

## The Balanced Scorecard Approach as a Tool for Performance Evaluation in the Hospitality Industry

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### ABSTRACT

Nowadays, hotel organizations endeavor to achieve long-term competitive advantage in the marketplace through the implementation of strategic performance measurement systems. The traditional measure of hotel performance is the hotel's financial aspects, such as net profit, return on investment, return on assets, and earnings per share. However, such aspects have a serious limitation that they cannot recognize intangible factors. Therefore, professors Robert Kaplan and David Norton developed a strategic management tool called the Balanced Scorecard model (BSC). The BSC enables organizations to translate their mission, vision and strategy into a comprehensive set of performance measures and to provide the framework for strategic measurement and management, hoping that the Balanced Scorecard will supplement traditional financial measures with other three key business perspectives that could be used to measure performance: customers, internal business processes, and learning and growth. This paper aims at identifying the key performance indicators (KPI) in hospitality industry used for performance measurement. It also investigates BSC awareness and use within hotels. In addition, the research aims to discuss how hospitality establishments can reap benefits from implementing the BSC and shows how BSC has the potential to deliver competitive advantage. In order to achieve these goals, a model is developed based on the BSC perspectives. This model has been transformed into a questionnaire. The research sample includes mainly hotels' managers (Regional Managers, Assistant General Managers, and Department Managers). Results have revealed that many hospitality establishments already apply the BSC to measure their performance. Moreover, despite the fact that hotels' managers strongly support the potential usefulness of the BSC in their business, they still focus on traditional financial measures for measuring hotel performance. Furthermore, the results have showed that the customer attribute is considered the most important among the four given core attributes, followed by the financial perspective, internal business processes perspective, and learning and growth perspective, respectively. This indicates that hotels managements start to take into account other indicators to assess performance than financial dimension. Also, they find out that it is hard to measure performance when it only counts financial aspects due to the uniqueness of hotel products and services.

**Keywords:** Balanced Scorecard; Performance measurement; Performance management; Strategic management; Strategic maps; Hotels; Financial and non-financial measures; KPI.

### Introduction

Performance measurement is an important managerial activity for hotels to deliver competitive advantage.<sup>1</sup> Performance measurement is the process of quantifying past actions to facilitate the pursuit of organizational control.<sup>2,3</sup> Traditional performance measurement systems, meanwhile, typically stress the short-term and past orientation while largely ignore the drivers of future performance.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, traditional operational metrics provide a picture of profitability in terms of efficiency, but they fail to provide a systematic depiction of effectiveness in terms of achievement of strategic objectives.<sup>5</sup>

Moreover, the traditional means of performance measurement are excessively profit based, unbalanced, unsatisfactory for businesses seeking a competitive advantage,<sup>1,6</sup> lack market orientation,<sup>7</sup> lack accuracy,<sup>8</sup> and non-holistic; therefore; over-reliance on them is no longer relevant for today's managers.<sup>5,9</sup> Measuring organizational success and implementing effective strategies for success represent continuous challenges for managers.<sup>3</sup> Whilst financial measures are clearly important, new frameworks have emerged in recent years that take into account a broader range of measures. These frameworks aim to respond to the criticisms leveled at

financial measures.<sup>6</sup> Performance measurement frameworks now need to move beyond the mere collection of financial and non-financial measures and seek to identify causal links among measures, strategies, and outcomes.<sup>5</sup> The Balanced Scorecard model is one of a number of performance measurement and management tools used to execute strategy. The BSC implementation can be said to achieve success and popularity being pioneered in the hospitality industry by Hilton Hotels in 1994 and Marriott.<sup>7</sup> The Balanced Scorecard is a value-adding system for management.<sup>10</sup> Also, a well-designed BSC can help management to translate the organization's mission and vision into goals, actions and performance measures, align individual and organizational goals, and measure/guide progress towards goal attainment.<sup>11</sup> The usage of the Balanced Scorecard by hotel organizations is utterly low due to the lack of knowledge about such model.<sup>12</sup> Recently, a growing number of academics have acknowledged the need for formal, systematic and large-scale evaluation of the effectiveness of the BSC.<sup>10</sup>

### **Performance Measurement**

Performance measurement has become increasingly important due to the changing nature of work, increasing competition, specific improvement initiatives, national and international quality awards, changing organizational roles, the power of technology, and changing external demand.<sup>13</sup>

Organizations need to set clear goals and objectives, develop criteria for performance measurement, evaluate that performance, and compare the performance against the goals and objectives of the organization. Moreover, measuring performance plays an important role in planning and decision-making; it also makes the link between strategy, performance and strategic evaluation. Over the past few decades a variety of performance measurement approaches or frameworks have emerged to help guide managers in achieving better outcomes.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>14</sup>describes performance measurement as "a process of assessing progress towards achieving pre-determined goals, including information on the efficiency by which resources are transformed into goods and services, the quality of those outputs and outcomes, and the effectiveness of organizational operations in terms of their specific contributions to organizational objectives." Performance measurement is also defined as "the systematic attempt to learn how responsive organization's products and services are to the needs of the customer and the organization's ability to improve effectiveness and efficiency in quantitative terms."<sup>15</sup>

Furthermore,<sup>16</sup> considers performance measurement as "the process of quantifying the efficiency and effectiveness of past actions". While<sup>17</sup> suggests that it is used for "evaluating how well organizations are managed and the value they deliver for customers and other stakeholders". Moreover,<sup>18</sup> mentioned that "performance measurement is the process of measuring work accomplishments and output, as well as measuring in-process parameters that affect work output and accomplishments."

