



Advanced Financial Benchmarking and Peer Ratio Analysis Training Course

14 – 18 March 2027
Johannesburg

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Ref: 1121_182777 **Date:** 14 – 18 March 2027 **Location:** Johannesburg **Fees:** 4500 Euro

Overview

Advanced Financial Benchmarking and Peer Ratio Analysis Training Course is a one-week course for finance managers, FP&A analysts and controllers, who leave with an Advanced Peer Benchmarking Report. Participants apply peer group design, financial data normalization, industry ratio comparison, quartile performance analysis and ratio driver diagnostics to make cross-organization conclusions defensible. The course addresses inconsistent peers, accounting treatments and reporting periods through documented benchmark governance. Agile Leaders Training Center develops advanced financial benchmarking and peer ratio analysis.

Who Should Attend

- Teams responsible for cross-company financial performance comparisons
- Teams responsible for selecting peer organizations and benchmark criteria
- Teams responsible for normalizing financial data and ratio definitions
- Teams responsible for diagnosing performance gaps and their drivers
- Teams responsible for presenting benchmark conclusions to management
- Teams responsible for governing benchmark evidence and limitations

The course assumes participants calculate and interpret financial ratios at work, and it leaves out introductory accounting, budgeting, security valuation and investment recommendations.

Departments and Industries

The course supports departments and industries that compare financial performance across organizations, business units or market peers.



- FP&A, controllership and corporate finance
- Strategy, performance management and investor relations
- Banking, insurance and professional services
- Manufacturing, retail and logistics
- Technology, telecommunications and utilities
- Healthcare, education and nonprofit operations

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Apply benchmark governance to define purpose and comparison boundaries
- Evaluate peer candidates using economic and reporting criteria
- Build normalized data and ratio dictionaries with traceable lineage
- Analyze peer distributions, quartiles, trends and industry ratios
- Diagnose ratio gaps through driver decomposition and exception review
- Evaluate evidence, limitations and conclusions in a benchmark report



Course Agenda

Day 1: Benchmark Purpose and Peer Governance

- Benchmark Purpose and Decision-Use Statement
- Peer Universe and Inclusion Criteria Matrix
- Business Model and Economic Similarity Screen
- Financial Statement Availability and Overlap Check
- Peer Set Governance and Approval Record

Day 2: Data Comparability and Normalization

- Reporting Period Alignment and Currency Basis Log
- Accounting Policy Difference Register
- Common-Size Statement Conversion Method
- Normalized Financial Data Adjustment Schedule
- Ratio Definition and Data Lineage Dictionary



Day 3: Ratio and Distribution Analysis

- Liquidity, Activity, Solvency and Profitability Ratio Grid
- Industry-Specific Measure Selection Framework
- Peer Median, Quartile and Range Comparison Table
- Cross-Sectional and Time-Series Analysis Map
- Outlier Identification and Exception Investigation Log

Day 4: Drivers and Benchmark Conclusions

- DuPont Return Driver Decomposition Tree
- Margin, Turnover and Leverage Gap Bridge
- Trend and Variance Interpretation Matrix
- Benchmark Limitation and Bias Register
- Evidence-to-Conclusion Governance Checklist

Day 5: Peer Benchmarking Practice

- Exercise: Screen and Approve a Peer Set
- Exercise: Normalize a Cross-Company Data Pack
- Exercise: Build a Quartile Ratio Dashboard
- Exercise: Diagnose a Performance Gap
- Capstone Exercise: Advanced Peer Benchmarking Report

Practical Exercises

The course uses suggested activities to connect benchmark methods with finance decisions.

- Suggested activity: compare peer candidates from manufacturing and services using economic and reporting criteria
- Suggested activity: normalize reporting periods and accounting treatments before calculating a ratio distribution
- Suggested activity: decompose a return gap into margin, turnover and leverage drivers
- Suggested activity: defend a benchmark conclusion using evidence, caveats and an approval trail

FAQs

Who suits advanced financial benchmarking training, and what does it assume?

Finance managers, FP&A analysts, controllers and performance specialists suit the training. It assumes working knowledge of financial statements and ratio calculation.

How does financial benchmarking training differ from general financial analysis training?

Financial benchmarking training centers on peer selection, data comparability, normalized ratios, distributions and cross-organization conclusions; general financial analysis training covers broader statement interpretation, forecasting and decision support.

How should a peer group be selected for financial benchmarking?

A peer group should be selected through stated criteria covering business economics, scale, operating model, reporting policies, period alignment, data availability and the decision purpose of the comparison.

Why is financial data normalization necessary before peer ratio analysis?

Financial data normalization reduces distortions caused by different reporting periods, accounting classifications, one-time items, scale and ratio definitions, making comparisons easier to interpret and reproduce.



What makes an industry ratio benchmark conclusion defensible?

A defensible industry ratio benchmark conclusion links a governed peer set and traceable data to stated calculations, distributions, drivers, exceptions, limitations and the decision question.

Conclusion

Participants take back an Advanced Peer Benchmarking Report containing peer criteria, normalization schedules, ratio distributions, driver bridges, exceptions, limitations and governed conclusions. The report makes cross-company comparisons easier to challenge, update and reproduce. It supports management decisions with traceable evidence instead of isolated ratio rankings.