



## Research Article

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# The Relationship of Professional Skepticism to the Risks of Auditing and Internal Control, and the Discovery of Fraud and Core Errors in the Financial Statements in Jordan

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## Abstract

*The study aims to know the relationship between the professional skepticism of the auditor and the discovery of fraud and errors in the financial statements, as the auditor's practice of professional skepticism enhances his ability to issue a neutral technical opinion about the fairness of financial statements. The study also examined the relationship of professional skepticism with audit risks, especially the risks that management controls and is responsible for, which are control risks and inherent risks. The auditor should not be satisfied with less than convincing evidence. No matter how honest and fair the management and those responsible for institutional control are, this should not prevent the auditor from using professional skepticism. In order to enhance the auditor's confidence in the audit outcome and not to rush into his ruling on financial statements, international audit standards urged the need to exercise professional skepticism at all stages of auditing to provide quality in the audit process and give confidence to internal and external users of those statements. The study recommended through examining and evaluating 112 questionnaires distributed to auditing offices and companies to pay attention to the practice of professional skepticism, especially in the event that the management and those responsible for institutional control do not respond to the auditor's inquiries. Also; the study recommended that auditors should not come to final decisions until sufficient, appropriate and reliable evidence has been obtained; through which they can reach the conviction of issuing impartial technical opinion.*

**Keywords:** professional skepticism, detection of fraud and errors in financial statements, risks of auditing, internal control

## 1. Introduction

Professional skepticism is one of the core concepts of practicing the profession of auditing, and in the event that it is not practiced, it is difficult for the auditors to reach reasonable assurance about the fairness of the financial statements. The auditors use of professional skepticism enhances the quality of the audit process, reduces audit risks and raises the confidence of users of financial statements in the auditing profession. The only purpose of auditing in the past was to discover errors, fraud and cheat, which caused a misunderstanding among the users of financial reports about the nature of the auditors work and this, increased the gap of expectations between the auditors and management and the users of financial reports. The regulatory and legislative bodies in Jordan, especially the Jordanian Auditors Association, had to work on reducing the expectation gap and enhancing the role of the auditors through revision of legislation and laws pertaining to the profession. They gave training courses, especially in the use of professional skepticism during the auditing process, and the impact on enhancing confidence in the work of the auditors among users of financial statements and reports and to reach reasonable assurance about the financial statements without any pressure and it granted him independence in expressing his opinion. It also made sure to give the auditor confidence for the users of the financial statements.

The main objective of the study is to know the possibility of accessing financial data that is free from any errors, fraud, cheat or distortions affecting the financial lists through the use of professional skepticism (or even reducing it to an acceptable level that does not affect the decision of data users), as the practice of professional skepticism requires continuity in the audit process, as this contributes to the auditor's understanding of the personal motives that lead to fraud through his understanding of the financial and administrative situation of management and employees. This may contribute to reducing the expectations gap to give an image of the nature of the auditor's work in society in general and his role as a neutral party who does not have any personal advantages serving the public interest.

### 1.1 The importance of the study

Professional skepticism is necessary for all stages of the auditing process, and the external auditor must exercise his role in this regard in order to discover core errors and misstatements in the financial statements. Professional skepticism helps and supports the independence of the auditor in performing his/her tasks independently, especially when the auditor has experience and high competence in order to reach a neutral technical opinion about the fairness of the financial statements.

In this study, we will enhance the knowledge on/be informed about the extent of the auditor's commitment in the audit offices and companies in Jordan to professional skepticism, what are the factors affecting it, and the effectiveness of practicing professional skepticism in discovering fraud and core errors.

Accordingly, the study made a link between the theoretical framework (which clarifies the concept of professional skepticism, the factors affecting it, the risks of auditing and internal control) and the practical (applied) framework, through the descriptive and analytical approach of the study sample for audit offices and companies in Jordan.

### 1.2 Objectives of the study

The main objectives of the study are to answer the following research questions: -

1. The extent of the auditor's commitment to professional skepticism and its effect on discovering fraud and core errors in the financial statements.
2. Knowing the effect of professional skepticism on reducing audit risks.
3. Knowing the relationship of professional skepticism with internal control.

### 1.3 Study limitations

This study faced some limitations, which can be summarized as follows:

Some members of the target study sample are not serious about giving the necessary information for research.

