

financial formulas cheat sheet

financial formulas cheat sheet is an invaluable resource for students, professionals, and anyone interested in understanding the fundamentals of financial analysis and decision-making. Whether you're a finance student preparing for exams, an investor evaluating potential investments, or a business owner managing cash flows, having a solid grasp of essential financial formulas can greatly enhance your ability to interpret data, forecast future trends, and make informed decisions. This comprehensive cheat sheet covers the most commonly used financial formulas, breaking down complex concepts into easy-to-understand components. From time value of money to investment returns, this guide will serve as your go-to reference for mastering key financial calculations.

Understanding the Time Value of Money (TVM)

Present Value (PV)

The present value formula calculates how much a future sum of money is worth today, considering a specific discount rate. It is essential for valuing investments, loans, or any future cash flows.

Formula:

$$PV = FV / (1 + r)^n$$

Where:

- PV = Present Value
- FV = Future Value
- r = discount rate per period
- n = number of periods

Future Value (FV)

The future value formula determines what an investment made today will be worth at a future date, accounting for interest or returns.

Formula:

$$FV = PV \times (1 + r)^n$$

Key Concepts in TVM

- Discount rate (r): The rate used to discount future cash flows back to their present value.
- Periods (n): The number of compounding periods.
- Compounding frequency: How often interest is compounded (annually, semi-

annually, quarterly, monthly).

Loan and Amortization Calculations

Loan Payment (PMT)

Calculates the fixed payment amount needed to repay a loan over a specified period with a fixed interest rate.

Formula:

$$\text{PMT} = [P \times r(1 + r)^n] / [(1 + r)^n - 1]$$

Where:

- P = principal loan amount
- r = interest rate per period
- n = total number of payments

Amortization Schedule

An amortization schedule details each payment's allocation toward interest and principal over the loan term. Key calculations include:

- Interest Payment = Outstanding Principal $\times$ r
- Principal Repayment = Total Payment – Interest Payment
- Remaining Balance = Previous Balance – Principal Repayment

Investment and Return Metrics

Return on Investment (ROI)

ROI measures the profitability of an investment.

Formula:

$$\text{ROI} = (\text{Net Profit} / \text{Cost of Investment}) \times 100\%$$

Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)

CAGR indicates the mean annual growth rate of an investment over a specified period.

Formula:

$$\text{CAGR} = (\text{FV} / \text{PV})^{(1 / n)} - 1$$

Internal Rate of Return (IRR)

IRR is the discount rate that makes the net present value (NPV) of all cash flows from a project or investment equal to zero. It is often used to assess profitability.

Note: IRR calculation typically requires iterative methods or financial calculators.

Financial Ratios and Analysis

Liquidity Ratios

- Current Ratio:

$\text{Current Assets} / \text{Current Liabilities}$

Indicates the company's ability to meet short-term obligations.

- Quick Ratio:

$(\text{Current Assets} - \text{Inventory}) / \text{Current Liabilities}$

Provides a more stringent measure of liquidity.

Profitability Ratios

- Net Profit Margin:

$(\text{Net Profit} / \text{Revenue}) \times 100\%$

Shows how much profit is generated from revenue.

- Return on Assets (ROA):

$\text{Net Income} / \text{Total Assets}$

Measures how efficiently assets generate profit.

- Return on Equity (ROE):

$\text{Net Income} / \text{Shareholder's Equity}$

Indicates profitability for shareholders.

Leverage Ratios

- Debt-to-Equity Ratio:

$\text{Total Debt} / \text{Shareholders' Equity}$

Assesses financial leverage and risk.

Valuation Metrics

Price-to-Earnings (P/E) Ratio

Indicates how much investors are willing to pay per dollar of earnings.

Formula:

$$\text{P/E Ratio} = \text{Market Price per Share} / \text{Earnings per Share (EPS)}$$

Dividend Yield

Shows how much a company pays out in dividends relative to its stock price.

Formula:

$$\text{Dividend Yield} = \text{Annual Dividends per Share} / \text{Market Price per Share}$$

Enterprise Value (EV)

Represents the total value of a company, including debt and equity.

Formula:

$$\text{EV} = \text{Market Capitalization} + \text{Total Debt} - \text{Cash and Cash Equivalents}$$

Budgeting and Forecasting

Break-Even Point (BEP)

The level of sales at which total revenues equal total costs, resulting in zero profit.

Formula:

$$\text{BEP (Units)} = \text{Fixed Costs} / \text{Contribution Margin per Unit}$$

Contribution Margin

The amount remaining from sales revenue after variable costs are deducted.

Formula:

$$\text{Contribution Margin per Unit} = \text{Selling Price per Unit} - \text{Variable Cost per Unit}$$

Additional Useful Financial Formulas

- Net Present Value (NPV):

$$NPV = \sum (Cash\ inflow_t - Cash\ outflow_t) / (1 + r)^t$$

Calculates the value of a series of cash flows discounted at rate r .

