

# **INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH FORECASTING IN EXCEL**



*Financial Modelling*

*Reporting & Analysis*

*Protected by  
XLSafe Pro*

*Business Forecasting*

*Custom Data Hotlinks*

# **FD4Cast**

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IN ENGLAND AND WALES

**ACCREDITED SOFTWARE**

## ABOUT

### - Background -

*FD4Cast is a corporate financial modelling software solution that enables financial planning professionals to forecast their business as well as monitor their financial history and cash flow dimensions within the familiar environment of Microsoft Office Excel. In summary, FD4Cast allows for 'Industrial strength forecasting in Excel'.*

*The solution originates from a view that the development of sophisticated financial models in Excel is not only time consuming - even to the most skilled of Excel users - but that self-made models are also extremely vulnerable to errors and corruption, with limited means of validating their integrity.*

*Based on a formal definition language and methodology, FD4Cast packages an operational toolset and configurable model template with a robust underlying financial modelling structure. With the flexibility and tools in place, the user is ready to construct business-specific financial forecasting models and have confidence in their integrity.*

*FD4Cast has been designed to operate within MS Excel (2007 and 2010), and is boosted with enhanced security by XLSafe Pro. The package forms an industry-relevant solution that is both accessible and secure.*

*Aimed at accountants, small businesses, senior accounting managers, financial forecasting analysts and auditors, FD4Cast exists for both individual and corporate use.*



### - The Company -

*FD4Cast Ltd. is a UK registered company that formed in 2009 by James Power and Mark Turnham to develop, deliver and support the FD4Cast software system. Between them, they bring forth an invaluable blend of experience within business forecasting, corporate financial modelling and sophisticated development within Microsoft Excel to facilitate such activity.*

*With extensive knowledge of Excel-based predecessor software to FD4Cast and hands-on experience with corporate requirements for financial modelling solutions, James Power has driven FD4Cast Ltd towards a solution that is as much a service as it is a product.*

*The company is quickly growing a rich repertoire of experience providing for contrasting product customisations. It reflects the company ethos of attending to each customer as a client, with a dedicated service of support. FD4Cast Ltd also provides for consultancy and training services.*

## ICAEW ACCREDITATION

*FD4Cast is the only existing ICAEW-accredited financial modelling and forecasting software in the market.*



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*It has been rigorously tested and verified for usability and industrial relevance, such that financial models can be built with confidence in MS Excel using FD4Cast.*

## FEATURES AND BENEFITS

### FD4Cast in Excel: Familiar Territory, a Finer Approach

*While financial modelling software are often found as standalone applications, FD4Cast recognises the practical inconvenience this can bring where business financial modelling relies heavily on transferring and manipulating data. The limitations of flexibility can often unjustify the cost of the software, with the added costs incurred in learning how to use new software.*

*As a result, MS Excel is readily seen as an attractive alternative to carry out financial modelling and business accounting tasks, particularly for its cost effective accessibility as part of the commonly acquired Microsoft Office packages. However, the trade-off is the lack of automation and the significant amount of invested time and expertise required to create Excel-based business forecasting systems from scratch.*

*FD4Cast offers a sophisticated compromise solution by providing a ready-to-use system for financial modelling within the widely-familiar surroundings of Excel. While it does maintain the cost effectiveness of utilizing Excel by exploiting its universal accessibility and compatibility, the key to FD4Cast is in its automation integrity.*

*The software acts as a plug-in to MS Excel, with its own toolbar ribbon embedded into the main Excel ribbon like all the other Excel menus.*

*With a toolset of functions and a blank ready-made template to create as many custom financial models necessary, FD4Cast provides an intuitive and more productive approach to business forecasting in Excel.*



### **“No Hassle, No Worries” Financial Modelling**

*Creating financial models manually - particularly within Excel, which holds the capabilities but demands the expertise – can be a fragile and tedious task. Financial models developed in general through standard means in Excel are too easily vulnerable to error during their creation and corruption during data manipulation.*

*In FD4Cast, financial models can be created to include as many or as few forecasting elements. These can range from sales forecasts, operating expense budget, working capital modelling, capital expenditure and depreciation analysis; through to loans, leases, trade debtor financing, and more. They are all summarised in traditional cash flow analysis, profit and loss and balance sheet format. In addition, users have the ability to conduct interactive forecasting and decision-making sessions such as real-time scenario planning and variance analysis, which can be conceptualised in both graphical and tabular format.*

