#### EBOOK

# How SAP Business One ERP Powers Business Growth for SMBs





# **About SAP**

SAP Business One is a powerful yet easy-to-use ERP management system that offers a wide range of features to help small and midsize businesses streamline their operations.

With SAP Business One, businesses can improve their forecasting, inventory management, financials, and customer relations. In addition, SAP Business One offers a wide range of customization options to meet the unique needs of each business.

# **About Forgestik**

Specialist in the implementation of the SAP Business One ERP solution, Forgestik supports small and medium-sized businesses in the deployment, optimization, and evolution of their management solution. For more than 35 years, Forgestik has been the trusted partner of SMEs looking to grow their business.

With offices across Canada and the United States, our team of experts is committed to meet the needs of growing SMEs by providing high-quality implementation services and customized solutions. Forgestik is a top SAP Partner and received the Best Canadian SAP Business One Partner award for 5 consecutive years.

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

# What's Inside

Chapter 1 Boosting Growth	5
Chapter 2 Enabling Informed Decisions	6
Chapter 3 Mastering Finances	7
Chapter 4 Generating Leads and Nurturing Customer Relationships	
Chapter 5 Optimizing Inventory and Supply Chain	9
Chapter 6 Breaking Down Silos	11
Chapter 7 Embracing Flexibility	13
Chapter 8 Empowering Mobility	
Chapter 9 Navigating the Global Landscape	15
Chapter 10 Building the Right Team	
Chapter 11 Integrating Seamlessly	
Chapter 12 Customizing for Your Industry	
Chapter 13 Harnessing Innovation	
Chapter 14 Selecting What's Right	21
Chapter 15 Delivering World-Class Support	

#### INTRODUCTION

In today's digitally driven business landscape, small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) find themselves at a unique juncture. The challenges and opportunities presented by the rapidly evolving marketplace require more than just agility and innovation; they require a foundation rooted in technology and integration.

#### According to an Aberdeen Group Survey From 2023

**18%** of SMBs with no ERP rely on spreadsheets **(80% of them)** and small business accounting software **(75%)**, whereas **17%** use some other tool. However, although 18% have managed to succeed without ERP in their organization, they realize the shortcomings of the legacy systems.



Companies find themselves in a decisive phase, contemplating which tools and strategies can catapult them to their envisioned future. As you evaluate your choices, there's a name that stands out, echoing promises of transformation and unparalleled efficiency: **SAP Business One**.

For businesses considering a new ERP for their business, delving deeper into **SAP Business One** isn't just about understanding software; it's about visualizing potential. It's about discerning the ways in which this comprehensive suite can bridge the gaps in your existing processes, and, more importantly, foreseeing how it can empower growth, innovation, and market leadership.

This e-book is a comprehensive guide for businesses considering a strategic leap into the ERP universe with **SAP Business One** at its core. Every chapter ahead provides not just answers but insights, guiding your considerations toward a strategic conclusion.

## Boosting Growth: How Real-Time Insights Fuel Business Strategy

Growth in the modern business world isn't merely about expansion; it's about evolving purposefully. Decisions made on stale data are akin to blindfolded gambits, occasionally fruitful but often misdirected. In this age of swift market dynamics, relying on old data can be detrimental. To be both reactive and proactive, businesses need insights from the present moment.



The Top Reason for Implementing an ERP



This is where **SAP Business One** offers its transformative advantage, providing businesses with the clarity and precision of real-time insights in a volatile market.

**SAP Business One** offers a live stream of such insights, enabling companies to stay consistently updated. From closely monitoring inventory fluctuations to analyzing emerging sales patterns, access to real-time information means businesses don't just navigate market shifts—they anticipate and influence them.

**SAP Business One** is more than a mere tool. It's a visionary guide, ensuring businesses not only survive but thrive, influence, and redefine their market niches.

# Enabling Informed Decisions: Harnessing the Power of Business Intelligence

In a time of data abundance, SAP Business One is translating it into actionable insights through its robust Business Intelligence (BI) capabilities.