- **Payback Period:**

Time it takes for cumulative cash flows to equal initial investment.

- **Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR):**

Net Operating Income / Total Debt Service

Measures a company's ability to cover debt payments.

Conclusion

Mastering these financial formulas equips you with the tools necessary to analyze financial statements, evaluate investment opportunities, and make strategic business decisions. While memorizing these formulas is helpful, understanding the context and assumptions behind each calculation is equally important. Regular practice and application of these formulas will enhance your financial literacy and confidence. Keep this cheat sheet handy as a quick reference, and continue exploring deeper financial concepts to build a robust understanding of the financial landscape.

Remember: Always verify the formulas according to your specific context, as variations may exist depending on the financial environment or industry standards.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the formula for calculating compound interest?

The compound interest formula is $A = P (1 + r/n)^{nt}$, where A is the amount, P is the principal, r is the annual interest rate (decimal), n is the number of times interest is compounded per year, and t is the time in years.

How do you calculate the debt-to-equity ratio?

Debt-to-equity ratio = Total Liabilities / Shareholders' Equity. It measures a company's financial leverage and indicates how much debt is used to finance assets relative to shareholders' equity.

What is the formula to compute return on investment

(ROI)?

$ROI = (\text{Net Profit} / \text{Cost of Investment}) \times 100\%$. It shows the percentage return gained from an investment relative to its cost.

How do you determine the present value of a future sum?

Present value (PV) = $\text{Future Value} / (1 + r)^n$, where r is the discount rate per period and n is the number of periods. It discounts future cash flows to their current worth.

What is the formula for calculating the break-even point in units?

Break-even point (units) = $\text{Fixed Costs} / (\text{Selling Price per Unit} - \text{Variable Cost per Unit})$. It indicates the number of units to sell to cover all costs.

Additional Resources

Financial formulas cheat sheet – an essential resource for students, professionals, and investors alike—serves as a quick reference guide to navigate the complex world of finance. Mastering these formulas not only enhances one's ability to evaluate investments, manage risks, and make informed decisions but also provides a solid foundation for understanding broader financial concepts. In this comprehensive review, we will explore key financial formulas, their applications, and the insights they offer, structured through detailed explanations and practical examples.

Introduction to Financial Formulas

Financial formulas are mathematical tools used to quantify various aspects of finance, from assessing a company's profitability to estimating the value of investments. They simplify complex calculations into manageable formulas, enabling analysts and investors to make objective, data-driven decisions. These formulas can be broadly categorized into areas such as valuation, investment analysis, risk assessment, and financial ratios.

Understanding these formulas requires not only memorization but also an appreciation of their assumptions, limitations, and contextual relevance. This cheat sheet aims to demystify core concepts, offering clarity and confidence in applying them across different financial scenarios.

Valuation Formulas

Valuation is fundamental in finance, helping determine the worth of assets, companies, or investments. Accurate valuation guides investment decisions, mergers, acquisitions, and financial planning.

1. Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) Valuation

Formula:

$$\text{DCF} = \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{CF_t}{(1+r)^t} + \frac{TV}{(1+r)^n}$$

Where:

- CF_t : Cash flow in period t
- r : Discount rate (cost of capital)
- n : Number of periods
- TV : Terminal value at the end of period n

Explanation:

DCF valuation estimates the present value of expected future cash flows, adjusting for the time value of money. This method is particularly useful for valuing companies or projects with predictable cash flows. The terminal value accounts for the value beyond the forecast period, capturing the ongoing worth of the business.

Practical Application:

Investors use DCF to determine whether a stock is undervalued or overvalued relative to its intrinsic worth, guiding buy or sell decisions.

2. Enterprise Value (EV)

Formula:

$$\text{EV} = \text{Market Capitalization} + \text{Total Debt} - \text{Cash and Cash Equivalents}$$

Explanation:

Enterprise value offers a comprehensive measure of a company's total value, considering both equity and debt. It is especially useful in acquisition

scenarios, as it reflects the cost to purchase the entire firm.

Investment Analysis Formulas

Evaluating investments requires understanding returns, risks, and efficiency. These formulas help quantify potential gains and assess whether an investment aligns with strategic goals.

1. Return on Investment (ROI)

Formula:

$$\text{ROI} = \frac{\text{Net Profit}}{\text{Cost of Investment}} \times 100\%$$

Explanation:

ROI measures the efficiency or profitability of an investment. A higher ROI indicates better performance, making it a quick metric to compare different investment options.

2. Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)

Formula:

$$\text{CAGR} = \left(\frac{V_f}{V_i} \right)^{1/n} - 1$$

Where:

- V_f : Final value
- V_i : Initial value
- n : Number of years

Explanation:

CAGR provides a smoothed annual growth rate over a period, essential for comparing growth rates across investments or assets with volatile returns.

3. Internal Rate of Return (IRR)

Definition:

IRR is the discount rate that makes the net present value (NPV) of all cash flows equal to zero.

Application:

While no closed-form formula exists, IRR is calculated iteratively using financial calculator or software, aiding in project evaluation and capital budgeting.

Financial Ratios and Metrics

Financial ratios provide quick insights into a company's operational efficiency, liquidity, profitability, and solvency.

1. Liquidity Ratios

- Current Ratio:

$$\text{Current Ratio} = \frac{\text{Current Assets}}{\text{Current Liabilities}}$$

- Quick Ratio (Acid-Test):

$$\text{Quick Ratio} = \frac{\text{Current Assets} - \text{Inventory}}{\text{Current Liabilities}}$$

These ratios assess a company's ability to meet short-term obligations.

2. Profitability Ratios

- Gross Profit Margin:

$$\text{Gross Margin} = \frac{\text{Gross Profit}}{\text{Revenue}} \times 100\%$$

- Net Profit Margin:

$$\text{Net Margin} = \frac{\text{Net Profit}}{\text{Revenue}} \times 100\%$$

- Return on Assets (ROA):

$$\text{ROA} = \frac{\text{Net Income}}{\text{Average Total Assets}} \times$$

100\% \]

- Return on Equity (ROE):

$$\text{ROE} = \frac{\text{Net Income}}{\text{Shareholders' Equity}} \times 100\%$$

These measure profitability and efficiency in generating earnings.

3. Solvency Ratios

- Debt-to-Equity Ratio:

$$\text{Debt-to-Equity} = \frac{\text{Total Debt}}{\text{Shareholders' Equity}}$$

- Interest Coverage Ratio:

$$\text{Interest Coverage} = \frac{\text{EBIT}}{\text{Interest Expense}}$$

These ratios evaluate a company's leverage and ability to service debt.

Risk and Return Metrics

Quantifying risk is critical in finance, influencing portfolio construction and risk management strategies.

1. Beta (β)

Definition:

Beta measures the sensitivity of an asset's returns relative to the overall market.

Formula:

$$\beta = \frac{\text{Covariance of asset and market returns}}{\text{Variance of market returns}}$$

Interpretation:

- $\beta > 1$: Asset is more volatile than the market.
- $\beta < 1$: Asset is less volatile.

- $\beta = 1$: Asset moves in tandem with the market.

2. Expected Return (using CAPM)

Formula:

$$R_e = R_f + \beta (R_m - R_f)$$

Where:

- R_e : Expected return of the asset
- R_f : Risk-free rate
- R_m : Expected market return
- $R_m - R_f$: Market risk premium

Application:

CAPM helps estimate the expected return based on systematic risk, guiding portfolio optimization.

Cost of Capital Calculations

Calculating the cost of capital is vital for investment appraisal and valuation.

1. Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC)

Formula:

$$\text{WACC} = \frac{E}{V} R_e + \frac{D}{V} R_d (1 - T)$$

Where:

- E : Market value of equity
- D : Market value of debt
- $V = E + D$: Total value
- R_e : Cost of equity
- R_d : Cost of debt
- T : Corporate tax rate

Explanation:

WACC reflects the average rate a company must pay to finance its assets,

considering the proportional costs of debt and equity.

Leverage and Capital Structure Formulas

Understanding how leverage affects a firm's risk and return is essential for strategic financial management.

1. Degree of Financial Leverage (DFL)

Formula:

$$\text{DFL} = \frac{\text{EBIT}}{\text{EBIT} - \text{Interest Expense}}$$

2. Operating Leverage:

$$\text{Operating Leverage} = \frac{\text{Contribution Margin}}{\text{Net Operating Income}}$$

High leverage indicates greater sensitivity of net income to changes in sales.

Conclusion: The Power of Financial Formulas

Mastering these financial formulas is more than an academic exercise; it empowers stakeholders to interpret financial data critically, make strategic decisions, and evaluate risks effectively. Whether assessing a company's intrinsic value through DCF, analyzing profitability via ratios, or calculating risk premiums with CAPM, these formulas provide a robust toolkit for navigating the dynamic landscape of finance.

While formulas are invaluable, they must be applied thoughtfully, considering the context, assumptions, and limitations inherent in each calculation. As financial markets evolve, so does the complexity of these metrics, underscoring the importance of continuous learning and analytical rigor.

In essence, this cheat sheet offers a foundational compass, guiding users through the quantitative terrain of finance with clarity and confidence. By integrating these formulas into daily analysis, professionals can

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