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Citation: Medhat, M. & Schmeling, M. (2022). Short-term Momentum. *The Review of Financial Studies*, 35(3), pp. 1480-1526. doi: 10.1093/rfs/hhab055

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Short-term Momentum*

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March 6, 2021

*First version: March 27, 2018. We thank Ralph Koijen (the editor), two anonymous referees, Cliff Asness, Pedro Barroso, John Campbell, Giovanni Cespa, Zhi Da, Alexander Hillert, Alexandre Jeanneret, Christian Julliard, Tim Krönke, Albert Menkveld, Markus Nöth, Richard Payne, Lasse Pedersen, Chris Polk, Angelo Ranaldo, Ioanid Roşu, Lucio Sarno, Julian Thimme, Gyuri Venter, Michela Verardo, Christian Wagner, Josef Zechner, and Irina Zviadadze for helpful comments and discussions. We also thank participants at the Chicago Quantitative Alliance 2018 fall conference, the Research in Behavioral Finance 2018 conference, the London Empirical Asset Pricing 2019 fall workshop, the Swiss Society for Financial Market Research 2019 annual meeting, the French Finance Association 2019 annual meeting, the London Business School 2019 summer symposium, and the 12th annual Hedge Fund Research Conference as well as seminar participants at various business schools and asset managers. We are grateful to Chicago Quantitative Alliance (CQA) for awarding us 1st place at their 2018 Academic Competition. All errors are our own.

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Short-term Momentum

Abstract

We document a striking pattern in U.S. and international stock returns: Double sorting on last month's return and share turnover reveals significant short-term reversal among low-turnover stocks whereas high-turnover stocks exhibit *short-term momentum*. Short-term momentum is as profitable and as persistent as conventional price momentum. It also survives transaction costs and is strongest among the largest, most liquid, and most extensively covered stocks. Our results are difficult to reconcile with models imposing strict rationality but are suggestive of an explanation based on some traders underappreciating the information in prices.

JEL Classification: G12, G14

Keywords: Momentum, Reversal, Trading volume, Bounded rationality

1. INTRODUCTION

A key stylized fact in the asset pricing literature is that stock returns exhibit reversal at short horizons of one month (Jegadeesh, 1990) but continuation—or *momentum*—at longer horizons between two and twelve months (Jegadeesh and Titman, 1993, 2001). In this paper, we show that reversal and momentum *coexist* with striking magnitudes at the one-month horizon. While last month’s thinly-traded stocks exhibit a strong short-term reversal effect, last month’s heavily-traded stocks exhibit an almost equally strong continuation effect which we dub *short-term momentum*. Figure 1 illustrates our main results for the U.S.

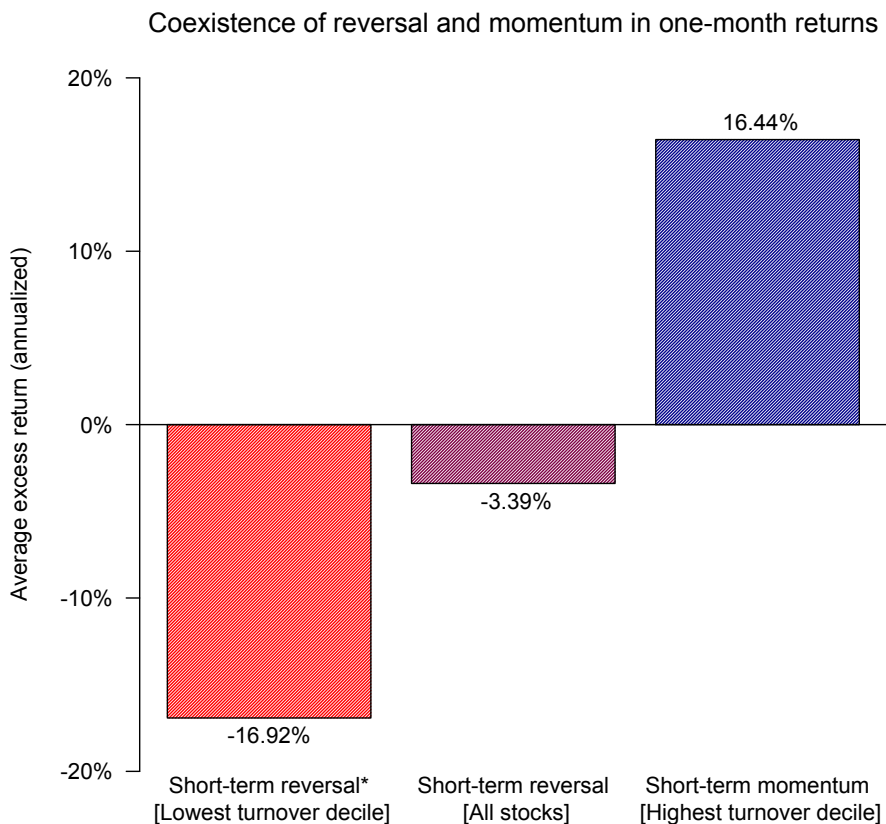


Figure 1: Coexistence of reversal and momentum in one-month returns. This figure shows average excess returns to three long-short strategies that buy last month’s winners and sell last month’s losers among U.S. stocks. The conventional short-term reversal strategy (Jegadeesh, 1990) is from a univariate decile sort on last month’s return using NYSE breakpoints. The *short-term reversal** and *short-term momentum* strategies trade the corner portfolios from double decile sorts on last month’s return and last month’s share turnover using NYSE breakpoints; short-term reversal* trades only in the lowest-turnover decile while short-term momentum trades only in the highest-turnover decile. The portfolios underlying all three strategies are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. The performance of the portfolios underlying the short-term reversal* and short-term momentum strategies is provided in Table I. The sample is all common non-financial shares on the NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ exchanges and covers July 1963 to December 2018.

To obtain our main results, we double decile sort stocks on last month’s return and last month’s share turnover using NYSE breakpoints and form value-weighted portfolios. We find, first, that there is significant short-term reversal among stocks with *low* share turnover. The *short-term reversal** strategy—which buys last month’s winners and shorts last month’s within the lowest turnover decile—generates a negative and significant average return of -16.9% per annum (Figure 1, left bar). Second, our key finding is that short-term reversal is reversed among stocks with *high* share turnover. The short-term momentum strategy—which buys last month’s winners and shorts last month’s losers within the highest turnover decile—generates a positive and significant average return of $+16.4\%$ per annum (Figure 1, right bar). We show that both strategies generate significant abnormal returns relative to the standard factor models currently applied in the literature. We also show that short-term momentum persists for 12 months and is strongest among the largest and most liquid stocks. Finally, we show that our main findings extend to 22 developed markets outside the U.S.

We provide additional results and robustness tests that shed light on the economic drivers of our findings. First, skipping the last few days of the formation month implies even stronger short-term momentum (on average 22.0% per annum) because this mitigates end-of-month liquidity trading (Etula, Rinne, Suominen, and Vaittinen, 2020). Second, short-term momentum survives conservative estimates of transaction costs (Novy-Marx and Velikov, 2015). Third, while short-term momentum is naturally related to conventional price- and earnings-momentum strategies, its correlations with such strategies are moderate and do not appear to fully capture its average return, at least when judged by standard spanning tests. Fourth, in a similar way, short-term momentum does not appear to be driven by momentum in industry returns (Moskowitz and Grinblatt, 1999) or by momentum in factor returns (Ehsani and Linnainmaa, 2020). Fifth, it is not a result of any correlation between share turnover and either of size, liquidity, or volatility. Lastly, it exhibits far less crash risk than does conventional price momentum (Daniel and Moskowitz, 2016).

Short-term momentum is difficult to reconcile with rational expectations equilibrium (REE) models of the volume-return relation. In Campbell, Grossman, and Wang (1993), noninformational trading due to liquidity demand causes temporary price pressure when absorbed by liquidity suppliers. As a result, returns coupled with high volume will subsequently reverse. This runs opposite to short-term momentum. In Wang (1994) and Llorente,

Michaely, Saar, and Wang (2002), informed trading due to private information causes persistent price movements that counteract temporary price pressure. Hence, among stocks with a high degree of information asymmetry, returns coupled with high volume will reverse less and may even continue. This would be an explanation for short-term momentum *if* it were driven by high-information-asymmetry stocks. However, while Wang and Llorente et al. argue that such stocks should be small, illiquid, and have low analyst coverage, short-term momentum is *strongest* among the largest, most liquid, and most extensively covered stocks.¹

The literature on ‘boundedly rational’ traders suggests an alternative mechanism that potentially explains short-term momentum: Underinference from prices. When some traders fail to fully infer others’ information from prices, expected volume is higher and prices underreact to the available information relative to the case with solely rational traders. Underreaction in turn causes persistent price movements that counteract temporary price pressure.² Hence, an explanation based on bounded rationality would suggest that short-term momentum should be stronger among stocks where any underinference from prices is not overwhelmed by non-informational trading. We argue that the cross-sectional variation in short-term momentum is suggestive of such an explanation: It is strongest among the largest and most liquid stocks, whose returns tend to be less affected by temporary price pressure (Avramov, Chordia, and Goyal, 2006; Nagel, 2012; Hendershott and Menkveld, 2014), and it is also stronger among stocks with greater dispersion in analysts’ forecasts, which is a common proxy for disagreement among traders (Diether, Malloy, and Scherbina, 2002; Verardo, 2009; Banerjee, 2011).

Lastly, to assist in differentiating between fully and boundedly rational explanations, we investigate how volume affects the ability of realized returns to predict firms’ fundamentals. Intuitively, ‘fully rational’ volume ultimately emanates from noninformational trading. By contrast, ‘boundedly rational’ volume reflects both underreaction to the available information as well as any noninformational trading. Hence, higher volume should decrease the ability of realized returns to predict fundamentals if all traders are fully rational, but should increase it if underinference has a detectable effect. Empirically, we find in cross-sectional regressions

¹Wang argues that contemporaneous evidence “is consistent with our model if we assume that there is more information asymmetry in the market for small-size firms than for large-size firms” (p. 151). Llorente et al. proxy for higher information asymmetry using smaller size, lower liquidity, and lower analyst coverage.

²Models of boundedly rational traders have been invoked to explain why volume greatly exceeds what is expected under REE and why patterns in returns and volume are tightly linked (see, e.g., Hong and Stein 2007 and French 2008). Underreaction is often invoked as the mechanism underlying return continuation in models that relax the strict rationality assumption (see, e.g., Fama 1998 and Daniel and Hirshleifer 2015).

that the interaction of one-month returns and turnover predicts the following year’s growth in gross profits and earnings with a positive and significant slope coefficient.

Because our findings are at the one-month horizon, they differ from those in the extant literature on the volume-return relation, which has primarily focused on the weekly horizon. [Conrad, Hameed, and Niden \(1994\)](#) find that, among NASDAQ stocks, higher growth in the number of transactions is associated with more reversal in weekly returns. In contrast, [Cooper \(1999\)](#) finds that, among the largest NYSE/AMEX stocks, higher growth in trading volume is associated with less reversal in weekly returns.³ Despite their opposing findings, both papers find only limited evidence of continuation. We conjecture that this is because temporary price pressure dominates other effects at the weekly horizon. Indeed, [Avramov et al. \(2006\)](#) find that, controlling for illiquidity, higher turnover implies more reversal at the weekly horizon but less reversal at the monthly horizon. They do not, however, document monthly return continuation among high-turnover stocks, as we do, nor do they study their findings in the context of momentum effects. Moreover, we find that the returns to *weekly* short-term momentum strategies are on average *negative* (in line with our price-pressure conjecture), but become more negative with illiquidity, which shows that our evidence against the high-information-asymmetry mechanism also holds at the weekly horizon. We contribute to this literature by documenting the *coexistence* of statistically and economically significant reversal and momentum effects in one-month returns separated by the level of turnover.^{4,5}

³In his explanation for the opposing findings, [Cooper \(1999\)](#) conjectures that “in the context of Wang’s (1994) model, it may be that in periods of large price movements, high volume for smaller (larger) stocks represents a higher percentage of liquidity (informed) traders, resulting in greater subsequent reversals (continuations)” (p. 921). This contrasts with [Wang’s \(1994\)](#) argument that high-information-asymmetry stocks should be *smaller*, not larger (see our [footnote 1](#)). While our evidence in principle supports [Cooper’s](#) conjecture, we argue in [Section 4](#) that it is for reasons outside of the [Wang](#) model.

⁴Our asset pricing tests employ value-weighted portfolios from sorts based on NYSE breakpoints as well as weighted least squares (WLS) cross-sectional regressions with market capitalization as weight. [Llorente et al. \(2002\)](#) use stock-by-stock, full-sample regressions of daily returns on the previous day’s return and its interaction with de-trended log-turnover in their tests. Based on ex-post cross-sectional variation in the interaction coefficients, they argue that high-volume days are followed by return continuation among the smallest and most illiquid stocks. Since their horizon is daily and their findings are not based on investable portfolios, their tests are inherently different from ours. Furthermore, the fact that any such daily return continuation is limited to the smallest and most illiquid stocks raises questions about its economic significance.

⁵[Asness \(1995\)](#) finds stronger one-month reversal among low-volume stocks but does not document continuation among high-volume ones. [Lee and Swaminathan \(2000\)](#) study how volume affects the relation between the value- and momentum effects, but consider longer formation periods of at least three months. [Gervais, Kaniel, and Mingelgrin \(2001\)](#) find that stocks with unusually high volume over a day or a week outperform those with unusually low volume. [Cespa, Gargano, Riddiough, and Sarno \(2020\)](#) find more reversal in daily currency returns among low-volume currencies but do not find continuation among high-volume currencies.

Our paper is also related to a recent literature that sheds new light on the economic sources of momentum. [Goyal and Jegadeesh \(2018\)](#) find that time-series momentum, once stripped of its implicit time-varying investment in the market, has little incremental power beyond cross-sectional momentum in pricing tests (see also [Huang, Li, Wang, and Zhou, 2020](#)). In turn, [Ehsani and Linnainmaa \(2020\)](#) find that conventional price- and industry momentum are spanned by momentum in factor returns. Theoretically, [Luo, Subrahmanyam, and Titman \(2020\)](#) propose an explanation for momentum based on sequential learning with overconfidence and skepticism, i.e., a form of bounded rationality. We contribute to this literature by reconciling the strands that document reversal at the one-month horizon but momentum at the 12-2 months horizon—in particular, we show that momentum coexists with reversal at the one-month horizon, albeit confined to the stocks with the highest trading activity. In addition, we provide guidance as to which broader class of models (fully vs. boundedly rational) that is most plausible as an explanation for short-term momentum.

2. MAIN RESULTS

This section presents our main results. We first show that double sorting on last month’s return and turnover reveals strong reversal among low-turnover stocks but almost equally strong momentum among high-turnover stocks. We then show that standard risk-factors cannot account for either effect; that the returns to the short-term momentum strategy persist for 12 months after formation; and that short-term momentum is strongest among the largest stocks. Finally, we show that our main results also hold internationally.

2.1. Data and key variables

Our main sample is all NYSE/AMEX/NASDAQ stocks on both CRSP and Compustat. We keep only ordinary common shares (CRSP’s SHRCD 10 or 11). Following [Fama and French \(1993, 2015\)](#), we impose a six month lag between annual accounting data and subsequent returns to avoid look-ahead bias. Hence, if a firm’s fiscal year ends in December of calendar year $t - 1$, we assume that this data is publicly available at the end of June of calendar year t . Following [Hou, Xue, and Zhang \(2015, 2020\)](#), we exclude financial firms, although retaining these has no impact on our results. Our main sample covers July 1963 to December 2018.

We later show that our main results also hold in the CRSP sample that goes back to 1926.

Our asset pricing tests relate one-month returns to last month’s return ($r_{1,0}$) and trading volume. A one-month holding period is standard in the literature and last month’s return is the signal underlying Jegadeesh’s (1990) short-term reversal strategy. To be consistent, we use the same one-month horizon when measuring trading volume. Following Lo and Wang (2000) and Avramov et al. (2006), we deflate the total volume of trades by the number of shares outstanding to obtain share turnover ($TO_{1,0}$; CRSP’s VOL times 100 to get actual values divided by SHROUT times 1000 to get actual values). Following Gao and Ritter (2010), we adjust the trading volume of NASDAQ stocks prior to 2004 to ensure comparability with NYSE and AMEX stocks, although our results are the same with or without this adjustment.⁶ We later show that our findings are robust to using longer formation periods of up to 6 months, but that the one-month formation period produces the strongest results.

2.2. Double sorts on last month’s return and turnover

Table I shows average excess returns to portfolios double sorted on last month’s return ($r_{1,0}$) and turnover ($TO_{1,0}$). We use conditional decile sorts based on NYSE breakpoints, first on $r_{1,0}$ and then on $TO_{1,0}$ within $r_{1,0}$ deciles. Hence, we first separate winners from losers and then separate heavily-traded stocks from thinly-traded ones among winners and losers. Portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. We use deciles to account for any non-linearities and conditional sorts because independent ones give a few empty portfolios before July 1969.⁷ The table also shows the performance of high-minus-low strategies within each decile. Abnormal returns are relative to Fama and French’s (2015) five-factor model plus the momentum factor (FF6) and Hou et al.’s (2015) q -factor model. Test statistics are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation (Newey and West, 1987).

⁶Prior to February 2001, we divide NASDAQ volume by 2.0. From February 2001 to December 2001, we divide by 1.8. From January 2002 to December 2003, we divide by 1.6. From January 2004 and onwards, NASDAQ volume no longer differs from NYSE and AMEX volume, and we apply no adjustment.

⁷The models of Campbell et al. (1993), Wang (1994), and Llorente et al. (2002) suggest a non-linear relation between expected- and realized returns for a given level of volume. Conditional sorts allow us to use the full sample period, but Table IA.2 in the Appendix shows similar results for independent sorts starting from July 1969. Sorting first on returns and then on turnover produces the largest spreads in holding-period returns, but the results are similar for the reverse sorting order. The average cross-sectional rank correlation between one-month returns and turnover is 9.99% ($t = 8.29$), so the interpretation of the double sorts is largely unaffected by the sorting order. Our use of conditional decile sorts based on NYSE breakpoints follows Fama and French (1992). Fama and French (2015, 2016) also use conditional sorts based on NYSE breakpoints in some of their tests and Ken French maintains several decile double sorts on his website.

Table I: Double sorts on last month's returns and turnover. This table shows portfolios double sorted on last month's return ($r_{1,0}$) and turnover ($TO_{1,0}$). We use conditional sorts into deciles based on NYSE breakpoints, first on $r_{1,0}$ and then on $TO_{1,0}$. Portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. The table also shows the performance of long-short strategies across the deciles. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. Time-series averages of the portfolio characteristics are provided in [Table IA.1](#) in the Appendix. The sample excludes financial firms. Data are monthly and cover July 1963 to December 2018, except for the q -factors, which are available from January 1967.

	$r_{1,0}$ deciles										$r_{1,0}$ strategies			
	Low	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	High	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q	
Portfolio excess return														
$TO_{1,0}$ deciles	Low	1.28	1.23	0.99	0.85	0.70	0.80	0.59	0.74	0.26	-0.14	-1.41	-1.45	-1.43
		(-5.04)	(-1.75)	(0.59)	(0.80)	(1.34)	(-0.05)	(1.58)	(1.54)	(2.76)	(5.46)	(-7.13)	(-6.19)	(-5.95)
	2	1.54	1.22	0.98	0.99	1.05	0.98	0.70	0.69	0.57	0.35	-1.19	-1.31	-1.34
		(-4.71)	(-1.33)	(0.79)	(0.73)	(1.32)	(-0.09)	(1.48)	(2.12)	(3.29)	(5.34)	(-4.61)	(-4.04)	(-4.21)
	3	1.71	1.53	0.96	1.11	0.99	0.94	0.75	0.60	0.64	0.36	-1.34	-1.62	-1.66
		(-4.98)	(-0.57)	(0.82)	(0.18)	(1.39)	(0.07)	(1.17)	(1.41)	(3.15)	(5.07)	(-5.02)	(-5.61)	(-4.87)
	4	1.51	1.35	1.43	0.98	1.10	1.07	0.81	0.83	0.64	0.65	-0.85	-1.02	-0.91
		(-4.98)	(-0.57)	(0.82)	(0.18)	(1.39)	(0.07)	(1.17)	(1.41)	(3.15)	(5.07)	(-3.63)	(-4.15)	(-2.92)
	5	1.11	1.10	1.26	1.17	1.10	1.00	0.60	0.92	0.90	0.66	-0.45	-0.63	-0.51
		(-4.98)	(-0.57)	(0.82)	(0.18)	(1.39)	(0.07)	(1.17)	(1.41)	(3.15)	(5.07)	(-1.94)	(-2.29)	(-1.54)
	6	1.26	1.38	1.40	1.14	1.00	1.14	1.12	1.19	0.78	0.67	-0.59	-0.60	-0.41
		(-4.98)	(-0.57)	(0.82)	(0.18)	(1.39)	(0.07)	(1.17)	(1.41)	(3.15)	(5.07)	(-2.50)	(-2.35)	(-1.20)
	7	1.39	1.06	1.12	1.22	0.84	1.05	0.83	0.98	0.96	0.73	-0.67	-0.85	-0.96
		(-4.98)	(-0.57)	(0.82)	(0.18)	(1.39)	(0.07)	(1.17)	(1.41)	(3.15)	(5.07)	(-2.52)	(-2.55)	(-2.37)
	8	0.92	1.17	1.25	0.99	1.12	1.02	1.02	0.85	0.82	1.15	0.23	0.13	0.21
		(-4.98)	(-0.57)	(0.82)	(0.18)	(1.39)	(0.07)	(1.17)	(1.41)	(3.15)	(5.07)	(0.85)	(0.47)	(0.60)
	9	0.71	1.37	1.29	1.24	1.21	1.22	1.00	1.12	1.02	0.75	0.05	0.00	0.19
		(-4.98)	(-0.57)	(0.82)	(0.18)	(1.39)	(0.07)	(1.17)	(1.41)	(3.15)	(5.07)	(0.21)	(0.01)	(0.55)
	High	0.00	0.83	1.14	1.08	1.03	0.78	1.01	1.16	0.99	1.36	1.37	1.37	1.65
		(-4.98)	(-0.57)	(0.82)	(0.18)	(1.39)	(0.07)	(1.17)	(1.41)	(3.15)	(5.07)	(4.74)	(4.22)	(4.47)
$TO_{1,0}$ strategies														
	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	-1.28	-0.41	0.15	0.23	0.33	-0.01	0.42	0.42	0.73	1.50			
		(-5.04)	(-1.75)	(0.59)	(0.80)	(1.34)	(-0.05)	(1.58)	(1.54)	(2.76)	(5.46)			
	α_{FF6}	-1.26	-0.31	0.18	0.17	0.29	-0.02	0.34	0.57	0.81	1.56			
		(-4.71)	(-1.33)	(0.79)	(0.73)	(1.32)	(-0.09)	(1.48)	(2.12)	(3.29)	(5.34)			
	α_q	-1.39	-0.14	0.21	0.05	0.33	0.02	0.28	0.42	0.91	1.70			
		(-4.98)	(-0.57)	(0.82)	(0.18)	(1.39)	(0.07)	(1.17)	(1.41)	(3.15)	(5.07)			

The double sorts reveal a striking pattern in one-month returns. The strategy that buys last month’s winners and shorts last month’s losers within the *lowest* turnover decile yields -1.41% per month with $t = -7.13$, which is evidence of strong reversal in one-month returns for low-turnover stocks. We label this effect “short-term reversal*” (STREV*) to distinguish it from the conventional short-term reversal effect. In stark contrast, the winner-minus-loser strategy within the *highest* turnover decile yields $+1.37\%$ per month with $t = 4.74$, which is evidence of strong *continuation* in one-month returns for high-turnover stocks. Consequently, we label this effect “short-term momentum” (STMOM).⁸ The abnormal returns of the STMOM and STREV* strategies are as large and as strong as the strategies’ average returns. On average, the STMOM strategy generates all its profits on the long side.

