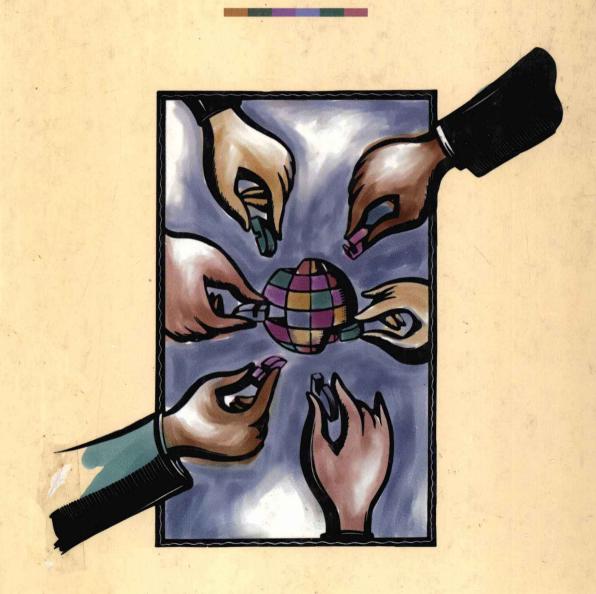
# T H E B U S I N E S S ENVIRONMENT



SKINNER

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# T H E B U S I N E S S ENVIRONMENT

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### PREFACE

Business as a field of interest and study has made a dramatic impact in higher educational institutions in the past two decades. In order to continue this growth more students need to be encouraged to consider a major in a business discipline or to take elective courses in the business school. Many four-year colleges now offer an introductory or survey of business course to students as an orientation for further business courses. THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT addresses the needs of these students.

The premise of this text is that the practice of business is exciting, challenging, and globally oriented. The excitement of starting your own business, investing in a company, or negotiating deals are part of the daily menu of how business is conducted in New York, Tokyo, Lima, Hong Kong, or Sydney. The challenges of learning about and conducting business are interesting and rewarding. As this book will clearly show, business transactions are sometimes simple and sometimes very complex. Commonly accepted business practices in one country are considered unethical or even illegal in another country. Business is not mysterious, but it is not always either black or white.

As we move toward the next century, the business world is becoming increasingly global. New markets are opening in Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the Pacific Rim. The global orientation of business is a part of every reader's daily life. Clothing, food, transportation, entertainment, electronics, and service industries are booming around the globe. Countries located thousands of miles from the United States are providing goods and services that have become household names. Although the United States is a powerful market economy, there are a growing number of countries that are competing head on with the United States for customers, market share, and resources.

The American economy is now dominated by service businesses, and quality is the initiative of many firms. Social responsibility and ethical practices are now important forces in the way business must be conducted. Diversity, total quality management (TQM), and environmental issues are highlighted in this text because they have become an important part of today's workplace. Demographic and lifestyle shifts are changing the way we shop, where we work, and how we live. Students who understand these changes will be more likely to succeed than those who do not. This is the business book that integrates these and many other current developments to help prepare students for tomorrow's business world. Current examples of practices in large, medium, and small organizations and how business issues impact people are

used throughout each chapter to relate the text to the real world.







# THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT USES AN INNOVATIVE MODULAR FORMAT

THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT is the first survey of business text published in both a full textbook and a modular format. The text is organized into eight modules that allow for ultimate flexibility in course content. Modules may be ordered through your bookstore in any combination and taught in your preferred sequence. The modules provide students with an integrated and practical approach to understanding current business practices. Every chapter fits logically into this integrated approach. Part 1 (Module One) provides an overview of the core of business—the business enterprise. It discusses the foundations of business; forms of business ownership; and small business, entrepreneurship, and franchising. Part 2 (Module Two) presents the business environment that surrounds the core, including the social, legal, and international environment.

Part 3 (**Module Three**) focuses on managing and organizing the business, and on the management of production and operations. Part 4 (**Module Four**) examines the management of human resources, as well as human relations and labor relations. Part 5 (**Module Five**) covers marketing strategy, including product, price, distribution, and promotion decisions. Part 6 (**Modules Six** and **Seven**) explores the financial management of business firms. Part 7 (**Module Eight**) is devoted to accounting and information systems.

