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# The time-series relations among expected return, risk, and book-to-market $\hat{\alpha}^{\sim} \dagger$

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### Abstract

This paper examines the time-series relations among expected return, risk, and book-to-market ( $B/M$ ) at the portfolio level. I find that  $B/M$  predicts economically and statistically significant time-variation in expected stock returns. Further,  $B/M$  is strongly associated with changes in risk, as measured by the [Fama and French \(1993\)](#) (Journal of Financial Economics, 33, 3â€“56) three-factor model. After controlling for risk,  $B/M$  provides no incremental information about expected returns. The evidence suggests that the three-factor model explains time-varying expected returns better than a characteristics-based model.



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