

# 15.516x Financial Accounting Inventories / Property, Plant, and Equipment

John Core MIT Sloan School of Management



### Introduction



### Last Class:

- Finish Peters Company financial statements
- Revenue recognition
- Allowance accounting

### This Class:

- Inventories
- Property, Plant, and Equipment (PPE)



## **Balance Sheets - Common Size (% of total assets)**

|                      | Waln         | Walmart |            |      |  |
|----------------------|--------------|---------|------------|------|--|
|                      | <u> 20</u> 2 | 20      | <u> 16</u> |      |  |
| Assets:              | \$           | %       | \$         | %    |  |
| Cash                 | 8,705        | 4%      | 19,334     | 23%  |  |
| Receivables          | 5,694        | 3%      | 8,576      | 10%  |  |
| Less: Allowance      | (70)         | 0%      | (237)      | 0%   |  |
| Inventory            | 44,469       | 22%     | 11,461     | 14%  |  |
| Other Current Assets | 1,441        | 1%      | 6,647      | 8%   |  |
| Total Current Assets | 60,239       | 30%     | 45,781     | 55%  |  |
| Property, Plant, &   |              |         |            |      |  |
| Equipment            | 176,958      | 89%     | 37,230     | 45%  |  |
| Less: Accum Dep.     | (66,787)     | -33%    | (8,116)    | -10% |  |
| Goodwill             | 16,695       | 8%      | 3,784      | 5%   |  |
| Other Assets         | 12,476       | 6%      | 4,723      | 6%   |  |
| Total Assets         | 199,581      | 100%    | 83,402     | 100% |  |

### **Motivation**



Why do firms have inventory?

Want goods available to sell to customers

How do firms determine how much inventory to hold?

Firms trade-off benefits and costs:

### Benefits:

Have goods available to sell to customers

### Costs:

- More inventory means less cash; storage costs
- Inventory can go bad, become obsolete, or be stolen

### **Two Main Issues**



Inventory accounting has two fundamental components:

- 1) Product Costing Decision What costs are included in each product's inventory account?
  - Raw materials
  - Labor
  - Indirect costs like factory depreciation

(Product costing is discussed in depth in managerial accounting)

2) Cost Flow Decision: (LIFO/FIFO) Once costs are in the inventory account (i.e., on the Balance sheet), what costs are transferred to the Income Statement?
(The feare of this class)

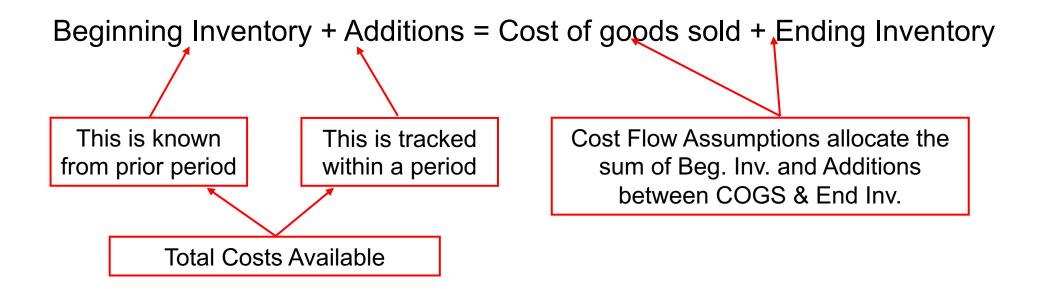
(The focus of this class)





Assume that inventory accounts are updated at the end of fiscal period, as opposed to after every sale/purchase

**Inventory Equation (application of BASE):** 







Every balance sheet account uses the same BASE equation:

**B**eginning balance (beginning inventory)

- + Additions (purchases)
- **S**ubtractions (cost of goods sold)
- = **E**nding balance

# A giant gumball machine





### LIFO vs. FIFO



The giant gumball machine contains 100,000 gumballs, and there are rising gumball prices.

What is the value of ending inventory of the gumballs in the machine?

You need a cost flow assumption!

LIFO: Last in, First out (How you shop for milk, eggs, produce)

FIFO: First in, First out (How grocery stores wish you would shop)

Note: In practice, the cost flow assumption is *independent* of physical flow.

