

Contact Us

Financial Management: Accounts Payable and Expense Reimbursement

There is a fee associated with participation in APQC's Open Standards Research. If you have any questions about the fee, please contact the APQC helpdesk for more information.

This document should be used as a guide in the offline collection of data. APQC cannot accept submissions using this file. Please contact the APQC helpdesk on helpdesk@apqc.org for more information about offline submission.

OSBC DATABASE PRIVACY AND PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please refer to APQC's privacy statement for disclosures relating to the collection and use of your personal information.

Instructions

Research project structure

APQC OSBC research projects are designed to collect a wide variety of information about your entire organization, with a specific emphasis on the particular business entity for which the research is being collected.

Each survey is divided into a number of sections, separated by a block of introductory text. The first section contains questions about your organization as a whole and your particular business entity. Each of the subsequent sections of the research project presents questions about specific processes and activities in your business entity. Each of these process-specific sections corresponds to APQC's <u>Process Classification Framework</u>.

Before each section containing process-specific questions, you are presented with a list of components of the PCF. This list identifies which components of the PCF are addressed by this particular section of the research project. The numbers in the list correspond to the PCF's unique numbering scheme. Questions within the section will address specific activities for the stated component of the PCF.

Navigation, saving results, and submitting a survey

The survey is presented in pages. Each page has at least one question on it. Each question on each page should be answered. A survey may also have a question that must be answered in order to proceed. Required questions are identified by the word "Required" in red letters.

Use the buttons at the bottom of each page to navigate throughout the survey. To avoid data loss, do not use the browser "Back" and "Forward" buttons to navigate through the survey. As you navigate through the survey using the "Back" and "Forward" buttons, your data are saved to APQC's secure servers.

The progress indicator at the bottom of each page displays a bar graph and a percentage that indicate your progress in navigating through the survey. The progress indicator does not account for completed questions, only for your relative position in the survey.

To exit the survey before you have completed all questions, click the "Save button at the bottom of the survey page, then close your browser. The system will present you a link to your particular instance of the survey. Use that link to return to the survey at any time.

Once you have completed the survey, click the "Submit" button on the last survey page. By submitting your survey results, you will notify APQC that your data are ready for validation. You will not be able to create, review, update or delete your answers after you have submitted the survey, so ensure that you have accurately documented your answers before you submit it.

Cookies, one browser

The APQC OSBC survey tool uses a "cookie" to associate you to a particular survey instance. Your cookie is unique to the computer you used to start the survey, and is the only key that you have to access your data. Should you lose your cookie, you will be unable to complete the survey and will need special assistance from APQC. Do not delete your APQC cookies until after you have submitted your survey data.

Because this cookie is unique to the computer you used to start the survey, other users will be unable to contribute results and data to the survey unless they have physical access to the browser you used to start the survey.

Visit the Browser Setup page for more information about configuring your browser to use cookies.

JavaScript

The APQC survey application uses JavaScript for enhanced validation and usability features. In order to complete these surveys, you must use a browser that supports JavaScript, and you must have JavaScript enabled. Visit the Browser-Setup page for more information.

Printing

To print a copy of the entire survey, you should use the "Preview" version of the survey. This view consolidates all of the questions associated with the particular survey onto a single printable browser page. No answers or personal data are contained on the "Preview" version of the survey.

As you navigate through the survey, you may print each page to record your answers. There is no facility to review all of your answers on one page.

Definitions

Each survey has a set of definitions associated with it that are unique to the process grouping covered by the survey. Throughout the survey, questions may have links to survey definitions.

Accurate results depend on a common understanding of the terminology used across survey respondents, so take special care to review the definitions in the glossary thoroughly. Common terms may be defined differently than you expect. When in doubt, contact APQC for guidance.

Reasonable numbers

The survey asks for a number of detailed pieces of information. If you do not have the exact information that a question asks for, please provide a reasonable approximation. If you cannot provide a reasonable approximation, please leave the answer blank. If you are not sure, contact APQC for guidance.

