward fair value accounting reflects a broader effort to provide stakeholders with more timely and decision-useful information. However, the reliability of fair value estimates heavily depends on the quality and integrity of underlying accounting information. Accounting information serves as the foundation upon which fair value assessments are made, particularly for assets and liabilities that are not traded in active markets. High-quality accounting data enhances the credibility of valuation inputs and supports management in applying appropriate valuation techniques, particularly when market observability is limited (Barth & Landsman, 2021). Furthermore, with growing concerns about financial reporting quality and market

volatility, investors and regulators are placing increased emphasis on how accounting systems support fair value measurement to reduce subjectivity and enhance auditability (Wang et al., 2022).

Recent empirical studies show that robust accounting systems improve the transparency and consistency of fair value disclosures, thereby fostering investor confidence and reducing information asymmetry (Kothari, Ramanna, & Skinner, 2023). Particularly in emerging markets where valuation challenges persist, accounting information plays a central role in mitigating bias and enhancing the reliability of fair value estimates (Alali & Jaggi, 2020). Previous studies have emphasised the importance of fair value in improving accounting transparency and performance in emerging markets (Barth et al., 2021; Okafor et al., 2023), yet few have specifically addressed the Iraqi insurance sector. As such, this study aimed to examine the role of accounting information in enhancing fair value measurement of assets and liabilities of listed insurance firms in Iraq, assessing the extent to which accurate, timely, and verifiable financial data contributes to the quality of financial reporting under fair value frameworks. Given these issues, there is a pressing need to critically examine how fair value measurement is applied by listed insurance firms in Iraq and to evaluate the implications on financial reporting quality, stakeholder confidence, and regulatory compliance. Understanding the extent to which these firms conform to IFRS 13 standards can highlight areas requiring reform, capacity-building, and policy enhancement. The outcomes of fair value application in Iraqi listed insurance firms contribute both to academic knowledge and practical policy development in Iraq's financial reporting landscape.

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

This section provides precise explanations of essential concepts pertinent to the research, introduces the theoretical framework that underpins the study, and examines previous literature on the subject. It lays the groundwork for comprehending the study's background and facilitates the formulation of hypotheses or research inquiries.

### **2.1 Fair Value Measurement of Assets and Liabilities**

Fair value measurement refers to the process of determining the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (IFRS 13, 2023). Fair value is defined as a market-based measurement, not an entity-specific measurement, focusing on the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability (Dagunduro et al., 2024; Li et al., 2025). Fair value measurement is considered a tool that enhances the decision-usefulness of financial statements by providing timely and relevant information about the current value of assets and liabilities (Tang, 2024). It is a structured method of valuation based on a three-level hierarchy that

prioritises observable inputs over unobservable inputs to ensure transparency and reliability in measuring fair value (Ramli et al., 2021). In empirical financial reporting, fair value measurement is employed primarily for financial instruments and investment properties, and its application is influenced by factors such as firm size, governance structure, and regulatory environment (Zhang & Qu, 2022).

## **2.2 Accounting Information**

Accounting information refers to the structured financial data generated through accounting processes that aid stakeholders in making informed economic decisions (Akinadewo et al., 2023; Igbekoyi et al., 2024; Weygandt et al., 2022). Accounting information comprises financial records that reflect an entity's financial performance and position, enabling internal and external users to evaluate organisational outcomes (Atrill & McLaney, 2022; Awotomilusi et al., 2022). Accounting information provides credible and timely financial insights that investors and creditors rely on for evaluating the viability and risk of firms (Awotomilusi et al., 2025; Raji & Dagunduro, 2024). Accounting information reflects firm fundamentals such as earnings and book value, which are essential in determining market value and assessing value relevance (Akinadewo et al., 2024; Falana et al., 2023; Zhang & Qu, 2022). Accounting information enables transparency in financial reporting, promoting accountability in organisational operations and supporting stakeholder trust (Igbekoyi et al., 2023; Owonifari et al., 2023; Oyeniyi et al., 2024).

## **2.3 Theoretical Framework**

This study is anchored on decision usefulness theory, fair value accounting theory, and information asymmetry theory. The decision usefulness theory underpins the role of accounting information as a tool for informed decision-making, while fair value accounting theory supports the valuation of assets and liabilities at market-based measurements. Information asymmetry theory bridges both variables by suggesting that high-quality accounting information reduces uncertainty and enhances the reliability and transparency of fair value measurements in financial reporting. Decision usefulness theory, propounded by Chambers (1966), posits that the main goal of accounting is to provide information that is useful for decision-making by external stakeholders such as investors and creditors. This theory is particularly applicable to the role of accounting information in enhancing fair value measurement, as the relevance and reliability of financial data help stakeholders assess the value and performance of firms, including insurance companies in Iraq. In the context of fair value reporting, decision usefulness ensures that the information disclosed assists users in making informed judgments. However, critics argue that the notion of “usefulness” is inherently subjective and may not fully address other accounting objectives such as accountability or stewardship (Young, 2006).

