

# IS THE RISK OF THE GAP BETWEEN CLOSING AND OPENING PRICES PRICED?

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## Abstract

The objective of this work is to analyze whether the risk of differences (gaps) between the closing price and the opening price of the subsequent day is priced in the Brazilian stock market. This inquiry stems from the recognition that an investor is impacted by the volatility of these gaps. Long and Short strategies are simulated, entailing long positions in stocks with higher gap risks and short positions on those with lower gap risks. The one-year volatility of daily gap returns is utilized to define the portfolio for the subsequent year, and to categorize the strategy into long and short positions. The results reveal that the strategy generates negative abnormal returns across all models (CAPM, Fama-French Three Factor Model and Fama-French Extended Model), indicating that not only the gap risk is not priced in the Brazilian market, but also that stocks with lower gap risk outperform those with higher gap risk.

**keywords:** gap between closing and opening prices, CAPM, FAMA-FRENCH, asset pricing, stock risk.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Asset pricing stands as one of the foremost topics of discussion among researchers, investors, firm executives, and other market participants due to its relevance and influence on investment decisions and project evaluations. This study aims to analyze whether the risk associated with variations between the closing price and the opening price of the subsequent day is priced in the Brazilian market. This risk is incurred by investors who maintain their positions invested in assets on the stock exchange, as well as speculators in the futures market, who are passively subject to differences between the closing price and the opening price of the following day (hereinafter referred to as price gap).

To verify whether this price gap is priced in the Brazilian market, we employed three models: CAPM, Fama-French Three Factor Model and the Fama-French Model plus the Momentum and Liquidity factors (Fama-French Extended Model). To our knowledge, this study marks the first attempt to assess whether the variations between the closing and opening prices of stocks on the subsequent day are priced.

The study tests the hypothesis that the risk associated with the price gap is indeed priced by simulating a mutual fund that employs the standard deviation of the price gap of each stock as a metric for decision-making in a long and short strategy (L&S). The objective is to quantitatively analyze the generation of abnormal returns from the L&S strategy in the period from 2001 to 2020, thereby examining whether the market players price this risk.

A Long and Short (L&S) investment strategy is characterized by assuming two opposite positions of equal value without requiring capital. In this study, a long position is taken in stocks with higher gap volatilities while a short position is taken in stocks with lower gap volatilities. It operates as a paired trading approach uncorrelated with the market (a non-directional strategy).

The sample of our experiment consists of stocks that comprised the bovespa index (the main benchmark stock index of the Brazilian stock exchange) to mitigate the impact of illiquidity on stock prices. Each year, we construct a portfolio consisting of long and short positions in stocks with higher and lower gap volatilities, respectively. Portfolios are defined based on the previous year's gap volatilities.

The importance of the gap effect in the literature can be observed through works such as Bacidore and Lipson (2001), which describes the relationship between the stock prices of closing and opening auctions of the most important US exchanges (NYSE and NASDAQ).

Even though the paper does not use the price gap as a risk factor, it shows the importance of considering the gap between closing and opening prices for investors' strategies.

Similarly, Sumiyana (2009) employs a quantitative approach to analyze the opening and closing prices of financial assets across various markets around the world. The study demonstrates that opening and closing prices exhibit distinct behaviors in different markets and periods. It identifies price discontinuity between consecutive days' prices as a relevant event that investors passively endure when trading assets in the stock exchange. Furthermore, the study identifies the presence of seasonality effects, indicating that certain days of the week or months of the year may present distinct behavioral patterns of opening and closing prices. The author also identifies the importance of considering the liquidity of financial assets when analyzing opening and closing prices, noting that liquidity shortage can significantly influence the behavior of these prices. The study concludes that there are always noises and overreaction that influence closing and opening prices, and that investors typically correct for this within the first 30 minutes of the trading section. Opening prices tend to be more volatile due to economic events and news releases, while closing prices converge towards the general market trend.

Lou et al. (2014) analyze the heterogeneity of investors and their preferences for trading in different time intervals, which causes price distortions. The study categorizes the period into "overnight" (the period between market closing on the previous day and market opening on the following day) and "intraday" (market open throughout the day) revealing abnormal returns in momentum and short-term reversal strategies during the "overnight" period, while other strategies exhibit abnormal returns in the "intraday" period. These temporal patterns strategies create a challenge for neoclassical risk and return models.

The results of our study highlight the existence of negative abnormal returns of the L&S strategy in all three pricing models, indicating that gap risk is not priced in the Brazilian stock market. Furthermore, the study shows that portfolios long in stocks with lower gap risk and short in stocks with higher gap risk generate positive abnormal returns, contradicting the modern portfolio theory.

This work is structured as follows: section 2 presents the sample and the methodology, including the pricing models; section 3 shows the results of the L&S strategy; finally, in section 4, the final considerations are presented.

## 2 METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLE

This section is divided into two subsections: the first presents the asset pricing models used in this work, while the second addresses the sample used for the empirical exercise with the L&S strategy.

### 2.1 ASSET PRICE MODELS AND RISK FACTORS

To provide robustness to the results, three asset pricing models were used: the single-index model (derived from the Capital Asset Pricing Model - CAPM), the Fama-French (1993) three-factor model, and an extended Fama-French model that incorporates momentum and liquidity risk factors.<sup>1</sup>

The Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) was developed by Sharpe (1964), Lintner (1965), and Mossin (1966), based on Markowitz's (1952) portfolio theory. The CAPM can be defined as the linear relationship wherein the expected return of an asset or portfolio is a function of its systematic risk (market risk):

$$E(R) = Rf + \beta [(E(Rm) - Rf)]$$

where

- $E(R)$  represents the expected return of an asset or a portfolio;
- $Rf$  is the risk-free interest rate;
- $\beta$  is the systematic risk of an asset or portfolio; and
- $E(Rm)$  is the expected return of the market portfolio.

