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DETAILED **FINDINGS**

From The Benchmark Report:

Automating the Record-to-Report and Financial Close Process

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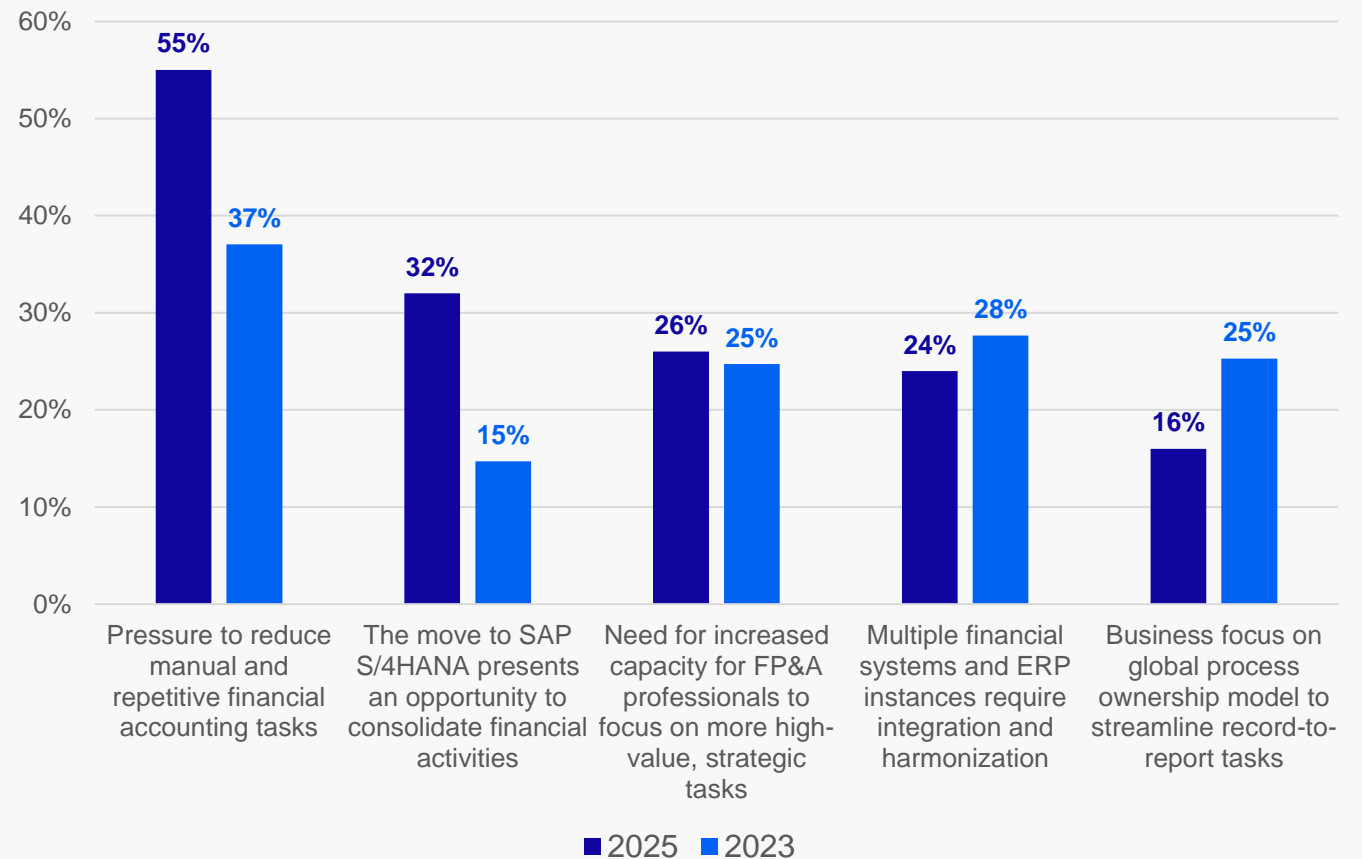


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The pressure to reduce manual and repetitive financial accounting tasks is once again the top driver among respondents. In 2025, it is the top driver by a significant margin, being highlighted by over half (55%) of respondents. This is well above the 37% that also selected the same answer in 2023, which was also the highest share.

The move to SAP S/4HANA presenting consolidation opportunities was the second-largest driver, more than doubling from 15% in 2023 to 32% in 2025. Other leading drivers like multiple ERPs needing integration and the need for enhanced FP&A held relatively steady.

Which of these most impact your organization's approach to the financial close and record-to-report?



