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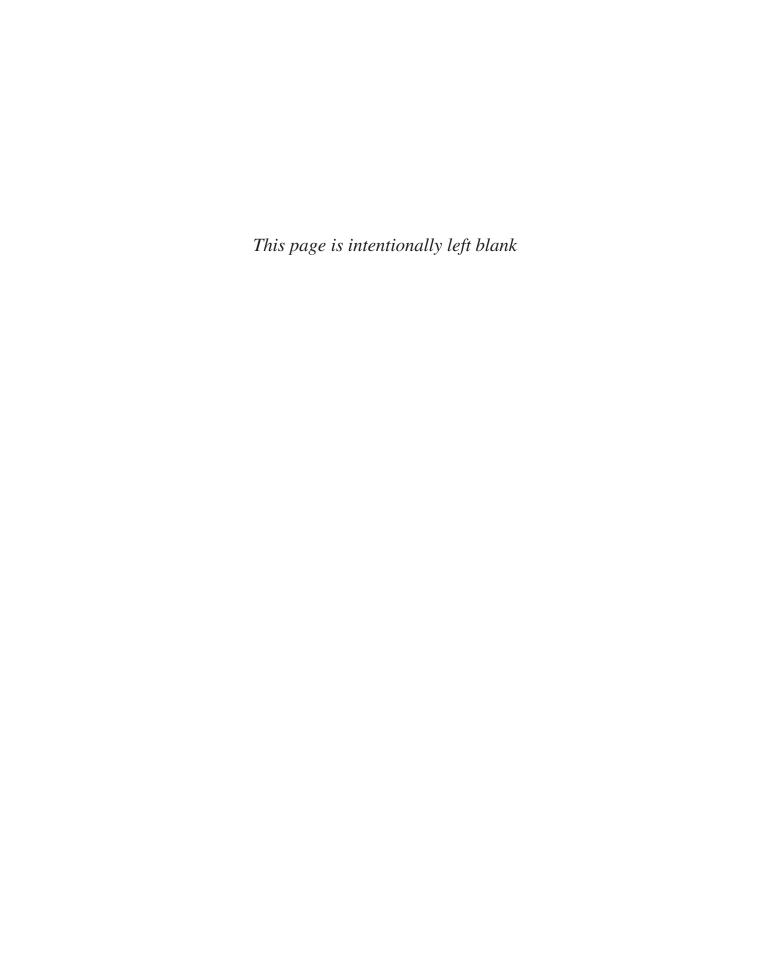
# MANAGERIAL FINANCE

16th edition





# Principles of Managerial Finance



#### SIXTEENTH EDITION

# Principles of Managerial Finance

Chad J. Zutter

University of Pittsburgh

Scott B. Smart

Indiana University



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#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Zutter, Chad J., author. | Smart, Scott B., author.

Title: Principles of managerial finance / Chad J. Zutter, University of Pittsburgh, Scott B. Smart, Indiana University.

Description: Sixteenth Edition. | New York: Pearson, 2021. | Revised edition of Principles of managerial finance, [2019] | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2020044253 (print) | LCCN 2020044254 (ebook) | ISBN 9780136945888 (hardcover) | ISBN 9780136945659 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Corporations—Finance. | Business enterprises—Finance.

Classification: LCC HG4011 .G5 2021 (print) | LCC HG4011 (ebook) | DDC 658.15—dc23

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2020044253

LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2020044254

ScoutAutomatedPrintCode

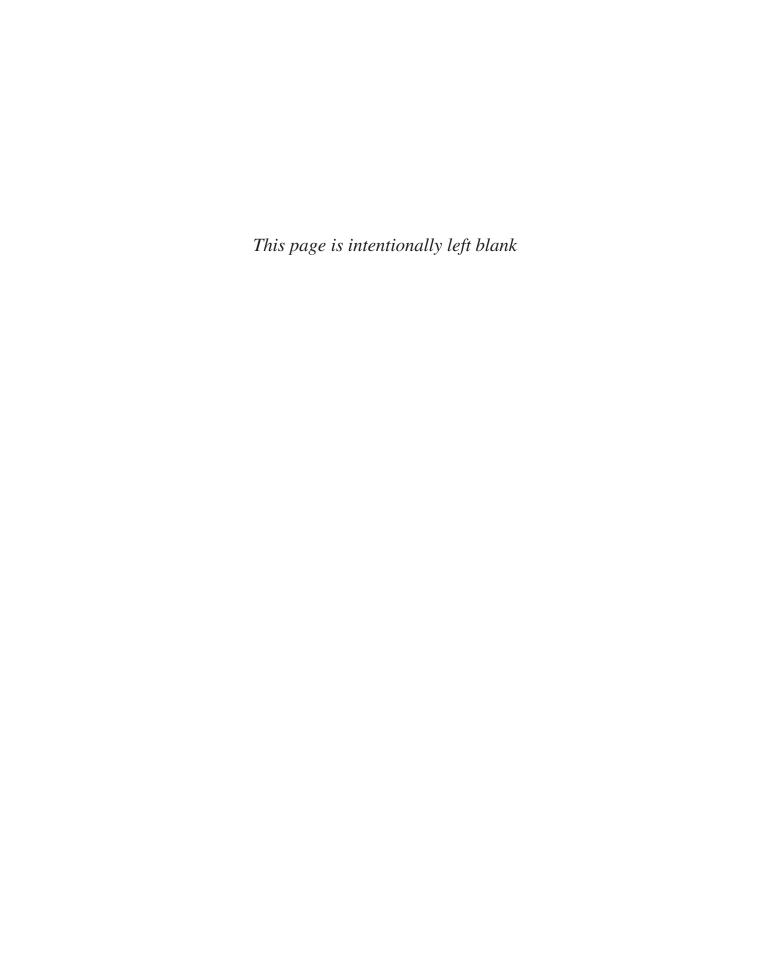


ISBN-10: 0-13-694588-0 ISBN-13: 978-0-13-694588-8 Dedicated to my parents who have always been there for me.

CJZ

Dedicated to my father, Kenneth Smart.

SBS



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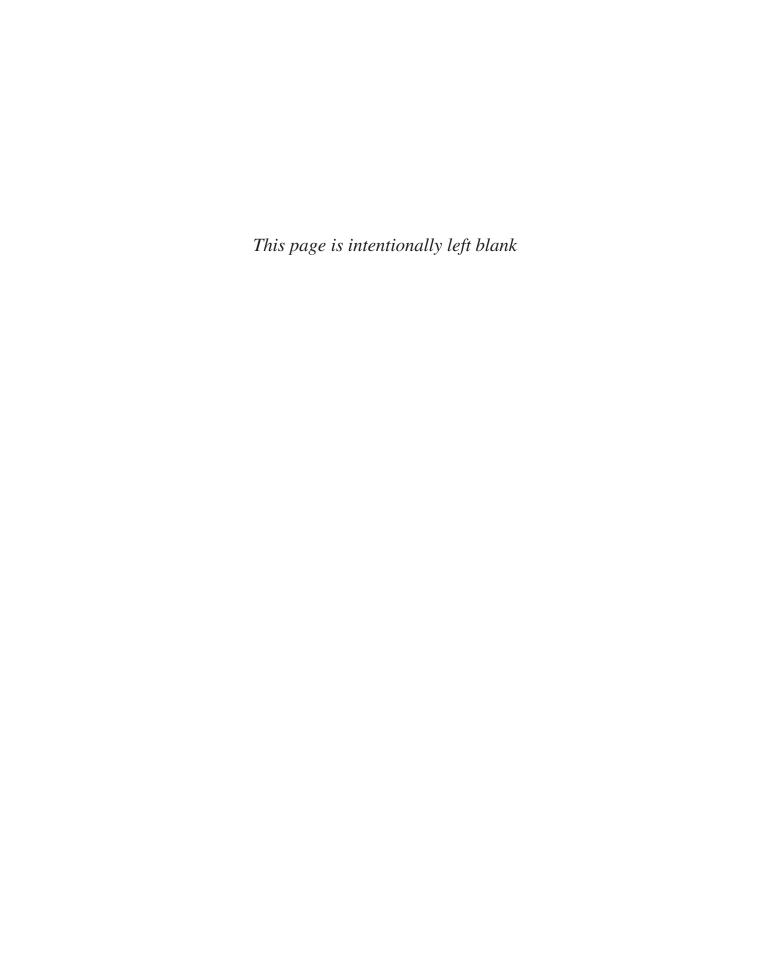
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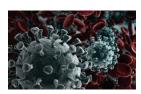
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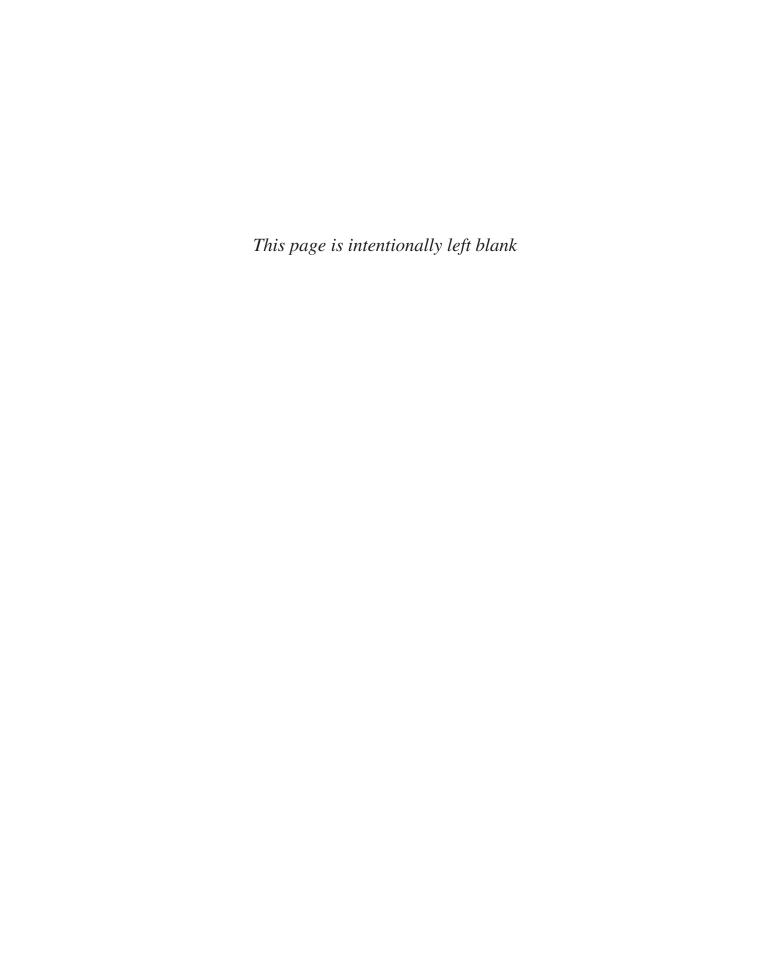
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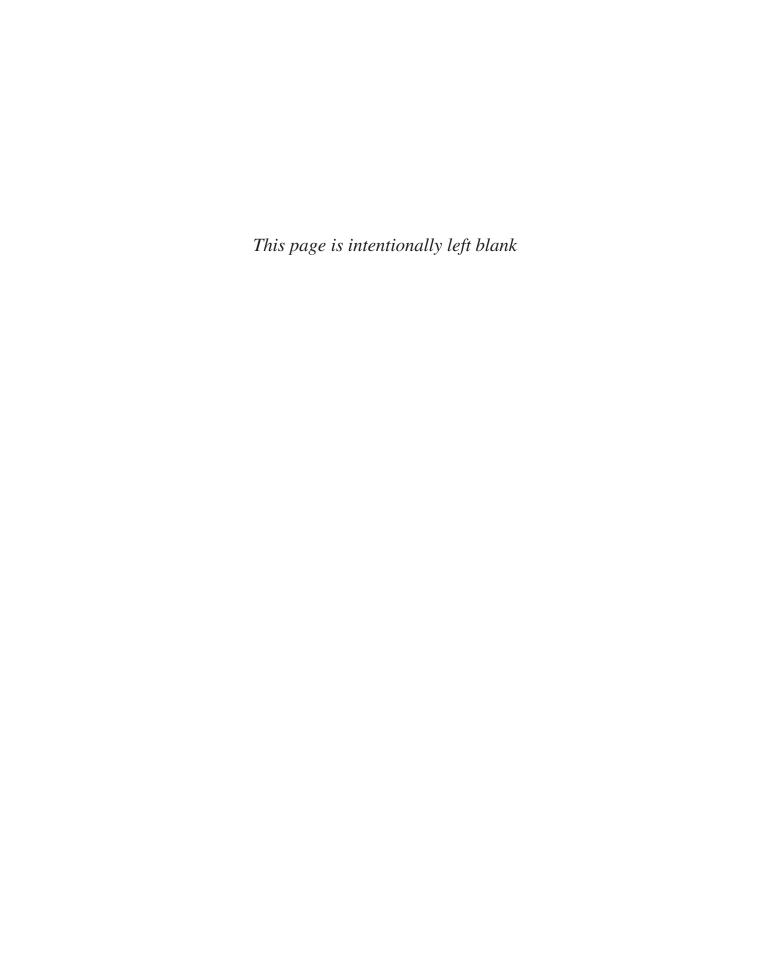