The double sorts also reveal that there is significant one-month reversal in the bottom seven turnover deciles, although the magnitude of the reversal effect generally weakens with turnover before switching signs and becoming significantly positive in the highest turnover decile. Hence, momentum coexists with reversal at the one-month horizon, although it is confined to the highest turnover decile in these benchmark results. Nonetheless, we later show that the stocks that tend to exhibit short-term momentum are among the largest and most liquid, which emphasizes the economic importance of the effect. In addition, we will show that skipping the end of the formation month implies not only stronger short-term momentum but also significant continuation in the ninth turnover decile. As a result, (independent) quintile double sorts are in fact sufficient to document short-term momentum when skipping the end of the formation month. Lastly, we will show that the results of [Table I](#) are not limited to the U.S. but extend to 22 international developed markets.

2.3. Factor exposures and abnormal returns

[Table II](#) shows spanning tests for the STMOM and STREV* strategies. The explanatory variables are the FF6 factors as well as the conventional one-month short-term reversal factor (STREV); the 60-13 month long-term reversal factor (LTREV; see [De Bondt and Thaler, 1985](#)); and [Pástor and Stambaugh’s \(2003\)](#) traded liquidity factor (PSLIQ).⁹ ?? in

⁸For comparison, the conventional STREV strategy (from a univariate decile sort on $r_{1,0}$) yields -0.28% with $t = -1.68$ over our sample; see also [Hou et al. \(2015, 2020\)](#). The corresponding conventional momentum strategy (from a univariate decile sort on prior 12-2 month return) yields 1.21% per month with $t = 4.77$.

⁹The returns to the conventional short- and long-term reversal factors are from Ken French’s website. The returns to the traded liquidity factor are from Lubos Pástor’s website.

Table II: Short-term momentum’s factor exposures and abnormal returns. This table shows time-series regressions for the short-term momentum (STMOM) and short-term reversal* (STREV*) strategies from Table I. The explanatory variables are the factors from Fama and French’s (2015) five-factor model in addition to the momentum factor (MOM), the two reversal factors (STREV and LTREV), and the traded liquidity factor (PSLIQ). Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. Data are monthly and cover July 1963 to December 2018, except for specifications employing PSLIQ, which is available from January 1968.

Intercepts, slopes, and test-statistics (in parentheses) from time-series regressions of the form $y_t = \alpha + \beta' \mathbf{X}_t + \epsilon_t$								
Independent variable	Short-term momentum strategy [winner-minus-loser, high turnover]				Short-term reversal* strategy [winner-minus-loser, low turnover]			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Intercept (α)	1.37 (4.74)	1.56 (5.54)	1.37 (4.22)	2.21 (7.54)	-1.41 (-7.13)	-1.29 (-6.57)	-1.45 (-6.19)	-0.93 (-4.43)
MKT		-0.38 (-4.53)	-0.35 (-3.97)	-0.14 (-1.96)		-0.25 (-3.67)	-0.16 (-2.87)	-0.01 (-0.17)
SMB			0.00 (-0.03)	0.04 (0.44)			-0.30 (-2.59)	-0.19 (-2.40)
HML			0.03 (0.12)	0.08 (0.45)			0.00 (-0.04)	0.11 (0.91)
RMW			-0.40 (-1.56)	-0.34 (-2.80)			-0.09 (-0.86)	-0.14 (-1.29)
CMA			0.18 (0.66)	-0.20 (-0.98)			0.05 (0.24)	0.02 (0.07)
MOM			0.33 (1.89)	0.05 (0.54)			0.30 (4.05)	0.13 (2.80)
STREV				-1.51 (-14.38)				-0.97 (-11.11)
LTREV				0.34 (2.68)				-0.16 (-1.12)
PSLIQ				0.08 (0.97)				-0.06 (-0.99)
Adj. R^2		3.8%	6.8%	34.0%		3.6%	9.8%	35.1%

the appendix shows the corresponding results using the q -factors.

The STMOM strategy has a significantly negative market loading and a marginally significant, positive loading on the conventional momentum factor. It does not load significantly on the remaining FF6 factors. Controlling for the conventional reversal factors increases STMOM’s abnormal return to 2.21% per month with $t = 7.54$. The STREV* strategy has only modest loadings on the FF6 factors, and controlling for the conventional reversal factors does not fully capture its average return. Neither strategy loads significantly on PSLIQ.¹⁰

¹⁰The STMOM strategy is not within the univariate span of the MOM factor (abnormal return of 1.13% with $t = 3.36$). The converse is also true. The STREV* strategy is not within the univariate span of the standard STREV factor (abnormal return of -0.91% with $t = -4.78$), but the standard STREV factor is, in fact, within the univariate span of the STREV* strategy (abnormal return of 0.03% with $t = 0.31$).

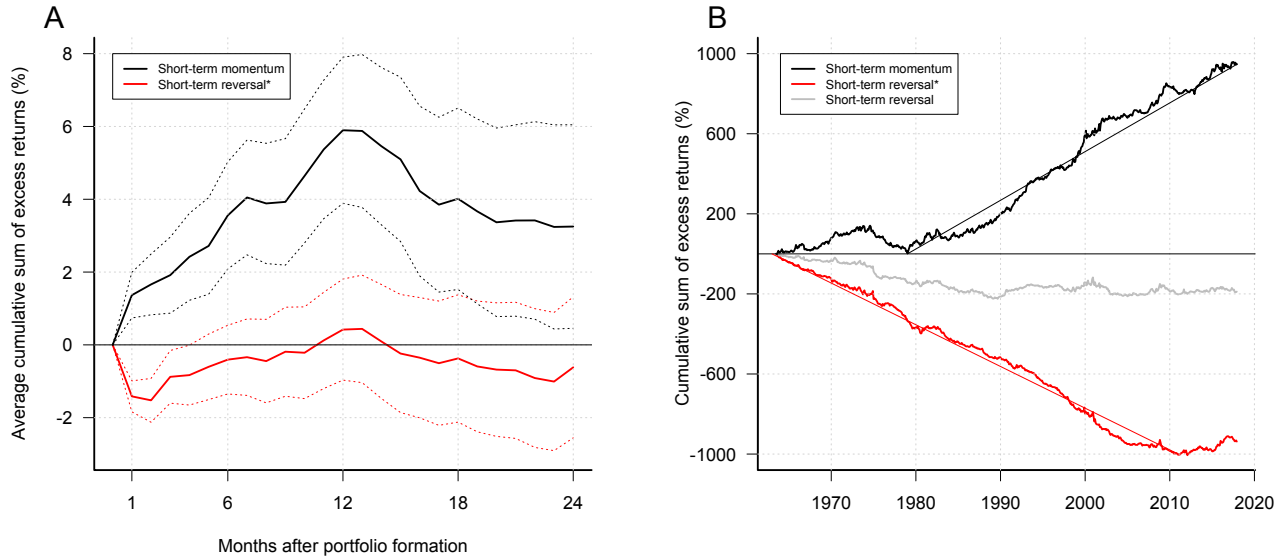


Figure 2: Short-term momentum’s persistence and historical performance. Panel A shows the average cumulative sum of post-formation excess returns to each of the short-term momentum (STMOM) and short-term reversal* (STREV*) strategies along with 95% confidence bands. Panel B shows a time-series plot of cumulative sums of excess returns to STMOM and STREV* as well as a conventional short-term reversal strategy. Data are monthly and cover July 1963 to December 2018.

2.4. Persistence and historical performance

Panel A of [Figure 2](#) shows average cumulative sums of post-formation returns to the STMOM and STREV* strategies along with 95% confidence bands. The average cumulative performance of STREV* is indistinguishable from zero just three months after formation. The short-lived nature of the average returns to STREV* suggest it is capturing the easing of strong but temporary price pressure among low-turnover stocks. In contrast, there is much stronger drift in the average returns to STMOM, which on average persist for 12 months after formation. This is similar to conventional momentum strategies (see, e.g., [Jegadeesh and Titman, 2001](#)) and suggests that STMOM is capturing strong and persistent price movements among high-turnover stocks. In practical terms, it means that traders can build up positions in STMOM relatively slowly and reduce trading costs by rebalancing less frequently.

Panel B shows a time-series plot of cumulative sums of excess returns to the two strategies. STREV* returns are remarkably consistent until 2011, but have slightly tapered off more recently. We suspect that generally increasing market liquidity is responsible for this trend. STMOM earned low returns during 1975-79, but has otherwise delivered consistently positive returns with no other subsample significantly affecting its performance.

Table III: Short-term momentum controlling for size. This table shows the performance of short-term momentum (STMOM) and short-term reversal* (STREV*) strategies constructed with a control for size (market capitalization). In Panels A and B, the strategies are from $N \times 3 \times 3$ conditional sorts on size, last month’s return, and last month’s turnover, in that order, where the breakpoints for returns and turnover are the 20th and 80th percentiles for NYSE stocks. In Panel A, $N = 2$ and the size breakpoint is the NYSE median; in panel B, $N = 5$ and the size breakpoints are NYSE quintiles. In Panel C, the strategies are from 2×2 independent sorts on returns and turnover among the 500 largest stocks by monthly market capitalization, where the breakpoints for returns and turnover are the 250th rank. All portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. The sample excludes financial firms. Data are monthly and cover July 1963 to December 2018, except when applying the q -factors, which are available from January 1967.

Size group	Short-term momentum strategies [winner-minus-loser, high turnover] controlling for size			Short-term reversal* strategies [winner-minus-loser, low turnover] controlling for size		
	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q
Panel A: Size breakpoint is NYSE median						
Small-cap	0.20 (0.89)	0.03 (0.12)	0.06 (0.17)	-1.41 (-9.03)	-1.51 (-7.59)	-1.53 (-7.33)
Large-cap	0.62 (3.01)	0.52 (2.25)	0.64 (2.12)	-0.84 (-5.45)	-0.92 (-6.38)	-0.83 (-5.00)
Panel B: Size breakpoints are NYSE quintiles						
Microcap	-0.34 (-1.21)	-0.49 (-1.35)	-0.53 (-1.26)	-2.04 (-10.28)	-2.17 (-9.97)	-2.17 (-8.56)
2	0.20 (0.77)	0.07 (0.26)	0.03 (0.07)	-1.19 (-7.12)	-1.20 (-7.01)	-1.26 (-7.03)
3	0.40 (1.66)	0.29 (1.09)	0.44 (1.33)	-1.20 (-6.93)	-1.28 (-5.97)	-1.19 (-5.32)
4	0.34 (1.40)	0.27 (1.08)	0.38 (1.22)	-1.23 (-7.80)	-1.15 (-6.71)	-1.01 (-5.09)
Megacap	0.53 (2.53)	0.43 (2.21)	0.48 (2.01)	-0.74 (-4.27)	-0.80 (-4.77)	-0.72 (-3.82)
Panel C: 500 largest stocks						
Largest 500	0.42 (4.91)	0.43 (4.99)	0.41 (4.19)	-0.02 (-0.19)	0.02 (0.18)	-0.02 (-0.10)

2.5. Short-term momentum and size

Table III shows the performance of size-conditional STMOM and STREV* strategies. In Panel A, we use $2 \times 3 \times 3$ conditional sorts on last month’s size (market capitalization), return, and turnover, in that order. The breakpoint for size is the median for NYSE stocks, while the breakpoints for returns and turnover are the 20th and 80th percentiles for NYSE stocks. Portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. STREV* yields -0.84% per month among large-caps ($t = -5.45$) but a considerably larger -1.41% per month among small-caps ($t = -9.03$). STMOM, on the other hand, yields a significant

0.62% per month among large-caps ($t = 3.01$) but an insignificant 20 basis points per month among small-caps. The strategies’ abnormal returns tell a similar story.

In Panel B, we use a finer size sort according to NYSE quintiles but maintain the breakpoints for returns and turnover as in Panel A. STREV* yields an extremely large -2.04% per month among microcaps ($t = -10.28$) but a comparably much smaller -0.74% per month among megacaps ($t = -4.27$). In contrast, the average return to STMOM is almost monotonically increasing with size: -0.34% per month among microcaps ($t = -1.21$), around 0.30% per month for the intermediate quintiles (t -statistics between 0.77 and 1.66), and a statistically and economically significant 0.53% per month with $t = 2.53$ among megacaps.

Lastly, we consider the strategies’ performance when constructed exclusively from the 500 largest stocks by monthly market capitalization. At the end of each month, we rank these stocks on last month’s return and form two portfolios using the 250th rank as the breakpoint. Independently, we use the same procedure to form two portfolios based on last month’s share turnover. The intersection produces four portfolios, which are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. Panel C shows that the largest-500 STMOM strategy yields 0.42% per month with $t = 4.91$ along with equally large and strong abnormal returns. The largest-500 STREV* strategy, however, yields just -2 basis points per month.¹¹

Table III shows that the lion’s share of STREV* returns come from microcaps. This is not surprising, since short-term reversal is often attributed to temporary price pressure (as a result of liquidity demand or other microstructure issues), which tend to have a greater impact on the returns of smaller stocks (Avramov et al., 2006; Nagel, 2012; Hendershott and Menkveld, 2014). By the same logic, it is not surprising that STMOM derives the majority of its performance from megacaps, since their returns tend to be much less affected by temporary price pressure.¹² However, it is important to stress that our results are *not* mechanically driven by any correlation between turnover and size. While the two are positively correlated in the cross section (average cross-sectional rank correlation of 28.8% with $t = 4.43$), ?? in

¹¹The largest-500 STMOM strategy trades in an average of 129 and 121 stocks on its long- and short sides with average market capitalizations of \$14.0 and \$13.7 billion. In December 2018 (the end of our sample), the top 5 holdings on the long side were Alphabet, Exxon, Walmart, AT&T, and Home Depot, while the top 5 holdings on the short side were Microsoft, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Verizon, and Procter & Gamble.

¹²Hendershott and Menkveld, for instance, study price pressure across NYSE size quintiles and find that “[p]rice pressure for the quintile of largest stocks is 17 basis points with a half life of 0.54 days. For the smallest-stocks quintile, it is 118 basis points with a half life of 2.11 days. These price pressures are roughly the size of the (effective) bid-ask spread.” (p. 406).

the Appendix shows that using turnover orthogonal to size has no impact on our main results from [Table I](#) and that replacing turnover with size in our double sorts does not lead to any continuation. We later show that our results are also not driven by any correlation between turnover and each of liquidity and volatility.

As we discuss in [Section 4](#), the results of [Table III](#) are at odds with the ‘high-information-asymmetry’ mechanism in the models of [Wang \(1994\)](#) and [Llorente et al. \(2002\)](#), which counterfactually predicts stronger STMOM performance among smaller stocks. In practical terms, the results of [Table III](#) mean that STMOM is considerably cheaper to implement and more scalable than is STREV*. In [Section 3.2](#), we study the performance of the large-caps and megacaps STMOM strategies net of transaction costs and with an implementation lag.

2.6. Cross-sectional regressions

[Tables I–III](#) illustrate our main results using strategies from corner portfolios. Here, we use regressions to show that similar results hold more broadly in the cross section.

[Table IV](#) shows average slopes from [Fama and MacBeth \(1973\)](#) cross-sectional regressions of monthly returns on last month’s return, turnover, and their interaction ($r_{1,0} \times TO_{1,0}$). As such, these regressions mimic the approximate functional form of the theoretical volume-return relation in the models of [Campbell et al. \(1993\)](#), [Wang \(1994\)](#), and [Llorente et al. \(2002\)](#). We control for prior 12-2 months return ($r_{12,2}$), book-to-market ($\log(B/M)$), *Size* (\log of market capitalization as of prior June), cash-based operating profitability (COP/A_{-1}), and asset growth (dA/A_{-1}). Independent variables are trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles, then standardized by their cross-sectional average and standard deviation. The interaction is the product of the standardized variables. We show results for all stocks as well as separately within NYSE size quintiles ([Fama and French, 2010](#)) and we estimate the regressions using weighted least squares (WLS) with market capitalization as weight ([Hou et al., 2020](#)).¹³

¹³Following [Fama and French \(2015\)](#), book equity, B , is shareholder’s equity plus deferred taxes minus preferred stock. In the definition of B , shareholder’s equity is SEQ. If SEQ is missing, we substitute it by common equity (CEQ) plus preferred stock (defined below), or else by total assets minus total liabilities ($AT - LT$). Deferred taxes is deferred taxes and investment tax credits (TXDITC) or else deferred taxes and/or investment tax credit (TXDB and/or ITCB). Finally, preferred stock is redemption value (PSTKR) or else liquidating value (PSTKL) or else carrying value (PSTK). B/M is book equity divided by market capitalization (CRSP’s PRC times SHROUT) as of prior December, where the lagging is to avoid taking unintentional positions in conventional momentum. dA/A_{-1} is the year-over-year change in total assets divided by one-year lagged total assets. Following [Ball, Gerakos, Linnainmaa, and Nikolaev \(2016\)](#), COP is total revenue (REVT) minus cost of goods sold (COGS), minus selling, general, and administrative expenses

The all-stock regressions show that $r_{1,0}$ predicts the cross section of monthly returns with a negative and significant slope (t -statistic of -4.16 without controls and -8.05 with controls). They also show that $r_{1,0} \times TO_{1,0}$ has roughly the same predictive power as $r_{1,0}$ itself, albeit with a *positive* slope (t -statistics of 5.45 and 9.06). Similar results hold within each size quintile, although the slope on $r_{1,0}$ generally decreases in magnitude with size while that on $r_{1,0} \times TO_{1,0}$ tends to increase with size. This suggests that low-turnover reversal becomes weaker with size and, conversely, that high-turnover continuation becomes stronger with size, consistent with the size-conditional strategy performance in [Table III](#). Taken literally, the regressions suggest that one-month returns are positively autocorrelated when turnover is $0.50/0.20 = 2.5$ standard deviations above average among microcaps, but that $0.25/0.35 = 0.7$ standard deviations are enough for the same relation among megacaps.

We caution, however, against reading too much into the magnitudes of the slope estimates or taking the parametric relations literally. Cross-sectional regressions are useful for studying return predictability in a multivariate setting but, unlike portfolio sorts, they impose a potentially misspecified functional form and are sensitive to outliers ([Fama and French, 2010](#)). Furthermore, the R^2 values in [Table IV](#) imply that over 80% of the variation in monthly returns is not captured by the parametric relations. A more careful interpretation (cf. [Fama, 1976](#)) is that each slope is the average return to a long-short strategy that trades on a unit spread in the part of the variation in the independent variable that is orthogonal to all other independent variables. Under that interpretation, each t -statistic is proportional to the Sharpe ratio of the implied long-short strategy. As such, the regressions in [Table IV](#) show that the long-short strategy that trades on orthogonal variation in $r_{1,0} \times TO_{1,0}$ generates a positive Sharpe ratio that is roughly equal in magnitude to the negative Sharpe ratio on the strategy that trades on orthogonal variation in $r_{1,0}$.¹⁴

(XSGA), plus R&D expenditures (XRD, zero if missing), minus the change in accounts receivable (RECT), minus the change in inventory (INVT), minus the change in prepaid expenses (XPP), plus the change in deferred revenue (DRC + DRLT), plus the change in trade accounts payable (AP), plus the change in accrued expenses (XACC). All changes are annual and missing changes are set to zero.

¹⁴This interpretation is applicable here because the interaction is far from perfectly correlated with the straight variables: Using $z(\cdot)$ to denote a standardization, the average cross-sectional rank correlation between $z(r_{1,0}) \times z(TO_{1,0})$ and each of $z(r_{1,0})$ and $z(TO_{1,0})$ is -17.34% ($t = -35.22$) and -4.00% ($t = -12.10$).

Table IV: Cross-sectional regressions to predict returns. This table shows Fama and MacBeth (1973) cross-sectional regressions of monthly returns on last month's return ($r_{1,0}$), last month's turnover ($TO_{1,0}$), and their interaction ($r_{1,0} \times TO_{1,0}$). Regressions are estimated using weighted least squares (WLS) with market capitalization as weight. Independent variables are trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles, then standardized by their cross-sectional average and standard deviation. The interaction is the product of the standardized variables. The controls are prior 12-2 month performance ($r_{12,2}$), cash-based operating profits-to-lagged assets (COP/A_{-1}), asset growth (dA/A_{-1}), book-to-market equity ($\log(B/M)$), where M is market equity as of prior December), and $Size$ (log of market capitalization as of prior June). Specifications (1)-(2) are for all stocks while the remaining specifications are within NYSE size quintiles. Test statistics are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. The sample excludes financial firms and firms with negative book equity. Data are monthly and cover July 1963 to December 2018.