There have been few previous studies that have covered this subject, particularly about the use of professional skepticism in the auditing process and discovering fraud and errors.

### 1.4 Study problems

The problem of the study is represented in the following questions: -

1. To what extent are audit offices and companies committed to applying professional skepticism?
2. Does the practice of professional skepticism reduce the risk of auditing?
3. What is the relationship between the auditor's practice of professional skepticism and the effectiveness of the internal control system for the companies to be audited?

### 1.5 Study hypotheses

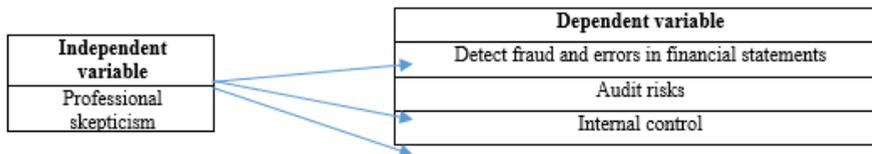
In this study, the following hypotheses will be tested: -

The first hypothesis: HO: There is no statistically significant relationship between the external auditor's use of professional skepticism and the detection of fraud and cheat in the financial statements.

The second hypothesis: HO: There is no statistically significant relationship between professional skepticism and audit risk.

The third hypothesis: HO: There is no statistically significant relationship between professional skepticism and internal control.

### 1.6 Study form



## 2. Previous Studies/Literature Review

Jallah (2020, page 95-124) indicated that there is a certain relationship between the enhanced professional certificates, professional skepticism and risk assessment skills, as well as there is a relationship between the independent variable (professional certificates) and the dependent variables (professional skepticism and risk assessment). Also, the study concluded to a relationship between the professional skepticisms and the risk assessment during the process of auditing, using the framework of the internal control system framework. Meanwhile, according to Rice & Zabet (2020, page 452-462) study the practice of professional skepticism in auditing gives credibility and fairness to the financial statements. The study considered that professional skepticism is one of the main pillars of independence in the audit process, and that the practice of professional skepticism helps in the quality of the audit, especially when there is conflicting evidence. It confirmed that professional skepticism is a questioning of the mind, and the continuous critical thinking about the available evidence (Al-Zaegh,2020, page 209-221) concluded that there is a direct relationship between the auditor's practice of professional skepticism and the judgments and decisions related to risk assessment, and internal control and the discovery of fraud and errors in the financial statements. The study also recommended

that the auditor should reject the auditing process if he finds, through professional skepticism, that the financial statements contain manipulation and core distortions, as well as the auditor should focus on accounting estimates because they are subject to manipulation. Hence, it focused on the need to raise the scientific and professional competence of workers in the financial and administrative field to reduce risks. As for the (Bu Raqa'a, Jaloudi, 2019, page 6-14), the study recommended that the risks of auditing should be properly assessed by knowing the degree of risk, the extent of the risk's impact, and how to treat or reduce the risk in an acceptable manner. The study also mentioned that the control risks and the inherent or ingrained risks are in the hands of management or institutional control. As for the study (Al-Saffar, 2018, page 767-783) the study focused on auditing risks, especially the inherent or ingrained risks, as it concluded that the paragraphs related to cash (through the study sample) are more vulnerable to risk, and the auditor should pay attention and focus on the nature of the items of the financial statements if they are of high liquidity. The auditor must pay attention to the disclosures and their appropriateness and relevance to the financial statements, by practicing professional skepticism, the auditor is able to focus on that issue

