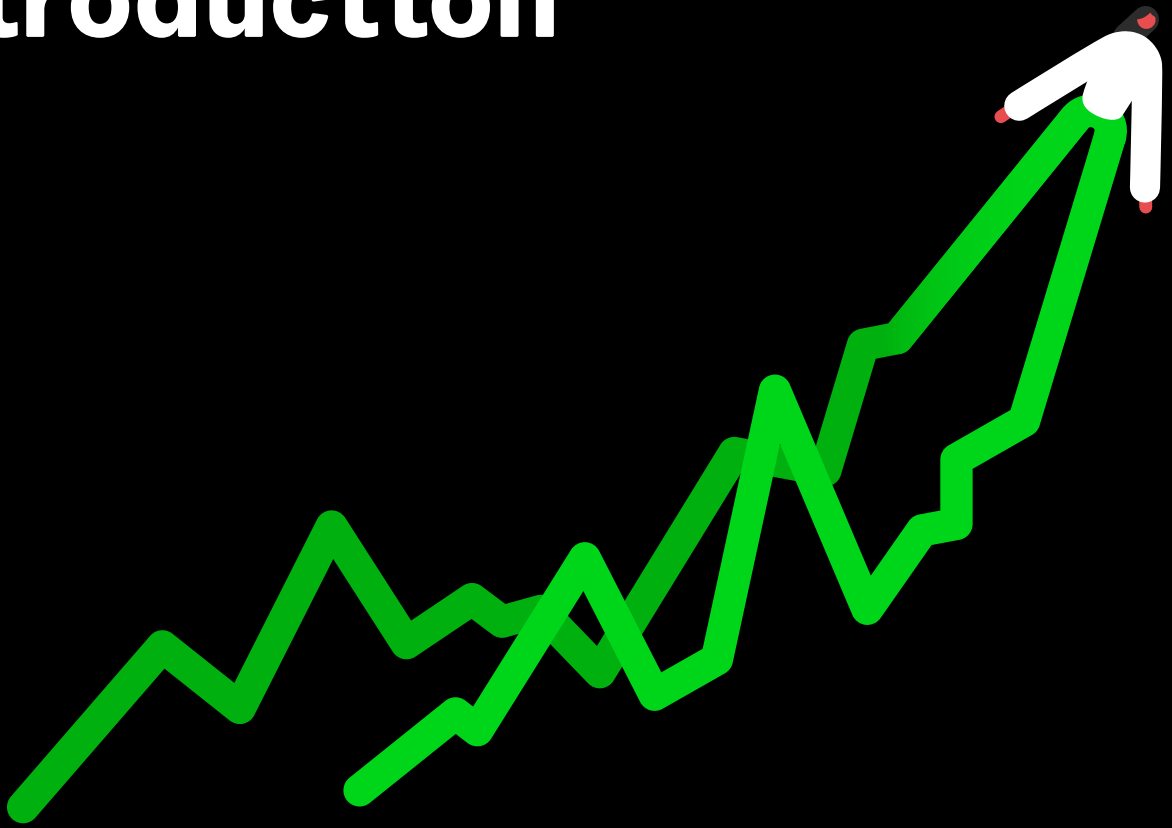# Fast close.
Faster insights.

How automation is helping nonprofit
finance teams make a bigger impact

Sage

Introduction

In today's world, finance leaders in the nonprofit space are dealing with a range of challenges, from economic uncertainty and keeping up with compliance, to cybersecurity risks, and the growing need to adapt in your role to overcome those hurdles. That's where automation comes in.

This year's report, "**Fast close. Faster insights**." reveals finance professionals in the nonprofit sector are making the move from manual processes to cloud-powered automation. We surveyed over 150 nonprofit professionals and they shared their honest insights on what's helping—and hindering—their month—and year-end close.

Through automation, finance professionals in this space are freeing up time for more meaningful tasks, unlock financial insights more quickly, and making a bigger impact on their organisations overall.

"Over the past ten years, I have seen first-hand the benefits automation affords nonprofits. By automating financial workflows and reporting, finance leaders around the world are streamlining processes, gaining real-time visibility into key metrics, and integrating their business systems. This is saving them time and resource at scale, empowering them to truly do more with less and accelerate mission impact."

Joan Benson
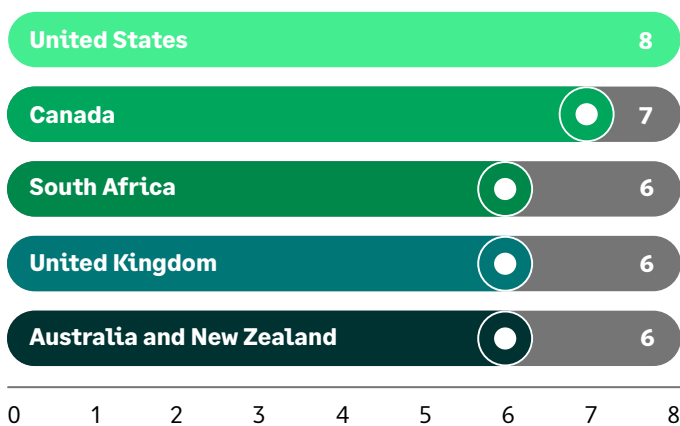Sr. Director of Nonprofit Industry Marketing, Sage

The stubborn 7-day close

Our research found that the average nonprofit organisation takes 7 working days to close its books—a figure that has largely held steady for the past few years.

