

Let's Talk Business

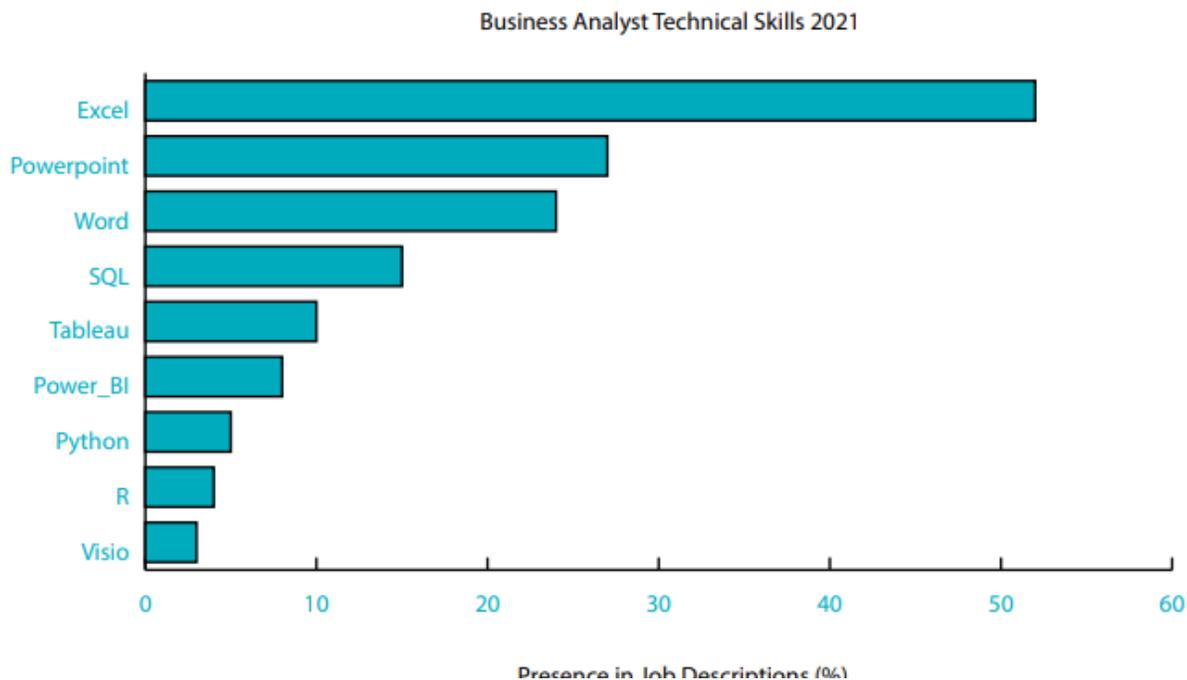
For Ted Rogers Students

These reports describe industry sectors and career paths of interest to TRSM students and Alumni. Each report leverages BCH employment data and the expertise of our staff. This collaborative effort engages staff, students, alumni and the University Business Librarian.

Interested in Becoming a Business Analyst?

Toronto area employers looking to hire students in Business Analyst roles listed Excel as the #1 technical skill...but do you know what else they're looking for?

We scraped data from 569 postings on the Business Career Hub job portal (during the period between September 2020 and August 31, 2021) and uncovered the top skills employers are seeking of TRSM students.



What Does a Business Analyst Do?

A business analyst is someone who aims to improve and optimize business processes through the analysis of data and application of information retrieved from CIO.¹ As a Business Analyst you will:



Gather Data



Analyze Findings



Optimize Business
Processes

Let's Talk Money!

The average salary for a Business Analyst in Canada is \$71,011 per year.² The largest organizations hiring Business Analysts are often the financial institutions like RBC, TD, CIBC, and so on. Want to learn more about how much you can look to get paid in this career? [Click here.](#)

Your BA Skills Checklist

Many business students aspire to become a junior business analyst when they graduate or while on co-op work term, and so it is important to understand how to best position yourself for the role.

Take note of BCH's programs and support services developed for you and the employer in mind.

