

# Alteryx for State, Regional, and Local Government Financial Organizations

Drive efficiency and accuracy for Audit, Tax, FP&A, Accounting, and Treasury



For decades, State, Regional and Local Government Financial Organizations such as Audit, Tax, Budgeting, Accounting, and Treasury have used digital desktop-based tools such as spreadsheets to manage their operations.

While technology has allowed these financial organizations to operate with greater efficiency, there's still one area in which truly modern technology has been glaringly absent — data preparation and analysis.

Despite strides towards efficiency, most financial organizations in government rely heavily on spreadsheets for data processing and management. While spreadsheets were transformative in the 1980s, they now create log jams in the volumes of data that organizations transact today. The result? Errors, crashed files, rework, and hours wasted. Even worse, these organizations continue to struggle to produce predictive forecasts that enable better planning and budgeting.

Financial departments that transform their departments and move away from solely using older solutions are at a distinct advantage. Instead of devoting hours to data preparation and formatting, the time can now be used to analyze, apply critical thinking, and make better decisions with insights gained. Improved accuracy in data analysis can provide more accurate forecasting and greater confidence in results reporting.

Alteryx empowers analysts, managers, directors, and all users of financial-related data to move beyond data formatting onto critical data analysis. When government-related financial operations harness the power of data analytics, they often see immediate results.

Let's take a closer look at how five key areas within government-related financial organizations can realize the benefits of efficient and effective data preparation, analysis, and forecasting.

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## WHY ALTERYX AUTOMATION?

Improve the efficiency, transparency, and accuracy of analysis across the organization

Delivers unified analytics, from prep and blend to advanced analytics, including geospatial, predictive, and machine learning

Empowers organizations to build a culture of data science and analytics across departments and skillsets

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## PLATFORM REQUIREMENTS

For a complete list of system requirements and supported data sources, visit [www.alteryx.com/platform](http://www.alteryx.com/platform)

"We had a lot of challenges — a lot of Excel reports, analytic silos...

**Alteryx was the perfect solution to better target our investigations!"**

State Auditor

## Audit

For internal or external audit departments, sample testing poses a challenge. How can audit teams designate sample populations to test to gain confidence in whole datasets? The risks of incorrect sampling are extremely high. If not established correctly, audit teams risk missing fraud or errors that could have tremendous implications on the whole organization.

With Alteryx, processing large volumes of data to run critical analysis can be done in a fraction of the time it would take for spreadsheet analysis. Auditors no longer have to pick small samples but can utilize the entire pool of data for their testing. This removes the guesswork and reduces the risk of incorrect sampling. Audit departments can move forward with confidence in the accuracy of the results they report out to the organization.

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One State Auditing Team used to read local business news to identify potential targets for audit. They now use Alteryx to identify anomalies and better target their investigations.

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## Tax and Revenue

Perhaps no area within government finance has been more resistant to giving up spreadsheets than traditional tax and revenue departments. Often, spreadsheets are used for all areas of tax analysis, from provision preparation to billing and collection enforcement. Most tax and revenue managers will confirm the limitations of spreadsheets. Tax and revenue analysts inherit cumbersome files from their predecessors with no context on how to analyze the numbers within. As new data comes into play, analysts worry about crashing their files and wasting hours spent preparing and formatting their data.

A particular source of pain for tax and revenue departments is the preparation of tax bills and forms, which involves pulling data from a variety of sources, including historical filings, real estate and property data, asset reports, and reporting schedules. Manually sourcing data and performing analysis can take weeks. Alteryx removes hours of pain and time from this process. After data is seamlessly blended from disparate sources, Alteryx can facilitate changes to files that can be made in seconds, not hours. Tax and revenue analysts no longer have to wait out a spinning wheel or contend with the anxiety of a file crashing while awaiting their file updates. They can easily document their workflows to remove the guesswork of analysis from their predecessors or successors. High-risk tax and revenue reporting areas such as the income, sales, and real estate tax can be reported out quickly and confidently, ensuring organizations understand their numbers and revenue forecasts.

Alteryx Empowers Tax Departments to Move Beyond Spreadsheets

READ HOW

"The time savings has been invaluable. The Tax Department staff are now able to free themselves of the repetitive tasks in Excel, obtain more accurate results, and spend time doing analysis and understanding the results of the data... We could never have done this data discovery project without using Alteryx."

