

# The impact of transaction costs in portfolio optimization

## A comparative analysis between the cost of trading in Peru and the United States

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### Abstract

**Purpose** – This paper aims to analyze the impact of transaction costs in portfolio optimization in Peru. The study aims to compare the transaction costs structure applied in Peru with respect to the ones applied in the USA, and over a few dimensions.

**Design/methodology/approach** – The paper opted for an empirical study analyzing the cost of rebalancing portfolios over a set period and dimensions. Stocks have been carefully selected using Bloomberg terminals, and portfolio designed then rebalanced using VBA programming. Over a few dimensions as type and number of stocks, holding period and trading strategy, the behavior of these different transaction costs has been compared. The analysis has been done for four different portfolios.

**Findings** – The paper provides empirical insights about how a retail investor actively trading in Peru can pay up to 14 times more in transaction costs than trading the same portfolio in the USA. These comparatively high transaction costs prevent retail investors to trade in the Peruvian stock market while fueling illiquidity to this market.

**Research limitations/implications** – The paper deals with a limited amount of Peruvian stocks. Researchers are encouraged to test the proposition further, including other dimensions.

**Practical implications** – The paper includes implications for any retail investor that wants to invest in Peruvian stocks, giving an insight about how expensive it is to actively rebalance a portfolio in Peru.

**Originality/value** – This paper fulfils an identified need to study how much it costs to actively invest on the stock market in Peru.

**Keywords** Transaction costs, Portfolio optimization, Portfolio turnover

**Paper type** Research paper

### 1. Introduction

The Peruvian stock exchange, known as the *Bolsa de Valores de Lima* (BVL), currently lists 278 securities with a total market capitalization of about US\$130bn<sup>[1]</sup>. It is regulated by the



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*Superintendencia del Mercado de Valores* and has a limited exchange self-regulatory organization. The BVL is currently facing serious liquidity and low transaction volume problems[2], and its average daily trading volume in 2016 was US\$18.26m. On the other hand, the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is the biggest stock market in the world with a market capitalization of nearly US\$20.6tn[3]. It is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The NYSE is characterized by its high liquidity and its large stock inflows and outflows that incur on a daily basis, around US\$42bn are traded every day and has more than 2,700 listed firms. The Sustainable Stock Exchange Initiative considers the NYSE as one of the most advanced stock exchanges in the world. Because of its quality standards, the NYSE has been selected as a benchmark to compare transaction costs (TC) with the ones of the BVL.

We define TC as the cost of buying or selling securities to rebalance or build a particular portfolio. The TC structure in Peru is interesting in the sense that it charges investors a percentage of the stock value traded. However, there is also a minimum trading fee to pay that is high and finally makes the Peruvian stock market very expensive with respect to the ones of more developed markets. In the USA, there exist two types of TC. The first one charges investors per the number of shares they buy or sell, and it is called TC per share. The second structure charges investors per the number of trades they make, and it is called TC per trade. The comparison of the aforementioned TC structures with the one applied in Peru (TC per percentage) is used to determine which type of TC is the most appropriate and under which conditions this said type could happen.

To answer the previous research question, we analyze the behavior of the TC structures in Peru and the USA over three dimensions: the type and number of stocks, the holding period of the portfolio and the selected trading strategy. The paper concludes that TC per share is the cheapest when small monetary amounts are invested in the portfolio, but once a certain initial amount is reached, TC per trade becomes preferable. However, the TC structure applied in Peru represents the most expensive structure for any dimension. This analysis was carried on using current cost parameters found in both the BVL and the NYSE. To the best of our knowledge, there has not been any study analyzing the cost of trading in Peru and assessing the convenience of the TC structure applied on the BVL. Also, as a by-product of our analysis, we corroborate some empirical regularities like that TC are higher for portfolios composed of small market capitalizations stocks, holding period helps dilute entry and exit costs and active trading strategies are subject to higher TC[4].

In conclusion, retail investors that decide to invest in the Peruvian stock market can only do so if they adopt a buy and hold investment strategy. In fact, they would be facing substantial TC by rebalancing their portfolio from month to month. This is more dramatic for small initial investment amounts. For example, if US\$30K are invested in Peruvian stocks (under TC per percentage), the investor can lose up to 10 per cent in yearly return owing to TC. In comparison, trading the same stocks in the USA under the other TC structures incurs 1 per cent in yearly return. The main issue is that the minimum trading fee applied in Peru is very expensive compared with the stock inflows and outflows that are actually incurred. Therefore, portfolio rebalancing and active portfolio management strategies could be adopted in the BVL only if the minimum trading fee was at least the same as the one applied for TC per share in the USA. To make the Peruvian TC per percentage competitive, a dramatic reduction in the minimum cost per trade is needed: it has to go from \$25 to \$1 to make the current cost structure competitive for a retail investor with a relatively small initial investment amount. This reduction in fees will lure a bigger number of investors to the BVL, and it will increase its liquidity and volume negotiated.

This paper is divided into five different parts. Section 2 presents the methodology, the definitions of TC and the indicators used to assess portfolio performance. Section 3 contains the analysis and provides a deep understanding of the behavior TC under the different dimensions. Section 4 aims at making TC per percentage competitive to TC per share and TC per trade by changing its cost parameters. Finally, Section 5 concludes and provides recommendations from the perspective of an investor trading in the Peruvian stock market.

## 2. Methodology

This section defines the different trading strategies and the three types of TC used in this paper. It also shows how we measure the impact of TC in portfolio performance and how it is calculated.

### 2.1 Trading strategies

Three trading strategies are going to be studied in this paper. The objective for each strategy is to converge to specific portfolio weights at the end of every period. These target values represent the optimal allocation of a stock in the portfolio. The portfolio has to be rebalanced because the optimal weights are not achieved automatically owing to price fluctuations. Let  $i$  denote a particular stock of a portfolio  $P$  of  $N$  stocks, and  $x_{i,t}$  be the weight of stock  $i$  at the beginning of period  $t$ . While including entry and exit costs,  $t$  oscillates from  $t = 0$  to  $t = T$ , where 0 represents the initial period when the portfolio is built, and  $T$  represents the very last period when all stocks are sold and the portfolio liquidated. Therefore,  $t$  represents a specific period and varies from 0 to  $T - 1$ , where  $T - 1$  is the number of periods.

The first trading strategy is the equally weighted (EW). This strategy sets the same weight allocation for every stock, at every period[5]. This means that the weight for one stock has to remain constant and equals to the following:

$$x_{i,t} = \frac{1}{N} \quad (1)$$

The second trading strategy is the market capitalization (MC). This strategy allocates a weight for each stock depending on its market capitalization within the portfolio[6]. Let  $MCap_{i,t}$  denote the market capitalization of a particular stock  $i$  at time  $t$ . The weight of a stock  $i$  at period  $t$  can be expressed as follows:

$$x_{i,t} = \frac{MCap_{i,t}}{\sum_{i=1}^N MCap_{i,t}} \quad (2)$$

The third trading strategy is the Markowitz strategy (MZ), which is inspired from Markowitz (1952) and Sharpe (1964). This strategy aims at having the most efficient portfolio allocation in terms of a risk–return relationship. Weights are computed by maximizing the Sharpe ratio. For each period, a covariance matrix and a mean vector based on the stock’s previous returns have been computed. Let  $SR_{P,t}$  denote the Sharpe ratio of a portfolio  $P$  at period  $t$ ,  $R_{P,t}$  the return of portfolio  $P$  at period  $t$ ,  $R_f$  the risk-free rate and  $\sigma_{P,t}$  the portfolio standard deviation at period  $t$ . Weights  $x_{i,t}$  for the  $N$  stocks of portfolio  $P$  are computed maximizing the following:

$$SR_{P,t} = \frac{R_{P,t} - R_f}{\sigma_{P,t}} \quad (3)$$

In this paper, we do not consider short sales, then the  $x_{i,t}$  maximizing (3) will be forced to be greater than zero.

### 2.2 Unbalanced portfolio weights

Because of the change in stock prices at the end of every period, the weights of the stocks of the portfolio have to be rebalanced to be consistent with the trading strategies described in Section 2.1.

Let  $x_{i,t+1}^u$  denote the unbalanced weight of a stock  $i$  at the beginning of period  $t + 1$ , and  $r_{i,t+1}$  denote the return of a particular stock  $i$  at period  $t + 1$ . For  $t \geq 0$  to  $t = T - 1$ , the unbalanced weight of a stock  $i$  at the beginning of period  $t + 1$  can be expressed as follows:

$$x_{i,t+1}^u = x_{i,t} \frac{1 + r_{i,t+1}}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^N x_{i,t} \times r_{i,t+1}} \quad (4)$$

To describe the TC involved, it is assumed that  $x_{i,t}^u \neq x_{i,t}$  for every  $t$  and  $i$ .