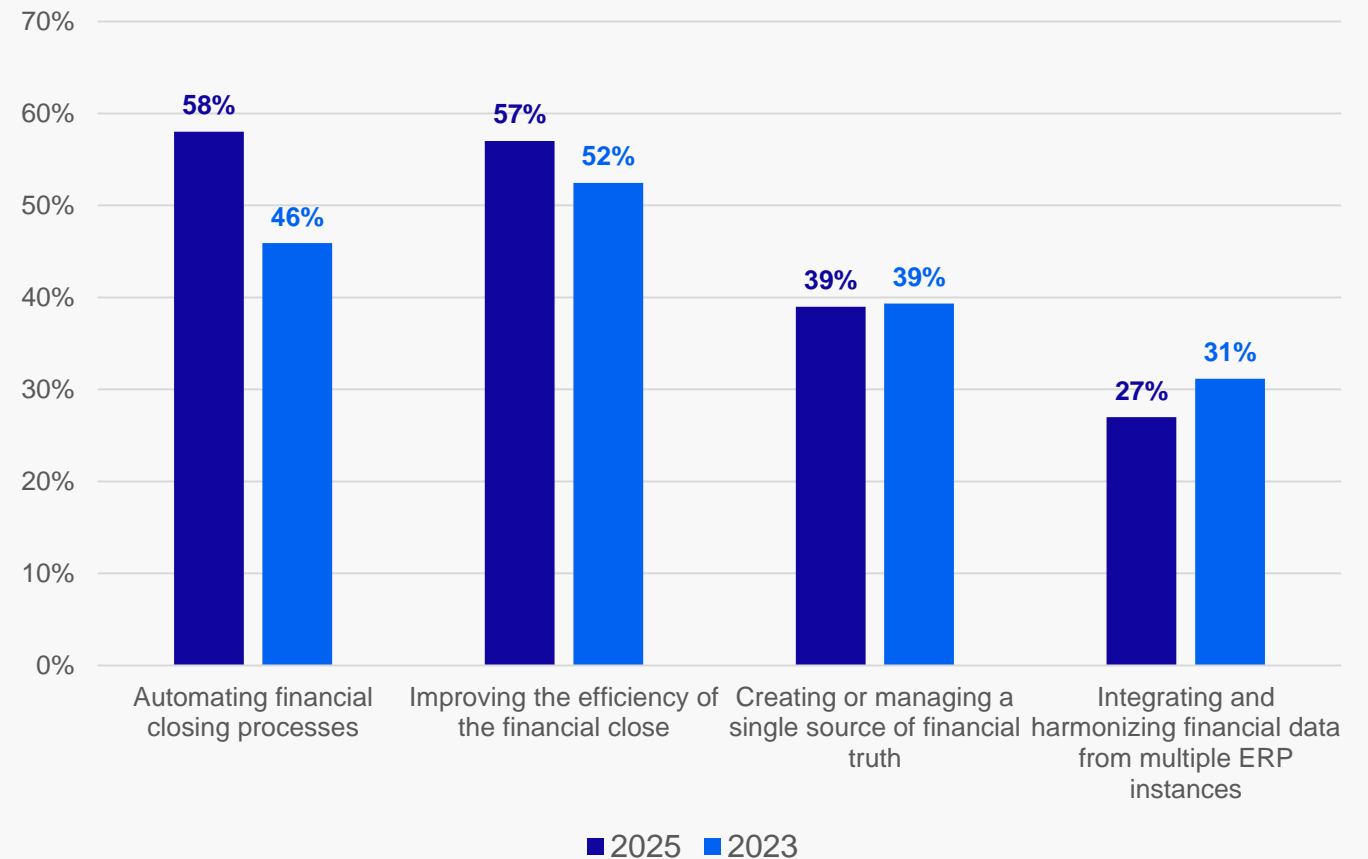
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Organizations are taking nearly identical steps to optimize the financial close and record-to-report processes in 2025 as they did during our previous research in 2023.

Slightly more than half are working to improve the efficiency of the financial close and automating financial closing processes.

Though these figures may look stagnant, it may also indicate that companies are having success with strategies and are continuing with them, or that some organizations implemented automation years ago, and now others are following suit.

Which of the following strategies did your organization take to optimize the financial close and record-to-report?

