

HOW TO BOOST YOUR EXCEL SKILLS!

We spend more than 3 hours every day in Excel yet more than half report their competency level to be below average. It's about time we change that!

Trends in Finance & Accounting
by Anders Liu-Lindberg

Change is everywhere! Also in the finance function. This series will keep you updated on the latest trends and changes. Click '[Subscribe](#)' to join more than 120,000 other subscribers!

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FOREWORD

There is a line before the start of the movie The Wizard of Oz that strikes me every time I catch it on TV. "For nearly forty years this story has given faithful service to the Young in Heart; and Time has been powerless to put its kindly philosophy out of fashion. To those of you who have been faithful to it in return... we dedicate this picture."

I feel something similar about Excel.

Excel was nothing short of a revolution when it came out in the mid 80's, but soon fell out of favor as old-fashioned. Every year some effort is made to kill off stuffy old Excel. But Excel continues its evolution as the universal language of finance for every new generation. Today the wonders of Excel are showcased in TikTok channels, sub-reddits and YouTube [with some of these influencers making six figures a day!]. Excel has drawn esports crowds online with financial modeling world cups watched by hundreds of thousands around the world. New leaders constantly unearth new wonders and depth [with credit to amazing updates provided by Microsoft]. Excel remains flexible, easy to use and powerful.

In my own experience, hundreds of clients starting to use DataRails came to us after trying to replace Excel in their finance departments. Those plans rarely work out. The problem is that while Excel is great for spreadsheets and financial models, it's not so great for repetitive reporting processes or for financial planning and analysis.

And, thanks to the new breed of Excel influencers, featured here, Excel is continuously being reinvented for new audiences. Since I have started following names, from Paul Barnhurst to Leila Gharani, and Bill Jelen, I find myself excited about new hacks while marveling at the way these passionate storytellers present complex information with flair. Despite all the naysayers and doubters, Excel continues to shine as green and bright as the day it started. To paraphrase an old movie, nearly forty years later, there is still no place quite like Excel.

Didi Gurfinkel

Co-Founder & CEO at DataRails

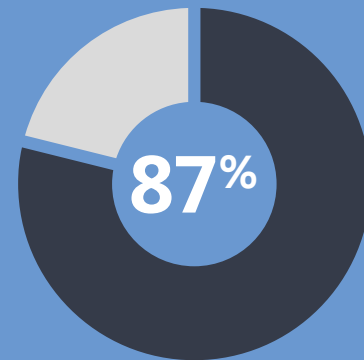




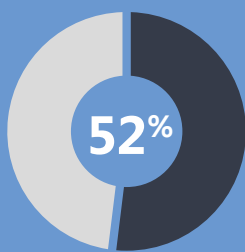
WHY IMPROVE **EXCEL** SKILLS?

Excel is the favorite spreadsheet software for finance and accounting professionals as reported by 87% of them in a recent poll.

87% Finance and accounting professionals say **Excel** is their favorite spreadsheet software¹



They spend on average more than 3 hours every working day in Excel yet 52% of them have only foundational or intermediate skills using Excel.



52% Have foundational or intermediate skills using Excel²

Considering how Excel in many ways bind companies together this points to a massive improvement opportunity. Not only will it help individuals be more productive, but it's bound to unlock significant value creation.

The burning platform is there.

Will you start leveling up to handle it?

¹ https://www.linkedin.com/posts/andersliulindberg_finance-accountingandaccountants-financemaster-activity-6853642718707494912-BFDz

² https://www.linkedin.com/posts/andersliulindberg_finance-accountingandaccountants-financemaster-activity-6880809877053206528-LoW3



HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR EXCEL SKILLS

There is a lot of learning content available when it comes to Excel. Simple Google searches or watching YouTube videos are great for solving specific Excel problems. But how can you structurally increase your competency level?

In this guide we have crowdsourced the best educational offerings; collating sites, companies or individuals for you to follow.



You will find a list of individuals in alphabetical order, and we encourage you to go follow them on social and subscribe to their content wherever possible.

We also highlight various educational platforms or blogs that feature a high level of Excel learning content.



Finally, we put a spotlight on some of the most popular YouTube channels with Excel content, that we recommend you subscribe to.

