

The State of Construction Scheduling 2025

A performance snapshot of how construction teams are managing time, data, and decisions.





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The Schedule is Having Its Moment.

For years, scheduling lived behind the scenes. It was essential yet often misunderstood, treated as a compliance document, a contract requirement, or a technical artifact for a few specialists. That's starting to change.

In 2025, the schedule is moving to the center of construction decision-making. It's shaping risk, guiding cost, informing claims, and increasingly determining project success or failure, transitioning from a set of dates to a source of visibility, accountability, and trust.

At SmartPM, we've spent the last several years analyzing tens of thousands of CPM schedules to understand what drives performance, and what quietly undermines it.

This report pairs that schedule intelligence with survey responses from professionals across construction, operations, and project controls.

These patterns are not the result of any one behavior or organization, but rather the cumulative effect of several persistent challenges. The data inside surfaces shared patterns and systemic risks that affect teams across the globe.

We believe better schedules lead to better decisions. And better decisions lead to fewer disputes, stronger outcomes, and more resilient businesses.

Thanks for reading and for being part of the movement that's bringing scheduling into the spotlight where it belongs.

— The SmartPM Team





What's in the Report?

This report combines quantitative schedule analysis with practitioner insight to paint a full picture of scheduling today.

Schedule Analysis

70,000+ baseline and update files, scored with SmartPM's Schedule Intelligence™ engine.

Survey Data

3,500+ survey responses, collected across GC, owner, and consultant roles, reflecting how teams plan, update, and interpret project schedules.

Coverage spans infrastructure, commercial, industrial, and institutional projects across varied geographies and delivery methods.



Who Took the Survey

This report draws from **3,500+** survey responses across the construction industry.

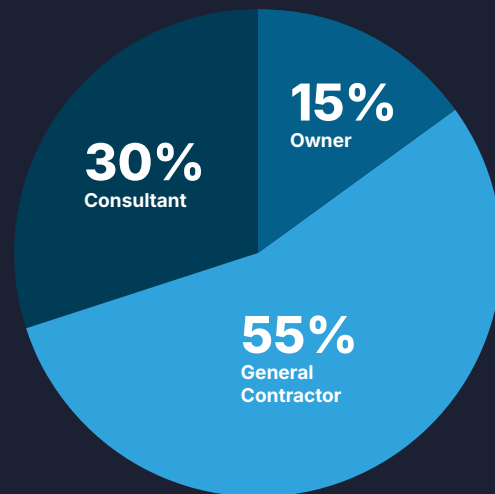
Over **70%** of respondents work in practitioner or management roles directly tied to schedule execution:

- **32%** hold manager-level positions (e.g. Scheduling Manager, Superintendent)
- **12%** are technical staff (e.g. Scheduler, Planner, Analyst)
- **16%** are at the director or principal level
- **13%** hold senior-level roles (e.g. Senior Scheduler, Senior Consultant)
- **13%** represent executive leadership, such as CEOs, Presidents, or SVPs
- **14%** fall into other construction roles

The insights in this report come primarily from those closest to the day-to-day realities of scheduling – those who build, update, and analyze project schedules firsthand.

Note: The majority of survey respondents are not SmartPM customers. This report reflects a broad industry view, not limited to any single platform or user group.

**Survey Respondents
by Company Type**



Part 1

The Eight Key Findings from Our Analysis

Just having a schedule doesn't mean you're scheduling. That's where most teams stop. But the real value comes after it's built: when you dig into the data, communicate what it's saying, and actually use it to manage risk.

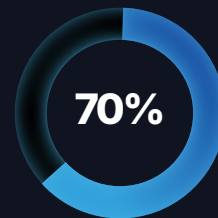
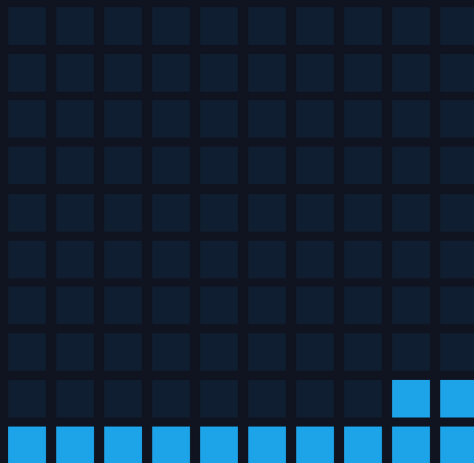
Michael Pink
CEO of SmartPM



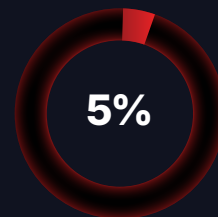
Finding #1: Schedules Drive Decisions – But the Data Can't Keep Up

Schedule data plays a central role in decision-making, yet the underlying quality is often insufficient.

Only 12%
of baseline schedules meet
high-quality benchmarks.*



say schedules are “always” or “often” used in leadership decision-making.



By the time projects are 75% complete, fewer than 5% of schedules still meet high quality standards.

Senior leadership trusts the schedule, so teams should strive for schedule data to meet best practices. But, according to our analysis, most schedules begin with structural deficiencies that degrade further during execution. Without stronger baselines and standardized update practices, critical business decisions are often made on incomplete or misleading information.

[*Read more about how we define schedule quality](#)



Finding #2: Confidence is High. Performance is Not.

When we asked the industry to rate their team's schedule literacy, the average answer was **3.6 out of 5** – indicating people feel pretty confident about scheduling. However, when we looked into performance data, the reality didn't match the perception.