### About the Authors



**Chad J. Zutter** is a finance professor and the James Allen Faculty Fellow at the Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Zutter received his B.B.A. from the University of Texas at Arlington and his Ph.D. from Indiana University. His research has a practical, applied focus and has been the subject of feature stories in, among other prominent outlets, *The Economist* and *CFO Magazine*. His papers have been cited in arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court and in consultation with companies such as Google and Intel. Dr. Zutter won the prestigious Jensen Prize for the best paper published in the *Journal of Financial Economics* and a best paper award from the *Journal of Corporate Finance*, where he is currently an Associate Editor. He has won teaching awards at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University and the Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Zutter also serves on the board of Lutheran SeniorLife and, prior to his career in academics, he was a submariner in the U.S. Navy. Dr. Zutter and his wife have four children and live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In his free time he enjoys horseback riding and downhill skiing.

**Scott B. Smart** is a finance professor and the Fettig/Whirlpool Finance Faculty Fellow at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. Dr. Smart received his B.B.A. from Baylor University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Stanford University. His research focuses primarily on applied corporate finance topics and has been published in journals such as the Journal of Finance, the Journal of Financial Economics, the Journal of Corporate Finance, Financial Management, and others. His articles have been cited by business publications including The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, and Business Week. Winner of more than a dozen teaching awards, Dr. Smart has been listed multiple times as a top business school teacher by Business Week. He has held Visiting Professor positions at the University of Otago and Stanford University, and he worked as a Visiting Scholar for Intel Corporation, focusing on that company's mergers and acquisitions activity during the "Dot-com" boom in the late 1990s. As a volunteer, Dr. Smart currently serves on the board of the Indiana University Credit Union and on the Finance Committee for Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County. In his spare time he enjoys outdoor pursuits such as hiking and fly fishing.



### **Preface**

#### **NEW TO THIS EDITION**

Finance is a dynamic discipline, and as we made plans to publish the sixteenth edition, we were mindful of feedback from users of the fifteenth edition and of changes in managerial finance practices that have taken hold in recent years. For example, firms now operate in an environment in which they are judged not only by their financial results, but also by their performance on environmental, social, and governance metrics. In this edition we highlight how companies may tap specialized bond markets to fund green investments, how diversity influences board decisions, and how leaders of some of the world's largest businesses are engaging in new debates about the goals their firms should pursue.

In every chapter, our changes focused on keeping the material current and relevant for students. In appropriate places, new topics were added and new or updated features appear in each chapter. Here is a list of some of the revisions:

- We replaced or updated all of the chapter-opening vignettes that feature stories gathered from the business press that illustrate key ideas or concepts in each chapter. Many of the chapter openers feature companies such as Aston Martin, Netflix, Apple, H&R Block, T-Mobile, American Airlines, and Dollar General that are familiar to students. We designed these opening vignettes to impress upon students that the material they will see in each chapter is relevant for business in the "real world."
- To add further value to the chapter-opening vignettes, at the end of each chapter we provide an Opener-In-Review question that asks students to apply a concept they have learned in the chapter to the business situation described in the chapter opener.
- We have updated many of the *Focus on Practice* and *Focus on Ethics* boxes that appear throughout the chapters, and we have added a *Focus on People/Planet/Profits* box in most chapters. The Focus on People/Planet/Profits boxes highlight how firms' decisions and prices in financial markets reflect societal concerns about issues ranging from climate change to diversity and inclusion.
- In this edition we added more in-chapter examples and end-of-chapter problems that expose students to real-world data.

The chapter sequence is essentially unchanged from the prior edition, though there is new content in every chapter, and some chapters (especially Chapter 13) were heavily revised. This edition contains nineteen chapters divided into eight parts. Each part is introduced by a brief overview, which is intended to give students an advance sense for the collective value of the chapters included in the part.

Part 1 contains two chapters. Chapter 1 provides an overview of the role of managerial finance in a business enterprise and emphasizes the goal of the firm and the broad principles that financial managers use in their pursuit of that goal. This edition highlights the renewed debate, sparked in part by The Business Roundtable, about whether firms should act in the interests of their shareholders or on behalf of a larger group of stakeholders. Chapter 2 describes the financial market

environment in which firms operate and interact with investors through the various financial institutions and markets. This edition includes expanded discussion of the efficient market hypothesis and security price movements, as well as new content on on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on financial markets.

Part 2 contains three chapters focused on basic financial skills such as financial statement analysis, cash flow analysis, and time-value-of-money calculations. Chapter 3 provides an overview of financial statements and in-depth financial ratio analysis using real data from Target Corporation. The financial ratio analysis provides opportunities for interesting discussion about Target's financial performance for its three most recent fiscal years and relative to some of its key competitors. Chapter 4 emphasizes first the broad goals of strategic and operational financial planning and then the importance of cash flow within any financial plan. Chapter 5 provides straightforward and intuitive coverage of all time-value-of-money concepts used throughout the textbook. Chapter 5 also introduces newly formatted calculator screenshots that demonstrate the exact keystrokes used to complete time-value-of-money calculations. Figure 5.5 offers a new visual representation of how simple and compound interest accumulate over time.

Part 3 focuses on bond and stock valuation. We placed these two chapters just ahead of the risk and return chapter to provide students with exposure to basic material on bonds and stocks that is easier to grasp than are some of the more theoretical concepts in the next part. New in Chapter 6 is an expanded discussion of bond price sensitivity to interest rate changes and Figure 6.6 that illustrates this relation for several bonds with varying characteristics. Chapter 7 continues to provide comprehensive coverage of methods for stock valuation with rewritten examples valuing Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Procter & Gamble, and Broadcom with (respectively) the zero-growth, constant-growth, and variable-growth dividend models. The chapter also includes a free-cash-flow valuation of Ruth's Chris Steak House.

Part 4 contains the risk and return chapter as well as the chapter on the cost of capital. We believe that following the risk and return chapter with the cost of capital material helps students understand the important principle that the expectations of a firm's investors shape how the firm should approach major investment decisions (which are covered in Part 5). In other words, Part 4 helps students understand where a project "hurdle rate" comes from before they start using hurdle rates in capital budgeting problems. Updates to Chapter 8 include expanded coverage of the role that correlation plays in portfolio formation using data on JPMorgan, Morgan Stanley, and Medtronic. Chapter 9 now emphasizes finding the cost of debt by calculating a bond's YTM using a calculator or Excel rather than an algebraic approximation. Chapter 9 also has a new section that discusses when the WACC is the correct hurdle rate for investment analysis versus when it is not.

Part 5 contains three chapters on various capital budgeting topics. Chapter 10 focuses on capital budgeting methods such as payback and net present value analysis. New presentations in Chapter 10 include discounted payback period, project EVA for a finite-lived project, and modified internal rate of return (MIRR). Chapter 11 explains how financial analysts construct cash flow projections, and this edition includes a revised discussion of how to determine which cash flows are incremental and which are not, as well as expanded coverage of why analysts ignore financing cash flows such as interest expense when calculating an investment project's cash flows. Chapter 12 describes how firms analyze the risks associated with capital investments and make refinements to the capital budgeting process. In addition to new discussion of operating-leverage and its impact on project risk, much of the discussion in this chapter has been revised or expanded.

