

Data Analytics

Capability statement

July 2017

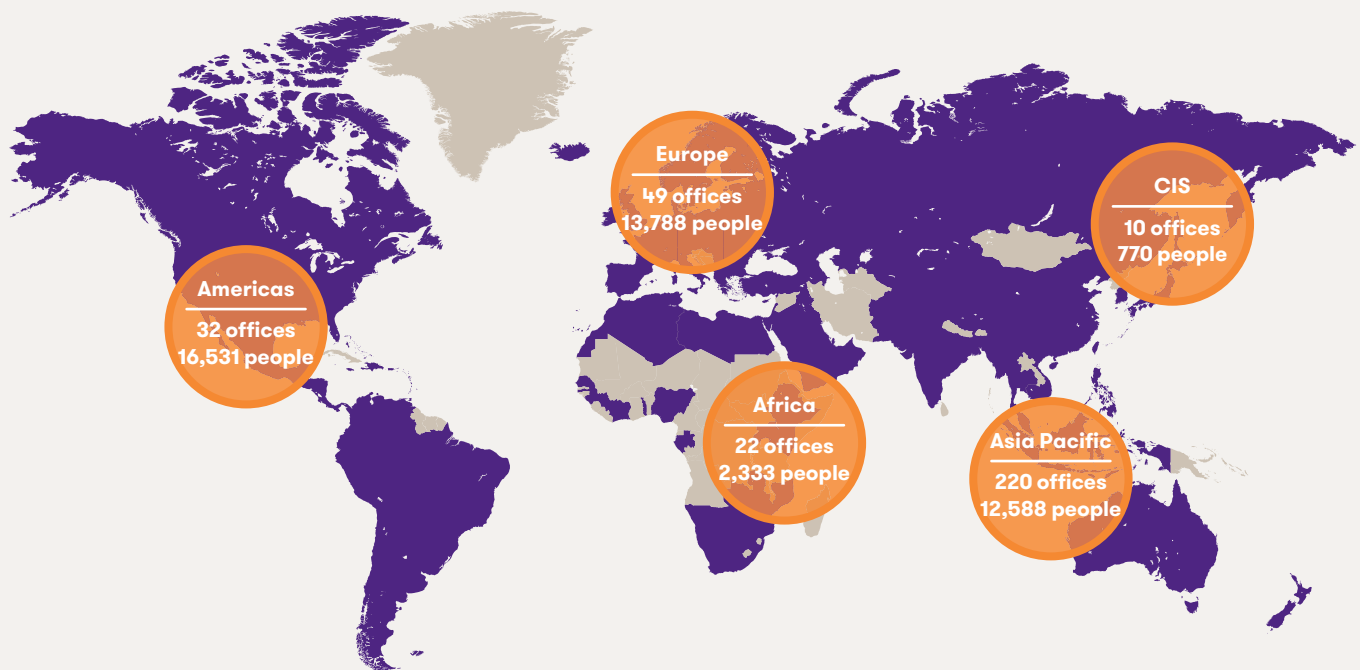


About Grant Thornton

We're an organisation of independent assurance, tax and advisory firms, made up of 47,000 people in 130 countries. And we're here to help dynamic organisations unlock their potential for growth.

For more than 100 years, we have helped dynamic organisations realise their strategic ambitions. Whether you're looking to finance growth, manage risk and regulation, optimise your operations or realise stakeholder value, we can help you.

We've got scale, combined with local market understanding. That means we're everywhere you are, as well as where you want to be.



Our distinctive client experience sets us apart



US \$4.8bn
(2016 revenue)



47,000+
people



700+
offices



130+
countries

Data drives business decisions

Data drives business decisions. Any organisation that ignores this fact risks being left behind in a competitive marketplace. Businesses have large amounts of data at their fingertips, but there is also an enormous amount of data they are not leveraging because they cannot effectively access or use it. A well-considered analytics strategy provides invaluable insight into an organisation and can enable timely business decisions that will reflect market conditions well into the future, along with giving an organisation the power to optimise its operations for future growth and profitability.

Audit analytics

Our culture is built on a genuine interest in our clients – their challenges, growth ambitions and wider commercial context. You get the attention you deserve from approachable, senior professionals who ask the right questions, listen and provide real insight and a clear point of view. Auditors have traditionally used sampling techniques in their audit approach. The use of analytics now enables analysis of the full data set, reducing the likelihood of missing pertinent financial and business trends or risks.