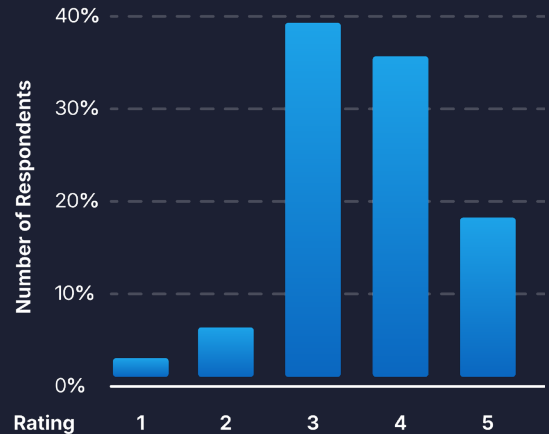
Out of 70,000 CPM schedules we analyzed, only 12% met best-practice quality standards, leaving 88% falling short. This suggests most teams are working with schedules that don't meet the structural criteria needed to manage a job effectively.

| Are we defining "schedule literacy" too narrowly?

So, what's behind the disconnect? It seems many teams equate schedule literacy with software fluency – for instance, knowing how to build or update in tools like P6 or MS Project.

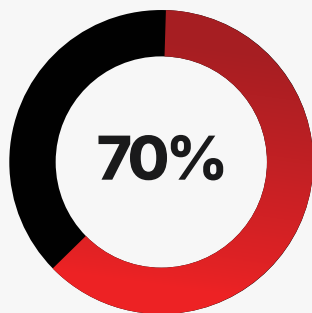
But real literacy requires a working knowledge of critical path methodology, logic relationships, float behavior, and how the schedule reflects project risk over time. These skills aren't always taught. And in the pressure of live project delivery, there's rarely time to step back and question assumptions.

How Would You Rate Your Team's Overall Schedule Literacy?

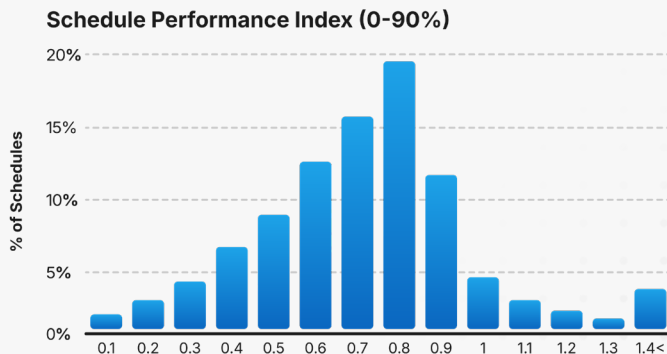


Source: SmartPM Industry Survey

Finding #2: Confidence is High. Performance is Not.



Over 70% of projects fail to meet baseline expectations (SPI < 0.90)



Over 70% of projects in our dataset missed their schedule targets (SPI < 0.90). This isn't just due to problems in the field - it's often because the schedules themselves aren't set up properly from the start.

Many schedules may look complete on the surface, but under the hood, they lack the structure needed to truly control the work. This can create extra float – making it seem like there's more time than there really is. That false sense of flexibility leads teams to delay action ("kick the can down the road") and makes it harder to fix issues in time.

When the schedule doesn't reflect real production rates or the true critical and near-critical paths, teams end up focusing on the wrong activities. They may think they're staying on track, but the data shows otherwise. Over time, as the schedule becomes less accurate, it stops being a tool to drive the job and starts just recording delays.

Source: SmartPM Schedule Analysis

Finding #3: Time Invested. Value Unclear.

Over **44%** of respondents say they spend **10+ hours per week** on schedule reporting or reviews. That's more than a full workday every single week.

Yet when asked whether that time is well spent, the answers weren't so clear. Only 58% said yes, while the rest were either unsure or outright skeptical.

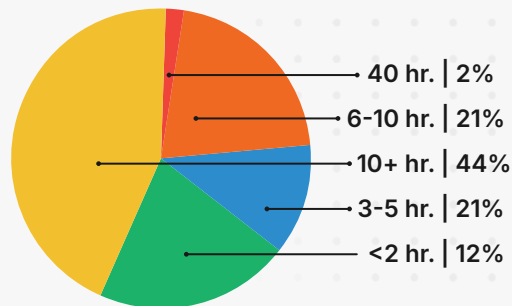
In a high-stress environment with constant changes and tight deadlines, spending hours on reporting tasks can crowd out more strategic work: coordinating field progress, addressing risk early, and aligning teams. Manual reporting pulls energy into data wrangling instead of decision-making.

This is exactly where automation helps.

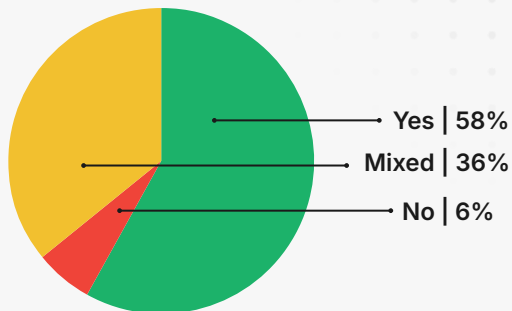
Teams using SmartPM automate the bulk of that effort: generating weekly reports, identifying key risks, and surfacing issues in real time. Instead of building charts, schedulers can start solving problems.

Source: SmartPM Industry Survey

How many hours per week do you personally spend on schedule reporting or schedule reviews?



Do you feel that time is well spent?



A Closer Look at the Disconnect

When the Data is Unreliable, Time Spent Doesn't Equal Time Well Spent.

