



Finance - Know Thy Major Session

19 Sep 2025

Presented by Dr Karen Gan
Finance Academic Advisor
Senior Lecturer of Finance

Other Finance faculty members present:
Prof Hu Jianfeng, Prof John Sequeira

<https://business.smu.edu.sg/business/disciplines/finance/Major-Tracks>

Why major in finance?

1. You need to be trained in Financial knowledge/literacy

Eg. How will all the Financial markets be affected by the global events happening around the world?

Why major in finance?

- ❑ With the numerous global events happening every day, how will it affect security analyses?
- ❑ Think about the different types of Asset classes:
eg. Equities, Fixed Income, Derivatives, Real Estate, Currencies.
- ❑ When is it the RIGHT TIME to
 - **BUY**
 - **SELL**
 - **HOLD** Financial securities?

1. You need to be trained in
Financial knowledge/literacy!

3 core

Finance Major Curriculum

After taking FNCE101 you need to take 3 core electives

Financial Markets & Investments

Finance from the perspective of an investor

- Overview of Markets
- Portfolio theory
- Asset pricing models
- Smart beta investing
- Performance evaluation
- Futures and hedging

Corporate Finance

Finance from the perspective of a company

- Capital Structure
- Payout policy
- Raising capital
- Mergers and acquisitions

Corporate Reporting and Financial Analysis

Understanding financial statements (School of Accounting course)

3 core....+3 more finance electives for regular finance majors:

Elective List in AY 2025/2026

(not exhaustive)

- Analysis of Derivative Securities
- Analysis of Equity Securities
- Analysis of Fixed Income Securities
- International Finance
- Advanced Portfolio Management
- Wealth Management and Advisory
 - Financial Innovation, Blockchains and Decentralised Finance
 - Sustainable Finance
 - Real Estate Investments and Finance
 - Real Estate Valuation and Taxation
 - Real Estate Development
 - Analytics in Finance and Real Estate
 - Wealth Management and Law
 - Sustainable Financial Instruments
 - Sustainability Risk Management
 - Carbon Markets and Product
 - Sustainable and Impact Investing
- Investment Banking
- Corporate Banking
- Retail Banking
- Entrepreneurial Finance
- Project Financing
- Trade Finance

3 core + 5 more for finance major with tracks.

Fin Analytics

Compulsory

- Intro to Biz Analytics
- Computational Thinking and Programming
- Business Data Mgt
- Fin Innovation, Blockchains and Decentralised Finance

Choose 1 from:

- Analytics in Finance & Real Estate
- Analysis of Derivative Securities
- Analysis of Equity Securities
- Analysis of Fixed-Income Securities
- Intl Finance
- Adv Portfolio Mgt
- Analytics for Value Investing
- Digital Banking Enterprise Architecture
- Retail Banking and Mobile Technology
- Financial Markets Processes and Technology
- Corporate Banking Technology
- Financial Analytics

Real Estate

Compulsory

- Real Estate Economics
- Risk and Regulations in Real Estate
- Real Estate Investments & Finance

Choose 2 from:

- Analytics in Finance and Real Estate
- Project Financing
- Real Estate Valuation and Taxation
- Urban Economics and Policy
- Real Estate Development
- Infrastructure Economics and Policy

Wealth Mgt

Compulsory

- Wealth Mgt & Advisory
- Adv Portfolio Mgt

Choose 3 from:

- Wealth Mgt & the Law
- Sustainable Finance
- Intl Finance
- Analysis of Equity Securities
- Analysis of Fixed-Income Securities
- Analysis of Derivative Securities
- Real Estate Valuation & Taxation
- Entrepreneurial Finance
- Behavioral Finance

Note that not all electives will be offered every term or AY.

Please refer to SMU Finance Major website for more details.

<https://business.smu.edu.sg/business/disciplines/finance/Major-Tracks>

3 core + 5 more for finance major with tracks.

