

Small- and Medium-Size Enterprise Financing in Eastern Europe

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Abstract

There is currently a large interest in understanding firms' access to finance, particularly in the financing of small- and medium-size enterprises (SMEs). But the financing patterns of SMEs across countries is not well understood. For example, little is known about the relative importance of equity, debt, and inter-firm financing for SMEs across countries.

The authors use the Amadeus database, which includes financial information on over 97,000 private and publicly traded firms in 15 Eastern and Central European countries. The Amadeus database allows the authors the opportunity to provide a new analysis of the general financing patterns of private firms across a large sample of Eastern European countries. The summary statistics show that the size of the SME sector (as measured by the

percentage of total employment) in Eastern European countries is smaller than in most developed economies. Although the authors find in almost every country in the sample a large number of SMEs as a percentage of total firms, the SMEs in Eastern Europe are generally small and hire few employees. However, SMEs seem to constitute the most dynamic sector of the Eastern European economies, relative to large firms. In general, the SME sector comprises relatively younger, more highly leveraged, and more profitable and faster growing firms. This suggests that a new type of firm is emerging in transition economies that is more market- and profit-oriented. But at the same time, these firms appear to have financial constraints that impede their access to long-term financing and ability to grow.

This paper—a product of Finance, Development Research Group—is part of a larger effort in the group to better understand small- and medium-size enterprise financing. Copies of the paper are available free from the World Bank, 1818 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20433. Please contact Agnes Yaptenco, room MC3-446, telephone 202-473-1823, fax 202-522-1155, email address ayaptenco@worldbank.org. Policy Research Working Papers are also posted on the Web at <http://econ.worldbank.org>. The authors may be contacted at lklapper@worldbank.org, vs189@columbia.edu, or vsulla@worldbank.org. December 2002. (52 pages)

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The authors thank the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region of the World Bank for their financial support. The authors also thank Qing-Hua Zhao and Tony Sihsobhon for their generous help and Rodrigo Chaves, Thorsten Beck, Asli Demirguc-Kunt, Patrick Honohan, Inessa Love, Paul Siegelbaum, and Dimitri Vittas for helpful comments. This work was completed while Virginia Sarria-Allende was visiting the World Bank.

1. Introduction

For most of the 19th and 20th centuries, large corporations were considered the primary and driving force of economic and technological progress. Very large corporations dominated research and development (R&D) and the introduction of innovations, and experienced major improvements in production efficiency. The exploitation of economies of scale and scope were considered to be the driving force of economic development. As Schumpeter (1942) proclaimed, “What we have got to accept is that the large-scale enterprise has come to be the most powerful engine of progress”. Since the contribution of small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) was small, economists considered this sector less important.

Beginning in the 1970s, however, large manufacturing firms in key industries began to loose competitiveness and a number of important empirical studies began to document the critical role of SMEs. For example, Acs (1984) argued that newer and smaller firms entered sectors as “agents of change”. Studies using direct measures of innovative activity – such as measures of new products and processes – replaced older measures (such as R&D) and showed that innovative activity was introduced by small firms and not the larger incumbents (see Acs and Audrestsch, 1988 and 1990). SMEs also began to play an important role as efficient providers of intermediate goods and services to large firms. Many papers showed that developed countries that encouraged entrepreneurship and SMEs had higher economic growth.¹

Previous studies also showed the shift in the industrial structure away from large corporations and towards SMEs during the 1980s and 1990's.² Several explanations have been offered to account for this structural change. For example, Audretsch and Thurik (2000) suggested that the increase in

¹ For example, see Schimitz (1989), Acs (1992), Calderon and Nickel (1998) and Audretsch and Thurik (2000).

² For example, see Acs and Audretsch (1993), Loveman and Senegenberger (1991) and Thurik (1996).

the level of education and business skills in the United States increased entrepreneurship and new firms. Others have focused on the inflexibility of large conglomerates to react to globalization and new technology and innovations, which encouraged managers and other insiders at large firms to leave and compete in a more efficient environment.

However, the underlying story of the introduction of SMEs in Eastern European countries seems to be quite different. Unlike the United States, which experienced a natural birth of new, small firms, the SME sector in Eastern European countries emerged as a result of the privatization and breakup of large state-owned enterprises, as well as through a large number of new, generally very small firms that came as a consequence of the market liberalization process.³ We see in Eastern Europe a unique role for SMEs during “transitional” periods of change. The restructuring and downsizing of large firms, the privatization of public utilities and other large companies, the outsourcing of many support services, and the vertical fragmentation of production are all forces that promoted the creation and expansion of SMEs.

A number of recent papers have discussed the characteristics and role of SMEs in developed countries, but little has been said about SMEs in Eastern Europe.⁴ Given the unique nature of the financial development and market structure in Eastern European countries, we would expect to see some distinctions in the firm characteristics and financing choices of SMEs in these countries, relative to previous studies. The AMADEUS database – which includes financial information on over 5 million registered firms in Eastern and Western Europe – offers an excellent opportunity to study the firm characteristics of the SME sector in a wide range of countries. In this first summary paper we focus our analysis on the characteristics of over 97,000 firms in a sample of Eastern

³ See Svejnar (2002).

⁴ There have been a number of country-specific World Bank surveys of SMEs in Eastern Europe. For example, we discuss in Section 3 a survey of SMEs in Romania by Chaves, Sanchez, Schor and Tesliuc (2001) and a survey of Russian firms by Broadman and Recanatini, 2001.

European countries, with special focus on SMEs (that represent about 82% of the total sample).⁵ We provide some evidence on the main differences between SMEs and large corporations in 15 Eastern European countries.

We also include a discussion of our cross-country findings on the firm and country characteristics that affect firms' access to finance and the financing of SMEs in particular. There is an extensive literature examining the capital structure choices of firms in developed and developing countries, although most studies exclude small firms.⁶ In this paper we provide a new analysis of the general financing patterns of private firms across countries. With the caveat, however, that we are providing neither an exhaustive nor rigorous analysis of capital structure, but only showing some key preliminary results that should only be seen as a starting point for future research.

The paper proceeds as follows. Section 2 describes the Amadeus database, the financial and descriptive variables available for each firm, and limitations of the data. Section 3 reviews the previous literature relating to the SME sectors in particular and the development of financial markets in Eastern Europe in general. Section 4 provides summary statistics and a discussion of the Amadeus data, by age, size, and leverage. Section 6 discusses future avenues for research and concludes.

⁵ Throughout this paper we use the European convention of defining the SME sector as firms with less than 250 employees.

⁶ For example, Rajan and Zingales (1995) and Booth, Aivazian, Demirguc-Kunt, and Maksimovic (2001) study the capital structure of developed and developing countries, respectively, although these papers use only a sample of publicly-traded firms.

2. Description of the Amadeus Data

The data used in this paper come from the Amadeus-Bureau Van Dijk database, which includes firm-level data on over 5 million private and publicly owned non-financial firms in 34 European countries, including 15 Eastern European countries. Our analysis in this paper focuses only on the 15 Eastern European and Central Asian “transition” economies: five countries of the former Soviet Union – Russia, Ukraine, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia – and ten other former socialist countries – Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Yugoslavia. The total sample of Eastern European firms includes over 500,000 enterprises.⁷

The Amadeus database is created by collecting standardized data received from 50 vendors across Europe. The local source for this data is generally company registrar offices, which require all incorporated firms to submit annual filings. The database includes firm-level accounting data in standardized financial format comprising 22 balance sheet items, 22 profit and loss income statement items, and 21 financial ratios. A list of all available financial information is provided in Appendix 2. These financial profiles are augmented with descriptive information including: official national identification number, address, telephone, fax, website, legal form, year of incorporation, senior managers, auditors, number of employees, quoted/unquoted indicator, industry and activity codes and, when available, a trade description in the local language and English. Furthermore, Amadeus includes detailed ownership information, including the names and country(s) of origins of all block shareholders (with greater than 5% shareholding). Supplemental information is also available on subsidiaries.

⁷ This includes about 300,000 very small Romanian firms.

From 1990 to 1996, Amadeus collected data on only large and listed companies (similar to WorldScope and GlobalVantage coverage). Since then the coverage has continued to gradually increase and since 1998 has included extended coverage for small and medium-size enterprises in Eastern European countries. However, we include in this analysis only firms with 10 or more employees, since Amadeus coverage of very small firms varies with country-level filing requirements. For example, some countries (such as the Ukraine and Russia) do not require sole-proprietors to report financial information. We believe that this cutoff – consistent with the inclusion criteria used by Amadeus for their main database sold to commercial customers – corrects for the sample-biases in the number of smallest firms. After excluding firms with missing employment data and firms with employment less than 10, our final sample includes about 97,000 firms.⁸

Some additional caveats are necessary. Although all firms in our sample have basic financial data (i.e. total assets and total liabilities), nevertheless, detailed coverage of capital structure and performance varies across countries.⁹ For example, firms in Latvia and Russia are missing turnover variables and firms in Slovenia and Croatia only report total liabilities and do not include a breakdown of their debt structures (such as maturity). In addition, determining the legal "type" of firms (publicly traded, private or state owned, etc.) is a serious challenge of the data. Firms include country-specific descriptions and more than 150 legal type categories exist across countries. To date, we have only investigated these legal definitions in order to identify less than 1,000 state-owned enterprises and non-profit organizations that we have exclude from our sample.¹⁰ The number of state-owned firms in our sample is small because the Amadeus data is intended to cover only

⁸ Appendix 1 shows, for comparison, summary statistics of firms with less than 10 employees.

⁹ We exclude from our sample firms missing basic financial information such as total assets and total liabilities.

¹⁰ We also excluded a small number of financial intermediaries, since their balance sheets and income statements are not comparable to non-financial firms.

privately owned firms. Our final sample includes all non-financial privately owned and publicly traded firms.

We use 1999 data for our analysis, which is the year with the maximum data coverage. Our final sample size is 97,107 enterprises. Table 1 shows the cross-country coverage of the Amadeus database in 1999 by country, size, and sector. We see that some countries like Romania, Bulgaria, and the Ukraine include a large number of firms, while other countries like Bosnia-Herzegovina, Lithuania, and Slovenia include a relatively small number of firms. There are a number of possible explanations for the variation in the number of firms across countries. First, the actual number of active enterprises may be a result of differences in the population and size and level of development of the private sector across countries. A second reason is that our data includes only firms in the “formal sector” that are incorporated and pay company registration fees and taxes, and the size of the informal SME sector may be larger in some countries.

Table 1 also shows the size of the SME sector across countries – which we define as firms with less than 250 employees – and as a percentage of total firms and population. We find that a large percentage of firms are categorized as SMEs: On average, 82% of firms in Eastern Europe are SMEs, ranging from very low percentages in Russia and the Ukraine, 48.98% and 54.33%, respectively, to 97.8% in Estonia.¹¹ In Section 4 we explore possible country-level explanations for these differences.

3. Literature Review

3.1. Access to Financing by the SME Sector

¹¹ We also see a very close correlation between the SME percentages and rankings (1-15) of the SME sector as a percentage of firms and as a percentage of the total population (64% and 95%, respectively).

Previous literature has studied SME access to financing and shown that SMEs have different capital structures than large firms. For example, Cressy and Olofsson (1997) found that smaller businesses have lower fixed-to-total assets ratios, higher ratios of current liabilities to total assets and are financially more risky. Scherr, et al. (1990) and Hamilton and Fox (1998) suggested that smaller companies limit their issuance of outside equity in order not to reduce control of their firms.

The literature has also discussed reasons why it is harder for SMEs to access debt financing. For example, Berger and Udell (1995) found that small and young firms – with generally shorter banking relationships – pay higher interest rates and are more likely to be required to pledge collateral. Satio and Villanueva (1981) and Peel and Wilson (1996) showed that in general SMEs have higher costs and reduced access to financing because of the information asymmetries associated with newer, smaller firms. Furthermore, Levy (1993) concluded that restricted access to financial services slows the growth of SMEs. In comparison to these previous studies, the summary statistics for our sample of Eastern European countries show that firms in transition countries often behave in a different way.

