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DEFINE - WORKING CAPITAL

Working capital is the difference between a company's current assets and current liabilities. It represents the short term liquidity available to a business for meeting its day-to-day operational needs. The formula for working capital

$$\text{Working capital} = \text{current assets} - \text{current liabilities}$$

Key components:

current assets: These are assets that are expected to be converted into cash within a year. They include items like cash, accounts receivable (money owed by customers) and inventory.

current-liabilities: These are obligations or debts that the company needs to settle within a year. They include accounts payable (money that company owes to suppliers), short-term loans, and accrued expenses.

Why It's Important:

Working capital measures a company's operating efficiency and financial health. Positive working capital indicates that a company has enough short term assets to cover its short-term liabilities, which helps ensure smooth operations. Negative working capital may signal liquidity issues unless the company has a business model that supports its such as fast inventory turnover and delayed payments to suppliers.

It is crucial for ensuring that a company can continue its operations without running into cash flow problems.