As for the study (Al-Shaer- and Others, 2018, page 81-108) the study focused on the characteristics of professional skepticism, and it was found that there is a discrepancy between the auditors in the practice of professional skepticism, as the order of these characteristics was based on the study sample as follows: understanding personality, independence, questioning the mind, research about knowledge and finally self-confidence. The auditor finds that adherence to these characteristics has a positive impact on the auditor's assessment of the suitability of the client's financial and administrative systems to achieve internal control procedures. The study also urged the necessity of training workers in the financial and administrative field to practice professional skepticism and also to include it to the topics taught in universities. The study (Othman, Al-Taie, 2017, page 600-604) found that most of the audit offices in Iraq possess the characteristics of professional skepticism and are committed to practicing professional skepticism and that the feature of suspending judgments is the most available feature, while the self-confidence feature is the least available characteristic. The study emphasized the Syndicate of Certified Public Accountants that need to urge auditors to practice professional skepticism because of its positive impact on discovering fraud, errors and distortions in the financial statements, and it also has a positive effect on the quality of the audit process, which enhances the confidence of users of financial statements. According to (Dergham, Zaqout, 2017, page 3-17) the study concluded that the audit risk does not confirm the existence of fraud in the financial statements, but it does give a warning sign of the possibility of fraud. The study also recommended the necessity of an effective internal control system that the administration design and implement with the necessity of an organizational structure in which the powers, responsibilities, tasks, and delegation are defined according to the administrative levels in order to reduce the risks of internal control. The auditor must practice professional skepticism and its characteristics in all auditing stages in order to provide high quality in the auditing process to enhance confidence in the community. It also recommended the necessity of using technology in the internal control system to reduce its risks. According to the study (Zaitoun, 2017, page 2-19), it talked about the Hurt scale of professional skepticism, as it was found that there is a difference in the characteristics of professional skepticism between audit offices and companies in Egypt, and the reason for this is that there is no support for the independence of the auditor in the environment of the legal accountant and there are personal interests affecting the work of the auditor. The auditing process, and therefore the researcher called for the necessity of encouraging auditors to practice professional skepticism through the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Egypt by holding training courses and raising scientific and practical competence to enhance the auditor's self-confidence and enhance his independence. The study also found that if the auditor is able to use skepticism professionally, this reduce risks. (Harding and Trotman, 2017, page 111-131) indicated that professional skepticisms are affected among audit partners in the way they communicate in a brainstorming session as the partners need to make decisions about the information which must be communicated in an appropriate and timely manner to help us better understand the impact of the different skepticism's elements. Thus, professional skepticisms differs when the Auditor

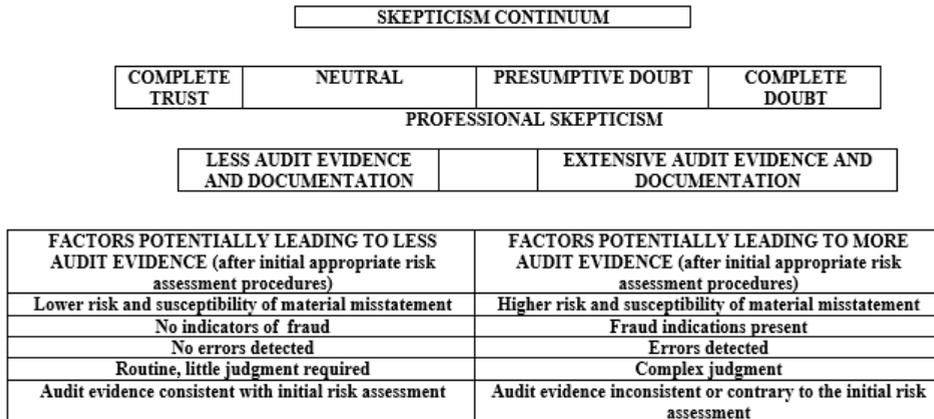
partner conveys his own view that there is a low probability of fraud that does not lead to a decrease in the level of professional skepticisms practiced by it and the reason is the way of communicating information between partners.

### 3. Theoretical Framework

First: Professional Skepticism: -

According to the Auditing Standard (200), the auditor must take into account the tendency of Skepticism during the audit, being aware of the possibility of a core distortion due to fraud. Thus, professional skepticism was defined as not neglecting the cases that lead to the existence of distortion in the financial statements. For Arens (2018) professional skepticism has the following characteristics:

