

# Choosing the Right Payroll Provider for Your Business

ADP Payroll Buyer's Guide

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## What is a Payroll Service Provider?

Running payroll is one of the most important responsibilities of any business owner, but it doesn't have to be the most stressful. When you work with a payroll service provider, you get the peace of mind of knowing you have the resources to help you pay your employees and taxes accurately and on-time. And you get to focus on more important things, such as growing your business. That's why nearly 60 percent of companies with more than five employees now use an external payroll company, according to the National Small Business Association.<sup>1</sup>

A full-service payroll provider goes way beyond the basics of payroll calculations. They'll handle deposits and withdrawals, withholding and paying garnishments, and filing federal, state and local taxes. Most full-service payroll providers also integrate time and attendance and benefits administration.

In this guide, you'll find the essential information you need to decide if a payroll service provider is right for your business, which one best suits your needs, and you'll hear from small business owners and managers like you.

## Let's get started.



# What Can a Payroll Service Provider Do for My Business?

Of all the <u>options for running payroll</u>, a payroll service provider is your best bet for outsourcing the job while maintaining maximum control over the process. With a payroll service provider, the payroll processing time is drastically reduced because most of the process is automated.

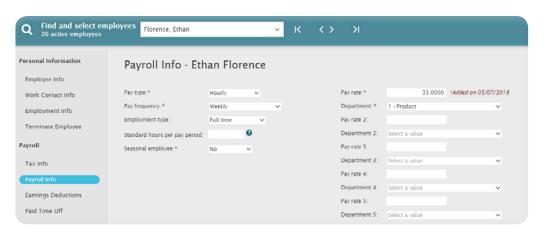
## What do you get with a payroll service provider?

Here are some of the services you should expect.

## Payroll Processing



A high-quality payroll service provider can help you drastically reduce the time it takes to run payroll by automating the most labor-intensive aspects, like calculations, tax withholding and payment options, paper checks, or digital payments like direct deposit, pay cards, debit cards, and mobile payments. These days, most good providers offer web-based interfaces that allow you to store your employees' information — names, wages, Social Security numbers and garnishments — so all you have to do is enter their hours for the pay period and hit "Run."



Many providers also offer time and attendance solutions that sync with their payroll programs to make the entire process quick and seamless.



"In terms of time, I don't worry at all about payroll. I go into payroll and it takes me literally five minutes to run. If I had to do payroll on my own, it might save me money, but it would make me crazy. What takes me five minutes to do, would take me maybe an hour, but I'd always wonder if I did it right."

- Adrienne Fudge, owner for 40 Dreams Catering

## Calculate, Withhold & Pay Taxes



Errors in calculating and paying taxes are among the most common — and expensive — payroll mistakes. A professional service provider helps to eliminate mistakes by automatically calculating and withholding the right amount of taxes for your employees and your business, then forwarding those funds to the appropriate agencies at the proper time. If something does go wrong and it's caused by the payroll provider, many providers will cover the cost of making it right.

mployee Name	Type	Total Hours	Cross Pay	Taxes	Deductions	Net Pay	Employer Taxes
Adams, Alexander	<ul> <li>Regular</li> </ul>	80.00	960.00	192.00	0.00	768.00	96.0
in, Colin	Regular	80.00	3,000.00	600.00	0.00	2,400.00	300.0
mith, John	Regular	80.00	3,000.00	600.00	0.00	2,400.00	300.0
ee, Victoria	Regular	80.00	960.00	192.00	0.00	768.00	96.0
ones, lan	Regular	80.00	960.00	192.00	0.00	768.00	96.0
eichols, Samantha	Regular	80.00	960.00	192.00	0.00	768.00	96.0
mith, Consulting	Regular	80.00	960.00	0.00	0.00	960.00	0.0
Totals		560.00	\$10,800.00	\$1,968.00	\$0.00	\$8,832.00	\$984.00
Payrun Total: \$11,784.00 Reports	Payroll Cash Required: \$11,784.00						



"We were having some issues with our previous payroll company. They never really told us the correct amount we were supposed to be paying every week for taxes, so we would get unexpected bills in the mail. We spoke with them quite a few times, and they pretty much blew us off. It seemed like every quarter we were having to play catch-up. We were with this company for over 20 years, so we just assumed this happened everywhere. Then, we realized what was going on was not right. Our current provider assured us that they would be there for us through all of it. And they have been."

