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finance career score of 9.65 out of 10.

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By Erin Bendig, Kiplinger Consumer News Service (TNS)

Thinking of pursuing a career in finance? Although it's a lucrative career path, the field is highly competitive. In a recent study, Tipalti found which states were the best to pursue a career in finance or accounting by analyzing the number of jobs available, average salaries, and university rankings. They also determined the best-paying jobs for finance graduates.

Here's which states ranked best for a career in finance or accounting.

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2. Minnesota

- **Total Number of Accounting Jobs Available:** 2997
- **Total Number of Finance Jobs Available:** 2,130
- **Accounting and Finance Average Salary:** \$107,000
- **Average World University Rankings Accounting and Finance Score:** 62.80
- **Finance Career Score /10:** 8.80

3. Illinois

- **Total Number of Accounting Jobs Available:** 6,719
- **Total Number of Finance Jobs Available:** 5,240
- **Accounting and Finance Average Salary:** \$114,000
- **Average World University Rankings Accounting and Finance Score:** 35.70
- **Finance Career Score /10:** 8.76

4. New Jersey

- **Total Number of Accounting Jobs Available:** 4,472
- **Total Number of Finance Jobs Available:** 3,361
- **Accounting and Finance Average Salary:** \$113,000
- **Average World University Rankings Accounting and Finance Score:** n/a
- **Finance Career Score /10:** 8.30

5. Maryland

- **Total Number of Accounting Jobs Available:** 2,997

- **Total Number of Finance Jobs Available: 2,206**

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- **Accounting and Finance Average Salary: \$106,000**
- **Average World University Rankings Accounting and Finance Score: 71.87**
- **Finance Career Score /10: 8.10**

7. Virginia

- **Total Number of Accounting Jobs Available: 4,555**
- **Total Number of Finance Jobs Available: 3,185**
- **Accounting and Finance Average Salary: \$104,000**
- **Average World University Rankings Accounting and Finance Score: 33.02**
- **Finance Career Score /10: 7.48**

8. Florida

- **Total Number of Accounting Jobs Available: 10,265**
- **Total Number of Finance Jobs Available: 6,468**
- **Accounting and Finance Average Salary: \$115,000**
- **Average World University Rankings Accounting and Finance Score: 34.74**
- **Finance Career Score /10: 7.14**

9. Georgia

- **Total Number of Accounting Jobs Available: 4,963**
- **Total Number of Finance Jobs Available: 3,040**
- **Accounting and Finance Average Salary: \$113,000**
- **Average World University Rankings Accounting and Finance Score: 35.99**
- **Finance Career Score /10: 6.94**

10. Connecticut

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accounting and finance salary of any state: \$117,000 a year. New York University earned the state the highest score for its performance in the accounting and finance discipline.

Tipalti also found the U.S. regions with the top graduate salaries, as well as the best-paid jobs for finance graduates.

Rocky Mountain/Far West Region

- Accounting Graduate Salary: \$61,920
- Finance Graduate Salary: \$64,777

New England Region

- Accounting Graduate Salary: \$61,500
- Finance Graduate Salary: \$64,050

Mideast Region

- Accounting Graduate Salary: \$60,183
- Finance Graduate Salary: \$63,100

Overall, the highest paying job for finance jobs is a controller. On average, the annual salary for a controller is \$104,972, outearning both tax preparers (\$90,918) and senior accountants (\$78,704).

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