1. Questioning mentality: - Mental thinking, that is, a skeptical mentality, and this enhances the independence of the auditor and helps him to work with integrity and transparency and the auditor's mentality remains in continuous question about the adequacy and appropriateness of the evidence obtained, and he shall be vigilant in the event of contradictory evidence and any circumstances indicating the existence of fraud or errors in the financial statements.
2. Suspension of Judgment: - The auditor must be convinced of the evidence obtained and that it is sufficient and appropriate before taking any decision, by obtaining from the administration answers to his questions and inquiries about the financial statements. If the management responses are contradictory, then the auditor is required not to be quick in taking any decision.
3. Searching for knowledge: - The amount of curiosity that the auditor has in obtaining sufficient and appropriate evidence leads him to search more for the validity and reliability of this information and evidence, and this leads to a reduction in the factors of uncertainty.
4. Personal understanding: - The auditor's understanding and evaluation of the management personality and knowing the motives, incentives and pressures that make management present financial reports that contain misrepresentations or misleading data. The auditor's retention of professional skepticism makes him not accept unconvincing evidence, since he evaluates the sources of evidence and information.
5. Self-Independence: - International auditing standards (8) have urged the need for the auditor to enjoy intellectual and apparent independence, and this is what was included in the Jordanian Companies Law No. (22) for the year 1997 and its amendments for the year 2002 (Article 192), is that when making a decision, the auditor must enjoy independence completely expressing his opinion about the fairness of the financial statements without being subject to any influences that weaken his opinion. Therefore, the auditor's continued practice of professional skepticism enhances the reliability of the evidence.
6. Self-confidence: - The more scientific and practical experience and professionalism the auditor has, the more confidence he has in himself, and the more the auditor practices professional skepticism in order to evaluate the sources of evidence and information, the stronger his confidence in himself in the event of a decision about the fairness of the financial statements. This is the figure No. 1 of professional skepticism.



**Figure No. 1:**

**Source:** Glover. S.M.D.F. Prawitt, Enhancing Auditor Professional Skepticism, Brigham Young University, 2013 P4.

Second: Fraud, fraud and errors in the financial statements: -

Auditor's responsibility for discovery of error and fraud: - According to International Auditing Standard No. (240), a mistake was defined as an unintentional action that leads to obtaining distortion of the financial statements. While fraud has been defined as the misuse or intentional distortion of the financial statements, fraud is divided into two parts :-

1. Fraudulent financial statements, including tampering with accounting records and documents, either by intentional deletion of financial operations, insufficient and appropriate disclosure, or intentional misuse of applying accounting policies.
2. Misuse of assets: It is the theft and embezzlement of assets and using it for purposes that aren't intended for it. This is called employee fraud.

The primary responsibility for preventing cheat and fraud rests with the administration through the design and implementation of an effective control system that takes into account all the elements and components of the internal control system and commensurate with the size and nature of the facility's work.

As for the auditor's responsibility to discover errors, cheat and fraud, it is confined to the planning stage by assessing the risks of possible errors, cheat or fraud, so that it leads to an intentional misstatement of the financial statements in the planning stage. Accordingly, the auditor designs appropriate procedures to confront this risk or reduce it to an acceptable level in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from any material misstatements.

Factors that pose cheat and fraud risks: -

1. Motivation / pressure: where the company, management, or employees are under pressure or have an incentive to fraud.
2. Opportunity: it means the availability of certain conditions that facilitate the practice of fraud.
3. If the prevailing values and morals within the organization or the employees justify or legalize fraud.
4. We see this with the fraud triangle of Figure 2.

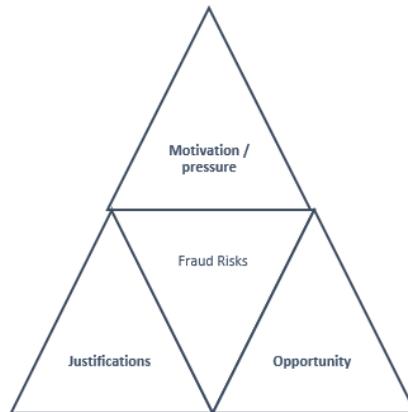


Figure 2:

Third: Auditing Risks :-

The International Auditing Standard No. (320) indicated that materiality is the amount of deletion or deviation in the financial statements, which affects the users of the financial statements in changing the decision taken and therefore, as a result of the impact of the level of materiality on the auditor's report, according to Standard No. (700), the physical deviations discovered may not be of relative importance, so the auditor gives a clean opinion, and this result may affect the financial statements in a non-widespread way, so the auditor gives a conservative opinion, and the result could materially affect the financial statements and become widespread on all elements of the statements and appear misleading, so the auditor gives a negative opinion.

Audit Risks: -

Acceptable Audit Risk: What the auditor allows for the possibility of issuing a clean false opinion.

Inherent or ingrained risks: It is the possibility of deletion or misrepresentation in the financial statements regardless of the applied internal control system, and this means that there are risks in the same accounts, including the degree of liquidity, the degree of diligence, the degree of complexity, and the extraordinary operations.

