

# AI in Action: How Machine Learning and AI are Reshaping the Role of FP&A

Christina Cavanagh, KPMG

Amanda Gilmour, KPMG

Kevin Freeman, Workday

August 28, 2024



The Association of  
Accountants and  
Financial Professionals  
in Business





# Featured Presenters



**Kevin Freeman**  
**Sr. Product Marketing Manager**  
Workday



**Christina Cavanagh**  
**Finance Transformation**  
KPMG



**Amanda Gilmour**  
**Finance Transformation**  
KPMG



# About Workday

Workday Adaptive Planning empowers FP&A teams across the globe to build more speed, flexibility, collaboration, and accuracy into their organization's plans, budgets and forecasts so they can have more time to develop rich analysis that helps guide their business leaders to make faster, more confident decisions.

Workday is leading the way in finance transformation through scalable, innovative solutions across the modern enterprise. From Human Capital Management, to Financials, to Enterprise Planning across organizations, Workday is equipping organizations to move forward faster.



# KPMG at a glance

KPMG LLP is a private partnership and a member of KPMG International Cooperative, a global network of professional member firms. KPMG has been a leading provider of audit, tax, and a variety of advisory services since our inception in 1870. Our service offerings have continually involved, as we continue to bring our clients innovative, leading-edge services and thought leadership focused on the latest developments in business theory and technology.

## Global headcount

**219,000+**

professionals worldwide

Operating in **145** countries



## Headcount

**38,000+**

in the U.S.

in all  
**50**  
states

We serve

**80%** of the  
**FORTUNE  
GLOBAL  
500**



## Finance Transformation capabilities

**Strategy through implementation and finance managed services.**

Business led, digitally enabled transformation. Customer centric approach focused on delivering desired business outcomes.



Diagnostic and strategy



Process reengineering



Digital acceleration



Data Intelligence



Cost optimization



Enterprise Performance  
Management



Delivery model &  
organization optimization



Event driven transaction  
services



# Agenda

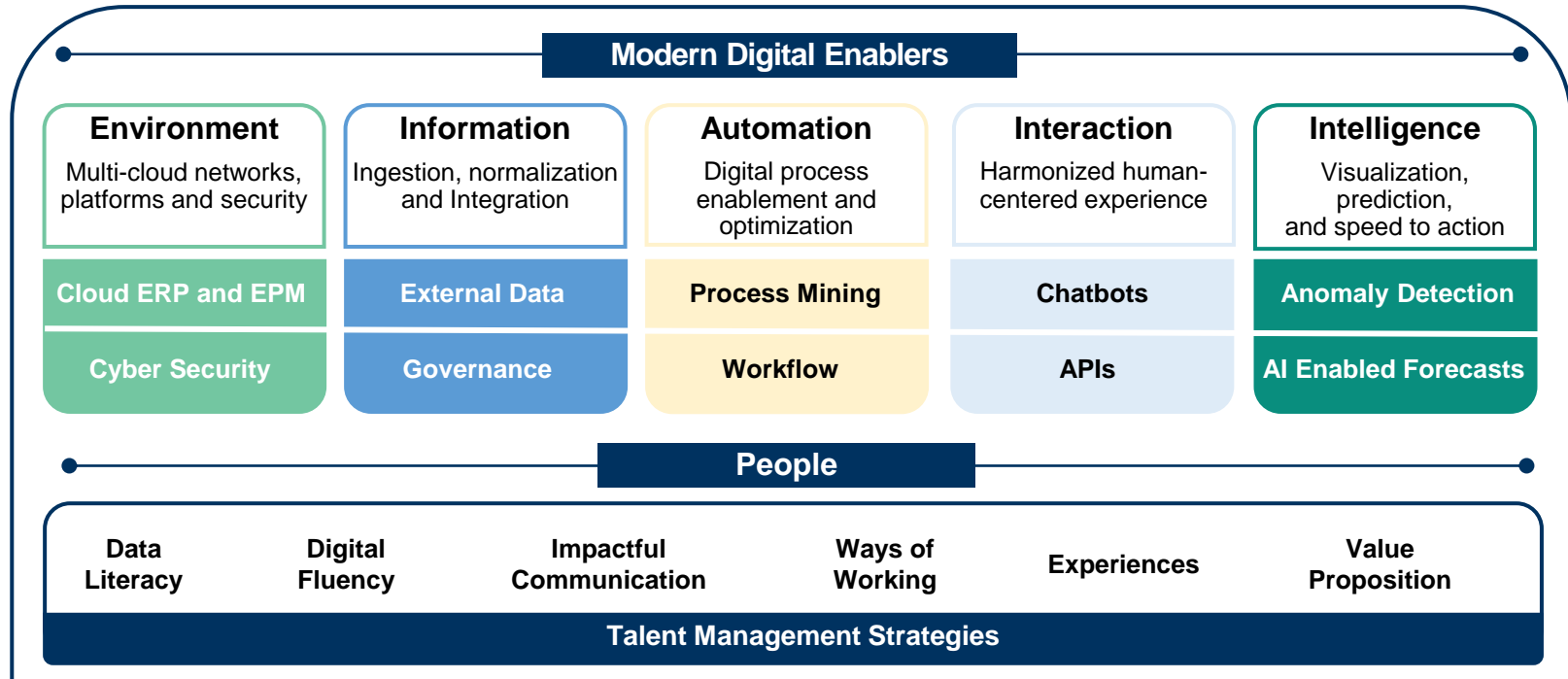
1. Introduction
2. Digital Revolution Impact on Financial and Enterprise Planning and Analysis
3. AI Trends and Benefits for FP&A
4. AI in Planning: The Workday Way
5. Applying AI Across Finance
6. Closing and takeaways for your AI Journey



