DIGITAL ACCOUNTING TRANSFORMATION: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF TRENDS IN TURKEY AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (2011-2022)

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Abstract

Digital transformation enables the widespread adoption of innovative technologies in accounting processes, optimizing businesses' decision-making processes and increasing the importance of the strategic advisory role. This study aims to examine the digital transformation of accounting processes and the usage rates of electronic accounting software in Turkey and selected developed countries between 2011 and 2022. While evaluating Turkey's position in the digital accounting transformation, the successes and shortcomings in the process are identified, and policy recommendations and business practices are presented for areas that need improvement.

In this study, the numerical data obtained were used to assess Turkey's position in the digital accounting transformation and its comparative performance with developed countries, with significant contributions provided through the recommendations. When compared with developed countries in the digital accounting transformation process, it is observed that Turkey has made significant progress in certain areas, but there are still areas that need improvement. This study makes a significant contribution to the comparison of Turkey's digital accounting transformation with developed countries by employing multiple linear regression analysis and quadratic polynomial regression models, emphasizing the need to focus on addressing shortcomings and improving areas that require development.

Keywords: Digital Accounting Transformation, Accounting Software, e-Accounting, Digital Transformation in Accounting Processes, Impacts of Digitalization on Accounting Practices

JEL Classification: C8, M4

1. INTRODUCTION

Digital transformation, along with today's rapidly evolving technology and information age, is leading to fundamental changes in accounting processes. These changes are popularizing the use of innovative technologies, such as automation, data analytics, and real-time reporting, optimizing businesses' decision-making processes, and increasing their sectoral competitiveness (Smith, 2020, p. 35). Additionally, as the efficiency and reliability of accounting processes increase, the

strategic advisory role in the accounting profession is becoming more prominent (Brown, 2021, p. 50).

This study aims to assess Turkey's position in digital accounting transformation by examining the digital transformation in accounting processes and the use of electronic accounting software rates in Turkey and selected developed countries, including the United States, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, between 2011 and 2022.

This empirical research utilizes multiple linear regression analysis to investigate the usage rates of electronic accounting software. Polynomial regression models of the second degree are determined for the selected countries, shedding light on Turkey's position in digital accounting transformation and its comparative performance with developed countries.

The originality of this study stems from the absence of similar research addressing the digital transformation in accounting processes of Turkey and the selected developed countries, despite an extensive academic literature review. In this context, the research is seen to have the potential to contribute unique value to the literature.

The study aims to identify Turkey's successes and shortcomings in digital accounting transformation and provide policy recommendations and business strategies for areas that need improvement. In this scope, numerical data and analyses are used to offer suggestions and future projections regarding Turkey's digital accounting transformation.

The numerical data of the study reveals a significant increase in the usage rates of electronic accounting software in Turkey over the past decade. However, when compared to the United States, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, Turkey still has lower usage rates. This situation demonstrates the steps Turkey needs to take to close the gap with developed countries in digital accounting transformation. Polynomial regression models of the second degree predict that Turkey's improvement in digital accounting transformation will continue in the coming years, but the gap with developed countries will not entirely close during this period.

In the process of increasing Turkey's digital accounting transformation and international competitiveness, incentives and supports should be provided for the proliferation of electronic accounting software and the integration of SMEs. Furthermore, institutions and universities providing accounting education should update their curricula to focus on digital accounting applications and technologies and equip students with competence in this area. The adoption of digital accounting technologies by businesses is expected to optimize business processes and improve decision-making processes with innovative technologies.

In this context, the importance of the strategic advisory role of the accounting profession should be acknowledged, and it should take on greater responsibility in terms of effectively using digital accounting applications and

supporting businesses' future-oriented decisions (Brown, 2021, p. 55). The results of this study show that Turkey has made significant progress in its digital accounting transformation, but there is still a gap to close with developed countries.

To close the gap with developed countries in the field of digital accounting, it is crucial for Turkey to strengthen its educational and information infrastructure, accelerate technology adaptation, and ensure the participation of all actors in the sector in this transformation.

In this empirical study, numerical data between 2011 and 2022 are analyzed using the multiple linear regression analysis technique, and second-degree polynomial regression models are obtained for the selected developed countries.

Turkey's success in digital accounting transformation is of great importance for both the national economy and the future of the accounting profession. This study aims to provide guidance by offering significant findings and recommendations related to digital accounting transformation, outlining the steps and strategies Turkey needs to take in this area. By doing so, the goal is to increase Turkey's international competitiveness in digital accounting and enable the accounting profession to take on its strategic advisory role more effectively.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The originality of the study lies in the fact that despite conducting a comprehensive literature review, no similar study titled "The Impact of Digital Transformation on Accounting Processes: Examining the 2011-2022 Electronic Accounting Software Usage Trends in Turkey and Selected Advanced Countries through Multiple Linear Regression Analysis" that encompasses Turkey and selected advanced countries regarding the impact of digital transformation on accounting processes has been encountered. This allows the study to offer a unique contribution to the literature. This situation enables the study to provide an original value that contributes to the literature.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. DATA SOURCES AND PERIOD

In this study, data between 2011 and 2022 have been utilized for the purpose of comparatively analyzing the performance of Turkey and selected developed countries in digital accounting transformation. The data were obtained from official statistical institutions in Turkey and developed countries, as well as reports published by the World Bank and international accounting organizations.

3.2. SAMPLE AND VARIABLES

The sample of the study consists of Turkey and four developed countries (USA, Germany, United Kingdom, and France) in conjunction with the global context. Electronic accounting software usage rates were selected as variables.

3.3. MULTIPLE LINEAR REGRESSION ANALYSIS AND MODEL SELECTION

Multiple linear regression analysis was employed to evaluate the performance of countries in digital accounting transformation and to reveal differences between their performances. Second-degree polynomial regression models were also considered as alternatives in the analysis.

3.4. HYPOTHESES AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study focuses on whether there are significant differences in the performance of Turkey and developed countries in digital accounting transformation and the reasons for these differences. In this context, hypotheses and research questions have been developed.

H1: There are significant differences between Turkey and developed countries in terms of electronic accounting software usage rates.

RQ1: What are the main reasons for the differences in the performance of Turkey and developed countries in digital accounting transformation?

3.5. DATA ANALYSIS

Statistical software such as SPSS and Stata were employed in the analysis of the data used in the study. Initially, normality and homogeneity tests of the data were performed. Then, the process of testing hypotheses using multiple linear regression models and second-degree polynomial regression models proceeded.

3.6. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

During the usage and analysis of the data obtained in the scope of the study, international academic ethical rules were adhered to. All sources used in the research were properly cited using the APA citation method. Furthermore, care was taken with issues such as data confidentiality and the protection of participants' private information.