Part 6 deals with the topics of capital structure and payout policy. We revised Chapter 13 extensively so that it now follows a more contemporary format that, after introducing financial leverage and its effects, follows the seminal work of Modigliani and Miller before discussing roles of trade-off theory, agency theory, and signaling theory. Chapter 14 also includes expanded treatment of the Modigliani and Miller theory of payout policy and a new section that discusses recent criticisms of corporate share buybacks.

Part 7 contains two chapters centered on working capital issues. A major development in business has been the extent to which firms have found new ways to economize on working capital investments. The first chapter in Part 7 explains why and how firms work hard to squeeze resources from their investments in current assets such as cash and inventory. The second chapter in this part focuses more on management of current liabilities.

Finally, Part 8 has three chapters covering a variety of topics, including hybrid securities, mergers and other forms of restructurings, and international finance. These subjects are some of the most dynamic areas in financial practice, and we have made a number of changes here to reflect current practices. Chapter 17 contains new examples of convertible securities issued by firms such as Southwest Airlines and Tesla. Chapter 18 covers important merger concepts with examples featuring recent transactions involving Anthem-Cigna, Fiat-Chrysler, Dow-DuPont, Berkshire Hathaway-Dominion Energy Transmission, and Broadcom Ltd.-Maxlinear. Chapter 19 discusses the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership signed by China and 14 other countries in November 2020. The chapter adds new material on purchasing power and interest rate parity relationships that link exchange rate movements to differences in inflation and interest rates across countries.

Although the text content is sequential, instructors can assign almost any chapter as a self-contained unit, enabling instructors to customize the text to various teaching strategies and course lengths.

Like the previous editions, the sixteenth edition incorporates a proven learning system, which integrates pedagogy with concepts and practical applications. It concentrates on the knowledge that is needed to make keen financial decisions in an increasingly competitive business environment. The strong pedagogy and generous use of examples—many of which use real data from markets or companies—make the text an easily accessible resource for in-class learning or out-of-class learning, such as online courses and self-study programs.

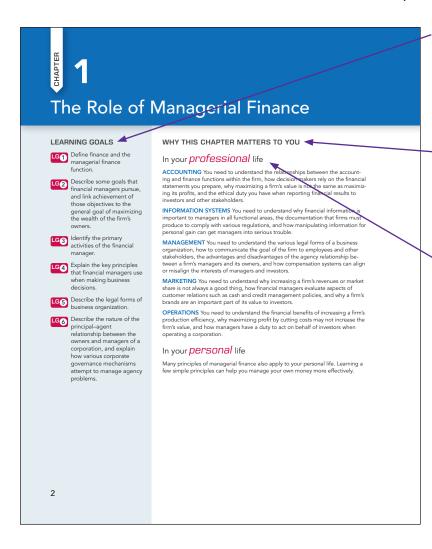
#### **SOLVING TEACHING AND LEARNING CHALLENGES**

The desire to write *Principles of Managerial Finance* came from the experience of teaching the introductory managerial finance course. Those who have taught the introductory course many times can appreciate the difficulties that some students have absorbing and applying financial concepts. Students want a book that speaks to them in plain English and explains how to apply financial concepts to solve real-world problems. These students want more than just description; they also want demonstration of concepts, tools, and techniques. This book is written with the needs of students in mind, and it effectively delivers the resources that students need to succeed in the introductory finance course.

Courses and students have changed since the first edition of this book, but the goals of the text have not changed. The conversational tone and wide use of examples set off in the text still characterize *Principles of Managerial Finance*. Building on those strengths, sixteen editions, numerous translations, and well

over half a million U.S. users, *Principles* has evolved based on feedback from both instructors and students, from adopters, nonadopters, and practitioners. In this edition, we have worked to ensure that the book reflects contemporary thinking and pedagogy to further strengthen the delivery of the classic topics that our users have come to expect. Below are descriptions of the most important resources in *Principles* that help meet teaching and learning challenges.

Users of *Principles of Managerial Finance* have praised the effectiveness of the book's **Teaching and Learning System**, which they hail as one of its hallmarks. The system, driven by a set of carefully developed learning goals, has been retained and polished in this sixteenth edition. The "walkthrough" on the pages that follow illustrates and describes the key elements of the Teaching and Learning System. We encourage both students and instructors to acquaint themselves at the start of the semester with the many useful features the book offers.



Six Learning Goals at the start of the chapter highlight the most important concepts and techniques in the chapter. Students are reminded to think about the learning goals while working through the chapter by strategically placed learning goal icons.

Every chapter opens with a feature, titled Why This Chapter Matters to You, that helps motivate student interest by highlighting both professional and personal benefits from achieving the chapter learning goals.

Its first part, In Your Professional Life, discusses the intersection of the finance topics covered in the chapter with the concerns of other major business disciplines. It encourages students majoring in accounting, information systems, management, marketing, and operations to appreciate how financial acumen will help them achieve their professional goals.

The second part, In Your Personal Life, identifies topics in the chapter that will have particular application to personal finance. This feature also helps students appreciate the tasks performed in a business setting by pointing out that the tasks are not necessarily different from those that are relevant in their personal lives.



WeWork's IPO Doesn't

the coronavirus outbreak locked down much of

As the coronavirus outbreak locked down much of the U.S. economy in March 2020, executives at npany, were backing out of a deal. Three years earlier it had invested \$1.3 billion to buy an initial stake of 7.7% of the common stock of WeWork, a company that leased shared office space to high-tech startups. With its 2010 co-founder, Adam Neun serving as CEO, WeWork looked like one of the hottest startups in the market, growing its operations by 100% in 2015. WeWork's growth was funded by venture capital partnerships such as DAG in the U.S. and Aleph in Israel, investment banks such as J.P. Morgan Chase and such as DNO in the U.S. and Aleph in Israel, investment banks such as J.F. wingan Chase and Goldman Sach, and even the Harvard University endowment. Collectively, this group invested nearly \$14 billion from 2009 to 2019, but no one invested more than Softbank. After an additional \$2 billion Softbank investment in January 2019, WeWork's estimated market value hit \$47 billion.

WeWork decided it was time to "go public" by conducting an initial public offering (IPO). As part of that process, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commis ion requires companies seeking to do an IPO to disclose financials and other details about the business in a document called a prospectus. The August 2019 prospectus was a revelation, and not in a good way. The company had racked up huge losses, and Wall Street experts combing over the documents questioned whether the company could ever become profitable. Questions surfaced about Neumann's erratic and perhaps unethical behavior, such as charging the company \$5.9 million to license the name "We Company" from an entity that he personally cor a few weeks after filling the prospectus, WeWork announced that it would postpi and by the end of the year the company's estimated value had dropped 83% to \$8 billion. In November WeWork laid off 2.400 workers, nearly 20% of its workforce.

Softbank had pledged to buy \$3 billion in stock from existing investors and employees, but a few months later, with office buildings empty due to the "shelter-in-place" orders in many states, WeWork's already precarious prospects dimmed. Softbank rescinded its promise to in ject new funds into WeWork, claiming that ongoing S.E.C. investigations of WeWork gave it an "out" from its contractual obligations. 1

"Softbank Backs Away From Part of Planned WeWork Bailout," by Liz Hoffman and Eliot Brown, wsj.com, March 18, 2020: "WeWork Funding Rounds. Valuations. and Investors." craft.co. April 11, 2020.

Each chapter begins with a short opening vignette that describes a recent real-company event related to the chapter topic. These stories raise interest in the chapter by demonstrating its relevance in the business world. Most of these opening vignettes are entirely new to this edition.



#### 1.1 Finance and the Firm

The field of finance is broad and dynamic. Finance influences everything that firms do, from hiring personnel to building factories to launching new advertising campaigns. Because almost any aspect of business has important financial dimensions, many financially oriented careers await those who understand the principles of finance. Even if you see yourself pursuing a career in another discipline such as marketing, operations, accounting, supply chain, or human re-sources, you'll find that understanding a few crucial ideas in finance will enhance your professional success. Knowing how financial managers think is important, especially if you're not one yourself, because they are often the gatekeepers of corporate resources. Fluency in the language of finance will improve your ability to communicate the value of your ideas to your employer. Financial knowledge will also make you a smarter consumer and a wiser investor.

Learning goal icons tie chapter content to the learning goals and appear next to related text sections and again in the chapter-end summary, end-of-chapter problems, and exercises.

#### business ethics

Standards of conduct or moral judgment that apply to persons engaged in commerce.

Business ethics are standards of conduct or moral judgment that apply to perbusiness entice are standards of conduct of moral judgment that apply to persons engaged in commerce. Violations of these standards involve a variety of actions: "creative accounting," earnings management, misleading financial forecasts, insider trading, fraud, bribery, and kickbacks. The press has reported many such violations in recent years, involving such well-known companies as Facebook, which was hit with a record \$5 billion fine for mishandling users' information, and Volkswagen, where engineers set up elaborate deceptions to get around pollution controls. In these and similar cases, the offending companies suffered various penalties, including fines levied by government agencies. damages paid to plaintiffs in lawsuits, or lost revenues from customers who abandoned the firms because of their errant behavior. Most companies have

For help in study and review, boldfaced key terms and their definitions appear in the margin where they are first introduced. These terms are also boldfaced in the book's index and appear in the end-of-book glossary.

#### MATTER OF FACT

#### Consolidation in the U.S. Banking Industry

The U.S. banking industry has been going through a long period of consolidation. According to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the number of commercial banks in the United States declined from 14,400 in early 1984 to 4,492 by October 2019, a decline of almost 69%. The decline is concentrated among small community banks, which larger institutions have been acquiring at a rapid pace.

Matter of Fact boxes provide interesting empirical facts, usually featuring recent data that add background and depth to the material covered in the chapter.