# Digital Revolution Impact on Financial and Enterprise Planning and Analysis

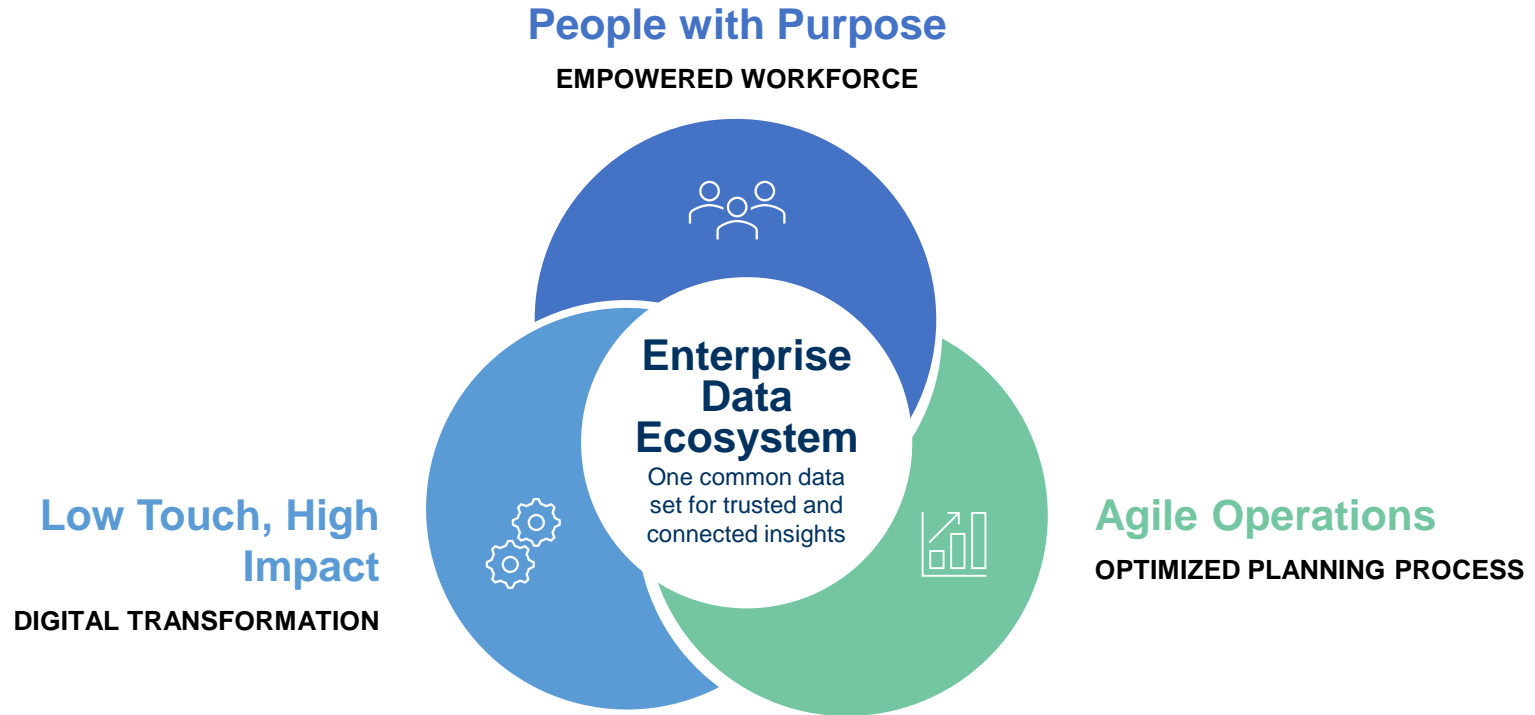


# Rapidly Changing Finance Landscape





# The DNA of FP&A is changing





# The Foundation for Success

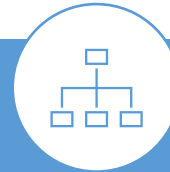
Efficiently deliver 'standard' services...



Cloud-enabled, fit for  
**purpose** planning  
solution built on dynamic  
planning drivers



Reliable and robust data  
and reporting enabled by  
**enterprise data  
repository**



Clearly defined  
structures and  
**catalog of services**



# Embracing Change of Evolving FP&A

...Elevate purposeful and impact-driven interactions

Integrated  
Enterprise Planning

Intelligent  
Forecasting

Rapid Strategic  
Modeling

Continuous  
Analytics

Generative Creation  
and Insights



Augmented Intelligence for Strategic and Commercial Decisions

Customized Products and Offers  
SKU Rationalization and Optimization  
Pricing Strategies  
Optimized Distribution & Supply Chain  
Channels



Inventory Optimization  
Share Buyback/Dividend Strategies  
Resource Management and Deployment  
Environmental, Social, Governance Priorities



# Finance is at the center of enterprise performance

Top Desired Outcomes	Value Realized	Key Enablers to Value Realization
<p>Elevate value of services delivered</p> <p>Enable faster, more informed decisions</p> <p>Redeploy capacity to higher value areas</p> <p>Develop talent &amp; increase digital fluency</p>	<p>2-3x more time spent on analytics &amp; decision