

How to Read Financial Ratios



Area	Ratio	Formula	Benchmark	Increasing Means	Decreasing Means
Liquidity	Current	$\frac{\text{Current Assets}}{\text{Current Liabilities}}$	<1.5 times	Increasing means there is more capital assets (Favourable) (note the Inventory).	Decreasing means there are less assets or more liabilities. (unfavourable) (again note what's happening to inventory)
	Quick	$\frac{\text{Current Assets} - \text{Inventory}}{\text{Current Liabilities}}$	>0.75	Increasing means there are more non inventory Current Assets (eg: Cash at bank) (Favourable).	Decreasing means the company has significant inventories
Operating	Days Receivables	$\frac{\text{Trade Receivables}}{\text{Sales}} \times 365$		The customers are taking longer to pay.	The customers are paying quicker
	Days Payables	$\frac{\text{Trade Payables}}{\text{Cost of Goods Sold}} \times 365$		We're taking longer to pay our suppliers.	We're paying our suppliers quicker.
	Days Inventory	$\frac{\text{Inventory}}{\text{Cost of Goods Sold}} \times 365$		Increasing means we're holding more inventory. May also indicate Obsolete Stock.	Decreasing means we're holding less stock. Could mean we're growing quickly, turning it over more quickly, plant / supply issues.
	Sales to Assets	$\frac{\text{Sales}}{\text{Total Assets}}$	Realestate, construction, airlines, mining	the assets are being used more efficiently	The assets are being used less efficiently.
Financing	Debt to Equity	$\frac{\text{Total Liabilities}}{\text{Total Equity}}$		increasing means we're taking on more debt and increasing our gearing.	Decreasing means we're paying off debt or taking on more equity. Decreasing our gearing.
	Interest Bearing Debt to Equity	$\frac{\text{Interest Bearing Liabilities}}{\text{Total Equity}}$		indicates we're taking on more bank loans	Indicates we're paying off the bank loans,
	Interest Cover	$\frac{\text{EBIT}}{\text{Interest Expense}}$	> 3 or 4 times	Increasing indicates we're more likely to meet the interest payments from the bank (Favourable)	Decreasing indicates we're less likely to cover the interest required to be paid (unfavourable)
Profitability Ratios	Gross Profit Margin	$\frac{\text{Gross Profit}}{\text{Sales}} \times 100$		Making more money, Either from more sales, Higher Prices or lower Cost Of Goods.	You making less money either from Lower Prices, lower Sales, or higher Costs of goods.
	EBIT	$\frac{\text{EBIT}}{\text{Sales}} \times 100$		Your making more profit	your making less profit
	ROA (return on Assets)	$\frac{\text{EBIT}}{\text{Total Assets}} \times 100$	>5% >10% high risk	The organisation is more successful at using its assets to drive profit	The organisation is less successful at utilizing assets to drive profit.
	ROE (return on Equity)	$\frac{\text{NPAT}}{\text{Total Equity}} \times 100$	>5% >10% high risk	The organisation is making more Net Profit After Tax giving shareholders a greater return for their equity	The organisation is making Less Net Profit After Tax giving shareholders a worse return for their equity