

Budget Analysts

SOC: 13-2031 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$87,930

Median Salary

50,400

Employment

+1.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 15.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

8.6/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

| | | | |
|--------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| Realistic | 3.8/10 | Investigative | 7.2/10 |
| Artistic | 4.0/10 | Social | 6.6/10 |
| Enterprising | 8.2/10 | Conventional | 8.8/10 |

■ Top Skills Required

Analytical skills, Communication skills, Detail oriented, Math skills, Writing skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Budget Analysts are financial professionals who help organizations **plan, manage, and monitor budgets to ensure funds are used efficiently and responsibly**. They analyze spending proposals, track financial performance, and support leadership decisions by translating complex financial data into clear, actionable insights. Their work is essential in both public and private organizations where accountability, forecasting, and strategic allocation of resources are critical.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy working with numbers, financial planning, and supporting organizational decision-making through careful analysis.

What Do Budget Analysts Do?

Budget analysts evaluate financial plans and help organizations maintain fiscal discipline. They work closely with managers, finance teams, and executives to ensure budgets align with goals and constraints.

Common responsibilities include:

- Reviewing budget proposals for accuracy and completeness
- Analyzing historical spending and future funding needs
- Preparing budget reports and financial summaries
- Monitoring expenditures to ensure compliance with approved budgets
- Forecasting future financial requirements
- Recommending adjustments to improve efficiency or control costs
- Explaining budget decisions to managers or stakeholders

Types of Budget Analysts

Budget analysts may work in different organizational contexts:

- Government Budget Analysts: Manage public funds and ensure compliance with laws and regulations.
- Corporate Budget Analysts: Support internal financial planning and departmental budgets.
- Nonprofit Budget Analysts: Help allocate limited resources to mission-driven programs.
- Defense and Public Sector Analysts: Work with large, multi-year government budgets.
- Project-Based Budget Analysts: Track costs and funding for specific initiatives or programs.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Budget analysts combine financial expertise with communication and judgment.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

Most budget analysts enter the field through formal education and progressive responsibility:

- Bachelor's Degree: Commonly in finance, accounting, economics, or business administration
- Entry-Level Financial or Analyst Roles: Building experience with budgeting and reporting
- Advanced Education (sometimes preferred): Master's degree in public administration, finance, or business
- Professional Certifications (optional): Credentials that support financial or government budgeting expertise
- Ongoing Training: Staying current with financial regulations and tools

Where Do Budget Analysts Work?

Budget analysts are employed across many sectors:

- Federal, State, and Local Government Agencies
- Corporations and Private Businesses

- Healthcare Systems and Universities
- Nonprofit and Public Interest Organizations
- Defense and Infrastructure Agencies
- Financial and Consulting Firms

Most roles are office-based, with some opportunities for hybrid or remote work.

How Much Do Budget Analysts Earn?

Earnings depend on experience, sector, and organization size:

- Entry-Level Budget Analysts: Typically earn professional starting salaries
- Experienced Analysts: Often earn higher pay with increased responsibility
- Senior or Lead Budget Analysts: May earn more when overseeing complex or large-scale budgets

Compensation varies between public service and private industry roles.

Is This Career Difficult?

Budget analysis is intellectually demanding and detail-oriented. Analysts must manage tight deadlines, complex regulations, and high expectations for accuracy. The challenge lies in balancing limited resources with organizational priorities while maintaining transparency and fiscal responsibility.

Who Should Consider Becoming a Budget Analyst?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy financial planning and analysis
- Like working with data and structured systems
- Value accuracy, accountability, and transparency
- Are comfortable advising decision-makers
- Want a stable career applicable across industries

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in math, accounting, and economics
- Learn spreadsheet and financial analysis tools
- Practice budgeting and forecasting exercises
- Develop clear writing and presentation skills
- Seek internships in finance or government agencies

Budget analysts ensure that financial resources are planned and used wisely, helping organizations achieve their goals through disciplined analysis, transparency, and informed decision-making.