On the other hand, performance management is defined as a formal process used to measure, evaluate, and influence job-related attitudes, behaviors, and performance results with employees.<sup>19</sup> Moreover, it is defined by 20as "a process which contributes to the effective management of individuals and teams in order to achieve high levels of organizational performance". However, performance management has been traditionally defined as the process of financial control, in which the mission and strategy are translated into budgets, and subsequently the results are compared with budgets. The need for more flexible and responsive organizations and valuable resource utilization as well as shrinking budgets, heavy price pressures, and concern for costs and delivery systems have created demands for effective performance measures.<sup>13, 21</sup> As a result, hospitality organizations have to deal with performance measures in different performance dimensions. There is a considerable degree of concern that despite the progress taking place with regard to the design of more effective performance measurement systems, hospitality organizations are still focusing on more traditional forms of performance measures which are narrow and easily quantifiable.<sup>21</sup>

With the help of performance measurement tools, organizations can monitor the implementation of their business plans and strategies, thereby contributing to their organizational success.<sup>22</sup> The role of performance measurement systems: (1) help the organization assess whether it is receiving the expected contributions from employees and suppliers; (2) help the organization evaluate whether it is giving each stakeholder group what it needs to continue their support so the organization can achieve its primary objectives; (3) assist the organization

in implementing processes that contribute to achieving the strategic objectives; and (4) help the organization assesses and monitor strategic planning in accordance with the agreements negotiated with key stakeholders.<sup>23</sup>

The key performance indicators (KPIs) for hotels are considered metrics for monitoring the qualitative or quantitative performance of strategic objectives, outcomes, or key result area (KRA). They are also absolutely critical to the success of an activity and growth of the organization overall. The purpose of hotel KPIs is to provide decision makers in the organization measurable indicators for measuring or judging the organizational performance and for measuring the achievements of organizational objectives. These Key Performance Indicators are represented in innovation, employee performance measures, the external environment, operational performance, financial measures, service quality, customer satisfaction, organizational learning, critical success factors, and competitive environment.<sup>9,24</sup>

### **Balanced Scorecard Definitions**

The simplest way to refer to the BSC is as a tool with different blends: A comprehensive management and strategic tool. The BSC is being used as a measurement tool, performance management system, or strategic management and control system.<sup>25</sup>The following definitions of the Balanced Scorecard concept present a rich picture from multiple angles:

- The Balanced Scorecard retains traditional financial measures. Financial measures tell the story of past events, an adequate story for industrial age companies for which investments in long-term capabilities and customer relationships are not critical for success. However, these financial measures are inadequate for guiding and evaluating the journey that information age companies must make to create future value through investment in customers, suppliers, employees, processes, technology, and innovation.<sup>26</sup>
- The Balanced Scorecard is a tool that translates an organization's mission and strategy into a comprehensive set of performance measures that provide the framework for a strategic measurement and management system.<sup>27</sup>
- The Balanced Scorecard is a strategic planning and management system that is used extensively in business and industry, government, and nonprofit organizations worldwide to align business activities to the vision and strategy of the organization, improve internal and external communications, and monitor organization performance against strategic goals.<sup>28</sup>
- The Balanced Scorecard has multiple meanings. The initial meaning, when it was first popularized in the early 90s, was of an approach for generating a performance report through grouping performance measures via perspectives. The most commonly used perspectives are financial, customer, internal processes, and learning and growth. Gradually, this management tool has evolved to become the basis for a performance management system that uses strategic, operational and individual performance plans as the basis for a communicating, monitoring and improving organizational performance.<sup>29</sup>

This notion of different perspectives is unique to the Scorecard. Another important feature of the Scorecard is the clear link between corporate strategy and measures throughout the organization. Furthermore, by focusing on the four perspectives, managers can articulate their core vision, strategy, and goals before translating them into specific measures, targets, and initiatives. The Scorecard provides a link between strategy and operations.<sup>30</sup>

### **The Balanced Scorecard as a Performance Measurement System**

The Balanced Scorecard (BSC) is a tool to create a framework for a strategic measurement and management system, transforming an organization's mission and strategies into a comprehensive set of performance measurements.<sup>31</sup>It was developed by Kaplan and Norton in 1992 to address the limitations of the use of the traditional financial performance measurement systems. The financial accounting measures that are generally used include the return on investment, the market share and the earnings per share, since these measures produce results by relying on past performances. In the competitive environment of nowadays this kind of information may be misleading and insufficient, especially in areas relating to the development and the innovation of the organization.<sup>32</sup>In addition, such information fail to measure the impact on the overall organization.<sup>33</sup>Furthermore,

traditional performance measurement has been criticized for creating single focus and short-term orientation, lacking strategic focus, and discouraging continuous improvement<sup>24</sup>

Although traditional financial performance measures offer an easy way of measuring the quantitative part of the performance of hotels, they have a serious limitation that they cannot recognize intangible factors, such as customer/employee satisfaction, customer equity, and the brand image of the hotels.<sup>34</sup>The non-financial indicators better reflect the investment and the performance of the more intangible aspects, which are so good at predicting the future financial performance. These intangibles can be a source of sustainable competitive advantage and are the resources that the organization owns. Also, they are not easily imitable.<sup>22</sup>The fundamental factor to the success of any organization relies on the increasing role of intangible assets in creating value.<sup>35</sup>

Furthermore,<sup>22</sup>point out the mistakes that organizations make when trying to measure the non-financial performance include: (1) Lack of alignment between measurements with strategy : A key challenge is to determine which non-financial measures need to be implemented; (2) Validating the measurements: Do not validate the model, which leads to measure many things, and most of them are irrelevant; (3) Setting up the right goals and measures; and (4) Wrong measurements: Companies use metrics that have no statistical validity. According to<sup>23</sup> most organizations use formal performance measurement systems that are extensions of their financial reports. The traditional financial accounting measures can give misleading signals for continuous improvement and innovation in organizations, and they are generally non-aligned with the capabilities and skills required for today's organizations in the preparation of their future. The measurement systems have been recognized as crucial elements to improving business performance and organizations.

The BSC suggests a combination of financial performance measures, with due attention to customer requirements, business processes and long-term sustainability. The BSC is reflected by the balance between the lagging indicators that represent the results of measurements, the past, and leading indicators representative of the future trends that will affect the results on the future. Moreover, the BSC does not only translate strategy into operational terms; it also aligns organizations with strategy, focusing business units and employees about their role in performing tasks. The BSC complements traditional financial performance measures with three additional perspectives, the **customer, internal process, and learning and growth**, as shown in Figure 1, allowing matching the accompanying financial measures for monitoring progress in building the capabilities and acquiring the intangible assets that are crucial for future growth.<sup>22</sup>

The BSC re-dimensioned the relative importance of the financial dimension within enterprise management. It merely postulates that other dimensions (the customer, learning and growth, and internal process) are equally important. Hence, the four dimensions are perfectly "balanced".<sup>18 36</sup>have proposed that continuous improvement in each of the non-financial perspectives would be monitored to assess whether it is translated ultimately into financial performance. If intangible investments did not result in improved financial performance, managers would need to redraw the strategy map.<sup>37</sup>