Our audit analytics focusses on various business processes including:

- Journal entries
- Accounts payable
- Accounts receivable
- Inventory
- Fixed assets
- HR and payroll

Continuous control monitoring

Our continuous control monitoring analytics helps to automate aspects of the audit process that are repetitive, freeing up our clients' limited time to focus on higher value activities that require expert interpretation. With the use of automated and configurable analytic scripts, organisations can timeously identify ineffective controls. The use of interactive visualisations and real time dashboards further enhance the ability to communicate the insights generated.

Forensic analytics

Fraud is one of the greatest challenges facing both business and the public sector. Various methods exist for the identification of potential fraud, one of which is data analytics. At Grant Thornton, we use pattern analysis to identify suspicious transactions, narrowing the amount of manual analysis and investigative work that the forensic team needs to perform.

Municipal revenue assurance

The levying of municipal rates and taxes and service charges is dependent on the use of good quality data. Our revenue assurance analytics helps municipalities identify and plug revenue leakage caused by the poor quality of property valuation, ratepayer and service usage data.

Conflict of interest analytics

Whether a business or public sector leader, our clients want to ensure that the goods and services they procure deliver the best value for money. They also want to ensure that those making purchase decisions are choosing the best suppliers and not selecting suppliers based on the potential for personal gain. Our conflict of interest analytics enable businesses to identify potential conflicts between their employees and suppliers, allowing them to make informed decisions on which suppliers work best for them.

Business network visualiser

Entrepreneurs know that in B2B commerce, networks open doors. Our business network visualiser helps entrepreneurs identify other entrepreneurs and business leaders with mutual connections, simplifying the first step in building connections.

“Our philosophy is that data analytics must enable organisations to solve specific problems and help create opportunities.”

Tebogo Mokale
Director: IT advisory

Market attractiveness solution

Our market attractiveness solution helps our clients simplify the decision of which markets to enter, by providing them with a geographical view of potential market size as well as other socio-economic factors that affect business performance.

Cash conversion analytics

Cash is king and either a constraint to or a driver of business growth. Cash which is tied up in slow moving products or customers that do not pay timeously can impede growth or even lead to business failure.

Our cash conversion analytics helps our clients speed up the movement of cash through the business by helping them understand:

- Which products customers want
- What inputs they need to produce those products and in what quantities
- Which suppliers provide those inputs at the best value in terms of quality, price and payment terms
- Who are their best paying customers and what products do they buy

Forecasting

Businesses typically forecast future performance using historical accounting data. However, accounting data seldom possesses the level of detail required to perform robust forecasting. Our forecasting analytics makes use of information generated by the various business processes to forecast performance. Additionally, the forecasting process includes scenario testing that enables our clients to visualise the impact of low probability events on their business.

Business performance insights

It is not always easy to get a cross-silo view of a business. Decisions can be made that benefit one silo's objectives without taking into consideration how the entire system is impacted. This can lead to business decisions that appear optimised but are in fact sub-optimal for the organisation as a whole. Our business performance insights combine data from supply chain, operations, sales, and human resources to help identify the cross-functional drivers of business performance. Displayed in an intuitive and graphical manner, these insights assist our clients in making business-wide decisions with confidence.

Data profiling & cleansing

Leading organisations appreciate the power of data analytics in enabling business decision-making. They also know that poor data quality can hamper efforts to make an organisation more insight driven. Our data quality profiling solution enables organisations to receive a clear view of what data is key to their decision-making, the quality of that data, and what they can do to improve the quality thereof.

Data migration reviews

As a business grows, it may need to implement new IT systems that are more suitable for the size and operations of the business. Upgrades go hand-in-hand with data migration. Unsuccessful execution of data migration can reduce the effectiveness and benefits of a new system, so it is important that implementation teams pay special attention to this critical area. Our data migration reviews highlight where data issues will affect a migration, enabling the business to deal with the issues upfront and avoid costly fixes later.

Get in touch



Our end-to-end analytics services are designed to help enhance organisational capabilities and support forecasting and forward-looking financial growth and sustainability.

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