

11

FLEXIBLE BUDGET AND OVERHEAD ANALYSIS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. A static budget is for a particular level of activity. A flexible budget is one that can be established for any level of activity.
2. For performance reporting, it is necessary to compare the actual costs for the actual level of activity with the budgeted costs for the actual level of activity. A flexible budget provides the means to compute the budgeted costs for the actual level of activity, after the fact.
3. A flexible budget is based on a simple formula: Total costs (Y) = F + VX, where F = fixed costs and V = variable cost per unit; this requires knowledge of both fixed and variable components (see Cornerstone 11–2).
4. A before-the-fact flexible budget allows managers to engage in sensitivity analysis by looking at the financial outcomes possible for a number of different plausible scenarios.
5. An after-the-fact flexible budget facilitates performance evaluation by allowing the calculation of what spending should have been for the actual level of activity.
6. Part of a variable overhead spending variance can be caused by inefficient use of overhead resources.
7. Agree. This variance, assuming that variable overhead costs increase as labor usage increases, is caused by the efficiency or inefficiency of labor usage.
8. The variable overhead efficiency variance values the difference between the actual hours and the hours allowed using the standard variable overhead rate, while the labor efficiency variance values the difference using the standard labor rate.
9. Fixed overhead costs are either committed or discretionary. The committed costs will not differ by their very nature. Discretionary can vary, but the level the company wants to spend on these items is decided at the beginning of the time period and usually will be met unless there is a conscious decision to change the predetermined levels.
10. The volume variance occurs when the actual volume differing from the expected volume used to compute the predetermined standard fixed overhead rate. An unfavorable volume variance occurs when the actual volume is less than the expected volume. Thus, an unfavorable volume variance means that actual production is less than expected.
11. If the actual volume is different from the expected, then the company has either lost or earned contribution margin. The volume variance signals this outcome, and if the variance is large, then the loss or gain is large since the volume variance understates the effect.

- 12.** The spending variance. This variance is computed by comparing actual expenditures with budgeted expenditures. The volume variance simply tells whether the actual volume is different from the expected volume.
- 13.** An activity-based budget requires three steps: (1) identification of activities, (2) estimation of activity output demands, and (3) estimation of the costs of resources needed to provide the activity output demanded.
- 14.** Functional-based flexible budgeting relies on unit-based drivers to build cost formulas for various cost items. Activity flexible budgeting uses activity drivers to build a cost formula for the costs of each activity.
- 15.** An activity-based report compares the actual costs for the actual level of activity with the budgeted level for the actual level—but it does so for multiple activities and drivers. The increased accuracy results from the usage of drivers that have a causal relationship to predict what the costs should be for the actual level of activity.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE EXERCISES**11-1. d****11-2. a****11-3. b****11-4. e****11-5. c****11-6. c****11-7. e****11-8. b****11-9. d****11-10. d****11-11. a****11-12. c****11-13. a****11-14. d****11-15. a****11-16. e****11-17. d****11-18. c**

CORNERSTONE EXERCISES

CE 11-19

	Budgeted for 4,000 units
1. Direct materials ($\$0.60 \times 3 \times 4,000$)	\$ 7,200
Direct labor ($\$16 \times 0.5 \times 4,000$)	32,000
Variable overhead ($\$2.20 \times 0.5 \times 4,000$)	4,400
Fixed overhead:	
Materials handling	\$6,200
Depreciation	2,600
Total	<u>\$52,400</u>

2. Performance Report

	Actual	Budgeted	Variance*
Units produced	<u>3,800</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>200 U</u>
Direct materials	\$ 6,800	\$ 7,200	\$ (400) F
Direct labor	30,500	32,000	(1,500) F
Variable overhead	4,200	4,400	(200) F
Fixed overhead:			
Materials handling	6,300	6,200	100 U
Depreciation	2,600	2,600	0
Total	<u>\$50,400</u>	<u>\$52,400</u>	<u>\$(2,000) F</u>

*Variances equal actual amounts less budgeted amounts. If actual cost is less than budgeted cost, the variance is F (favorable). If actual cost is more than budgeted cost, the variance is U (unfavorable).

CE 11-20

	2,500 units	3,000 units	3,500 units
Direct materials	\$ 4,500	\$ 5,400	\$ 6,300
Direct labor	20,000	24,000	28,000
Variable overhead	2,750	3,300	3,850
Fixed overhead:			
Materials handling	6,200	6,200	6,200
Depreciation	2,600	2,600	2,600
Total	<u>\$36,050</u>	<u>\$41,500</u>	<u>\$46,950</u>

CE 11-21

Performance Report			
	Actual	Budgeted	Variance*
Units produced	3,800	3,800	-
Direct materials	\$ 6,800	\$ 6,840	\$ (40) F
Direct labor	30,500	30,400	100 U
Variable overhead	4,200	4,180	20 U
Fixed overhead:			
Materials	6,300	6,200	100 U
handling			
Depreciation	2,600	2,600	0
Total	<u>\$50,400</u>	<u>\$50,220</u>	<u>\$180 U</u>

*Variances equal actual amounts minus budgeted amounts. If actual cost is less than budgeted cost, the variance is F (favorable). If actual cost is more than budgeted cost, the variance is U (unfavorable).

CE 11-22

- Actual variable overhead rate (AVOR)

$$= \frac{\text{Actual variable overhead}}{\text{Actual direct labor hours}}$$

$$= \$206,816/56,200$$

$$= \$3.68 \text{ per direct labor hour}$$
- Applied variable overhead

$$= \text{Actual units} \times \text{SH} \times \text{SVOR}$$

$$= 14,000 \times 4 \times \$3.70$$

$$= \$207,200$$
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Actual variable overhead | \$206,816 |
| Applied variable overhead | 207,200 |
| Total variable overhead variance | <u>\$ (384) F</u> |

Note: The total variable overhead variance can also be calculated using the formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Total variable overhead variance:} \\
 &= (\text{AH} \times \text{AVOR}) - (\text{Actual units} \times \text{SH} \times \text{SVOR}) \\
 &= (56,200 \times \$3.68) - (14,000 \times 4 \times \$3.70) \\
 &= \$ (384) \text{ F}
 \end{aligned}$$

CE 11-23**1. Columnar approach:**

1. AH × AVOR	2. AH × SVOR	3. SH × SVOR
56,200 × \$3.68	56,200 × \$3.70	56,000 × \$3.70
\$206,816	\$207,940	\$207,200
	-\$1,124 F	\$740 U
	Spending	Efficiency

2. Variable overhead spending variance	= (AVOR – SVOR) AH
	= (\$3.68 – \$3.70)56,200
	= \$ (1,124) F
3. Variable overhead efficiency variance	= (AH – SH) SVOR
	= (56,200 – 56,000)\$3.70
	= \$740 U
4. Variable overhead spending variance	\$ (1,124) F
Variable overhead efficiency variance	740 U
Total variable overhead variance	\$ (384) F