- Rebecca DiMatteo, co-owner of Child's Creative Development Center

## Compliance



Forms W-2, 1099, 941, W-9 — the list of forms required to keep your business compliant with local, state and federal regulations is long and confusing. A high-quality payroll service provider takes the lead in making sure all your paperwork is filed and up-to-date. Expect easy access to mandatory forms and notifications about regulatory changes, like minimum wage or tax laws.





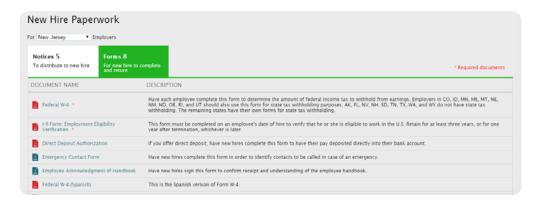
"When it comes to the paperwork at the end of year, they automatically prepare and file the Forms 1099. I don't have to hire a CPA to do that. My payroll provider takes care of it. The Department of Labor gets what they are owed. I wouldn't even know how to compute all of that. It saves time ... I really appreciate that."

- Emilie O'Leary, CEO of Sunshine Solar, LLC.

## New-Hire Reporting



Federal law requires employers to report certain information on new and rehired employees within 20 days of their hiring to a designated state agency. In some states, the deadline is even tighter. States match these reports against their child support records to locate parents, establish a child support order, or enforce an existing order. In addition to matching within a state, states transmit the new hire reports to the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH). A payroll service provider should ensure the reports are filed with the proper agency on time and include all the required information.





"My payroll provider took me through new hire reporting step by step, and as I added new employees, everything was so user-friendly. And if they notice anything, or something isn't right, boy, they're right there on top of it, asking, 'Are you sure this is what you meant to do?"

- Vicky Roby, secretary for Story's Collision Center

## PTO Management



Keeping track of your employees' paid time off (PTO) — including vacation time, medical/parental leave, sick days and personal days — can be time-consuming and confusing. Payroll service providers can also offer automated and integrated systems to help you stay organized with tracking and managing employee absences.



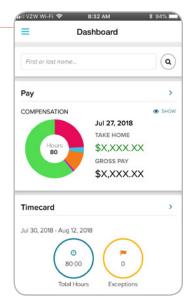
"Everything is online. I can keep track of it. I like the simple way it's laid out, to be able to enter salaried versus hourly. Keeps track of all my paid time off — vacation, sick time, holiday, all of that kind of stuff. So that's a blessing."

– Dena Deweese, practice manager for Dayspring Family Care

## **Employee** Access



With a payroll service provider, your employees should be able to access their pay stubs, manage their withholdings and look up their pay information from their mobile devices whenever they need answers. This way, they don't have to wait for you to answer their questions. And, you are spending less time fielding their requests and more time on your business.



"

"We were using outdated technology and a clumsy process that had us calling in payroll data. Our former payroll provider never reached out to us to update and modernize. With our current payroll provider, we have a modern system that allows our employees to access their payroll reports and update information online. It couldn't be easier for us or our employees, and the support is just fantastic!"

– James S. McLean, finance director and business manager of Bethel International United Methodist Church

## Mobile Access



Whether it's running payroll, creating timesheets or checking tax payments, a leading payroll partner should offer these services via a mobile app. Many providers also offer mobile time and attendance solutions that allow employees to clock in from their mobile devices, assuming they are within a geographical boundary set by you.



"People were coming into me all the time asking me, 'How many days do I have left?' Now they can check it for themselves, anytime, anywhere on the mobile app. It's just wonderful."

– Lyn Dyer, office and payroll manager for McStain Home Builders



## Integration



Payroll has many moving parts, and nothing helps them work in sync like partnering with a payroll service provider. By integrating related functions like time and attendance, payroll, 401(k) contributions and insurance premiums, your experienced provider can save you from entering the same information over and over again and help to dramatically reduce errors.



"Not only are we spending less time and getting much more accurate and complete data, but our costs are down even more than we anticipated."

 James S. McLean, finance director and business manager for Bethel International United Methodist Church

## Self-Assessment

Before you decide if a full-service payroll provider is right for your business, take a moment to consider your priorities. Here are five questions to help you assess your payroll, compliance and benefits needs.

