

Gender Differences in Risk Aversion Behavior: Case Study of Saudi Arabia and Jordan

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Abstract : Men and women have different approaches towards investing, both in terms of strategies and risk attitudes. This study aims to focus mainly on investigating the financial risk behaviors of Arab women investors and to examine the financial risk tolerance levels of Arab women relative to Arab men investors. Using survey data on 547 Arab men and women investors, the results of Wilcoxon Signed-Rank (One-Sample) test Mann-Whitney U test reveal that Arab women are risk-averse investors and have lower financial risk tolerance levels relative to Arab men. Such findings can be explained by the fact of women's nature and lower investment literacy levels. Further, the current political uncertainty in the Arab region may be considered as another explanation of Arab women's risk aversion behavior. The study's findings support the existing literature by validating the stereotype of "women are more risk-averse than men" in the Arab region. Overall, when it comes to investment and financial behaviors, women around the world behave similarly.

Keywords : Arab region, culture, financial risk behavior, gender differences, women investors

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