

Introduction to Fundamental Analysis

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1 Introduction

These notes aim to cover the fundamental aspects of financial analysis. The focus will be on the balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statements, which are the main financial statements used to evaluate a company's financial performance and position. Additionally, there will be sections on stocks and bonds, which are the main types of securities that companies issue to raise capital. These sections will cover what stocks and bonds represent, and how to value these securities. The objective of these notes is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the key concepts and tools used in financial analysis, which will enable the reader to effectively analyze a company's financial statements and make informed investment decisions.

2 Balance Sheets

We begin by looking at the balance sheet, which is a snapshot of a company's financial position at a single point in time. It reports the company's assets, liabilities, and equity as of a specific date. It is one of the most important financial statements for understanding a company's overall financial health. It helps to understand the company's liquidity, its ability to pay off its debt, and the amount of assets it owns compared to how much it owes. The balance sheet provides a detailed picture of what a company owns (assets) and what it owes (liabilities) at a specific point in time. By comparing the balance sheet of a company from one period to another, you can understand how the company's financial position has changed over time. The basic accounting equation to consider is the following:

$$Assets = Liabilities + OwnersEquity \quad (1)$$

The intuition behind this equation is as follows. A company's assets are financed either by borrowing money (liabilities) or by using the funds of its owners (equity). In other words, the assets of a company are the result of the funding provided by its creditors and its owners. Assets represent the resources the business has available to generate income and grow the business. Liabilities, on the other hand, represent the obligations or debts that the company has to its creditors. Owners' equity represents the residual interest in the assets of the company after liabilities are deducted, it represents the portion of the assets that the company's owners can claim as their own. It helps to understand that the assets of the company are the means to generate revenue, the liabilities are the obligations to pay back to others and the owners equity are the funds that the owners have invested in the company and what they are left with.

2.1 Assets

Long-term assets and current assets are two types of assets that are typically found on a company's balance sheet.

Current assets are assets that are expected to be converted into cash or used up within one year of the balance sheet date. Examples of current assets include cash, accounts receivable, and inventory. These assets are considered to be liquid, as they can be easily converted into cash to pay off short-term debts or meet other short-term obligations.

Long-term assets, on the other hand, are assets that are not expected to be converted into cash or used up within one year of the balance sheet date. Examples of long-term assets include property, plant, and equipment (PPE), investments in other companies, and intangible assets such as patents and trademarks. These assets are considered to be less liquid than current assets, as they are not as easily converted into cash. Note that inventory may under some circumstances take a while to be sold, and if liquidation occurs then often inventory is sold at a steep discount.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) is a type of long-term asset that includes tangible assets used in the operations of a business, such as land, buildings, machinery, vehicles and office equipment. This type of assets are used in the production of goods or provision of services and are not intended for resale. PPE typically has a useful life of more than one year, and is recorded at cost and depreciated over time.

2.2 Liabilities

The liabilities section of a balance sheet lists a company's outstanding debts and financial obligations as of a specific date. It represents the money that the company owes to its creditors and other parties. The liabilities section is typically divided into two categories: current liabilities and long-term liabilities.

Current liabilities are debts and obligations that are due within one year of the balance sheet date. Examples of current liabilities include accounts payable, short-term loans, and taxes owed. These are debts that the company expects to pay off within the next 12 months using current assets such as cash, accounts receivable, and inventory.

Long-term liabilities are debts and obligations that are due beyond one year of the balance sheet date. Examples of long-term liabilities include long-term loans, bonds, and leases. These are debts that the company expects to pay off over a period of time greater than one year, typically with the help of long-term assets such as PPE and investments.

It's important to note that the liabilities section of the balance sheet not only includes debt but also any other financial obligations. For example, it may include things like rent or salaries that are not yet paid, or taxes that are owed.

The liabilities section of the balance sheet is important for understanding a company's financial position and its ability to pay off its debts. A company with a lot of liabilities may have a harder time paying off its debts than a company with fewer liabilities. Additionally, the liabilities section can provide insight into the company's financial strategy and risk management policies. A company with a lot of short-term liabilities may be taking on more risk than a company with mostly long-term liabilities.