### 2.3 Transaction costs

The paper identifies three different types of TC: TC per share, TC per percentage and TC per trade. Under TC per share, investors are charged a fixed fee for each single stock they buy or sell. TC per percentage charges investors a percentage of the stock value traded. TC per trade charges investors a specific amount for each trade they make. Next we describe each of the aforementioned TC structures in detail.

Let  $P_{i,t}$  denote the price of stock  $i$  at the beginning of period  $t$ , and  $W_{i,t}$  denote the value of stock  $i$  in the portfolio at the beginning of period  $t$ . Let  $TC^s$ ,  $TC^p$  and  $TC^e$  be TC per share, TC per percentage and TC per trade, respectively. For  $t = 0$  to  $t = T - 1$ , the TC per share,  $TC^s$ , can be expressed as follows:if

$$x_{(i,t)} - x_{(i,t)}^u < 0, \quad (5)$$

then

$$TC_{i,t}^s = \text{Max} \left( \left\{ \frac{|x_{i,t} - x_{i,t}^u| W_{i,t}}{P_{i,t}} \times \theta_i, \alpha_i \right\} + |x_{i,t} - x_{i,t}^u| W_{i,t} \times \rho_i, \right) \quad (6)$$

else

$$TC_{i,t}^s = \text{Max} \left( \left\{ \frac{|x_{i,t} - x_{i,t}^u| W_{i,t}}{P_{i,t}} \times \theta_i, \alpha_i \right\} \right) \quad (7)$$

where  $\theta_i$  is the per-share trading fee in dollar,  $\alpha_i$  the minimum trading cost in US\$ and  $\rho_i$  is the regulatory transaction fee charged by the SEC on stock sales only and when the trading occurs on the American stock market. The TC per share is a structure for TC commonly used in the USA.

For  $t = 0$  to  $t = T - 1$ , the TC per percentage,  $TC^p$ , can be expressed as follows:

$$TC_{i,t}^p = \text{Max}\{|x_{i,t} - x_{i,t}^m|W_{i,t} \times \beta_i, \gamma_i\} + |x_{i,t} - x_{i,t}^m|W_{i,t} \times \mu_i, \quad (8)$$

where  $\beta_i$  represents the fixed percentage per stock value,  $\gamma_i$  the minimum trading cost in US\$ and  $\mu_i$  is the regulatory fee applied in Peru. The TC per percentage is the current Peruvian structure for TC.

Finally, for  $t = 0$  to  $t = T - 1$ , the TC per trade,  $TC^e$ , can be expressed as follows:  
If

$$x_{(i,t)} - x_{(i,t)}^m < 0, \quad (9)$$

then

$$TC_{i,t}^e = |x_{i,t} - x_{i,t}^m|W_{i,t} \times \rho_i + \varepsilon_i, \quad (10)$$

else

$$TC_{i,t}^e = \varepsilon_i, \quad (11)$$

where  $\varepsilon_i$  represents the trading cost in US\$ and  $\rho_i$  is the regulatory transaction fee charged by the SEC on stock sales only. As in the case of the TC per share, the TC per trade is also an American structure for TC. The values of the coefficients  $\theta_i, \alpha_i, \rho_i, \beta_i, \mu_i$  and  $\varepsilon_i$  used for the numerical experiments will be defined in Section 3.

#### 2.4 Entry and exit costs

Two key periods of the experiments are the very first one and the very last one. The very first period, referred as period 0, is the period where the portfolio is fully built with the initial investment. It corresponds to a period of heavy stock purchases. This period is subject to a substantial amount of TC corresponding to large entry costs. Let  $In^j$  denote the entry costs associated with a particular type of TC  $j$ , either per share, per percentage or per trade. For  $t = 0$  and for each type  $j$  of TC, entry costs,  $In^j$ , can be expressed as follows:

$$In^{TC^s} = \sum_{i=1}^N \text{Max}\left\{\frac{x_{i,0} \times W_{i,0}}{P_{i,0}} \times \theta_i, \alpha_i\right\} \quad (12)$$

$$In^{TC^p} = \sum_{i=1}^N \text{Max}\{x_{i,0} \times W_{i,t=0} \times \beta_i, \gamma_i\} + x_{i,0} \times W_{i,t=0} \times \mu_i \quad (13)$$

$$In^{TC^e} = \sum_{i=1}^N \varepsilon_i \quad (14)$$

Similarly, the very last period, referred as period  $T$ , corresponds to the period of liquidation of the portfolio and corresponds to a period of heavy stock sales and, therefore, subject to significant TC. Let  $Out^j$  denote the exit costs associated with a particular type of TC  $j$ . For  $t = T$ , exit costs,  $Out^j$ , can be expressed as follows:

$$Out^{TC^s} = \sum_{i=1}^N Max \left\{ \frac{|x_{i,T} - x_{i,T}^u| W_{i,T}}{P_{i,T}} \times \theta_i, \alpha_i \right\} + |x_{i,T} - x_{i,T}^u| W_{i,T} \times \rho_i, \quad (15)$$

$$Out^{TC^p} = \sum_{i=1}^N Max \{ |x_{i,T} - x_{i,T}^u| W_{i,T} \times \beta_i, \gamma_i \} + |x_{i,T} - x_{i,T}^u| W_{i,T} \times \mu_i, \quad (16)$$

$$Out^{TC^e} = \sum_{i=1}^N |x_{i,T} - x_{i,T}^u| W_{i,T} \times \rho_i + \varepsilon_i \quad (17)$$

With these assumptions, experiments were made with and without taking into consideration the entry and exit costs described in this section.

### 2.5 Turnover

Another variable that is analyzed in the paper is the turnover. It consists in the change in weight of a stock  $i$  after rebalancing. For  $t \geq 0$  to  $t = T - 1$ , the turnover  $Tur_{i,t}$  of a stock  $i$  at period  $t$  can be expressed as follows:

$$Tur_{i,t} = |x_{i,t} - x_{i,t}^u| \quad (18)$$

Therefore, the portfolio turnover at period  $t$  can be written as:

$$Tur_t = \sum_{i=1}^N |x_{i,t} - x_{i,t}^u| \quad (19)$$

In this thesis, the average turnover over the holding period is generally reported. It corresponds to the average of the expressions given by [equation \(19\)](#) over all  $t$ .

### 2.6 Percentage loss

This loss corresponds to the difference between the portfolio return without taking into account TC and the portfolio return taking into account TC. Let  $W_T$  denote the total value of the portfolio at the very last period, which corresponds to the liquidation period. Let  $W_0$  denote the value of the portfolio at the very first period, which corresponds to the initial investment. The total return of the portfolio without taking into account TC,  $R^{without TC}$ , can be expressed as follows:

$$R^{without TC} = \frac{W_T - W_0}{W_0} \quad (20)$$

Adding TC, either per share, per percentage or per trade, we obtain the following total portfolio return  $R_j^{with TC}$ :

$$R_j^{withTC} = \frac{W_T - W_0 - TC_j}{W_0}, \quad (21)$$

where  $TC_j$  denotes a specific type of TC, either per share, per percentage or per trade and

$$TC_j = \sum_{t=0}^T \sum_{i=1}^N TC_{j,i,t} \quad (22)$$

where  $j$  includes both entry and exit costs. Therefore, the loss  $L_j$  associated with a specific type of  $TC_j$  can be simply expressed by the following equation:

$$L_j = R^{withoutTC} - R_j^{withTC} \quad (23)$$

For the purpose of our study, the value of  $L_j$  has been annualized to observe how much is lost per year, and it will be used to assess portfolio performance.

### 3. Analysis

TC can have a different impact on portfolio performance depending on the composition of the portfolio, the holding period and the adopted trading strategy. Next we will analyze the interaction of these factors with the types of TC described in Section 2. The analysis is mainly conducted from the perspective of a retail investor trading in the Peruvian market. Nevertheless, US stocks and transaction fees are included to enhance the scope of our analysis.

#### 3.1 Stock selection procedure

To analyze the impact of TC from the perspective of an investor trading on the Peruvian stock market, we have created four portfolios of 15 stocks each. Two of them are composed of Peruvian stocks only, whereas the two others consist of comparable American portfolios and contain only stocks listed on the NYSE.