# Physical flows – LIFO or FIFO?





## LIFO vs. FIFO - Example



### Consider the following transactions:

#### Year 1

- 1. Begin firm operations by issuing stock for \$100 cash
- 2. Purchase 7 tires for \$8 each for cash
- 3. Sell 3 tires for \$10 each for cash

#### Year 2

- 1. Purchase 5 tires for \$10 each for cash
- 2. Sold 4 tires for \$12 each for cash

## **Accounting for Inventory**



|                    | Year 1<br>units | Year 1<br>inv | Year 2<br>units | Year 2<br>inv |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Beg. Units         | 0               | 0             |                 |               |
| + Purchases        | 7 units @\$8    | 56            |                 |               |
| = Goods Available  | 7 units @\$8    | 56            |                 |               |
| - Goods Sold       | 3 units @\$8    | 24            |                 |               |
| = Ending Inventory | 4 units @\$8    | 32            |                 |               |

Purchase 7 units @ \$8 per unit

Does FIFO or LIFO matter in the first year?





|                    | Year 1<br>units | Year 1<br>inv | Year 2<br>units | Year 2<br>inv |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Beg. Units         | 0               | 0             | 4 @\$8          | 32            |
| + Purchases        | 7 units @\$8    | 56            | 5 @\$10         | 50            |
| = Goods Available  | 7 units @\$8    | 56            | 9 units         | 82            |
| - Goods Sold       | 3 units @\$8    | 24            |                 |               |
| = Ending Inventory | 4 units @\$8    | 32            |                 |               |

We sold four tires. Which costs do we allocate to the sale?





|                    | Year 1<br>units | Year 1<br>inv | Year 2<br>units | Year 2<br>inv |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Beg. Units         | 0               | 0             | 4 @\$8          | 32            |
| + Purchases        | 7 units @\$8    | 56            | 5 @\$10         | 50            |
| = Goods Available  | 7 units @\$8    | 56            | 9 units         | 82            |
| - Goods Sold       | 3 units @\$8    | 24            |                 |               |
| = Ending Inventory | 4 units @\$8    | 32            |                 |               |

We sold four tires. Which costs do we allocate to the sale?

# **Accounting for Inventory – LIFO**



|                    |                 |               |                   | LIFO          |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
|                    | Year 1<br>units | Year 1<br>inv | Year 2<br>units   | Year 2<br>inv |
| Beg. Units         | 0               | 0             | 4 @\$8            | 32            |
| + Purchases        | 7 units @\$8    | 56            | 5 @\$10           | 50            |
| = Goods Available  | 7 units @\$8    | 56            | 9 units           | 82            |
| - Goods Sold       | 3 units @\$8    | 24            | 4 @\$10           | 40            |
| = Ending Inventory | 4 units @\$8    | 32            | 1 @\$10<br>4 @\$8 | 42            |

Under LIFO Accounting?





|                    |                 |               |                 | FIFO          |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                    | Year 1<br>units | Year 1<br>inv | Year 2<br>units | Year 2<br>inv |
| Beg. Units         | 0               | 0             | 4 @\$8          | 32            |
| + Purchases        | 7 units @\$8    | 56            | 5 @\$10         | 50            |
| = Goods Available  | 7 units @\$8    | 56            | 9 units         | 82            |
| - Goods Sold       | 3 units @\$8    | 24            | 4 @\$8          | 32            |
| = Ending Inventory | 4 units @\$8    | 32            | 5 @\$10         | 50            |

Under FIFO Accounting?





|      | Income Statement | Balance Sheet |             |
|------|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| FIFO | Old costs        | New costs     | Total costs |
|      | \$32             | \$50          | \$82        |
| LIFO | New costs        | Old costs     | Total costs |
|      | \$40             | \$42          | \$82        |

FIFO: Costs of older/cheaper products hit current income as COGS Newer/expensive inventory is reflected in INV on B/S

LIFO: Costs of newer/expensive products hit current income as COGS Older/cheaper inventory is reflected in INV on B/S

# A Comparison of LIFO and FIFO Costs (assuming rising prices)



|      | Income Statement | Balance Sheet |             |
|------|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| FIFO | Old costs        | New costs     | Total costs |
| LIFO | New costs        | Old costs     | Total costs |

FIFO: More accurate balance sheet

LIFO: More accurate income statement





### LIFO vs. FIFO over time

Under increasing input prices, ending inventory ("Elnv")

EInv<sub>LIFO</sub>

<

**EInv**<sub>FIFO</sub>

Year 2:

\$42

\$50

Are LIFO firms' inventories less valuable?

No, the cost flow assumption is independent of physical flow





### LIFO vs. FIFO over time

Under increasing prices and continuous buildup of cost layers (i.e., the firm has inventories purchased at different prices)

|         | COGS <sub>LIFO</sub>         | 2 | COGS <sub>FIFO</sub>         |
|---------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Year 2: | \$40                         |   | \$32                         |
|         | Gross profit <sub>LIFO</sub> | < | Gross profit <sub>FIFO</sub> |
| Year 2: | \$8                          |   | \$16                         |

Do profit differences signal differences in economic performance?

No, they simply reflect differences in financial reporting

## **US LIFO Conformity Rule**



If a firm uses LIFO for US tax purposes, it must also use LIFO for financial reporting purposes. Thus, if firm uses FIFO for financial reporting, it must use FIFO for tax purposes.

(This is a rare instance where financial reporting must be same as tax reporting.)