Independent variables	Average slopes ($\times 100$) and test-statistics (in parentheses) from monthly WLS regressions of the form $r_{it} = \beta_i' \mathbf{X}_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$											
	All		Microcaps		Size quintile 2		Size quintile 3		Size quintile 4		Megacaps	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
$r_{1,0}$	-0.32 (-4.16)	-0.59 (-8.05)	-0.50 (-6.76)	-0.63 (-8.21)	-0.42 (-5.62)	-0.62 (-8.29)	-0.46 (-5.88)	-0.65 (-8.82)	-0.47 (-5.15)	-0.73 (-7.28)	-0.25 (-2.36)	-0.52 (-5.08)
$TO_{1,0}$	0.06 (0.64)	-0.05 (-0.82)	0.10 (1.39)	0.10 (1.31)	-0.02 (-0.33)	-0.01 (-0.17)	-0.01 (-0.13)	-0.01 (-0.21)	0.06 (0.91)	0.02 (0.25)	0.09 (0.67)	0.01 (0.12)
$r_{1,0} \times TO_{1,0}$	0.19 (5.45)	0.29 (9.06)	0.20 (6.21)	0.19 (6.04)	0.16 (5.23)	0.18 (5.06)	0.18 (5.66)	0.23 (5.17)	0.26 (5.10)	0.33 (5.26)	0.35 (4.01)	0.57 (5.74)
$r_{12,2}$		0.36 (3.24)		0.39 (6.28)		0.35 (3.88)		0.48 (4.57)		0.41 (3.50)		0.28 (2.17)
$\log(B/M)$		0.21 (3.06)		0.30 (4.22)		0.21 (2.71)		0.24 (2.97)		0.17 (2.12)		0.18 (2.24)
$Size$		-0.09 (-1.30)		-0.27 (-2.17)		-0.32 (-1.91)		0.07 (0.29)		0.30 (1.64)		-0.02 (-0.20)
COP/A_{-1}		0.35 (5.17)		0.33 (7.63)		0.29 (4.26)		0.31 (4.12)		0.33 (2.87)		0.31 (3.65)
dA/A_{-1}		-0.20 (-3.57)		-0.24 (-6.58)		-0.25 (-4.29)		-0.28 (-3.97)		-0.22 (-2.15)		-0.14 (-1.24)
Adj. R^2	4.8%	12.7%	1.9%	4.3%	2.4%	5.6%	3.5%	7.0%	3.9%	8.6%	6.9%	16.5%

Table V: Double sorts on one-month returns and turnover: International evidence. This table shows international portfolios from double sorts on last month's return ($r_{1,0}$) and turnover ($TO_{1,0}$). We use independent double sorts to form country-specific portfolios that are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. We then weight each country's portfolio by the country's total market capitalization for the previous month to form each international portfolio. All returns and market values are in U.S. dollars and excess returns are above the monthly U.S. T-bill rate. The table also shows the raw and risk-adjusted returns to long-short strategies within the deciles, where risk-adjustment is relative to Fama and French's (2017) developed markets five-factor model including the momentum factor (DMFF6). Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. Data are monthly and cover January 1993 to December 2018.

	$r_{1,0}$ deciles										$r_{1,0}$ strategies	
	Low	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	High	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{DMFF6}
Portfolio excess return												
$TO_{1,0}$ deciles												
Low	1.28	0.57	0.42	-0.14	0.21	-0.43	-0.27	-0.55	-1.06	-1.97	-3.25 (-6.36)	-3.06 (-5.83)
2	1.66	0.69	0.25	0.21	0.17	0.09	0.11	0.02	-0.40	-0.88	-2.53 (-4.63)	-2.09 (-2.90)
3	1.02	0.59	0.39	0.24	0.29	0.06	-0.31	-0.03	-0.57	-1.37	-2.40 (-5.16)	-2.09 (-4.50)
4	0.63	0.87	0.44	0.30	0.39	0.41	0.20	-0.10	-0.18	-0.52	-1.14 (-2.73)	-0.74 (-1.71)
5	1.27	0.75	0.31	0.37	0.27	0.43	0.60	0.33	0.31	-0.54	-1.81 (-4.13)	-1.47 (-2.24)
6	0.46	0.62	0.38	0.47	0.61	0.27	0.46	0.32	-0.20	-0.15	-0.61 (-1.58)	-0.10 (-0.22)
7	0.91	0.62	0.04	0.51	-0.11	0.42	0.39	0.20	0.21	0.08	-0.83 (-2.01)	-0.93 (-1.65)
8	0.38	0.46	0.24	0.33	0.33	0.25	0.25	0.81	0.40	0.37	-0.01 (-0.03)	-0.04 (-0.08)
9	-0.06	0.16	0.38	0.36	-0.27	0.52	0.26	0.63	0.38	0.26	0.32 (1.13)	0.46 (1.41)
High	-1.03	-1.30	-0.63	-0.21	-1.04	-0.11	-0.22	-0.24	0.10	0.36	1.39 (3.65)	1.36 (3.45)
$TO_{1,0}$ strategies												
$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	-2.30 (-4.74)	-1.87 (-4.69)	-1.05 (-2.08)	-0.07 (-0.14)	-1.25 (-3.17)	0.32 (0.76)	0.05 (0.10)	0.31 (0.64)	1.16 (2.08)	2.33 (3.77)		
α_{DMFF6}	-2.75 (-5.97)	-2.11 (-4.82)	-1.42 (-2.74)	-0.43 (-0.92)	-1.52 (-3.25)	0.07 (0.18)	-0.43 (-0.94)	-0.09 (-0.19)	0.78 (1.38)	1.67 (2.85)		

2.7. International evidence

Lastly, we provide out-of-sample evidence using international stock market data.

The international sample is from the Compustat Global Securities database and comprises the 22 developed markets considered by [Fama and French \(2017\)](#): Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hong Kong, Italy, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. We consider common shares and compute all returns and market values in U.S. dollars. The sample period is January 1993 to December 2018.

[Table V](#) shows international portfolios double sorted on last month’s return ($r_{1,0}$) and turnover ($TO_{1,0}$). Following [Asness, Frazzini, and Pedersen \(2019\)](#), we use independent double sorts to form country-specific portfolios that are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month, and then weight each country’s portfolio by the country’s total market capitalization for the most recent month to form each international portfolio.

The international STREV* strategy yields an extremely large -3.25% per month ($t = -6.36$). This is over twice as large as its U.S. counterpart, presumably because of the on average less liquid markets outside the U.S. For comparison, the international counterpart of the conventional STREV strategy yields -0.37% per month with $t = -1.29$ (untabulated). Despite this extreme reversal among low-turnover stocks, high-turnover stocks still exhibit strong short-term momentum, as the international STMOM strategy yields 1.39% per month with $t = 3.65$, which is comparable to its U.S. counterpart. The strategies’ abnormal returns relative to [Fama and French’s \(2017\)](#) developed markets 6-factor model are about as large and strong as the average returns. [??](#) in the Appendix shows that the returns to the international STMOM strategy persist for 24 months after formation, while those to the international STREV* strategy stagnate after 3 months.

[Figure 3](#) shows the annualized Sharpe Ratios to the country-specific STMOM and STREV* strategies. The STMOM strategy generates positive average returns in all 22 markets. The STREV* strategy generates negative average returns in all countries but the U.K.

Lastly, [??](#) in the Appendix shows that [Table III](#)’s size-conditional performance of the STMOM and STREV* strategies for the U.S. carries over to the international sample. The average return to the international STMOM strategy is almost monotonically increasing across size quintiles: -0.23% per month in the bottom size quintile ($t = -0.36$), around

Coexistence of reversal and momentum in one-month returns: International evidence

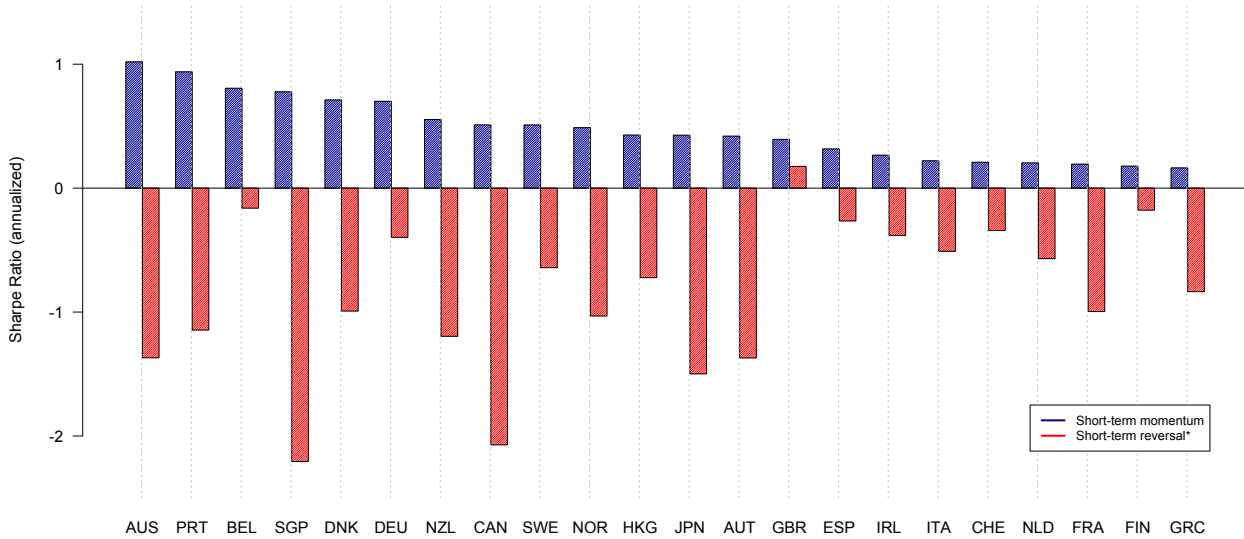


Figure 3: International short-term momentum returns. This figure shows the annualized Sharpe Ratios of the country-specific international STMOM and STREV* strategies. The strategies trade country-specific portfolios from independent double sorts into deciles based on last month’s return and turnover. Portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. All returns and market values are in U.S. dollars. Data are monthly and cover January 1993 to December 2018.

0.65% in the intermediate quintiles (t -statistics between 1.16 and 1.90), and 1.12% per month with $t = 4.01$ in the top size quintile. Moreover, a value-weighted STMOM strategy based on the largest 100 stocks in each country yields 0.62% per month with $t = 3.25$.¹⁵

3. ADDITIONAL RESULTS AND ROBUSTNESS

This section provides additional results and robustness tests. We show that short-term momentum is stronger when purged of liquidity-related trades at the end of the formation month; survives transaction costs; generates abnormal returns relative to standard implementations of popular stock-level momentum strategies; does not appear to be driven by earnings announcements, industry momentum, factor momentum, or volatility; and exhibits far less crash risk than does conventional momentum.

¹⁵The international largest-100-per-country STMOM strategy trades in an average of 499 and 470 stocks on its long and short sides. In December 2018, the top holdings from the top 5 countries on the long side were NTT DoCoMo (Japan), BMW (Germany), China Mobile (Hong Kong), Banco Santandar (Spain), and AB InBev (Belgium), while the top holdings from the top 5 countries on the short side were Toyota (Japan), Nestle (Switzerland), Allianz (Germany), Citic (Hong Kong), and AstraZeneca (UK).

3.1. End-of-month liquidity trading and implementation lag

Etula et al. (2020) document that end-of-month trading is dominated by institutional demand for cash and associated with systematic price pressure and subsequent reversal. We employ this seasonality in liquidity demand as an instrument to understand the impact of noninformational trading on short-term momentum performance. If short-term momentum is driven by informed trading, then skipping the last few days of the formation month and purging the signals of noninformational trading should result in stronger performance. Skipping the last few days of the formation month also serves as an implementation lag, facilitating a more realistic assessment of the strategy’s implementability.

Panel A of Table VI shows the performance of winner-minus-loser strategies similar to those in Table I, except that we skip the sorting variables’ values for the last 3 trading days in each month. Hence, if month $t - 1$ has d trading days, the sorting variables at the end of month $t - 1$, used to predict returns over month t , are based on days $1, 2, \dots, d - 3$ of month $t - 1$. We only consider stocks with at least 15 non-missing daily returns and turnover each month. Skipping the end of the formation month implies a clear shift towards stronger high-turnover continuation and weaker low-turnover reversal compared to Table I. The STMOM strategy (in the highest turnover decile) now yields 1.83% per month with $t = 5.52$ (compared to 1.37% with $t = 4.74$ in the benchmark case). In addition, there is a significant continuation effect in the 9th turnover decile: 0.72% per month with $t = 2.82$. By contrast, the STREV* strategy (in the lowest turnover decile) yields just -0.41% per month (compared to -1.41% per month in the benchmark case). The abnormal returns tell a very similar story. These results suggest that skipping the end of the formation month effectively purges the sorting variables of end-of-month liquidity trades, leading to stronger high-turnover continuation but weaker low-turnover reversal. In the following, we provide two pieces of evidence that corroborate this explanation.

First, we consider a complementary version of this exercise where we sort *only* on the signals’ end-of-month values, i.e., only on returns and turnover occurring on days $d - 2, d - 1$, and d of month $t - 1$. Based on the same reasoning as above, the last days in a month should be dominated by noninformational demand for liquidity, and we therefore expect to see stronger low-turnover reversal but weaker high-turnover momentum. Panel B of Table VI shows that this is indeed the case. The resulting STREV* strategy now yields a very large

Table VI: Short-term momentum and end-of-month effects. This table shows the performance of winner-minus-loser strategies based on last month’s return within deciles of last month’s share turnover. In panel A, the sorting variables skip their end-of-month values ($r_{1,0-EOM}$ and $TO_{1,0-EOM}$) measured at the month’s last 3 trading days. In Panel B, the sorting variables are just the end-of-month values (r_{EOM} and TO_{EOM}) measured at the month’s last 3 trading days. Portfolios are from conditional sorts into deciles based on NYSE breakpoints, first on returns and then on turnover, and are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. The sample excludes financial firms. Data are monthly and cover July 1963 to December 2018, except when applying the q -factors, which are available from January 1967.

Panel A				Panel B			
Performance of $r_{1,0-EOM}$ strategies within $TO_{1,0-EOM}$ deciles				Performance of r_{EOM} strategies within TO_{EOM} deciles			
$TO_{1,0-EOM}$ decile	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q	TO_{EOM} decile	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q
Low	-0.41 (-2.16)	-0.49 (-2.58)	-0.41 (-1.75)	Low	-2.36 (-11.51)	-2.45 (-11.13)	-2.56 (-11.59)
2	-0.38 (-1.64)	-0.48 (-1.98)	-0.48 (-1.76)	2	-1.72 (-7.12)	-1.80 (-6.61)	-1.81 (-6.55)
3	-0.28 (-1.22)	-0.47 (-1.83)	-0.52 (-1.56)	3	-1.73 (-6.17)	-1.90 (-6.96)	-2.04 (-6.55)
4	-0.21 (-0.81)	-0.24 (-0.75)	-0.11 (-0.29)	4	-1.66 (-6.06)	-1.75 (-5.60)	-1.77 (-5.64)
5	0.39 (1.40)	0.30 (0.90)	0.46 (1.35)	5	-1.72 (-6.78)	-1.99 (-6.75)	-1.92 (-6.77)
6	0.22 (0.89)	0.08 (0.27)	0.16 (0.39)	6	-1.86 (-7.45)	-1.97 (-7.00)	-2.06 (-7.56)
7	0.27 (1.00)	0.33 (0.91)	0.50 (1.29)	7	-1.16 (-4.86)	-1.17 (-4.54)	-1.20 (-4.42)
8	0.38 (1.26)	0.34 (1.11)	0.53 (1.35)	8	-1.67 (-5.60)	-1.72 (-5.01)	-1.79 (-4.58)
9	0.72 (2.89)	0.58 (2.09)	0.72 (2.13)	9	-1.16 (-4.74)	-1.29 (-4.91)	-1.29 (-4.41)
High	1.83 (5.52)	1.80 (5.22)	2.10 (5.16)	High	-0.65 (-2.25)	-0.86 (-2.63)	-0.87 (-2.41)

-2.36% per month with $t = -11.51$, while the corresponding STMOM strategy’s average return is now a *negative* -0.65% per month.¹⁶

Second, we repeat the tests of Table VI on different days during the month. Panel A of Figure 4 shows the performance of STMOM and STREV* strategies formed on day d of each month, based on prior return and turnover over $d - 20$ to $d - 3$, and held from $d + 1$ to $d + 21$. Skipping 3 days only significantly improves the performance of STMOM when these days lie at the end of the month, and the performance of the corresponding STREV*

¹⁶?? in the Appendix shows that results of Table VI also hold in our international sample. In untabulated tests, we find very similar results when focusing on the last 5 (instead of 3) trading days for month $t - 1$ (the formation period) and, furthermore, that these results are robust to also excluding the first 1-3 trading days from the return for month t (the holding period).

strategies is weakest around the end of the month. Panel B shows the complementary version of this exercise. Sorting on just the prior 3 days' signal values is only associated with stronger STREV* performance when these days lie at the end of the month, while the corresponding STMOM strategies generate large *negative* returns around the end of the month.

Taken together, these results suggest that the performance of STMOM and STREV* strategies is indeed impacted by noninformational demand for liquidity, but in opposite directions. Traders implementing STMOM strategies should skip the last few days of the formation month to purge the return and turnover signals of end-of-month liquidity trades. Conversely, traders and researchers looking into price pressure and the returns to liquidity provision should pay attention to STREV* strategies near the end of the month.

Lastly, the fact that skipping the end of the formation month implies a significant continuation effect in the 9th turnover decile (Panel A of [Table VI](#)) suggests that double *quintile* sorts should be sufficient to document the existence of short-term momentum (as opposed to the double decile sorts we use for the benchmark results in [Table I](#)). [??](#) in the Appendix confirms this: Using independent double quintile sorts while skipping the last 3 days of the formation month implies that the STMOM strategy in the highest turnover quintile yields 0.74% per month with $t = 4.21$. The strategy's abnormal returns are about as large and as strong as its average return. It trades in an average of 222 and 180 stocks on its long and short sides with average market capitalizations of \$1.22 and \$1.01 billion. As such, imposing an implementation lag not only strengthens the performance of the benchmark STMOM strategy but reveals that the short-term momentum effect exists for a substantially larger subset of the market. [Section 3.2](#) below studies the performance of the STMOM strategies with an implementation lag (including the quintile strategy) net of transaction costs.

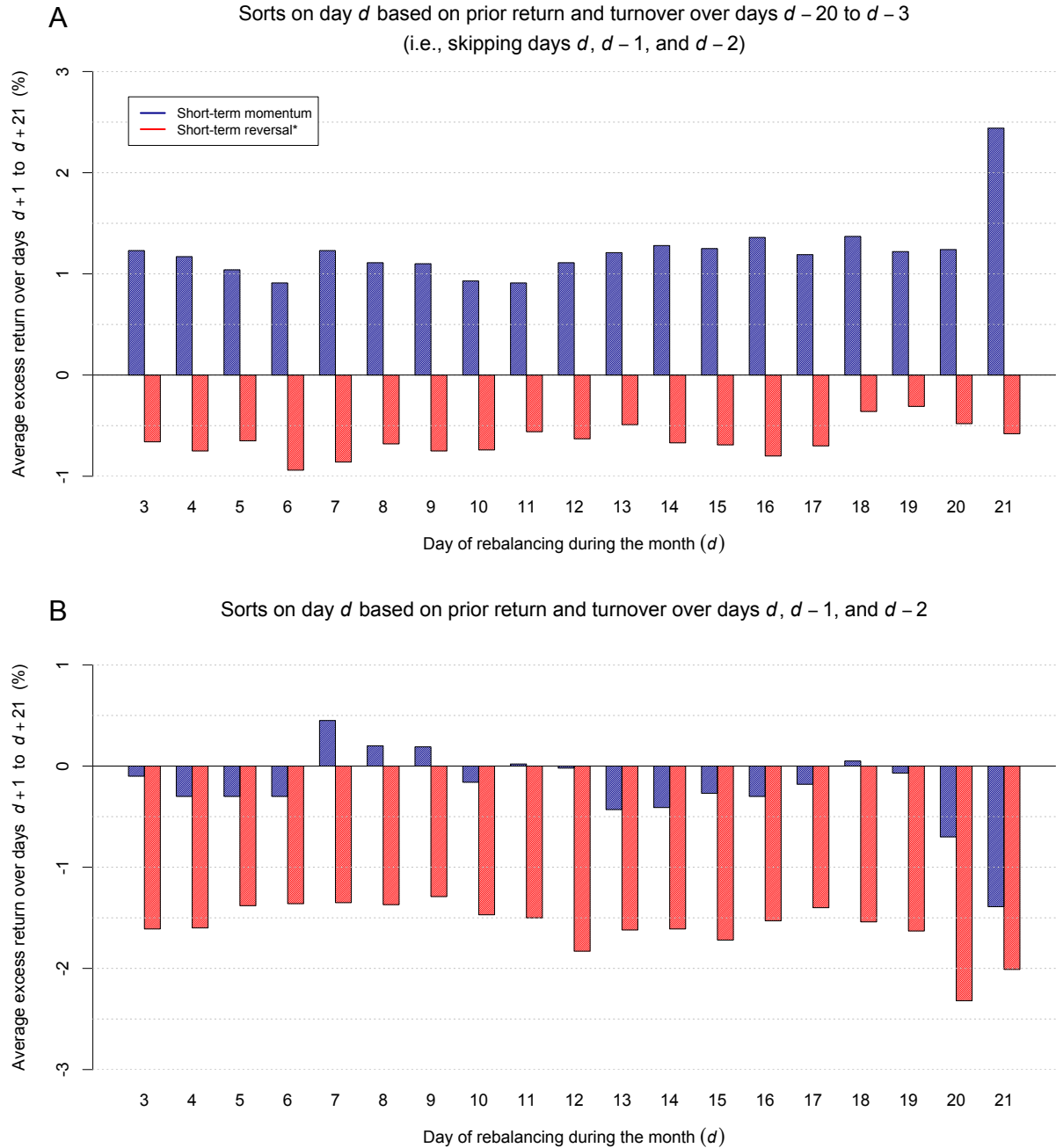


Figure 4: Short-term momentum and end-of-month effects. This figure shows the average excess returns to STMOM and STREV* strategies formed on different days (d) during the month. Panel A shows strategies formed on day d based on prior return and turnover over days $d - 20$ to $d - 3$, skipping the most recent three days (i.e., days $d - 2$, $d - 1$, and d). Panel B shows strategies formed on day d based only on prior return and turnover over the most recent three days (i.e., days $d - 2$, $d - 1$, and d). We use conditional sorts into deciles based on NYSE breakpoints, first on returns and then on turnover. Portfolios are value weighted and returns are calculated over days $d + 1$ to $d + 21$. The sample excludes financial firms. Data are daily and cover end of July 1963 to end of December 2018.