We hope that you will enjoy this guide and tell us if you think any sites or individuals are missing.





FOLLOW THESE EXCEL GREATS AND BOOST YOUR COMPETENCY LEVEL!



Jon Acampora

With over tens years of experience in the Finance and Accounting field, my skills and expertise span a broad range of areas including: financial modeling and analysis, software systems development and integration, process improvement and automation, data mining and visualization, and innovation with reporting, budgeting, and forecasting systems.

Paul Barnhurst

Qualified finance professional, wishing to contribute expertise in a leadership role offering opportunities to assist with company growth and staff development. Possess a strong background in finance management, business intelligence, forecasting, and financial/statistical modeling.



Chris Dutton

At Maven Analytics we help everyday people build the skills they need to launch a successful career in analytics. With custom learning paths, 1-on-1 coaching, and world-class Excel, Power BI, SQL, Tableau and Machine Learning courses, we've helped transform more than 500,000 students into data rockstars.

Danielle Stein Fairhurst

Danielle Stein Fairhurst is regularly engaged as a speaker, course facilitator, financial modelling consultant and analyst. She founded the Financial Modellers' Meetup groups [which currently meet virtually] and she is the author of 'Using Excel for Business and Financial Modelling' Third Edition and 'Financial Modeling in Excel For Dummies'.





FOLLOW THESE EXCEL GREATS AND BOOST YOUR COMPETENCY LEVEL!



Leila Gharani

I am a Microsoft MVP with 15+ years of experience implementing and training users on Management Information Systems of different sizes and nature. The scope ranges from smaller systems to Excel, Oracle Hyperion Financial Management [HFM] and SAP BW applications. For the last years I've been helping 70,000+ students advance their Excel skills and accelerate their careers.

Wyn Hopkins

Director at Access Analytic providing 'Amazing Excel and Power BI Solutions' for leading companies in Perth in order to assist growth, control cost and reduce risk. Work with clients to improve the reporting and analysis capabilities in departments such as Finance, Human Resources, Maintenance and Operations, exceeding expectations of what's possible with modern versions of Excel and Power BI.



Bill Jelen

Author of 60 books about Microsoft Excel, Power Pivot and Power View. Publisher of books about Microsoft Office. You will find me on the road doing live Power Excel seminars for 35 events a year. I have over 2000 Excel videos on YouTube. Microsoft Certified Trainer.

Brian Jones

Specialties: program management, software design, software architecture, management, programmability, file formats, HTML, XML, technology standards, blogging, document assembly, content management, document formats, schema, Microsoft Office





FOLLOW THESE EXCEL GREATS AND BOOST YOUR COMPETENCY LEVEL!



Jeff Lenning

Microsoft Certified Trainer and experienced CPA providing Microsoft Excel training to accounting and finance professionals.

John MacDougall

Get in touch to learn how I can help you automate your business tasks and data analytics with Microsoft 365.



John Michaloudis

During my time at General Electric I saw first-hand how understanding and learn Microsoft Excel helped them to do their job more efficiently. I then started MyExcelOnline where I could teach the rest of the world on a much grander scale how to use Excel effectively via my free blog tutorials, podcast shows, webinar trainings, books and online courses!

Kat Norton

Kat Norton energetically teaches Microsoft Excel to individuals, businesses and educational institutions. Since launching Miss Excel in June 2020, she has grown a community of over 500,000 people on TikTok & Instagram '@miss.excel' through viral Excel trick videos infused with creativity, music and dance. Kat was recently awarded the Microsoft MVP Award and was featured in Business Insider as a pioneer in the 'Excel Influencer' space.





FOLLOW THESE EXCEL GREATS AND BOOST YOUR COMPETENCY LEVEL!



Jan Karel Pieterse

I am the owner of JKP Application Development Services, developing custom solutions in Microsoft Office. I am a top expert in Microsoft Excel and VBA. I have been granted the MVP award by Microsoft for each consecutive year since 2002, for my outstanding 'volunteer' work in newsgroups, forums and article authoring.

Oz du Soleil

I've been working with data and Excel for many years, and have developed a passion for clean data and reliable reporting. An even greater passion is that of teaching, sharing knowledge and empowering people to do handle their data more efficiently and with greater skill to turn their data into useful information.