When prices are increasing, LIFO firms report lower profits... (and thus pay lower taxes).

What inventory method will firms choose?

One consideration is to minimize the present value of tax payments.

# International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) vs. US GAAP (not on exam)



IFRS adopted by over 120 countries, but degree of adoption varies:

- Australia, Hong Kong all
- Europe almost all
- China and others "convergence"

### IFRS is in general similar to US GAAP:

- Differences usually subtle -- "advanced accounting."
- IFRS is more focused on accurate balance sheet, whereas GAAP is more focused on accurate income statement.
- GAAP is rules-based, whereas IFRS is principles-based.
- At end of this course, you will be able to read an IFRS report just as well as a US GAAP report.

# IFRS vs. US GAAP and Taxes (not on exam)



Some differences in IFRS related to this course:

- Inventory Under IFRS, LIFO cannot be used.
- PPE can be re-valued upward in IFRS.
- Development costs can be capitalized under IFRS, but are expensed under US GAAP.

For a more in-depth comparison, see optional readings on web.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has been evaluating IFRS, but seems unlikely to approve.

If IFRS is required for US firms, what do you think the tax implications are?

## **Comparability issues**



Why do some US firms use LIFO?

- Firms with rising costs want to report taxable income using LIFO
  - → because taxable profits are lower
- As discussed earlier, LIFO results in a more accurate income statement

LIFO and FIFO firms have different accounting, so we need to adjust the accounting numbers to make them comparable.

Data is available to adjust the LIFO firm to FIFO (but not to adjust FIFO to LIFO).

# In order to Compare firms: Adjusting LIFO to FIFO – The LIFO Reserve



Different "cost layers" of Inventory at the end of Year 2:

| LIFO   | FIFO          |
|--------|---------------|
| 1@\$10 | <u>5@\$10</u> |

<u>4@\$8</u>

**\$42 \$50** 

If companies are using LIFO, they are required to disclose the *current cost* of their LIFO inventory in their footnotes

The difference between current cost and LIFO inventory value is referred to as the LIFO Reserve

Most companies will disclose the following:

LIFO Reserve = Ending Inv<sub>FIFO</sub> – Ending Inv<sub>LIFO</sub>

## What is Exxon-Mobil's Inventory under FIFO? **Exxon-Mobil – Inventory Footnote**



The aggregate replacement cost of inventories was estimated to exceed their LIFO carrying values by \$25.6 billion and \$21.3 billion at December 31, 2011, and 2010, respectively. Crude oil, products and merchandise as of year-end 2011 and 2010 consist of the following:

LIFO Reserves

|                    | 20  | 011                   | 2010  |  |
|--------------------|-----|-----------------------|-------|--|
|                    | (bi | (billions of dollars) |       |  |
| Petroleum products | \$  | 4.1                   | \$3.5 |  |
| Crude oil          |     | 4.8                   | 3.8   |  |
| Chemical products  |     | 2.3                   | 2.1   |  |
| Gas/other          |     | 0.5                   | 0.5   |  |
| Total              | \$1 | 1.7                   | \$9.9 |  |
| Inventory          |     |                       |       |  |

under LIFO

2011 FIFO value? \$11.7 + 25.6 = \$37.3

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# If Exxon-Mobil switched to FIFO at end of 2011, what would be the effect on income taxes?



#### Reworded:

How large is Exxon-Mobil's cumulative tax savings by using LIFO?

Assume a tax rate of 30%.

#### LIFO reserve at 12/31/11:



This number represents the additional amount charged to COGS since the firm began using LIFO.

### Tax effect:

30% of \$25.6 billion = \$7.7 billion in cumulative tax savings

# What is Exxon-Mobil's COGS under FIFO? Exxon-Mobil Income Statement



|                                     |    | 2011    |        | 2010             |     | 2009    |
|-------------------------------------|----|---------|--------|------------------|-----|---------|
|                                     | 24 |         | (milli | ions of dollars) | 100 |         |
| Total revenues and other income     | \$ | 486,429 | \$     | 383,221          | \$  | 310,586 |
| Costs and other deductions          |    |         |        |                  |     |         |
| Cost of goods sold                  | \$ | 306,802 | \$     | 233,751          | \$  | 185,833 |
| Selling, general and administrative |    | 14,983  |        | 14,683           |     | 14,735  |
| Depreciation and depletion          |    | 15,583  |        | 14,760           |     | 11,917  |
| Exploration expenses                |    | 2,081   |        | 2,144            |     | 2,021   |
| Interest expense                    |    | 247     |        | 259              |     | 548     |
| Sales-based taxes                   |    | 33,503  |        | 28,547           |     | 25,936  |
| Other taxes and duties              |    | 39,973  | 67,355 | 36,118           | 100 | 34,819  |
| Total costs and other deductions    | \$ | 413,172 | \$     | 330,262          | \$  | 275,809 |
| Income before income taxes          | \$ | 73,257  | \$     | 52,959           | \$  | 34,777  |