2.3 Owners Equity

The owners' equity portion of a balance sheet represents the residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting liabilities. It represents the value of the assets that the company's shareholders would be entitled to if the company were to be liquidated and all of its assets sold and all of its liabilities paid off. It is also known as stockholders' equity, it is the value of the shareholders' interest in the company.

The owners' equity section of the balance sheet typically includes the following accounts:

- **Common Stock:** This represents the number of shares of stock a company has issued to its shareholders and the par value of those shares.
- **Paid-in Capital:** This represents the amount of money shareholders have invested in the company in exchange for stock, in excess of the par value.
- **Retained Earnings:** This represents the portion of net income that the company has chosen to retain and not distribute as dividends.
- **Treasury Stock:** This represents the shares of stock that a company has bought back from its shareholders.
- **Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income:** This represents other income and expenses that are not included in net income, such as foreign currency translation adjustments or unrealized gains or losses on securities.

The owners' equity section of the balance sheet is important for understanding a company's financial position and its ability to raise capital. It can provide insight into how much money shareholders have invested in the company and how much the company has earned over time. Additionally, it can provide insight into a company's dividend policy and its approach to stock buybacks.

Note that owners equity is not a liability, as it is not owed to anybody except in the sense that the company is "owed to" or belongs to the shareholders.

2.3.1 A Note on Book Value

Book value is a financial metric that is calculated by taking the total assets of a company and subtracting its total liabilities. It represents the value of a company's assets if they were to be liquidated at their current market value.

In some cases, the book value of a company can be equal to its owners' equity. This typically happens when a company has few liabilities and its assets are valued at their historical cost rather than their market value. However, this is not always the case. The book value can be different from the owners' equity, especially when the company's assets are valued at market value rather than historical cost, this will cause the book value to be different from the owners' equity.

It's important to note that Book value and owners' equity are not the same thing, but they are related. The book value is a measure of the company's net asset value, whereas the owner's equity is a measure of the shareholder's stake in the company.

3 Income Statements

An income statement, also known as a profit & loss statement (P&L), is a financial statement that shows a company's revenues and expenses over a specific period of time, typically a fiscal quarter or year. The income statement is used to calculate a company's net income, which is the difference between its total revenue and total expenses. It helps to understand how much a company is making or losing over a period of time. An income statement typically includes the following sections:

- Revenues: This section includes all the money a company earns from selling goods or services. It includes both cash and credit sales.
- Cost of goods sold (COGS): This section includes all the costs directly associated with producing and selling the goods or services. It includes the cost of raw materials, labor, and manufacturing overhead.
- Selling, General and Administrative expenses (SGA). It is a category of expenses on an income statement that includes all the costs associated with running a business that are not directly related to the production of goods or services. These expenses are also known as overhead expenses.
 - Selling expenses are the costs incurred to promote and sell a company's products or services. Examples of selling expenses include advertising, sales commissions, and marketing expenses.
 - General expenses are the costs incurred to run the overall operations of a business. Examples of general expenses include rent, office supplies, and insurance.
 - Administrative expenses are the costs incurred to manage and administer a business. Examples of administrative expenses include salaries, legal and accounting fees, and office equipment.
- Gross profit: This is calculated by subtracting the COGS from the revenues. It represents the profit a company makes before accounting for other expenses.
- Operating expenses: This section includes all the expenses that a company incurs while running its business, such as rent, utilities, salaries, and marketing costs.
- Operating income: This is calculated by subtracting the operating expenses from the gross profit. It represents the profit a company makes from its main operations.
- Other income and expenses: This section includes any other income or expenses that do not fall into the categories above. It includes things such as interest income or loss from investments.
- Net income: This is calculated by subtracting total expenses from total revenues. It represents the profit or loss of a company over a specific period of time.

Note the following distinctions carefully:

- COGS is the dollar cost of the goods that have actually been sold.
- The dollar cost of goods that have been manufactured, but not yet sold, is put on the balance sheet as finished goods. They are not put onto the income statement as COGS until the goods have actually been sold.

