

Financial Analysts

SOC: 13-2051 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$101,910 Median Salary	429,000 Employment	+6.0% Growth Rate
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■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 14.0% 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

7.1/10 - Good 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, Computer skills, Decision-making skills, Detail oriented, Math skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Financial Analysts are business and finance professionals who evaluate **financial data, market trends, and investment opportunities** to help organizations and individuals make informed decisions. They analyze economic conditions, company performance, and financial statements to assess risk, forecast outcomes, and guide strategic planning. Their insights support investment decisions, budgeting, and long-term financial strategy across industries.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy working with numbers, data-driven analysis, and translating complex financial information into actionable insights.

What Do Financial Analysts Do?

Financial analysts study financial information to identify patterns, risks, and opportunities. Their responsibilities focus on analysis, forecasting, and decision support.

Common responsibilities include:

- Analyzing financial statements, budgets, and performance reports
- Evaluating investment opportunities such as stocks, bonds, or projects
- Monitoring market and economic trends
- Building financial models and forecasts
- Preparing reports and presentations for decision-makers
- Assessing risk and potential returns
- Recommending strategies to improve financial performance

Types of Financial Analysts

Financial analysts may specialize by industry or function:

- Investment Analysts: Evaluate securities and investment portfolios.
- Corporate Financial Analysts: Support internal budgeting, planning, and strategy.
- Equity Analysts: Analyze publicly traded companies and stock performance.
- Credit Analysts: Assess creditworthiness and lending risk.
- Risk Analysts: Identify and evaluate financial risks.
- Portfolio Analysts: Monitor and optimize investment portfolios.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Financial analysts combine quantitative skills with business judgment.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

Becoming a financial analyst typically requires formal education and progressive experience:

- Bachelor's Degree: In finance, accounting, economics, or a related field
- Entry-Level Analyst or Associate Roles: Building hands-on experience
- Professional Certifications (optional): Credentials such as CFA or similar designations
- Advanced Education (optional): Master's degree in finance, business, or economics
- Ongoing Learning: Staying current with financial markets and regulations

Where Do Financial Analysts Work?

Financial analysts are employed across a wide range of sectors:

- Investment Firms and Asset Management Companies

- Banks and Financial Institutions
- Corporations and Corporate Finance Departments
- Insurance and Risk Management Firms
- Government and Regulatory Agencies
- Consulting and Advisory Firms

Many roles offer hybrid or office-based work environments.

How Much Do Financial Analysts Earn?

Earnings vary by industry, specialization, and experience:

- Entry-Level Financial Analysts: Typically earn competitive professional salaries
- Experienced or Specialized Analysts: Often earn higher pay with expertise
- Senior Analysts or Portfolio Roles: May earn more due to responsibility and impact

Compensation can include bonuses or performance incentives.

Is This Career Difficult?

Financial analysis is intellectually demanding and detail-oriented. Analysts must work with large data sets, tight deadlines, and evolving market conditions. The challenge lies in producing accurate, unbiased insights while managing pressure and complexity.

Who Should Consider Becoming a Financial Analyst?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy working with numbers and financial data
- Like analyzing trends and making predictions
- Are detail-oriented and analytical
- Want a business-focused career with broad applications
- Are comfortable presenting data-driven recommendations

How to Prepare Early

- Study math, statistics, economics, and accounting
- Learn spreadsheet modeling and data analysis tools
- Follow financial markets and economic news
- Practice analytical thinking through case studies
- Seek internships in finance, banking, or business analysis

Financial analysts turn financial data into insight, helping organizations and investors navigate uncertainty, manage risk, and make informed decisions that shape long-term financial success.