



IBM Planning Analytics

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users



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Product Recap



IBM Planning Analytics

IBM Planning Analytics Recap

IBM Planning Analytics is an integrated planning solution that uses AI to automate planning, budgeting, and forecasting and drive more intelligent workflows.

Built on TM1, IBM's powerful calculation engine, this enterprise performance management tool allows you to transcend the limits of manual planning and become the Analytics Hero your business needs. Quickly and easily drive faster, more accurate plans for [FP&A](#), [sales](#), [supply chain](#) and beyond.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:



“This level of stability is crucial for a product like Cognos TM1, as using an unstable platform would result in loss of time.”



Verified user

Responsible B.I at a retailer with 51-200 employees



“IBM Planning Analytics can help us build scenarios through a sandbox environment, allowing us to test multiple variables and assess their impact on our budget and planning.”



Ayman Alshabani

Financial Performance Manager at a retailer with 1,001-5,000 employees



“The product's stability is good.”



Gnanavel-Chakkarapani

Junior Consultant at CMA CGM

- ✓ “The most valuable features of IBM Planning Analytics for streamlining planning processes include a unified database where all data are centralized.”



Milan Orendac

Senior Business Executive at Sophia

- ✓ “The scenario modeling capabilities are frequently used to create different scenarios, compare them, and see which action leads to which result.”



Arnold Steffens

Managing Director at Steffens PANTA RHEI GmbH

- ✓ “Planning Analytics' best features include automatic updates and slicing.”



GnanavelChakkarapani

Junior Consultant at CMA CGM

- ✓ “The flexibility of IBM Planning Analytics is a great feature of this solution. The design flexibility with data rules and defining calculations The ability to combine online and offline calculations are a benefit. Additionally, the forecasting features and predictive analytics is very good.”



Dirk Boeckmann

Executive Partner at Beat2Lead GmbH

What users had to say about valuable features:

“The speed of calculation, the ability to build complex models, integration with different data sources, and the flexibility to use Planning Analytics Workspace or create other front ends with REST API and JavaScript React..”

Arnold Steffens

Managing Director at Steffens PANTA RHEI GmbH

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“A lot of the platform is in-memory, so Planning Analytics can run calculations quite fast. It also offers several user interfaces. And in the newest version of Planning Analytics, there is a new one called the Planning Analytics Workspace. Maybe it could be useful for the business side..”

Verified user

Systems Analyst at a computer software company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“The ease of use is valuable. The fact that it's plugged into Excel spreadsheets is also valuable. It provides additional functionality where you can slice and dice the information in a way that you can't do with spreadsheets.

We really like the flexibility of it. .”

Sylvie Ouellette

President & Co-Founder at VERSATIL BPI INC

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IBM Planning Analytics can help us build scenarios through a sandbox environment, allowing us to test multiple variables and assess their impact on our budget and planning. The ability to maintain multiple versions is crucial for us. It also integrates machine learning and AI engines, enabling us to use algorithms for inventory forecasting which optimizes our inventory and replenishment rates, making it valuable for data-intensive forecasting.

Ayman Alshabani

Financial Performance Manager at a retailer with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“TM1 is primarily used for planning functions. We use it to manage and plan costs and budgets for production parts within the manufacturing department. TM1 is used for calculating and elaborating our budget, which is time-consuming. Its stability helps controllers win time in their planning processes. This level of stability is crucial for a product like Cognos TM1, as using an unstable platform would result in loss of time..”

Verified user

Responsible B.I at a retailer with 51-200 employees

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“The most valuable features of IBM Planning Analytics for streamlining planning processes include a unified database where all data are centralized, similar to Microsoft Excel but with the advantage of centralized data storage. Another essential feature is sandboxing, allowing extensive analysis and testing without affecting core data. Additionally, the workflow functionality enables locking and approval processes for calculations and formulas, providing enhanced management control and collaboration compared to Microsoft Azure..”