Control Risks: The risk of deviations, distortions, or material deletions in an item or activity without being prevented, discovered and corrected by the internal control.

Core risks: The risk of deviations, distortions or core omissions in financial statements.

Acceptable Discovery Risks: The percentage that the auditor accepts for the possibility of deviations, misstatements, or material omissions in an item or activity without the auditor being able to discover it with due professional attention to that.

The auditor must determine the level of materiality because this helps to reduce the audit risk. If the auditor determines the level of materialism is high, the audit risk will be low, and therefore the volume of evidence needed by the auditor will decrease. If the auditor determines the level of materiality at a low level, the audit risks will be high and he will need more evidence to reduce these risks. Therefore, the auditor should be encouraged to practice professional skepticism to enhance his confidence and also to enhance his independence .

The responsibility of the external auditor is limited to carrying out special procedures to study and understand the internal control system at the planning stage in order to determine the degree of strength or weakness of the system, and thus determine the risks of control and then determine the degree of reliance on the system to determine the volume of tests related to the balances, operations, presentation and disclosure. Then the auditor performs control tests in the post-planning stage, based on the audit strategy that he decided to follow, as he may perform extensive internal control tests

(might be simple) based on his initial assessment of the system's strength. If the auditor discovers any weakness in the system through the tests that he performs for these purposes, he informs the management or the audit committee in order to make the necessary correction. The main concern of the external auditor is the accuracy, completeness and correctness of the accounting records and he is not focused primarily on the effectiveness of operating the control systems.

Elements or components of internal control: - Through Figure No. (3)

- a) Control Environment
- b) Risk Assessment
- c) Control Activities
- d) Information System
- e) Monitoring

**Figure No. 3:**

**Source:** Al-Thunaibat (2017, page 178-184)

- a) The control environment includes the following: Management philosophy, organizational structure, ethical environment, human resources, and authorities.
- b) Risk Assessment: Risks are any circumstances that hinder the establishment's achievement of its objectives.  
Steps of risk assessment: - (Determining all possible risks, determining the probability of occurrence of the risk, determining the degree of impact of the risk).  
From which the risk value = probability of occurrence \* degree of impact  
Risk Management Strategy (Dealing with Risk):
- c) Control Activities:  
Control procedures designed by the facility to deal with risks.  
Preventive Controls: aim to prevent risks and reduce them before they occur. Among these procedures:
  1. Segregation of Duties: That no one employee performs a process from beginning to end. Tasks that must be separated: (delegation, preservation of origin, registration, conformity, evaluation).
  2. Bilateral oversight.
  3. Passwords and security staff.
  4. Powers according to the level of authorization
- d) Information System:  
Delivery of information in a timely manner to the appropriate person, including accounting documents and records, accounting estimates, stages of the accounting cycle, preparation of financial statements / financial statements and disclosures.
- e) Monitoring and Modernization / Supervision and Monitoring:  
To ensure that the internal control elements work appropriately and follow up the appropriate update and the body responsible for this is the management and those responsible for governance in the facility and monitoring may be permanent or temporary.

#### 4. Data and Methodology

Community and sample of the study:

The study targeted all auditing offices in Amman, and it was expected that the questionnaire would be answered filled out by accredited auditors working in audit offices, who have experience and

knowledge. About (180) questionnaires were distributed randomly to the auditors within the auditors' offices. The researcher was unable to retrieve (45) questionnaires, so the number of recovered questionnaires became (135). After the data dumping process, (23) questionnaires were excluded due to incomplete data within the questionnaire, so the number of questionnaires that could be analyzed became (112, with a ratio of (62%) of the total questionnaires.

The sources of data collection are classified into primary and secondary, and the researcher relied on the two sources to collect data. As for the primary sources, they were collected through the survey using a questionnaire as the study tool/instrument. As for the secondary sources, the literature presented consists of previous studies, resources, and foreign and Arab references from books, reliable scientific (electronic) websites and refereed journals.

Demographic factors of the study sample: -The members of the study sample possessed a set of characteristics, and information about them was collected through a set of questions included in the questionnaire, and these characteristics include: educational qualification, age, job title and years of experience. Table No. (1) shows the frequency and percentages of the sample's characteristics.