support</p> <p>5x faster financial close &amp; planning cycles</p> <p>70%+ automation of processes and reporting</p> <p>60%+ more accurate forecasts</p> <p>&gt;10% revenue growth reported</p>	<p>Common Vision &amp; Goals</p> <p>&gt;80% adopted cloud ERP</p> <p>&gt;60% adopting predictive forecasting &amp; analytics</p> <p>&gt;80% integrate external data into decision making</p> <p>75% enable organizational agility with specialized Centers of Excellence</p> <p>66% have robust talent strategies</p>



# Poll Question 1:

What is the biggest challenge faced by FP&A teams in embracing digital transformation?

- a. Lack of support and buy-in
- b. Insufficient technical skills among employees
- c. The high cost of implementing digital solutions
- d. Security and privacy concerns around data handling
- e. Resistance to change and uncertainty around the ROI of a digital transformation
- f. Integration challenges with legacy systems and existing IT infrastructure



# Poll Question 1 Results: (Placeholder)



# AI Trends and Benefits for FP&A



***"By 2027, spending on AI software will grow to \$297.9 billion with a CAGR of 19.1%. Over the next five years, the market growth will accelerate from 17.8% to reach 20.4% in 2027. Generative AI software spend will rise from 8% of AI software in 2023 to 35% by 2027."***

Gartner, Forecast Analysis: Artificial Intelligence Software, 2023-2027, Worldwide, Alys Woodward, Anna Griffen, James Ingham, Inna Agamirzian, Radu Miclaus, Kevin Quinn, 7 November 2023.