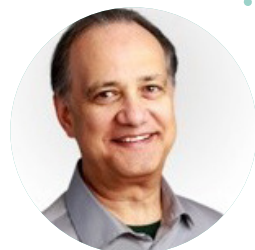


Mynda Treacy

Mynda Treacy is a CIMA qualified accountant and has received the Microsoft MVP award every year since 2014. Nowadays Mynda spends her time teaching people Excel, Power Query, Power Pivot, DAX and Power BI through her YouTube channel, blog, and online courses. Her specialty is dashboard reports with over 10M users benefitting from her comprehensive video tutorials.

Tom Urtis

Tom Urtis is a Microsoft Office developer and programmer with 25 years of business management experience. He is the author of 'Excel VBA 24-Hour Trainer', a unique 500-page book and DVD package that helps even non-programmers extend Excel with VBA. Tom is co-author of 'Don't Fear the Spreadsheet', 'Holy Macro! It's 2,500 Excel VBA Examples', and he is a technical editor and consultant for other Excel books and training material. Tom is an Excel instructor and frequent contributor to forums in the Excel community.





THESE ARE THE SITES TO VISIT IN THE HUNT FOR MORE EXCEL LEARNING!



Corporate Finance Institute

Founded in 2016, CFI is the largest and most recognized finance-only training and skill development platform in the world. Powered by leading instructors, innovative designers, and proprietary technology, CFI provides the best financial education globally, including online courses and training for financial modeling, valuation, lending, securities, capital markets, data science, business intelligence, crypto currencies, and other finance programs.

Chandoo

At Chandoo.org, my aim is to make you awesome in Excel & Power BI. I do this by sharing whatever little I learn everyday. Our community has an open mind. We are eager to learn and share. We all constantly teach each other new tricks and ideas using comments and forum posts.



Excel Campus

We transform overworked professionals into confident Excel heroes, so that you can gain the recognition & career advancements you deserve through our innovative courses & products.





THESE ARE THE SITES TO VISIT IN THE HUNT FOR MORE EXCEL LEARNING!

The Best Excel Reviews on the Web

Excel Reviews

Website primarily dedicated to providing reviews of learning content [courses, books, websites, videos, blogs] related to Microsoft Excel, Power BI, Power Query, and financial modeling. We will be reviewing the best courses, websites, videos, books and other learning resources available on the web. This site in time will also allow you, the end user to provide reviews of learning content and together we will create one of the best resources on the web for learning Excel.

Excel University

Learn Microsoft Excel so that you can get your work done faster. We provide online, on-demand, self-paced, video-based lessons. Our goal is to help people learn how to use Microsoft Excel to get their work done faster because we are all too busy. Too stressed. We have more work than time. Excel is the solution. It can help us get our work done faster - a 2 week process can become a 2 day process when you figure out how to apply the power of Excel.



How To Excel

How To Excel

I've been working in finance and using Excel for the last ten years. I started this site as I wanted to record the things I have learned for my own future reference as well as help others solve the same problems I've encountered. If there's one thing I hate, it's doing things the hard way. I'm always looking for the best ways to solve my problems in Excel. I like to think if something is really hard then you're probably not using the right tool for the job. I hope whoever comes across this site will leave with a little extra knowledge that will help them save time and effort.





THESE ARE THE SITES TO VISIT IN THE HUNT FOR MORE EXCEL LEARNING!



MrExcel

When you need Microsoft Excel help - whether it's solving an Excel emergency or simplifying a task - MrExcel.com is there. MrExcel.com is an entire community of Excel gurus who are dedicated to helping you unleash the power of Excel. Led by MrExcel himself, the community is always available to help you save time, create accurate, useful reports and make you the hero of your company meetings.

myexcelonline

An e-learning company tailored to Microsoft Excel topics such as Pivot Tables, Formulas, Graphs, Data Analysis, Dashboards and Power Pivot. Our downloadable video tutorials are of a high quality and the most in depth, so you are sure to learn all the commands, shortcuts and tips within your Excel topic chosen.



myonlinetraininghub

We know that skills in Excel, Word and Outlook give you more job opportunities. And having advanced skills makes you indispensable. That's why we make it easy to get your skills up to date fast.