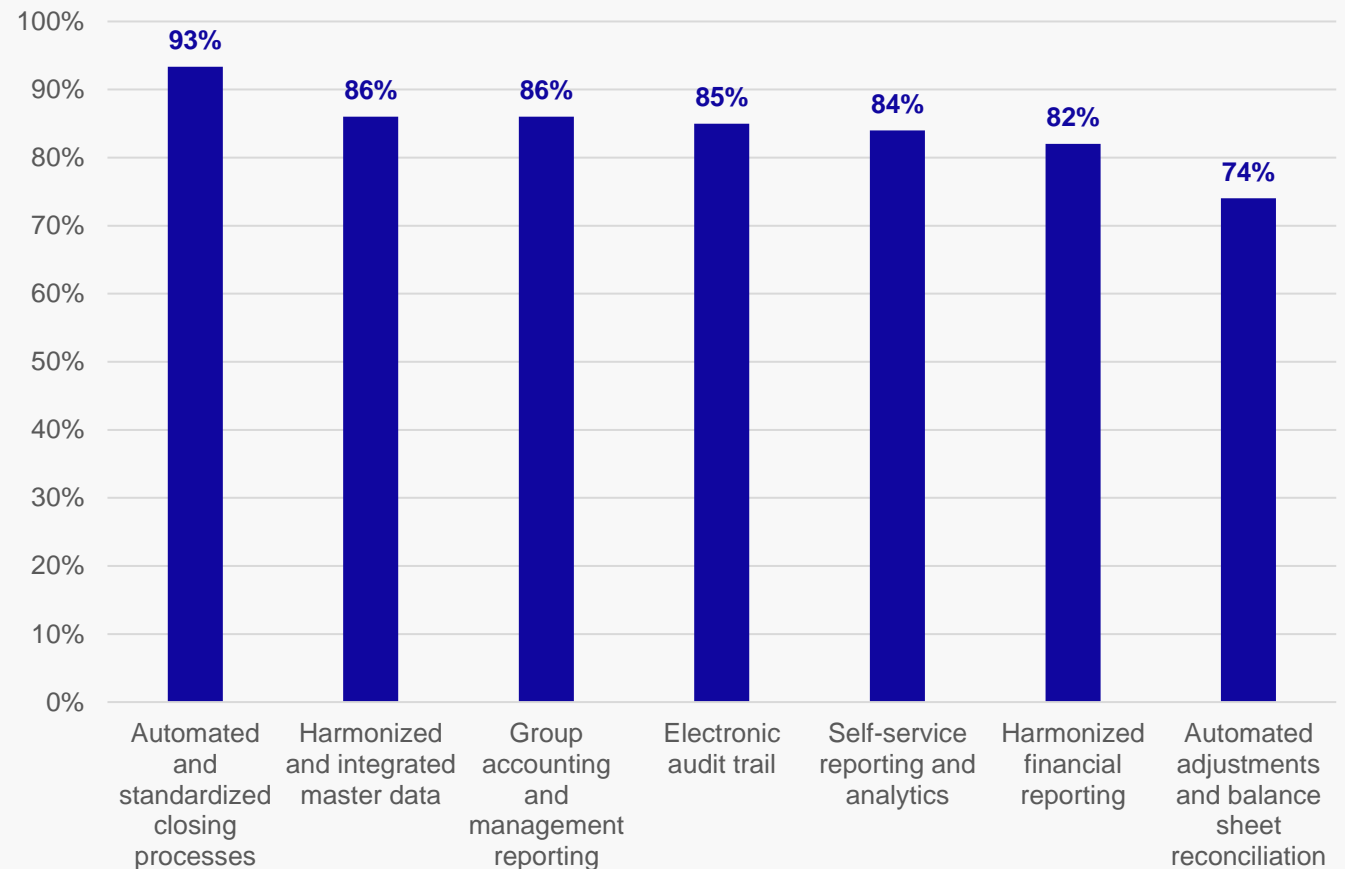


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Organizations indicated that they need harmonization and standardization. The vast majority of respondents said that automated and standardized closing processes (93%) and harmonized and integrated master data (86%) were either important or very important requirements for them to implement their financial strategies.

Companies also emphasized the need for accurate information in the form of a group accounting and management reporting (86%), an electronic audit trail (85%), and self-service reporting and analytics capabilities (84%).

Which capabilities are most important for your financial close and record-to-report strategies?



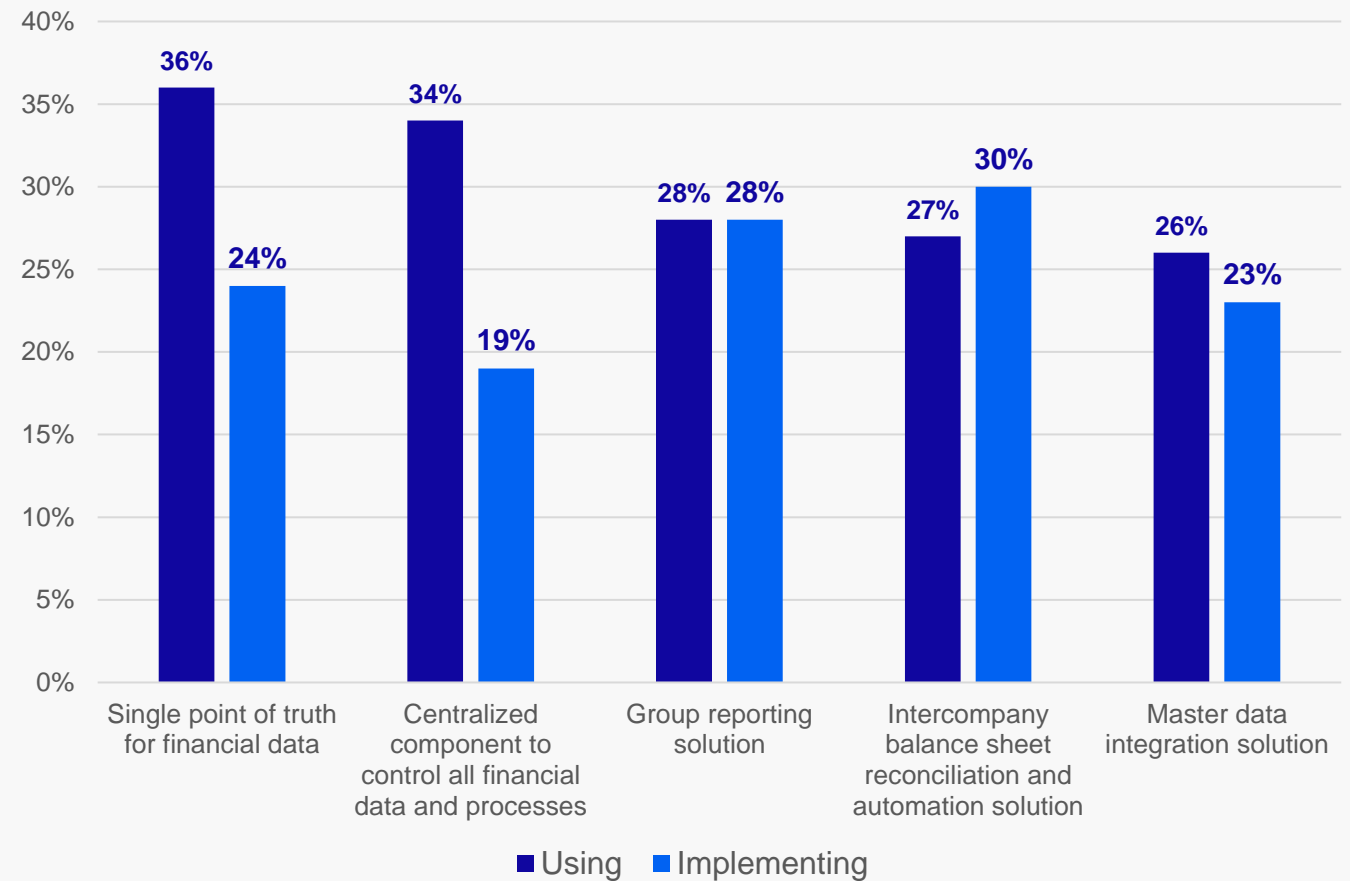
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Several financial technologies have risen to prominence, being used by at least half of survey respondents. Most of these solutions involve centralizing and standardizing financial data.