Reporting period

All questions in the survey, unless expressed otherwise, request data from the last complete fiscal year of your organization's or business entity's operations. Please be sure to provide the end-date of the fiscal year for which you are providing data. If you have any questions about the reporting period, please contact the OSBC help desk (contact information is provided below.)

Question numbers may skip

Occasional changes to the survey may result in the addition or removal of questions. Due to this activity, the question numbers in the survey may occasionally skip one or more numbers. Furthermore, some surveys will hide questions depending upon answers to previous questions. If you have any questions about the order of questions in the survey, please contact the OSBC help desk.

Contacting APQC with questions

For any questions regarding the survey mechanics, the survey content, or general survey inquiries, please contact the OSBC helpdesk via telephone at +1.800.776.9676 (toll free, US only) or +1.713.681.4020, or via email at acceptantle or acceptant or acceptant

Survey Scope

This survey is designed to be modular in nature. The following processes are addressed by this survey:

- Process accounts payable and expense reimbursements
 - Process accounts payable (AP)
 - Process expense reimbursements

The survey contains a general background section followed by a number of process specific sections. The process specific sections contain questions addressing the PCF components identified above.

General Background

*91.0010 Please indicate the currency (e.g. US Dollar, Euro, Japanese Yen, etc.) used for monetary responses provided in this survey. This question must be answered in order to proceed to the next page.
Choose one T
91.0020 Provide the end date of the twelve-month period for which your <u>business entity</u> will be providing data. (All questions in the survey, unless expressed otherwise, request data from the last complete fiscal year of your organization's or business entity's operations. Pro-rata data are not acceptable, only actual data should be submitted. Please be sure to provide the end-date of the fiscal year for which you are providing data. If you have any questions about the reporting period, please contact the OSBC help desk on <u>osbc@apqc.org</u> .)
Period end date
a. Year b. Month
* Choose one * Choose one *
91.0030 What is the number of all employees (temporary, part time, and full time) at your business entity?
Please provide your response with no thousands separator or other formatting. Also, a period should be used for a decimal mark, not a comma (e.g., 1231.5 , not 1231,5).
Number of employees (headcount)
91.0040 What is the <u>total annual revenue</u> for your business entity? If your business entity is a support unit such as a <u>shared services center</u> and therefore does not directly generate revenue, then provide the revenue amount for the units/business entities you support.
Please provide your value responses with no currency marks, thousands separator, or other formatting. Also, a period should be used for a decimal mark, not a comma (e.g., 1325.23 , not \$1,325.23).
Total annual revenue
91.0050 What is the total annual selling, general, and administrative (SG&A) costs incurred by your business entity? Include all compensation and benefits (excluding incentive compensation), direct operating costs, supplies, maintenance time and expenses, subscriptions, publications, and related costs.
Total annual SG&A costs
91.0060 Please provide the <u>total annual revenue</u> for your entire organization. (Note that this question refers to the entire organization rather than the business entity defined for purposes of this survey effort. For example, the surveyed business entity could be a business unit of a publicly traded company, in which case this question should be answered as the corporate parent's total annual revenue.)
Total annual revenue
91.0070 What is the <u>total annual cost of continuing operations</u> incurred by your business entity? (If your business entity is a support unit such as a shared services center, then include the costs for the units/business entities you support.)
Total annual cost of continuing operations
91.0080 Approximately in how many countries, including your own, does your business entity operate?
Number of countries
91.0090 Which of the following best describes the customer strategy for your business entity? (Select only one.)
Cost leadership
Product/service differentiation Focus on the systemer
Focus on the customer
91.0100 Which of the following functions best describes the role your business entity performs in the corporate organization? (Select only one.)
Headquarters

91.0110 Which of the following terms best describes the market conditions in which your business entity mainly operates? (Select only one.)

Shared services/centralized processing center
 Manufacturing, operating, or business unit

My business entity is currently compliant with local Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) other than US GAAP and IFRS.

