

# BARC Score

## Financial Performance Management (FPM)

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## Abstract

Performance management plays a crucial role in increasing competitiveness and is one of the central management tasks in the organization. The goal is to align the company's strategy and goals with business processes in order to achieve the highest level of performance at strategic, tactical, and operational levels. In recent years, the dynamics of markets and competition have increased rapidly and many companies are struggling to keep pace. In this context, the management and monitoring of financial performance across the organization are becoming massively more important. Therefore, financial performance management (FPM) is key for many companies and focuses on streamlining financial management processes.

This BARC Score examines the market for FPM products and portfolios. Based on countless data points from various BARC surveys and many analyst interactions, vendors are rated on a variety of criteria, from portfolio capabilities and architecture to sales and marketing strategy, financial performance, and customer feedback.

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## Overview

Markets and competition today are highly dynamic and complex, and the future is characterized by uncertainty. Volatility driven by geopolitical developments, supply chain instability, inflationary pressures, and rapid market shifts demands a higher level of organizational resilience. In this context, the management and monitoring of financial performance across an organization and therefore financial performance management (FPM) are gaining in importance for a growing number of companies.

The age of digitalization presents organizations with new challenges. Many markets have become more dynamic and disruptive as a result of new business models. Globalization and cross-border value chains have greatly increased the scope of control of international business activities and different business models. As a result, the monitoring and forecasting of financial targets is becoming increasingly important as part of FPM. In recent years, many companies have painfully recognized the importance of transparency in financial processes for efficient management. This transparency not only includes looking back into the past (“what has happened”) but increasingly requires anticipation and reflection of future developments in an organization’s process goals and structures (“what will happen”). For this reason, key focus areas that companies are pursuing right now in FPM are:

- An accelerated supply of information for decision-makers.
- Increasing consideration of internal and external data for decision-making.
- Greater use of data and analytics in decision-making and management processes.
- Short-term planning and more frequently updated forecasts.
- Faster and more frequent consolidation and closing of financial results.
- Digitalization and greater software support for internal processes as an essential basis for their optimization and further automation.

Support from modern and requirements-oriented software solutions is an essential element in achieving these goals. Hereby, the integration of various FPM disciplines in common software platforms (e.g., financial planning and forecasting, financial consolidation and close, financial reporting and disclosure management, and data analytics) is a means of avoiding problems and user dissatisfaction but also helps to streamline financial management processes within companies and to drive finance transformation.

This BARC Score focuses on the highly competitive market for FPM products and portfolios. It analyzes the strengths and challenges of all the leading vendors that offer outstanding value to their customers.

Besides buying a modern FPM platform, organizations should have an FPM strategy that goes well beyond an architecture blueprint to include non-technical and emerging business-user-oriented requirements, alignment with corporate strategy, organizational models, outcome-based priority settings, and a proper roadmap. The shift in FPM strategies toward unified FPM processes, cloud-based deployments, self-service in finance and controlling departments, as well as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) supported decision-making are also reflected in the new features being added to leading platforms.

Still, when it comes to kicking off or expanding an FPM program, the initial focus almost always lies on the required toolsets. While this may not always be the ideal starting point, at some stage a platform, portfolio, or product decision must be made. This document will help with the selection process by evaluating the market leaders and most used product sets for FPM.

## Inclusion Criteria

To be considered for inclusion in this BARC Score, products must align with BARC’s definition of financial performance management (FPM):

**Financial Performance Management (FPM)** encompasses the processes, tools, and strategies used to monitor, analyze, and optimize an organization’s financial performance. It includes key activities such as financial planning and forecasting, reporting, statutory consolidation, close, and disclosure as well as advanced analytics with AI/ML-driven insights and predictions. FPM provides transparency into financial processes, enabling data-driven decisions and aligning financial goals with business strategies to ensure sustainable growth and profitability. By integrating these elements into unified software platforms, FPM streamlines financial operations, enhances efficiency, and drives finance transformation within organizations.

Moreover, there are two separate categories of inclusion criteria in this BARC Score: the first is associated with a vendor’s product capabilities and portfolios and the other is linked to the market presence and financial results relating to those products.

To be evaluated in this BARC Score, a vendor must have a strong focus on providing FPM functionality (not only analytics functionality) and supply at least four out of five technologies from the following list in a solution not merely focused on one industry or use case:

- Financial planning and forecasting
- Financial consolidation and close
- Financial reporting and disclosure management
- Ad hoc query and analysis of financial data
- Operational planning and forecasting

In addition, a vendor must have at least 250 productive customers and generate a minimum of 25 million EUR in revenue per year (software revenue) with the evaluated product set in this BARC Score, spread across Europe and at least two additional geographies. Furthermore, the product set must have a significant number of implementations and license or subscription revenues worldwide across different geographies to be considered as global. We consider the following regions as individual geographies:

- Europe, Middle East, and Africa
- North America
- Latin America
- Asia-Pacific

There is no differentiation between on-premises offerings and cloud-based product sets.

## Evaluation Criteria

Every vendor is evaluated on two dimensions: Portfolio Capabilities and Market Execution. Each represents one axis on the BARC Score. These two dimensions include the following sub-criteria.

## Portfolio Capabilities

In general, Portfolio Capabilities reflect functional and architectural criteria. A special emphasis is placed on seamless integration and ease of use for business users. Regarding the vendor ratings in this BARC Score, the focus is rather on the prebuilt business content and FPM solutions that the vendors provide and less on flexibility to create individual applications that can be built with development environments.

The Portfolio Capabilities criteria selected to rank the vendors in this BARC Score include the following technologies and their corresponding weightings:

Criteria	Weighting
<b>Financial planning and forecasting</b>	High
<b>Financial consolidation and close</b>	High
<b>Portfolio evaluation</b>	High
<b>Ease of use for business users</b>	Medium
<b>Infrastructure evaluation</b>	Medium
<b>Financial reporting and disclosure management</b>	Medium
<b>Ad hoc query and analysis</b>	Medium
<b>Operational planning and forecasting</b>	Low

**Please note: Only vendor-distinct functionality is rated in our vendor portfolio ratings, not that of integrated OEM products or partner solutions.**

### Financial planning and forecasting

Planning, budgeting, and forecasting are indispensable for managing business in general and corporate performance in particular. By directly comparing actual and planned figures, companies can effectively monitor the progress and impact of their planned actions and adjust their goals accordingly. This is not only true for planning and forecasting financial results but also operational aspects.

Financial planning and forecasting are key elements in finance control and support financial management. Besides maximizing profits and increasing shareholder value, one of the most important objectives of financial planning is to ensure a company's liquidity. Financial planning should describe what steps are needed to generate future income and make sure future expenses are covered. Therefore, financial plans have to focus on planning the financial results of an organization (e.g., balance sheet, income statement, cash flow), which may also include a consolidation of the financial plans of individual companies and subgroups if regarded at group level. For this reason, functionality for financial consolidation is often required in financial planning as well (see the 'Financial consolidation and close' evaluation criterion).

Particularly in the early stages of implementation projects, companies can benefit from prebuilt planning content, which can be helpful for speeding up implementation. More and more vendors are now

providing prebuilt but adaptable models for financial planning and forecasting in their marketplaces, which offer extensive predefined business rules, business content, and logic.

To comprehensively present the financial view of a company, financial planning must be linked with operational sub-plans (see the 'Operational planning and forecasting' evaluation criterion). Financial planning is only meaningful if dependencies between the individual sub-plans are taken into account and consistent results from all sub-plans are included. The effects of operational planning on the financial results of a company are only directly visible and conclusive when they are completely and automatically integrated. The sequence of detailed planning steps through to financial planning is largely determined by the enterprise's individual driver model.

## Financial consolidation and close

Financial consolidation combines the financial data of several legal entities of an organization in group financial statements, eliminating intercompany transactions (IC) to present the group's correct financial performance according to legal requirements (consolidated P&L, balance sheet, cash flow). The preparation of consolidated financial statements of all individual legal entities of a group is not only obligatory from a financial and legal point of view but also serves as orientation for all decisions relevant to the group as well as for planning and controlling of the entire organization. Fast close, global workflows, and more complex and comprehensive accounting standards make appropriate support through software indispensable to manage the data entry flow, guarantee automated data checks, and closing, and offer possibilities to monitor reconciliation to enable fast close.

In addition to consolidating actuals, financial planning at group level also requires a consolidation of the data from individual legal entities in order to be economically correct. Organizations that place a high value on the correct representation of group relationships often aim for an intensive integration of financial planning and financial consolidation with a focus on profit planning.

In addition to financial consolidation and closing, more and more companies are investing in adjacent group accounting use cases, such as account reconciliation, transaction matching, lease accounting, tax accounting, and sustainability accounting (ESG).

## Portfolio evaluation

Portfolio evaluation includes assessing each vendor's overall portfolio from a customer perspective. The perspective of power users and casual users is important when rating FPM platforms. Therefore, we analyze the integration between the system components comprising the platform as well as the consistency of user interfaces and experience across all modules. The product's lifecycle and maturity are also assessed as this yields insight into quality and stability.

A state-of-the-art FPM platform must have consistent user interfaces and provide integrated functionality for financial planning and forecasting, financial consolidation and close, financial reporting and disclosure, analysis of financial data, and, if required, operational planning and forecasting. Consistency and seamless integration are important criteria for the optimal support of FPM processes. Having all FPM functionality in one integrated platform on one database is certainly preferable to an integration, for example, at database level between different products with the need for ETL processes to transfer data.

Moreover, the product's lifecycle and maturity are assessed. Customers often complain about reliability and stability in early product releases. Early versions are rarely as functionally rich as mature products, so they usually do not meet all their customers' functional requirements. And sometimes vendors offer

mature products that are no longer being enhanced with innovative, new features. As a consequence, they may not fulfill new and emerging requirements.

## Ease of use for business users

Ease of use considers the general user-friendliness of an FPM product for business users in areas such as model and business logic design, screen generation, content development, and administration in business departments (self-service). Unified interfaces with a clear and modern design are required to attract business users. Good integration between all components and reliable performance are vital for productivity in content creation – from consolidations to plans, reports, and dashboards and beyond. In business-user-oriented products, coding must be optional, and guided navigation should be available rather than expecting users to locate and open wizards and menus. In addition to an assessment by experienced analysts, we take customer feedback into account here from BARC’s “The Financial Consolidation & Group Accounting Survey” and “The Planning Survey” (the Ease of Use KPI). This criterion is included because ease of use for business users is often a very important consideration in software selection processes.

## Infrastructure evaluation

A modern FPM platform must serve numerous usage scenarios and expanding user numbers as well as growing data sources and volumes. Infrastructure evaluation focuses on the overall architecture of each vendor’s product portfolio and includes a broad range of technical criteria. Of particular interest here are the integration of the various components from the perspective of front-end users as well as at infrastructure levels, including data access, models, and metadata. A sophisticated system architecture should allow for efficient scaling as the data volume or the number of users increases without compromising performance or requiring huge hardware investments.

Furthermore, a modern FPM platform must be open in the back end to integrate internal and external data from different data sources (e.g., via predefined connectors and ETL) but also in the front end to integrate with widely used BI and analytics solutions such as Microsoft Power BI, Qlik, and Salesforce Tableau (e.g., leveraging APIs). Integration with Microsoft Power BI seems to be increasingly in demand in our experience.

Finally, support for different platforms, the range of deployment options (e.g., cloud, on-premises, hybrid), performance optimization techniques, and security settings are considered in this evaluation. Performance plays a particularly important role in user satisfaction, acceptance, and perceived usability, and ultimately in the value created from data.

## Financial reporting and disclosure management

Together with the analysis of financial data, financial reporting (management-focused and regulatory) and graphical overviews of financial key performance indicators (KPIs) in dashboards form the backbone of FPM and encompass all information provision tasks for internal and external stakeholders. Individual subcategories include formatted standard reporting, ad hoc queries and reporting, dashboards, and financial disclosure.

Financial reporting provides stakeholders with accurate and timely information about an organization’s financial performance over a specific period of time (month, quarter, year etc.). The primary objective is to inform stakeholders about financial results and position for decision-making. To serve specific purposes, financial information can be delivered in various formats, ranging from standard formatted

tabular reports to agile ad hoc queries and highly visual dashboards. A special category of financial reporting is disclosure management, which focuses on meeting external and internal reporting requirements, particularly financial statements. Many companies are required to publish or file their financial statements with the authorities and therefore need comprehensive software support to maintain high quality standards and avoid regulatory risks if standards are not met.

Distribution of the content created must be readily available to feed all communication channels. Distribution must include bursting static and page-oriented PDF reports as well as exports to various formats, such as Excel files, often delivered via email. Triggers for data-driven alerts, scheduling, and bursting are required to reach a broad number of users. Recently, integration with collaboration tools such as Microsoft Teams has grown in importance for customers and vendors alike.

## Ad hoc query and analysis

The continuously growing number of data sources to consider and the variety of analytics questions to answer based on them is raising the demand for methods to analyze financial and operational data in-depth and quickly. Business users need a powerful toolkit of methods to analyze and to intuitively dig deep into the available data.

In many cases, business users require greater interactivity than they can get from predefined (standard) reports and dashboards. Ad hoc query and analyses allow business users to intuitively dig into the available data. Next to basic analysis methods (e.g., filtering, ranking, conditional formatting, etc.) and navigation in data, traditional online analytical processing (OLAP) provides dimensional data views, which make it easy for users to drill down, drill across, and pivot dimensions as well as apply sophisticated calculations without scripting. While not discussed much these days, dimensional analyses are still widely used and extremely valuable to many. Moreover, interactive visual exploration allows users to quickly scan significant amounts of data for patterns, outliers, and clusters, or even to quickly understand what is in a data set.

Bringing analytics to a greater number of users is a major trend, particularly to power users in business departments. Augmentation and guidance are therefore gaining in importance to support non-technical users in analysis tasks and query creation. Automated insights speed up time to insight by making use of ML to highlight the most important insights in data, guiding users through possible analysis steps and giving answers beyond questions asked explicitly. Patterns and outliers are detected in the background and are presented to users in a meaningful way – increasingly supported by modern functions such as natural language query (NLQ) so they can type their questions into a search bar or even leverage speech recognition instead of using query languages such as SQL or creating wizard-based data queries.

## Operational planning and forecasting

To comprehensively present the financial view of a company, financial planning must be linked with operational sub-plans to take dependencies between the individual sub-plans into account and include their consistent results in financial planning. To do this, software products require the flexibility to model all required operational sub-plans such as sales, production, and HR and link them to the financial results plans. Since it is no longer sufficient to plan these operational areas in isolation, many companies are striving to better integrate their overall corporate planning.

Integrated corporate planning models consist of planning structures (master data), key figures, and planning logic, and combine different operational and financial plans. All steps of planning processes, such as the creation of a planning model and model provision, creation of planning masks, and definition of planning processes as well as user functionality for planning are supported by planning solutions. The

coordination of the various planning activities and planners involved is handled by process control functionality (workflow). For plan data entry and within the planning process, specific planning functionality is provided (e.g., data allocation, comments).

Because increasing dynamics and complexity demand adjustments to corporate planning and decision support to meet growing requirements, short-term updates of targets and forecasts as well as sophisticated scenario-based analyses have become indispensable. That is why advanced planning topics such as the comprehensive integration of corporate planning, the automation of forecasts leveraging predictive algorithms and ML models, and driver-based simulations are of such huge importance to many companies now. This applies not only to operational planning and forecasting, but also financial planning.

## Market Execution

On the Market Execution axis, we rate the FPM vendors in this BARC Score using the following criteria and corresponding weightings:

Criteria	Weighting
<b>Product strategy</b>	High
<b>Customer satisfaction</b>	High
<b>Financials</b>	Medium
<b>Geographical coverage</b>	Medium
<b>Ecosystem</b>	Medium
<b>Sales and marketing strategy</b>	Low
<b>Organizational strength</b>	Low

### Product strategy

This is the most important of all the criteria. Vendors are rated on the clarity and completeness of vision for their FPM offering, product roadmap, and innovation, as well as the alignment of the company portfolio with current market trends and demands.

