

# COST ACCOUNTING



## Basic & Principles

1. Management accounting
  - A. Internal focus
  - B. Offers information plus, negative, and addition
  - C. Provides guidelines and information for organizational decisions
  - D. Provides feedback for control function
  - E. Forward looking
  - F. Offer important quality in evaluation
2. Financial accounting
  - A. External focus
  - B. Focuses on outside parties such as shareholders, creditors, and suppliers
  - C. Operates under strict Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)
  - D. Key emphasis on financial statements
  - E. Offer an historical view
3. Cost accounting
  - A. A mixture of management and financial accounting
  - B. Offers information from internal sources that will be the preparation of internal reports
  - C. Measure cost of resources consumed
  - D. Provide data for budgets
  - E. Support decision making in and a company's costs and improve profitability

### What is Cost?

1. Cost
  - A. Economic sacrifice/Exchange Concept (measured by dollar for financial accounting textbooks Board (2008))
  - B. The cost is paid expenditure value required to obtain an objective (American Institute of Accountants, 1983)
2. Historical cost
  - A. Original monetary value of an economic item
  - B. Transactions are recorded at cost or cash equivalent at the time of the transaction
3. Fair value
  - A. The original value of an asset for the purposes (usually, the purchase price)
  - B. Used to determine the capital gain, which is equal to the difference between the asset's cost/basis and the current market value

### Origins & Evolution of Cost Accounting

1. Accounting introduced in 18th century
  - A. Record is considered the father of accounting
    1. Enabled the system of debit and credit (double-entry)
    2. Enabled systems such as stock exchange in Venice, Italy
    3. Italy's records were accounting for raw materials in industries and budgets
2. Cost accounting in first millennium BC
  - A. Historical evidence from 18th and early 19th century
    1. Examples: large manufacturing firms in recording and tracking of cost
    2. Use of materials and labor to make items for manufacturing
    3. Frederick Taylor's scientific management analysis of mass production gave evidence on standard, for material and labor
3. Beginning of 20th century (Greater focus on overhead)
  - A. Overhead costing tracks materials, labor, and overhead in production
  - B. Standard costing becomes widespread
4. 1930s: National Association of Cost Accountants (NACA) is formed
  - A. Research study and application of cost accounting
  - B. NACA is later renamed Institute of Management Accountants (IMA)
  - C. IMA is the professional organization of cost accountants
5. 1950s: Toyota introduces lean production to focus on cost reduction
6. 1970s: U.S. Congress creates Cost Accounting Standards Board (CASB)
  - A. Provides consistency to cost accounting practices
  - B. Aim to the fair and accurate reporting of actual costs of governmental activities
7. 1987: Management Cost Analysis, Advancement/English International (Management of Production overhead cost allocation)
  - A. Leads to popularity of activity-based cost accounting
8. Recent innovations
  - A. Advances in computer-aided manufacturing
  - B. Application of just-in-time by service sector
  - C. Tracking cost of quality
  - D. Enterprise software and Internet are changing business practices and management accounting

## Cost Classifications

1. Direct costs
  - A. Costs that are directly related to the production of a particular cost object (i.e., those that can be traced to a product)
  - B. Traced to cost object in an economically feasible manner
  - C. Examples
    1. Direct material
    2. Wages of operators building a house
    3. Cost of transport to market
2. Indirect costs
  - A. Costs that are indirect generally to all cost objects
  - B. Cannot be traced to cost object in an economically feasible manner
  - C. Examples
    1. Rent on a factory that produces two products
    2. Accounting costs of an audit
    3. Heat for a small multi-unit building operating plants
    4. Overhead
3. Cost objects
  - A. Any System that have an effect on cost
  - B. Examples
    1. Individual Cost (increases in cost with an increased)
    2. Flow Cost of activity (increases based on the length of time required to complete the activity) such as recording of production expenses
4. Variable cost
  - A. Variable Cost increases as an item is produced by workers or machines
  - B. Trace: Storage cost increases as more space is used in other items
  - C. Example: When direct material production or delivery costs
  - D. Dependent: Cost of quality increases with how an item is improved
5. Variable costs
  - A. Cost that change in total due to changes in volume (fixed)
  - B. An cost direct increase increases, total variable cost increases
  - C. Variable cost can a percent base variable amounts, for example, cost of material is cost per unit
  - D. Examples
    1. Raw materials, packaging, and labor directly involved in a company's manufacturing process
6. Fixed costs
  - A. Costs that do not change in total as a result of cost volume changes
  - B. Examples
    1. Rent, utilities, insurance, salaries, and some forms of depreciation

## Cost Terms

1. Cost object
  - A. Any item for which a cost measurement is needed to help decision making
2. Cost accumulation
  - A. The collection of cost data in some organized way
3. Cost assignment
  - A. Finding direct costs and allocating indirect costs to cost objects
4. Cost management
  - A. Techniques and systems to control costs of processes, products, and services used and produced by an organization
5. Budgeting is part of cost management
6. Value engineering (VE)
  1. Steps in formal VE include:
    1. Define the problem
    2. Develop strategies that recognize constraints of individual cost
    3. Analyze alternatives in analyzing systems, equipment, facilities, and services to achieve essential functions at lowest cost while meeting performance, reliability, quality, and safety standards
    4. Conduct value analysis (VA) (document and design analysis) (determine whether there are design alternatives) (determine analysis: What is the balance between increased business performance, and cost?)

## Manufacturing Cost Flow

1. Manufacturing companies use three inventory accounts
  - A. Direct materials
  - B. Work-in-process
  - C. Finished goods
2. The use of these accounts follows the flow of production through the company



3. Cost flows in T accounts

Direct Materials	Work-in-Process	Finished Goods
Beginning Direct material Purchases Ending	Beginning WIP Direct material Indirect material Ending	Beginning Finished goods Cost of goods manufactured Cost of goods sold Ending

Legend: DM = direct materials, WIP = work-in-process, CGS = cost of goods sold, COGM = cost of goods manufactured, FG = finished goods, COGS = cost of goods sold

## Inventory Methods & Types

1. Inventory
  - A. Significant current asset of manufacturing and merchandising firms
  - B. Items for sale
2. Perpetual inventory
  - A. Continuous record of changes and balances in direct materials, work-in-process, and finished goods inventories
3. Periodic inventory
  - A. Record is updated periodically
  - B. Requires periodic physical count of items in inventory
4. Direct inventory
  - A. Offer focus on the materials inventory
  - B. Includes materials that are tracked individually for use in the production of a product
  - C. Work-in-process inventory
    1. Goods partially completed but not yet fully assembled
  - D. Finished goods inventory

# Guide To Cost Accounting

**John Dearden, Teaching Systems  
Corporation**



## **Guide To Cost Accounting:**

## **Guide To Cost Accounting** Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In a digital era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has become much more apparent than ever. Its power to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is actually remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**Guide To Cost Accounting**," published by a highly acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound effect on our existence. Throughout this critique, we will delve to the book's central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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