At its heart lies the powerful reporting tool that allows businesses to create timely and accurate reports drawn from diverse company-wide data. This tool not only reduces IT overhead but is also highly customizable, enabling you to access and format data in layouts that best serve your business needs.

Taking interactive analysis to the next level, **SAP Business One** combines seamlessly with Microsoft Excel functionalities, providing a multidimensional view of your operations.

This integration is further complemented by intuitive tools that simplify data exploration. The Drag and Relate function, alongside drilldown capabilities, ensure that data interconnections are just a click away.

Additionally, with workflow-based alerts and search assistance, staying updated and informed becomes a breeze. The platform's analytics also come equipped with predefined key performance indicators, enhancing cash balance visibility and sales performance tracking.



#### It's Not Just About Numbers and Charts

SAP Business One amplifies your reports with powerful visualizations, turning complex data into comprehensible narratives. With accurate and timely BI being the gold standard, SAP Business One proves to be an indispensable ally, guiding businesses toward informed growth.

### Mastering Finances: Enhancing Profit Margins and Cash Flow

Today, maintaining a grasp on financial health is crucial. Yet, the myriad of tasks—from tracking transactions to reconciling bank statements—can often seem overwhelming. As you consider solutions to streamline your operations, SAP Business One emerges as a robust choice, designed with your specific challenges in mind.



### **Optimizing Financial Management**

With its integrated Accounting module, it effortlessly automates core accounting processes. This means that you're provided with real-time, accurate updates rather than getting lost in a sea of journal entries or accounts payable.

But it's not just about accounting. Effective cash flow and asset management are at the heart of any thriving business. The suite's Controlling and Fixed Asset Management tools ensure both are managed with precision, minimizing manual interventions, and maximizing efficiency.

Banking, often a time-consuming affair, is simplified too. The system's banking and reconciliation tools offer a smoother, faster experience, handling everything from bank statements to diverse payment methods. But beyond the operational, making informed decisions is key.

With **SAP Business One**'s financial reporting and analysis capabilities, you're not just reacting to numbers, but crafting a strategy. This feature enables businesses to gain actionable insights, creating custom reports from real-time data ensuring that every financial decision aligns with the overarching business vision.

### Generating Leads and Nurturing Customer Relationships: Building Trust and Fidelity With 360 View

Given the fast-paced nature of business, having an edge in lead management can determine a company's growth trajectory. **SAP Business One** offers a suite of tools that streamline the entire customer journey.

This platform provides a holistic view of all sales opportunities from initial contact, ensuring no lead slips through the cracks. Its seamless synchronization with Microsoft Outlook ensures that customer contacts are always at your fingertips, making relationship management efficient and effective.

Drawing from real-time data, **SAP Business One** facilitates tailored interactions, from bespoke marketing campaigns to individualized product suggestions. Each engagement feels personal, making customers feel not just recognized, but cherished.

At its core, understanding the customer is pivotal. **SAP Business One**'s dynamic CRM system provides a complete view of each client, including buying patterns, feedback, and inquiries. This indepth insight not only anticipates customer desires but sets the stage for memorable experiences.

Furthermore, the system's service management capabilities, from logging service calls swiftly to crafting meticulous warranty contracts, underline its comprehensive approach to customer retention.



Yet, what truly sets SAP Business One apart is its adaptability to evolving demands of digitalization. With mobile sales capabilities, sales teams can remain informed and agile, accessing pivotal sales data anytime, anywhere.

For businesses seeking to refine their lead generation and management processes, this platform emerges as a formidable contender in the consideration phase.

As order processing is accelerated, we are now able to respond more efficiently to customer requests.

**SAP Business One** is perfectly adapted to the needs of the company.

Woosung Jung, Vice President, YG-1 Canada

75% Improved customer

service is cited by 75% of SMBs with ERP systems, leading to increased customer retention rates.

<u>(MarketSplash)</u>

### Optimizing Inventory and Supply Chain: Beyond Warehouses

With the complexity of SMB operations, inventory isn't merely about stock storage—it's a pivotal asset influencing profitability. Similarly, the supply chain isn't just about distribution but ensuring timely product delivery. SAP Business One transforms these complex facets into strategic advantages for your enterprise.