### Customer satisfaction

Here, we include the *Customer Satisfaction* KPIs from BARC’s annual customer feedback surveys (e.g., “The Planning Survey,” “The Financial Consolidation & Group Accounting Survey,” and “The BI & Analytics Survey”). These take into account price-to-value, recommendation, vendor support, implementer support, product satisfaction, and sales experience ratings reported by customers. The ratings of vendors that provide more than a single product are combined into a single rating. Vendors not included in the BARC customer feedback surveys (e.g., due to a limited number of survey responses from their

customers) receive an average rating. This average rating stands for “satisfied” and does not negatively affect their score.

## Financials

This criterion covers the financial position of a vendor, from market capitalization, cash position, and EBITDA to profitability, burn rate, and investment rounds. For vendors that are private companies or do not break out the numbers for individual product lines, estimated figures are used. This category includes a scaled overall assessment of the vendor’s financial performance.

## Geographical coverage

Vendors are evaluated on their global presence. We look at the various geographic regions and major countries in which the company conducts business with both a sales and marketing presence as well as development and support functions.

## Ecosystem

In this category, we evaluate the extended ecosystem in which the vendor participates. This includes business partner networks, hardware or cloud infrastructure providers, consulting firms, and systems integrators as well as other technology alliances.

## Sales and marketing strategy

To rate a vendor’s sales strategy for FPM, we look at the various channels through which the company goes to market: with both direct and indirect sales teams, as well as through distributors, value-added resellers (VARs), online channels, and OEM relationships. We also evaluate the vendor’s product pricing and sales models, such as perpetual licensing, support subscription, open source, and freemium.

A vendor’s marketing strategy is evaluated by rating its corporate and product messaging, the company’s presence in media, advertising, and social networks, as well as its ability to run events, such as conferences, seminars, roadshows, and webinars.

## Organizational strength

Vendors are rated on their organizational stability, which is influenced by consistency of corporate strategy, continuity of executive leadership, but also staff turnover, reorganization, and layoffs.

## Score

Each vendor receives two scores: one for Portfolio Capabilities and one for Market Execution. These scores are calculated from individual ratings across all criteria, then plotted on their respective axes to determine the vendor's position on the BARC Score graphic below.

**Please note: Only vendor-distinct functionality is rated in our vendor portfolio ratings, not that of integrated OEM products or partner solutions.**



**Figure 1: BARC Score Financial Performance Management (FPM)**

## Score Regions

Vendors can be positioned in one of five regions, depending on their total score on each of the two axes.

### Dominators

Dominators are vendors that drive both technology and market adoption in a highly influential manner. They possess both a broad portfolio of market-leading and dominating products with a strong brand as well as a robust commercial prowess through best-in-class sales and marketing programs, an extensive ecosystem of business partners and alliances, and a rock-solid financial position. Dominators are considered a contender in virtually every planned implementation.

### Market Leaders

Market Leaders are well established vendors that drive strong market adoption, supported by technology innovation and strategic acquisitions and by leveraging robust account management and a solid track record. Their portfolio enjoys high brand awareness in the market and covers an extensive range of technologies and services with only few gaps. Market Leaders typically have a large market share, making them a viable contender in almost all implementation scenarios.

### Challengers

Challengers come in various shapes and sizes. They can be large vendors tapping into a new market by acquisition and pushing their way in with force, small innovative companies with a promising portfolio but limited sales and marketing resources, or vendors that attempt to disrupt a market with a new technology approach or different business model.

### Specialists

Specialists are usually smaller vendors with a portfolio focused on a specific market segment. They can be either limited in their technical capabilities by concentrating on certain features and functions, or they may only focus on select geographic regions rather than the global marketplace.

### Entrants

Entrants are usually startups with limited reach and visibility in the market. Their product capabilities are incomplete when compared to competitors, and their long-term market potential is still unproven.

## Evaluated Products

The latest versions of the following products are evaluated in this BARC Score:

Vendor	Evaluated Product(s)
<b>Anaplan</b>	Anaplan
<b>Board International</b>	Board
<b>IBM</b>	IBM Planning Analytics IBM Controller IBM Cognos Analytics
<b>Infor</b>	Infor EPM Infor Birst
<b>insightsoftware</b>	JustPerform and additional insightsoftware portfolio products
<b>Jedox</b>	Jedox
<b>Lucanet</b>	Lucanet
<b>OneStream, Inc.</b>	OneStream
<b>Oracle</b>	Oracle Cloud EPM Oracle Hyperion EPM Oracle Analytics Cloud Oracle Analytics Server
<b>Pigment</b>	Pigment
<b>Planful</b>	Planful
<b>Prophix</b>	Prophix
<b>SAP</b>	SAP Analytics Cloud SAP S/4HANA Finance for Group Reporting
<b>Unit4</b>	Unit4 FP&A
<b>Vena Solutions</b>	Vena
<b>Wolters Kluwer</b>	CCH Tagetik
<b>Workday</b>	Workday Adaptive Planning Workday Financial Management Workday Prism Analytics

## Vendor Evaluations

In the following section, we discuss each vendor and highlight their strengths and challenges based on customer surveys and market research by the authors.

Each vendor description includes vendor-related information, products covered in the BARC Score, and strengths and challenges.

## Anaplan

Miami, FL, USA

[www.anaplan.com](http://www.anaplan.com)

Anaplan is a cloud-native enterprise software company whose mission is to enable agile, connected decision-making through its AI-driven scenario planning and analysis platform. The company currently employs more than 2,000 people worldwide. Several major investors have funded Anaplan's growth and global expansion. In 2022, Thoma Bravo, a leading software investment firm, acquired Anaplan for approximately \$10.4 billion. In 2024, Anaplan acquired Fluence Technologies, a provider of financial close, consolidation, disclosure management, and reporting solutions.

Launched in 2008, the Anaplan platform is a modern generation of planning, forecasting, modeling, and performance management solutions built on state-of-the-art technology and software architecture. The fully cloud-based platform is available in public (e.g., Amazon (AWS), Microsoft (Azure), Google (GCP)) and private cloud environments and is powered by Anaplan's proprietary, in-memory calculation architecture. In 2017, Anaplan pioneered the concept of connected planning. Its low-code technology connects financial, strategic, and operational plans with data insights and people to align strategic objectives and resources for better decisions and faster results. With the addition of Fluence (now Anaplan Financial Consolidation), Anaplan has strategically expanded its portfolio to provide end-to-end solutions for a more connected finance function, including close and consolidation.

Anaplan targets business leaders, corporate finance, controllers, and operational business departments to connect planning processes on a single platform that supports multiple use cases across finance, sales, supply chain, and workforce in large enterprises and corporations worldwide. Additionally, Anaplan and its partners offer prebuilt solutions and connected applications spanning these areas and specific industries. These applications are based on best practices and common customer use cases. They are built and run on the Anaplan platform and can be customized to meet specific needs.

According to Anaplan, it has more than 2,500 customers. Anaplan implementations include companies of all sizes, from SMBs to complex global businesses with several thousand users per installation. To sell and implement Anaplan, the vendor has a global ecosystem of over 250 partners for implementation, system integration, reselling, technology, strategy, and business consulting. This ecosystem is designed to enhance the platform's capabilities and deliver tailored solutions across various industries.

The Anaplan platform provides flexible functionality for top-down and bottom-up planning, including workflow support and collaboration capabilities. With its "connected scenario planning and analysis" platform, customers can create planning models at different levels of aggregation (strategic, financial, and operational) for an integrated enterprise planning approach. In 2024, Anaplan released its Integrated Financial Planning (IFP) application: a purpose-built, out-of-the-box solution that streamlines planning, budgeting, and forecasting processes. The vendor's classic Hyperblock and new Polaris calculation engines support scalable, in-memory data processing for detailed planning models. As larger, more granular data sets are required for sound planning and informed decision-making, Anaplan is investing heavily in its new, more memory-efficient Polaris calculation engine, as well as its data management system and intelligence capabilities.

Anaplan Financial Consolidation and Reporting (FCR) provides cloud-native (available in Microsoft Azure) support for statutory and management financial consolidation and close with additional capabilities for disclosure management, ad hoc analysis, and reporting. The application offers capabilities for administration of consolidation rules, methods, calculations, eliminations, and validations with auditable workflows. With Anaplan XL Reporting, users can report on Anaplan and non-Anaplan data sources via an Excel-based add-in and display this information in reports or dashboards. Reports can be viewed in Excel, on the web, or on mobile devices.

In 2024, Anaplan outlined a \$500 million, multi-year product investment with a focus on enhanced platform capabilities, AI innovations, and additional applications, including a flagship Financial Planning and Consolidation solution (seamlessly combining IFP and FCR for the Office of the CFO). Delivering on this strategy, the expanded native platform enhancements and AI capabilities include Anaplan Data Orchestrator (ADO), Anaplan’s conversational AI assistant CoPlanner, and the vendor’s suite of role-based AI agents. ADO improves data integration and connectivity with third-party applications and data sources, building the foundation for Anaplan’s AI strategy. It helps transform source data into the structure and format needed for Anaplan models. ADO also centrally stores transformed data to simplify monitoring, management, and distribution to planning models. The introduction of agents contributes to Anaplan’s ongoing stream of AI-driven innovations, including the Anaplan Forecaster, the Anaplan CoModeler agent, and four additional intelligent role-based agents (e.g., for finance), as well as the Anaplan Agent Studio, which supports customers in building their own custom AI agents.

## Strengths

- Anaplan is a modern, cloud-based enterprise platform that connects strategic, financial, and operational planning. It can be used across various business functions and industries. The Integrated Financial Planning (IFP) application offers an out-of-the-box approach to integrated financial planning, and the Financial Consolidation application extends the platform to provide end-to-end solutions for connected finance, including close and consolidation.
- Flexibility for a wide variety of planning approaches (top-down, bottom-up, mixed) and planning topics that support multiple use cases across finance, sales, supply chain, and workforce. Prebuilt solutions and connected applications are also available for selected use cases and industries that run on the Anaplan platform. These solutions can be customized to meet specific needs.
- Anaplan Intelligence provides context-aware AI for predictive analytics, ML, linear programming, and use-case-specific model building to deliver predictive and generative insights. Anaplan’s ongoing stream of AI-driven innovations includes the conversational AI assistant CoPlanner, the Anaplan CoModeler agent, role-based agents, Anaplan Forecaster, and Anaplan Agent Studio.
- Feedback in BARC’s “The Planning Survey” revealed a high level of customer satisfaction with Anaplan implementation project length, as well as with the product’s planning and forecasting functionality, user experience, and innovativeness. Many companies consider Anaplan when looking for an integrated planning platform, and customers highly recommend it.

## Challenges

- Cloud-only: The Anaplan platform, including Anaplan Integrated Financial Planning and Anaplan Financial Consolidation, is purely cloud-based and not available on premises. Web access is essential for using the products. When used in combination, data exchange between different cloud environments (AWS, GCP, and Azure) is required.
- Anaplan provides its own data integration options at various levels. Third-party ETL tools are also used to connect to source systems, especially when predefined data connections are required. Additionally, the platform’s capabilities can be extended using REST APIs, scripting, and transactional APIs. In BARC’s “The Planning Survey,” some customers indicated that predefined data connectivity and data integration capabilities have room for improvement. Anaplan’s new data orchestration platform, Anaplan Data Orchestrator (ADO), is rapidly maturing to address customer feedback, including adding source system specific APIs.

- Anaplan is a comprehensive planning, budgeting, forecasting, and consolidation platform, not a BI and analytics tool. However, it supports standard and ad hoc reporting through dashboards, management reports, Excel plug-ins, and personal pages. Additionally, prebuilt third-party analytics integrations with Tableau, Microsoft Power BI, and Qlik Sense connect Anaplan data and models to specialist tools. Anaplan XL Reporting (acquired with Fluence) will support users in reporting on Anaplan and non-Anaplan data sources via an Excel add-in, delivering this information in reports or dashboards (Excel, web, mobile).
- According to customer feedback from BARC's "The Planning Survey," several customers consider Anaplan to be more expensive than competing offerings, and 'rising costs' is a problem encountered by the Anaplan users surveyed. While some users mention the investment level, Anaplan's tiered "Good, Better, Best" structure allows companies to select the specific functionality and capacity that fits their planning maturity and aligns with enterprise value and scale.

## Board International

Chiasso, Switzerland

[www.board.com](http://www.board.com)

Founded in 1994, Board employs 625 people worldwide. Its European headquarters and software development are located in Chiasso, Switzerland. Board also has a regional headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts, offices around the world, and a global network of over 150 partners. More than 2,000 customers worldwide use Board to implement planning, enterprise performance management (EPM), and analytics projects. In 2019, the company's ownership changed when Nordic Capital acquired a majority stake to support continued international expansion. In 2024, Board acquired Prevedere, a provider of global data sets and predictive AI planning solutions.

Board provides a modern enterprise planning platform that unifies financial planning, close and consolidation, reporting, and operational planning, enabling continuous integrated business planning (IBP). The scalable platform helps organizations discover insights that drive business decisions, unifying strategy, finance, and operations through continuous, agile planning to achieve performance control. Board combines platform capabilities (integration, security, etc.), planning and automation, AI and predictive analytics, and reporting and collaboration into a no-code solution that allows business power users to build custom applications. The vendor serves a broad range of industries with particularly strong adoption in retail, manufacturing, consumer packaged goods, and financial services.

Board offers a combined product consisting of a front end and a proprietary multidimensional in-memory data processing engine optimized for high-performance, multi-entity enterprise planning and financial consolidation workloads, delivered in a tightly integrated architecture. The product provides a consistent, technically homogeneous environment for administration, development, and utilization, with tightly integrated front and back ends. Board is data agnostic and supports data integration through its own integration framework and numerous certified API connections. It is available in the cloud (using Microsoft Azure) and on premises.

At its core, Board is a flexible, web-based platform for building custom EPM applications. It provides intelligent planning capabilities and unifies reporting and analysis, predictive and advanced analytics, and financial close, consolidation, and reporting (FCCR) in a single enterprise planning platform. It offers a rich portfolio of visual objects, ranging from data views and custom controls to advanced charting techniques. For planning, forecasting, and simulation use cases, Board provides powerful, comprehensive functionality. Users can create and customize a wide range of applications that bring together financial and operational data. Board and its partners are highly focused on extending the platform with prebuilt business content. In 2024, the vendor established a solutions division comprising five specialized teams: FP&A, FCCR, Merchandise Planning, Supply Chain Planning, and HR/Workforce Planning. These domain-focused teams are dedicated to continuously delivering industry accelerators, packaged applications, and preconfigured content to reduce time-to-value and standardize best practices while maintaining flexibility. Additionally, Board and its partners offer solutions for specific domains and industries.

AI-enabled planning and decision support is a strategic pillar of Board's platform. Starting in Q1 2026, Board embeds agentic AI directly within planning workflows through domain-specific, persona-based AI agents, predictive modeling, anomaly detection, and scenario optimization with human oversight and governance built in. Its flexible capabilities focus on natural language interaction and conversational querying, automated predictions, anomaly detection, intelligent insights, and agentic assistance. These capabilities are further augmented through Board's own functionality, integration with R and Python models, and third-party ML services, such as Microsoft Azure ML and Azure OpenAI services. Prevedere, now Board Foresight and Board Signals, enriches Board's predictive analytics and analytical AI capabilities by correlating expert-curated global economic data with internal business data to improve

predictive accuracy and by embedding external data into predictive models. Board Agents provide an intelligent suite of domain-specific AI agents that support planning decisions across finance, the supply chain, and merchandising. Board Agents work with Board Foresight to support continuous predictive analysis and scenario planning.

## Strengths

- Flexible, fully web-based planning and EPM platform with a tightly integrated system architecture of proprietary multidimensional in-memory data processing technology, modeling environment, and front ends. Unified financial and operational planning, close and consolidation, and business intelligence on a single platform, reducing reconciliation effort and ensuring one governed version of the truth across finance and operations.
- Graphical, no-code development environment that allows business power users to create custom EPM applications, including planning, forecasting, simulation, reporting, dashboarding, analysis, predictive and advanced analytics, financial close, consolidation, and reporting.
- Comprehensive planning, budgeting, and forecasting capabilities for all planning approaches (top-down, bottom-up, mixed). Customers can address different workflow-based planning topics on a common platform with different levels of aggregation (e.g., strategic, financial, and operational planning) for an integrated business planning approach.
- Complementary, comprehensive BI and analytics capabilities are available for dashboards, reporting, and analysis. Board includes a rich portfolio of visual objects, as well as integration with Microsoft Office 365 and Microsoft Power BI. The platform offers AI-augmented planning and decision support with domain-specific, persona-based AI agents.