CE 11-24

Overhead Cost Item	Cost Formula	Actual Cost	Budget for		Budget for	
			Actual Hours	Spending Variance	At Standard Hours	Efficiency Variance
Inspection	\$2.00	\$112,300	\$112,400	\$ (100) F	\$112,000	\$400 U
Power	1.70	95,600	95,540	60 U	95,200	340 U
Total	\$3.70	\$207,900	\$207,940	\$ (40) F	\$207,200	\$740 U

CE 11-25

1. Standard hrs for actual units	= SH per unit × Actual units produced
	= 4 × 14,000
	= 56,000
2. Applied fixed overhead	= Standard hours for actual units × SFOR
	= 56,000 × \$5
	= \$280,000
3. Actual fixed overhead	\$281,680
Applied fixed overhead	280,000
Total fixed overhead variance	\$ 1,680 U

CE 11-26

1. Columnar approach:

1. AH × AFOR	2. AH × SFOR	3. SH × SFOR
56,200 × \$5.03	56,200 × \$5.00	56,000 × \$5.00
\$282,686	\$281,000	\$280,000
	\$1,686 U	\$1,000 U
	Spending	Efficiency

2. Fixed overhead spending variance = $\text{AFOR} - \text{SFOR}) \text{ AH}$
= $(\$5.03 - \$5.00)56,200$
= \$1,686 U
3. Fixed overhead efficiency variance = $(\text{AH} - \text{SH}) \text{ SFOR}$
= $(56,200 - 56,000)\$5.00$
= \$1,000 U
4. Fixed overhead spending variance \$1,686 U
Fixed overhead efficiency variance 1,000 U
Total fixed overhead variance \$2,686 U

CE 11-27

Salaries (6 inspectors × \$32,000)	\$192,000
Supplies (170,000 × \$0.70)	119,000
Workbenches, computer depreciation	18,300
Factory space, utilities	12,600
Total inspection cost	<u>\$341,900</u>

CE 11-28

	Fixed	Variable	40,000 units 60,000 mhrs	60,000 units 90,000 mhrs
Maintenance	\$50,000	\$1.80	\$158,000	\$212,000
Machining	25,000	3.00	205,000	295,000
Subtotal	\$75,000	\$4.80	\$363,000	\$507,000
	Fixed	Variable	50 setups	70 setups
Setting up	-	\$2,100	\$105,000	\$147,000

CE 11-28 (Continued)

	Fixed	Variable	Purchase Orders 12,000	Purchase Orders 18,000
Purchasing	\$75,000	\$7.00	\$159,000	\$201,000
Total			\$627,000	\$855,000

CE 11-29

Performance Report			
	Actual	Budgeted	Variance*
Units produced	40,000	40,000	-
Maintenance	\$158,300	\$158,000	\$ 300 U
Machining	205,400	205,000	400 U
Setting up	106,700	105,000	1,700 U
Purchasing	158,800	159,000	(200) F
Total	\$629,200	\$627,000	\$2,200 U

*Variances equal actual amounts minus budgeted amounts. If actual cost is less than budgeted cost, the variance is F (favorable). If actual cost is more than budgeted cost, the variance is U (unfavorable).

EXERCISES

E 11-30

1.

Performance Report

	Actual	Budgeted	Variance
Units produced	4,100	4,000	100 F
Direct materials cost	\$48,700	\$48,000 ^a	\$ 700 U
Direct labor cost	35,800	36,000 ^b	(200) F
Total	\$84,500	\$84,000	\$ 500 U

^a 2 leather strips × \$6 per strip × 4,000 units^b 0.5 direct labor hour × \$18 × 4,000 units

2. The performance report compares costs at two different levels of activity—4,100 units actually produced and 4,000 units budgeted—and so cannot be used to assess efficiency.

E 11-31

1.

Flexible Budget for

	Cost Formula	3,500 units	4,000 units	4,500 units
Direct materials	\$12.00	\$42,000	\$48,000	\$ 54,000
Direct labor	9.00	31,500	36,000	40,500
Variable overhead	0.60	2,100	2,400	2,700
Fixed overhead	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,800
Total		\$82,400	\$93,200	\$104,000

2. Unit cost at 3,500 units = $\$82,400 / 3,500 = \23.54^*

Unit cost at 4,000 units = $\$93,200 / 4,000 = \23.30

Unit cost at 4,500 units = $\$104,000 / 4,500 = \23.11^*

The cost per unit goes down as the number of units produced increases because fixed cost is spread over a greater number of units.

*Rounded

E 11-32

1.	Ionia Inc. Overhead Budget For the Coming Year		
	<u>Formula</u>	<u>Activity Level</u> <u>140,000 Hours</u>	
Variable costs:	\$0.20	\$ 28,000	
Maintenance	0.45	63,000	
Power	2.10	294,000	
Indirect labor		<u>\$385,000</u>	
Total variable costs			
Fixed costs			
Maintenance		\$173,000	
Indirect labor		128,000	
Rent		30,000	
Total fixed costs		<u>\$331,000</u>	
Total overhead costs		<u><u>\$716,000</u></u>	

2. Direct labor hours for 15% higher production = $140,000 + 0.15(140,000)$
= 161,000

Direct labor hours for 15% lower production = $140,000 - 0.15(140,000)$
= 119,000

		<u>Activity Level</u>	
	<u>Formula</u>	<u>161,000 Hours</u>	<u>119,000 Hours</u>
Variable costs:			
Maintenance	\$0.20	\$ 32,200	\$ 23,800
Power	0.45	72,450	53,550
Indirect labor	2.10	338,100	249,900
Total variable costs		<u>\$442,750</u>	<u>\$327,250</u>
Fixed costs:			
Maintenance		\$173,000	\$173,000
Indirect labor		128,000	128,000
Rent		30,000	30,000
Total fixed costs		<u>\$331,000</u>	<u>\$331,000</u>
Total overhead costs		<u><u>\$773,750</u></u>	<u><u>\$658,250</u></u>

E 11-33

Performance Report			
	Actual	Budgeted	Variance
Direct labor hours based on actual	142,000	142,000	-
Variable overhead:			
Maintenance	\$202,000	\$201,400	\$ 600 U
Power	63,000	63,900	(900) F
Indirect labor	426,100	426,200	(100) F
Rent	30,000	30,000	0
Total overhead	<u>\$721,100</u>	<u>\$721,500</u>	<u>\$(400) F</u>

E 11-34

1. Standard direct labor hrs required:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \text{Actual deliveries} \times \text{Standard direct labor hrs} \\
 &= 38,600 \times 0.80 \\
 &= 30,880 \text{ direct labor hours}
 \end{aligned}$$