Table No. 1:

Item	Personal information	Repetition	Percentage
Qualification	PhD	2	2.6%
	M.A	30	26.4%
	BA	80	71%
	Total	112	100%
Age	Less than 30 years old	46	40.7%
	30-40 years	40	36%
	40-50 years	16	14%
	50 years and older	10	9.3%
	Total	112	100%
Job title	Senior Auditor	47	41.7%
	Assistant Auditor	50	44.8%
	Audit Manager	12	10.8%
	The Owner or Partner of Audit office	3	2.8%
	Total	112	100%
Years of Experience	Less than 5 years	42	38.3%
	from 5 to 10 years	31	27.5%
	from 10 to 15 years	28	24.6%
	Over 15 years old	11	9.6%
	Total	112	100%

It appears from the table (1) that there are discrepancies in the personal information of the study sample members. At the beginning, the table shows those who hold a first university degree with a bachelor's degree are the vast majority of the sample, with a percentage of (71%). While the least is attributable to holders of a PhD, at a rate of (2.6%).As for the age stages of the members of the study sample, which was divided into four categories, and the vast majority of the study sample members are from the youth group whose age is less than 40 years, and the age group (less than 30 years) was considered the most among the study sample members by nearly (41%), While the sample members who are (50 years and over) are the least among the individuals, by nearly (9%)With regard to the job title characteristic, which was divided into four different categories, most of the sample members were auditor's assistants at a rate of nearly (45%). And the least number

Study tool: A questionnaire was designed to collect the primary data from the study sample, and the questionnaire consists of a set of phrases and paragraphs that have the ability to measure the study variables. The most important characteristic of the questionnaire is the ability to distribute it and obtain data in a faster time and at less cost. It was based on a group of sources from previous literature

and research in drafting these paragraphs. The aim is to design variables measurement by collecting data from the study sample. The study consisted of four variables, one independent and three dependent variables. The independent variable is expressed with professional skepticism, and the dependent variables are the detection of fraud, fraud and errors in the financial statements, audit risks, internal control. Variables were measured by formulating (30) statements, each expressing a specific variable .

All items of the questionnaire were based on the five-dimensional Likert scale to measure the effectiveness of the variables in terms of the respondents' answers, which enabled the researcher to collect data and convert the qualitative answers into quantitative (Beglar & Nemoto, 2014, page1-8). Therefore, Likert scale was designed to collect the responses of the beneficiaries by grades, and the answers to the questionnaire were divided into five sections, starting from strongly agree and ended with a strongly disagree, and the following table of number (2) shows those sections.

**Table No. 2:** Likert five-point scale

Answer	strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Code	5	4	3	2	1

The stability and reliability of the questionnaire:

The questionnaire is designed to measure the study variables and collect accurate data from the study sample. So it contained a set of expressions, and those statements must have the ability to infer and measure variables, and to ensure the ability of the questionnaire to infer and measure variables, and the questionnaire must be subject to a series of tests. The most important tests that the questionnaire is subjected to are reliability and stability. This means the ability of the paragraphs to measure the variables that have been formulated to indicate them.

Stability: is defined as: the internal consistency between the paragraphs of the questionnaire, which is an indication of the stability of the individual's degree and the stability of his ranking in the answers if the test is repeatedly applied, and the stability is inferred by obtaining an approximate stability in the answers to the questionnaire. The stability of the questionnaire was measured by the (Cronbach Alpha) coefficient. Field (2018) has shown that the acceptable value for the Cronbach alpha factor is (0.7) or more. This means the possibility of adopting the results of the questionnaire and reassurance of its reliability in achieving the objectives of the study Table (3) shows the Cronbach's alpha coefficients for the variables.

**Table No. 3:** Measuring the reliability of the Cronbach alpha coefficients

Variables	Number of paragraphs	Kronbach Alpha Coefficient
Professional skepticism	6	0.865
Detection of cheat, fraud and errors in financial statements	8	0.892
Audit risks	8	0.875
Internal control	8	0.799
Total stability	30	0.910

Table No. (3) shows that the Cronbach alpha coefficients for the variable paragraphs fall between (0.799 -0.892), and all of them met the condition of stability by exceeding the value of (0.7), and this indicates that all the paragraphs of the questionnaire are stable.

Test hypotheses of the study: The hypotheses of the study were formulated to reveal whether there is a relationship between the study variables, and to test the hypotheses, the (Spearman Correlation) test was relied upon, and through the test, it will be known whether there is a relationship or not between the variables, and the nature and strength of the relationship.

