

The True Cost of Employee Expenses

Empower Your Team to Spend Responsibly



By Brooks Rocco



“Brex allows me to spend less time doing administration and more time working on our products and with our customers.”

Adam Altman, CEO at [Redocly](#)

It's time to get smarter about managing expenses

Your time is valuable, and the last thing you want to do is waste it.

At all points of the day, there are reminders that time is ticking: from the notifications during meetings reminding you of other meetings, to the trove of emails in your inbox just waiting to steal a moment of your attention—the fact remains: wasted time equals wasted opportunity to engage in more constructive (i.e., more profitable) activities.

This is [opportunity cost](#), the theory that every action you take comes at the expense of not taking another action; therefore, it's important to focus on the tasks that offer the highest return on investment (ROI). Some call this ruthless prioritization.

At Brex, our mission is to reimagine financial systems so that every growing company can realize their full potential.

Part of this is to optimize each point in the journey of every person involved in the expense management process, from financial controllers [defining corporate expense policies](#) and managing company spend, to the managers distributing virtual cards to their team, to the employees' monthly practice of submitting expenses for review.

Brex recognizes that, while you can make money, you can't make time. You have to find time. You have to claw it back from inefficient places, by recognizing that:

- The longer it takes employees to upload receipts and fill out their expense memos, the less time they spend working on the big, bold projects that will take your company to the next level.
- The more time that management and accounting teams spend ensuring expense compliance, the less time they have to forecast insights that lead to better, smarter decisions from the top down.
- The more complicated the expense process, the larger the likelihood of errors, inevitably leading to more work required from everyone—and yes, ***we all have better things to do.***

In an effort to uncover how our products can better optimize our customers' time, we recently surveyed 115 finance professionals and decision-makers to learn more about how Brex provides value within their organizations.

While 97% of Brex customers say Brex has helped them save money, we're also focused on making sure our customers get maximum ROI on the most important of all resources: time.

Here are some ways Brex's free built-in expense management software can ensure your time is better spent on the things that matter most.

Does Brex save you time?

22% save 25+ hours / month

45% save 10+ hours / month

85% of Brex customers save accounting hours each month

How to save time with Brex

According to our survey, **85% of customers say Brex saves them hours of accounting time every month**. Of that, nearly half save more than 25 hours per month and some, more than 100 hours. Let's look at some of the features that enable these remarkable savings in time and effort.

Brex automates receipt-matching in real-time

79% of finance professionals told us they need financial products every employee can use.¹

As any head of finance in a growing company will tell you, ensuring that employees are fully aware of what's admissible according to [the corporate expense policy](#) is fundamental to keeping the books clean and easy to close—and one of the best ways to do that is with automated receipt management.

Fortunately, Brex's mobile app was designed from the ground up to optimize for an effortless employee experience, and includes many ways to attach receipts to transactions in real-time.

- Each time an employee completes a purchase with their Brex card, they'll receive a push notification prompting them to upload a photo of the receipt. With one tap, they can submit the receipt directly from their phone.
- With our [Brex + Slack integration](#), employees can easily respond to an automated Slack notification with their receipt and memo.
- Employees can also forward an email receipt to receipts@brex.com—or to reciepts@brex.com, in case autocorrect fails!—which will automatically match the purchase to the credit card transaction, keeping the receipt permanently integrated into the Brex dashboard.

What this means at scale is that your accounting team will save significant time closing the books now that purchases can be matched with receipts immediately after the expense is made.

¹ From a survey fielded September 3-16, 2021 by Brex to a sample of 406 financial decision-makers.

73% of Brex customers said Brex makes it easier for employees to comply with the company's expense policies than with what they used before.

In fact, once you've set up your expense policy within your Brex dashboard, you won't need to spend any time reviewing expenses at all unless they are flagged as out-of-policy or unusual by our automatic [smart spend alerts](#), which notify admins if subscriptions are duplicated, if prices increase, or if charges are higher than normal.