## Challenges

- The Board platform has a comparatively low level of prefabrication, and many implementations are customized based on customer requirements, which is a real strength of the product. However, according to BARC's "The Planning Survey," the product's extra flexibility can result in longer implementation project timelines than those of competitors. Historically, Board's strength in flexibility led to highly tailored implementations. As customer demand has shifted toward faster time-to-value, Board has expanded its portfolio of preconfigured applications and industry accelerators. Continued investment in solution packaging aims to balance flexibility with implementation speed.
- Board is a highly flexible and comprehensive platform. Due to its breadth of functionality and configurability, successful implementations benefit from experienced design governance and solution best practices. Board continues to expand its solution content and guided configuration frameworks to simplify deployment and adoption. The product's flexibility and rich functionality can make it quite complex for inexperienced users to implement and build intricate applications for custom solutions.
- According to customer feedback from "The Planning Survey," some customers consider the product to be more expensive than competing products, and 'rising costs' is a problem encountered by 21 percent of the Board users surveyed. A number of customers indicate cost sensitivity when expanding to additional use cases.

## IBM

Armonk, NY, USA

[www.ibm.com](http://www.ibm.com)

IBM is one of the world's largest providers of IT hardware, software, and services. The company has over 270,000 employees worldwide and operates in more than 170 countries.

IBM offers a comprehensive portfolio of BI, performance management, and advanced analytics solutions. Key offerings include IBM Cognos Analytics (for BI and analytics), IBM watsonx (AI platform), and IBM Planning Analytics (for planning, budgeting, and forecasting). For financial consolidation, close, and regulatory reporting, IBM Controller is part of the performance management portfolio. IBM supports a wide range of deployment options, offering cloud, on-premises, and containerized applications.

IBM Planning Analytics, the vendor's strategic enterprise planning product, is a core element of the IBM performance management portfolio and has been on the market since the 1980s. It is a strategic product for IBM due to its robust planning and OLAP analysis capabilities, as well as its underlying in-memory TM1 technology. IBM Planning Analytics is available as a cloud-based solution using IBM Cloud, Amazon Web Services, or Microsoft Azure, as well as on premises. Thousands of solutions have been implemented worldwide. At its core, IBM Planning Analytics is a high-performance, multidimensional, in-memory platform for budgeting, planning, and forecasting, accessible through both Excel and web interfaces. It is designed primarily for business power users who require flexibility to build and manage complex applications across planning, analysis, and strategy management. The product supports a broad range of use cases spanning finance, sales, HR, and operational planning. Its strength lies in its modeling flexibility, which enables organizations to configure tailored solutions aligned to specific business requirements. IBM and its extensive ecosystem provide prebuilt business content and accelerators targeted at defined use cases and industries.

In recent Planning Analytics releases, IBM has advanced the web client experience, modernizing the user interface and interaction model, enhancing charting and visualization capabilities, and expanding the web-based modeling environment. Planning and workflow functionality have been strengthened through a visual workflow designer that enables organizations to configure structured planning processes (including task management, status tracking, approvals, and notifications). Built-in AI capabilities can generate forecasts based on multiple methodologies and detect anomalies, potential data entry errors, and provide generative AI insights. The IBM Planning Analytics Assistant allows users to interact with data using natural language. With new agentic capabilities via watsonx Orchestrate, the Assistant can support users in automating tasks, triggering workflows, and interacting with multidimensional data. In addition, IBM Planning Analytics can integrate with other IBM technology services, such as IBM ILOG CPLEX for complex optimization tasks.

IBM Controller is a purpose-built product for financial consolidation and closing, designed for use in statutory and management consolidation use cases. It offers predefined dimensions and consolidation calculations as well as a library of prebuilt reports for data review, system configuration, and audit trails. IBM Controller is agnostic to industry and organization size and is available in the IBM Cloud and on premises. Its standard functionality includes currency translation, intercompany reconciliation/ elimination, complex ownership handling, multi-GAAP capabilities, and options for custom calculations and flexible reporting. In addition to its 200 built-in standard reports and a reporting option for Microsoft Excel, IBM Controller can integrate with IBM Planning Analytics for OLAP-based reporting and planning. A new disclosure management capability in IBM Controller is slated for release in 2026.

IBM Cognos Analytics, the vendor's enterprise BI and analytics platform, focuses on enterprise reporting, self-service dashboards, and AI-assisted analytics. It combines ease of use with elaborate governance features in an end-to-end platform. The product can support the needs of many concurrent users and

large volumes of data in large-scale scenarios. Cognos Analytics provides AI-powered insights, including natural language querying, automated insights, and intent-driven modeling. Automation and ML capabilities across data modeling, dashboards, and data exploration as well as an AI assistant are intended to provide faster results for all users. The IBM Cognos Analytics Assistant allows users to explore data by asking natural language questions and receiving answers in the form of a presentation-ready dashboard or report.

## Strengths

- IBM Planning Analytics delivers highly flexible, enterprise-grade planning and OLAP capabilities built on a high-performance, scalable in-memory database. It enables business power users to design tailored planning, budgeting, and forecasting applications while also supporting connected planning across functions and the broader enterprise. The platform provides robust Excel-based modeling and custom planning forms, with seamless web publishing to support enterprise-wide access and governance.
- IBM Planning Analytics supports integrated reporting and analytics workflows, including embedded reporting capabilities and optional integration with IBM Cognos Analytics for organizations requiring expanded enterprise reporting, dashboards, and AI-assisted insights. This integration extends capabilities without being required for core planning functionality.
- IBM Cognos Analytics is a well-integrated end-to-end platform for governed analytics for business users that spans data preparation and modeling to analysis, reports, and dashboards.
- IBM Controller is a mature and feature-rich financial consolidation and close solution supporting both statutory and management consolidation requirements. IBM continues to invest in modernizing IBM Controller including a refreshed web-based UI/UX, expanded integration capabilities, and embedded AI support to enhance usability and automation.
- IBM maintains a well established and expanding global partner ecosystem supported by strong product expertise and enterprise-grade customer support infrastructure.

## Challenges

- IBM Planning Analytics is essentially a development environment for planning and OLAP analysis applications. Compared to its competitors, the product has a low level of prefabrication. Limited prebuilt business content is currently available from IBM itself (mainly blueprints and project best practices). However, extensive prebuilt business content is available from partners and IBM now also offers prepackaged solutions for finance, workforce, demand and supply, and projects.
- Reporting within IBM Planning Analytics for Excel relies on Excel's native formatting capabilities for page-based reporting, which are less comprehensive than fully embedded enterprise reporting environments. IBM continues to enhance web-based reporting functionality, including the Universal Report type for more advanced design requirements.
- Comparatively expensive planning and analytics products, although the cloud versions of IBM Cognos Analytics and IBM Planning Analytics offer alternatives for a lower level of initial investment and faster time to value.
- Customer feedback from "The Planning Survey 25" indicates mixed perceptions around business value realization, vendor support, the product's predefined data connectivity, and workflow functionality. Some users cite complexity during the initial implementation and suggest prioritization of business-oriented enhancements alongside technical capabilities.

## Infor

New York, NY, USA

[www.infor.com](http://www.infor.com)

Infor is a global provider of business software for industry-specific markets. Since its founding in 2002 as an ERP software company, Infor has grown to employ more than 17,000 people and serve over 60,000 customers worldwide, both directly and through a network of over 2,000 partners. Currently, Infor is the world's third-largest ERP software provider and is privately held by Koch Industries.

Infor's enterprise performance management and analytics portfolio consists of two main software solutions: Infor Enterprise Performance Management (EPM) and Infor Birst. Both products were acquired to expand Infor's ERP software offerings. Infor EPM addresses performance management use cases, particularly business planning and financial consolidation, while Infor Birst primarily supports BI and analytics scenarios.

Infor EPM is an integrated solution for planning, budgeting, forecasting, and financial consolidation, offering additional reporting, dashboarding, and analytical capabilities. Based on a proprietary multidimensional in-memory database, the flexible platform supports different planning approaches (top-down, bottom-up, mixed) and a variety of planning use cases. Infor EPM supports strategic, financial, and operational planning. It includes a business-user-friendly modeling environment, as well as capabilities for what-if scenario planning, workflow management, and simple or complex allocations. Additionally, Infor offers extensive predefined EPM applications for various business functions and industries to accelerate implementation, which can be customized to meet specific customer needs. Compared to other vendors, Infor's corporate strategy strongly focuses on providing in-depth industry content to differentiate its business.

More than 4,000 customers of all sizes in a variety of industries around the world use Infor EPM. The platform is available as a multi-tenant SaaS offering in the Infor Cloud (built on AWS) or on premises. In recent years, Infor EPM has been completely re-architected using a modern, services-based architecture that provides improved scalability, performance, modeling, administration, and ease of use. Users can access content and perform planning tasks using modern web browsers and mobile devices, as well as through native Excel integration. Infor EPM can be used with other Infor applications or non-Infor solutions. The vendor positions it as an add-on for Infor ERP customers, packaged with other Infor solutions (e.g., Infor Birst or GRC) or as a standalone product. Infor EPM is tightly integrated with the Infor OS (Operating Service), a cloud operating platform that provides technology services ranging from process integration and AI-based automation to cloud extensibility, data management, security, compliance, and insights for all Infor CloudSuites and third-party solutions. Infor EPM benefits from Infor's generative AI investments, leveraging shared innovations from the CloudSuite development teams. AI capabilities for EPM include ML-based predictive forecasting, anomaly and outlier detection, automatic intercompany matching, and natural language queries and explanations. Through the Infor OS Data Fabric, Infor EPM can integrate with all an organization's data sources and leverage additional analytics capabilities with Infor Birst.

For analytics and BI, Infor Birst provides an integrated, cloud-based platform for formatted and ad hoc reporting, dashboarding, and analysis. Built on a modern data architecture, Infor Birst includes prebuilt industry- and role-specific content and metrics, data integration, and preparation, and a set of AI-enabled capabilities that leverage ML algorithms to generate automated, personalized insights. In terms of data connectivity, Infor Birst can connect to Infor business applications, Infor EPM, and non-Infor systems through Infor OS. Data can be extracted from a wide variety of data sources or connected in real time.

## Strengths

- Infor EPM as a unified, multi-tenant integrated cloud platform for planning, budgeting, forecasting, and financial consolidation with complementary capabilities for reporting, dashboarding, and analysis. Infor EPM is built natively on Infor OS and deployed on AWS to provide a robust platform with integrated enterprise services including security, workflow, data fabric, and extensibility, as well as embedded AI and GenAI capabilities.
- Comprehensive and highly flexible development and modeling environment for tech-savvy business power users to build custom planning and enterprise-wide EPM applications, including driver-based planning and scenario simulation, based on a proprietary multidimensional in-memory database.
- Extensive predefined EPM applications for strategic, financial, and operational planning, consolidation, and financial reporting across various business functions and industries to accelerate product implementation and time-to-value, which can be fully configured to meet complex customer needs.
- Infor Birst provides an integrated, cloud-based platform for formatted and ad hoc reporting, dashboarding, and analysis, built on a modern shared cloud data architecture that enables analytics across Infor EPM and the broader enterprise.

## Challenges

- Infor EPM depends on other Infor components to function. For example, Infor OS is the shared cloud platform architecture for Infor EPM Cloud with its core services for data ingestion, data storage, data management, security, compliance, AI, and more. Some Infor OS services, including AI and GenAI capabilities are only available in the multi-tenant cloud. For on-premises customers, Infor OS is optional, but the majority of customers use Infor OS for on-premises as well as for security and related services.
- At its core, Infor EPM is a flexible platform. It still requires an installed client (Application Studio) and tech-savvy business power users to create pixel-perfect reports and custom applications. Flexibility can lead to complexity when implementing/building intricate applications. To address this challenge, Infor has invested heavily in EPM's UI and UX, replacing a number of technical development modules with user-friendly features in the web in areas such as data modeling, data integration, and administration. The web UI is continuously being enhanced.
- In recent years, Infor's go-to-market and sales strategy for EPM has focused heavily on cross-selling the product with Infor's ERP solutions. As a result of this strategy, the product currently has limited visibility in the standalone market, particularly for non-Infor ERP customers, although Infor EPM also serves a significant number of standalone customers globally across industries, including organizations running non-Infor ERPs.

## insightsoftware

Raleigh, NC, USA

[www.insightsoftware.com](http://www.insightsoftware.com)

insightsoftware is a US-based global provider of solutions for the office of the CFO backed by private equity investors Hg, TA Associates, and Genstar Capital. The company employs more than 2,600 people worldwide and serves over 34,000 customers with more than 500,000 active users in 150 countries. insightsoftware was formed in 2018 through the merger of Hubble and Global Software, Inc. The vendor's rapid growth in recent years has been largely driven by acquisitions. In enterprise performance management (EPM), the key vendors acquired by segment include Bizview, Calumo, Fiplana, JustPerform, Longview, Power ON, and others (planning, budgeting, and forecasting); Clausion, IDL, JustPerform, Longview, Viareport, and others (financial close and consolidation); Certent and others (disclosure management and regulatory reporting); and CXO, Logi Analytics, and others (BI). This strategy has resulted in a broad portfolio of software solutions for finance, accounting, and data and analytics. In particular, the acquisition of JustPerform – a modern, unified, cloud-native platform for planning, budgeting, forecasting, financial consolidation, and reporting – strengthens insightsoftware's ability to deliver an AI-driven, next-generation EPM platform for the future.

insightsoftware's comprehensive product portfolio includes cloud and on-premises solutions for the key processes of today's finance organizations: budgeting and planning, financial reporting, operational reporting, close and consolidation, disclosure management, ESG, tax reporting, business intelligence, analytics, and data management. These solutions can be used independently or in combination and are offered to customers based on their individual needs and strategic direction (e.g., focused use cases; UI requirements; industry, global, or local orientation; company size; connectivity to source systems, etc.). The overall goal is to enable the office of the CFO to turn information into insights that empower business leaders to strategically drive their organizations.

insightsoftware's future EPM product strategy focuses on investing in its high-growth products, while continuously optimizing the portfolio and adding new products in desirable segments. The vendor's platform vision is to unify its product portfolio with a consistent user experience and common capabilities to become a one-stop shop for managing all insightsoftware applications, referred to as the insightsoftware Platform. With a common user interface, insightsoftware is working to create a comprehensive platform that shares data and business logic, connectivity to source systems, user management and security, and connected applications. Going forward, insightsoftware's platform investments will focus heavily on prebuilt data connections, prebuilt business views and templates including starter kits for specific use cases, and shared AI/ML and automation services including natural language processing. 2025 saw the launch of Lineos, a suite of AI-driven capabilities designed to enhance insightsoftware's products by automating tasks, uncovering trends, and delivering actionable insights.

As a unified and comprehensive EPM platform, JustPerform is an important element of insightsoftware's global EPM strategy. The cloud-based product is currently available in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, North America, the UK, Ireland, France, and the DACH region. With its Excel-like, business-user-friendly user interface, JustPerform provides flexible modeling capabilities and connects planning, closing, consolidation, and reporting. Organizations can use JustPerform for a variety of planning approaches (top-down, bottom-up, or combinations of both), planning topics, and aggregation levels (e.g., strategic as well as operational planning, including financial planning). Built with intelligence at its core, the product's native AI capabilities provide predictive forecasting with AutoML, conversational AI for data exploration, offering contextual recommendations, AI agents, and support the surfacing of trends and the detection of anomalies. Lineos, insightsoftware's AI platform featuring transparent, governed AI decisions and human oversight, is integrated with JustPerform to support additional AI use cases.