GARTNER is a registered trademark and service mark of Gartner, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the U.S. and internationally and is used herein with permission. All rights reserved.



# Existing Trends and Future Predictions



- Significant Investment in R&D
- Exploring AI in Planning
- Adoption driving innovation



- **Shift in Planning:** moving towards data-driven, exception-based, more continuous, and automated planning.
- **Enhanced Scenario Analytics:** simplifying complex planning and delivering timely insights.
- **Personalization:** Products are tightly interconnected to provide a personalized experienced.
- **Broader use cases:** support is expanding for a wide range of integrated planning use cases, including industry-specific modeling and insights frameworks.
- **Generative AI:** the future!





## Poll Question 2:

On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being the lowest), where are you on your journey to adopt AI in Planning Processes?

a. 1

b. 2

c. 3

d. 4

e. 5

f. 6

g. 7

h. 8

i. 9

j. 10



# Poll Question 1 Results: (Placeholder)

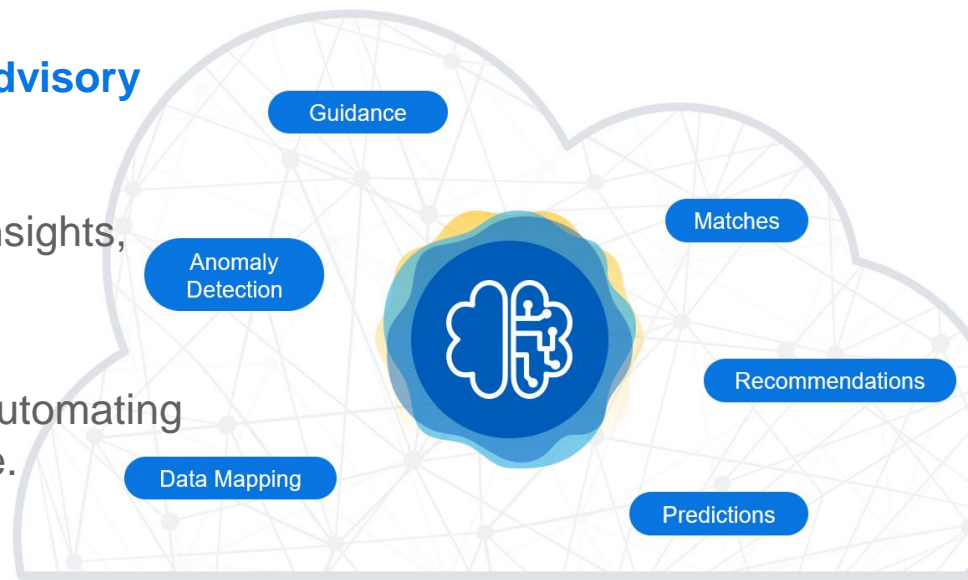


# Evolution of FP&A's Role & Technology

Shifting from number-crunching to **strategic advisory roles**.

**Skills evolution:** growing need for business insights, predictive modeling, scenario analysis, and AI comprehension.

**Task automation:** leveraging technology for automating repetitive tasks and focusing on strategic value.





# Harnessing AI as a Competitive Advantage



## Engaging Experience

Create an engaging experience personalized to each user



## Increased Automation

Automate repetitive, predictable tasks for improved accuracy and productivity



## Machine-Augmented Decisions

Arm people with insights and recommendations for faster, better decisions



## Poll Question 3:

What is the biggest challenge you foresee for FP&A in incorporating AI?

