

Consilium Research Report

FactSet Research Systems

Executive Summary

FactSet Research Systems is one of the most important information infrastructure companies in global financial markets.

Every day, investment professionals make decisions involving trillions of dollars in capital. Asset managers, hedge funds, investment banks, pension funds, insurance companies, wealth managers, and corporations all rely on financial data, analytics, research, and software to evaluate opportunities and manage risk.

FactSet exists at the center of this information ecosystem.

The company provides financial data, analytics, portfolio management tools, research platforms, market intelligence, and workflow software used by investment professionals throughout the world.

Unlike financial institutions that deploy capital directly, FactSet supplies the information and tools that help others make investment decisions.

This distinction creates a unique business model.

FactSet does not need to outperform the market.

It does not need to lend money.

It does not need to underwrite securities.

Instead, it helps financial professionals access, organize, analyze, and utilize information more effectively.

For Consilium Research, FactSet represents hidden information infrastructure.

The company operates behind the scenes, yet its products support some of the most important decision-makers in global finance.

Why This Company Matters

Financial markets are ultimately information systems.

Investors compete by gathering, analyzing, and acting upon information more effectively than others.

Without reliable information, capital allocation becomes less efficient and risk becomes more difficult to manage.

This creates demand for specialized information providers.

Investment professionals require access to:

- Market data
- Company financials
- Economic information
- Industry research
- Portfolio analytics
- Screening tools
- Risk management systems

Gathering this information independently would be extraordinarily difficult.

FactSet solves this problem.

The company aggregates vast amounts of financial information and delivers it through integrated software platforms designed for professional users.

Its customers use FactSet to:

- Research investments
- Monitor portfolios
- Analyze companies
- Evaluate risk
- Generate reports
- Support client relationships

While most consumers have never heard of FactSet, many of the world's largest financial institutions depend upon its services every day.

That dependency explains why the company matters.

Investment Thesis

The investment thesis for FactSet is built around a simple observation:

Modern capital markets run on information.

Several factors support this thesis.

1. Mission-Critical Information Services

FactSet provides data and analytics used directly within investment workflows.

Customers depend upon these tools to perform daily responsibilities.

2. High Switching Costs

Financial institutions often integrate FactSet deeply into research, reporting, portfolio management, and client-service processes.

Replacing these systems can be disruptive and expensive.

3. Recurring Revenue

Most customer relationships are subscription based.

This creates recurring revenue and strong visibility into future performance.

4. Scale Advantages

FactSet aggregates vast quantities of financial information from numerous sources worldwide.

Replicating these datasets would require significant investment.

5. Long-Term Industry Growth

Financial markets continue becoming more complex, data-driven, and technology dependent.

This increases demand for sophisticated information solutions.

The central thesis is straightforward:

The financial industry cannot function efficiently without high-quality information.

FactSet helps provide that information.

Company Overview

FactSet Research Systems is a financial data and software company serving investment professionals worldwide.

The company provides integrated solutions supporting:

- Investment research
- Portfolio management
- Risk analysis
- Market intelligence
- Wealth management
- Client reporting
- Financial analytics

Customers include:

- Asset managers
- Hedge funds
- Pension funds
- Investment banks
- Wealth management firms
- Insurance companies
- Corporate finance teams

FactSet's products combine data, analytics, and software into unified workflows that help customers make informed financial decisions.

Unlike traditional software companies focused on broad consumer markets, FactSet serves a highly specialized professional audience.

This specialization contributes significantly to its competitive position.

Company History

FactSet was founded in 1978 by Howard Wille and Charles Snyder.

The company's original vision was straightforward but powerful:

Provide investment professionals with better access to financial information through technology.

At the time, financial analysis was far more manual than it is today.

Accessing and organizing data often required significant effort.

FactSet helped simplify these processes by combining financial information with software tools designed specifically for investment professionals.

Over the following decades, the company expanded through:

- Product development
- Data acquisitions
- Technology investments
- Geographic expansion
- Customer growth

As financial markets became increasingly data driven, FactSet's importance continued growing.

Today, the company serves thousands of institutions globally and competes with some of the largest information providers in finance.

Its evolution demonstrates how information itself can become critical infrastructure.

Products & Services

FactSet's value proposition is built upon the integration of financial data, analytics, research, and workflow software.

Rather than providing a single product, the company offers a comprehensive ecosystem designed to support investment decision-making.

This integrated approach is one of FactSet's greatest strengths.

Financial Data

Financial data serves as the foundation of the platform.