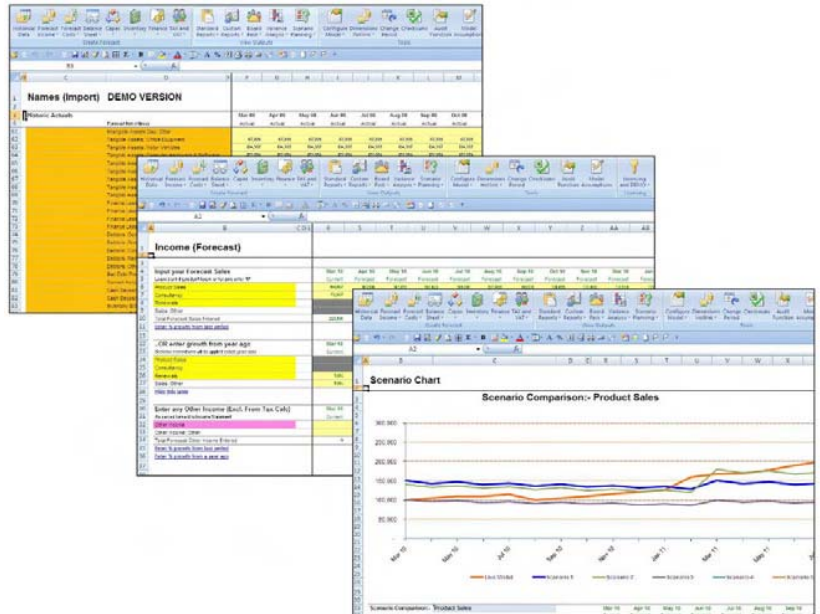
*The range of options available through the FD4Cast interface, along with the underlying robust modelling methodology implemented into the FD4Cast system, simplifies financial modelling activities without the need to be concerned about model integrity.*

## Business Monitoring & Forecasting

*The fundamental purpose of FD4Cast is to provide a robust financial modelling platform for business forecasting.*

*With the system configured to model around business-specific financial data, the user is able to maintain finances and analyse business history and trends at any given time.*

*The system thereby allows the user to conduct credible and informed business scenario planning, and create different models based on different financial dimensions of the business. As such, the user has a variety of choices available in how they wish to approach their data when building forecasts, or if they simply wish to monitor their business dimensions.*

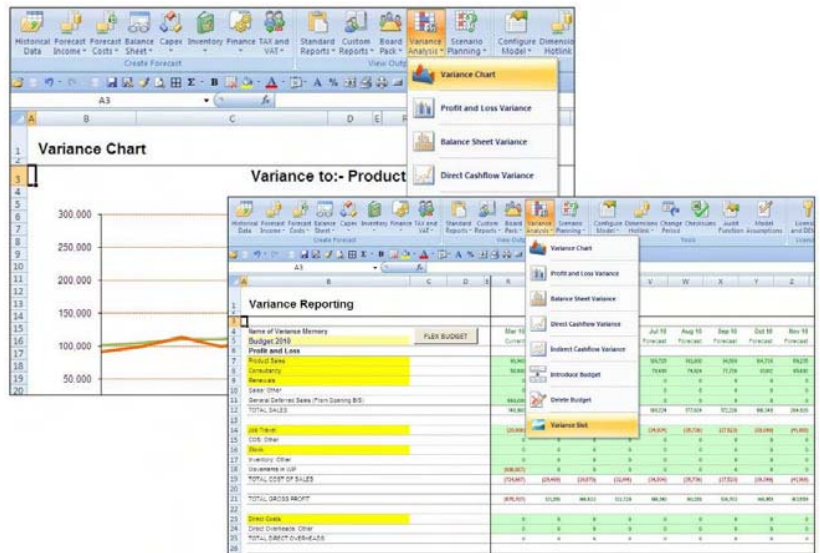


## FD4Cast as an Operational Toolkit

*FD4Cast is not only a financial modelling system, but has a whole array of functional features to be used as an operational business accounting toolkit.*

*After the initial setup with historical financial data of the business and the business balance sheet, it can be built upon as a working record of business finances, which in turn contribute to any business forecasting.*

*The user is provided with a wholesome set of tools required to budget their business, monitor their cash flow, and add or remove any business modules factoring in the business income and expenditure, and more.*



# FD4Cast



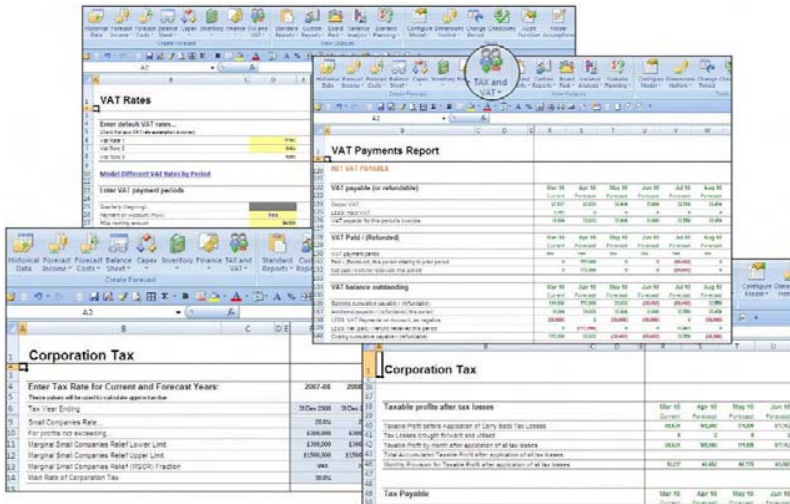
Industrial strength forecasting in Excel