## Strengths

- insightsoftware offers a comprehensive product portfolio for the key processes of finance organizations, including budgeting and planning, financial and operational reporting, close and consolidation, disclosure management, ESG, tax reporting, business intelligence, analytics, and data management.
- Powerful point solutions with comprehensive functionality to support finance processes that can be used independently or in combination, processing data from multiple source systems. Depending on the individual needs and strategic direction of customers, insightsoftware's portfolio offers solutions for focused use cases in different industries and geographies, for different company sizes, and connectivity to data sources.
- JustPerform – a modern, unified, cloud-native EPM platform – offers comprehensive capabilities for planning, budgeting, forecasting, financial consolidation and closing, account reconciliation, reporting and disclosure management, and analytics.
- The insightsoftware Platform connects applications, provides centralized solution access, user management, security, and data access. With a common user interface, consistent user experience, and shared AI/ML and automation services, insightsoftware is working to further unify and integrate its portfolio.

## Challenges

- From the perspective of potential customers, there is significant functional overlap across the insightsoftware product portfolio (especially in the areas of reporting, planning and budgeting, and financial consolidation and close), so the challenge for each customer is to find the right solution for its own needs. insightsoftware's experienced sales team helps to identify and recommend the right products to customers on a case-by-case basis, depending on the size of the organization and its location. JustPerform is insightsoftware's strategic cloud-native EPM platform and the centerpiece of its global EPM strategy. Originally founded in Singapore in 2017, JustPerform is relatively new to the market but has expanded rapidly since its acquisition by insightsoftware in January 2025, with further regional expansion planned.
- The breadth and constant addition of new products to the insightsoftware portfolio means that the ongoing development, integration, and unification of the various portfolio components is a resource-intensive task for the vendor and a work in progress.
- While many of insightsoftware's products have a long history and existing customer base, the vendor is relatively new to the market, having launched in 2018. Today, insightsoftware and its products do not have the the same market presence and global visibility as competing financial software solution providers (e.g., SAP, Oracle, etc.).
- A number of solutions in the portfolio currently have a more local market reach, partner ecosystem, and customer base. Enterprise customers interested in these solutions with global implementation requirements should evaluate similar references for the use of insightsoftware's individual products.

## Jedox

Freiburg, Germany

[www.jedox.com](http://www.jedox.com)

Jedox is a provider of CPM software solutions and professional services. Since its founding in 2002, the company has grown to a team of about 400 employees. Through its headquarters in Freiburg, Germany, its international offices, and a network of more than 200 partners and global alliances, the vendor serves 3,000 customers worldwide. In addition to implementers, Jedox has a technology partner network that includes Microsoft (Azure, OpenAI, Office, Power BI, Teams, Dynamics, etc.), Salesforce/Tableau, and Qlik. To accelerate customer growth, expand its global footprint, and enhance its CPM platform, Jedox collaborates with several global investment partners.

The company's flagship product, Jedox, is a flexible CPM platform offering planning, budgeting, forecasting, reporting, dashboarding, analysis, and financial consolidation capabilities. The solution offers both an Excel client and a web interface. The Excel add-in combines familiar Excel functions with additional Jedox features in a classic spreadsheet interface. The web client has a browser-based spreadsheet interface – a kind of Excel on the web – with additional features. The software is available as a SaaS product in the public cloud using Microsoft Azure or can be deployed in private environments using other cloud infrastructure providers, such as Amazon and Google, or on premises.

Jedox is designed for business users who create custom CPM applications requiring collaboration and data input from across the enterprise. Leveraging the product's in-memory engine, users enjoy a flexible, multidimensional experience while remaining in their familiar spreadsheet environment. Jedox Integrator, a web-based ETL tool, allows customers to integrate data into the Jedox OLAP Server. It comes with many prebuilt connection types, including an SAP connector. Additional connectors and integration solutions allow access to live Jedox data and reports from third-party systems such as Salesforce CRM, Microsoft Power BI, and Qlik via an OData interface. Trained business users can take responsibility for administering and developing Jedox applications. These applications can be published to large groups of users via Jedox Web and Jedox Mobile. Both top-down and bottom-up planning scenarios can be implemented with Jedox. The platform is also complemented by prebuilt solutions for various topics and industries created by Jedox or its partners. These solutions cover areas such as financial planning and analysis, financial consolidation and close, sales performance management, S&OP, supply chain planning, workforce planning, ESG, and more. They include prebuilt reports, databases, rules, integration logic, and a framework of basic functions. This content is based on best practices and is available in Jedox's integrated marketplace.

In addition to its comprehensive planning functionality, Jedox provides business users with reporting, analysis, and dashboarding capabilities. Jedox Canvas is the platform's self-service, responsive dashboarding, and management reporting tool. Business users can combine different report objects on a canvas to create custom dashboards via drag-and-drop with no coding necessary. Additionally, Jedox's powerful Excel add-in offers flexible options for navigating and analyzing data with classic OLAP functions. As an open platform, Jedox integrates with existing analytics ecosystems, extending them with its planning capabilities (e.g., Microsoft Power BI).

Leveraging AI in finance and CPM is a strategic initiative for Jedox. JedoxAI is a multi-agent intelligence engine built on Jedox's multidimensional database and is powered by Microsoft Azure OpenAI Services. JedoxAI uses agentic AI, machine learning, and GenAI large language models (LLMs) to offer automated data modeling and integration, report creation, predictive forecasting, anomaly detection, and intelligent insights capabilities. Additionally, JedoxAI provides an AI search capability that uses natural language processing to enable users to query data by asking questions. Furthermore, customers can also bring their own proprietary AI models (BYOM) and use them with Jedox.

## Strengths

- Comprehensive CPM platform for planning, budgeting, forecasting, reporting, dashboarding, analysis, and financial consolidation designed for business users.
- Uses native Excel interface and web client as user interfaces with good integration between Excel, web clients, and mobile access to Jedox content. Additional connectors and integration solutions are available to access live Jedox data and reports from third-party systems via OData interface.
- Flexible development environment for creating custom planning and analytics models, primarily through Excel formulas, with a complementary marketplace for predefined but flexibly customizable solutions and accelerators. Jedox's future strategy is strongly focused on further solutionizing the flexible platform.
- Feedback in BARC's "The Planning Survey" revealed a high level of customer satisfaction with the product itself, as well as with its predefined data connectivity, data integration functionality, and flexibility. Companies often consider the product when purchasing a CPM platform.

## Challenges

- Jedox's flexibility as a development environment can lead to complex handling when implementing/building intricate applications from scratch. With its prebuilt solutions that address functional use cases and industry-specific needs, Jedox offers best practices to overcome this challenge and guide customers through the implementation process.
- Jedox has traditionally been used in departmental or small-to-medium-sized scenarios. However, implementation projects have grown in recent years in terms of the number of users and data volume. Large enterprise prospects should evaluate similar references.
- According to customer feedback from BARC's "The Planning Survey," some customers experience performance challenges, particularly in environments with high user numbers and large amounts of data.
- Customer feedback from "The Planning Survey" also includes moderate feedback on Jedox's workflow capabilities. Custom workflows can be built using Jedox's freely available, wizard-based building blocks in its marketplace, or as part of a consulting service and the implementation project. Additionally, many Jedox Marketplace models include predefined "end-to-end" workflow processes that leverage predefined building blocks, such as approval processes and status monitoring.

## Lucanet

Berlin, Germany

[www.lucanet.com](http://www.lucanet.com)

Founded in 1999, Lucanet offers a platform with integrated solutions for the office of finance. The company is headquartered in Berlin, Germany with additional offices in Europe, the UK, Asia, and the US. The vendor's primary focus is on the EMEA and APAC regions. Lucanet has over 6,000 customers worldwide and employs more than 900 people. In 2022, Hg strategically acquired a majority stake in Lucanet to support the company's growth and ambition to become a global leader. In recent years, Lucanet itself has acquired Amana, ementexx, Causal, and firesys.

Lucanet's software portfolio includes the Lucanet CFO Solution Platform, a cloud-based, multi-tenant application leveraging Amazon Web Services, with solutions for consolidation and financial planning, extended planning and analysis, disclosure management, XBRL, ESG reporting, lease accounting, tax compliance and reporting, and banking and cash management, which can be bought as standalone solutions or as a bundle. Lucanet provides an automated financial close solution including financial consolidation, data collection and validation, intercompany reconciliation, and disclosure management. All products are aimed at business users. In the latest versions of the Lucanet CFO Solution Platform, the vendor has focused on modernizing and unifying the UIs and UXs of all modules, a new calculation engine, and improving the integration of its acquired products (e.g., with a unified data lake approach for all modules including data workflows). Recent innovations include a unified web portal with centralized access to modules, settings, and administration, which will be continuously enhanced.

Lucanet Consolidation and Financial Planning (CFP) is based on a proprietary, multidimensional, in-memory database complemented by a PostgreSQL relational staging database. The database provides a predefined data model with intertwined business rules for establishing an integrated financial planning model and creating consolidated financial statements. Using the same logic, it is possible to dynamically compare plan and actual data at group level. To load data, Lucanet.Importer offers a wide range of predefined connectors to common ERP and financial accounting systems. It is also possible to collect and validate data including intercompany reconciliation. Lucanet CFP is Java-based and the cloud services possess all the necessary ISO certifications. Building Lucanet CFP as a true software-as-a-service (SaaS) platform with all the functionality available on the web is a strategic goal for the vendor.

In addition to the core capabilities of the Lucanet CFO Solution Platform, the acquisition of Causal now provides the opportunity to focus on end-to-end planning processes within organizations. The goal is to leverage each other's strengths and combine Causal's detailed, flexible operational planning capabilities with Lucanet's standardized financial planning capabilities for an extended planning and analysis approach. Within the Lucanet portfolio, Causal is now called Lucanet xP&A and provides comprehensive capabilities for setting up a wide variety of planning models that connect financial and operational data. xP&A uses standard relational databases (PostgreSQL) and file storage.

For reporting and analysis in Lucanet CFP, an Excel add-in is provided, but third-party software such as Microsoft Power BI or others can also be used. The platform's open architecture allows these front ends to access Lucanet data, including hierarchies, structures, and values. Lucanet xP&A provides its own additional options for dashboarding and analysis. For disclosure management, ESEF reporting, and ESG reporting requirements, Lucanet offers fully integrated proprietary software solutions, enhanced by the acquisitions of Amana and firesys.

Lucanet offers generative AI capabilities through Lucanet Copilot. These include a natural language assistant for querying and analyzing balance sheets and P&Ls in consolidation and financial planning processes, and creating narratives for ESRS or IFRS disclosures. The new Tagger Agent is capable of comprehensive XBRL narrative tagging, streamlining and automating the tagging of financial statements and

disclosures, and reducing manual effort and errors. The launch of the AI agent builds on Lucanet's GenAI capabilities to enhance the CFO Solution Platform with intelligence, integrating agentic automation across planning, consolidation, and reporting.

## Strengths

- Business-user-oriented platform for integrated financial management of individual subsidiaries or at group level. Lucanet's software portfolio comprises integrated solutions for consolidation and financial planning, extended planning and analysis, disclosure management, XBRL, ESG reporting, lease accounting, tax compliance and reporting, and banking and cash management.
- Lucanet CFP offers integrated financial management capabilities with extensive predefined business rules. The platform provides unified capabilities for financial consolidation, closing, and financial planning. Its financial planning functionality is geared toward Lucanet's consolidation logic. In addition to these core capabilities, Lucanet xP&A provides flexible operational planning capabilities to focus on end-to-end planning processes within organizations.
- Supplementary prebuilt functions for group accounting – including intercompany reconciliation, disclosure management, lease accounting, tax compliance and reporting, and ESG/sustainability accounting – all integrating within the Lucanet CFO Solution Platform ecosystem.
- In BARC's "The Planning Survey," Lucanet CFP achieved excellent customer feedback for its project success, project length, planning content, financial consolidation functionality, ease of use, and performance as well as its predefined data connectivity into the product's proprietary multidimensional database. The vendor offers a strong collection of more than 300 (partially certified) connectors to ERP and financial accounting systems with semantic support including drill-down functionality (e.g., SAP ERP, SAP S/4HANA, Microsoft Dynamics, DATEV, Sage, etc.).

## Challenges

- With the strategic acquisition of Causal in Q4 2024, Lucanet can now provide flexible operational planning capabilities within Lucanet xP&A. However, the integration of Lucanet CFP and Lucanet xP&A to support end-to-end planning processes is still a work in progress. Customers should validate whether the current state of integration meets their process requirements. Operational plans, budgets, and forecasts in Lucanet xP&A are integrated with financial plans and consolidation in Lucanet CFP at the data level with predefined routines for data exchange between the underlying data models and databases. This approach can cause delays in data creation and usage across different solutions, in addition to the use of different modeling techniques, UIs/UXs, data exchange efforts, etc.
- Limited functionality for individual reporting and analysis via Excel add-in in Lucanet CFP. However, proprietary Lucanet OLAP cubes can be accessed by third-party analytics front ends using XMLA or can be replicated in a standard database management system. Moreover, Lucanet xP&A provides its own additional options for dashboarding and analysis.
- Lucanet continues to develop a new web client for the Lucanet CFP solution. Functional enhancements will be published in upcoming releases within this year to reach full value parity.
- Lucanet has historically focused on smaller to medium-sized financial scenarios. Large enterprise prospects should evaluate similar references based on the number of users, data volume, and flexible operational use cases.

## OneStream, Inc.

Birmingham, MI, USA

[www.onestream.com](http://www.onestream.com)

OneStream is a publicly listed (NASDAQ: OS) CPM software company. Headquartered in Birmingham, Michigan, the company has offices in North America, Europe, the UK, and the Asia-Pacific region and employs 1,600 people worldwide. In January 2026, OneStream announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to be acquired by Hg, a leading software investor, for approximately \$6.4 billion. Hg will be OneStream's majority voting shareholder. The transaction is expected to close in the first half of 2026 and upon completion, OneStream will become a privately held company again.

OneStream is a unified platform that supports multiple CPM processes and information streams across the enterprise. It integrates financial consolidation and close, planning, budgeting and forecasting, reporting, and analysis into a single application. In addition to the platform's standard functionality, the OneStream Solution Exchange offers value-added OneStream, partner, and community solutions that customers can download, configure, and deploy on the platform to address new requirements and extend capabilities. Prebuilt OneStream solutions are segmented into financial close and reporting (e.g., account reconciliations, transaction matching, tax provision, lease accounting, etc.), planning and analysis (e.g., people planning, capital planning, sales planning, predictive analytics, etc.), and productivity tools (e.g., task manager, diagnostics 123, CPM and ESG blueprints, etc.).

OneStream targets midsize to large organizations across all industries that require a unified and robust CPM platform. The vendor uses a direct sales model in addition to its partner network to support customers with implementation services. More than 1,800 customers are currently using OneStream and the company is experiencing strong growth. The product is deployed in the Microsoft Azure cloud.

OneStream is a unified consolidation and planning platform with built-in financial data quality support focused on supporting the full range of CPM. The product provides a proprietary in-memory financial analysis engine with built-in financial intelligence (e.g., support for complex financial consolidations) using ROLAP storage in Microsoft SQL Server. Enterprise-wide consolidated financial results, statements, and plans can be produced at subsidiary or group level. In addition, Extensible Dimensionality® provides the ability to extend the account and other dimensional structures to support both corporate and line-of-business financial and operational planning and reporting in a single solution.

In addition to financial planning and analysis, OneStream also supports finance-led operational planning use cases. These prebuilt operational planning solutions in the Solution Exchange – including workforce, capital, cash, and sales planning – feed into the core financial model for an integrated business planning approach. A new line item modeling engine is available to support detailed operational planning and flexible modeling, including prebuilt configurations.

OneStream also integrates functionality for BI and analytics. For agile (ad hoc) reporting and analysis, the product includes a reporting studio, spreadsheet interface, or Excel add-in. Interactive dashboards can bring together key financial and operational metrics by combining tables, charts, graphs, and other visualizations. OneStream Narrative Reporting unifies and automates the creation of financial narrative reports, including narrative assembly, data analysis, collaboration, and approval. For customers with a Microsoft analytics strategy, a connector provides direct integration with Power BI via a certified API to create reports in Microsoft's software based on OneStream data.