3.2. Transaction costs

Strategies from sorts on one-month returns tend to have high turnover and can be expensive to trade (see, e.g., [Da, Liu, and Schaumburg 2012](#) and [Novy-Marx and Velikov 2015](#)). Still, we show that short-term momentum survives conservative estimates of transaction costs.

Following [Kojien, Moskowitz, Pedersen, and Vrugt \(2018\)](#) and [Bollerslev, Hood, Huss, and Pedersen \(2018\)](#), we estimate average transaction costs using average turnover and average ‘half-spreads’ (one-half of the proportional bid-ask spread).¹⁷ For a given portfolio, let $w_{i,t-1} \geq 0$ be the value weight of stock i in the sort at the end of month $t - 1$ and let r_{it} be the stock’s return over month t . The portfolio’s (one-way) turnover in month t is then

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_i |(1 + r_{it})w_{i,t-1} - w_{it}|, \quad (1)$$

where the sum is taken over all stocks in the portfolio in months $t - 1$ or t and is divided by 2 to avoid double counting buys and sells. The product $(1 + r_{it})w_{i,t-1}$ is the weight of stock i just before rebalancing at the end of month t . We set $w_{i,t-1} = 0$ if stock i is not in the portfolio in month $t - 1$, and similarly for w_{it} . We measure the portfolio’s half-spread in any given month as the value-weighted average of $\frac{1}{2}(\text{ASK} - \text{BID})/(\frac{1}{2}(\text{ASK} + \text{BID}))$ from CRSP.

[Table VII](#) shows strategy performance net of transaction costs. The benchmark STMOM strategy ([Table I](#)) turns over 89% and 90% of its long and short sides each month on average, yet these incur modest average half-spreads of 0.17% and 0.24% per month. [??](#) in the appendix explains why: For every \$1 investment, each side puts on average just 9 cents into microcaps but around 30 cents into megacaps. The strategy’s average monthly cost is therefore just $0.89 \times 0.17 + 0.90 \times 0.24 = 0.37\%$, implying a net average return of 1.00% per month with $t = 3.47$. Its FF6 net abnormal return is equally large and strong, while its net information ratio relative to a ‘FF8’ model (FF6 plus the two conventional reversal factors)

¹⁷Half-spreads are simpler than the ‘effective bid-ask spread’ proposed by [Hasbrouck \(2009\)](#) and used by [Novy-Marx and Velikov \(2015\)](#), but the resulting costs are still conservative, especially for large institutional traders. Like effective spreads, half spreads do not account for the price impact of large trades and should be interpreted as the costs faced by a small liquidity demander. These costs are nonetheless conservative (an upper bound) because they assume market orders and immediate liquidity demand—instead of limit orders—which likely overstates the actual average costs associated with implementing a strategy. [Frazzini, Israel, and Moskowitz \(2015\)](#) find that the actual trading costs faced by a large institutional trader are an order of magnitude smaller than those estimated for the average trader because a large institutional trader will attempt to trade within the spread, use limit orders, and supply rather than demand liquidity.

Table VII: Short-term momentum and transaction costs. This table shows strategy performance net of transaction costs. ‘TO’ is average turnover, computed as the time-series average of one-half of the sum of absolute monthly changes in portfolio weights (Eq. (1)). ‘HS’ (in % per month) is average half-spread, computed as the time-series average of the portfolios’ monthly value-weighted average half-spreads. ‘Cost’ (in % per month) is the sum of average turnover times average half-spread for the long and short sides. ‘FF8’ is FF6 plus the conventional short-term and long-term reversal factors. ‘IR’ is information ratio, computed as abnormal return over residual standard error. ‘EOM’ is end of month. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. Data are monthly and cover July 1963 to December 2018, but the half-spreads are computed starting from 1983 due to data availability in CRSP.

Strategy	$E[r_{\text{gross}}^e]$	Long side		Short side		Cost	$E[r_{\text{net}}^e]$	FF6 (net)		FF8 (net)	
		TO	HS	TO	HS			α	IR	α	IR
Short-term momentum	1.37 (4.74)	0.89	0.17	0.90	0.24	0.37	1.00 (3.47)	1.00 (3.09)	0.44	1.78 (6.11)	0.92
Short-term reversal*	-1.41 (-7.13)	0.96	0.84	0.94	1.22	1.94					
Short-term momentum (excl. EOM)	1.83 (5.52)	0.89	0.18	0.91	0.24	0.38	1.45 (4.38)	1.42 (4.12)	0.61	2.18 (6.95)	1.11
Short-term momentum (5 × 5, excl. EOM)	0.74 (4.21)	0.83	0.17	0.85	0.21	0.32	0.42 (2.40)	0.45 (2.35)	0.33	1.03 (6.61)	1.07
Short-term momentum (large-caps, excl. EOM)	0.77 (3.90)	0.83	0.08	0.84	0.10	0.15	0.62 (3.14)	0.59 (2.78)	0.38	1.22 (7.07)	1.01
Short-term momentum (megacaps, excl. EOM)	0.72 (3.76)	0.84	0.07	0.85	0.08	0.13	0.59 (3.10)	0.59 (2.66)	0.34	1.24 (6.46)	0.90

is 0.92. The STREV* strategy turns over more often and incurs higher half-spreads because it puts much more weight on microcaps (??). Its average monthly cost of 1.94% therefore subsumes its average gross return when judged by our conservative approach.¹⁸

The STMOM strategy with an implementation lag (Panel A of Table VI) earns 1.45% per month with $t = 4.38$ after costs and a net FF8 information ratio of 1.11. The coarser version of this strategy from quintile double sorts (??) earns 0.42% per month with $t = 2.40$ after costs, but its net FF8 information ratio is largely undiminished and its investment capacity is over four times higher (??). Lastly, the large-caps and megacaps STMOM strategies with an implementation lag (as in Table III but excluding end-of-month values) have almost identical performance—around 0.60% per month after costs with a t -statistic above 3. The reason is that the large-caps strategy on average puts over 55 cents of every invested dollar into megacaps. The megacap strategy’s investment capacity is on average 4.24% of aggregate market capitalization and totaled \$1.24 trillion in December 2018.

¹⁸For comparison, the conventional momentum strategy incurs an average cost of 0.26% per month and its net return is 0.95% per month ($t = 3.74$). Moskowitz and Grinblatt’s (1999) industry momentum strategy incurs an average cost of 0.34% per month and its net return is 0.64% per month ($t = 3.02$). The average cost of the conventional STREV strategy is 0.56% per month, which subsumes its average gross return.

Table VIII: Short-term momentum and other stock-level momentum strategies. This table analyzes the short-term momentum strategy from Table I in the context of four other stock-level momentum strategies: A conventional momentum strategy based on prior 12-2 months performance ($r_{12,2}$), a post-earnings announcement drift (PEAD) strategy based on cumulative abnormal return in the 3 days around quarterly earnings announcements dates (CAR_3), a PEAD strategy based on standardized unexpected earnings (SUE), and an earnings-momentum strategy based on quarterly return on equity (ROE). The strategies trade value-weighted portfolios from decile sorts using NYSE breakpoints and are rebalanced at the end of each month. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. The sample excludes financial firms. The sorts on ROE exclude firms with negative book equity. Data are monthly and cover July 1963 to December 2018 for short-term momentum and conventional momentum, but the PEAD and ROE strategies start from January 1972 due to data availability in Compustat.

Panel A: Excess returns and characteristic tilts						
Strategy	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	Time-series average of long-short difference in monthly value-weighted average portfolio characteristics (all in %)				
		$r_{1,0}$	$r_{12,2}$	CAR_3	SUE	ROE
Short-term momentum	1.37 (4.74)	45.95 (36.21)	3.20 (2.19)	5.85 (11.13)	0.19 (3.31)	-0.21 (-0.80)
Conventional momentum	1.21 (4.77)	0.26 (0.78)	111.20 (19.38)	2.48 (12.17)	1.63 (20.50)	3.14 (6.17)
PEAD (CAR)	0.91 (6.46)	7.49 (24.08)	14.45 (20.62)	21.29 (10.18)	0.74 (11.51)	1.62 (8.38)
PEAD (SUE)	0.53 (4.02)	1.31 (10.88)	24.57 (15.88)	1.73 (16.35)	6.14 (36.12)	8.52 (9.62)
Return on equity	0.75 (3.18)	0.34 (1.38)	12.90 (4.08)	1.25 (10.04)	3.52 (20.84)	23.21 (9.55)

Panel B: Time-series correlations					
	Conventional momentum	PEAD (CAR)	PEAD (SUE)	Return on equity	
Short-term momentum	0.18 (2.50)	0.18 (2.72)	0.06 (1.24)	-0.01 (-0.12)	
Conventional momentum		0.36 (5.18)	0.53 (9.09)	0.23 (1.59)	
PEAD (CAR)			0.29 (4.17)	0.13 (1.49)	
PEAD (SUE)				0.51 (6.06)	

Panel C: Spanning tests							
Dependent strategy	Intercepts, slopes, and test-statistics (in parentheses) from time-series regressions of the form $y_t = \alpha + \beta' \mathbf{X}_t + \epsilon_t$						
	α	Short-term momentum	Conventional momentum	PEAD (CAR)	PEAD (SUE)	Return on equity	Adj. R^2
Short-term momentum	0.96 (2.30)		0.25 (2.44)	0.34 (2.07)	-0.13 (-0.86)	-0.07 (-0.49)	5.3%
Conventional momentum	0.22 (0.94)	0.10 (2.35)		0.41 (3.29)	0.87 (7.55)	-0.06 (-0.38)	34.4%
PEAD (CAR)	0.63 (4.63)	0.04 (2.18)	0.13 (2.96)		0.13 (2.45)	0.00 (-0.07)	15.2%
PEAD (SUE)	-0.04 (-0.32)	-0.01 (-0.87)	0.23 (7.14)	0.11 (2.25)		0.29 (7.37)	44.6%
Return on equity	0.44 (1.92)	-0.02 (-0.47)	-0.04 (-0.37)	-0.01 (-0.07)	0.74 (6.25)		26.0%

3.3. Other stock-level momentum strategies: Price-, earnings-, and ROE-based momentum

Table VIII analyzes the STMOM strategy in the context of four other stock-level momentum strategies: A conventional momentum strategy based on prior 12-2 months performance ($r_{12,2}$), a post-earnings announcement drift (PEAD) strategy based on cumulative abnormal return in the 3 days around quarterly earnings announcements dates (CAR_3), a PEAD strategy based on standardized unexpected earnings (SUE), and an earnings-momentum strategy based on quarterly return on equity (ROE). The strategies trade value-weighted portfolios from decile sorts using NYSE breakpoints and are rebalanced at the end of each month.¹⁹

Panel A shows the strategies' average excess returns and characteristic tilts, defined as the time-series average of the long-short difference in the portfolios' monthly value-weighted average characteristics. The characteristics are the strategies' main sorting variables. STMOM has a sizable tilt towards the CAR_3 signal but only modest tilts towards the other momentum signals (negative for ROE). Conversely, the other momentum strategies have only modest tilts towards the $r_{1,0}$ signal (insignificant for conventional momentum and ROE), with the exception of PEAD-CAR.²⁰ Nonetheless, Panel B shows that the correlation between STMOM and PEAD-CAR is a modest 18% ($t = 2.72$), equal in magnitude and strength to the correlation between STMOM and conventional momentum. For comparison, the correlation between conventional momentum and each of the PEAD strategies is 36% and 53%.

The modest correlations suggest that STMOM's average return is not spanned by the other momentum strategies. Panel C confirms this: STMOM's abnormal return relative to the other momentum strategies is 0.96% per month with $t = 2.30$ and the regression's adjusted R^2 is just 5.3%. In these tests, the only other strategy with an abnormal return t -statistic exceeding 2.00 is PEAD-CAR. We caution, however, that spanning tests are not conclusive as to the redundancy of one effect relative to others—for one, they can be fragile to the choice of right-hand-side strategies and to the details of the strategy construction.

¹⁹We employ quarterly earnings starting from the end of the month of the announcement date (Compustat's RDQ). CAR_3 is the 3-day cumulative return minus the value-weighted market return around earnings announcements. SUE is the year-over-year change in split-adjusted earnings per share (EPSPXQ/AJEXQ) divided by its standard deviation over the latest 8 announcements (minimum of 6) excluding the current announcement. ROE is total quarterly earnings (IBQ) deflated by one-quarter lagged book equity.

²⁰?? in the Appendix shows additional characteristic tilts as well as average portfolio overlap for the five momentum strategies. An interesting observation is that while conventional price momentum has the well-known strong tilt towards growth stocks, short-term momentum has a slight but significant *value* tilt. The two strategies' average portfolio overlap is 34% for winners and 20% for losers.

3.4. Controlling for earnings announcement dates directly

Section 3.3 shows that the STMOM strategy is only moderately correlated with PEAD strategies. Here, we show more generally that our main results are not mechanically driven by the high share turnover and persistent price drifts associated with earnings announcements (see, e.g., Hong and Stein 2007 for a review, as well as Medhat and Schmeling 2018).

Panel A of ?? in the Appendix shows the performance of winner-minus-loser strategies similar to those in Table I except that we exclude firms whose most recent announcement date fell in the previous month. With the exclusion of announcers, STMOM yields 1.31% ($t = 2.75$) while STREV* yields -1.82% per month ($t = -5.99$) over the period from January 1972 for which we have announcement dates. Panel B shows an alternative version of this exercise where we keep announcers but exclude the 3 days around announcements from the return and turnover signals. In this case, STMOM yields 1.16% ($t = 3.30$) while STREV* yields -1.80% ($t = -7.32$) per month. In sum, the profitability of short-term momentum is largely undiminished when explicitly excluding earnings announcements.

3.5. Industry momentum

Moskowitz and Grinblatt (1999) find that industry momentum is strongest at the one month horizon (see also Asness, Porter, and Stevens, 2000). Nonetheless, the profitability of short-term momentum does not appear to be mechanically driven by industry effects.

?? in the Appendix shows spanning tests employing STMOM and a one-month industry momentum (IMOM) strategy based on the 49 industries from Fama and French (1997) but excluding financials. STMOM is not within the span of the IMOM strategy, with or without controlling for the FF6 or q -factors. On the other hand, IMOM is in fact within the combined span of STMOM and the q -factors.

?? in the Appendix shows the performance of winner-minus-loser strategies similar to those in Table I except that we consider industry-adjusted signals or performance. Panel A shows strategies from sorts where the sorting variables are demeaned by their value-weighted average industry values. With industry-demeaned signals, STMOM yields 1.18% ($t = 4.08$) while STREV* yields -2.00% per month ($t = -10.25$). That is, the profitability of short-term momentum remains largely undiminished when the strategy is constructed in a way

that explicitly sorts *against* the one-month industry momentum signal.²¹

Panel B shows a decomposition of **Table I**’s benchmark strategies into an industry-hedged (‘within-industry’) component and the industry hedge. The industry-hedged strategies are from sorts on unadjusted variables, but each stock’s position is combined with an offsetting position of equal size in the corresponding value-weighted industry portfolio. The industry hedges are these offsetting positions in the value-weighted industry portfolios. This follows **Novy-Marx (2013)** and allows us to quantify how much of the benchmark strategies’ performance is due to industry exposure. The benchmark STMOM strategy’s average monthly return of 1.37% ($t = 4.74$) decomposes into 0.89% ($t = 3.35$) from the within-industry component and 0.48% ($t = 5.65$) from the industry hedge. Similar results hold for abnormal returns. That is, roughly two-thirds of the strategy’s performance is unrelated to industry exposure and hedging industry exposure does not increase its Sharpe- or information ratios.

3.6. Factor momentum

Ehsani and Linnainmaa (2020) construct ‘factor momentum’ strategies which are long winners and short losers based on prior 12-1 month return from a set of 20 U.S. and international factors. They find that factor momentum subsumes conventional price momentum in spanning tests (see also **Lewellen, 2002**). ?? in the Appendix shows that this is not the case for short-term momentum. The STMOM strategy yields significant abnormal returns relative to both the time-series factor momentum strategy and the cross-sectional factor momentum strategy, whether employed alone or together and with or without controlling for the FF6 factors. The table also shows that while factor momentum explains over 40% of the variation in conventional momentum, it explains under 5% of that in short-term momentum.

3.7. Longer formation periods

Our main results use past short-term performance and turnover measured over the previous month. Here, we show that our results are robust to using longer formation periods of up to 6 months, although the one-month horizon produces the strongest results.

²¹**Moskowitz and Grinblatt** argue that “[o]ne possible explanation for the discrepancy between short-term (one-month) reversals for individual stocks and short-term continuations for industries is that the one-month return reversal for individual stocks is generated by microstructure effects (such as bid-ask bounce and liquidity effects), which are alleviated by forming industry portfolios.” (p. 1274). Our results suggest that conditioning on high turnover is an alternative and equally effective way of alleviating microstructure effects.

?? in the Appendix shows the performance of alternative short-term momentum and short-term reversal* strategies constructed as in Table I, except that the sorting is on cumulative return and average monthly turnover for the previous 2, . . . , 6 months. The alternative short-term momentum strategies generate significant average returns between 0.99% and 1.24% per month, although lower and statistically weaker than the 1.37% for the benchmark strategy. The average returns to the alternative short-term reversal* strategies are decreasing with the formation period and insignificant at the 5-month horizon. Each alternative strategy is within the univariate span of the corresponding benchmark strategy.

3.8. Volatility and residual turnover

Bandarchuk and Hilscher (2013) argue that ‘characteristic screens’ lead to elevated profits for conventional price-momentum strategies because they identify stocks with more volatile past returns. In particular, they find that the part of share turnover which is unrelated to volatility no longer has the ability to elevate the profits of conventional momentum strategies. Here, we show that volatility is not driving our main results.

?? in the Appendix shows the performance of winner-minus-loser strategies similar to those in Table I, except that we replace last month’s share turnover with ‘residual turnover’ ($RTO_{1,0}$; Panel A) or volatility ($\sigma_{1,0}$; Panel B). Here, $RTO_{1,0}$ is the residual from cross-sectional regressions of last month’s share turnover on $\sigma_{1,0}$, estimated using weighted least squares (WLS) with market capitalization as weight, while $\sigma_{1,0}$ is the standard deviation of last month’s daily stock returns using a minimum of 15 daily observations. Panel A shows that using residual turnover does not materially alter our main results. Panel B shows that while there is significant one-month reversal among low-volatility stocks, there is no one-month continuation among high-volatility stocks. In untabulated tests, we find very similar results using idiosyncratic volatility relative to the FF6- or q -factor models.

3.9. Pre-1963 performance and sample splits

As is now standard in the literature, we focus on the post-1963 sample for our main asset pricing tests. However, the availability of CRSP data going back to 1926 allows us to verify the robustness of our main results to adding an additional 37 years to the sample.

?? shows spanning tests for the STMOM and STREV* strategies starting from July 1926.

The explanatory factors are the three Fama-French factors (MKT, SMB, HML) in addition to the momentum factor (MOM) and the two reversal factors (STREV and LTREV). Over the full sample period from July 1926 to December 2018, the average STMOM return is 1.02% per month with $t = 4.23$ while the average STREV* return is -2.82% per month with $t = -5.40$. The corresponding abnormal returns are 2.16% per month ($t = 9.03$) for STMOM and -1.80% per month ($t = -6.83$) for STREV*.

The table also shows the performance of the strategies in three non-overlapping subsamples: 1926/07 to 1963/06, 1963/07 to 1991/06, and 1991/07 to 2018/12. The STMOM strategy’s average return is monotonically increasing across the subsamples, from 0.60% per month ($t = 1.61$) in the pre-1963 era to 2.03% per month ($t = 4.80$) in the post-1991 era. The opposite is true for STREV*, for which the average return decreases monotonically in magnitude from -3.96% to -1.15% per month across the subsamples. We conjecture that generally increasing market liquidity across the subsamples is responsible for these trends.

3.10. Crash risk

[Daniel and Moskowitz \(2016\)](#) show that conventional price momentum can experience infrequent but persistent strings of negative returns—or *crashes*—that are contemporaneous with market rebounds, in that the strategy “will have significant negative market exposure following bear markets precisely when the market swings upward” (p. 229). Here, we show that short-term momentum exhibits far less crash risk than conventional momentum. Following [Daniel and Moskowitz](#), we use the extended sample going back to January 1927.

?? in the Appendix presents the results. Panel A shows that STMOM exhibits a mild negative skew and a moderate kurtosis, similar to those observed for the market but orders of magnitude lower than those observed for conventional momentum. It also shows that while conventional momentum exhibits negative and significant coskewness ([Harvey and Siddique, 2000](#); [Schneider, Wagner, and Zechner, 2020](#)) and downside beta ([Henriksson and Merton, 1981](#)), both are positive albeit small and statistically insignificant for STMOM.

Panel B shows results from [Daniel and Moskowitz](#)’s market-timing regressions,

$$r_t^e = (\alpha_0 + \alpha_B I_{B,t-1}) + (\beta_0 + (\beta_B + \beta_{B,U} I_{U,t}) I_{B,t-1}) r_{mt}^e + \epsilon_t, \quad (2)$$

where r_t^e is a strategy’s excess return, r_{mt}^e is the market excess return, $I_{B,t-1}$ is an ex-ante 24-month ‘bear market’ indicator, and $I_{U,t}$ is a contemporaneous 1-month ‘up-market’ indicator. Here, β_B captures the difference in beta during bear markets, while $\beta_{B,U}$ capture the difference in beta in rebounds *after* bear markets. Conventional momentum has a bear-market beta of $\widehat{\beta}_0 + \widehat{\beta}_B = -0.34$ when the contemporaneous market return is negative but $\widehat{\beta}_0 + \widehat{\beta}_B + \widehat{\beta}_{B,U} = -1.06$ when the contemporaneous market return is positive. In contrast, STMOM’s bear-market beta is -0.51 when the contemporaneous market return is negative but just $+0.05$ when the contemporaneous market return is positive. That is, STMOM is a better hedge in bear markets and has no negative market exposure in rebounds.