City Tax Department Manager

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## Budgeting and Finance

Forecasting is perhaps the most critical function of any government finance organization. Understanding historical numbers and reporting out future projections helps drive all subsequent operations, planning, and budgeting. Reporting provides a benchmark for budgeting and helps organizations make critical decisions. Unfortunately, getting accurate financial data and efficiently assembling the information still poses a challenge for many budgeting and finance organizations. Pulling together information from disparate sources and performing real-time analysis on the numbers is not an easy feat with traditional spreadsheet analysis, and getting reliable predictive forecasting is a herculean task requiring specialized skills.

When Budgeting and Finance departments leverage Alteryx, they remove many of the obstacles preventing timely and accurate financial forecasting. Alteryx reduces the complications of bringing in data from differing sources and allows for easy analysis of results. Financial analysts can make decisions with greater confidence in the data, and changes to results can be made instantly instead of after the fact. When financial analysts forecast with confidence and ease, the task of budgeting becomes easier, more thoughtful, and effective.

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*A recent Aberdeen Report shows that Best-in-Class organizations are 49% more likely to have invested in analytics solutions to improve their performance than all other organizations.*

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Alteryx Transforms  
Budgeting and Finance  
Operations Reporting

WATCH HOW

"It is a paradigm shift; it is a true game changer in every sense of the word. It's not just a cliché, it's the real deal. This is going to completely overhaul how all our reporting is done."

State Treasurer

## Accounting

Closing the books is a critical function of every accounting department and has never been as simple as it sounds. What's often not accounted for in the rush to finalize numbers each month is the sheer amount of collaboration and coordination it takes. With a dizzying array of data sources and massive data files that need to be analyzed, accounting teams are stretched thin, trying to analyze all transactions and close the books with a hard deadline. Accounting departments face the unique challenge of cataloging all financial transactions, making sure everything is documented and accurately reported out — all in a timely manner that leaves little room for the high-level analysis needed to ensure accuracy in reporting.

When accounting departments lean on traditional spreadsheets for data repository and reporting, manual processes limit the amount of information they can store, create, extract data from, and analyze. Manually retrieving information is not efficient when trying to close the books quickly. When accounting departments leverage Alteryx, they empower their analysts to prep and blend all data sources and develop repeatable, reviewable workflows that can be leveraged each closing period. Closing the books goes from a monthly struggle to an automated task.

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A Midwestern State used Alteryx as a central component for their analytics platform which helped them identify nearly \$1 million in duplicate procurement payments across 27 agencies, boards, and commissions.

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## Treasury

Treasury departments are no stranger to data struggles. With revenue forecast fluctuations, program spending, procurement, and cash flow projections, treasury data is everywhere. Treasury departments need a way to quickly respond to the constant changes in information and ensure they're operating and making decisions on the best available information. Alteryx allows treasury departments to make quick updates to massive data files to ensure forecasts and fluctuations reflect the most up-to-date information. The Alteryx platform also makes it easy for data investigations. When bank statements and cash reconciliations don't line up as expected, the manual task of reviewing each line item to identify discrepancies is daunting, mistake-prone, and inefficient.

Government  
Organizations Close  
their Books Faster  
with Alteryx

READ HOW

With Alteryx, you can build workflows to automate the reconciliation process and easily highlight where data does not align. This process increases reliability and accuracy in reporting and saves treasury departments hours — time better devoted to more critical analysis.

## Government Finance is Complex, Analytics Doesn't Need to Be

While governmental finance is complex, gathering, prepping, blending, analyzing, forecasting, and auditing your data shouldn't be. When you leverage the Alteryx Analytic Process Automation (APA) Platform™, you put the power of advanced analytics directly into the hands of your analysts, managers, directors, and more. From there, they can improve the efficiency, transparency, and accuracy of analysis across the financial landscape for State, Regional, and Local Governments.

See how Alteryx can help you. *Visit the [Public Sector Solutions page](#)* for more resources and information.

For more information visit [www.alteryx.com](http://www.alteryx.com)

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### ABOUT ALTERYX

As a global leader in analytic process automation (APA™), Alteryx unifies analytics, data science and business process automation in one, end-to-end platform to accelerate digital transformation. Organizations of all sizes, all over the world, rely on the Alteryx Analytic Process Automation Platform to deliver high-impact business outcomes and the rapid upskilling of their modern workforce.

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