There is also a **Business Plan Module** available for professors who wish to include preparing a business plan in their course work. It is also possible to order a package for your students that contains the chosen text modules and the academic version of the leading business plan software, *BizPlan Builder*. This package will be particularly useful for courses where there is strong interest in entrepreneurship and small business.

#### THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT DEVELOPS CRITICAL-THINKING SKILLS

Our textbook has several features that make it enjoyable to read and challenging to teach. The book is purposefully written to provoke critical thinking about business issues, practices, and policies. Students can use the learning tools and applications features to help them understand and use the material to critically analyze business thinking and practice.

Whenever possible, the students are asked to critically think and reflect. Instead of relying on rote memorization, we believe that critically analyzing, communicating, and reflecting are more important skills to sharpen. In each element used in the book—the chapter opener vignettes, the boxed features, and end-of-chapter cases and activities—the reader will be asked to form an opinion, to analyze, and to evaluate. Business transactions require that the manager, customer, or worker be able to communicate an opinion, analyze a situation, and evaluate an action. We believe that, by using *THE BUSINESS* 

ENVIRONMENT, the critical thinking skills requirements will stretch the reader and require him or her to take and defend a position on some crucial business matters.

Critical thinking is also fostered by a comprehensive case that continues throughout the text. At the ends of Modules 1 through 5 and 7 there is a case involving Nike, Inc. The objective of the use of this integrative case is to illustrate to readers how business practices are linked and how each influences the other. The Nike case integrates each of the modules and main business functions covered in the book.

#### FEATURES INCLUDED IN THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Readers can use the following learning tools to help them understand and retain the material in the text.

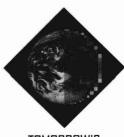
- Learning Objectives. Each chapter begins with several clear, attainable learning objectives; questions in the test bank are keyed to these objectives.
- Margin Notes. Definitions of key terms are placed in the margin next to
  where the terms are introduced to facilitate learning. The key terms are
  again listed at the end of the chapter to help students identify and review
  important concepts.
- Summary of Learning Objectives. Items in the chapter summary are tied to the
  corresponding chapter learning objective to provide a cohesive, integrated
  chapter review.
- Questions for Discussion and Review. Students can use these questions to evaluate their understanding of the chapter. Many of these questions also require and encourage critical thinking and analysis.
- Glossary. Key terms and their definitions are again presented in the comprehensive glossary. Please note that the glossary is included with any combination of modules.
- Complete Indexes. Topics throughout all modules can be easily located with the company, name, and subject indexes that accompany any module packages.

THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT also offers several application features that will help students to relate the text material to their own experiences and to apply the concepts in the text to the real world of business. Questions to encourage critical thinking are included in all of these features.

- Opening Vignette. Each chapter begins with a current news story that introduces students to the chapter's topics.
- Today's Business World. Each chapter features a story that focuses on recognizable firms and contemporary topics, extending the concepts discussed in the text.
- Tomorrow's Business World. A futuristic application or business trend is presented to help readers think about how business will be practiced in the near, and sometimes more distant, future.



TODAY'S BUSINESS WORLD



TOMORROW'S BUSINESS WORLD



- Your Values and Attitudes. Each chapter features a short self-assessment quiz that helps students evaluate their attitudes and values concerning business.
- Cases. Two relatively sophisticated cases at the end of each chapter help students put business concepts into practice. Many of the case questions require critical analysis.
- Experiential Exercises and Application Exercises. Each chapter contains two individual and/or group projects. Working alone or collaboratively with others on relevant topics will help each reader understand business decision making from a personal perspective.

# THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT PROVIDES EXCELLENT INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

- *Instructor's Manual.* Each chapter includes a chapter perspective; the learning objectives; an outstanding annotated lecture outline that includes all key terms and definitions as well as supplemental lecture materials; notes on the chapter's boxed materials; answers to the end-of-chapter discussion questions and cases; and a list of recommended readings.
- Test Bank. The Test Bank contains about 3,000 questions including multiple choice, true/false, essay, and mini-cases. Each question is categorized by level of learning and chapter learning objective. The Test Bank is also available in computerized form.
- Acetates. Many of the acetates are original materials prepared to augment
  the exhibits in the text. The acetates, as well as all the other exhibits from
  the text, are also available on PowerPoint disks. (The PowerPoint package
  contains a viewing disk so the screens may be used even if you do not have
  PowerPoint software.)
- *Videos*. The videos, taken from a variety of sources, will assist in bringing text concepts to life in the classroom. There is one video for each text chapter and a video instructor's guide that includes additional activities.
- Videodisc Technology. The videodisc contains video, definitions, transparencies, and llustrations. Its flexibility and ease of use make it a dynamic tool for instructors. A compatible CAV-type videodisc player is required to use this ancillary.