The CAPM indicates that the expected return of an asset or portfolio is a function of a single factor, its market risk (systematic risk). The single-index model used in this study is derived directly from CAPM:

$$R_{i,t} - Rf_t = \alpha_i + \beta_i (Rm_t - Rf_t) + \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad (1)$$

where index  $t$  refers to the dates of the time series sample,  $i$  refers to the asset or portfolio and  $\varepsilon$  is the residual. When comparing the model with CAPM, the expected value for  $\alpha_i$  is zero, and if  $\alpha_i$  is different from zero, there is some return that is not explained by the market factor,

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<sup>1</sup> Fama and French published an extended model in Fama and French (2015).

called abnormal return.

Black et al. (1972) tested the CAPM and concluded that there is sufficiently strong evidence to reject the model, as the expected return would not be exactly proportional to beta. They stated that there are economic hypotheses consistent with the existence of other risk factors to explain asset returns.

Fama and French (1992) also found no evidence supporting the CAPM model and warned that investors should get closer to market reality. They highlighted the model's limitation of having only one independent variable. Fama and French (1993) suggested additional variables based on other studies to improve the model and help it to explain abnormal returns. Among all the studies, some listed below stand out.

Stattman (1980) and Rosenberg et al. (1985) found that US stocks returns are positively related to the market-to-book ratio. Chan et al. (1991) noted that this ratio had strong explanatory power for the average return of Japanese stocks. Bhandari (1988) argues that leverage helps explain the average stocks returns in tests that include market capitalization and market risk.

Banz (1981) inferred that market equity (market capitalization), calculated as the product of stock price and the number of shares held by the market, is relevant in explaining stock returns. According to the author, on average, the returns of firms with low market value are higher than those estimated by market risk. Conversely, for firms with high market capitalization, on average, returns are lower than those indicated by market risk.

Given all these criticisms about the CAPM, Fama and French (1993) assessed the potential impact of omitted variables cited in the literature. The authors concluded that firm size and the relationship between firm market value and book value could represent risk factors in a rational asset pricing environment. Thus, they developed a model capable of explaining stock returns incorporating three factors: (a) a factor linked to overall market performance (already present in the CAPM); (b) a factor associated with firm size; and (c) a factor related to the market-to-book ratio (P/B). Therefore, the factors added to the CAPM are:

- The SMB factor (Small Minus Big), which denotes the historical excess return of small-cap stocks compared to big-cap stocks; and
- The HML factor (High Minus Low), which refers to stocks with high market value relative to their book value (P/B). It represents the historical excess return of high P/B stocks compared to low P/B stocks.

The formula for the Fama-French 3 Factors model (1993) is as follows:

$$E(R) = Rf + \beta [(E(Rm) - Rf)] + \beta_s(SMB) + \beta_v(HML)$$

The P/B ratio and firm size are linked to economic fundamentals. Firms with a high P/B ratio, indicating a high market value relative to book value, are associated with high and persistent returns. Additionally, firm size is correlated with profitability: According to the authors, returns on investments in small firms tend to surpass those in large firms, even when controlling for the P/B ratio.

In this study, we employ the model within a time series framework (equation 2):

$$R_{i,t} - Rf_t = \alpha_i + \beta_i (Rm_t - Rf_t) + \beta_s SMB_t + \beta_v HML_t + \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad (2)$$

Asset pricing models are continuously refined to enhance their ability to explain stock returns. In this study, two factors are added to the Fama-French model: momentum and liquidity.

Carhart (1997) introduced the momentum factor into the original Fama-French model. This factor is based on the idea that assets that have performed well in the past will continue to perform well in the future, and assets that have performed poorly will continue to perform poorly.

Some studies have incorporated the liquidity factor into asset pricing models. Liu (2006) proposed a two-factor model by integrating it into the CAPM framework. Similarly, Keene and Peterson (2007) added the liquidity risk premium to the Carhart model (1997). In both cases, there is an improvement in the explanatory power of the models. Less liquid assets demand higher returns compared to more liquid assets, as investors require a risk premium in terms of expected return to forgo liquidity. Therefore, the price of illiquid assets must drop sufficiently to attract investors. Thus, in equilibrium, expected returns are an increasing function of illiquidity.

In this study, we employ a model similar to Keene and Peterson (2007) and referred to as the Fama-French Extended Model (equation 3):

$$R_{i,t} - Rf_t = \alpha_i + \beta_i (Rm_t - Rf_t) + \beta_s SMB_t + \beta_v HML_t + \beta_w WML_t + \beta_l IML_t + \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad (3)$$

where

- $WML_t$  is the factor related to the return premium on a portfolio long in stocks with high past returns (Winners) and short in stocks with low past returns (Losers); and
- $IML_t$  is the liquidity factor related to the return premium on a portfolio long in less liquid stocks and short in more liquid stocks.

## 2.2 SAMPLE

We utilized daily opening and closing prices of each stock included in the Bovespa Index (IBOVESPA) from the year 2000 to 2020. The Ibovespa is the main index of the Brazilian stock exchange. Price series are adjusted for dividends and other similar events. We only utilized stocks comprising the IBOVESPA to form the L&S strategy portfolios. The stock codes forming the Ibovespa were collected from the Brazilian stock exchange website. In cases where both preferred and common stocks of the same firm were presented in the index, we use only the most liquid one.<sup>2</sup>

We extracted the risk factors, namely *SMB*, *HML*, *IML*, and *WML*, from the Nefin/FEA-USP website.<sup>3</sup> This website provides the historical daily returns of each of these factors. The risk-free rate ( $R_f$ ) is the CDI (Brazilian overnight rate), and the market return ( $R_m$ ) was calculated using the daily returns of the Ibovespa closing prices.

