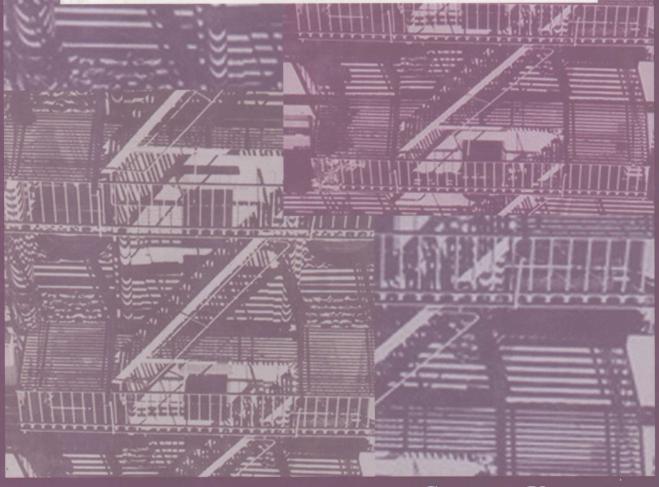
# C C S T ACCOUNTING

13TH EDITION



Carter · Usry



# C C S T

13TH EDITION

William K. Carter University of Virginia

Milton F. Usry University of West Florida

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## **Preface**

In the past decade, globalization of business, increased competition, and new manufacturing technologies forced many companies to reevaluate their business practices. This reevaluation led to changes in management philosophy and in business systems, which in turn required accountants to reevaluate the usefulness of information that the accounting system provided to management. Accounting systems created primarily to provide information for external reporting, or created at a time when manufacturing technologies and systems were essentially labor driven, are no longer adequate. The information provided by obsolete accounting systems is sometimes useless and sometimes dangerously misleading.

To provide information needed by management, accountants began to redesign accounting systems. Different kinds of data are needed for different kinds of decisions, and different kinds of business systems require different kinds of accounting systems to provide that data. As business systems change, accounting systems are reevaluated and, in some cases, changed. Recognizing these relationships leads to developing and implementing new measurement systems, such as quality costing, activity based costing, and backflush costing, as well as to increased reporting of nonfinancial performance measures.

The thirteenth edition of Cost Accounting emphasizes the use of accounting information in planning and controlling business systems and in supporting a variety of management decisions, including strategic decisions that position the firm to compete better. To be effective, the accounting system must be tailored to the particular business systems employed. Since the goods and services produced by different companies vary substantially, the business systems required for production and marketing vary as well. Because of these differences, there is no one accounting system or alternative superior to all others in all situations. The best accounting system depends on the business system and the information needs of management.

To prepare the student, this textbook not only demonstrates the mechanics of alternative accounting systems and techniques but also explains the logic behind different alternatives. The objective is to help the student learn to look at the business system first and then to design an accounting system that can collect and generate the kind of information needed.

This textbook is designed to provide the necessary background for those who prepare accounting information and for those who use the information. This book presents not only the systems of collecting, organizing, processing, and reporting economic data, but also the uses of accounting information in decision making. This dual emphasis is needed because (1) the accountant must understand how the reader will use information in order to design an accounting system to collect and report the information needed, and (2) the user of accounting information must understand how the accounting system works in order to use the information appropriately and know its limitations.

#### Highlights of Changes in the Thirteenth Edition

The textbook has undergone revisions to make it shorter and better written, with the goal of assisting both student and instructor. As with the preceding edition, considerable effort has been made to enhance clarity. The primary changes from the twelfth edition are:

- 1. Several chapters have been edited to improve clarity and brevity of presentation.
- 2. Chapter 3 has been shortened by deleting an appendix that dealt with how the regression equations are derived.
- 3. Part Five has been shortened significantly by deleting material on the marketing function's expense management and profitability analysis.

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4. Approximately one-third of the problems and exercises have been revised. In some of the chapters that are likely to be of higher importance to many instructors, over half of the problems and exercises have been revised.

#### Organization of the Book

The organization of the materials presented is designed to provide maximum flexibility in meeting different course objectives. Part One presents material that forms a foundation for understanding the basic concepts and objectives of cost/managerial accounting systems. It thoroughly discusses the cost concept, cost objects, classifications of cost, and cost behavior. Part Two then discusses and illustrates the flow of cost in manufacturing and services businesses. It begins with a general explanation of the flow of costs through the accounts and then expands into an in-depth discussion of the two basic costing systems: job order costing and process costing. Part Two includes the cost of quality, accounting for production losses, and joint- and byproduct costing. Part Three focuses on an in-depth understanding of the elements of cost, materials, labor and overhead, from both the planning and control perspectives.

