

**The Effect of Earnings Management Practices in the Relationship
between Board Characteristics and Dividend Payout: Evidence from
Jordanian Public Shareholding Service Companies**

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Abstract

This study aimed to investigate the direct relationship among board characteristics, earnings management and dividend payout of Jordanian public shareholding service companies, followed by an examination of the indirect mediation effect of earnings management in the relationship between board characteristics and dividend payout. A panel data analysis was obtained for 43 Jordanian public shareholding service companies during the period from 2012 to 2019. The study concluded that the board size, the board independence, the number of board meetings, and female representation in the board have a positive impact on dividend payout. The board size, the board independence, and the number of board meetings negatively link to earnings management practices, while female representation in the board has insignificant positive relationship with earnings management practices. Moreover, there is an insignificant direct effect of earnings management practices on dividend payout; Whereas, earnings management practices partially mediate the relationship between the board size, the board independence, female representation in the board and the number of board meetings, and dividend payout.

Keywords: Board characteristics, dividend, earnings management, service companies.