3.11. VIX and volatility risk

Drechsler, Moreira, and Savov (2018) find that the CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) predicts larger returns to daily reversal strategies, especially among larger stocks (see also Nagel, 2012). They also find that daily reversal strategies are exposed to volatility risk, in that they suffer losses when the contemporaneous change in VIX is higher, again especially among larger stocks. Here, we show that the monthly strategies we consider display little predictability by the VIX and insignificant exposure to volatility risk after controlling for market exposure.

?? shows time-series regression results for the small- and large-cap STMOM and STREV* strategies from Table III. The explanatory variables are the one-month lagged VIX, the contemporaneous monthly change in VIX, and the contemporaneous market return. The period covered is January 1990 to December 2018, where the start date is determined by the availability of the VIX. Only the small-cap STREV* strategy is predictable by the VIX. Its average return in the post-1990 period is -1.03% per month ($t = -4.92$) and a one-point increase in the VIX predicts a 9 basis points more negative monthly return ($t = -2.13$) with an R^2 of 2.3%. Without controlling for the market return, all four strategies load positively and significantly on contemporaneous VIX changes, with 25-30 basis points added to each strategy’s monthly return for every one-point increase in the contemporaneous VIX change. That is, ignoring market exposure, a larger VIX change is associated with losses to the STREV* strategies but *gains* to the STMOM strategies. Controlling for the market return, however, renders the strategies’ volatility-risk exposure insignificant.

4. TESTING THEORIES OF THE VOLUME-RETURN RELATION

In this section, we study short-term momentum in the context of models of the volume-return relation, i.e., models of how expected returns depend on realized returns and volume. We first consider prominent rational expectations equilibrium (REE) models. Since short-term momentum proves difficult to reconcile with these models, we conclude by briefly discussing the potential of models of ‘boundedly rational’ traders to explain short-term momentum.

4.1. REE models of the volume-return relation

In the model of [Campbell et al. \(1993\)](#), noninformational trading due to liquidity demand causes temporary price pressure when absorbed by liquidity suppliers. As a result, returns coupled with high trading volume will subsequently reverse. This runs opposite to short-term momentum and rules out purely noninformational trading as an explanation.

In the models of [Wang \(1994\)](#) and [Llorente et al. \(2002\)](#), trading due to private information causes persistent price movements that counteract temporary price pressure. As a result, returns coupled with high volume will reverse among stocks with low information asymmetry (similar to [Campbell et al.](#)) but will reverse less and may even continue among stocks with high information asymmetry.^{22,23} [Wang](#) and [Llorente et al.](#) argue that high-information-asymmetry stocks should be small, illiquid, and have low analyst coverage (see our [footnote 1](#)). As such, this high-information-asymmetry mechanism is an explanation for short-term momentum *if* it is stronger among small, illiquid, and low-coverage stocks.

The performance of the size-conditional strategies in [Table III](#) is at odds with the high-information-asymmetry mechanism, given that STMOM is strongest among large-caps. Since

²²[Wang](#) assumes long-lived private information and that liquidity-related trading is due to hedging a non-traded asset which is correlated with the risky asset (p. 134-135), i.e., that liquidity-related trading is ‘endogenous.’ Inspired by [Wang, Llorente et al.](#) also assume endogenous liquidity-related trading but drop the assumption of long-lived private information (p. 1016). Hence, higher volume is *always* associated with more reversal in their model, but the effect of volume decreases in magnitude with information asymmetry.

²³We focus on the models’ predictions for return autocorrelation conditional on *high* volume because their predictions for return autocorrelation conditional on *low* volume are less clear-cut and receive less attention. In [Campbell et al.](#)’s model, the sign of return autocorrelation conditional on low volume is ambiguous (see their Equation 16, p. 929). In [Llorente et al.](#)’s model, which simplifies that of [Wang](#), return autocorrelation conditional on low volume is captured by the parameter θ_1 , about which they write “the result on θ_1 can be sensitive to the simplifying assumptions of our model. For example, when motives for hedging trade [...] are persistent, the returns can become positively serially correlated (even in the absence of trading). In addition, when private information is long-lived, the behavior of return autocorrelation is more involved, and the impact of information asymmetry on θ_1 becomes more complex (see, e.g., [Wang \(1993\)](#)).” (p. 1015-1016).

Table IX: Short-term momentum controlling for illiquidity. This table shows the performance of short-term momentum (STMOM) and short-term reversal* (STREV*) strategies constructed with a control for the Amihud (2002) illiquidity measure. Panel A shows results for monthly sorts, while Panel B shows results for weekly sorts. The strategies are from $5 \times 3 \times 3$ conditional sorts on illiquidity ($\text{Illiq}_{1,0}$), returns, and turnover, in that order, measured over the last month or week. $\text{Illiq}_{1,0}$ is the average absolute daily return relative to the daily dollar trading volume. The breakpoints for illiquidity are NYSE quintiles while the breakpoints for returns and turnover are the 20th and 80th percentiles for NYSE stocks. Portfolios are value weighted. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. The sample excludes financial firms. In Panel A, portfolios are rebalanced at the end of each month and $\text{Illiq}_{1,0}$ is computed using a minimum of 15 daily observations. In Panel B, portfolios are rebalanced each Tuesday, skipping signals and holding-period returns over Tuesday itself to avoid undue influence from bid-ask bounce. That is, for the sort on Tuesday of week t , the sorting variables are returns, turnover, and illiquidity measured from Wednesday of week $t-1$ to Monday of week t , both inclusive, and the holding-period return is computed from Wednesday of week t to Monday of week $t+1$, both inclusive. For the weekly sorts, $\text{Illiq}_{1,0}$ is computed using a minimum of 4 daily observations. Data are monthly or weekly and cover the beginning of July 1963 to the end of December 2018.

Illiq _{1,0} quintile	Short-term momentum strategies [winner-minus-loser, high turnover] controlling for illiquidity		Short-term reversal* strategies [winner-minus-loser, low turnover] controlling for illiquidity	
	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}
Panel A: Monthly sorts				
Liquid	0.88 (3.55)	0.67 (2.51)	-0.64 (-3.62)	-0.72 (-3.83)
2	0.38 (1.43)	0.32 (1.15)	-1.02 (-5.12)	-0.97 (-4.42)
3	0.21 (0.85)	0.11 (0.36)	-1.24 (-7.05)	-1.26 (-6.21)
4	-0.04 (-0.16)	-0.15 (-0.53)	-1.44 (-7.22)	-1.44 (-4.90)
Illiquid	-0.77 (-2.38)	-1.11 (-2.92)	-1.67 (-7.32)	-1.90 (-6.94)
Panel B: Weekly sorts (rebalanced each Tuesday, skipping Tuesday itself)				
Liquid	-0.18 (-3.15)	-0.19 (-3.26)	-0.34 (-8.37)	-0.32 (-7.94)
2	-0.50 (-8.26)	-0.49 (-7.99)	-0.45 (-11.02)	-0.45 (-10.71)
3	-0.55 (-9.59)	-0.54 (-9.11)	-0.41 (-8.68)	-0.40 (-8.56)
4	-0.79 (-13.64)	-0.77 (-13.42)	-0.43 (-9.35)	-0.41 (-9.06)
Illiquid	-1.00 (-14.84)	-1.00 (-15.15)	-0.37 (-8.15)	-0.36 (-7.98)

larger stocks tend to be more liquid and have greater analyst coverage, we would a priori expect stronger STMOM performance among liquid and high-coverage stocks. If so, this would be further evidence at odds with the mechanism. In the following, we verify this by constructing STMOM strategies with an explicit control for illiquidity and analyst coverage.

4.1.1. Short-term momentum and illiquidity

Panel A of [Table IX](#) shows the performance of STMOM and STREV* strategies constructed with a control for the [Amihud \(2002\)](#) illiquidity measure. The strategies are from $5 \times 3 \times 3$ conditional sorts on last month’s illiquidity, return, and turnover. The breakpoints for illiquidity are NYSE quintiles while the breakpoints for the return and turnover signals are the 20th and 80th percentiles for NYSE stocks. Portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. The STMOM strategies’ average returns are monotonically decreasing with illiquidity; from a significantly positive 0.88% per month ($t = 3.55$) among the most liquid stocks to a significantly *negative* -0.77% per month ($t = -2.38$) among the most illiquid stocks, and insignificant for the intermediate illiquidity quintiles. Similar results hold for abnormal returns. As such, high-turnover continuation is only significant among the most liquid stocks, a result that directly opposes the high-information-asymmetry mechanism. The STREV* strategies’ average returns are significantly negative in all quintiles, but become monotonically more negative with illiquidity; from -0.64% to -1.67% per month. Both sets of results are consistent with those for the size-conditional strategies in [Table III](#).

[Avramov et al. \(2006\)](#) find that, with a control for illiquidity, higher turnover implies less reversal at the monthly horizon but more reversal at the weekly horizon.²⁴ Despite these different roles of turnover at the monthly and weekly horizons, [Table IX](#) shows that our evidence against the high-information-asymmetry mechanism also holds at the weekly horizon. In Panel B, we consider strategies constructed similarly to those in Panel A, except that we rebalance the portfolios each Tuesday, skipping signals and holding-period returns over Tuesday itself to avoid undue influence from bid-ask bounce. The STMOM strategies’ average returns are negative but again monotonically decreasing with illiquidity; from -0.18% per week ($t = -3.15$) among the most liquid stocks to -1.00% ($t = -14.84$) per week among the most illiquid ones, and similarly for the abnormal returns. Hence, even though there is no high-turnover continuation in any illiquidity quintile at the weekly horizon, returns coupled with high turnover *still* reverse much less among the most liquid stocks compared

²⁴[Avramov et al.](#) argue that the different roles of turnover “could arise because demand shocks are attenuated at the monthly frequency as compared to the weekly frequency, which would suggest that turnover may be a poor proxy for non-informational trades at the monthly frequency.” (p. 2367). ?? in the Appendix shows that using turnover orthogonal to illiquidity has no impact on our main results and that replacing turnover with illiquidity in our double sorts does not lead to significant continuation.

to the most illiquid ones. These weekly-horizon results are consistent with the findings of [Avramov et al.](#) but, again, directly oppose the high-information-asymmetry mechanism. We conjecture that the performance of the weekly STMOM strategies is due to temporary price pressure dominating other effects at the weekly horizon, but less so for more liquid stocks.

4.1.2. Short-term momentum and analysts' forecasts

[Table X](#) shows the performance of STMOM and STREV* strategies constructed with a control for analysts' forecast variables. The strategies are from $3 \times 3 \times 3$ conditional sorts on the control variable, last month's return, and last month's turnover. The breakpoints are the 20th and 80th percentiles for NYSE stocks. Portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. Analysts' forecasts data is from the Institutional Brokers' Estimate System (I/B/E/S), but we use only unadjusted forecasts to mitigate the reporting inaccuracies, rounding errors, and look-ahead-biases identified in previous studies (see, e.g., [Diether et al., 2002](#)). Our tests use earnings-per-share forecasts for the month closest to, but preceding, the month in which a firm announces its quarterly earnings (Compustat's RDQ). The sample starts in January 1985 due to the availability of data on analysts' forecasts.

The table's first specification controls for the number of analysts covering a stock. The STMOM strategy yields a significant 1.14% per month ($t = 3.20$) among high-coverage stocks, but an insignificant 0.62% per month among low-coverage stocks. This again runs opposite to the high-information-asymmetry mechanism. The second specification shows that these results are not mechanically driven by the fact that larger stocks tend to be covered by more analysts: Using analyst coverage orthogonalized with respect to size yields qualitatively similar results. Since STREV* is strongest outside of large-caps ([Table III](#)) and smaller stocks tend to have lower analyst coverage, we would expect to see stronger STREV* performance among low-coverage stocks. The first two specifications confirm this.

Following [Diether et al. \(2002\)](#), a large literature uses measures of the dispersion in analysts' forecasts as proxies for heterogeneity or 'disagreement' in beliefs among *traders*.²⁵ While this interpretation comes with many caveats, there is some consensus that forecast dispersion is at least positively correlated with the underlying, unobservable heterogeneity

²⁵This literature includes [Johnson \(2004\)](#), [Verardo \(2009\)](#), [Banerjee \(2011\)](#), [Cen, Wei, and Yang \(2017\)](#), [Cujean and Hasler \(2017\)](#), and [Loh and Stulz \(2018\)](#) among many others

Table X: Short-term momentum controlling for analysts’ forecast. This table shows the performance of short-term momentum (STMOM) and short-term reversal* (STREV*) strategies constructed with a control for analysts’ forecast variables. The strategies are from $3 \times 3 \times 3$ conditional sorts on the control variable, last month’s return, and last month’s turnover, in that order. The breakpoints are the 20th and 80th percentiles for NYSE stocks. Portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. All analysts’ forecast variables are for the month closest to, but preceding, the month in which a firm announces its quarterly earnings (Compustat’s RDQ). N^{Analysts} is the number of analysts following a stock. $N^{\text{Analysts}} \perp M$ is the residual from monthly cross-sectional regressions of $\log(N^{\text{Analysts}})$ on $\log(M)$, where M is market equity from CRSP, estimated using weighted least squares (WLS) with market capitalization as weight. $\widehat{\text{EPS}}$ is analysts’ forecasts of firms’ earnings-per-share and P is price per share from CRSP. “std” denotes standard deviation and “med” denotes median. The sample excludes financial firms. Data are monthly and cover January 1985 to December 2018, where the start date is due to availability of analyst forecast data.

Control variable	Quintile	Short-term momentum strategies [winner-minus-loser, high turnover] controlling for analysts’ forecasts		Short-term reversal* strategies [winner-minus-loser, low turnover] controlling for analysts’ forecasts	
		$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}
(1) N^{Analysts}	High	1.14 (3.20)	1.12 (2.84)	-0.58 (-2.41)	-0.59 (-2.31)
	Low	0.62 (1.52)	0.50 (1.18)	-0.88 (-3.69)	-0.86 (-2.58)
(2) $N^{\text{Analysts}} \perp M$	High	0.84 (2.50)	0.99 (2.68)	-0.41 (-1.27)	-0.70 (-1.98)
	Low	0.47 (1.15)	0.52 (1.14)	-0.97 (-3.21)	-0.94 (-2.71)
(3) $\text{std}(\widehat{\text{EPS}})$	High	1.38 (2.69)	1.28 (2.31)	-0.28 (-0.99)	-0.23 (-0.79)
	Low	0.32 (1.00)	0.39 (1.32)	-1.13 (-4.29)	-1.10 (-3.20)
(4) $\text{std}(\widehat{\text{EPS}})/P$	High	1.08 (2.06)	1.16 (2.17)	-0.95 (-2.51)	-1.24 (-3.08)
	Low	0.01 (0.03)	0.21 (0.71)	-1.27 (-5.45)	-1.26 (-5.54)
(5) $\text{std}(\widehat{\text{EPS}})/ \text{med}(\widehat{\text{EPS}}) $	High	0.97 (2.24)	1.07 (1.98)	-0.74 (-1.65)	-0.91 (-1.93)
	Low	-0.25 (-0.70)	-0.39 (-1.07)	-1.45 (-4.69)	-1.61 (-4.89)
(6) $\max(\widehat{\text{EPS}}) - \min(\widehat{\text{EPS}})$	High	1.49 (3.20)	1.53 (2.53)	-0.40 (-1.17)	-0.38 (-1.19)
	Low	-0.13 (-0.36)	-0.03 (-0.08)	-1.16 (-4.14)	-1.12 (-2.74)

in beliefs (Verardo, 2009; Banerjee, 2011). Since short-term momentum only exists among high-coverage stocks (presumably those with low information asymmetry), it is interesting to examine whether it also only exists among high-dispersion stocks (presumably those with strong disagreement among traders). The table’s remaining four specifications show that this is indeed the case. In contrast, STREV* is stronger among low-dispersion stocks.

4.2. Models of boundedly rational traders

The literature on ‘boundedly rational’ traders suggests an alternative mechanism that potentially explains short-term momentum: Underinference from prices.²⁶ In the following, we relate our results to general features of models that relax the strict rationality assumption.

Under REE, traders condition on prices so as to infer each others’ information up to any noise introduced by noninformational trading. However, when boundedly rational traders fail to fully infer others’ information from prices, expected volume is higher and prices underreact to the available information relative to the case with solely rational traders. Underreaction in turn induces positive return autocorrelation that counteracts the negative one induced by noninformational trading. Hence, if there is underinference from prices but no noninformational trading, return autocorrelation will be positive and increasing in expected volume. [Hong and Stein \(2007\)](#), for instance, show that “the magnitude of the momentum effect will be increasing with average trading volume” (p. 122) in a simple setup where trading is solely due to private information and where there is no conditioning on prices. More generally, if there is some underinference from prices as well as some noninformational trading (e.g., [Banerjee 2011](#) and [Eyster et al. 2019](#)), high expected volume will be associated with return continuation so long as underinference is not overwhelmed by noninformational trading.

As such, we argue that the cross-sectional variation in short-term momentum is suggestive of an explanation based on underinference prices: It is strongest among the largest and most liquid stocks, whose returns tend to be less affected by temporary price pressure ([Avramov et al., 2006](#); [Nagel, 2012](#); [Hendershott and Menkveld, 2014](#)), and it is also stronger among stocks with greater dispersion in analysts’ forecasts, which is a common proxy for disagreement among traders ([Diether et al., 2002](#); [Verardo, 2009](#); [Banerjee, 2011](#)).

Lastly, to assist in differentiating between fully and boundedly rational explanations, we investigate how trading volume affects the ability of realized returns to predict firms’ fundamentals. The idea is that, in models that allow for both underinference and noninformational

²⁶Examples include [Odean’s \(1998\)](#) ‘overconfident’ traders who condition on prices but exaggerate the precision of their own signals (see also [Daniel, Hirshleifer, and Subrahmanyam, 1998](#)); [Hong and Stein’s \(1999\)](#) ‘newswatchers’ that trade on their private information but do not condition on prices (see also [Hong and Stein, 2007](#)); [Hirshleifer, Lim, and Teoh’s \(2011\)](#) ‘inattentive’ traders who condition on a subset of publicly available information but not on prices; [Banerjee’s \(2011\)](#) ‘dismissive’ traders who condition on prices but downplay the precision of others’ signals; [Eyster, Rabin, and Vayanos’ \(2019\)](#) ‘cursed’ traders who do not fully condition on prices; and [Mondria, Vives, and Yang’s \(2020\)](#) ‘unsophisticated’ traders who condition on a noisy version of the price for inference purposes.

trading (e.g., [Banerjee 2011](#) and [Eyster et al. 2019](#)), volume will have different effects on the relation between realized returns and subsequent fundamental values depending on the relative strength of underinference vs. noninformational trading—just as discussed above for the effects of volume on return autocorrelation in such models. Because fully rational traders use prices to infer each others’ information up to any noise introduced by noninformational trading, ‘rational volume’ ultimately emanates from noninformational trading. Higher rational volume should therefore decrease the predictive ability of returns for fundamentals. By contrast, because boundedly rational traders underappreciate the information conveyed by prices, ‘boundedly rational’ volume will reflect both underreaction to the available information as well as any noninformational trading. Higher boundedly rational volume should therefore increase the predictive ability of returns for fundamentals *if* underinference is not overwhelmed by noninformational trading.

To test this prediction, [Table XI](#) shows [Fama and MacBeth](#) predictive regressions of firms’ fundamental growth rates (at the 1, 3, and 5 year horizons) on one-month returns, turnover, and their interaction ($r_{1,0} \times TO_{1,0}$). We consider the growth in gross profits (REVT – COGS) as well as in earnings (IB) and control for commonly employed predictors. All independent variables are measured at the end of firms’ fiscal years. We use weighted least squares (WLS) with market capitalization as weight. Dependent and independent variables are trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles. Independent variables are standardized by their cross-sectional average and standard deviation. The interaction is the product of the standardized variables.

The slope on $r_{1,0}$ is positive in all specifications and also significant except for 5-year earnings growth when employed alongside the controls. With regards to the interaction, its slope should be positive if there is detectable underinference from prices, but should otherwise be negative. As such, the regressions are suggestive of detectable underinference. At the 1-year horizon, the slope on the interaction is positive and significant, with or without controls, for both gross-profit growth and earnings growth. At the 3- and 5-year horizons, although the slope on the interaction loses its significance, its point estimate never becomes negative. The fact that the slope on the interaction loses its significant at longer horizons suggests that the interaction reveals information about fundamentals in the relatively near term, and is broadly consistent with our previous result that short-term momentum returns on average persist for a year after portfolio formation ([Figure 2](#)).

Table XI: Cross-sectional regressions to predict fundamentals. This table shows Fama and MacBeth cross-sectional regressions of firms' growth in gross profits (Panel A) and earnings (Panel B) on one-month returns, turnover, and their interaction ($r_{1,0} \times TO_{1,0}$). All independent variables are measured at the end of firms' fiscal years. Regressions are estimated using weighted least squares (WLS) with market capitalization as weight. Dependent and independent variables are trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles. Independent variables are standardized by their cross-sectional average and standard deviation. The interaction is the product of the standardized variables. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. Controls are 12-2 months performance ($r_{12,2}$), one-month Amihud illiquidity ($Illiq_{1,0}$), gross profits-to-assets (GP/A), earnings-to-book equity (IB/B), dividends and repurchases-to-book equity (Div/B , where Div is $DVC + PRSTKCC$, both set to zero if missing), asset growth (dA/A_{-1}), book-to-market equity ($\log(B/M)$), and *Size* (\log of market capitalization). The sample excludes financial firms and firms with negative book equity. Data are annual and cover 1963 to 2018.

