

Measurement concepts

- ✓ **Product costs:** DM + DL + manufacturing overhead; capitalized as inventory, expensed as COGS when sold
- ✓ **Period costs:** selling + administrative; expensed as incurred
- ✓ **Prime costs** = DM + DL; **conversion costs** = DL + manufacturing overhead
- ✓ **Cost driver:** a factor causing cost change (machine or labor hours); links cost pools to cost objects
- ✓ **Cost object:** an item needing separate measurement. **Cost pool:** a group of related indirect costs for allocation
- ✓ **Cost behavior:**
 - Fixed: constant in total within the relevant range (per unit falls as activity rises)
 - Variable: total varies, per unit constant
 - Mixed: both (split via high-low or regression)
- ✓ **COGS formulas:**
 - Retail: beginning inventory + purchases – ending inventory
 - Manufacturing: beginning FG + COGM – ending FG, where COGM = beginning WIP + total manufacturing costs – ending WIP
- ✓ **Cost measurement:**
 - Actual: all actual; accurate, untimely
 - Normal: actual DM and DL, overhead at a predetermined rate
 - Standard: all at standard; enables variance analysis

Absorption vs variable costing

- ✓ **Absorption (full):** all manufacturing costs, including fixed OH, in product cost; required by GAAP and IFRS
- ✓ **Variable (direct):** only variable manufacturing costs in product cost; fixed OH is a period cost
- ✓ **Key difference:** the treatment of fixed manufacturing overhead
- ✓ **Reconciling difference** = change in inventory units × fixed OH per unit
- ✓ **Income effect:**
 - Production > sales → absorption income > variable (fixed OH deferred in inventory)
 - Sales > production → absorption releases prior fixed OH
 - Variable-costing income is unaffected by inventory changes

Costing systems

- ✓ **Job order costing:** custom or distinct batches; costs traced via job cost sheets. Flow: raw materials → WIP → finished goods → COGS
- ✓ **Spoilage:** normal (expected) absorbed by good units (charged to the job if job-specific, to OH if common); abnormal (avoidable) expensed immediately as a loss
- ✓ **Process costing:** homogeneous, continuous production; costs averaged over units through department WIPs
- ✓ **Equivalent units:** partially completed units expressed as full-unit equivalents; computed separately for direct materials and conversion costs; the calculation differs under weighted-average and FIFO
- ✓ **Joint costing** (allocate at split-off): physical measure; sales value at split-off; NRV (= final sales value – separable costs); constant gross-margin %
- ✓ **By-products** (minor value): record as other income, or offset their NRV against joint costs. **Separable costs** are incurred after split-off
- ✓ **Life-cycle costing:** captures upstream (R&D, design) + manufacturing + downstream (marketing, warranty, disposal) costs; early design locks in the majority of total lifetime cost