A single point for financial truth is being either used or implemented by 60% of respondent organizations, followed by a centralized component to control financial data and process, with 53% of respondents.

SAPinsiders were also likely to use a group reporting solution (56%) or an intercompany balance sheet reconciliation and automation solution (57%).

Which of the following technologies is your organization currently using or planning to use?



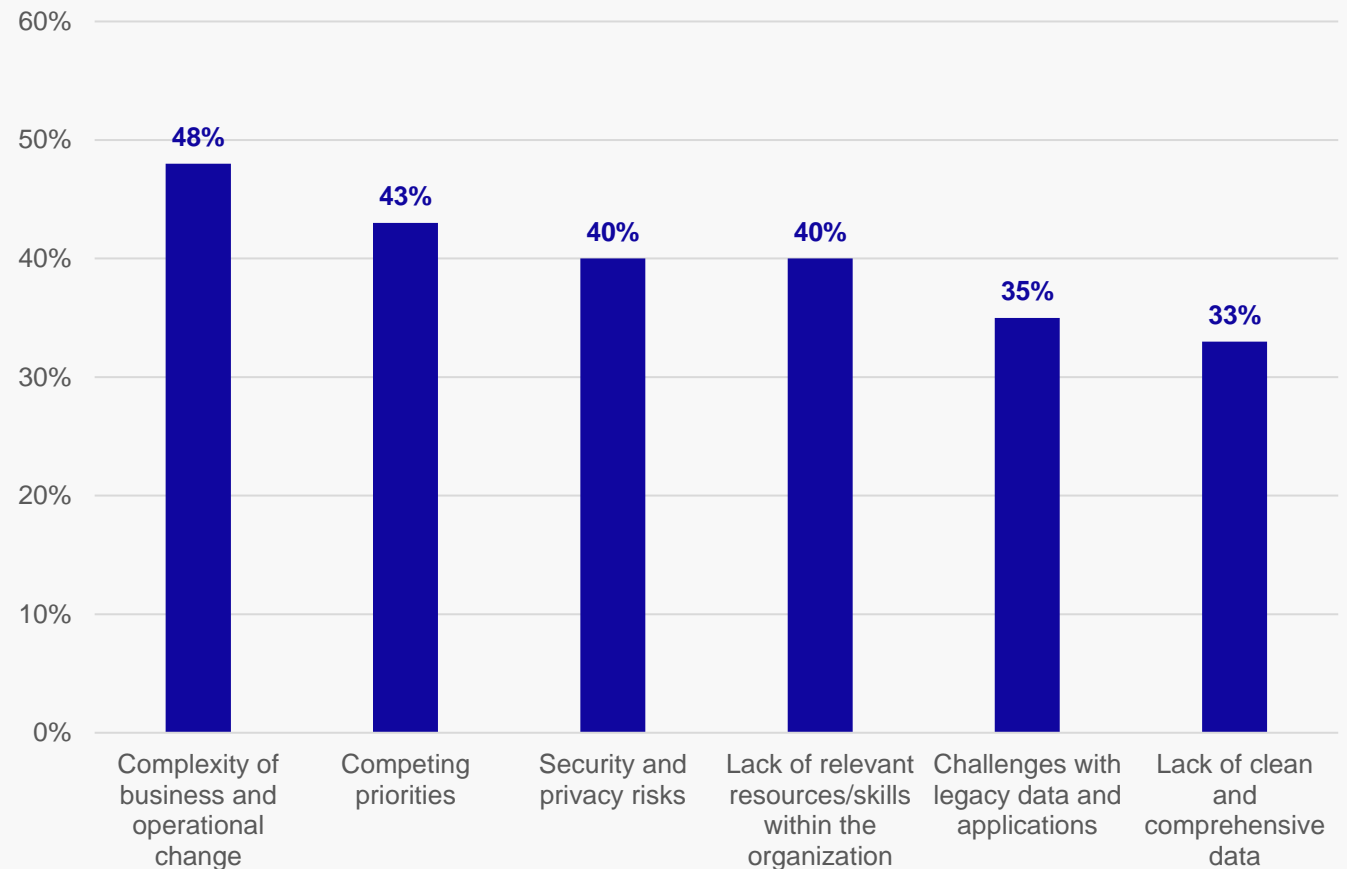
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While organizations have broadly shown an interest in adding AI and automation technologies into their financial processes, several key impediments stand in their way.

Nearly half (48%) of respondents said the complexity of changing the way their business operates restricted their ability to implement AI and automation. A further 43% highlighted competing priorities. Another significant portion cited security and privacy risks, at 40%.

Many other organizations said that the lack of time, resources, and money held them back, as 40% did not have the resources or skills they needed.

What barriers have you encountered while implementing AI and automation in your finance processes?



