

Financial Accounting

Financial Accounting:

*From Its Basics to Financial
Reporting and Analysis*

By

Simeon Spiteri

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**Dedicated to
my family.
Thanks Marija!
You provided the first critical support!**

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PART 1:
OVERVIEW

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Accounting is divided into two main areas, which are financial accounting and management accounting. This book focuses on financial accounting, which mainly comprises the preparation and examination of financial statements in order to help external users like ordinary shareholders, lenders and suppliers to take economic decisions. Management accounting is directed towards management by providing detailed information in order to help them to take routine and non-routine decisions. Financial accounting reflects past events that are portrayed in the financial statements. Management accounting comprises past events present in the management accounts and also forecasts that appear in the functional and master budgets.

The objective of this book is to help individuals understand key aspects of financial accounting, such as recording business transactions, accounting for year-end adjustments, utilising accounting controls, preparing financial reports, understanding the key aspects of the annual report and the financial statements, and interpret the financial statements. A practical perspective is adopted in this book. Techniques used by accountants and financial analysts in practice are unveiled.

This book is ideal for individuals who have very limited knowledge of financial accounting and also for practitioners. Basic principles and techniques of financial accounting are explained, and illustrative examples are used in order to help the reader understand these principles and techniques. Furthermore, exercises are given at the end of each chapter where the reader can test his/her learning. Model answers are provided at the end of the book. Thus, this book facilitates the understanding of basic principles and techniques of financial accounting, which are useful for individuals with very limited knowledge of financial accounting, such as students and entrepreneurs who have not studied accounting.

PART 2:
THE DOUBLE ENTRY SYSTEM

CHAPTER 2

ACCOUNTING FOR THE ORGANISATION'S ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Objectives

After you have read this chapter you should be able to:

- Understand the term accounting;
- See the process used in order to record business transactions;
- Know the meaning of assets, liabilities and capital;
- Understand the accounting equation;
- Identify the main users of accounting information and their information needs; and
- Record transactions by using the double entry system for assets, liabilities and capital.

2.1 Definition of the Term Accounting

Accounting can be defined as the process of recording, classifying, reporting and interpreting financial information for interested users in order to help them in their economic decisions. This indicates that accounting is a process of four key stages, which are recording, classifying, reporting and interpreting financial information. In this chapter emphasis is placed on the recording of business transactions and the identification of the main users of accounting information to whom financial information is provided.

2.2 Process of Recording Transactions

Accounting can be considered as a process because the four stages noted above are performed in a sequential operation. These consist of recording business transactions, classifying the transactions in the appropriate accounts, reporting financial information at the end of the year and interpreting the financial information to interested users.

The best method that a lot of organisations utilise to record business transactions is the double entry system. The double entry system is based on the philosophy that every transaction has a give (-) and take (+) situation for the organisation. However, before explaining further this system let us define three important items in accounts.

2.2.1 Meaning of Assets, Liabilities and Capital

The resources owned by the firm are acquired in order to sustain the operations of the business enterprise. Examples of these resources are stock, cash at bank, machinery and motor vehicles. These resources are called Assets. There are two types of assets, which consist of non-current assets and current assets. Non-current assets are assets that are expected to provide economic benefits to the organisation for a long period of time, which is normally in excess of one year. Examples of non-current assets are buildings, plant and machinery, and motor vehicles. Current assets comprise assets whose value alter frequently. Current assets are also in the form of cash or are quickly translated into cash. Examples of current assets consist of stock, trade receivables, bank and cash.

Someone must contribute for the business enterprise to buy these assets. There are two separate individual/entities that provide finance to the organisation. These are the owner of the organisation and third parties. The assets financed by the owner are called Capital, while those financed by third parties comprise Liabilities. For example, the €1,500 cash contributed by the owner will be considered as capital. A loan of €5,000 will be classified as a liability.

There are two types of liabilities, which consist of non-current and current liabilities. Non-current liabilities, such as a loan are liabilities that take more than one financial year to be paid. Current liabilities are liabilities that will be paid in the near future, which is less than the firm's financial year. Examples of current liabilities are trade payables and bank overdraft.

One can derive the following accounting equation from these variables:

$$\text{Assets} = \text{Capital} + \text{Liabilities}$$

If we apply the philosophy of the double entry system, the take situation is the assets, while the give situation is the capital and liabilities. Capital and liabilities are debts that the organisation is required to pay in future.

Example: Application of the Accounting Equation

An organisation incurred the following transactions during the month:

1. The owner deposited €10,000 into the business bank account.
2. A motor vehicle was bought costing €5,000 on credit from Muscat Motors.
3. The organisation repaid Muscat Motors the amount due of €5,000 by cheque.
4. The firm purchased stock of €1,500, which were immediately paid by cheque.