No longer do businesses need to rely on manual stock counts or make hasty reorder decisions. **SAP Business One** offers real-time inventory insights, keeping you informed on stock levels and needs, optimizing costs, and preventing stock-outs.





After reading this eBook, learn more on how to gain full control of your inventory, your products in stock and your supply chain.

> www.forgestik.com/en/solutions/ warehouse-management-system



Source: The 2023 ERP Report, Panorama Consulting Group



It's not just about reacting to the present but predicting the future. Advanced analytics within the software allow businesses to forecast demand by studying sales trends and various external factors, ensuring preparedness and alignment with market needs.

Beyond inventory, a prosperous supply chain also means fostering healthy supplier relationships. **SAP Business One** facilitates this by streamlining every interaction, from evaluating supplier performance to automating order placements. This holistic approach also extends to reducing lead times, guaranteeing faster turnovers and swift market launches.

> Supply chain operations are optimized by 48% of organizations using ERP, leading to reduced inventory carrying costs and improved order fulfillment. (MarketSplash)

Choosing **SAP Business One** isn't just adopting a tool—it's about taking a strategic leap, ensuring your business remains proactive, efficient, and always a step ahead.

### Breaking Down Silos: Facilitating Collaboration for Synergized Growth

Silos are not just physical structures on farms but metaphoric barriers in businesses. When departments operate in isolation, the entire organization can miss out on the benefits of shared knowledge, collaborative innovation, and harmonized objectives.

**SAP Business One** is tailored to break these barriers, fostering a culture where departments aren't just co-existing but are co-evolving.

#### **Unified Repository**

At the core of breaking down silos is the unified data repository. **SAP Business One** offers a centralized platform where timely and accurate data from all departments converge, ensuring consistent, aligned decision-making. Imagine a world where sales, finance, and operations draw from the same well of information, ensuring cohesion in strategy.

But what's data without effective communication? The software ensures that teams don't just exchange information, but they communicate—whether through real-time chats or virtual meetings. Bottlenecks of traditional communication methods are history, replaced by fluid, constructive conversations.

Image: Constraint of the second of the se

www.forgestik.com/en/ case-studies/western-spirits/

### **Customizable Dashboards**

Customizable dashboards offer a window into the varied activities of different departments. Sales can anticipate inventory needs, and finance can gauge operational expenses, breeding transparency, and mutual accountability. And as mundane tasks get automated, teams find more time for collaboration. A sales order, for instance, can seamlessly update inventory and prompt procurement, eliminating manual interventions.

The true spirit of collaboration shines when teams share goals. **SAP Business One** enables setting shared KPIs, ensuring every department pulls in the same direction. And as the future looms, departments jointly forecast, pooling insights for comprehensive planning.

#### **Shared Ecosystem**

Lastly, knowledge isn't power unless shared. The platform nurtures a knowledge-sharing ecosystem, turning collective intelligence into an invaluable asset for growth.

With **SAP Business One**, businesses aren't just working together—they're growing together.



Source: ERP Expectations for SMBs, Aberdeen

### Embracing Flexibility: SAP Business One's Dynamic Adaptability

When considering an ERP solution for a growing enterprise, it's essential to prioritize flexibility. A <u>Mint Jutras report</u> identifies fit, functionality, and flexibility as key elements small to mid-size companies look for.

**SAP Business One** emerges as a top contender in this aspect. Why? It's designed with an innate understanding that businesses are not monolithic; they require solutions that can adapt to their unique and evolving needs.

What does flexibility mean for you? Perhaps it's the ability to tweak user interfaces, add custom fields, or develop tailored reports. Or maybe you're eyeing the future, contemplating integrations with leading applications in areas like eCommerce, shipping, or marketing automation. You might even be thinking about custom integrations to address specific operational challenges. **SAP Business One** is crafted to meet these varied demands, ensuring that your system remains robust and relevant as your needs shift.



On the other hand, **SAP Business One** offers a flexibility that not only adapts to your current scenario but also keeps pace with your future aspirations, ensuring a seamless operational experience throughout your growth journey.

