Gain greater efficiency and reliability in business forecasting with smarter analytics

More than ever, finance professionals must be able to spot and adjust on the fly to changing business conditions, making flexibility and analytical skills highly valuable traits for finance talent.

Challenges in business forecasting:

- 44% of finance organizations are poor to average at anticipating external forces.
- Fewer than 15% are confident that they get helpful information for making decisions about the future.
- Financial analysts spend 77% of their time on data collection, validation and administration, and only 23% of their time on providing value-added analysis.

Spreadsheet and manually planning versus automated planning

Spreadsheet and manual planning processes correlated to higher costs and higher staff requirements than automated planning processes.

- 67% of average companies still predominantly use **spreadsheets** for reporting and planning.
- 66% of world-class companies use **online budgeting and forecasting applications.**

Companies with automated planning processes are:
- 59% more likely to have planning accuracy within 5% of original assumptions.
- 62% more likely to complete a budget in two or fewer iterations.
- 145% more likely to make real-time data fully available.

The solution

IBM Business Analytics solutions for enterprise planning can radically transform your entire planning cycle, from target setting and budget rollout all the way to reporting, analysis and reforecasting.

- Enable best practices such as driver-based rolling forecasts.
- 75% of companies have been using rolling forecasts or plan to adopt them in the next two years.
- Gain new insights into the drivers of profit and growth.
- Reduce planning, analysis and forecasting cycle times by up to 70%.
- Reduce staff effort so that financial analysts spend 65% of their time on value-added analysis rather than only 35%.
- Improve forecast reliability by up to 30%.

For more information, go to ibm.com/business-analytics.

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