The first portfolio is composed of 15 Peruvian stocks with the highest market capitalization on the BVL on the date of December 31, 2016. Let Peruvian Blue Chips (PBC) denote this first portfolio. The second portfolio includes 15 Peruvian stocks with the lowest market capitalization on the BVL on the date of December 31, 2016, and it will be denoted as Peruvian Pink Sheets (PPS). For our comparisons with the American market, two other portfolios were created by picking similar stocks in terms of market capitalization, price and industry, on the NYSE, and on the date of December 31, 2016. Therefore, the third portfolio consists of 15 US stocks comparable with the ones of the PBC portfolio, and it will be denoted as American Blue Equivalents (ABE). The fourth portfolio is composed of 15 US stocks equivalent to the PPS portfolio. Let American Pink Equivalents (APE) denote this fourth portfolio. [Table I](#) offers an insight of the composition of each portfolio[7]. Besides, all stock prices in Peruvian Nuevo Sol (PEN) have been converted to US dollars (US\$), and it has been assumed that we can trade any amount at the quoted prices.

	Ticker name	Short name	Industry
<i>PBC</i>	CREDITC1 PE Equity	BANCO DE CREDI-C	Banking
	CONTINC1 PE Equity	BBVA BANCO CONTI	Banking
	SCOTIAC1 PE Equity	SCOTIABANK PER-C	Banking
	ENGEPEC1 PE Equity	ENEL GENERACION	Energy
	ENGIEC1 PE Equity	ENGIE ENERGIA PE	Energy
	BACKUSH1 PE Equity	UNION CERV BAC-I	Food & Beverages
	ALICORC1 PE Equity	ALICORP-C	Food & Beverages
	BUENAVC1 PE Equity	BUENAVENTURA-COM	Mining
	CVERDEC1 PE Equity	SOCIEDAD MINERA	Mining
	LUSURC1 PE Equity	LUZ SUR-COMUN	Mining
	TELEFBC1 PE Equity	TELEF PERU-B	Mining
	MILPOC1 PE Equity	COMPANIA MINERA	Mining
	MINSUR1 PE Equity	MINSUR-INV	Mining
	VOLCABC1 PE Equity	VOLCAN CIA MIN-B	Mining
	UNACEMC1 PE Equity	UNACEM SAA	Mining
<i>PPS</i>	POMALCC1 PE Equity	EMP Agroindustrial Pomalca-C	Agroindustrial
	SNJACIC1 PE Equity	Agroindust San Jacinto-Comm	Agroindustrial
	CASAGRC1 PE Equity	Casa Grande SAA	Agroindustrial
	TUMANCI1 PE Equity	EMP Agroindustrial Tuman-Cmm	Agroindustrial
	LAREDOC1 PE Equity	Agroindustrial Laredo-Cm	Agroindustrial
	CARTAVC1 PE Equity	Cartavio SAA	Agroindustrial
	CAUCHO1 PE Equity	Lima Caucho SAI	Auto Parts
	RAURAI1 PE Equity	Compania Minera Raura SA-Inv	Base Metals
	MOROCOH1 PE Equity	San Ignacio De Morococha-T	Base Metals
	MINCOR11 PE Equity	Soc Minera Corona SA-Inv	Base Metals
	HIDRA2C1 PE Equity	Hidrandina SA-A2 Shares	Energy
	AUSTRAC1 PE Equity	Austral Group SAA	Food & Beverages
	INVCENC1 PE Equity	Inversiones Centenario-Comun	Real Estate
	RELAPAC1 PE Equity	Refineria La Pampilla SAA	Refining
	SIDERC1 PE Equity	Empresa Siderurgica Peru SAA	Steel Producer
<i>ABE</i>	CMA US Equity	Comerica Inc	Banking
	SNV US Equity	Synovus Financial Corp	Banking
	TFSL US Equity	TFS Financial Corp	Banking
	DRQ US Equity	Dril-Quip Inc	Energy
	CRZO US Equity	Carrizo Oil & Gas Inc	Energy
	NSH US Equity	Nustar GP Holdings LLC	Energy
	HLX US Equity	Helix Energy Solutions Group	Energy
	CNX US Equity	Consol Energy Inc	Mining
	RGLD US Equity	Royal Gold Inc	Mining
	RRC US Equity	Range Resources Corp	Mining
	SWC US Equity	Stillwater Mining Co	Mining
	ARLP US Equity	Alliance Resource Partners	Mining
	CDE US Equity	Coeur Mining Inc	Mining
	SHOO US Equity	Steven Madden Ltd	Retail
	HLF US Equity	Herbalife Ltd	Retail
<i>APE</i>	CRGS US Equity	Curaeigis Technologies Inc	Auto Parts
	GMO US Equity	General Moly Inc	Base Metals
	UAMY US Equity	United States Antimony Corp	Base Metals
	SNAK US Equity	Inventure Foods Inc	Food & Beverages
	BRID US Equity	Bridgford Foods Corp	Food & Beverages
	AMNF US Equity	Armanino Foods of Distinct	Food & Beverages
	RMCF US Equity	Rocky Mountain Choc Fact Inc	Food & Beverages
	FAC US Equity	First Acceptance Corp	Insurance
	LODE US Equity	Comstock Mining Inc	Mining
	ECPN US Equity	El Capitan Precious Metals	Mining
	XPL US Equity	Solitario Exploration & Roy	Mining
	HNRG US Equity	Hallador Energy Co	Mining
	LFVN US Equity	Lifedvantage Corp	Specialty Pharma
	NAII US Equity	Natural Alternatives Intl	Specialty Pharma
	CYAN US Equity	Cyanotech Corp	Specialty Pharma

Note: The authors' elaboration

**Table I.**  
Compositions of  
portfolios PBC, PPS,  
ABE and APE



### 3.2 Initial amount invested

To analyze the relationship between initial investment and TC, the experiment has been run with 13 different amounts of USD for each portfolio: \$10,000, \$20,000, \$30,000, \$60,000, \$100,000, \$200,000, \$300,000, \$600,000, \$1,000,000, \$2,000,000, \$3,000,000, \$6,000,000 and \$10,000,000.

### 3.3 Holding period

Each portfolio has been analyzed for three different time frames. Our data for stock prices and market capitalizations have been extracted successively for nine, five and three years. All data have been extracted on a monthly basis. The nine-year period of analysis goes from January 31, 2008 to December 31, 2016. The five-year period of analysis goes from January 31, 2008 to December 31, 2012. The three-year period of analysis goes from January 31, 2008 to December 31, 2010. The beginning period of January 31, 2008, has been chosen to cover the Financial Crisis and its effects on stock prices. Indeed, the Dow–Jones fell over half from a high of 14,165 on October 9, 2007, to a low of 6,926 on March 5, 2009. We wanted to analyze if similar effects on stock prices were observable on the BVL and their possible impact on TC.

### 3.4 Parameters for TC

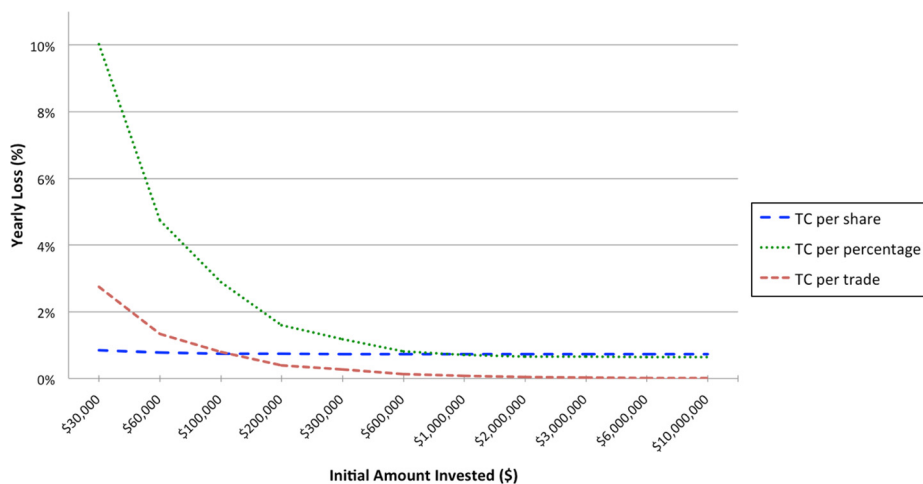
Each TC has parameters that determines how expensive it is. The TC per share has a trading fee in dollar  $\theta_i$  that is applied for each single stock bought or sold on the stock market. The value of  $\theta_i$  used is \$0.01 per share and refers to the common trading fee used by American online brokerage firms such as Lightspeed Trading or Trade Station Securities[8]. In addition, those firms apply a minimum trading cost in dollars,  $\alpha_i$ , of \$1 per trade. Finally, the SEC applies a regulatory fee  $\rho_i$  on all stock sales values only. The value of  $\rho_i$  used is 0.0000238[9].