2. Variable overhead analysis:

Actual VOH	Budgeted VOH	Applied VOH
	$\$5.10 \times 31,000 \text{ hrs}$	$\$5.10 \times 30,880 \text{ hrs}$
\$157,700	\$158,100	\$157,488
	\$400 F	\$612 U
	Spending	Efficiency

E 11-35

1. Standard fixed overhead rate (SFOR) = $\frac{\text{Budgeted fixed overhead}}{\text{Practical capacity}}$
- $$\begin{aligned}
 &= \$400,000 / 32,000 \text{ DLH} \\
 &= \$12.50
 \end{aligned}$$

2. Fixed overhead analysis:

Actual FOH	Budgeted FOH	Applied FOH
	$\$12.50 \times 32,000$	$\$12.50 \times 30,880$
\$403,400	\$400,000	\$386,000
	\$3,400 U	\$14,000 U
	Spending	Volume

E11-36**1. Variable overhead analysis:**

Actual VOH	Budgeted VOH	Applied VOH
	$\$0.90 \times 286,400$	$\$0.90 \times 286,800$
\$259,300	\$257,760	\$258,120
	\$1,540 U	\$360 F
	Spending	Efficiency

2. Fixed overhead analysis:

Actual FOH	Budgeted FOH	Applied FOH
	$\$4.30 \times 288,000$	$\$4.30 \times 286,800$
\$1,235,900	\$1,238,400	\$1,233,240
	\$2,500 F	\$5,160 U
	Spending	Volume

Note: Practical volume in hours = $2 \times 144,000 = 288,000$ hours.

E 11-37**1. Fixed overhead rate = $\$1,326,000 / 1,560,000^* = \0.85 per DLH**

*Budgeted hours = $2,600,000 \text{ units} \times 0.6 \text{ direct labor hours} = 1,560,000 \text{ hours}$

SH = $2,560,000 \text{ units} \times 0.6 \text{ direct labor hours} = 1,536,000 \text{ hours}$

Applied FOH = $\$0.85 \times 1,536,000 = \$1,305,600$

2. Fixed overhead analysis:

Actual FOH	Budgeted FOH	Applied FOH
	$\$0.85 \times 1,560,000$	$\$0.85 \times 1,536,000$
\$1,330,000	\$1,326,000	\$1,305,600
	\$4,000 U	\$20,400 U
	Spending	Volume

**3. Variable OH rate = $(\$1,981,200 - \$1,326,000) / 1,560,000 \text{ hours}$
= $\$0.42$ per DLH****4. Variable overhead analysis:**

Actual VOH	Budgeted VOH	Applied VOH
	$\$0.42 \times 1,535,400$	$\$0.42 \times 1,536,000$
\$644,100	\$644,868	\$645,120
	\$768 F	\$252 F
	Spending	Efficiency

E 11-38

1. Total applied fixed overhead = (Standard hours per unit × Actual units) × SFOR

$$= (0.9 \times 143,000) \times \$11 = \$1,415,700$$
2. Budgeted fixed overhead = Budgeted units × Standard hours per unit × SFOR

$$= 140,000 \times 0.9 \times \$11 = \$1,386,000$$
3. Actual fixed overhead = Budgeted fixed overhead + Unfavorable overhead spending variance

$$= \$1,386,000 + \$24,000 = \$1,410,000$$
4. Total applied variable overhead = (Standard hours per unit × Actual units) × SVOR

$$= 0.9 \times 143,000 \times \$6.36 = \$818,532$$
5. Budgeted variable overhead based on actual hours = Applied variable overhead + Unfavorable variable overhead efficiency variance

$$= \$818,532 + \$1,272 = \$819,804$$

Actual direct labor hours = $\$819,804 / \$6.36 = 128,900$
6. Actual variable overhead = Budgeted variable overhead + Unfavorable variable overhead spending variance

$$= \$819,804 + \$9,196 = \$829,000$$

E 11-39

Performance Report For the Year Ended December 31						
Cost	Cost Formula ^a	Actual Cost	Budget for Actual Hours ^b	Spending Variance ^c	Budget for Standard Hours ^d	Efficiency Variance ^e
Labor	\$20.00	\$30,100	\$30,600	\$(500) F	\$30,000	\$600 U
Supplies	2.40	4,400	3,672	728 U	3,600	72 U
Total	<u>\$22.40</u>	<u>\$34,500</u>	<u>\$34,272</u>	<u>\$ 228 U</u>	<u>\$33,600</u>	<u>\$672 U</u>

^a Per direct labor hour.^b Computed using the cost formula and 1,530 actual hours.^c Spending variance = Actual costs – Budget for actual hours.^d Computed using the cost formula and 1,500 standard hours for actual production.^e Efficiency variance = Budget for actual hours – Budget for standard hours**E 11-40**

1. Salaries (6 workers × \$27,000)	\$162,000
Supplies (130,000 × \$0.80)	104,000
Workbenches, computers depreciation	14,400
Factory space, utilities	9,800
Total receiving cost	<u>\$290,200</u>
2. Cost per receiving order	= \$290,200/130,000
	= \$2.23* per receiving order

*Rounded

E 11-41

	Required for			
	Fixed	Variable	40,000 units 500 eng. hrs	50,000 units 750 eng. hrs
Engineering	<u>\$67,000</u>	<u>\$5.50</u>	<u>\$69,750</u>	<u>\$71,125</u>
Machining	Fixed	Variable	30,000 mhrs	37,500 mhrs
	<u>\$36,000</u>	<u>\$1.40</u>	<u>\$78,000</u>	<u>\$88,500</u>
Receiving	Fixed	Variable	Receiving Orders 9,000	Receiving Orders 12,000
	<u>\$51,000</u>	<u>\$3.75</u>	<u>\$84,750</u>	<u>\$96,000</u>
Total			<u>\$232,500</u>	<u>\$255,625</u>

E 11-42

Performance Report			
	Actual	Budgeted	Variance
Units produced	<u>312,000</u>	<u>312,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Maintenance	\$179,600	\$176,700	\$2,900 U
Machining	90,500	89,800	700 U
Setting up	119,500	121,000	(1,500) F
Purchasing	<u>75,750</u>	<u>74,600</u>	<u>1,150 U</u>
Total	<u>\$465,350</u>	<u>\$462,100</u>	<u>\$3,250 U</u>

PROBLEMS

P 11-43

1. Direct labor hours = $(100,000 \text{ bags} \times 0.30 \text{ hours}) +$
 $(100,000 \text{ bags} \times 0.40 \text{ hours})$
 $= 30,000 \text{ hours} + 40,000 \text{ hours}$
 $= 70,000 \text{ direct labor hours}$

2.