Patience

Calculating withholdings

Q:	When it comes to	processing p	oayroll,	which is	your	scarcest resources	?

B Peace of mind

Time

Outsourcing payroll can save time and money: Companies that automate the process reduce payroll costs by eighty percent by minimizing errors, according to the American Payroll Association.<sup>2</sup>

Staff

## **Q:** Which of the following represents the greatest pain point for managing payroll for your business?

- A Tax compliance B Payroll management
- Tracking time and attendance E Employment law compliance

The majority of companies in North America now outsource payroll tax preparation and filing (76%), year-end tax form printing (87%), year-end tax form distribution (63%), check printing (57%), and garnishment administration (52%), according to Deloitte.<sup>3</sup>

## **Q:** How do you want employees to access their payroll and benefits information?

- A Business owner will field requests

  B Payroll manager will field requests
- © Employees should have direct access D Human resources team or specialist will control access

Employees increasingly expect access to their own data: Eighty-two percent of employees say their employer provides a self-service portal to view pay and benefits information, according to the American Payroll Association. <sup>4</sup>



## Q: Going beyond payroll, which of the following services do you need help with?

- A Time and attendance
- Benefits administration
- **C** Compliance

Recruiting

**E** HR/ personnel management

Seventy-four percent of businesses now outsource their time and attendance systems, and 79 percent outsource their HR system of record, according to EY.<sup>5</sup>

- **Q:** Do you feel confident researching, calculating, and filing all taxes on time?
  - A Very confident

**B** Confident

C Somewhat confident

Not at all confident

Don't let the true cost of taxes catch you by surprise! Fifty-eight percent of small businesses say that administering federal taxes is a bigger burden than actually paying them, according to the National Small Business Association.<sup>6</sup>

## Questions to Ask

Before you commit to a payroll service provider, it's essential to make sure they offer the services your company needs. Here are some questions to ask of any potential payroll partner.:

### Q: How much does all this cost?

A: Different payroll providers offer different pricing structures, but certain factors — how frequently you run payroll, how many people you're paying, how often you add or remove payees, which services you need — will influence the cost. ADP will work with you to determine the right payroll setup for your business, no matter how simple or complex the solution.

## Can a payroll service provider integrate with my accounting software?

Q: Partnering with a payroll provider shouldn't force you to overhaul your internal process. ADP automatically

A: syncs with many popular accounting software products, including QuickBooks™, QuickBooks™ Online, Xero™, and Wave, to ensure a seamless transition of your data. Check with

## **Q:** What if I need help, especially before or after business hours?

a payroll provider to make sure they pair up with your preferred program.

**A:** When you hit a snag with payroll, you can't wait days for someone to get back to you with the right answer. ADP offers direct access to certified, experienced payroll professionals available 24/7. Clients can also email questions to the Payroll Center at any time.

## **Q:** How do you pay employees when a disaster strikes?

A: ADP products are in the cloud, which provides the ability to run payroll from anywhere using a mobile device, and allows our clients pay their employees, regardless of what's going on locally. ADP can help you manage tracking employee leave during and after a disaster and advise you on benefits, policies and programs to help your employees recover.

## Q: How much time should I expect to spend on payroll with a service provider?

A: There's not much point to working with a payroll service provider that doesn't save you time. If you're doing payroll manually now, you should expect to significantly reduce the amount of time you're devoting to the process. How much depends on which services you choose. Do you want help in automated online payroll processing? Integrating payroll with tracking time and attendance? An ADP representative can explain your options and help you choose the package that best fits your business.

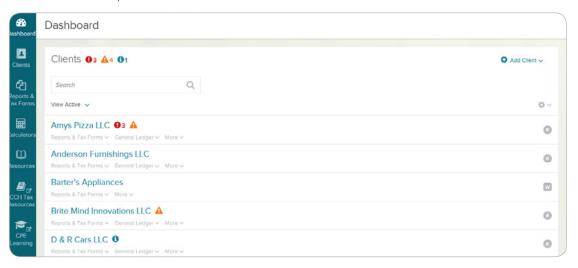


## **Q:** Will the provider handle my local taxes?

**A:** Keeping up with local taxes, which can vary greatly from one municipality to the next and change with little notice, represents a unique challenge for small businesses. Unfortunately, not all payroll service providers offer assistance in this area, so be sure to ask