Previous studies also show the unique challenges to SMEs to access outside borrowing and suggest country-specific environmental factors – such as creditor rights and legal efficiency – that affect SME access to financing. This literature suggests that banks should be able to make more loans to smaller, riskier firms in countries that offer stronger creditor rights – such as the priority of secured creditors in the case of default. For example, Brush and Chaganti (1998) found that ownership structure and creditors rights protection have significant positive influence on the size and performance of SMEs. Furthermore, Beck Demirguc-Kunt, and Maksimovic (2002) showed that small firms are most credit constrained as a result of underdeveloped financial and legal systems and

higher corruption. We expect legal development to affect SME access to financing in our sample of Eastern European countries.

3.2. Financial Development in Eastern Europe

There is a small, but growing, body of literature that studies various financial characteristics of Eastern European countries. One of the few cross-country studies is Gros and Suhrcke (2000), who did a comprehensive analysis of the similarities and difference between transition countries in Eastern Europe and other comparable developing economies. They highlighted some characteristics common to all transition economies at the initial stage of reform such as a concentration of firms in the industrial/ manufacturing sector, the underdevelopment of financial systems, and low legal and governance standards. Throughout our analysis we find patterns that are substantially consistent with this initial description.

A recent World Bank report also performed a broad analysis of the development of the corporate sector of most Eastern European and former Soviet Union (FSU) countries during the transition from communist to market economies.¹² This report described the size and characteristics of the SME sector across countries and showed the gain to GDP that could be reached by reallocating resources from the old state enterprises to the dynamic new SME sector. This paper measured the size of the SME sector as the percentage of total employment attributable to the SME sector in 1995, and found results that are generally consistent with ours, although they report higher percentages of SMEs across all countries. However, we would expect our findings to be somewhat different since we use a base year of 1999 and because we only include the sample of firms included in Amadeus, which may not include very small firms. However, our data confirms their general results; for

¹² “Transition, The First Ten Years, Analysis and Lessons for Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union”, 2002.

example, the paper mentioned the particular dynamism of SMEs in the case of Poland and Hungary, where structural reforms generated a favorable climate for the entry of new enterprises. Accordingly, we find in these countries relatively high levels of firm performance and the lowest percentages of distressed firms.

However, most studies have sampled just one or a few transition economies and focused on specific aspects of their financial development. For example, a recent paper by Broadman and Recanatini (2002) analyzed the privatization process in Russia and its impact on the labor market. Their evidence suggests that the downsizing of Russian firms was only partially completed and, consequently, the overstaffing typical of the socialist regime has not been adequately resolved. Our data support this result – we find that Russian firms have comparatively high levels of median employment and that the SME sector shows relatively scarce participation as a percentage of total employment. Our evidence also confirms their result that Russian firms showed a positive correlation between firm size and profitability.

Other studies have highlighted the success stories of country-specific initiatives. For example, a report “Labor Market Adjustment in Estonia” (1998) discussed the “massive increase in worker flows” seen during the Estonian reform. This report argued that SMEs had been the driving force behind the job creation process, specifically those concentrated in the service and trade-oriented sectors. In agreement with this claim, we find that the Estonian SME sector contributed 71% of the total employment and is typified by very small (and profitable) firms with a median of only 21 employees (after excluding all firms with less than 10 employees).

Other studies have discussed the effect of the development of the lending environment on access to financing. For example, Egerer (1995) studied bank lending in the Czech Republic. He found that firms had difficulty borrowing, since corporate performance is not transparent and weak

creditor rights and collateral laws discourage collateral-based lending. He suggested that ownership connections between banks and firms could be beneficial in transition economies to overcome these information asymmetries and weak laws. Although we cannot identify bank ownership, we document in the next section that Eastern European firms in our sample rarely use long-term financing.

Finally, given the large share of Romanian firms in our sample (about 28%), it is especially relevant to comment on a recent paper that studied Romanian financial markets (Chaves, Sanchez, Schor and Tesliuc, 2001). Although this paper specifically focused on the financial accessibility of rural economic agents (enterprises and households), we think that many of the paper's results apply more universally to the corporate sector (although the agriculture sector represents only 12% of our sample). For example, the paper describes the impediments that all sectors face in getting efficient financial services and, once again, how real access to investment opportunities are closely related to the degree of ownership and other associations with financial intermediaries. The paper suggests that part of the reason for the low level of financing in Romania is the inability to borrow long-term, which is caused by inflation and weak legal protection. The report also discusses the overall low profitability levels that characterize Romanian firms (when measured as ROA), which is consistent with our results.¹³

Lastly, it is worth commenting on some related research that has used the Amadeus database. There have been some studies using the Amadeus data but, to our knowledge, none of them has had the more comprehensive approach that is pursued in this report. Koke and Salem (2000) study a cross section of ten CEE countries to test whether corporate capital structure works as a disciplining device. Their intuition is that firms more in need to downsize, due to lower levels of productivity and

¹³ Additional country-specific studies include S. Kukar (1996) for Slovenia, V. Cieslar (1996) for the Czech Republic, and G. Minassian G. and S. Totev (1996) for Bulgaria.

profitability, would be more likely to do so if the external pressure is large, i.e. if there is a high dependence on outside borrowing. Budina et al. (undated) used the Amadeus data to study access to financing in Bulgarian firms. They found low levels of liquidity constraints, which they interpreted as not necessarily associated with low equity premiums (as would be the explanation in developed countries) but rather as a result of the presence of soft-budget constraints and an inefficient financial sector.

4. Summary Statistics of Firms in Eastern Europe

We begin with an overview of the total sample of firms in order to capture the general characteristics of the region and specificities of each individual country. As described in Section 3, our study focuses on a sample of 15 Eastern European countries for the year 1999. Since our analysis includes five countries of the former Soviet Union, we also compare the characteristics of firms in these countries with those in the remaining countries. Median summary statistics, by country, are presented in Table 2. We discuss median summary statistics, since although we have attempted to identify and delete incorrect data observations, there are still a number of large outliers in our sample. We show mean summary statistics for all tables in the Annex, which are consistent with the median values. Table 3 shows summary statistics for all firms for all countries and disaggregated by size and age.

The median firm size has great variation across countries, as measured by number of employees, total assets, and total sales.⁴⁶ However, the median age is less than 10 years for all countries (except for Bosnia-Herzegovina), suggesting that most firms were created during the transition period. Although many of the firms – particularly in the FSU countries – may be spin-offs

of former state-owned companies, this still implies that the majority of firms are operating under a relatively new corporate structure.

Table 2 (and the first column of Table 3) also demonstrate that most countries in our sample exhibit relatively low use of outside financing, as shown by leverage ratios (measured as the ratio of liabilities-to-equity and debt-to-equity) with medians about equal to 0.92 and 0.84, respectively. In the Ukraine – at the lowest extreme of the distribution – total liabilities-to-equity and total debt-to-equity equal 0.29 and 0.27, respectively. Firms in 6 out of 15 countries have total liability ratios less than one, which suggests that the firm borrows less than \$1 for every \$2 invested in equity. This is in comparison to a median leverage ratio of 1.73 for the Amadeus sample of Western European firms. We also find almost no use of long-term debt (median short-term-to-total debt ratios equal one in almost all countries), which may be the result of the underdevelopment of the banking sector, poor collateral law, and weak collateral registries.

Median profitability ratios (measured by return on assets, ROA, and return on equity, ROE) are 0.05 and 0.06, respectively, which is about equal to the median ratios across developed Western European countries. However, median 1-year sales growth is negative in all but one country for which 1998 data is available; in comparison, median 1-year sales growth rates are positive in all Western European countries. This combination of weak performance plus low access to financing suggests a risk of prolonged corporate contraction.

We also find that firms across many countries have low levels of inter-firm trade financing – as shown by account payable-to-equity ratios close to zero – with the exception of Hungary (and, to a lesser degree, the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania.) This may be explained by a number of interesting reasons – first, the overall low levels of growth and leverage suggest that firms may not have sufficient internal funds or access to external borrowing to finance the extension of trade credit.

Second, in many developing countries trade credit is predominately offered by large domestic and multinational firms that can finance their extension of trade credit in foreign markets. With the exception of the Central European countries such as Hungary and Poland – where we see the use of trade credit – there is not yet a large foreign presence in the region.

Finally, low-levels of trade credit is consistent with the findings of Demirguc-Kunt and Maksimovic (2001) that the development of the banking system and the efficiency of the legal environment predict the use of trade credit. Indeed, we find that those countries with higher use of trade credit (Hungary, Romania, and Poland) also have relatively more developed financial markets and legal efficiency (see Table 6). Furthermore, Table 7 shows negative correlations in all countries with available data between trade credit (as a percentage of total liabilities) and total debt-to-equity ratios. This implies that with the caveat that the overall level of trade credit use is small, we find evidence consistent with the finding in previous literature that trade credit is used as a substitute for bank financing in countries with weak financial institutions (Petersen and Rajan, 1997, and Fisman and Love, 2002).

4.1 Summary Statistics by Age

Table 4 shows summary statistics by three firm age categories: 0-3, 4-10, and greater than 10. Overall, the firms in our sample could be considered as relatively young – about 15% of the firms have been created during the last three years and, as expected in transition countries, almost 65% of all firms have only existed as such for less than 10 years. Even though there is broad cross-country variation, FSU countries appear to exhibit the highest participation of young firms (for example, over 20% of total firms in Estonia, Lithuania, Russia, and Slovakia were incorporated in the last 3 years).

Median age in the total sample ranges from 5 to 17, (or 5 to 9 if we exclude Bosnia-Herzegovina), whereas FSU firms tend to be even younger, and the median range goes from only 5 to 6 years.

We find that new firms are in general relatively smaller firms across the total sample. For example, we show that 85% of firms age 0-3 are SMEs (compared to 59% of firms over 10 years). Median size, measured by total assets, varies across the sample from tiny firms in Romania with assets valued at about \$US 200,000, to a median firm size of almost US\$ 5 million in the case of Poland.¹⁴ If we define size as the number of employees (as we do for most of our analysis), we also find a strong relationship between firm size and age, where all but two countries have median employment in new firms of less than 125 employees (only Ukraine and Russia, two countries of the former Soviet Union, show much higher employment with median employment of 186 and 285, respectively).

The contribution to total employment generated by young firms also presents wide cross-country variation. However, looking across the total sample, the subset of youngest firms (0-3 years) contributes only about 15% of total employment (the largest contribution is seen in Romania and the Ukraine, where this group generates 19% of total employment).¹⁵ Nevertheless, in 11 out of 15 countries included in the sample, firms in their first 10 years generate over 50% of total employment. In addition, we find that new firms exhibit higher 1-year growth rates, as shown quite dramatically in Table 3. We find that new firms have over 8% annual growth compared to -12% and -11% 1-year growth for firms age 3-10 and over 10 years, respectively.

Again, this suggests the importance of firms that have been established during the transition period.

¹⁴ The asset value of Romanian firms can certainly be influenced by the Romanian accounting law that requires all assets to be booked at their historical value and does not allow revaluations to take place (see Chaves et al, 2001).

¹⁵ See Klapper and Sulla (2002) for a more detailed study of the Ukraine.

We also find that although absolute leverage ratios are low across the region, smaller and younger firms are in general more leveraged, which suggests that leverage ratios tend to decrease with size and age. As shown in Table 7, we find significantly negative correlations between firm age and the ratio of total debt-to-equity in all countries. Furthermore, most debt in all countries is concentrated in the short-term, which implies that there is very little access to (or demand for) long-term financing. This may be as a result of weak property and collateral laws, as well as the concentration of firms in the service sector, which generally implies that firms have less fixed-assets to use as collateral.

A final interesting feature is the higher concentration of smaller and younger firms in the service sector, while the relatively larger and older firms are more characteristic of the industrial sector. One explanation may be that during the Soviet era the service sector was underemphasized and almost non-existent; therefore, this sector may have provided the greatest opportunities for new entrepreneurs. In addition, this may reflect the low costs necessary to enter many service sectors versus the difficulties for new firms to access the long-term financing necessary to purchase equipment and machinery needed to enter the manufacturing sector.

4.2 Summary Statistics by Size

Table 4 shows summary statistics by firm size. We use the European convention of identifying SMEs as firms with less than 250 employees and provide summary statistics that compare SMEs and large firms. Since the collapse of communism, the development of the SME sector has become one of the principal economic reform priorities for domestic politicians and outside bilateral and multilateral providers of financial aid. For example, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was established to support private sector development in formerly communist

countries and along with the European Union and the World Bank has emerged as an important provider of assistance to SME development within reforming countries.