THESE ARE THE SITES TO VISIT IN THE HUNT FOR MORE EXCEL LEARNING!



JKP Application Development Services

Whichever type of Excel or Access application or training you need, you've come to the right place to find expert help. I am an Excel and VBA expert [some people would say guru] with in-depth knowledge of Excel and VBA.

Maven Analytics

At Maven, we're building a better online learning experience. Our guided learning model gives you the flexibility to create your perfect path, with live support and expert coaching to keep you on track every step of the way.



Skillwave

We are a team committed to using our extensive experience in the field to create and deliver the best training content for new and seasoned users of Microsoft BI products, including Excel and Power BI.





THESE ARE THE SITES TO VISIT IN THE HUNT FOR MORE EXCEL LEARNING!



XELPLUS

XelPlus is an Excel resource site run to help people gain the knowledge they need so they can create useful tools, solve problems and get more done. The courses & tutorials are for those who use Excel at work and want to become better. For those that want to contribute by coming up with solutions to problems.

We don't just want to show you solutions, but to inspire you to experiment, create and share that with others. The tools we have for data visualization & data analysis have never been so easy to use.





HERE ARE THE COOL YOUTUBE CHANNELS TO SUBSCRIBE TO!

Corporate Finance Institute



Corporate Finance Institute® (CFI)



Excel Is Fun



Welcome to the excelisfun Excel YouTube...
Free Excel Education for the World!



How to Excel



John MacDougall
howtoexcel.org

New Videos Whenever I Feel Like It!
Sometimes





HERE ARE THE COOL YOUTUBE CHANNELS TO SUBSCRIBE TO!

Mr Excel



Excel University



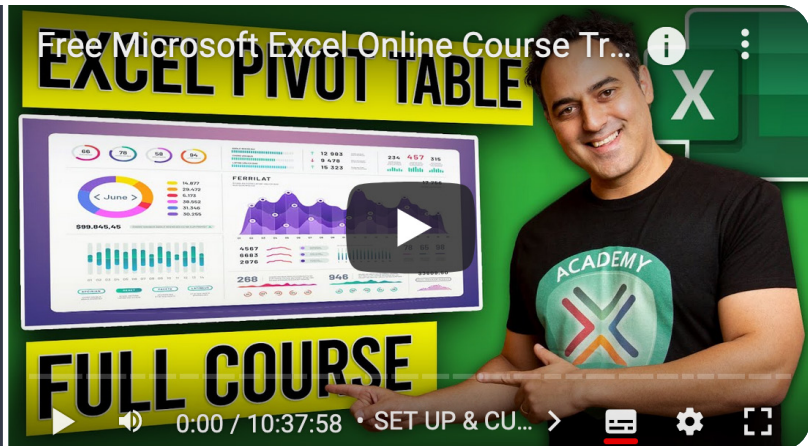
Leila Gharani





HERE ARE THE COOL YOUTUBE CHANNELS TO SUBSCRIBE TO!