Fair value accounting theory, developed through accounting standard frameworks and later discussed by scholars like Penman (2007), emphasises the use of current market values to measure assets and liabilities. This approach aligns well with IFRS 13, which provides a hierarchy for measuring fair value using observable and unobservable inputs. The theory is relevant to this study as it highlights the importance of accurate accounting information for estimating fair values, especially for financial and insurance firms dealing with complex or illiquid assets. Despite its benefits, fair value accounting has been criticised for introducing volatility and potential manipulation in financial statements, especially when fair value estimates rely on unobservable inputs or management assumptions (Laux & Leuz, 2009).

Information asymmetry theory, introduced by Akerlof (1970), explains that disparities in information access between parties can lead to inefficiencies in the market, such as adverse selection or moral hazard. This theory underscores the role of accounting information in reducing information gaps between company management and external users of financial reports. In the context of insurance firms in Iraq, enhancing the transparency and accuracy of fair value measurements through reliable accounting information helps to mitigate the risks posed by information asymmetry. However, the theory assumes rational behaviour and complete disclosure, which may not always reflect real-world practices where managerial incentives and market imperfections exist (Healy & Palepu, 2001).

## **2.4 Empirical Review**

Ramli et al. (2021) investigated the issues and challenges associated with the implementation of IFRS 13 Fair Value (FV) Measurement, particularly in relation to financial instruments within the context of Islamic Financial Institutions (IFIs). Adopting a qualitative approach, the researchers conducted in-depth interviews with several academicians, accountants, auditors, and representatives of professional bodies. The findings revealed that challenges in implementing FV measurement were linked to the relevance of the measurement and the hierarchy levels of FV measurement. Importantly, issues were also examined from a Shariah perspective. The study offered valuable insights into the challenges surrounding the application of IFRS 13, particularly in relation to financial instruments in Malaysia.

Carvalho et al. (2022) aimed to investigate whether fair value was used as a measurement basis for non-current assets by the largest Portuguese companies and to analyse the degree of compliance with disclosure requirements related to fair value measurement for these assets. The researchers employed a content analysis methodology, examining the Reports and Accounts and Auditor Reports for the years 2019 and 2020 from 59 large companies operating in Portugal. They subsequently developed a Disclosure Index to assess the level of compliance with the disclosure requirements for fair value measurement of non-current assets. The findings revealed

that: (a) 59.3% of the sample did not use fair value as a measurement basis for non-current assets; (b) investment properties represented the asset category with the highest number of companies applying fair value measurement, although the average compliance index was only 0.07; and (c) there was a general lack of compliance with most disclosure requirements stipulated by accounting standards, with a global average index value of 0.13. The highest levels of disclosure compliance were observed in relation to tangible and biological assets.

Zhang and Qu (2022) found that fair value measurement (FVM) was predominantly applied to the measurement of financial assets and liabilities, with limited use for investment property. The empirical data showed that the combined value relevance of book value of equity (BV) and net income (NI), as well as the individual value relevance of BV and NI, increased during the post-FVM adoption period. However, fair value adjustments did not demonstrate any incremental explanatory power. The study also revealed that the level of economic development, along with a firm's characteristics and size, significantly influenced both the adoption of FVM and its value relevance. These findings suggested that the comprehensive adoption of FVM in countries with underdeveloped market mechanisms remained incomplete or underdeveloped.

Tang (2024) investigated whether the use of fair value measurement for investment property influenced audit pricing before and after IFRS convergence in the Hong Kong real estate sector. Drawing on a sample of 78 real estate firms listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange during the pre-IFRS period (2001–2004) and the post-IFRS period (2005–2008), the study employed multivariate regression analyses to test hypotheses concerning the relationship between investment property revaluation and audit fees, as well as the role of corporate governance structures in the context of family control. The empirical findings indicated that audit fees decreased in response to revaluation gains or losses from investment property after IFRS convergence, but not in the pre-IFRS period. Moreover, the negative relationship was found to be more pronounced in companies controlled by founders, those with a higher proportion of independent directors on the board, and those with smaller board sizes. These results aligned with the moderating effect of corporate governance.