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Steven J. Skinner John M. Ivancevich

# BRIEF CONTENTS

PART 1

**ENTERPRISE** 

#### 1 Business and Economics 2 2 Forms of Business Ownership 36 3 Entrepreneurship, Small Business, and Franchising 71 PART 2 THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT 4 Social Responsibility and Business Ethics 114 5 Business, Law, and Government 149 6 Global Business 175 PART 3 MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION 210 7 Fundamentals of Management 8 Organizing the Business 241 9 Managing Production and Operations 273 PART 4 **HUMAN RESOURCES** 322 10 Human Relations and Motivation 351 11 Managing Human Resources 390 12 Labor-Management Relations

#### PART 5 MARKETING

	Marketing Strategy Product and Price Distribution Promotion	434 467 505 535
	ART 6 NANCIAL MANAGEMENT	
17 18 19 20	Money and Banking Financial Management Investments Risk Management and Insurance	578 611 641 672
	ART 7 CCOUNTING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS	
21 22	Accounting Practices and Principles Management Information Systems	706 742
	Glossary Company Index Name Index Subject Index Photo Credits	769 785 790 793 807

#### PART 1 ENTERPRISE

#### 1 Business and Economics 2

#### Your Current Business IQ 4

#### Why Learn About Business? 6

Protecting and Improving Our Standard of Living 6 Coping With Change 7 Understanding Mutual Dependence 8 Realizing Global Opportunities 8 Preventing Misconceptions 8

#### People: The Key to Business 8

Owners 9 Managers 9 Employees 10 Consumers 10

#### **Business Objectives** 11

Survival, Growth, and Social Responsibility 11 Profit 11

#### Economics: The Foundation of Business 13

Resources 13 Goods and Services 13 Allocation 14

#### Economic Systems 15

Planned Economies: Socialism and Communism 15 Mixed Market Economy 17 Economic, Social, and Technological Trends 22 Demographic Trends 23 Diversity in the United States 23 Growth of the Marketplace 23 Growth of the Service Sector 25 The Explosion of Information Technology 25 Business in All Sizes 26 Environmental Responsibilities 26

#### The Themes of This Book 27

Business Ethics and Responsibility 27 Business Profit 28 Global Markets 28 Diversity 28 The Skill Mix 28

#### 2 Forms of Business Ownership 36

#### What Type of Business Is Right for You? 38

Sole Proprietorships 39 Advantages of a Sole Proprietorship 40 Disadvantages of a Sole Proprietorship 41

#### Partnerships 43

Types of Partnerships 43 The Partnership Contract 46 Advantages of a Partnership 46 Disadvantages of a Partnership 48

#### Other Unincorporated Forms of Business 50

Syndicates 51 Business Trusts 51

#### Corporations 51

Forming a Corporation 52 Types of Corporations 53 Corporate Policymakers 53 Advantages of a Corporation 56 Disadvantages of a Corporation 58 Mergers and Acquisitions 59

#### Other Incorporated Forms of Business 61

S Corporations 61 Nonprofit Corporations 62 Professional Service Associations 63

# 3 Entrepreneurship, Small Business, and Franchising 71

#### Entrepreneurship 73

The Individual Entrepreneur 73 Corporate Entrepreneurs 76 Characteristics of Growth-Oriented Entrepreneurs 77 Risks of Entrepreneurship 78

#### Small Business 79

Characteristics 80 Advantages and Disadvantages 80 The Small Business Administration (SBA) 81 Small-Business Opportunities 83

#### Franchising 89

Franchising: A Brief History 89 The Franchising Agreement 91 Advantages of Owning a Franchise 93 Disadvantages of Owning a Franchise 95 Franchisor Disclosure 96 International Franchising 97

# Comprehensive Case: Nike: The Story and the Spirit 107

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#### PART 2 THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

