

MATHEMATICS OF RETAILING

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this chapter, student should be able to :

- explain retail price, cost price, markup and markdown,
- compute markup per cent,
- compute markdown per cent, and
- compute gross profit, operating expenses, net profit and breakeven price.

INTRODUCTION

- Business of buying and selling products at a profit
- Cost is what you pay the vendor for products.
- Retail/ Selling Price is what your customers pay for these products.

IMPORTANT TERMS

- **Selling Price** (Retail price): the price of merchandise being sold.
- **Cost**: the price paid for merchandise which includes net price , buying expenses , transportation and handling charges.
- **Markup**: the difference between the cost and selling or retail price. It usually must be enough to pay expenses and make a profit. Its sometimes called gross profit or gross margin.
- **Operating Expenses**: the cost of running a business operation including such expenses as wages, salaries, rent, utilities , advertising and insurance.
- **Gross profit**: the difference between the selling price and cost when the selling price exceeds the cost of the item.
- **Loss**: the difference between the gross profit and the operating expenses when the operating expenses exceed the gross profit.
- **Net profit**: the difference between the gross profit and operating expenses when the gross profit exceeds the operating expenses.

MARKUP

- **Markup = Retail Price – Cost**
- Markup can be either in amount or a percent. When it is expressed as a percent, it is expressed as a percent of cost or selling price (retail price).
 - % of markup based on selling/retail price

$$\frac{\textit{markup amount}}{\textit{selling price}} \times 100\%$$

- % of markup based on cost

$$\frac{\textit{markup amount}}{\textit{cost price}} \times 100\%$$

CONVERSION OF MARKUP PERCENT

The following formula converted markup percent based on retail to markup percent based on cost and vice versa.

a) markup percent based on retail price,

$$\%M_r = \frac{\%M_c}{1 + \%M_c}$$

b) markup percent based on cost price

$$\%M_c = \frac{\%M_r}{1 - \%M_r}$$

MARKDOWN

- Merchants often have to **reduce the price** of merchandise from the price which it was originally marked.
- *This reduction may be due to seasonal changes, special promotions, style changes* and so on .
- *Markdown are reductions from the selling price.*

- Markdown = original retail price – new retail price

$$\mathbf{MD = OSP - NSP}$$

- Where **MD** = markdown
OSP = original retail/selling price
NSP = new retail/selling price

The markdown percent ,%MD based on original selling price , OSP is expressed as follows

Markdown percent , %MD

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{\text{markdown amount}}{\text{original selling price}} \times 100\% \\ &= \frac{MD}{OSP} \times 100\% \end{aligned}$$

Sometimes sellers has to decide what is the lowest price he or she can sell a product without incurring any loss. Thus, the seller can determine the Maximum markdown (MD) as

$$\begin{aligned} &= \text{retail price} - \text{breakeven price} \\ &= SP - BE \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{maximum markdown rate} = \frac{MD}{SP} \times 100\%$$

PROFIT, LOSS AND BREAKEVEN

It is common that not all business make money. A business incurs operating expenses such as rents, lighting, wages bonus etc. Thus, the **markup/gross profit** must be able to cover the operating expenses.

3 conditions to consider in business operations:

- If **gross profit/markup > operating expenses** → a net profit exist
- If **gross profit/markup = operating expenses** → breakeven exist.
- If **gross profit/markup < operating expense** → loss exist

To determine whether businesses will make profit or face a loss or just breakeven, can be determined the result of $(SP - BEP)$.

If the result is **negative** => **loss**, if **positive** => **profit**, and if **0** => **breakeven**

IMPORTANT FORMULA IN MATHEMATICS OF RETAILING

Selling price = Cost + markup

$$SP = C + M$$

Gross profit = Operating Expenses + Net Profit

$$GP = OE + NP$$

Selling price = Cost + Net Profit + Operating Expenses

$$SP = C + NP + OE$$

Breakeven price exists when *markup = operating expenses*, that is

Breakeven Price = Cost + Operating Expenses

$$BE = C + OE$$

Breakeven Price → the retail price just covers the cost price and the operating expenses
(no profit or loss)

EXAMPLE 1

Talent Company Sdn Bhd bought 20 coffee makers at RM110 each. They wanted a gross profit of 45% based on the selling price and the total operating expenses was RM500.

- i) Find the selling price of a coffee maker. (3 marks)
- ii) Find the net profit for a coffee maker. (3 marks)
- iii) Find the breakeven price for a coffee maker. (2 marks)
- iv) The company only managed to sell 12 coffee makers. The rest of the coffee makers are sold at 50% markdown. Do they gain profit or loss? (5 marks)

SOLUTION

$$\begin{aligned}
 i) \quad C &= 110 \\
 M &= 0.45SP \\
 OE &= \frac{500}{20} = 25 \\
 SP &= C + M \\
 &= 110 + 0.45SP \\
 SP - 0.45SP &= 110 \\
 0.55SP &= 110 \\
 SP &= \frac{110}{0.55} = RM200
 \end{aligned}$$

$$ii) M = 0.45SP = 0.45(200) = 90$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 M &= NP + OE \\
 90 &= NP + 25 \\
 NP &= RM65
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 iii) BE &= C + OE \\
 &= 110 + 25 \\
 &= RM135
 \end{aligned}$$

iv) 12 coffee makers --> RM200 each
 8 coffee makers --> how much each?
 50% MD --> $NSP = OSP(1 - d)$
 $= 200(1 - 0.5)$
 $= RM100$

8 coffee makers --> RM100 each
 $NP = SP - BE$
 $= (200 \times 12) + (100 \times 8) - (135 \times 20)$
 $= 3200 - 2700$
 $= 500$