Intl Trading

Compulsory

- Analysis of Derivative Securities
- Law of Intl Trade
- Shipping Business
- Trade Finance

Choose 1 from:

- International Finance
- Adv Portfolio Mgt
- Corporate Banking
- Analysis of Fixed-Income Securities
- Sustainable Finance

Banking

Compulsory

- Retail Banking
- Corporate Banking
- Investment Banking

Choose 2 from:

- Wealth Mgt & Advisory
- Project Financing
- Structured Products Sales and Trading
- Analysis of Derivative Securities
- Fin Innovation, Blockchains and Decentralised Finance
- Entrepreneurial Finance
- Sustainable Finance
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Behavioral Finance

Sustainable

Finance (New) - only for Intake 2023 onwards

Compulsory

- Sustainable Finance
- Sustainability Accounting and Reporting
- Sustainability Management and Governance

Choose 2 from:

- Sustainable Finance Instruments
- Sustainability Risk Management
- Sectoral Decarbonisation Knowledge
- Carbon Markets and Products
- Sustainable and Impact Investing

Key things about tracks

- Tracks are optional
 - If you choose a track you take 3 core +5 more
 - If you choose a regular finance major, you take only 3 core +3 more.
- Track Benefits
 - You become more skilled and attractive to the job area within finance you wish to focus on.
 - More internships/partnerships/awards in some tracks.
- Track Misconception
 - A track person is NOT pigeonholing themselves.
 - A finance track person takes more electives: 3+5, not just 3+3; so a track person is actually more well-trained in finance than a regular finance major.

Finance as a second major - Requirements

- For LKCSB students: Same criteria: **3 core + 3 more** electives.
- Same for other schools' students, but in addition:
 - Must also take Finance 101 because it is a typical prerequisite for finance electives.
 - Must also take Financial Accounting because it is a prerequisite for the core elective course Corporate Reporting.

Importance of Finance as a second major - for non-BBM students

- **Benefits**
 - Being trained in Finance provides you with a wider range of exciting career choices.
 - Regardless of whether you are an Entrepreneur or employed by companies, all types of professions need financial expertise to generate value.
- **Examples:**
 - You could be helping your employer manage their capital or investing surplus funds
 - You could be a Business IT professional consultant working in a Bank
 - You could be an internal Lawyer working in a major Securities house
 - You could be an Accounting professional working in a fund management company
 - You could be the Auditor for a major Bank
 - You could be an Economist with a major Financial Institution

Importance of Finance as a second major - for non-BBM students

- **More** Benefits

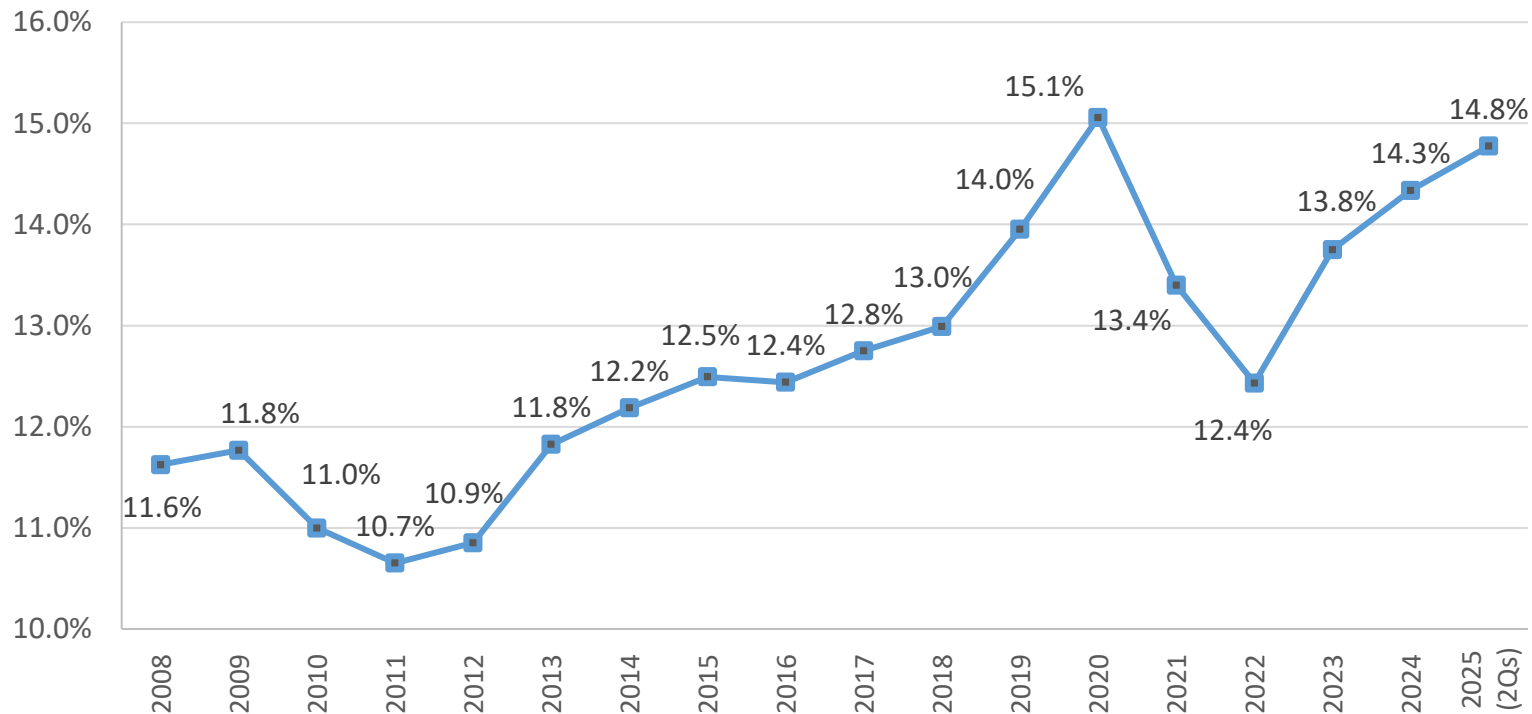
- Finance is more than numbers
- Finance equips you with problem-solving analytical skills and strategies
- Finance teaches you to appreciate how global markets are structured
 - To venture beyond domestic fields and apply to wider domains
- You will be able to apply these skills in your own professions.
- Given the ever-volatile markets, there is increasing need for competent professionals with finance skills in all organizations:
 - Small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs)
 - Large Multinational corporations (MNCs)
 - Government organizations
 - Non-profit organizations
- Your professional expertise, coupled with quantitative and qualitative finance knowledge will provide you with plenty of attractive career opportunities.