## Automated Tax & VAT Calculations

*Tax and VAT calculations play a pivotal role in both cash flow monitoring and forecasting, and FD4Cast deliver it as an individual tool as well as integrating the calculations into the modelling structure.*

*As a standalone function, users can give pronounced attention to rates, Tax and VAT figures individually, and analysis of their current state and effect on the business.*

*This is particularly useful to start-ups and small businesses, such as to manage the supply and acquisition of taxable items, amongst other relevant activities.*



## Financial Reporting & Analysis

*FD4Cast incorporates a rich set of analysis tools that output reports, graphs and tabular collations of data to enable the user to quickly objectify financial models and historic data conceptually.*

*With a choice of three types of reporting – standard reports, custom reports and the Board Pack - the user is able to choose appropriately the depth of detail and format required in any particular analysis output.*

*Users can analyse financial models in real-time by observing outputs as their parameters are changed.*





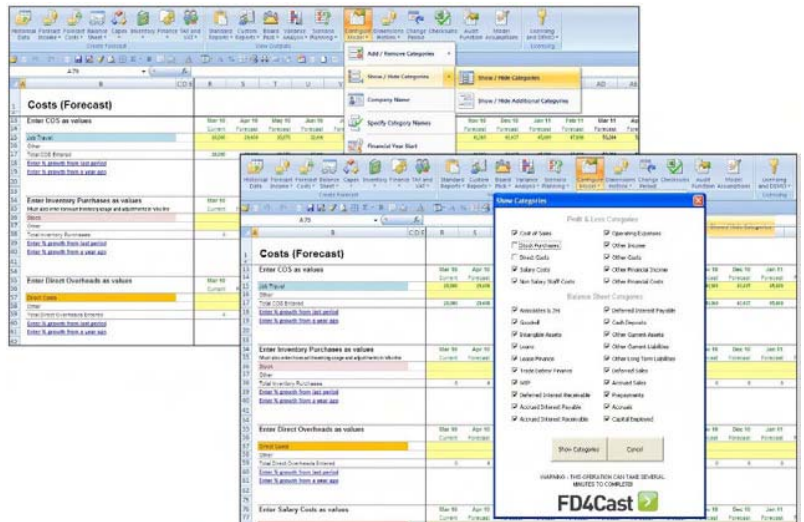
## Personalised Configuration to Business Needs

*An inherent feature throughout FD4Cast is the personalised environment to reflect specific business needs.*

*A number of customisation options exist that can either set FD4Cast to be in a common state through all activities, or change to individual models.*

*The 'Configure Model' menu on the FD4Cast ribbon offers a number of custom model settings, such as hiding select elements of a model from the screen.*

*Customising your FD4Cast models can greatly reduce Excel clutter and allow for fluid activity within Excel.*

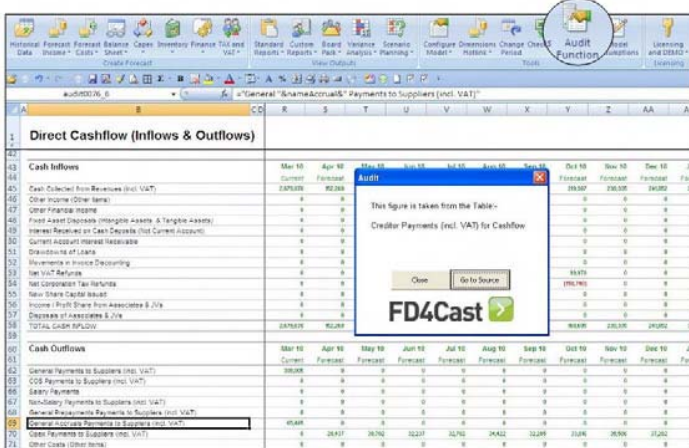


## Self-Auditing Facility: Trace Your Figures

*With a significant amount of financial data and model elements accommodated by FD4Cast, the Audit Function eases the tedium of searching for the source of a financial figure.*

*The simple but quick and effective tool allows the user to jump between connecting worksheets within the FD4Cast system, or simply just to verify the worksheet the figure has originated from.*

*With such a facility, users can effectively check through their figures and analyse aspects of their business at any given time, and in a very accessible manner.*