That's **35%** of their entire work time being spent on a low-value activity.

Current average close time in days for the surveyed regions:

Region	Days
United States	8
Canada	7
South Africa	6
United Kingdom	6
Australia and New Zealand	6

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

But here's the thing: those with the most automation in place close **1.5 days faster** than those who are not automating key processes, like journal entry, bank reconciliation, and reviewing transactions.

This means they can spend **58%** of their time focused on more impactful tasks, in comparison to those working more manually, who spend only **14%** on that kind of work.

That's over **4x** the amount of time to focus on work that can accelerate mission success for your nonprofit.

58%
of time spent on more impactful tasks due to automated processes
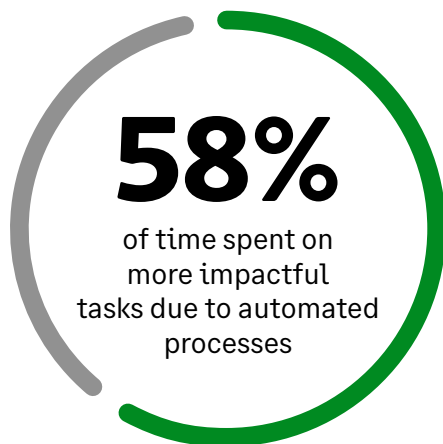
1.5 days faster
closing than those who are not automated

4x
more time to focus on mission success

Karyn Hood, Management Accountant and Company Secretary of East Malling Trust, shares how automation has transformed how teams are able to spend their time, focus, and energy:

> Operationally it has made us much more live and more current. We're getting our invoices out quicker, which means we're getting our money in quicker,

What's slowing you down?

The nonprofit space is more competitive than ever before. With that in mind, it's worth noting that according to our report, **50%** of nonprofits that aren't fully in the cloud are looking to move to it within the next 6 months to 2 years. And in the past year alone, **83%** of organisations have looked at technology to help their close process.

That means your competition is either already reaping the rewards of automation and getting closer to their mission or will be before you know it.

Picture this: your finance team fully empowered by the capability to wrap up the financial close at an unprecedented pace, leaving competitors trailing behind.

The alternative? Your competition racing ahead, driven by the momentum automation affords them, while your nonprofit grapples with manual processes. This isn't just a race; it's a high-stakes dash toward the excellence your organisation needs to achieve its mission.

Sage

Quicker close, bigger impact

Finance leaders who embrace automation cut their closing time by **29%**, which translates to approximately 24 days freed up each year.

That's valuable time you could be spending on what really matters, from data analysis and training to strategic planning, team building, and your own personal wellbeing.
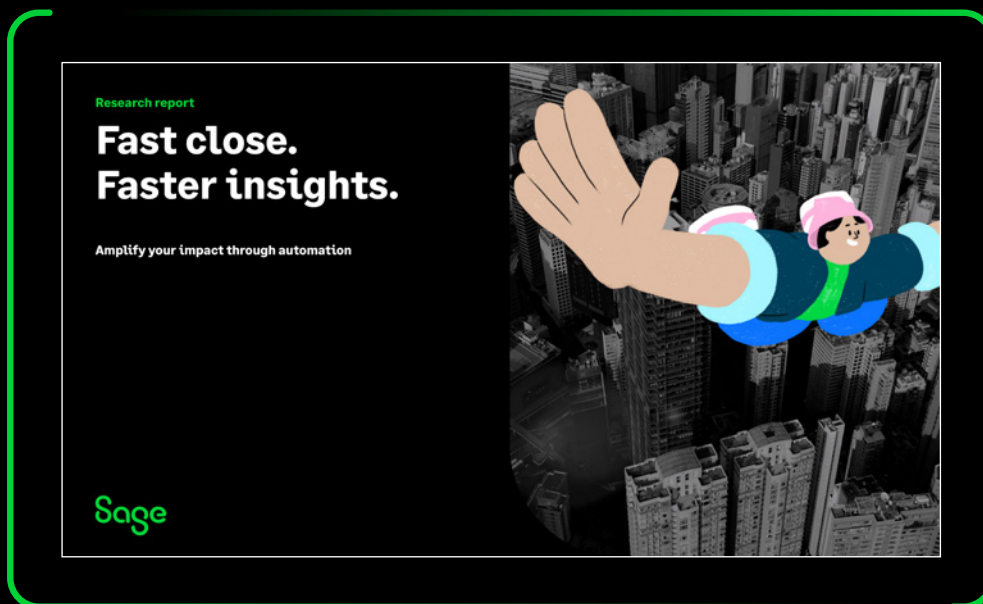
Here's a closer look at what other nonprofits are focusing on with the power of automation:

40%
Analysing data to find insights or trends

30%
Training and personal development

29%
Strategic or departmental planning

Want to find out more?
Get the full report to learn how automation can help you drive impact across your nonprofit and win back more time to spend on what really matters.

Download now

Research report

Fast close.
Faster insights.

Amplify your impact through automation

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