Salman et al. (2025) aimed to examine the effect of fair value on the relevance of book value per share for a sample of banks listed on the Iraq Stock Exchange. The significance of the study lies in the importance of accounting information for users of financial statements in making decisions and assessing the performance of economic entities. It also reflected the interest of standard-setters and researchers in the relevance of earnings per share, as it serves as a means of evaluating the quality of accounting information. To achieve the research objective, a descriptive analytical approach was employed, involving statistical analysis using the SPSS programme to measure the impact of fair value on the relevance of stock book value. The study concluded that



there were differences in the effect between fair value measurement and disclosure on the explanatory power of accounting figures.

Li et al. (2025) examined how monetary policy uncertainty (MPU) influenced corporate credit financing and analysed the mediating effect of accounting information quality, using data from China's A-share nonfinancial listed firms from 2007 to 2022. The empirical results showed that an increase in MPU significantly reduced corporate credit financing, particularly short-term loans. MPU drove this decline through two potential channels, namely, asset tangibility and financing costs. Furthermore, their analysis showed that high-quality accounting information mitigated the adverse effect of MPU on corporate credit financing. This finding suggested that firms could strengthen their external financing capabilities by improving the quality of information disclosures, especially when MPU increased.

Kolawole et al. (2025) examined the relationship between IFRS 6 accounting options and the value relevance of Nigerian oil and gas firms, focusing on key financial metrics such as Tobin's Q, enterprise value, earnings per share, and price-to-book value. Using an ex post facto research design and inferential statistical techniques, data from listed oil and gas firms spanning 2012 to 2022 were analysed. The findings revealed inefficiencies in translating exploration investments into firm value, with fixed asset intensity, cash investments, and intangible assets showing insignificant negative impacts on market valuation and equity returns.

Wang and Pirouz (2025) determined the relationship between accounting information quality (AIQ) and cost of capital (CoC) and whether there were differences in the relationship between AIQ and CoC that could be attributed to ownership level. The statistical population of the study comprised companies listed on the stock exchange during the 8 years from 2011 to 2018, with a total of 143 companies examined. According to the findings, there was a positive and significant relationship between the quality of accounting information and the CoC, as well as the effect of institutional ownership on the relationship between the quality of accounting information and the CoC. The research also found that the effect of government ownership on the relationship between the quality of accounting information and the CoC was negative.

Beigman et al. (2025) proposed a new dynamic method, the Principal Path Method (PPM), for pricing crypto assets against a primary or functional (fiat) currency in situations where these assets did not trade directly against the functional currency or traded at volumes that prevented resulting pricing information from qualifying as Level 1 (ASC 820) for financial reporting. They based their method on the guidance provided in ASC 820, IFRS 13, and IAS 21. The method was designed to extract prices from "compliant" markets that resulted in reliable inputs to the valuation process. The methodology improved the current techniques used to value thinly traded

crypto assets, such as using the last observable transaction price, creating a weighted-average price across multiple markets, or using data on comparable tokens, if available. Furthermore, the study presented empirical evidence that suggested pricing information generated by their method for non-exchangeable, thinly traded, or illiquid crypto assets better reflected the fundamental qualitative characteristics of useful information, relevance and faithful representation, and resulted in more reliable inputs used in the valuation process. Unlike methods currently used in practice, their method ensured the integrity of the valuation data employed by selecting prices from compliant markets.

Gračanin et al. (2025) aimed to examine whether the application of fair value accounting (FVA) impacted the quality of information on the financial position and profitability of banks. The research was conducted on a sample of banks that operated in the Republic of Serbia (RS) in the period between 2010 and 2020. The Paired-Samples t-test and measures of variability of the analysed data were used to test the hypotheses. It was noticed that the profitability indicators of banks determined under the conditions of application of the full FVA were statistically significantly different from the same indicators determined by the application of historical cost accounting (HCA). No statistically significant difference was found between the profitability indicators of banks determined under the conditions of application of HCA, on the one hand, and those determined under the conditions of application of the mixed-attribute model of measurement, nor was a statistically significant difference between the indicators of the financial position of banks determined by the application of HCA and FVA. The research confirmed that the profitability of banks in the Republic of Serbia was more susceptible to changes in times when FVA was applied than in cases of HCA application.

Prior studies such as Ramli et al. (2021) and Carvalho et al. (2022) have primarily focused on fair value measurement (FVM) challenges in specific sectors or regions Islamic Financial Institutions in Malaysia and large corporations in Portugal without considering the insurance sector in Iraq, which has unique regulatory, economic, and institutional contexts. Furthermore, issues such as poor compliance with disclosure requirements and relevance of fair value levels have been explored, but without addressing how the quality of accounting information could mitigate or compound these challenges in Iraq's evolving financial environment. While Zhang and Qu (2022) and Tang (2024) examined value relevance and audit pricing, respectively, they did not focus on the role accounting information plays in facilitating accurate and useful fair value disclosures.