OneStream's vision is to be the AI-powered operating system for modern finance. Embedded AI services, a plug-and-play architecture (Genesis) and key platform services (e.g., analytic services, workflow, security, etc.) are important areas of continued investment. OneStream's expanded SensibleAI™ portfolio includes a set of packaged applied AI solutions built on top of OneStream's unified data model and

proprietary financial intelligence. The portfolio includes SensibleAI Forecast (a no-code, AI/ML-powered forecasting solution), SensibleAI Studio (a library of 60+ plug-and-play, quantitative and generative AI routines), SensibleAI Account Reconciliations (detects anomalies and flags risks in the close process), and SensibleAI Agents (AI-powered chat assistants that retrieve data, perform deep analysis, visualize data, and execute tasks). As an evolution of OneStream’s Sensible GenAI capabilities, SensibleAI Agents include Finance Analyst, Operations Analyst, Search Analyst, and Deep Analysis Agents.

## Strengths

- Unified, AI-powered CPM platform for financial consolidation and close, planning, budgeting and forecasting, reporting, and analysis with built-in financial intelligence and financial data quality capabilities, available in the Microsoft Azure cloud.
- Integrated BI and analytics functionality for (print-oriented) production reporting, disclosure management with self-service dashboards and visualizations, and ad hoc analysis via Microsoft Excel add-in. As an extension, OneStream data can be imported and consumed in Microsoft Power BI using REST APIs.
- The OneStream Solution Exchange offers prebuilt OneStream, partner, and community solutions that enable customers to address new requirements and extend the capabilities of the platform. All OneStream-built solutions have a dedicated development team and roadmap, are fully supported, and most are available at no cost to active customers.
- Excellent customer feedback for many KPIs in BARC’s “The Planning Survey” including business benefits, customer satisfaction with the product, functionality for planning and forecasting, workflows, reporting/analysis, and financial consolidation. The vast majority of customers say they would recommend the platform to other organizations.

## Challenges

- According to feedback in “The Planning Survey,” some OneStream customers are dissatisfied with the self-service capabilities of OneStream. Additionally, both ease of use for planners and ease of use for developers are below-average reasons for purchasing OneStream compared to the average for all products. Some customers claim OneStream has become a very comprehensive platform with numerous options. This increases the training effort for new and power users, as well as the complexity of implementing requirements in the best possible way. Customers also say that the user interface and report generation could be simpler.
- OneStream’s browser and mobile-enabled UI is recommended for all end users as well as power users who can leverage the Genesis click-to-configure environment to build analytic dashboards and user experiences that solve most business problems. However, the OneStream native Windows application is required for administrators of the platform.
- In Europe, OneStream lacks the market presence and global visibility of its main competitors, particularly SAP. However, it is a fast-growing global vendor and is continually improving its market visibility, particularly in Europe. When companies do decide to evaluate OneStream, the vendor has a high win rate against its competitors.

## Oracle

Austin, TX, USA

[www.oracle.com](http://www.oracle.com)

Oracle is a global enterprise cloud computing provider, offering software, platform, infrastructure, and data as a service. The company employs more than 160,000 people worldwide and serves over 400,000 customers in 175 countries.

Oracle's portfolio of cloud enterprise performance management (EPM) and analytics includes a wide range of strategic offerings packaged as Oracle Fusion Cloud EPM and Oracle Analytics Cloud. However, Oracle continues to enhance and fully support its widely used on-premises solutions (e.g., Oracle Hyperion EPM). A variety of other cloud and on-premises offerings and applications complement Oracle's extensive product portfolio.

Oracle's comprehensive EPM portfolio includes a full suite of products and applications that cover all relevant EPM processes, including planning, profitability and cost management, financial consolidation and close, account reconciliation, tax reporting, narrative reporting, free-form planning and reporting, sustainability/ESG reporting and planning, and enterprise data management. Oracle Cloud EPM is a cloud-native SaaS solution delivered end-to-end from data centers around the world that are owned and operated by Oracle. All Oracle Cloud EPM solutions are based on a consistent technical platform architecture, run on Oracle database technology, and can be deployed in a modular fashion according to customer needs and priorities. For data integration from data sources, Oracle Cloud EPM provides native, wizard-based features, including predefined connectors and prebuilt adapters to Oracle and non-Oracle operational systems (e.g., ERP). Customers who prefer to manage EPM applications on premises can still use Oracle's Hyperion EPM portfolio (i.e., Oracle Hyperion Planning for planning and Oracle Hyperion Financial Management for financial consolidation and close). Oracle Cloud EPM shares some DNA with the Oracle Hyperion EPM portfolio. For example, it leverages the Microsoft Office add-in Oracle Smart View to work in Excel, Word, and PowerPoint across both cloud and on-premises versions.

In terms of planning, Oracle Cloud EPM offers a broad range of capabilities for enterprise-wide, integrated business planning processes. These capabilities include connected operational, financial, and strategic planning, budgeting, and forecasting as well as scenario simulations. Prebuilt modules and solutions include built-in best practices and expand the reach of Oracle's planning solution beyond finance into HR, supply chain, IT, and sales operations.

AI-driven finance is a major area of continued investment for Oracle. Oracle Cloud EPM provides native AI and ML capabilities, including predictive analytics, statistical analysis, and generative AI, which are embedded into planning, analytics, and performance management workflows. Oracle Insights evaluates historical patterns and current results in financial and operational data to detect variances, emerging trends, and key drivers of change. Multivariate ML models analyze multiple drivers to support predictive planning and forecasting, performing what-if analyses on multiple assumptions. Generative AI is embedded to support natural language interaction, explanation, and automation, and is used for narrative generation. This includes agent-based experiences, such as the Planning Agent, the Profitability and Cost Management Agent, and the Reconciliation Agent, which help streamline and automate processes. Finally, Oracle Cloud EPM supports extensibility through ML Model Import, which allows customers to integrate ML models developed externally in Python or R.

Oracle's flagship product for analytics, Oracle Analytics Cloud, is a platform for dashboards, formatted reports, ad hoc reports, analysis, data preparation, and ML. It offers different clients for different user types. Business users typically work with the modern web-based environment, which offers augmented data preparation and custom data transformations via Data Flows as well as visual analysis features. Data visualizations from Oracle Analytics Cloud can also be displayed on EPM dashboards. The on-premises

version of Oracle Analytics Cloud, Oracle Analytics Server, brings all the capabilities of the cloud platform to organizations requiring on-premises deployment options. In addition, Oracle Fusion Analytics offers embedded analytics within the vendor's portfolio of business applications. With its EPM suite, Oracle has adopted the strategy of embedding the analytics and reporting capabilities needed by most customers and their users into the Cloud EPM platform as opposed to requiring customers to separately acquire Oracle Analytics Cloud.

## Strengths

- Oracle's comprehensive Cloud EPM portfolio includes a full suite of products and configurable applications covering all relevant EPM processes. All products are connected, based on a consistent technical platform architecture, and can be deployed in a modular fashion.
- Oracle Cloud EPM Planning provides comprehensive capabilities for enterprise-wide planning, budgeting, forecasting, and scenario simulations. It offers broad functionality for web-based, integrated business planning, including connected operational, financial, and strategic planning in top-down and bottom-up planning scenarios. Prebuilt modules and solutions include built-in best practices and extend the reach of Oracle's planning solution beyond finance to HR, supply chain, IT and sales operations, and sustainability planning (including reporting).
- BARC's "The Planning Survey" revealed a high level of customer satisfaction with Oracle Cloud EPM Planning as well as high ratings for its innovation and comprehensive functionality. The product comes highly recommended by customers.
- Oracle Analytics Cloud is a comprehensive cloud and web-based platform offering formatted and ad hoc reports, analysis, visualization, data preparation, and dashboards, all in one suite.

## Challenges

- Oracle Cloud EPM is exclusively available on Oracle Cloud. Companies interested in deploying Oracle EPM software on other cloud services or on premises must use Oracle Hyperion EPM and manage it themselves.
- The integration between product lines, such as Oracle Cloud EPM and Oracle Analytics Cloud, primarily occurs at data level by leveraging data models and structures. Oracle is continuously enhancing this integration. For example, data visualizations from Oracle Analytics Cloud can be displayed on EPM dashboards. Oracle's general approach is to embed analytics capabilities directly into the EPM platform. Unlike most other vendors, Oracle's strategy treats EPM and analytics as related but separate product lines.
- The pricing of Oracle's EPM and analytics products is transparent but expensive compared to mid-market focused products. 'Rising costs' is a problem encountered by 25 percent of Oracle Cloud EPM users surveyed in BARC's "The Planning Survey." However, the cloud versions offer cost-effective editions for smaller organizations as well as alternatives for shifting costs to future periods and achieving faster time to value. Pricing includes the Oracle cloud infrastructure (end-to-end) and AI capabilities, eliminating the need for additional costs. Suite-based Cloud EPM pricing offers cost advantages to customers implementing across multiple application areas, such as planning, financial close, and account reconciliations.
- Customer feedback for Oracle Cloud EPM has declined in BARC's "The Planning Survey" in recent years. More recent feedback suggests that some customers have not achieved the expected business value, are not satisfied with the implementation support from Oracle and its partners, or are not satisfied with the product's capabilities for data integration, workflow, and self-service.

## Pigment

Paris, France

[www.pigment.com](http://www.pigment.com)

Pigment was founded in 2019 and employs more than 500 people worldwide. The company's headquarters and software development team are located in Paris, France, with additional offices in Europe and North America. Nearly 600 customers use Pigment worldwide to implement business planning and performance management projects. Several major investors have funded Pigment's rapid growth and global expansion. The vendor's current strategic focus is on continued product innovation, expansion of the partner ecosystem, and headcount growth, particularly in North America. Pigment's go-to-market efforts are centered around North America and Europe, with the UK and Ireland, France, and DACH as its focus geographies. Partners are critical to Pigment's go-to-market strategy, rapid global expansion, and customer project implementations.

Pigment's product was officially released in 2020. It is an integrated and collaborative business planning platform with complementary reporting, analysis, and financial consolidation capabilities. It targets organizations of all sizes and industries looking to solve planning, budgeting, and forecasting challenges. Primary buyers include finance, sales, supply chain, and HR executives. Pigment can be deployed for a single use case in a specific team (e.g., finance), but the majority of implementations are deployed enterprise-wide for strategic, multi-use-case finance and integrated planning initiatives.

Pigment is a modern, cloud-native SaaS solution hosted on Google Cloud Platform (GCP). The multidimensional planning platform is highly flexible and stores data in relational databases such as Postgres and SingleStore. For data integration, Pigment offers three different approaches: predefined native connectors (to ERPs, CRM, HRIS, data lakes, etc.), third-party ETL/iPaaS solutions (e.g., Workato, Celigo, DataBlend), and import APIs to push data from third-party systems into Pigment. Pigment is a web application that works with the latest versions of all modern browsers. Integrations with Microsoft Excel and Google Sheets are available to pull and push data from spreadsheets to Pigment. The platform provides security and control mechanisms that allow users to control data access on a per-record basis for read and write operations.

For planning, budgeting, and forecasting, Pigment offers a fully customizable planning platform with workflow support and collaboration capabilities. It provides a powerful flexible modeling tool and comprehensive functionality to support top-down, bottom-up, and mixed planning processes. Pigment's flexibility allows customers to address different planning topics on a common platform, with different levels of aggregation (e.g., strategic as well as operational planning) for an integrated business planning approach (including financial planning). Standard but customizable planning templates, designed to provide best practices and speed implementation, are available for customers to use in their entirety or on a per-object basis. A native what-if scenario component allows users to run simulations and sensitivity analyses and compare scenarios side by side. Pigment AI augments business planning with support for data visualization and analysis, natural language data and documentation querying, and ML-generated predictive forecasts and modeling. In 2025, Pigment launched its first AI agent, along with a roadmap to incorporate more AI agents into its platform. Integrated into Pigment, these AI agents will enhance existing capabilities. The Analyst Agent analyzes information from internal and external sources to identify trends, detect anomalies, and determine the drivers behind data and performance patterns. Additional agents, such as the Planner Agent and the Modeler Agent, will be available soon.

Pigment is a visual platform that allows users to create fully customized reports and dashboards (known as boards) from the underlying data. Widgets include charts, grids, KPIs, action buttons (e.g., for navigation and data loading), text widgets, and images. These boards are used for reporting, analysis, and data entry. Ad hoc queries and analysis are supported with multidimensional data pivoting capabilities. For

customers with a Microsoft analytics strategy, a Power BI connector via Pigment's APIs is available to create reports and visualizations with Microsoft's software based on Pigment's data.

Finally, Pigment offers a prebuilt financial consolidation application based on the platform's functionality. This application consolidates actuals and plan figures. It automates data imports, currency conversions, and intercompany eliminations. Guided workflows, audit trails, and access controls ensure that financial statements align with global standards, including IFRS.

## Strengths

- Modern, cloud-based planning, budgeting, and forecasting platform for business users. Comprehensive workflow and collaboration capabilities for planning process control and conversational planning.
- Flexibility for a wide variety of planning approaches (centralized top-down, decentralized bottom-up) and planning topics (finance, operations, sales, HR, supply chain, etc.); industry agnostic.
- Supports planning at multiple levels of aggregation (e.g., both strategic and operational) for an integrated business planning approach (including financial planning).
- Rapid global growth and accelerated product development with significant investor funding. Strategic focus on continued product innovation (e.g., augmented planning with Pigment AI, financial consolidation), partner ecosystem expansion, and headcount growth.

## Challenges

- Pigment is an enterprise planning, budgeting, and forecasting platform with native dashboarding, ad hoc analysis, and interactive reporting capabilities. Its reporting capabilities are designed to support planning-driven analysis rather than pixel-perfect publishing or large-scale report distribution. For organizations requiring advanced formatted reporting, governed enterprise semantic layers, or report bursting, Pigment complements established BI ecosystems through prebuilt integrations with Google Looker, Microsoft Power BI, Google Sheets, and Microsoft Excel/PowerPoint. Data interoperability is supported through APIs that enable the controlled export of Pigment data to analytics platforms. Currently, direct exposure of the proprietary Pigment data model to third-party front ends is not provided, though integration is enabled through governed interfaces.
- Advanced data integration relies on third-party technology. Pigment provides its own data loading capabilities, native connectors (e.g., to SAP S/4HANA Public Cloud), and open APIs, while third-party ETL/iPaaS solutions are used to load data in more complex scenarios.
- The new financial consolidation application offers all the standard functions necessary for basic consolidation scenarios. However, prospects should evaluate the application's detailed functions for more complex scenarios. Currently, only an IFRS starter kit is available. However, the solution can also be used to implement consolidations according to other regional GAAPs.
- While Pigment is a fast-growing vendor, it does not yet have the global market presence and visibility of its major competitors. Most of Pigment's business is in North America and Europe (particularly France). However, according to the vendor, its international customer base and revenues are growing rapidly (e.g., in the UK). Prospects should evaluate the local consulting resources and support ecosystem of the vendor and its network of accredited partners.

## Planful

San Francisco, CA, USA

[www.planful.com](http://www.planful.com)

Planful is a cloud platform provider specializing in financial performance management. Founded in 2001 as Host Analytics, the company rebranded to Planful in 2020. Headquartered in San Francisco, California, the vendor currently employs more than 400 people worldwide. Planful is backed by Vector Capital, a private equity investor. In 2022, Planful acquired Plannuh, a marketing performance management platform, which is now called Planful for Marketing.

The Planful platform unifies financial consolidation and close, financial and operational planning, reporting, analytics, and marketing performance in a single solution for organizations of all sizes and industries. As a cloud-based platform, Planful can be accessed through any web browser, including on mobile devices. Planful Spotlight extends access to Planful data, analysis, and data entry to Microsoft Office (Excel, PowerPoint, Word) and Google Sheets. The company sells and implements the product directly and through a global partner network of over 60 system integrators, resellers, and solution implementers. Planful is currently used by more than 1,500 customers worldwide.

