Financial Analyst

**Industry Demand of Financial Analyst**

There are two main categories of financial analysts:

1. Buy-side analysts → develop investment strategies for companies that have a lot of money to invest
2. Sell-side analysts → advise financial services sales agents who sell stocks, bonds, and other investments.

They work in banks, pension funds, mutual funds, securities firms, insurance companies, and other businesses. Some work for the business media or other research houses, which are independent from the buy and sell side.

**Salary (Range)**

* Entry Level Salary in the United States: $56,000/year
* Mid Level Salary in the United States: $90,000/year
* Entry Level Salary in Indonesia: Rp 90,000,000/year
* Mid Level Salary in Indonesia: Rp 180,000,000/year

**Core Tasks**

* Recommend individual investments and collections of investments, which are known as portfolios
* Evaluate current and historical financial data
* Study economic and business trends
* Examine a company’s financial statements to determine its value
* Meet with company officials to gain better insight into the company’s prospects
* Assess the strength of the management team
* Prepare written reports

**Working Conditions**

* They work primarily in offices but travel frequently to visit companies or clients
* Much of their research must be done after office hours because their days are filled with telephone calls and meetings

**Skills Required**

* Research skills
* Analytical skills
* Proficiency in MS Excel, MS Powerpoint, SQL (other computer languages include Python, SAS, and R)
* Communication and writing skills
* Mathematical skills
* Attention to detail

**Career progression data**

* Earn a bachelor’s degree in a related field and start out as a junior financial analyst
* After 3-5 years, earn a master’s degree (MBA or finance) or take exams (Series 7 or SIE) or participate in FINRA program and become a senior financial analyst
* Potential to become a portfolio manager or a fund manager or a senior manager

**Possible University Major**

* Finance
* Accounting
* Statistics
* Economics

**School subjects required**

* Accounting
* Economics
* Business
* Probability and Statistics