We analyzed updating practices to get a sense of data reliability and found a few areas that are cause for concern. Over 45% of schedule updates included changes to actual start or finish dates—values that should remain fixed once recorded. This suggests a lack of control in the update process.

Furthermore, roughly one-third of updates showed discrepancies between reported progress and remaining durations. These inconsistencies suggest that percent completes are often adjusted to align with expectations, not field conditions.

≈45%

of updates changed actual
start or finish dates

1 in 3

updates had percent complete
vs. duration discrepancies

Source: SmartPM Industry Survey

Better Inputs. Better Outcomes.

When update data lacks structure or discipline, even a well-spent hour becomes less effective, complicating risk management and reducing trust in the schedule.

SmartPM helps teams audit updates in real time, flag discrepancies early, and generate reports with clean data. This not only saves time, but it also improves the return on time by ensuring the data within each schedule review is consistent, current, and actionable.

With automation supported reporting, schedule management can shift focus from formatting and file management to strategic analysis and risk mitigation.

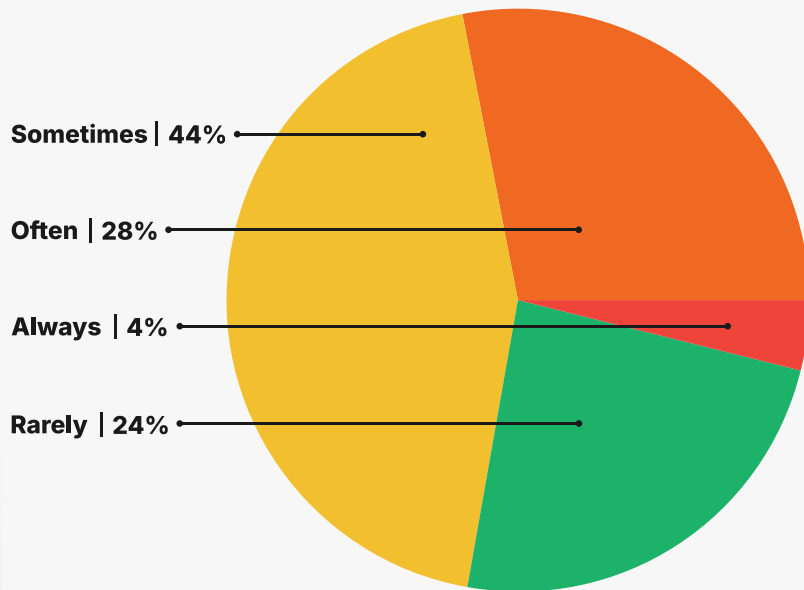


Finding #4: Risk Surfaces Early. But Updates Lag Behind.

Only 1 in 4 respondents say their schedule updates are “rarely” late or incomplete. For the remaining 75%, updates are at least sometimes delayed, if not often.

This delay can be costly. When the schedule doesn't reflect what's really happening on site, early warning signs go unnoticed. Risk surfaces, but it doesn't always trigger a timely response.

How often are schedule updates late or incomplete on your projects?



75% of respondents report delayed or incomplete schedule updates.

Source: SmartPM Industry Survey



What Happens When Updates Fall Behind?

When updates trail reality, risk hides in plain sight.

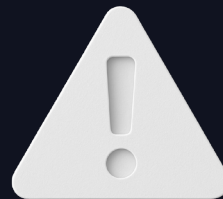
When schedules are only updated once a month, the data begins to drift. Actual start dates, finish dates, and percent completes are often reconstructed from memory rather than documented in real time, undermining schedule accuracy.

Our analysis shows that 45% of schedule updates include changes to previously recorded actuals and that roughly 20% of the changes made in each update affect critical or near-critical activities.

This pattern reflects the challenges of infrequent updating: teams are not capturing progress as it happens but are instead revising records weeks after the fact, often to hide delays.

As a result, the critical path becomes increasingly unreliable, and teams lose visibility and trust into where the project truly stands. Without timely updates, delays accumulate quietly. By the time they surface in a monthly update, the remaining schedule must often be compressed to recover lost time, forcing more work into less time and increasing the risk of failure downstream.

Source: SmartPM Schedule Analysis



20% of schedule changes impact critical or near-critical activities throughout construction.

It's a lot easier to recover from a two-day delay at the end of the week than a two-week delay at the end of the month.

Michael Pink
CEO of SmartPM

Finding #5: Compression Is the Workaround

Most projects don't start compressed. Early on, there's usually enough float to absorb small issues, and the schedule (at least on paper) still looks feasible. But that doesn't last.

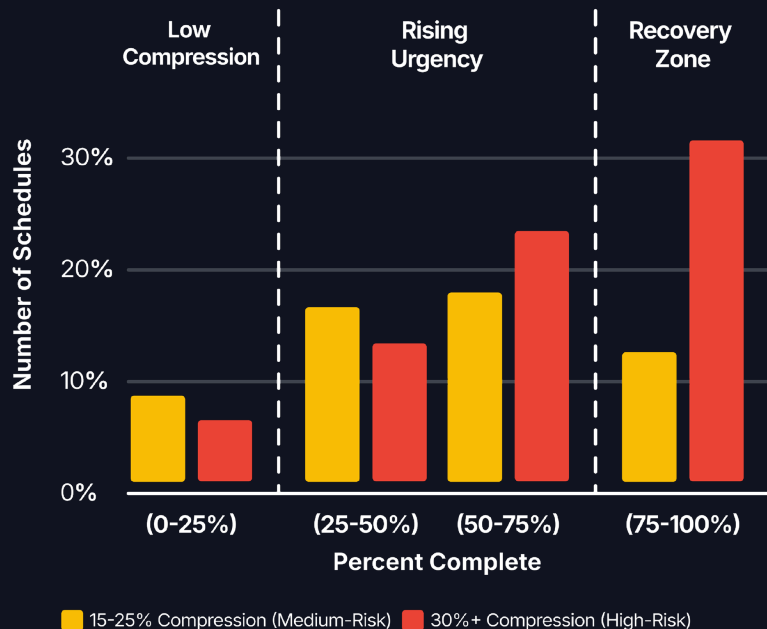
As projects progress beyond **50% completion**, compression starts to build. In the final quarter, we see a spike in **aggressive re-sequencing and acceleration tactics**, signaling last-ditch recovery efforts when float has evaporated and risk has crystallized.