Average slopes ($\times 100$) and test-statistics (in parentheses) from WLS regressions of the form $y_{it} = \beta'_t \mathbf{X}_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$						
Independent variables	1-year		3-year		5-year	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Panel A: Dependent variable is growth in gross profits, $y_{it} = \frac{GP_{i,t+\tau} - GP_{it}}{A_{it}}$						
$r_{1,0}$	0.79 (5.15)	0.70 (9.57)	1.24 (3.67)	0.86 (4.98)	1.51 (2.71)	0.95 (3.15)
$TO_{1,0}$	0.76 (4.30)	-0.04 (-0.35)	1.90 (2.49)	-0.18 (-0.39)	2.98 (2.18)	-0.52 (-0.57)
$r_{1,0} \times TO_{1,0}$	0.19 (2.54)	0.15 (2.96)	0.14 (0.52)	0.12 (0.66)	0.36 (0.96)	0.40 (1.47)
$r_{12,2}$		1.54 (8.33)		2.00 (5.90)		2.76 (5.27)
$Illiq_{1,0}$		-0.19 (-1.55)		-1.00 (-1.74)		-1.00 (-1.09)
GP/A		1.94 (10.97)		6.38 (8.45)		11.78 (8.12)
IB/B		-1.10 (-5.37)		-2.50 (-3.72)		-3.65 (-3.17)
Div/B		-0.50 (-9.41)		-1.91 (-9.01)		-3.64 (-9.40)
dA/A_{-1}		1.49 (7.85)		2.88 (7.36)		5.16 (5.97)
$\log(B/M)$		-1.75 (-16.64)		-5.34 (-14.67)		-9.58 (-20.09)
<i>Size</i>		-0.26 (-2.67)		-1.49 (-6.70)		-3.04 (-4.66)
Adj. R^2	3.5%	29.1%	2.9%	32.0%	2.6%	35.4%
Panel B: Dependent variable is growth in earnings, $y_{it} = \frac{IB_{i,t+\tau} - IB_{it}}{B_{it}}$						
$r_{1,0}$	0.85 (4.87)	0.77 (5.08)	1.00 (4.79)	0.75 (3.29)	0.87 (2.62)	0.37 (1.21)
$TO_{1,0}$	0.06 (0.38)	-0.37 (-2.38)	-0.13 (-0.27)	-0.65 (-1.28)	0.02 (0.04)	-0.92 (-1.83)
$r_{1,0} \times TO_{1,0}$	0.28 (2.83)	0.23 (2.31)	0.00 (0.00)	0.09 (0.52)	0.24 (1.19)	0.25 (1.74)
$r_{12,2}$		2.06 (9.06)		1.07 (2.91)		0.98 (5.07)
$Illiq_{1,0}$		-0.41 (-2.13)		-0.51 (-1.38)		-0.95 (-2.15)
GP/A		0.87 (4.41)		1.36 (2.90)		1.90 (3.00)
IB/B		-9.02 (-4.16)		-12.22 (-4.04)		-14.60 (-3.46)
Div/B		0.42 (5.66)		0.31 (1.34)		-0.04 (-0.12)
dA/A_{-1}		-0.65 (-2.81)		-0.65 (-1.69)		-0.03 (-0.05)
$\log(B/M)$		-1.67 (-7.14)		-3.30 (-10.33)		-4.82 (-16.50)
<i>Size</i>		0.98 (2.78)		0.95 (1.03)		0.87 (0.99)
Adj. R^2	2.3%	16.7%	2.6%	14.7%	2.2%	14.5%

5. CONCLUSION

Momentum (the tendency for winners to outperform losers) and reversal (the tendency for losers to outperform winners) coexist with almost equal strengths at the one-month horizon. While last month’s low-turnover stocks exhibit a strong short-term reversal effect (-16.9% per annum), last month’s high-turnover stocks exhibit an almost equally strong continuation effect ($+16.4\%$ per annum) which we dub *short-term momentum*. This finding is not limited to the U.S. but extends to 22 international developed markets. We show that short-term momentum generates significant abnormal returns relative to standard factors; persists for 12 months; is stronger with an implementation lag; survives conservative estimates of transaction costs; and is strongest among the largest, most liquid, and most extensively covered stocks.

Short-term momentum and conventional price momentum share the same basic philosophy: Both are a bet on recent winners financed by a bet against recent losers, and both are designed to avoid diluting the continuation effect with short-term reversal. However, while conventional momentum does this by skipping the most recent month, short-term momentum’s trading signal *is* the performance over the most recent month, and it instead avoids reversal by conditioning on high share turnover in the most recent month. The two are alike in terms of profitability and persistence and are related in terms of characteristic tilts, portfolio overlap, and time-series correlation. However, there are also noteworthy differences between them. While short-term momentum is strongest among the largest and most extensively covered stocks, [Hong, Lim, and Stein \(2000\)](#) find that “once one moves past the very smallest capitalization stocks (where thin market making capacity does indeed appear to be an issue) the profitability of momentum strategies declines sharply with market capitalization” and “momentum strategies work particularly well among stocks that have low analyst coverage” (p. 267). In addition, short-term momentum exhibits far less crash risk than does conventional momentum and, unlike conventional momentum, does not appear to be spanned or driven by other well-known momentum effects—such as those in earnings, industry returns, and factor returns. As such, an open question for future research is whether short-term momentum and conventional momentum are the same phenomenon in different guises or related phenomena with important differences.

Theoretically, the existence of a high-turnover continuation effect is postulated by the

models of Wang (1994) and Llorente et al. (2002). Still, these models' high-information-asymmetry mechanism is not supported in the data as an explanation for short-term momentum. While high-information-asymmetry stocks should be small, illiquid, and have low analyst coverage, we find the exact opposite for short-term momentum: it is *strongest* among the largest, most liquid, and most extensively covered stocks. Notwithstanding these results, size, liquidity, and analyst coverage may simply be imperfect proxies for information asymmetry. Finding better proxies and re-testing the mechanism is certainly an interesting avenue for future research. Alternatively, models that relax the strict rationality assumption and instead allow for underinference from prices by some traders (a mild form of bounded rationality) would predict that short-term momentum should be stronger among stocks where any underinference from prices is not overwhelmed by noninformational trading. We argue that the cross-sectional variation in short-term momentum is broadly consistent with such an explanation: It is stronger among stocks less likely to be affected by temporary price pressure and among stocks more likely to cause disagreement among traders. Refining this argument, including tests of additional predictions and formally discriminating between alternative classes of models, is also an interesting avenue for future research.

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Internet Appendix for

Short-term Momentum

(not for publication)

IA.1. TABLES AND FIGURES OMITTED FROM THE MAIN TEXT

This appendix contains tables and figures omitted from the main text.

Table IA.1: Portfolio characteristics for double sorts on one-month returns and turnover. This table shows time-series averages of portfolio characteristics for the double sorts on last month's return ($r_{1,0}$) and turnover ($TO_{1,0}$) in Table I. Portfolio $r_{1,0}$ is the time-series average of each portfolios' monthly value weighted $r_{1,0}$, and similarly for portfolio $TO_{1,0}$. Average market capitalization is the time-series average of each portfolio's monthly equal-weighted average market capitalization in millions of dollars. Average number of stocks is the time-series average of each portfolios' monthly number of stocks. The sample excludes financial firms. Data are monthly and cover July 1963 to December 2018.

$TO_{1,0}$ deciles	$r_{1,0}$ deciles									
	Low	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	High
	Portfolio $r_{1,0}$									
Low	-0.14	-0.07	-0.04	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.09	0.19
2	-0.14	-0.07	-0.04	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.09	0.18
3	-0.14	-0.07	-0.04	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.09	0.17
4	-0.13	-0.07	-0.04	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.09	0.18
5	-0.14	-0.07	-0.04	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.09	0.18
6	-0.14	-0.07	-0.04	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.09	0.18
7	-0.14	-0.07	-0.04	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.19
8	-0.14	-0.08	-0.04	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.20
9	-0.16	-0.08	-0.04	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.22
High	-0.18	-0.08	-0.04	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.28
	Portfolio $TO_{1,0}$									
Low	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
2	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05
3	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.06
4	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.08
5	0.09	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.10
6	0.11	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.12
7	0.14	0.10	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.14
8	0.17	0.12	0.10	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.18
9	0.23	0.15	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.16	0.24
High	0.43	0.27	0.24	0.22	0.21	0.21	0.22	0.24	0.28	0.47
	Average market capitalization (\$ mio.)									
Low	176	414	803	1,003	985	1,174	1182	1,227	952	364
2	530	1,880	2,957	3,642	4,806	4,167	4,212	3,866	2,789	994
3	711	2,169	3,140	4,219	4,481	4,498	4,439	4,117	3,340	1,290
4	930	2,275	3,262	3,676	3,753	4,009	3,945	3,875	3,116	1,265
5	905	2,376	2,815	3,445	3,753	3,566	3,842	3,550	3,016	1,396
6	934	2,485	2,829	3,485	3,499	3,335	3,391	3,411	2,654	1,284
7	923	2,142	2,488	3,010	3,259	3,347	3,167	2,990	2,389	1,206
8	925	1,886	2,198	2,660	2,811	2,805	2,858	2,565	2,154	1,158
9	855	1,675	1,984	2,079	2,180	2,496	2,364	2,151	1,919	1,132
High	722	1,403	1,589	1,697	1,706	1,756	1,667	1,779	1,511	898
	Average number of stocks									
Low	177	95	83	74	68	66	63	66	72	124
2	78	41	34	30	28	27	27	29	33	59
3	58	32	27	24	23	23	22	24	27	47
4	49	29	24	22	21	21	21	22	24	42
5	44	26	22	21	20	20	20	21	23	39
6	39	24	21	20	19	19	20	20	22	36
7	37	24	21	20	20	19	19	20	22	36
8	36	24	22	20	20	20	20	21	23	37
9	35	24	22	21	21	21	21	22	24	37
High	41	29	27	26	26	26	26	27	29	47

Table IA.2: Independent double sorts on one-month returns and turnover. This table shows portfolios from independent double sorts on last month's return ($r_{1,0}$) and turnover ($TO_{1,0}$). The sorts are into deciles based on NYSE breakpoint. Portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. The table also shows the performance of long-short strategies across the deciles. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. Data are monthly and cover July 1969 to December 2018, where the start date is to ensure non-empty portfolios as a result of the independent sorts.

		$r_{1,0}$ deciles										$r_{1,0}$ strategies			
		Low	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	High	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q	
$TO_{1,0}$ deciles		Portfolio excess return													
Low		1.28	1.28	0.83	0.93	0.63	1.01	0.78	0.74	0.38	-0.14	-1.42 (-6.11)	-1.53 (-5.95)	-1.57 (-6.27)	
2		1.71	1.06	1.02	0.95	1.05	0.88	0.75	0.73	0.64	-0.03	-1.74 (-5.41)	-1.76 (-4.61)	-1.73 (-4.51)	
3		1.36	1.27	1.27	1.02	1.16	1.00	0.59	0.75	0.36	0.47	-0.89 (-2.54)	-1.05 (-2.75)	-1.15 (-3.04)	
4		1.62	1.46	1.40	1.36	0.90	1.06	0.82	0.59	0.82	0.09	-1.53 (-5.15)	-1.82 (-5.88)	-1.73 (-4.90)	
5		1.52	1.55	1.38	1.02	1.21	0.86	0.86	0.98	0.61	0.46	-1.06 (-3.22)	-1.29 (-3.00)	-1.37 (-3.37)	
6		1.55	1.10	1.32	1.24	0.82	0.84	0.99	1.07	0.77	0.72	-0.83 (-2.59)	-0.96 (-2.63)	-0.90 (-2.36)	
7		1.13	1.01	1.17	0.95	1.04	1.21	0.92	0.98	0.80	0.49	-0.64 (-3.10)	-0.77 (-2.73)	-0.67 (-2.39)	
8		1.33	1.10	1.14	1.06	1.19	1.18	0.96	0.84	0.88	0.79	-0.55 (-2.07)	-0.43 (-1.39)	-0.40 (-1.18)	
9		0.94	1.10	1.17	1.24	1.14	0.95	1.05	1.26	1.00	0.69	-0.25 (-0.91)	-0.31 (-1.07)	-0.23 (-0.56)	
High		0.12	0.78	0.98	1.00	0.86	0.48	0.89	0.96	0.90	1.12	1.00 (4.02)	0.98 (3.40)	1.06 (3.31)	
$TO_{1,0}$ strategies															
	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	-1.16 (-4.63)	-0.50 (-1.93)	0.15 (0.46)	0.08 (0.23)	0.23 (0.68)	-0.53 (-1.72)	0.10 (0.35)	0.23 (0.75)	0.52 (1.72)	1.26 (5.06)				
	α_{FF6}	-1.15 (-4.47)	-0.34 (-1.21)	0.40 (1.33)	0.07 (0.23)	0.33 (1.04)	-0.35 (-1.22)	0.28 (1.01)	0.34 (1.17)	0.74 (2.73)	1.36 (5.26)				
	α_q	-1.18 (-4.38)	-0.16 (-0.59)	0.38 (1.14)	0.04 (0.11)	0.31 (0.87)	-0.38 (-1.18)	0.23 (0.77)	0.26 (0.74)	0.78 (2.45)	1.46 (5.19)				

Table IA.3: Portfolio characteristics for independent double sorts on one-month returns and turnover. This table shows time-series averages of portfolio characteristics for the independent double sorts on last month's return ($r_{1,0}$) and turnover ($TO_{1,0}$) in Table IA.2. Portfolio $r_{1,0}$ is the time-series average of each portfolios' monthly value weighted $r_{1,0}$, and similarly for portfolio $TO_{1,0}$. Average market capitalization is the time-series average of each portfolio's monthly equal-weighted average market capitalization in millions of dollars. Average number of stocks is the time-series average of each portfolios' monthly number of stocks. Data are monthly and cover July 1969 to December 2018, where the start date is to ensure non-empty portfolios as a result of the independent sorts.

$TO_{1,0}$ deciles	$r_{1,0}$ deciles									
	Low	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	High
	Portfolio $r_{1,0}$									
Low	-0.15	-0.08	-0.05	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.20
2	-0.14	-0.08	-0.05	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.19
3	-0.14	-0.08	-0.05	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.19
4	-0.14	-0.08	-0.05	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.18
5	-0.14	-0.08	-0.05	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.18
6	-0.14	-0.08	-0.05	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.18
7	-0.14	-0.08	-0.05	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.18
8	-0.14	-0.08	-0.05	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.18
9	-0.15	-0.08	-0.05	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.19
High	-0.17	-0.08	-0.05	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.24
	Portfolio $TO_{1,0}$									
Low	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
2	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
3	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
4	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
5	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07
6	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
7	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
8	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13
9	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17
High	0.34	0.30	0.30	0.29	0.30	0.29	0.30	0.29	0.30	0.36
	Average market capitalization (\$ mio.)									
Low	126	352	690	1,058	999	1,160	1,201	1,014	667	276
2	444	1,911	3,381	4,306	5,005	4,795	4,405	4,069	2,919	830
3	627	2,308	3,544	4,099	4,487	4,361	4,337	4,241	3,338	969
4	744	2,493	3,300	3,803	4,023	4,108	4,207	4,098	3,281	1,200
5	842	2,534	3,106	3,716	3,762	3,556	3,748	3,888	3,292	1,288
6	925	2,508	2,782	3,300	3,655	3,714	3,536	3,453	2,858	1,428
7	959	2,355	2,649	2,869	2,963	3,107	3,121	3,110	2,672	1,421
8	988	2,119	2,326	2,481	2,514	2,879	2,746	2,483	2,314	1,353
9	1,032	1,741	1,898	2,070	2,055	2,272	2,224	2,294	2,064	1,232
High	875	1,523	1,772	1,691	1,661	1,716	1,730	1,805	1,693	1,090
	Average number of stocks									
Low	179	107	96	87	79	75	68	68	67	96
2	68	42	38	35	34	33	32	32	32	46
3	49	32	29	29	28	27	27	27	27	37
4	42	28	26	25	25	25	24	25	25	34
5	39	26	24	23	23	23	23	24	25	34
6	38	26	23	22	21	21	22	23	25	36
7	40	26	22	20	20	20	20	23	26	40
8	44	26	21	19	18	18	19	22	27	48
9	52	27	20	18	16	17	18	21	29	60
High	81	26	18	15	14	14	16	20	29	101

Table IA.4: Short-term momentum’s factor exposures and abnormal returns relative to the q -factors. This table shows time-series regression results for the STMOM and STREV* strategies. The explanatory variable are the factors from Hou, Xue, and Zhang’s (2015) q -factor model. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. Data are monthly and cover January 1967 to December 2018, where the start date is determined by the availability of the q -factors.

Intercepts, slopes, and test-statistics (in parentheses) from time-series regressions of the form $y_t = \alpha + \beta' \mathbf{X}_t + \epsilon_t$						
Independent variable	Short-term momentum [winner-minus-loser, high turnover]			Short-term reversal* [winner-minus-loser, low turnover]		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Intercept (α)	1.42 (4.74)	1.62 (5.50)	1.65 (4.47)	-1.38 (-6.57)	-1.25 (-6.07)	-1.43 (-5.95)
MKT		-0.39 (-4.55)	-0.39 (-3.91)		-0.26 (-3.79)	-0.17 (-2.65)
ME			0.03 (0.15)			-0.21 (-1.75)
ROE			-0.19 (-0.88)			0.32 (2.43)
I/A			0.17 (0.62)			0.06 (0.30)
Adj. R^2		4.2%	4.3%		4.0%	7.5%

Table IA.5: Short-term momentum is not driven by size. This table shows the performance of winner-minus-loser strategies based on last month’s return within deciles of last month’s ‘residual turnover’ relative to size ($TO_{1,0} \perp M$; Panel A) and size (market capitalization from CRSP, M ; Panel B). Portfolios are from double sorts on last month’s return ($r_{1,0}$) and either $TO_{1,0} \perp M$ or size. We use conditional sorts into deciles based on NYSE breakpoints, first on $r_{1,0}$ and then on either $TO_{1,0} \perp M$ or size. Portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. $TO_{1,0} \perp M$ is the residual from cross-sectional regression of $TO_{1,0}$ on $\log(M)$, estimated using WLS with market capitalization as weight. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. The sample excludes financial firms. Data are monthly and cover July 1963 to December 2018, except when applying the q -factors, which are available from January 1967.

Panel A				Panel B			
Performance of $r_{1,0}$ strategies within $TO_{1,0} \perp M$ deciles				Performance of $r_{1,0}$ strategies within size deciles			
$TO_{1,0} \perp M$ decile	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q	Size decile	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q
Low	-1.88 (-9.40)	-1.98 (-9.11)	-1.98 (-6.82)	Low	-2.08 (-7.85)	-2.37 (-7.71)	-2.35 (-6.31)
2	-1.62 (-7.47)	-1.65 (-7.34)	-1.55 (-5.46)	2	-1.04 (-4.57)	-1.26 (-4.48)	-1.28 (-3.63)
3	-1.38 (-5.57)	-1.44 (-5.81)	-1.44 (-4.97)	3	-0.81 (-3.48)	-1.08 (-3.50)	-1.06 (-2.66)
4	-1.21 (-5.43)	-1.36 (-4.92)	-1.43 (-4.17)	4	-0.66 (-2.66)	-0.85 (-2.47)	-0.89 (-1.98)
5	-0.88 (-3.46)	-1.07 (-4.06)	-1.00 (-3.26)	5	-0.82 (-3.60)	-1.04 (-4.19)	-1.03 (-3.44)
6	-1.01 (-3.58)	-1.12 (-3.44)	-1.03 (-2.77)	6	-0.90 (-3.95)	-0.98 (-3.21)	-0.90 (-2.51)
7	-0.11 (-0.43)	-0.24 (-0.80)	-0.22 (-0.68)	7	-0.98 (-4.41)	-1.04 (-4.34)	-0.91 (-2.87)
8	0.11 (0.44)	0.08 (0.29)	0.04 (0.13)	8	-0.61 (-2.40)	-0.59 (-2.09)	-0.42 (-1.25)
9	0.22 (0.87)	0.07 (0.27)	0.24 (0.74)	9	-0.40 (-1.71)	-0.40 (-1.42)	-0.28 (-0.95)
High	1.27 (4.36)	1.26 (3.78)	1.54 (3.99)	High	-0.03 (-0.17)	-0.15 (-0.73)	-0.04 (-0.14)

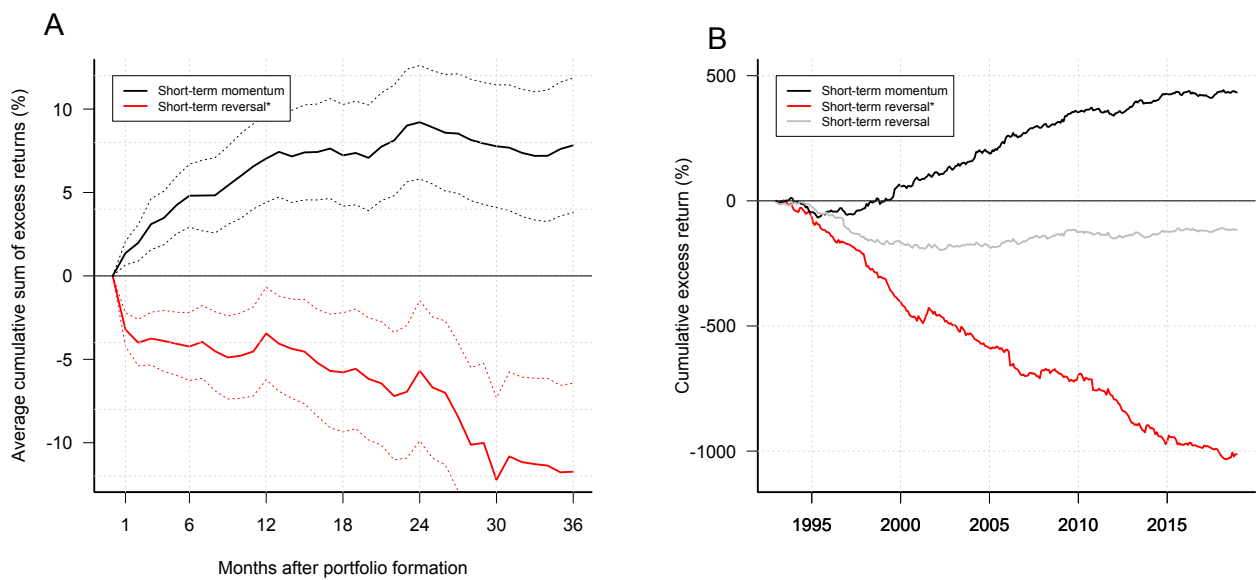


Figure IA.1: International short-term momentum returns: Persistence and historical performance. Panel A shows the average cumulative sums of post-formation excess returns to each of the international short-term momentum (STMOM) and international short-term reversal* (STREV*) strategies along with 95% confidence bands. Panel B shows a time-series plot of cumulative sums of excess returns to the international STMOM and STREV* strategies as well as a conventional short-term reversal strategy. Data are monthly and cover January 1993 to December 2018.