If you selected other please specify with which standard	d your business entity is compliant:
1.	

This concludes the **general background** component of the survey.

Proceed to the next page to begin the **process accounts payable (AP)** component of the survey. Processes and activities included in this component of the survey include:

- Process accounts payable and expense reimbursements
 - Process accounts payable
 - Verify AP pay file with PO vendor master file
 - Maintain/manage <u>electronic commerce</u>
 - Audit <u>invoices</u> and key data in AP system
 - Approve payments
 - Process financial <u>accruals</u> and reversals
 - Process taxes
 - Research/resolve <u>exceptions</u>
 - Process payments
 - Respond to AP inquiries
 - Retain records
 - Adjust accounting records

Please direct all survey related questions to the OSBC Helpdesk at (800) 776-9676 or email OSBC Helpdesk.

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0	Self-supporting; performs most aspects of this process Relies on other <u>business units</u> for this process Relies on <u>shared services center</u> for the process Serves as a shared services center for the process <u>Outsources</u> to third party
Sect	tion II System Profile
	plete the series of questions below relating to the systems your business entity uses for the process indicated. In situations where more none response type may appear applicable, choose the single response that is overall most appropriate for the respective process.
91.	0180 Which of the following best describes the system used in the process "process accounts payable"? (Select only one.)
	Manual/Spreadsheet Internally developed SAP Oracle (Includes PeopleSoft, and J.D. Edwards, or other Oracle products) Infor (Includes GEAC and Baan) Other accounts payable system (please describe) Not applicable / no system used for this process
_	Do not know
If y	rou selected "Other," please specify.

91.0170 For the process "process accounts payable," which of the following best describes your business entity's role? (Select only one.)

Section III Instructions for Cost and Data Element Sections

In sections IV and V you will be asked to provide FTE, cost, and data element information. The performance metrics your business entity will receive will be largely based on the completion of this information.

Section IV FTE and Cost Tables

Complete the FTE and cost tables below for the business process.

Please provide your cost responses with no currency marks, thousands separator, or other formatting. Also, a period should be used for a decimal mark, not a comma (e.g., 1325.23), not \$1,325.23).

FTE Table (91.0190)	Process Accounts Payable
91.0190 Number of <u>full-time equivalents (FTEs)</u> employed during the year to perform the process "process accounts payable" (Use up to two decimal places if needed.)	

91.0200 Using the total annual cost for the process "Process accounts payable," please allocate that cost into the following cost categories.

Ī	Cost Category (91.0200)	Cost Allocation
	a. Annual <u>personnel costs</u> (compensation and benefits) for those classified as FTEs in question 91.090	

b. Annual <u>systems costs</u> (direct and/or allocated to the site)	
c. Annual <u>overhead costs</u> (direct and/or allocated to the site)	
d. Annual <u>other costs</u>	
e. Annual <u>outsourced costs</u>	
f. Total cost of the process <i>process accounts payable</i> (sum of a through e)	

91.0210 Using the total number of FTEs from question 91.0190 for the "process accounts payable" process, please allocate those FTEs among the following activities. (Use up to two decimal places if needed, and use a zero if no FTEs perform this activity.)

Activities for process accounts payable	FTE <u>allocation</u>
a. <u>Management activities</u>	
b. Maintain AP/PO vendor master file	
c. Maintain/manage electronic commerce	
d. Audit invoices/key data into AP system	
e. Approve payments	
f. Process financial accruals and reversals	
g. Process taxes	
h. Research/resolve exceptions	
i. Process payments	
j. Respond to inquiries	
k. Retain records	
I. Adjust accounting records	
m. Total FTEs of the process <i>process accounts payable</i> (sum of a through I)	

Page Break

Section V Data Elements

The data elements gathered in this section will be used to form the performance metrics for this module.