FactSet aggregates information from thousands of sources worldwide.

Customers gain access to:

- Company financial statements
- Market data
- Economic indicators
- Fixed income information
- Ownership data
- Corporate actions
- Estimates and forecasts

The breadth and depth of this information help support informed investment decisions.

Analytics and Modeling

Raw information has limited value without analysis.

FactSet provides analytical tools that help professionals:

- Evaluate companies
- Compare investments
- Model scenarios
- Analyze performance
- Assess risk

These capabilities transform data into actionable insights.

Portfolio Management Solutions

Institutional investors often manage complex portfolios containing thousands of securities.

FactSet provides tools supporting:

- Portfolio construction
- Performance measurement
- Attribution analysis
- Risk monitoring
- Compliance oversight

These solutions help organizations manage capital more effectively.

Research and Market Intelligence

Investment professionals require access to research and market intelligence.

FactSet integrates:

- Equity research
- Industry analysis
- Market commentary
- Company reports
- Economic research

This information helps customers evaluate opportunities and risks.

Wealth Management Solutions

The company also serves wealth managers and financial advisors.

Capabilities include:

- Client reporting
- Portfolio analytics
- Financial planning support
- Investment monitoring

These tools help advisors serve clients more efficiently.

Workflow Integration

One of FactSet's most important advantages is workflow integration.

Rather than forcing users to move between numerous systems, the platform combines data, analytics, research, and reporting within a unified environment.

This improves productivity and reduces friction.

Why Product Breadth Matters

The power of FactSet does not come from any single dataset.

The power comes from integrating numerous datasets and analytical capabilities into one platform.

Customers value efficiency as much as information.

FactSet helps provide both.

Business Model

FactSet operates a subscription-based information and software business.

Its customers pay recurring fees to access data, analytics, research tools, and workflow solutions.

This creates a highly predictable revenue model.

Information as Infrastructure

The company's business model is built on a simple idea:

Investment professionals need information every day.

Just as factories require electricity and transportation networks require roads, financial institutions require information.

FactSet provides that infrastructure.

Subscription Revenue

Most customer relationships are subscription based.

Customers pay for ongoing access to:

- Data
- Analytics
- Research tools
- Workflow solutions
- Software platforms

This recurring revenue model supports stability and long-term planning.

Embedded Workflows

One of FactSet's greatest strengths is integration into customer workflows.

Professionals often use FactSet throughout the day for:

- Research
- Portfolio monitoring
- Client reporting
- Investment analysis
- Risk management

The more deeply a platform becomes embedded, the more valuable it becomes.

Scale Economics

FactSet benefits from significant scale advantages.

The company incurs substantial costs collecting, organizing, and maintaining data.

However, once that infrastructure exists, it can be delivered to additional customers at relatively low incremental cost.

This creates attractive economics.

Data Aggregation Advantage

Collecting and normalizing financial information is complex.

FactSet performs this work on behalf of customers.

By aggregating data across thousands of sources, the company creates value that would be difficult for individual firms to replicate independently.

Customer Retention

Retention tends to be strong because customers depend upon FactSet for mission-critical activities.

Switching providers may involve:

- Retraining employees
- Rebuilding workflows
- Reconfiguring systems
- Migrating historical data

These factors help strengthen customer loyalty.

Economic Characteristics

FactSet's economics are driven by:

- Recurring subscriptions
- High customer retention
- Data scale
- Workflow integration
- Software leverage

Together, these characteristics create a durable business model.

Business Model Conclusion

FactSet succeeds because it occupies a critical position within financial decision-making.

The company does not generate investment returns for customers.

Instead, it provides the information infrastructure that helps customers generate those returns themselves.

Business Insight

Many investors think financial markets are powered by capital.

In reality, capital follows information.

The institutions with the best information, analytics, and decision-making tools often possess significant advantages.

FactSet exists to help provide those advantages.

That role makes it far more than a software company.

It makes it part of the infrastructure of modern finance.

Revenue Breakdown

FactSet generates revenue through subscription-based access to financial data, analytics, research, and workflow software.

Unlike transaction-driven businesses, the company benefits from recurring customer relationships that often extend for many years.

This contributes significantly to revenue stability and predictability.

Asset Management Revenue

Asset managers represent one of FactSet's most important customer groups.

These organizations utilize FactSet to:

- Research investments
- Construct portfolios
- Analyze performance
- Monitor risk
- Support client reporting

Because asset managers rely heavily on information, demand tends to be recurring rather than transactional.