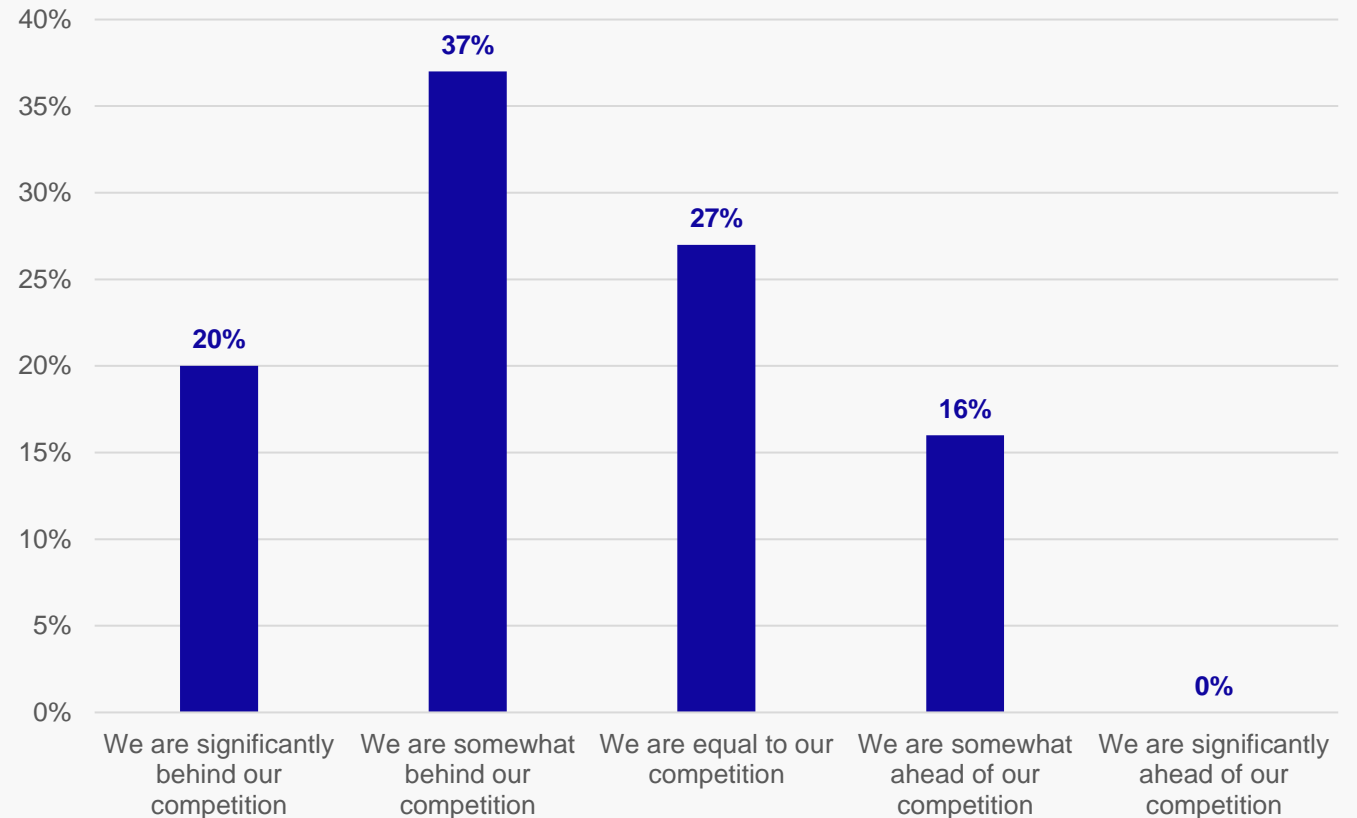
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SAP organizations tend to have relatively little confidence in the way that they are performing in AI and automation implementation relative to their competition.

Shockingly, no respondents said that they felt significantly ahead of their competition and just 16% said they were somewhat ahead. This may be because organizations understand that there are always more ways to infuse advanced technologies.

The largest share of respondents (37%) said they were somewhat behind, and nearly a quarter (20%) felt significantly behind.

How does your organization's AI and automation performance in financial close and record-to-report functions compare to your competition?