An immediate result of the liberalization of the business environment and the assistance of a multitude of international programs is that the SME sector in Eastern Europe has developed at a very fast pace and the growth of the SME sector in the post-communist countries has been heralded as one of the prominent success stories of East European economies.¹⁶ However, many new SMEs have been created from the break-up of larger inefficient state enterprises and from the privatization of smaller units of large (often formally state-owned) firms and these “new” SMEs have relatively small sizes and low survival rates.¹⁷ Although our data does not allow us to study firm exits, our sample does confirm that the median employment of individual SMEs is quite low. In half of the countries that we study, which account for more than 60% of SMEs in the sample, the median number of employees is less than 50.

Although in Eastern Europe the percentage of the number of SMEs compared to the total number of firms may be high, the percentage of employment that is attributable to the SME sector varies considerably. For examples, in Russia the participation of SMEs in the total employment is only 8%, but in Estonia we find that SMEs employ 71% of total employees – the size of the SME sector is not homogeneous even among countries of the FSU. Across countries, the average percentage of employees in the SME sector is about 30%. In comparison, if we look at the SME sector in developed countries, we find that the share in total employment is much higher and goes

¹⁶ See Levitsky (1996) and the OECD (1996).

¹⁷ See Pransikar (1998), Svejnar (2002), and Smith (1998).

from approximately 53% for the US and Canada and 57% for Germany to more than 80% for Belgium.¹⁸

A primary reason for the underdevelopment of the SME sector is the legacy of very large Soviet firms that employed very high numbers of employees and the virtual elimination of small firms and entrepreneurship. In addition, another reason that these countries have small SME sectors (as measured by employment) could be financial credit constraints – which would imply that SMEs were unable to access outside financing necessary to grow. For example, Pissarides (1999) showed that credit constraints limited the growth of SMEs in the CEE countries. We see in our data sample that firms do not have access to long-term debt (unless we assume that firms voluntarily decided not to borrow long-term). Most financing is concentrated in the short run and with limited participation of trade credit; consequently, we can presume that SMEs are limited to high levels of contractual short-term debt.

In addition, leverage ratios – measured as the ratio of liabilities to equity and debt to equity – vary considerably among SMEs in the cross section of Eastern European countries, going from very low levels in the Ukraine to very indebted SMEs in Croatia (with debt-to-equity ratios of 0.39 and 1.99, respectively). Nonetheless, there seems to be a clear pattern in the relation between leverage and size – in examining the comparison between SMEs and large firms, we find that in every country in our sample, leverage reduces with size. This evidence is shown quite convincingly in Figure 1.

According to some studies on privatized firms in transition economies (for example, Harper, 1999), relatively larger firms face more difficulties improving performance after privatization. We would expect that firms with lower profits should have less outside borrowing, since they are less able to repay the interest and principle. Although we do not have information on privatized versus

¹⁸ Data on the percentage of employment attributable to the SME sector in developed countries is provided by the OECD.

non-privatized firms – but assuming the likely inclusion of privatized firms in our sample – this suggests that we should expect to find a negative relation between size and performance. We examine profitability ratios within our sample and find a wide cross-country variation, but consistently the highest levels of performance are found in relatively small, highly leveraged firms. For example, ROE shows a very persistent negative relation with size – ROE is largest for small firms in all countries – which reasonably relates to the leverage pattern described in previous research.

Next, we test some theoretical predictions on the relationship between country characteristics and the development of the SME sector. As shown in Table 6 we calculate simple correlations between the size of the SME sector (proxied by the percentage of total and employment attributable to SMEs) and indicators of macroeconomic growth (logged GDP per capita and the 1-year growth rate of GDP), financial development (private capital as a percentage of GDP and the percentage of state-owned and foreign banking assets) and legal and judicial efficiency (the “rule of law” index from Kaufman and Kraay, 2001). We find a positively significant relationship between a business environment that promotes access to financing and the size of the SME sector. For example, we find that a better legal environment – that allows banks to write strong contracts and have such contracts enforced in a court of law – increases the percentage of SMEs.

We also find that greater foreign bank assets is related to a higher percentage of SMEs, which may suggest that foreign bank entry encourages domestic banks to lend “downstream” to smaller customers. This is consistent with Clarke et al. (2001) who found that foreign bank penetration improves financing conditions for firms of all sizes. We also find a negative relation with state-owned bank assets, which suggests that the SME sector is larger in countries with less state-owned bank penetration, which implies greater market-based lending behavior. Finally, we find that the size

of the SME sector is larger in countries with higher real economic development and greater GDP growth. Although we cannot interpret causality, this suggests interdependence between the size of the SME sector and growth – whereas greater growth should create more opportunities for SMEs to provide goods and services to larger firms and a more prosperous population, it may also be the case that the SME sector contributes substantially to real growth. We leave a more rigorous study of this question to future research.

Overall, we find that the SME sector is associated with young firms. We also find that the SME sector has relatively higher leverage ratios, suggesting that larger firms either have less access to outside financing or less investment opportunities. At the firm level, SMEs exhibit very low levels of employment; however, since the number of SMEs in some countries is so large, there are some countries where the SME sector makes a big contribution to the total employment generation. Finally, our results provide evidence of a positive correlation between leverage and firms' profitability. In other words, we find that the SME sector in Eastern Europe is relatively more profitable and has greater access to financing, as compared to large firms. This implies that SMEs may have growth opportunities that can be realized with access to borrowing. This suggests that promoting the development and growth of firms in the SME sector in Eastern Europe may be a way to develop a stronger corporate sector in the future.

To summarize our results:

- We find, in general, a positive relationship between firm size and age.
- We find a positive link between profitability and leverage (short-term debt), which suggests a relationship between profitability and access to working capital financing.
- We find that *younger* firms have higher leverage and growth.

- We find that older and larger firms have smaller cash ratios, which suggest that these firms are more dependent on internal sources of financing.
- Finally, we find that smaller and younger firms are likely to be in the services sector.

5. Tests of Capital Structure Theory

Although a thorough analysis of the capital structure of firms in Eastern Europe exceeds the scope of this paper, we have used a simple regression analysis in order to further explore the relations between debt ratios and some firm characteristic. Our intention is only to provide a first glance at the behavior of firms in Eastern Europe and leave a more rigorous empirical study of capital structure to future research. A distinctive novelty of this study is our examination of financial structure in a sample of private and publicly traded firms, where the vast majority of firms are privately owned.

We evaluate the key relations between short-term and long-term debt ratios and firm characteristics as predicted by principal theories of capital structure. Table 8 summarizes the predicted results according to these varying theories. First, the *Static Trade Off Theory* (Myers, 1977), which argues that firms decide between the trade off of the benefits of tax-shields offered by borrowing new debt against the costs of bankruptcy that highly leveraged firms are more likely to face. For example, this theory predicts that leverage should be higher in larger firms with stronger performance and higher marginal taxes. Second, the *Pecking Order Theory* (Myers and Majluf, 1984), which assumes a situation in which entrepreneurs who are currently managing some assets need to raise funds to undertake a new project whose profitability is known only to them. Under this scenario with asymmetric information, raising external capital is costly, because the managers are unable to convince investors of the true expected value of the project. This theory argues that firms should rely first on internal, rather than external, sources of funds and, when external financing is

necessary, they should prefer to raise debt before equity; in other words, leverage should be lower in firms with greater retained earnings. Eastern European firms are an ideal sample to test this theory, since many countries suffer from weak transparency and disclosure requirements and poor accounting standards, which exacerbate the information asymmetries.

Third, we include the *Risk Shifting Hypothesis* (Jensen and Meckling, 1976), which argues that shareholders of highly leveraged firms may invest suboptimally – to the detriment of bondholders – in negative present value projects that generate high benefits to the stockholders in good states and large losses to debtholders in bad states. Closely related is the *Underinvestment Theory* (Myers, 1977), which similarly argues that shareholders of highly leveraged firms have incentives to pass up some positive net present value investments, since the return from investment would primarily favor debtholders, even though the cost of investments is assumed by the equityholders. Both of these theories predict that bondholders will only invest in firms with high collateral values in order to receive some compensation in the bad states. This suggests that leverage ratios should be higher in firms with greater collateral values.

Finally, the *Free Cash Flow Theory* (Jensen, 1986) and *Agency Cost Hypothesis* (Titman and Wessels, 1988, Stulz, 1990) examine the impact of the manager-shareholder agency problems on the capital structure of firms. These theories argue that debt should be used to limit managerial discretion in firms with greater profitability (discretionary cash) and less growth opportunities. These theories predict a positive relation between profitability and leverage and a negative relationship between leverage and growth opportunities. Lastly, we compare our results to previous cross-country studies of firm behavior in emerging markets (such as Booth, Aivazian, Demirguc-Kunt and Maksimovic, 2001).

Table 9 shows our regression results for total debt, short-term debt, and long-term debt ratios. However, we add the caveat that it may be difficult to interpret our predictions of debt maturity, since as previously discussed; the firms in our sample are characterized by extremely low levels of long-term financing. It may be the case that in some of these countries less-developed banking systems, weak collateral law, and poor credit information registries reduce the availability of long-term debt and therefore, short-term debt may be used as a substitute for long-term financing. Consequently, our results may also be explained by additional “supply-side” hypotheses.

We use the natural log of total Sales as a measure of SIZE and the number of years since incorporation to measure AGE. We use return on equity (ROE) to measure profitability (PROFIT) – this measure is preferable to ROA because of the high concentration of service firms in our sample – and use the 1-year growth rate of sales to measure GROWTH. TANGIBILITY is measured as the ratio of fixed assets to total assets and NDTS measures non-debt tax shields, estimated as the ratio of depreciation to total assets. We also include industry dummies (indicating manufacturing and service firms) and country dummies in all regressions.

As predicted by the Static Trade Off theory, we find a positive relation between SIZE and total, short-, and long-term financing. This implies that bigger firms have better access to long-term financing, as measured by the natural log of sales and employment (not shown). In addition, we find a negative relationship between AGE and all measures of debt. This is consistent with our summary statistics that suggest that younger (more profitable) firms are more likely to have greater debt outstanding.

As discussed above, capital structure theory predicts an inverse relation between growth opportunities and long-term debt and a positive relation of growth opportunities and short-term financing. We find a persistent and significantly positive relation between growth and all types of

debt. This result could also be interpreted as a supply side phenomenon, where firms showing more promising growth opportunities get better access to external financing. The relation between profitability and debt maturity is consistent across theories: First, we find that firms use internal funds before using long-term debt (but not before short-term debt), which may be explained by the relative inaccessibility of long-term debt in the region. Second, we find that total and short-term debt are positively related to profitability, which might be the most important factor in accessing outside financing in countries with weak collateral laws.

We also find a negative relation between tangibility and total and short-term debt and a positive relationship between tangibility and long-term debt. These results are consistent with most theories on capital structure that suggest that firms without fixed-assets to use for collateral are unable to access long-term financing. For example, theories predict that higher collateral value reduces bankruptcy costs (Static Trade Off Theory), allows firms' access to risk free debt (Pecking Order Theory), and increases opportunities for perks consumption (Free Cash Flow Theory). This is also highly consistent with the evidence in previous debt maturity literature that found that firms with higher compositions of fixed assets might borrow long-term debt in preference to short-term debt (see Demircuc-Kunt and Maksimovic, 1999). Finally, we find a significantly negative relation between the depreciation to total assets ratio and all debt types, which provides support for the Static Trade Off theory, according to which firms with high levels of non-debt tax shields would be less likely to look for additional tax benefits.

These results highlight the uniqueness of the Eastern European region – such as our finding that younger firms have greater debt usage – as well as the robustness of capital structure theory as it applies even in transition countries. Our econometric tests support our intuition based on the summary statistics and correlation tests. These findings underline the relationship between access to

debt financing and a new wave of young, profitable, and growing firms that are emerging in the region.

6. Conclusion and Remarks

The Amadeus database provides us for the first time with the opportunity to study the firm-level behavior of small and private firms across a large sample of Eastern European countries. Our summary statistics suggest that the size of the SME sector (as measured by the percentage of total employment) in Eastern European countries is smaller than what we observe in most developed economies (such as the US, Germany, and Belgium). Although we find in almost every country in our sample a large number of SMEs as a percentage of total firms, the SMEs in Eastern Europe are generally very small and employ very few individuals. We suggest that this evidence may support findings in previous research that SMEs in Eastern Europe suffer from financial constraints – i.e. low absolute amounts of outside financing – that impede their growth. Furthermore, neither SMEs nor large firms in these countries seem able to attain reasonable levels of growth.