Wealth Management Revenue

Financial advisors and wealth management firms use FactSet tools to support client relationships and investment decision-making.

This segment benefits from the continued growth of professionally managed assets.

Institutional Investor Revenue

Pension funds, endowments, foundations, and sovereign investors require sophisticated analytical capabilities.

FactSet helps these organizations evaluate investments and monitor portfolios.

Banking Revenue

Investment banks utilize FactSet for:

- Company analysis
- Market intelligence
- Industry research
- Valuation work
- Client advisory services

These activities create ongoing demand for information and analytical tools.

Corporate Revenue

Corporations increasingly utilize FactSet data and analytics for strategic planning, investor relations, competitive analysis, and financial decision-making.

Revenue Quality

Several characteristics strengthen FactSet's revenue profile:

- Subscription-based contracts
- High customer retention
- Mission-critical services
- Diversified customer base
- Global demand

The company does not rely on advertising, consumer spending, or one-time transactions.

Revenue Assessment

The most attractive aspect of FactSet's revenue model is that information needs never disappear.

Financial professionals require data, analytics, and research regardless of whether markets are rising or falling.

This creates durable demand.

Customer Analysis

FactSet serves some of the most sophisticated organizations in global finance.

Its customers make decisions involving billions and, in some cases, trillions of dollars in capital.

Asset Managers

Asset managers depend upon information to identify opportunities, manage risk, and serve clients.

These firms often integrate FactSet deeply into investment workflows.

Hedge Funds

Hedge funds compete aggressively through research and analysis.

Access to high-quality information can influence investment outcomes.

Pension Funds

Large pension organizations require extensive analytical capabilities to manage long-term obligations.

FactSet helps support these activities.

Investment Banks

Banks rely on information and analytics for advisory work, capital markets activities, and client services.

Wealth Managers

Financial advisors use FactSet tools to evaluate investments and communicate with clients.

Corporate Finance Teams

Many corporations utilize FactSet data to understand competitors, markets, and industry trends.

Why Customers Choose FactSet

Several factors explain customer loyalty.

Data Quality

Professionals require accurate information.

Errors can be costly.

Workflow Efficiency

Integrated platforms improve productivity.

Analytical Capabilities

Customers need more than raw data.

They need tools that help interpret information.

Reliability

Investment professionals depend upon systems that work consistently.

Integration

FactSet often becomes embedded within day-to-day operations.

Customer Analysis Conclusion

Customers are not purchasing data alone.

They are purchasing efficiency, accuracy, and decision-making capability.

Those benefits become increasingly valuable as financial markets grow more complex.

Industry Overview

The financial information industry occupies a unique position within global markets.

Every participant in the investment ecosystem depends upon information.

Without reliable information, capital allocation becomes less efficient and risk becomes more difficult to evaluate.

The Role of Financial Information

The industry performs several critical functions:

- Data aggregation
- Information verification
- Analytics
- Research distribution
- Portfolio management support
- Risk analysis

These capabilities help financial institutions make informed decisions.

Industry Structure

The industry generally consists of several categories.

Financial Data Providers

These companies collect, organize, and distribute financial information.

Analytics Providers

These firms develop tools that help customers interpret information.

Workflow Platforms

These platforms integrate data, analytics, research, and reporting into unified systems.

FactSet participates across all three categories.

Industry Characteristics

Several characteristics define the industry.

High Switching Costs

Customers often build workflows around specific platforms.

Recurring Demand

Information is required every day.

Data Scale

Larger providers benefit from extensive datasets and infrastructure.

Trust Requirements

Customers depend upon accuracy and reliability.

Major Industry Participants

FactSet competes with several major providers, including:

- Bloomberg
- S&P Global
- Morningstar
- LSEG (Refinitiv)
- MSCI (certain segments)

Each company occupies an important position within the financial information ecosystem.

Industry Trends

Several trends continue shaping the industry.

Data Growth

The volume of financial information continues expanding rapidly.

Automation

Technology increasingly supports investment workflows.

Artificial Intelligence

AI may improve information analysis and workflow efficiency.

Regulatory Complexity

Additional regulation often increases demand for data and reporting solutions.

Industry Outlook

Financial markets continue becoming more data-driven.

As complexity increases, demand for integrated information platforms may become even more important.

Industry Overview Conclusion

Modern financial markets are information systems.

Capital moves only after information has been collected, analyzed, and interpreted.

Companies like FactSet help make that process possible.