As mentioned earlier, the key measure for portfolio selection is the sample standard deviation of returns between the closing and next day opening prices (gaps) of each stock comprising the Ibovespa. Next, we present the methodology for defining the first portfolio (used in the year 2001 based on the year 2000 stock standard deviations) as an example. The portfolios of subsequent years are formed in the same manner.

We calculate the daily returns between the closing and opening prices of each asset included in the Ibovespa at the beginning of the year 2000 (the base year, in this case), for all trading days throughout the year. Using the standard deviations of these returns, we create a ranking to construct the year 2001 L&S portfolio.

The portfolio invested in 2001 (and similarly in other years) allocates the same amount of investment to each long position in a stock (those with higher volatility in the previous year) and the same amount to each short position in a stock (those with lower volatility in the previous

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<sup>2</sup> Preferred stocks in the Brazilian stock market are those that carry voting rights.

<sup>3</sup> [nefin.com.br](https://nefin.com.br). The methodology building the risk factors can be found at [https://nefin.com.br/resources/NEFIN\\_methodology.pdf](https://nefin.com.br/resources/NEFIN_methodology.pdf)

year), resulting in a net zero value for the L&S portfolio. Only the extreme terciles of the ranking were used to compose the L&S portfolio, ensuring that stocks with similar standard deviations are not in opposite positions. In Table 1, we present the sample and the 2001 portfolio: the blue section represents the tercile of the sample with higher volatility, indicating the long stocks. Conversely, the red section in Table 1 represents the lower tercile, indicating the short stocks. This process is repeated with portfolios from 2001 onwards until 2020, always based on the composition of the Ibovespa from the beginning of the previous year, resulting in 20 different portfolios (one for each year) and 4,947 sample days. The Annex of this article contains the portfolios for each year, from 2001 to 2020.

| 2000 IBOV Index | 2001 Portfolio |
|-----------------|----------------|
| ARCZ6           | TNEP4          |
| BBAS3           | TCOC4          |
| BBAS4           | TMCP4          |
| BBDC4           | CRTP5          |
| BESP4           | TCSL4          |
| BRAP4           | TRPL4          |
| BRDT4           | TLCP4          |
| BRHA4           | TNLP3          |
| CMIG3           | INEP4          |
| CMIG4           | EBTP3          |
| CPLE6           | CRGT5          |
| CRGT5           | CMIG3          |
| CRTP5           | CPLE6          |
| CRUZ3           | BRDT4          |
| CSNA3           | CRUZ3          |
| CSTB4           | BBDC4          |
| EBTP3           | EMBR3          |
| EBTP4           | VCPA4          |
| ELET3           | VALE5          |
| ELET6           | ELET3          |
| ELPL3           | BBAS3          |
| EMBR3           | ITSA4          |
| EMBR4           | SBSP3          |
| INEP4           | ARCZ6          |
| ITSA4           | BRAP4          |
| LIGH3           | PETR4          |
| PETR3           |                |
| PETR4           |                |
| PTIP4           |                |
| SBSP3           |                |
| TCOC4           |                |
| TCSL4           |                |
| TLCP4           |                |
| TMCP4           |                |
| TNEP4           |                |
| TNLP3           |                |
| TNLP4           |                |
| TRPL4           |                |
| USIM5           |                |
| VALE5           |                |
| VCPA4           |                |
| VCPA4           |                |

**Table 1 - Composition of the Ibovespa in the year 2000 (left) and the 2001 portfolio: stocks highlighted in blue represent the tercile with the highest volatility (long position), while stocks highlighted in red represent the tercile with the lowest volatility (short position).**



The daily return of the portfolio is simply the average of the returns of the assets, considering whether the asset is in a long or short position.

### 3. RESULTS

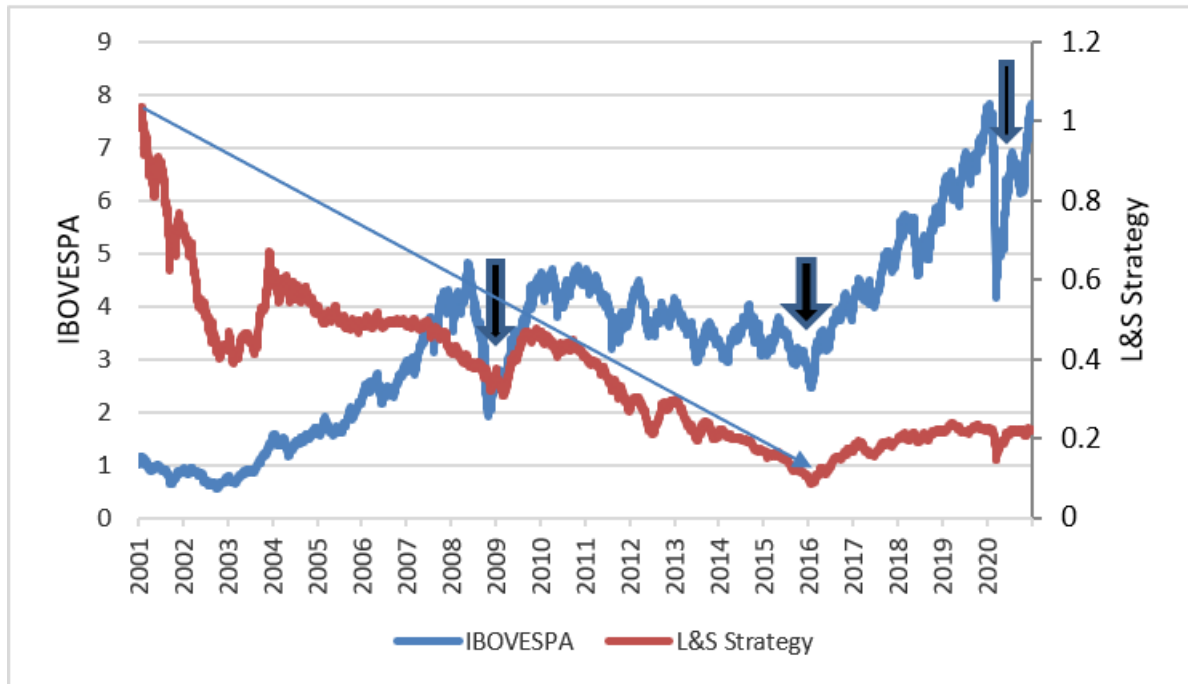
In this section, we present the results of the empirical exercise. As mentioned earlier, 20 portfolios were constructed, one for each year from 2001 to 2020, based on the stocks that comprised the Ibovespa in the previous year. The objective is to observe whether portfolios that are long in stocks with higher gap risk and short in those with lower gap risk yield abnormal returns. For a more comprehensive overview, Table 2 displays the returns of each year and the overall portfolio performance. Many negative returns can be noted, particularly in the first half of the sample.

