

# Anaplan for Project Planning

Plan your project portfolio with confidence, clarity, and control



## Executive summary

Spiraling project costs and missed deadlines are often the first signs that your organization's planning tools can no longer keep up with your strategic ambitions. Many companies struggle to manage project investments using a patchwork of disconnected spreadsheets and manual processes. This creates a critical visibility gap between project execution and financial strategy, leading to uncontrolled spending, eroded ROI, and inaccurate enterprise forecasts.

Anaplan for Project Planning transforms this process by connecting project financials with resource capacity on a single, unified platform. By bridging the gap between project leaders, the office of finance, and HR, Anaplan provides a real-time view of project costs, resources, and outcomes. This empowers organizations to de-risk strategic initiatives, drive accountability, maximize project ROI, and ensure strategic goals are met with confidence.

## The problem with traditional project planning

In many organizations, project planning remains fragmented, reactive, and overly dependent on manual tools. This creates significant challenges:

- **Financial blind spots:** Project cost data is often siloed in disparate spreadsheets, disconnected from enterprise budgets. This makes it impossible for finance leaders to get a real-time, trusted view of project spending and its impact on the corporate P&L. An analysis of large-scale IT projects by [McKinsey](#) revealed an average budget overrun of 45%.

The consequences are severe: PMI data reveals that only 62% of projects are completed within their original budget, meaning nearly four in ten projects suffer cost overruns that erode ROI and disrupt financial plans.

- **Resource disconnects:** Without a unified view of resource demand and capacity, it's difficult to align the right people with the right skills to the right projects at the right time. This leads to stalled projects, underutilized teams, and an inability to forecast future hiring needs accurately.  
  
Poor resource allocation is often cited as a primary cause of project. This can lead to stalled projects, underutilized teams, and an inability to forecast future hiring needs accurately, ultimately causing, sometimes as much as a 40% drop in productivity when individuals are forced to multitask across competing priorities.

- **Inaccurate forecasting and shifting goals:** Static, manual planning methods can't keep pace with shifting project timelines, resource availability, and business priorities. This results in unreliable forecasts, surprise budget overruns, and an inability to make proactive, data-driven decisions.

In fact, PMI's research shows that even among completed projects, only 71% successfully meet their original goals and business intent. This highlights that without an agile, connected planning process, projects can easily drift from their strategic purpose.

- **Value erosion:** When project execution is disconnected from financial strategy, organizations are exposed to risk and value leakage. Without a clear line of sight into performance, it's difficult to drive accountability, protect margins, and ensure investments deliver their intended value.

Beyond just being late or over budget, PMI reports that a staggering 13% of projects are deemed complete failures. [According to McKinsey](#), on average, large projects deliver 56% less value than originally predicted. This represents a total loss of investment and a significant waste of resources that could have been allocated to value-driving initiatives. Key capabilities for connected project planning

### How well does your current approach answer these critical questions?



Can you confidently forecast project costs and revenue in real-time?



Are you able to align resource capacity with project demand to optimize allocation?



Can you proactively identify project risks, delays, and budget overruns before they impact delivery?



Are your project investments and timelines strategically aligned with your overall business goals?



How well can you hold project owners accountable to stay within budget and on time?

## Key capabilities for connected project planning

Anaplan provides a comprehensive solution to solve your biggest project planning challenges. The solution is delivered through two powerful, integrated offerings: the Project Cost Planning application and the Project Resource Planning application.



## Achieve predictable financial outcomes with Anaplan Project Cost Planning application

**This application** connects project-level spending with enterprise budgets, empowering the office of finance to transform project investments into predictable financial outcomes.

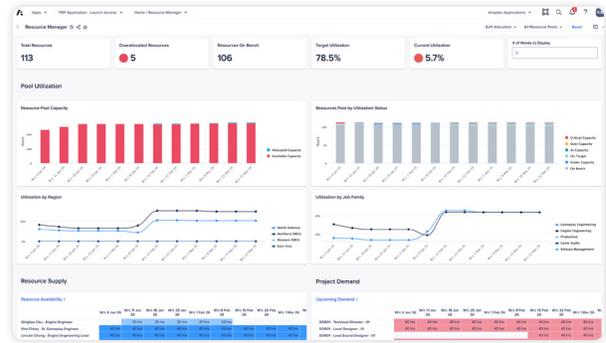
- **Unified planning platform:** Consolidates all project financial data (costs, revenue, forecasts) into a single source of truth, eliminating error-prone manual work and driving enterprise-wide accountability.
- **Dynamic, real-time forecasting:** Continuously update and model project cost and revenue forecasts based on the latest actuals to improve accuracy, reduce budget variance, and achieve predictable project financials.
- **Integration with enterprise plans:** Seamlessly connect project-level spending with the corporate P&L and the Integrated Financial Planning application to align strategic investments with financial goals.
- **Customizable financial structures:** Define granular cost categories and model complex revenue forecasts to enable precise driver-based ROI analysis and maximize return on project investments.