Industry Insight

The average investor thinks information is free because stock prices appear on a screen.

Professional investors know better.

The value is not in seeing information.

The value is in organizing, validating, connecting, and analyzing information faster and more effectively than competitors.

That is where FactSet creates value.

Competitive Landscape

The financial information industry is highly competitive and serves some of the most demanding customers in the world.

Investment professionals rely on information to make decisions involving enormous amounts of capital.

As a result, accuracy, speed, reliability, and workflow integration are critical.

FactSet competes against several large and well-established organizations.

Major Competitors

Key competitors include:

- Bloomberg
- S&P Global
- LSEG (Refinitiv)
- Morningstar
- MSCI
- ICE Data Services

Each company provides various combinations of data, analytics, research, and software solutions.

However, competition is more nuanced than simply offering financial information.

Bloomberg

Bloomberg is often considered FactSet's most recognizable competitor.

Bloomberg's terminal remains one of the most widely used platforms within finance.

Its strength lies in:

- Market data
- News
- Messaging
- Trading workflows

Bloomberg's scale and brand recognition make it a formidable competitor.

S&P Global

S&P Global possesses extensive data assets across credit ratings, market intelligence, indices, and financial information.

Its products are deeply embedded within financial workflows.

LSEG (Refinitiv)

Refinitiv, now part of the London Stock Exchange Group, maintains a significant position within financial information services.

The company provides data, analytics, and market intelligence solutions to institutions worldwide.

Morningstar

Morningstar is particularly strong within investment research, fund analysis, and wealth management markets.

Competition Is About Workflows

One of the most misunderstood aspects of the industry is competition.

Customers rarely choose providers solely because one dataset is marginally better than another.

Instead, they evaluate:

- Workflow integration
- Productivity
- Data reliability
- Analytical capabilities
- User familiarity
- Organizational adoption

This distinction is critical.

The platform that becomes embedded within daily operations often gains significant advantages.

Why Price Is Not Everything

FactSet customers routinely make decisions involving millions or billions of dollars.

Against that backdrop, software costs often represent a relatively small expense.

Customers care far more about:

- Accuracy
- Reliability
- Efficiency
- Functionality

Than marginal differences in subscription pricing.

Competitive Assessment

FactSet competes in a challenging industry filled with strong competitors.

However, its integrated workflow approach, customer relationships, and specialized focus help support a durable competitive position.

Economic Moat

FactSet's moat is built upon switching costs, workflow integration, data aggregation, customer relationships, and recurring usage.

Unlike industrial companies protected by physical assets, FactSet's moat is primarily informational and operational.

That makes it less visible but no less powerful.

Workflow Integration

Workflow integration may be FactSet's most important competitive advantage.

Investment professionals use the platform throughout the day for:

- Research
- Portfolio analysis
- Risk management
- Reporting
- Client service

The platform becomes part of how work gets done.

This creates significant inertia.

Switching Costs

Once a financial institution adopts FactSet, switching becomes difficult.

A transition may require:

- Employee retraining
- Workflow redesign
- System integration changes
- Historical data migration
- Process adjustments

These costs can be substantial.

Data Aggregation Advantage

FactSet collects and organizes enormous quantities of information from diverse sources.

Replicating this infrastructure independently would require considerable resources.

Customers benefit from receiving information through a unified platform.

Customer Relationships

FactSet often maintains long-term relationships with institutions.

As products become integrated into investment processes, customer retention tends to strengthen.

Scale Advantages

Scale improves:

- Data coverage
- Product development
- Customer support
- Analytical capabilities

Larger platforms can spread fixed costs across broader customer bases.

Trust and Reliability

Perhaps the most underrated component of the moat is trust.

Financial professionals rely upon information to make consequential decisions.

Errors can be expensive.

Trust takes years to build and moments to lose.

FactSet has spent decades establishing credibility.

Why AI Does Not Destroy FactSet

A common misconception is that artificial intelligence eliminates the need for financial information providers.

In reality, AI systems still require:

- Reliable data
- Structured information
- Accurate inputs

Poor data produces poor analysis.

If anything, increasing automation may increase the value of trusted information providers.

Why Customers Stay

Customers do not remain because FactSet owns information no one else possesses.

They remain because FactSet helps organize information into workflows that support decision-making.

That distinction is important.

Is the Moat Durable?

The strongest evidence supporting durability is customer behavior.

Financial institutions continue renewing subscriptions because the platform remains deeply integrated into daily operations.

