

# APPLIED FINANCIAL STATEMENT ANALYSIS

ASSIGNMENT - 11 - 15

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## EXPLAIN THE DETERMINANTS OF WORKING CAPITAL

The determinants of working capital are factors that influence the amount of working capital a business needs to operate effectively. Working capital is the difference between a company's current assets (such as cash, accounts receivable and inventory) and its current liabilities (such as accounts payable and short-term debts). Several factors can affect the required level of working capital.

### NATURE OF BUSINESS

Companies involved in manufacturing typically require more working capital due to large investments in raw materials and inventories, while service-based business might need less as they hold fewer inventories.

### BUSINESS CYCLE

During expansion phases, businesses may need more working capital to meet rising production and sales, while during recessions the need may decrease as production slows down.

### PRODUCTION CYCLE

Companies with longer production cycle require more working capital to cover the costs of labor, raw materials and overheads until goods are sold and cash is received.



### CREDIT POLICY

If a company offers longer credit periods to customers, it will need more working capital to cover the delay in receiving payment commercially. If it can get favourable credit terms from suppliers, it may need less working capital.

### OPERATING EFFICIENCY

Firms that manage their inventory, accounts receivable and accounts payable efficiently can reduce the amount of working capital they require.

### MARKET CONDITIONS

In a competitive market, firms may need more working capital to finance promotions, discounts, or maintain large inventories to quickly meet customer demand.