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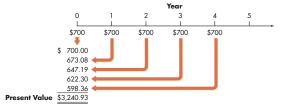
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## IRF EXAMPLE 5.10

Timeline for present value of an ordinary annuity with \$700 end-of-year cash flows, discounted at 4%, over five

In Example 5.8 involving Braden Company, we calculated a \$3,116.28 present value for Braden's \$700, five-year ordinary annuity discounted at 4%. We now assume that Braden's \$700 annual cash inflow occurs at the start of each year and is thereby an annuity due. The following timeline illustrates the new situation.



Calculator use Remember for annuity due calculations you must switch your 2ND [BGN] 2ND [SET] calculator to beginning-of-period mode using the BGN function key, depending on your specific calculator. Then, using the inputs shown at the left, you can 2ND [P/Y] 1 ENTER verify that the present value of the annuity due equals \$3,240.93. (Note: Don't 2ND [QUIT]

forget to switch your financial calculator back to end-of-period payment mode.)

Spreadsheet use The following spreadsheet shows how to calculate the present value of the annuity due.

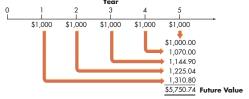
	A	В			
1	PRESENT VALUE OF AN ANNUITY DUE				
2	Annual annuity payment	\$700			
3	Annual rate of interest	4%			
4	Number of years	5			
5	Present value	-\$3,240.93			
	Entry in Cell B5 is =PV(B3,B4,B2,0,1). The minus sign appears before the \$3,240.1 in B5 because the annuity's present value is a cost and therefore a cash outflow.				

Examples are an important component of the book's learning system. Numbered and clearly set off from the text, they provide an immediate and concrete demonstration of how to apply financial concepts, tools, and techniques. Many of these feature real-world data.

Examples illustrating time-value-ofmoney techniques often show the use of time lines, equations, financial calculators, and spreadsheets (with cell formulas). For instructors who prefer to use tables with interest rate factors, an IRF icon appearing with some examples indicates that the example can be solved using the interest rate factors.

#### Fran Abrams wishes to determine how much money she IRF PERSONAL FINANCE EXAMPLE 5.7 will have after five years if she chooses annuity A, the ordinary annuity. She will deposit the \$1,000 annual payments that the annuity provides each year into a savings account paying 7% annual interest. The following timeline depicts the situation Timeline for future value

of an ordinary annuity with \$1,000 end-of-year deposits, earning 7%, for five years



The timeline shows after five years, Fran will have \$5,750.74 in her account. Note that because she makes deposits at the end of the year, the first deposit will Personal Finance Examples demonstrate how students can apply managerial finance concepts, tools, and techniques to their personal financial decisions.

$$PV_0 = CF_1 \div r \tag{5.7}$$

Key Equations appear in green boxes throughout the text to help readers identify the most important mathematical relationships.

#### → REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 5-10 What is the difference between an ordinary annuity and an annuity due? Which is more valuable? Why?
- 5-11 What are the most efficient ways to calculate the present value of an ordinary annuity?
- 5-12 How can the formula for the future value of an annuity be modified to find the future value of an annuity due?
- 5-13 How can the formula for the present value of an ordinary annuity be modified to find the present value of an annuity due?
- 5-14 What is a perpetuity? Why is the present value of a perpetuity equal to the annual cash payment divided by the interest rate? Why doesn't this chapter provide an equation showing you how to calculate the future value of a perpetuity?

#### → EXCEL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 5-15 Because tax time comes around every year, you smartly decide to make equal \$5,000 contributions to your IRA at the end of every year for 30 years. Assuming a 9.5% annual rate of return, use Excel to calculate the future value of your IRA contributions when you retire in 30 years.
- 5-16 Rather than making contributions to an IRA at the end of each year, you decide to make equal \$5,000 contributions at the beginning of each year for 30 years. Assuming a 9.5% annual rate of return, use Excel to solve for the future value of your IRA contributions when you retire.

Review Questions appear at the end of each major text section. These questions challenge readers to stop and test their understanding of key concepts, tools, techniques, and practices before moving on to the next section.

Some sections have dedicated Excel Review Questions that ask students to demonstrate their ability to solve a financial problem using Excel.

## FOCUS ON ETHICS

The Cost of Capital Also Rises

Gertrude Stein-who shaped 20thcentury art and literature through discussions in her 1920s Paris home with the likes of Pablo Picasso and Ernest Hemingway—famously wrote of Oakland, California, "There is no

debt. Going into 2016. Wells had not When the dust settled, CEO John
When the dust settled, CEO John
Staffs Millor fine from the Consumer
Financial Protection Bureau in addition
to \$110 million in civil settlements with business of secondary to the consumer

## **FOCUS ON PRACTICE**

I-Bonds Adjust for Inflation

One disadvantage of bonds is that they usually offer a fixed interest rate Once a bond is issued, its interest rate moves up and down, I-bond interest

in this index indicates that inflation has occurred. As the rate of inflation occurs, the change in the CPI-U is negative, and the adjustable portion of an I-bond's interest also turns neg-

#### FOCUS ON GLOBAL FINANCE

An International Flavor to Diversification

Earlier in this chapter (see Table 8.5), risk can be a factor. Political risk is we learned that from 1900 through the risk that a government may take 2019, the U.S. stock market produced actions harmful to foreign investors

etums on a portfolio that included U.S. stocks as well as stocks from 22 other countries. This diversified port and ntly, on an no mat-

rate

## FOCUS ON PEOPLE/PLANET/PROFITS

## **Diverse Boards Borrow Less**

Central to the WACC calculation are the capital structure weights, the percentages of debt and equity that make up a firm's total financing. A recent study found an interesting connection between the diversity of a firm's board of directors and its borrowing habits. Specifically, companies whose boards exhibited more diversity in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, and other characteristics of board members relied less heavily on debt compared to firms with less diverse boards. Because they borrowed less,

firms with more diverse boards were returns were less volatile compared with their peers having fewer diverse board members. The study's authors suggested that a diversity in the boardroom leads to moderated group decision making, and indeed they found that corporate policies focused on investment decisions and branding were relatively stable over time. The same policies at companies with less diverse boards were prone to greater year-to-year changes

► Through his character Polonius William Shakespeare offered financial advice in his classic play Hamlet, "Neither a borrower nor a lender be" was an admonition against borrowing from or lending to a friend. Tables 9.1 and 9.3 show that not many firms follow this advice. Most use at least some debt in their capital structures. What are some of the pros and cons of using leverage?

Focus On... boxes offer insights into important topics in managerial finance through the experiences of real companies, both large and small. There are four categories of *Focus On...* boxes:

Focus on Ethics boxes in every chapter help readers understand and appreciate important ethical issues and problems related to managerial finance.

Focus on Practice boxes take a corporate focus that relates a business event or situation to a specific financial concept or technique.

Focus on Global Finance boxes look specifically at the managerial finance experiences of international companies.

Focus on People/Planet/Profits boxes highlight how firms' decisions and prices in financial markets reflect societal concerns about issues ranging from climate change to diversity and inclusion.

All four types of Focus On... boxes end with one or more critical thinking questions to help readers broaden the lesson from the content of the box.

## SUMMARY

#### **FOCUS ON VALUE**

The time value of money is a tool that managers and investors use to compare cash inflows and outflows occurring at different times. Because firms routinely make investments that produce cash inflows over long periods, the effective application of time-value-of-money techniques is extremely important. These techniques allow managers to compare the costs of investments they make today

## **REVIEW OF LEARNING GOALS**

Discuss the role of time value in finance, the use of computational tools, and the basic patterns of cash flow. Financial managers and investors use timevalue-of-money techniques when assessing the value of expected cash flow streams. Alternatives can be assessed by either compounding to find future value or discounting to find present value. Financial managers rely primarily on present-value techniques. Financial calculators and electronic spreadsheets

The end-of-chapter Summary consists of two sections. The first section, Focus on Value, explains how the chapter's content relates to the firm's goal of maximizing owner wealth. This feature helps reinforce understanding of the link between the financial manager's actions and share value.

The second part of the Summary, the Review of Learning Goals, restates each learning goal and summarizes the key material that was presented to support mastery of the goal. This review provides students with an opportunity to reconcile what they have learned with the learning goal and to confirm their understanding before moving forward.

#### OPENER-IN-REVIEW

The chapter opener described a lottery prize that could be taken as a \$477 million lump sum payment or a mixed stream of 30 payments, with the first payment of \$11.56 million coming immediately, followed by 29 additional payments at annual intervals growing at 5% per year. If the lottery winner could earn 2% on cash invested today, should he take the lump sum or the mixed stream? What if the rate of return is 3%? What general principle do those calculations illustrate?

SELF-TEST PROBLEMS (Solutions in Appendix)



- ST5-1 Future values for various compounding frequencies Delia Martin has \$10,000 that she can deposit in any of three savings accounts for a three-year period. Old Reliable Bank compounds interest on an annual basis, Third National Bank compounds interest twice each year, and Friendly Credit Union compounds interest each quarter. All three have a stated annual interest rate of 4%.
  - a. What amount would Ms. Martin have after three years, leaving all interest paid on deposit, in each financial institution?
  - b. What effective annual rate (EAR) would she earn in each situation?
  - c. On the basis of your findings in parts a and b, which institution should Ms. Martin deal with? Why?
  - d. If American Bank, also with a 4% stated interest rate, compounds interest continuously, how much would Ms. Martin have after three years? Does this alternative change your recommendation in part c? Explain why or why not.

Opener-In-Review questions at the end of each chapter revisit the opening vignette and ask students to apply lessons from the chapter to that business situation.

Self-Test Problems, keyed to the learning goals, give readers an opportunity to strengthen their understanding of topics by doing a sample problem. For reinforcement, solutions to the Self-Test Problems appear in the appendix at the back of the book.

## WARM-UP EXERCISES



Assume that a firm makes a \$2,500 deposit into a short-term investment account. If this account is currently paying 0.7% (yes, that's right, less than 1%!), what will the account balance be after one year?



E5-2 If Bob and Judy combine their savings of \$1,260 and \$975, respectively, and deposit this amount into an account that pays 2% annual interest, compounded monthly, what will the account balance be after four years?

Warm-Up Exercises follow the Self-Test Problems. These short, numerical exercises give students practice in applying tools and techniques presented in the chapter.

## **PROBLEMS**

The Excel icon indicates auto-graded Excel projects available in MyLab Finance. Excel templates for end-of-chapter problems are also available in MvLab Finance.