Situation	Assets €	Capital €	Liabilities €
1	10,000 (Bank)	10,000 (Owner)	-
2	5,000 (Motor Vehicle)	-	5,000 (Muscat Motors)
3	-5,000 (Bank)	-	-5,000 (Muscat Motors)
4	1,500 (Inventories) -1,500 (Bank)	-	-

The impact of these transactions on assets, capital and liabilities is outlined below:

1. The owner deposited €10,000 into the business bank account.
Take situation: €10,000 deposited in the bank account (+ assets).
Give situation: in the future the firm has to pay the owner €10,000 (+ capital).
2. The firm purchased a motor vehicle costing €5,000 on credit from Muscat Motors.
Take situation: motor vehicle of €5,000 are acquired by the organisation (+ assets).
Give situation: in the future the organisation has to pay Muscat Motors €5,000 (+ liabilities).
3. The firm repaid Muscat Motors the amount due of €5,000 by cheque.
Take situation: the debt with Muscat Motors is settled (- Liabilities).

Give situation: the firm had to use €5,000 from the bank account to settle the debt (- assets).

4. The firm purchased stock of €1,500 paying immediately by cheque.

Take situation: the enterprise purchased stock of €1,500 (+ assets).

Give situation: the organisation had to use €1,500 from the bank account to purchase this stock (- assets).

The key principle is that in every transaction there is a take and give situation. The take situation is either increasing assets or decreasing capital or liabilities. The give situation is either decreasing assets or increasing capital or liabilities.

2.3 Main Users of Accounting Information

There are internal and external users of accounting information. In this section emphasis is placed on external users because the aspects of financial accounting are considered in this book.

The main external users of accounting information and their information needs are stated below:

Investors: investors consist of the individuals who invest in the organisation and become the respective owners. In a company the investors are known as the ordinary shareholders. Investors are interested in the profitability made by the organisation. This shows the direct return that they can get from the firm. Moreover, investors consider the investment risk in the organisation, which is the risk that the firm goes bankrupt or that they are unable to achieve the anticipated return. Thus, attention is given to the liquidity and long term solvency of the organisation.

Lenders: comprise individuals who lend money to the organisation. Such money is repayable after more than one year. Lenders are interested in the liquidity of the organisation in order to assess its ability to pay interest and the loan when it matures. Furthermore, they will consider the long term stability of the organisation to assess the risk that the organisation goes bankrupt.

Trade Payables: consist of individuals who sell goods to the organisation on credit. Like lenders trade payables are interested in the liquidity of the organisation to evaluate the firm's ability to pay the debts on time. They also consider the firm's long term stability to assess the possibility that the

organisation can be a client for the long run. However, lower emphasis is placed on long term stability than lenders because the amount due is payable in the short term.

The Government: the government is interested in the profit generated by the organisation. This helps to examine if the company paid the correct amount of taxation. The government is also interested in the long term solvency of the organisation to evaluate the risk that the company may go insolvent. This affects the unemployment rate especially if it is a large organisation.

Customers: customers are interested in the long term solvency of the firm in order to evaluate the risk that it goes bankrupt. If the company becomes insolvent it can adversely impact the after sales service that the customer is entitled to. Furthermore, the customer may be unable to purchase additional products from the organisation. This is important especially for brand loyal customers.

General Public: the general public is also interested in the long term solvency of the organisation because it influences the rate of unemployment in the community.

2.4 Recording Transactions that affect Assets, Liabilities and Capital

The double entry system is based on the give and take situation, as already remarked. The take situation (+) is called the debit side, while the give situation (-) is called the credit side. Business transactions need to be recorded on the debit side and the credit side in accordance to this principle. Business transactions also lead to the creation of accounts. Different accounts are opened to reflect the asset acquired or disposed and the liabilities incurred. One account is opened only for the assets invested by the owner, which is called the capital account. The drawings account is opened when the owner takes resources from the organisation for his/her personal use.

The layout of an account is as follows:

Name of Account

Date	Debit	€	Date	Credit	€

As you can see the debit is on the left-hand side, while the credit is on the right-hand side.

Example: Recording Business Transactions

Money Deposited by the Owner:

1st January 2019: The owner deposited €15,000 into the business bank account.

Take: the firm received €15,000 in the bank account.

Give: in the future the organisation needs to pay the owner €15,000.

Bank Account

Date	Debit	€	Date	Credit	€
1/1/19	Capital*	15,000			
Capital Account					
			1/1/19	Bank*	15,000

*The narration reflects the other account in order to explain in what account was the other entry passed. Remember that in practice numerous accounts are opened to reflect all the business transactions incurred by the organisation.

Acquisition of Furniture on Credit and Repayment at a Later Date:

18th January 2019: The organisation purchased furniture of €3,500 on credit from Combi Ltd.

Take: the firm received furniture of €3,500.

Give: in the future the organisation needs to pay €3,500 to Combi Ltd.

26th January 2019: The firm paid the debt of Combi Ltd. by cheque.

Take: the debt is settled, which leads to a decline in liabilities of €3,500.

Give: €3,500 from the business bank account had to be used.