Healthy Pet Company
Overhead Budget
For the Coming Year

	<u>Formula</u>	<u>Activity Level</u> <u>70,000 Hours*</u>	
Variable costs:			
Maintenance	\$0.50	\$ 35,000	
Power	0.70	49,000	
Indirect labor	1.60	112,000	
Total variable costs			\$196,000
Fixed costs			
Maintenance		\$ 21,000	
Indirect labor		38,500	
Rent		42,000	
Total fixed costs			101,500
Total overhead costs			<u>\$297,500</u>

*Based on Requirement 1

P 11-44

1. Direct labor hours for 10% higher = $70,000 \text{ hours} + (0.10 \times 70,000 \text{ hours})$
 $= 77,000 \text{ direct labor hours}$
- Direct labor hours for 20% lower = $70,000 \text{ hours} - (0.20 \times 70,000 \text{ hours})$
 $= 56,000 \text{ direct labor hours}$

P 11-44 (Continued)

2. 10% higher:

Healthy Pet Company Overhead Budget For the Coming Year		
	Formula	Activity Level 77,000 Hours*
Variable costs:		
Maintenance	\$0.50	\$38,500
Power	0.70	53,900
Indirect labor	1.60	123,200
Total variable costs		\$215,600
Fixed costs		
Maintenance		\$21,000
Indirect labor		38,500
Rent		42,000
Total fixed costs		101,500
Total overhead costs		<u>\$317,100</u>

20% lower:

Healthy Pet Company Overhead Budget For the Coming Year		
	Formula	Activity Level 56,000 Hours*
Variable costs:		
Maintenance	\$0.50	\$28,000
Power	0.70	39,200
Indirect labor	1.60	89,600
Total variable costs		\$156,800
Fixed costs		
Maintenance		\$21,000
Indirect labor		38,500
Rent		42,000
Total fixed costs		101,500
Total overhead costs		<u>\$258,300</u>

P 11-45

1. Direct labor hours = (120,000 bags × 0.30 hours) + (100,000 bags × 0.40 hours)
 = 36,000 hours + 40,000 hours
 = 76,000 direct labor hours

2.

Healthy Pet Company Performance Report For the Current Year			
	Actual	Budgeted	Variance*
Units produced	220,000	220,000	0
Production unit:*			
Maintenance	\$ 58,760	\$ 59,000	\$ 240 F
Power	54,150	53,200	950 U
Indirect labor	161,000	160,100	900 U
Rent	42,000	42,000	0
Total costs	<u>\$315,910</u>	<u>\$314,300</u>	<u>\$1,610 U</u>

*Flexible budget amounts are based on = 76,000 direct labor hours DLH:

Maintenance:	\$21,000 + \$0.50(76,000) =	\$59,000
Power:	\$0.70(76,000) =	\$53,200
Indirect labor:	\$38,500 + \$1.60(76,000) =	\$160,100

3. All of the variances are small (less than 2% of budgeted amounts). Most would probably view the variances as immaterial. Reasons for variances are numerous. For example, a favorable maintenance variance could be caused by less preventive maintenance or by increased efficiency by individual maintenance workers. Indirect labor could be unfavorable because (among other things) higher-priced labor was used to carry out lower-skilled jobs. Power could be more expensive than planned because of a rate increase. An investigation would be needed to know exactly why the variances occurred.

P 11-46

1. Car W23 = $12/60(30,000) = 6,000$ direct labor hours

Car Z280 = $24/60(60,000) = 24,000$ direct labor hours

Total direct labor hours = 6,000 hours + 24,000 hours = 30,000 hours

Spelzig Company Overhead Budget For the Month of November			
	Formula	Activity Level 30,000 Hours*	
Variable costs:			
Maintenance	\$3.80	\$114,000	
Supplies	4.25	127,500	
Power	0.08	2,400	
Total variable costs			\$243,900
Fixed costs (1/12 of annual amount)			
Depreciation		\$ 12,058 *	
Salaries		15,742	
Total fixed costs			27,800
Total overhead costs			<u>\$271,700</u>

*Rounded

P 11-47

1. Item	Fixed	Variable*
Acquisition		\$600
Freight		60
Duties		25
Engineering	\$10,000,000	
Overhead	3,000,000	
Total	<u>\$13,000,000</u>	<u>\$685</u>

*Cost/level of activity

2.	Pessimistic	Most Likely	Optimistic
Sales (@ \$760)	\$54,720,000	\$114,000,000	\$190,000,000
Less costs:			
Variable (@ \$685)	49,320,000	102,750,000	171,250,000
Fixed	13,000,000	13,000,000	13,000,000
Projected income	<u>\$ (7,600,000)</u>	<u>\$ (1,750,000)</u>	<u>\$ 5,750,000</u>

P 11-47 (Continued)

Before-the-fact flexible budgeting allows managers to assess risk and uncertainty. In this example, managers would see very quickly that the most likely scenario promises an expected loss. Only if the sales are in the optimistic range will the company show a positive return.

3. The financial performance as revealed in Requirements 1 and 2 is not very promising. Two out of three scenarios lose money. Only the optimistic scenario promises a positive return, and it is only about 3% of sales. Most steering committees would be reluctant to press ahead with the new product given these projected financial results. One possibility is to instruct engineering to produce a design that reduces the cost—especially the acquisition cost. It may be possible to produce a design that lowers the manufacturing cost of the outsourced producers and Stillwater Designs' acquisition cost. By reducing the weight and bulkiness of the product, freight costs may also be reduced. After all the cost improvements are obtained that can be, then the question becomes—if the return is questionable—would the company still want to produce the product?

Producing a product that will not stand by itself is sometimes desirable. The product may be needed to enhance the image of the company—especially one that thrives on customers that like to impress others with the volume and loudness of speakers. The comments by potential customers on the loudness and the range of the subwoofer reveal the need to have this product for completeness. Having this product may increase the reputation of the entire product line and increase sales of smaller subwoofers. If so, then production of the Solo X18 may be justified.

P 11-48

1. 1,700 Direct labor hours:

Maintenance [$\$7,500 + (\$5 \times 1,700)$]	\$16,000
Depreciation	5,600
Supervision	22,000
Supplies ($\$2.30 \times 1,700$)	3,910
Power ($\$0.60 \times 1,700$)	1,020
Other [$\$18,000 + (\$1.25 \times 1,700)$]	20,125
Total	<u><u>\$68,655</u></u>

P 11-48 (Continued)

2. For costs that don't change, the formula is simply the fixed component. To prepare the formulas for the costs that change, use the high-low method:

Maintenance:

$$V = (\$17,500 - \$12,500)/(2,000 - 1,000) = \$5.00$$

$$F = Y^2 - VX^2 = \$17,500 - \$5(2,000) = \$7,500$$

$$\text{Maintenance cost} = \$7,500 + \$5.00X$$

Supplies:

$$V = (\$4,600 - \$2,300)/1,000 = \$2.30$$

$$F = \$4,600 - \$2.30(2,000) = \$0$$

$$\text{Supplies cost} = \$2.30X$$

Power:

$$V = (\$1,200 - \$600)/1,000 = \$0.60$$

$$F = \$1,200 - \$0.60(2,000) = \$0$$

$$\text{Power cost} = \$0.60X$$

Other:

$$V = (\$20,500 - \$19,250)/1,000 = \$1.25$$

$$F = \$20,500 - \$1.25(2,000) = \$18,000$$

$$\text{Other costs} = \$18,000 + \$1.25X$$

P 11-49

1. Since the specific production amounts expected for May are not given, we must assume that May uses 1/12 of the annual hours. Thus, the budget for May for each of the three levels is given below:

Orchard Fresh Inc. Overhead Budget For the Month of May				
		Activity Level (hours)*		
	Formula	200	240	280
Variable costs:				
Maintenance	\$0.76	\$ 152.00	\$ 182.40	\$ 212.80
Supplies	0.45	90.00	108.00	126.00
Power	0.20	40.00	48.00	56.00
Total variable costs		\$ 282.00	\$ 338.40	\$ 394.80
Fixed costs:				
Depreciation		\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Salaries		2,041.67	2,041.67	2,041.67
Total fixed costs		\$2,441.67	\$2,441.67	\$2,441.67
Total overhead costs		\$2,723.67	\$2,780.07	\$2,836.47

*annual hours/12

2. Without knowing the hours used per basket, there is no way to prepare a new overhead budget for May. For example, if the hours used per basket were 0.50, then the expected hours used would be 100. This would be multiplied by \$1.41 to yield \$141, which could then be added to May's original budget.

P 11-50**1. Flexible budget for a normal school month:**

Revenue	
Sandwiches (5,000 × \$4.50)	\$22,500
Sodas (5,000 × \$1.50)	7,500
Total revenue	\$30,000
Variable costs:	
Food ^a (5,000 × \$2.83)	\$14,150
Soda ^b (5,000 × \$0.24)	1,200
Monthly costs:	
Paper	1,650
Rent	575
Other	1,800
Direct labor ^c (\$1,720 + \$1,032)	2,752
Total costs	\$22,127

^a**Cost per sandwich:**

Meat: (4/16 × \$7)	\$1.75
Cheese: (2/16 × \$6)	0.75
Roll: (\$28.80/144)	0.20
Lettuce: (0.05 × 1/24 × \$12)	0.03 *
Tomato: (0.25 × 1/20 × \$4)	0.05
Secret sauce: (1/128 × \$6.40)	0.05
	\$2.83

^b**Cost per 12 oz. drink**

$$= 12/128 \times \$2.56 = \$0.24$$

^c**Noon shift labor cost**

$$= (4 \text{ hrs} \times 5 \text{ days} \times 2 \text{ workers} \times 4.3 \text{ weeks per month} \times \$10) \\ = \$1,720$$

Evening shift labor cost

$$= (4 \text{ hrs} \times 3 \text{ nights} \times 2 \text{ workers} \times 4.3 \text{ weeks per month} \times \$10) \\ = \$1,032$$

*Rounded

P 11-50 (Continued)**2. Flexible budget for October:****Revenue**

Sandwiches (6,500 × \$4.50)	\$29,250
-----------------------------	----------

Sodas (6,500 × \$1.50)	9,750
------------------------	-------

Total revenue	\$39,000
---------------	----------

Variable costs:

Food ^a (6,500 × \$2.83)	\$18,395
------------------------------------	----------

Soda ^b (6,500 × \$0.24)	1,560
------------------------------------	-------

Monthly costs:

Paper (\$1,650 + \$200)	1,850
-------------------------	-------

Rent	575
------	-----

Other	1,800
-------	-------

Direct labor ^c	2,912
---------------------------	-------

Total costs	\$27,092
-------------	----------

^aCost per sandwich:

Meat: (4/16 × \$7)	\$1.75
--------------------	--------

Cheese: (2/16 × \$6)	0.75
----------------------	------

Roll: (\$28.80/144)	0.20
---------------------	------

Lettuce: (0.05 × 1/24 × \$12)	0.03 *
-------------------------------	--------

Tomato: (0.25 × 1/20 × \$4)	0.05
-----------------------------	------

Secret sauce: (1/128 × \$6.40)	0.05
--------------------------------	------

\$2.83

^bCost per 12 oz. drink

$$= 12/128 \times \$2.56 = \$0.24$$

^cNoon shift labor cost

$$= (4 \text{ hrs} \times 5 \text{ days} \times 2 \text{ workers} \times 4.3 \text{ weeks per month} \times \$10)$$

$$= \$1,720$$

Homecoming weekend noon shifts

$$= (4 \text{ hrs} \times 2 \text{ days} \times 2 \text{ workers} \times \$10)$$

$$= \$160$$

Evening shift labor cost

$$= (4 \text{ hrs} \times 3 \text{ nights} \times 2 \text{ workers} \times 4.3 \text{ weeks per month} \times \$10)$$

$$= \$1,032$$

$$\text{Total October labor cost} = \$1,720 + \$160 + \$1,032 = \$2,912$$

3. Yes, the increase in revenue was \$9,000 (\$39,000 – \$30,000) but cost increased by only \$4,965 (\$27,092 – \$22,127). Thus, profit increases by \$4,035.

*Rounded

P 11-51

1.	<u>Actual Costs</u>	<u>Budgeted Costs</u>	<u>Budget Variance</u>
Direct labor	\$210,000	\$200,000	\$ 10,000 U
Power	135,000	85,000	50,000 U
Setups	140,000	100,000	40,000 U
Total	<u>\$485,000</u>	<u>\$385,000</u>	<u>\$100,000 U</u>

Note: Budgeted costs use the actual direct labor hours and the labor-based cost formulas. Example: Direct labor cost = $\$10 \times 20,000 = \$200,000$; power cost = $\$5,000 + (\$4 \times 20,000) = \$85,000$; and setup cost = $\$100,000$ (fixed).

2.	<u>Actual Costs</u>	<u>Budgeted Costs</u>	<u>Budget Variance</u>
Direct labor	\$210,000	\$200,000	\$10,000 U
Power	135,000	149,000	14,000 F
Setups	140,000	142,000	2,000 F
Total	<u>\$485,000</u>	<u>\$491,000</u>	<u>\$ 6,000 F</u>

Note: Budgeted costs use the individual driver formulas: Direct labor = $\$10 \times 20,000 = \$200,000$; Power = $\$68,000 + (\$0.90 \times 90,000) = \$149,000$; and Setups = $\$98,000 + (\$400 \times 110) = \$142,000$.

3. The multiple cost driver approach captures the cause-and-effect cost relationships and, consequently, is more accurate than the direct labor-based approach.

