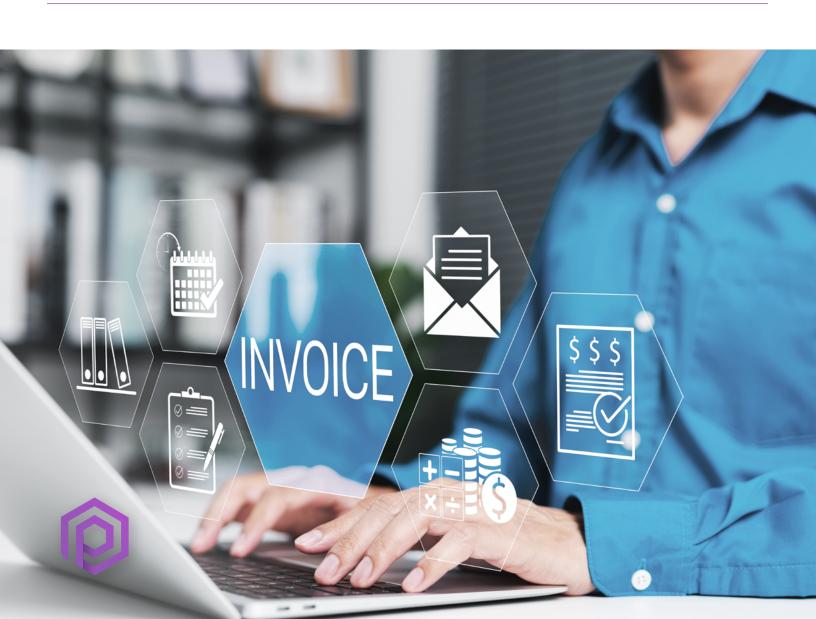# The true ROI of automating vendor payments

Overview

Manual vendor payments drain time, budget and vendor relationships — which most AP teams don't even realize. Between paper checks, approval delays and vendor communication gaps, traditional workflows create bottlenecks that impact the bottom line.

Explore how automating vendor payments delivers real ROI — from reducing processing costs to improving vendor satisfaction and minimizing financial risk. By transforming how payments are managed, property owners and operators can unlock savings, improve accuracy and scale operations with confidence.

Manual AP slows you down

Property management depends on timely, accurate vendor payments. Yet most AP teams face unnecessary hurdles:

- Fragmented workflows across multiple systems
- Lost time to manual approvals and paper checks
- Confusing the hidden costs
- Increased exposure to fraud and human error

The average organization spends 14 hours each week managing vendor payments manually. That is valuable time your team could spend on budgeting, forecasting or improving tenant experience, not envelope stuffing.

The hidden costs

Manual AP systems cost more than just time. They create operational friction and financial exposure that compound across a portfolio:

- Processing costs as high as $2.80 per paper check, factoring in printing, labor and rework
- Payment delays that result in late fees, damaged vendor relationships and increased credit requirements
- Limited visibility into approval and payment status
- Heightened risk of fraud and compliance gaps

In a fragmented system, it's hard to track where payments stand, who approved them or when they were sent, let alone optimize spend across properties.

Five ways to ROI

1. Lower payment processing costs

Automated payments cost significantly less than manual ones. While printing and mailing a paper check can cost $2.50–$2.80, electronic payments via automation average just $0.40 per transaction.

In large portfolios with thousands of invoices per month, this cost delta adds up to significant annual savings.

2. Improved vendor relationships & satisfaction

Fast, reliable payments make you a partner that vendors want to work with. Automation ensures vendors are paid according to their preferred method (check, ACH, credit card), and reduces the back-and-forth that slows projects and creates confusion.

Satisfied vendors are more responsive, competitive and flexible — all of which impact operational efficiency.

3. Time savings & workflow efficiency

Automating payment approvals, error resolution and payment status updates can free up dozens of hours each month. This allows AP and accounting teams to focus on budgeting, forecasting and strategic planning instead of manual follow-ups and reconciliations.

4. Stronger security & compliance

With fewer manual steps and more control, automated AP reduces fraud risk. Payments can originate within the core financial platform, with banking details stored securely outside the local system.

5. End-to-end visibility & control

Automated systems provide real-time insight into what was paid, when, how and to whom — all from a dashboard. This transparency supports financial forecasting, cash flow management and audit readiness.

What to look for in a full-service AP solution

To get the full ROI from payment automation, look for a provider that offers:

- Integration with your property management and accounting system
- Full-service vendor onboarding and engagement
- Support for multiple payment methods (check, ACH, credit card)
- Secure payment execution and bank-grade data handling
- Transparent reporting with real-time status updates
- Exception management and unreconciled check resolution
- Control over approvals and payment timing

Solutions that check these boxes deliver more than just software — they offer a partner-level service that drives measurable outcomes.

Integration matters

Payment automation delivers the most value when it is fully connected to the procure-to-pay workflow. Integrating purchasing, invoice processing, vendor engagement and payments reduces handoffs, eliminates double entry and unlocks true end-to-end visibility.

This integration ensures teams can act faster, identify cost-saving opportunities and scale without growing back-office staffing.

A SMARTER WAY TO PAY

Manual vendor payments are no longer sustainable. Organizations that automate and integrate this operation gain a competitive edge — they pay less, move faster and make better use of their teams.

Whether you're managing 50 properties or 500, automated vendor payments deliver measurable ROI in the form of cost savings, vendor satisfaction, stronger controls and freed-up staff time.

Solutions like **Yardi Bill Pay Express** are designed to deliver this full-service experience, integrating directly with your accounting platform to handle payments, vendor communication and exceptions — while keeping you in control.

Discover what Bill Pay Express can do for you.

yardi.com/billpay | sales@yardi.com or (800) 866-1144

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