## Empowering Mobility: Application for Businesses On The Go

As businesses adapt to rapid changes, the need for on-the-go access to crucial business information becomes imperative. Recognizing this transformation, SAP Business One integrates mobility into its core, ensuring businesses remain agile and informed, irrespective of their location.

With the **SAP Business One** sales mobile app, it's no longer about just doing business but about doing it efficiently, even from remote locations. These apps grant instant access to vital information, enabling business professionals to stay connected to their operations anytime, anywhere. Whether you're navigating the corridors of a global business conference or taking a well-deserved break, SAP ensures you're always connected.



Designed for both iOS and Android platforms, this mobile tool caters specifically to sales professionals who are always on the front lines. From managing and updating lead information to overseeing comprehensive customer accounts, from real-time stock checks to seamless order placements, this app encapsulates essential sales functions in the palm of your hand.

# Navigating the Global Landscape: Effortless Compliance and Localization

For SMBs with a global outlook or those already operating on the international stage, navigating the intricate web of regional regulations, compliance requirements, and cultural nuances becomes an essential task. One wrong move can result in hefty penalties, tarnished brand reputation, or missed opportunities.

**SAP Business One** rises to this challenge by providing features specifically designed to facilitate effortless compliance and localization. Let's explore how this ERP tool becomes an ally in your global endeavors.

#### Compliance

Staying compliant is no small feat, especially with ever-evolving regional and industry regulations. **SAP Business One**'s dynamic compliance management is vigilant, consistently updating its database with the latest standards. It doesn't just notify you; it guides you, ensuring you always operate within legal bounds.

#### **Multicurrency**

Global business often means diverse reporting needs. **SAP Business One**'s localized reporting feature is adept at generating region-tailored reports. No more manual adjustments—precision is just a click away.

Worried about multicurrency transactions and language barriers? You don't have to be.

**SAP Business One** smoothly handles currency conversions using real-time rates, and its multilingual interface ensures teams worldwide communicate efficiently and accurately.

While technology can't mimic human cultural understanding, **SAP Business** 

For SMBs Venturing Globally, SAP Business One Is More Than a Tool; It's a Trusted Advisor

It promises not just global growth, but growth that's intelligent, compliant, and culturally attuned. The outcome? A formidable global presence marked by reverence and profitability.

**One** offers invaluable insights to mold strategies that resonate locally. Additionally, its comprehensive tax management tool unravels the complexities of diverse tax structures, ensuring meticulous compliance. Recognizing regional operational variances, it offers customizable workflows, balancing core consistency with regional flexibility.

### Building the Right Team: Enhancing Workforce Productivity and Satisfaction

Behind every successful business are its people. The human resources of a company are more than just employees; they're its heartbeat, driving growth, innovation, and value. Managing and optimizing human resources has become a nuanced task in the ever-evolving workspace.

**SAP Business One** recognizes the complexities of modern HR management and provides tools to turn these complexities into strengths.

The platform's approach to employee data prioritizes clarity and comprehensiveness. **SAP Business One**'s HR module is intuitively structured, from capturing essential personal details to storing associated documents and images.

More than just a repository of data, it enables a clear understanding of each employee's multifaceted role within the organization—be it as a salesperson, supervisor, or any combination of functions. This integrated view extends to both professional affiliations and personal details, ensuring businesses have a holistic perspective of their workforce.

Efficiency in HR management is as much about tracking time as it is about understanding people. **SAP Business One**'s time sheet functionality meticulously logs diverse employee activities, from work orders to service call numbers.

Complementing this is the platform's dynamic HR reporting capability. Depending on the need, businesses can generate detailed reports, be it an overview of employee absences or a comprehensive company-wide contact list.

As you navigate the complexities of HR, **SAP Business One** stands ready to be not just a tool, but a trusted partner in your journey.

### Integrating Seamlessly: The Hub of Your Technological Ecosystem

Navigating the intricate maze of business operations, you've likely faced the challenge of disparate systems refusing to talk to each other. Imagine a world where seamless integration becomes your strength, and operational hurdles transform into steppingstones for growth.