- a. Software/technology not good enough yet
- b. Lack skill sets to implement
- c. Poor data quality
- d. Bias or inertia in the org to trust AI



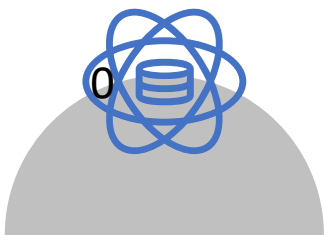
# Poll Question 2 Results: (Placeholder)



# AI in Planning: The Workday Way



# How FP&A Benefits from AI and ML in Workday



## Eliminate Inefficiencies

Interrogate high-volume data faster



## Save Time

Intelligently automate manual and repetitive tasks



## Manage Risk

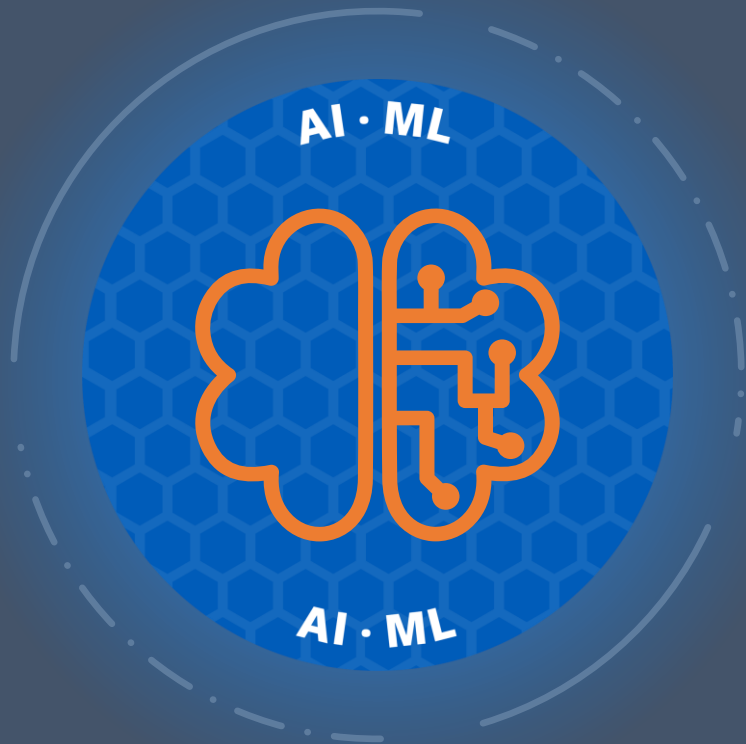
Continuously detect patterns and anomalies surfacing areas of concern



## Predict Outcomes

Optimize business processes and accelerate data-driven decision-making and forecasts





## Embedded

*Directly into the planning platform*

## Extended

*To leverage 3rd party innovation*

## Open Framework

*Support for data scientists with  
Jupyter Notebook integration*



## Intelligent Platform Key Features



Data governance

Enhanced user insights

Time Series prediction

Continuous learning from user feedback

# Anomaly Detection



Financial Planning | Reports | Expenses

ACCOUNTS FY 2021 JAN 2022 FEB 2022 MAR 2022 APR 2022 MAY 2022 JUN 2022 JUL 2022 AUG 2022 SEP 2022 OCT 2022 NOV 2022 DEC 2022 FY 2022 FY 2023