# What is Exxon-Mobil's COGS under FIFO? To compute, adjust LIFO $_{COGS}$ to FIFO $_{COGS}$



$$EInv_{FIFO} = BInv_{FIFO} + Additions - COGS_{FIFO}$$

$$EInv_{LIFO} = BInv_{LIFO} + Additions - COGS_{LIFO}$$

The amount of additions does not depend upon the choice of LIFO/FIFO

$$(EInv_{FIFO} - EInv_{LIFO}) = (BInv_{FIFO} - BInv_{LIFO}) + COGS_{LIFO} - COGS_{FIFO}$$

(End LIFO Reserve) = (Beg LIFO Reserve) + COGS<sub>LIFO</sub> – COGS<sub>FIFO</sub>

Change in LIFO Reserve = COGS<sub>LIFO</sub> - COGS<sub>FIFO</sub>

The change in LIFO Reserve tells us the difference in COGS between LIFO and FIFO

### Exxon-Mobil – Reconciliation between LIFO and FIFO



Change in LIFO Reserve = COGS<sub>LIFO</sub> - COGS<sub>FIFO</sub>

### Rearranging:

$$COGS_{FIFO} = COGS_{LIFO} - Change in LIFO Reserve$$

$$= 306.8 - (25.6 - 21.3)$$

$$= 306.8 - 4.3$$

$$= 302.5$$

Under FIFO, COGS would be \$302.5 billion

# Financial Statement Analysis Issues: Ratios Involving Inventory



I. Inventory Turnover = COGS / Average Inventory

Measure of how fast the firm is able to sell its inventory. Higher turnover, faster sales of inventory.

II. Days inventory = 365 / Inventory Turnover

Measure of the average period (in days) that inventory is held before being sold.

# CFOs turn capital to cash quicker (WSJ 6/26/19)



U.S. companies' working-capital efficiency reached a six-year high in 2018 as finance chiefs increasingly prioritize managing inventories to more quickly convert the capital into cash.

The top-performing companies:

- paid suppliers almost three weeks slower in 2018 than typical companies and
- collected cash from customers almost three weeks quicker—
- while holding less than half the inventory.

As we will talk about in the cash flow class, working capital items like A/R and inventories tie up cash, whereas unpaid A/P are a source of cash.

### **Ratios for Exxon Mobil**



### Inventory Turnover = COGS / Average Inventory

```
INV Turnover (LIFO) = COGS_{LIFO} / Avg Inv_{LIFO} = 306.8 / ((11.7 + 9.9)/2) = 28.4
```

### If on FIFO:

INV Turnover (FIFO) =  $COGS_{FIFO}$  / Avg  $Inv_{FIFO}$  = 302.5 / (((11.7 + 25.6) + (9.9 + 21.3))/2) = 8.8

## **Take-Away Slide**



- Valuing inventory requires a cost flow assumption
- LIFO results in a more accurate income statement; FIFO results in a more accurate balance sheet
- Why is understanding LIFO/FIFO important?
  - Comparability across firms
  - Adjusting for the LIFO reserve is crucial for comparability

## Remaining Agenda - PPE



- 1. Understand transactions underlying property, plant, and equipment (PPE)
  - Acquisition
  - Depreciation
  - Change in estimate
  - Sale

2. Hertz case

## **How Do We Record An Acquisition of PPE?**



• If a company purchases a car for \$20,000 in cash, what transaction does it record?

| Assets  |     |        | Liab | S/E |     |
|---------|-----|--------|------|-----|-----|
| Cash    | A/R | PPE =  |      | CC  | R/E |
| -20,000 |     | 20,000 |      |     |     |

At the time of the acquisition, the cost of a fixed asset does not enter the income statement. Why?

Not yet used to generate revenues (Matching)

When does the cost enter the income statement?

When used to generate revenues

What happens when we sell the asset?

We will address this in this class

# To account for PPE one must answer the following four questions



- 1. What is the acquisition cost?
- 2. How much is the estimated salvage value?
- 3. What is the expected useful service life?
- 4. What is the depreciation pattern?

Amount to be depreciated

How the amount is depreciated





- 1. Useful life:
  - Time period over which asset will be used
  - Not the same as the physical life of the asset
- 2. Salvage value:
  - Estimate of value at disposal, net of selling costs
  - Longer useful life typical implies lower salvage value

Example: Consider two types of car owners:

|                | Sunday driver | Drive till it dies |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Miles per year | 2,000         | 20,000             |
| Trade-in?      | Every 2 years | no                 |
| Useful life    | 2 years       | 10-15 years        |
| Salvage value  | High          | \$0                |

Note that both these estimates require managerial judgment

## **GAAP Depreciation Methods**



#### Straight-line Depreciation

- Used by overwhelming majority of US firms
- Straightforward to calculate
- Constant allocation of the cost of an asset from the balance sheet to the income statement
- This is our focus for this part of course

#### **Accelerated Depreciation**

Mostly confined to tax reporting – we will talk about this in class on taxes

Aside: How is accounting depreciation related to economic depreciation?

