

## Payroll Service

I've just hired my first full-time employee. I'm going to outsource payroll, but the first quote I got back is more than \$100/month.

Considering that's only 2 checks/month it seems a little steep.

Is that in the ballpark for the going rate? I think all I need is basic payroll for 1 employee and the W2 at the end of the year.

Can anyone make a recommendation?

---

Companies like ADP and Paychex are outrageously expensive. I use a local company (Fox Payroll Service) that is affiliated with Execu-Pay (which I think operates nationally). You should shop around for local payroll companies. I pay \$34.75 per pay period for up to 5 employees - that direct deposit to employees accounts, stubs received by email, includes the 941 quarterly returns and w2's at the end of the year.

Peter T. Clark, Massachusetts

---

I use Intuit. Quick and it automatically enters data in QuickBooks.

Payroll takes maybe 2-3 minutes.

Deborah Matthews, Virginia

---

What Deb said.

Michael J. Sweeney, Connecticut

---

Gusto is also popular.

Gusto is a common solution.

Darrell G. Stewart, Texas

---

I use Gusto and have been for a while. Integrates with Quickbooks and payroll takes less than 15 minutes every other week. There is a base price plus a fee for each additional employee. Total is very reasonable and their website/reporting is a snap. I recommend.

Loyd J. Bourgeois, Jr., Louisiana

---

Check with your accountant. I have a part time assistant, and I submit her time once a month via ShareFile. My accountant provides the payroll stub with tax withholding information, and I cut the check. In addition, they prepare the quarterly payroll tax forms and provide the W-2, etc. I pay about a \$1,000 per year, which to me is well worth it - I don't have to mess around figuring out things I don't know much about (taxes). If it saves me 3 hours a year that I can now bill (which it surely does), I am net ahead. Plus, when I have a question about anything, I have someone to ask.

Your quoted cost seems about in line with mine, although you don't mention whether they will be preparing quarterly payroll forms. I look at it as a cost of doing business, just like I have to pay what I feel are exorbitant worker's comp premiums just to have a part time assistant in a low-risk office environment. Having the assistant is worth the extra costs because it saves me from tasks I dislike and which keep my office running smoothly, and which would need to be done in lieu of billable work (or I would need to spend more time working).

Caroline Achey Edwards, Pennsylvania

---

I use Gusto at the recommendation of an accountant. I used ADP for years, receiving a "permanent discount" referral rate through my bank, but Gusto is still a lot cheaper. Admin is neither my strength nor my joy, but they seem to handle everything okay.

That's my two cents.

Bob Arnold