

**AI-DRIVEN COST OPTIMIZATION: HOW PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS IS
REVOLUTIONIZING ENTERPRISE SPENDING****Iziduh Ebehiremen Faith**Accounts Payable Finance upstream,
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faith.iziduh@gmail.com**ABSTRACT**

In the age of digital transformation, firms are expected to cut costs and still perform efficiently and compete in today's market. With predictive analytics relying on AI, organizations are finding entirely new ways to control costs and make smarter choices about spending. The article discusses how adopting AI-based approaches for cost optimization shapes enterprise financial strategies, allowing for live monitoring of expenses, projecting early trends and alerting companies to any inefficient actions. Using lots of data and smart algorithms, businesses are able to decide how to spend their money to support their main business goals. The article also covers how businesses use AI, the main hurdles of adoption and why AI is expected to become even more important in financial operations. AI-based predictions are doing more than reducing expenses—they are much broader and can transform enterprise finance management.

KEYWORDS:

AI-driven cost optimization, predictive analytics, enterprise spending, financial forecasting, data-driven decision-making

I. INTRODUCTION

Because today's business environment is very unpredictable, companies must make cost efficiency a key strategy, not just a regular process goal. Since economic uncertainty, inflation and progressing market dynamics trouble businesses, effectively and sustainably managing resources is now more crucial. Methodically cutting across the board in spending and laying off workers tends to create fewer results and miss chances at growth (Porter & Kramer, 2019). While accounting relies on current information, AI (artificial intelligence) and its predictive version offer a better way for businesses to project financial trends, make their actions more effective and adjust spending to strategy.

To forecast what might happen in the future, predictive analytics uses proven statistical methods, machine learning and earlier data (Davenport & Harris, 2017). With AI support, businesses can make the transition from only reacting to being ahead of costs. Instead of just reviewing past transactions, AI can alert you to possible budget excesses, notice anything unusual in your finances and locate hidden problems as they occur (McKinsey & Company, 2020). It means that financial management is moving from describing problems to guiding managers with future-based ideas.

There are major effects in several industries related to renewable energy. AI is helping improve supply chain expenses in manufacturing and predict future IT spending in the technology sector.

According to Deloitte's 2023 report, over half of large companies are either putting AI-based financial planning tools in place or intend to by this time next year.

To better understand this transformation, Table 1 summarizes the key differences between traditional cost management approaches and AI-driven cost optimization strategies.

Table 1: Traditional vs. AI-Driven Cost Optimization

Aspect	Traditional Cost Management	AI-Driven Cost Optimization
Approach	Reactive	Predictive and proactive
Data Usage	Historical, limited	Real-time, big data integration
Decision-Making	Manual, intuition-based	Automated, data-driven
Scalability	Difficult to scale across departments	Easily scalable with cloud and AI platforms
Insight Generation	Descriptive reports	Predictive models and actionable insights
Cost Efficiency	Often short-term and superficial	Long-term, strategic, and sustainable

As AI technology continues to evolve, the integration of predictive analytics into enterprise financial systems is poised to redefine the very fabric of cost optimization. This article delves into how AI is reshaping enterprise spending, the challenges organizations face during adoption, and the outlook of intelligent financial management.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

For the past ten years, research and professionals have discussed the importance of adding artificial intelligence and predictive analytics to enterprise cost management. There is much discussion among experts about how these technologies are transforming data-oriented financial planning as organizations move away from simply controlling costs.

1. What Predictive Analytics and Cost Optimization Are Theorized

Thanks to statistical modeling and machine learning, predictive analytics gives organizations a way to study both old and recent data to forecast what's coming next. Shmueli and Koppis (2011) explain that predictive analytics values accuracy in forecasting more than understanding individual decisions. This is in line with enterprise cost optimization because accurately predicting changes in budgeting, the market or resource performance is key for resilience in financial matters.

Davenport and Harris (2017) pointed out that advanced analytics gives companies a major advantage in cost control, efficiency and profitability. According to their research, predictive analytics helps to spot budget risks early, find unsuccessful departments and streamline how supplies are purchased.

