Jared Zechnowitz

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SUMMARY

Finance leader with 19 years of experience in FP&A, budgeting, and operational finance. Currently Director of FP&A for an ~850-unit Pizza Hut and Burger King franchise ($1.1B revenue), turning unit-level data into weekly actions that protect margin. Previously spent 18 years at Blackstone, rising to Vice President and managing a $40M budget and $350M+ in firm-wide occupancy costs.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Financial Planning & Analysis | Forecasting | Budgeting | Variance Analysis | Executive Reporting | Financial Modeling | Strategic Business Partnership | Multi-Unit P&L | Lease & Occupancy Analysis | Data & Process Optimization

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Dhanani Group, Houston, Texas — October 2025-Present
Restaurant franchise development company

Director of FP&A — *October 2025-Present*

- Lead FP&A for an ~850-unit Pizza Hut & Burger King franchise organization ($1.1B revenue, $127M EBITDA), overseeing budgeting, forecasting, performance analysis, and strategic planning across the portfolio
- Built a weekly outlier report flagging stores that missed labor plan or exceeded ideal food cost %, giving each ops lead their top 5 highest-dollar opportunities and driving $1.2M in annualized savings and a 23% reduction in labor and food cost variance
- Consolidated data from multiple systems into one centralized view of sales, costs, EBITDA, labor, food cost, and customer satisfaction, eliminating conflicting reports across finance and operations
- Evaluated 8 pricing, promotional, and marketing initiatives across 13 markets, analyzing transaction trends, average check, and sales mix to deliver market-specific continue / modify / discontinue recommendations that protected $430K in EBITDA
- Build financial models supporting restaurant economics, capital investments, and acquisitions, and present forecasts and company-level insights to the CEO and senior leadership
- Lead and develop the FP&A team, establishing priorities, improving analytical capabilities, and driving a more proactive business-partner-oriented FP&A function

The Blackstone Group, New York, NY — 2007-2025
World's largest alternative asset manager
Promoted 3 times: Staff Accountant (2007-09) → Facilities Controller (2010-13) → Director (2014-19) → Vice President (2020-25)

Vice President — *2020-2025*

- Led financial operations and FP&A for the 250+ member Global Corporate Services team, overseeing a $40M department budget and $350M+ in firm-wide rent, occupancy, and depreciation expenses
- Delivered forecasts, executive dashboards, and monthly variance analyses, with expense reporting by category and location that improved forecast accuracy by 20%
- Conducted in-depth lease financial modeling and scenario analysis for real estate decisions, optimizing cost structures for a global 1.8M+ sq. ft. office portfolio across 30+ locations, leading to $20M saved in negotiations
- Managed forecasting and cash flow for internal catering operations, aligning spend with revenue targets
- Partnered with AP to manage $500M+ in annual rent, construction, and occupancy spend, ensuring compliance and accuracy
- Led AR operations project focusing on billing and collection improvements, reducing outstanding receivables by $40M
- Led ad hoc financial projects including headcount forecasting, lease accounting system improvements, budget modeling enhancements, and landlord reconciliation exercises across the corporate portfolio

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Master of Business Administration, Finance, University of Miami
Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing & International Finance, University of Miami

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Excel, Claude, Oracle, Tableau, Power BI, Concur, Coupa, Essbase