

PSMJ

A/E Pulse

Surveying design firm principals worldwide

Firms Still Not Using Full Capabilities of FM Software

While financial management software vendors continue to enhance the capabilities of their systems to have complete back-office support, few firms are actually using these packages for tasks beyond financial reporting.

- Only 11% of the participants reported using their FM software to support marketing, and only 3% reported using their software for HR management.
- More than 30% report they outsource payroll, a basic function of FM software. This indicates that firms seem to prefer leaving routine tasks and compliance to specialists.
- Over 90% of firms are using job cost software as this is the core capability for design firm financial management.
- Microsoft Project Manager was the most frequently used PM software, but only 50% of participants overall report they are using PM software..

One notable trend: firms are apparently not very interested in seeking new FM software, with only 6% of the participants reporting they are planning to buy new software this year.

The Complete Survey Results

	% Using
1. Financial software users	
• Deltek	51%
• Axium	21%
• BST	8%
• Oracle	0%
• JD Edwards	0%
• Quicken	14%
• Other	6%
2. Accounting modules used	
• Job Cost/Project Management	91%
• General ledger	86%
• Payroll	46%
• Accounts payable	91%
• Budgeting	51%
• Time sheet entry	86%
3. Outsourced payroll processing	
• ADP	17%
• Paychex	17%
• Other	23%
4. Project management software	
• Microsoft Project	37%
• Primavera	9%
• Other	11%
5. Other software	
• Marketing	11%
• Scheduling	11%
• HR Management	3%
6. Plans on buying new software	
• New software this year	6%
• Evaluating need	26%
• Not planning for new software	63%

Number of firms participating in this survey: 55