Finance – Corporate Finance

A career in corporate finance means you would work for a company to help it find money to run the business, grow the business, make acquisitions, plan for its financial future and manage any cash on hand. You might work for a large multinational company or a smaller player with high growth prospects. Responsibility can come fast and your problem-solving skills will get put to work quickly in corporate finance jobs.

The job of the financial officer is to create value for a company. Finance groups often have four main areas of concentration: liquidity, flexibility, compliance with laws and regulatory support. Finance departments usually carry out four main activities to meet its objectives:

1. designing, implementing and monitoring financial policies
2. planning and executing the financing program
3. managing cash resources
4. interfacing with the financial community and investors.

Jobs in corporate finance are also relatively stable. Performance in these jobs counts, but your job is not going to depend on whether you’re selling enough this week or getting good deals finished this quarter. Rather the key to performing well in corporate finance is to work with a long view of what going to make your company successful.

Some of the benefits of working in corporate finance are:

- You generally work in teams which help you work with people
- It is a lot of fun to tackle business problems that really matter
- You will have many opportunities to travel and meet people
- The pay in corporate finance is generally quite good.

Sample Job Titles:

**Entry-Level**
- Financial Analyst
- Associate Support Analyst
- Business Analyst
- Benefits Officer

**Mid-Level**
- Credit Manager
- Treasurer

**Pinnacle**
- Chief Financial Officer
- Vice President of Finance
- Controller
- Director of Finance

Skills/Experience Required:

- Quantitative Skills
- Great Attention to Detail
- Accurately and Efficiently Analyze Vast Amounts of Data
- Strong Communications and Analytical Skills
- Experience with Excel

Starting Salaries / Trajectory*
NACE 2015 average starting salary: $51,667
BLS 2014 average salary: $92,250 (Financial Analyst), $80,000 (Treasurers and Controllers)*

Professional Associations/Certifications:

- Bachelor of Business Administration, Minor in Finance
- MBA, Concentration in Finance
- Financial Management Association

*Note: Salaries are highly dependent on location, company type, and candidate experience/education. For the purposes of this guide, we are providing average starting salaries as determined by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), overall average salaries as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), as well as supplemental information found from various industry-specific sources.
Industry Research and Tools:
- wetfeet.com/articles/career-overview-corporate-finance
- Careers-in-Finance.com
- Investopedia.com
- Financecareers.about.com

Job and Internship Search Sites:
- jobs.efinancialcareers.com/Corporate.htm
- www.indeed.com/q-Corporate-Finance-jobs.html