The hidden cost of e-invoicing compliance

A CFO's guide to maintaining predictability in a real-time compliance world

GUIDE

Welcome to the e-invoicing era

E-invoicing is no longer a future compliance initiative. It is a continuous financial variable that accelerates risk as mandates across countries compound.

Every transaction is subject to governmental validation. Rejected invoices, delayed payments, and even financial penalties are now immediate financial realities.

How CFOs respond will determine whether e-invoicing becomes a source of financial control or ongoing cost volatility.

A global compliance shift

E-invoicing is rapidly becoming the global standard, driven by regulations and digitisation initiatives.

Global e-invoicing, by the numbers[1]

68%
of invoices issued are electronic

72%
of invoices received are electronic

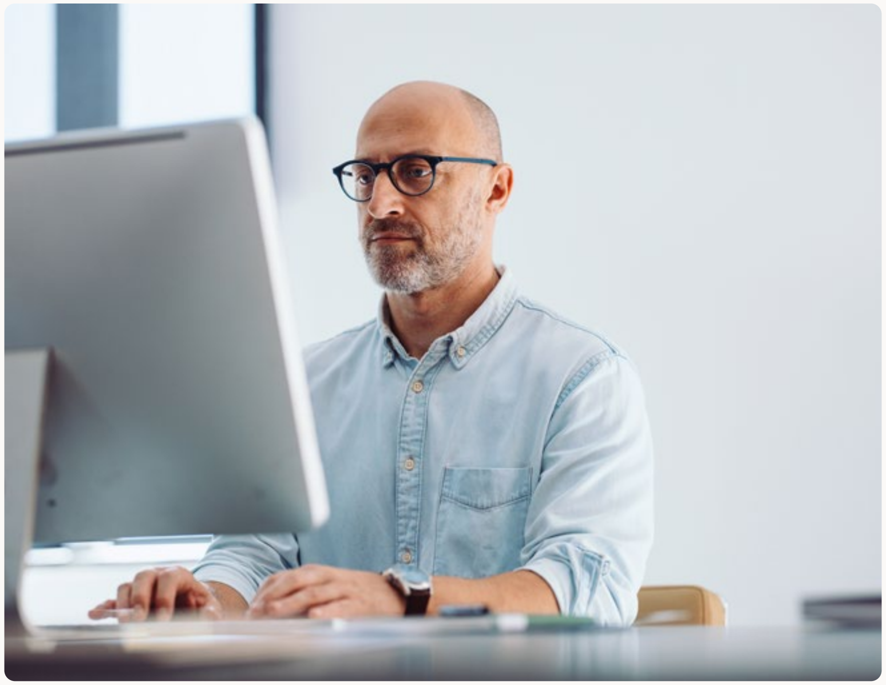
73%
of companies still using manual invoices plan to upgrade within the next 5 years

[1] "The Business and Economic Benefits of E-Invoicing," prepared for Avalara by Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr), June 2025.

The financial promise

E-invoicing offers the potential for significant financial gain[1]:

- ✓ 19 minutes saved per invoice
- ✓ 1.4 days faster payments
- ✓ 40% fewer lost invoices
- ✓ Reduced risk of fines and fraud



[1] "The Business and Economic Benefits of E-Invoicing," prepared for Avalara by Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr), June 2025.

The financial reality

Most organisations struggle to translate e-invoicing into financial advantage.

Fragmented implementations dilute ROI

Integration overhead erodes efficiency

Reactive compliance models increase long-term cost

Partial adoption increases risk exposure

The resulting volatility

Without the right operational strategy, e-invoicing can even become a source of financial instability:

1. **Fragmentation.** Using multiple country-specific solutions creates complexity and gaps.
2. **Continuous change.** Each country's e-invoicing mandate triggers unplanned effort and cost.
3. **Real-time risk.** Errors are now rejected at the point of transaction, disrupting cash flow.
4. **Unpredictability.** Costs scale unevenly across jurisdictions, complicating forecasts.

Regaining control

To contain risk and stabilise costs, e-invoicing must now be treated as global financial infrastructure, not a collection of single-country compliance tools.

Fragmented compliance	Purpose-built compliance
Multiple single-country solutions	One scalable, global platform
Project-dependent updates	Continuous compliance
Disjointed process flows	Real-time, validated transactions integrated into your ERP
Volatile costs	Predictable costs

The Avalara difference

Realising the full financial value of e-invoicing requires more than meeting mandates. It means upgrading to a model designed for predictable cost, enterprise scale, and minimal disruption.

Avalara E-Invoicing and Live Reporting was built with CFO priorities in mind:

- ✓ **Cost predictability:** Transaction-based pricing with **no country or licence fees** and **no entity fees**.
- ✓ **Proven enterprise scale and capacity:** Thousands of customers and billions of e-documents exchanged to date.
- ✓ **Faster time to value, less delivery risk:** Multiple implementation paths with support from Avalara and 60+ certified partners.

With Avalara's unified, global approach to e-invoicing and live reporting, CFOs can move from regional, reactive compliance to centralised financial control.

Avalara

Is your enterprise ready?

E-invoicing is now a permanent feature of the enterprise financial landscape.
Can your organisation control the resulting cost, risk, and operational complexity?

The Avalara E-Invoicing Readiness Assessment can help you:

- ✓ Identify sources of compliance-related cost volatility
- ✓ Evaluate exposure across jurisdictions
- ✓ Assess real-time validation and reporting capability
- ✓ Align Finance, Tax, and IT on a global approach

Schedule your readiness assessment today

ABOUT AVALARA

Avalara is redefining how businesses manage tax and compliance by embedding AI agents directly into the tools, systems, and workflows where compliance occurs, including ERPs, ecommerce platforms, POS solutions, email applications, and web browsers. Backed by a legacy of 20+ years of providing innovative solutions for tax and compliance, these agents don't just assist — they complete tasks and do the work. Using expertise, speed, and precision, Avalara agents calculate taxes, file returns, validate data, and manage jurisdictional rules and global e-invoicing requirements. With one of the largest and regularly updated collections of tax content, Avalara Agentic Tax and Compliance™ supports millions of businesses worldwide.

Learn why at **avalara.com**