- Many assets exhibit accelerated depreciation in early years.
- Consider a car: Once you have driven home from dealer, car is worth 25% less.





The "Straight Line Method" Depreciation expense per year =

(Acquisition Cost – Salvage Value)
Estimated Useful Life

 Depreciation is a cost allocation process intended to match the asset costs with the benefits in each period

## **Example of Calculating Depreciation**



On 1/1/2006, Zsa Zsa Co buys a car for \$20,000 in cash.

It plans to use the car for 5 years (useful life).

Zsa Zsa Co estimates the salvage value will be 25% of the purchase price.





1. What is the acquisition price?

2. What is the salvage value?

25% salvage value 
$$\rightarrow$$
 \$5,000

3. How much will be depreciated?

$$20,000 - 5,000 = 15,000$$

4. What is the useful life of the car?

5. What is annual depreciation expense?

$$(20,000 - 5,000) = $3,000$$

5





| Contra-Asset to | record reduction | in PPE | Values |
|-----------------|------------------|--------|--------|
|-----------------|------------------|--------|--------|

| Assets         |        |                          | = | Liab | S/E    |
|----------------|--------|--------------------------|---|------|--------|
| Cash           | PPE    | <ul><li>AccDep</li></ul> | = |      | R/E    |
| 1/1/06 —20,000 | 20,000 |                          |   |      |        |
| 12/31/06       |        | 3,000                    |   |      | -3,000 |
| 12/31/07       |        | 3,000                    |   |      | -3,000 |
| •              |        | •                        |   |      | •      |
| •              |        | •                        |   |      | -      |
| 12/31/10       |        | 3,000                    |   |      | -3,000 |

Note that depreciation does not affect cash. Depreciation allocates expenses to periods to match the firm's use of PPE but does not require cash outflows!

## **Zsa Zsa Co Depreciation Schedule**



|            | Gross PP&E | -Accum Dep | Net Book<br>Value | Depreciation<br>Expense |
|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 12/31/2006 | 20,000     | 3,000      | 17,000            | 3,000                   |
| 12/31/2007 | 20,000     | 6,000      | 14,000            | 3,000                   |
| 12/31/2008 | 20,000     | 9,000      | 11,000            | 3,000                   |
| 12/31/2009 | 20,000     | 12,000     | 8,000             | 3,000                   |
| 12/31/2010 | 20,000     | 15,000     | 5,000             | 3,000                   |

Gross PP&E does not change with depreciation

Accumulated depreciation increases by depreciation expense each year.

# Zsa Zsa Co – Change in Depreciation Policy on 1/1/2007



On 1/1/2007, 1 year after purchasing the car, Zsa Zsa Co decides to keep the car an extra year (until 12/31/2011). It reduces the estimated salvage value to 20%.

Changes in useful lives or salvage value are accounted for *prospectively*. That means we re-calculate the depreciation rate using the new estimates:

Salvage value is changed to:

$$20\%$$
 of  $20,000 = 4,000$ 

**Useful life** is stretched by:

1 year (5 years 
$$\rightarrow$$
 6 years)

Note: Car has been used for 1 year at time of change

The *remaining* useful life is...

$$(5+1)-1=6-1=5$$
 years

# Zsa Zsa Co – Change in Depreciation Policy on 1/1/2007



Zsa Zsa Co increased the useful life by 1 year and reduced the salvage value to \$4,000. Calculations:

The amount *remaining* to be depreciated is...

Net book value = 
$$20,000 - (3,000 * 1) = $17,000$$

Cumulative depreciation for 1 year.

Recall, the *remaining* useful life is...

$$(5+1)-1=6-1=5$$
 years

Therefore the depreciation expense going forward will be:

(Net book value – Salvage value) / Estimated Useful Life = 
$$(17,000 - 4,000) / 5 = 2,600$$





|            | Gross PP&E | -Accum Dep | Net Book<br>Value | Depreciation<br>Expense |
|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 12/31/2006 | 20,000     | 3,000      | 17,000            | 3,000                   |
| 12/31/2007 | 20,000     | 5,600      | 14,400            | 2,600                   |
| 12/31/2008 | 20,000     | 8,200      | 11,800            | 2,600                   |
| 12/31/2009 | 20,000     | 10,800     | 9,200             | 2,600                   |
| 12/31/2010 | 20,000     | 13,400     | 6,600             | 2,600                   |
| 12/31/2011 | 20,000     | 16,000     | 4,000             | 2,600                   |

## Zsa Zsa Co sells the car on 1/1/2010 for \$7,000



Accumulated Depreciation at the end of 2009:

Calculated on prior slide: \$10,800

Net Book Value of Asset or Net PPE at the end of 2009 =

Gross Value or Historical Cost – Accumulated Depreciation = 9,200 20,000 10,800

What happens when it sells the car for \$7,000?