## Q: What if I'm already working with an accountant or bookkeeper?

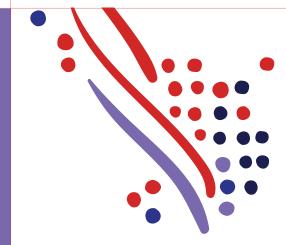
**A:** If you work with an accountant currently, they'll appreciate that you're using a trusted payroll service provider because it facilitates seamless integration of data, reporting and processing. This empowers accountants to do more work with greater efficiency so they'll have more time to work on strategies to help you run a better business. Many accountants have come to rely on products like ADP Accountant Connect, which is a front-end solution that readily enables access to what they need from their own clients' payroll service providers. It also helps to stay connected to the best practices and offerings across HCM services to help address clients' HCM needs.



Offering Big Four-caliber expertise to your clients is no easy feat for any small accounting firm. For **Neil Della Torre, founder and partner at Becher, Della Torre, Gitto & Company CPA's**, partnering with ADP TotalSource has helped his firm accomplish everything from streamlining insurance renewals to accessing Fortune 500° level benefits to help attract the best talent for their organization. Because they use it for their own firm, Neil and his fellow partners and staff can also recommend ADP TotalSource to their clients with confidence.

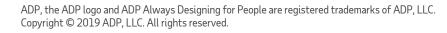
## Q: Does it matter what time of year I start?

**A:** Though some people prefer to wait for the start of a new quarter, or even a new year, before switching over to a new payroll service provider, ADP can support your move at any time of year. Make sure any provider can give you a clear list of information you'll need to make a smooth transition.



#### SOURCES

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# Small business payroll buyer's checklist

If you run a small business, you spend the majority of your time making sure your company is profitable and growing. Managing payroll on your own or even sending pay data to your accountant takes valuable time away from your daily operations. Working with a payroll provider can free you

In addition, some leading payroll providers offer features like employee self-service, mobile access, integration with time and attendance, and electronic pay options that can take your payroll from a basic administrative function to a value-added employee experience.

up to run your business while helping ensure that all of your payroll needs are properly handled.

**So, what do you get with a payroll service provider?** Here are some of the core payroll features and services you should expect and look for when evaluating payroll vendors.

## Payroll processing

Payroll calculations

Delivery of employee pay

Payment options: Paper checks, direct deposit and mobile payment

24/7 access to payroll support specialists

#### **Taxes**

Tax withholding and payment

Wage garnishment processing

#### Time and attendance

Integration of time and attendance tools with the payroll system to automatically share employee data

Paid time off (PTO) tracking, including vacation time, medical/parental leave, sick days and personal days

## Compliance

Easy access to and filing of Forms W-2, 941, W-9

Notifications about regulatory changes in wage and tax law

## Hiring

New hire reporting

Support for I-9 and W-4 paperwork

## Online employee self-service

Employee access to pay stubs

Employee management of personal data and tax withholdings

Benefits elections and management



## Mobile access

Employer can run payroll, create and manage timesheets, and check tax payments from any device, anytime

Employees using a mobile device to clock-in/out can only do so within a designated geographic range

## Reporting

Reporting available across all aspects of the payroll process: payroll, tax, time and attendance

## Integration

Integration of payroll with related functions like time and attendance, 401(k) and benefits to prevent redundant data entry and reduce errors

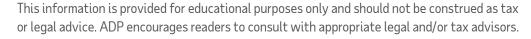
## New COVID-related regulations and tax credits

For updates on COVID-related legislation that impacts payroll and tax filing, please visit our ADP Employer Preparedness Toolkit: Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

## How ADP® can help

ADP offers payroll services to meet your needs, with flexible and affordable options for any business. Some of our small business payroll offerings also include a suite of HR features.

**S** Learn more.









## Switching Payroll Providers Made Easy

ADP Payroll Switcher's Guide

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## Is It Time to Find a New Payroll Provider?

If you're spending money on a payroll service provider, you shouldn't have to waste time worrying about payroll.

However, the decision to outsource payroll can backfire if you're not working with the right partner. How do you know when it's time to make a change? Here are some questions to ask yourself if you're thinking about switching.