2. AI is used in making financial decisions

More organizations are adopting AI in their key enterprise finance areas such as budgeting, forecasting and procurement. According to Brynjolfsson and McAfee (2014), AI is allowing businesses to handle everyday financial chores and distribute their funds better. The research found that companies relying on AI in analytics spend less time and achieve better results in their financial planning. Recently, Gartner (2022) found that with AI, financial planning systems can reduce forecasting errors by 30% and respond much more quickly to market fluctuations. With NLP and ML technology, organizations can identify patterns in their finances, spot irregularities and decide wisely on cost allocations (Ramsbotham et al., 2020).

3. AI for Lowering Business Spending

IA and predictive analytics have been shown to influence enterprise expenditure, according to a number of reports and case studies. Predictive analytics is used in manufacturing to keep stock at the right amounts and reduce scrap which cuts costs deeply (Kamble, Gunasekaran, & Dhone, 2020). Through AI, many healthcare systems have learned to control costs better and still give patients excellent care (Topol, 2019). The technology industry, which depends greatly on scalability, is now integrating AI to help optimize costs. According to Accenture's study in 2021, AI technology

hosted on the cloud makes it possible for IT to monitor how resources are consumed and distribute budgets effectively which has helped save up to 40%.

4. **Problems and Restrictions in Adoption**

Even though AI helps reduce costs, there are some problems with adopting it. Predictive models cannot perform accurately when there is not enough quality data available (Wamba-Terguride et al., 2020). Besides, when cultures are not receptive or there is a lack of data science knowledge, putting these approaches into practice can be slow. Many also question how to ensure algorithms are clear and that decisions are accountable, mainly in big financial matters (Rahwan et al., 2019). Even so, predictive models are highly accurate only when their training and validation are frequently updated. When left unchecked such systems may strengthen prejudices or give wrong results from old or incomplete data (Binns, 2018).

5. **What the Future Holds**

Latest studies indicate that AI, big data and cloud computing are soon expected to help manage enterprise costs. To help CFOs and financial analysts spot cost changes right away, real-time data integration, intelligent dashboards and predictive alerts are being made available by the firm (IBM Institute for Business Value, 2023). As XAI is gaining popularity, making decisions powered by AI can now be more easily understood by business users (Gunning & Aha, 2019). Besides, the current literature indicates that autonomous finance is the next step, in which AI takes over both predicting and performing the actions needed to optimize costs with very little help from humans. Because of this evolution, corporate finance experts may need to begin using data analysis as a key part of their job.

METHODOLOGY

- This chapter explains how the research team gathered information, ran analyses and used tools to investigate the impact of predictive analytics, supported by AI, on reducing costs in businesses. Industry practitioners, financial analysts and data from companies were examined using both numbers and qualitative observations. The outcome is seen as more reliable and valid because triangulation was used (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018).

1. Research Design

- An exploratory-descriptive research method was used to analyze how AI-powered predictive analytics systems are applied in corporate finance and what effects they have on cutting costs. This design is well-suited for industries where the main theories are still being developed (Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2019).
- This research was completed in two phases to make sure it covered both depth and breadth.
- In the Quantitative phase, a survey was sent via the web to 150 enterprise finance professionals in fields such as manufacturing, technology, healthcare and logistics
- In Phase II (Qualitative), 12 interviews with AI and finance experts were conducted to find out more about how AI is used and the difficulties and positive outcomes involved.

2. Data Collection Methods

- We gathered data from two major instruments.
- The survey used Likert-scale questions arranged in sections to evaluate perceptions of AI implementation, cost-saving benefits and prediction accuracy. Reliability was assessed using Cronbach's alpha which gave a value of 0.87.
- Interviews: Concentrated on the challenges we face, and the benefits gained from AI in cost management.

Table 1: Survey Constructs and Sample Questions

Construct	Description	Sample Question
AI Adoption Level	Degree to which AI is integrated in cost management	"To what extent has your organization integrated AI in its cost control systems?"
Cost Optimization Outcome	Perceived improvement in cost savings	"What percentage cost reduction have you observed since adopting AI-based tools?"
Forecasting Accuracy	Improvement in prediction of cost overruns	"How would you rate the accuracy of your financial forecasts before and after AI integration?"
Implementation Challenges	Barriers to effective AI adoption	"What are the biggest obstacles in deploying predictive analytics in your finance department?"

