THE INVISIBLE INVOICE TAX · ACTION PLAN

From findings to fix

You've seen what manual AP costs US finance teams. Here's how to find it in your own numbers, what to fix first, and how to make the case.

1 · Find it | 2 · Fix it in order | 3 · Time it right | 4 · Make the case

1 FIND IT

The tax rarely shows up on the P&L. Here's where to look.

Four numbers that reveal how much your team is paying. Your AP team can pull most of them from your ERP in an afternoon.

THE TAX ON COST

38% name rising processing costs as a challenge

MEASURE THIS

Cost per invoice

Total AP team cost for a month, divided by invoices processed that month.

THE TAX ON ERRORS

30% report duplicate or erroneous payments

MEASURE THIS

Duplicate and corrected payments

Count credit notes, recoveries and payment corrections over the last 12 months.

THE TAX ON TIME

66% say skilled time is wasted on manual tasks

MEASURE THIS

Hours on manual entry and chasing

Ask your AP team to log a typical week: keying, matching, chasing approvals, filing.

THE TAX ON TALENT

23% say retaining AP staff is a challenge

MEASURE THIS

AP turnover and time to cover

How often AP roles turn over, and how long invoices back up when someone leaves.

2 FIX IT IN ORDER

Fix the flow, not just a step

Automating one step on its own just moves the bottleneck. Work through the invoice journey in order, so each fix feeds the next.

01 CAPTURE

Stop keying invoices in

34% still do too much manual data entry.

Good looks like: 99% data-capture accuracy with AI and human validation.

02 APPROVE

Route approvals automatically

37% are held up by approval delays.

Good looks like: Each invoice goes straight to the right approver.

03 CHECK

Catch duplicates before payment

30% report duplicate or erroneous payments.

Good looks like: Invoices, payments and statements cross-checked automatically.

04 SEE

Get real-time visibility

28% can't see invoice status in real time.

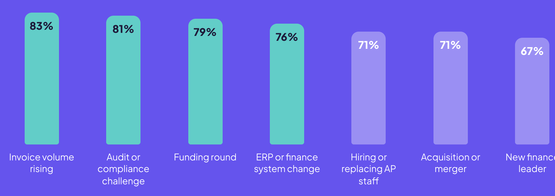
Good looks like: Live view of every invoice, ready for month-end and audit.

67% average fall in AP processing costs for Kefron customers who automate the full flow, with 70%+ of invoices processed touch-free.

3 TIME IT RIGHT

Fix it before the trigger, not during it

These are the moments US teams say would push them to invest in AP automation. If one is on your calendar for the next 12 months, the time to start is now, while there's still room to do it properly.



Rule of thumb: work back from the event. An ERP change or audit date is a deadline your AP process has to be ready for.

4 MAKE THE CASE

Three numbers that make the case

Building the case for AP automation? Lead with the risk, then the gap, then the payback.

85%

The risk

"Most finance teams agree invoice accuracy drives the reliability of financial reporting."

66%

The gap

"Two-thirds of US teams can't fix AP delays they already know about, the highest of six markets."

67%

The payback

"Teams that automate AP see processing costs fall by two-thirds on average."

Ready to stop paying?

Book a 30-minute AP review for you and your team. We'll help you find the tax in your own numbers and show you what fixing the flow looks like.

kefronap.com

Source: The Invisible Invoice Tax, Kefron / Censuswide survey of 200 US finance professionals, part of a 1,200-respondent study across six markets. Figures rounded. Customer results from separate Kefron research among its customer base.