| Year                 | Return         |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 2001                 | -26.53%        |
| 2002                 | -41.13%        |
| 2003                 | 46.81%         |
| 2004                 | -12.44%        |
| 2005                 | -7.62%         |
| 2006                 | 0.88%          |
| 2007                 | -15.70%        |
| 2008                 | -14.23%        |
| 2009                 | 33.30%         |
| 2010                 | -11.00%        |
| 2011                 | -33.59%        |
| 2012                 | 7.78%          |
| 2013                 | -26.03%        |
| 2014                 | -18.53%        |
| 2015                 | -37.53%        |
| 2016                 | 61.03%         |
| 2017                 | 17.37%         |
| 2018                 | 12.19%         |
| 2019                 | 0.92%          |
| 2020                 | 7.71%          |
| <b>TOTAL RETURN:</b> | <b>-72.40%</b> |

**Table 2 – Returns for Each Year and Total Return of the L&S Strategy, Long (Short) in Stocks with Higher (Lower) Gap Risk**

To illustrate the relationship of the hypothetical Long & Short (L&S) portfolio with the macroeconomic context, Figure 1 depicts the cumulative performance of the strategy compared to the cumulative return of the Ibovespa. The figure illustrates that the strategy adopted by the L&S portfolios retains its fundamental characteristic of being non-directional (i.e., the strategy

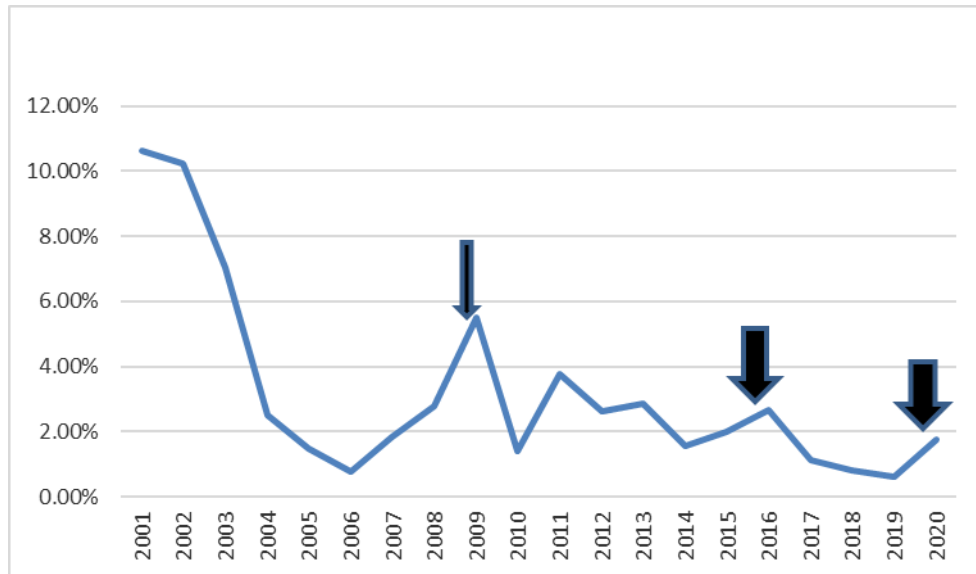
does not follow the market). Overall, the Ibovespa shows a positive trend, while the L&S portfolio shows a negative trend. The Maximum Drawdown of the L&S portfolio, represented by the downward blue arrow, is much larger than that of the Ibovespa.<sup>4</sup> It is notable that the portfolio experienced a progressive loss of 91.40% of its value from its peak in January 2001 to September 2016, reaching its minimum point in that period.



**Figure 1- Ibovespa versus L&S Strategy, Long (Short) in Stocks with Higher (Lower) Gap Risk. Both portfolios start at 1.**

Three extreme events were highlighted with black arrows: the "SubPrime Market Crisis" in 2008, the "Impeachment of President Dilma" in 2016, and the "Covid-19" crisis in 2020. These events represented crucial moments that substantially negatively impacted the Brazilian economy. During these periods, the strategy also had negative performance (moving in the same direction as the Ibovespa), but not as low as that of the Ibovespa. Figure 2 shows the standard deviation of returns of the L&S strategy. We can observe that, during crisis events, the level of risk increases.

<sup>4</sup> The maximum drawdown is the maximum loss that an investment can experience over a certain period of time.