Milan Orendac

Senior Business Executive at Sophia

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Other Solutions Considered

“For most clients, they evaluate other similar software, but in general this software has more flexibility to make changes and adapt their business rules to the tool..”

Verified user

Business Intelligence Consultant - IBM Cognos at a tech services company with 51-200 employees

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“I created a model with Qlikview at its early beginning in France. But it was more adapted to simple data/KPI visualization than budget planning with complex business rules which are the main parts of my projects..”

Verified user

BI Expert at a consultancy with 51-200 employees

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“Previously, multiple Excel sheets were used by us. We not only found it difficult to consolidate but also calculations were not centralized and had no security around the data. However, TM1 provides centralized data in a secured manner and calculations are done on the fly without any delay..”

Verified user

IT Analyst at a tech services company with 10,001+ employees

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“I did a comparative study between Qlikview, Cognos TM1, and Microsoft BI several years ago for a one of the world leaders in the pharmaceutical industry. Qlikview was more “sexy” than the others products but couldn’t match with all the business requirements, and Microsoft BI was not flexible enough..”

Verified user

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BI Expert at a consultancy with 51-200 employees

“Prior to TM1, we had been using IBM Cognos Planning.

TM1 is a lot more scalable than IBM Cognos Planning. IBM Cognos Planning is only an Enterprise Planning tool. However, TM1 is also an OLAP reporting and analysis tool, in addition to being an enterprise planning tool. TM1 provides more capabilities for customization..”

Verified user

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Managing Consultant/Director at a tech services company with 51-200 employees

ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“Customers see ROI with IBM Planning Analytics. It improves internal processes, reducing the need for extensive control departments and resulting in operational cost savings. More importantly, it enhances predictability in business and provides better insights into the potential impacts and implications of decisions..”

Milan Orendac

Senior Business Executive at Sophia

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“IBM Planning Analytics has had a competitive disadvantage in the last 10 years. The maintenance and renewals have become much more expensive. The overall price is has increased. Historically it had a high return on investment, but IBM has increased prices and the maintenance too to a level that many customers are thinking to move to other solutions..”

Dirk Boeckmann

Executive Partner at Beat2Lead GmbH

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“If we look at the budgeting processes of companies that have implemented this solution, then I think you'll see ROI. This service lets customers finish their budgeting process faster, so they don't waste any time. It's capable of analyzing large amounts of data, so it's they can work more productively. At the same time, budget planning is used to motivate employees and help them achieve some goals. .”

Verified user

Systems Analyst at a computer software company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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Use Case

“The main customers and use cases for Planning Analytics are large companies in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, typically with more than 2,000 employees..”

Milan Orendac

Senior Business Executive at Sophia

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“I tried to implement IBM Planning Analytics on the cloud together with the services of IBM, and it didn't work well. We are using the solution predominantly on-premise..”

Dirk Boeckmann

Executive Partner at Beat2Lead GmbH

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“It varies from client to client, but IBM Planning Analytics is used for budgeting processes in every case. In addition, some clients use it for reporting as a data source..”

Verified user

Systems Analyst at a computer software company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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Our primary use case for IBM Planning Analytics is for budgeting, planning, and forecasting. We also use it as a reporting tool, preparing our database to get our P&L and trial balance, and disclose financial data.

Ayman Alshabani

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Financial Performance Manager at a retailer with 1,001-5,000 employees

“I use the solution in my company for our company's budgeting process; IBM Planning Analytics is used every year to manage different scenarios based on the needs of the users. The finance managers in our company use the product to change 90 percent of the budget processes and cash flows, along with some forecasting purposes..”

Gnanavel-Chakkarapani

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Junior Consultant at CMA CGM

“I make sure that developments inside are matching our end user needs. I check monitoring and assist newcomers in developments. TM1 is not used as a reporting database. We elaborate the budget inside, extract data, and make it available through different tools.

We use it for planning all the costs and budgets for production parts in our company. TM1 is mainly used by the financial controlling department, and they use Excel directly connected to TM1 to make their dashboards..”