P5-1 Using a timeline The financial manager at Starbuck Industries is considering an investment that requires an initial outlay of \$25,000 and is expected to produce cash inflows of \$3,000 at the end of year 1, \$6,000 at the end of years 2 and 3, \$10,000 at the end of year 4, \$8,000 at the end of year 5, and \$7,000 at the end of year 6.

- a. Draw and label a timeline depicting the cash flows associated with Starbuck Industries' proposed investment
- b. Use arrows to demonstrate, on the timeline in part a, how compounding to find future value can be used to measure all cash flows at the end of year 6.
- c. Use arrows to demonstrate, on the timeline in part b, how discounting to find present value can be used to measure all cash flows at time zero
- d. Which of the approaches—future value or present value—do financial managers rely on most often for decision making?

LG4 LG6



P7-23 Integrative: Risk and valuation Given the following information for the stock of Foster Company, calculate the risk premium on its common stock.

> Current price per share of common \$50.00 Expected dividend per share next year \$ 3.00 Constant annual dividend growth rate 6.5% Risk-free rate of return 4.5%

Comprehensive Problems, keyed to the learning goals, are longer and more complex than the Warm-Up Exercises. In this section, instructors will find multiple problems that address the important concepts, tools, and techniques in the chapter.

A short descriptor identifies the essential concept or technique of the problem. Problems labeled as **Integrative** tie together related topics.

> On MyLab Finance, students can find Excel templates that help them set up a structure for solving end-of-chapter problems. These templates not only help them get started on a problem, but they also provide examples of how to begin to set up basic Excel models.

## LG<sub>2</sub>

#### Personal Finance Problem

P5-6 Time value As part of your financial planning, you wish to purchase a new car five years from today. The car you wish to purchase costs \$14,000 today, and your research indicates that its price will increase by 2% to 4% per year over the next



P5-66 ETHICS PROBLEM Samantha Fong sold her home in San Francisco in 2020 for \$1.34 million, which was the median home price for that city. Samantha had lived in that house for 17 years, having purchased it from Michael Shoven in 2003 for \$711,000. What average annual rate of return did Samantha earn on her home, ignoring things such as property taxes and the costs of maintaining the home? Would you say that Samantha somehow "swindled" Michael? Would your answer to that question be influenced by the knowledge that over those 17 years, the average annual return on U.S. stocks was a little more than 10%?

## **Personal Finance Problems**

specifically relate to personal finance situations and Personal Finance Examples in each chapter. These problems will help students see how they can apply the tools and techniques of managerial finance in managing their own finances.

## SPREADSHEET EXERCISE



At the end of 2019, Uma Corporation is considering a major long-term project in an effort to remain competitive in its industry. The production and sales departments have determined the potential annual cash flow savings that could accrue to the firm if it acts soon. Specifically, they estimate that a mixed stream of future cash flow savings will occur at the end of the years 2020 through 2025. The years 2026 through 2030 will see consecutive \$90,000 cash flow savings at the end of each year. The firm estimates that its discount rate over the first six years will be 7%. The expected discount rate over the years 2026 through 2030 will be 11%

Every chapter includes a Spreadsheet Exercise. This exercise gives students an opportunity to use Excel software to create one or more spreadsheets with which to analyze a financial problem. The spreadsheet to be created is often modeled on a table or Excel screenshot located in the chapter.

## **Integrative Case 2**

#### Track Software Inc.

Seven years ago, after 15 years in public accounting, Stanley Booker, CPA, resigned his position as manager of cost systems for Davis, Cohen, and O'Brien Public Accountants and started Track Software Inc. In the two years preceding his departure from Davis, Cohen, and O'Brien, Stanley had spent nights and weekends developing a sophisticated cost-accounting software program that became Track's initial product offering. As the firm grew, Stanley planned to develop and expand the

software product orderings, all of which would be related to streamlining the ac-counting processes of medium- to large-sized manufacturers. Although Track experienced losses during its first two years of operation—2016 and 2017—its profit has increased steadily from 2018 to the year just ended (2022).

and 2017—its profit has increased steadily from 2018 to the year just ended (2022). The firm's profit history, including dividend payments and contributions to retained earnings, is summarized in Table 1.

Stanley started the firm with a \$100,000 investment: his savings of \$50,000 as equity and a \$50,000 long-term loan from the bank. He had hoped to maintain his initial 100% ownership in the corporation, but after experiencing a \$50,000 long-term douing the first year of operation (2016), he sold 60% of the stock to a group of investors to obtain needed funds. Since then, no other stock transactions have taken place. Although he owns only 40% of the firm, Stanley actively manages all aspects of its activities; the other stockholders are not active in its management. The firm's stock was replaced as \$4.00 me charges in 2013 and \$5.50 me charges in 2013. stock was valued at \$4.50 per share in 2021 and at \$5.28 per share in 2022

An Integrative Case at the end of each part of the book challenges students to use what they have learned over the course of several chapters.

## **DEVELOPING EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS**

For students to succeed in a rapidly changing job market, they should be aware of their career options and how to go about developing a variety of skills. We focus on developing these skills in a variety of ways.

Excel modeling skills—Each chapter contains a Spreadsheet Exercise that asks students to build an Excel model to help solve a business problem. Many chapters provide screenshots showing completed Excel models designed to solve in-chapter examples. Many chapters contain Excel Review Questions that prompt students to practice using Excel to solve specific types of problems. Excel templates are available on MyLab Finance that help students structure end-of-chapter problems so they can solve them in Excel.

Ethical reasoning skills—The *Focus on Ethics* boxes appearing in each chapter describe situations in which business professionals have violated ethical (and in some cases even legal) standards and have suffered consequences as a result. These boxes will help students recognize the ethical temptations they are likely to face while pursuing a finance career and the consequences that they may suffer if they behave unethically. Each chapter ends with an Ethics Problem that asks students to consider the ethical dimensions of some business decision.

Critical thinking skills—Nearly every significant financial decision requires critical thinking because making optimal decisions means weighing the marginal benefits and costs of alternative plans. To weigh those benefits and costs, one must first identify and quantify them. Nearly every chapter in this textbook discusses how financial analysts place a value on the net benefits associated with a particular decision. Students who master this material will be prepared to ask the tough questions necessary to assess whether a particular course of action creates value for shareholders.

Data analysis skills—Financial work is about data. Financial analysts have to identify the data that are relevant for a particular business problem, and they must know how to process that data in a way that leads to good decision making. In-chapter examples and end-of-chapter problems require students to sort out relevant from irrelevant data and to use the data that they have to make a clear recommendation about what course of action a firm should take.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS OVERVIEW

The text's organization conceptually links the firm's actions and its value as determined in the financial market. We discuss every significant financial problem or decision in terms of both risk and return to assess the potential impact on owners' wealth. A Focus on Value element in each chapter's Summary helps reinforce the student's understanding of the link between the financial manager's actions and the firm's share value.

In organizing each chapter, we have adhered to a managerial decision-making perspective, relating decisions to the firm's overall goal of wealth maximization. Once a particular concept has been developed, its application is illustrated by an example, which is a hallmark feature of this book. These examples demonstrate, and solidify in the student's thought, financial decision-making considerations and their consequences.

# Acknowledgments

## TO OUR COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY

Pearson sought the advice of a great many excellent reviewers, all of whom influenced the revisions of this book. Our special thanks go to the following individuals who contributed to the manuscript in the current and previous editions:

Omer Carey

Saul W. Adelman M. Fall Ainina Gary A. Anderson Ronald F. Anderson James M. Andre Gene L. Andrusco Antonio Apap David A. Arbeit Allen Arkins Saul H. Auslander Peter W. Bacon Matt Baldwin Richard E. Ball Thomas Bankston Alexander Barges Charles Barngrover Michael Becker Rhoda Belemjian Omar Benkato Robert Benson Scott Besley Douglas S. Bible Charles W. Blackwell Alan Blaylock Russell L. Block Calvin M. Boardman Paul Bolster Robert J. Bondi Jeffrey A. Born Jerry D. Boswell Denis O. Boudreaux Kenneth J. Boudreaux Thomas J. Boulton Wayne Boyet Ron Braswell Christopher Brown William Brunsen Samuel B. Bulmash Francis E. Canda

Patrick A. Casabona Johnny C. Chan Robert Chatfield K. C. Chen Paul Chiou Roger G. Clarke Terrence M. Clauretie Mark Cockalingam Kent Cofoid Boyd D. Collier Thomas Cook Maurice P. Corrigan Mike Cudd Donnie L. Daniel Prabir Datta Joel J. Dauten Lee E. Davis Irv DeGraw Richard F. DeMong Peter A. DeVito R. Gordon Dippel James P. D'Mello Carleton Donchess Thomas W. Donohue Lorna Dotts Vincent R. Driscoll Betty A. Driver David R. Durst Dwayne O. Eberhardt Ronald L. Ehresman Ted Ellis F. Barney English Hsing Fang Greg Filbeck Ross A. Flaherty Rich Fortin

Timothy J. Gallagher

George W. Gallinger

Gerald D. Gay Deborah Giarusso R. H. Gilmer Anthony J. Giovino Lawrence J. Gitman Michael Giuliano Philip W. Glasgo Jeffrey W. Glazer Joel Gold Ron B. Goldfarb Dennis W. Goodwin David A. Gordon I. Charles Granicz C. Ramon Griffin Reynolds Griffith Arthur Guarino Lewell F. Gunter Melvin W. Harju John E. Harper Phil Harrington George F. Harris George T. Harris John D. Harris Mary Hartman R. Stevenson Hawkey Roger G. Hehman Harvey Heinowitz Glenn Henderson Russell H. Hereth Kathleen T. Hevert I. Lawrence Hexter Douglas A. Hibbert Roger P. Hill Linda C. Hittle Iames Hoban Hugh A. Hobson Keith Howe Kenneth M. Huggins