The first step in management processes creation for the implementation of the strategy involves the construction of a consistent and reliable framework that represents the network of relationships that lead to the achievement of objectives and the implementation of strategy. This framework is known as the "strategy map",<sup>22</sup>which is a series of cause-and-effect linkages among objectives of the four Balanced Scorecard perspectives.<sup>10,36,37</sup>A strategy map for a BSC is a causal map depicting relations between various performance measures and corporate objectives. Causal maps express the judgment that certain events or actions will lead to particular outcomes.<sup>35,38,3</sup>



**The main characteristic of The BSC** is the presentation of a mixture of both financial and non-financial measures in order to establish a complete view regarding the organization's performance,<sup>32</sup> as it mixes different measures: Financial and operational, and qualitative and quantitative.<sup>1</sup> also links long-term strategic objectives with short-term actions.<sup>40</sup> Moreover,<sup>9</sup> points out that the BSC reflects the balance between short-term operational controls and long-term vision, strategy and objectives, lagging and leading indicators, and between external and internal performance perspectives.

Organizations should focus on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of each of the four Balanced Scorecard perspectives for achieving the strategic plan.<sup>41</sup> In order to secure an easy review process of the property performance and enable managers to monitor their performance relative to goals, a selection of the most significant KPIs for each perspective is performed as follow<sup>25,29</sup> :

**1- Customer perspective (how an organization should appear to customers):** It focuses on customer satisfaction, market share, new customer acquisition, customer retention, and customer profitability. Customer measures refer to the degree of meeting the customer's needs and include the price level, customers' rankings, matching of deliveries with customers' specification, promptness of service delivery, percentage of new customers, and percentage of customers kept.<sup>42</sup>

The customers usually have four main concerns regarding the product or service: Time, quality, performance and service, and cost. Therefore, the company has to align its targets according to these four elements, and subsequently transform these targets into specific measures.<sup>10,32</sup>

**2- Internal business perspective (what business processes the organization should excel at):** It inherently focuses on the design, delivery of the services, and the degree of excellence achieved.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, this perspective measures the internal business processes, core competencies, and technologies that would satisfy stakeholders and customers.<sup>43</sup> The internal measures for the Balanced Scorecard should aim at quality, employee skills and productivity. In addition,<sup>12</sup> have mentioned that the indicators the manager can use to measure the internal performance of the business include: employee turnover, revenue by segment, complaint responses, etc. While<sup>10</sup> have argued that an organization's ability to innovate, improve, and learn ties directly to its value. Therefore, only through the ability to launch new products, create more value for customers, and improve operating efficiencies continually can the organization penetrate new markets and increase revenues and margins—in short, grow, and thereby increase the shareholder value.<sup>44</sup>

**3- Learning and growth perspective (innovation and learning) (how organization would sustain its ability to change and improve):** It comes from three principle sources: people, systems, and organizational procedures. Learning and growth activities focus on translating strategies into action to enhance the ability of the organization, through its employees, to compete in the future and to achieve its current and long-term goals.<sup>45</sup> Learning and growth measures focus on factors that facilitate continuous improvement in the organization such as employee satisfaction, employee suggestions, employee retention, employee productivity, computerization, and training and development sessions for employees.<sup>30</sup> Finally, this perspective enables managers to build a complete strategy map by defining the employee capabilities and skills, technology, and corporate the climate needed to improve and support an effective strategy for the future.<sup>12</sup>

**4- Finally, the financial perspective (how the organization should appear to stakeholders):** It is still the most commonly used measurement tool in performance measurement and management accounting. These measures focus on what has happened in the past and include mainly those measures dealing with organizational profitability, growth, and shareholder value. Moreover, key goals and measures here generally involve [gross and/or net] profitability, return on capital employed, economic value added, sales growth, market position and share, cash flow, etc.<sup>4</sup> However, financial objectives reflect economic consequences of actions already taken in the other perspectives.<sup>43</sup>

Importantly, it should also be noted that a causal relationship is overtly recognized between the four perspectives, with the training programs provided for improving employees' skills and an investment in information technology (learning and growth perspective) leads to an improvement in delivering service (an

internal process), which also leads to customer satisfaction and loyalty (customer perspective), and this, in turn, will increase revenue and profits (financial perspective).<sup>37,46,47</sup> Table 1 lists examples of goals and measures that may appear in each of the four measurement perspectives.

**Table (1): Examples of Quadrant BSC Goals and Measures**

	<b>Goals</b> (What do the organizations have to do?)	<b>Measures</b> (How do organizations know if they are achieving their goals?)
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Achieve a higher return on investment</li> <li>- Achieve significant revenue from new product launch</li> <li>- Maximize profitability</li> <li>- Delight shareholders</li> <li>- Achieve cost reduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ROI, ROCE</li> <li>- Revenue growth</li> <li>- Unit costs</li> <li>- Value added measures</li> <li>- Cash flow</li> </ul>
Customer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dominate major markets</li> <li>- Delight targeted customers</li> <li>- Increase revenue through repeat purchases</li> <li>- Grow business in a selected target group</li> <li>- Create responsive supply</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Market share</li> <li>- Customer satisfaction</li> <li>- Survey results</li> <li>- Customer retention over time</li> <li>- Customer acquisition from target group</li> <li>- On-time delivery</li> </ul>
Internal Business Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continually challenge competitor products in the market place</li> <li>- Compete on product reliability</li> <li>- Design productivity</li> <li>- Compete on product delivery channel mix</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Time to market for next generation of products</li> <li>- Production defect rates</li> <li>- Efficiency</li> <li>- Volumes of transactions conducted through each of delivery channels</li> </ul>
Learning & Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a skilled workforce</li> <li>- Value staff</li> <li>- Create organizational alignment</li> <li>- Provide internal information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of training hours completed per head</li> <li>- Employee retention</li> <li>- Peer evaluation measures within/between teams</li> <li>- Information availability</li> <li>- Employee satisfaction</li> <li>- Turnover rates</li> </ul>

Source : <sup>40,48</sup>

In order to develop and implement the Balanced Scorecard, the organization would have to follow certain steps as mentioned by<sup>10,12,40,43</sup>.