6000 Operating Expenses

6100 Payroll

6110 Salary & Wages

6120 Commission

6130 Bonus

6140 Travel & Benefits

6150 Health Benefits

6160 Retirement

6170 Profit Share

6180 Recruiting

6190 Total

6200 Other Expenses

6210 Training

6220 New Hire Training

6230 Total

6300 Equipment Rental

6310 Equipment Rental

6320 Maintenance

6330 Legal & Professional

6340 Office Supplies

6350 Vendor Contracts

6360 Consulting Fees

6370 Other Assets

6380 Total

6400 Travel & Entertainment

6410 Hotel

6420 Meals

6430 Transportation

6440 Other Travel

6450 Total

6500 Other Expenses

6510 Other

6520 Travel

6530 Total

6600 Total

6700 Other Expenses

6710 Other

6720 Total

6800 Total

Financial Planning | Reports | Intelligent Planning | Expense Variance Analysis

Level Corporate Version Working Budget Currency USD

	Q3 2022			Q3 2023			Q4 2022		
	Predicted Values	Working Budget	% Var	Predicted Values	Working Budget	% Var	Predicted Values	Working Budget	% Var
6000 Operating Expenses	547,284	639,551	-14%	529,064	639,551	-17%	552,928	639,551	-14%
6100 Payroll	175,257	181,987	-73%	162,952	181,987	-88%	167,207	181,987	-100%
6200 Other Expenses	459	659	-28%	189	189	0%	419	419	0%
6210 Training	459	659	-28%	189	189	0%	419	419	0%
6220 Equipment Rental	7,367	9,960	6%	7,451	6,288	18%	7,467	7,248	3%
6230 Maintenance	5,554	5,400	8%	5,923	5,400	10%	6,008	5,400	11%
6300 Legal & Professional	2,368	2,685	-12%	2,452	2,685	-9%	2,480	2,685	-8%
6300 Office Supplies	71,543	0	0%	67,903	0	0%	67,827	0	0%
6300 Vendor Contracts	745	495	51%	770	511	51%	680	487	80%
6370 Office Rent	0	1,250	-100%	0	1,250	-100%	0	1,250	-100%
6370 Office Rent	70,109	63,068	11%	71,341	63,068	13%	65,863	63,068	4%
6380 Depreciation	40,397	49,526	-18%	41,253	49,751	-17%	37,782	49,993	-24%
6400 Travel & Entertainment	198,824	136,123	53%	197,263	129,243	53%	188,527	130,650	44%
6420 Hotel	5,905	1,500	294%	6,218	750	729%	6,456	2,500	158%
6420 Meals	2,992	510	487%	3,134	285	1,012%	3,240	850	281%
6440 Mileage/Parking	750	300	150%	783	150	422%	809	500	62%
6450 Other Travel	31,002	34,131	-9%	34,903	39,474	-12%	31,549	31,632	1%
Total 6400 Travel & Entertainment	40,448	36,441	12%	45,038	40,429	11%	42,453	35,482	20%
6500 Marketing	13,677	18,350	-25%	13,316	16,400	-19%	13,957	11,350	23%
6990 Other Expense	6,190	2,250	175%	4,963	12,250	-59%	8,384	2,250	273%
Total 6000 Operating Expenses	981,880	927,812	6%	952,596	924,923	3%	973,456	902,916	8%

## Description

- Utilizes time series prediction to alert planners if plan data fall outside normal or historical ranges.
- The model will learn from user feedback to continually improve the process of anomaly detection.
- User controlled upper and lower bounds for detection

## Benefit

- In real-time, significantly enhances a user's insight into data anomalies, allowing for timely data adjustments.
- Supports enhanced data governance.



## Intelligent Platform Key Features



Accurate, predictive forecasts

Embedded capabilities

Options to utilize external data & drivers

Support for multiple use cases

# Predictive Forecaster



Navigation: Planning / Modeling / Predictive Forecaster / New Forecast

### New Forecast

**General Information**

Forecast Name \*

Description

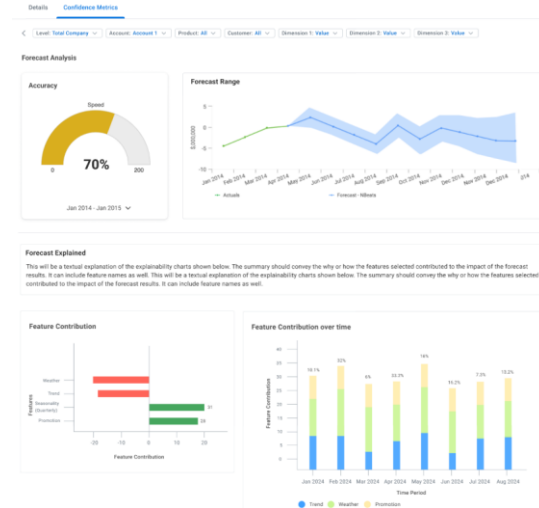
**Forecast**

Sheet \*

Forecast Version \*

Forecast Start Period \*

Forecast End Period \*



## Description

- Allows planners the ability to create smarter and accurate forecasts, surpassing traditional methods.
- Offers the capability to utilize advanced machine learning and statistical models in an easily consumable manner, assisting planners in selecting the most effective forecast possible.