Sharon Garrison

Ierry G. Hunt Mahmood Islam James F. Jackson Stanley Jacobs Dale W. Janowsky Carolyn Jarmon Jeannette R. Jesinger Nalina Jeypalan Jerry Johnson Timothy E. Johnson Roger Juchau Ashok K. Kapoor Daniel J. Kaufman Jr. Joseph K. Kiely Terrance E. Kingston Raj K. Kohli Thomas M. Krueger Lawrence Kryzanowski Harry R. Kuniansky William R. Lane Richard E. La Near James Larsen Rick LeCompte B. E. Lee Scott Lee Sharon Lee Suk Hun Lee Michael A. Lenarcic A. Joseph Lerro Yin Li Thomas J. Liesz Hao Lin Alan Lines Larry Lynch Christopher K. Ma James C. Ma Dilip B. Madan **Judy Maese James Mallet** Inayat Mangla Bala Maniam Timothy A. Manuel Brian Maris Daniel S. Marrone William H. Marsh John F. Marshall Linda J. Martin Stanley A. Martin Charles E. Maxwell Timothy Hoyt McCaughey Lee McClain Jay Meiselman Vincent A. Mercurio Joseph Messina

John B. Mitchell Daniel F. Mohan Charles Mohundro Gene P. Morris Edward A. Moses Tarun K. Mukherjee William T. Murphy Randy Myers Lance Nail Donald A. Nast Vivian F. Nazar G. Newbould Charles Ngassam Alvin Nishimoto Gary Noreiko Dennis T. Officer Kathleen J. Oldfather Kathleen F. Oppenheimer Richard M. Osborne Jerome S. Osteryoung Prasad Padmanabahn Roger R. Palmer Don B. Panton John Park Ronda S. Paul Bruce C. Payne Gerald W. Perritt Gladys E. Perry Stanley Piascik Gregory Pierce Mary L. Piotrowski D. Anthony Plath Jerry B. Poe Gerald A. Pogue Suzanne Polley Ronald S. Pretekin Fran Quinn Monika Rabarison Rich Ravichandran David Rayone Walter J. Reinhart Jack H. Reubens Benedicte Reves William B. Riley Jr. Hong Rim Ron Rizzuto Gayle A. Russell Patricia A. Ryan Murray Sabrin Kanwal S. Sachedeva R. Daniel Sadlier Hadi Salavitabar Gary Sanger

Mukunthan Santhanakrishnan William L. Sartoris William Sawatski Steven R. Scheff Michael Schellenger Michael Schinski Tom Schmidt Carl J. Schwendiman Carl Schweser **Jim Scott** John W. Settle Richard A. Shick A. M. Sibley Sandeep Singh Surendra S. Singhvi **Stacy Sirmans** Barry D. Smith Gerald Smolen Ira Smolowitz Jean Snavely Joseph V. Stanford John A. Stocker William Stough Lester B. Strickler Gordon M. Stringer Elizabeth Strock Donald H. Stuhlman Sankar Sundarrajan Philip R. Swensen S. Tabriztchi John C. Talbott Gary Tallman Harry Tamule Richard W. Taylor Rolf K. Tedefalk Richard Teweles Kenneth J. Thygerson Robert D. Tollen Emery A. Trahan Barry Uze Pieter A. Vandenberg Nikhil P. Varaiya Oscar Varela Mark Vaughan Kenneth J. Venuto Sam Veraldi James A. Verbrugge Ronald P. Volpe John M. Wachowicz Jr. Faye (Hefei) Wang William H. Weber III Herbert Weinraub Jonathan B. Welch

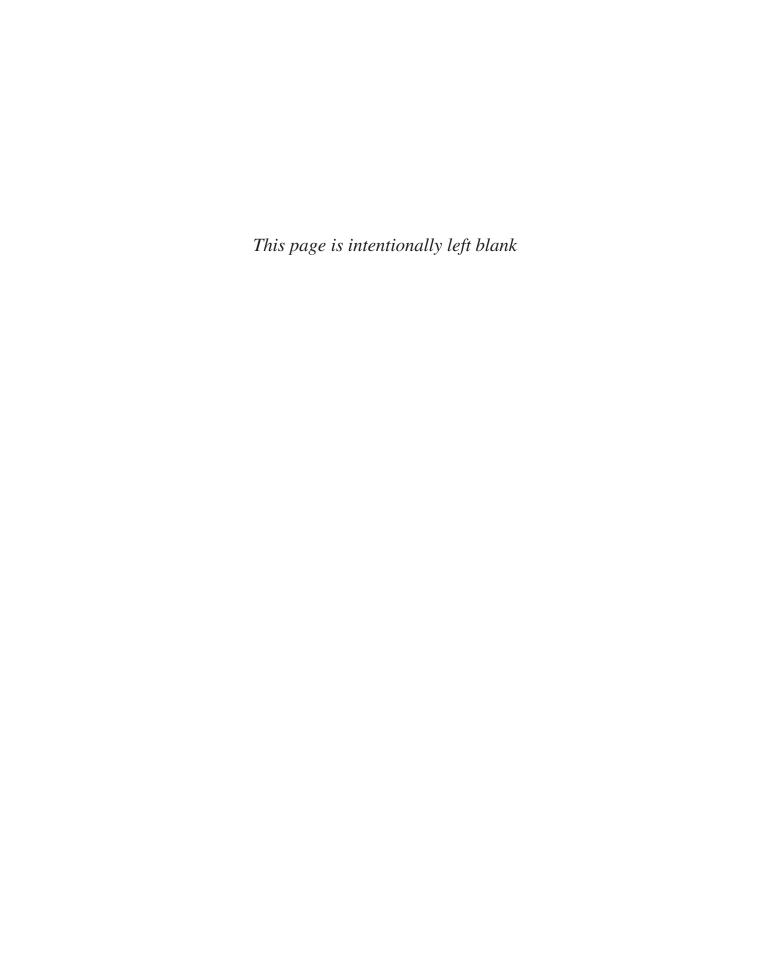
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Howard A. Williams	John C. Woods	John Zietlow
Richard E. Williams	Robert J. Wright	J. Kenton Zumwalt
Glenn A. Wilt Jr.	Richard H. Yanow	Tom Zwirlein

A hearty round of applause also goes to the publishing team assembled by Pearson—including Emily Biberger, Olutosin Aje-Adegbite, Meredith Gertz, Melissa Honig, Miguel Leonarte, Gina Linko, and others who worked on the book—for the inspiration and the perspiration that define teamwork. Also, special thanks to the formidable Pearson sales force in finance, whose ongoing efforts keep the business fun!

Finally, and most important, many thanks to our families for patiently providing support, understanding, and good humor throughout the revision process. To them we will be forever grateful.

**Chad J. Zutter** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Scott B. Smart** Bloomington, Indiana



# Introduction to Managerial Finance

## **CHAPTERS IN THIS PART**

- 1 The Role of Managerial Finance
- 2 The Financial Market Environment

INTEGRATIVE CASE 1 Merit Enterprise Corp.

In Part 1 of *Principles of Managerial Finance*, we discuss the role of financial managers in businesses and the financial market environment in which firms operate. We outline the goals managers pursue, the decisions they make in pursuit of those goals, and the financial principles that guide those decisions. A key principle guiding managers is to take actions that benefit the firm's owners, the shareholders. Financial managers accomplish that by making operating and investment decisions expected to generate greater benefits than costs. Such decisions create wealth for shareholders, which is important because firms have to compete for the funds necessary to finance the production of goods and services. In other words, firms need money to spend on everyday operating expenses as well as on major projects like building new facilities or conducting research and development. Funds flow from investors to firms through the financial markets. Those markets offer many different choices to investors who are looking for places to invest their money with the expectation of increasing their wealth. Managers must deliver value to investors to persuade them to provide the funding firms need to thrive.

# The Role of Managerial Finance

## LEARNING GOALS

- Define finance and the managerial finance function.
- Describe some goals that financial managers pursue, and link achievement of those objectives to the general goal of maximizing the wealth of the firm's owners.
- Identify the primary activities of the financial manager.
- Explain the key principles that financial managers use when making business decisions.
- Describe the legal forms of business organization.
- Describe the nature of the principal-agent relationship between the owners and managers of a corporation, and explain how various corporate governance mechanisms attempt to manage agency problems.

## WHY THIS CHAPTER MATTERS TO YOU

## In your **professional** life

ACCOUNTING You need to understand the relationships between the accounting and finance functions within the firm, how decision makers rely on the financial statements you prepare, why maximizing a firm's value is not the same as maximizing its profits, and the ethical duty you have when reporting financial results to investors and other stakeholders.

**INFORMATION SYSTEMS** You need to understand why financial information is important to managers in all functional areas, the documentation that firms must produce to comply with various regulations, and how manipulating information for personal gain can get managers into serious trouble.

MANAGEMENT You need to understand the various legal forms of a business organization, how to communicate the goal of the firm to employees and other stakeholders, the advantages and disadvantages of the agency relationship between a firm's managers and its owners, and how compensation systems can align or misalign the interests of managers and investors.

MARKETING You need to understand why increasing a firm's revenues or market share is not always a good thing, how financial managers evaluate aspects of customer relations such as cash and credit management policies, and why a firm's brands are an important part of its value to investors.

**OPERATIONS** You need to understand the financial benefits of increasing a firm's production efficiency, why maximizing profit by cutting costs may not increase the firm's value, and how managers have a duty to act on behalf of investors when operating a corporation.

## In your **personal** life

Many principles of managerial finance also apply to your personal life. Learning a few simple principles can help you manage your own money more effectively.

## **BROOKDALE SENIOR LIVING**

## Is Brookdale's Management about to Be Retired?

ecent years have been tough for Brookdale Senior Living Inc., an operator of senior living facilities throughout the United States. From 2015 to 2019 its common stock lost 80% of its value while the broader



Kristoffer Tripplaar/Alamy Stock Photo

market rose by 57%, so Brookdale's poor performance was especially irritating to its investors. Expressing frustration at Brookdale's lackluster performance, one of its largest shareholders, an activist investing firm called Land and Buildings, issued a series of public letters to management and other shareholders demanding change. Land and Buildings called for Brookdale's management team to sell the physical real estate the company owned, distribute the proceeds from those sales directly to Brookdale shareholders, and sign contracts with the new property owners to manage the senior living facilities. Land and Buildings estimated that Brookdale could sell its real estate assets for as much as \$21 per share. In other words, they were arguing that Brookdale's assets would be more valuable under someone else's control.

