COST TERMS, CONCEPTS, AND CLASSIFICATIONS

Purpose of Cost Classification	Cost Classifications		
Assigning costs to cost objects	 Direct costs (can be easily traced) Indirect costs (cannot be easily traced) 		
Accounting for costs in manufacturing companies	 Manufacturing costs Direct materials Direct labor Manufacturing overhead Nonmanufacturing costs Selling costs Administrative costs 		
Preparing financial statements	Product costs (inventoriable)Period costs (expensed)		
Predicting cost behavior in response to changes in activity	 Variable costs (proportional to activity) Fixed costs (constant in total) Mixed costs (has variable and fixed elements) 		
Making decisions	 Relevant costs (differs between alternatives) Irrelevant costs (should be ignored) 		

COST FLOWS IN A MANUFACTURING FIRM



PRODUCT vs. PERIOD COSTS

Factory

Sales & Administration







Comparison of Cost Classifications for Predicting Cost Behavior

Behavior of Cost (within the relevant range)				
Cost	In Total	Per Unit		
Variable	Total variable cost Increase and decrease in proportion to changes in the activity level.	Variable cost per unit remains constant.		
Fixed	Total fixed cost is not affected by changes in the activity level within the relevant range.	Fixed cost per unit decreases as the activity level rises and increases as the activity level falls.		

Mixed Costs – An Example

If your fixed monthly utility charge is \$40, your variable cost is \$0.03 per kilowatt hour, and your monthly activity level is 2,000 kilowatt hours, what is the amount of your utility bill?



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1-13

Mixed Costs – Part 2



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The Traditional and Contribution Formats

Comparison of the Contribution Income Statement with the Traditional Income Statement					
Traditional Format		Contribution Format			
Sales \$ ' Cost of goods sold	100,000 70,000	Sales Variable expenses	\$ 100,000 60,000		
Gross margin \$ Selling & admin. expense	30,000 20,000	Contribution margin Fixed expenses	\$ 40,000 <u>30,000</u>		
Net operating income \$	10,000	Net operating income	\$ 10,000		





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