P 11-52

1.	Westcott Inc. Performance Report For the Year 2012		
	<u>Actual Costs</u>	<u>Budgeted Costs*</u>	<u>Budget Variance</u>
Direct materials	\$ 440,000	\$ 480,000	\$40,000 F
Direct labor	355,000	320,000	35,000 U
Depreciation	100,000	100,000	0
Maintenance	425,000	435,000	10,000 F
Machining	142,000	137,000	5,000 U
Materials handling	232,500	240,000	7,500 F
Inspecting products	160,000	145,000	15,000 U
Total	<u>\$1,854,500</u>	<u>\$1,857,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,500 F</u>

*Budget formulas for each item can be computed by using the high-low method (using the appropriate cost driver for each method). Using this approach, the budgeted costs for the actual activity levels are computed as follows:

P 11-52 (Continued)

- Direct Materials: $\$6 \times 80,000 \text{ DLH}$
- Direct Labor: $\$4 \times 80,000 \text{ DLH}$
- Maintenance: $\$60,000 + (\$1.50 \times 250,000 \text{ mhrs})$
- Machining: $\$12,000 + (\$0.50 \times 250,000 \text{ mhrs})$
- Materials handling: $\$40,000 + (\$6.25 \times 32,000 \text{ moves})$
- Inspecting products: $\$25,000 + (\$1,000 \times 120 \text{ batches})$

2. Pool rates:	$\$1,100,000/100,000 \text{ DLH}$	=	$\$11 \text{ per direct labor hour}$
	$\$672,000/300,000 \text{ mhrs}$	=	$\$2.24 \text{ per machine hour}$
	$\$290,000/40,000 \text{ moves}$	=	$\$7.25 \text{ per move}$
	$\$225,000/200 \text{ batches}$	=	$\$1,125 \text{ per batch}$

Note: The first pool has material and labor costs, as well as depreciation, included.

Unit cost:

Pool 1: $\$11 \times 10,000 \text{ DLH}$	=	$\$110,000$
Pool 2: $\$2.24 \times 15,000 \text{ mhrs}$	=	$33,600$
Pool 3: $\$7.25 \times 500 \text{ moves}$	=	$3,625$
Pool 4: $\$1,125 \times 5 \text{ batches}$	=	$5,625$
Total		$\\$152,850$
Units		$10,000$
Unit cost		$\\$15.29$ *

*Rounded

3. Knowing the resources consumed by activities and how the resource costs change with the activity driver should provide more insight into managing the activity and its associated costs. For example, if moves are reduced to 20,000 from the expected 40,000, then costs can be reduced by not only eliminating the need for 4 operators, but by reducing the need to lease from 4 to 2 forklifts. However, in the short run, the cost of leasing forklifts may persist even though demand for their service is reduced.

	<u>20,000 moves</u>	<u>40,000 moves</u>
Materials handling:		
Forklifts	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
Operators	120,000	240,000
Fuel	5,000	10,000
Total	<u>\$165,000</u>	<u>\$290,000</u>

The detail assumes that forklift leases must continue in the short run but that the number of operators may be reduced (assumes each operator can do 5,000 moves per year).

P 11-53

1. Direct labor	= \$10 × Direct labor hours
Variable rate	= $\frac{\text{High cost} - \text{Low cost}}{\text{High activity} - \text{Low activity}}$
	= $\frac{\\$1,200,000 - \\$1,000,000}{120,000 \text{ hours} - 100,000 \text{ hours}}$
	= \$10 per direct labor hour
Fixed cost	= \$1,200,000 – (\$10)(120,000)
	= \$0
Supervision	= \$180,000
Utilities	= \$3,000 + (\$0.15 × Direct labor hours)
Variable rate	= $\frac{\text{High cost} - \text{Low cost}}{\text{High activity} - \text{Low activity}}$
	= $\frac{\\$21,000 - \\$18,000}{120,000 \text{ hours} - 100,000 \text{ hours}}$
	= \$0.15 per direct labor hour
Fixed cost	= \$21,000 – (\$0.15)(120,000)
	= \$3,000
Depreciation	= \$225,000
Supplies	= \$0.25 × Direct labor hours
Variable rate	= $\frac{\text{High cost} - \text{Low cost}}{\text{High activity} - \text{Low activity}}$
	= $\frac{\\$30,000 - \\$25,000}{120,000 \text{ hours} - 100,000 \text{ hours}}$
	= \$0.25 per direct labor hour
Fixed cost	= \$30,000 – (\$0.25)(120,000)
	= \$0
Maintenance	= \$20,000 + (\$2.20 × Direct labor hours)
Variable rate	= $\frac{\text{High cost} - \text{Low cost}}{\text{High activity} - \text{Low activity}}$
	= $\frac{\\$284,000 - \\$240,000}{120,000 \text{ hours} - 100,000 \text{ hours}}$
	= \$2.20 per direct labor hour
Fixed cost	= \$284,000 – (\$2.20)(120,000)
	= \$20,000
Rent	= \$120,000
Other	= \$10,000 + (\$0.50 × Direct labor hours)

P 11-53 (Continued)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Variable rate} &= \frac{\text{High cost} - \text{Low cost}}{\text{High activity} - \text{Low activity}} \\
 &= \frac{\$70,000 - \$60,000}{120,000 \text{ hours} - 100,000 \text{ hours}} \\
 &= \$0.50 \text{ per direct labor hour} \\
 \text{Fixed cost} &= \$70,000 - (\$0.50)(120,000) \\
 &= \$10,000
 \end{aligned}$$

2.

Thorpe Inc. Conversion Cost Report For Last Year			
Conversion Cost	Actual	Budget	Variance
Direct labor ^a	\$ 963,200	\$1,120,000	\$156,800 F
Supervision	190,000	180,000	10,000 U
Utilities ^b	20,500	19,800	700 U
Depreciation	225,000	225,000	0
Supplies ^c	24,640	28,000	3,360 F
Maintenance ^d	237,000	266,400	29,400 F
Rent	120,000	120,000	0
Other ^e	60,500	66,000	5,500 F
Total conversion cost	\$1,840,840	\$2,025,200	\$184,360 F

^a $(\$10)(112,000 \text{ DLH}) = \$1,120,000$ ^b $\$3,000 + (\$0.15 \times 112,000 \text{ DLH}) = \$19,800$ ^c $(\$0.25)(112,000 \text{ DLH}) = \$28,000$ ^d $\$20,000 + (\$2.20 \times 112,000 \text{ DLH}) = \$266,400$ ^e $\$10,000 + (\$0.50 \times 112,000 \text{ DLH}) = \$66,000$

The direct labor cost variance should be given special attention because it is such a large variance compared to the other variances. The figures should be checked for accuracy and to be sure that all direct labor costs are being accounted for.