Calculated on the next slides





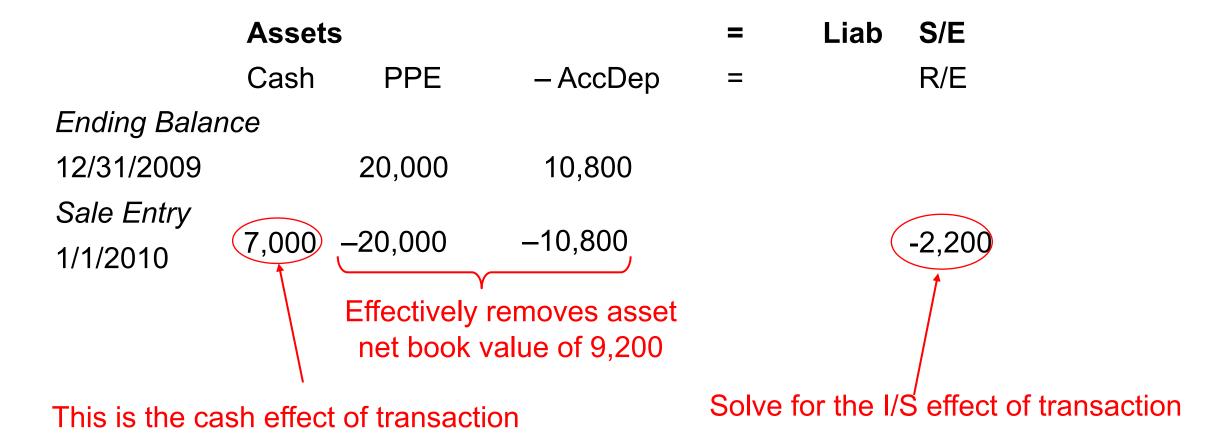
#### Procedure for sale or disposal of PPE

- Record cash or the market value of the asset received for the PPE
- 2. Record disposal of the asset by removing the cost of the asset from PPE
- 3. Remove the accumulated depreciation associated with the asset
- 4. Calculate gain or loss as follows:

$$Cash - (Cost - AccDep) = Gain (Loss)$$

#### Zsa Zsa Co – Sale of the asset





## **PPE Impairment**



- Suppose instead that Zsa Zsa Co decides not to sell the car.
- Suppose that the fair value of the car on 12/31/2010 is \$3,600 (vs. the net book value of \$6,600).
- The fair value is \$3,000 less than net book value.
- In this case, Zsa Zsa Co must impair or write down the asset.
- It does this by increasing AccDec by \$3,000.



## **PPE Impairment**

| Asse                  | ets    |                          | = | Liab | S/E    |                 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------------------------|---|------|--------|-----------------|
| Cash                  | n PPE  | <ul><li>AccDep</li></ul> | = | N/P  | CC     | R/E             |
| <b>Ending Balance</b> | •      |                          |   |      |        |                 |
| 12/31/2010            | 20,000 | 13,400                   |   |      |        |                 |
| Impairment entry      |        | 0.000                    |   |      | 0.000  |                 |
| 12/31/2010            |        | 3,000                    |   |      | -3,000 |                 |
| Ending Balance        | 00 000 | 40.400                   |   |      |        |                 |
| 12/31/2010            | 20,000 | 16,400                   |   |      |        |                 |
|                       |        |                          |   |      |        | Impairment loss |

Revised net book value of asset = 20,000 - 16,400 = 3,600

## **Berkshire Hathaway 2002 Annual Report**



Trumpeting EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) is a particularly pernicious practice. Doing so implies that depreciation is not truly an expense, given that it is a "non-cash" charge. That's nonsense.

Depreciation is a particularly unattractive expense because the cash outlay it represents is paid up front, before the asset acquired has delivered any benefits to the business.

Imagine that at the beginning of this year a company paid all of its employees for the next ten years of their service (in the way they would lay out cash for a fixed asset to be useful for ten years).

In the following nine years, compensation would be a "non-cash" expense – a reduction of a prepaid compensation asset established this year. Would anyone care to argue that the recording of the expense in years two through ten would be simply a bookkeeping formality?

#### Hertz case



#### Hertz business:

- Rental cars primarily at airport
- In your experience, how old is a typical rental car?

The restatement due to accounting problems suggests that Hertz may have been making income-increasing accounting choices.

Lower depreciation rates will make income larger.

Are they making (in)appropriate choices with depreciation?