myexcelonline



Excel Campus



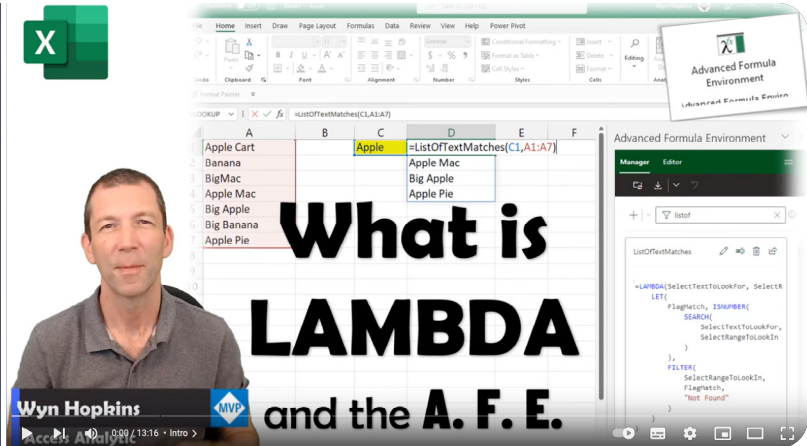
Excel On Fire



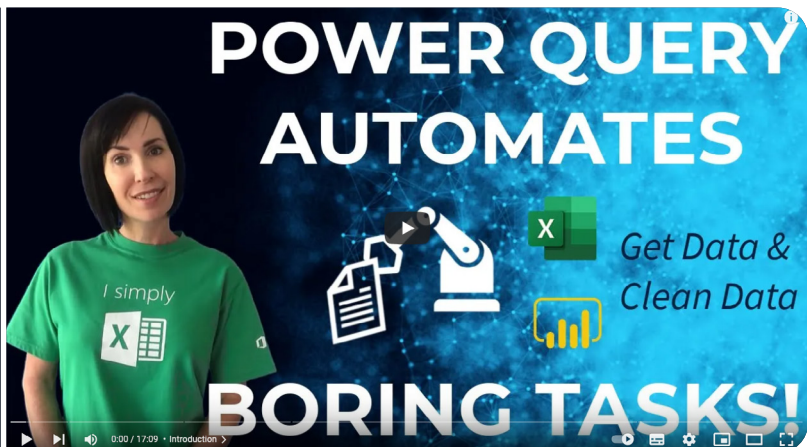


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Access Analytic



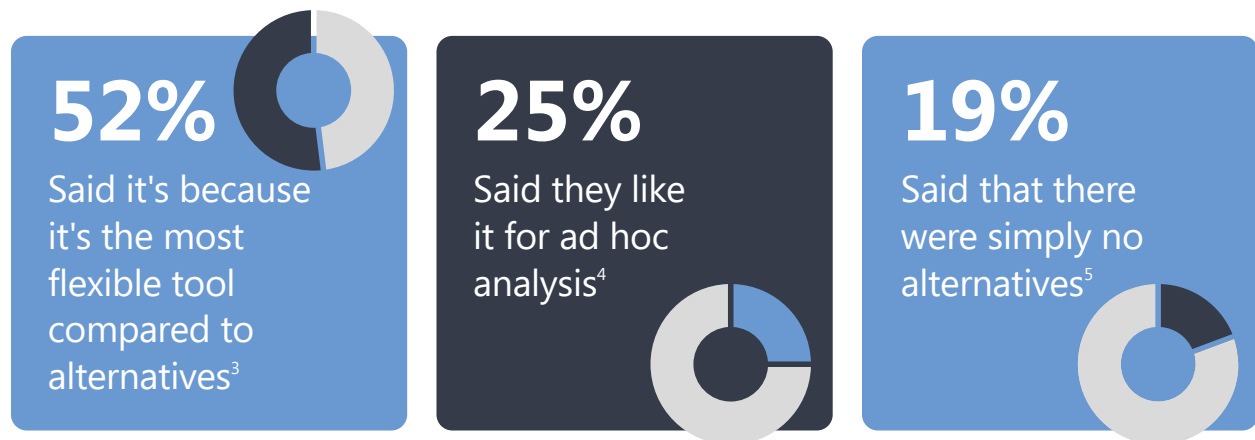
Myonline
Training Hub





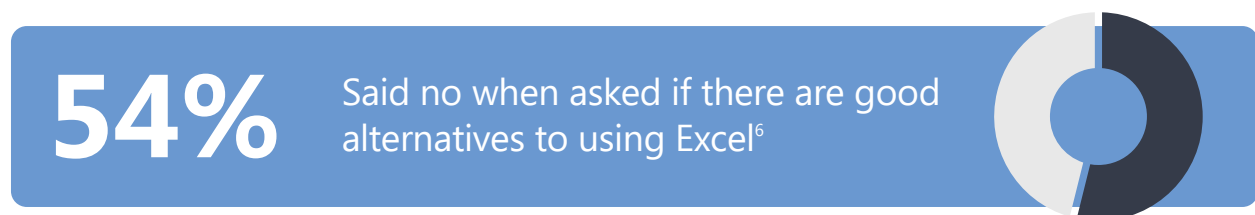
EXCEL ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE... ...SO WE BETTER START MAKING THE MOST OF IT!