At its core, **SAP Business One** offers an integration framework designed to connect the dots. It ensures that both SAP and non-SAP applications, whether they're based on-premises or in the cloud, communicate effortlessly. What's more, the SAP Integration Suite acts as a conduit, not only for data exchanges, but also for the creation of solutions tailored to individual business nuances.

For decision-makers, the relevance of such a system cannot be understated. Beyond the technical prowess, it's about agility and adaptability. As markets shift and business models evolve, the ability of an organization to adapt without overhauling its infrastructure can be a game-changer.

Moreover, with **SAP Business One**, users are promised a consistent experience, regardless of the module or touchpoint. This consistency, while often overlooked, is foundational to building trust internally within teams and externally with customers. "

We were reassured when we found **SAP Business One**, a solution with a proven track record. Not only did we need an integrated system, but we also needed one that could be adapted to our operations.

MAXIME THÉRIAULT VP of Business Operations Tricots Maxime (Maxime Knitting)

> www.forgestik.com/ case-studies/tricots-maxime



SAP Business One ensures you can focus on strategy and expansion, relegating operational challenges to the past. In essence, SAP Business One emerges not just as a software solution but as a trusted partner for businesses journeying towards an integrated and efficient horizon.

# Customizing for Your Industry: Tailoring SAP Business One to Your Unique Needs

Navigating the intricate terrain of various industries requires a comprehensive tool that acknowledges the unique challenges and intricacies of each sector. **SAP Business One** offers a robust solution, extending far beyond generic applications, to present tailored functionalities precisely tuned to diverse industry needs.

For businesses in consumer products or manufacturing, **SAP Business One** streamlines operations, whether it's to align with modern consumer demands or to optimize production efficiency with a full production module and Material Requirement Planning (MRP) module.



In the realm of professional services, this tool refines project management, resource planning, and billing. Retail enterprises benefit from real-time insights, while wholesale distributors find solace in integrated and agile processes.

**SAP Business One** is not just a tool but an adaptable ally. Its modular architecture allows for customization, letting businesses deploy industry-relevant modules, ensuring regulatory compliance, and optimizing workflows.

Beyond mere operational metrics, its analytical prowess provides insights into industry-specific performance indicators, enabling companies to benchmark their success and evolve their strategies.

The right business solutions don't just cater to today's needs but also anticipate future requirements, especially in the face of industry transformations. **SAP Business One**'s industry-specific offerings give you the tool you need, to ensure that you're strategically positioned for the future, not just reacting to the present.

### Harnessing Innovation:

**Future-Proofing Your Business With SAP Business One** 

Nowadays, merely staying abreast of current trends isn't enough. The real challenge lies in anticipating the future, and, more importantly, being prepared for it. Innovation isn't just about inventing something new; it's about reinventing business processes, models, and strategies to stay relevant and competitive.

With it's forward-looking approach, **SAP Business One** empowers SMBs to embrace innovation and lead it.

#### **Built for the Future**

**SAP Business One** isn't a static solution; it's dynamic. Built on a foundation that understands the volatile nature of business and technology trends, it's regularly updated to incorporate the latest in tech innovations, industry best practices, and evolving market dynamics.

**SAP Business One** represents great value, not only for today, but also for the future, with the confidence that the system will be able to adapt to it, no matter what the challenge is.

Franco Giambattista President Colibri Art Design

> www.forgestik.com/ case-studies/colibri/

#### Al and Machine Learning Integration

In the age of data, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning are the harbingers of transformative change. **SAP Business One** integrates these technologies, providing businesses with predictive insights, automating routine tasks, and enhancing decision-making with data-driven recommendations.

#### **IoT Ready**

The Internet of Things (IoT) is revolutionizing how businesses operate, from supply chain management to customer interactions. Being IoT-ready, **SAP Business One** allows businesses to seamlessly integrate with smart devices, gather real-time data, and leverage it for operational brilliance.

### **Modular and Expandable**

Today's business needs might not be tomorrow's needs. Recognizing this, **SAP Business One** is designed to be modular. As businesses grow or diversify, they can easily integrate new modules or expand existing ones, ensuring that the ERP evolves in tandem with the business.