Planful uses a hybrid approach to store and manage customer data, combining relational database technologies for planning and consolidations with multidimensional database technologies for reporting, modeling, and analysis. Data integration capabilities including prebuilt connectors, APIs, and file-based imports are provided. Boomi is integrated as a third-party ETL tool, and over 1,400 prebuilt, bi-directional connectors can be used to integrate with source systems.

Planful provides a flexible platform for building a variety of planning models for financial, operational, and strategic planning. Planful's flexible modeling engine and prebuilt solutions in the Solution Hub allow customers to create custom models for their businesses. Industry- and topic-specific planning content and templates are available for areas such as finance, workforce, sales, and marketing. Planning, budgeting, and forecasting processes are supported by comprehensive collaboration features, including comments, threaded conversations, and chats, as well as workflow functionality, such as status monitoring, approvals, task management, and email notifications. Additionally, users can leverage built-in AI capabilities, which are powered by the platform's calculation engine and OpenAI. Planful AI provides generative AI capabilities, offering context-sensitive assistance and answers in natural language, as well as support for outlier and anomaly detection, predictive forecasting, and intelligent insights. Planful AI is evolving into a role- and function-based suite of agentic assistants for analysts, planners, modelers, controllers, and admins. Analyst Assistant, launched in late 2025, is the first agentic AI assistant offering capabilities for variance insights, conversational analysis, and data insights.

Fully integrated with the rest of the platform, comprehensive financial consolidation and close functionality supports statutory and management consolidation processes. The platform includes native financial intelligence and workflow-based consolidation functionality, journal entries, eliminations, reclassifications, currency translation, intercompany management, and financial and regulatory reporting. Planful enhances its capabilities by integrating with partner solutions, such as Trintech for monthly account reconciliation and Workiva for advanced financial reporting and disclosure management. To support the growing consolidation complexity of larger companies, Planful is investing in new and enhanced solutions for financial consolidation, closing, and reporting.

Planful also supports BI and analytics. For standard reporting, the platform enables the creation of formatted reports and board books, including advanced formatting and distribution of report packages. Standard reports are generated directly from the relational database, eliminating the need to prepare data in a cube and synchronize it for reporting. Additionally, there are dynamic ad hoc query and analysis capabilities based on dimensional data, which allow business users to drill up and down hierarchies and

into transactional detail. Users can access this functionality in both the web browser and Spotlight. Visual interactive dashboards display financial and non-financial data using standard and advanced chart types. Planful also offers prebuilt connectors for Microsoft Power BI, with Tableau coming soon, to extend its analysis and visualization capabilities by combining these third-party tools with Planful's planning data.

## Strengths

- Cloud-based, AI-powered platform for business users with integrated functionality for financial consolidation and close, planning, budgeting and forecasting, reporting, analysis and dashboarding, and marketing performance management.
- Flexibility for a wide variety of planning approaches (centralized top-down, decentralized bottom-up) and planning topics (including financial, operational, and strategic planning) for companies of all sizes and industries. Additional prebuilt but customizable models and templates for specific industries and topics are available in Planful's Solution Hub.
- Comprehensive workflow functionality for flexible control of tasks and planning, budgeting, and forecasting processes. Built-in collaboration tools support conversations and decision-making through comments, threaded discussions, and chats.
- Feedback in BARC's "The Planning Survey" revealed a high level of customer satisfaction with the business value Planful provides as well as the vendor's support services, planning and data integration functionality, ease of use, and performance.

## Challenges

- Cloud-only – Planful is purely cloud-based and not available on premises. Web access is required to use the product (except for offline planning using Excel templates).
- Advanced data integration may rely on third-party technology. Planful provides its own data loading capabilities, native connectors, and open APIs, while Boomi is used as a third-party ETL tool (OEM) to load data. Planful's partnership with Boomi offers 1,400 prebuilt bi-directional connectors for integration with source systems.
- Planful underwent a strategic realignment following the late-2025 appointment of a new CEO and leadership changes. Customers and prospects should be aware of how these changes translate into updated strategies and priorities.
- Planful lacks the global visibility of its main competitors today outside North America. However, its international customer count and revenues are growing (e.g., in the UK and Australia). Prospects outside North America should evaluate the vendor's and partners' local consulting and support capabilities.

## Prophix

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

[www.prophix.com](http://www.prophix.com)

Prophix was founded in Canada in 1987 and has been delivering CPM solutions to finance and accounting teams since 1997. The company now has over 430 employees and more than 3,000 active customers worldwide, spanning all company sizes and industries. In addition to its market presence and continued growth in North America, Prophix is increasingly winning customers outside its core market. Current international expansion efforts are focused on the EMEA and APAC regions. In 2021, Prophix received significant investment from Hg to accelerate growth, scale operations, and fund further development. To expand the Prophix One platform and strengthen its global reach, Prophix has made strategic acquisitions: In 2021, Sigma Conso was added to enhance financial consolidation and intercompany management capabilities. Cradle Accounting (2025) enhanced lease accounting capabilities. The acquisitions of All Strategy (Brazil) and Forest Grove Technology (2025) expanded regional expertise to better support global finance organizations.

Prophix One is a comprehensive, unified financial performance platform for business users, providing insight into and automating financial, operational, and business performance processes. It includes foundational shared services for data management, security, AI, and workflow automation to support business applications in addressing various financial use cases, including planning and forecasting, reporting and analytics, financial consolidation and closing, account reconciliation, lease accounting, disclosure management, ESG reporting, cash management, and other regulatory use cases. Prophix One targets business departments (e.g., finance and accounting) in midsize companies across all industries. All applications – Prophix’s and partner applications – sit on a common data layer. Technically, Prophix One is a cloud-native SaaS platform hosted on Amazon Web Services (AWS). It is powered by Prophix Infinix, a flexible, scalable cloud-based calculation engine. Although data and metadata are stored relationally (in Microsoft SQL Server or MySQL), they are presented to the user in a multidimensional way.

Prophix One provides a flexible, no-code platform for planning, budgeting, and forecasting that is not limited to any single topic (e.g., financials, sales, HR, projects). The product can be used to create custom planning applications with top-down and bottom-up capabilities. Predefined business content is available for the construction, senior living, and higher education sectors. In addition, Prophix’s global network of over 100 partners offers prebuilt content for specific topics and industries. With the launch of Prophix One in 2024, Prophix changed its product strategy to a multi-application platform strategy to support the growing need for a single platform to manage processes from Record to Report. One of these new applications is FP&A Plus, a rearchitected version of the vendor’s financial planning and analysis solution. FP&A Plus offers increased scale, granularity, and flexibility as well as support for more complex models and higher-performance queries for larger data sets.

Prophix One uses its web client and an Excel add-in for data entry based on the planning model. The product provides workflow capabilities to control planning processes, including a visual process overview, task management, status monitoring, approvals, and email notifications. To further simplify and automate the experience for business users, Prophix leverages AI. Prophix One Intelligence, the vendor’s AI engine, is built into the platform, bringing classic, generative, and agentic AI to planning, closing, and reporting. With Copilot, Prophix One Intelligence provides a natural language conversational interface for working with Prophix One, while Prophix One Agents, such as the Budgeting Agent and Reporting Agent, help speed up budgeting, reporting, and insight generation by automating manual tasks.

In addition to performance management, Prophix One includes reporting, dashboarding, and OLAP analysis capabilities. Prophix applications include a library of prebuilt dashboards and visualizations that can be customized to suit user roles and industry requirements. Custom reports and planning templates

are created in a user-friendly, Excel-like environment. Additionally, Prophix One supports integration with external analytics tools, such as Microsoft Power BI and Tableau, for customers who prefer or require more advanced dashboarding, data visualization, and analysis.

## Strengths

- Comprehensive and unified multi-application CPM platform for business users in midsize companies focused on planning and forecasting, reporting and analytics, financial consolidation and closing, account reconciliation, lease accounting, disclosure management, ESG reporting, and cash management, available in the Amazon Cloud (AWS).
- Flexible planning, budgeting, and forecasting capabilities for top-down and bottom-up planning with strong workflow capabilities to control planning processes. With Prophix One, individual planning applications can be created on different aggregation levels (strategic and operational planning) for an integrated enterprise planning approach (including financial planning).
- Complementary functionality for standard reporting (including formatted and print-oriented), narrative reporting, ad hoc query, OLAP analysis (drilling, slice and dice, pivoting, etc.), and dashboarding.
- BARC's "The Planning Survey" reveals a high level of satisfaction with Prophix, particularly with the length of implementation projects, price to value, vendor support, sales experience with the vendor, and also the platform's self-service capabilities, flexibility, and ease of use.

## Challenges

- Prophix is a flexible, no-code solution for planning and CPM. Compared to its competitors, there is currently not a lot of prebuilt business content available from the vendor itself. However, Prophix has developed prebuilt models for the construction, senior living, and higher education industries and has a strong focus on providing more industry-specific content in the future. Prophix's global partner network also provides prebuilt content for specific topics and industries.
- According to customer feedback from BARC's "The Planning Survey," some customers are less satisfied with the platform's data integration capabilities and functional aspects, such as forecasting and financial consolidation, than customers of competing products. Additionally, some customers have reported issues with performance when working with large data sets, resulting in slower report performance or longer processing times for consolidations.
- Based in Canada, Prophix is predominantly used in North America. However, its international customer base has grown in recent years (including through the acquisition of Sigma Conso), and its implementation projects have grown in terms of user numbers and data volumes. Enterprise customers and companies planning global deployments should review similar references and evaluate the local consulting and support capabilities of the vendor and partners.

## SAP

Walldorf, Germany

[www.sap.com](http://www.sap.com)

SAP was founded in 1972 as a business applications company. Today, with revenues of over €34 billion and more than 110,000 employees, SAP is one of the world's largest providers of business software.

SAP's data and analytics solution is now Business Data Cloud (BDC), a fully managed SaaS platform launched in 2025. SAP BDC is SAP's new end-to-end data platform for SAP and non-SAP data. It forms the central hub and data management platform for all SAP business applications and includes data management services such as SAP Datasphere, SAP BW, the planning and analytics front end SAP Analytics Cloud (SAC), the AI assistant Joule, and prebuilt content as well as intelligent applications. SAP BDC plays a crucial role in SAP's strategy by building the foundation for AI usage and providing an integrated view of data across the SAP Business Suite.

SAP's data, analytics, and EPM solutions are spread across several product lines. While SAP Analytics Cloud (SAC) is the core offering for planning and budgeting, SAP S/4HANA Finance for Group Reporting is the strategic product for financial consolidation and close. SAP BDC, including SAP Datasphere, forms the foundation of SAP's strategic data management offerings. The company's EPM strategy focuses on planning, managing, and monitoring business performance across the enterprise. This strategy spans three core integrated processes: planning and forecasting, intercompany close and consolidation, and execution and monitoring, ensuring continuous alignment between group strategy and operations.

SAP Analytics Cloud plays a central role in SAP's data and analytics portfolio, combining comprehensive BI, augmented and predictive analytics, and enterprise planning capabilities in an integrated cloud platform. The product is continuously being enriched with features such as application and dashboard design, conversational analytics and intelligent data exploration, planning and predictive capabilities, and prebuilt business content from SAP and partners (e.g., solutions for finance, sales and marketing, HR, and various industries). SAP Analytics Cloud is fully web-based with a modern web client built on SAP HANA in-memory technology. It has a modern UI for business users and provides flexible, multidimensional modeling capabilities and functionality for all individual planning activities, including strategic, financial, and operational planning, simulation, forecasting, collaboration, and workflow support. In addition, SAP Analytics Cloud provides comprehensive data exploration capabilities with guided insights into data using natural language ("Just Ask") as well as automated insights via Smart Predict, Smart Insights, and Smart Discovery. In addition to the web client, Microsoft Office 365 add-ins for Excel and PowerPoint as well as a mobile client can be used. SAP Analytics Cloud connects to various SAP and non-SAP data sources and can be used with its own data sets or to query selected SAP data sources directly (e.g., SAP S/4HANA, SAP BW/4HANA, SAP HANA, SAP Datasphere, SAP Integrated Business Planning (IBP), etc.). Customers can take advantage of this live connection to implement hybrid cloud scenarios without moving, caching, or persisting data to the cloud. SAP is continuously improving the integration and connectivity of SAP Analytics Cloud with SAP and non-SAP sources and is currently prioritizing the integration of SAP Analytics Cloud with SAP Datasphere. This new deployment option, called Seamless Planning, enables customers to deploy newly created SAP Analytics Cloud models to SAP Datasphere, persisting planning facts and master data, and creating a common data foundation for plan and actual data consumption.

SAP's strategic financial consolidation and close offering is SAP S/4HANA for Group Reporting. It integrates directly with SAP S/4HANA, and can be deployed standalone or with SAP BDC to cover a broader EPM scope including FP&A, sustainability, and corporate tax. SAP Group Reporting provides consolidated financial statements and group reporting capabilities, including data collection, data validation, currency translation, intercompany reconciliation, consolidation of any data category, and reporting.

Integrations with SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP Disclosure Management support data analysis, consolidated results publishing, and plan data consolidation.

Integrating SAP's AI assistant, Joule, with SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP Group Reporting, as well as extending user assistance with AI agents, generative AI, and classic AI, are important investment priorities for SAP in 2026. SAP BDC provides the solid data foundation for these strategic developments.

## Strengths

- Integrated, business-friendly functionality for enterprise planning, BI, augmented and predictive analytics, and application design in SAP Analytics Cloud. Comprehensive capabilities for implementing custom planning applications for strategic, financial, and operational use cases with supporting workflow and collaboration capabilities.
- Augmented analytics and generative and agentic AI capabilities in SAP Analytics Cloud help users quickly query, predict, and drill into data sets (e.g., Smart Predict, Smart Insights, Smart Discovery, Just Ask).
- Exclusive connectivity (e.g., live access and direct write-back) and prebuilt content available for SAP's own data sources and applications (e.g., SAP Analytics Cloud with SAP S/4HANA or SAP Datasphere in SAP BDC).
- For organizations that prefer on-premises deployments, SAP Business Planning and Consolidation (BPC) continues to be available and supported for planning and financial consolidation. While SAP S/4HANA Public Cloud is the most strategic deployment option for Group Reporting, SAP uniquely also offers support for organizations that require an on-premises or private-cloud environment, enabling them to rely on SAP S/4HANA for Group Reporting to meet their financial consolidation needs.

## Challenges

- SAP's EPM products are primarily used by SAP customers with SAP data sources. These products integrate easily with all major SAP enterprise applications. For example, SAP Analytics Cloud users can analyze and plan using SAP data alongside third-party data by leveraging the new BDC Connect capability. This feature enables bi-directional, zero-copy data and metadata sharing between BDC and leading data cloud platforms. However, organizations that do not use other SAP enterprise applications rarely use SAP's EPM products.
- In addition to using SAP Analytics Cloud with its own data models in the cloud, it can also be used as a front end for other SAP data sources ('live data connection'). However, only a limited set of functions is available (e.g., not all 'Smart' functions). For the future, SAP is investing in integration with SAP Datasphere and SAP BDC as a common architecture layer, which should lead to greater functional parity over time, regardless of the underlying data source.
- Customer feedback from BARC's customer feedback surveys, as well as BARC's experience in consulting projects, shows that several customers have expressed concerns about the price-performance ratio of SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP Group Reporting, and that rising costs are a major concern.
- Customer feedback from BARC's "The Planning Survey" indicates moderate satisfaction with the business value, prebuilt planning content, planning functionality, and vendor support of SAP Analytics Cloud. However, feedback confirms that the solution is still maturing, and customers highlight its integration with all major SAP enterprise applications.

## Unit4

Utrecht, The Netherlands

[www.unit4.com](http://www.unit4.com)

Unit4 is a global provider of cloud-based enterprise software for ERP, HCM, financial management, and FP&A with a focus on midsize, people-centric organizations. The company is headquartered in Utrecht, the Netherlands, with additional offices in Europe, North America, and Asia Pacific. Unit4 currently has more than 2,500 employees worldwide and serves approximately 5,000 customers.