#### 4 Social Responsibility and Business Ethics 114

#### Social Responsibility 116

#### Responsibility to Consumers 118

The Right to Safety 120 The Right to Be Informed 120 The Right to Choose 121 The Right to Be Heard 121

#### Responsibility to Employees 121

Safety in the Workplace 122 Equality in the Workplace 122 Sexual Harassment 123 Managing Cultural Diversity 124 Other Responsibilities to Employees 125

#### Responsibility to the Environment 125

Water Pollution 126 Air Pollution 126 Land Pollution 127 Green Marketing 129

#### Responsibility to Investors 130

Proper Management of Funds 130 Access to Information 131 Executive Compensation 131

#### Advancing Social Responsibility 133

Community Support 133 Self-Regulation 134 The Social Audit 134

#### **Business Ethics** 135

Factors Influencing Ethical Behavior 136 Encouraging Ethical Behavior 140

#### 5 Business, Law, and Government 149

#### Introduction to Law 151

Sources of Law 152 The Court System 153

#### Laws Affecting Business 155

The Law of Torts 155 The Law of Contracts 158 The Law of Sales 159 The Law of Agency 159 The Law of Property 160 The Law of Bankruptcy 160 The Law of Negotiable Instruments 161

#### Government Regulation of Business 162

Sherman Antitrust Act 162 Clayton Act 163 Federal Trade Commission Act 164 Robinson-Patman Act 164 Celler-Kefauver Act 164 Antitrust Improvement Act 164

#### Deregulation 165

#### Government Taxation 167

Corporate Income Tax 167 Individual Income Tax 167 Other Taxes 168

#### 6 Global Business 175

# The Nature and Importance of the Global Economy 177

Defining International Business 178 Global Opportunities 180

#### Why Firms Conduct International Business 181

#### Basic Concepts of International Business 182

Exporting and Importing 182 Balance of Trade 182 Balance of Payments 183 Exchange Rates 183

#### Barriers to International Business 184

Cultural and Social Barriers 184 Political Barriers 185 Tariffs and Trade Restrictions 185

#### Regulation of International Business 186

Legislation 186 International Organizations 188

#### Approaches to International Business 191

Exporting 191 Licensing 192 Joint Ventures 193 Strategic Alliances 193 Trading Companies 193 Countertrading 194 Direct Ownership 194 Multinational Corporations 195

#### Adapting to Foreign Markets 195

Product 196 Price 196 Distribution 197 Promotion 197

# Comprehensive Case: International Development or Exploitation? 205

#### PART 3 MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION

#### 7 Fundamentals of Management 210

#### What Is Management? 212

#### A Variety of Objectives 213

Organizational Objectives 214 Departmental Objectives 214 Subunit Objectives 214 Individual Objectives 214

#### Management Functions 216

Planning 216 Organizing 217 Staffing 217 Directing 217 Controlling 219

#### Levels of Management 221

Executive 222 Middle 223 First-Line 223

#### What Do Managers Do with Their Time? 224

#### Core Management Skills 227

Studies of Management Skills 227 Decision-Making/Problem-Solving Skills 228 Communication Skills 228 Interpersonal Skills 231 Objective/Goal-Setting Skills 232

#### 8 Organizing the Business 241

#### Why Organize? 243

#### Organizing Fundamentals 244

Clear Objectives 245 Coordination 245 Formal and Informal Organizations 246 Organization Chart 246 Formal Authority 249 Centralization and Decentralization 250

#### Principles of Organizing 253

Division of Labor 253 Unity of Command 254 Scalar Principle 254 Span of Control 255

#### How to Organize a Business 256

Functional Structure 257 Product Structure 258 Ter-

ritorial Structure 259 Matrix Structure 260 Multiple Structures 262 Downsizing 264

# 9 Managing Production and Operations 273

#### What Are Production and Operations? 277

#### A Short History of Production and Operations Management 278

Early and Crucial Innovations 278 Industrialization and America's Postwar Supremacy 281 Consumerism and Planned Obsolescence 281 American Manufacturing Joins the Global Marketplace 281 Production and Operations Management in the Service Sector 284

# What Does the Production and Operations Manager Do? 285

Organizing the Production Process 286 Planning Site Location and Layout 288 Managing Materials, Purchasing, and Inventory 291 Controlling Production: Scheduling 292