## Am I paying for my payroll partner's mistakes?

When it comes to payroll, mistakes can get costly in a hurry, from tax penalties to miscalculated garnishments. If you're still getting letters from the IRS after outsourcing your payroll, it might be time to think about looking for a new partner.



"Our previous payroll company never really told us the correct amount we were supposed to be paying every week for taxes, so we would get bills in the mail for like, \$5,000. It seemed like every guarter we were having to come up with a large sum of money."

— Rebecca DiMatteo, Child's Creative Development Center, Tonawanda, NY

### Is my payroll partner taking full advantage of technology?

Does your payroll partner make you fax over your employees' hours every week? Are you still getting paychecks or stubs through the mail? Today, busy professionals rely on the convenience of mobile apps, web portals and other digital tools for every aspect of their business. Payroll shouldn't be the exception.



"We were wasting a lot of our own time, summarizing all the hours, entering them into spreadsheets, emailing them to the accountant, addressing questions from his assistant. It was all very cobbled together."

— Matthew Beechhold, Triangle Montessori Academy, Cary, NC

## Am I still spending too much time on payroll?

Saving time is one of the top reasons businesses decide to outsource payroll. If you still feel payroll is demanding too much of your time even after hiring a partner, you shouldn't be afraid to ask why.



f There were many, many times that I would start on a Monday and not finish my payroll till Wednesday. And now it takes me about two hours."

—Terri Johnson, Callaghan Road Animal Hospital, San Antonio, TX

## Am I getting the support I need, when I need it?

We all have questions about payroll sometimes. Your payroll partner should be available to answer those questions — quickly and knowledgeably — when they arise.

"When I called, I didn't really get people who knew what they were doing.

Half the time, I'd get bounced around."

— Jay Duffy, Truss Edge, Naperville, IL

## Am I happy with the value I'm getting from my investment?

The bottom line is that working with a payroll partner has to make sense for your bottom line. If the money you're spending to outsource payroll isn't buying you time, convenience or peace of mind, then what are you paying for?

"I've been happy with what I've received. It's been painless. I have very little interaction with payroll on a weekly basis. I just get reports. For me, it's been good value for the money that I'm paying out for it."

— Dan Schmitgal, Solana Biosciences, Inc., Poway, CA

## Am I dealing with too many different people?

When you entrust your payroll to an outsider, you expect someone who knows your business. But you can't form a relationship if you're never speaking to the same person twice.

"It seemed like every six months I would get a new contact person because my previous contact was promoted or quit. I got a little tired of constantly having to teach a new person our process."

— Dale Howe, Logan Medical Federal Credit Union, Cache County, UT



# How to Get the Most Out of Your Transition to a New Payroll Service Provider

Payroll is the lifeblood of your business, so it's natural to feel nervous about anything that threatens to interrupt it. When switching to a new payroll service provider, knowing what information you will need ahead of time can help smooth the transition, minimize disruptions for your employees, and preserve your own peace of mind.

What you'll need will depend on which services you're taking advantage of. For companies that haven't yet integrated their payroll with benefit or retirement services, transitioning to a new provider offers a convenient opportunity to do so. In a recent survey, 86% of companies said they saved time by integrating ADP's retirement services with its payroll administration.¹ Overall, companies find that greater integration may help them manage compliance requirements and save time and money while improving employees' experience and access to their information.

## Consider these areas when starting with your new provider:





If you're already working with a payroll service provider, you should have easy access to all the information you'll need to switch. A high-quality provider will be able to give you a clear and comprehensive list of all the necessary data required for a timely and error-free transition.

#### Job Info

To set up payroll, you'll need to provide basic employment information for all workers, including, but not limited to, job title, worker classification, exempt status, compensation, hire date, work location, tax withholding information and wage garnishments.

### Personal Info

Basic information like name, home address, date of birth, Social Security number and marital status for every employee may be required to set up payroll. Don't forget employees that have been terminated this year, or they won't receive their Forms W-2.

#### Company Info

Your federal, state and any other tax ID numbers, plus year-to-date and quarter-to-date totals.

#### Pavroll Info

How often do you run payroll? When is your next pay day? When does your work week begin and end? Your new provider will need this information to ensure a seamless transition. Be sure to review any applicable state and local requirements.