There are many reasons why we use Excel.



So perhaps they don't even like it but just have no other outs.

Speaking of alternatives, in a simple poll where we asked if there are good alternatives to using Excel, 54% said no. Mind blowing somehow but all the more reason to level up your Excel skills.



We hope that you find all the resources you could ever want in this eBook but if you feel some important resources are missing don't hesitate to reach out.

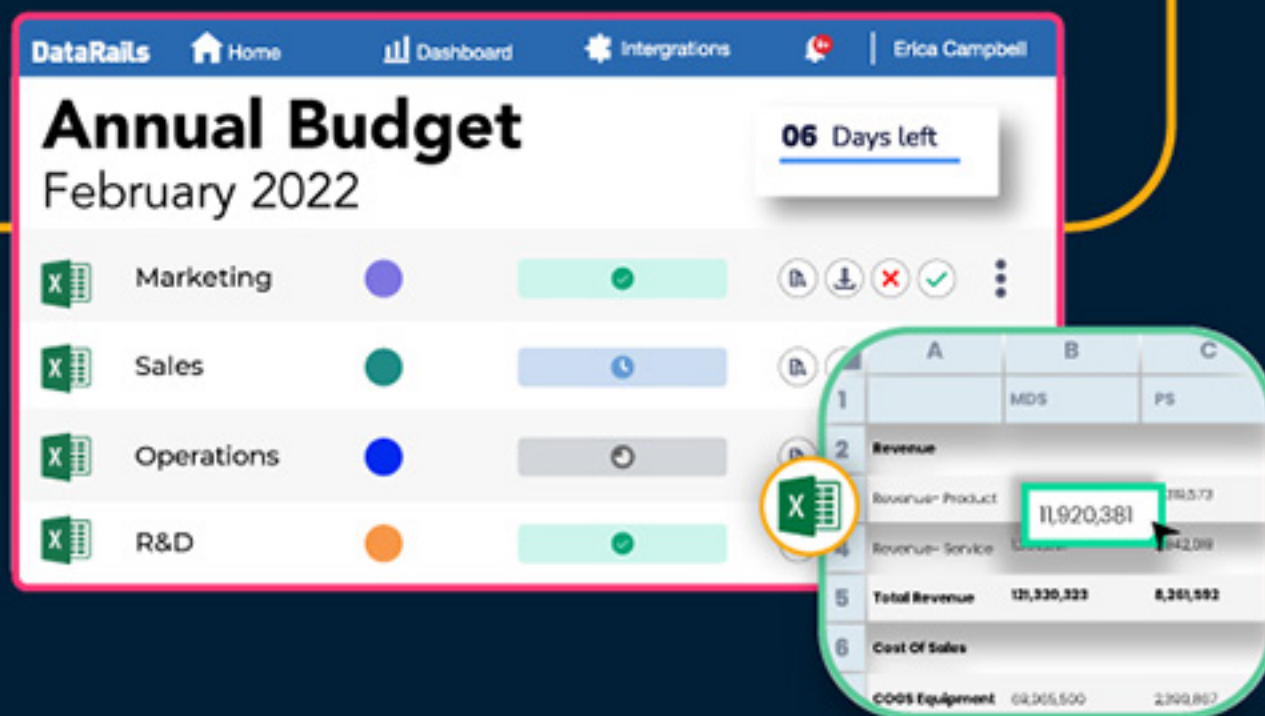
Enjoy learning and making the most out of Excel. We promise you it will make such a difference in your working life!

^{3/4/5} https://www.linkedin.com/posts/andersliulindberg_finance-excel-financemaster-activity-6855468600187199488-zSOY

⁶ https://www.linkedin.com/posts/andersliulindberg_finance-accountingandaccountants-financemaster-activity-6858034374256926720-ij8P



Excel to the Power of DataRails



"DataRails maximized our efficiency and made the current process incredibly effective. It was a big win for us." - **Will Lederer R, Senior Finance Manager of Business Systems, ForeScout Technologie**



"I look at the insights in DataRails every single day. That's how I know how we're doing on sales, on revenue, how I can look at trends and forecast what's going to happen in the future." - **Rob Anderson, CFO, BedRock Quartz**



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