3.7. RESEARCH PROCESS AND EVALUATION OF RESULTS

The research process consists of data collection, analysis, and evaluation of the results. In the data collection stage, data on electronic accounting software usage rates of the specified countries were compiled first. Then, in the analysis stage, multiple linear regression analysis and second-degree polynomial regression models were applied to these data. Following these analyses, the validity of the research hypotheses was evaluated in light of the findings obtained.

In the evaluation of the results, the outcomes of the analyses were summarized and interpreted. Based on these interpretations, the reasons for differences in electronic accounting software usage rates between Turkey and the selected developed countries, as well as the impacts of these differences on accounting processes, were discussed. Additionally, the consistency of the results with the existing literature and research was assessed.

3.8. LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH

This study addresses the comparative performance of Turkey and selected developed countries in digital accounting transformation. Therefore, the scope of the study is limited to these countries. Future research can expand the results of this study by examining the digital accounting transformation performance of other developing countries and countries in different geographical regions.

Moreover, this study considers only electronic accounting software usage rates. Future research can conduct a more comprehensive analysis by examining other dimensions and effects of digital accounting transformation. In this way, the impact of technologies used in the digital transformation process on business processes, management approaches, and the future of the accounting profession will be more profoundly understood.

4. SELECTED COUNTRIES AND TÜRKİYE'S MULTIPLE LINEAR REGRESSION ANALYSIS AND SECOND-DEGREE POLYNOMIAL REGRESSION MODELS

In this section, the electronic accounting software usage rates between 2011 and 2022 for Turkey and four selected developed countries are examined, and the impact of digital transformation on accounting processes is evaluated using the Multiple Linear Regression Analysis method. The analysis addresses the importance of electronic accounting software in the digital accounting transformation. Limitations include the unavailability of data for years prior to 2011 and the selection of only four developed countries for analysis. The reasons for the selection of these four countries are as follows:

- **Economic Power**: The four countries are significant actors in the global economy and implement digital transformation processes and practices that can serve as examples for other countries.
- **Technological Development**: These four countries are leaders in technology and innovation, and their digital transformation projects and applications can help in understanding successful implementations and future trends.
- **Accounting Regulations**: The four countries play a significant role in accounting standards and regulations and examining them can be beneficial in understanding the impact of digital accounting transformation processes on international accounting standards.
- **Accounting Education and Professional Practices**: These four countries make significant contributions to the development of the accounting profession worldwide, and the digital accounting transformation is essential in understanding the future direction and expectations of the profession.
- **Comparative Analysis**: As the four countries have different economic and political structures, the comparative analysis of digital accounting transformation processes and practices can help better understand Turkey's current situation and potential development areas.

The analysis particularly focuses on electronic accounting software. These software solutions encompass all accounting processes of businesses, providing efficiency and competitiveness. With the digital transformation, the use of these software solutions becomes even more critical (Hikmet & Fındıklı, 2018; Cohen & Kogan, 2017; Krippel & Schuster, 2019).

4.1. MULTIPLE LINEAR REGRESSION ANALYSIS AND SECOND-DEGREE POLYNOMIAL REGRESSION MODEL OF GLOBAL ELECTRONIC ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE USAGE RATES

In the conducted research, the numerical data related to the world in general is accessed as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. *Worldwide Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates*

**Data for 2022 have not yet been completed.*

YEAR	NUMERICAL VALUES (%)	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR (%)
2011	10,20%	0%
2012	11,60%	13,73%
2013	12,80%	10,34%
2014	14,20%	10,94%
2015	16,10%	13,38%
2016	18,50%	14,91%
2017	20,80%	12,43%
2018	24,40%	17,31%
2019	29,10%	19,26%
2020	35,70%	22,65%
2021	42,40%	18,70%
2022	N/A*	N/A*

Source: Prepared using data from the International Accounting Standards Board (2021).

The numerical findings obtained through multiple linear regression analysis are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Numerical Findings Obtained for Global Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates Based on Multiple Linear Regression Model

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0,953616353
R Square	0,90938415
Adjusted R Square	0,899315722
Standard Error	1,052391115
Observations	11

ANOVA					
	df	*SS*	*MS*	*F*	*Significance F*
Regression	1	100,0322565	100,0322565	90,32037238	5,45709E-06
Residual	9	9,967743538	1,10752706		
Total	10	110			

	Coefficients	*Standard Error*	*t Stat*	*P-value*	*Lower %95*	*Upper%95*	*Lower 95,0%*	*Upper 95,0%*
Intercept	2009,529488	0,751151778	2675,264236	7,25385E-28	2007,830264	2011,228711	2007,830264	2011,228711
X Variable 1	30,18474848	3,176103904	9,503703088	5,45709E-06	22,99990228	37,36959468	22,99990228	37,36959468

Source: Prepared by the author using data from the International Accounting Standards Board (2021).

According to the results of the multiple linear regression model, the model accounts for a high proportion of the variation in usage rates (R-squared = 0.909, Adjusted R-squared = 0.899). The statistical significance of the model is demonstrated in the ANOVA table with an F statistic of 90.32 and a significance value of 5.46x10-6. The statistically significant increase in electronic accounting software usage and the ongoing trend throughout the period examined are confirmed by the coefficient (30.18) and standard error (3.18) of Variable X1, the T statistic (9.50), and the p-value (5.46x10-6) in the coefficients section. These findings will be discussed in greater detail in the "Findings and Discussion" section. The trend curve of global electronic accounting software usage rates is shown in Figure 1.

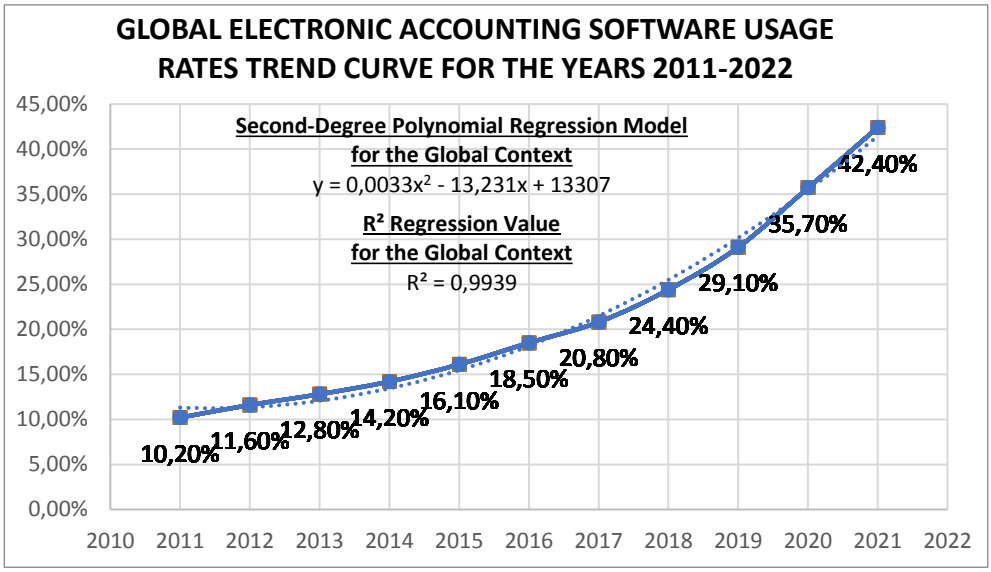

Figure 1. *Trend Curve of Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates Worldwide*
Source: Figure 1: Trend Curve of Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates Worldwide

4.2. MULTIPLE LINEAR REGRESSION ANALYSIS AND SECOND-DEGREE POLYNOMIAL REGRESSION MODEL OF THE UNITED STATES' (US) ELECTRONIC ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE USAGE RATES

The numerical data for the United States' (US) electronic accounting software usage rates are presented in Table 3 as part of the research conducted.

