AI Risks

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AI Risks & Opportunities Analysis Report

Grant Thornton UK

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Sector: Accounting, Bookkeeping & Tax Services

Overall Score **28/50**	AI Opportunity **10/10**	Total AI Risk **22/40**
3-Year Risk **4/10**	5-Year Risk **5/10**	7-Year Risk **6/10**
	10-Year Risk **7/10**	

Grant Thornton UK Company Summary

Grant Thornton UK LLP is a major UK-based professional services firm providing audit, tax, and advisory services to a broad range of clients including listed companies, public sector bodies, and private businesses. With over 5,000 employees and more than 300 partners, the firm generated approximately 787 million in revenue in 2025, positioning it among the largest UK professional services firms. (Employees: ~5,000+, Partners: ~300+, UK turnover: 787M in 2025)

AI Risks Accounting, Bookkeeping & Tax Services Sector Opportunity Overview

AI can automate data capture, categorisation, reconciliations, drafting accounts, and client comms, and improve advisory insights from real-time ledgers. Practices can standardise workflows, shorten close cycles, and expand capacity without linear headcount growth.

Grant Thornton UK AI Opportunity - Next 3 Years

Grant Thornton UK is pursuing a very deliberate, firm-wide push to capture the sector's near-term automation upside (faster turnaround, more standardised delivery, and reduced manual effort in evidence gathering, drafting, and analysis). In June 2026 it announced GT Augment-its AI framework for governance/standards-and stated it is rolling out Anthropic's Claude across Audit, Tax, Advisory and support teams over summer 2026, explicitly targeting analysis, drafting and synthesis tasks. This aligns closely with the most "automatable" effort in accounting and tax work while preserving human sign-off and accountability.

The opportunity is amplified by scale and change capacity: the firm reports 5,000+ people and 300+ partners, and it is funding a multi-year transformation programme (including a stated 500m investment) intended to shift work away from process-heavy tasks toward higher-value judgement and advice. It is also investing in data/digital capability building (eg data-literacy training and digital-audit specialisms) and publishing client-facing positions on digital audit that emphasise analytics/automation for full-population testing and improved risk focus-creating a pathway to higher capacity per engagement and more repeatable, tool-enabled service delivery.

Beyond internal productivity, Grant Thornton UK also has a revenue opportunity in helping clients adopt AI responsibly (governance, data readiness, compliance). Its advisory content and service positioning around AI governance and data quality suggests it can productise "AI assurance / AI governance" offerings alongside traditional audit/tax work, which can partially offset margin pressure in routine compliance as automation becomes table-stakes across the market.

AI Risks Accounting, Bookkeeping & Tax Services Sector Risk & Resilience Overview

Over 3-5 years, routine compliance work is increasingly automated and clients expect faster turnaround. By 7-10 years, basic bookkeeping and tax filing becomes more self-serve; resilience relies on complex advisory, regulation, and trusted interpretation.

Grant Thornton UK AI Risk Assessment

Over the next 3 years, resilience is supported by the firm's ability to adopt AI at scale rather than be surprised by it. Rolling out a governed genAI capability (GT Augment) across the workforce and explicitly positioning AI as augmenting (not replacing) professional judgement should help it defend service quality while meeting rising client expectations for faster and clearer outputs. In regulated areas (audit and tax), accountability, documentation quality, and defensible methodology still matter-factors that slow "instant displacement" even as workflow automation accelerates.

At the 5-year horizon, pressure increases as clients (and competitors) normalise automation for routine elements of compliance and documentation. Even if total demand remains, pricing and delivery expectations tend to compress where outputs become more standardised, and a meaningful portion of work can shift to self-serve software + lighter-touch review. Grant Thornton UK's stated strategy to redesign delivery and shift effort toward higher-value judgement/advice is a rational hedge, but it still implies an operating-model transition risk (retraining, redesigning QA, changing leverage models, and proving value beyond process).

Across 7-10 years, the disruption risk becomes more structural: basic bookkeeping, elements of tax preparation, and "first draft" accounts/tax computations are likely to become increasingly embedded in platforms, reducing the addressable market for labour-intensive compliance. A large firm can remain viable by concentrating on complex audits, specialist tax, investigations, deals, and AI governance/assurance-but the trajectory still trends toward lower resilience because a bigger share of the historic workload becomes automated by default, and differentiation shifts to trust, specialised judgement, and regulatory-grade assurance rather than production work.