Concerning the TC per percentage, the fixed percentage per stock value  $\beta_i$  is determined by the broker making the transaction. The value of  $\beta_i$  used is 0.55 per cent and refers to the average trading fee applied by stockbrokers in Peru. As for the TC per share, the TC per percentage faces a minimum trading cost in dollar  $\gamma_i$ . The value of  $\gamma_i$  used is \$25 and corresponds to an average of Peruvian brokers. Besides, the TC per percentage faces a regulatory fee  $\mu_i$  applied by the BVL and the value of  $\mu_i$  used is 0.08295 per cent [10]. Last but not least, the TC per trade faces a trading cost  $\varepsilon_i$  of \$7.97. This cost is an average of the trading cost used by American online brokerage firms such as E-Trade, Charles Schwab, TD Ameritrade or Tradeking[11]. As for TC per share, TC per trade faces a regulatory fee  $\rho_i$ .

### 3.5 Influence of the portfolio composition

Each of the portfolios described in Section 3.1 has been analyzed over a period of five years and under an EW strategy given by equation (1). Under the perspective of an investor trading on the Peruvian market, the PBC portfolio has first been analyzed. This section aims at determining the impact of different initial amounts invested on the behavior of the different TC structures.

Figure 1 shows the yearly loss per initial amount invested for each type of TC for the PBC portfolio. First, we note that TCs per share are efficient for small initial amounts invested in the PBC portfolio. The yearly loss is always lower than 1 per cent for any amount invested equal or above \$20,000. TC per share also tend to be the least volatile among all types of TC. Second, both TC per percentage and TC per trade become better than TC per share once a certain initial amount invested is reached. TCs



**Figure 1.** Yearly loss per initial amount invested for the PBC portfolio over a five-year period and under an EW strategy

**Source:** The authors' elaboration

per percentage have a yearly loss that becomes lower than the one for TC per share for any amount invested equal or above \$1,000,000. In the same connection, TCs per trade are more efficient than TC per share for any amount invested equal or above \$120,000. Third, if we compare both TC per percentage and TC per trade, TCs per trade are always a better choice because they face lower yearly losses for any initial amount invested.

**Table II** presents the yearly loss per initial amount invested for each type of TC and portfolio. Keeping the same strategy and holding period, similar conclusions can be drawn for both the PPS portfolio and the APE portfolio. As a matter of fact, TCs per share remain the cheapest kind for small amounts invested for both the PPS and APE portfolios. However, once a specific level of initial amount invested is reached, TC per percentage and TC per trade are preferable. TC per trade is always better than TC per percentage. Results are a little bit different for the ABE portfolio. Indeed, TC per percentage never becomes preferable to TC per share. Also, TC per trade becomes better than TC per share only when a large initial investment is made: at least \$2,000,000 has to be invested. The reason beyond this result is that the ABE portfolio includes stocks with higher prices and lower volatilities.

Besides, portfolios composed of stocks with large market capitalizations (PBC and ABE) tend to have less yearly loss than those with small market capitalizations (PPS and APE). This increase in yearly loss for both the PPS portfolio and the APE portfolio can be explained by lower stock prices and a higher volatility compared with the PBC and the ABE portfolios.

Entry and exit costs do not affect the portfolio returns that much. **Table III** presents the difference in yearly loss between TC including entry and exit costs and TC excluding entry and exit costs. The average loss without entry and exit costs is lower by 0.01 per cent to 0.8 per cent than when including entry and exit costs. The trends observed for the four portfolios are the same as when entry and exit costs are not taken into account.

	Amount	Yearly loss – TC per share (%)	Yearly loss – TC per (%)	Yearly loss – TC per trade (%)
<i>PBC</i>	\$30,000	0.85	10.02	2.75
	\$100,000	0.75	2.89	0.80
	\$300,000	0.73	1.18	0.26
	\$1,000,000	0.73	0.71	0.08
	\$3,000,000	0.73	0.65	0.03
	\$10,000,000	0.73	0.64	0.01
<i>PPS</i>	\$30,000	2.43	20.14	4.72
	\$100,000	2.26	4.74	1.33
	\$300,000	2.24	1.77	0.44
	\$1,000,000	2.24	0.95	0.13
	\$3,000,000	2.24	0.84	0.04
	\$10,000,000	2.24	0.82	0.01
<i>ABE</i>	\$30,000	0.46	15.00	3.83
	\$100,000	0.15	3.92	1.09
	\$300,000	0.08	1.53	0.36
	\$1,000,000	0.06	0.91	0.11
	\$3,000,000	0.06	0.84	0.04
	\$10,000,000	0.06	0.83	0.01
<i>APE</i>	\$30,000	1.80	6.73	1.88
	\$100,000	1.74	2.26	0.55
	\$300,000	1.73	1.28	0.18
	\$1,000,000	1.73	1.08	0.06
	\$3,000,000	1.73	1.06	0.02
	\$10,000,000	1.73	1.06	0.01

**Table II.** Yearly loss per initial amount invested for each type of portfolio over a five-year period and under an EW strategy

**Note:** The authors' elaboration

### 3.6 Influence of the holding period

The PBC portfolio has been analyzed changing the holding period to three and nine years. Table IV depicts the yearly loss associated with each holding period for the PBC portfolio. For three and nine years, we obtain similar results to the PBC portfolio analyzed under a five-year period. First, TC per share remains the most efficient type of TC when dealing with small amounts. However, once a certain level is reached, TC per percentage (between \$600,000 and \$1,000,000) and TC per trade (between \$100,000 and \$200,000) both become more efficient. Once again, TC per trade is preferable to TC per percentage because the yearly loss for TC per trade is always lower. Therefore, the holding period does not influence the performance of the different types of TC for the PBC portfolio.

Also, the holding period helps dilute the large entry and exit costs: the larger the holding period, the more diluted these costs. Table V illustrates the decline of average turnovers over time. The influence of both the entry and exit costs on the portfolio performance decreases when the holding period increases. This could be explained by the fact that the ratio entry–exit cost to total TC decreases over time. Indeed, these entry and exit costs remain pretty much the same for these three time frames: the entry costs are in fact the same for the three years, and the exit costs vary just a little bit owing to price fluctuations at the very last period. On the other hand, the total TC increases when the holding period increases, simply because there are more periods and in time more transactions occur.

	Amount	Difference in yearly loss TC per share	Difference in yearly loss TC per percentage	Difference in yearly loss TC per trade
<i>PBC</i>	30,000	0.27	0.54	0.08
	100,000	0.27	0.33	0.02
	300,000	0.27	0.31	0.01
	1,000,000	0.27	0.31	0.00
	3,000,000	0.27	0.31	0.00
	10,000,000	0.27	0.31	0.00
<i>PPS</i>	30,000	0.78	1.07	0.14
	100,000	0.77	0.38	0.04
	300,000	0.77	0.34	0.01
	1,000,000	0.77	0.33	0.00
	3,000,000	0.77	0.33	0.00
	10,000,000	0.77	0.33	0.00
<i>ABE</i>	30,000	0.02	0.74	0.11
	100,000	0.02	0.36	0.03
	300,000	0.02	0.33	0.01
	1,000,000	0.02	0.32	0.00
	3,000,000	0.02	0.32	0.00
	10,000,000	0.02	0.32	0.00
<i>APE</i>	30,000	0.28	0.44	0.05
	100,000	0.28	0.32	0.02
	300,000	0.28	0.31	0.01
	1,000,000	0.28	0.31	0.00
	3,000,000	0.28	0.31	0.00
	10,000,000	0.28	0.31	0.00

**Table III.**  
Difference in yearly  
loss between TC  
including entry and  
exit costs and TC  
excluding entry and  
exit costs, for each  
portfolio, under an  
EW strategy, over a  
five-year period, and  
for the PBC portfolio

Source: The authors' elaboration

	Amount	Yearly loss – TC per share	Yearly loss – TC per (%)	Yearly loss – TC per trade
<i>Three years</i>	\$30,000	1.20	10.64	3.09
	\$100,000	1.08	3.40	0.91
	\$300,000	1.06	1.53	0.30
	\$1,000,000	1.06	1.00	0.09
	\$3,000,000	1.06	0.92	0.03
	\$10,000,000	1.06	0.91	0.01
<i>Five years</i>	\$30,000	0.85	10.02	2.75
	\$100,000	0.75	2.89	0.80
	\$300,000	0.73	1.18	0.26
	\$1,000,000	0.73	0.71	0.08
	\$3,000,000	0.73	0.65	0.03
	\$10,000,000	0.73	0.64	0.01
<i>Nine years</i>	\$30,000	1.05	16.30	3.26
	\$100,000	0.92	3.26	0.90
	\$300,000	0.90	1.17	0.29
	\$1,000,000	0.90	0.64	0.09
	\$3,000,000	0.90	0.57	0.03
	\$10,000,000	0.90	0.56	0.01