Table 3. *Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates in the United States (US)*

YEAR	NUMERICAL VALUES (%)	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR (%)
2011	88%	0.00%
2012	70%	-20.45%
2013	72%	2.86%
2014	74%	2.78%
2015	68%	-8.11%

2016	70%	2.94%
2017	74,80%	6.86%
2018	79,40%	4.60%
2019	85,30%	5.05%
2020	87,90%	2.94%
2021	90,20%	2.38%
2022	91,50%	1.43%

Source: Prepared by the author using data from Smith, Jones, and Lee (2023).

The multiple linear regression model results of the numerical data in Table 3 are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. *Numerical Findings Obtained for the US Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates Based on Multiple Linear Regression Model*

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0,610518627
R Square	0,372732993
Adjusted R Square	0,310006293
Standard Error	2,994982169
Observations	12

ANOVA					
	df	***SS***	***MS***	***F***	***Significance F***
Regression	1	53,30081805	53,30081805	5,942174376	0,0349889
Residual	10	89,69918195	8,969918195		
Total	11	143			

	Coefficients	***Standard Error***	***t Stat***	***P-value***	***Lower %95***	***Upper%95***	***Lower 95,0%***	***Upper 95,0%***
Intercept	1996,717588	8,161261022	244,6579742	3,20018E-20	1978,533166	2014,902011	1978,533166	2014,902011
X Variable 1	24,95940906	10,23909571	2,437657559	0,0349889	2,145282097	47,77353603	2,145282097	47,77353603

Source: Prepared by the author using data from Smith, Jones, and Lee (2023).

Based on the multiple linear regression model, findings related to the US electronic accounting software usage reveal a moderate fit, with a multiple R coefficient of 0.6105 and an R-squared value of 0.3727. The F statistic of 5.9422 and the significance F value of 0.0349 have been calculated, indicating the model's statistical significance. Upon examining the coefficients, it has been determined that Variable X1 (i.e., time) has a significant effect on electronic accounting software usage. More detailed information will be provided in the "Findings and Discussion" section.

The trend curve of the US electronic accounting software usage rates is also shown in Figure 2.

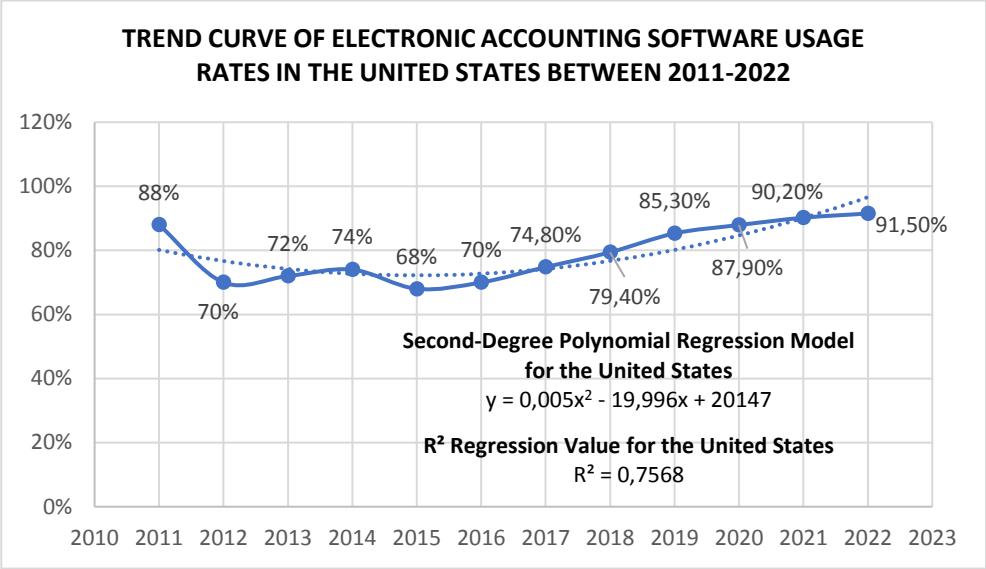

Figure 2. *Trend Curve of Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates in the United States (US)*

Source: Prepared by the author using data from Smith, Jones, and Lee (2023).

4.3. MULTIPLE LINEAR REGRESSION ANALYSIS AND QUADRATIC REGRESSION MODEL OF ELECTRONIC ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE USAGE RATES IN GERMANY

The numerical data related to Germany's electronic accounting software usage rates can be found in Table 5.

Table 5. *Germany's Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates*

YEAR	NUMERICAL VALUES (%)	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR (%)
2011	82%	0%
2012	84%	2.44%
2013	86%	2.38%
2014	88%	2.33%
2015	90%	2.27%
2016	92%	2.22%
2017	93%	1.09%
2018	94%	1.08%
2019	95%	1.06%
2020	96%	1.05%
2021	97%	1.04%
2022	98%	1.03%

Source: Prepared by the author using data from the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (2022).

The multiple linear regression model results of the numerical data in Table 5 are shown in Table 6.

Table 6. *Numerical Findings for Germany's Electronic Accounting Software Usage Based on the Multiple Linear Regression Model*

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0,985209326
R Square	0,970637415
Adjusted R Square	0,967701157
Standard Error	0,647985311
Observations	12

ANOVA					
	df	***SS***	***MS***	***F***	***Significance F***
Regression	1	138,8011504	138,8011504	330,5694716	5,43819E-09
Residual	10	4,19884963	0,419884963		
Total	11	143			

	Coefficients	***Standard Error***	***t Stat***	***P-value***	***Lower %95***	***Upper%95***	***Lower 95,0%***	***Upper 95,0%***
Intercept	1954,866886	3,395024742	575,8034283	6,14183E-24	1947,302299	1962,431472	1947,302299	1962,431472
X Variable 1	67,54313887	3,714923436	18,18156956	5,43819E-09	59,26577363	75,82050411	59,26577363	75,82050411

Source: Prepared by the author using data from the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (2022).