While **extreme compression (>25%)** is common, it tends to cluster late in the schedule, when earlier delays have gone unaddressed and formal mitigation options are off the table.

Compression isn't a proactive strategy. It's a reaction to unmanaged delay. It needs to be the other way around.

Michael Pink
CEO of SmartPM

Schedule Compression Index Throughout the Project Lifecycle



Source: SmartPM Schedule Analysis



Delays show up early.

Formal adjustments come late.

Our data shows that in the early stages of a project (0–50% complete), critical path delays often exceed changes to the official end date. The delay is visible in the logic, but the schedule stays static.

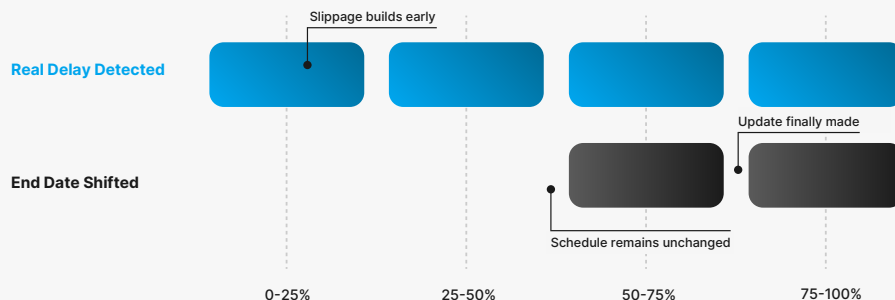
By the time a formal end-date revision is made, often beyond the halfway point, the opportunity to recover has narrowed. This pattern is common:

- Risk builds early
- Completion dates remain unchanged
- Acceleration is forced late

This reactive behavior sets the stage for compression, not as a chosen tactic, but as the only remaining option.

In this context, compression is not a sign of optimization. It's a red flag that risk wasn't acted on in time.

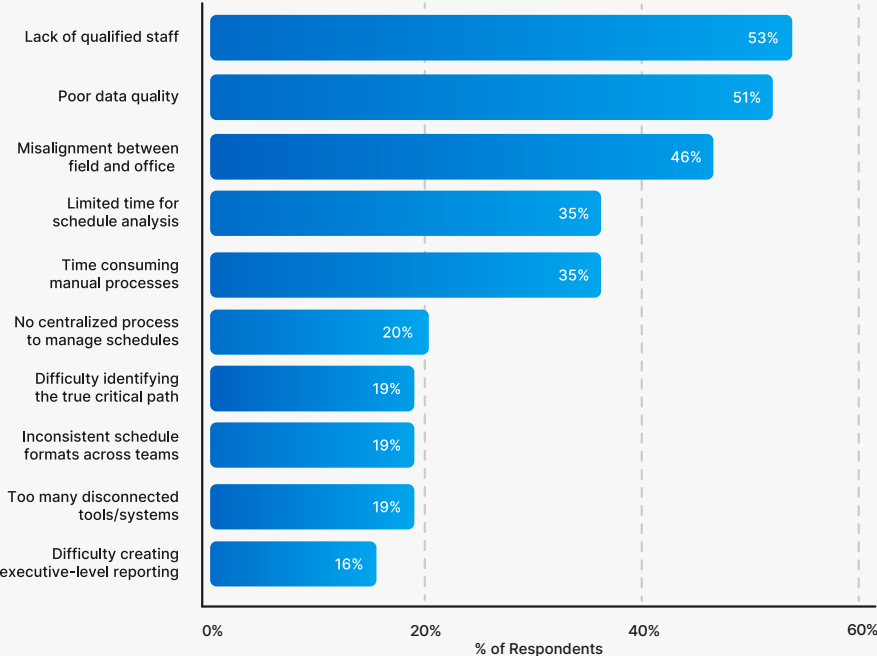
Schedule Lag: Teams Wait to Shift End Dates Despite Early Delay



**Slippage builds in the first half.
Recovery happens in the second—when
it's often too late to avoid impact.**

Finding #6: Schedules Aren't Aligned to Their Purpose.

What are the biggest challenges with construction scheduling in your experience? (non users of SmartPM)



Field misalignment ranks among the top reported pain points.

When asked about the biggest challenges in scheduling today, professionals pointed to three consistent themes:

- Lack of qualified staff
- Poor data quality
- Misalignment between the field and the office

That last one is critical. The core purpose of a construction schedule is **NOT** to satisfy contracts or check boxes. It's to connect assumptions made in the office with the reality unfolding on-site.

Yet many teams still treat the schedule as a static document, updated for optics or obligation, not as a real-time risk management tool.

Source: [SmartPM Industry Survey](#)

Disconnect Between Expectations and Use

Teams say they want better forecasting and risk visibility, but the schedule isn't built for it.