- **The first process: Clarify the vision:** During this process managers develop a Balanced Scorecard that will state the general goals and measures to be accomplished, and translate the vision into strategy.
- **The second process: Communicate and link strategic objectives and measures:** Managers communicate their strategy up and down the organization and link it to departmental and individual objectives.
- **The third process: Business Planning:** This phase enables organizations to integrate their business and financial plans, set targets, and align strategic initiatives.

–**The fourth process: Feedback and learning:** Existing feedback and review processes focus on whether the company, its departments, or its individual employees have met their budgeted financial goals.

**The purpose of the BSC** is to improve management effectiveness by having a shared and actionable view of the strategy. It also provides a generic framework to translate strategy into operational terms, a clear line of sight to the vision and strategy of the organization, and feedback and guidance. Also, it is a tool for communicating the strategy and the processes and systems required for strategy implementation. Furthermore, it creates a system approach or an integrated strategic management process, and draws a cause and effect roadmap to stakeholder value-shareholder, customer, and employee. Moreover, it provides a balance between current performance and long term competitive abilities financial and non-financial.<sup>33</sup> Additionally, the initial objectives of the Balanced Scorecard are the value creation, considering the intangible and intellectual capital as opposed to the traditional systems of financial performance,<sup>22</sup> and improving internal and external communications.<sup>49,50</sup>

### **The importance of implementing the BSC**

Among the benefits of applying the Balanced Scorecard, these are the most significant: The Balanced Scorecard helps align the business actions and activities to vision and strategy;<sup>37,51,52</sup> the Balanced Scorecard provides management with a comprehensive picture of business operations; it facilitates communication and understanding of business goals and strategies at all levels of an organization; initiatives are continually measured and evaluated against industry standards;<sup>23</sup> it also provides strategic feedback and learning;<sup>10</sup> it achieves unique competitive advantage through reduced time-frames and improved processes; it improves decisions and better solutions;<sup>33</sup> and it drives change and<sup>35</sup> continuous improvement.<sup>53</sup>

### **The Balanced Scorecard in the hospitality industry**

One framework that provides a consistent approach to successfully manage the business performance in the hospitality industry is the Balanced Scorecard. This can be proved by the successful documented experience with the Balanced Scorecard implementation and use by Hilton hotels and Marriott franchise, White Lodging Services, both worldwide recognized hotelier brands.<sup>3</sup>

### **Examples of hospitality industry related BSC objectives:**<sup>18,44</sup>

- a. The customer dimension:** Increase in market share, increase in repeat business, increase in guest satisfaction, improve customer profitability, increase brand awareness, reduce customer complaints, and increase the number of new customers.
- b. The learning and growth dimension:** Adherence to recruitment procedures, training and development programs, performance appraisals completed, control of staff turnover, increase in knowledge, and control payroll as percentage of turnover.
- c. The internal process dimension:** Improve reservations efficiency, check-in and check-out efficiency, time and motion cleaning of rooms, food and beverage cost efficiency, and control property maintenance.
- d. The financial dimension:** Increase average room rate, increase revenue per available room, increase non-room revenue, control variable cost, and reduce fixed cost.

## **2.6. Criticism of the Balanced Scorecard**

Most of the criticisms of the Balanced Scorecard model can be summarized into the following:

**Filtering:** The most common criticism of the Balanced Scorecard is termed filtering or choosing specific measures to report. According to<sup>54</sup>, the idea of limiting the number of measures in a perspective reduces the value of lead indicators.<sup>46</sup>

**Causality (cause-effect):** Another criticism of the Balanced Scorecard surrounds the claim of causality among the perspectives, that the causality links among the four perspectives are ambiguous and weak at best.<sup>55</sup>

**Clustering:** Another criticism of the Balanced Scorecard is clustering or grouping all measures into four perspectives.<sup>54</sup> Although<sup>40</sup> have addressed this issue by saying that some organizations may need more than four

perspectives, or the perspective names may need to be modified to meet the needs of the organization or industry, this issue still arises.

**General criticisms:** Other criticisms include that the BSC does not incorporate environmental, community, or social aspects, which are a growing concern for stakeholders and can negatively impact an organization if not properly assessed. In addition, it does not incorporate competition or technological development, making it static in a global environment where competition and technology are continually changing.<sup>32,56</sup> Also, some argue that any type of planning is futile because organizations are too mechanical and resistant to change because organizational culture prohibits it, and there is a separation of planners and operators.<sup>57</sup> As well, critics of the BSC hold that the system is not useful in large organizations as a corporate management system.<sup>46,58</sup> Additionally, it is considered to be hard for an organization to implement performance measures for new actions.<sup>32</sup> Furthermore, the BSC does not include some intangible factors, such as the company's image, competencies, culture, external stakeholders and employee morale. Moreover, it is hard to standardize performance scores of an organization.<sup>19,34</sup>

### Methodology

The sample chosen in this study includes five stars hotels in Greater Cairo. These categories of hotels are chosen to be more knowledgeable and to have a basic understanding and acquaintance with the topic of research in order to obtain meaningful data. Furthermore, the target population of the study is composed of 125 hotels' managers (including: Regional Managers, Assistant General Managers and Department Managers); it has been randomly selected.

A total of 150 questionnaires have been distributed and 130 are collected (for a response rate of 86%). Only 125 are valid after the elimination of the incomplete ones.

The questionnaire is composed of two sections: The first section is designed to elicit demographic data of the respondents. The second section of the questionnaire aims to investigate BSC awareness and use within hotels, clarify the KPI in hospitality industry, identify the attitude of hotels' managers toward the BSC, and rate the importance of each item of the four perspectives in the BSC when evaluating a hotel's performance.

The questionnaire has been structured that each BSC attribute is rated using a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (least important) to 5 (most important), in the attributes' part. A list of four perspectives has been generated from the review of literature. These factors are: Customer perspective, financial perspective, internal business perspective, and learning and growth perspective. Through the above process, **35** initial items have been generated in attempting to cover the BSC attributes and measure the four perspectives and their sub-dimension in the BSC model. This has included **9** items supporting financial perspective, **10** items for customer perspective, **8** items regarding internal business, and **8** items measuring learning and growth perspective; they have been chosen based on previous studies as well as interviews with hospitality industry professionals and experts. The items measured are listed as follows:

**Financial Perspective:** Return on investment (ROI) , revenue per available room (Rev PAR), revenue per available guest (Rev PAG), return on sales (ROS), revenue growth rate, economic value added (EVA), return on capital employed ( ROCE), return on assets (ROA) , and cost reduction.

