

Press release
24 September 2025

9 in 10 finance leaders embrace AI and automation

- 86% of Australian finance departments are using AI and 99% are using automation in some capacity
- 30% of finance departments have extensively or fully integrated AI into their business operations, while 38% of employers have done the same with automation
- Budget, forecasting and planning (59%) and accounts payable and invoice processing (56%) are the areas finance leaders are using **AI**, while financial reporting (39%) and tax compliance (39%) are where they plan to implement AI next
- Financial reporting (59%) and accounts payable and invoice processing (57%) are the areas finance leaders are using **automation**, while expense management (39%) and accounts receivable and cash application (36%) are where they plan to implement automation next

Sydney, 24 September 2025 – Artificial intelligence (AI) and automation are becoming the foundations of business operations, as employers complete the transition from piloting the technologies to making it a firm part of daily operations.

New independent research by specialised recruiter [Robert Half](#) finds employers have leveraged automation to create organisational efficiency, followed by exploring how AI's sophisticated analytical and predictive capabilities can build on this efficiency.

The majority (86%) of finance departments are using AI in some capacity, whether it is fully embedded, extensively integrated, moderately embedded or in limited use. Meanwhile, almost all (99%) have turned to automation in the same way.

Finance departments progress substantially in integrating AI and automation

Employers have moved rapidly in the past 12 months to firm up their use of AI and automation, with most (30%) extensively or fully integrating AI processes in their finance operations, and even more (38%) doing so with automation. Less than one fifth (14%) are not using AI at all and do not plan to do so, while 1% are not adopting automation.

The extent to which technologies have been implemented	AI	Automation
No AI or automation tools have been adopted and there are no current plans to integrate them	14%	1%
Limited use of AI or automation, such as pilot or ad hoc tools used in specific tasks or teams	22%	25%
Moderate integration, with several processes automated or enhanced with AI but their use is not widespread	36%	37%
AI or automation is extensively integrated, used in multiple core operations across finance and accounting	22%	24%
AI or automation is fully embedded and central to daily operations and decision making	8%	14%

Independent survey commissioned by Robert Half among 200 finance hiring managers in Australia.

The top 5 AI and automation priorities

Finance leaders were asked to identify the top five areas in which they are already using AI in finance, as well as the top five areas in which they plan to implement AI. Their intentions differ from existing

usage, suggesting employers have completed their AI implementation in priority areas and are moving on to other areas where they see it can be useful.

Where finance leaders are already using AI		Where finance leaders plan to use AI	
Area	% of employers <u>already</u> using	Area	% of employers <u>planning</u> to use
Budget, forecasting and planning	59%	Financial reporting	39%
Accounts payable and invoice processing	56%	Tax compliance	39%
Accounting standards	55%	Consolidation	34%
Audit and compliance	55%	Expense management	33%
Accounts receivable and cash application	53%	Treasury and cash management	33%

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Employers were also asked to identify their top five areas in which they use automation in finance, revealing it is used in many areas in which they are also using or planning to use AI. When it comes to plans to implement automation, employers intend to introduce it to some new areas that have not commonly been the subject of automation or AI processes before.

Where finance leaders are already using automation		Where finance leaders plan to use automation	
Area	% of employers <u>already</u> using	Area	% of employers <u>planning</u> to use
Financial reporting	59%	Expense management	39%
Accounts payable and invoice processing	57%	Accounts receivable and cash application	36%
Budget, forecasting and planning	56%	Audit and compliance	34%
Tax compliance	54%	Tax reporting	33%
Accounting standards	53%	General ledger and reconciliation	33%

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*“Automation in finance has moved beyond early wins like reporting and invoicing,” says **Lauren Haxby, Practice Director at Robert Half.** “The shift toward expense management and reconciliation shows companies are using, or are planning to use, automation to strengthen controls and accelerate workflows.*

“What we’re seeing is a two-speed strategy. Automation clears repetitive tasks, while AI layers on predictive and analytical depth. Together, they’re transforming finance from an efficiency function into a forward-looking, intelligence-driven operation.

*“AI is no longer just supporting basics like budgeting and accounts payable, the focus is turning to higher-value areas such as financial reporting and tax compliance, where precision and insight can fundamentally reshape decision-making,” concludes **Haxby.***

Notes to editors

About the research

The study is developed by Robert Half and was conducted online in July, 2025, by an independent research company of 500 hiring managers in finance and accounting, IT and technology, and human resources. Respondents are drawn from a sample of SMEs as well as large private, publicly-listed and public sector organisations across Australia. This survey is part of the international workplace survey, a questionnaire about job trends, talent management, and trends in the workplace.

About Robert Half

Robert Half is the global, specialised talent solutions provider that helps employers find their next great hire and jobseekers uncover their next opportunity. Robert Half offers both contract and permanent placement services, and is the parent company of Protiviti, a global consulting firm. Robert Half Australia has offices in Brisbane, Melbourne, Melbourne South East, Perth, and Sydney. More information on roberthalf.com/au.

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