ORACLE

AI in Finance: Reimagining the Finance Function

AI in Oracle Cloud EPM—
embedded, contextual, trusted

Table of Contents

The AI revolution in finance

The finance function is on the verge of significant transformation driven by AI and generative AI. This shift is expected to manifest in several key areas. First, a substantial increase in automation, where repetitive tasks can be executed by AI using intelligent automation, potentially freeing up finance professionals to concentrate on higher-value activities.

Second, decision-making is expected to become increasingly data-driven, with valuable insights extracted from financial and operational data playing a crucial role in shaping financial strategies. This would not diminish the importance of human judgment but rather enhance it with robust data-driven predictive intelligence.

Third, finance could evolve into a more connected function, with CFOs increasingly acting as strategic advisors across the business, moving beyond their traditional financial management role.

Why AI adoption in finance lags behind

1

Lack of data science skills

Most finance teams lack access to data scientists or AI skills. Even as they see AI's value, they often can't implement it without IT or data science support, which slows adoption and creates dependency on other teams. This makes it difficult for finance to embrace AI.

2

Data preparation overhead

AI projects often stall because they require clean, well-structured data—and finance doesn't have the bandwidth to gather, organize, and prepare all the needed data from financial and operational source systems.

3

"Black box" AI models

CFOs want transparency in AI models. Finance leaders demand accuracy, auditability, and explainability. If they can't understand how predictions are made—or explain them to auditors—they won't trust them. Black box models without context or clarity are often rejected.

4

Production deployment struggles

AI pilots often stall when moving from concept to live usage. Even after successful AI pilots in finance, deploying models into production at scale is a challenge. Without secure operational deployment, AI projects risk becoming one-off experiments rather than repeatable value drivers.

5

Need for robust security and governance

Finance demands a much higher level of security and governance around data and AI models. This is understandable given the extremely confidential nature of aggregated financial data. Bolt-on approaches to AI often fail to meet the high bar finance has in this critical area.

The potential benefits AI delivers to finance

Generative AI

Introduces a new qualitative dimension to finance, traditionally dominated by numbers. It brings the ability to generate narratives, context, and stories around financial data. This capability is invaluable for creating management reports, where GenAI can produce a strong initial draft of the narrative sections, which can then be refined by finance professionals. It also helps to make predictions and insights accessible to more users in finance by explaining them in simple terms.

Traditional AI

Rooted in data science and predictive models, is also gaining new momentum. Its power lies in recognizing patterns in data and using this knowledge to derive actionable insights and make predictions. This allows finance teams to enhance forecasting accuracy and make data-driven decisions.

AI in Oracle Cloud EPM helps unlock finance's full potential

Finance is evolving—and AI is leading the charge. Oracle Cloud Enterprise Performance Management (EPM) empowers finance teams to operate faster, smarter, and more strategically across the enterprise, including helping to automate routine tasks, delivering predictive insights, and connecting core functions. We have woven AI into critical finance process flows to help you unlock efficiencies and reimagine processes. Let's expand on the potential benefits of intelligent automation, advanced prediction, and connected finance.

Automating routine tasks and gaining insights

AI in Oracle Cloud EPM can be used to streamline routine finance tasks, which can reduce manual effort and enable touchless operations. The automation of account reconciliations to improve and accelerate the close process is a good example.

Insights uses AI-based pattern recognition and automates data analysis to detect material variances, biases, anomalies, and outliers, guiding users to help them quickly focus on issues and opportunities that matter most.

> "AI in Oracle Cloud EPM can shorten the time from problem detection to problem resolution exponentially."
>
> Director of Treasury and Risk Management, Global Consumer Brand

Generative AI can add context to Insights by generating narratives with a concise explanation of critical insights, enabling root cause analysis. AI also generates narratives in reports, which can reduce time taken to produce commentary and better communicate underlying drivers of performance.

Predictive planning and advanced predictions

AI-powered predictive planning and advanced predictions in Oracle Cloud EPM can increase timeliness and accuracy of forecasts. Predictive planning generates forecasts using past data and trends, helping users validate and refine their forecasts.

Advanced predictions helps finance consider richer data by using financial and operational data to more accurately generate forecasts using multiple internal and external drivers, helping finance make more confident, fact-based decisions faster.

Connecting finance for improved processes

AI-driven automation and predictive insights can empower finance to transform core processes and begin to operate more strategically across business functions.

