

Document 1097

[21097001]

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. , buoyed by improved operating profit in its tire segment , reported that third-quarter net income rose 11 % to \$ 70.5 million , or \$ 1.22 a share .

[21097002]

In the year-ago period , Goodyear had net of \$ 63.5 million , or \$ 1.11 a share .

[21097003]

Sales rose slightly to \$ 2.68 billion , from \$ 2.66 billion .

[21097004]

Analysts had mixed responses to the results .

[21097005]

Donald DeScenza , an independent analyst in New Canaan , Conn. , said he was " impressed with the company 's performance . "

[21097006]

He said results were better than he 'd expected and indicate that Goodyear is in the midst of a turnaround from a string of lackluster quarters that have plagued the company for a year .

[21097007]

However , Harry Millis , an analyst at McDonald & Co. , Cleveland , said Goodyear 's results " fell at the bottom " of his range of estimates .

[21097008]

Excluding an increase in the tax rate and the effects of foreign currency translations , Mr. Millis said the company 's results " were still a little disappointing . "

[21097009]

Goodyear 's stock , which has been weak in recent weeks , fell \$ 2.875 yesterday to close at \$ 43.875 a share in composite trading on the New York Stock Exchange .

[21097010]

The Akron , Ohio-based company said pretax operating income in its tire segment jumped about 31 % to \$ 196.2 million from \$ 150.2 million a year earlier , reflecting improvements in raw material costs , sales of replacement tires and pricing .

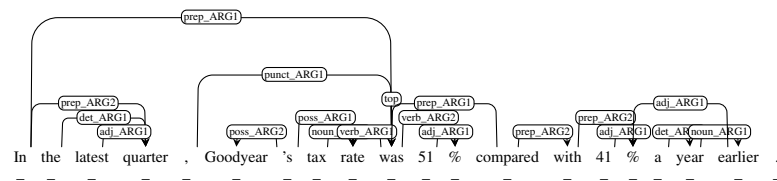
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McDonald 's Mr. Millis said Goodyear appeared to have held or gained some market share in the U.S. for the first time since the second quarter of 1988 .

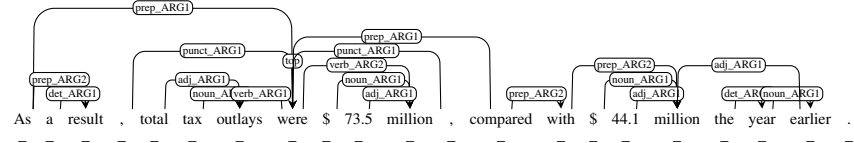
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But Goodyear said total U.S. tire unit sales were off about 2 % .

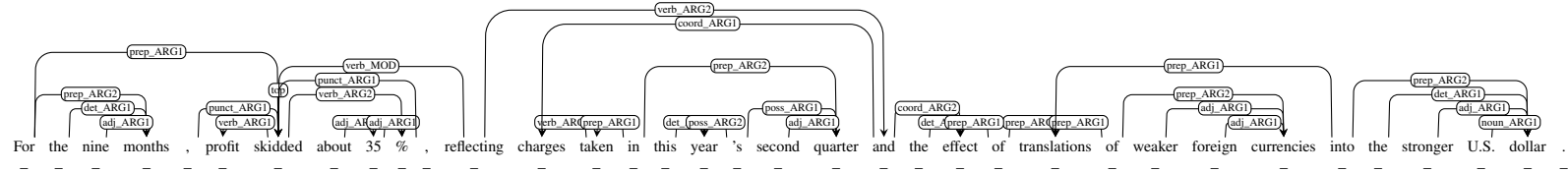
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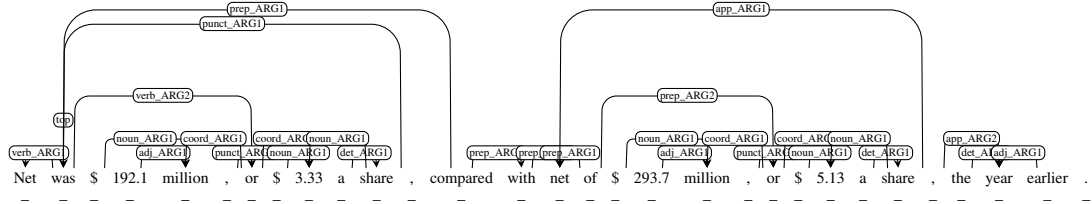
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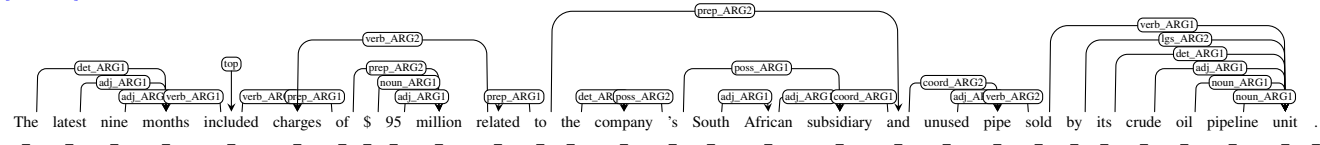
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