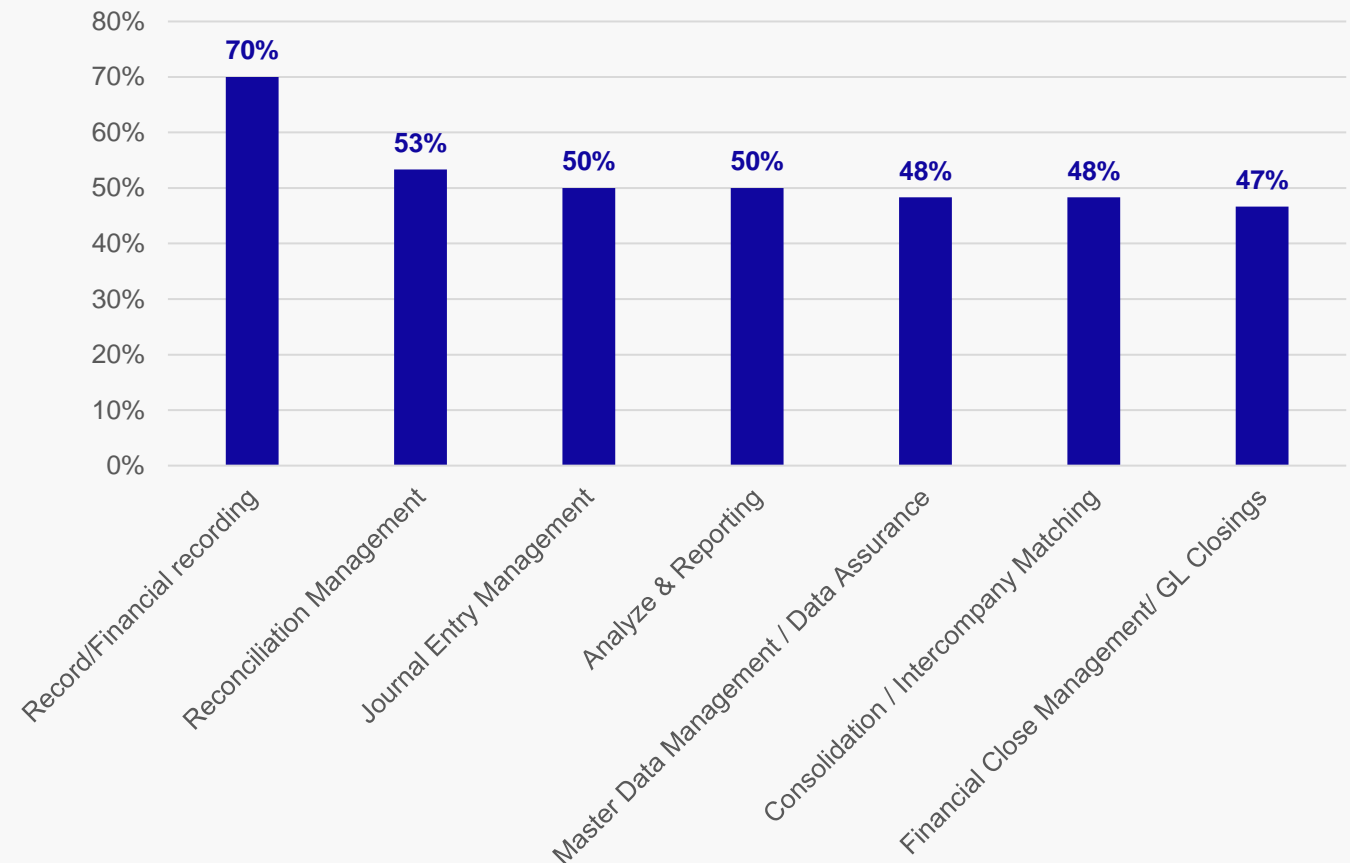
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For the organizations have already started running or implementing automation in their record-to-report processes, it tended to concentrate in a few areas.

Record and financial recording was far and away the top answer, at 70%. Many other areas concentrated around 50%, including reconciliation management, journal entry management, analysis and reporting tools, and master data management.

This shows users are relying on automation to take care of reporting and managing information, as these tend to involve manual and repetitive tasks.

Where in the record-to-report process is your organization implementing or running automation?