Excel: Bootcamp 1-4

Tableau: Bootcamp 1-4

Power BI: Bootcamp 1-4

Python: Bootcamp 1-4

R: Bootcamp 1-4

Agile/Scrum Level 1



Business Analyst Career Path

One of the many reasons why people are interested in pursuing a career as a business analyst is due to its excellent career path. As a business analyst, there are many opportunities to progress in your career in different lines of business. While the traditional career path follows, junior analyst, senior analyst, architect, you could very quickly find yourself in a project management, SOC analyst, or process architect role, and those are just a few of the possibilities for a business analyst in today's world.³



Traditional Business Analyst Career Path

Meet An Alum!



NIRRUTHIK **SRIKANTHA**

**Business System
Analyst At RBC**



Meet Nirruthik, a Business System Analyst who currently holds a position at RBC Financial. His role is focused on analyzing and recommending changes to application systems to help deliver to the business needs. During his time at Toronto Metropolitan University, he majored in Business Technology Management, and participated in the ConnectIT conference in both 2015 and 2016. In the past, Nirruthik has held analyst positions at GS1 Canada, Canadian Tire, and Toronto Metropolitan University.

Here are three pieces of advice from Nirruthik for those who are interested in a Business Analyst or related role:

Decide if you want to pursue a BA (Business Analyst) or BSA (Business System Analyst) role.

Analyze job postings across various sectors and companies. Identify the skills and technologies that are most commonly desired.

Invest in a copy of the Business Analysis Book of Knowledge (BABOK)v.3. Get familiar with what Business Analysis is, what does a Business Analyst do, the BABOK knowledge areas and techniques used with the BA practice.

Business Analyst vs. Data Analyst

If you've been interested in pursuing a career as a business analyst, odds are that you've also seen the position "data analyst" being thrown around as well. While the two roles are similar, the main difference between the two is what they do with the data they collect. While a data analyst is primarily concerned with simply compressing the data to extract information, a business analyst takes it one step further and uses that information to make decisions to improve business processes⁴.

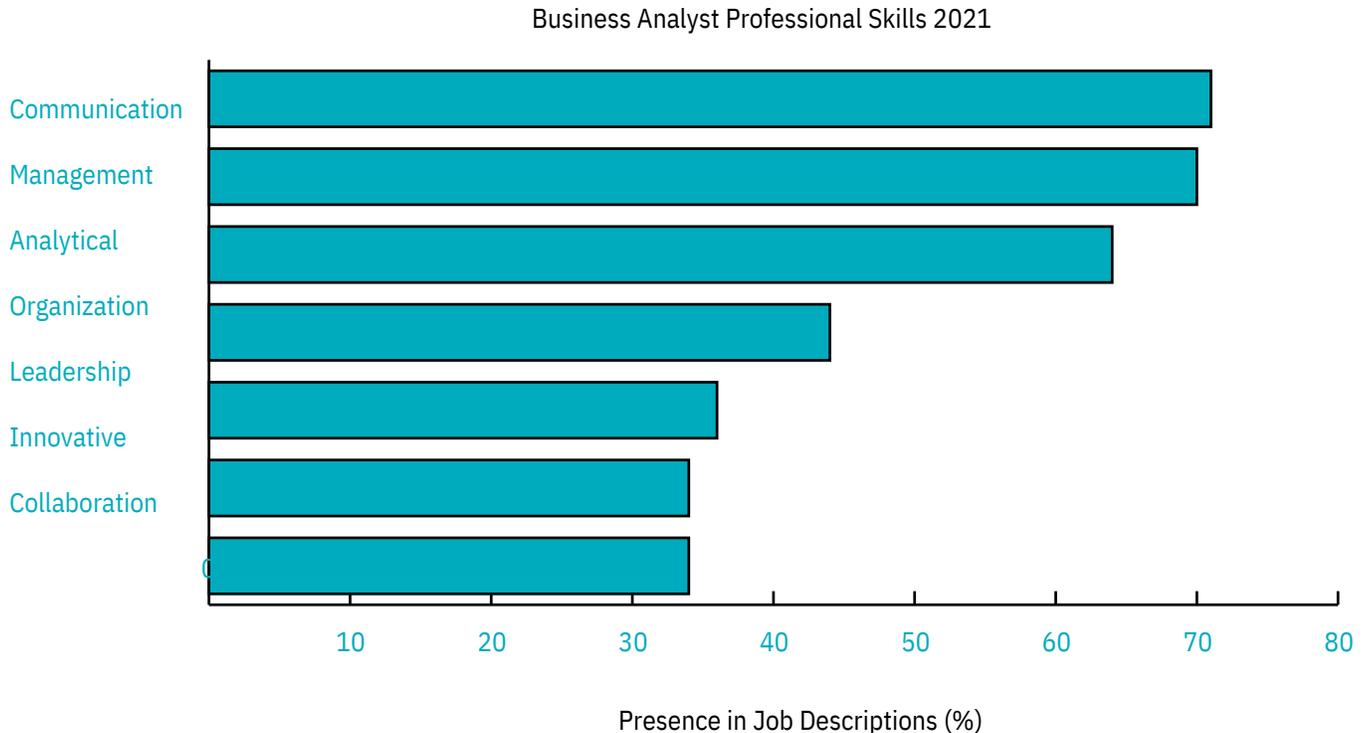
Here is an example of how a business analyst and data analyst would look at the same data with different perspectives - business analyst (left) vs. data analyst (right).