We asked what respondents would gain from better schedule data. Surprisingly, the most common answers weren't field-related. Instead, they pointed to forecasting and risk mitigation.

But that assumes the schedule is built to deliver those insights.

In reality:

- 88% of baseline schedules in our dataset carry a medium-to-high risk of being ineffective
- Many updates fail to reflect real-world conditions
- Logic breakdowns and hidden delays erode trust

The result: a growing gap between what leaders expect from the schedule and what the data can actually support.

Source: SmartPM Industry Survey & Schedule Analysis

88%

of Baseline Schedules present a medium-to-high risk of being ineffective.

<25%

of Respondents View Improved Field Coordination as the Top Benefit of Better Schedule Data.

The Schedule Is Meant to Be a Coordination Tool

- Designed to connect planning with execution
- Should reflect site conditions, not just contractual milestones
- Requires strong logic, disciplined updates, and field-integrated data

"When the schedule becomes a compliance tool instead of a coordination tool, everyone loses visibility. And visibility is the first line of defense against delay."

Rohit Sinha
CTO of SmartPM



Finding #7: Risk is Systemic

Across the 70,000 schedules we analyzed, a clear pattern emerged: delay isn't random. It's widespread, repeatable, and tied to structural weaknesses in how schedules are built, updated, and maintained.

The data tells a unified story:

- 76% of projects finished later than their original baseline
- Only 12% of baseline schedules met best-practice quality standards
- Less than 5% maintained that level of quality through project closeout

In other words, the risk is embedded from day one and rarely improves over time.

76%

of Projects are
Delayed

12%

of baseline schedules
met best-practice
quality standards

Delay Is Predictable—And Preventable

Project delay is not an anomaly. It's a consequence of how the industry operates today, **managing delay iteratively**.

The same breakdowns appear again and again:

- Poor-quality baselines
- Inconsistent updates
- Schedule logic degradation
- Masked or overwritten progress
- Late-stage compression

These aren't isolated problems but rather systemic patterns. And unless scheduling practices improve across the board, the cycle will continue. Delays will keep happening. Not because they're inevitable, but because the process makes them likely.

The risk is already in the schedule. It's just a question of whether anyone's looking for it – and whether the schedule's built well enough to show it.

So What's the Opportunity?

- Treat the schedule as a dynamic risk tool—not just a planning document
- Improve the quality and structure of baselines
- Audit updates for integrity, not just progress
- Prioritize real-time visibility across roles and phases

Iterative delays happen; it's how you manage them cumulatively that helps guarantee you still deliver the asset on time.

Michael Pink
CEO of SmartPM

Finding #8: AI Tools for Scheduling Are Still in Their Early Days

AI adoption is growing across construction, but not evenly. While many companies are exploring AI for workflows like takeoffs, RFPs, and document management, AI adoption for scheduling specifically remains limited.

In our survey:

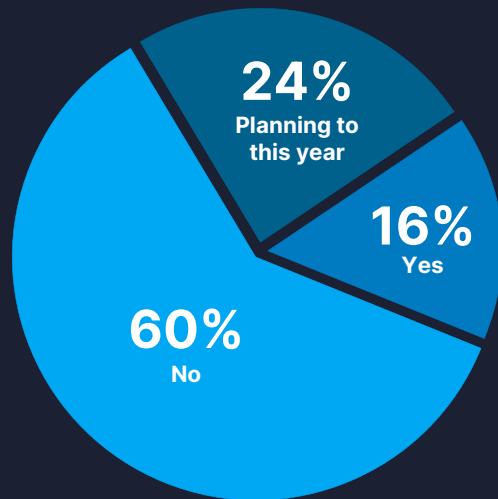
- Only **16%** of respondents said they've adopted AI or automation tools in scheduling
- Another **24%** said they plan to explore these tools this year
- The remaining **60%** report no current use and no plans to adopt

That makes **non-adoption the majority position** in scheduling today, despite increasing awareness of its potential.

*This data reflects AI use specifically in **scheduling**, not across all construction workflows.*

Source: SmartPM Industry Survey

Have you explored or adopted AI or automation-based tools in scheduling?



Why AI Can't Deliver Without Schedule Integrity

Everyone says "Garbage In, Garbage Out."
They're not wrong.

AI is only as useful as the data it analyzes. That's why so many professionals hesitate to apply it to scheduling: the baseline may be flawed, the updates inconsistent, and the logic hard to follow. And they're right to be cautious.

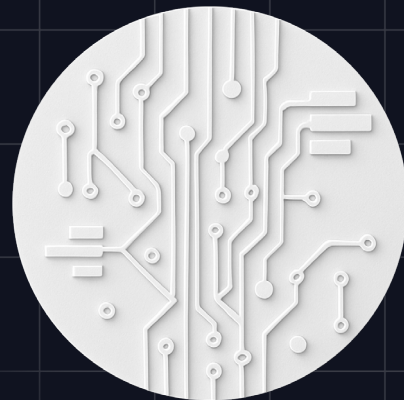
The truth is, most AI won't help if the schedule can't be trusted. But that doesn't mean teams should wait. It means they need tools that strengthen the schedule itself.

That's been SmartPM's focus from day one.

Our platform was built to **improve schedule quality, enforce best practices**, and provide the structure AI needs to work properly. We help teams create a foundation that's clean, auditable, and analytics-ready.

So if "Garbage In, Garbage Out" is the concern, SmartPM is the correction.

Don't let messy data stop you. Fix the data.



"It all goes back to how the product analyzes data. No one else examines the data the way SmartPM does."