#### **Open API Ecosystem**

Innovation often stems from collaboration. With its open API ecosystem, **SAP Business One** facilitates seamless integration with third-party tools, applications, and platforms. Whether it's niche industry-specific tools or the latest tech innovations, businesses can integrate them effortlessly, keeping their operations cutting-edge.



### Selecting What's Right: Exploring Deployment Options for Your Business

Selecting the most suitable ERP deployment for your business can significantly impact its efficiency, growth, and adaptability. Understanding the array of deployment options available is crucial. **SAP Business One,** a renowned name in ERP solutions, caters to diverse business needs by offering a range of deployment strategies.

#### **Cloud Deployment**



Embrace the future with cloud deployment. This option offers businesses the flexibility to access **SAP Business One**'s extensive features from any location, at any time. Say goodbye to substantial initial infrastructure costs and enjoy the ease of automatic updates and maintenance provided by the cloud vendor.

As your business landscape shifts, the cloud environment ensures you can effortlessly scale to match your evolving needs, all while operating on a convenient monthly licensing fee.

#### **On-Premises Deployment**



For those businesses that value autonomy over their ERP data, the on-premises deployment serves as the ideal solution. It grants direct stewardship over data, tailoring the environment to specific business preferences.

Especially suitable for companies with rigorous internal data security standards, on-premises deployment ensures compliance with these protocols. Additionally, it provides enhanced flexibility in reporting, leading to deeper business insights.

### **Hybrid Deployment**



Harness the best of both worlds with hybrid deployment. This model combines the adaptability of cloud solutions with the direct control of on-premises systems. Businesses can store sensitive data on their premises while leveraging the cloud for more scalable tasks or services. It's a balanced, versatile option, particularly beneficial for businesses in transition or those wanting to maintain an optimal mix of control and scalability.

**SAP Business One**'s variety of deployment options recognizes and respects the uniqueness of each business. Whether it's the agility of the cloud, the hands-on approach of on-premises, or the balanced versatility of hybrid deployment, **SAP Business One** ensures every organization finds its ideal fit. As you evaluate the next steps for your enterprise, remember that the right deployment can profoundly influence your business's trajectory.

# Delivering World-Class Support: Ensuring Success at Every Step

While the features and capabilities of **SAP Business One** are vast and powerful, what truly sets it apart is the unparalleled support that accompanies the software. Recognizing that every business has unique challenges and requirements, SAP ensures that its clients are never alone in their journey.

From the initial onboarding process, businesses are provided with comprehensive training resources. This includes detailed guides, video tutorials, and even courses and certifications. These resources are tailored to various user roles, ensuring that each employee understands how to leverage the software best, whether it's an accountant or a warehouse manager.

Furthermore, the support doesn't end post-implementation. **SAP Business One** offers a SAP support portal. Whether it's a technical glitch, a query about a specific feature, or advice on best practices, help is just a click away.

Additionally, the vast SAP community is an invaluable resource. Users from around the world share their experiences, insights, and solutions, fostering a collaborative environment. This collective knowledge pool ensures that challenges are addressed innovatively and efficiently.

Lastly, the proactive approach of SAP's support team ensures that businesses are always prepared for the future. Regular updates, patches, and feature additions are communicated well in advance, ensuring that businesses can plan accordingly.

In a world where software solutions are plentiful, **SAP Business One** distinguishes itself not just through its features but its commitment to ensuring every business's success. With world-class support, companies like yours can focus on growth, knowing that they're backed by a reliable and dedicated team. Standing still is not an option as businesses rapidly evolve. As you've journeyed through the multifaceted offerings of SAP Business One, you've probably noticed that it's more than just a tool; it's a strategic partner tailored for businesses poised for growth.

Leveraging the power of real-time insights, fostering collaboration, optimizing operations, and nurturing customer relationships are not just aspirations but attainable goals with the right ally.

If you're at the crossroads of decision-making, remember it's the choices we make today that define our tomorrow. Seize the advantage and elevate your business to unprecedented heights.





#### **Request a Demo**

Take a closer look at how SAP Business One works with a 1:1 demonstration, customized to your business needs.

Get Started Today!





1-866-727-2146 sales@forgestik.com www.forgestik.com



