

Five high-ROI finance processes to automate first

Practical guide for finance and accounting leaders. Proven in finance; applicable to other high-volume operational processes.

1. Accounts payable - intake, coding, and three-way match

Why ROI is high:

High transaction volume, structured data (PO, receipt, invoice), clear exception paths.

Typical savings:

Dozens to hundreds of hours per month in larger AP teams when match and follow-up are manual.

Implementation approach:

Stabilize matching rules and exception taxonomy; automate the happy path; queue exceptions for specialists.

Caveats:

Vendor master quality and tax/VAT complexity can dominate effort - fix data before scaling bots.

2. Bank and GL reconciliations

Why ROI is high:

Recurring, deadline-driven, repetitive tie-outs across many accounts.

Typical savings:

Material close compression and fewer late-night corrections.

Implementation approach:

Standardize supporting workpapers; automate download, matching, and variance narratives where safe; escalate true breaks.

Caveats:

One-off restructuring or new accounts need controlled onboarding into the automation library.

3. Month-end journal entry and consolidation support packs

Why ROI is high:

Same calendar-driven steps every period; heavy copy-paste between ERP and Excel.

Typical savings:

Often 30-50%+ of manual pack time when reporting is template-driven.

Implementation approach:

Treat packs as products - fixed inputs, fixed outputs, explicit validation checks; add controlled overrides for judgment lines.

Caveats:

Spreadsheet archaeology should be replaced with governed models, not more hidden formulas.

4. Intercompany billings, allocations, and eliminations support

Why ROI is high:

Rules repeat across entities; errors are painful to unwind.

Typical savings:

Fewer reversals and faster IC true-up during close.

Implementation approach:

Document entity logic once; automate calculation and posting where policy is stable; keep audit trail explicit.

Caveats:

Legal entity changes and tax-driven adjustments need governance gates.

5. Management and operational reporting from ERP subledgers

Why ROI is high:

Reporting pulls are constant; many are structured pivots and reconciliations to a single source of truth.

Typical savings:

Frees FP&A and accounting from repetitive pulls into consistent dashboards.

Implementation approach:

Lock definitions (metrics dictionary); automate extract-transform-load to reporting models; add reconciliation to

GL.

Caveats:

Bad mappings multiply - invest in data definitions before visual polish.

How to use this list with the Assessment Framework

1. Shortlist processes that match the patterns above in your environment.
2. Score each with the Excel workbook [forgerpa-finance-automation-assessment-framework.xlsx](#).
3. Size hours, loaded cost, and adoption conservatively in [forgerpa-finance-automation-roi-calculator.xlsx](#).
4. Book a discovery call if you want a second opinion on sequencing.

Schedule a 30-minute discovery call:

<https://forgerpa.com/book>

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