For example, predictive cash forecasting uses predictive models running continuously on transactional ERP data to generate more accurate cash forecasts on a daily or weekly basis. This allows finance to identify potential risks and opportunities early so they can proactively manage liquidity, avoid shortfalls, and optimize the use of cash across the organization.

Customers tell us that they are seeing the benefits of AI in Oracle Cloud EPM in the following areas:

64% **Detect anomalies in planning and forecasting using Insights (IPM)**

58% **Autogenerate narratives in Narrative Reporting**

31% **Surface bottlenecks in the close process with Insights (IPM)**

Source: Oracle, *"The Value of EPM Survey 2025".*

The unique approach to AI in Oracle Cloud EPM

In Oracle Fusion Cloud Enterprise Performance Management (EPM), we took a very deliberate approach to AI. We are very intentional about how we embed AI in the core of Oracle Cloud EPM. AI capabilities are surfaced in the context of finance processes in a nondisruptive manner to enable finance to leverage AI without the need for data science expertise. This has allowed us to continuously deliver benefits to finance and broaden the use of AI rather than have it be a tool for just a few specialist users.

Our approach has three elements:

1. **Embedded**: Rather than deliver AI as a bolt-on technology, we embedded AI into the core Cloud EPM platform so there is no need for complex third-party AI integration.
2. **Contextual**: AI is delivered in the context of key finance processes to address specific needs in those process flows and help seamlessly add value to finance in a nondisruptive manner.
3. **Trusted**: AI capabilities are designed to be explainable and transparent. Security, privacy, and observability are designed into every layer to protect your data and foster trust from finance users.

Why Oracle's built-in AI is better than bolt-on

Contextual and embedded AI: Seamless integration

The key to effective adoption of AI in finance is its seamless integration into existing finance processes. Finance users should not be expected to become AI experts or understand the intricacies of underlying models. Instead, AI is embedded in their familiar EPM processes, making it easy to adopt without separate AI platforms or the need for specialized knowledge. Oracle delivers AI capabilities within the process flow of EPM applications, offering a noninvasive experience. This is a core tenet of our approach—being seamless, contextual, and intentional in the delivery of AI capabilities.

AI for finance: User owned and no code

Oracle's deployment strategy for AI in finance is to make it accessible and usable by all finance professionals, regardless of their technical background. This means designing AI solutions that do not require AI or data science skills. By embedding AI within Oracle Cloud EPM and focusing on ease of use, finance teams can take ownership of these capabilities and leverage their power directly within their day-to-day tasks. This "no-code" approach helps democratize AI in finance, making its benefits readily available to all.

The power of explainability

Finance professionals, by nature, tend to be skeptical and demand accuracy and transparency. They are less likely to trust black box models whose workings are opaque. So explainability is paramount for the successful adoption of AI in finance. When an AI model makes a prediction or generates an insight, it should be able to provide information about the key factors driving that outcome. AI in Oracle Cloud EPM is designed to highlight the most important and relevant factors behind a prediction, better visibility into key drivers and build trust in the technology. Our focus on investing in explainability empowers augmented decision-making, where AI supports and enhances human judgment rather than replacing it.

Addressing concerns and embracing the future

While the potential of AI in finance is immense, it's important to acknowledge and address the concerns that may arise during adoption. Employees may have legitimate concerns about the potential negative impact of AI on job functions or roles. Oracle's strategy behind integrating AI into Oracle Cloud EPM for finance is to enhance employee capabilities, not replace them.

Finance users' inherent skepticism toward new technologies should also be kept in mind. Building trust and confidence in AI tools is crucial. With Oracle Cloud EPM, we focused on transparency and explainability as well as the security functionality needed for sensitive finance data, which remains a top priority when implementing AI solutions in finance.

Finance leaders are often advised to start small and define realistic success criteria, focusing initially on adoption, usage, accuracy, and timeliness. At the same time, it is also important to not underestimate the transformative power of AI and to act decisively rather than adopting a "wait and watch" approach. The AI capabilities in Oracle Cloud EPM have the potential to deliver significant value by impacting key business processes beyond just productivity gains. Now is the time to start.

Request a demo **Learn more**

Connect with us

Call +1.800.ORACLE1 or visit oracle.com

Outside North America, find your local office at oracle.com/contact