Verified user

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Responsible B.I at a retailer with 51-200 employees

Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

Installation typically involves third-party assistance, either from IBM or a partner, as they have the expertise required for migrating data and setting up servers, especially in a SaaS context.

Ayman Alshabani

Financial Performance Manager at a retailer with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“The initial setup is straightforward, and I'd rate it at nine out of ten. Depending on the complexity of the requirements, the deployment can take a minimum of one month to a maximum of three months. A team of five to 10 can handle the deployment..”

Vivek Mathur

Managing Consultant at Cubewise

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“The product is easy to deploy. The configuration of the authentication part with the tool is difficult. When I tried to integrate IBM Planning Analytics with LDAP, the configuration changed, so the config file changed. The integrations and certain syncs are sometimes difficult to match and authenticate..”

Gnanavel-Chakkarapani

Junior Consultant at CMA CGM

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“Setting up IBM Planning Analytics can vary depending on client expectations and needs. For someone covering just one area, it might be relatively easy. I would rate the setup at around a six out of ten in terms of ease.

The deployment duration for IBM Planning Analytics varies greatly depending on each client's needs and complexity. It can range from a minimum of one month to a maximum of one year..”

Milan Orendac

Senior Business Executive at Sophia

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“All of the solutions have some complications when it comes to installation. In our company, we installed SAP BPC, Oracle Hyperion, and Planning Analytics. All of them can be tricky. Sometimes you can face some issues. And it also depends on what you're doing. For example, if you're installing everything on one PC, it will be fast and easy. But when you want to create a real, stable infrastructure with a distributed installation across multiple machines, it is a little more complex. We provide solutions for our customers, so we install everything for them..”

Verified user

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Systems Analyst at a computer software company with 1,001-5,000 employees

“It's easy to set up. I would rate my experience with the initial setup a nine out of ten, where one is difficult and ten is easy to set up.

We had a bug in computation a long time ago, but that was solved. Normally, we can rely on the computations being correct.

It is mostly deployed on-premises.

Deployment time:

The initial setup is quite fast, but the system grows and gets more complex over time. Planning Analytics is not a ready-made product; you develop it with the customers based on their specific needs. So from the beginning to the first use, it takes four to six months. If you start from scratch, it can take longer. But if the customer buys pre-designed modules, it's faster.

So the most time it can take is up to six months, if you start from scratch. If the customer buys already designed modules, you're faster.


Deployment process:

We always have a development, test, and quality assurance system, and then a production system.

We have continuous development and deployment for projects that run for two to three years because the customer develops a huge, complex planning and reporting solution. So it doesn't stop after installation. It's not like an app that is ready to use after installation..”

Arnold Steffens

Managing Director at Steffens PANTA RHEI GmbH

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Customer Service and Support

We do not use IBM directly for technical support due to their high prices. Instead, we rely on third-party partners recognized by IBM, who provide cost-effective support.

Ayman Alshabani

Financial Performance Manager at a retailer with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“The technical support could improve. They are not very fast at responding to problems. I contacted them in July last year, and I received feedback in September..”

Dirk Boeckmann

Executive Partner at Beat2Lead GmbH

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“Support is generally good. We have a multi-level support system, with the initial level handled by the company we bought the license from and subsequent support from IBM. I rate this support at a seven out of ten..”

Verified user

Responsible B.I at a retailer with 51-200 employees

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“The customer service and support could be improved. They could sometimes go more directly to the real problem and not provide obvious things that we have already tested. So we lose time during this process..”

Arnold Steffens

Managing Director at Steffens PANTA RHEI GmbH

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“Moderate level of support is required for this tool. Business individuals can perform some of the activity themselves, provided they are equipped with necessary access and appropriate solutions during initial training..”