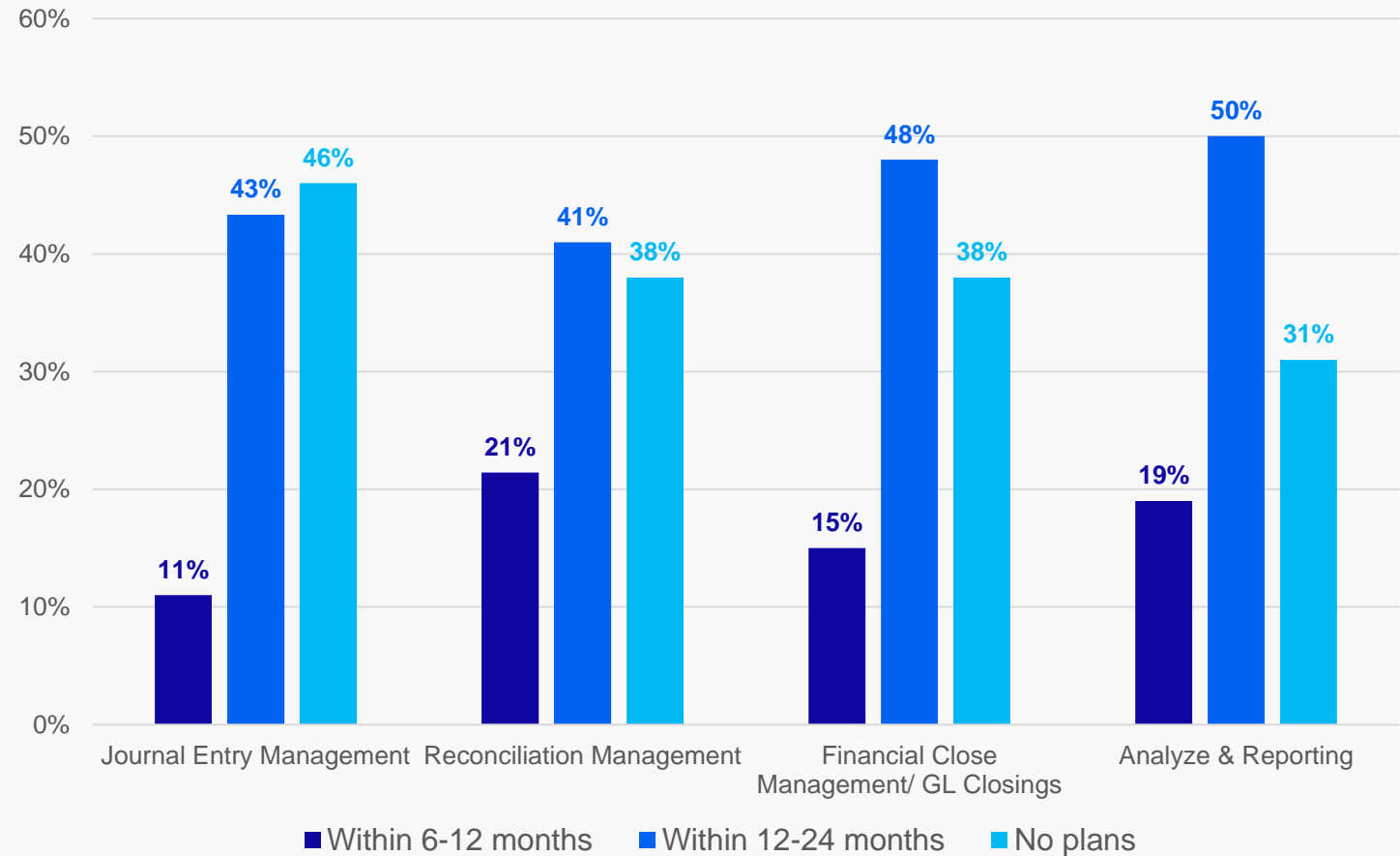


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As companies begin to implement more AI and automation in their medium-term planning, they are narrowing in on specific solution. Nearly three quarters of respondents (69%) said they planned to have tools to analyze and report financial data within the next two years, reflecting the desire that companies have to gain deeper insights from their data.

Other planned additions like journal entry management and reconciliation management are among the most commonly-used solutions already, and companies without these solutions are racing to keep pace.

Is your organization evaluating automation solutions for any of these record-to-report processes?



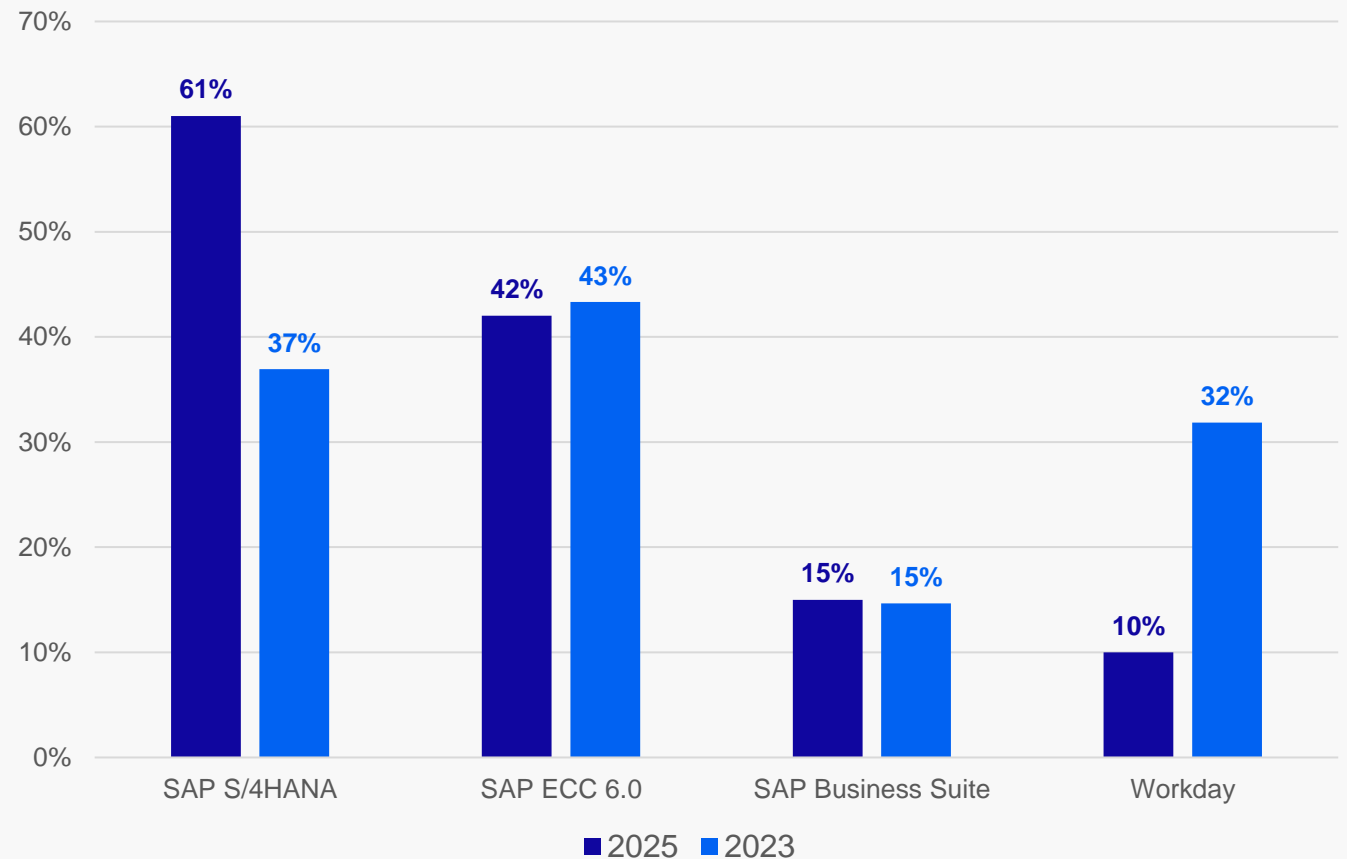
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Over the past two years, SAP S/4HANA adoption has picked up, as the share of respondent organizations relying on the latest offering increased from 37% in 2023 to 61% in 2025.