Ranjeet Gadhoke
VP of Project Controls
Zachry Construction

Before the Tech, There's Training

Survey Insight

The biggest barrier to adopting AI or automation in scheduling isn't budget or complexity; it's a **lack of awareness and training**, cited by **35% of professionals** as the top obstacle.

The tools exist. The data exists. But without shared standards and consistent training, scheduling practices vary widely, and the full potential of automation is harder to realize.

Even experienced teams face challenges manually reviewing schedules at today's scale and pace. That's why technology and training must go hand in hand: one supports smarter data, the other empowers smarter decisions.

Culture Over Courses

Organizations often assume that giving people access to training solves the problem. But real change takes more than logins.

Skills matter—but so does mindset.

Teams need clear expectations, a shared language, and steady reinforcement from leadership. When that happens, better habits take root, and better project outcomes follow.

Improving scheduling isn't as simple as handing out logins to the latest course. Organizations need to champion good scheduling practices and create a culture that promotes them.



Michael Lepage
CEO of Plan Academy



The Most Successful Teams Invest in the Basics

Plan Academy, a leading online training platform for construction schedulers and project controls professionals, has trained thousands of industry practitioners across the globe. Its enrollment data over the past 3 years reveals a consistent trend: While trendy topics like AI seem to be important, organizations are focused on training foundational scheduling theory and software primarily.

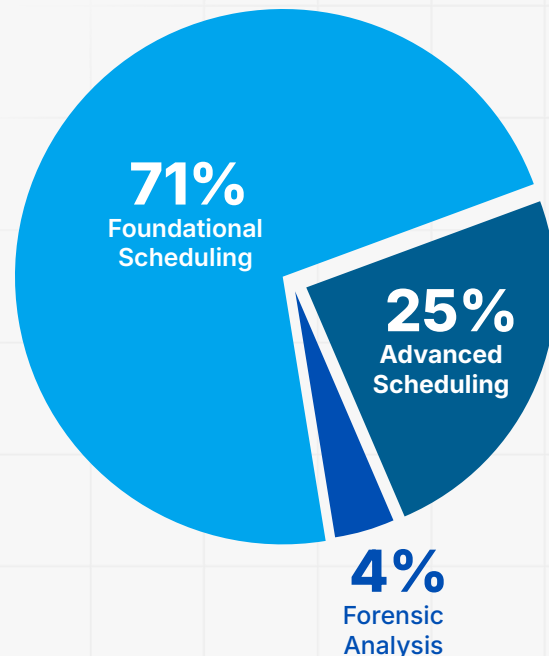
- **71%** of training enrollments focus on core concepts: CPM logic, float, progress measurement, and software fundamentals
- Only **4%** focus on forensic analysis, despite its high-stakes value

The most effective organizations tie training goals to employee development plans and review them monthly. That tactic alone improves completion by **33%**.

Managers often forget that changing people's behaviors is more complex than just providing skills training. People need mentorship, guidance, and accountability as they learn and grow to make lasting change.

Source: Based on Plan Academy's 3-Year Enrollment Data

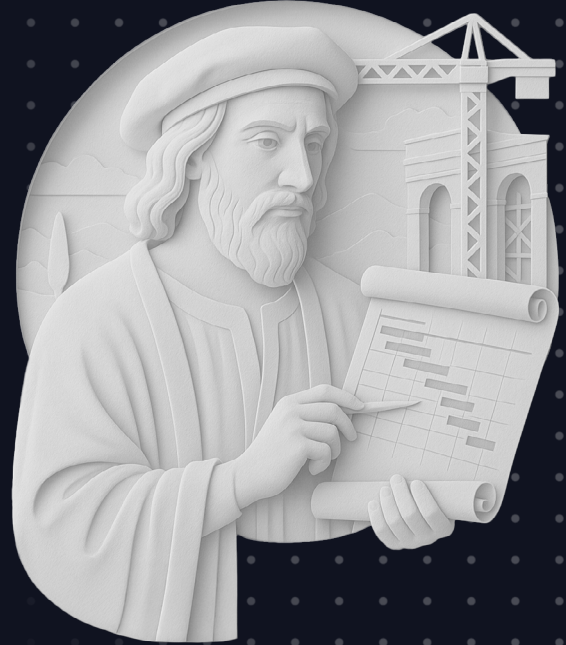
Training Topics Trends



PART 2

OPPORTUNITIES & OUTLOOK: THE SCHEDULING RENAISSANCE

How capital, culture, and clarity are reshaping the role of the schedule in modern construction.



The Scheduling Renaissance

For decades, construction schedules were treated as compliance artifacts—**static, siloed, and difficult to use as decision-making tools**. That's changing.

Accelerated by pandemic-era disruption, rising litigation risk, and wider access to analytics, schedules are increasingly viewed as **a core operating system** for tracking progress and managing project risk.

As a result, more project teams are turning to schedule data not just to report but to **plan, forecast, and lead**. Four key developments are fueling this shift:

1. Venture Capital Investment
2. Rising Litigation Costs
3. Relatable Content & Education
4. The Emergence of Accessible Platforms

The scheduling renaissance is about raising the standard—teams expecting schedules to be reliable, usable, and tied to real project outcomes. Now they've got the tools, training, and visibility to back that up.

1 | Venture Capital Investment

Schedule QA/QC

 SmartPM[®]

 nPlan

 nodes
& links

 InstinctIQ

 FORESIGHT • WORKS

 frontline

 Gantt AI



Master Schedule

 ALICE
TECHNOLOGIES



 BLACKHYVE

 Outbuild

 phoenix
PROJECT MANAGER

 planera

 LCM
DIGITAL

 specter
automation

 aphex

 inTakt



Detail Scheduling

 allucent

 koppla

 LookAhead

Early-stage investment in scheduling software surpassed **\$200 million**, reaching an all-time high in this space. These funds targeted tools focused on CPM scheduling, planning, progress tracking, and risk-informed forecasting.