# FD4Cast



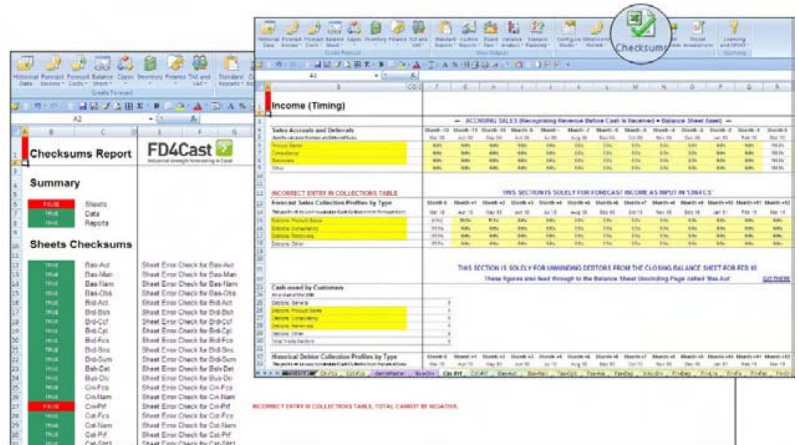
Industrial strength forecasting in Excel

## Data and Calculation Integrity

A core feature of FD4Cast is the ability to check the integrity of calculations and ensure data is not corrupted anywhere.

The Checksums function carries out calculation and data checks on FD4Cast worksheets and provides the user with a report detailing any errors. A simple and intuitive alert is given on any FD4Cast worksheet where there may be a data error or has shown to be the source of a calculation error when using the Checksums function.

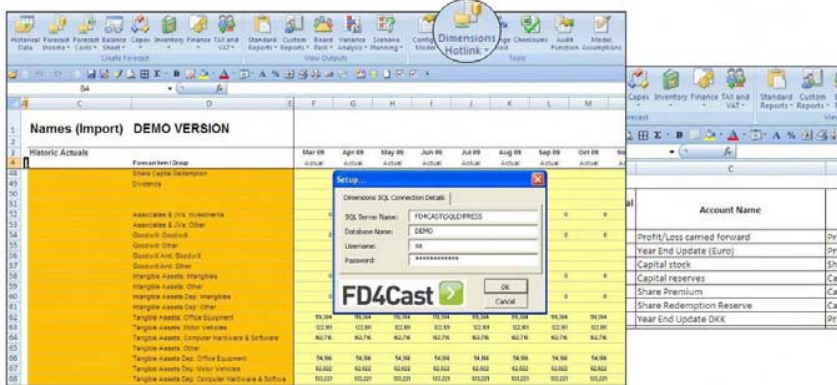
The feature provides users with a cushion of confidence when working with data or calculations.



## Custom Hotlinks to Accounts Databases

Unlike standard Excel models created manually, the FD4Cast system has a built-in mechanism to connect with accounts packages, which can be customised to business-specific needs upon initial setup, or at any time later.

The Dimensions Hotlink feature can connect with anything from a standard accounts package such as Sage, or large corporate databases such as Oracle. The Hotlink enables data to be imported into FD4Cast models.



## Excel Protection with XLSafe Pro

FD4Cast employs XLSafe Pro from commercial partners, [DataSafeXL](#), to enhance Excel security with a more robust protection system against unauthorised access and modifications to Excel spreadsheets.

As the sole authorised reseller for XLSafe Pro, FD4Cast Ltd is able accept requests to set up XLSafe Pro into a purchased FD4Cast implementation.





## A 'TURN KEY' SOLUTION & SERVICE

*As FD4Cast exists as a blank template to be configured, the company provides the service of configuring the customer's implementation to specific business needs so their models are ready for immediate use.*

*An FD4Cast customer is considered a client from the moment of purchase, and is provided with a personalised service of support, both onsite and offsite, as requested. The client's FD4Cast implementation is configured and customised by the company using historical Profit and Loss data and a Balance Sheet, as provided by the client. A non-disclosure agreement can be arranged where required to facilitate the process.*

*The custom service of configuring FD4Cast to business requirements is available to both individual customers and larger corporate implementations.*

## 'TRY BEFORE YOU BUY'

*FD4Cast is available to download as a free trial from [www.fd4cast.com](http://www.fd4cast.com), which the user can configure to their specific needs or sample the software in Demo mode.*

*The customer can request the configuration service with intention to purchase, or can seek the full configuration service and software support after the trial period expires and a licence is purchased.*

*The trial version is fully functional within the limited time, and enables the user to experience the range of functions before deciding to purchase.*

*Please contact us for any purchasing or licensing enquiries.*

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## CONTACT US

*For further information or to download the free trial version of the software, please visit the FD4Cast website, [www.fd4cast.com](http://www.fd4cast.com).*

*Alternatively, to discuss anything about FD4Cast, XLSafe Pro, individual and corporate consultations and/or formal Excel Training, contact us by:*

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