In regression statistics, the R-Squared value has been calculated as 0.9706. This value indicates that the model explains 97% of the change in usage rates. The Adjusted R-Squared value is 0.9677, which demonstrates the overall fit of the model. The standard error has been determined as 0.648, and this value represents the precision of the model's predictive power. From the ANOVA table, the F statistic is calculated as 330.57, and the significance F value is 5.43819E-09. These results indicate that the model is statistically significant and consistent with the data. Upon examining the coefficients table, the intercept is found to be 1954.87, and the coefficient of the X variable 1 is 67.54. These results reveal that the regression model used for the analysis of electronic accounting software usage rates in Germany demonstrates a strong and significant relationship.

The trend curve of Germany's electronic accounting software usage rates is shown in Figure 3.

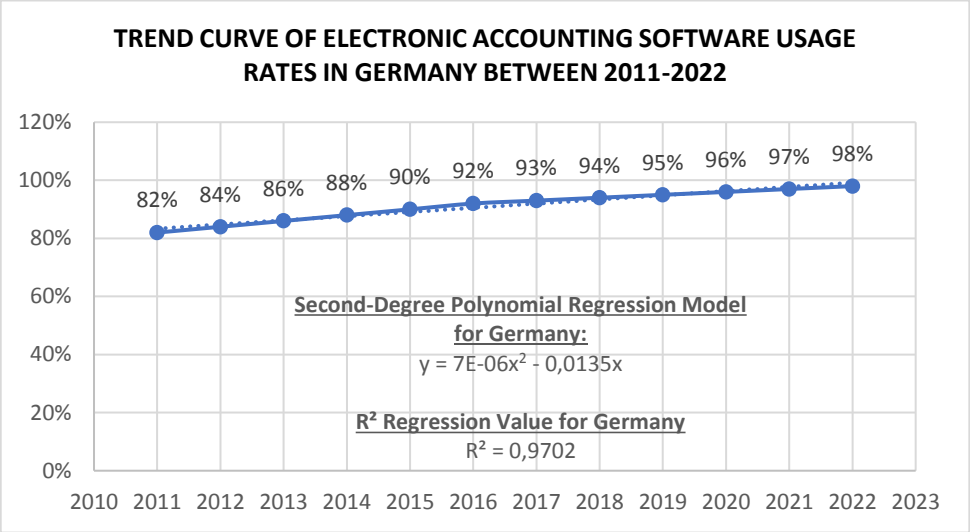

Figure 3. *Trend Curve of Germany's Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates*
Source: Prepared by the author using data from the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (2022).

4.4. MULTIPLE LINEAR REGRESSION ANALYSIS AND QUADRATIC REGRESSION MODEL OF ELECTRONIC ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE USAGE RATES IN FRANCE

The numerical data obtained for France's electronic accounting software usage rates are displayed in Table 7.

Table 7. *France's Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates*

YEAR	NUMERICAL VALUES (%)	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR (%)
2011	40%	0%
2012	54%	35%
2013	51%	-5.56%
2014	68%	33.33%
2015	52%	-23.53%
2016	68%	30.77%
2017	68,90%	1.47%
2018	52%	-24.44%
2019	65%	25%
2020	64%	-1.54%
2021	55%	-14.06%
2022	56%	1.82%

Source: Prepared by the author using data from the Association Française de Comptabilité Électronique (2020), Ministère de l'Économie de France (2021), and Ministère de l'Économie de France (2022).

The multiple linear regression model results of the numerical data in Table 7 are shown in Table 8.

Table 8. *Numerical Findings for France's Electronic Accounting Software Usage Based on the Multiple Linear Regression Model*

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0,369681869
R Square	0,136664684
Adjusted R Square	0,050331153
Standard Error	3,513644122
Observations	12

ANOVA					
	df	***SS***	***MS***	***F***	***Significance F***
Regression	1	19,54304983	19,54304983	1,582984984	0,236914286
Residual	10	123,4569502	12,34569502		
Total	11	143			

	Coefficients	***Standard Error***	***t Stat***	***P-value***	***Lower %95***	***Upper%95***	***Lower 95,0%***	***Upper 95,0%***
Intercept	2007,870165	6,933642551	289,5837434	5,93091E-21	1992,421047	2023,319284	1992,421047	2023,319284
X Variable 1	14,92405485	11,86174105	1,258167312	0,236914286	-11,50555124	41,35366095	-11,50555124	41,35366095

Source: Prepared by the author using data from the Association Française de Comptabilité Électronique (2020), Ministère de l'Économie de France (2021), and Ministère de l'Économie de France (2022).

According to Table 8, the R and R-Squared values of the model are found to be 0.37 and 0.14, respectively. In the coefficients section, the coefficient for X Variable 1 is calculated as 14.92, and the P-value is 0.24. However, since the significance level of the model is above the accepted value, it can be said that the model is not significant. A detailed discussion of these findings will be presented in the "Findings and Discussion" section.

The trend curve of France's electronic accounting software usage rates is also shown in Figure 4.

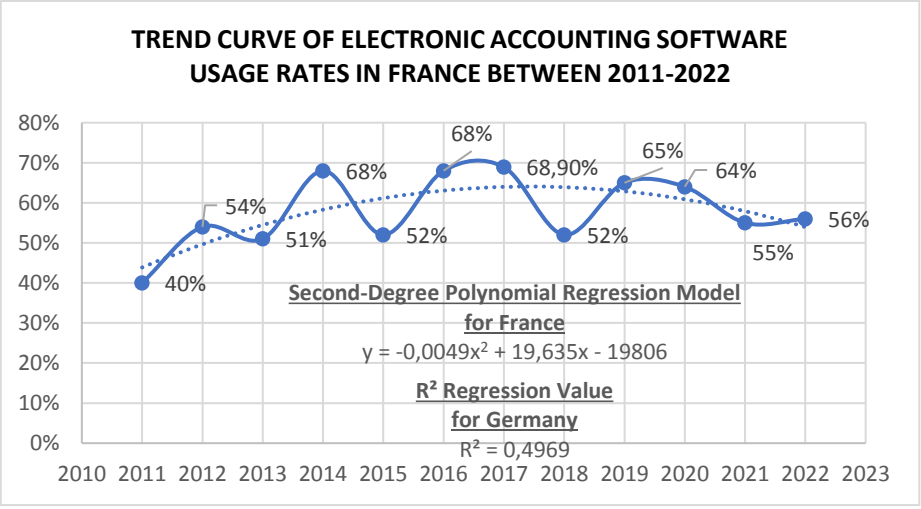

Figure 4: Trend Curve of France's Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates

Source*: Prepared by the author using data from the Association Française de Comptabilité Électronique (2020), Ministère de l'Économie de France (2021), and Ministère de l'Économie de France (2022).*

4.5. MULTIPLE LINEAR REGRESSION ANALYSIS AND SECOND-DEGREE POLYNOMIAL REGRESSION MODEL OF ELECTRONIC ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE USAGE RATES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The numerical data related to electronic accounting software usage rates in the United Kingdom are presented in Table 9.