Change was not forthcoming. Brookdale's management resisted selling its real-estate assets, which prompted Land and Buildings to fire off another public letter to shareholders, proposing, among other actions, that Brookdale fire two of its existing board members and replace them with directors with healthcare expertise and experience in managing real-estate portfolios. That was followed in July 2019 by a third Land and Buildings public missive, which cited Brookdale's persistently underperforming stock and complained of a "lack of urgency" on the part of senior management to "maximize value for all shareholders." Brookdale management responded by noting that its board had been significantly refreshed and that it had implemented other suggestions made by its activist shareholder. The stock managed an 8.5% gain for 2019, and tensions between the company and its investors eased temporarily, until the COVID-19 epidemic hit and contributed to a 67% drop in Brookdale's stock.

The recent saga of Brookdale Senior Living illustrates several key ideas in finance. First, Brookdale's shareholders believe that management has a responsibility to operate the firm in a manner that maximizes the value of the company's stock. Second, the actions of Brookdale's management team seem to be at odds with what is desired by at least some of the firm's shareholders. Third, when a firm's financial performance remains subpar for an extended period, investors and other outside entities may try to reverse that trend by intervening, even if that calls for buying the company to wrest control from the existing management team.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1. &</sup>quot;Land and Buildings issues letter to Brookdale Senior Living shareholders highlighting path to real estate monetization and maximizing shareholder value," Businesswire.com, December 20, 2016; "Activist shareholder pushes Brookdale to deliver on rumored deal," Seniorhousingnews.com, January 16, 2017; "Activist Brookdale Investor Withdraws Flaherty Board Nomination," seniorhousingnews.com, October 8, 2019.





## 1.1 Finance and the Firm

The field of finance is broad and dynamic. Finance influences everything that firms do, from hiring personnel to building factories to launching new advertising campaigns. Because almost any aspect of business has important financial dimensions, many financially oriented careers await those who understand the principles of finance. Even if you see yourself pursuing a career in another discipline such as marketing, operations, accounting, supply chain, or human resources, you'll find that understanding a few crucial ideas in finance will enhance your professional success. Knowing how financial managers think is important, especially if you're not one yourself, because they are often the gatekeepers of corporate resources. Fluency in the language of finance will improve your ability to communicate the value of your ideas to your employer. Financial knowledge will also make you a smarter consumer and a wiser investor.

## WHAT IS FINANCE?

## finance

The science and art of how individuals and firms raise, allocate, and invest money.

## managerial finance

Concerns the duties of the financial manager in a business.

Finance is the science and art of how individuals and firms raise, allocate, and invest money. The science of finance utilizes theories and concepts to establish general rules that can guide managers' decisions. The art of finance involves adapting theory to particular business situations with unique circumstances. Managerial finance is concerned with the responsibilities of a financial manager working in a business. Though business finance is the primary focus here, the principles of finance apply to both personal and professional decisions. At the personal level, for instance, finance helps individuals decide how much of their earnings to spend, how much to save, and how to invest their savings. Financial thinking helps consumers decide when borrowing money is appropriate and enables them to critically evaluate loan offers with different terms. In a business context, finance involves similar decisions: how firms raise money from investors, how they invest money to create value for their investors, and how they decide whether to reinvest earnings in the business or distribute them back to investors. The keys to good financial decisions are much the same for businesses and individuals, which is why most students will benefit from an understanding of finance regardless of their profession. Learning

## MATTER OF FACT

## Finance Professors Aren't Like Everyone Else

Financial advisors know that many people are willing to invest in the stock market if it has been rising and are reluctant to do so if it has been falling. Such "trend-chasing" behavior often leaves investors worse off than if they had invested consistently over time. Finance theory suggests that past performance of the stock market is a very poor predictor of future performance, and therefore individuals should not base investment decisions on the market's recent history. A survey found that at least one group of investors did not fall prey to trend chasing. When deciding whether to invest in stocks, finance professors were not influenced by the market's recent trend, presumably because they know that past performance does not predict the future. That's just one of the lessons in this book that can help you make better choices with your own money.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2.</sup> Hibbert, Lawrence, and Prakash, 2012, "Do finance professors invest like everyone else?" Financial Analysts Journal.

the techniques of good financial analysis will not only help you make better financial decisions as a consumer but will also help you understand the consequences of important business decisions, no matter what career path you follow.

## WHAT IS A FIRM?

What is a firm? Put simply, a firm is a business organization that sells goods or services. However, a more complete answer attempts to explain why firms exist. They exist because investors want access to risky investment opportunities. In other words, firms are risky business organizations that, if not for investors' willingness to bear risk, would have difficulty generating the necessary funds to operate. For example, most investors do not have the expertise or wealth required to start a high-tech company, so instead they invest in a company like Apple. Even though just a few individuals founded Apple in 1976, millions of investors poured vast amounts of additional money (i.e., investment capital) into the company to make it what it is today. So, ultimately, firms are intermediaries that bring together investors and risky investment opportunities. Firms pool investment capital, make risky investment decisions, and manage risky investments all on behalf of investors who would otherwise not be able to do so effectively or efficiently on their own.

## WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE FIRM?

What goal should managers pursue? This question has no shortage of possible answers. Some might argue that managers should focus entirely on satisfying customers. Firms pursuing this goal could measure their products' market shares to gauge progress. Others suggest that managers must first inspire and motivate employees; in that case, employee turnover might be the key success metric to watch. Clearly, the goal or goals that managers select will affect many of the decisions they make, so choosing an objective is a critical determinant of how businesses operate.

## Maximize Shareholder Wealth

Finance teaches that the primary goal of managers should be to maximize the wealth of the firm's owners—the stockholders or shareholders. Through the years, that recommendation has generated a lot of controversy. *The Economist* magazine once referred to shareholder value maximization as "the most powerful idea in business," and Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett has been a long-time proponent of the need for managers to put shareholders' interests first. In contrast, Jack Welch, the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of General Electric and a man *Fortune* magazine named "Manager of the Century," once called maximizing shareholder value "the dumbest idea in the world." Welch's assessment is particularly ironic because during his leadership, almost no company generated more wealth for its shareholders than General Electric. A \$1,000 investment in GE stock made in 1981 when Welch took the reigns as CEO would have grown to roughly \$67,000 by the time he retired in 2001. The simplest and best measure of stockholder wealth is the share price, so most finance textbooks (including ours) instruct managers to take actions that increase the firm's share price.

A common misconception is that when firms strive to make their shareholders happy, they do so at the expense of other constituencies such as customers, employees, or suppliers. This line of thinking ignores that a firm's relationships

with its broader stakeholders are valuable to shareholders, and in most cases, enriching shareholders requires managers to first satisfy the demands of other stakeholders. Dividends ultimately received by stockholders come from the firm's profits. It is unlikely, then, that a firm whose customers are unhappy with its products or services, whose employees are looking for jobs at other firms, whose suppliers are reluctant to ship raw materials, or whose creditors have cut it off will make shareholders rich because such a firm will likely be less profitable in the long run than one that better manages its relations with these stakeholder groups. In other words, competition forces managers who want to make shareholders wealthier to also address the concerns of other stakeholders. Firms compete with each other for customers, employees, suppliers, and creditors, so ignoring the interests of other stakeholders is not likely to create value for shareholders.

Therefore, we argue that the goal of the firm and its managers should be to maximize the wealth of the owners, which in most instances is equivalent to maximizing the stock price. This goal translates into a straightforward decision

## **FOCUS ON ETHICS**

## Do Corporate Executives Have a Social Responsibility?

In a corporation, shareholders rely on management to oversee day-to-day operations. In this relationship, stockholders are principals and management their agents. Accordingly, the first duty of a corporation's management team is to maximize shareholder wealth. What role should social responsibility—consideration of broader societal goals like slowing climate change—play in corporate decisions?

Fifty years ago, in a famous New York Times essay, Milton Friedman (winner of the 1976 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences) argued corporate executives have no social responsibility beyond conforming to the basic rules of society. Their sole aim should be serving the pecuniary interests of their employers, the shareholders (subject, of course, to the constraints of the law). When executives use corporate resources to pursue other ends, they are spending someone else's money. Because it is practically impossible to guess exactly how individual shareholders would like to see their money spent to better the world—which specific

social goals to pursue and how much to spend on each—management should focus exclusively on maximizing shareholder wealth and let shareholders use the proceeds to address social concerns on their own.

Friedman would acknowledge an exception to this doctrine. If use of corporate resources to pursue a social goal actually does more for stockholders financially than any alternative project (such as investment in a marketing campaign or new factories), then social responsibility is consistent with maximizing shareholder wealth. This may have been a consideration when Exxon Mobil—the world's largest publicly traded international oil and gas company—published its position on climate change:

We have the same concerns as people everywhere—and that is how to provide the world with the energy it needs while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The risk of climate change is clear and the risk warrants action.

Increasing carbon emissions in the atmosphere are having a warming effect. There is a broad scientific and policy consensus that action must be taken to further quantify and assess the risks.

ExxonMobil is taking action by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in its operations, helping consumers reduce their emissions, supporting research that leads to technology breakthroughs and participating in constructive dialogue on policy options.

Addressing climate change, providing economic opportunity and lifting billions out of poverty are complex and interrelated issues requiring complex solutions. There is a consensus that comprehensive strategies are needed to respond to these risks.<sup>3</sup>

► How would Friedman view a sole proprietor's use of firm resources to pursue social goals?

<sup>3.</sup> Friedman, Milton, "A Friedman Doctrine—The Social Responsibility of Business Is to Increase Its Profits." New York Times Magazine, September 13, 1970, pp. 33, 122–26; Leube, Kurt R., Essence of Friedman. Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution Press, 1987; Exxon Mobil's Perspective on Climate Change: http://corporate.exxonmobil.com/en/current-issues/climate-policy/climate-perspectives/our-position

rule: Managers should take only actions that they expect will increase the share-holders' wealth. Although that objective sounds simple, its implementation is not always easy. To determine whether a particular course of action will increase or decrease shareholders' wealth, managers have to assess what return (i.e., cash inflows net of cash outflows) and risk (i.e., the uncertainty of the net cash flows) the action will bring. How managers do that is the focus of this book.