Additionally, Salman et al. (2025) and Wang and Pirouz (2025) emphasized the impact of fair value on book value relevance and the relationship between accounting information quality and capital costs, yet did not explore how these elements interact specifically within the insurance



sector. Other studies, such as Kolawole et al. (2025), Gračanin et al. (2025), and Beigman et al. (2025), assessed fair value application in diverse sectors like oil and gas, banking, and crypto markets, leaving a gap in sector-specific investigation for Iraqi insurance firms. These gaps highlight a need for a focused study on how accounting information influences the application, measurement accuracy, and disclosure quality of fair value in the insurance industry of a developing market like Iraq. The current study thus seeks to contribute context-specific evidence on how high-quality accounting information can enhance fair value measurement and improve transparency, compliance, and decision-making in Iraq's insurance sector.

## **2.5 Conceptual Framework**

Figure 1 illustrates the conceptual framework of the study, depicting how accounting information measured through its qualitative attributes, such as faithful representation, timeliness, and value relevance, serves as the independent variable influencing fair value measurement, which is the dependent variable. This relationship is grounded in three key theoretical foundations. The decision usefulness theory supports the idea that high-quality accounting information enhances users' decision-making, especially in estimating asset and liability values under fair value. Fair value accounting theory justifies the use of current market-based measures, emphasising that the reliability and relevance of inputs from accounting systems are crucial for accurate fair value estimations. Meanwhile, information asymmetry theory underlines how improved accounting disclosures reduce the gap between internal management and external stakeholders, thereby enhancing transparency and the credibility of fair value measurements. Together, these theories explain how better-quality accounting information can significantly improve the effectiveness and trustworthiness of fair value reporting in financial statements.

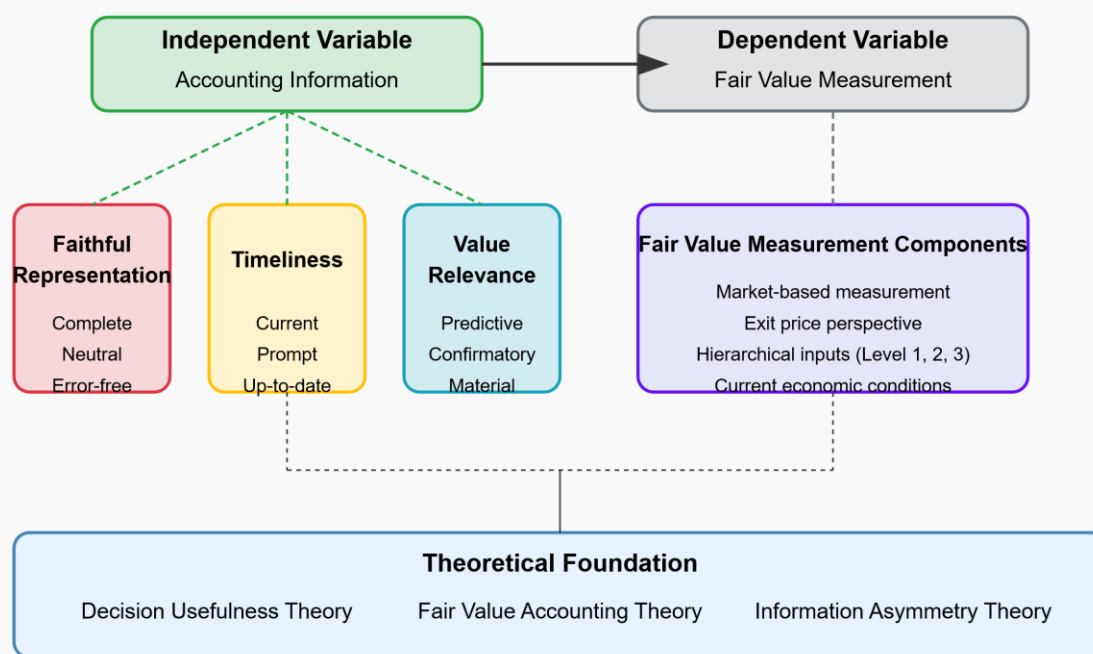
**Conceptual Framework: Accounting Information and Fair Value Measurement**

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework showing the relationship between Accounting Information and Fair Value Measurement

Source: Authors' Design (2025)