**Figure 2- Annual Standard Deviation of Returns of the L&S Strategy that is Long (Short) in Stocks with Higher (Lower) Gap Risk**

To assess whether the L&S strategy yields abnormal returns, we employed the three methodologies described in the previous section, represented by equations 1, 2, and 3: CAPM (single-index model), Fama-French Three Factor Model and Fama-French Extended Model. We utilized daily returns, comprising 4,947 observations from 2001 to 2020. All regressions are controlled for HAC (Heteroscedasticity and Autocorrelation). The results are presented in tables 3, 4, and 5.

| Variable                | Coefficient | Std. Error              | t-Statistic | Prob.     |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| C                       | -0.00072    | 0.000149                | -4.81       | 1.58E-06  |
| IBOV-CDI                | 0.3015      | 0.008317                | 36.25       | 2.28E-255 |
| R <sup>2</sup>          | 0.2099      | Mean dependent variable |             | -0.0007   |
| Adjusted R <sup>2</sup> | 0.2098      | S.D. dependent variable |             | 0.0118    |
| S.E. of regression      | 0.0105      | Akaike info criterion   |             | -6.274    |
| Sum squared resid       | 0.5455      | Schwarz criterion       |             | -6.271    |
| Log likelihood          | 15520.29    | Hannan-Quinn criter.    |             | -6.273    |
| F-statistic             | 1314.02     | Durbin-Watson stat      |             | 1.9185    |
| Prob(F-statistic)       | 2.28E-255   |                         |             |           |

**Table 3 – Results of the Single-Index Model Regression:  $R_{i,t} - R_{f,t} = \alpha_i + \beta_i (R_{m,t} - R_{f,t}) + \varepsilon_{i,t}$**

Table 3 shows that the results of the Single-Index Model regression diverge from the study's hypothesis. They indicate that stocks with higher gap risk (greater volatility between closing and opening prices) generate lower risk-adjusted performance compared to stocks with lower gap risk: The linear regression produced a significant abnormal daily return of -0.072%,

indicating that the gap risk is not priced. Conversely, according to the model, buying the portfolio with less risk and selling the one with more risk generates abnormal returns.

The regression exhibits the lowest Adjusted R<sup>2</sup>, approximately 21%, compared to the subsequent regressions. Hence, enhancing the model with the inclusion of additional risk factors in the upcoming multiple regressions could lead to improvement.

Table 4 presents the results of the Fama-French Three Factor Model regression, which provides a more comprehensive explanation of the L&S portfolio returns by incorporating the independent variables SMB and HML risk factors (note that the coefficients of these variables are statistically significant at 1%). With an Adjusted R<sup>2</sup> of approximately 34%, significantly higher than that of the previous regression, the model appears to better fit the data.

| Variable                | Coefficient | Std. Error              | t-Statistic | Prob.     |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| C                       | -0.00074    | 0.00014                 | -5.41       | 6.73E-08  |
| SMB                     | 0.41744     | 0.01480                 | 28.21       | 1.85E-162 |
| HML                     | 0.08303     | 0.01621                 | 5.12        | 3.12E-07  |
| IBOV-CDI                | 0.32226     | 0.00792                 | 40.68       | 0         |
| R <sup>2</sup>          | 0.3402      | Mean dependent variable |             | -0.0007   |
| Adjusted R <sup>2</sup> | 0.3398      | S.D. dependent variable |             | 0.0118    |
| S.E. of regression      | 0.0096      | Akaike info criterion   |             | -6.453    |
| Sum squared resid       | 0.4556      | Schwarz criterion       |             | -6.448    |
| Log likelihood          | 15962.24    | Hannan-Quinn criter.    |             | -6.451    |
| F-statistic             | 849.41      | Durbin-Watson stat      |             | 1.967     |
| Prob(F-statistic)       | 0           |                         |             |           |

**Table 4 – Results of the Fama-French Three Factor Model Regression:  $R_{i,t} - Rf_t = \alpha_i + \beta_i (Rm_t - Rf_t) + \beta_s SMB_t + \beta_v HML_t + \varepsilon_{i,t}$**

The results further contradict the study's hypothesis, as the portfolio exhibits a significant abnormal daily return of -0.074%, similar to the previous regression. Therefore, the conclusion stands once again that the gap risk remains unpriced. In fact, since the abnormal return is negative, the opposite appears to be true.

Table 5 presents the results of the Fama-French Extended Model regression. It exhibits the highest adjusted R<sup>2</sup>, exceeding 37%, indicating that the model better explains the L&S portfolio returns with the addition of the risk factors IML and WML (these factors are also significant at 1%). The result for the abnormal daily return corroborates the conclusions of the previous regressions: it is negative and significant (-0.062%), contrary to the study's hypothesis. Therefore, not only is the gap risk not priced, but the risk-adjusted return is positive when investing in a portfolio long in assets with lower gap risk and short in assets with higher gap risk.

| Variable                      | Coefficient | Std. Error              | t-Statistic | Prob.   |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------|
| C                             | -0.00062    | 0.00013                 | -4.64       | 0       |
| SMB                           | 0.49349     | 0.02267                 | 21.77       | 0       |
| HML                           | 0.08630     | 0.01589                 | 5.43        | 0       |
| IBOV-CDI                      | 0.27265     | 0.00876                 | 31.14       | 0       |
| IML                           | -0.18602    | 0.02341                 | -7.95       | 0       |
| WML                           | -0.19010    | 0.01318                 | -14.43      | 0       |
| R <sup>2</sup>                | 0.3749      | Mean dependent variable |             | -0.0007 |
| R <sup>2</sup> Ajustado       | 0.3743      | S.D. dependent variable |             | 0.0118  |
| S.E. de Regressão             | 0.0093      | Akaike info criterion   |             | -6.506  |
| Soma dos Quadrados do Resíduo | 0.4316      | Schwarz criterion       |             | -6.498  |
| Log de Probabilidades         | 16095.78    | Hannan-Quinn criter.    |             | -6.503  |
| F-Estatístico                 | 592.52      | Durbin-Watson stat      |             | 1.987   |
| Prob(F-statistic)             | 0           |                         |             |         |

**Table 5 – Results of the Fama-French Extended Model Regression:  $R_{i,t} - Rf_t = \alpha_i + \beta_i (Rm_t - Rf_t) + \beta_s SMB_t + \beta_v HML_t + \beta_w WML_t + \beta_l IML_t + \varepsilon_{i,t}$**

The findings, though robust (all three models yield similar results), contradict common sense: portfolios with lower gap risk yield higher abnormal returns than those with higher gap risk. Despite this potentially counterintuitive outcome, the study aligns with Blitz and Van Vliet (2007), who provide empirical evidence that stocks with lower volatility tend to generate better risk-adjusted returns compared to high-volatility stocks. Over the period from 1986 to 2006, Blitz and Van Vliet (2007) observe an annual difference of 12% in abnormal returns between portfolios composed of low and high volatility global stocks, favoring the lower-risk ones. This trend is observed across various regions, including markets in the United States, Europe, and Japan. The authors suggest that investors may be overpricing the value of more volatile stocks, potentially due to leverage constraints, inefficient investment processes, or behavioral biases.