- Trying to increase income, or
- Change in depreciation due to change in business strategies

## Hertz – PP&E and Depreciation – Ex. 14



|   | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009     | 2010   | 2011   | 2012   | 2013   |
|---|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Hertz Global Holdings, Inc.                         |        |        |        |          |        |        |        |        |
| Revenue Earning Equipment, Gross                    | 10,876 | 11,681 | 10,344 | 10,788   | 11,191 | 12,509 | 15,789 | 17,969 |
| Depreciation Expense for Revenue Earning Equipment  | 1,762  | 1,906  | 2,020  | 1,780    | 1,747  | 1,912  | 2,146  | 2,408  |
| Depreciation / Rev Earning Equip                    | 16%    | 16%    | 20%    | 17%      | 16%    | 15%    | 14%    | 13%    |
| Four year average                                   |        |        |        | 17%      |        |        |        | 14%    |
| Pro Forma Depreciation Expense with 2006-09 average |        |        |        | <i>†</i> | 1,918  | 2,144  | 2,706  | 3,079  |
| Difference in Stated and Calculated Depreciation    |        |        |        |          | -171   | -231   | -560   | -672   |
|   |        |        |        |          |        |        |        |        |
|   |        |        |        |          |        |        |        |        |

Four year average depreciation rate decreased from 17% to 14%.





|   | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009   | 2010   | 2011   | 2012          | 2013   |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|--------|
| Hertz Global Holdings, Inc.                         |        |        |        |        |        |        |               |        |
| Revenue Earning Equipment, Gross                    | 10,876 | 11,681 | 10,344 | 10,788 | 11,191 | 12,509 | 15,789        | 17,969 |
| Depreciation Expense for Revenue Earning Equipment  | 1,762  | 1,906  | 2,020  | 1,780  | 1,747  | 1,912  | 2,146         | 2,408  |
| Depreciation / Rev Earning Equip                    | 16%    | 16%    | 20%    | 17%    | 16%    | 15%    | 14%           | 13%    |
| Four year average                                   |        |        |        | 17%    |        |        |               | 14%    |
| Pro Forma Depreciation Expense with 2006-09 average |        |        |        |        | 1,918  | 2,144  | 2,706         | 3,079  |
| Difference in Stated and Calculated Depreciation    |        |        |        |        | -171   | -231   | 2,706<br>-560 | -672   |
|   |        |        |        |        |        |        |               |        |

The reduction in expense helps profits become positive. Is Hertz cooking the books?

## Change to useful lives



```
2006 useful lives on Cars
5 to 16 months (midpoint ≈ 1 year)
```

2013 useful lives on Cars
4 to 36 months (midpoint ≈ 2 years)

Holding salvage values constant, increasing the useful life of the cars lowers depreciation expense.

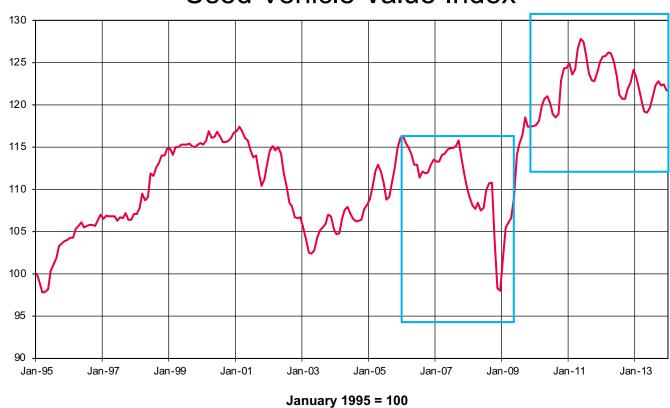
Why did Hertz increase the useful life of its assets?

- On one hand, could be lowering depreciation inappropriately
- On other hand, purchased Dollar Thrifty budget cars used longer
- May be using existing assets longer









How does an increase in used car values affect depreciation? It increases residual values, which would lower depreciation.

## Gain / loss on asset sales - Ex. 14



|  | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009   | 2010   | 2011   | 2012   | 2013   |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Hertz Global Holdings, Inc.                        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Revenue Earning Equipment, Gross                   | 10,876 | 11,681 | 10,344 | 10,788 | 11,191 | 12,509 | 15,789 | 17,969 |
| Depreciation Expense for Revenue Earning Equipment | 1,762  | 1,906  | 2,020  | 1,780  | 1,747  | 1,912  | 2,146  | 2,408  |
| Gain/Loss on Sale of Revenue Earning Equipment     | 36     | -21    | -83    | -72    | -43    | 112    | 97     | -37    |
| Four year average                                  |        |        |        | -35    |        |        |        | 32     |

On average, Hertz has gains on PPE sales from 2010-2013. What does this tell us about their depreciation policy?

