

Chapter 1: Framework for Business Analysis Using Financial Statements

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Key Concepts in Chapter 1

• Financial statements are an important source of information to the capital markets and business analysts.

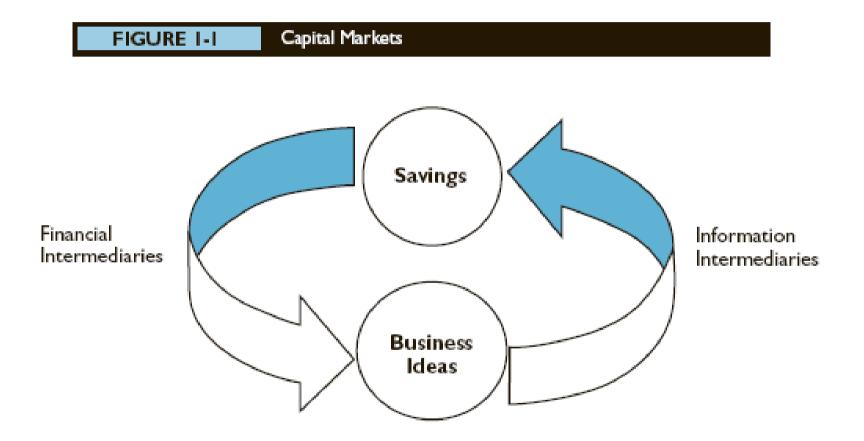
 Analyzing financial statements addresses a number of issues of interest to external stakeholders and company insiders.

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The Role of Financial Reporting in Capital Markets

- Financial reporting provide much needed information to capital market participants
 - Financial intermediaries depend upon the information in financial statements to evaluate investment opportunities.
 - Information intermediaries assure the quality of financial statement representations.
 - Relevant and reliable financial information is essential for the functioning of capital markets.

How Capital Markets Function

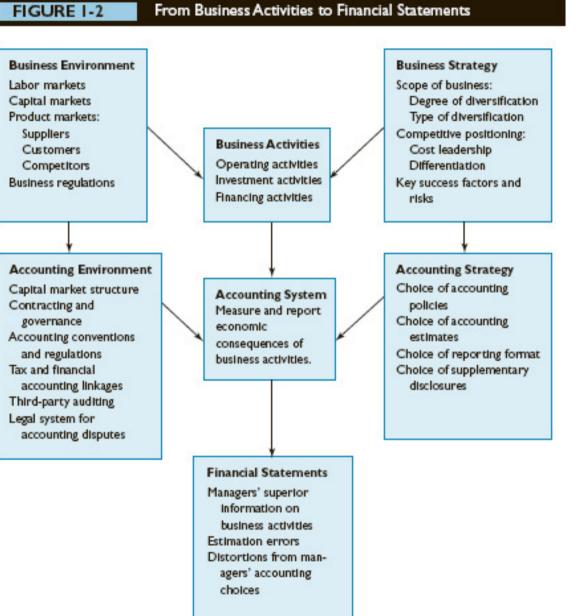


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From Business Activities to Financial Statements

- Financial statements measure and summarize the economic consequences of business activities.
- Accounting systems facilitate information quality.
 - The role of accrual basis accounting.
 - The need for generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).
 - Auditing and the quality of financial information.

From Business Activities to Financial Statements



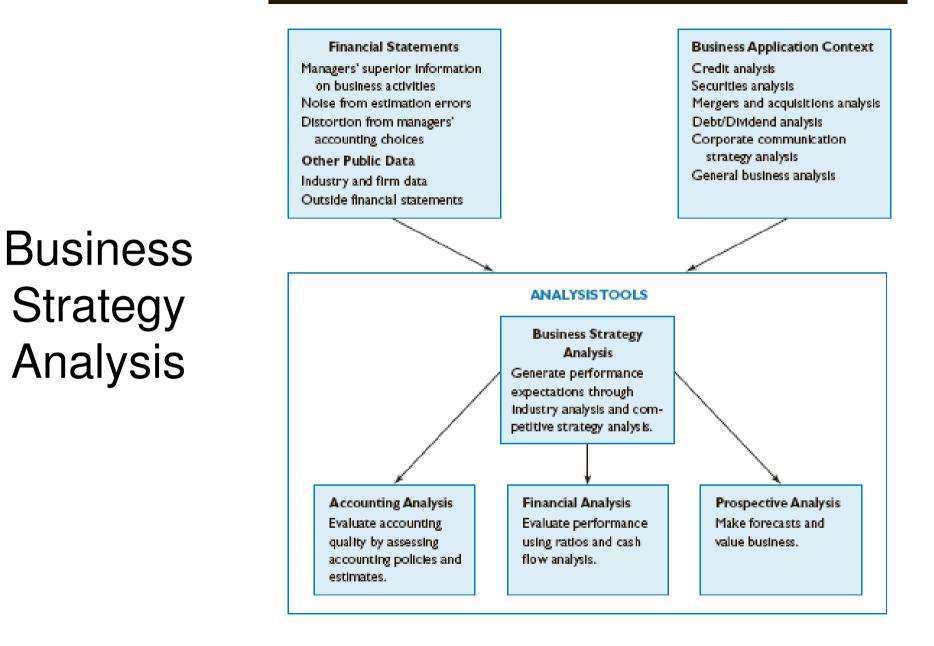
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Financial Statements and Business Analysis

 Business intermediaries use financial statements to accomplish four key objectives:

- Business strategy analysis
- Accounting analysis
- Financial analysis
- Prospective analysis

FIGURE 1-3 Analysis Using Financial Statements



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Concluding Comments

- Financial statements are source of widely available data on publicly traded corporations.
- Accrual basis accounting attempts to accurately reflect expectations of economic performance, but requires careful analysis.
- This chapter has outlined a useful framework for business analysis using financial statements.