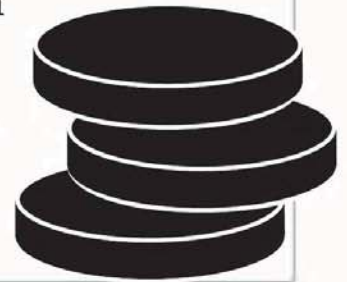


INVESTMENT ANALYST



JOB DESCRIPTION

Working in the world's financial markets, analysts research the economic, business, and market conditions that affect the value of investments, such as stocks and bonds. They then advise their clients, which may be companies or individuals or funds, on which investments to buy or sell to make the highest profit.



SALARY

Graduate trainee ★★★★★
Senior analyst ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Intense competition for entry into profession • Rise in jobs with expanding range of financial products • Emerging global markets creating opportunities to work abroad

CAREER PATHS

Analysts work for buyers or sellers of investments, such as pension funds, hedge funds, banks, insurance companies, stock brokers, and traders. There are many opportunities for experienced analysts who could, for example, specialize in a specific type of investment or region, or choose to manage an investment firm.

GRADUATE TRAINEE You will need a degree from a good college or university; employers may prefer subjects that include mathematical analysis. Your employers may sponsor your training while you work under a senior analyst. To move into senior positions, you may need a graduate degree in business administration (known as a Masters of Business Administration, or MBA) or in finance.



ACCREDITED ANALYST

Advises high-profile clients. An industry-recognized accreditation is necessary to qualify for the position, which may take several years of study.



INVESTMENT ANALYST In this role you research the past and project the future performance of a company to forecast its value on a stock exchange. You may produce reports that guide clients on their investment decisions.



SKILLS GUIDE



Acute commercial awareness and maturity to make judgements about complex markets.



Excellent communication skills to develop working relationships with people at all levels.



Good organizational and research skills to gather relevant, time-sensitive information.



Strong mathematical skills and the ability to interpret statistical data.



The ability to work under pressure and to deadlines, within and outside business hours.



STOCK BROKER Acts as an agent for businesses or personal clients, and buys and sells shares and other financial products in markets around the world.



WEALTH MANAGER Guides wealthy individuals on how to invest their money to maximize returns, and also advises them on tax payments.



FUND MANAGER Looks after specialty investment funds that focus on buying and selling shares in a particular type of company, such as firms working in mining or pharmaceuticals.

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Financial management or accounting • Business studies • Economics • Mathematics • Statistics



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS A degree is required. A graduate degree in mathematics or business is usually necessary to progress to senior positions.



LIFESTYLE The job can bring big financial rewards but it is very pressurized. Employers expect analysts to work very long hours.



LOCATION Investment analysts mostly work from the offices of large financial institutions, but travel to visit investors and companies.



THE REALITIES The work is closely scrutinized—mistakes can be very costly. Progress to senior positions demands lengthy periods of study.

▼ RELATED CAREERS

▶ **BANK MANAGER** *see pp. 96–97*

▶ **TRADER** *see pp. 98–99*

▶ **ACTUARY** *see pp. 104–105*

▶ **FINANCIAL MANAGER** Works within a business to guide its financial affairs. Financial managers monitor activities, produce financial statements, and develop plans based on business objectives.

Annual bonuses in this job can range to between 40 to 150 percent of your salary.