# Gain (loss) on sale for different total depreciation amounts



#### From above:

Gain (loss) on sale = Sales Price - (Gross PPE – AccDep)

= AccDep - (Gross PPE - Sales Price)

= Accounting Depreciation - Economic Depreciation

|  | Gain   |        | From above Zsa |      |             |
|--|--------|--------|----------------|------|-------------|
|  | (Loss) | AccDep | EconDep        | Cost | Sales Price |
| The loss means that there was too little depreciation.   | -2.2   | 10.8   | 13.0           | 20.0 | 7.0         |
|  | 0.0    | 13.0   | 13.0           | 20.0 | 7.0         |
| The gain means that there depreciation was conservative. | 2.2    | 15.2   | 13.0           | 20.0 | 7.0         |

### Gain / loss on asset sales - Ex. 14



|  | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009   | 2010   | 2011   | 2012   | 2013   |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Hertz Global Holdings, Inc.                        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Revenue Earning Equipment, Gross                   | 10,876 | 11,681 | 10,344 | 10,788 | 11,191 | 12,509 | 15,789 | 17,969 |
| Depreciation Expense for Revenue Earning Equipment | 1,762  | 1,906  | 2,020  | 1,780  | 1,747  | 1,912  | 2,146  | 2,408  |
| Gain/Loss on Sale of Revenue Earning Equipment     | 36     | -21    | -83    | -72    | -43    | 112    | 97     | -37    |
| Four year average                                  |        |        |        | -35    |        |        |        | 32     |

From above, Gain = Acc Dep – Econ Dep. Gain implies conservative depreciation policy. Suggests Hertz not depreciating too little.

## Hertz vs. Avis PP&E and Depreciation – Ex. 14



|  | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009   | 2010   | 2011   | 2012   | 2013   |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Hertz Global Holdings, Inc.                        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Revenue Earning Equipment, Gross                   | 10,876 | 11,681 | 10,344 | 10,788 | 11,191 | 12,509 | 15,789 | 17,969 |
| Depreciation Expense for Revenue Earning Equipment | 1,762  | 1,906  | 2,020  | 1,780  | 1,747  | 1,912  | 2,146  | 2,408  |
| Depreciation / Rev Earning Equip                   | 16%    | 16%    | 20%    | 17%    | 16%    | 15%    | 14%    | 13%    |
| Four year average                                  |        |        |        | 17%    |        |        |        | 14%    |
|  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Avis Budget Group, Inc.                            |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Revenue Earning Equipment, Gross                   | 8,042  | 8,496  | 8,383  | 6,912  | 7,557  | 9,614  | 10,619 | 10,993 |
| Depreciation Expense for Revenue Earning Equipment | 1,362  | 1,565  | 1,639  | 1,391  | 1,277  | 1,395  | 1,438  | 1,678  |
| Depreciation / Rev Earning Equip                   | 17%    | 18%    | 20%    | 20%    | 17%    | 15%    | 14%    | 15%    |
| Four year average                                  |        |        |        | 19%    |        |        |        | 15%    |

Avis four year average depreciation rate decreased even more. Suggests that Hertz is in line with peers, not cooking the books.

## **Take-Away Slide - Hertz**



Understanding the mechanics of how deprecation expense is calculated can give you insights into PPE intensive industries.

Hertz has likely adjusted their depreciation expense to reflect their acquisitions, changes in the used car market, and changes in their strategy (keeping cars longer).

If Hertz was engaging in "accounting shenanigans" we would see subsequent losses on sales that suggest under-depreciation.

Hertz's restatement was related to other issues.

#### **Effects on the Financial Statements**



- What financial statements are affected by depreciation?
- Income Statement? Yes, Depreciation Expense
- Balance Sheet? Yes, Accumulated Depreciation
- Statement of Cash Flows?
  - It does not affect cash, but...
  - there will be an adjustment to income on the Indirect Statement of Cash Flows (as we will discuss in the class on the cash flow statement)

## **Take-Away Slide**



Depreciation is a *cost allocation* process intended to match the asset costs with the benefits

Depreciation does not necessarily follow economic truth

Depreciation is not a transaction that affects cash!

However, depreciation policy still affects:

- Income statement (via depreciation and/or gains/losses)
- Balance Sheet (via net book values of assets)

## **General Terminology**



- Cost of Asset: expenditure necessary to ready the asset for intended use, e.g. purchase price, installation, delivery, training, etc.
- Estimated Salvage (Residual) Value: predicted selling price of long-lived asset less any removal costs at the end of useful life
- Depreciable base: Asset Cost Salvage value
- Accumulated depreciation: The cumulative amount of depreciation expense taken over the asset's useful life
  - A contra asset
  - Deducted from historical cost of the asset
  - Sum of past depreciation
- Book value: Asset's remaining unallocated cost → historical cost less accumulated depreciation