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Topic 1: The Accounting Environment

Accounting is an information system that identifies, records, and communicates the economic events of an organization to the interested users.

It helps in:

1. Personal Finance Decisions
2. Investments
3. Donations, Charity
4. Understanding the business and economic news, etc.

*The role of accounting is to provide useful financial **information** to facilitate good **decision making** with regards to money and business issues and build a prosperous society with better resources allocation and social justice.*

Accounting Process

The steps involved in Accounting process are:

1. Identification of business transactions
2. Recording of it
3. Communication

Who uses the accounting information?

Internal Users

Managers who plan, organise, and run the business

e.g., marketing managers, production supervisors, chief financial officers (CFO), other employees.

Management accounting provides internal reports for managers and other insiders

External Users

Investors to make decisions to buy, hold or sell shares.

Creditors to evaluate risks of giving credit and lending money. e.g. suppliers, bankers

Government and regulatory bodies. e.g., Australian Tax Office (ATO), Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC)

Financial accounting offers the financial statements to external users

Calculation

- Profits = Total Revenue – Total Variable Costs – Total Fixed Costs
- Total Contribution Margin (\$) = Total Revenue – Total Variable Costs

“Contributions” means the contribution to covering total fixed costs and to making profits

- Contribution Margin per Unit (\$) = Selling Price per Unit – Variable Cost per Unit
 - the “contribution” of selling one unit
- Contribution Margin Ratio (%) = $\frac{\text{Contribution Margin per Unit}}{\text{Selling Price per Unit}}$
 - the “contribution” of each sales dollar

Break Even Point

The **break-even point** is the level at which total revenues equal total costs.

Break-even point can be defined **in terms of sales units** by the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Fixed costs}}{\text{Contribution margin per unit}} = \text{Break-even point in units}$$

Break-even point can be defined **in terms of sales dollars** by the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Fixed costs}}{\text{Contribution margin ratio}} = \text{Break-even point in dollars}$$