The first hypothesis: - There is no statistically significant relationship between the external auditor's use of professional skepticism and the discovery of cheat and fraud in the financial statements. To test hypotheses, (Spearman Correlation) analysis was used, see Table (4).

**Table 4:** The results of Spearman Correlation test

Independent variable	Dependent variable	The value of the R link coefficient	Sig
Professional skepticism	**0.781	Detecting cheat, fraud and errors in financial statements	0.000
	0.628**	Audit risks	0.000
	0.755**	Internal control	0.000

From Table (4) it is evident that the significance level of the test is less than the level of significance adopted in the study (0.05), and thus it is evident that there is a correlation between the professional skepticism variable and the discovery of cheat, fraud and errors in the financial statements. The value of the correlation coefficient was (0.781). The relationship between the two variables is described as a strong positive relationship because it is greater than (0.7) (Zaid,2007, page 213).

The second hypothesis: - There is no statistically significant relationship between professional skepticism and audit risk.

From Table (4) it is evident that the level of significance of the test is less than the level of significance adopted in the study (0.05), and thus it is evident that there is a correlation between the variable of professional skepticism and the risk of auditing, and the value of the correlation coefficient was (0.628). The relationship between the two variables is described as a medium positive relationship because it is located between (0.5-0.69) (Zaid,2007, page 213).

The third hypothesis: - There is no statistically significant relationship between professional skepticism and internal control.

From Table (4) it is evident that the level of significance of the test is less than the level of significance adopted in the study (0.05), and thus it is evident that there is a correlation between the internal control variable, and the value of the correlation coefficient is (0.755). The relationship between the two variables is described as a strong positive relationship because it is greater (0.7) (Zaid,2007, page 213).

## 5. Results and Discussions

According to the results derived from this research study, there is a statistically significant correlation between professional skepticisms and detect of cheat, fraud and misstatements in the financial statements, where this relationship is considered a strong one. It indicates that the auditor's practice of professional skepticisms with high accuracy and professionalism increases the possibility of detecting cheat, fraud and misstatements in the financial statements of companies. Although, this relationship between the two variables is the strongest, but the ability to detect fraud is the highest among all the variables.

The study found that the ability of the financial auditor to detect the audit risks increases when he is using the professional skepticisms and strives to apply it efficiently, in accordance with the scientific foundations, since there is a statistically significant relationship between professional skepticisms and audit risk. The relationship is considered, and it can be said that the audit risks are affected by the professional skepticism.

There is a strong and statistically significant correlation between the professional skepticisms and internal control, and that relationship shows the extent of the accuracy and to what extent it is affected by the internal control in the event that the auditor's is able to exercise professional skepticisms.

The majority of the financial auditors exercise professional skepticism when visiting companies and checking the financial reports.

## 6. Conclusions and Recommendations

Nowadays, the Jordanian economy is facing difficult circumstances, situations especially after the Covid 19 pandemic (Coronavirus). We must take advantage of investment and borrowing opportunities to strengthen the infrastructure of our economy, create job opportunities and achieve good economic growth. Therefore, when preparing and auditing financial statements by a certified public accountant, professional skepticisms must be strengthened and practiced in all the stages of the auditing process. Regardless of the management integrity and honesty, and whether the auditor has already experienced so, he must also have a questioning mindset about making critical evaluations and the validity of the audit evidence obtained, and the auditor must be careful at the time of accepting the statements as a replacement of the evidence from the management. Knowing that we are had promising national companies in Jordan that can be developed through investing in them or helping them to borrow. Hence, in order to enable them to do so, the financial statements must be audited and credible when the auditor is able to practice professional conduct rules; in particular, the independence, apply international auditing standards, and practice professional skepticisms. Since it must be believed that the management is able to go through the internal control system even if it isn't good enough, and this keeps the auditor in a questionable state of mind during the audit process, and the goal is to give confidence to all the data users on the extent of its credibility and that the auditor practiced the required professional care and accredited it. Therefore, it was necessary to give a picture of the certified Jordanian accountants that they are professionals and apply the instructions issued by the international auditing standards, and that the Jordanian Association of Certified Public Accountants is keen to train and qualify the auditors, enhance their confidence and oblige them to exercise professional skepticisms and to take into consideration that this is an essential part of the audit process.

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