This influx of capital reflects a growing belief that schedules are no longer just operational; rather, they're **strategic**.

Source: Pitchbook data

Schedule Visualization & Communication

 slate

 SmartPM[®]

 CONCOURSE

Schedule Analytics & Project Controls

 SmartPM[®]

1 | Venture Capital Investment

This heightened interest reflects a broader recognition that schedule-related uncertainty, driven by persistent labor constraints, material price variability, and a growing volume of delay claims, represents a significant exposure for project stakeholders. As a result, there is growing interest in tools that make schedule information easier to use for planning and decision-making.

The outcome is a broader range of tools, faster software updates, and higher expectations from owners and lenders on the use of scheduling in project controls.

Scheduling has been limited to a few specialists using complex tools. We built Planera to change that. By making planning visual, intuitive, and collaborative, we're giving PMs, supers, and field teams a seat at the table. The recent wave of VC investment shows the industry is ready for this shift—scheduling is becoming a shared language across the jobsite.



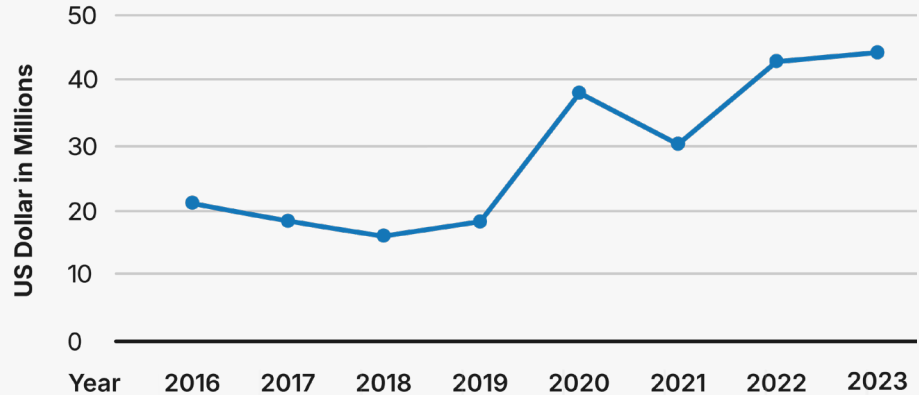
Nitin Bhandari
CEO of Planera

2 | Rising Litigation Costs

In North America, the average construction dispute now exceeds \$42 million—up 128% since 2019. On complex jobs, delay-related claims can surpass \$500 million. Most cases hinge on one data set: the schedule.

This shift reflects a broader legal trend. Courts, arbitrators, and insurers increasingly rely on contemporaneous schedule records to determine liability. As litigation timelines stretch and project values rise, early resolution depends on auditable CPM data—baseline logic, update integrity, and clear documentation of delay.

Arcadis 2023 Construction Disputes Report



Source: Arcadis 2023 Construction Disputes Report

Litigation has turned scheduling into a legal document. If it's not built forensically, it's a liability.

2 | Rising Litigation Costs

Source: Arcadis 2023 Construction Disputes Report

With 70% of projects now generating claims, schedule quality is under a microscope. Owners and GCs alike are investing in better planning, clearer update protocols, and third-party analysis – not just for tracking projects, but to protect against dispute risk as well.

\$42M

Average Dispute Value in
North America

128%

Increase in Construction
disputes since 2019

66%

Average Schedule Overrun
on Disputed Projects

70%

of Projects Generate
Claims

SmartPM is a form of insurance. This particular piece of insurance is something you can look at weekly, monthly in real time, but you can also look at it in arrears. You can use it at any point in the construction process, and it is going to prove its value.



Josh Thigpen

Sr. Development Manager and Partner
Columbia Ventures

3 | Relatable Content & Education

A new voice in construction. A growing appetite for clarity.

For years, construction's operational challenges were discussed informally. On the jobsite, between teams, or not at all— that's beginning to change.

Industry professionals are increasingly turning to digital platforms to share insights, frustrations, and real-world context. Whether through newsletters, podcasts, memes, or commentary, these voices are helping frame long-standing problems in a way that's accessible and relevant.

They speak directly to the people doing the work, using plain language and practical examples to highlight inefficiencies, outdated processes, and the impact of poor coordination.



CONSTRUCTION YETI

Most CPM schedules are written for the contract, not the crew. The PM builds a timeline to satisfy the Owner, while the Superintendent runs the real job. That disconnect creates double work, missed handoffs, and confusion. And even when the teams do align, the schedule tends to be too aggressive to begin with, so everyone ends sprinting at the end, burning out, and watching quality and safety take a hit.



Matt Graves PMP, CCM
Chief Meme Officer
Construction Yeti

3 | Relatable Content & Education

**Honest content is driving real engagement.
But it's doing more than that.**

Voices like Beyond Deadlines are helping teams see where scheduling practice drifts from intent and what it costs in the field.

This content turns common scheduling challenges into clear, usable strategies planners and schedulers can apply every day on the job.

And it's sparking real conversations about what "good scheduling" should look like on active jobs.

At the same time, the broader conversations are building momentum around collaboration, clarity, and alignment. They're helping planners and schedulers connect the dots between planning and execution and lead the charge in making construction more predictable, efficient, and successful.

This isn't just about better schedules.
It's about better outcomes and better careers.