Setting up your expense policy is easy—just [follow these steps in our thoughtful guide](#).

Brex makes sure that financial managers only spend time reviewing expenses that matter.

“[Brex] gives me time to focus on other financial and strategic needs that the company has instead of manually analyzing and providing receipts for spend management.”

Jorge Tello, Finance Lead at [Simetrik](#)

Create unlimited virtual cards with spending limits— instantly

Brex makes it incredibly simple to create and distribute [virtual cards to employees](#) to spend on behalf of the company or specific department, or to assign to spend with a specific vendor.

The advantage is that virtual cards set a limit and duration for an employee or vendor before they've actually spent, ensuring compliance with spend policies for a transaction.

Managers can review the transactions, but there's no way employees or vendors can overcharge or spend beyond a pre-approved time limit. If an employee needs a temporary limit increase to take an important client to dinner, for example, they can submit a request that you can approve or deny with a single click in the Brex dashboard.

With virtual cards from Brex, expense policy compliance is built-in.

Get reimbursed faster

Occasionally, situations do arise where employees must use their own funds to cover expenses, such as food or lodging—and *the reimbursement ritual begins...*

No one likes this process. Employees have to track receipts, compile paper records and invoices, and Accounting needs to verify claims and memos, all while keeping on a lookout for possible indications of fraud.

Brex makes the reimbursement process easy. With our [reimbursement flow](#), you can:

- Approve a reimbursement in 2 clicks or less
- Invite other employees to participate, even if they don't have a Brex card
- Manage reimbursements in the same place as your corporate cards
- Instantly reconcile reimbursements through Brex integrations with QuickBooks and NetSuite (coming soon)

Note: The new Brex reimbursement feature is currently only available to select early-access customers. If interested, please contact your relationship manager or reach out to [support](#).

“I can create cards for my employees and per vendor, and it helps keep track of what they spend. It’s great!”

Paul Sarfati, CEO at [Baboo Travel](#)

ERP integrations that make the month-end close easier

Many businesses choose to use larger enterprise-scale software to manage their daily business activities, such as supply-chain management, sales order processing, and human resource support systems.

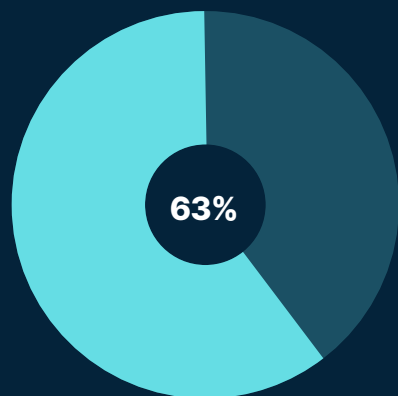
The appeal is that these Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems can allow teams to all work with the same up-to-date information, rather than with disconnected databases that don’t always ‘talk to each other.’

Brex is designed to seamlessly integrate with your processes and software with dozens of integrations, including [many of the most popular ERP systems](#) like NetSuite, Sage Intacct, and QuickBooks, with many more to come. Your accounting teams will breathe a sigh of relief when they see Brex automatically categorize and automate general ledger mapping to your accounting software.

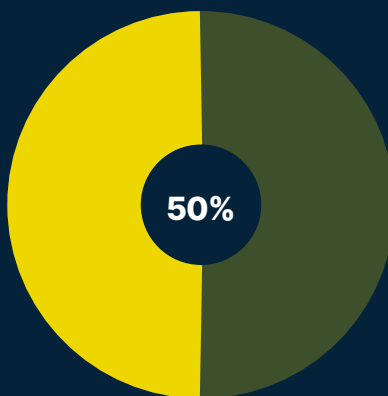
With our native integrations, **83% of Brex customers say Brex helps them close the books faster, with 63% specifically noting that ERP integrations reduce the manual workload.**

Have you started to think about what you’re going to do with all of the time you’re saving with Brex?