However, we also find evidence suggesting that SMEs seem to constitute the most dynamic sector of Eastern European economies, relative to larger firms. In general, the SME sector comprises relatively younger, more highly leveraged, and more profitable firms. This suggests that a new type of firm is emerging in transition economies that is more market- and profit-oriented. But at the same time, these SMEs are only borrowing short-term debt, which appears to be the only type of financing that these firms can access.

Some policy implications can be easily derived from this analysis. Since SMEs appear to be the healthiest segment of the corporate sector, government policies should encourage the growth of this sector, which could help jump-start the growth of a more dynamic and profitable private sector.

Among the policy objectives should be improving the macroeconomic environment; developing an efficient legal and judicial system that allows contract enforcement, M&A, and efficient resolution of financial distress; permitting foreign bank and corporate entry; and development of the financial sector and debt markets. For example, one initiative should be to improve access to long-term debt, which requires overall improvements in financial development and depth. Our analysis also suggests that further growth of the SME sector would probably follow improvements in the legal and regulatory environment.

The Amadeus data will allow us to study many new and interesting research questions. For example, this data can be used to study reasons for differences in firm growth across firm sizes and countries; capital structure and debt maturity; the relationship between performance and access to financing; and explanations for variations in cash holdings.¹⁹ We expect that this paper is only a preview of important and relevant research to come. For example, by identifying country and firm characteristics that promote the growth of SMEs, we can develop a roadmap of policies to develop the small business sector. This research can provide powerful policy tools to operational staff working on the growth and development of the private sector in developing countries.

¹⁹ For a greater discussion of proposed future work see Demirguc-Kunt, A. and T. Beck, 2002, "Research Proposal: Small and Medium Enterprises: Overcoming Growth Constraints".

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Table 1: Amadeus Coverage of Eastern European firms, by Industry and Employment, 1999

Sample includes all nonfinancial, private, and publicly traded firms with more than 10 employees. SMEs are defined as firms with less than 250 employees.

	All Firms				SMEs				SMEs as a Percentage of:	
	All Firms	Agriculture	Industry	Service	All Firms	Agriculture	Industry	Service	All Firms	Population
<i>All Countries</i>	97,107	10,293	42,933	34,270	79,723	8,027	33,636	30,264	82.10%	0.025%
Bosnia-Herzegovina	935	96	451	355	812	86	367	328	86.84%	0.021%
Bulgaria	15,941	2,261	6,540	6,516	15,123	2,225	5,976	6,310	94.87%	0.184%
Croatia	4,271	165	1,760	2,140	3,838	143	1,498	2,000	89.86%	0.088%
Czech Republic	5,500	322	2,152	2,723	4,301	268	1,422	2,367	78.20%	0.042%
Estonia	5,783	620	1,956	2,459	5,656	613	1,889	2,413	97.80%	0.408%
Hungary	4,260	165	1,863	891	3,614	127	1,448	774	84.84%	0.036%
Latvia	1,864	44	650	1,089	1,634	37	532	999	87.66%	0.068%
Lithuania	774	19	314	425	638	12	209	403	82.43%	0.017%
Poland	9,484	132	4,960	3,835	6,746	108	3,202	3,120	71.13%	0.017%
Romania	27,335	3,158	15,186	8,704	25,535	3,037	13,943	8,305	93.42%	0.114%
Russia	2,889	77	1,476	1,038	1,415	21	568	645	48.98%	0.001%
Slovakia	1,221	80	493	553	831	67	239	448	68.06%	0.015%
Slovenia	297	5	165	113	202	4	93	93	68.01%	0.010%
Ukraine	14,326	2,992	3,822	2,591	7,783	1,170	1,526	1,373	54.33%	0.016%
Yugoslavia (FR)	2,227	157	1,145	838	1,595	109	724	686	71.62%	0.015%

Table 2A: Median Summary Statistics, All Firms, 1999

Sample includes all nonfinancial, private, and publicly traded firms with more than 10 employees. *Current Ratio* equals the ratio of current assets to current liabilities. *Cash Ratio* equals the ratio of cash to current liabilities. *ROE* equals the ratio of net income to equity. *ROA* equals the ratio of EBIT to total assets.

All Firms	Bosnia - Herzegovina	Bulgaria	Croatia	Czech Republic	Estonia	Hungary	Latvia	Lithuania	Poland	Romania	Russia	Slovakia	Slovenia	Ukraine	Yugoslavia
No Observations	935	15941	4271	5500	5783	4260	1864	774	9484	27335	2889	1221	297	14326	2227
% of Total Obs. Across Countries	0.01	0.16	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.10	0.28	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02
Total No Employees	148116	1341327	587482	1472955	266252	831761	275167	150566	3220987	3020744	2649311	648695	80267	6509729	801772
Employees (median)	104	25	29	100	21	50	55	49	133	24	257	150	165	221	128
Sales (US\$)	498883	206929	1693721	3014240	430033	2573242		1823899	5849727	283355		1898734	37506108	571973	2155926
Assets (US\$)	1248354	148662	1570135	2433507	196529	1309981	861991	1127647	4402955	139144	1839160	3233579	10481985	1568198	4508002
Age	17	8	9	6	6	6	6	5	8	6	6	6	9	5	9
Liabilities / Equity	0.37	0.71	2.21	1.12	1.40	1.29	1.41	1.08	1.08	1.58	0.67	1.14	0.77	0.29	0.51
Debt / Equity	0.36	0.63	1.65	1.04	1.37	1.08	1.23	1.04	1.02	1.47	0.66	1.06	0.68	0.27	0.50
Short-Term Debt/ Equity	0.31	0.58	1.65	0.76	1.11	1.07	0.98	0.88	0.90	1.39	0.62	0.83	0.68	0.22	0.42
Acct Pay / Equity	0.04	0.04		0.02	0.22	0.97	0.17	0.12	0.22	0.52	0.00	0.04		0.11	0.05
Short-Term / Total Debt	1.00	1.00	0.95	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.94	0.99	1.00
Current Ratio	1.06	1.14	1.08	1.32	1.06	1.21	1.24	1.25	1.13	0.95	1.30	1.12	1.24	1.24	1.45
Cash Ratio	0.02	0.13	0.04	0.16	0.11	0.12	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.05	0.10	0.04	0.01	0.03
Fixed Assets / Total Assets	0.75	0.45	0.39	0.44	0.44	0.38	0.41	0.39	0.44	0.39	0.46	0.52	0.53	0.73	0.54
ROE	0.01	0.05	0.10	0.05	0.08	0.16	0.14	0.13	0.07	0.19	0.00	0.01	0.04	-0.01	0.00
ROA	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.05	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.02
1-Yr Sales Growth		-2.50	-6.85	-6.62	-6.03	2.62			-5.86	-16.49		-14.38		-99.15	-0.14
Agriculture %	0.10	0.14	0.04	0.06	0.11	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.12	0.03	0.07	0.02	0.30	0.07
Industry %	0.48	0.42	0.41	0.39	0.36	0.63	0.35	0.41	0.52	0.56	0.51	0.40	0.56	0.38	0.51
Service %	0.38	0.42	0.50	0.50	0.46	0.30	0.58	0.55	0.40	0.32	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.26	0.38

Table 3: Median Summary Statistics, All Countries, All Firms, by Size and Age, 1999

Sample includes all nonfinancial, private, and publicly traded firms with more than 10 employees. *Current Ratio* equals the ratio of current assets to current liabilities. *Cash Ratio* equals the ratio of cash to current liabilities. *ROE* equals the ratio of net income to equity. *ROA* equals the ratio of EBIT to total assets.

All Firms	All firms	Employees <= 250	Employees > 250	Firm Age 0-3	Firm Age 3-10	Firm Age >10
No. Observations	97,107	79,723	16,917	13,206	47,863	9,367
% of Total Firms	.	82.10%	17.42%	13.60%	49.29%	9.65%
Total No. Employees	22,005,131	5,277,815	16,610,566	2,869,021	8,850,285	6,028,548
Employees (median)	55	35	478	50	44	260
Sales (US\$)	618,888	457,712	3,492,729	634,865	730,255	2,774,792
Assets (US\$)	591,525	353,173	4,346,968	494,296	505,993	4,080,677
Age	6	6	8	2	7	42
Liabilities / Equity	0.92	1.08	0.51	1.26	1.29	0.49
Debt / Equity	0.84	0.98	0.47	1.17	1.19	0.44
Short-Term Debt/Equity	0.75	0.88	0.41	1.02	1.06	0.39
Acct Pay / Equity	0.16	0.18	0.10	0.20	0.26	0.10
Short-Term/Total Debt	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Current Ratio	1.09	1.07	1.21	1.00	1.07	1.28
Cash Ratio	0.07	0.08	0.04	0.07	0.08	0.04
Fixed Assets / Total Assets	0.47	0.43	0.62	0.40	0.42	0.61
ROE	0.06	0.09	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.00
ROA	0.05	0.06	0.03	0.04	0.08	0.02
1-Yr Sales Growth	-8.35	-8.14	-9.40	8.73	-11.55	-10.52
Agriculture %	0.11	0.11	0.14	0.11	0.09	0.09
Industry %	0.47	0.45	0.57	0.45	0.50	0.59
Service %	0.38	0.41	0.24	0.40	0.38	0.26

Table 4a: Median Summary Statistics, by Age, 1999

Sample includes all nonfinancial, private, and publicly traded firms with more than 10 employees and less than 3 years since incorporation.. *Current Ratio* equals the ratio of current assets to current liabilities. *Cash Ratio* equals the ratio of cash to current liabilities. *ROE* equals the ratio of net income to equity. *ROA* equals the ratio of EBIT to total assets.

<i>Firm Age</i> 0-3	<i>Bosnia- Herzegovina</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Larvia</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Russia</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Yugoslavia</i>
No Observations	89	118	216	903	1,306	706	349	194	1,254	4,868	598	284	22	2,146	153
% of Total Country Obs	10%	1%	5%	16%	23%	17%	19%	25%	13%	18%	21%	23%	7%	15%	7%
Total No. Employees	3,044	13,266	51,625	151,270	47,362	61,552	32,205	17,538	244,774	571,564	272,045	106,175	3,488	1,239,160	53,953
% of Total Country Emp	2%	1%	9%	10%	18%	7%	12%	12%	8%	19%	10%	16%	4%	19%	7%
% SMEs (less than 250 Emp)	1 00	0 90	0 86	0 98	0 87	0 92	0 94	0 92	0 82	0 94	0 63	0 91	0 71	0 41	0 90
Employees (median)	18	32	100	100	19	32	32	25	86	22	186	100	159	285	51
Sales (US\$)	410,144	718,804	3,201,993	2,167,577	331,076	1,710,062		862,048	4,652,760	205,877		1,385,350		904,673	1,267,368
Assets (US\$)	362,486	479,747	3,120,587	1,454,154	130,036	774,971	729,064	434,366	3,990,060	106,396	860,603	2,175,891	7,265,912	2,061,571	1,731,838
Age	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Liabilities / Equity	1 66	1 98	3 71	1 8	2 25	1 82	2 45	1 19	1 34	1 68	1 08	1 25	2 65	0 33	1 27
Debt / Equity	1 52	1 36	2 9	1 73	2 2	1 49	2 2	1 17	1 29	1 55	1 08	1 23	1 32	0 31	1 24
Short-Term Debt / Equity	1 4	1 08	2 9	1 26	1 69	1 47	1 64	1 05	1 16	1 49	0 98	0 91	1 32	0 27	1 23
Acct Pay / Equity	0 08	0 05		0 02	0 32	1 36	0 17	0 15	0 23	0 52	0 00	0 04		0 12	0 12
Short-Term / Total Debt	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	0 95	1 00
Current Ratio	1 04	1 00	1 01	1 11	0 98	1 11	1 05	1 21	1 07	0 89	1 23	0 99	1 13	1 08	1 16
Cash Ratio	0 03	0 11	0 04	0 14	0 11	0 12	0 07	0 09	0 08	0 07	0 06	0 08	0 03	0 01	0 03
Fixed Assets / Total Assets	0 31	0 34	0 31	0 33	0 38	0 35	0 39	0 27	0 4	0 34	0 31	0 56	0 48	0 7	0 27
ROE	0 1	0 15	0 07	0 06	0 18	0 2	0 2	0 2	0 1	0 4	0 00	0 01	0 07	-0 02	0 01
ROA	0 07	0 07	0 02	0 04	0 03	0 07	0 07	0 07	0 06	0 05	0 05	0 03	0 01	0 01	0 03
1-Yr Sales Growth	.	50 27	1 68	2 45	7 71	10 49	.	5 19	9 03	12 25	.	-7 91	.	.	45 25
Agriculture %	0 04	0 00	0 08	0 05	0 14	0 03	0 01	0 01	0 01	0 14	0 04	0 02	0 00	0 19	0 03
Industry %	0 39	0 46	0 44	0 29	0 33	0 6	0 35	0 3	0 44	0 52	0 47	0 29	0 64	0 44	0 43
Service %	0 54	0 54	0 46	0 62	0 44	0 35	0 6	0 69	0 46	0 33	0 42	0 6	0 36	0 32	0 46

Table 4b: Median Summary Statistics, by Age, 1999

Sample includes all nonfinancial, private, and publicly traded firms with more than 10 employees and between 4 and 10 years since incorporation. *Current Ratio* equals the ratio of current assets to current liabilities. *Cash Ratio* equals the ratio of cash to current liabilities. *ROE* equals the ratio of net income to equity. *ROA* equals the ratio of EBIT to total assets.