**Customer Perspective:** Customer retention, customer satisfaction, customer complaints, customer profitability, market share, new customer acquisition, hotel image, market segmentation, customer value, and quick response to customer needs.

**Internal Business:** Occupancy rate, technology adaptation ratio, restaurant seat turnover, customer orientation, service failure rate, food and beverage sales per guest, check-in/out time, and inventory turnover.

**Learning and Growth Perspective:** Employee satisfaction, training levels and time, compensation, employee's job aptitude, employee retention, union relation, managerial leadership, and control of staff turnover.

## Results

The first section provides background information on the respondents of the questionnaire. Demographic profiles of respondents show that more than half of the respondents hold Assistant General Manager, Regional Manager and Department Manager positions. In terms of age, approximately 84 % of the respondents are between 41 and 50 years old. A majority of respondents falls into the category of 11-20 years of hotel work experience.

**Table (2): The importance of each type of the performance measures**

Performance measures		(5) Very important	(4) Important	(3) Neutral	(2) Not very important	(1) Unimportant	Mean	Standard deviation
Financial measures	Frequencies	122	3	0	0	0	4.9760	.15366
	Percentage	97.6 %	2.4 %	0	0	0		
Non-financial measures	Frequencies	24	89	10	2	0	4.0800	.57642
	Percentage	19.2 %	71.2 %	8 %	1.6 %	0		

The results in Table (2) indicate that despite the competitive environment of nowadays, hotels' managers still focus on traditional financial measures for measuring hotel performance with the mean of (4.9760) than the non-financial measures with the mean of (4.0800). However, it is worth mentioning that the traditional financial measures may be misleading and insufficient, especially in areas related to the development and innovation of the organization.

**Table (3): Awareness of the term Balanced Scorecard**

	Frequencies	Percentage
Yes	125	100 %
No	0	0 %

Table (3) indicates that all respondents are familiar with the term Balanced Scorecard in the hospitality industry and aware of it.

**Table (4): How the respondents learn about the Balanced Scorecard**

	Frequencies	Percentage
From your experience at hotel management	76	60.8 %
From other staff members with previous experience and knowledge about the BSC	46	36.8 %
Through attending seminars and training sessions about BSC	3	2.4 %
From professional journals	0	0
From financial press	0	0

From books	0	0
From academic literature	0	0

Table (4) shows that 60.8 % of the respondents assure learning about the Balanced Scorecard from their work experience at hotel management, while 36.8 % has known about the BSC from other staff members and managers with previous management and knowledge about it. On the other hand, only 2.4 % has learnt about the Balanced Scorecard through attending seminars and training sessions about the BSC.

**Table (5): Respondents use of the Balanced Scorecard**

	Frequencies	Percentage
Yes	125	100 %
No	0	0 %

As shown in Table (5), respondents have assured that they use the Balanced Scorecard to measure their hotels performance.

**Table (6): How long has the hotel used the Balanced Scorecard**

	Frequencies	Percentage
Less than 1 year	74	59.2 %
1-3 years	17	13.6 %
More than 3 years	34	27.2 %

As shown in Table (6), more than half of the respondents (59.2 %) have used the Balanced Scorecard for less than one year in their hotels, while the percentage of (27.2%) of the respondents has clarified their use of the BSC for more than 3 years. In addition, the percentage of (13.6 %) has been using the BSC from 1 to 3 years. Therefore, this indicates that the BSC is a new approach that has been recently applied in hospitality management.

**Table (7): The BSC perspective achieving the highest application in the hotels**

Business Areas		Yes	No
Customer	Frequencies	125	0
	Percentage	100 %	0
Internal business	Frequencies	3	122
	Percentage	2.4 %	97.6 %
Learning and growth	Frequencies	5	120

	Percentage	4 %	96 %
Financial	Frequencies	125	0
	Percentage	100 %	0

As displayed in Table (7), the respondents have mentioned that the dimensions used most for performance measurement in their hotels are customer and financial dimensions, while hotels managements still pay little attention to both internal business and learning and growth dimensions.

**Table (8): The key performance indicators (KPIs) used in hotels to evaluate performance**

		(3) Used regularly	(2) Used rarely	(1) Not used	Mean	Standard Deviation	Rank
1- Measure of customers' satisfaction through surveys and number of complaints	Frequencies	125	0	0	3.0000	.00000	1
	Percentage	100 %					
2- Market share of a specific type of customer or market	Frequencies	125	0	0	3.0000	.00000	2
	Percentage	100 %					
3- Number of new products	Frequencies	1	119	5	1.9680	.21761	5
	Percentage	0.8 %	95.2 %	4 %			
4- On-time deliveries	Frequencies	125	0	0	3.0000	.00000	3
	Percentage	100 %					
5- Employees' satisfaction rates	Frequencies	2	64	59	1.5440	.53134	7
	Percentage	1.6 %	51.2 %	47.2 %			
6- Employees' education and skill levels	Frequencies	2	5	118	1.0720	.31562	8
	Percentage	1.6 %	4 %	94.4 %			
7- Revenue growth	Frequencies	125	0	0	3.0000	.00000	4
	Percentage	100 %					
8- Revenue from new products	Frequencies	3	70	52	1.6080	.53726	6
	Percentage	2.4 %	56 %	41.6 %			
9- Environmental and social	Frequencies	1	1	123	1.0240	.19935	9

responsibility	Percentage	0.8 %	0.8 %	98.4%			
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Table 8 indicates that the key performance indicators (KPIs) hotels use to evaluate their performance are respectively customers’ satisfaction, market share, on-time deliveries, revenue growth, number of new products offered, revenue from new products, employees’ satisfaction rates, employees’ education and skill levels, and finally environmental and social responsibility.