Why major in finance?

1. You need to be trained in financial knowledge/literacy
2. **Jobs, jobs, jobs**

Key sector in SG economy

% of GDP: FINANCE & INSURANCE

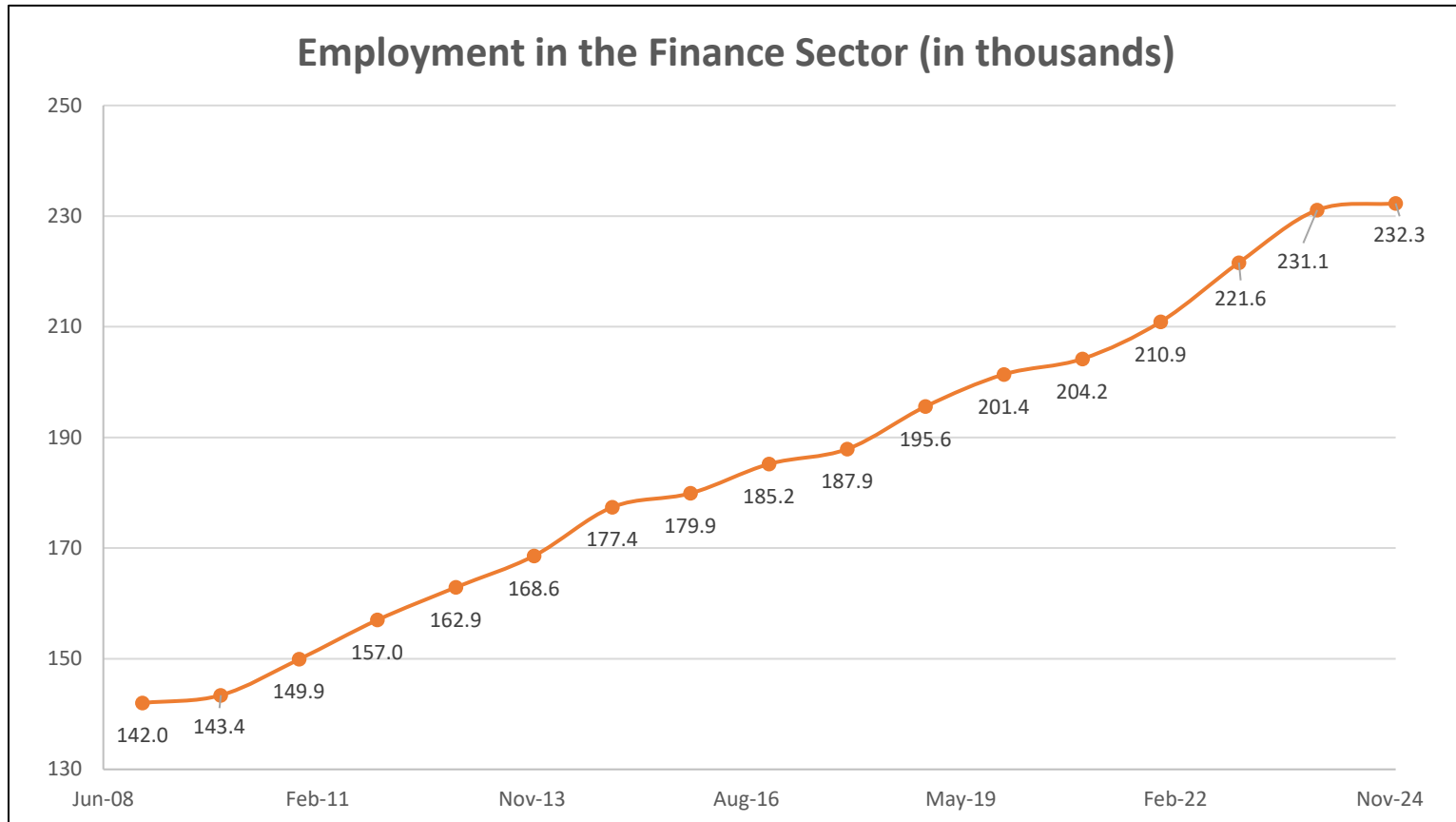


Source: Singstat, Tablebuilder,

<http://www.tablebuilder.singstat.gov.sg/publicfacing/mainMenu.action>

- The only business field that is considered a sector and not just a business function.
- Healthy contribution to SG's GDP.
- Contributions to GDP continued to rise to an outstanding record of 14.8% for the first half of 2025.

High Employment in Finance



Source: Singstat, Tablebuilder,

<http://www.tablebuilder.singstat.gov.sg/publicfacing/mainMenu.action>

- Above shows a strong trend in the employment level in the Finance sector.
- Employment numbers stayed above 200K for the last few years.

SMU Finance Major Website

<https://business.smu.edu.sg/business/disciplines/finance/Major-Tracks>

Lee Kong Chian School of Business

Home / Disciplines / Finance / Finance Major & Tracks

Finance Major & Tracks

» Overview

» Faculty

» Public Lecture

» Research Seminar

» Summer Camp

» Faculty Positions

» Finance Major & Tracks ▼

» Overview

» Finance Analytics

» Real Estate

» Wealth Management

» International Trading

» Banking

Finance



WHY STUDY FINANCE?

