

Chapter 9

Economic Studies on Automobile Management: Working Capital and Investment Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This chapter examines the economic factors influencing working capital management and investment decisions in the automobile industry. It explores both macroeconomic and microeconomic elements that impact the industry's financial dynamics. The study also investigates future trends and prospects, including the shift towards electric and autonomous vehicles, sustainability practices, and digitalization. Based on the analysis, the chapter provides practical recommendations for improving working capital management practices, enhancing investment decision-making, and policy implications for industry stakeholders. The findings aim to assist automobile companies in adapting to the evolving market and achieving sustainable growth.

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INTRODUCTION

The automobile industry is crucial for global economic growth, employment, and technology advancement. It has evolved due to technological advancements, consumer preferences, and environmental concerns, making automobile management a complex and dynamic field. This chapter focuses on working capital and investment analysis, which impact automobile companies' operations and long-term growth. Working capital directly impacts short-term obligations and production cycles, while investment decisions determine long-term competitiveness and growth. Understanding these financial aspects is essential for effective automobile management(Jafari & Prabhakar Rao, 2015).

This chapter aims to provide a comprehensive overview of working capital management in the automobile sector, focusing on components, the working capital cycle, and factors influencing requirements. It also discusses strategies employed by companies to efficiently manage working capital and optimize cash flows. The chapter also analyzes investment decisions within the automobile industry, discussing various appraisal techniques, costs and benefits evaluation, and risk identification and mitigation. It also presents a comparative study of investment projects, highlighting decision-making processes and recommending best practices for effective capital allocation(Rao, 2015).

This chapter will analyze case studies of prominent automobile companies, focusing on their working capital management practices and investment decisions. It will highlight successful strategies employed by industry leaders and emphasize the importance of understanding economic factors in automobile management. Understanding the influence of macroeconomic and microeconomic trends is crucial for developing robust financial strategies and adapting to changing market conditions(Lind et al., 2012).

The automobile industry faces challenges and opportunities due to technological advancements, regulatory changes, global economic shifts, and changing consumer preferences. Effective working capital management and investment decisions are crucial for automobile companies' success and survival. Working capital management involves inventory management, accounts receivable and payable, and cash flow optimization. Efficient management ensures organizations meet short-term obligations, maintain production, and capitalize on growth opportunities. This chapter discusses how automobile companies can balance liquidity and profitability to achieve success in this dynamic landscape(Pirttilä et al., 2020; Viskari et al., 2012).

Investment decisions in the automobile industry require a thorough analysis of projects and their alignment with strategic objectives. Popular appraisal techniques like Net Present Value, IRR, and Payback Period evaluate financial viability, while

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