Profit = RM500

EXAMPLE 2

A retailer bought a refrigerator listed at RM1,200 with a trade discount of 20%. He then sold the refrigerator with a 10% net profit on the selling price. Operating expenses were 5% based on cost. Find

- i) the selling price of the refrigerator, (4 marks)

- ii) the markup rate based on selling price. (3 marks)

SOLUTION

$$\begin{aligned} \text{i) } NP &= LP(1-d) \\ &= 1200(1-0.2) \\ &= \text{RM}960 \end{aligned}$$

$$C = 960$$

$$NP = 0.1SP$$

$$OE = 0.05C = 0.05(960) = 48$$

$$\begin{aligned} SP &= C + OE + NP \\ &= 960 + 48 + 0.1SP \end{aligned}$$

$$SP - 0.1SP = 1008$$

$$0.9SP = 1008$$

$$SP = \text{RM}1120$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ii) } M &= SP - C \\ &= 1120 - 960 \\ &= \text{RM}160 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \%M_r &= \frac{M}{SP} \times 100\% \\ &= \frac{160}{1120} \times 100\% \\ &= 14.29\% \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE 3

Steven purchased a few sets of Correl kitchenware on 18th August 2013 with a total list price of RM4,800. The trade discount given was 10% while the cash terms were 3/15, n/30. He then sold the kitchenware and made a gross profit of 20% of the selling price. The operating expenses were 5% of the selling price. Find the

- i) amount paid by Steven on 1 September 2013, (3 marks)
- ii) selling price, (2 marks)
- iii) breakeven price, (2 marks)
- iv) net profit, (3 marks)
- v) maximum markdown rate that could be offered without incurring any loss. (3 marks)



SOLUTION

i) 18 Aug – 1 Sept = 14 days

Paid on 1 Sept, entitled for 3% cash discount

$$\begin{aligned} NP &= LP(1 - d_1)(1 - d_2) \\ &= 4800(1 - 0.1)(1 - 0.03) \\ &= \text{RM}4,190.40 \end{aligned}$$

Amount paid = RM4190.40

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ii) } C &= 4190.40 \\ M &= 0.2SP \\ OE &= 0.05SP \\ SP &= C + M \\ &= 4190.40 + 0.2SP \end{aligned}$$

$$SP - 0.2SP = 4190.40$$

$$0.8SP = 4190.40$$

$$SP = \frac{4190.40}{0.8} = \text{RM}5238$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{iii) } BE &= C + OE \\ &= 4190.40 + 0.05SP \\ &= 4190.40 + 0.05(5238) \\ &= \text{RM}4452.30 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{iv) } NP &= M - OE \\ &= 0.2SP - 0.05SP \\ &= 0.15SP \\ &= 0.15(5238) \\ &= \text{RM}785.70 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{v) } \% \text{MD}_{\max} &= \frac{SP - BE}{SP} \times 100\% \\ &= \frac{5238 - 4452.30}{5238} \times 100\% \\ &= \frac{785.70}{5238} \times 100\% \\ &= 15\% \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE 4

The Sweet Garden Company bought 80 roses at RM8 each and 40 sunflowers at RM6 each. The company wanted a net profit of 15% based on the cost. The operating expenses for all the flowers are 10% based on the cost for all the flowers.

- i) Find the total selling price for all the flowers. (4 marks)
- ii) Find the gross profit for all the flowers. (2 marks)
- iii) Find the breakeven price for all the flowers. (2 marks)
- iv) Find the maximum percentage of markdown that can be offered without incurring any loss. (3 marks)

SOLUTION

$$\begin{aligned}
 i) \quad C &= (80 \times 8) + (40 \times 6) = 880 \\
 NP &= 0.15C = 0.15(880) = 132 \\
 OE &= 0.1C = 0.1(880) = 88
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 SP &= C + OE + NP \\
 &= 880 + 88 + 132 \\
 &= RM1100
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 ii) \quad M &= OE + NP \\
 &= 88 + 132 \\
 &= RM 220
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 iii) \quad BE &= C + OE \\
 &= 880 + 88 \\
 &= RM 968
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 iv) \% \text{ Max MD} &= \frac{SP - BE}{SP} \times 100\% \\
 &= \frac{1100 - 968}{1100} \times 100\% \\
 &= \frac{132}{1100} \times 100\% \\
 &= 12\%
 \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE 5

Saleha Boutique purchased 50 dresses for RM3,250. Saleha wanted a net profit of 40% based on the selling price. If the operating expenses were 18% based on the cost, determine

- i) the selling price of a dress, (3 marks)
- ii) the gross profit of a dress, (2 marks)
- iii) the breakeven price. (2 marks)

SOLUTION

$$\begin{aligned}i) \quad C &= \frac{3250}{50} = 65 \\ NP &= 0.4SP \\ OE &= 0.18C = 0.18(65) = 11.70\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}SP &= C + OE + NP \\ &= 65 + 11.70 + 0.4SP\end{aligned}$$

$$SP - 0.4SP = 76.70$$

$$0.6SP = 76.70$$

$$SP = \frac{76.70}{0.6} = RM127.83$$

$$\begin{aligned}ii) M &= SP - C \\ &= 127.83 - 65 \\ &= RM62.83\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}iii) BE &= C + OE \\ &= 65 + 11.70 \\ &= RM76.70\end{aligned}$$

EXERCISE

The Strawberry Candy Company wants to produce limited edition special candy for the New Year celebration. The company decides to produce only 1000 the limited edition candy at a cost of RM12500. The net profit for each candy is 15% based on cost and the total operating expenses for the candies is RM555.50.

- i) What is the selling price for each candy? (3 marks)

- ii) Calculate the total gross profit for the candies. (2 marks)

- iii) Find the breakeven price for the candies. (2 marks)

- iv) What is the maximum percentage of markdown that can be offered without incurring any loss? (3 marks)