P 11-54

1. Standard fixed overhead rate = $\$2,160,000 / (120,000 \text{ units} \times 5 \text{ units})$
 = $\$3.60$ per DLH

Standard variable overhead rate = $\$1,440,000 / 600,000 \text{ DLH}$
 = $\$2.40$ per DLH

2. Fixed: $118,600 \times 5 \times \3.60 = $\$2,134,800$
 Variable: $118,600 \times 5 \times \2.40 = $\$1,423,200$

Total FOH variance = $\$2,150,400 - \$2,134,800$
 = $\$15,600 \text{ U}$

Total VOH variance = $\$1,422,800 - \$1,423,200$
 = $\$400 \text{ F}$

3. Fixed overhead analysis:

Actual FOH	Budgeted FOH	Applied FOH
\$2,150,400	\$2,160,000	\$2,134,800
\$9,600 F		\$25,200 U
Spending		Volume

The spending variance is the difference between planned and actual costs. Each item's variance should be analyzed to see if these costs can be reduced. The volume variance is the incorrect prediction of volume, or alternatively, it is a signal of the loss or gain that occurred because of producing at a level different from the expected level.

4. Variable overhead analysis:

Actual VOH	Budgeted VOH	Applied VOH
\$1,422,800	$\$2.40 \times 592,300 \text{ hours}$ \$1,421,520	\$1,423,200
\$1,280 U		\$1,680 F
Spending		Efficiency

The variable overhead spending variance is the difference between the actual variable overhead costs and the budgeted costs for the actual hours used. The variable overhead efficiency variance is the savings or extra cost attributable to the efficiency of labor usage.

P 11-54 (Continued)**5. Overhead variance isolation:**

Journal			
Date	Account & Explanation	Debit	Credit
	VOH Control	400	
	VOH Spending Variance	1,280	
	VOH Efficiency Variance		1,680
	FOH Volume Variance	25,200	
	FOH Spending Variance		9,600
	FOH Control		15,600

Closing to Cost of Goods Sold:

Journal			
Date	Account & Explanation	Debit	Credit
	Cost of Goods Sold	26,480	
	FOH Spending Variance		1,280
	FOH Volume Variance		25,200
	FOH Spending Variance	9,600	
	VOH Efficiency Variance	1,680	
	Cost of Goods Sold		11,280

P 11-55**1. Variable overhead variances:**

Actual VOH	Budgeted VOH	Applied VOH
	$\$10 \times 82,000 \text{ hrs}$	$\$10 \times 80,000 \text{ hrs}$
\$860,000	\$820,000	\$800,000
	\$40,000 U	\$20,000 U
	Spending	Efficiency

Formula approach:

VOH spending variance = Actual VOH – (SVOR × AH)
= \$860,000 – (\$10 × 82,000)
= \$40,000 U

VOH efficiency variance = (AH – SH)SVOR
= (82,000 – 80,000)\$10
= \$20,000 U

P 11-55 (Continued)

2. Fixed overhead variances:

Actual FOH	Budgeted FOH	Applied FOH
	$\$6 \times 1.60 \text{ hrs} \times 60,000 \text{ units}$	$\$6 \times 1.60 \text{ hrs} \times 50,000 \text{ units}$
\$556,000	\$576,000	\$480,000
	\$20,000 F	\$96,000 U
	Spending	Volume

The volume is a measure of unused capacity. This cost is reduced as production increases. Thus, selling more goods is the key to reducing this capacity (at least in the short run).

P 11-56

1. Standard fixed overhead rate = $\$1,286,400 / (120,000 \text{ hrs} \times 4 \text{ units})$
 = \$2.68 per direct labor hour

Standard variable overhead rate = $\$888,000 / 480,000 \text{ hours}$
 = \$1.85 per direct labor hour

2. Fixed: $119,000 \times 4 \times \$2.68 = \$1,275,680$
 Variable: $119,000 \times 4 \times \$1.85 = \$880,600$

Total FOH variance = $\$1,300,000 - \$1,275,680$
 = \$24,320 Underapplied

Total VOH variance = $\$927,010 - \$880,600$
 = \$46,410 Underapplied

3. Fixed overhead analysis:

Actual FOH	Budgeted FOH	Applied FOH
\$1,300,000	\$1,286,400	\$1,275,680
	\$13,600 U	\$10,720 U
	Spending	Volume

The spending variance is the difference between planned and actual costs. Each item's variance should be analyzed to see if these costs can be reduced. The volume variance is the incorrect prediction of volume, or alternatively, it is a signal of the loss or gain that occurred because of producing at a level different from the expected level. If practical volume is used to compute the fixed overhead rate, it is a measure of unused productive capacity.

P 11-56 (Continued)**4. Variable overhead analysis:**

Actual VOH	Budgeted VOH	Applied VOH
	$\$1.85 \times 487,900 \text{ hours}$	$\$1.85 \times 476,000 \text{ hours}$
\$927,010	\$902,615	\$880,600
	\$24,395 U	\$22,015 U
	Spending	Efficiency

The variable overhead spending variance is the difference between the actual variable overhead costs and the budgeted costs for the actual hours used. It is similar in some ways to the direct materials and direct labor price variances, but variances can also be caused by inefficiency. The variable overhead efficiency variance is the savings or extra cost attributable to the efficiency of direct labor usage.

P 11-57

1. The budgeted overhead costs are broken down into fixed and variable costs by the high-low method:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Standard VOH rate} &= \frac{\text{Change in cost}}{\text{Change in activity}} \\ &= \$144,000 / 12,000 \text{ hours} \\ &= \$12 \text{ per hour} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{FOH rate} &= \text{Total rate} - \text{VOH rate} \\ &= \$18 - \$12 \\ &= \$6 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{2. Budgeted fixed overhead} &= Y_2 - VX_2 \\ &= \$540,000 - \$12(30,000) \\ &= \$180,000 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{FOH spending variance} &= \text{Actual FOH} - \text{Budgeted FOH} \\ &= \$200,000 - \$180,000 = \$20,000 \text{ U} \end{aligned}$$

3. To find the VOH spending variance, we need to find the actual hours. To find AH, we first need to find the standard hours, SH:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Fixed OH volume variance} &= \text{Budgeted fixed overhead} - (\text{Fixed overhead rate} \times \text{SH}) \\ \$20,000 &= \$180,000 - (\$6.00 \times \text{SH}) \\ \$160,000 &= \$6.00 \times \text{SH} \\ \text{SH} &= 26,667^* \text{ hours} \end{aligned}$$

*Rounded

P 11-57 (Continued)

Next, the actual hours need to be found:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{VOH efficiency variance} &= (\text{AH} - \text{SH})\text{SVOR} \\
 -\$18,000 &= (\text{AH} - 26,667)\$12 \\
 -\$1,500 &= \text{AH} - 26,667 \\
 \text{AH} &= 25,167 \\
 \\
 \text{VOH spending variance} &= \text{Actual VOH} - (\text{VOH rate} \times \text{AH}) \\
 &= \$310,000 - (\$12 \times 25,167) \\
 &= \$310,000 - \$302,004 \\
 &= \$7,996 \text{ U}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$4. \text{ 26,667 hours/100,000 units} = 0.26667 \text{ hour per unit}$$

P 11-58

1.