	Planned Start date	Planned End date	Actual Start Date	Actual End Date	Current % Complete	Start Status	Current Status	Completion Status	Budget Status
Project Kickoff	2/3/25	2/7/25	2/3/25	2/10/25	100.0%	Started on schedule	Completed	Completed late	>5% Over Budget
Requirements Gathering	2/10/25	3/7/25	2/10/25		100.0%	Started on schedule	In Progress		>5% Over Budget
Solution Design	3/10/25	3/28/25			100.0%				
Develop solution	3/31/25	8/28/26							
System Integration Testing (SIT)	8/31/26	9/25/26			0.0%				
User Acceptance Testing (UAT)	9/28/26	10/23/26			0.0%				
Go-Live	10/26/26	10/27/26			0.0%				
Post Go-Live Support	10/27/26	12/3/26			0.0%				
Final Project Closure	12/3/26	12/4/26			0.0%				
All Phases	2/3/25	12/4/26				Started on schedule	In Progress	Completed late	>5% Over Budget

## Optimize your most valuable assets with Anaplan Project Resource Planning application

This application connects project demand with resource capacity plans to ensure your best people are driving your most strategic initiatives.

- **Demand forecasting and aggregation:** Aggregate project demand from multiple systems into a single, time-phased forecast to get a proactive, data-driven view of all future resource needs.
- **Real-time capacity and supply visibility:** Gain instant visibility into your organization's true capacity by creating a dynamic inventory of your entire resource pool, including roles, skills, costs, and availability.



- **Proactive scenario modeling:** Create and compare multiple "what-if" scenarios in real time to evaluate trade-offs between cost, timeline, and resource allocation, allowing you to de-risk your portfolio and maximize profitability.

## Connecting project planning across the enterprise

Anaplan's project planning solutions are designed to work in tandem, serving as a vital bridge between your core financial and workforce planning processes. They connect directly to:

- **Integrated Financial Planning application:** Project costs and revenue forecasts flow seamlessly into corporate financial plans, providing finance leaders with an accurate, up-to-date view of the P&L and eliminating the need for manual reconciliation.
- **Operational Workforce Planning application:** When scenario modeling identifies a need for new hires or contractors, the demand signal flows directly to HR and talent acquisition and procurement teams, ensuring sourcing and budget plans are instantly aligned with project needs.

This connected approach breaks down silos, fostering a culture of financial discipline and enabling agile resource allocation to ensure all teams are aligned with strategic objectives.

**"Ensuring that our funds perform well is vital to helping our partners keep renewable energy projects on track and profitable."**

**Casper Korsager Hardinger**  
Senior Manager, Financial Planning and Analysis





## The Anaplan advantage: Your blueprint for project success

In a world where project success dictates business outcomes, you can no longer afford to operate with a fragmented view of your investments. Anaplan is the only platform that creates a seamless, real-time connection between your project leaders, the office of finance, and HR.

By unifying project financials and resource capacity on a single platform, Anaplan empowers you to move with agility, forecast with accuracy, and make strategic decisions with confidence. Stop just managing your projects and start orchestrating predictable success.

**"With Anaplan, we have a complete and accurate picture of our capital projects, no matter where they are in development."**

**Sam Ong**  
Former Chief Finance Officer



## About Anaplan applications

Anaplan applications are built on the robust Anaplan platform, designed for scalability, flexibility, and long-term success. Together, they deliver purpose-built functionality informed by supporting more than a million scenario planning models in production. Below are key elements that make Anaplan applications a market leader:

- **Out-of-the-box domain-specific capabilities:** Pre-defined functionality designed to meet specific industry and business needs, enabling faster adoption and value realization, receiving ongoing upgrades and enhancements.
- **Scalability and support:** Comprehensive support with in-depth documentation, expert help, and community resources to ensure ongoing success.
- **Innovative platform capabilities:** Access to powerful platform capabilities including workflows, AI-driven insights, and embedded analytics to enable smarter planning and faster decision-making.

"From a workforce perspective...we have all the right data on all our people. [This] ensures that we've got the right skills available, at the right time, to be able to deploy at the right place as well...We can pull multiple levers and make multiple assumptions...to plan for today and to plan for tomorrow."

Program Director, Strategy & Transformation Office



GLOBAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY

"We want our technical workforce on the right jobs and delivering value. A 'headcount-times-chargeability' model drives the way we work."

Derek Wilson  
Senior Director of FP&A



## About Anaplan

Anaplan is a leading AI-driven scenario planning and analysis platform designed to optimize decision-making in today's complex business environment so that enterprises can outpace their competition and the market. By building connections and collaboration across organizational silos, our platform intelligently surfaces key insights — so businesses can make the right decisions, right now.

More than 2,500 global brands plan with Anaplan.

To learn more, visit [www.anaplan.com](http://www.anaplan.com)

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