### 3.0 DATA AND METHODS

This investigation employed *ex-post facto* research methodology, as the data used already existed and not subject to manipulation. The study targeted a population of five listed insurance firms in Iraq, with the sample size consisting of all five firms, selected using a census sampling technique. The inclusion of the entire population was made possible due to the relatively small and manageable size, making census sampling appropriate. This approach improved the accuracy and generalisability of the findings within the Iraqi insurance industry by eliminating sampling bias and ensuring comprehensive representation. The research covered the period from 2015 to 2024, allowing for an in-depth analysis over a full economic cycle, including both pre- and post-crisis financial phases, shifts in regulatory frameworks, and evolving market conditions in Iraq. Panel regression analysis was applied to assess the relationships between the variables under study. This method was chosen due to the longitudinal nature of the data, which combined both cross-sectional and time-series elements. Panel data techniques enhanced the efficiency of the

analysis, controlled unobserved heterogeneity, and improved the robustness of the parameter estimates.

### 3.1 Model Specification

The econometric model for this study was outlined as follows:

$$FVM = f(FR, TM, VR)$$

$$FVM_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FR_{it} + \beta_2 TM_{it} + \beta_3 VR_{it} + \mu_i + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Where:

$FVM_{it}$  = Fair Value Measurement of firm  $i$  in period  $t$

$FR_{it}$  = Faithful Representation of accounting information of firm  $i$  in period  $t$

$TM_{it}$  = Timeliness of accounting information of firm  $i$  in period  $t$

$VR_{it}$  = Value Relevance of accounting information of firm  $i$  in period  $t$

$\beta_0$  = intercept

$\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$  = coefficients of explanatory variables

$\mu_i$  = unobserved firm-specific effect (fixed or random effect)

$\varepsilon_{it}$  = error term

The *a-priori* expectation is that  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3 > 0$ , which implies that a positive relationship is anticipated between the explanatory variables and the explained variable.

### 3.2 Measurements and Descriptions of Variables

Table 1 shows the description, operationalisation, and measurement of variables.

**Table 1: Operationalisation and Measurement of Independent Variables**

Variables	Description	Measurement	Source
Fair Value Measurements (FVM)	Fair value measurement refers to determining the price that would have been received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction at the measurement date.	This denotes the extent to which a firm applies fair value measurement to its assets. It is represented by dividing the total fair value-measured assets by the total assets.	Ramli et al. (2021).
Faithful Representation (FR)	Faithful representation is typically evaluated through elements of the financial statements, including total assets, total liabilities, and net income. In empirical research, a widely used proxy for	Faithful representation is measured by deducting operating cash flow from net income and dividing the outcome by total assets. This ratio reflects how closely reported	Dechow et al., (2010);Falana et al., (2025); Jasim et al. (2025).

	assessing faithful earnings align with actual representation is the earnings cash flows, providing management index, which insight into the reliability reflects discrepancies from and accuracy of the anticipated accruals. financial statements.	
Timeliness (TM)	Timeliness in financial reporting refers to how quickly companies make their financial statements available to stakeholders. It is an important component of financial reporting quality, as it ensures that investors, regulators, and other users obtain relevant information without delay to support informed decision-making. Reporting delays may lessen the usefulness of the information and contribute to increased market uncertainty.	It determines whether the firm complies with reporting deadlines. Dummy variable: 1 = timely (on or before deadline), 0 = not timely (2021). Habib et al. (2023);Jasim et al. (2025); Jim-Suleiman and Ibiamke (2021).
Value Relevance (VR)	Value relevance describes the degree to which the financial information presented in a company's annual report affects its stock price or market valuation. It reflects how useful financial reporting is in guiding investors' decisions.	This ratio indicates the extent to which reported net income is supported by actual cash flows, serving as a key measure of earnings, quality and relevance. Jasim et al. (2025); Kim and Kross (2005)

**Source: Authors' Compilation (2025)**

#### 4.0 DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This section covers the features of the variables employed, data analysis, and study findings. These statistics summarise the variable distribution.

##### 4.1 Descriptive Statistics

As reported in Table 2, the descriptive statistics reveal meaningful insights into the extent and quality of accounting information used in fair value practices among listed insurance firms in Iraq. While the timelines show categorical information about compliance with the annual

reports' submission by individual insurance firms, all firms complied with publication requirements. However, the ratio of fair value-measured assets to total assets, or fair value measurement (FVM), shows a right-skewed distribution with a mean of 0.195 and a median (50th percentile) of roughly 0.105. This means that, on average, only roughly 19.5% of total assets are measured at fair value. With a range that reaches over 100% (max = 0.995) and a standard deviation of 0.247, there appears to be substantial variation in how fair value is applied by different firms. It is evident that a significant percentage of businesses either do not use fair value at all or use it sparingly because the lower quartile (25%) is 0. While the majority of firms report modest levels of FVM, a small number of enterprises greatly surpass the average, which pulls the distribution to the right, as confirmed by the positive skewness (1.14) and mild kurtosis (3.52).