<i>Firm Age 4-10</i>	<i>Bosnia-Herzegovina</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Russia</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Yugoslavia</i>
No Observations	255	994	866	4,007	4,165	3,087	1,502	561	4,722	22,324	1,830	843	220	1,387	1,100
% of Total Country Obs.	27%	6%	20%	73%	72%	72%	81%	72%	50%	82%	63%	69%	74%	10%	49%
Total No Employees	27,024	166,183	144,327	1,107,965	176,225	681,996	239,275	125,928	1,165,958	2,248,700	1,247,808	484,720	58,397	761,965	213,814
% of Total Country Emp	18%	12%	25%	75%	66%	82%	87%	84%	36%	74%	47%	75%	73%	12%	27%
% SMEs (less than 250 Emp)	0.94	0.90	0.79	0.98	0.92	0.84	0.81	0.87	0.82	0.93	0.52	0.70	0.69	0.37	0.84
Employees (median)	42	105	53	100	22	60	60	64	102	24	239	150	160	289	107
Sales (US\$)	487,020	707,369	3,091,904	3,236,894	439,453	2,844,373		2,247,496	6,084,029	295,806	.	2,266,866	41,710,687	678,172	1,711,733
Assets (US\$)	875,347	512,420	2,811,480	2,517,729	206,522	1,475,582	885,494	1,342,542	4,130,465	144,119	1,660,626	3,299,847	10,564,802	2,213,080	3,027,559
Age	7	7	8	7	7	7	6	6	7	7	6	7	9	5	8
Liabilities / Equity	0.6	1.07	3.19	1.14	1.33	1.21	1.29	1.05	1.44	1.58	0.63	1.23	0.82	0.27	0.68
Debt / Equity	0.58	0.93	2.55	1.06	1.3	1	1.15	1.03	1.38	1.46	0.63	1.17	0.69	0.25	0.66
Short-Term Debt/ Equity	0.47	0.81	2.55	0.77	1.05	0.99	0.91	0.84	1.2	1.37	0.6	0.9	0.69	0.21	0.58
Acct Pay / Equity	0.06	0.06		0.02	0.21	0.91	0.17	0.11	0.23	0.52	0.00	0.04		0.1	0.06
Short -Term / Total Debt	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.94	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.94	1.00
Current Ratio	1.07	1.09	1.02	1.36	1.1	1.24	1.28	1.27	1.1	0.97	1.31	1.14	1.22	1.23	1.32
Cash Ratio	0.02	0.09	0.03	0.15	0.1	0.12	0.09	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.1	0.03	0.01	0.03
Fixed Assets / Total Assets	0.66	0.44	0.36	0.44	0.44	0.38	0.42	0.41	0.37	0.4	0.47	0.49	0.53	0.71	0.48
ROE	0.02	0.04	0.11	0.06	0.06	0.16	0.13	0.12	0.15	0.17	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.01
ROA	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.07	0.04	0.08	0.1	0.09	0.11	0.1	0.06	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.02
1-Yr Sales Growth		-1.01	-7.37	-7.37	-7.8	0.54		-3.41	-4.46	-18.58		-14.8	.	.	3.11
Agriculture %	0.11	0.12	0.03	0.05	0.11	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.11	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.2	0.06
Industry %	0.37	0.47	0.38	0.42	0.37	0.64	0.35	0.44	0.47	0.56	0.47	0.46	0.51	0.36	0.46
Service %	0.48	0.4	0.57	0.46	0.46	0.28	0.58	0.51	0.48	0.32	0.39	0.42	0.42	0.38	0.45

Table 4c: Median Summary Statistics, by Age, 1999

Sample includes all nonfinancial, private, and publicly traded firms with more than 10 employees and more than 10 years since incorporation.. *Current Ratio* equals the ratio of current assets to current liabilities. *Cash Ratio* equals the ratio of cash to current liabilities. *ROE* equals the ratio of net income to equity. *ROA* equals the ratio of EBIT to total assets.

<i>Firm Age >10</i>	<i>Bosnia-Herzegovina</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Russia</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Yugoslavia</i>
No Observations	591	678	923	297	311	37	4		3,138	1	400	93	52	1,868	974
% of Total Country Obs	63%	4%	22%	5%	5%	1%	0%		33%	0%	14%	8%	18%	13%	44%
Total No Employees	118,048	336,653	330,216	98,030	42,646	28,500	208		1,685,807	4,247	1,070,802	57,700	17,575	1,704,111	534,005
% of Total Country Emp	80%	25%	56%	7%	16%	3%	0%		52%	0%	40%	9%	22%	26%	67%
% SMEs (less than 250 Emp) Employees (median)	0.82	0.62	0.64	0.89	0.64	0.65		1.00	0.52		0.17	0.56	0.54	0.07	0.55
Sales (US\$)	510,557	1,045,534	4,097,114	3,129,733	932,040	7,499,414			5,993,283	1,948,804		1,644,810	33,301,528	894,287	3,095,004
Assets (US\$)	1,733,893	1,198,824	10,008,092	5,624,421	649,971	4,302,191	173,742		4,754,723	3,123,046	7,297,703	6,648,650	13,070,532	2,931,502	7,403,764
Age	25	39	45	22	36	12	99		45	1,999	46	23	24	52	42
Liabilities / Equity	0.25	0.55	0.72	0.48	0.85	1.07	5.25		0.76	-1.81	0.57	0.47	0.49	0.25	0.36
Debt / Equity	0.25	0.4	0.49	0.45	0.84	1.07	5.19		0.72	-0.35	0.57	0.44	0.4	0.24	0.36
Short-Term Debt/ Equity	0.23	0.37	0.49	0.26	0.64	1.07	4.21		0.65	-0.33	0.54	0.33	0.4	0.2	0.3
Acct Pay / Equity	0.03	0.04		0.01	0.15	0.86	0.44		0.21	-0.17	0.00	0.02		0.1	0.05
Short -Term / Total Debt	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.69	0.94	1.00	1.00		0.97	1.00	0.95	1.00	1.00	0.82	0.95
Current Ratio	1.06	1.28	1.18	1.54	1.16	1.35	1.21		1.2	1.36	1.32	1.51	1.51	1.32	1.69
Cash Ratio	0.02	0.09	0.03	0.27	0.13	0.08	0.09		0.08	0.53	0.02	0.14	0.04	0.01	0.03
Fixed Assets / Total Assets	0.8	0.58	0.61	0.63	0.59	0.46	0.31		0.51	0.45	0.51	0.65	0.54	0.76	0.59
ROE	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.15	0.15		0.03	0.04	-0.42	0.00	0.04	-0.02	0.00
ROA	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.05	0.07	0.06		0.05	0.37	-0.13	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
1-Yr Sales Growth		-15.69	-13.95	-8.77	-7.05	-1.71			-9.89	-39.48		-17.28		-99.15	-3.53
Agriculture %	0.11	0.03	0.04	0.17	0.07	0.06	0.00		0.01	0.00	0.02	0.33	0.04	0.26	0.09
Industry %	0.54	0.71	0.58	0.35	0.38	0.65	0.00		0.64	1.00	0.79	0.28	0.73	0.54	0.59
Service %	0.31	0.23	0.35	0.46	0.49	0.16	0.5		0.27	0.00	0.14	0.32	0.21	0.15	0.29

Table 5a: Median Summary Statistics, by Employment, 1999

Sample includes all nonfinancial, private, and publicly traded firms with more than 10 employees and less than 250 employees. *Current Ratio* equals the ratio of current assets to current liabilities. *Cash Ratio* equals the ratio of cash to current liabilities. *ROE* equals the ratio of net income to equity. *ROA* equals the ratio of EBIT to total assets.

<i>Employees ≤ 250</i>	<i>Bosnia- Herzegovina</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Russia</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Yugoslavia</i>
No Observations	812	15,123	3,838	4,301	5,656	3,614	1,634	638	6,746	25,535	1,415	831	202	7,783	1,595
% of Total Country Obs	87%	95%	90%	78%	98%	85%	88%	82%	71%	93%	49%	70%	68%	54%	72%
Total No Employees	69,055	672,585	200,833	390,455	189,921	228,882	111,447	39,062	685,245	1,025,099	209,703	73,945	24,757	1,193,852	162,974
% of Total Country Emp	47%	50%	34%	27%	71%	28%	41%	26%	21%	34%	8%	11%	31%	18%	20%
% new firms (age 0-3)	0.11	0.07	0.19	0.23	0.12	0.20	0.29	0.20	0.16	0.18	0.27	0.10	0.24	0.56	0.09
Employees (median)	101	24	25	50	21	40	42	37	92	22	139	100	119	147	103
Sales (US\$)	419,541	190,592	1,499,063	2,271,282	411,062	2,046,170		1,374,646	4,411,022	252,177		1,098,281	33,301,528	361,559	1,392,421
Assets (US\$)	988,295	136,682	1,276,917	1,746,003	189,497	1,026,537	733,566	801,686	3,129,106	121,310	579,693	1,837,012	8,009,930	929,440	2,632,167
Age	14	8	9	6	6	6	6	5	8	6	6	6	9	3	9
Liabilities / Equity	0.4	0.72	2.57	1.2	1.42	1.36	1.6	1.22	1.3	1.68	0.78	1.23	1.02	0.3	0.56
Debt / Equity	0.39	0.63	1.99	1.11	1.39	1.13	1.37	1.21	1.23	1.55	0.78	1.17	0.79	0.28	0.54
Short-Term Debt / Equity	0.23	0.37	0.49	0.26	0.64	1.07	4.21		0.65	-0.33	0.54	0.33	0.4	0.2	0.3
Acct Pay / Equity	0.04	0.04		0.02	0.22	1.03	0.17	0.13	0.22	0.55	0.00	0.04		0.12	0.05
Short -Term / Total Debt	1.00	1.00	0.97	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.96	1.00	1.00
Current Ratio	1.04	1.14	1.07	1.33	1.06	1.22	1.23	1.24	1.14	0.94	1.28	1.13	1.22	1.25	1.37
Cash Ratio	0.02	0.13	0.04	0.17	0.11	0.12	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.12	0.04	0.01	0.03
Fixed Assets / Total Assets	0.74	0.45	0.36	0.4	0.43	0.36	0.38	0.35	0.38	0.38	0.39	0.48	0.5	0.72	0.51
ROE	0.01	0.05	0.12	0.06	0.08	0.18	0.16	0.14	0.11	0.21	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.01
ROA	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.08	0.1	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.07	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.02
1-Yr Sales Growth		-2.01	-6.39	-7.06	-6.13	3.36		-0.02	-5.57	-15.83		-15.59			2.8
Agriculture %	0.11	0.15	0.04	0.06	0.12	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.12	0.01	0.08	0.02	0.27	0.07
Industry %	0.45	0.4	0.39	0.33	0.36	0.6	0.33	0.33	0.48	0.55	0.4	0.29	0.46	0.35	0.45
Service %	0.4	0.42	0.52	0.55	0.46	0.32	0.61	0.64	0.46	0.33	0.46	0.54	0.46	0.31	0.43

Table 5b: Median Summary Statistics, by Employment, 1999

Sample includes all nonfinancial, private, and publicly traded firms with more than 250 employees. *Current Ratio* equals the ratio of current assets to current liabilities. *Cash Ratio* equals the ratio of cash to current liabilities. *ROE* equals the ratio of net income to equity. *ROA* equals the ratio of EBIT to total assets.