The finance sector is one of the key pillars of the Singapore economy, contributing about 14% to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023. Singapore is the region's leading financial hub and a hotspot for global financial organisations that seek to establish an Asian presence. The finance sector also accounts for more than half of the cumulative foreign direct investments (FDI) in Singapore up to 2022. The sector employs about 229,000 residents, which is a significant part of Singapore's professional workforce. Going forward, job opportunities in the sector will be expanded by the advances in Financial Technology (FinTech) and Asia's growth. In its latest estimates by MAS in Sep 2022, there will be a creation of up to 20,000 new Finance jobs in Singapore's financial sector in 5 years. According to the Ministry of Manpower, the financial and insurance services industry is the one with the highest median gross monthly income of \$8,190 in 2023, compared to the overall median of \$5,197. (<https://stats.mom.gov.sg/Pages/IncomeTimeSeries.aspx>)

OTHER RECENT NEWS ON FINANCE JOBS

- 9 Sept 2024: Banks lift Singapore's STI up 1.2%
- 8 Aug 2024: DBS Q2 profit tops forecasts, rising 6% to \$2.79 billion as wealth fees surge
- 1 Aug 2024: UOB Q2 profit up 1% to \$1.43 billion; bank sees falling interest rates benefiting Asia
- 5 May 2024: OCBC posts record Q1 profit, lifts margin guidance for 2024
- 16 January 2024: Blackstone to expand private equity headcount in Singapore in South-east Asia push
- 30 November 2023: Singapore banks make headway on programmable digital money trials