Just Technical Skills Aren't Enough to Succeed

While many of the skills required to succeed as a business analyst are technical, there are dozens of soft-skills that are just as pivotal to achieve success. As someone who has to collaborate with people working in various departments, and often finding themselves working in cross-functional teams, it's crucial to have strong teamwork and communication skills. Furthermore, being a business analyst means you have to help solve various problems that a business is experiencing, and that requires strong critical thinking and analytical skills.

Based on our research of business analyst jobs posted on our job portal, we've identified the top professional skills that employers want in a prospective employee, here's what the research shows:



Industry Certifications are Common

As mentioned prior, a business analyst must have a solid understanding of various programs, while also incorporating the use of those programs to bolster a company's performance. To make sure you're well prepared to effectively carry out all the tasks needed, and to make yourself stand out to potential employers, you might be interested in completing a certification.⁵

The International Institute of Business Analysis is a non-profit professional organization that provides various certifications for business analysts including, ECBA, CBAP, CCBA, and more.

Want to find out more regarding IIBA certification? [Click here](#) to go to their website.

Certification	Full Name	Level of Experience
ECBA	Entry Certificate in Business Analysis	Entry
CCBA	Certification of Capability in Business Analysis	2-3 Years of BA Experience
CBAP	Certified Business Analysis Professional	5+ Years of BA Experience

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IIBA

The International Institute of Business Analysis is a non-profit professional organization whose goal is to better prepare individuals who are interested in the field. Interested? Check out their [website](#).



LinkedIn Learning

Check LinkedIn learning, a platform which contains dozens of guides and videos designed to teach individuals all there is to know about various positions in industry, including business analysis. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Visit the Business Career Hub

Employer Events

The BCH hosts several employer events to prepare you for your professional career. Refer to your weekly BCH Careers Newsletter for a list of upcoming events.



Bootcamps/Prep Programs

Advance your technical and soft skills, earn digital badges, and gain an advantage in today's workforce through bootcamps. [Click here to register for current bootcamps](#).



Coaching & Mock Interview

For career coaching, interview prep and more, [schedule a 1:1 appointment](#) with a Career Consultant or a Co-op Coordinator.



Career Consultant Contributor Sarah Anderson

Sarah is a Career Consultant with 5+ years of experience in the human resource, recruitment, and career services industry. She is passionate about helping clients communicate their value using a strengths-based approach to land meaningful work.



Student Contributor Naimul Haque

Naimul is a 3rd year BTM Co-op student, working at the BCH as the Hub Insights Assistant. He is passionate about providing value through analytical and project management skills.

Data Sources

- 1 Pratt, M. & White, S. (2019, April) [What is a Business Analyst? A Key Role for Business-IT efficiency](#)
- 2 Payscale (2021, October) [Business Analyst Salary| How Much Does a Business Analyst Make?](#)
- 3 IIBA Business Analysis Career Path
- 4 Coursera (2021, April) [Data Analyst vs Business Analyst: What's the Difference?](#)
- 5 IIBA IIBA Certifications