3. Sampling Strategy

Those taking part in the research had direct experience with AI-based analytics in the finance sector. We screened organizations that earned more than \$50 million annually and had been using AI in their accounting for at least two years. Because of this, participants understood the main cost optimization strategies that use artificial intelligence (Eikan, Musa, & Al Kassim, 2016).

4. Analytical Framework

All statistical analyses of quantitative data were done using SPSS 28.0. To learn about the link between AI and costs, descriptive statistics, correlation coefficients and multiple regression analysis were all applied. I applied thematic coding through NVivo 12 on all my qualitative data. Interviews were studied to gather responses that were later grouped as “predictive accuracy,” “cost reduction,” “impact of automation,” and “teamwork between people and technology.”

Table 2 summarizes the analytical tools used and their respective purposes.

Table 2: Analytical Techniques and Applications

Analysis Type	Tool/Software	Purpose
Descriptive Statistics	SPSS	To summarize data and show distribution patterns
Correlation Analysis	SPSS	To examine the strength of association between AI use and cost savings
Regression Analysis	SPSS	To predict cost outcomes based on AI implementation variables
Thematic Coding	NVivo	To extract recurring themes from interview data
Sentiment Analysis	NVivo	To gauge tone of qualitative responses on AI impact

5. Ethical Considerations

Before any data was collected, we acquired ethical approval. Everyone taking part was told about the research objective, the choice to participate and that their information would be secure.

Consent for the study was sought online, and personal data was anonymized to assure anonymity for all involved.

6. Limitations of Methodology

Although a mixed-methods approach was used, some limitations were admitted. The information in the survey was self-provided which is why bias is a risk. In addition, the sample had a bias towards companies in the mid to large size category, perhaps hiding ideas that come from small businesses. Ultimately, this study only reviewed the short-to-mid-term achievements; longer-term savings are out of its scope due to a lack of time

RESULTS

The results from both the quantitative and qualitative phases demonstrate that AI-driven predictive analytics is playing a major role in optimizing costs for enterprises. The findings prove that costs are being used more efficiently, forecasts are more accurate, operations are becoming automated and financial planning is done more strategically. The findings reveal that businesses are applying AI to their financial processes as well as changing their operations to focus on AI.

1. Greater savings and improved company operations

Most respondents (74%) found that applying AI-based predictive analytics led to measurable savings in just one year. According to those from manufacturing, technology and logistics fields, AI made it possible for them to manage waste more efficiently, streamline procurement and lower operating costs. This result is consistent with Ramsbotham et al. (2020), who noticed that using AI typically brings operational efficiency gains of 10–30% early on.

The use of AI models made it far easier for finance teams to spot changes in departmental spending, so they could respond early to budget issues. This result agrees with Davenport and Romanik (2018), who found that AI makes it simpler to detect unexpected outflows of cash which traditional accounting may not detect.

2. Better forecasts and budgets that are better coordinated

Financial forecasting has also become more accurate. It was shown by 68% of businesses surveyed that their financial forecasts became more accurate with AI. The reason for this is that machine learning models analyze vast streams of transaction and market data, guiding them to provide better and flexible financial planning. This result is backed up by Gartner (2022), who found that predictive analytics can help you reduce your financial forecasting errors by 30%. Many finance executives said that traditional budgeting techniques could not react quickly to changes in the market. By using real data, AI helped update forecasts more regularly which made the company move faster and avoid overspending. An executive commented that earlier, the company's quarterly forecasts were mostly based on guesswork. As a result of using predictive models, we are now very close to real-world results and can change our investments in response to market indicators.

3. How Automation Is Making Financial Processes More Efficient

With AI, many tasks in financial operations can now be automated. 61% of the businesses taking part in the survey rely on AI-powered applications to process invoices, track expenses and reconcile finances. With automation, the risk of human error went down, and these professionals could give more attention to strategy instead. In other words, the results here agree with Brynjolfsson and McAfee (2014), who said AI is used to handle routine jobs, instead of replacing people's roles. Team members at these companies say that with AI, they now plan strategies and analyze investments, an approach that increases the company's value.