The ratio of accruals (Net Income minus CFO) to total assets, which serves as a proxy for faithful representation, has a mean of 0.0098 and a median of 0.0148. This suggests that, on average, reported earnings closely match real cash flows, demonstrating usually high-quality financial reporting. The comparatively low standard deviation of 0.035 suggests that there is little variation in the way that enterprises manipulate their earnings. While the distribution is still pretty symmetric, the negative skewness (-0.26) indicates that certain firms report slightly lower faithful representation (maybe more accrual-based earnings). A distribution that is somewhat flatter than usual is indicated by a kurtosis value of 2.66.

Relevance, defined as the ratio of Net Operating Income (NOI) to Cash Flow from Operations (CFO), paints not-too-good information. The variable is negatively skewed (-1.47), with a mean of -1.46 and a median of -0.75, indicating that, for many organizations, NOI is much lower than CFO, which could reflect weak earnings informativeness or inconsistent performance measurement. The standard deviation is high at 3.06, and the range is broad, ranging from -12.4 to +3.33. The kurtosis of 5.19 shows a leptokurtic distribution with abrupt peaks and heavy tails, implying the occurrence of extreme observations or volatility in earnings quality among enterprises.

In summary, the results suggest that while the application of fair value measurement is modest and highly varied, the faithful representation of earnings is relatively consistent and close to cash-based reporting, indicating conservative accounting practices. However, the value relevance of reported figures appears low and volatile, which may limit the usefulness of financial reports for decision-making and raise concerns about the informativeness of accounting figures in the Iraqi insurance sector.

**Table 2: Descriptive Statistics**

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max	Skewness	Kurtosis
FVM	50	0.1945	0.2475	0.0000	0.9951	1.1391	3.5244
FR	50	0.0098	0.0349	-0.0794	0.0916	-0.2603	2.6623
VR	50	-1.4599	3.0645	-12.4038	3.3321	-1.4740	5.1936

**Source: Authors' Compilation (2025)**

#### 4.2 Model Diagnostic Tests

As reported in Table 3, the Ramsey RESET test was used to determine whether the specified regression model suffers from omitted variable bias. The null hypothesis says that the model has no omitted variables. The test produced an F-statistic of 0.95 with a p-value of 0.4252, which is much higher than the standard significance values (e.g., 0.05). As a result, the study failed to reject the null hypothesis, indicating that there is no evidence of omitted variable bias in the model specification and that the model appears to be properly described.

Also, the Breusch-Pagan/Cook-Weisberg test for heteroskedasticity was used to determine if the variance of the error terms was constant. The test yielded a chi-square statistic of 5.95 and a p-value of 0.0147, indicating statistical significance at the 5% level. This finding rejects the null hypothesis of constant variance, implying heteroskedasticity in the residuals. However, the Shapiro-Wilk test was performed to determine the normality of the regression residuals. The test statistic W was 0.90931, with a p-value of 0.00099, providing strong evidence against the null hypothesis that residuals are normally distributed.

Likewise, the Wooldridge test for autocorrelation in panel data examined the null hypothesis that there was no first-order autocorrelation in the residuals. The test yielded an F-statistic of 0.679 and a p-value of 0.4562, failing to reject the null hypothesis. This means that there is no significant first-order autocorrelation identified, and the residuals are serially independent over time. The stationarity qualities of the variables in the panel data were evaluated using two common panel unit root tests: the Harris-Tzavalis (HT) and the Breitung tests. The Harris-Tzavalis test results strongly suggest that all four variables Fair Value Measurement (FVM), Faithful Representation, Timeliness, and Relevance are stationary. The null hypothesis that the panels contain a unit root (non-stationary) is rejected at conventional significance levels, as evidenced by extremely significant z-values (all p-values = 0.0000 or 0.0002). This means that these variables' statistical features, such as mean and variance, are stable.

