



AP Pulse on the Mid-Market

Benchmarks, challenges, and opportunities for growth

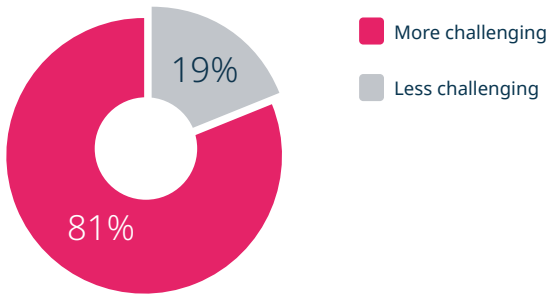


The State of Accounts Payable

AP is now seen as a strategic cornerstone for mid-market firms. Executives now recognize the critical role in cash flow, supply chain, and technology that AP plays. Over half (58%) of AP leaders see their teams as very or exceptionally valuable.

Market Challenges

81% of mid-market leaders expected this year to be more challenging than the last.



Top concerns include:

- Uncertainty in the market
- Inflation
- Tariffs
- Supply chain visibility
- Geopolitical events

The AI Revolution

89% of mid-market professionals believe that AI will have a transformational (28%) or significant (61%) impact on AP by 2027.

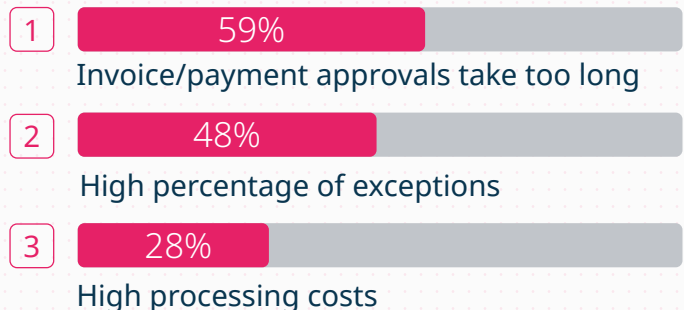
Top benefits:

- 1 Higher levels of automation
- 2 Better decision-making and intelligence
- 3 Improved user experience

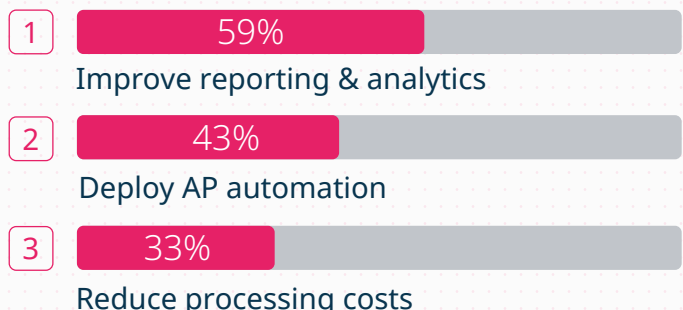
Top use cases:

- ➔ Invoice capture & data extraction
- ➔ Smarter approval workflows
- ➔ Fraud prevention
- ➔ Data-driven insights

Top AP Challenges

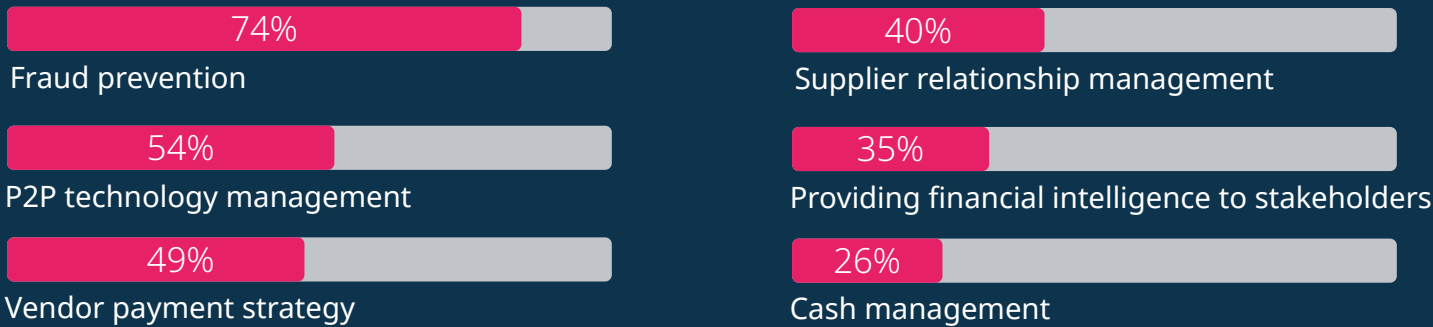


Top AP Priorities



AP Teams' Extended Responsibility

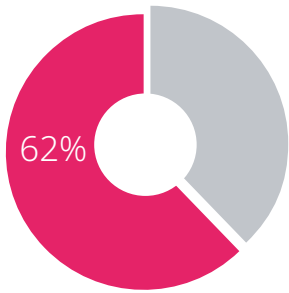
Mid-market AP teams' duties have expanded over the past few years. Outside of invoice processing teams are now working on:



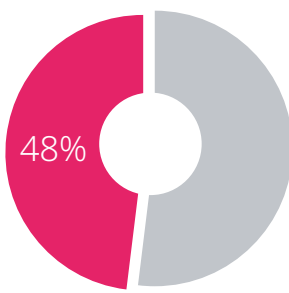
Key Industry Average Benchmarks

- Cost to process an invoice: \$10.57
- Time to process an invoice: 6.8 days
- Exception rate: 22.4%
- Straight through processing: 23.8%
- Invoices linked to POs: 67.8%
- Electronically enabled suppliers: 47%

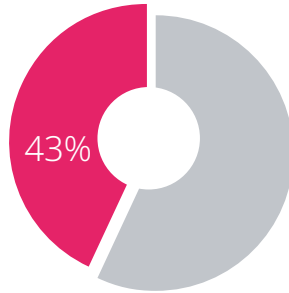
The Future of AP



62% of leaders say smarter systems will drive performance



48% say more suppliers accepting ePayments is a game changer



43% say deeper analytics are a top priority for future success

Key Takeaway:

AP is shifting from tactical to a hub of finance knowledge. If your organization is still treating AP as a cost center, you're sacrificing strategic opportunities. Start investing in AP transformation today and unlock the financial intelligence required to drive efficiency, mitigate risk, and fund future business growth.

Source: Ardent Partners, AP Pulse on the Mid-Market in 2025

Ready to upgrade your AP processes?

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