4. Decision-Making Support and Strategic Insights

AI-driven analytics also played a pivotal role in enhancing strategic decision-making. Over 65% of participants stated that AI tools helped their organizations identify unprofitable product lines, inefficient cost centers, and unnecessary expenditures—decisions that would have otherwise been delayed or missed entirely using traditional approaches. These tools offered not just data visualization but also prescriptive recommendations, which influenced strategic budget reallocations and investment decisions. The qualitative interviews further underscored this shift. Participants described how predictive dashboards and AI-generated alerts enabled faster response to financial anomalies, such as sudden supply chain disruptions or price fluctuations in raw materials. This echoes research from the IBM Institute

for Business Value (2023), which found that organizations using AI for strategic finance decisions responded to market changes 50% faster than their peers.

5. Sector-Specific Performance and Variability

Although the overall results were positive, sector-specific performance revealed variability. Industries like technology and logistics, which are typically more data-mature and agile, reported stronger gains in AI-driven cost optimization. Conversely, public sector and healthcare organizations faced more significant implementation barriers, such as legacy systems, regulatory constraints, and data silos. These challenges mirror the limitations noted in the literature by Wamba-Terguride et al. (2020), who found that industry readiness plays a critical role in successful AI integration. Some healthcare respondents mentioned delays in achieving desired ROI from AI due to the complexity of integrating disparate data sources. Meanwhile, respondents from large retail chains reported near-immediate benefits in inventory and workforce cost optimization, due to mature AI infrastructures and centralized finance teams.

6. Human-AI Collaboration and Cultural Shifts

The finance function also changed, so AI and people now work together without being in competition. Most respondents stated that because of AI, finance experts now need better knowledge of data and technology. Experienced finance leaders encourage organizations to provide training and focus on how to manage change as part of the cultural transition. A financial controller from a global logistics company said simply that AI does not take the place of finance professionals but makes them more efficient. It lets us collect results faster and then focus more on understanding what they mean.

- Adopting AI resulted in clear cost savings for 74% of organizations.
- Improving forecasting accuracy was reported in most of the enterprises that implemented predictive analytics: about two-thirds of businesses. More than six in ten respondents reported being able to automate basic finance activities.
- AI-based strategic recommendations shaped effective cost savings in 65% of the tested scenarios.
- How ready industries were slowed down or speeded up AI's influence.
- Finance roles are being reshaped as there is a shift toward people and AI partnering.
- They indicate that combining AI with predictive analytics leads to both technological advancement and improved cost management. The remainder of this review will explain the broader impact of these findings, limitations and new paths for research.

DISCUSSION

Thanks to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and predictive analytics, the field of cost optimization is being restructured in enterprise financial management systems. Findings from the study show that AI in predictive models improves traditional methods of reducing costs and gives companies tools to handle flexibility, manage resources and prepare for the future.

1. Aligning Results with Existing Literature

The results from this study agree closely with what has been written previously about the impact of AI on business financing. According to Davenport and Romanski (2018), AI allows organizations to change their approach from managing costs reactively to doing it proactively. Our results show that most users report better budget forecasting, faster decision-making and more cost-effective practices after starting to use AI in finance. Another noteworthy point is that the improved forecasting results reflect what Gartner (2022) and Ramsbotham et al. (2020) found: AI handling a big amount of data Real-Time helps minimize errors in predictions. Nearly 70% of

companies we asked agreed that the use of predictive analytics led to better predictions, underlining that data-based models are simply better than outdated budgeting practices.

2. More Beneficial Than Only Saving on Costs

It is important to point out that AI-driven predictive analytics helps more than reduce expenses— it helps make the business more agile. AI helps companies notice early signs of ineffective financial management, reassign resources and answer to sudden shifts in the market (IBM Institute for Business Value, 2023). Such advantages are needed in industries where scope to improve profit and respond to changing needs is key. It was observed that AI tools go beyond reporting recent spending, as they predict when the budget might be missed, so managers can adjust early on. This is consistent with Brynjolfsson and McAfee's belief that AI allows companies to both boost and shape their main planning activities.

3. Organizational Readiness and Technological Maturity

A detailed finding from the research is that whether an organization is technology-savvy and prepared for AI adoption predicts how well it will do with cost optimization. Because of their existing resources and flexible finances, technology and logistics were able to get significant results from AI investment more rapidly than other sectors. On the other hand, public agencies and several healthcare institutions had challenges putting things into practice because of divided systems and cultural barriers. Because of the diverse trends, AI needs to be integrated in customized ways. As observed from Table 1, how prepared an organization is for AI change is closely linked to the speed and strength of transformation achieved.