Verified user

IT Analyst at a tech services company with 10,001+ employees

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“If we face some issues, we raise escalate tickets for IBM, and usually, they can find some temporary solution. We are the first-line support for our customers, but if we face some issue, we escalate tickets. But it's true for any comparable platform, like SAP BPC or Oracle Hyperion. So if we can face some tricky issues, we have to escalate tickets to the vendor..”

Verified user

Systems Analyst at a computer software company with 1,001-5,000 employees


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Other Advice

I rated IBM Planning Analytics eight out of ten points. IBM should focus on integrating their various products into a single solution as well as improving their visualization capabilities.

Ayman Alshabani

Financial Performance Manager at a retailer with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“We have enterprise customers for the solution. You can use the solution if you are looking for a flexible product. It's flexible to adapt to any business model or industry. .”

Pornpimon Lohapiriyakul

Senior BI Consultant at T.C.C. Technology Company Limited

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“Overall, I would rate the solution a nine out of ten.

My recommendation:

Check for a solution that is similar to your needs because it's not easy to understand how it works sometimes. If you see a similar solution, you can easily compare. Every year, there's a big conference where customer solutions are shown to other customers.

So it's really important to have resources who have knowledge of the product..”

Arnold Steffens

Managing Director at Steffens PANTA RHEI GmbH

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“It is a great tool. It is quite advanced. There is not really any other equivalent on the market right now. To implement this type of tool, you need to be surrounded by a good partner to make sure that you can benefit from it.

Implementing TM1 is not just about financials. It is also about understanding the data structure and making sure that you have a good design in the backend to take full advantage of TM1.

I've been in this industry for about 30 years, and I really like Planning Analytics. I would rate it a 10 out of 10. It is absolutely one of the best. .”

Sylvie Ouellette

President & Co-Founder at VERSATIL BPI INC

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“IBM Planning Analytics is used for cross-departmental planning and forecasting by our customers. Different versions of the planning can be used, such as budgets and projections based on monthly results. The system keeps all historical data and tracks the development from projected numbers.

IBM Planning Analytics supports compliance and risk management within financial operations. It enables the calculation of impacts, such as increased interest rates, across various business areas. The effectiveness of risk management depends on the system setup and how risks are defined by the company.

In financial planning, IBM Planning Analytics aligns with current trends, including the use of AI and leveraging unstructured data. It is capable of handling large amounts of diverse data types. While it is unclear if IBM fully incorporates AI, it likely follows the trend as many companies do.

Before using Planning Analytics by IBM, consider your planning process and how it can be simplified. Understand that the system won't solve all issues on its own.

Overall, I would rate IBM Planning Analytics as a nine out of ten..”

Milan Orendac

Senior Business Executive at Sophia

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“The product has improved our company's forecasting accuracy since it serves as a very useful tool for our sales and controller teams as they easily get to enter the inputs using views in TM1, which gets loaded into our main database. If there are sales team members in different parts of the world, like in Hong Kong and Singapore, they may prefer to use IBM Planning Analytics, which is easy to use when compared to the Excel tool.

Speaking about planning analytics and data analysis, I would say that our company

used to use IBM Cognos Analytics for reporting, where we used to use Cognos Dynamic Cubes so that users can easily use its drag and drop features while getting to see the data for which the users had to wait for two to three minutes prior to its use. In our company, tons of data are loaded into the memory, and users can use Cognos Dynamic Cubes to analyze data and understand it.

The AI capabilities of IBM have benefited our planning strategy as they are very useful for business. The tool allows the easy creation of dashboard reports using AI capabilities. No technical knowledge is required for business use cases.

It is possible to integrate the product in scenarios where some new integrations are available. I remember that my company used Azure Data Factory to connect Azure, Oracle, and IBM WebSphere Application Server.

When it comes to IBM Planning Analytics, it is complex to integrate it with LDAP and or any other authentication tool offered by Microsoft. In our company, some users like to integrate IBM Planning Analytics with the common LDAP or Microsoft AD, which we currently use for all our applications. The authentication part is difficult to configure with IBM Planning Analytics.