Unit4 FP&A, the vendor's core offering for CPM and analytics, was an acquisition in 2016. The product is fully integrated into Unit4's ERP application ecosystem to provide solutions for planning, budgeting and forecasting, analytics, reporting, and financial consolidation. It can be used together with the Unit4 ERP suite or standalone with non-Unit4 applications. Unit4 FP&A solutions focus on people-centric, service-led industries, namely professional services, the public sector, not-for-profit organizations, and higher education, but they also have a strong customer base in the utilities, manufacturing, and retail industries. These sectors are supported with prebuilt business applications for financial planning, sales and operations planning, people planning and analytics, reporting and analytics, financial consolidation, and IFRS 16. Unit4 FP&A solutions are available as standalone applications or integrated into the Unit4 ERP suite. They provide CPM technology with native integration to Unit4's enterprise solutions. Unit4 FP&A is available for deployment in the Microsoft Azure cloud.

Unit4 FP&A is a highly flexible platform focused on power users in business departments who create individual applications. Based on the product's flexible capabilities, a wide range of prebuilt models for various CPM and analytics use cases are available to enhance the platform and accelerate project implementation. These topical and industry solutions can be flexibly configured to meet individual planning, budgeting and forecasting, analytics, reporting, and financial consolidation requirements. For data storage and navigation, Unit4 FP&A uses a ROLAP approach and offers typical OLAP navigation capabilities in its clients.

For planning, budgeting, and forecasting, Unit4 FP&A provides comprehensive capabilities to support top-down, bottom-up, and mixed planning processes. The product's flexible development environment allows customers to address various planning topics on one common platform, with different aggregation levels (e.g., strategic as well as operational planning) for an integrated business planning approach (including financial planning). Planners can enter budget data using the web client, the FP&A Designer (rich client), or an Excel add-in. For forecasting, Unit4 FP&A provides a wizard that generates forecast values based on historical data. Predefined forecasting options include linear trend, moving averages, exponential smoothing, interpolation, and more. AI-based forecasts can be generated with external AI services (e.g., Azure Machine Learning, Amazon AI Services, Google AI) that exchange data with Unit4 FP&A via APIs.

In addition to its planning capabilities, Unit4 FP&A also offers complementary reporting and analytics functionality. Report creation is done in a tabular, Excel-like grid ('worksheets') in the FP&A Designer using tables and different chart types. Flexible options are available for formatting the tabular grid. Moreover, individual dashboards can be created in the web browser via drag-and-drop including existing worksheets and a wide variety of widgets (for visualization, analysis, and input of data).

For financial consolidation purposes, Unit4 FP&A offers a prebuilt application that includes legal consolidation covering several consolidation standards as well as reporting capabilities and predefined disclosure statements.

## Strengths

- Integrated and feature-rich CPM platform for planning, budgeting and forecasting, reporting, analysis, and financial consolidation available in the Microsoft Azure cloud.
- Flexible, no-code development environment aimed at business power users for building tailored CPM applications, created in an Excel-like tabular grid in the FP&A Designer.
- Extensive planning, budgeting, and forecasting functionality for all kinds of planning approaches (top-down, bottom-up, or combinations of both), planning topics, and aggregation levels (e.g., strategic as well as operational planning, including financial planning).
- Comprehensive predefined business applications and content (topical and industry-focused) with dedicated support and release management enhance the platform and enable accelerated project implementation.

## Challenges

- Cloud-only for new implementations. Unit4 has informed all FP&A customers that its solutions will no longer be maintained on premises from 2027. While Unit4 continues the webification of FP&A, the functionality of the product's HTML5 web client is still limited compared to the FP&A Designer (e.g., no administration, no modeling). Similarly, one-third of customers surveyed in BARC's "The Planning Survey" cited rising costs as a significant problem.
- Unit4 FP&A is a very flexible CPM platform. However, companies should handle this flexibility with care during implementation and seek support from the provider. While Unit4 FP&A can be used to address a wide range of use cases, sub-optimal design of the data model and cumbersome calculations can result in disadvantages such as performance problems, especially with large amounts of data and concurrent users.
- In recent years, Unit4 FP&A's go-to-market and growth strategy has strongly focused on cross-selling with the ERP suite to new customers and upselling to existing Unit4 ERP customers. Indirect sales to non-Unit4 ERP customers was addressed via the company's partner network. Due to this strategy, the visibility of the product on the standalone market has decreased.
- Further development of the product is geared toward integration with Unit4's own ERP system (e.g., synchronization of users/structures/data, drill through in details, prebuilt solutions, etc.) and enhancing it with predefined business applications and content. However, this reduces Unit4 FP&A's innovative power to address functionality and current trending topics, such as AI. Overall, its development speed and innovative power are behind its competitors, as confirmed by customer feedback from BARC's "The Planning Survey."

## Vena Solutions

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

[www.venasolutions.com](http://www.venasolutions.com)

Founded in 2011, Vena is a cloud platform provider for financial planning and analysis (FP&A), financial close, consolidation, and account reconciliation with more than 700 employees. Headquartered in Toronto, Canada, the vendor has operating entities in the US, the UK, and India. Vena is backed by several investors to accelerate growth. According to Vena, it currently has over 2,200 customers worldwide. In February 2026, Vena announced its definitive agreement to acquire Acterys (subject to customary regulatory approval), a Microsoft Power BI-based operational planning and app development platform. Acterys provides finance, business analytics, and IT departments with Microsoft Power BI write-back and Microsoft Fabric-based data analytics to connect financial models and purpose-built operational applications.

Vena is a performance management platform and helps organizations of all sizes and industries with integrated solutions for planning, budgeting, forecasting, reporting, analytics, financial consolidation and close, and account reconciliation. The primary target group for the product is the office of finance and accounting, all operational departments, and – with Acterys – also IT and BI teams. As a cloud-native platform leveraging Microsoft Azure, Vena can be accessed via web browsers and offers native integration with Microsoft Office 365. Vena strategically integrates with Microsoft's technology stack – leveraging Excel and Power BI (with Acterys) as its primary user interface for entering data, integrating with Microsoft 365 (e.g., PowerPoint, Teams), and embedding and productizing Power BI and Microsoft's AI and ML technology for FP&A reporting, analysis, and advanced analytics (called Vena Insights). The product is sold and implemented by Vena itself but also through a global partner network of more than 190 resellers and solution implementers. Vena has a strong focus on enhancing its global partner ecosystem, developing new partnerships, and partnering on preconfigured solutions. In addition, and as a strategic future channel for global sales, Vena is part of Microsoft's co-selling program through the Azure Marketplace. Customers can purchase Vena software licenses through the Azure Marketplace using their Microsoft Azure Consumption Commitment (MACC), providing potential cost benefits.

Vena's solution is technically based on its own Vena CubeFLEX™ technology – an in-memory, multidimensional database that is the core of the platform – as well as a relational/OLTP database to handle large-scale transaction data volumes (leveraging Microsoft Azure SQL Server as the underlying technology). For data integration, Vena offers its own data transformation layer/ETL and open APIs. In addition, Microsoft Fabric Data Factory can be used for advanced integrations and data processing. Prebuilt connectors are available leveraging Microsoft Fabric to integrate data from several on-premises and cloud-based data sources. Following its acquisition of Acterys, Vena can now combine its Excel-native FP&A capabilities with Acterys' proprietary Power BI write-back engine and unified analytics within Microsoft Fabric.

The platform provides comprehensive functionality for planning, budgeting, and forecasting and can be flexibly modeled to address business-model-specific use cases and requirements. The product supports both financial and operational planning (including sales, marketing, capex, workforce, cash flow, etc.) in one unified platform. Moreover, Vena and its partners offer preconfigured solutions for various use cases and industries. These solutions include templates, data models, connectors, and business logic and can be adapted to a customer's specific needs. Based on the planning model, Vena leverages an Excel grid interface to create planning forms as well as plan data entry. To control planning processes, Vena offers a web-based, visual workflow designer and blueprint to help in the development of individual workflows (e.g., task management and due dates, status monitoring, approval, email notifications, etc.). Once plan data is entered, anomalies and potential data entry errors can be recognized using AI and ML capabilities. Customers can create advanced predictive ML forecast models, gain strategic insights, and detect

unusual patterns in data. In addition, Vena Copilot's agentic and generative AI capabilities, leveraging Microsoft Azure OpenAI, can help business users create forecasts, conduct what-if simulations, identify seasonal patterns, generate reports, analyze trends, and answer business questions in natural language. Vena Copilot dynamically manages a team of AI agents including Planning Agent, Analytics Agent, Reporting Agent, Query Agent, and others. The Vena Planning Agent is an AI-powered capability, designed to bring intelligent forecasting and scenario modeling directly into Vena's Excel add-in.

Fully integrated with the platform's core capabilities, Vena offers preconfigured solutions and templates for financial consolidation, financial close management, account reconciliation, lease accounting, and tax and ESG/sustainability accounting. Statutory as well as management consolidation processes are supported with prebuilt data models, connectors, and business logic, including accounting for partial ownership, intercompany eliminations, multiple currencies, and multiple ERPs/general ledgers.

For reporting and self-service analytics, Vena leverages an Excel grid interface connected to Vena CubeFLEX™ to explore data and create reports. Furthermore, for advanced dashboards with interactive data visualizations, mobile support, natural language capabilities, and generative insights, Vena embeds Microsoft Power BI (Vena Insights). Vena Copilot Reporting Agent and Analytics Agent can help with custom ad hoc scenario report generation through natural language conversations as well as variance and scenario trend analysis.

## Strengths

- Cloud-based, flexible CPM platform designed for business users with unified functionality for planning, budgeting, forecasting, reporting, analytics, financial consolidation and close, and account reconciliation.
- Tight and strategic integration with Microsoft's technology stack (e.g., Office, Teams, Power BI, Azure, Fabric). Leverages the native Excel interface for ease of use, modeling, and to work with the platform. Advanced self-service analytics via embedded Power BI (Vena Insights) and Microsoft's AI and ML technology (Vena Copilot).
- Flexibility for a wide variety of planning approaches (centralized top-down, decentralized bottom-up) and planning topics (including financial and operational planning) aimed at companies of all sizes and industries. Supplementary preconfigured but adaptable solutions and templates for specific industries and topics.
- Feedback in BARC's "The Planning Survey" revealed a high level of customer satisfaction with the success and length of implementation projects, price to value, vendor and implementer support, ease of use as well as with the product in general and its planning content. Vena is highly recommended by customers.

## Challenges

- Vena relies heavily on the Microsoft technology stack and its tools and functionality. For instance, Microsoft Power BI is embedded in Vena's platform for advanced dashboarding. However, in our opinion, this poses a risk because technical changes to the technology stack by Microsoft could render Vena's functions invalid or impaired.
- Vena provides its own data integration options and open APIs, while Microsoft Fabric Data Factory can also be used for advanced integrations and data processing. Prebuilt connectors to selected source systems are available leveraging Microsoft Fabric. However, customer feedback from BARC's "The Planning Survey" shows that neither Vena's predefined data connectivity nor its data integration capabilities entirely satisfy customers.

- Vena lacks the market presence and global visibility of its main competitors. Most of the company's business is still in North America and the UK. However, according to the vendor, its international customer count, partner ecosystem, and revenues are expanding (e.g., in EMEA). Prospects outside North America and the UK should evaluate the vendor's and partners' local consulting and support capabilities.

## Wolters Kluwer

Alphen aan den Rijn, the Netherlands

[www.wolterskluwer.com](http://www.wolterskluwer.com)

Wolters Kluwer (WKL), through its CCH® Tagetik expert solution, provides enterprise-scale performance management software for the office of the CFO and is expanding into other financial and operational areas. The company is a global provider of professional information, software solutions, and services within five global operating divisions: Health, Tax and Accounting, Corporate Performance and ESG, Finance and Corporate Compliance, and Legal and Regulatory.

The CCH Tagetik expert solution provides a unified AI powered, finance-owned platform for financial corporate management (financial close and consolidation, ESG and regulatory, corporate tax, and extended planning). Used by organizations of all sizes, CCH Tagetik is particularly attractive to midsize and large companies (or groups of related companies) with many users involved in financial consolidation and/or corporate planning processes. The comprehensive platform also covers regulatory use cases such as account reconciliation, financial reporting, disclosure management and iXBRL, ESG and sustainability, corporate tax, operational transfer pricing, IFRS 16, IFRS 17, and Solvency II. In addition, the CCH Tagetik applications marketplace includes predefined starter kits, pre-packages, and technical solutions developed by partners and Wolters Kluwer. CCH Tagetik is available for deployment in the Amazon (AWS) cloud (Microsoft Azure is also available upon request) and on premises. According to the vendor, more than 2,000 customers worldwide across all industries currently use CCH Tagetik.

From a planning perspective, CCH Tagetik focuses on financial and integrated business planning, supporting top-down, bottom-up, and mixed approaches. CCH Tagetik includes a predefined financial planning model (balance sheet, P&L, cash flow) that can be used by individual subsidiaries or at group level. Consolidation of plans is possible thanks to integrated financial consolidation functionality. Comprehensive workflow and governance functionality is available to control planning and consolidation processes. The CCH Tagetik platform is supported by the Analytic Information Hub, which combines granular financial and operational data with flexible and scalable capabilities for open data modeling, financial performance management (e.g., regulatory reporting), operational planning, and analytics. CCH Tagetik offers extended planning capabilities beyond finance, including sales and operations planning, supply chain planning, production planning, and ESG planning.

From a technical perspective, the CCH Tagetik platform is built on an open and extensible architecture based on a relational data model that supports implementations in Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, PostgreSQL, and SAP HANA. In terms of data integration, CCH Tagetik connects with more than 300 systems (including ERPs, CRMs, HRMs, etc.) through APIs and dedicated connectors. An optional certified SAP HANA platform with S/4 HANA native connector is also available.

CCH Tagetik further empowers and automates the finance office by leveraging agentic AI, ML, and predictive analytics for data management (including automapping and anomaly detection), transaction matching, automapping, driver-based analysis, and predictive intelligence. For predictive forecasting, CCH Tagetik offers out-of-the-box or custom embedded predictive models and trainable ML capabilities based on Python that can be used to predict future outcomes. A new Intelligent Analytics solution with generative AI capabilities, Ask AI, helps users explore data, answer ad hoc questions, build dashboards, and interpret data visualizations using natural language queries. Ask AI now also assists users in CCH Tagetik's Excel 365 add-in.

For reporting and analytics, CCH Tagetik has a dual strategy. The product's built-in functionality is self-service, with on-screen reports and dashboards, as well as regulatory reporting use cases (e.g., ESG). Business users can create reports using a 'matrix wizard' in Excel. In 2024, CCH Tagetik introduced Intelligent Disclosure, a collaborative solution to dynamically integrate consolidated financial, non-financial,

and ESG numbers and narratives through native integration with Microsoft 365 (Word and PowerPoint) and Copilot GenAI to create data-linked reports. In addition, CCH Tagetik's embedded web-based tool, SmartInsight, enables dynamic ad hoc reporting and analysis. These capabilities can be complemented by third-party products (e.g., Microsoft Power BI, SAP, and Qlik) that access CCH Tagetik data via an OData API, allowing customers to use their analytics tool of choice.

## Strengths

- Unified AI powered, finance-owned platform for financial corporate management (financial close and consolidation, ESG and regulatory, corporate tax, and extended planning) that can be used by individual subsidiaries or at group level.
- Integrated financial corporate management capabilities with extensive predefined business rules. Complementary solutions for financial and regulatory use cases (account reconciliation, financial reporting, disclosure management and iXBRL, ESG and sustainability, corporate tax, operational transfer pricing, IFRS 16, IFRS 17, and Solvency II) and selected operational plans.
- Comprehensive workflow and governance capabilities to control planning and financial consolidation processes. CCH Tagetik is particularly attractive to midsize and large companies (or groups of affiliated companies) with many users.
- According to feedback in BARC's "The Planning Survey," customers are highly satisfied with the business value of the product and its price/performance ratio. It is also highly rated for data integration, simulation and financial consolidation functionality, workflow support, and ease of use. CCH Tagetik comes highly recommended by customers.