Table 9. *Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates in the United Kingdom*

YEAR	NUMERICAL VALUES (%)	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR (%)
2011	50%	0%
2012	58%	16.00%
2013	55%	-5.17%
2014	71%	29.09%
2015	68%	-4.23%
2016	71%	4.41%
2017	71,40%	0.56%
2018	75,40%	5.60%
2019	79%	4.77%
2020	77,30%	-2.03%
2021	65%	-16.04%
2022	67%	3.08%

Source: Prepared by the author using information from (HM Revenue & Customs, 2021); (Office for National Statistics, 2019); (Software Advice, 2017); (Statista, 2021).

The results of the multiple linear regression model for the numerical data in Table 9 for the United Kingdom are shown in Table 10.

Table 10. *Numerical Findings Obtained for the United Kingdom's Electronic Accounting Software Usage Based on the Multiple Linear Regression Model*

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0,657048328
R Square	0,431712505
Adjusted R Square	0,374883756
Standard Error	2,850703628
Observations	12

ANOVA					
	df	***SS***	***MS***	***F***	***Significance F***
Regression	1	61,73488826	61,73488826	7,596727174	0,020260941
Residual	10	81,26511174	8,126511174		
Total	11	143			

	Coefficients	***Standard Error***	***t Stat***	***P-value***	***Lower %95***	***Upper%95***	***Lower 95,0%***	***Upper 95,0%***
Intercept	1998,760165	6,4886957	308,0372786	3,19785E-21	1984,30245	2013,21788	1984,30245	2013,21788
X Variable 1	26,34302891	9,557679074	2,756216097	0,020260941	5,047192834	47,63886499	5,047192834	47,63886499

Source: Prepared by the author using information from (HM Revenue & Customs, 2021); (Office for National Statistics, 2019); (Software Advice, 2017); (Statista, 2021).

According to the multiple linear regression statistics in Table 9, the model appears to have some success in explaining the changes in electronic accounting software usage rates in the United Kingdom (R=0.657, R Square=0.432, Adjusted R Square=0.375). As a result of the ANOVA analysis, the model is statistically significant, and the X variable has a significant effect on electronic accounting software usage rates in the United Kingdom (F=7.60, p=0.020). A detailed

discussion of these findings will be presented in the "Findings and Discussion" section.

The trend curve for electronic accounting software usage rates based on the numerical data for the United Kingdom is also shown in Figure 5.

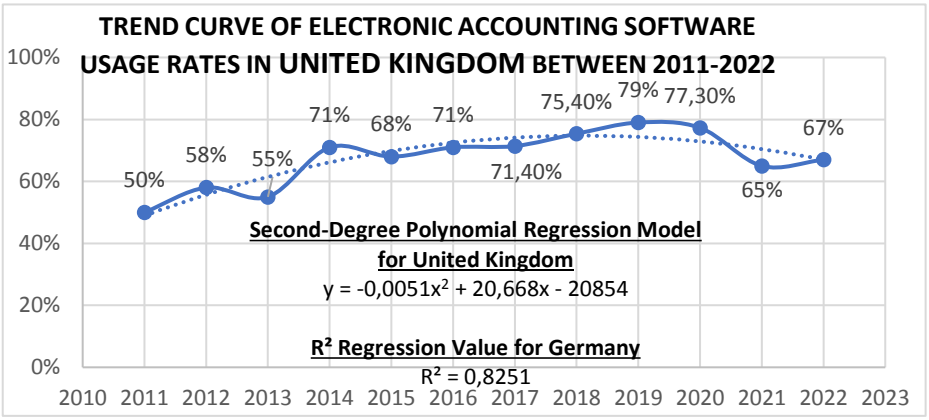

Figure 5. *Trend Curve for Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates in the United Kingdom*

Source: Prepared by the author using information from (HM Revenue & Customs, 2021); (Office for National Statistics, 2019); (Software Advice, 2017); (Statista, 2021).

4.6. MULTIPLE LINEAR REGRESSION ANALYSIS AND SECOND-DEGREE POLYNOMIAL REGRESSION MODEL OF ELECTRONIC ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE USAGE RATES IN TURKEY

The numerical data related to electronic accounting software usage rates in Turkey are presented in Table 11.

Table 11. *Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates in Turkey*

YEAR	NUMERICAL VALUES (%)	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR (%)
2011	13,70%	0%
2012	13,80%	0,73%
2013	24,50%	77,54%
2014	27,60%	12,65%
2015	31,00%	12,32%
2016	40,90%	32,03%
2017	47,30%	15,63%
2018	50,10%	5,92%
2019	54,20%	8,18%
2020	58,10%	7,20%
2021	62,60%	7,76%
2022	65,30%	4,32%

Source: Prepared by the author using information from (Republic of Turkey Ministry of Finance Revenue Administration, 2012-2022); (The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, 2021).

The results of the multiple linear regression model for the numerical data in Table 11 for Turkey are shown in Table 12.

Table 12. *Numerical Findings Obtained for Turkey's Electronic Accounting Software Usage Based on the Multiple Linear Regression Model*

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0,99129713
R Square	0,982670001
Adjusted R Square	0,980937001
Standard Error	0,497814212
Observations	12

ANOVA					
	df	***SS***	***MS***	***F***	***Significance F***
Regression	1	140,5218101	140,5218101	567,0340682	3,87483E-10
Residual	10	2,4781899	0,24781899		
Total	11	143			

	Coefficients	***Standard Error***	***t Stat***	***P-value***	***Lower %95***	***Upper%95***	***Lower 95,0%***	***Upper 95,0%***
Intercept	2008,538042	0,363935039	5518,946584	9,38724E-34	2007,727144	2009,348939	2007,727144	2009,348939
X Variable 1	19,53455343	0,820349488	23,81247715	3,87483E-10	17,70670086	21,362406	17,70670086	21,362406

Source: Prepared by the author using information from (Republic of Turkey Ministry of Finance Revenue Administration, 2012-2022); (The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, 2021).

According to the regression analysis results, the model's power to explain usage rates is quite high (R Square value=0.9826). The Significance F value indicates that the model is significant (F=3.87483E-10). The coefficient of X Variable 1 is calculated as 19.53, representing the increase in electronic accounting software usage. These results indicate that digital transformation in Turkey is accelerating, and the use of electronic accounting software is increasing. More information will be provided in the "Findings and Discussion" section.

The trend curve for electronic accounting software usage rates based on the numerical data for Turkey is also shown in Figure 6.

