

Impact of inflation accounting on organizational decisions in indian retail stores- A review study

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Abstract

The inflation accounting technique allows a business to show or have a sensible picture of their gains due to present cost coordinates with present revenues. Thus, the effects of inflation accounting on organizational decisions of Indian retail stores were evaluated in this study. The study used a qualitative research method. The findings of this study highlighted positive relationships between the variables that were used. Thus, the study recommends that retail stores always consider inflation changes and apply inflation accounting techniques to make adjustments to produce more accurate results in their financial statements. Heated discussions now surround the basis of financial performance measurement via historical cost accounting, this influences their decision making and financial performance positively.

Keywords inflation, historical cost, accounting, financial statements, Exploratory Factor Analysis, Bombay stock exchange, India.

1. Introduction

Inflation accounting is better known as 'price level accounting'. It is a special accounting technique used to adjust the financial statements. The company's financial statements are adjusted when there is a material amount of price inflation, causing historical information on the financial statements to be irrelevant or less useful. A lot of retail stores are dependent on financial statements that are based on historical information. Information becomes less useful to the business and the users of financial statements because inflation has not been considered. Using historical costs on financial statements is unsuitable as figures become distorted and less reliable. Also, amounts are overstated on financial statements. The overstatement causes a false comparison, and a reflection of the business's weak point becomes difficult to pin out. It cannot be denied that a historical cost basis is good when one needs to measure assets. However, problems are encountered when prices shift over time between the dates when assets were bought and the current date. In this case, using historical costs will not be relevant if the main reason to take a measurement is to show the most recent economic gain reflected by the financial performance.

Reliability is essential in financial statements so that the information presented is useful. Reliable information comes in handy when business decisions have to be made. Moreover, if proper business decisions are made, there will be an improvement in financial performance. With that being said, financial statements would be more practical to the retail stores. An economic entity prefers income calculated correctly, considering the effects of inflation to ascertain the real purchasing power of such profit. When financial statements are measured and presented on a historical cost basis, they ignore the effects of changes in price levels of assets and transactions if inflation accounting is used as inflation is a continuous problem that influences the accounting system. Retail stores must use inflation accounting as it reflects the true value of the business. Nearly the same is that it reviews any suspicious amounts, which may be performed on a historical cost basis that may show big amounts of tax and profits. The business will always be at risk if correct methods are not applied because retailers deem inflation accounting as too complex to understand. Therefore, retailers must use inflation



accounting to prevent financial statements from being reported incorrectly, especially when inflation and interest rates shift drastically.

This study highlights the value and encourages retail stores to use inflation accounting. This paper aims to fill the misinformation gap that the retail stores have and direct them to improve their financial wellbeing. Accordingly, this paper acts as a tool to analyze and further elucidate the subject matter and add to the existing knowledge and literature. Since inflation is a chronic case, it should be accounted for by companies. Thus, the companies can evaluate and adjust financial statements more realistically to overcome the changes made by inflation developments. It is worthy to note that accounting methods estimates and interpretations of financial statements are recurrent accounting issues. Annual reports must be accurate to make correct organizational decisions, improve business quality and performance. This study highlights the appropriate measures that should be taken during periods of high inflation and prepares companies to use methods that should be applied in the case of high inflation developments in the future.

2. Objective of Inflation Accounting

1. To enable more realistic and comparable statistical analysis of the financial statements of other companies. Profit and loss in inflation accounting reflect the true condition of a company.
2. To provide meaningful financial ratios with current value adjustments.

2.1 The Main Advantage of Inflation Accounting are:

1. Inflation accounting reflects the current balance sheet of a company and not the historical one.
2. It is helpful during general inflation or hyperinflation, as during such cases, it delivers a lot of benefits to its customers.

2.2 The Limiting Disadvantages of Inflation Accounting Are:

1. Inflation accounting is a complicated process, making it more difficult to reinstate the figures of the company and present these to the investors.
2. It creates moral hazard issues for businesses that deceive customers with their finances.

3. Inflation Accounting Methods

There are two main methods used in inflation accounting—
Current Purchasing Power (CPP) and Current Cost Accounting (CCA).

3.1 Current Purchasing Power (CPP)

Under the CPP method, monetary items and nonmonetary items are separated. The accounting adjustment for monetary items is subject to the recording of a net gain or loss. Nonmonetary items (those that do not carry a fixed value) are updated into figures with an inflation conversion factor equivalent to the consumer price index (CPI) at the end of the period divided by CPI at the date of transaction.

3.2 Current Cost Accounting (CCA)

The CCA approach values assets at their **fair market value** (FMV) rather than historical cost, the price incurred during the purchase of the fixed asset. Under the CCA method, both monetary and nonmonetary items are restated to current values.

4. Literature Review

Empirical review on the consideration of inflation in organizational decisions for retail stores. Aphr (2018) states that his research was conducted to understand about how people would react to inflation and expectations, based on the amount of knowledge they have. Also, individuals failed to understand the relationship between inflation and prices and were unaware of past and future inflation measures. This could mean that the respondents have a limited understanding of the whole inflation concept and therefore fail to know food prices and inflation. Moreover, managing inflation expectations is very important because it is the core aspect of monetary policy. According to Pillier et al. (2015), secretive cultures prevent users from seeing the upward movements of inflation in financial statements because it is easy to conceal earnings and asset values. Businesses engage in these concealments to avoid the responsibility of accounting to external investors. Pillier et al. (2016) mention that the valuation impact of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) on capital markets is now a foundational international matter in question. With over 120 countries that are developed or underdeveloped, they should be adopting IFRS. Financial statements' effectiveness for economic decisions depends entirely on the accounting principles used in preparing data and its validity.

Fais and Jhon (2015) pointed out that reducing the time it takes to collect trade receivables and increasing the number of days it takes to settle commercial obligations are linked to increased profitability. Additionally, profitability is characterized by increased return on assets combined with a decrease in working capital.

Muhammad et al. (2016) explained that inflation accounting is among the most important components of profitability, and it can be used by businesses to enhance their profitability. Further research showed that working capital components are associated with profitability, which is a clear indication that if there is a boost in the loop of future profitability, it would negatively influence effectiveness. Additionally, restricting the cash conversion cycle or the loop of future profitability to the most straightforward probable point, developing a sound



working capital policy or capital investment framework, and concentrating intensely on each component can help directors generate a particular amount for the company. Vintla and Nnu (2017) said that liabilities, overdrafts, and cash are utilized to meet the changeable and fixed costs of the manufacturing development and procure reserve for resale. Profitability or sustainability is clearly defined as the connection involving expenses and revenue and the company's existing achievements, promising expected growth, and WCM. Highlighting the relevance of profitability, Cakici et al. (2017) concluded that profitability is among the four segments used by different firms to analyze their economic declarations and performance. Efficiency, solvency, and market hopes are the other three. These critical impressions are used by managers, creditors, and investors to assess the company's success and future potential if activities are carried out properly.

5. Conclusion

Inflation accounting reflects the actual value of a business but has several drawbacks, including non-acceptance by authorities or complicated systems and processes. A financial statement's purpose is to provide a business with an accurate and fair value. Accordingly, an income statement should show the company's actual and precise profit or loss for a specific period, while a balance sheet should indicate the company's true financial position. Due to regular fluctuations in currency and money, a method such as inflation accounting is necessary to reflect accurate and fair value in financial statements. So, the business will not experience significant deviations due to this method.

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Conflict of Interest

In this manuscript the authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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