**Table IV.**  
Yearly loss per initial  
amount invested for  
each holding period  
for the PBC portfolio  
over a five-year  
period and under an  
EW strategy

Source: The authors' elaboration

3.7 Influence of the trading strategy

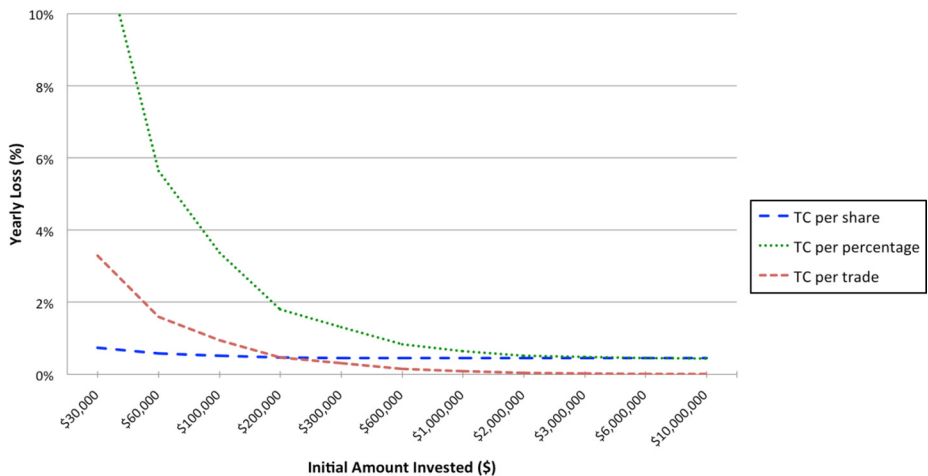
The three trading strategies of Section 2.1 have been analyzed. The PBC portfolio has been examined under an MC strategy[12] over a five-year period to compare results found with the EW strategy. Figure 2 plots the yearly loss per initial amount invested for each type of TC for the PBC portfolio under an MC strategy given by equation (2). The MC strategy faces the same dynamics as the EW strategy, in the case of the PBC portfolio. Indeed, TC per share is efficient for small amounts invested. Also, TC per trade and TC per percentage overcome TC per share once a certain minimum initial investment is reached (\$10,000,000 and \$300,000 respectively). Comparing Figure 1 and Figure 2, we observe that TC per percentage and TC per trade become less efficient under an MC strategy. Indeed, switching to one of those two kinds of TC is done for larger initial amounts invested than under an EW strategy. Finally, TCs per trade are always better than TC per percentage.

Concerning TC per share, those are less expensive under the MC strategy: the yearly loss associated is smaller than under an EW strategy and this is the case for all portfolios. Table VI presents the yearly loss per initial amount invested for all portfolios. These lower TCs incurred under the MC strategy can be explained by a decrease in turnover. Table VII shows that turnovers using an MC strategy are much smaller than when using an EW strategy, and for any type of portfolio. Concerning TCs per trade, those are slightly more

**Table V.**  
Average turnovers  
per holding period  
for each type of  
portfolio

Portfolio	Three years (%)	Turnover	
		Five years (%)	Nine years (%)
PBC	6.84	6.02	5.93
PPS	8.72	7.59	7.48
ABE	9.70	8.51	8.12
APE	14.53	13.16	12.12

Source: The authors' elaboration



**Figure 2.**  
Yearly loss per initial  
amount invested for  
the PBC portfolio  
over a five-year  
period and under an  
MC strategy

Source: The authors' elaboration

	Amount	Yearly loss – TC per share (%)	Yearly loss – TC per (%)	Yearly loss – TC per trade (%)	Impact of transaction costs
PBC	30,000	0.75	12.40	3.30	<b>301</b>
	100,000	0.51	3.38	0.95	
	300,000	0.46	1.31	0.31	
	1,000,000	0.45	0.65	0.09	
	3,000,000	0.45	0.48	0.03	
	10,000,000	0.45	0.44	0.01	
PPS	30,000	1.73	30.79	5.92	
	100,000	1.34	5.85	1.63	
	300,000	1.25	2.08	0.53	
	1,000,000	1.23	0.93	0.16	
	3,000,000	1.23	0.64	0.05	
	10,000,000	1.23	0.55	0.02	
ABE	30,000	0.72	38.62	6.41	
	100,000	0.22	6.28	1.75	
	300,000	0.08	2.15	0.57	
	1,000,000	0.03	0.88	0.17	
	3,000,000	0.02	0.54	0.06	
	10,000,000	0.02	0.42	0.02	
APE	30,000	1.01	25.00	7.85	
	100,000	0.44	7.66	2.08	
	300,000	0.29	2.55	0.67	
	1,000,000	0.24	1.03	0.20	
	3,000,000	0.23	0.63	0.07	
	10,000,000	0.23	0.51	0.02	

**Table VI.**  
Yearly loss per initial amount invested for each type of portfolio over a five-year period and under an MC strategy

Source: The authors' elaboration

expensive when using the MC strategy: the yearly loss associated is higher than under an EW strategy. This is the case for the PBC portfolio as well as the others. Finally, TC per percentage under an MC strategy becomes more attractive than an EW strategy when the initial amount invested gets bigger, i.e. \$1,000,000. This observation is explained by the fact that bigger initial investments imply bigger trading costs when rebalancing the portfolio, which eventually neglect the high minimum trading cost of the TC per percentage.

The third strategy analyzed is the MZ strategy. Owing to a lack of data for Peruvian stocks, a new portfolio composed of 12 ABE stocks has been built to analyze the effects of this strategy on the different kinds of TC. Let New ABE denote this new portfolio created. Table A1 presents the stock composition of this New ABE. To do so, the data from five years before the period of analysis were required to compute the mean vector and covariance matrix. For instance, the weights of the first period as on January 31, 2008, have been

Portfolio	Turnover EW	MC	
PBC	6.02	2.42	<b>Table VII.</b> Average turnovers per trading strategy for each type of portfolio
PPS	7.59	3.14	
ABE	8.51	0.65	
APE	13.16	1.36	

Source: The authors' elaboration

determined using estimates from the monthly data of the past five years, as between January 31, 2003 and December 31, 2007. Then, the weights of the second period have been calculated using “rolling windows”, that is to say shifting the past data forward from one period, and so on and so forth for the following periods.

Table VIII shows the yearly loss per TC for each trading strategy. First, TC per share remains the most efficient type of TC for any initial amounts invested under \$2,000,000. Once this level is reached, TC per trade becomes preferable. Second, TCs per percentage are inefficient when investing in the new ABE portfolio: the yearly loss associated with TC per percentage is always higher than TC per share and TC per trade

As an MZ strategy is characterized by active portfolio management decisions, the average monthly turnover reaches 17.47 per cent, which is much more than when investing under an EW or an MC strategy. Indeed, the average monthly turnover associated with an EW strategy is 8.75 per cent, and the average monthly turnover associated with an MC strategy is 0.69 per cent. The large turnovers associated with the MZ strategy are explained by the fact that maximizing the Sharpe ratio reallocates very different weights for the stocks from period to period. However, the reason why the MZ strategy is not the most expensive one might be because the rebalancing incurs stocks with large prices, which at the end results in lower TC.

TC per share under an MZ strategy is higher than under an EW strategy. Also, TCs per share under an EW strategy are higher than under an MC strategy. This is the case for any initial amount invested above \$300,000. The reason beyond this result is that higher average turnovers are observed when active trading strategies are adopted, for any initial amount invested above \$300,000. As a matter of fact, the MZ strategy faces the highest turnover and the highest TC.