## Benefit

- Improve forecast precision, accuracy and responsiveness to evolving data trends
- Relying on data and learned patterns, forecasts can be more objective and data-driven
- Reliable 360° Forecast with internal and external data



# Predictive Forecaster Customer Use Cases



## Team Car Care

Largest Jiffy Lube Franchise with 520 locations

Improve store-level guest forecasts by incorporating weather data to predict visitor numbers more accurately.



## Communications

U.S. leading telecommunications provider

Forecast subscriber growth in both existing and emerging markets, as well as across new product lines.



## Wholesales Dist.

Multinational producer of artisan produce

Enhance sales forecasting across customer base by providing a smarter, data-driven baseline for product sales.



## Insurance

Industry leader for insurance, with over 16 mil policy holders

Utilize forecasted policy data as a basis for scenario planning, enabling more strategic decision-making.



## Wholesales Dist.

National production, sales, marketing partner for major ice cream brands

Enhance product forecasting precision by analyzing SKU-level data across various customers and channels.



## Healthcare

Fortune 500, multi-state health care organization

Support scenario analysis to compare bottom-up forecasts for expenses and revenue, enhancing accuracy and strategic planning.



## Retail

Multinational supermarket chain with 500+ stores across North American the UK

Forecast expenses to provide planners with a solid baseline for initiating their plans.



## Biotech

A world-leading medical device company

Drive demand forecasting across all products to optimize operational planning.





## Augment Decisions

*Not replacing humans*

## Competitive Edge

*Help our customers stay ahead*

## Deliver ML Rapidly

*Faster value to our customers*



# Applying AI Across Finance



# Applying AI across Finance



**Intelligent  
Monitoring**



**Intelligent Document  
Processing**



**Intelligent  
Forecasting**



**Generative AI/  
Prescriptive Insights**



# GenAI applications for FP&A organizations

Automation

Insights Generation



Automating  
Report Generation



Forecasting  
and Scenario  
Analysis



AI-Driven Rapid  
Query Resolution  
for Financial  
Statements



AI-Based Financial  
Trend Analysis  
and Forecasting



AI-Assisted Financial  
Data Interpretation for  
Novice Stakeholders



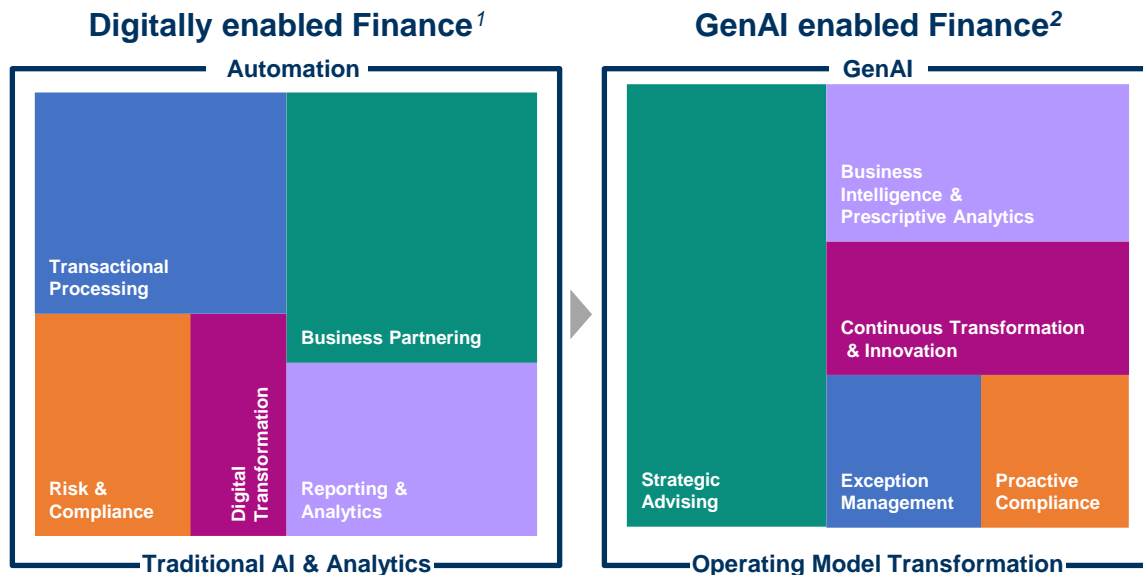
AI-Powered Business  
Decision Support  
Through Financial  
Data Analysis