**Table (9): The importance of the following objectives for hotels' managers**

		(5) Very import ant	(4) Impor tant	(3) Neutr al	(2) Not very import ant	(1) Unimp ortant	Mean	Stand ard Deviat ion	Ran k
1- Increase sales	Frequenci es	115	10	0	0	0	4.920 0	.2723 8	1
	Percentage	92 %	8 %						
2- Increase profits	Frequenci es	107	18	0	0	0	4.856 0	.3525 0	5
	Percentage	85.6 %	14.4 %						
3- Increase revenue	Frequenci es	111	14	0	0	0	4.888 0	.3166 4	3
	Percentage	88.8 %	11.2 %						
4- Customer satisfactio n	Frequenci es	72	53	0	0	0	4.576 0	.4961 8	8
	Percentage	57.6 %	42.4 %						
5- Increase the number of customers	Frequenci es	106	19	0	0	0	4.848 0	.3604 7	6
	Percentage	84.8 %	15.2 %						
6- Increase market share	Frequenci es	110	15	0	0	0	4.880 0	.3262 7	4
	Percentage	88 %	12 %						

7- Increase productivity	Frequencies	102	23	0	0	0	4.8160	.38904	7
	Percentage	81.6 %	18.4 %						
8- Improve the employees' skills	Frequencies	4	63	5	38	15	3.0240	1.19450	9
	Percentage	3.2 %	50.4 %	4 %	30.4 %	12 %			
9- Increase employees' satisfaction.	Frequencies	9	51	2	23	40	2.7280	1.45012	10
	Percentage	7.2 %	40.8 %	1.6 %	18.4 %	32 %			
10- Improve the quality of products/services	Frequencies	113	12	0	0	0	4.9040	.29578	2
	Percentage	90.4 %	9.6 %						

The respondents have been asked to rate the importance of the objectives for their hotels. It is noticeable that the financial areas are considered the most important objectives for hotels managements; it got higher rates represented in increasing sales, improving the quality of products/services, increasing revenue, increasing market share, increasing profits, increasing the number of customers, and increasing productivity. These results confirm the study of Kim and Lee.<sup>34</sup> Also, the customer perspective is considered the second objective represented in customer satisfaction; and finally the interest of employees is at the last stage represented in improving the employees' skills and increasing employees' satisfaction.

**Table (10): Attitude of hotels' managers toward the BSC**

		(5) Strongly agree	(4) Agree	(3) Neutral	(2) Disagree	(1) Strongly Disagree	Mean	Standard Deviation
1- BSC is an effective performance measurement system	Frequencies	41	70	14	0	0	4.2160	.62970
	Percentage	32.8 %	56 %	11.2 %				
2- My hotel is satisfied with the use of the BSC	Frequencies	53	69	3	0	0	4.4000	.53882
	Percentage	42.4 %	55.2 %	2.4 %				
3- It is a performance	Frequencies	91	33	1	0	0	4.7200	.46835

measurement tool relevant for hotels	Percentage	72.8 %	26.4 %	0.8 %				
4- It is easy to apply the BSC in hotels	Frequencies	89	35	1	0	0	4.7040	.47560
	Percentage	71.2 %	28 %	0.8 %				
5- It is easier to achieve the goals of the hotel when applying the BSC	Frequencies	60	59	4	2	0	4.4160	.63733
	Percentage	48 %	47.2 %	3.2 %	1.6 %			
6- It evaluates better the strategy of the hotel	Frequencies	49	73	3	0	0	4.3680	.53183
	Percentage	39.2 %	58.4 %	2.4 %				
7- It balances the long-term goals and short-term goals of the business	Frequencies	55	68	2	0	0	4.4240	.52769
	Percentage	44 %	54.4 %	1.6 %				
8- With the BSC the employees understand better the strategy and the vision of the business	Frequencies	30	95	0	0	0	4.2400	.42880
	Percentage	24 %	76 %					
9-Information from the BSC can help managers to improve the customer satisfaction	Frequencies	77	48	0	0	0	4.6160	.48832
	Percentage	61.6 %	38.4 %					
10- Information from the BSC can help managers to improve the efficiency in operation	Frequencies	68	57	0	0	0	4.5440	.50006
	Percentage	54.4 %	45.6 %					
11- Information from the BSC can help managers to improve the employees' skills	Frequencies	59	66	0	0	0	4.4720	.50122
	Percentage	47.2 %	52.8 %					
12- Information from the BSC can help managers to increase the employees' satisfaction levels	Frequencies	51	74	0	0	0	4.4080	.49344
	Percentage	40.8 %	59.2 %					

13- Information from the BSC can help managers to increase market share	Frequencies	83	42	0	0	0	4.6640	.47424
	Percentage	66.4 %	33.6 %					
14 - Information from the BSC can help managers to improve the products/services delivery time to customers	Frequencies	76	49	0	0	0	4.6080	.49016
	Percentage	60.8 %	39.2 %					
15 - Information from the BSC can help managers to increase profits	Frequencies	88	37	0	0	0	4.7040	.45833
	Percentage	70.4 %	29.6 %					
16 - Information from the BSC can help managers to reduce costs	Frequencies	80	45	0	0	0	4.6400	.48193
	Percentage	64 %	36 %					
Total attitude							<b>4.5090</b>	<b>.4359</b>

To understand the managers attitude toward implementing the Balanced Scorecard (BSC), the respondents have been asked to rate their level of agreement with a number of BSC attributes' statements listed above (in Table 10). The respondents have answered on a scale of one to five where one means 'Strongly Disagree' and five means 'Strongly agree'.

As shown above, the agreement level of respondents with all statements is positive with mean (4.5090) and standard deviation (.4359), which means that most managers' attitude is toward the scale of agree and strongly agree. This, in turn, leads to that managers have a positive attitude toward BSC.

