Ayotunde Afolabi MBA, CA

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Data-driven and results-oriented finance professional with a decade proven experience in financial analysis, business strategy, and expense management. Skilled in leveraging advanced data analytics to deliver strategic insights, optimize financial processes, and support large-scale transformation initiatives.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Financial Modeling	Data Analytics	Budgeting & Forecasting	Communication skills	Attention to detail
Stakeholder Management	Presentation	Variance & Driver Analysis	Power BI	Process Improvement
VBA (Macros/Scripts)	SQL	Excel & PowerPoint (advanced skills)	Hyperion/Oracle	Data Visualization

EXPERIENCE

Senior Finance Analyst - IT Finance, Manulife   Toronto, ON I Oct 2022 – Present

- **Strategic Financial Planning & Business Case Support:** Manage a $70 million IT expense budget, supporting the development of quarterly forecasts, annual profit plans, and long-term projections. Provide financial insights that align with business modernization initiatives and corporate strategy, contributing to achieving the budget despite tight savings targets.

- **Cross-Functional Communication**: Created and delivered high-quality PowerPoint presentations to communicate financial insights effectively to non-finance stakeholders, including VPs and AVPs, ensuring alignment between financial goals and operational activities across IT and business units.

- **Reporting & Consolidation**: Collaborate with the Director to produce segment financial dashboards that improved data accessibility and led to a 30% reduction in decision-making time. Analyze financial performance, highlighting areas for cost savings and operational improvements.

- **Variance & Driver Analysis:** Analyze financial performance by comparing actual results with plans and forecasts, providing actionable insights to leadership to improve business performance.

- **Annual Planning & Forecasting:** Lead components of the annual planning cycle, including strategic/business planning and budgeting. Manage quarterly forecasting processes to ensure accurate financial projections.

- **Workforce & Project Management:** Track FTE headcount data and project milestones related to the Book of Work Initiative, supporting the execution of key strategic IT projects that contribute to business transformation.

- **Expense Management & Analysis:** Conducted ROI and cost-benefit analysis for potential projects, evaluating financial implications to support investment decisions.

- **Stakeholder Management:** Act as the liaison between IT, Strategy, and Functional Finance teams, tracking user stories and acceptance criteria to ensure alignment with both financial and non-financial objectives. This ensures clear business requirements, accurate financial implications, and prioritized operational outcomes.

Key Achievements

- **Enhanced Reporting Accuracy:** Improved report accuracy and timeliness by 25% through the use of DAX and Mashup language for ETL processes, automating data extraction and transformation. Applied VBA to instantly update PowerPoint slides, reducing report generation time by 30% and streamlining executive presentations.

- **Process Optimization:** Volunteered as a change champion in the development and testing of new financial planning tools, Anaplan & Alteryx, leading to a 20% reduction in time spent on financial reporting and forecasting. Implemented best practices that streamlined financial processes and reporting systems, resulting in a 15% improvement in operational efficiency. Collaborated with cross-functional teams to enhance system integration, contributing to a smoother flow of financial data and a reduction in manual errors.

Analyst & Business Advisor (Contract), RBC Insurance   Mississauga, ON I June 2022 – Oct 2022

- **Strategic Financial Planning & Forecasting:** Managed financial planning and forecasting for the $ 300 M+ Sales & Distribution business unit, supporting long-term strategic goals.

- **Variance Analysis & Business Performance**: Provided timely and accurate analysis, reporting, and commentary on Sales & Distribution financial results to evaluate business performance and inform decision-making.

- **KPI Analysis:** Tracked direct acquisition cost KPIs, utilizing scenario, sensitivity, and trend analysis to improve transparency and understanding of business drivers. This led to a 15% improvement in forecasting accuracy and helped identify cost-saving opportunities.

- **Expense Management:** Managed FTE expenses and financial drivers, examining financial data to predict future trends and identify risks and opportunities for business units.

Finance Manager: Expense Management, Interswitch Limited   Lagos, Nigeria I Jan 2020 – June 2022

- **Team Leadership & Operational Efficiency:** Led and developed a high-performing accounts payable and expense management team of 3 professionals, ensuring the efficient processing of expenses and financial transactions, including inventory, goods-in-transit, and Capital Work-in-Progress, with a focus on accuracy and compliance with company policies.

- **Process Optimization:** Successfully identified and implemented process improvements that reduced payment processing times by 100 hours annually and shortened the payment cycle by 30 days. This was achieved through eliminating bottlenecks and streamlining approval workflows, directly improving cash flow and operational efficiency.

- **Financial Controls & Reporting:** Managed the allocation of expenses across multiple business units, ensuring timely and accurate financial reporting. Worked closely with senior management to provide comprehensive insights on expense trends, which contributed to better financial planning and resource allocation decisions.

- **Cross-Departmental Collaboration:** Collaborated with cross-functional teams, including Supply Chain and Logistics, to refine IT purchase order creation and invoicing processes. This resulted in significant reductions in processing times, enhancing overall operational productivity and aligning with organizational goals for continuous improvement.

Finance Analyst: Interswitch Limited   Lagos, Nigeria I Sept 2014 – Dec 2019

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration, Accounting, Obafemi Awolowo University,   Ile-Ife, Nigeria

Bachelor of Science in Economics, Bowen University   Osun, Nigeria

CERTIFICATIONS

Power BI Data Analyst, Microsoft PL-300 certification	**2025**
Financial Modeling and Valuation Analyst, Corporate Finance Institute (Canada)	**2022**
Qualified Member, Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (United Kingdom)	**2021**
Associate Member, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria	**2019**