#### 4 CONCLUSION

In this study, we examine whether gap risk is priced in the Brazilian market. Here, “gap” refers to the disparity between the closing price and the subsequent day's opening price. We construct Long and Short portfolios with long positions taken in stocks exhibiting higher gap risks and short positions in those with lower gap risks. To observe if these portfolios yield risk-adjusted abnormal returns, three models are utilized: CAPM (Single-Index Model), the Fama-French Three-Factor Model, and an Extended Fama-French Model (incorporating momentum and liquidity factors).

The database contains the closing and opening prices of each business day over 20 years for the stocks that comprised the Bovespa index (Ibovespa) at the beginning of each year. The daily risk factors used were calculated using stocks from the Brazilian stock exchange.

The results indicate that not only the gap risk is not priced, but also that portfolios with long positions in stocks with lower gap risks and short positions in stocks with higher gap risks generate positive abnormal returns. In other words, we observe a scenario of lower risk leading to higher abnormal returns, contradicting our initial hypothesis and common investor intuition. This conclusion is robust, as consistent results are obtained across all three models studied. Although inconsistent with asset pricing theory, this result is in line with Blitz and Van Vilet (2007), who find evidence across American, European, and Japanese markets that stocks with lower volatility yield higher risk-adjusted returns.

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**APPENDIX – TABLES OF ANNUAL LONG & SHORT PORTFOLIOS – For each year, stocks in long positions are highlighted in blue, while those in short positions are highlighted in salmon.**

| 2001 Portfolio | 2002 Portfolio | 2003 Portfolio | 2004 Portfolio |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| TNEP4          | CRTP5          | AELP3          | NETC4          |
| TCOC4          | TLCP4          | EBTP4          | EBTP4          |
| TMCP4          | TDBH4          | NETC4          | ELPL5          |
| CRTP5          | EGIE3          | INEP4          | CESP5          |
| TCSL4          | CESP5          | ELPL5          | LIGH3          |
| TRPL4          | TIMS3          | TIMS3          | EGIE3          |
| TLCP4          | CMIG3          | BRTP3          | CGAS5          |
| TNLP3          | LIGH3          | LIGH3          | KLBN4          |
| INEP4          | BRTP3          | CSNA3          | CMIG3          |
| EBTP3          | TRPL4          | CMIG3          | ELET3          |
| CRGT5          | ELPL5          | KLBN4          | TCOC4          |
| CMIG3          | VIVO4          | PTIP4          | BRKM5          |
| CPLE6          | EBTP3          | TLCP4          | EMBR3          |
| BRDT4          | INEP4          | TCSL4          | TLCP4          |
| CRUZ3          | TCOC4          | BRKM5          | PTIP4          |
| BBDC4          | CSNA3          | BBAS3          | TRPL4          |
| EMBR3          | ELET3          | TMCP4          | TIMS3          |
| VCPA4          | TMCP4          | GGBR4          | CPLE6          |
| VALE5          | NETC4          | CLSC4          | TMAR5          |
| ELET3          | TNLP3          | BRAP4          | BRTP4          |
| BBAS3          | CRUZ3          | VCPA4          | BBAS3          |
| ITSA4          | USIM5          | ELET6          | SBSP3          |
| SBSP3          | TMAR5          | OIBR4          | ACES4          |
| ARCZ6          | BRAP4          | VIVT4          | VIVT4          |
| BRAP4          | BBAS4          | EMBR3          | CSTB4          |
| PETR4          | SBSP3          | TMAR5          | VCPA4          |
|                | VIVT4          | ITSA4          | OIBR4          |
|                | GGBR4          | PETR4          | GGBR4          |
|                | CPLE6          | TNLP4          | ABEV3          |
|                | ACES4          | ITUB4          | CRUZ3          |
|                | EMBR3          | BBDC4          | ITSA4          |
|                | BBDC4          | CRUZ3          | PETR4          |
|                | TNLP4          | VALE5          | TNLP4          |
|                | ITUB4          | ABEV3          | BBDC4          |
|                | ABEV3          |                | VALE3          |
|                | ITSA4          |                | ITUB4          |
|                | PETR4          |                |                |
|                | VALE5          |                |                |



