Introduction

Government officials are tasked with deriving critical decisions from lakes of data. To capture insights on perceptions of advanced data analytics, Government Business Council polled a random sample of 140 federal, state, and local government employees, consisting of 79% federal and defense employees and 21% state and local government workers.

Findings

Less than 4 in 10 respondents are very or extremely confident in using data analytics in their work.

30% of respondents are either slightly or not at all confident in applying data analytics to their work.

Did you know?
Data analytics helped the US Department of Health and Human Services uncover $1 billion in fraud in 2016.¹

Alteryx’s Perspective

Establishing a data-centric workforce is no longer optional. As GBC’s survey results show, government workers are not always confident in applying analytics to their work, whether it be from knowledge gaps, outdated tools, or inaccessible data. As new cloud and Big Data applications join legacy technology, data from all sources must be analyzed. Meeting this challenge head-on requires self service analytics to build agile, trusted data sets that are infused with actionable geospatial, predictive, and machine-learning intelligence.

Alteryx enables public sector professionals to:
- Apply in-database performance and code-free workflows
- Use the latest geospatial analysis and location optimization applications
- Blend data sources, cleanse, enrich, and restructure data for sophisticated data analysis

¹Percentage of respondents, n=138
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

How confident are you in your ability to apply data analytics to your line of work?
Accessing accurate data is identified as the top advanced analytics challenge, according to survey respondents.

**Of the following options, what do you see as the top challenge to applying advanced analytics in your line of work?**

- Accessing accurate data: 32%
- Lack of statistical knowledge: 23%
- Outdated of inefficient data analysis tools (e.g., spreadsheets): 18%
- Manually preparing data: 14%
- Organizational reluctance to trust conclusions from analytics: 13%

Percentage of respondents, n=133
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**Government agencies can utilize assisted predictive analytics to grow their analytics capabilities.**

**Of the following analytic capabilities, which would be most useful to your agency?**

- Assisted Predictive Analytics: 48%
- Text Mining / Text Analytics: 29%
- GeoSpatial Analytics: 23%

Percentage of respondents, n=124
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**Methodology**
GBC deployed a 3-question poll on advanced data analytics to a random sample of 140 government employees. The poll was fielded in January 2021.

**Sources**

**About Government Business Council**
As Government Executive Media Group’s research division, Government Business Council (GBC) is dedicated to advancing the business of government through analysis, insight, and analytical independence. An extension of Government Executive's 50 years of exemplary editorial standards and commitment to the highest ethical values, GBC studies influential decision makers from across government to produce intelligence-based research and analysis.

**About Alteryx, Inc.**
As a 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. For more information visit www.alteryx.com.