Similarly, the correlation matrix displays several intriguing links. Fair Value Measurement (FVM) has a positive and substantial correlation with Timeliness ( $r = 0.35$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), indicating that enterprises presenting timely reports use fair value measurement more frequently. Faithful



Representation and Relevance have no statistically significant link with FVM. Faithful Representation is inversely connected with Relevance ( $r = -0.51$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), suggesting that enterprises with stronger faithful representation have lower value relevance in this setting. Finally, the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) values for the explanatory variables FR, TM, and VR were all less than the traditional threshold of 5 (mean VIF = 1.24), showing that multicollinearity is not an issue in the regression model. Based on the presence of heteroskedasticity, no comparisons were made between fixed effect, random effect and ordinary least squares methods of regression analysis.

**Table 3: Model's Diagnostic Test**

	Harris-Tzavalis unit-root test	P- value	Variance Factor (Mean)	Inflation
FVM	-0.5231	0.0000	1.24	
FR	-0.5579	0.0000	1.37	
VR	-0.1982	0.0000	1.34	
TM	0.2963	0.0002	1.02	
Ramsey RESET test	0.95	0.4252		
Breusch-Pagan / Cook-Weisberg test for heteroskedasticity	5.95	0.0147		
Shapiro-Wilk W test for normal data	0.9093	0.00099		
Wooldridge test for autocorrelation	0.679	0.4592		

**Source: Authors' Compilation (2025)**

#### **4.3 The Role of Accounting Information in Enhancing Fair Value Measurement of Assets and Liabilities of Listed Insurance Firms.**

As reported in Table 4, the Prais-Winsten regression with panel-corrected standard errors (PCSEs) was used to examine the relationship between Fair Value Measurement (FVM) and the explanatory variables Faithful Representation, Timeliness, and Relevance, with a balanced panel data set of 5 firms observed over ten years each (50 observations total). This model takes into consideration panel-specific autocorrelation of order one and corrects for contemporaneous correlation and heteroskedasticity across panels, hence improving standard errors. The results

show good overall model fit, with an R-squared of 0.6045, indicating that the predictors explain around 60% of the variation in FVM. The Wald chi-square test ( $\chi^2(3) = 38.88$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ) confirms the model's overall statistical significance.

Individually, each predictor has a positive and statistically significant coefficient. Faithful Representation has the highest coefficient (1.29), implying that a one-unit increase in faithful representation corresponds to about a 1.29 unit increase in fair value assessment, all other variables remaining constant. The effect is highly substantial ( $p < 0.001$ ). Timeliness, evaluated as a dummy variable, also has a positive influence on FVM, with a coefficient of around 0.11, showing that firms that report on time have better fair value measures. Relevance has a lesser but still significant positive effect (coefficient 0.0098,  $p = 0.025$ ), indicating that improvements in the relevance measure correspond to minor increases in FVM.

The given rho values show a high level of autocorrelation among panels, which supports the employment of the Prais-Winsten estimator to compensate for AR (1) errors. Overall, the findings indicate that higher accounting information quality, as measured by faithful representation, timely reporting, and relevance, is strongly associated with better fair value measurement of assets and liabilities in publicly traded insurance companies.

**Table 4: Prais-Winsten regression, correlated panels corrected standard errors (PCSEs)**

FVM	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P>z	[95% Conf. Interval]
FR	1.2905	0.3035	4.2500	0.0000	0.6957 1.8853
TM	0.1094	0.0387	2.8300	0.0050	0.0336 0.1852
VR	0.0098	0.0043	2.2500	0.0250	0.0012 0.0183
_cons	0.1901	0.0623	3.0500	0.0020	0.0680 0.3122
Rho's	0.8848	0.8828	0.8308	-0.2442	0.8289
R-squared	0.6045				
Wald chi2(3)	38.88				
Prob > chi2	0.0000				

**Source: Authors' Compilation (2025)**

#### 4.4. Discussion of findings

Fair value measurement is vital in financial reporting, especially for insurance firms with complex assets and liabilities. However, in Iraq's insurance sector, its implementation is hindered by market illiquidity, lack of active markets, inadequate valuation tools, and poor disclosure. This study evaluated how accurate, timely, and verifiable accounting information can enhance fair value measurement and improve financial reporting quality for listed insurance firms in Iraq. The regression analysis revealed that key qualities of accounting information;