Part Four elaborates on the heart of planning and control: static and flexible budgeting, responsibility accounting and reporting, and standard costing. Part Five deals with the analysis of costs and profits, including direct costing, the theory of constraints, cost-volume-profit analysis, differential cost analysis, capital expenditure planning and analysis, decision making under uncertainty, profit performance measurements, and transfer pricing.

#### **Organization for Instruction**

The presentation of the fundamental theoretical and practical aspects of cost accounting provides wide flexibility for classroom usage. In addition to its applicability to the traditional two-semester course sequence, this textbook may be used in a variety of one-semester courses. For these alternative courses, a suggested outline, by chapter numbers, follows:

#### Course Description

Cost Accounting (two semesters)

Cost Accounting (one semester) Cost Control (one semester) Budgetary Control (one semester) Cost Analysis (one semester)

#### Textbook Chapters

Chapters 1-14 (first semester) Chapters 15-25 (second semester) Chapters 1-14 and 17

Chapters 1-4, 9-14, and 17-19 Chapters 1-4, 15-19, and 22-23

Chapters 14-25

#### **End of Chapter Materials**

End-of-chapter materials, many of which are revised, include discussion questions, exercises, problems, and cases. For each topic, these materials afford coverage of relevant concepts and techniques at progressive levels in the learning process, thereby providing a significant student-learning benefit. Selected exercises and problems with which the template diskette may be used are designated by symbols in the margin. The end-of-chapter materials include numerous items from the examinations administered by the America Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA adapted), the Institute of Management Accounting (ICMA adapted), the Certified General Accountants' Association of Canada (CGA-Canada Adapted), and the Society of Management Accountants of Canada ('CMA-Canada').

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#### Learning and Teaching Aids that Accompany the Book

#### For the Instructor

Solutions Manual. This manual contains detailed solutions to the end-of-chapter materials, including the discussion questions, exercises, problems, and cases. Items with which the template diskette may be used are designated by symbols in the margin. In addition, a listing of items coded for use with the template diskette is provided.

Solutions Transparencies. Transparencies of solutions to all exercises, problems, and cases are available to the instructor.

Test Bank, prepared by Edward J. VanDerbeck of Xavier University, Cincinnati. A test bank of multiple choice questions and examination problems accompanied by solutions is available to the instructor. The Test Bank is designed to save time in preparing and grading periodic tests and final examinations.

Spreadsheet Applications. These template diskettes are used with Microsoft Excel<sup>1</sup> for solving selected end-of-chapter exercises and problems identified in the textbook with the symbol in the margin. The diskettes, which also provide a Microsoft Excel tutorial, are provided free of charge to instructors at educational institutions who adopt this text.

#### For the Student

Study Guide, prepared by Edward J. VanDerbeck. This study guide contains a brief summary of each chapter, as well as questions and exercises with answers, thus providing students with immediate feedback on their comprehension of material.

*Practice Cases, prepared by William K. Carter.* A job order case and a process cost case are available. Each case acquaints students with basic accounting and analytical characteristics with a minimum of time-consuming detail. Solutions are provided for the instructor.

#### Acknowledgements

This edition owes a special thanks to Art Francia, whose tireless efforts in going the extra mile were indispensable in producing both this edition and the twelfth, and to Jan Tiefel, whose patience, skill, and persistence were invaluable.

Finally, we wish to express our appreciation to our spouses, Imelda Smith Carter and Dona White Usry, for their patience, assistance, and encouragement in the preparation and completion of this and earlier editions.

January 2002

William K. Carter Milton F. Usry

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>"Microsoft" and "Excel" are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Any reference to Microsoft or Excel refers to this footnote.

### **About the Authors**

William K. Carter teaches management accounting at the McIntire School of Commerce, University of Virginia. He earned BS and MS degrees in accounting from the University of Southern Mississippi and a PhD from Oklahoma State University, and he is a CPA. He has written articles on accounting, accounting education, marketing, and finance, which have appeared in a variety of journals including *The Accounting Review* and the *Journal of Accountancy*. He has published cases on cost accounting and on business policy.

Dr. Carter has served on committees of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business and the American Accounting Association, and on the editorial boards of The Journal of Accounting Education and the Education Section of The Accounting Review. He has testified as an expert witness in litigation involving accounting matters and has conducted consulting engagements and executive development programs for clients that include IBM, Babcock & Wilcox, the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts, the Consumer Bankers Association, and the Administrators of Accounting Programs Group of the American Accounting Association.

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In the area of professional certification, Dr. Usry has been a member of the AICPA Board of Examiners and the Institute of Certified Management Accountants Board of Regents. In the field government service, he has served on the National Board of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education of the U.S. Department of Education. In the private sector, he has served as chairman of the Baptist Health Care Board of Directors, Pensacola, Florida.

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