The more embedded the workflow becomes, the stronger the moat grows.

Moat Conclusion

FactSet's moat is not built on patents or physical infrastructure.

It is built on integration.

The company has positioned itself within the daily workflows of investment professionals around the world.

That position is difficult to replace.

Moat Summary

The hidden insight behind FactSet is simple:

FactSet does not sell financial data.

It sells decision-making infrastructure.

Customers are not paying for spreadsheets.

They are paying for a system that helps them organize information, evaluate opportunities, manage risk, and allocate capital.

That role may be FactSet's most valuable asset.

Moat Insight

TransDigm sells certified necessity.

Old Dominion sells network efficiency.

FactSet sells informational confidence.

When billions of dollars depend upon making the right decision, confidence in the information matters.

That confidence is what FactSet has spent decades building.

Management & Capital Allocation

One of FactSet's defining strengths is disciplined capital allocation and long-term strategic focus.

Information businesses require continuous investment in data acquisition, technology infrastructure, product development, and customer support.

Management's challenge is balancing these investments while maintaining profitability and competitive positioning.

Operating Philosophy

FactSet's strategy emphasizes:

- Data quality
- Product innovation
- Customer retention
- Workflow integration
- Technology investment
- Long-term value creation

Rather than chasing short-term trends, the company has generally focused on strengthening its role within financial workflows.

Investment in Data and Technology

FactSet continuously invests in:

- Financial datasets

- Software development
- Analytical capabilities
- Cloud infrastructure
- Workflow solutions
- Artificial intelligence initiatives

These investments help maintain competitiveness while improving customer value.

Customer-Centric Development

Many new products and features are developed in response to evolving customer needs.

This customer-focused approach strengthens relationships and increases platform relevance.

Capital Allocation Assessment

Management has historically demonstrated discipline in balancing growth investments with profitability.

The company focuses on strengthening its core competitive advantages rather than pursuing unrelated diversification.

Management Assessment

FactSet's leadership has consistently positioned the company as a trusted provider of financial information and workflow solutions.

The result has been a durable and resilient business model.

Financial Analysis

FactSet exhibits many characteristics associated with high-quality software and information businesses.

Recurring Revenue

Subscription contracts generate predictable recurring revenue.

This provides visibility into future performance and supports long-term planning.

Customer Retention

Customer retention remains one of the company's most attractive characteristics.

Embedded workflows and switching costs contribute to durable customer relationships.

Scalable Economics

The company incurs significant costs gathering and organizing information.

However, once the infrastructure exists, additional customers can often be served at relatively low incremental cost.

This creates attractive operating leverage.

Diversified Customer Base

FactSet serves:

- Asset managers
- Hedge funds
- Pension funds
- Investment banks
- Wealth managers
- Corporations

This diversification reduces dependence on any single customer segment.

Financial Strength Assessment

Strengths include:

- Recurring revenue
- Strong retention
- High switching costs
- Scalable economics
- Global customer base

Risks include:

- Industry competition
- Technology disruption
- Data acquisition costs
- Economic pressure on financial institutions

Financial Analysis Conclusion

FactSet's financial attractiveness stems from recurring demand and workflow integration.

The company benefits when customers continue relying on information to make decisions.

Growth Drivers

Several long-term trends support future growth opportunities.

Increasing Data Complexity

Financial markets generate more information every year.

Professionals require better tools to organize and analyze that information.

Growth of Global Capital Markets

As capital markets expand, demand for research, analytics, and portfolio management solutions increases.

Wealth Management Expansion

Growing wealth management activity creates demand for investment technology and reporting solutions.

Artificial Intelligence

AI may enhance analytical capabilities, workflow efficiency, and customer productivity.

Regulatory Requirements

Increasing compliance and reporting obligations often create demand for additional data and analytics.

Workflow Consolidation

Customers increasingly prefer integrated platforms capable of supporting multiple functions.

This trend aligns well with FactSet's strategy.

Growth Assessment

FactSet benefits from structural trends that are likely to persist for many years.

The increasing importance of information supports long-term relevance.

Risks & Challenges

Despite its strengths, FactSet faces several risks.

Competitive Pressure

Large competitors continue investing heavily in financial information and analytics.

Technological Change

Customer expectations evolve alongside technology.

The company must continue innovating.

Economic Cycles

Financial institutions may reduce spending during challenging market conditions.

Data Costs

Acquiring and maintaining high-quality datasets can be expensive.

Customer Consolidation

Industry consolidation may reduce the number of potential customers.