More and more companies are implementing enterprise-wide system solutions that integrate financial processes with supply chain processes, as well as customer ordering, billing and payment processes. These newly integrated systems, coupled with enabling electronic commerce technologies, allow companies to track line items more easily and with better accuracy.

Line items are the new unit that requires measurement for improvement and monitoring performance. For this reason, we will ask for line item detail in many of our survey questions. The level of accuracy you are able to provide for these questions will most likely depend on the systems you have today and their ability to track this data. If your business entity's system does not track line items, then please approximate the annual number based on an average month.

91.0220 What is the total annual value of all materials and services purchased by your business entity?

, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Please provide your value responses with no currency marks, thousands separator, or other formatting. Also, a period should be used for a decimal mark, not a comma (e.g., 1325.23), not \$1,325.23).
Value
91.0230 What is the total number of invoices processed by your business entity annually?
Number of invoices
91.0240 What is the total number of invoice line items processed annually by your business entity? (Please include only those line items for purchased goods and/or services and exclude line items for freight or tax.)
Number of invoice line items

91.0250 Of the total annual number of invoice line items processed by your business entity, what percentage is received using electronic or automatic methods, e.g. internet, wireless application protocol (WAP), EDI, Direct upload or interface? .

Percentage of invoice line items	
91.0260 Using the total number of annual invoice line items from question 91.0240, please allocato	e that number among the following
methods/interface types by which data are entered into the general ledger system.	
Invoice types	Number of invoice line items
a. Manually keyed	
b. Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)	
c. <u>Scanned</u>	
d. Other (Please specify)	
e. Total number of annual invoice line items (sum of a through d)	
If you entered an amount for other above, please describe here.	
If you entered an amount for other above, please describe fiere.	
Page Break	
91.0270 What percentage of invoice line items is <u>paid on time</u> annually by your business entity?	
Percentage of invoice line items %	
91.0280 What is the total number of invoice line items received annually offering a discount?	
Number of invoice line items	
91.0290 What is the total number of invoice line items paid within the discount period annually by	v vour business entity?
Number of invoice line items	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Number of invoice line items	
91.0300 What is the total number of invoice line items processed annually by your business entit	y that are matched with a <u>purchase order</u>
Number of invoice line items	
91.0310 What is the total number of invoice line items processed annually by your business entit	v that are matched the first time?
Number of invoice line items	,
Number of invoice line items	
91.0320 Using the total number of annual invoice line items from question 91.0240, please allocate	e that number among the following approva
methods.	
Approval Methods	Number of Invoice Line Items
a. <u>Two-way matching</u>	
b. <u>Three-way matching</u>	
c. Pre-approved <u>procurement cards</u>	
d. Pre-approved blanket codes	
u. The approved statistics codes	
e. <u>Automatic receipt settlement</u>	
f. Replenishment/Vendor managed inventory	
g. Other (Please specify.)	

26/13 h. Total	number of annual invoice	•	ds Research: Accounts Pay rough g)	able and Expense Reim	nbursement		
If you e	ntered an amount for othe	er above, please describ	pe here.				
			Page Break				
91.0330 system?	What is the average cyc	e time in hours from the	e receipt of an invoice to	o entering the data ir	nto the accounts	payable/invo	icing
Hours							
	What is the average cycled for payment?	e time in calendar days	(including weekends) fr	om the receipt of an	invoice to when i	t is approved	and
Days							
91.0350 transmit	What is the average cycleted?	e time in calendar days	(including weekends) fr	om the receipt of an	invoice until actu	al payment is	5
Days							
91.0360 resolved	What is the average cycl?	e time in calendar days	(including weekends) fr	om when an invoice o	error is detected t	to when it is	finally
Days							
	What is the total number (Use up to two decimal pl		uding <u>travel and enterta</u>	<u>inment</u> disbursements	s) processed annu	ually by your	business
	of disbursements	,					
91.0380	What is the total number	of disbursements proce	essed annually (question	91.0320) that are e	rror-free the first	time?	
Number	of disbursements						
	Of the total annual numb net or credit/procurement			s entity, what percer	ntage is submitted	l electronicall	y (such
Percenta	age of disbursements						
	Of the total annual numb					e or erroneou	IS
Percenta	age duplicate or erroneous	;					
	What is your business en g., erroneous or duplicate				s) from the time w	hen a disburs	ement
Days							
91.0420	What is the maximum val	ue of a check that can	be issued without appro	val?			
Maximun	n value						

