

Summary of Paper: [ESG Disclosure and the Timeliness of Earnings Announcements and Audit Reports](#)

What is this Study About?

The authors investigate whether corporate ESG disclosure is related to the speed of financial reporting and auditing. Specifically, it examines how the amount of ESG information is associated with the timing of earnings announcements and the completion of audits.

What are the major findings of the study?

Firms with greater ESG reporting are associated with earlier earnings releases and shorter audit delays. The effect is more pronounced after the introduction of SASB's industry-specific disclosure standards. Importantly, companies that disclose more ESG metrics also identify internal control deficiencies earlier and provide more management earnings forecasts. Together, these factors may reduce last-minute surprises and promote audit efficiency.

Why is the study important?

Auditors and controllers know that delays in reporting increase risks of litigation, reputational damage, and market penalties. This study provides evidence that ESG systems may improve a firm's information environment, making financial data more accessible to both managers and auditors. For practitioners, ESG reporting may not simply be a compliance exercise but a tool for smoother audits.

What is the impact on professional practice and society at large?

For practice, ESG data could support audit planning, risk assessment, and analytical procedures. For society, it reinforces the link between corporate transparency and market trust. Investors receive financial information faster, reducing uncertainty, while companies gain reputational and operational benefits from timely reporting.