## **Beyond Payroll\***

Customers taking advantage of retirement, benefits, recruitment or other services will need to provide information specific to those tasks. Here's a brief list to give you an idea of what your provider will need.

- a. **Benefits:** Benefits summary plan description and monthly insurance rates
- b. **Recruitment:** Job descriptions/employment applications
- c. **Performance management:** Performance appraisal/review forms
- d. Retirement/401(k): Most recent Form 5500 and prior year nondiscrimination/top-heavy tests



People



Your new payroll service partner should provide you with an implementation team and help you assemble your own project team to ensure a smooth transition. The size of your team will depend on the size of your business and the number of services you're using — small companies may only need a key stakeholder. Here are some common internal roles your new provider may ask you to assign.

#### **Key Stakeholder**

Someone to identify priorities, allocate resources and advocate for the project internally.

#### **Project Manager**

The chief decision-maker and product leader; sets the milestones and keeps everyone updated on progress.

#### **Security Officer**

Someone to manage passwords and maintain security of your system during the transition.

### **Payroll**

A point person for ensuring the accuracy and timely handover of all payroll information.

## **Benefits**

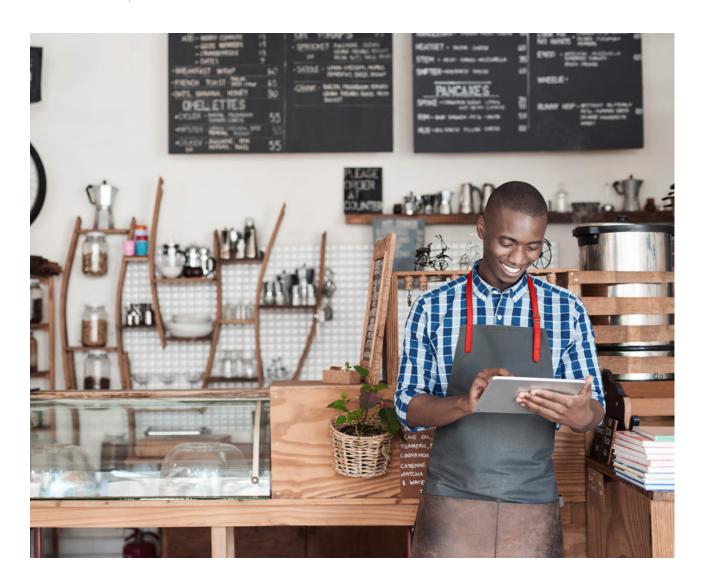
Someone to gather and provide all benefits information, including plans, rates, dependents, eligibility and account structures.

<sup>6</sup> 

## **Training**



Every payroll service provider uses its own system, and some are easier to learn than others. Before you switch, make sure your new provider offers the sort of hands-on training and individual attention you will need to become proficient on their platform. Expect any high-quality provider to offer digital learning tools, dedicated account resources, and in-product demos.



## Questions to Ask

Before you change payroll service providers, it's important to make sure you're getting the best fit for your business. Here are some questions you should ask of any potential payroll partner:

### Q: How much time will the transition take?

**A:** How quickly you switch to your new provider depends on your company's priorities, the services you're using and how quickly you can access the required data. With ADP, some customers can be up and running in less than 10 days, while others choose to make the transition over a period of weeks. Services beyond payroll (retirement, insurance, recruitment) may take longer to set up. Regardless, a well-done transition should never disrupt your payroll process.

## **Q:** Does it matter what time of year I start?

A: Though some people prefer to wait for the start of a new quarter, or even a new year, before switching over to a new payroll service provider, ADP can support your move at any time. Any high-quality provider should be able to give you a clear list of forms and information you'll need to make a smooth transition.

## **Q:** How much time should I expect to spend on payroll with a service provider?

**A:** If you're doing payroll manually now, you should expect to significantly reduce the amount of time you're devoting to the process. How much depends on which services you choose. Do you want help tracking time and attendance? Assistance with background checks? Will you automate check signing? An ADP representative can explain your options and help you choose the package that best fits your business.

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## **Q:** What are the different employee payment options?

**A:** When it comes to distributing wages, today's employers have more — and smarter — choices than ever before. ADP offers three main options: physical checks, direct deposit, and pay cards. Talk to an ADP representative to see which one is the best fit for your business and employees.