Despite this, the share of organizations still using SAP ECC at least somewhat are nearly identical. The share of Workday users has dipped notably, from almost one-third (32%) down to 10%.

As companies prioritize AI and automation, they understand that using a more advanced ERP will help them accomplish their goals in this regard.

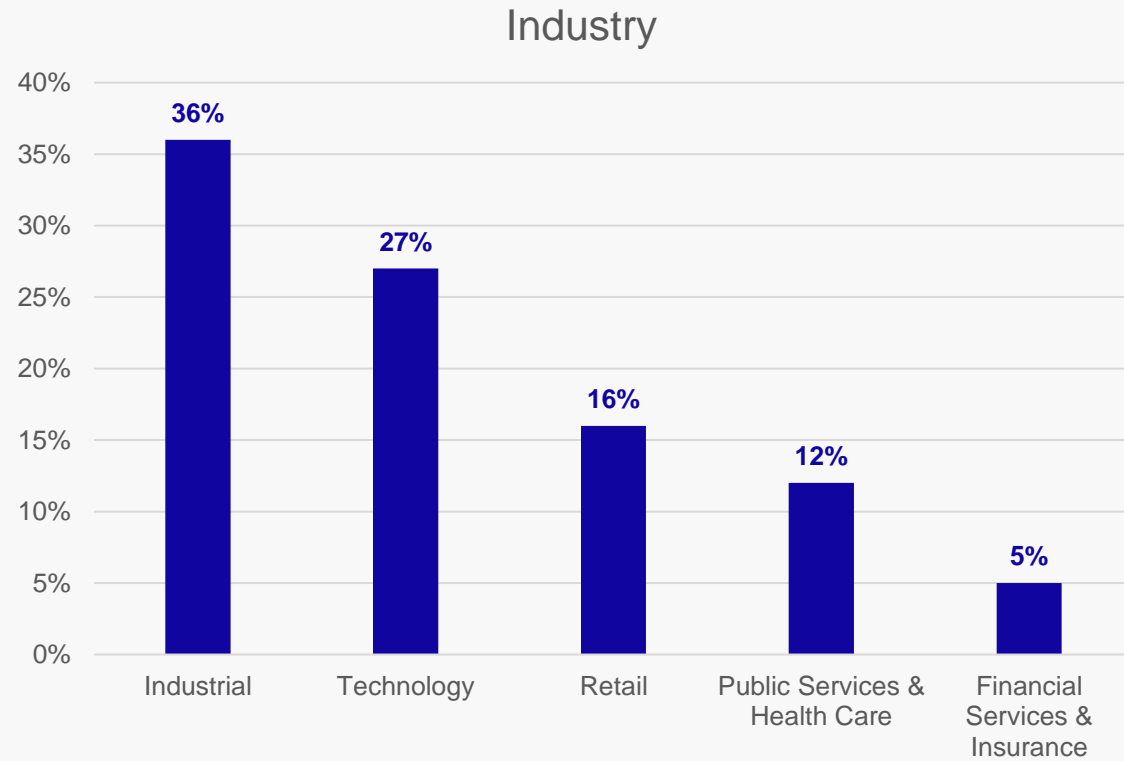
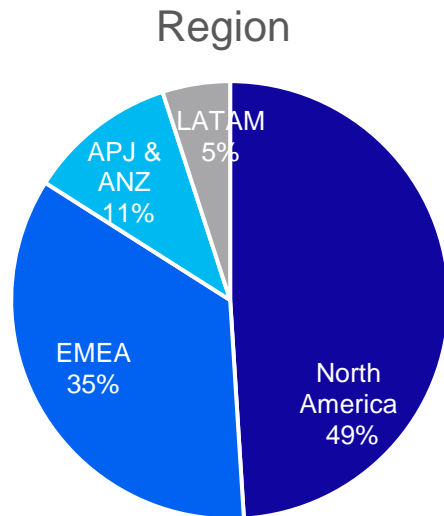
Which ERP solution(s) does your organization currently use?



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Nearly half of all respondents are from North America, with just over one-third from EMEA.

The highest share of respondents came from the industrial sector (36%), followed by tech (27%), and retail 16%.





Automating the Record-to-Report and Financial Close Process



DRIVERS

- Pressure to reduce manual and repetitive financial accounting tasks (55%).
- The move to SAP S/4HANA presents an opportunity to consolidate financial activities (32%).
- Need for increased capacity for FP&A professionals to focus on more high-value, strategic tasks (26%).
- Multiple financial systems and ERP instances require integration and harmonization (24%).



ACTIONS

- Automating financial closing processes (58%).
- Improving the efficiency of the financial close (57%).
- Creating or managing a single source of financial truth (39%).
- Integrating and harmonizing financial data from multiple ERP instances (27%).
- Standardizing governance of record-to-report process (25%).
- Enhancing group reporting capacity (24%).



REQUIREMENTS

- Automated and standardized closing processes and alerts (93%).
- Harmonized and integrated master data (86%).
- Group accounting and management reporting (86%).
- Electronic audit trail (85%).
- Self-service reporting and analytics (84%).
- Harmonized financial reporting (82%).
- Automated adjustments and balance sheet reconciliation (74%).



TECHNOLOGIES

- Single point of truth for financial data (36%).
- Centralized component to control all financial data and processes (34%).
- Group reporting solution (28%).
- Intercompany balance sheet reconciliation and automation solution (27%).
- Master data integration solution (26%).
- Financial close automation tools (23%).
- Disclosure management tool (22%).
- RPA for data extraction and posting to subledgers (20%).

THANK YOU

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