<i>Employees > 250</i>	<i>Bosnia-Herzegovina</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Russia</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Yugoslavia</i>
No Observations	123	816	431	945	125	623	230	135	2,710	1,782	1,468	333	94	6,477	625
% of Total Country Obs	13%	5%	10%	17%	2%	15%	12%	17%	29%	7%	51%	27%	32%	45%	28%
Total No Employees	79,061	668,242	386,149	1,019,000	75,831	597,129	163,720	111,254	2,528,742	1,991,145	2,438,108	560,500	55,260	5,299,377	637,048
% of Total Country Emp	53%	50%	66%	69%	28%	72%	59%	74%	79%	66%	92%	86%	69%	81%	79%
% new firms (age 0-3)	0 00	0 03	0 12	0 16	0 07	0 09	0 09	0 13	0 09	0 15	0 16	0 02	0 21	0 33	0 02
Employees (median)	408	415	447	500	398	469	378	550	462	508	623	1,000	435	408	450
Sales (US\$)	2,329,992	3,031,775	11,476,363	14,930,033	2,367,463	15,720,934		7,553,918	13,325,198	2,140,980	.	9,491,686	41,710,687	855,393	7,550,253
Assets (US\$)	8,978,885	3,492,463	24,314,143	13,658,035	2,286,727	12,221,789	5,757,834	6,435,367	9,159,317	1,850,142	5,243,514	13,549,870	30,096,244	2,856,619	18,695,979
Age	29	33	44	7	7	6	6	6	24	8	6	6	9	6	34
Liabilities / Equity	0 23	0 58	0 85	0 92	0 49	0 97	0 58	0 4	0 83	0 79	0 6	1 1	0 63	0 28	0 43
Debt / Equity	0 22	0 48	0 56	0 86	0 46	0 87	0 53	0 4	0 8	0 72	0 6	1 01	0 55	0 26	0 43
Short-Term Debt / Equity	0 21	0 41	0 56	0 62	0 37	0 84	0 42	0 34	0 72	0 66	0 56	0 82	0 55	0 21	0 34
Acct Pay / Equity	0 03	0 04		0 02	0 1	0 71	0 12	0 07	0 22	0 27	0 00	0 04		0 11	0 06
Short-Term / Total Debt	1 00	1 00	0 87	0 82	1 00	1 00	0 86	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	0 87	0 94	0 95
Current Ratio	1 17	1 15	1 17	1 27	1 11	1 15	1 45	1 43	1 11	1 17	1 31	1 09	1 35	1 23	1 68
Cash Ratio	0 02	0 07	0 03	0 1	0 11	0 09	0 11	0 05	0 08	0 07	0 03	0 07	0 03	0 01	0 03
Fixed Assets / Total Assets	0 78	0 58	0 6	0 55	0 64	0 47	0 58	0 58	0 52	0 51	0 49	0 57	0 55	0 75	0 58
ROE	0 00	0 02	0 00	0 03	0 02	0 06	0 04	0 04	0 04	0 03	-0 02	0 01	0 04	-0 02	0 00
ROA	0 01	0 03	0 01	0 06	0 13	0 05	0 08	0 1	0 06	0 13	0 03	0 05	0 02	0 01	0 01
1-Yr Sales Growth		-9 3	-10 59	-5 64	0 5	-1 03		0 78	-6 54	-24 55		-12 51		-99 15	-4 46
Agriculture %	0 08	0 04	0 05	0 03	0 06	0 06	0 03	0 05	0 01	0 07	0 04	0 03	0 00	0 32	0 08
Industry %	0 68	0 69	0 6	0 62	0 54	0 72	0 51	0 78	0 64	0 69	0 62	0 68	0 77	0 41	0 67
Service %	0 22	0 25	0 32	0 3	0 36	0 2	0 39	0 16	0 26	0 22	0 27	0 25	0 21	0 22	0 24

Table 6: Summary Statistics of ECA Countries, 1999

Private capital flows and 5-year growth rates of GDP are from IFS Statistics. The percentage of banking system's assets in banks that 50% or more government and foreign bank assets is from the Bank Regulation and Supervision Database (Barth, Caprio, and Levine, 2001). Rule of Law is an index of several indicators that measure the extent to which citizens have confidence in and abide by country rules. This includes the perception of the effectiveness of the judiciary and the enforceability of contracts (Kaufman and Kraay, 2001).

Country Name	Private capital flows (% of GDP)	Logged GDP Per Capita	GDP 5-Yr growth	Government Bank Assets	Foreign Bank Assets	Rule of law
Bosnia	.	1479.49	32.64	30.00	35.00	-1.11
Bulgaria	13.21	1413.71	-1.68	17.60	73.30	-0.15
Croatia	17.23	4968.81	4.34	36.99	6.67	0.15
Czech Rep.	28.93	5156.75	1.58	19.00	26.00	0.54
Estonia	26.33	4110.26	4.48	0.00	85.00	0.51
Hungary	24.67	5135.82	3.29	2.23	62.00	0.71
Latvia	23.28	2398.29	3.22	.	.	0.15
Lithuania	18.47	1976.98	3.30	90.00	0.01	0.18
Poland	11.44	4060.57	5.74	43.70	26.40	0.54
Romania	9.29	1434.69	-0.42	70.00	8.00	-0.09
Russia	11.12	2255.07	-1.23	68.00	9.00	-0.72
Slovak Rep.	32.56	4075.41	5.03	25.80	56.70	0.13
Slovenia	10.80	11159.94	4.24	39.60	4.60	0.83
Ukraine	16.00	840.00	-5.47	.	.	-0.71
Yugoslavia	.	1181.50	1.03	90.00	0.01	-0.81
<i>Correlations: w/SMEs as a % of Emp.</i>	<i>0.145***</i>	<i>0.090***</i>	<i>0.06 ***</i>	<i>-0.548***</i>	<i>0.626***</i>	<i>0.258***</i>

TABLE 7: Correlations Between Total Debt-to-Equity Ratios and Firm Characteristics

Panel B reports correlation coefficients that are significant at the 5% level; shaded patterns indicate that the sign agrees with the theoretical predictions in Panel A. *FA/TA* is the ratio of fixed to total assets. *SALESUS* is total sales in US\$. *DEP/TA* is the ratio of depreciation to total assets. *Cash/TA* is the ratio of cash to total assets. *ROA* is return on assets measured as the ratio of EBIT to total assets. *AGE* is the number of years since incorporation. *AP/TL* is the ratio of accounts payable to total liabilities. ***, ** and * indicate significance at the 1%, 5% and 10% level, respectively.

<i>Correlation Total Debt/Equity</i>	<i>Bosnia Herzegovina</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Russia</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Yugoslavia</i>
<i>FA/TA</i>	-0.568***	-0.183***	-0.316***	-0.231***	-0.13***	-0.291***	-0.225***	-0.243***	-0.27***	-0.133***	-0.465***	-0.271***	-0.437***	-0.291***	-0.504***
<i>SALESUS</i>	0.136***	0.01	-0.023	0.036*	-0.002	-0.004		-0.051	0.00	-0.008		-0.025	-1.00	-0.002	0.035
<i>DEP/TA</i>	-0.068**	-0.126***	-0.106***	-0.137***	-0.086***	-0.172***			-0.241***	-0.09***		-0.113***	-0.294***	-0.063***	-0.242***
<i>CASH/TA</i>	0.094*	-0.12***	-0.009	-0.11***	-0.122***	-0.115***	-0.105***	-0.097*	-0.176***	-0.011	0.012	0.008	-0.024	-0.052***	-0.016
<i>AGE</i>	-0.125***	-0.163***	-0.253***	-0.031*	-0.096***	-0.034**	-0.029	-0.069**	-0.058***	-0.014*	-0.055***	-0.144***	-0.081	-0.071***	-0.015
<i>ROA</i>	0.185***	0.035***	0.028	-0.001	-0.121***	-0.196***	-0.101***	-0.107***	0.007	0.077***	0.086***	0.18***	0.115**	0.056***	0.069***
<i>APTL</i>	-0.118***	0.102***		-0.044***	-0.198***	0.114***	-0.169***	-0.156***	-0.261***	-0.028***	-0.069***	-0.102***		-0.026***	-0.128***

Table 8: Theories of Capital Structure: Relations with Debt

This table shows the correlation coefficient sign predicted by various theories. *SIZE* is the natural log of total sales in US\$. *AGE* is the number of years since incorporation. *PROFIT* is measured by *ROE*, which is return on equity measured as the ratio of net income less stock dividends to common equity. *GROWTH* is the 1-year growth rate of sales. *TANG* is the ratio of fixed assets to total assets. *NDTS* are non-debt tax shields, measured as the ratio of depreciation to total assets.

	SIZE	AGE	PROFIT	GROWTH	TANG	NDTS
Static Trade Off	+				+	-
Collateral value (Bankruptcy costs)	+				+	
Agency problems		+		+/-	-	
Collateral value					-	
Growing industries (+STD)				+/-		
Reputation		+				
Marginal tax rate & Non-debt tax shields						-
Pecking Order (M&M)			-		+	
Collateral value (& Size)					+	
Profitability			-			
Risk shifting (J&M)					+	
Collateral value					+	
Underinvestment (M)					+	
Collateral value					+	
Free Cash Flow (J)			+		+	
Collateral value					+	
Profitability			+			

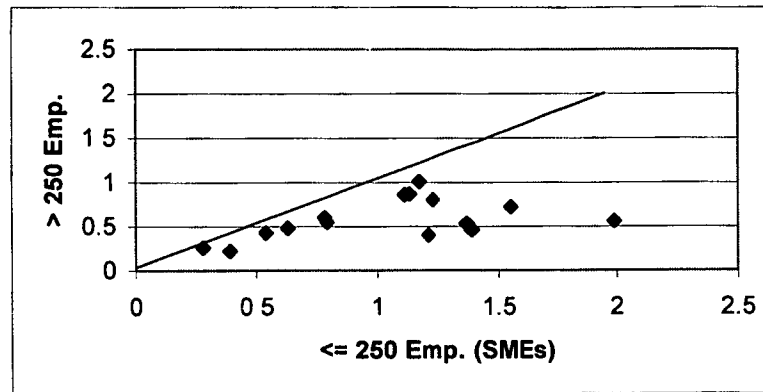
TABLE 9: OLS Regressions of the Determinants of Debt

Panel B reports OLS regression results. Dependent variables are listed in the top row: *LIAB/EQ* is the ratio of total liabilities to the book value of equity; *DEBT/EQ* is the ratio of total debt to equity; *STD/EQ* is the ratio of short-term debt to equity; *LTD/EQ* is the ratio of long-term debt to equity. *SIZE* is the natural log of total sales in US\$. *AGE* is the number of years since incorporation. *GROWTH* is the 1-year growth rate of sales. *PROFIT* is measured by *ROE*, which is return on equity measured as the ratio of net income less stock dividends to common equity. *TANGIBILITY* is the ratio of fixed assets to total assets. *NDTS* are non-deb tax shields, measured as the ratio of depreciation to total assets. All regressions include industry (SIC) and country dummies. T-statistics are shown in parentheses. ***, ** and * indicate significance at the 1% , 5% and 10% level, respectively.

	LIAB/EQ	DEBT/EQ	STD/EQ	LTD/EQ
Constant	1.215** (2.38)	1.241*** (2.55)	1.510*** (3.23)	-0.269*** (-2.76)
SIZE	0.084*** (3.52)	0.080*** (3.51)	0.059*** (2.70)	0.021*** (4.63)
AGE	-0.002** (-1.95)	-0.017** (-1.99)	-0.001 (-1.57)	-0.001** (-2.43)
GROWTH	0.014*** (16.12)	0.013*** (15.83)	0.012*** (15.46)	0.001*** (5.01)
PROFIT	0.636*** (11.26)	0.678*** (12.60)	0.696*** (13.49)	-0.018* (-1.68)
TANGIBILITY	-2.420*** (-22.71)	-2.391*** (-23.57)	-2.555*** (-26.25)	0.164*** (8.06)
NDTS	-8.973*** (-9.05)	-8.694*** (-9.21)	-8.091*** (-8.94)	-0.603*** (-3.19)
Industry Dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country Dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	28,673	28,673	28,673	28,673
Adj. R-sq	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.03

Figure 1: A Comparison of Leverage of SMEs versus Large Firms

This figure shows a scatterplot of the leverage of SMEs and large firms against a slope line equal to one.



