

CAREERS THROUGH MATHS: FINANCE ANALYST



Finance Analysts use mathematics to solve complex problems and drive innovation. (Image Source: Unsplash)

JOB OVERVIEW

A Finance Analyst is a professional who scrutinises financial data to identify trends, assess performance, and provide actionable insights that guide a company's strategic decisions. On a daily basis, they are responsible for building complex financial models in Excel, preparing monthly management accounts, tracking key performance indicators (KPIs), and creating detailed reports and forecasts for senior stakeholders. The work environment is typically a fast-paced office setting within the finance department of a large corporation, a bank, an investment fund, or a professional services firm like one of the "Big Four" (PwC, Deloitte, EY, KPMG). Many also work in the public sector for organisations like the NHS or local authorities. The core of the role involves deep mathematical analysis.

KEY MATHS APPLICATIONS

Primary Areas:

- **Financial Modelling & Calculus:** The construction of financial models is the primary application of mathematics. This involves using calculus concepts, particularly for forecasting.
- **Statistical Analysis & Econometrics:** Finance Analysts rely heavily on statistics to interpret data and make inferences. They use regression analysis to identify relationships between variables;...
- **Financial Mathematics & Algebra:** Core algebraic formulae are used daily for valuation and performance measurement. This includes calculating financial ratios (e.g.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS & TOOLS

SKILL	APPLICATION
Microsoft Excel	The quintessential tool for any UK analyst.
Terminal/ Refinitiv Eikon	Bloomberg calculate beta coefficients for stocks, and analyse company financials for...
Accounting Software (SAP, Oracle)	Enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems that are the source of all financial data.
Presentation Skills (PowerPoint)	The crucial skill of distilling complex mathematical findings into clear, compelling...

TYPICAL PATHWAY

The standard pathway begins with strong GCSEs (especially Mathematics and English) followed by A-levels in Mathematics and/or Economics. The most common route is to complete a bachelor's degree (2:1 or above) in a highly numerical subject such as Finance, Economics, Mathematics,...

INDUSTRY DEMAND

Demand for skilled Finance Analysts in the UK remains consistently high. According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), roles in business and financial project management are projected to grow.

REAL-WORLD IMPACT

Finance Analysts play a critical role in the UK's economic health. They enable companies like AstraZeneca to allocate billions of pounds effectively towards life-saving drug research and development.

QUICK FACTS

- **Education:** GCSEs (especially Mathematics and English) followed by A-levels in Mathematics and/or Economics
- **Growth:** Demand for skilled Finance Analysts in the UK remains consistently high. According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), roles in business and financial project management are projected to grow.