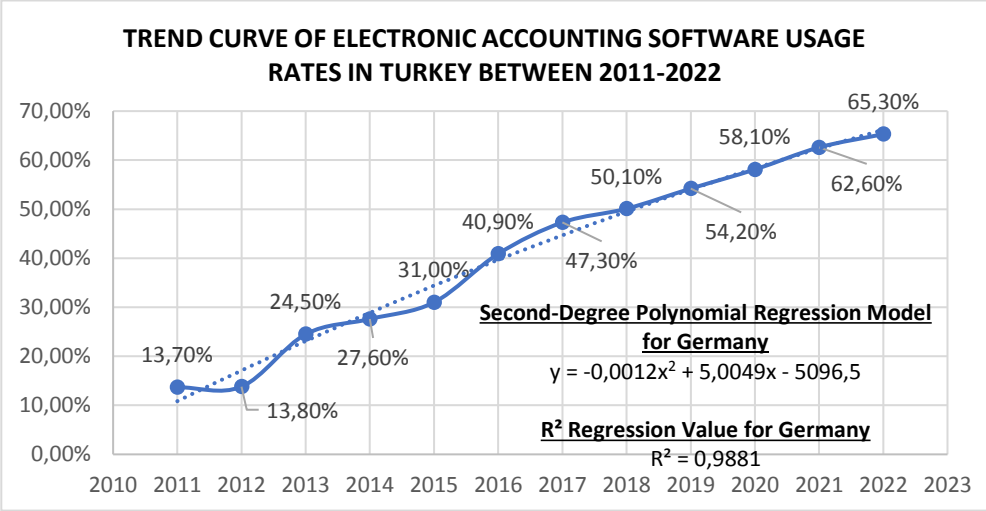

Figure 6. *Trend Curve for Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates in Turkey*

Source: Prepared by the author using data from the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Finance Revenue Administration (2012-2022) and Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (2021).

5. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the changes in electronic accounting software usage rates worldwide and in selected countries throughout the 2011-2022 period are examined. The findings obtained using multiple linear analysis and quadratic polynomial regression models are presented and discussed. Changes in the usage rates of electronic accounting software indicate the importance businesses and accounting professionals attach to digitalization. Figure 7 includes the trend curves and related regression models for usage rates in the worldwide context and selected developed countries between 2011 and 2022. The findings provide valuable insights into software adoption, influencing factors, and future usage trends.

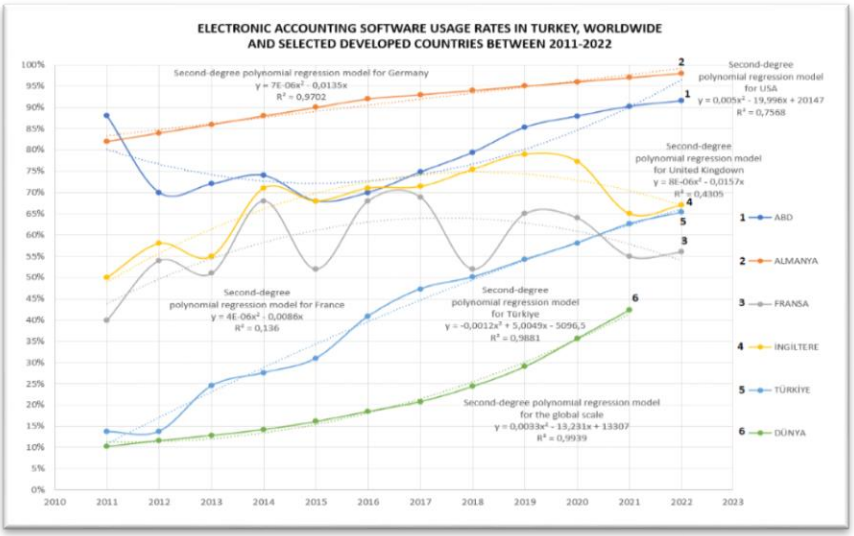

Figure 7. *Trend Curves of Electronic Accounting Software Usage Rates between 2011-2022 for Worldwide, Selected Developed Countries, and Turkey*

Source: Prepared by the author using data from International Accounting Standards Board (2021); Smith, Jones, and Lee (2023); Federal Statistical Office of Germany (2022); Association Française de Comptabilité Électronique (2020); Ministry of Economy of France (2021); Ministry of Economy of France (2022); HM Revenue & Customs (2021); Office for National Statistics (2019); Software Advice (2017); Statista (2021); Republic of Turkey Ministry of Finance Revenue Administration (2012-2022); Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (2021).

5.1. GLOBAL OVERVIEW

Between 2011 and 2022, there has been a general increase in the global usage rates of electronic accounting software, rising from 10.20% to 42.40% in 2021. However, a decline to 39.51% was observed between 2021 and 2022. The multiple R value (0.9536) and R-squared value (0.9094) indicate a strong relationship and explanation of variance. The F-statistic (90.32) and p-value (5.45709E-06) signify the model's significance.

Using the quadratic polynomial regression model "$y = 0.0033x^2 - 13.231x + 13307$", the estimated year of achieving 100% electronic accounting usage rate is approximately 2035. In this formula, "y" represents the electronic accounting usage rate, and "x" represents the year:

$$100 = 0.0033x^2 - 13.231x + 13307$$

$$0.0033x^2 - 13.231x + 13207 = 0$$

To solve the quadratic equation, the discriminant formula is used:

$$\Delta = b^2 - 4ac$$

$\Delta = (-13.231)^2 - 4\ (0.0033)\ (13207)$

$\Delta = 0.041321$

$x = (-b \pm \sqrt{\Delta}) / 2a$

$x \approx 2035.5$ or **1973.894** (1973 value is an invalid past estimate)

It should be noted that predictions are filled with uncertainties, and actual usage rates may differ from estimates. Reaching a 100% usage rate implies that business processes and financial reporting will be more efficient, faster, and reliable.

5.2. UNITED STATES

In the US, the electronic accounting software usage rates have varied between 2011 and 2022; although the general trend is increasing, declines have been observed in some years. In 2022, when the usage rate reached 91.50%, the slowing down of usage growth suggests that companies and professionals have widely adopted the software. According to multiple linear regression analysis, the year has a statistically significant effect on usage rates. The quadratic polynomial regression model is expressed as "$y = 0.005x^2 - 19.996x + 20147$ $R^2 = 0.7568$". Based on this data, the estimated year of achieving a 100% electronic accounting usage rate in the US is approximately 2031.

5.3. GERMANY

In Germany, the electronic accounting software usage rate increased from 82% to 98% between 2011 and 2022, recording a 19.51% growth. This continuous increase indicates the willingness of German companies to adapt to digital technologies and automation and benefit from the efficiency advantages provided by such technologies. Multiple linear regression analysis results reveal a strong impact of the year (independent variable) on electronic accounting software usage rates (dependent variable).

Analyses estimate that Germany, with a 98% electronic accounting software usage rate in 2022, will reach 100% electronic accounting usage in 2023. This reflects German companies' ability to adapt to digital technologies and automation and their eagerness to benefit from the improvements in business processes brought by these technologies.