Appendix 1: Median Summary Statistics, Employment < 10, 1999

Sample includes all nonfinancial, private, and publicly traded firms with less than 10 employees. *Current Ratio* equals the ratio of current assets to current liabilities. *Cash Ratio* equals the ratio of cash to current liabilities. *ROE* equals the ratio of net income to equity. *ROA* equals the ratio of EBIT to total assets.

# Employees <10	<i>Bosnia-Herzegovina</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Russia</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Yugoslavia</i>
No Observations	86	21,539	13,769	698	16,157	1,292	562	182	525	173,787	6	204	6	3	392
Total No Employees	558	108,106	48,253	3,490	57,644	6,815	3,119	1,075	2,529	475,085	20	605	26	13	1,970
Employees (median)	8	5	3	5	3	5	6	6	5	2	3	2	5	5	5
Sales (US\$)	163,652	56,633	180,529	410,235	35,313	692,045		562,675	1,101,558	10,023		120,446	.	2,219,266	185,238
Assets (US\$)	102,406	27,772	95,466	780,144	15,291	286,933	135,416	303,323	8,199,802	2,590	5,712,463	938,040	64,367	5,106,366	158,346
Age	6	4	6	4	3	6	4	4	4	5	2	3	7	5	7
Liabilities / Equity	1.9	0.45	3.78	0.32	0.73	1.53	1.87	1.26	0.65	0.67	3.75	0.49	0.86	1.69	3.02
Debt / Equity	1.77	0.37	3.4	0.3	0.7	1.27	1.75	1.24	0.64	0.47	3.75	0.47	0.69	1.69	2.97
Acct Pay / Equity	0.1	0.00		0.00	0.09	1.2	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.23	0.00	0.00		1.63	0.13
Current Ratio	1.12	1.33	1.09	1.26	1.17	1.19	1.19	1.27	1.03	0.97	1.08	1.02	1.17	0.86	1.13
Cash Ratio	0.05	0.33	0.08	0.2	0.23	0.19	0.12	0.08	0.27	0.1	0.02	0.12	0.09	0.00	0.05
Fixed Assets / Total Assets	0.22	0.22	0.14	0.32	0.24	0.24	0.18	0.25	0.48	0.16	0.06	0.51	0.31	0.44	0.13
ROE	0.05	0.13	0.26	0.01	0.04	0.26	0.3	0.16	0.09	0.17	0.06	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.1
ROA	0.04	0.06	0.08	0.03	0.00	0.09	0.1	0.08	0.05	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.03
1-Yr Sales Growth		1.23	-4.96	-7.34	-11.41	7.08		-4.24	1.33	-24.33		-16.99			25.46
Agriculture %	0.09	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.14	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.1	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.17	0.02
Industry %	0.17	0.25	0.19	0.1	0.19	0.41	0.16	0.26	0.22	0.4	0.33	0.1	0.23	0.17	0.21
Service %	0.67	0.64	0.7	0.83	0.54	0.52	0.81	0.69	0.57	0.49	0.57	0.81	0.57	0.5	0.74

Appendix 2: Firm-Level Variables Available in Amadeus

1	Added Value
2	Capital
3	Cash Flow
4	Cash and Cash Equivalents
5	Costs of Employees
6	Cost of Good Sold
7	Current Assets
8	Current Liabilities
9	Depreciation
10	Extraordinary Expenses
11	Extraordinary Revenue
12	Extraordinary P/L
13	Fixed Assets
14	Financial Expenses
15	Financial P/L
16	Financial Revenue
17	Gross Profit
18	Intangible Fixed Assets
19	Interest Paid
20	Loans
21	Long Term Debt
22	Material Costs
23	Non Current Liabilities
24	Number of Employees
25	Other Current Assets
26	Other Fixed Assets
27	Other Non-Current Liabilities
28	Other Operating Expenses
29	Operating P/L
30	Operating Revenue/Turnover
31	Other Shareholders Funds
32	P/L for Period
33	P/L After Tax
34	P/L Before Tax
35	Sales
36	Stocks
37	Taxation
38	Tangible Fixed Assets
39	Total Assets
40	Total Shareholder Funds and Liabilities
41	Working Capital

Annex: Table 2: Mean Summary Statistics, All Countries 1999

	All firms	Employees <= 250	Employees > 250	Firm Age 1-3	Firm Age 3-10	Firm Age 10+
# Observations	97,107	79,723	16,917	13,206	47,863	9,367
Total # Employees	22,005,131	5,277,815	16,610,566	2,869,021	8,850,285	6,028,548
Change in Employment	-1,026,083	-266,977	-759,643	-17,855	-399,427	-514,452
Employees (Average)	227	66	982	217	184.91	644
Sales (U\$S)	688,536,923	169,374,972	3,397,952,178	4,179,660	155,434,85	13,524,111
Assets (U\$S)	599,680,792	83,985,525	2,994,675,796	6,515,640	275,706,93	22,841,165
Age	11.38	8.27	24.46	1.77	6.59	49.40
Liabilities / Equity	2.53	2.84	1.15	3.35	3.06	1.09
Debt / Equity	2.35	2.63	1.07	3.11	2.88	0.99
Acct Pay / Equity	0.72	0.81	0.30	0.95	0.96	0.23
Current Ratio	1.40	1.37	1.53	1.21	1.28	1.59
Cash Ratio	0.18	0.19	0.12	0.15	0.17	0.14
Fixed Assets / Total Assets	0.50	0.45	0.70	0.45	0.47	0.63
ROE	0.19	0.23	-0.01	0.29	0.25	-0.03
ROA	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.07	0.1	0.03
1-Yr Sales Growth	-1.18	-0.54	-6.21	12.27	-5.28	-6.99
Agriculture %	0.11	0.11	0.14	0.11	0.09	0.09
Industry %	0.47	0.45	0.57	0.45	0.5	0.59
Service %	0.38	0.41	0.24	0.40	0.38	0.26

Annex: Table 3: Mean Summary Statistics, 1999

<i>All Firms</i>	<i>Bosnia Herzegovina</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Russian Federation</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Yugoslavia</i>
# Observations	935	15941	4271	5500	5783	4260	1864	774	9484	27335	2889	1221	297	14326	2227
Total # Employees	148116	1341327	587482	1472955	266252	831761	275167	150566	3220987	3020744	2649311	648695	80267	6509729	801772
Change in Employment Employees (Average)	.	-65607	-12958	0 00	-3262	3163	-35	-18517	-213784	-98732	-54195	0 00	0.00	-564158	2002
Sales (U\$S)	158	84	138	268	46	195	148	195	340	111	917	531	270	454	360
Assets (U\$S)	1271720	991788	5268729	12309426	1011904	9620355	.	4461688	19832401	1096082	.	11789240	37506108	6030246577	8307842
Age	3502710	965097	12113719	13028027	942547	6756339	3323274	4431541	20842058	1196670	47463272	18540688	24135819	3926479101	27780825
Liabilities / Equity	20.74	20 64	25.38	9 23	7 16	6 17	5.65	4.91	20 98	5.69	12 66	6 43	12 31	21 38	26.2
Debt / Equity	9 36	2 06	-1251 57	4 13	41 2	4 93	3.67	14 43	6 31	22 89	24 17	10 29	1 68	5 37	11 35
Acct Pay / Equity	1.04	1 5	4 57	2 54	2 55	1 84	2 18	1.63	2 02	3 73	1 82	2 69	1 25	0 52	1.29
Current Ratio	2 55	0.74		-0 05	2 24	2 93	0 73	6 22	0 68	12 27	0 43	0 35		1 00	1 08
Cash Ratio	1.61	3.48	1.68	3.89	3 95	1 99	3.31	2 09	1 51	7 01	2 03	1 93	1 76	2 42	2 37
Fixed Assets / Total Assets	0.13	0.8	0 18	0 96	1 92	0 64	0 43	0 41	0 29	0 46	0 21	0 46	0 09	0 18	0 12
ROE	0 65	0 46	0 41	0 43	0 47	0 39	0 42	0 51	0 5	0 45	0 45	0 49	0 5	0 72	0 51
ROA	0 05	0 09	0 17	0 11	0 08	0 21	0 19	0 16	0 12	0 45	-0 28	0 03	0 05	-0 02	0 00
1-Yr Sales Growth	0 04	0 03	0 06	0 08	0 04	0 1	0 12	0 1	0 09	0 12	0 00	0 05	0 01	0 04	0 03
Agriculture %	.	7 67	-3 36	-2 72	-2 91	9 02		11 38	-3 08	-5 26		-7 71	.	-99 15	2 67
Industry %	0 1	0 14	0 04	0 06	0 11	0 06	0 02	0 02	0 01	0 12	0 03	0 07	0 02	0 3	0 07
Service %	0 48	0 42	0 41	0 39	0 36	0 63	0 35	0 41	0 52	0 56	0 51	0 4	0 56	0 38	0 51
	0 38	0 42	0 5	0 5	0 46	0 3	0 58	0 55	0 4	0 32	0 36	0 45	0 38	0 26	0 38

Annex: Table 4a: Mean Summary Statistics, by number employment, 1999

<i>Panel A</i> <i>Employees < 250</i>	<i>Bosnia Herzegovina</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Russian Federation</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Yugoslavia</i>
# Observations	812	15123	3838	4301	5656	3614	1634	638	6746	25535	1415	831	202	7783	1595
Firms %	87	95	90	78	98	85	88	82	71	93	49	68	68	54	72
Total # Employees	69055	672585	200833	390455	189921	228882	111447	39062	685245	1025099	209703	73945	24757	1193852	162974
Employees %	47	50	34	27	71	28	41	26	21	34	8	11	31	18	20
Change in Total Employment Employees (Average)	85	44	52	91	34	63	68	61	102	40	148	89	123	153	102
Sales (US\$)	810958	560738	3068600	5819178	879615	4682422		3445600	9266058	599386		2530583	33301528	2884418841	3431848
Assets (US\$)	2200415	453463	3973781	5482818	751284	2883350	1826334	3609046	9123688	425333	13046905	4875179	11718026	821773435	6718309
% Age 0-3	11	7	12	19	23	20	20	29	16	18	27	24	10	56	9
Age	19.15	16.84	19.6	6.79	6.95	6.07	5.61	4.81	15.15	5.55	6.65	6.2	11.21	6.73	19.88
Liabilities / Equity	1.13	1.68	5.91	2.83	2.68	2.23	2.66	1.82	2.4	4.13	2.43	3.09	1.75	0.58	1.52
Debt / Equity	1.09	1.52	4.9	2.69	2.58	1.91	2.34	1.77	2.28	3.9	2.41	2.94	1.42	0.55	1.47
Acct Pay / Equity	0.14	0.3		0.07	0.43	1.79	0.37	0.21	0.4	1.62	0.03	0.11		0.22	0.13
Current Ratio	1.26	1.71	1.25	1.74	1.26	1.42	1.58	1.45	1.31	1.03	1.57	1.42	1.41	1.64	1.8
Cash Ratio	0.06	0.33	0.09	0.33	0.24	0.21	0.18	0.13	0.17	0.14	0.15	0.2	0.06	0.06	0.06
Fixed Assets / Total Assets	0.64	0.46	0.4	0.41	0.45	0.37	0.4	0.38	0.5	0.41	0.41	0.46	0.48	0.65	0.49
ROE	0.05	0.09	0.19	0.12	0.09	0.22	0.2	0.18	0.15	0.47	-0.11	0.06	0.06	0.01	0.01
ROA	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.08	0.04	0.1	0.12	0.1	0.1	0.12	0.06	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.03
1-Yr Sales Growth		8.19	-3.00	-2.76	-3.02	9.83		12.65	-2.65	-4.97		-7.99			4.77
Agriculture %	0.11	0.15	0.04	0.06	0.12	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.12	0.01	0.08	0.02	0.27	0.07
Industry %	0.45	0.4	0.39	0.33	0.36	0.6	0.33	0.33	0.48	0.55	0.4	0.29	0.46	0.35	0.45
Service %	0.4	0.42	0.52	0.55	0.46	0.32	0.61	0.64	0.46	0.33	0.46	0.54	0.46	0.31	0.43