The maintenance of the product is easy. My company has scheduled maintenance on the product every week, especially during forecast times, so that memories automatically lapse and users can freely access their servers.

The use of the tool has had an impact on collaboration within our company's planning team since everyone knows how to easily access the data and publish the results.

I recommend the product to those who plan to use it.

I rate the tool a nine out of ten..”

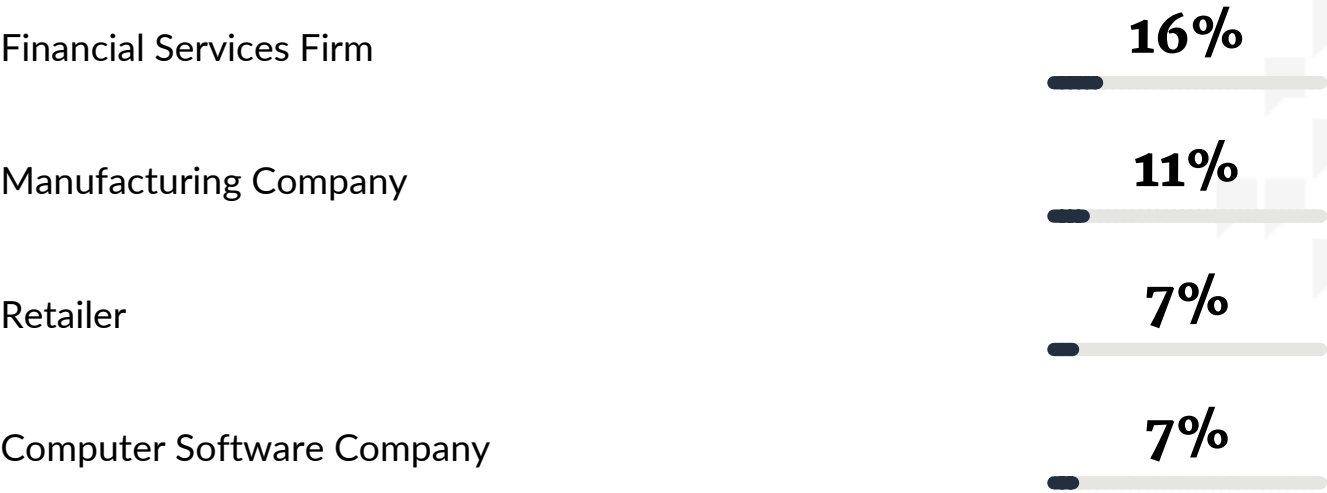
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Junior Consultant at CMA CGM

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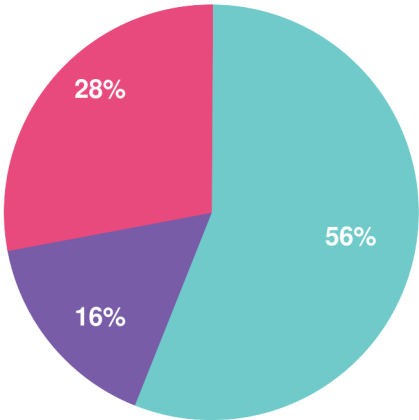
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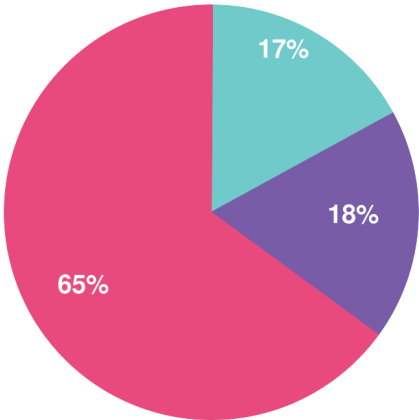


Company Size

by reviewers



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Large Enterprise Midsize Enterprise Small Business

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PeerSpot

244 5th Avenue, Suite R-230 • New York, NY 10001

reports@peerspot.com

+1 646.328.1944