Furniture Account

Date	Debit	€	Date	Credit	€
18/1/19	Combi Ltd.	3,500			
Combi Ltd. Account					
26/1/19	Bank	3,500	18/1/19	Furniture	3,500
Bank Account					
			26/1/19	Combi Ltd.	3,500

Purchase of Motor Vehicle by Cheque:

30th January 2019: The firm acquired a motor vehicle of €6,000, which was paid immediately by cheque.

Take: the firm received a motor vehicle of €6,000.

Give: €6,000 from the business bank account had to be used to purchase the motor vehicle.

Motor Vehicle Account

Date	Debit	€	Date	Credit	€
30/1/19	Bank	6,000			
Bank Account					
			30/1/19	Motor Vehicle	6,000

Transferred Money from the Bank Account to the Cash Account:

1st February 2019: Took €250 from the business bank account and deposited it into the cash till.

Take: the firm's cash in hand increased by €250.

Give: the balance in the bank account decreased by €250.

Cash Account

Date	Debit	€	Date	Credit	€
1/2/19	Bank	250			
Bank Account					
			1/2/19	Cash	250

Received a Loan:

3rd February 2019: Alex Smith provided a loan of €20,000, which was deposited in the bank account.

Take: the firm received money of €20,000, which was deposited in the bank account.

Give: there is a liability of €20,000, which is payable to Alex Smith.

Bank Account

Date	Debit	€	Date	Credit	€
3/2/19	Loan: Alex Smith	20,000			
Loan: Alex Smith Account					
			3/2/19	Bank	20,000

Money Taken by the Owner:

8th February 2019: The owner took €1,000 cash from the business bank account.

Take: the liability to the owner decreased by €1,000.

Give: the balance in the bank account declined by €1,000.

Drawings Account

Date	Debit	€	Date	Credit	€
8/2/19	Bank	1,000			
Bank Account					
			8/2/19	Drawings	1,000

Paid Part of the Loan Due to Alex Smith:

26th February 2019: Paid part of Alex Smith's loan of €2,500 by cheque.

Take: the liability payable to Alex Smith decreased by €2,500.

Give: the balance in the bank account diminished by €2,500

Loan: Alex Smith Account

Date	Debit	€	Date	Credit	€
26/2/19	Bank	2,500			
Bank Account					
			26/2/19	Loan: Alex Smith	2,500

Review Questions

Question 1

Complete the following table by using the accounting equation:

	Assets €	Liabilities €	Capital €
1	20,000	5,000	
2	13,500		6,000
3		2,500	12,000
4	18,000	3,000	
5	16,900		10,000
6	11,000	6,000	

Question 2

Identify the assets from the following:

- Motor Vehicles
- Insurance
- Plant and Equipment
- Loan – M. Buttigieg
- Discount Received
- Premises
- Accounts Receivable
- Inventory
- Accounts Payable
- Cash at Bank

Question 3

Distinguish the following items into assets and liabilities:

- Accounts Payable
- Cash in hand
- Building
- Office Equipment
- Bank Overdraft
- Accounts Receivable
- Inventory

Question 4

What is the main difference between capital and a liability?

Question 5

Antoine Vella decided to start a business enterprise. Initially before starting any trading he acquired office equipment costing €3,500 and a motor van costing €6,000. He bought inventory costing €4,000 and paid suppliers €1,000. The remaining was provided on a 30-day credit. Antoine also bought premises costing €100,000. These were financed by capital and a loan of €60,000. Calculate the capital that Antoine invested in the organisation.

Question 6

James Mifsud started a business enterprise and performed the following transactions in the first month:

- The owner deposited €15,000 into the business bank account.
- Transferred €500 from the bank account into the cash till.
- Bought office equipment costing €3,500 by cheque.
- Bought goods for re-sale costing €500 by cheque.
- Bought goods for re-sale on credit from A. Micallef costing €1,000.
- Sold goods to a customer of €600 who paid immediately by cash.
- The owner took €1,000 from the business bank account.
- Sold €2,000 worth of goods to a customer on credit.
- Returned goods to A. Micallef of €20.

Record these transactions in the following table:

Assets	Capital	Liabilities

Question 7

Record the following transactions by using the double entry system:

- Sep. 1 The owner started a business by depositing €4,000 in the bank account.
- Sep. 2 Bought office equipment costing €300 by cheque.
- Sep. 5 Deposited €250 bank into the cash till.
- Sep. 9 Bought motor vehicle €3,000 on credit from Motors Inc.
- Sep. 15 The owner deposited an additional €1,500 in the bank account.
- Sep. 23 Paid Motors Inc. the amount due of €3,000 by cheque.
- Sep. 28 Bought more office equipment of €200 paying by cash.

Question 8

Reflect the following transactions in the respective accounts:

- Oct. 1 Started business with €5,000 in the business bank account.
- Oct. 3 Bought motor vehicle costing €2,200, which was immediately paid by cheque.
- Oct. 4 Bought office furniture costing €400 by cheque.
- Oct. 5 Returned faulty office furniture of €50. A refund was provided, which was deposited in the cash till.
- Oct. 11 Bought machinery costing €950, which was purchased on credit from Novitex.