

CAREERS THROUGH MATHS: FINANCE ANALYST



JOB OVERVIEW

Finance Analysts are professionals who examine financial data and use mathematical models to guide business decisions. They work across various sectors including banking, corporate finance, investment firms, and consulting, providing critical insights into profitability, investment opportunities, and financial risk. Their core responsibilities involve financial modelling, budgeting, forecasting, and performance analysis to support strategic planning and operational efficiency.

The role requires translating complex numerical data into actionable recommendations for management. This involves analysing market trends, evaluating financial performance, and assessing the viability of projects or investments. Finance Analysts serve as the quantitative backbone of organisations, ensuring financial health and strategic growth through rigorous data-driven analysis.

KEY MATHS APPLICATIONS

Primary Areas:

ESSENTIAL SKILLS & TOOLS

SKILL	APPLICATION
Microsoft Excel	Advanced functions for building complex financial models and performing sensitivity analysis.
SQL	Querying large databases to extract and manipulate financial data for analysis.
Data Visualisation (Power BI/Tableau)	Creating interactive dashboards to present financial performance metrics to stakeholders.
Financial Modelling	Structuring and building integrated financial statements (income statement, balance sheet, cash flow).

TYPICAL PATHWAY

A bachelor's degree in Finance, Economics, Mathematics, or Accounting is typically required, with many analysts pursuing postgraduate qualifications like a Master's in Finance or professional certifications such as the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation. Career progression often moves from junior analyst to senior analyst, then to Finance Manager or Business Partner roles. Leading UK institutions for these degrees include the London School of Economics, Warwick Business School, and Manchester Business School.

INDUSTRY DEMAND

The demand for Finance Analysts remains strong across the UK, particularly in financial hubs like London, Edinburgh, and Manchester. According to UK government data, business and financial professional roles are projected to grow significantly, with financial analysis skills being highly sought after in banking, consulting, and corporate sectors. The increasing reliance on data-driven decision-making continues to fuel demand for quantitative financial expertise.

REAL-WORLD IMPACT

Finance Analysts play a crucial role in ensuring organisational financial stability and guiding strategic investment decisions that drive economic growth. Their work helps companies allocate resources efficiently, manage risks effectively, and identify growth opportunities that contribute to business success and job creation. By providing accurate financial insights, they enable sustainable business practices and informed strategic planning that benefits the wider economy.

QUICK FACTS

- **Growth:** Positive industry outlook
- **Career:** Professional role requiring analytical skills
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