| 2005 Portfolio | 2006 Portfolio | 2007 Portfolio | 2008 Portfolio |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| NETC4          | KLBN4          | TNLP3          | SYNE3          |
| CSTB4          | CRUZ3          | BRTP3          | BRTP3          |
| EBTP4          | CSNA3          | LIGT3          | TIMS3          |
| ELPL5          | ELET6          | VIVO4          | NETC4          |
| CESP5          | ITUB4          | TIMS3          | TNLP3          |
| LIGH3          | CTAX4          | BRFS3          | LREN3          |
| EGIE3          | VIVO4          | TAMM4          | CSAN3          |
| CGAS5          | BRTP4          | ARCE3          | GFS3A3         |
| KLBN4          | ITSA4          | TMCP4          | ALLL11         |
| CMET4          | CGAS5          | CRUZ3          | LIGT3          |
| ELET3          | EBTP4          | SDIA4          | VIVO4          |
| BRTP3          | BRAP4          | ELET3          | CYRE3          |
| TCOC4          | PTIP4          | BBAS3          | BBAS3          |
| BRKM5          | BBDC4          | TRPL4          | PETR4          |
| EMBR3          | ELPL5          | EMBR3          | SBSP3          |
| TLCP4          | TCOC4          | SBSP3          | NATU3          |
| PTIP4          | PETR3          | CGAS5          | CCRO3          |
| BBAS3          | TNLP3          | CMIG3          | DURA4          |
| SBSP3          | CLSC4          | CESP6          | GOAU4          |
| CMIG3          | ACES4          | NETC4          | VALE5          |
| ACES4          | CRTP5          | ARCZ6          | ITSA4          |
| CSNA3          | USIM5          | KLBN4          | ITUB4          |
| VIVO4          | LIGH3          | ACES4          | GGBR4          |
| OIBR4          | EMBR4          | OIBR4          | CMIG4          |
| GGBR4          | VCPA4          | GGBR4          | UBBR11         |
| ABEV3          | ABEV3          | PCAR4          | VIVT4          |
| CRTP5          | CMIG4          | BRKM5          | CPFE3          |
| ITSA4          | GGBR4          | BRAP4          | TCSL4          |
| PETR4          | NETC4          | UBBR11         | BNCA3          |
| TRPL4          | VALE5          | ELPL4          | CLSC4          |
| BBDC4          | OIBR4          | ABEV3          | ARCZ6          |
| VALE5          | TMCP4          | ITSA4          | BBDC4          |
| ITUB4          | ATMP3          | ITUB4          | CGAS5          |
| VCPA4          | TRPL4          | BBDC4          | ABEV3          |
|                | GOAU4          | PETR4          | EMBR3          |
|                | UBBR11         | VALE3          | ACES4          |

| 2009 Portfolio | 2010 Portfolio | 2011 Portfolio | 2012 Portfolio |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| B3SA3          | TIMS3          | PRTX3          | GOLL4          |
| JBSS3          | CYRE3          | PRML3          | HYPE3          |
| RSID3          | RSID3          | TAMM4          | MMXM3          |
| CYRE3          | MMXM3          | TESA3          | RSID3          |
| GFSA3          | GFSA3          | MMXM3          | USIM3          |
| ARCZ6          | CSAN3          | GOLL4          | AMER3          |
| VCPA4          | OIBR3          | MRVE3          | MRFG3          |
| GOLL4          | DXCO3          | BISA3          | PDGR3          |
| CSAN3          | EMBR3          | JBSS3          | OGXP3          |
| BNCA3          | JBSS3          | PDGR3          | GFSA3          |
| SDIA4          | B3SA3          | GFSA3          | MRVE3          |
| CESP6          | TAMM4          | AMER3          | JBSS3          |
| TIMS3          | RDCD3          | FIBR3          | BISA3          |
| UBBR11         | KLBN4          | LREN3          | LAME4          |
| LREN3          | GOLL4          | ELET3          | TESA3          |
| BBAS3          | VIVO4          | OGXP3          | CYRE3          |
| AMER3          | TCSL4          | CSAN3          | LREN3          |
| DURA4          | BRKM5          | RSID3          | OIBR4          |
| ITUB4          | AMER3          | TIMS3          | TMAR5          |
| LAME4          | VALE3          | TNLP3          | PRML3          |
| BRTP4          | CPLE6          | KLBN4          | BRKM5          |
| TAMM4          | CCRO3          | USIM3          | DXCO3          |
| CCRO3          | TNLP4          | BRAP4          | BBAS3          |
| KLBN4          | BBDC4          | PCAR4          | ELET3          |
| LIGT3          | ITSA4          | BRFS3          | BRAP4          |
| ELET3          | PCAR4          | CSNA3          | ELET6          |
| PETR3          | LAME4          | EMBR3          | ITUB4          |
| ABEV3          | ELET3          | CPLE6          | BBDC4          |
| BRFS3          | NATU3          | VALE3          | CIEL3          |
| VIVO4          | CMIG4          | VIVT4          | NATU3          |
| EMBR3          | CLSC4          | BBAS3          | LIGT3          |
| BRKM5          | UGPA4          | NATU3          | SBSP3          |
| PCAR4          | TRPL4          | ITUB4          | CCRO3          |
| TNLP4          | PETR4          | PETR4          | ITSA4          |
| CPLE6          | CRUZ3          | CMIG4          | VALE3          |
| NATU3          | CPFE3          | CRUZ3          | VIVT4          |
| CRUZ3          | LIGT3          | ITSA4          | CMIG4          |
| TRPL4          | VIVT4          | TRPL4          | CRUZ3          |
| UGPA4          | CGAS5          | ELPL4          | CPLE6          |
| CPFE3          | ABEV3          | UGPA4          | PETR4          |
| VIVT4          |                | LIGT3          | UGPA3          |
| CLSC4          |                | BBDC4          | CPFE3          |
| CMIG4          |                | CPFE3          | ELPL4          |
| CGAS5          |                | ABEV3          | TRPL4          |