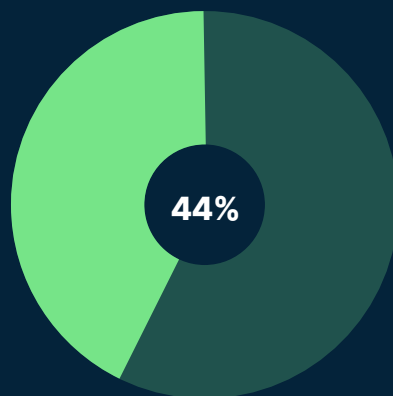
How does Brex help you close the books faster?



ERP integrations reduce manual work



Brex mobile app creates effortless expense policy compliance



Automated memo and receipt-matching eliminate monthly expense reports

“Brex has helped in maintaining oversight of transactions, including who is spending where, when, and what for. The seamless integrations facilitate accounting and bookkeeping work, and streamline all related processes.”

Adrian Tromel, VP at [Hamilton Health Box](#)



Maggie Winter and Max Bonbrest of AYR, a New-York based apparel company and Brex customer.

Enabling effortless employee compliance

At Brex, we're building the most powerful, yet simultaneously effortless expense experience possible for employees, managers, and finance teams.

Our approach is different from traditional expense management vendors—we aim to provide such an extraordinary employee experience that our products encourage good expense management habits right from the start.

Many products in the market enable finance teams to build robust controls, but that often leads to aggravating limits, blockers, and bureaucratic confusion when it comes to employee compliance with the expense policies in place.

This can lead to a cycle where a bad employee experience leads to poor compliance, which systematizes an unsatisfactory process, which then compounds into an even worse employee experience and a slowdown in business growth.

From our perspective, this is the opposite of what expense management can and should be.

As we reimagine financial systems, we focus on the employee experience—creating a seamless, simplified flow that makes submitting requests, charging expenses, and seeking reimbursements as straightforward as possible.

The employee's experience is now an active part of improving the reconciliation process. With employees, managers, and finance teams all working together with the powerful and automated Brex expense management system in place, **financial policies unlock potential rather than limit opportunities.**

Controlling employees is old-school. Empower them with Brex.

“The best feature is the ease of use, which frees up our Exec Team from chasing receipts and doing expense reports.”

Michelle Schwalbach, CFO at [Growth Acceleration Partners](#)

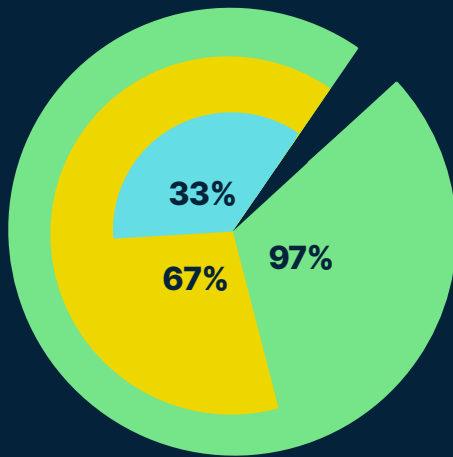
Time is your most valuable asset

As financial controllers, you are the operators that manage the engine of business—the financial tools that fuel the investments driving your company into the future. With this power comes the responsibility to ensure that employees are fully aware of their expectations, but are also empowered by the robust features and benefits of the products they use.

Brex is committed to providing the best employee experience imaginable, to ensure that there is nothing standing in the way of your employees from making the important decisions that help your company reach its full potential.