#### Using Technology 295

Computer-Aided Design, Engineering, and Manufacturing 295 Robotics 296 Flexible Manufacturing Systems 297

#### Improving Quality 297

Managing Quality Control 300 Quality Circles 302

#### Improving Productivity 303

## Maintaining Safety: For Employees, Products, and the Environment 304

Employee and Product Safety 305 Globalization of Environmental Pollution 306

#### The Challenge for Production Managers 306

#### Comprehensive Case: Nike's Global Network of Shoemaking 315

#### PART 4 HUMAN RESOURCES

#### 10 Human Relations and Motivation 322

Motivation and Performance 324

Human Resource Management and Relations 325

The Hawthorne Studies 326

Motivation: What Is It? 327

Theories of Management and Needs 329

Maslow's Needs Hierarchy 329 McGregor's Theory X and Theory Y 331 Ouchi's Theory Z 332 Herzberg's Two-Factor Model of Motivation 333 Maslow and Herzberg: A Comparison 334

Motivating Employees 335

Goal Setting 337 Job Enrichment 339 Quality of Work Life 341 Behavior Modification 342

#### 11 Managing Human Resources 351

The Work of HRM 354

Human Resource Planning, Recruitment, and Selection 355

Planning 355 Recruitment 356 Selection 360 Decision to Hire 366

Training and Development 367

Orientation 367 Training 367 Management Development 368 Performance Appraisals 370

Compensation and Benefits 372

Wages 372 Salaries 376 Benefits and Services 377

Workplace Safety 380

12 Labor-Management Relations 390

A Brief History of the American Labor Movement 392

Unionization Trends 396

Why Do People Join Unions? 400

The Structure and Management of Unions 402 Local Union Structure 402 National-Local Relationship 403 Managing in the Union 403

Federal Regulation of Labor-Management Relations 403

Early Labor Legislation: Pro-Labor 403 Postwar Labor Laws: Restoring a Balance 405 The Issue of Job Security 406 Recent Legislation 407

Organizing and Decertifying a Union 409

Collective Bargaining 410

The Result of Collective Bargaining:

The Contract 412

Discipline 413 Grievances 414 Strikes 415 National Emergencies 419

Nonunion Organizations 419

Comprehensive Case: Athletes, Employees Are Nike's Most Valuable Assets 428

#### PART 5 MARKETING

#### 13 Marketing Strategy 434

#### An Overview of Marketing 436

What Is Marketing? 436 Marketing Adds Value 437 Marketing Affects Everyone 438

#### How Marketing Evolved 440

The Marketing Concept 441 Beyond the Marketing Concept 443

#### Developing a Marketing Strategy 443

Selecting a Target Market 444 Global Marketing Strategies 449 Designing a Marketing Mix 449 The Marketing Environment and Marketing Strategy 450

#### Understanding Buyer Behavior 452

Consumer Buying Behavior 453 Organizational Buying Behavior 454

#### Marketing Research 456

The Need for Marketing Research 456 The Research Process 457

#### Marketing in the Future 459

#### 14 Product and Price 467

#### What Are Products? 469

Consumer Products 470 Industrial Products 472 Classifying Services 472

#### Product Line and Product Mix 473

#### Managing the Product Mix 475

Developing New Products 475 The Product Life Cycle 479 Extending the Product Life Cycle 481 Deleting Products 482

#### Creating Product Identification 483

Branding 483 Packaging 486 Labeling 487

#### Pricing 488

#### Pricing Objectives 489

Market Share 489 Profit 490 Return on Investment 490 Status Quo 490

#### Factors in Pricing Decisions 490

Price and Nonprice Competition 491 Supply and Demand 491 Consumer Perceptions of Price 492

#### Pricing Methods 492

Cost-Oriented Pricing 493 Demand-Oriented Pricing 493 Competition-Oriented Pricing 495

#### Pricing Strategies 495

Pioneer Pricing 495 Psychological Pricing 496 Professional Pricing 497 Price Discounting 497

#### 15 Distribution 505

#### Marketing Channels 507

Functions of Marketing Intermediaries 507 Types of Marketing Channels 508 Vertical Integration 509 Intensity of Market Coverage 510