- Labour cost that does not directly go towards the creation of goods thus cannot be attributed to any goods. It is thus not accounted for in either Finished Goods nor COGS. Rather, it becomes SGA and put on the income statement. SGA is almost never put on the balance sheet.

An income statement does not typically include taxes as an explicit line item.

The income statement is an important financial statement for evaluating a company's financial performance over a period of time and can help to identify trends in revenue, expenses, and net income. It provides information that can be used to make predictions about the company's future performance and make important business decisions.

4 Shares

4.1 Authorized, Issued & Outstanding Shares

In the context of a company's stock:

- "Authorized shares" refer to the total number of shares of stock that a company is legally allowed to issue, as stated in its articles of incorporation or bylaws. This number is set by the company's board of directors and can be changed by a vote of the shareholders. Authorized shares represent the maximum number of shares that can be issued and traded in the market.
- "Issued shares" refer to the total number of shares of stock that a company has actually issued and sold to investors. This number is typically less than the number of authorized shares, as a company may choose not to issue all of the shares that it is legally allowed to.
- "Outstanding shares" refer to the total number of shares of stock that are currently owned by investors and are available for trading in the market. This number is typically less than the number of issued shares, as a company may have issued shares that have been repurchased or retired.

This becomes important in financial ratio calculations, as the line item "Common Stock" on the balance sheet often represents the authorized shares and not the outstanding shares.

5 Financial Ratios

Financial ratios are a powerful tool used to analyze a company's financial performance and health. They are used to compare a company's financials to industry averages, to assess the company's liquidity, profitability, and solvency, and to identify trends and patterns in a company's financial performance over time. In this section, we will be discussing some of the most commonly used financial ratios in finance and accounting, such as the earnings per share, the current ratio, the quick ratio, the gross profit margin, and the return on equity. We will also explain how these ratios are calculated and what they can tell us about a company's financial performance. By understanding these financial ratios, you will be able to gain valuable insights into a company's financial health and make more informed decisions about investing in or working with the company.

5.1 Earnings Per Share

Earnings per share (EPS) is a financial ratio that measures the profitability of a company by calculating the amount of net income earned for each outstanding common share of stock. It is an indicator of the company's profitability for the shareholders as it is a measure of how much money each share can earn for the investor. The price that one would be willing to pay for a stock today is not what the share of stock is earning today, but rather *what it is expected to earn over a period of many years*.

EPS is calculated by dividing a company's net income by the number of outstanding shares of common stock. The formula for EPS is:

$$EPS = \frac{NetEarnings - PreferredDividends}{CommonStockOutstanding} \quad (2)$$

It's important to note that companies may use different methods to calculate their EPS, like the basic EPS and the diluted EPS. Basic EPS uses the number of shares outstanding at the end of the period, while diluted EPS takes into account the effect of dilutive securities such as options and convertible bonds.

EPS is based on common stock because it is intended to measure the profitability of a company for its common shareholders, who have the most risk in the company. Common shareholders are the owners of the company and are entitled to a share

of the company's profits in the form of dividends. They also have voting rights in the company, which allows them to elect the board of directors and vote on important company matters. Preferred stock, on the other hand, is a type of stock that typically has a fixed dividend and does not have voting rights. Preferred shareholders have a higher claim on the company's assets and earnings than common shareholders, but they do not have the same level of control or risk in the company.

For this reason, EPS is calculated using the net income available for common shareholders, which is the net income minus any dividends paid to preferred stockholders. This provides a measure of the profitability of the company for the common shareholders, who are the ones most affected by the company's performance.

Additionally, EPS gives a measure of the company's earning capacity per share of stock, and this is more relevant for common stock as it can fluctuate in price and the value of an individual's investment in the company depends on the number of shares they own. Preferred stock dividends are fixed and the value of the investment is not affected by the number of shares owned, thus EPS is not useful in this context.

Always be weary when doing EPS calculations. The number of outstanding shares listed on a balance sheet

6 Conclusion

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$$F = ma = m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = m \left(\frac{\partial^2 x}{\partial t^2} + \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right) \quad (3)$$