Table IA.6: Short-term momentum controlling for size: International evidence. This table shows the performance of international short-term momentum (STMOM) and short-term reversal* (STREV*) strategies constructed with a control for size (market capitalization). In Panels A and B, the strategies are from $N \times 3 \times 3$ conditional sorts on size, last month's return, and last month's turnover, in that order, where the breakpoints for returns and turnover are the 20th and 80th percentiles. In Panel A, $N = 2$ and the size breakpoint is the median; in panel B, $N = 5$ and the size breakpoints quintiles. In Panel C, the strategies are from 2×2 independent sorts on returns and turnover among the 100 largest stocks by monthly market capitalization within each country, where the breakpoints for returns and turnover are the 50th rank. We use independent double sorts to form country-specific portfolios that are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. We then weight each country's portfolio by the country's total market capitalization for the previous month to form each international portfolio. All returns and market values are in U.S. dollars and excess returns are above the monthly U.S. T-bill rate. Abnormal returns are relative to Fama and French's (2017) developed markets five-factor model including the momentum factor (DMFF6). Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. Data are monthly and cover January 1993 to December 2018.

Size group	Short-term momentum strategies [winner-minus-loser, high turnover] controlling for size		Short-term reversal* strategies [winner-minus-loser, low turnover] controlling for size	
	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{DMFF6}	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{DMFF6}
Panel A: Size breakpoint is median				
Small	0.52 (1.24)	0.57 (1.22)	-3.15 (-8.64)	-2.84 (-8.31)
Large	0.99 (3.50)	1.03 (3.55)	-1.67 (-4.73)	-1.49 (-4.12)
Panel B: Size breakpoints are quintiles				
Small	-0.23 (-0.36)	-0.15 (-0.18)	-3.45 (-3.54)	-3.55 (-4.68)
2	0.55 (1.16)	0.69 (1.38)	-2.68 (-7.78)	-2.34 (-6.84)
3	0.71 (1.90)	0.85 (2.16)	-2.40 (-6.51)	-2.11 (-4.41)
4	0.65 (1.45)	0.83 (1.81)	-1.85 (-4.00)	-1.77 (-3.80)
Large	1.12 (4.01)	1.14 (3.88)	-1.50 (-3.12)	-1.06 (-2.31)
Panel C: Largest 100 stocks per country				
Largest 100 per country	0.62 (3.25)	0.46 (2.68)	0.44 (1.45)	0.68 (1.99)

Table IA.7: Independent quintile double sorts on one-month returns and turnover excluding end-of-month effects. This table shows portfolios double sorted on last month’s return and turnover while skipping the sorting variables’ end-of-month values ($r_{1,0-EOM}$ and $TO_{1,0-EOM}$) measured at the month’s last 3 trading days. We use independent sorts into quintiles based on NYSE breakpoints. Portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. Panel A shows portfolio excess returns and the performance of long-short strategies across the quintiles. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. Panel B shows time-series averages of monthly value weighted portfolio characteristics as well as equal-weighted market capitalization and number of stocks. The sample excludes financial firms. Data are monthly and cover July 1963 to December 2018, except for the q -factors, which are available from January 1967.

Panel A: Portfolio excess returns and strategy performance										
$TO_{1,0-EOM}$ quintiles	$r_{1,0-EOM}$ quintiles					$r_{1,0-EOM}$ strategies				
	Low	2	3	4	High	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q		
Portfolio excess return										
Low	0.50	0.28	0.47	0.49	0.23	-0.26 (-1.57)	-0.30 (-1.83)	-0.26 (-1.39)		
2	0.75	0.73	0.56	0.35	0.33	-0.42 (-2.26)	-0.51 (-2.61)	-0.45 (-2.16)		
3	0.62	0.76	0.63	0.59	0.51	-0.12 (-0.64)	-0.23 (-1.13)	-0.10 (-0.41)		
4	0.57	0.72	0.68	0.59	0.54	-0.04 (-0.21)	0.02 (0.09)	0.09 (0.34)		
High	0.00	0.81	0.72	0.60	0.74	0.74 (4.21)	0.77 (4.03)	0.86 (3.37)		
$TO_{1,0-EOM}$ strategies										
$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	-0.50 (-2.88)	0.53 (2.50)	0.25 (1.07)	0.11 (0.48)	0.51 (2.87)					
α_{FF6}	-0.52 (-3.04)	0.51 (2.89)	0.34 (1.84)	0.10 (0.57)	0.55 (3.92)					
α_q	-0.52 (-3.04)	0.55 (2.85)	0.31 (1.62)	0.02 (0.07)	0.60 (3.29)					
Panel B: Portfolio characteristics										
$TO_{1,0-EOM}$ quintiles	$r_{1,0-EOM}$ quintiles					$r_{1,0-EOM}$ quintiles				
	Low	2	3	4	High	Low	2	3	4	High
Portfolio $r_{1,0-EOM}$										
Low	-0.10	-0.03	0.00	0.04	0.12	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
2	-0.09	-0.03	0.00	0.04	0.11	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
3	-0.09	-0.03	0.00	0.04	0.11	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
4	-0.10	-0.03	0.00	0.04	0.12	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09
High	-0.12	-0.03	0.00	0.04	0.16	0.20	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.21
Average market capitalization (\$ mio.)										
Low	379	1,490	2,082	2,000	732	439	275	246	227	286
2	1,275	3,150	3,850	3,685	1,939	145	106	102	99	116
3	1,367	2,895	3,315	3,261	2,013	126	90	85	89	115
4	1,297	2,334	2,622	2,571	1,719	134	81	74	83	137
High	1,016	1,634	1,800	1,747	1,218	180	70	61	75	222
Average number of stocks										

Table IA.8: Short-term momentum and end-of-month effects: International evidence. This table shows average excess returns and abnormal returns to international winner-minus-loser strategies among stocks with different values for last month’s share turnover. In panel A, the sorting variables exclude their end-of-month values ($r_{1,0-EOM}$ and $TO_{1,0-EOM}$) measured at the month’s last three trading days. In Panel B, the sorting variables are just the end-of-month values (r_{EOM} and TO_{EOM}) measured at the month’s last three trading days. The underlying portfolios are from double sorts on last month’s return and turnover. We use independent double sorts to form country-specific portfolios that are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. We then weight each country’s portfolio by the country’s total market capitalization for the previous month to form each international portfolio. All returns and market values are in U.S. dollars and excess returns are above the monthly U.S. T-bill rate. Abnormal returns are relative to [Fama and French’s \(2017\)](#) developed markets five-factor model including the momentum factor (DMFF6). Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. Data are monthly and cover January 1993 to December 2018.

Panel A			Panel B		
Performance of $r_{1,0-EOM}$ strategies within $TO_{1,0-EOM}$ deciles			Performance of r_{EOM} strategies within TO_{EOM} deciles		
$TO_{1,0-EOM}$ decile	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{DMFF6}	TO_{EOM} deciles	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{DMFF6}
Low	-1.35 (-2.82)	-0.98 (-1.88)	Low	-3.29 (-7.97)	-3.46 (-7.06)
2	-0.91 (-1.88)	0.16 (0.28)	2	-2.11 (-3.22)	-2.16 (-3.76)
3	-0.78 (-1.50)	-0.61 (-1.06)	3	-2.06 (-4.83)	-2.13 (-5.03)
4	0.30 (0.81)	0.89 (1.93)	4	-2.47 (-6.09)	-2.77 (-6.38)
5	-0.19 (-0.49)	-0.06 (-0.12)	5	-2.42 (-4.72)	-2.32 (-4.94)
6	-0.04 (-0.09)	-0.25 (-0.63)	6	-2.09 (-4.68)	-1.85 (-3.72)
7	0.62 (1.68)	0.56 (1.48)	7	-1.76 (-4.79)	-2.00 (-4.67)
8	0.48 (1.23)	0.66 (1.69)	8	-1.13 (-2.62)	-1.47 (-3.49)
9	0.98 (3.83)	1.08 (3.43)	9	-0.88 (-2.46)	-0.97 (-2.32)
High	1.66 (3.96)	1.71 (3.78)	High	-0.42 (-1.06)	-0.25 (-0.71)

Table IA.9: Short-term momentum’s investment allocation and capacity. This table shows investment allocation and capacity for the strategies considered in [Table VII](#). Panel A shows, for each strategy, the time-series average of the underlying portfolios’ investment allocation to each NYSE size quintile, i.e., how each portfolio on average allocates each invested dollar to each NYSE size quintile. Panel B shows, for each strategy, the investment capacity of the underlying portfolios measured in two ways: (i) The time-series average of the portfolio’s market capitalization as a percentage of the aggregate market capitalization and (ii) the portfolio’s market capitalization in billions of dollars at the end of the sample in December 2018.

Strategy	Leg	Panel A					Panel B	
		Average fraction of each \$1 investment allocated to each NYSE size quintile (%)					Investment capacity	
		Micro	2	3	4	Mega	Average fraction (%)	December 2018 (\$B)
Short-term momentum	Long	8.5	12.9	19.2	27.1	32.3	0.69	71.4
	Short	8.8	14.4	21.3	27.1	28.4	0.57	38.7
Short-term reversal*	Long	27.4	14.2	13.8	16.1	28.5	0.88	43.0
	Short	39.2	13.9	12.0	13.7	21.1	0.62	12.1
Short-term momentum (excl. EOM)	Long	8.7	13	19.1	27.1	31.9	0.69	96.4
	Short	8.8	14.1	20.9	27.1	29.1	0.56	53.8
Short-term momentum (5 × 5, excl. EOM)	Long	5.7	9.1	14.1	23.1	48.1	4.25	387.4
	Short	6.3	9.9	15.2	23.7	45.0	3.10	863.6
Short-term momentum (largecaps, excl. EOM)	Long	0.0	0.0	11.4	32.7	56.0	2.31	353.3
	Short	0.0	0.0	10.7	31.9	57.3	2.21	465.7
Short-term momentum (megacaps, excl. EOM)	Long	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	2.17	587.0
	Short	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	2.07	650.3

Table IA.10: Short-term momentum and other stock-level momentum strategies: Additional results. This table complements Table VIII with additional characteristic tilts (Panel A) for the short-term momentum strategy and the four other stock-level momentum strategies. It also shows time-series averages of monthly overlap of stocks for the strategies' winner and loser portfolios (Panels B and C), where the overlap of two sets, X and Y , is given by $|X \cap Y| / \min\{|X|, |Y|\}$. In Panel A, all accounting variables are annual. B/M is book-to-market equity, where M is as of prior December from CRSP, and where the lagging is to avoid taking unintentional positions in conventional momentum. GP/A_{-1} is gross profits relative to 1-year lagged total asset. COP/A_{-1} is cash-based operating profits-to-lagged total assets. dA/A_{-1} is the year-over-year relative change in total assets. MC is monthly market capitalization from CRSP. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. The sample excludes financial firms. Data are monthly and cover July 1963 to December 2018 for short-term momentum and conventional momentum, but the PEAD and ROE strategies start from January 1972 due to data availability in Compustat.

Panel A: Characteristic tilts					
Strategy	Time-series average of long-short difference in monthly value-weighted average portfolio characteristics (in %) and equal-weighted average portfolio market capitalization (in \$million)				
	B/M	GP/A_{-1}	COP/A_{-1}	dA/A_{-1}	MC
Short-term momentum	6.38 (3.74)	-4.62 (-4.73)	-1.44 (-2.53)	-5.42 (-1.65)	177 (3.32)
Conventional momentum	-17.40 (-4.40)	3.19 (1.78)	2.96 (2.21)	-4.52 (-1.27)	583 (2.38)
PEAD (CAR)	-0.89 (-0.91)	1.77 (2.73)	0.70 (1.69)	-0.77 (-0.44)	203 (3.85)
PEAD (SUE)	-26.20 (-10.85)	9.62 (6.81)	6.15 (5.90)	-3.28 (-0.83)	1,090 (4.02)
Return on equity	-59.69 (-3.75)	33.16 (18.77)	21.87 (19.83)	-27.67 (-1.67)	4,237 (0.96)
Panel B: Overlap among winners					
	Conventional momentum	PEAD (CAR)	PEAD (SUE)	Return on equity	
Short-term momentum	0.34 (28.94)	0.28 (42.82)	0.16 (24.30)	0.16 (17.08)	
Conventional momentum		0.24 (32.51)	0.30 (22.52)	0.27 (21.97)	
PEAD (CAR)			0.22 (45.82)	0.21 (36.15)	
PEAD (SUE)				0.30 (36.00)	
Panel B: Overlap among losers					
	Conventional momentum	PEAD (CAR)	PEAD (SUE)	Return on equity	
Short-term momentum	0.20 (15.17)	0.32 (33.40)	0.15 (34.06)	0.26 (16.89)	
Conventional momentum		0.27 (33.01)	0.33 (32.00)	0.40 (23.60)	
PEAD (CAR)			0.25 (41.76)	0.34 (36.50)	
PEAD (SUE)				0.51 (39.85)	

Table IA.11: Short-term momentum excluding earnings announcements. This table shows the performance of long-short strategies that buy last month’s winners and sell last month’s losers among stocks with different share turnover in the previous month. In Panel A, the sorts exclude earnings announcers, i.e., excluding firms whose most recent earnings announcement date (Compustat’s RDQ) fell in the previous month. In Panel B, the sorting variables exclude their values for the three days around earnings announcement dates ($r_{[1,0]\setminus\text{EAD}}$ and $TO_{[1,0]\setminus\text{EAD}}$). Portfolios are from conditional sorts into deciles based on NYSE breakpoints, first on returns and then on turnover, and are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. The sample excludes financial firms. Data are monthly and cover January 1972 to December 2018, where the start date is determined by the availability of data on quarterly earnings announcement dates in Compustat.

Panel A				Panel B			
Performance of $r_{1,0}$ strategies within $TO_{1,0}$ deciles excluding earnings announcers				Performance of $r_{[1,0]\setminus\text{EAD}}$ strategies within $TO_{[1,0]\setminus\text{EAD}}$ deciles			
$TO_{1,0}$ decile	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q	$TO_{[1,0]\setminus\text{EAD}}$ decile	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q
Low	-1.82 (-5.99)	-1.89 (-5.18)	-1.94 (-5.64)	Low	-1.80 (-7.32)	-1.85 (-6.71)	-1.92 (-7.87)
2	-1.77 (-5.28)	-1.90 (-5.70)	-1.90 (-5.10)	2	-1.44 (-5.02)	-1.62 (-4.58)	-1.63 (-4.98)
3	-1.40 (-4.08)	-1.50 (-3.58)	-1.41 (-3.62)	3	-1.58 (-5.51)	-1.79 (-5.91)	-1.76 (-5.39)
4	-1.05 (-3.10)	-1.27 (-3.80)	-1.18 (-2.87)	4	-1.06 (-3.90)	-1.16 (-4.46)	-1.01 (-3.23)
5	-0.95 (-2.65)	-0.94 (-2.26)	-0.83 (-2.00)	5	-0.84 (-3.21)	-0.97 (-3.22)	-0.83 (-2.19)
6	-0.16 (-0.40)	-0.13 (-0.31)	-0.02 (-0.04)	6	-0.57 (-2.27)	-0.46 (-1.73)	-0.34 (-0.93)
7	-0.40 (-1.22)	-0.56 (-1.56)	-0.37 (-0.76)	7	-0.97 (-3.40)	-1.04 (-3.10)	-1.06 (-2.89)
8	-0.58 (-1.61)	-0.72 (-1.71)	-0.72 (-1.69)	8	-0.49 (-1.89)	-0.69 (-2.16)	-0.72 (-1.91)
9	0.04 (0.10)	-0.13 (-0.30)	0.08 (0.14)	9	0.05 (0.18)	-0.05 (-0.13)	0.12 (0.32)
High	1.31 (2.75)	1.30 (2.49)	1.44 (3.05)	High	1.16 (3.30)	1.19 (3.00)	1.40 (3.46)

Table IA.12: Short-term momentum and industry momentum. This table shows time-series regression results for the short-term momentum (STMOM) strategy and for Moskowitz and Grinblatt’s (1999) one-month industry momentum (IMOM) strategy. We sort the 49 industries from Fama and French (1997), excluding financials, on their previous month’s value-weighted average return and form a ‘winner’ and a ‘loser’ industry portfolio each containing 5 industries. These portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. The IMOM strategy is long the winner- and short the loser industry portfolio. In Panel A, the additional controls are the FF6 factors. In Panel B, the additional controls are the q -factors. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. The sample excludes financial firms. Data are monthly and cover July 1963 (Panel A) or January 1967 (Panel B) to December 2018, where the start date in Panel B is determined by the availability of the q -factors.

Intercepts, slopes, and test-statistics (in parentheses) from time-series regressions of the form $y_t = \alpha + \beta' \mathbf{X}_t + \epsilon_t$							
Independent variable	Short-term momentum [winner-minus-loser, high turnover]			Industry momentum			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Panel A: Controls are the FF6 factors							
Intercept	1.37 (4.74)	0.79 (2.73)	0.92 (3.01)	0.98 (4.59)	0.84 (3.48)	0.63 (2.94)	0.52 (2.32)
IMOM		0.59 (7.74)	0.53 (7.89)				
STMOM						0.26 (6.93)	0.23 (5.57)
MKT			-0.31 (-3.82)		-0.07 (-1.05)		0.01 (0.13)
SMB			0.07 (0.51)		-0.14 (-1.62)		-0.13 (-1.67)
HML			-0.02 (-0.09)		0.08 (0.81)		0.07 (0.75)
RMW			-0.30 (-1.52)		-0.19 (-1.33)		-0.09 (-0.66)
CMA			0.15 (0.62)		0.04 (0.26)		0.00 (0.01)
MOM			0.15 (1.07)		0.33 (4.17)		0.25 (3.59)
Adj. R^2		15.1%	18.3%		6.8%	15.1%	18.3%
Panel B: Controls are the q-factors							
Intercept	1.42 (4.74)	0.86 (2.88)	1.15 (3.67)	0.95 (4.24)	0.88 (3.42)	0.58 (2.60)	0.46 (1.66)
IMOM		0.59 (7.40)	0.57 (7.17)				
STMOM						0.26 (6.65)	0.26 (5.91)
MKT			-0.33 (-3.78)		-0.10 (-1.30)		0.00 (0.00)
ME			0.07 (0.39)		-0.06 (-0.49)		-0.07 (-0.91)
ROE			-0.30 (-1.72)		0.19 (1.22)		0.24 (1.91)
I/A			0.13 (0.62)		0.08 (0.35)		0.03 (0.20)
Adj. R^2		15.0%	18.2%		1.8%	15.0%	16.1%

Table IA.13: Short-term momentum and industry adjustments. This table shows the performance of winner-minus-loser strategies similar to those in [Table I](#) except that we consider industry-adjusted signals or performance. We use conditional sorts into deciles based on NYSE breakpoints, first on returns and then on turnover. Portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month.

Panel A shows strategies from sorts where the sorting variables are demeaned by their value-weighted average industry values. Panel B shows a decomposition of the benchmark strategies (from sorts on unadjusted variables) into an industry-hedged ('within-industry') component and the industry hedge. The industry-hedged strategies are from sorts on unadjusted variables, but each stock's position is combined with an offsetting position of equal size in the corresponding value weighted industry portfolio. The industry hedges are their offsetting positions in the value weighted industry portfolios.

The industries are the Fama and French 49. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. The sample excludes financial firms. Data are monthly and cover January 1963 to December 2018.