The EW strategy faces the second highest turnover and the second highest TC. The MC strategy faces the third highest turnover and the third highest TC. Besides, the fixed component for TC per share and TC per percentage increases a lot the cost of trading. In this

	Amount	Yearly loss – TC per share (%)	Yearly loss – TC per (%)	Yearly loss – TC per trade (%)
<i>MZ</i>	30,000	0.17	14.49	3.60
	100,000	0.08	4.21	1.03
	300,000	0.07	2.26	0.34
	1,000,000	0.07	1.70	0.10
	3,000,000	0.07	1.56	0.04
	10,000,000	0.07	1.50	0.01
<i>MC</i>	30,000	0.60	25.70	5.31
	100,000	0.19	5.27	1.47
	300,000	0.07	1.88	0.48
	1,000,000	0.03	0.81	0.14
	3,000,000	0.02	0.52	0.05
	10,000,000	0.02	0.43	0.01
<i>EW</i>	30,000	0.37	11.40	3.05
	100,000	0.13	3.20	0.88
	300,000	0.07	1.33	0.29
	1,000,000	0.06	0.88	0.09
	3,000,000	0.06	0.83	0.03
	10,000,000	0.06	0.83	0.01

**Table VIII.**  
Yearly loss per initial amount invested for each type of trading strategy over a five-year period and for the new ABE portfolio

**Source:** The authors' elaboration

connection, higher TC are associated with higher average turnovers. Therefore, there is a positive correlation between TC per share and average turnover: for large amounts invested (i.e. \$300,000 or higher), the higher the average turnover, the higher the TC per share. Moreover, TC per percentage under an MZ strategy is higher than under an EW strategy. TC per percentage under an EW strategy is higher than under an MC strategy. This is the case for any initial amount invested above \$1,000,000. This result is also owing to higher average turnovers the portfolio faces when investing under an MZ or an EW strategy than under an MC strategy, as well as large stock inflows and outflows. Finally, it is not possible to conclude on TC per trade: active portfolio management strategies do not seem to affect the performance of TC per trade.

### 3.8 Influence of the number of stocks

Four portfolios, each of them containing 60, 45, 30 and 15 stocks, have been created to assess the impact of the number of stocks on TC. These portfolios have been built selecting random stocks from our four previous portfolios. The portfolio of 60 stocks contains all stocks analyzed. The portfolio of 45 stocks contains 45 of the 60 stocks. The portfolio of 30 stocks contains 30 of the 60 stocks. The portfolio of 15 stocks contains 15 of the 60 stocks. Each portfolio has been analyzed under an EW strategy, over a five-year period. Tables AII–AV present the composition of those three new portfolios. Table IX presents the average turnovers per number of stocks within the portfolio, and Table X shows the yearly loss per initial amount invested for those three portfolios.

A few observations can be made depending on the number of stocks within the portfolio. First, TC per share decreases when the number of shares in the portfolio increases, for any initial amount invested above or equal to \$100,000. This is owing to a decrease in rebalancing when the number of stocks increases. TCs per share remain the most attractive kind of TC for small amounts invested compared with the other types of TC. However, once a specific initial amount invested is reached, switching to either TC per percentage or TC per trade is preferable to TC per share. Second, TC per percentage also decreases when the number of shares in the portfolio increases, for any large initial amount greater than \$6,000,000. Third, TC per trade increases when the number of shares in the portfolio increases. The previous results can be explained by the fact that having more stocks in a portfolio implies less average turnovers per stock under an EW strategy. Indeed, average turnovers tend to decrease when the number of stocks increases. There are actually less weight variations for each stock when the portfolio becomes bigger. Finally, TC per percentage never becomes better than TC per trade when the number of stocks in the portfolio increases. TC per trade is always cheaper than TC per percentage, for all three kinds of portfolios (i.e. 15, 30, 45 and 60 stocks), and is preferable to any other kind of TC for any minimum initial amount invested greater than \$300,000.

## 4. Making the TC per percentage competitive

It has been concluded in Section 3 that TC per percentage is the most expensive TC structure. Its fixed component  $\beta_i$  is actually very high: an investor trading on the BVL and

Strategy (%)	Turnover			
	15 stocks (%)	30 stocks (%)	45 stocks (%)	60 stocks (%)
EW	11.38	10.68	9.72	9.40

**Table IX.**  
Average turnovers  
per number of stocks  
in the portfolio

**Source:** The authors' elaboration



**Table X.**  
Yearly loss per initial amount invested for different number of stocks over a five-year period and under an EW strategy

	Amount	Yearly loss – TC per share (%)	Yearly loss – TC per (%)	Yearly loss – TC per trade (%)
15 stocks	\$30,000	2.80	7.94	2.21
	100,000	2.71	2.51	0.65
	300,000	2.69	1.28	0.22
	1,000,000	2.68	1.01	0.07
	3,000,000	2.68	0.98	0.02
	10,000,000	2.68	0.97	0.01
30 stocks	30,000	2.02	21.18	5.11
	100,000	1.74	5.15	1.44
	300,000	1.68	1.95	0.47
	1,000,000	1.67	1.08	0.14
	3,000,000	1.67	0.95	0.05
	10,000,000	1.67	0.94	0.02
45 stocks	30,000	2.03	30.00	8.79
	100,000	1.52	8.53	2.37
	300,000	1.42	2.85	0.77
	1,000,000	1.40	1.21	0.23
	3,000,000	1.39	0.91	0.08
	10,000,000	1.39	0.87	0.02
60 stocks	30,000	2.31	45.00	14.11
	100,000	1.51	13.37	3.52
	300,000	1.34	4.03	1.13
	1,000,000	1.30	1.49	0.33
	3,000,000	1.29	0.95	0.11
	10,000,000	1.29	0.86	0.03

Source: The authors' elaboration

using a broker has to pay a minimum trading cost of \$25. In this section, we explain the last experiment we ran with the objective to make TC per percentage competitive and see how the parameters described in Section 3.4 should change in order for an investor to be able to actively trade on the BVL. The experiment has been run for the PBC portfolio, under an EW strategy, and over a five-year period.

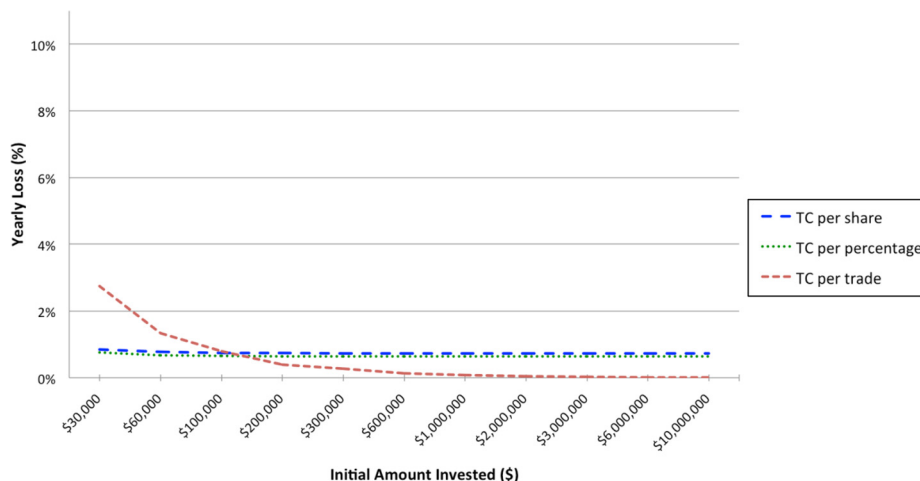
To make TC per percentage competitive, a minimum fixed TC  $\beta_i$  of \$1 has been imposed. Indeed, TC per share also suggests a minimum fixed TC  $\alpha_i$  of \$1, and that is why the value of \$1 for  $\beta_i$  has been chosen. Figure 3 shows that the yearly loss associated with TC per percentage is always smaller than the one for TC per share. TC per percentage becomes the cheapest type of TC structure for small amounts invested. Besides, all yearly losses associated with TC per percentage are below 0.8 per cent, for any initial amount invested. This means that it becomes more attractive for an investor to actively trade on the BVL when  $\beta_i$  is equal to \$1 than when  $\beta_i$  is equal to \$25. Table XI presents the new yearly losses associated per type of TC for the PBC portfolio. Also, TC per percentage becomes constant and quickly reaches a limit when the initial amount invested increases. The yearly loss associated with TC per percentage tends to the value 0.64 per cent. Therefore, to successfully invest on the BVL, the  $\beta_i$  coefficient has to be lowered. A  $\beta_i$  coefficient equal to \$25 represents too much TC especially for highly volatile stocks. With a lower  $\beta_i$ , investing on the BVL becomes more competitive and close to trading on the NYSE with a TC per share structure for the same types of stock.

### 5. Conclusions and recommendations

The impact of different types of TC (per share, per percentage and per trade) has been analyzed while focusing on different dimensions: type and number of stocks in the portfolios, holding periods and trading strategies.

Using average parameters for the types of TC considered, trends have been observed and are independent from those dimensions. First, TC per share is the preferable type of TC when investing a relatively small initial amount. Second, once a specific level of initial amount is reached, the investor should switch to either TC per percentage or TC per trade, whichever becomes cheaper than TC per share. Third, TCs per trade are always better than TC per percentage for all dimensions considered.

Moreover, each dimension gives an insight on the cost of trading. First, the effect of the portfolio composition analyzed in Section 3.5 shows that investing in small market capitalization stocks is relatively more expensive than investing in large market capitalization stocks. Second, the effect of the holding period analyzed in Section 3.6 shows that entry and exit costs are diluted when an investor carries a portfolio for longer periods.