## MATTER OF FACT

## Firms Accelerate Dividends So That Shareholders Save on Taxes

One way that firms can maximize the wealth of shareholders is by thinking carefully about the taxes their shareholders must pay on dividends. In 2003, Congress lowered the tax rate on most dividends paid to shareholders to 15%. However, the legislation contained a provision by which the tax cuts would expire in 2013 unless Congress acted to renew them. With a political compromise to renew the tax cuts looking unlikely in the 2012 election year, many firms announced plans to accelerate dividend payments they had planned to make in early 2013 to late 2012. The Washington Post Company, for example, announced that in December 2012, it would pay out the entire \$9.80 per share dividend that it had planned to distribute in 2013. The stock market approved, as Washington Post shares rose \$5. By accelerating their dividend payments, companies such as Washington Post, Expedia, Inc., and luxury goods producer Coach, Inc., were increasing the wealth of their shareholders by helping them save taxes.

## earnings per share (EPS)

The amount earned during the period on behalf of each outstanding share of stock, calculated by dividing the period's total earnings available for the firm's stockholders by the number of shares of stock outstanding.

## Maximize Profit?

It might seem intuitive that maximizing a firm's share price is equivalent to maximizing its profits. That thought is not always correct, however.

Corporations commonly measure profits in terms of earnings per share (EPS), which represent the amount earned during the period on behalf of each outstanding share of stock. Accountants calculate EPS by dividing the period's total earnings available for the firm's stockholders by the number of shares of stock outstanding.

## **EXAMPLE 1.1**

Nick Dukakis, the financial manager of Neptune Manufacturing, a producer of marine engine components, is choosing between two investments, Rotor and Valve. The following table shows the EPS Dukakis expects each investment to earn over its three-year life.

	Earnings per share (EPS)				
Investment	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total for years 1, 2, and 3	
Rotor	\$1.40	\$1.00	\$0.40	\$2.80	
Valve	0.60	1.00	1.40	3.00	

If Dukakis thought he should make decisions to maximize profits, he would recommend that Neptune invest in Valve rather than Rotor because it results in higher total earnings per share over the three-year period (\$3.00 EPS compared with \$2.80 EPS).

Does profit maximization lead to the highest share price? For at least three reasons, the answer is often no. First, timing matters. An investment that provides a small profit quickly may be preferable to one that produces a larger profit in the distant future. Second, profits and cash flows are not identical. Profit is simply an estimate of how a firm is doing, an estimate influenced by many different accounting choices made by firms when assembling their financial reports. Cash flow is a more straightforward measure of the money flowing into and out of the company than is profit. Companies must pay their bills with cash, not profits, so cash flow matters most to financial managers and investors. Third, risk is a major consideration. A firm that earns a low but reliable profit might be more valuable than another firm with profits that fluctuate a great deal (and therefore can be very high or very low at different times).

Timing Other things held constant, it is better to receive cash earlier than later because a firm can invest money it has today to earn more money for the future. In our example, even though the total earnings from Rotor are smaller than those from Valve, Rotor provides much greater earnings in the first year. It's possible that by investing in Rotor, Neptune Manufacturing can reinvest the first year's earnings to generate higher profits overall than if it had invested in project Valve. If the rate of return Neptune can earn on reinvested earnings is high enough, managers may do better to invest in project Rotor even though project Valve generates higher profits over the three years.

Cash Flows Profits do not necessarily result in cash flows available to stockholders. The accounting assumptions and techniques that a firm adopts may allow it to show a positive profit even when its cash outflows exceed cash inflows. Sometimes this is just a matter of timing. For instance, suppose a retail electronics store buys a laptop from a supplier in December for \$1,000 and sells it a few days later for \$1,500. The profit on this transaction for the month of December is \$500, but what is the cash flow? If the retailer pays its supplier \$1,000 in December but allows its customer to pay for the laptop a month later in January, then the retailer actually has a net cash outflow in December.

Cash flow can also be negative, even when profit is positive, if a firm is making big new investments. For example, in 2019 Exxon Mobil reported a profit of nearly \$15 billion, but its cash flow for the year was negative because it invested more than \$24 billion to expand operations. The money invested in new plant and equipment does not all count as an expense against profit in the year it is spent because Exxon Mobil will generate revenue from that spending for many years. Thus, the company looked profitable even though it spent more cash than it brought in.

For these and other reasons, higher earnings do not necessarily produce a higher stock price. Earnings increases that signal increases in future cash flows produce higher stock prices. For example, a firm could increase its earnings this period by reducing its maintenance expenditures. If that results in lower future product quality, however, the firm may impair its competitive position, and its stock price could drop as investors anticipate lower future cash flows. Increasing earnings today by sacrificing cash flow tomorrow may lead to a lower stock price.

#### risk

The chance that actual outcomes may differ from those expected.

## stakeholders

Groups such as employees, customers, suppliers, creditors, and others who have a direct economic link to the firm but are not owners.

Risk Profit maximization also fails to account for risk, the chance that actual outcomes may differ from those expected. A basic premise in finance is that a tradeoff exists between return and risk. In general, stockholders are risk averse, which means they are willing to bear risk only if they expect compensation for doing so. In other words, investors demand higher returns on riskier investments, and they will accept lower returns on relatively safe investments. What this signifies in terms of the goal of the firm is that maximizing profits may not maximize the stock price. Suppose one firm is slightly more profitable than another but operates in a much riskier industry. Investors may well be willing to pay a higher price for the stock of the firm that produces lower but more predictable profits.

Putting these last two ideas together, we can say that cash flow and risk affect share price differently. Holding risk fixed, investors will pay more for the stock of a firm that generates higher cash flows (i.e., higher returns). In contrast, holding cash flow fixed, investors will pay more for shares that are less risky because they do not like risk.

## Maximize Stakeholders' Welfare?

Critics of the view that managers should maximize shareholders' wealth have advanced an alternative goal advocating a balanced consideration of the welfare of shareholders and other stakeholders. Stakeholders are individuals who are not owners of the firm but who nevertheless have some economic interest in it. Stakeholders include employees, suppliers, customers, and even members of the community where a firm is located. Those who argue that firms should focus on stakeholders' interests maintain that shareholder value maximization as a business objective is far too narrow. This stakeholder view is widely held and indeed is reflected in the corporate law of countries such as Germany, France, and Japan, whereas the shareholder primacy is more common in the United States and the United Kingdom.

We see a number of flaws in recommending that firms neglect shareholders' interests in favor of a broader stakeholder perspective. First, as we have already pointed out, maximizing shareholder wealth does not in any way imply that managers should ignore the interests of everyone else connected to a firm. Managers cannot maximize the value of a firm if their employees, customers, and suppliers are constantly dissatisfied—usually those stakeholders are free to do business with other firms. A recent study found that when firms were added to *Fortune* magazine's list of the best companies to work for (presumably a sign of labor-friendly practices), their stock prices jumped.<sup>4</sup> This evidence led the study's authors to conclude that the benefits of labor-friendly practices outweigh the costs. Apparently, what is good for employees is also good for shareholders.

Second, proponents of the stakeholder perspective often argue that in pursuit of maximizing shareholder value, managers take actions that push up the stock price in the short run to the detriment of the firm's long-run performance. In fact, to maximize shareholder value, managers must necessarily assess the long-term consequences of their actions because investors will certainly do so.

<sup>4.</sup> Olubunmi Faleye and Emery Trahan, "Labor-friendly corporate practices: Is what is good for employees good for shareholders?" *Journal of Investing*, June 2011.

To illustrate, consider that in 2019, Netflix reported earnings per share (EPS) for the year of \$4.13, and over the same period Yum! Brands (operator of fast-food brands such as KFC and Taco Bell) reported an almost identical \$4.14 EPS. Yet the stock prices of these two companies could not have been more different. In early 2020, when both companies announced their 2019 results, Netflix stock was trading for roughly \$375 per share, whereas a share of Yum! Brands stock was worth about \$100. In other words, investors were willing to pay almost four times more for shares of Netflix even though it reported virtually the same EPS as Yum! Why? Several factors may contribute, but the most plausible answer is that investors envision rosier long-term prospects for Netflix. If the only matter of concern to investors was short-term profits, then the prices of Netflix and Yum! should have been much closer because their profits, at least in the short term, were nearly identical.

Third, the stakeholder perspective is intrinsically difficult to implement, and advocates of the idea that managers should consider all stakeholders' interests do not typically indicate how managers should carry it out. For example, how much emphasis should managers place on the interests of different stakeholder groups? Are the interests of employees more or less important than the desires of customers? Should members of the local community who do no business with the firm have an equal say with the firm's suppliers or creditors? When different stakeholder groups disagree on the action a firm should take, how should managers make important decisions? In contrast, the goal of shareholder maximization clarifies what actions managers should take.

Fourth, many people misinterpret the statement that managers should maximize shareholder wealth as implying that managers should take any action, including illegal or unethical actions, that increases the stock price. Even the most ardent supporters of shareholder value maximization as the firm's primary goal acknowledge that managers must act within ethical and legal boundaries.

## THE ROLE OF BUSINESS ETHICS

## Business ethics are standards of conduct or moral judgment that apply to per-

taining high ethical standards.

sons engaged in commerce. Violations of these standards involve a variety of actions: "creative accounting," earnings management, misleading financial forecasts, insider trading, fraud, bribery, and kickbacks. The press has reported many such violations in recent years, involving such well-known companies as Facebook, which was hit with a record \$5 billion fine for mishandling users' information, and Volkswagen, where engineers set up elaborate deceptions to get around pollution controls. In these and similar cases, the offending companies suffered various penalties, including fines levied by government agencies, damages paid to plaintiffs in lawsuits, or lost revenues from customers who abandoned the firms because of their errant behavior. Most companies have adopted formal ethical standards, although adherence to and enforcement of those standards vary. The goal of such standards is to motivate business and market participants to abide by both the letter and the spirit of laws and regulations concerned with business and professional practice. Most business leaders believe that businesses actually strengthen their competitive positions by main-

## business ethics

Standards of conduct or moral judgment that apply to persons engaged in commerce.