Annex: Table 4b: Mean Summary Statistics, by number employment, 1999

<i>Panel B</i> employees > 250	<i>Bosnia Herzegovina</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Russian Federation</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Yugoslavi</i>
Observations	123	816	431	945	125	623	230	135	2710	1782	1468	333	94	6477	625
turnover %	13	5	10	17	2	15	12	17	29	7	51	27	32	45	28
Total # employees	79061	668242	386149	1019000	75831	597129	163720	111254	2528742	1991145	2438108	560500	55260	5299377	637048
employees %	53	50	66	69	28	72	59	74	79	66	92	86	69	81	79
Change in Total employment employees (average)	642.77	818.92	895.94	1078.31	606.65	958.47	711.83	824.10	933.12	1117.37	1660.84	1683.18	587.87	818.18	1019.28
sales (US\$)	4323328	8727831	30114560	41216403	6920816	40956545		9592277.69	45660032	8148126	.	32505364	41710686	8453088590	20718642
assets (US\$)	12099972	10198138	84630621	46916688	9589680	31967863	13958058	8328681.46	41193743	12246768	80825473	53969141	50708157	7646922441	81644111
Age 0-3	0	3	7	12	16	9	13	9	9	15	16	21	2	33	2
Age	31.26	35.03	46.69	21.02	16.88	6.72	5.9	5.41	35.57	7.7	18.52	6.95	14.55	27.39	42.39
Liabilities / Equity	0.67	1.25	2.07	2.1	1.31	1.73	1.27	0.86	1.67	1.46	1.32	2.24	1.14	0.51	0.88
Debt / Equity	0.67	1.07	1.63	2.03	1.04	1.44	1.05	0.86	1.59	1.37	1.31	2.22	0.94	0.48	0.85
Current Pay / Equity	0.11	0.22		0.07	0.3	1.24	0.27	0.17	0.39	0.72	0.03	0.11		0.22	0.12
Current Ratio	1.45	1.67	1.39	1.6	1.33	1.34	1.91	1.71	1.26	1.25	1.56	1.33	1.54	1.65	2.05
Cash Ratio	0.04	0.25	0.08	0.26	0.23	0.17	0.27	0.12	0.18	0.14	0.1	0.13	0.05	0.04	0.07
Fixed Assets / Total Assets	0.78	0.62	0.58	0.53	1.1	0.52	0.58	1.09	0.51	0.99	0.48	0.56	0.56	0.81	0.57
ROE	0.02	0.05	0.00	0.06	0.03	0.11	0.1	0.05	0.06	0.17	-0.44	-0.01	0.04	-0.03	-0.01
ROA	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.1	0.09	0.07	0.14	-0.06	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.03
-Yr Sales growth		-1.88	-8.28	-4.12	0.68	3.86		5.68	-4.03	-15.02		-13.78		-99.15	-2.86
Agriculture %	0.08	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.01	0.07	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.32	0.08
Industry %	0.68	0.69	0.6	0.62	0.54	0.72	0.51	0.78	0.64	0.69	0.62	0.68	0.77	0.41	0.67
Service %	0.22	0.25	0.32	0.3	0.36	0.2	0.39	0.16	0.26	0.22	0.27	0.25	0.21	0.22	0.24

Annex: Table 5a: Mean Summary Statistics, by number age, 1999

<i>Panel C Firm Age 0-3</i>	<i>Bosnia Herzegovina</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Russian Federation</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Yugoslavia</i>
# Observations	89	118	216	903	1306	706	349	194	1254	4868	598	284	22	2146	153
Firms %	10	1	5	16	23	17	19	25	13	18	21	23	7	15	7
Total # Employees	3044	13266	51625	151270	47362	61552	32205	17538	244774	571564	272045	106175	3488	1239160	53953
Employees %	2	1	9	10	18	7	12	12	8	19	10	16	4	19	7
Change in Total Employment Employees (Average)	34	112	239	168	36	87	92	90	195	117	455	374	159	577	353
Sales (US\$)	884071	2297780	7777367	8499026	763882	4905152		1869925	12266975	1124870		5465811		6407192	9375622
Assets (US\$)	895527	1987798	17022904	7543118	703578	3202051	2498549	1649281	14655804	1378096	26441823	13102159	10685623	11108367	37607856
Age	2.39	1.88	1.99	1.91	1.73	2.22	2.08	1.88	1.88	1.57	1.93	1.99	2.05	1.78	2.08
Liabilities / Equity	2.31	2.51	7.78	3.95	3.69	2.76	3.83	1.93	2.59	4.57	2.67	3.43	2.34	0.66	2.38
Debt / Equity	2.14	2.11	6.03	3.8	3.49	2.34	3.26	1.87	2.47	4.26	2.66	3.43	1.84	0.61	2.31
Acct Pay / Equity	0.19	0.5	.	0.08	0.55	2.17	0.43	0.24	0.44	1.76	0.03	0.12		0.25	0.19
Current Ratio	1.25	1.37	1.21	1.5	1.11	1.32	1.33	1.43	1.19	0.97	1.56	1.27	1.24	1.51	1.55
Cash Ratio	0.07	0.28	0.07	0.28	0.23	0.2	0.15	0.14	0.18	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.07	0.06	0.06
Fixed Assets / Total Assets	0.41	0.43	0.35	0.37	0.41	0.37	0.42	0.39	0.42	0.39	0.35	0.49	0.39	0.7	0.34
ROE	0.15	0.23	0.18	0.14	0.2	0.25	0.24	0.2	0.15	0.57	-0.22	0.03	0.02	-0.02	0.01
ROA	0.06	0.07	0.04	0.07	0.04	0.09	0.1	0.1	0.08	0.09	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.04
1-Yr Sales Growth		39.05	3.76	2.17	5.99	17.79		24.13	6.25	15.63	.	-4.16			14.99
Agriculture %	0.04	0.00	0.08	0.05	0.14	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.14	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.19	0.03
Industry %	0.39	0.46	0.44	0.29	0.33	0.6	0.35	0.3	0.44	0.52	0.47	0.29	0.64	0.44	0.43
Service %	0.54	0.54	0.46	0.62	0.44	0.35	0.6	0.69	0.46	0.33	0.42	0.6	0.36	0.32	0.46

Annex: Table 5b: Mean Summary Statistics, by number age, 1999

<i>Panel D Firm Age 3-10</i>	<i>Bosnia Herzegovina</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Russian Federation</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Yugoslavia</i>
# Observations	255	994	866	4,007	4,165	3,087	1,502	561	4,722	22,324	1,830	843	220	1,387	1,100
Firms %	27	6	20	73	72	72	81	72	50	82	63	69	74	10	49
Total # Employees	27,024	166,183	144,327	1,107,965	176,225	681,996	239,275	125,928	1,165,958	2,248,700	1,247,808	484,720	58,397	761,965	213,814
Employees %	18	12	25	75	66	82	87	84	36	74	47	75	73	12	27
Change in Total Employment Employees (Average)	106	167	167	277	42	221	159	224	247	101	682	575	265	549	194
Sales (US\$)	1354188	2017574	7567120	12854576	1001288	11045167		5231696	19036285	910315		11427585	41710687	330684802	6640705
Assets (US\$)	2462164	1561267	19462587	13252967	842567	7840641	3505550	5366607	19140611	854556	47821230	15771075	25814362	689800979	21364865
Age	6.7	7.01	7.27	6.53	6.56	6.88	6.23	5.96	7.08	6.5	6.22	6.29	8.16	5.42	7.72
Liabilities / Equity	1.31	2.03	6.5	2.59	2.45	2.01	2.21	1.58	2.53	3.84	1.79	2.85	1.54	0.51	1.7
Debt / Equity	1.29	1.83	5.48	2.46	2.38	1.71	1.97	1.55	2.42	3.64	1.77	2.69	1.24	0.49	1.64
Acct Pay / Equity	0.17	0.33	.	0.07	0.4	1.58	0.34	0.2	0.4	1.52	0.03	0.11		0.21	0.13
Current Ratio	1.31	1.57	1.19	1.73	1.3	1.44	1.68	1.51	1.26	1.06	1.57	1.4	1.45	1.59	1.73
Cash Ratio	0.06	0.26	0.07	0.32	0.24	0.21	0.2	0.12	0.17	0.14	0.13	0.19	0.05	0.05	0.06
Fixed Assets / Total Assets	0.59	0.45	0.4	0.43	0.48	0.4	0.43	0.53	0.52	0.46	0.46	0.47	0.51	0.71	0.47
ROE	0.05	0.07	0.17	0.11	0.05	0.2	0.18	0.15	0.18	0.43	-0.23	0.04	0.06	-0.01	0.01
ROA	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.09	0.04	0.1	0.12	0.1	0.11	0.13	0.02	0.06	0.01	0.04	0.03
1-Yr Sales Growth		8.35	-3.26	-3.58	-4.25	6.4		7.52	-1.71	-8.45	.	-10.29			4.45
Agriculture %	0.11	0.12	0.03	0.05	0.11	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.11	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.2	0.06
Industry %	0.37	0.47	0.38	0.42	0.37	0.64	0.35	0.44	0.47	0.56	0.47	0.46	0.51	0.36	0.46
Service %	0.48	0.4	0.57	0.46	0.46	0.28	0.58	0.51	0.48	0.32	0.39	0.42	0.42	0.38	0.45

Annex: Table 5c: Mean Summary Statistics, by number age, 1999

<i>Panel E Firm Age 10+</i>	<i>Bosnia Herzegovina</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Russian Federation</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Yugoslavia</i>
# Observations	591	678	923	297	311	37	4	.	3,138	1	400	93	52	1,868	974
Firms %	63	4	22	5	5	1	0	.	33	0	14	8	18	13	44
Total # Employees	118,048	336,653	330,216	98,030	42,646	28,500	208	.	1,685,807	4,247	1,070,802	57,700	17,575	1,704,111	534,005
Employees %	80	25	56	7	16	3	0	.	52	0	40	9	22	26	67
Change in Total Employment Employees (Average)	200	497	358	330	137	770	52	.	537	4,247	2,677	620	338	912	548
Sales (US\$)	1294912	6473943	12994407	10868302	2181715	23493844	.	.	23472019	1948804	.	34710203	33301528	7758487	10020989
Assets (US\$)	4344298	8390845	30334009	18914219	3287843	17476916	700829	.	24258164	3123046	81768715	60426349	22665884	12361472	33476516
Age	29.56	43.89	47.84	67.9	37.95	21.7	99	.	49.53	1999	58.2	21.23	34.17	55.75	50.87
Liabilities / Equity	0.79	1.1	1.62	0.91	1.59	1.99	4.84	.	1.51	-1.81	1.01	0.78	1.25	0.43	0.8
Debt / Equity	0.77	0.93	1.18	0.88	1.53	1.86	4.81	.	1.42	-0.35	1.01	0.75	1.05	0.42	0.78
Acct Pay / Equity	0.11	0.17	.	0.02	0.34	1.75	0.31	.	0.37	-0.17	0.03	0.05	.	0.21	0.11
Current Ratio	1.28	1.82	1.41	2.05	1.37	1.43	1.07	.	1.35	1.36	1.55	1.65	1.55	1.75	2.09
Cash Ratio	0.06	0.28	0.08	0.41	0.25	0.18	0.07	.	0.18	0.53	0.08	0.24	0.06	0.05	0.07
Fixed Assets / Total Assets	0.72	0.6	0.6	0.62	0.63	0.58	0.33	.	0.5	0.45	0.52	0.63	0.56	0.85	0.58
ROE	0.03	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.02	0.16	0.24	.	0.04	0.04	-0.65	-0.02	0.03	-0.05	0
ROA	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.08	0.06	.	0.06	0.37	-0.17	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.03
1-Yr Sales Growth	.	-5.52	-10.23	-7.42	-6.25	-6.23	.	.	-6.68	-39.48	.	-17.68	.	-99.15	-1.34
Agriculture %	0.11	0.03	0.04	0.17	0.07	0.06	0	.	0.01	0	0.02	0.33	0.04	0.26	0.09
Industry %	0.54	0.71	0.58	0.35	0.38	0.65	0	.	0.64	1	0.79	0.28	0.73	0.54	0.59
Service %	0.31	0.23	0.35	0.46	0.49	0.16	0.5	.	0.27	0	0.14	0.32	0.21	0.15	0.29

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