**Figure 3.** Yearly loss per initial amount invested for the PBC portfolio under an EW strategy and over a five-year period, considering the change in the structure of TC per percentage

Source: The authors' elaboration

	Amount	Yearly loss – TC per share (%)	Yearly loss – TC per (%)	Yearly loss – TC per trade (%)
<i>PBC</i>	30,000	0.85	0.76	2.75
	100,000	0.75	0.65	0.80
	300,000	0.73	0.64	0.26
	1,000,000	0.73	0.64	0.08
	3,000,000	0.73	0.64	0.03
	10,000,000	0.73	0.64	0.01

**Table XI.** Yearly loss per initial amount invested for the PBC portfolio under an EW strategy and over a five-year period, considering the change in the structure of TC per percentage

Source: The authors' elaboration

Third, the effect of the trading strategies analyzed in Section 3.7 shows that very active portfolio management strategies such as the MZ strategy tend to have larger TC.

Our observations suggest that the Peruvian TCs per percentage are currently very expensive and are efficient only if large initial amounts are invested in a portfolio. From the perspective of an investor trading on the Peruvian stock market, important losses will occur on the portfolio return owing to the TC per percentage structure. As a matter of fact, if an investor decides to invest in a PBC portfolio with \$30,000, \$100,000 or \$1,000,000 in value, the cost of rebalancing will be of at least 3.6 times more than if a TC per trade structure had been adopted. In fact, the yearly losses for \$30,000, \$100,000 and \$1,000,000 under TC per percentage are 10.02 per cent, 2.89 per cent and 0.71 per cent, respectively. On the other hand, the yearly losses for \$30,000, \$100,000 and \$1,000,000 under TC per trade are 2.75 per cent, 0.80 per cent and 0.08 per cent, respectively.

A last experiment has been conducted to see if by changing its fixed component  $\beta_i$ , the TC per percentage became more attractive for the Peruvian investor. By imposing a minimum fixed TC  $\beta_i$  of \$1, we show that the yearly loss associated with TC per percentage is now always smaller than the one for TC per share. The yearly loss associated with TC per percentage is also smaller than TC per trade for any initial amount invested lower than \$200,000. Therefore, TC per percentage becomes preferable to TC per share, or TC per trade for a small initial amount invested. TC per percentage becomes a competitive structure and allows investors to adopt active portfolio management decisions while investing on the BVL. Finally, this modified TC policy can attract retail investors and make the BVL a less illiquid stock market.

#### Notes

1. Monthly report of the BVL, April 2017.
2. In 2016, MSCI was close to consider Peru as a frontier market instead of an emerging one.
3. Data taken from the NYSE Group Shares Outstanding and Market Capitalization of Companies Listed (March 2017): nyxdata.com
4. Relevant literature regarding optimal strategies in the presence of TC can be found in [Davis and Norman \(1990\)](#) and [Leland \(1999\)](#). The effects of TC in asset pricing are treated in [Chalmers and Kladek \(1998\)](#) and the references therein. [Cornuejols and Tütüncü \(2007\)](#) treat mean-variance portfolio optimization problems in the presence of transaction costs providing useful transformations to make the aforementioned problems solvable using traditional linear and quadratic programming techniques. [Gaivoronski et al. \(2005\)](#) and [Chávez-Bedoya and Birge \(2013\)](#) implement index tracking and "passive" strategies in the presence of TC.
5. The performance of this strategy was studied empirically by [DeMiguel et al. \(2007\)](#), concluding that is extremely robust and beats more sophisticated strategies in terms of the out-of-sample Sharpe ratio.
6. This trading strategy is inspired in the work of [Sharpe \(1964\)](#) because the capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) states that the optimal portfolio is a combination of the market portfolio and the risk-free rate. The market portfolio has weights proportional to the corresponding market capitalizations of the assets involved.
7. The data for each stock consist of the end-of-the-day last prices and current market capitalizations over a monthly period that started on January 31, 2008, and ended on December 31, 2016. The data have been extracted through Bloomberg.
8. Parameters taken at the date of March 1, 2017, on the websites [lightspeed.com](#) and [tradedstation.com](#)

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9. Value picked from the SEC website: [www.sec.gov/news/pressrelease/](http://www.sec.gov/news/pressrelease/)
  10. Value including *retribución BVL*, *fondo de garantía*, *retribuciones Cavali*, and *contribución SMV*.
  11. Parameters taken at the date of March 1, 2017, on the websites [etrade.com](http://etrade.com), [schwab.com](http://schwab.com), [tdameritrade.com](http://tdameritrade.com) and [trading.com](http://trading.com)
  12. All the data for market capitalizations for all stocks have been extracted through Bloomberg, within the same time frames as the extraction of the stocks' last prices described at footnote 4.

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## Further reading

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**Table AI.**  
New ABE portfolio  
composition

	Ticker name	Short name	Industry
<i>New ABE</i>	CMA US Equity	Comerica Inc	Banking
	SNV US Equity	Synovus Financial Corp	Banking
	DRQ US Equity	Dril-Quip Inc	Energy
	CRZO US Equity	Carrizo Oil & Gas Inc	Energy
	HLX US Equity	Helix Energy Solutions Group	Energy
	CNX US Equity	Consol Energy Inc	Mining
	RGLD US Equity	Royal Gold Inc	Mining
	RRC US Equity	Range Resources Corp	Mining
	SWC US Equity	Stillwater Mining Co	Mining
	ARLP US Equity	Alliance Resource Partners	Mining
	CDE US Equity	Coeur Mining Inc	Mining
	SHOO US Equity	Steven Madden Ltd	Retail

**Table AII.**  
Portfolio  
compositions for 15  
stocks

	Ticker name	Short name	Industry
<i>15 stocks</i>	POMALCC1 PE Equity	EMP Agroindustrial Pomalca-C	Agroindustrial
	LAREDOC1 PE Equity	Agroindustrial Laredo-Cm	Agroindustrial
	CRGS US Equity	Curaegis Technologies Inc	Auto Parts
	TFSL US Equity	TFS Financial Corp	Banking
	MOROCO11 PE Equity	San Ignacio De Morococha-T	Base Metals
	NSH US Equity	Nustar GP Holdings LLC	Energy
	ENGEPEC1 PE Equity	ENEL GENERACION	Energy
	BACKUS11 PE Equity	UNION CERV BAC-I	Food & Beverages
	RRC US Equity	Range Resources Corp	Mining
	ARLP US Equity	Alliance Resource Partners	Mining
	ECPN US Equity	El Capitan Precious Metals	Mining
	HLF US Equity	Herbalife Ltd	Retail
	LFVN US Equity	Lifeadvantage Corp	Specialty Pharma
	CYAN US Equity	Cyanotech Corp	Specialty Pharma
	SIDERC1 PE Equity	Empresa Siderurgica Peru SAA	Steel Producer

	Ticker name	Short name	Industry
<i>30 stocks</i>	POMALCC1 PE Equity	EMP Agroindustrial Pomalca-C	Agroindustrial
	TUMANC1 PE Equity	EMP Agroindustrial Tuman-Cmn	Agroindustrial
	LAREDOC1 PE Equity	Agroindustrial Laredo-Cm	Agroindustrial
	CARTAVC1 PE Equity	Cartavio SAA	Agroindustrial
	CRGS US Equity	Curaegis Technologies Inc	Auto Parts
	SCOTIAC1 PE Equity	SCOTIABANK PER-C	Banking
	SNV US Equity	Synovus Financial Corp	Banking
	TFSL US Equity	TFS Financial Corp	Banking
	MOROCCI1 PE Equity	San Ignacio De Morococha-T	Base Metals
	UAMY US Equity	United States Antimony Corp	Base Metals
	ENGEPEC1 PE Equity	ENEL GENERACION	Energy
	DRQ US Equity	Dril-Quip Inc	Energy
	NSH US Equity	Nustar GP Holdings LLC	Energy
	BACKUSI1 PE Equity	UNION CERV BAC-I	Food & Beverages
	BRID US Equity	Bridgford Foods Corp	Food & Beverages
	BUENAVC1 PE Equity	BUENAVENTURA-COM	Mining
	LUSURC1 PE Equity	LUZ SUR-COMUN	Mining
	MINSURI1 PE Equity	MINSUR-INV	Mining
	RRC US Equity	Range Resources Corp	Mining
	SWC US Equity	Stillwater Mining Co	Mining
	ARLP US Equity	Alliance Resource Partners	Mining
	LODE US Equity	Comstock Mining Inc	Mining
	ECPN US Equity	El Capitan Precious Metals	Mining
	AUSTRAC1 PE Equity	Austral Group SAA	Packaged Food
	SHOO US Equity	Steven Madden Ltd	Retail
	HLF US Equity	Herbalife Ltd	Retail
	LFVN US Equity	Lifedvantage Corp	Specialty Pharma
	NAII US Equity	Natural Alternatives Intl	Specialty Pharma
	CYAN US Equity	Cyanotech Corp	Specialty Pharma
	SIDERC1 PE Equity	Empresa Siderurgica Peru SAA	Steel Producer