faithful representation, timeliness, and value relevance positively and significantly influence the fair value measurement of assets and liabilities in listed insurance firms in Iraq. This suggests that when financial reports are accurate, timely, and relevant to investors' decisions, they contribute to more precise and reliable valuations under fair value accounting standards. These attributes help ensure that financial statements better reflect the economic realities of the firms. The results highlight the importance of high-quality accounting practices in supporting transparent and effective financial reporting, especially within the insurance sector. By maintaining strong standards in faithful representation, delivering timely information, and ensuring that financial data remains useful to investors, firms can improve how they measure and report the fair value of their financial positions. This can, in turn, enhance investor confidence and regulatory compliance in the Iraqi financial market. The findings corroborate the previous works conducted by Li et al. (2025) revealed that firms could strengthen their external financing capabilities by improving the quality of information disclosures, especially when MPU increased. Similarly, Salman et al. (2025) aimed to examine the effect of fair value on the relevance of book value per share for a sample of banks listed on the Iraq Stock Exchange. The significance of the study lies in the importance of accounting information for users of financial statements in making decisions and assessing the performance of economic entities. It also reflected the interest of standard-setters and researchers in the relevance of earnings per share, as it serves as a means of evaluating the quality of accounting information. However, the results negate the findings of Kolawole et al. (2025) which revealed inefficiencies in translating exploration investments into firm value, with fixed asset intensity, cash investments, and intangible assets showing insignificant negative impacts on market valuation and equity returns.

The findings align closely with the decision usefulness theory, which posits that the primary objective of financial reporting is to provide information useful for economic decision-making (IASB, 2018). Faithful representation, timeliness, and value relevance are essential characteristics that enhance the decision-usefulness of financial statements, particularly in environments requiring fair value measurements. Recent studies, such as Al-Shattarat et al. (2022), support this by demonstrating that high-quality financial reporting facilitates more accurate market assessments and informed decisions by stakeholders. In the context of fair value accounting theory, the positive and significant relationship between accounting information attributes and fair value measurement indicates that firms adhering to these reporting standards provide more reliable and market-reflective values for their assets and liabilities (Barth & Landsman, 2021). This reinforces the relevance of fair value as a method that reflects current economic conditions more accurately than historical cost.

From the perspective of information asymmetry theory, the findings suggest that improved accounting information reduces the gap between what managers know and what external

stakeholders can observe (Healy & Palepu, 2021). Faithful representation and timeliness, in particular, help diminish the scope for managerial opportunism by ensuring that relevant and current information is accessible to users. This is especially critical in insurance firms, where asset and liability valuation significantly affect perceived solvency and risk exposure. The reduction in information asymmetry, supported by recent research such as Al-Dmour et al. (2023), fosters transparency, boosts investor confidence, and enhances market efficiency. Therefore, aligning accounting information quality with fair value practices under these theories supports better governance and stakeholder trust in financial reporting.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This study investigated how the quality of accounting information measured by faithful representation, timeliness, and value relevance affects the fair value measurement of assets and liabilities among listed insurance firms in Iraq. Given the challenges of market illiquidity, absence of active markets, and insufficient valuation tools in Iraq's insurance sector, the research aimed to explore how enhancing accounting information can address these issues. Regression analysis revealed that the selected accounting information attributes have positive and significant effects on fair value measurement. These findings affirm that accurate, timely, and relevant financial information improves the reliability and transparency of financial reports in complex financial environments such as insurance firms. The study concluded that the faithful representation, timeliness, and value relevance of accounting information are critical in supporting effective fair value measurement in Iraq's insurance sector. These elements contribute to more accurate and reliable financial reporting, reinforcing investor confidence, market transparency, and regulatory compliance. Moreover, the study's alignment with the decision usefulness theory, fair value accounting theory, and information asymmetry theory confirms that high-quality financial information plays a central role in minimizing information gaps and enhancing decision-making among stakeholders.

This study is recommended as follows:

- i. Regulatory bodies should establish more robust frameworks and standards to enforce timely, accurate, and verifiable accounting disclosures in the insurance industry.
- ii. The government and financial sector stakeholders should work to create more liquid and transparent markets to support effective fair value measurements.
- iii. Insurance firms should invest in capacity building and continuous professional education for accountants and auditors to enhance their competencies in fair value accounting and disclosure practices.

This study contributes to the accounting literature by empirically validating the role of accounting information quality in enhancing fair value measurement, particularly in developing

economies with weak market infrastructures like Iraq. It provides practical insights into how faithful representation, timeliness, and value relevance can help overcome valuation and disclosure limitations in the insurance sector. Additionally, by integrating theories of decision usefulness, fair value accounting, and information asymmetry, the study offers a comprehensive theoretical framework for understanding the dynamics of financial reporting quality.

Future research should explore the impact of accounting information quality on fair value measurement across other sectors such as banking, manufacturing, or oil and gas in Iraq and other emerging economies. Longitudinal studies could also be conducted to assess how improvements in market infrastructure over time influence the effectiveness of fair value accounting. Moreover, qualitative research could provide deeper insights into the behavioral and institutional challenges that affect accounting disclosure practices in the Iraqi insurance sector.

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