**Table (11): The importance of each attribute when evaluating hotels' performance**

		(5) Very important	(4) Import ant	(3) Neut ral	(2) Not very import ant	(1) Unimp ortant	Mean	Standa rd Deviat ion	Ra nk
1- Financial Perspective:							<b>4.596 4</b>		
- ROI (Return on Investmen t)	Frequenc ies	92	32	1	0	0	<b>4.728 0</b>	.46448	
	Percentag e	73.6 %	25.6 %	0.8 %	0	0			

- ROS (Return on Sales)	Frequencies	90	35	0	0	0	4.720 0	.45081
	Percentage	72 %	28 %	0	0	0		
- Revenue Growth Rate	Frequencies	91	33	1	0	0	4.720 0	.46835
	Percentage	72.8 %	26.4 %	0.8 %	0	0		
- EVA (Economic Value Added)	Frequencies	59	66	0	0	0	4.472 0	.50122
	Percentage	47.2 %	52.8 %	0	0	0		
- ROCE (Return On Capital Employed )	Frequencies	61	64	0	0	0	4.488 0	.50187
	Percentage	48.8 %	51.2 %	0	0	0		
-ROA (Return On Assets)	Frequencies	57	68	0	0	0	4.456 0	.50006
	Percentage	45.6 %	54.4 %	0	0	0		
- Cost reduction	Frequencies	81	44	0	0	0	4.648 0	.47952
	Percentage	64.8 %	35.2 %	0	0	0		
- REV PAR  Revenue Per Available Room	Frequencies	69	56	0	0	0	4.552 0	.49929
	Percentage	55.2 %	44.8 %	0	0	0		
- REV PAG	Frequencies	73	52	0	0	0	4.584 0	.49488
	Percentage	58.4 %	41.6 %	0	0	0		

2- Customer Perspective:							4.623 2	
- Customer retention	Frequencies	84	40	1	0	0	4.664 0	.49095
	Percentage	67.2 %	32 %	0.8 %	0	0		
- Customer satisfaction	Frequencies	93	32	0	0	0	4.744 0	.43818
	Percentage	74.4 %	25.6 %	0	0	0		
- Customer complaints	Frequencies	79	46	0	0	0	4.632 0	.48420
	Percentage	63.2 %	36.8 %	0	0	0		
- Customer profitability	Frequencies	91	34	0	0	0	4.728 0	.44678
	Percentage	72.8 %	27.2 %	0	0	0		
- Market share	Frequencies	89	36	0	0	0	4.712 0	.45465
	Percentage	71.2 %	28.8 %	0	0	0		
- New customer acquisition	Frequencies	44	65	16	0	0	4.224 0	.65825
	Percentage	35.2 %	52 %	12.8 %	0	0		
- Hotel image	Frequencies	87	38	0	0	0	4.696 0	.46183
	Percentage	69.6 %	30.4 %	0	0	0		

- Market segmentation	Frequencies	75	45	5	0	0	4.5600	.57361	3
	Percentage	60 %	36 %	4 %	0	0			
- Customer value	Frequencies	69	56	0	0	0	4.5520	.49929	
	Percentage	55.2 %	44.8 %	0	0	0			
- Quick response to customer needs	Frequencies	90	35	0	0	0	4.7200	.45081	
	Percentage	72 %	28 %	0	0	0			
3 - Internal Business:							<b>1.5400</b>		
- Occupancy rate	Frequencies	1	0	14	59	51	<b>1.7280</b>	.72263	
	Percentage	0.8 %	0	11.2 %	47.2 %	40.8 %			
- Technology adaptation ratio	Frequencies	0	0	7	63	55	1.6160	.59275	
	Percentage	0	0	5.6 %	50.4 %	44 %			
- Restaurant seat turnover	Frequencies	0	1	0	84	40	1.6960	.51154	
	Percentage	0	0.8 %		67.2 %	32 %			
- Customer orientation	Frequencies	0	0	2	39	84	1.3440	.50965	
	Percentage	0	0	1.6 %	31.2 %	67.2 %			
- Service failure	Frequencies	0	0	0	51	74	1.4080	.49344	

rate	Percentage	0	0	0	40.8 %	59.2 %			4
- Food and beverage sales per guest	Frequencies	0	0	0	57	68	1.4560	.50006	
	Percentage	0	0	0	45.6 %	54.4 %			
- Check-in/out time	Frequencies	0	0	11	44	70	1.5280	.65471	
	Percentage	0	0	8.8 %	35.2 %	56 %			
- Inventory turnover	Frequencies	0	0	9	50	66	1.5440	.62867	
	Percentage	0	0	7.2 %	40 %	52.8 %			
4 - Learning and Growth Perspective :							<b>1.5170</b>		
- Employee s' satisfaction	Frequencies	0	0	0	60	65	1.4800	.50161	
	Percentage	0	0	0	48 %	52 %			
-Training levels and time	Frequencies	0	0	1	41	83	1.3440	.49357	
	Percentage	0	0	0.8 %	32.8 %	66.4 %			
Compensation	Frequencies	0	0	0	79	46	1.6320	.48420	
	Percentage	0	0	0	63.2 %	36.8 %			
- Employee s' job aptitude	Frequencies	0	0	0	57	68	1.4560	.50006	
	Percentage	0	0	0	45.6 %	54.4 %			
- Employee	Frequencies	0	0	0	82	43	<b>1.6560</b>	.47695	

s' retention	Percentage	0	0	0	65.6 %	34.4 %		
-Union relation	Frequencies	0	0	0	71	54	1.5680	.49735
	Percentage	0	0	0	56.8 %	43.2 %		
- Managerial leadership	Frequencies	0	0	4	47	74	1.4400	.55938
	Percentage	0	0	3.2 %	37.6 %	59.2 %		
- Control of staff turnover	Frequencies	0	0	0	70	55	1.5600	.49838
	Percentage	0	0	0	56 %	44 %		

In Table 11, respondents have been asked to rate and identify the importance of each item in each of the four perspectives in the BSC when evaluating a hotel's performance using a 5-point Likert scale (5 being the most important). The results of the study indicates that the **customer dimension** is the strongest among other drivers when evaluating a hotel's performance with the highest mean (**4.6232**), then **financial dimension** with the mean (**4.5964**), which indicates that hotels managements have started to pay more attention to other drivers (the customer) than the financial dimension, and they have found out that it is hard to measure performance when it only counts financial aspects due to the uniqueness of hotel products and services. On the other hand, **internal business** is at the third rank with the mean (**1.5400**), followed by **learning and Growth perspective** with the mean (**1.5170**).

Moreover, the results clarify the core attributes among the four perspectives in the BSC model (one for each perspective in the BSC): **ROI** in financial, **customer satisfaction** in customer, **occupancy rate** in internal business process, and **employees' retention** in learning and growth.

Furthermore, the study shows that top managements pay attention to financial goals, while heads of units and departments tend to be more focused on non-financial than on financial objectives. The results makes sense since department managers are faced with non-financial issues (customers' complaints, fluctuations of staff and quality of services) on a daily basis, while financial questions are more remote to them; and they appreciate that the importance of intangible assets is higher than that of the traditional physical assets .