Risk Assessment

Most risks are manageable and reflect the realities of competing within financial information markets.

Importantly, none eliminate the need for reliable information.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

Workflow Integration

FactSet is deeply embedded within customer operations.

High Switching Costs

Transitioning away from the platform can be disruptive and expensive.

Recurring Revenue

Subscription contracts provide stability and predictability.

Data Scale

The company aggregates extensive financial information from numerous sources.

Trusted Brand

FactSet has built credibility over decades.

Weaknesses

Competitive Industry

Several large and well-capitalized competitors exist.

Dependence on Financial Services

Many customers operate within financial markets.

Data Acquisition Costs

Maintaining comprehensive datasets requires ongoing investment.

Opportunities

Artificial Intelligence

AI may improve productivity and analytical capabilities.

Global Market Growth

Expanding capital markets support demand for information services.

Wealth Management Expansion

Growing assets under management create additional opportunities.

Workflow Consolidation

Customers increasingly seek integrated solutions.

Threats

Competitive Innovation

Competitors continue investing aggressively.

Technological Disruption

Rapid technological change may alter customer expectations.

Economic Downturns

Financial institutions may reduce spending.

Regulatory Changes

Industry regulations may affect customer behavior.

SWOT Conclusion

FactSet's strengths are rooted in workflow integration, recurring revenue, customer retention, and information scale.

Its threats primarily reflect the realities of operating within a competitive information industry.

The company's advantages appear durable because they are embedded within customer processes.

Bull Case

The bull case assumes continued growth in global capital markets, expanding demand for analytics, successful AI integration, and strong customer retention.

Under this scenario, FactSet strengthens its position as a core information platform for financial professionals.

Bull Case Probability: 25%

Base Case

The base case assumes steady industry growth, continued workflow integration, and strong recurring revenue performance.

FactSet maintains its position as an essential provider of financial information and analytics.

Base Case Probability: 60%

Bear Case

The bear case assumes increased competitive pressure, slower customer spending, and reduced industry growth.

Even under this scenario, information remains essential to financial decision-making.

Bear Case Probability: 15%

Long-Term Outlook

FactSet benefits from one of the most durable realities in finance:

Information will always matter.

Investors, analysts, advisors, and institutions will continue requiring tools that help them understand markets, evaluate opportunities, and manage risk.

Several factors support a favorable long-term outlook:

Increasing Market Complexity

More complexity creates greater demand for information solutions.

Workflow Dependence

Customers continue integrating FactSet into daily operations.

Data Growth

The volume of financial information continues expanding.

Industry Importance

Capital allocation remains one of the most important functions within the global economy.

Outlook Assessment

FactSet may never receive the public attention given to banks, exchanges, or investment firms.

Its importance lies elsewhere.

It helps those organizations function more effectively.

Consilium Scorecard

Business Quality: 9.3 / 10

Mission-critical information services and recurring demand create an exceptional business model.

Economic Moat: 9.2 / 10

Workflow integration, switching costs, data aggregation, and customer retention create powerful advantages.

Financial Strength: 9.2 / 10

Recurring subscriptions and scalable economics support resilience.

Growth Potential: 8.7 / 10

Data growth, AI, and expanding capital markets provide opportunities.

Management Quality: 8.9 / 10

Disciplined investment and customer-focused execution support long-term success.

Hidden Company Factor: 9.8 / 10

Most investors use markets influenced by FactSet data without ever hearing the company's name.

Industry Position: 9.3 / 10

FactSet occupies a critical position within financial information infrastructure.

Overall Consilium Rating

9.2 / 10

FactSet earns one of the highest ratings in the Consilium library because it occupies a critical position within modern capital markets.

The company combines recurring revenue, high switching costs, information scale, workflow integration, and long-term industry relevance into a highly durable business model.

Final Conclusion

Most people think financial markets are powered by money.

In reality, money follows information.

Before capital is invested, acquired, lent, or allocated, information must be gathered, organized, analyzed, and interpreted.

FactSet exists within that process.

The company provides the information infrastructure that supports investment professionals around the world.

Its products help customers evaluate opportunities, manage risk, monitor portfolios, and make decisions involving enormous amounts of capital.

For Consilium Research, FactSet represents one of the clearest examples of hidden information infrastructure—a company quietly helping global financial markets function every day.

Its story reinforces a recurring lesson throughout the Consilium library:

The most important systems are often built upon foundations that few people ever notice.

The modern financial system runs on information.

FactSet helps provide that information.

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