Turnover decile	Panel A				Panel B							
	Strategies from sorts on industry-demeaned variables				Decomposition of benchmark strategy performance into an industry-hedged ('within-industry') component and the industry hedge							
	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q		$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q		$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q	
	Benchmark strategies				Industry-hedged strategies				The industry hedges			
Low	-2.00 (-10.25)	-2.12 (-8.51)	-2.07 (-7.25)	-1.41 (-7.13)	-1.45 (-6.19)	-1.43 (-5.95)	-1.73 (-8.41)	-1.74 (-8.26)	-1.73 (-7.52)	0.32 (3.68)	0.29 (3.27)	0.30 (3.00)
2	-1.73 (-7.57)	-1.94 (-6.61)	-1.84 (-4.87)	-1.19 (-4.61)	-1.31 (-4.04)	-1.34 (-4.21)	-1.62 (-7.00)	-1.78 (-5.93)	-1.76 (-6.62)	0.43 (3.74)	0.47 (4.26)	0.42 (3.04)
3	-1.75 (-7.79)	-1.95 (-6.43)	-1.93 (-4.83)	-1.34 (-5.02)	-1.62 (-5.61)	-1.66 (-4.87)	-1.65 (-7.32)	-1.83 (-7.37)	-1.87 (-6.50)	0.30 (2.57)	0.21 (1.57)	0.22 (1.52)
4	-2.08 (-7.75)	-2.23 (-8.63)	-2.32 (-9.15)	-0.85 (-3.63)	-1.02 (-4.15)	-0.91 (-2.92)	-1.22 (-5.84)	-1.33 (-6.08)	-1.21 (-5.25)	0.37 (3.21)	0.31 (2.53)	0.31 (2.20)
5	-1.09 (-4.37)	-1.28 (-4.58)	-1.08 (-3.72)	-0.45 (-1.94)	-0.63 (-2.29)	-0.51 (-1.54)	-0.96 (-4.63)	-1.08 (-4.71)	-0.96 (-3.57)	0.51 (4.50)	0.46 (3.85)	0.44 (3.14)
6	-0.96 (-3.95)	-0.97 (-3.53)	-1.02 (-3.27)	-0.59 (-2.50)	-0.60 (-2.35)	-0.41 (-1.20)	-0.94 (-4.88)	-1.05 (-4.52)	-0.97 (-3.56)	0.35 (2.74)	0.45 (3.35)	0.56 (3.08)
7	-0.89 (-3.32)	-0.91 (-2.85)	-0.92 (-2.61)	-0.67 (-2.52)	-0.85 (-2.55)	-0.96 (-2.37)	-0.94 (-4.13)	-1.09 (-3.77)	-1.19 (-3.85)	0.27 (2.31)	0.23 (1.56)	0.23 (1.36)
8	-0.33 (-1.24)	-0.44 (-1.75)	-0.42 (-1.38)	0.23 (0.85)	0.13 (0.47)	0.21 (0.60)	-0.19 (-0.81)	-0.22 (-1.00)	-0.19 (-0.69)	0.42 (4.01)	0.35 (2.96)	0.40 (2.98)
9	-0.04 (-0.17)	-0.21 (-0.67)	-0.10 (-0.29)	0.05 (0.21)	0.00 (0.01)	0.19 (0.55)	-0.12 (-0.58)	-0.25 (-0.98)	-0.12 (-0.43)	0.17 (1.56)	0.26 (2.31)	0.31 (2.17)
High	1.18 (4.08)	0.95 (2.78)	1.16 (2.94)	1.37 (4.74)	1.37 (4.22)	1.65 (4.47)	0.89 (3.35)	0.86 (2.87)	1.06 (3.31)	0.48 (5.65)	0.51 (5.11)	0.59 (4.68)

Table IA.14: Short-term momentum and factor momentum. This table shows time-series regression results for the short-term momentum (STMOM) strategy from Table I. The explanatory variables are Ehsani and Linnainmaa’s (2020) time-series factor momentum strategy (FMOM^{TS}) and cross-sectional factor momentum strategy (FMOM^{XS}). Additional controls are the factors from Fama and French’s (2015) five-factor model in addition to the momentum factor (MOM). The table also shows the corresponding results for a conventional 12-2 month momentum strategy from decile sorts using NYSE breakpoints.

FMOM^{TS} is long factors with a positive return and short factors with negative return over the prior 12-1 months. FMOM^{XS} is long factors with an above-median return and short factors with a below-median return over the prior 12-1 months. The FMOM strategies’ long and short legs are weighted by the number of factors in each leg relative to the total number of factors and are rebalanced at the end of each month.

Underlying the FMOM strategies are 14 U.S. factors and 6 develop market factors. The U.S. factors are size (SMB), value (HML), profitability (RMW), asset growth (CMA), short-term reversal, long-term reversal, accruals, cash flow-to-price, earnings-to-price, net share issues, residual variance, Pástor and Stambaugh’s (2003) traded liquidity factor, Frazzini and Pedersen’s (2014) betting-against-beta (BAB), and Asness, Frazzini, and Pedersen’s (2019) quality-minus-junk (QMJ). The developed market factors are SMB, HML, RMW, CMA, BAB, and QMJ. The accruals, cash flow-to-price, earnings-to-price, net share issues, and residual variance factors are long and short the top and bottom 30% of stocks based on univariate sorts using data from Ken French’s website. The BAB and QMJ factors are from AQR’s website.

Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. Data are monthly and cover July 1964 to December 2018, where the start date is due to the availability of the FMOM strategies.

Intercepts, slopes, and test-statistics (in parentheses) from time-series regressions of the form $y_t = \alpha + \beta' \mathbf{X}_t + \epsilon_t$								
Independent variable	Short-term momentum [winner-minus-loser, high turnover]				Conventional momentum			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Intercept	0.95 (2.89)	1.01 (3.23)	0.98 (3.00)	1.31 (4.31)	0.18 (0.78)	0.37 (1.76)	0.24 (1.15)	0.27 (2.35)
FMOM ^{TS}	1.31 (3.33)		0.24 (0.44)	-0.18 (-0.30)	3.10 (12.65)		1.05 (3.48)	0.27 (1.21)
FMOM ^{XS}		1.81 (3.53)	1.55 (2.17)	1.64 (2.32)		4.08 (12.93)	3.00 (7.66)	0.14 (0.52)
MKT				-0.35 (-4.19)				0.05 (1.60)
SMB				-0.07 (-0.59)				0.00 (0.03)
HML				-0.05 (-0.25)				0.04 (0.59)
RMW				-0.34 (-1.44)				-0.20 (-2.11)
CMA				0.18 (0.64)				-0.18 (-1.75)
MOM				0.07 (0.32)				1.34 (19.19)
Adj. R^2	3.9%	5.0%	4.9%	8.3%	36.8%	42.2%	43.4%	81.6%

Table IA.15: Short-term momentum and longer formation periods. This table shows time-series regression results for alternative short-term momentum and short-term reversal* strategies constructed using longer formation periods. The strategies are constructed similar to their one-month counterparts in Table I, except that the sorting variables are cumulative return and average monthly share turnover for the previous 2, . . . , 6 months. The explanatory variables are the benchmark STMOM and STREV* strategies from Table I based on a one-month formation period. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. The sample excludes financial firms. Data are monthly and cover January 1963 to December 2018.

Intercepts, slopes, and test-statistics (in parentheses) from time-series regressions of the form $y_t = \alpha + \beta' \mathbf{X}_t + \epsilon_t$										
	2 months formation		3 months formation		4 months formation		5 months formation		6 months formation	
Independent variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Panel A: Dependent variable is alternative short-term momentum return										
Intercept	0.99 (2.95)	0.02 (0.08)	1.00 (3.11)	0.15 (0.57)	1.06 (3.16)	0.38 (1.36)	1.24 (3.78)	0.64 (1.93)	1.19 (3.25)	0.62 (1.80)
STMOM		0.71 (15.12)		0.62 (13.70)		0.50 (13.38)		0.45 (9.50)		0.42 (7.35)
Adj. R^2		46.5%		34.0%		21.5%		17.3%		14.9%
Panel B: Dependent variable is alternative short-term reversal* return										
Intercept	-1.07 (-4.70)	-0.13 (-0.60)	-0.88 (-3.78)	-0.02 (-0.07)	-0.49 (-2.05)	0.33 (1.46)	-0.48 (-1.87)	0.27 (1.10)	-0.49 (-1.84)	0.24 (0.94)
STREV*		0.67 (12.74)		0.61 (11.21)		0.58 (10.02)		0.53 (9.20)		0.51 (6.86)
Adj. R^2		36.1%		28.4%		23.9%		18.9%		16.1%

Table IA.16: Short-term momentum is not driven by volatility. This table shows the performance of winner-minus-loser strategies based on last month’s return within deciles of last month’s ‘residual turnover’ relative to volatility ($TO_{1,0} \perp \sigma_{1,0}$; Panel A) or volatility ($\sigma_{1,0}$; Panel B). Portfolios are from double sorts on last month’s return ($r_{1,0}$) and either $TO_{1,0} \perp \sigma_{1,0}$ or $\sigma_{1,0}$. We use conditional sorts into deciles based on NYSE breakpoints, first on $r_{1,0}$ and then on either $TO_{1,0} \perp \sigma_{1,0}$ or $\sigma_{1,0}$. Portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. $TO_{1,0} \perp \sigma_{1,0}$ is the residual from cross-sectional regression of last month’s share turnover on $\sigma_{1,0}$, estimated using WLS with market capitalization as weight, and $\sigma_{1,0}$ is the standard deviation of last month’s daily stock returns using a minimum of 15 daily observations. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. The sample excludes financial firms. Data are monthly and cover July 1963 to December 2018, except when applying the q -factors, which are available from January 1967.

Panel A				Panel B			
Performance of $r_{1,0}$ strategies within $TO_{1,0} \perp \sigma_{1,0}$ deciles				Performance of $r_{1,0}$ strategies within $\sigma_{1,0}$ deciles			
$TO_{1,0} \perp \sigma_{1,0}$ decile	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q	$\sigma_{1,0}$ decile	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q
Low	-1.54 (-5.55)	-1.59 (-5.97)	-1.57 (-5.13)	Low	-2.36 (-11.51)	-2.45 (-11.13)	-2.56 (-11.59)
2	-0.77 (-3.07)	-0.97 (-3.31)	-0.87 (-2.21)	2	-1.72 (-7.12)	-1.80 (-6.61)	-1.81 (-6.55)
3	-0.91 (-3.37)	-0.96 (-3.28)	-1.02 (-2.82)	3	-1.73 (-6.17)	-1.90 (-6.96)	-2.04 (-6.55)
4	-1.38 (-5.13)	-1.36 (-5.06)	-1.45 (-4.80)	4	-1.66 (-6.06)	-1.75 (-5.60)	-1.77 (-5.64)
5	-0.63 (-2.42)	-0.75 (-2.86)	-0.64 (-2.18)	5	-1.72 (-6.78)	-1.99 (-6.75)	-1.92 (-6.77)
6	-0.72 (-3.00)	-0.89 (-3.09)	-0.75 (-2.24)	6	-1.86 (-7.45)	-1.97 (-7.00)	-2.06 (-7.56)
7	-0.49 (-1.95)	-0.59 (-2.03)	-0.44 (-1.17)	7	-1.16 (-4.86)	-1.17 (-4.54)	-1.20 (-4.42)
8	-0.15 (-0.54)	-0.32 (-0.89)	-0.27 (-0.69)	8	-1.67 (-5.60)	-1.72 (-5.01)	-1.79 (-4.58)
9	-0.06 (-0.26)	-0.11 (-0.46)	0.06 (0.16)	9	-1.16 (-4.74)	-1.29 (-4.91)	-1.29 (-4.41)
High	1.06 (3.86)	0.96 (3.07)	1.21 (3.47)	High	-0.65 (-2.25)	-0.86 (-2.63)	-0.87 (-2.41)

Table IA.17: Short-term momentum and volatility risk. This table shows time-series regression results for short-term momentum (STMOM) and short-term reversal* (STREV*) strategies constructed among large-caps and all-but-large-caps. The strategies are from $2 \times 2 \times 2$ conditional sorts on size, last month's return, and last month's share turnover, in that order. The breakpoint for size is the median for NYSE stocks, while the breakpoints for returns and turnover are the 20th and 80th percentiles for NYSE stocks. Portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. See Table III for more on these strategies. The explanatory variables are the one-month lagged CBOE Volatility Index (VIX_{-1}), the contemporaneous monthly change in the implied volatility index ($\Delta VIX = VIX - VIX_{-1}$), and the contemporaneous market return (MKT). The slopes on VIX_{-1} and ΔVIX are multiplied by 100. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. Data are monthly and cover January 1990 to December 2018, where the start date is determined by the availability of the VIX.

Intercepts, slopes, and test-statistics (in parentheses) from time-series regressions of the form $y_t = \alpha + \beta' \mathbf{X}_t + \epsilon_t$								
Independent variable	Short-term momentum [winner-minus-loser, high turnover] controlling for size				Short-term reversal* [winner-minus-loser, low turnover] controlling for size			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Panel A: Large-caps (above NYSE median market capitalization)								
Intercept	0.91 (2.86)	1.48 (1.82)	0.89 (3.05)	1.05 (3.56)	-0.76 (-3.45)	0.66 (0.80)	-0.75 (-3.42)	-0.66 (-2.63)
VIX_{-1}		-0.03 (-0.68)				-0.07 (-1.61)		
ΔVIX			0.30 (3.61)	0.13 (0.95)			0.27 (3.25)	0.17 (1.56)
MKT				-0.24 (-1.48)				-0.15 (-1.29)
Adj. R^2		-0.2%	3.6%	4.5%		1.1%	5.9%	6.5%
Panel B: Micro- and small-caps (below NYSE median market capitalization)								
Intercept	0.65 (1.97)	2.21 (2.21)	0.64 (1.99)	0.83 (2.68)	-1.03 (-4.92)	0.72 (0.94)	-1.03 (-5.34)	-0.86 (-2.99)
VIX_{-1}		-0.08 (-1.46)				-0.09 (-2.13)		
ΔVIX			0.26 (2.97)	0.05 (0.42)			0.25 (5.50)	0.06 (1.06)
MKT				-0.30 (-2.89)				-0.26 (-3.75)
Adj. R^2		0.6%	2.7%	4.4%		2.3%	5.6%	8.7%

Table IA.18: Short-term momentum in the pre-1963 era and across sample splits. This table shows time-series regression results for the short-term momentum (STMOM) strategy starting from July 1926. The table also shows the corresponding results for the short-term reversal* (STREV*) strategy. The strategies are constructed as in Table I but using the extended CRSP sample. The explanatory variables are the three Fama-French factors (MKT, SMB, and HML) in addition to the momentum factor (MOM) and the two reversal factors (STREV and LTREV). Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. Data are monthly and the sample periods are indicated above the specification numbers. The MOM factor is available from January 1927 while the LTREV factor is available from January 1931.

Intercepts, slopes, and test-statistics (in parentheses) from time-series regressions of the form $y_t = \alpha + \beta'X_t + \epsilon_t$								
	1926/07 to 2018/12		1926/07 to 1963/06		1963/07 to 1991/06		1991/07 to 2018/12	
Independent variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Panel: Dependent variable is short-term momentum return								
Intercept	1.02 (4.23)	2.16 (9.03)	0.60 (1.61)	2.01 (5.89)	0.71 (1.92)	1.50 (4.73)	2.03 (4.80)	2.31 (6.18)
MKT		-0.07 (-1.12)		0.13 (1.94)		-0.27 (-4.15)		0.06 (0.55)
SMB		0.24 (1.90)		-0.02 (-0.13)		0.30 (3.52)		-0.11 (-0.67)
HML		0.07 (0.65)		-0.15 (-0.82)		0.09 (0.79)		-0.18 (-0.94)
MOM		-0.07 (-0.75)		-0.09 (-0.87)		0.13 (1.31)		0.00 (-0.02)
STREV		-1.47 (-13.73)		-1.23 (-10.60)		-1.34 (-9.39)		-1.62 (-9.23)
LTREV		-0.09 (-0.43)		-0.01 (-0.09)		0.15 (1.14)		0.73 (3.25)
Adj. R^2		33.6%		26.3%		30.4%		37.2%
Panel: Dependent variable is short-term reversal* return								
Intercept	-2.82 (-5.40)	-1.80 (-6.83)	-3.96 (-6.28)	-1.99 (-3.57)	-1.67 (-7.12)	-0.89 (-3.30)	-1.15 (-3.72)	-1.06 (-3.47)
MKT		0.13 (1.25)		-0.07 (-0.52)		-0.08 (-1.33)		0.10 (1.05)
SMB		-0.25 (-1.15)		-0.52 (-1.99)		-0.15 (-1.30)		-0.19 (-2.15)
HML		0.00 (-0.03)		0.06 (0.23)		0.11 (0.83)		0.03 (0.34)
MOM		0.11 (1.02)		-0.05 (-0.34)		0.05 (0.61)		0.15 (2.28)
STREV		-1.33 (-7.40)		-1.55 (-5.64)		-1.00 (-8.57)		-0.96 (-8.24)
LTREV		0.01 (0.08)		-0.02 (-0.05)		-0.33 (-2.84)		0.06 (0.46)
Adj. R^2		26.3%		31.0%		36.6%		33.2%

Table IA.19: Short-term momentum and crash risk. This table shows downside- and crash risk measures for the short-term momentum (STMOM) strategy. For comparison, it also shows the corresponding measures for the market and/or a conventional momentum strategy from decile sorts on prior 12-2 month performance using NYSE breakpoints.

Panel A shows, for each strategy, the skewness and kurtosis of $\log(1 + r_t^e + r_{ft})$, where r_t^e is the strategy's monthly excess return and r_{ft} is the monthly risk-free rate. The corresponding test-statistics (in parentheses) are for the null of normally distributed returns. Panel A also shows the two momentum strategies' coskewness with the market, computed as the slope coefficient from a univariate regression of $\varepsilon_t(r^e)$ on $(r_{mt}^e)^2$, where the latter is the squared excess market return and where $\varepsilon_t(r^e)$ is the residual from a univariate regression of r_t^e on r_{mt}^e . Finally, Panel A shows the two momentum strategies' down-side β , computed as the coefficient β_D from the regression $r_t^e = \alpha + \beta r_{mt}^e + \beta_D \max\{0, -r_{mt}^e\} + \epsilon_t$.

Panel B shows results from Daniel and Moskowitz's (2016) market-timing regressions, where the most general form is $r_t^e = (\alpha_0 + \alpha_B I_{B,t-1}) + (\beta_0 + (\beta_B + \beta_{B,U} I_{U,t}) I_{B,t-1}) r_{mt}^e + \epsilon_t$. Here, $I_{B,t-1}$ is an ex-ante "bear market" indicator, which equals 1 if the cumulative market excess return over the previous 24 months is negative and is otherwise zero, and $I_{U,t}$ is a contemporaneous "up-market" indicator, which equals 1 if the market excess return is positive in month t and is otherwise zero. The intercepts, α_0 and α_B , are multiplied by 100 and are thus stated in % per month.

The sample excludes financial firms. Data are monthly and cover January 1927 to December 2018.

Panel A: Higher-order moments and downside beta							
Statistic	Market	Short-term momentum			Conventional momentum		
Skew	-0.55 (-7.08)	-0.48 (-6.24)			-5.74 (-29.72)		
Kurtosis	9.87 (12.73)	7.55 (10.94)			74.05 (20.65)		
Co-skewness		0.47 (1.60)			-1.87 (-8.05)		
Down-side β		0.07 (0.52)			-0.71 (-6.35)		

Panel B: Market-timing regression results							
Intercepts, slopes, and test-statistics (in parentheses) from time-series regressions of strategy returns							
Coefficient	Variable	Short-term momentum			Conventional momentum		
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
α_0	1	1.15 (4.33)	1.50 (5.02)	1.50 (5.04)	1.33 (6.20)	1.22 (5.30)	1.22 (5.35)
α_B	$1_{B,t-1}$		-1.65 (-2.55)	-3.29 (-3.78)		-0.63 (-1.28)	1.45 (2.19)
β_0	r_{mt}^e	-0.20 (-4.09)	-0.22 (-3.15)	-0.22 (-3.16)	-0.27 (-6.70)	0.19 (3.58)	0.19 (3.61)
β_B	$1_{B,t-1} \times r_{mt}^e$		0.03 (0.34)	-0.29 (-1.92)		-0.94 (-12.53)	-0.53 (-4.59)
$\beta_{B,U}$	$1_{B,t-1} \times 1_{U,t} \times r_{mt}^e$			0.56 (2.80)			-0.72 (-4.66)
Adj. R^2		1.4%	1.9%	2.5%	3.8%	16.7%	18.2%

Table IA.20: Short-term momentum is not driven by liquidity. This table shows the performance of winner-minus-loser strategies based on last month’s return within deciles of last month’s ‘residual turnover’ relative to illiquidity ($TO_{1,0} \perp \text{Illiq}_{1,0}$; Panel A) and illiquidity ($\text{Illiq}_{1,0}$; Panel B). Portfolios are from double sorts on last month’s return ($r_{1,0}$) and either $TO_{1,0} \perp \text{Illiq}_{1,0}$ or $\text{Illiq}_{1,0}$. We use conditional sorts into deciles based on NYSE breakpoints, first on $r_{1,0}$ and then on either $TO_{1,0} \perp \text{Illiq}_{1,0}$ or $\text{Illiq}_{1,0}$. Portfolios are value weighted and rebalanced at the end of each month. $TO_{1,0} \perp \text{Illiq}_{1,0}$ is the residual from cross-sectional regression of last month’s share turnover on $\text{Illiq}_{1,0}$, estimated using WLS with market capitalization as weight, and $\text{Illiq}_{1,0}$ is the average absolute return relative to the dollar trading volume using a minimum of 15 daily observations. Test-statistics (in parentheses) are adjusted for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. The sample excludes financial firms. Data are monthly and cover July 1963 to December 2018, except when applying the q -factors, which are available from January 1967.

Panel A				Panel B			
Performance of $r_{1,0}$ strategies within $TO_{1,0} \perp \text{Illiq}_{1,0}$ deciles				Performance of $r_{1,0}$ strategies within $\text{Illiq}_{1,0}$ deciles			
$TO_{1,0} \perp \text{Illiq}_{1,0}$ decile	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q	$\text{Illiq}_{1,0}$ decile	$\mathbb{E}[r^e]$	α_{FF6}	α_q
Low	-1.20 (-5.28)	-1.29 (-4.71)	-1.25 (-4.73)	Low	0.26 (1.33)	0.15 (0.73)	0.27 (1.00)
2	-1.23 (-4.68)	-1.38 (-5.00)	-1.44 (-4.27)	2	-0.55 (-2.12)	-0.51 (-1.72)	-0.42 (-1.22)
3	-1.14 (-4.51)	-1.38 (-5.06)	-1.36 (-4.05)	3	-0.62 (-2.56)	-0.70 (-2.39)	-0.66 (-2.09)
4	-0.74 (-3.32)	-0.91 (-3.49)	-0.84 (-2.61)	4	-0.82 (-3.63)	-0.90 (-3.56)	-0.84 (-2.70)
5	-0.68 (-2.62)	-0.80 (-2.53)	-0.58 (-1.61)	5	-0.87 (-3.55)	-1.02 (-3.58)	-0.95 (-3.07)
6	-0.42 (-1.40)	-0.43 (-1.37)	-0.56 (-1.55)	6	-0.78 (-3.01)	-0.89 (-2.74)	-0.78 (-1.95)
7	-0.75 (-3.06)	-0.77 (-2.38)	-0.81 (-2.10)	7	-0.94 (-3.82)	-1.18 (-3.94)	-1.14 (-2.81)
8	0.12 (0.41)	-0.03 (-0.10)	0.05 (0.14)	8	-1.12 (-4.91)	-1.23 (-4.33)	-1.17 (-3.29)
9	0.17 (0.68)	0.15 (0.57)	0.31 (0.90)	9	-0.92 (-4.14)	-1.02 (-4.06)	-0.98 (-3.21)
High	1.37 (4.49)	1.37 (4.14)	1.65 (4.40)	High	-2.05 (-7.65)	-2.33 (-7.59)	-2.36 (-5.53)