Improve Financial  
Decision-Making



# Reinvention of FP&A



<sup>1</sup>Represents approximate distribution of total finance function costs of top-quartile companies

<sup>2</sup>Estimated impact of GenAI on top-quartile companies finance function costs in the next 24 – 36 months

## Key Talent Differentiators

- Adaptability
- Strategic thinking
- Intellectual curiosity
- Creative problem solving
- Impactful storytelling
- Ability to challenge and influence
- Relationship building
- Collaboration and Conversation
- Ability to lead and motivate teams



# People with purpose



## New and Evolving Roles

Roles are expanding beyond value preserver to roles such as:



### **Data Modeler**

Understands important trends and how the market works. Brings ideas to drive competitive advantage and create value



### **Performance Driver**

Trusted advisor, providing objective and specialized expertise to drive business outcomes



### **Story Teller**

Translates, interprets, and communicates data in a meaningful way, leveraging technology and deep business understanding



### **Strategic Partner**

Spots and actively drives growth opportunities while balancing customer and commercial needs to create value for the business.



### **Challenger**

Challenges the status quo and develops better ways of doing things, navigating risks and opportunities for the business.



# Achieving organizational agility



## Engage

### Commercial Business Partners

- Strategic advisor to business and function leaders
- Data-driven insights to help in decision-making
- Assists prioritization of initiatives to drive profitability
- Forms partnerships across business units to support growth initiatives



## Plan

### Corporate Finance

- Leads enterprise strategy and performance
- Proactively manages business and financial risk
- Finance-as-a-platform capabilities allow for both routine (transactional) and bespoke (service oriented) services



## Build

### Modelers and Architects

- Builds technical and analytical solutions
- Collaborates with stakeholders to deliver innovative solutions
- Serves as technologists and solutionists
- Leverages technological advancements to drive innovation



## Run

### Centralized Services, e.g., Planning Hubs and COEs

- Executes wide-ranging, recurring processes
- Provides enterprise-wide analytics and KPIs
- Leverages technologies to provide data transparency and accuracy
- Self-service capabilities to business users
- Defines operational requirements and policies

Assess Finance as a Service offerings to help fill talent gaps, support staffing challenges, or provide interim support during critical periods



# What skills will the new Finance workforce need to succeed?



## Technical skills

Knowledge and proficiency in data science, deep learning, natural language processing, and other relevant AI technologies.



## Critical thinking

Capacity to evaluate and interpret AI-generated insights and make informed business decisions.



## Analytical skills

Ability to analyze and interpret data using AI-powered tools and platforms to gain insights into customer behavior and preferences.



## Interpersonal skills

Strong communication skills to collaborate with AI experts and effectively communicate complex information to internal and external stakeholders.



## Creativity and innovation

Capacity to identify and develop new AI-based products and services that meet evolving customer needs and preferences.



## Lifelong learning

A willingness and interest in continually updating skills and knowledge to keep up with rapidly evolving AI technologies.



## Poll Question 4:

What is your primary objective when considering AI integration in FP&A?

- a. Improving decision-making and insights.
- b. Reducing operational costs and increasing efficiency.
- c. Gaining a competitive advantage in the market.
- d. Compliance with industry standards and regulations.
- e. All of the above



# Poll Question 2 Results: (Placeholder)



# Closing and Takeaways for your AI Journey



# What should you be thinking about?





# Questions and Answers



**Kevin Freeman**  
Sr. Product Marketing Manager  
Workday



**Christina Cavanagh**  
Finance Transformation  
KPMG



**Amanda Gilmour**  
Finance Transformation  
KPMG



# Thank you!

Workday

[www.workday.com](http://www.workday.com)



The Association of  
Accountants and  
Financial Professionals  
in Business