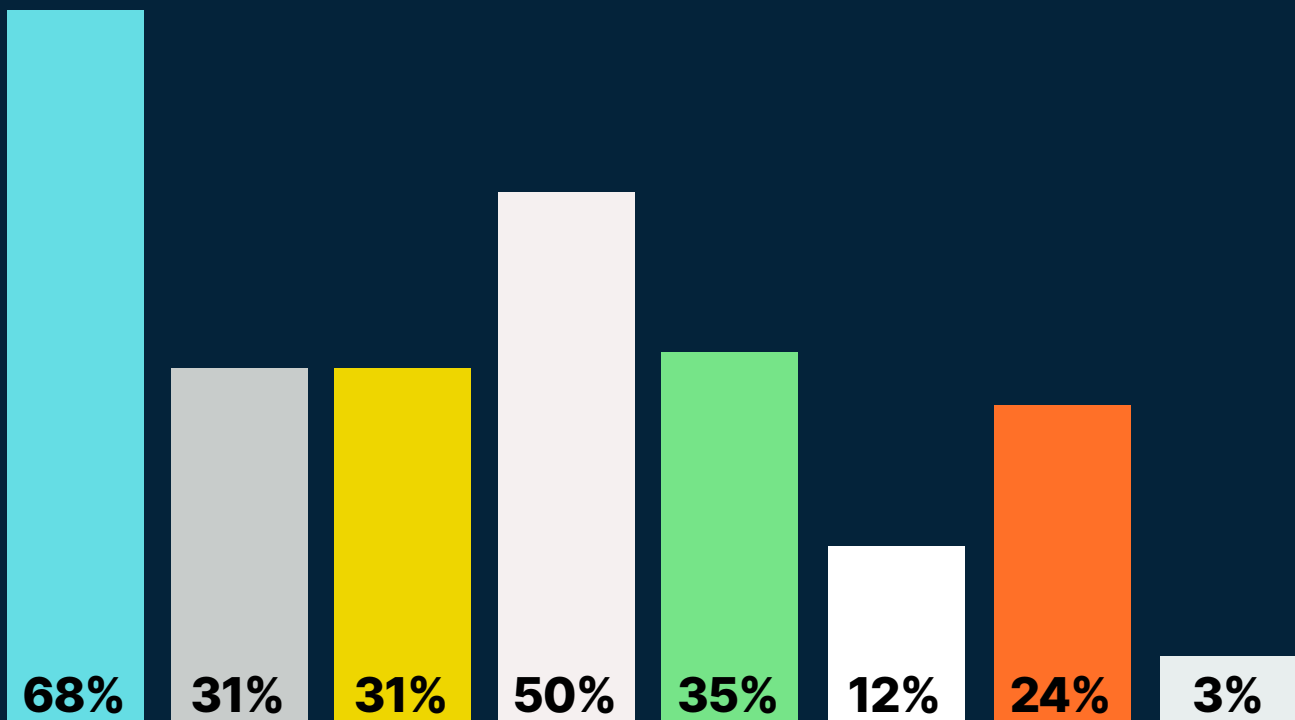
With automated receipt-matching, instant virtual cards, simple reimbursements, and integrations with the leading ERP platforms that complete your stack, Brex is designed to automatically do the manual financial labor behind the scenes so you can focus your time on what really matters: building the future of your business.

How much money does your company save each year using Brex?



- 97% save money each month
- 67% save \$5,000 or more
- 33% save \$10,000 or more

How has using Brex helped you save money?



- 68% Earning points for miles, statement credit, or cash back
- 31% Discounted services, like Slack, AWS, UPS, Dropbox, and more
- 31% Brex's free, built-in expense management software
- 50% No interest on credit card statements
- 35% No wire transfer fees
- 12% Alerts identifying and eliminating wasteful or duplicate spend
- 24% Consolidating multiple vendors to Brex's all-in-one solution
- 3% None of the above

About Brex

Brex is a powerful financial stack designed to serve the next generation of growing businesses.

By integrating software, services, and products into one experience, we help our customers effortlessly extend the power of every dollar, so they are free to focus on big dreams and fast growth—without worrying about wasted spend.

We proudly serve tens of thousands of businesses, from small private companies to many of America's most beloved public brands.

[Learn more at brex.com.](https://brex.com)