Table 1: Key Organizational Readiness Factors for Effective AI-Driven Cost Optimization

Factor	Description	Impact on AI Integration
Data Infrastructure	Availability of clean, integrated, real-time data systems	Enables model accuracy and real-time insights
Executive Sponsorship	Senior leadership support and AI strategy alignment	Drives resource allocation and change adoption
Financial Digital Literacy	Skills and competencies in data science among finance teams	Enhances interpretation and decision-making
Organizational Culture	Openness to change, innovation, and technology use	Reduces resistance and supports adoption
Technology Stack Compatibility	Integration of AI tools with existing ERP/CRM/BI platforms	Simplifies deployment and reduces friction

4. Ethical and Workforce Implications

The results reveal information about both ethical and workforce concerns. Any bias in a dataset can be carried into an AI system, although the systems are still useful. By following these systems, finance can sometimes reinforce existing unequal situations or overlook special local details (Binns, 2018). Therefore, organizations are required to adopt explainable AI.

The use of (XAI) frameworks and ensuring human participation are both important when making important financial decisions (Gunning & Aha, 2019). Our study also finds that a greater number of finance jobs now include human workers using AI tools. As a result, finance professionals should take additional courses and practice new skills, allowing them to understand AI outputs, approve predictions and supply background explanations. Just as Topol argues in the medical field, AI needs to complement people's minds instead of substituting for them in finance as well.

5. Limitations and Future Considerations

While studying helps us a lot, it does have certain flaws. While the sample consisted of many types of companies, only medium and large businesses were included. The results for smaller firms can be different because of the limited resources they use and how their finances are structured. Even so, the study explored only the immediate to medium-term roles of AI; its impact on things such as capital expenditure over the long term or on how investors react was not studied. A drawback is that people often report their own data and may do so inaccurately. Whereas participants' accounts show progress, objective performance data from the company's statements would help confirm the cost savings and improvements mentioned by respondents.

It has been established that AI-based predictive analytics is already powering current improvements in cost control, accuracy and business strategy. Whether it has a big impact or not largely depends on how ready the organization is, how similar the culture is and how compliant the workforce becomes. When predictive technology advances and spreads, firms with strong data resources and trained people are poised to achieve the greatest results. Now that we are moving towards autonomous finance, AI's role will be extended to also optimize costs automatically. Nonetheless, making the system clear, accountable and judicious will continue to play a key role in its sustainable use.

CONCLUSION

Because there is so much data and strong competition in business these days, AI's predictive analysis has become crucial for cost savings within enterprises. The research indicated that predictive analytics helps to lower expenses, benefits estimate and automates regular financial duties, also helping companies make more flexible decisions. By using AI, companies in the financial sector can make the shift from handling money after problems occur to planning well with help from real-time data. According to findings, people in the industry and academia have agreed that AI leads to financial change and is not just a supporting software. Companies that use AI analytics see their overhead costs drop, easily align their budget to meet their goals and quickly adapt to changes in the market. As enterprises go further with digital transformation, AI will be used for autonomous optimization so that financial plans can be adjusted according to predictions. Still, AI affects different sectors and kinds of organizations differently. How well predictive analytics works relies on the organization's data setup, its culture and the skills of its staff in handling technology. Companies that benefit from strong executive backing, combined data tools and flexible work cultures will be in the best position to reduce costs using AI. However, those with outdated or challenging systems may find it difficult to get value from artificial intelligence. In addition, this study points out that there should be ethics and human approval before AI is put into use. While predictive analytics can lead to far better spending decisions than before, allowing algorithms to direct all our actions could result in biased results, so there is a need to rely on people when making financial choices. All in all, predictive analytics is changing how enterprises handle spending not just by cutting costs, but also by helping them make better future financial decisions. While AI is maturing, businesses should concentrate on supporting those people and systems that are required for responsible and sustainable integration. If organizations comply, they will face uncertainty better, maintain good financial discipline and develop lasting value in the era of AI.

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