5.4. FRANCE

In France, between 2011 and 2022, the usage rates of electronic accounting software have increased by 40% and experienced significant fluctuations. The results of the multiple linear regression analysis indicate a weak relationship between independent and dependent variables and that the model is not significant. The quadratic polynomial regression model presents unrealistic estimates with an R^2 value of 0.4969. This model predicts that France will reach a 100% electronic accounting software usage rate in 2063. However, due to the low R^2 value, the margin of error in these predictions is high, and it would be more accurate to use

alternative analytical methods for predicting future usage rates of electronic accounting software in France.

5.5. UNITED KINGDOM

In the United Kingdom, between 2011 and 2022, the usage rate of electronic accounting software has risen from 50% to 67%, marking a 34% increase. The results of the multiple linear regression analysis show a moderate relationship between independent and dependent variables and that the year explains 43.17% of the change in usage rates. The significance F value is low, indicating that the year has a statistically significant effect on the usage rates of electronic accounting software. According to the quadratic polynomial regression model ("y = -0.0051x2 + 20.668x - 20854 R^2 = 0.8251"), the estimated year when the United Kingdom's electronic accounting usage rate, which is 67% in 2022, will reach 100% is approximately 2037. This data demonstrates that electronic accounting software is becoming increasingly prevalent in the United Kingdom and its importance is growing.

5.6. TURKEY

In Turkey, between 2011 and 2022, the usage rates of electronic accounting software have increased by 51.60%, reaching 65.30% in 2022. Significant growth in usage rates has occurred during this period. The results of the multiple linear regression analysis show that the year (independent variable) has a significant effect on usage rates (dependent variable) and explains 98.27% of the variation with the R-square value. The quadratic polynomial regression model is represented by "y = -0.0012x^2 + 5.0049x - 5096.5 R^2 = 0.9881". Based on this data, the estimated year when electronic accounting software usage rates in Turkey will reach 100% is approximately 2029. These analyses shed light on Turkey's digital transformation process in the accounting sector.

6. COMPARISON OF THE RESULTS OF THE ANALYSES WITH TÜRKİYE

In this section, the usage rates of electronic accounting software are compared with Turkey, worldwide and selected developed countries, considering changes in usage rates, estimated years of 100% usage, and multiple linear regression analysis results. The benefits and uncertainties of increasing usage rates are evaluated, and the opportunities and challenges of this technological transformation are examined in Turkey and other countries for future predictions and strategic planning. The analyses and evaluations aim to contribute to understanding the trends and dynamics of electronic accounting software usage.

6.1. COMPARISON OF TURKEY WITH THE WORLD

Increase in usage rates: Both in Turkey and worldwide, the usage rates of electronic accounting software are continuously increasing. In Turkey, the usage rate increased from 13.70% to 65.30% during 2011-2022, while worldwide, it increased from 10.20% to 42.40% during 2011-2021.

Estimated year of 100% usage: In Turkey, it is predicted that the usage rate of electronic accounting software will reach 100% by 2029, while globally, this rate is expected to reach 100% by 2035.

Multiple linear regression analysis: In both Turkey and worldwide, a strong relationship is found between independent and dependent variables. The R-square value for Turkey is 0.9827, and for the world, the R-square value is 98.27%.

Benefits of the increase in usage rates: The increase in electronic accounting software usage rates in Turkey and worldwide allows accounting processes to become faster, error-free, and more efficient for businesses and individual users. Business-to-business and business-customer relationships are expected to become more transparent and manageable.

Uncertainties: In both general evaluations, uncertainties such as the speed of technological developments, the user adaptation process, and economic and political factors affect the usage rates.

6.2. COMPARISON OF TURKEY WITH THE USA

Increase in usage rates: In Turkey, the usage rate of electronic accounting software increased by 51.60% to 65.30% between 2011 and 2022. In the USA, the usage rates have also shown a significant increase during the same period. The increase in usage rates in both countries indicates that businesses are accelerating their digitalization and technology adaptation processes.

Estimated year of 100% usage: The estimated year for 100% usage of electronic accounting software in Turkey is 2029. In the USA, it is predicted that this rate will reach 100% by 2031.

Multiple linear regression analysis: In both countries, the usage rates of electronic accounting software were examined using multiple linear regression analysis. In Turkey, the R-square value was found to be 0.9827, while in the USA, this value was obtained as 0.9881. These values largely explain the annual change in electronic accounting software usage rates.

Benefits of the increase in usage rates: In both countries, the increase in electronic accounting software usage rates allows accounting processes to become faster and error-free for businesses and individual users. Additionally, more efficient and rapid financial reporting, lower costs, and better internal control mechanisms can enhance businesses' competitiveness.

Uncertainties: Fluctuations in usage rates indicate that sectoral, economic, and technological factors may affect the use of electronic accounting software. In particular, observed declines in certain periods can be associated with factors such as economic uncertainties, increased market competition, or industry regulations (Johnson, 2019, p. 79). This situation provides clues that the usage rates will follow a more stable course in the future for both countries.

6.3. COMPARISON OF TURKEY AND GERMANY IN TERMS OF INCREASE IN USAGE RATES

While the total increase in Turkey between the years 2011-2022 is 51.60%, a lower increase in usage rates was observed in Germany during the same period (16%). The rapid increase in the use of electronic accounting software in Turkey can be considered a significant achievement in adapting to digitalization. In Germany, although the increase is lower, their leading position in the digitalization process can be observed due to their initially high usage rate.

Estimated Year of 100% Usage: The estimated year when the electronic accounting software usage rate in Turkey will reach 100% is approximately 2029, whereas in Germany, this rate is expected to reach 100% in 2023. This situation indicates that Germany has achieved a faster adaptation in the digital transformation process in parallel with global trends.

Multiple Linear Regression Analysis: Multiple linear regression analyses conducted in both countries reveal that the year has a strong and statistically significant impact on electronic accounting software usage rates. These analyses demonstrate that the accounting sector in Turkey and Germany has adapted to the digitalization trend over time and embraced developments in this area.

Benefits of Increase in Usage Rates: The increase in electronic accounting software usage in Turkey and Germany allows accounting processes for businesses and individual users to become faster, error-free, and more efficient. This situation contributes to the economic growth and competitiveness of businesses in both countries.

Uncertainties: With the proliferation of electronic accounting software, some challenges and barriers are also encountered. In particular, the limited financial resources and technological infrastructure of small and medium-sized enterprises can make the digital transformation process difficult. Therefore, government policies and private sector support in both countries play a significant role in promoting and expanding the use of electronic accounting software.

6.4. COMPARISON OF TURKEY AND FRANCE INCREASE IN USAGE RATES

While the electronic accounting software usage rates in Turkey increased by 51.60% between 2011 and 2022, a 40% increase was observed in France during the same period. Although there was an increase in usage rates in both countries, the increase in Turkey occurred more rapidly. This indicates that Turkey has adapted more quickly to the digitalization process. In France, fluctuations in usage rates make it difficult to predict the future course.