entity?			
entation of the a	ccounts paya	able practic	es below?
Fully	Partially	Plan to	No plans to
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
ı see as the key ree.	operational p	oractices o	r management
	entation of the a Fully implemented	Fully Partially implemented O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	entation of the accounts payable practice Fully Partially Plan to implemented

This concludes the **process accounts payable (AP)** component of the survey.

Proceed to the next page to begin the **process expense reimbursements** component of the survey. Processes and activities included in this component of the survey include:

- Process accounts payable and expense reimbursements
 - Process expense reimbursements
 - Establish and communicate expense reimbursement policies and approval limits
 - Capture and report relevant tax data
 - Approve reimbursements and advances
 - Process reimbursements and advances
 - Manage personal accounts

Please direct all survey related questions to the OSBC Helpdesk at (800) 776-9676 or email OSBC Helpdesk.

Section I Activity Profile
91.0460 To process expense reimbursements , which of the following best describes your business entity's role? (Select only one.) Self supporting; performs most aspects of this process Relies on other <u>business units</u> for this process Relies on <u>shared services center</u> for the process Serves as a shared services center for the process Outsources to third party
Section II System Profile
Complete the series of questions below relating to the systems your business entity utilizes for the process indicated. In situations where more than one response type may appear applicable, choose the single response that is overall most appropriate for the respective process.
91.0470 Which of the following best describes the system used to process expense reimbursements? (Select only one system.) Manual/Spreadsheet Internally developed SAP Oracle (Includes PeopleSoft, and J.D. Edwards, or other Oracle products) Infor (Includes GEAC and Baan) Other expense reimbursement system (please describe) Not applicable / no system used for this process Do not know If you selected "Other," please specify.
91.0480 Which software package does your business entity use to capture/complete employee expense data? (Select only one.) American Express Capture Software Internally developed Other system to capture/complete employee expense data Not applicable / no system used for this process Do not know If you selected "Other," please specify.

Section III Instructions for Cost and Data Element Sections

In Sections IV and V you will be asked to provide FTE, cost, and data element information. The performance metrics your business entity will receive will be largely based on the completion of this information.

Please provide your cost responses with no currency marks, thousands separator, or other formatting. Also, a period should be used for a decimal mark, not a comma (e.g., 1325.23, not \$1,325.23).

Section IV FTE and Cost Tables

Complete the FTE and cost tables below for the business process.

FTE Table (91.0490)	Process Expense Reimbursements
91.0490 Number of <u>full-time equivalents (FTEs)</u> employed during the year to perform the process "process expense reimbursements" (<i>Use up to two decimal places if needed.</i>)	

91.0500 Using the total annual cost for the process "Process expense reimbursements," please allocate that cost into the following cost categories.

FTE Table (91.0500)	Process Expense Reimbursements Allocation
a. Annual <u>personnel</u> costs (compensation and benefits) for those classified as FTE's in question 91.0490	
b. Annual <u>systems costs</u> (direct and/or allocated to the site)	
c. Annual overhead costs (direct and/or allocated to the site)	
d. Annual other costs	
e. Annual <u>outsourced</u> costs	
f. Total cost of the process <i>process expense reimbursements</i> (sum of a through e)	

91.0510 Using the total number of FTEs from question 91.0400 to **process expense reimbursements**, please allocate those FTEs among the following activities. (Use up to two decimal places if needed, and use a zero if no FTEs perform this activity.)