#### Wholesaling 511

Services Wholesalers Perform 512 Types of Wholesalers 512

#### Retailing 515

Types of Retail Stores 516 Nonstore Retailing 518 Retail Planning 520

#### Physical Distribution 524

Transportation 524 Warehousing 526 Order Processing 527 Materials Handling 527 Inventory Management 527 Distributing Services 528

#### 16 Promotion 535

#### The Role of Promotion 537

Promotional Objectives 538 The Promotion Mix 538

#### Advertising 540

Types of Advertising 540 Advertising Media 543 Developing Advertising Campaigns 550

#### Personal Selling 551

Types of Salespeople 552 Sales Positions in the Future 554 The Selling Process 555

#### Sales Promotion 557

Consumer Sales Promotion 557 Trade Sales Promotion 558

Publicity 560

Publicity Approaches 560 Using Publicity Effectively

Developing the Promotion Mix 562

Promotional Strategies 562 Product Characteristics 563

Comprehensive Case: Nike Marketing Links Products to Athletic Prowess 572

#### PART 6 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

#### 17 Money and Banking 578

Money and Exchange Systems 580

Functions of Money 581

Characteristics of Money 582

The Supply of Money 584 M1 585 M2 585 Credit Cards 585

## Financial Institutions: Their Role in Business 586

Commercial Banks 586 Thrifts and Credit Unions 587 Nonbanking Financial Institutions 588

#### Government Involvement in Money and Banking 591

Insuring Bank Deposits 591 Bank Supervision 592 Deregulation of the Banking Industry 592 Federal Reserve System 593

#### The Future of Banking 598

Technological Impacts: Electronic Funds Transfer 598 Interstate Banking 599 World Banking Community 601

#### 18 Financial Management 611

Defining Finance 613

#### Planning for Cash Flow 615

Projecting Month-by-Month Outward Flow of Funds 616 Projecting Month-by-Month Flow of Funds into the Business 619 Comparing Monthly Inflows to Monthly Outflows 619 Generating Revenue from Excess Funds 619 Expansion 619 High-Liquidity Investments 620

Finding Efficient Sources of Funds 621 Short-Term Financing: Debt Capital 621 Long-Term Financing 625

Managing the Finances of the Firm 631

Managing Working Capital 631 Developing Capital

Budgets 632 Developing Financial Controls 633

#### 19 Investments 641

Use of Securities for Long-Term Funding 643 Use of Bonds 643 Use of Stocks 644 Making a Stock or Bond Offering 645

Who Invests in the Securities Market? 646

Why Individuals Invest in Securities 647
Growth 647 Income 647 Security 647 Liquidity 648
Tax Deferment or Avoidance 649

#### Choices for Investment 649

Stocks 649 Bonds 652 Certificates of Deposit 654 Mutual Funds 655 Commodities 656 Financial Futures 659

#### Where Investments Are Handled 659

#### The Investment Process 660

Contacting a Broker 660 Ordering 661 Reading the Market Indicators 662

Regulation of Securities Markets and Transactions 663

#### 20 Risk Management and Insurance 672

The Nature of Risk 674

**Dealing with Risk** 674 Managing Risk 675 Covering Risk 676

How Insurance Works 679

Insurance Sources 680
Public Sources of Insurance 680 Private Sources of Insurance 682

#### Types of Insurance Businesses Need 682

Property Insurance 682 Liability Insurance 684 Protection Against Income Losses 685 Employee Insurance Policies 687

Comprehensive Case: Nike Uses Information Technology to Work Smart 701

#### PART 7 ACCOUNTING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

# 21 Accounting Practices and Principles 706

What Is Accounting? 708

Types of Accountants 709

Public Accountants 709 Private Accountants 711

The Accounting Cycle 711

The Accounting Equation 713

Double-Entry Bookkeeping 715

Financial Statements 717

Balance Sheet 718 Income Statement 721 Statement of Cash Flows 723

Analyzing Financial Statements 724

Ratio Analysis 724

22 Management Information Systems 742

The Age of Information 744

#### Introduction to Computers 745

The Evolution of Computers 745 Types of Computers 746 Computer Hardware 747 Computer Software 748

Computers and Business 751

Computer Capabilities 751 Business Applications 752

Management Information Systems 754

MIS Functions 755 Computer Networks 757 Decision Support Systems 758

Trends in Computers and Management Information Systems 758

Glossary 769

Company Index 785

Name Index 790

Subject Index 793

Photo Credits 807