	Ticker name	Short name	Industry
<i>45 stocks</i>	POMALCC1 PE Equity	EMP Agroindustrial Pomalca-C	Agroindustrial
	CASAGRC1 PE Equity	Casa Grande SAA	Agroindustrial
	TUMANC1 PE Equity	EMP Agroindustrial Tuman-Cmn	Agroindustrial
	LAREDOC1 PE Equity	Agroindustrial Laredo-Cm	Agroindustrial
	CARTAVC1 PE Equity	Cartavio SAA	Agroindustrial
	CAUCHO11 PE Equity	Lima Caucho SAI	Auto Parts
	CRGS US Equity	Curaegis Technologies Inc	Auto Parts
	CONTINC1 PE Equity	BBVA BANCO CONTI	Banking
	SCOTIAC1 PE Equity	SCOTIABANK PER-C	Banking
	CMA US Equity	Comerica Inc	Banking
	SNV US Equity	Synovus Financial Corp	Banking
	TFSL US Equity	TFS Financial Corp	Banking
	MOROCO11 PE Equity	San Ignacio De Morococha-T	Base Metals
	MINCOR11 PE Equity	Soc Minera Corona SA-Inv	Base Metals
	UAMY US Equity	United States Antimony Corp	Base Metals
	ENGEPEC1 PE Equity	ENEL GENERACION	Energy
	ENGIEC1 PE Equity	ENGIE ENERGIA PE	Energy
	DRQ US Equity	Dril-Quip Inc	Energy
	NSH US Equity	Nustar GP Holdings LLC	Energy
	HLX US Equity	Helix Energy Solutions Group	Energy
	BACKUSH1 PE Equity	UNION CERV BAC-I	Food & Beverages
	SNAK US Equity	Inventure Foods Inc	Food & Beverages
	BRID US Equity	Bridgford Foods Corp	Food & Beverages
	RMCF US Equity	Rocky Mountain Choc Fact Inc	Food & Beverages
	BUENAVC1 PE Equity	BUENAVENTURA-COM	Mining
	LUSURC1 PE Equity	LUZ SUR-COMUN	Mining
	TELEFBC1 PE Equity	TELEF PERU-B	Mining
	MINSUR11 PE Equity	MINSUR-INV	Mining
	VOLCABC1 PE Equity	VOLCAN CIA MIN-B	Mining
	UNACEMC1 PE Equity	UNACEM SAA	Mining
	RGLD US Equity	Royal Gold Inc	Mining
	RRC US Equity	Range Resources Corp	Mining
	SWC US Equity	Stillwater Mining Co	Mining
	ARLP US Equity	Alliance Resource Partners	Mining
	LODE US Equity	Comstock Mining Inc	Mining
	ECPN US Equity	El Capitan Precious Metals	Mining
	XPL US Equity	Solitario Exploration & Roy	Mining
	AUSTRAC1 PE Equity	Austral Group SAA	Packaged Food
	INVCENC1 PE Equity	Inversiones Centenario-Comun	Real estate
	RELAPAC1 PE Equity	Refineria La Pampilla SAA	Refining & Marketing
	SHOO US Equity	Steven Madden Ltd	Retail
	HLF US Equity	Herbalife Ltd	Retail
	LFVN US Equity	Lifeadvantage Corp	Specialty Pharma
	NAII US Equity	Natural Alternatives Intl	Specialty Pharma
	SIDERC1 PE Equity	Empresa Siderurgica Peru SAA	Steel Producer

**Table AIV.**  
Portfolio  
compositions for 45  
stocks

**Table AV.**  
Portfolio  
compositions for 60  
stocks

	Ticker name	Short name	Industry
<i>60 stocks</i>	CARTAVC1 PE Equity	Cartavio SAA	Agroindustrial
	CASAGRC1 PE Equity	Casa Grande SAA	Agroindustrial
	LAREDOC1 PE Equity	Agroindustrial Laredo-Cm	Agroindustrial
	POMALCC1 PE Equity	EMP Agroindustrial Pomalca-C	Agroindustrial
	SNJACIC1 PE Equity	Agroindust San Jacinto-Comm	Agroindustrial
	TUMANC1 PE Equity	EMP Agroindustrial Tuman-Cmn	Agroindustrial
	CAUCHO11 PE Equity	Lima Caucho SAI	Auto Parts
	CRGS US Equity	CuraeGIS Technologies Inc	Auto Parts
	CMA US Equity	Comerica Inc	Banking
	CONTINC1 PE Equity	BBVA BANCO CONTI	Banking
	CREDITC1 PE Equity	BANCO DE CREDI-C	Banking
	SCOTIAC1 PE Equity	SCOTIABANK PER-C	Banking
	SNV US Equity	Synovus Financial Corp	Banking
	TFSL US Equity	TFS Financial Corp	Banking
	GMO US Equity	General Moly Inc	Base Metals
	MINCOR11 PE Equity	Soc Minera Corona SA-Inv	Base Metals
	MOROOCO11 PE Equity	San Ignacio De Morocochoa-T	Base Metals
	RAURAI11 PE Equity	Compania Minera Raura SA-Inv	Base Metals
	UAMY US Equity	United States Antimony Corp	Base Metals
	CRZO US Equity	Carrizo Oil & Gas Inc	Energy
	DRQ US Equity	Dril-Quip Inc	Energy
	ENGEPEC1 PE Equity	ENEL GENERACION	Energy
	ENGIEC1 PE Equity	ENGIE ENERGIA PE	Energy
	HIDRA2C1 PE Equity	Hidrandina SA-A2 Shares	Energy
	HLX US Equity	Helix Energy Solutions Group	Energy
	NSH US Equity	Nustar GP Holdings LLC	Energy
	ALICORC1 PE Equity	ALICORP-C	Food & Beverages
	AMNF US Equity	Armanino Foods of Distinct	Food & Beverages
	AUSTRAC1 PE Equity	Austral Group SAA	Food & Beverages
	BACKUS11 PE Equity	UNION CERV BAC-I	Food & Beverages
	BRID US Equity	Bridgford Foods Corp	Food & Beverages
	RMCF US Equity	Rocky Mountain Choc Fact Inc	Food & Beverages
	SNAK US Equity	Inventure Foods Inc	Food & Beverages
	FAC US Equity	First Acceptance Corp	Insurance
	ARLP US Equity	Alliance Resource Partners	Mining
	BUENAVC1 PE Equity	BUENAVENTURA-COM	Mining
	CDE US Equity	Coeur Mining Inc	Mining
	CNX US Equity	Consol Energy Inc	Mining
	CVERDEC1 PE Equity	SOCIEDAD MINERA	Mining
	ECPN US Equity	El Capitan Precious Metals	Mining
	HNRG US Equity	Hallador Energy Co	Mining
	LODE US Equity	Comstock Mining Inc	Mining
	LUSURC1 PE Equity	LUZ SUR-COMUN	Mining
	MILPOC1 PE Equity	COMPANIA MINERA	Mining
	MINSUR11 PE Equity	MINSUR-INV	Mining
	RGLD US Equity	Royal Gold Inc	Mining
	RRC US Equity	Range Resources Corp	Mining
	SWC US Equity	Stillwater Mining Co	Mining
	TELEFBC1 PE Equity	TELEF PERU-B	Mining
	UNACEMC1 PE Equity	UNACEM SAA	Mining
	VOLCABC1 PE Equity	VOLCAN CIA MIN-B	Mining
	XPL US Equity	Solitario Exploration & Roy	Mining
	INVENC11 PE Equity	Inversiones Centenario-Comun	Real Estate
	RELAPAC1 PE Equity	Refineria La Pampilla SAA	Refining
	HLF US Equity	Herbalife Ltd	Retail
	SHOO US Equity	Steven Madden Ltd	Retail
	CYAN US Equity	Cyanotech Corp	Specialty Pharma
	LFVN US Equity	Lifeadvantage Corp	Specialty Pharma
	NAII US Equity	Natural Alternatives Intl	Specialty Pharma
	SIDERC1 PE Equity	Empresa Siderurgica Peru SAA	Steel Producer