## Conclusion

Nowadays hotel organizations operate and compete in a very dynamic environment. Therefore, it becomes necessary to add more value to the business through initiatives that incorporate changes in the way of performing the work, changes in processes, and adequacy of skills. These initiatives should be increasingly strategic to ensure alignment with the organization's goals. In order to achieve the expected results it is necessary to continually improve, so that they remain appropriate and aligned with the organization's strategy measurement systems. A growing number of hotel organizations have been using performance measurement tools. However, due to the recent advances in performance measurement, hotels' managers have constantly looked for a new effective measurement system to evaluate hotels' performance. Since previous performance measures have focused on financial factors, they do not include other important non-financial areas that need to be addressed. Hotels managements find that it is hard to measure actual performance when it only counts financial aspects due

to the uniqueness of hotel products and services. The BSC model overcomes some of the problems associated with traditional performance measures. It emphasizes the importance of balancing among the four areas: financial, customer, internal business process, and learning and growth perspectives. Furthermore, the BSC integrates the organization's strategic objectives across these four perspectives. This study offers several useful insights into the importance of the BSC model which includes clarifying and updating strategy, communicating strategy throughout the hotel, aligning individual goals with strategy, linking strategic objectives to long-term targets and annual budget, identifying and aligning strategic initiatives, and conducting periodic performance reviews to learn about and improve strategy.

Moreover, this study aimed at identifying the effects of the implementation of the Balanced Scorecard on the hospitality organizations, such as hotels, with a good performance measurement system that tends to achieve better performance and competitive advantage.

Finally, the ability to react to the dynamic business environment, interconnected with the necessary internal changes, is a challenge that calls for a particular attention, and deserves more attention in a performance management tool. Moreover, competitive factors associated with innovation and knowledge is now a challenge in the current business climate. The frameworks that ignore this new reality may compromise the sustainable future of the organizations.

The study recommends that it is necessary to deploy the concept of the Balanced Scorecard through scientific conferences, seminars, and training courses. Moreover, hotels' managers need to capture the new reality about the importance of the intangible assets for adding value in measuring performance. Also, special attention must be placed on properly deploying the intangible assets inherent in the learning and growth, and internal perspectives.

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## استخدام نموذج بطاقة الأداء المتوازن لتقييم الأداء بمؤسسات الضيافة

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### الملخص العربي

تسعى المنشآت الفندقية في الوقت الحاضر إلى تحقيق مزايا تنافسية على المدى الطويل في السوق من خلال تطبيق نظم قياس الأداء الاستراتيجي . وقد ظهر ما يعرف باسم بطاقة الأداء المتوازن (Balanced Scorecard) كأحد الأدوات الإدارية الحديثة المستخدمة في تقييم الأداء، والتي يمكن من خلالها تحسين أداء المنشأة وتطوير نظم قياس الأداء الاستراتيجي بها. ففي عام 1992 قدم لنا البروفيسور روبرت كابلان وديفيد نورتون نموذج قياس بطاقة الأداء المتوازن الرباعي الأبعاد انطلاقاً من المحاور الأربعة التي يقوم عليها: منظور الأداء المالي، ومنظور عمليات التشغيل الداخلية، ومنظور التعلم والنمو التنظيمي، ومنظور العلاقات مع العملاء؛ وذلك تلاشياً لما كانت تقوم به كافة المنشآت من قبل بتقييم وقياس الأداء من خلال البعد المالي فقط ممثلاً في قياس نمو الدخل، والربحية، والقيمة الاقتصادية المضافة، وتخفيض التكاليف، والعائد على الاستثمار، ومعدل نمو العائد، حيث أن التقارير والبيانات المالية التقليدية تعكس الماضي ولا تقيس التطوير والأداء المستقبلي، كما أن هناك العديد من الأبعاد غير المالية (المعنوية) التي يصعب قياسها بواسطة البعد المالي فقط . فمؤدج بطاقة الأداء المتوازن (BSC) يأخذ بعين الاعتبار التوازن بين مؤشرات قياس الأداء السابق ومؤشرات قياس الأداء المستقبلي، والتوازن بين الأهداف قصيرة الأجل والأهداف طويلة الأجل ، والتوازن بين الأداء الداخلي والأداء الخارجي، وكذلك التوازن بين المؤشرات المالية وغير المالية. ويهدف هذا البحث إلى التعرف على مدى إدراك ووعي مديري المنشآت الفندقية بنموذج بطاقة الأداء المتوازن، علاوة على الوقوف على الواقع الحالي لنظم تقييم الأداء وتحديد مؤشرات الأداء الرئيسية (KPI) المستخدمة في قياس أداء المنشآت الفندقية، فضلاً عن اظهار العديد من المزايا من جراء تطبيق هذا النموذج بمؤسسات الضيافة مما يمكنها من تحقيق ميزة تنافسية وتطوير لنظم قياس الأداء. ومن أجل تحقيق هذه الأهداف قامت الباحثة بتطوير نموذج يستند إلى مقياس روبرت كابلان وديفيد نورتون حيث يتضمن الأبعاد الأربعة الرئيسية لقياس الأداء الاستراتيجي وعبارات تغطي الأنشطة الفرعية للأبعاد الأربعة الأصلية وتقديمه في شكل استقصاء تم توزيعه على 125 من مديري الفنادق لتحديد أهم مقاييس الأداء المستخدمة في المنشآت الفندقية. وأشارت النتائج إلى أن العديد من مؤسسات الضيافة تطبق بالفعل هذا النموذج، وعلاوة على ذلك، وعلى الرغم من دعم مديري الفنادق للأهمية المتوقعة من جراء استخدام هذا المقياس ، إلا أنه لازال هناك تركيز على استخدام المؤشرات المالية التقليدية لقياس أداء الفنادق، وكما أظهرت النتائج أن منظور العملاء يعتبر من أهم الأبعاد الأربعة، يليه البعد المالي، ثم منظور الأعمال الداخلية ، فالتعلم والنمو، مما يؤكد أن إدارات الفنادق بدأت في الاهتمام بمؤشرات أخرى خلاف المؤشرات المالية نتيجة تميز المنتجات والخدمات الفندقية.