## Challenges

- In addition to its own reporting and analytics capabilities, including self-service reporting and dashboarding, ad hoc reporting and analysis, disclosure management, as well as natural language interaction based on generative AI, CCH Tagetik offers integration with third-party products, such as Microsoft Power BI, SAP Analytics Cloud, and Qlik Sense, to align with IT corporate strategy and enrich its platform with advanced BI and analytics functionality. To use third-party tools for reporting, the CCH Tagetik data model must be replicated and maintained within those tools. While there is a standard connector for Power BI, it must be implemented manually for SAP and Qlik. Due to data copying processes, there is latency between data creation in CCH Tagetik and its use in the analytics tools, as well as additional maintenance effort.
- BARC's "The Planning Survey" confirms that slow performance is a challenge for some customers. In complex environments with large amounts of data and concurrent users, organizations should evaluate the most appropriate configuration to meet their performance needs. To assist with high volumes, CCH Tagetik runs natively on SAP's in-memory HANA database, providing a powerful option for complex implementations.

## Workday

Pleasanton, CA, USA

[www.workday.com](http://www.workday.com)

Workday is a provider of enterprise cloud applications for HR and finance used by more than 11,000 organizations of all sizes in all industries around the world. The company has \$9.55 billion in revenue (FY 2026) and more than 20,000 employees worldwide. Workday's portfolio includes an AI-based platform for managing people, money, and agents. The vendor's core performance management and analytics offerings are Workday Financial Management, Workday Adaptive Planning, and Workday Prism Analytics.

Workday Adaptive Planning was an acquisition to extend Workday's enterprise planning and CPM capabilities. The flexible and scalable cloud-based platform provides business-user-friendly functionality for various CPM processes, particularly planning, budgeting, and forecasting, as well as reporting and analysis. It enables continuous, scenario-based planning across the organization, from enterprise-wide financial planning and analysis to operational planning for specific functions such as workforce, sales, demand and supply, projects, and marketing. In addition, Adaptive Planning includes embedded AI/ML capabilities and benefits from Workday's overall Illuminate AI strategy. Adaptive Planning provides predictive forecasting and anomaly detection as well as Ask Workday, a natural language interface to answer questions and leverage Workday's Planning Agent role-based capabilities for Analyst, Planner, Modeler, and Administrator. Ask Workday is pervasive across the Adaptive Planning platform.

Workday Adaptive Planning can be accessed through a fully web-based application compatible with popular browsers, as well as via the Workday mobile app. OfficeConnect offers Microsoft Office add-ins for Excel, Word, and PowerPoint. The platform is built on a multidimensional, in-memory modeling engine (Elastic Hypercube Technology), with data stored relationally in Amazon Aurora in the back end. All calculations and aggregations are performed in-memory. Adaptive Planning enables interoperability and data integration with a wide range of software applications as well as back-end and third-party systems (ERP, CRM, HCM, etc.). Customers have the flexibility to use either the APIs or a purpose-built embedded integration framework (including multiple prebuilt connectors) to manage data integrations.

Workday Adaptive Planning can be used together with the Workday suite of applications or with non-Workday solutions. The vendor's marketing and sales strategy positions it as a standalone product and offers it as a part of the suite to Workday HCM and Workday Financial Management customers. Customers deploying Adaptive Planning with Workday HCM and/or Workday Financial Management benefit from a unified security and user experience as well as native data management with the ability to drill back to data and master data in the Workday platform or publish plans back to Workday core transactional systems. Adaptive Planning is used by approximately 7,000 customers of all sizes across a wide range of industries around the world, 4,000 of whom use it standalone.

Workday Financial Management is the vendor's flagship application suite for finance. It provides a full ERP system with comprehensive financial and accounting capabilities. Its functionality enables companies to consolidate at the point of transaction for financial consolidation and close. Workday Consolidations consolidates subsidiaries' financial results into the parent company's to create combined financial results. It automatically creates intercompany and elimination entries across the group. A packaged offering combines the planning capabilities of Adaptive Planning with the financial consolidation and close functionality of Financial Management for those requiring a unified solution.

Complementing the portfolio, Workday Prism Analytics (acquired with Platfora) provides data management and analytics capabilities, including the ability to integrate and ingest operational data and combine it with financial information to drive broader insights and decision-making. Workday Prism Analytics

supports an analytics layer that makes Prism data sets discoverable and searchable, combined with core Workday data, and presented in a variety of dashboards and reports.

## Strengths

- Workday offers a comprehensive portfolio of enterprise applications for human resources, financial management, enterprise planning, and analytics. All products are built on a consistent cloud architecture with an intelligent data core that combines financial and operational data.
- Workday Adaptive Planning is a flexible and scalable cloud-based platform that provides business users with integrated planning, budgeting and forecasting, reporting, and analysis capabilities. It can be used together with the Workday suite of applications or standalone with non-Workday solutions.
- Workday Adaptive Planning provides flexibility for a variety of planning approaches (centralized top-down, decentralized bottom-up) and planning topics (including operational and financial planning) for organizations of all sizes and industries. It includes built-in financial intelligence with a native understanding of account types such as assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses.
- According to feedback in BARC's "The Planning Survey," Workday Adaptive Planning is highly recommended by customers and they are satisfied with their experience with the vendor and partners during the sales process.

## Challenges

- Although Workday has created a new business unit dedicated to promoting Adaptive Planning, the company is primarily an enterprise applications vendor, not a performance management or planning vendor. Workday's product development is spread among key core areas (e.g., HR) and focused on integrating with the wider Workday platform. Within the broader Workday portfolio, Adaptive Planning is just one product among many. This limits the available resources and the ability to innovate in terms of functional enhancements and current trends.
- Customer feedback from "The Planning Survey 25" revealed some dissatisfaction with Workday Adaptive Planning's business value, the vendor's and its partners' implementation support, and the product's functionality for planning and financial consolidation. In addition, several critical user reviews express the view that Adaptive Planning is sometimes complex and difficult to use. They also mentioned that the software's scalability and performance could be improved, particularly with complex models, and that its reporting and dashboarding capabilities are limited. Almost 30 percent of the customers surveyed confirmed their main reason for purchasing the product was not its functionality, but rather that it was bundled with the Workday platform.
- Customer feedback from "The Planning Survey" also shows that some customers are dissatisfied with Workday Adaptive Planning's predefined data connectivity and data integration capabilities. Workday provides its own data integration framework and open APIs. Third-party ETL tools can also be used, and customers leverage prebuilt adapters to load data from more than 350 unique systems. All integrations, including data mapping and transformation, can be automated to run on a set schedule or manually on demand.
- The majority of Workday Adaptive Planning's business remains in North America. However, the number of international customers and revenues has increased since the acquisition and Workday is deepening global implementation services and consulting relationships, introducing regional product enhancements, and focusing on increasing brand awareness outside North America. Prospects outside North America should evaluate the vendor's and partners' local consulting and support capabilities.

## Other Vendors

There are many other established software vendors that provide mature and very useful technology, which may be ideal for organizations looking for a planning and analytics solution. However, due to the inclusion criteria applied in this report, those vendors are not evaluated in detail. To complete the market overview, here is a selection of those providers (this does not claim to be a complete list).

### Abacum

New York City, New York, USA

[www.abacum.ai](http://www.abacum.ai)

Flexible, AI-native FP&A platform for mid-market companies focused on financial and operational planning, budgeting, forecasting, and reporting. 700+ integrations to source systems support data connectivity and integration.

### Acterys

Sydney, Australia

[www.acterys.com](http://www.acterys.com)

Flexible, Microsoft technology-based CPM platform. Acterys provides finance and IT departments with Microsoft Power BI write-back and Microsoft Fabric-based data analytics, connecting financial models and purpose-built operational applications. In February 2026, Vena Solutions announced its definitive agreement to acquire Acterys.

### Amelkis

Paris, France

[www.amelkis-solutions.com](http://www.amelkis-solutions.com)

Cloud-based CPM platform with functions for group consolidation, planning, and financial reporting with supplementary solutions for lease accounting, intercompany reconciliation, and ESEF/XBRL reporting.

### Centage

San Antonio, TX, USA

[www.centage.com](http://www.centage.com)

Cloud-native planning and analytics platform with capabilities for budgeting, forecasting, reporting, and analysis focused on small and midsize businesses.

## Corporate Planning

Hamburg, Germany

[www.corporate-planning.com](http://www.corporate-planning.com)

Integrated solution for operational management, financial planning, sales management, financial consolidation, HR management, and management reporting for business users. Available in the Microsoft Azure cloud and on premises.

## Datarails

Tel Aviv, Israel

[www.datarails.com](http://www.datarails.com)

Unified, AI-native financial planning and analysis platform that supports data consolidation, financial and operational planning, budgeting and forecasting, financial reporting, and data visualization. 200+ integrations to source systems support data connectivity and integration.

## Farseer

Zagreb, Croatia

[www.farseer.com](http://www.farseer.com)

Modern FP&A platform that supports flexible modeling, planning, budgeting, forecasting, and reporting. It provides dynamic, continuous forecasting and scenario modeling based on a proprietary in-memory calculation engine.

## macs Software

Zimmern, Germany

[www.macscontrolling.com](http://www.macscontrolling.com)

Comprehensive planning and performance management solution for fully integrated, detailed business planning (operational controlling, cost and performance accounting) including prebuilt business planning logic for integrated corporate planning, especially for medium-sized manufacturing companies.

## Kepion

Seattle, WA, USA

[www.kepion.com](http://www.kepion.com)

Integrated planning and analytics platform based on Microsoft technologies that supports both financial and operational planning processes, providing dashboards as well as reporting and analytics.

## Lumel

Plano, TX, USA

[www.lumel.com](http://www.lumel.com)

Lumel is a suite of integrated planning, reporting, analytics, and data governance products and solutions designed for business users. With Inforiver and valQ, Lumel offers two products that bring integrated planning capabilities to Microsoft Power BI, including modeling, planning workflows, and what-if simulations.

## Serviceware

Idstein, Germany

[www.serviceware-se.com](http://www.serviceware-se.com)

Integrated platform for planning, budgeting and forecasting, analytics, project portfolio management, and strategy implementation (balanced scorecard) with an Excel-like user interface and web functionality suitable for business users.

## Solver

Los Angeles, CA, USA

[www.solverglobal.com](http://www.solverglobal.com)

CPM suite based on the Microsoft platform that supports planning, reporting, dashboards, analysis, and data warehousing. It can be deployed either in the cloud or on premises.

## Strata Decision Technology

Chicago, IL, USA

[www.stratadecision.com](http://www.stratadecision.com)

Cloud-based performance management solution that supports budgeting and forecasting; financial and capital planning; and reporting and analytics with a dedicated focus on the healthcare, financial, and higher education sectors.

## Talentia

Paris, France

[www.talentia-software.com](http://www.talentia-software.com)

Comprehensive platform for financial consolidation and disclosure management, planning, budgeting and forecasting, statutory reporting and electronic filing, management reporting, and analysis. It also supports ESG use cases.

## Valsight

Potsdam, Germany

[www.valsight.com](http://www.valsight.com)

Comprehensive platform for interactive, driver-based simulation and corporate management based on operational and strategic drivers. Offers scenario simulation of action alternatives and measures considering uncertainties and risk simulations (Monte-Carlo).

## Related Research Documents

The following BARC documents complement this BARC Score report:

### BARC+

[barc.com/barc-plus-overview](https://barc.com/barc-plus-overview)

The BARC+ package gives you access to all BARC's premium research content including independent information on trends, market developments, and software solutions in the areas of data, analytics, business intelligence, data science, and corporate performance management.

### BARC Scores

[barc.com/research/barc-scores](https://barc.com/research/barc-scores)

**BARC Score Integrated Planning & Analytics:** This BARC Score focuses on the market for integrated planning and analytics (IP&A) products and portfolios. Besides functionality for planning, budgeting, and forecasting, we evaluate integrated capabilities for analysis, reporting, and dashboarding.

**BARC Score Enterprise BI & Analytics Platforms:** This BARC Score provides a clear overview of the global BI and analytics products market based on a combination of detailed end-user feedback and thorough analysis of products and vendors.

**BARC Score Analytics for Business Users:** The lowdown on the global market for governed self-service analytics platforms. We evaluate business user support for the entire analytical cycle: from data and its preparation to presentation and collaborative content editing.

**BARC Score Data Intelligence Platforms:** This BARC Score focuses on the market for data intelligence products and portfolios. Besides the ability to integrate and process different metadata sources and types, we evaluate functions for data cataloging, business glossary, collaboration, and the support of data governance processes.

## BARC Customer Feedback Surveys

**The Planning Survey:** The Planning Survey is based on feedback from more than 700 users and provides decision-makers looking for new planning, budgeting, and forecasting software with an in-depth comparison of the leading software products on the market.

[barc.com/research/the-planning-survey](https://barc.com/research/the-planning-survey)

**The Financial Consolidation & Group Accounting Survey:** Based on feedback from 600 users, this report analyzes and compares the leading financial consolidation and close products on the market. The survey results help decision-makers find new financial consolidation, closing, and group accounting software.

[barc.com/research/the-financial-consolidation-survey-by-barc](https://barc.com/research/the-financial-consolidation-survey-by-barc)

**The BI & Analytics Survey:** BARC's annual report on the BI and analytics software market. It is based on a sample of over 1,000 survey responses, which is why so many companies rely on The BI & Analytics Survey to make their software purchasing decisions.

[barc.com/research/the-bi-analytics-survey](https://barc.com/research/the-bi-analytics-survey)

**The Data Management Survey:** "The Data Intelligence Survey" and the "The Data Fabric Survey" (formerly "The Data Management Survey") are BARC's annual reports on the data management software market. Based on feedback from 776 responses regarding data fabric and 332 responses regarding data intelligence, these BARC surveys examine the leading technologies in data cataloging, data intelligence, data observability and quality, and data integration, considering their functions, areas of application, and usability.

[barc.com/research/the-data-management-survey](https://barc.com/research/the-data-management-survey)

## Other BARC Research

**CPM Trend Monitor 2026:** The BARC x BPM Partners CPM Trend Monitor is based on a worldwide survey of 989 companies and provides a unique and comprehensive global view of key corporate performance management market trends including planning, financial consolidation, group accounting, AI, and analytics. Free to download at: [barc.com/research/cpm-trend-monitor-2026](https://barc.com/research/cpm-trend-monitor-2026)

**Data, BI and Analytics Trend Monitor 2026:** BARC's Data, BI & Analytics Trend Monitor study gives 1,579 practitioners a platform to have their say on the trends currently shaping the BI, analytics, and data management market, supplemented by additional commentary and analysis from BARC analysts. Free to download at: [barc.com/research/data-bi-analytics-trend-monitor-2026](https://barc.com/research/data-bi-analytics-trend-monitor-2026)

# Data Decisions. Built on BARC.

## About BARC

BARC is the leading analyst firm for data & analytics, AI, corporate performance management (CPM) and ESG with a reputation for unbiased and trusted advice. Our expert analysts deliver a wide range of research, events and consulting services for the data & analytics community. Our innovative research evaluates software, vendors and service providers rigorously and highlights market trends, delivering insights that enable our customers to innovate with data, analytics and AI. BARC's 25 years of experience with data strategy & culture, data architecture, organization and software selection helps clients transform into truly data-driven organizations.

## Research

BARC user surveys, software evaluations and analyst advisory services along with expert driven content such as research notes, trend analysis and blogs give organizations the confidence to make the right decisions. Our independent research gets to the heart of market developments, evaluates software, vendors and service providers thoroughly and gives valuable ideas on how to turn data, analytics and AI into added value and successfully transform businesses.

## Consulting

The BARC consulting practice is entirely focused on translating companies' requirements into future-proof decisions. The holistic advice we provide helps companies successfully implement their data & analytics strategy and culture as well as their architecture and technology.

BARC's research and experience-founded expert input sets organizations on the road to the successful use of data & analytics, from strategy to optimized data-driven business processes.

## Events

At BARC events, leading minds and industry experts come together to share insights and drive innovation. Our conferences, roundtables and online webinars attract over 10,000 participants annually, offering a unique blend of information, inspiration and interactivity. These events provide a platform to exchange ideas with peers, explore emerging trends and gain expert perspectives on market developments.

By engaging with thought leaders and industry practitioners, participants discover actionable strategies to enhance their business and stay ahead in the evolving world of data & analytics.

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