| 2013 Portfolio | 2014 Portfolio | 2015 Portfolio | 2016 Portfolio |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| GFS3           | MMX3           | RLOG3          | OIBR3          |
| OGXP3          | PRML3          | RSID3          | RUMO3          |
| MMX3           | AMER3          | OIBR4          | CSNA3          |
| PDGR3          | GFS3           | PETR4          | USIM5          |
| TESA3          | GOLL4          | ELET3          | GOAU4          |
| GOLL4          | OIBR3          | BBAS3          | PETR4          |
| RSID3          | BISA3          | CSNA3          | YDUQ3          |
| TRPL4          | RSID3          | PDGR3          | QUAL3          |
| AMER3          | ELPL4          | GOLL4          | COGN3          |
| MRVE3          | PDGR3          | MRFG3          | VALE3          |
| BISA3          | USIM3          | ALLL3          | BRKM5          |
| USIM3          | MRVE3          | USIM5          | BRAP4          |
| JBSS3          | CSNA3          | GFS3           | GGBR4          |
| MRFG3          | ELET3          | JBSS3          | ECOR3          |
| PRML3          | CPLE6          | CPLE6          | SMLS3          |
| ELET3          | MRFG3          | BBDC3          | BBAS3          |
| CYRE3          | AEDU3          | ENBR3          | MRFG3          |
| OIBR3          | TESA3          | B3SA3          | SBSP3          |
| HYPE3          | PETR3          | TIMS3          | BRML3          |
| BRKM5          | JBSS3          | CMIG4          | CMIG4          |
| CESP6          | HGTX3          | SANB11         | BBDC4          |
| GOAU4          | EMBR3          | BRML3          | CYRE3          |
| PETR4          | FIBR3          | MRVE3          | ITUB4          |
| DXCO3          | LIGT3          | YDUQ3          | RENT3          |
| KLBN4          | SANB11         | VALE3          | B3SA3          |
| VALE3          | BRAP4          | BRKM5          | ITSA4          |
| EMBR3          | KLBN4          | HYPE3          | RADL3          |
| LIGT3          | GOAU4          | FIBR3          | FIBR3          |
| ITUB4          | CCRO3          | LIGT3          | EGIE3          |
| ITSA4          | HYPE3          | POMO4          | VIVT4          |
| BRAP4          | VALE5          | LAME4          | LAME4          |
| RENT3          | LAME4          | EMBR3          | SUZB5          |
| CTIP3          | ITUB4          | BRFS3          | BRFS3          |
| BBDC4          | CRUZ3          | EGIE3          | CIEL3          |
| PCAR4          | CTIP3          | QUAL3          | CTIP3          |
| BRFS3          | ITSA4          | CRUZ3          | EQTL3          |
| CPFE3          | RENT3          | SUZB5          | UGPA3          |
| CCRO3          | BBDC4          | KLBN11         | WEGE3          |
| NATU3          | NATU3          | NATU3          | KLBN11         |
| UGPA3          | CIEL3          | BBSE3          | ABEV3          |
| CSAN3          | BBAS3          | LREN3          |                |
| ABEV3          | VIVT4          | UGPA3          |                |
| CRUZ3          | CPFE3          | ABEV3          |                |
| VIVT4          | CSAN3          | CIEL3          |                |
|                | BRFS3          | CTIP3          |                |
|                | PCAR4          | PCAR4          |                |
|                | ABEV3          |                |                |
|                | UGPA3          |                |                |

| 2017 Portfolio | 2018 Portfolio | 2019 Portfolio | 2020 Portfolio |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| RUMO3          | MGLU3          | LOGG3          | VIIA3          |
| USIM5          | ELET3          | ELET3          | QUAL3          |
| CSNA3          | CMIG4          | VIIA3          | GOLL4          |
| GOAU4          | USIM5          | GOLL4          | AMER3          |
| PETR4          | VVAR11         | PETR4          | JBSS3          |
| GGBR4          | CSNA3          | SUZB3          | CSNA3          |
| JBSS3          | BRAP4          | AMER3          | BRKM5          |
| BRAP4          | GOAU4          | SMLS3          | SMLS3          |
| VALE3          | RAIL3          | USIM5          | MGLU3          |
| CMIG4          | JBSS3          | COGN3          | YDUQ3          |
| YDUQ3          | YDUQ3          | YDUQ3          | COGN3          |
| BBAS3          | BBAS3          | CMIG4          | SUZB3          |
| ELET3          | GGBR4          | MRFG3          | CIEL3          |
| COGN3          | ECOR3          | BRFS3          | MRVE3          |
| SMLS3          | PETR4          | CSNA3          | CVCB3          |
| CPLE6          | CYRE3          | BRKM5          | ELET3          |
| CYRE3          | SMLS3          | QUAL3          | BPAC11         |
| EMBR3          | LAME4          | BBAS3          | SBSP3          |
| FIBR3          | SANB11         | MGLU3          | NTCO3          |
| LAME4          | NATU3          | CIEL3          | MRFG3          |
| BBSE3          | VALE3          | B3SA3          | AZUL4          |
| BRFS3          | MRVE3          | BRAP4          | BRFS3          |
| KLBN11         | MULT3          | VALE3          | PCAR4          |
| MULT3          | BBDC3          | BBDC4          | RAIL3          |
| ITSA4          | CIEL3          | TIMS3          | GNDI3          |
| MRVE3          | HYPE3          | CSAN3          | BBAS3          |
| ENBR3          | EMBR3          | IGTA3          | TIMS3          |
| CSAN3          | SUZB3          | MRVE3          | CSAN3          |
| CPFE3          | ITSA4          | MULT3          | FLRY3          |
| WEGE3          | TIMS3          | HYPE3          | IGTA3          |
| HYPE3          | IGTA3          | CPLE6          | SANB11         |
| VIVT4          | RADL3          | BRML3          | BBDC4          |
| RADL3          | KLBN11         | FLRY3          | ABEV3          |
| UGPA3          | ENBR3          | WEGE3          | CMIG4          |
| EQTL3          | TAE11          | ITUB4          | EGIE3          |
| ABEV3          | UGPA3          | ITSA4          | WEGE3          |
| EGIE3          | WEGE3          | BBSE3          | BBSE3          |
| CTIP3          | EQTL3          | FIBR3          | ITUB4          |
|                | VIVT4          | KLBN11         | KLBN11         |
|                | EGIE3          | EQTL3          | ENBR3          |
|                | ABEV3          | VIVT4          | EQTL3          |
|                | CPFE3          | ABEV3          | VIVT4          |
|                |                | EGIE3          | TAE11          |
|                |                | TAE11          | ITSA4          |