**Shumaker Company
Performance Report**

	Actual Costs	Costs*	Budgeted Variance
Direct materials	\$ 775,000	\$ 750,000	\$25,000 U
Direct labor	590,000	600,000	10,000 F
Variable overhead	310,000	300,000	10,000 U
Fixed overhead	180,000	165,000	15,000 U
Total	\$1,855,000	\$1,815,000	\$40,000 U

*Uses the variable unit standard costs for materials, labor, and variable overhead (e.g., DM = \$15 × 50,000); fixed overhead = \$3.00 × 55,000 (the FOH rate is based on expected production).

2. a. **FOH variances:**

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Spending variance} &= \text{Actual FOH} - \text{Budgeted FOH} \\
 &= \$180,000 - \$165,000 \\
 &= \$15,000 \text{ U}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Volume variance} &= \text{Budgeted FOH} - (\text{FOH rate} \times \text{SH}) \\
 &= \$165,000 - (\$2.50 \times 60,000) \\
 &= \$15,000 \text{ U}
 \end{aligned}$$

Note: FOH rate is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Hours allowed} &= 60,000 \text{ hours/50,000 units} \\
 &= 1.20 \text{ hours per unit}
 \end{aligned}$$

P 11-58 (Continued)

Standard FOH rate = \$3.00 per unit /1.20 hours per unit
= \$2.50 per hour

b. VOH variances:

Variable OH rate = \$300,000/60,000 hours
= \$5.00 per hour

Spending variance = Actual VOH – (SVOR × AH)
= \$310,000 – (\$5.00 × 63,000)
= \$5,000 F

Efficiency variance = (AH – SH)SVOR
= (63,000 – 60,000)\$5.00
= \$15,000 U

CASES

Case 11-59

1. Fixed overhead rate = $\$2,400,000/600,000$ hours*
= \$4 per hour

*Standard hours allowed = $2 \times 300,000$ units.

2. Athens plant:

Actual FOH	Budgeted FOH	Applied FOH
\$2,500,000	\$2,400,000	\$4 × 600,000 hours
\$100,000 U		0
Spending		Volume

Little Rock plant:

Actual FOH	Budgeted FOH	Applied FOH
\$2,500,000	\$2,400,000	\$4 × 480,000 hours
\$100,000 U		\$480,000 U
Spending		Volume

The spending variance is almost certainly caused by supervisor salaries (for example, an unexpected midyear increase due to union pressures). It is unlikely that the lease payments or depreciation would be greater than budgeted. Changing the terms on a 10-year lease in the first year would be unusual (unless there is some sort of special clause permitting increased payments for something like unexpected inflation). Also, the depreciation should be on target (unless more equipment was purchased or the depreciation budget was set before the price of the equipment was known with certainty).

The volume variance is easy to explain. The Little Rock plant produced less than expected, and so there was an unused capacity cost: $\$4 \times 120,000$ hours = \$480,000. The Athens plant had no unused capacity.

Case 11-59 (Continued)

- 3. It appears that the 120,000-hour unused capacity (60,000 subassemblies) is permanent for the Little Rock plant. This plant has 10 supervisors, each making \$50,000. Supervision is a step-cost driven by the number of production lines. Unused capacity of 120,000 hours means that 2 lines can be shut down, saving the salaries of two supervisors (\$100,000 at the original salary level). The equipment for the 2 lines is owned. If it could be sold, then the money could be reinvested and the depreciation charge would be reduced by 20% (2 lines shut down out of 10). There is no way to directly reduce the lease payments for the building. Perhaps the company could use the space to establish production lines for a different product. Or perhaps the space could be subleased. Another possibility is to keep the supervisors and equipment and try to fill the unused capacity with special orders—orders for the subassembly below the regular selling price from a market not normally served. If the selling price is sufficient to cover the variable costs and cover at least the salaries and depreciation for the two lines, then the special order option may be a possibility. This option, however, is fraught with risks, e.g., the risk of finding enough orders to justify keeping the supervisors and equipment, the risk of alienating regular customers who pay full price, and the risk of violating price discrimination laws. [Note: You may wish to point out the value of the resource usage model in answering this question (see Chapter 3)].**
- 4. For each plant, the standard fixed overhead rate is \$4 per direct labor hour. Since each subassembly should use two hours, the fixed overhead cost per unit is \$8, regardless of where they are produced. Should they differ? Some may argue that the rate for the Little Rock plant needs to be recalculated. For example, one possibility is to use expected actual capacity, instead of practical capacity. In this case, the Little Rock plant would have a fixed overhead rate of $\$2,400,000 / 480,000 \text{ hours} = \5 per hour and a cost per subassembly of \$10. The question is: Should the subassemblies be charged for the cost of the unused capacity? ABC suggests a negative response. Products should be charged for the resources they use, and the cost of unused capacity should be reported as a separate item to draw management's attention to the need to manage this unused capacity.**

Case 11-60

- 1. If reducing negative environmental impacts is a legitimate firm-wide objective or if legally mandated, then there is an ethical obligation to help achieve the desired reduction. Furthermore, if it is possible to reduce environmental impacts while simultaneously reducing costs, then this would seem to be an outcome that ought to be pursued for the well-being of the firm; thus, it can be argued that in this case there is also an ethical obligation to act. In terms of ethical standards, that of competence is the most obvious category for sustaining the argument that an ethical obligation exists to help in reducing environmental impacts. Ethical professional practice requires continuous development of knowledge and skills and performance of duties in accordance with relevant laws, regulations, and technical standards. Flexible budgeting uses cost formulas and thus requires the financial expert to identify costs that vary with specific drivers. Some of these drivers can be environmental variables such as kilowatt hours, gallons of fuel, pounds of toxic chemicals, etc. Thus, reducing the output should reduce the projected cost either by reducing the output itself or by reducing the unit variable cost.**
- 2. Any financial officer should be concerned with cost reduction. If reducing environmental waste or pollutants also produces a reduction in cost, then it seems like there is an ethical obligation to undertake and support these objectives. To refuse to engage in acts that will simultaneously reduce costs and negative environmental impacts seems unethical. There is an issue of credibility (Standard IV)—the need to communicate information in the right way and to disclose all relevant information. There is also a need for competence (Standard I)—an obligation to have the knowledge and skills needed to support such actions.**
- 3. A variety of answers will emerge. There are always ethical dilemmas that can surface when performance evaluations occur. For example, is it ethical for a financial executive to deliberately and systematically overstate the unit variable cost in a flexible budget? (The objective may be to force subordinate managers to find ways to reduce costs.) Alternatively, a subordinate manager may report more maintenance hours than actually used, and simultaneously reduce preventive maintenance. The flexible budget will then project a higher expected cost than the actual costs incurred. The objective may be to achieve a bonus or salary increase.**