Estimated Year of 100% Usage: While the estimated year when electronic accounting software usage rates in Turkey will reach 100% is approximately 2029, the estimates for when this rate will reach 100% in France are found to be unrealistic, with a high margin of error. This situation indicates the need to use other analysis methods to predict future usage rates in France.

Multiple Linear Regression Analysis: While the multiple linear regression analysis conducted in Turkey shows a strong and statistically significant impact of the year on electronic accounting software usage rates, the analysis in France indicates a low-level relationship and no statistically significant effect. This situation suggests that the analysis methods used may not be suitable for explaining usage rates in France and making future predictions.

Benefits of Increase in Usage Rates: The increase in electronic accounting software usage in both countries allows accounting processes for businesses and individual users to become faster, error-free, and more efficient. This situation contributes to the economic growth and competitiveness of businesses in Turkey and France.

Uncertainties: In order to predict the future course of electronic accounting software usage rates in France more accurately, other analysis methods need to be used. Additionally, the limited financial resources and technological infrastructure of small and medium-sized enterprises in both countries can lead to challenges in the digital transformation process. This situation may affect the course of the increase in electronic accounting software usage rates and increase uncertainties.

6.5. COMPARISON OF USAGE RATE INCREASES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND TURKEY

Between 2011 and 2022, the usage rate of electronic accounting software in Turkey increased by 51.60%, while in the United Kingdom, there was a 34% increase during the same period. Although both countries experienced an increase in usage rates, the growth was faster in Turkey. This indicates that Turkey has adapted more rapidly to the digitalization process. Fluctuations in usage rates in the United Kingdom make it difficult to predict their future course.

Estimated Year of 100% Usage: The estimated year when electronic accounting software usage rates in Turkey will reach 100% is approximately 2029, while predictions for the United Kingdom indicate that this rate will not be achieved until 2037. Turkey is expected to reach 100% electronic accounting usage earlier than the United Kingdom.

Multiple Linear Regression Analysis: The multiple linear regression analysis conducted in Turkey shows a strong and statistically significant effect on the usage rates of electronic accounting software throughout the year, while in the United Kingdom, it reveals a moderate relationship and statistically significant impact. This indicates that the analysis methods used produce different results in explaining usage rates in both countries and making future predictions.

Benefits of the Increase in Usage Rates: The increase in electronic accounting software usage in both countries enables faster, error-free, and more efficient accounting processes for businesses and individual users. This contributes to the economic growth of Turkey and the United Kingdom and the competitiveness of businesses.

Uncertainties: To predict the future course of electronic accounting software usage rates in the United Kingdom more accurately, alternative analysis methods need to be employed. Additionally, in both countries, it is essential to enhance the financial resources and technological infrastructure of small and medium-sized enterprises and accelerate digital transformation processes. In this context, it is of great importance for governments and industry organizations to develop policies and create support mechanisms in this regard.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The study addresses the digital transformation in accounting processes and the use of electronic accounting software rates in Turkey and developed countries, including the United States, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, from 2011 to 2022 using multiple linear regression analysis. The aim is to assess Turkey's position in the digital accounting transformation, identify its successes and shortcomings, and provide policy recommendations and business practices for areas that need improvement.

The results show that the gap between Turkey and developed countries in digital accounting transformation is gradually closing. Strengthening collaboration between the private and public sectors and placing importance on the education system and the role of the industry will contribute to Turkey's progress in digital accounting transformation (Kaya & Özdemir, 2020, p. 15).

The limitations of the study include the data period, sample size, and focus solely on electronic accounting software. Future research can expand the findings of this study by examining the digital accounting transformation performance of different countries.

There is a strong relationship between independent (years) and dependent variables (electronic accounting software usage rates). Usage rates in different countries indicate varying levels of success in adapting to the digitalization process. While Turkey appears to be adapting more quickly to the digitalization process, Germany and the United Kingdom can be observed to be in a more pioneering position.

The widespread use of electronic accounting software contributes to the economic growth and competitive strength of Turkey and other countries. However, the limited financial resources and technological infrastructure of small and medium-sized enterprises can make the digital transformation process more challenging (Kaya & Özdemir, 2020, p. 42).

Based on the findings, policy recommendations and business practices for digital accounting transformation may include:

- **Raising Awareness, Information, Education, and Skill Enhancement**: It is critically important for businesses and accounting professionals to understand the significance of digital accounting transformation and to develop their skill sets by participating in continuous education programs.

- **Strengthening Technological Infrastructure, Cybersecurity, and Developing Domestic Digital Accounting Software and Technologies**: It is essential for businesses to reinforce their technological infrastructure, prioritize cybersecurity issues, and use affordable, user-friendly electronic accounting software.
- **Supporting SMEs**: Incentives and grant programs provided by the government play an important role in encouraging SMEs to participate in digital transformation processes.
- **Reviewing and Updating Legislation and Regulations**: Legislation and regulations need to be reviewed and updated to support Turkey's digital accounting transformation process.
- **Promoting Global Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing**: Encouraging global cooperation and knowledge sharing in the field of digital accounting will help both Turkey and businesses worldwide to be more successful in their digital transformation processes. This will accelerate the dissemination of best practices and technologies and enable easier compliance with international standards.
- **The Role of Sectoral and Professional Organizations**: It is of great importance for professional organizations and sectoral associations in the accounting sector to organize training programs and inform their members to support and popularize digital accounting transformation. Furthermore, these organizations need to cooperate with the public and decision-makers regarding regulations and technological developments.
- **Sustainability and Environmental Impacts**: The use of electronic accounting software can contribute to businesses' sustainability goals. By reducing paper consumption, improving energy efficiency, and speeding up processes, it can play a significant role in minimizing environmental impacts. Efforts should be made to raise awareness and work in this direction for businesses and the sector.
- **Human Resources Management and Changing Workforce Structure**: Digital accounting transformation brings changes to the workforce structure and human resources management. It is crucial for businesses to adapt to these changes by organizing training to enhance employees' digital skills and adopting flexible working models. Moreover, businesses need to place greater emphasis on digital accounting skills in talent management and recruitment processes.

In conclusion, to accelerate Turkey's digital accounting transformation process and close the gap with developed countries, it is crucial to first accurately identify the current situation and deficiencies, and then to determine and implement effective policies and strategies. Despite the extensive period and detailed literature review conducted in this study, no similar research addressing the digital transformation in accounting processes of Turkey and selected developed countries has been encountered. This situation indicates that the study will contribute to the literature by providing unique value. The originality and value of the study hold the potential to add new perspectives to the existing knowledge pool, opening new

horizons for future research, and also, by forming a significant starting point for Turkey's digital accounting transformation, providing a foundation for future research and policy recommendations.

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