Activities for process expense reimbursement	FTE allocation
a. Management activities	
b. Establish expense reimbursement policies and approval limits	
c. Capture and report relevant tax data	
d. Approve reimbursements and advances	
e. Process reimbursements and advances	
f. Manage personnel accounts	
g. Total number of FTEs to <i>process expense reimbursements</i> (sum of a through f)	

■ Page Break

Section V Data Elements

The data elements gathered in this section will be used to form the performance metrics for this module.

More and more companies are implementing enterprise-wide system solutions that integrate financial processes with supply chain processes, as well as customer ordering, billing, and payment processes. These newly integrated systems, coupled with enabling electronic commerce technologies, allow companies to track line items more easily and with better accuracy.

Line items are the new unit that requires measurement for improvement and monitoring performance. For this reason, we will ask for line item detail in many of our survey questions. The level of accuracy you are able to provide for these questions will most likely depend on the systems you have today and their ability to track this data. If your business entity's system does not track line items, then please approximate the annual number based on an average month.

Please provide your response with no thousands separator or other formatting. Also, a period should be used for a decimal mark, not a comma (e.g., 1325.23, not \$1,325.23).

91.0520 What is the total annual value of travel and entertainment (T&E) expenditures for your business entity?

Total annual value

91.0530 What is the total annual value of T&E expenditures under partnering agreements for your business entity?

Total annual value

91.0540 What is the approximate total number of expense report line items processed by your business entity annually? (Please replace the default zero value with the figure from your organization.)

Number of line items

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91.0550 What is th	le largest value of expense that can be reimbursed without a receipt? (I.e., at what toguired?)	hreshold value do policies m	nandate
Largest value of ex			
91.0560 What perc	entage of total expense report line items are manually audited by your business entit	y annually?	
Percentage of line	items		
	%		
91.0570 What is th	— ne approximate total number of expense report line items with exceptions processed a	nnually by your business ent	tity?
Number of line iten		. , ,	•
	al annual number of expense report line items processed by your business entity, what via internet or other electronic means)?	it percentage is submitted	
Percentage of line	items		
91.0590 What is th	ne total number of T&E disbursements processed annually by your business entity?		
Number of disburse	ements		
methods of reimbur	Reimbursement/Payment Methods	Disbursements Allocati	ion
a. <u>Direct deposit v</u>	vith payroll		
b. <u>Direct deposit r</u>	ot with payroll		
c. <u>Manual check</u>			
d. Direct pay by b	usiness entity to credit card		
e. Other			
f. Total number of	T&E disbursements processed (sum of a through e)		
	Page Break ————		
Please provide you comma (e.g., 100	r response with no thousands separator or other formatting. Also, a period should be 3.5 , not 1003,5).	e used for a decimal mark, r	not a
	ne average cycle time in calendar days (including weekends) between when the exper eduled for payment?	ise report is received and wl	hen it is
Days			
91.0620 What is th	ne total annual number of employee T&E inquiries received by your business entity?		
Number of T&E inq	uiries		
	bout your entire process expense reimbursements operation, What do you see as niques that contribute to your organization's success, if any? Please list the top three		es or

1.0640 What additional Accounts Payable and Expense Reimbursement measures would you like to see included in future reports? For list of current measures, click <u>here</u> .
1.0650 Please indicate whether your organization would like to discuss the benchmarking results to learn more about reasons for possible erformance gaps.
) Yes
○ No

You have reached the end of the survey. You can use the **previous** button to review your answers for accuracy and reasonableness. After pressing the **submit** button, you will no longer be able to directly edit your data in this survey form.

The next step will be review and validation of your responses. APQC will contact you to conduct a final review of your responses and verify that your responses were as you intended.

Please click the **Submit** button to complete the survey and transmit your data.

In order to obtain a printed version of your completed survey, you will need to print each page **before** submitting your responses. After you select "submit", you will be unable to print your completed survey.

Please direct all survey related questions to the OSBC Helpdesk at (800) 776-9676 or email the OSBC Helpdesk at OSBC Helpdesk.

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