The deeper I got into scheduling, the more doors opened. Bigger projects, better teams, and a career that took off. This path is open to anyone willing to learn the craft.



Micah Piippo
CEO of Movar US and host
of Beyond Deadlines podcast

3 | Relatable Content & Education

Creators Are Filling the Education Gap.

Most content in construction talks past the people doing the work. What's resonating now is direct, experience-based insight—less theory, more reality. It's helping teams see their own challenges reflected and talked about in plain terms.

For many, it's the first time they've seen their day-to-day frustrations validated in a public, industry-facing format.

As this content gains traction, it's helping expose some of the realities of the construction industry. Not by simply raising awareness but by equipping teams to have better conversations about how work gets planned, executed, and managed.

I started Last Week in ConTech to help people filter signal from noise. There's growing interest in digital tools, but not enough conversation about how to pilot, adopt, and scale them especially when it comes to solving real project pain points like scheduling and coordination.



Bhrgan Paramanantham

Innovation Advisor at AECOM and
writer of Last Week in ConTech newsletter

4 | The Emergence of Accessible Platforms

Survey Insight

Responses suggest that even with more options available, most teams are still piecing together scheduling workflows using legacy systems and spreadsheets.

48%

of MS Project Users
also use Excel

93%

of P6 Users also
use Excel

These patterns suggest that even as analytics improve, scheduling remains fragmented. Disconnected workflows and manual effort continue to limit visibility, accuracy, and impact.

Excel's staying power underscores a deeper issue: many tools weren't built for construction risk management. As a result of this, among other challenges, even the most well intentioned projects go off track, using schedules for reporting purposes instead of for managing the project. Adjusting them reactively instead of proactively.



4 | The Emergence of Accessible Platforms

Survey Insight

But that's starting to change. Survey data shows that new platforms are gaining traction, and recent advancements in CPM scheduling software are lowering the barrier to entry. These tools don't replace expert schedulers—they support them by standardizing workflows, surfacing risk earlier, and enabling more team members to engage meaningfully with time-based data.

That shift matters. More than **50% of respondents** cited lack of qualified staff as the top scheduling challenge. Accessible tools help close that gap. Not by removing expertise, but by making it easier to communicate across teams.

The result is a more collaborative approach—where risk is tracked in real time, updates are auditable, and the schedule functions as an operational control system, not just a compliance record.

Scheduling has been the weak link for a long time. Now, collaboration and tech are teaming up to close the costly gap between field and office.



Franco Giaquinto
CEO at Outbuild

Part 3

THE SCHEDULE IS JUST THE BEGINNING

Real control comes from analysis – visibility
into delays, quality, feasibility, and risk.



Where We Go from Here

We've said it throughout this report, but it's worth repeating: **having a schedule isn't the same as managing with one.**

That's where most teams stop short. They build the schedule. They update it monthly (hopefully). They rely on it for reporting. But that's not scheduling. That's documentation.

The real work begins after the schedule is built. That's when the job of managing time, tracking risk, and making decisions actually starts. But unless the schedule is accurate, current, and analyzed, it's just a record of intent, not a control system.

And this is where most of the industry falls behind. Fewer than 4% of construction companies have a dedicated project controls team. That means the vast majority of teams are operating without the time, structure, or resources to study the schedule the way consultants do.

So what does it take to do it right?

A large, stylized blue graphic consisting of a less-than sign followed by the number 4 and a percent sign, representing the statistic that fewer than 4% of construction companies have a dedicated project controls team.

of construction companies have a dedicated project controls team.

Project Controls =
the people, processes, and tools that
plan, track, and analyze schedule,
cost, and risk.

We surveyed consultants to answer that exact question. Here's how much time, on average, it takes per month per project to perform proper schedule oversight:

Manual Hours Required for Proper Schedule Oversight

This is what it takes to study schedule quality, monitor delay, and run predictive analysis every month at a level that actually supports risk management - work most teams don't have the staff to perform.

Project Size	Quality Review	Delay Analysis	Predictive Assessment	Total Hours
<\$10M	4 hrs	8 hrs	4 hrs	16 hrs
\$25M	8 hrs	16 hrs	8 hrs	32 hrs
\$50M	12 hrs	24 hrs	12 hrs	48 hrs
\$100M	16 hrs	32 hrs	16 hrs	64 hrs
\$250M	24 hrs	40 hrs	24 hrs	88 hrs
\$500M	32 hrs	56 hrs	32 hrs	120 hrs
\$1B	40 hrs	80 hrs	40 hrs	160 hrs

What SmartPM Changes

Automation that scales project-controls expertise across every job.

SmartPM automates the heavy analytics consultants are hired to perform: delay analysis, update audits, compression tracking, predictive forecasting.

It doesn't replace the scheduler; it just makes the work possible at scale. SmartPM turns the two-weeks of manual work required into a single day while preserving depth and accuracy.

The result: actionable data on every project, without a full time analyst doing it by hand.

90%

SmartPM Users Report a 90% Reduction in Analysis Time.

3X

SmartPM users are 3x more likely to update their schedules weekly or biweekly compared to teams operating on a monthly cadence.

Two weeks of Manual Analysis
→ One Day with SmartPM

Project Size	Manual Oversight	With SmartPM
\$100 M	64 hrs →	6 hrs
\$250 M	88 hrs →	8 hrs
\$500 M	120 hrs →	12 hrs
\$1 B	160 hrs →	16hrs

Only 4% of firms have project controls staff - enough coverage for ~10 % of projects. SmartPM's 90% time savings scales that coverage to 100% of projects.

So What's the Answer?

It's not to throw more hours at the problem. It's to create structure and controls.

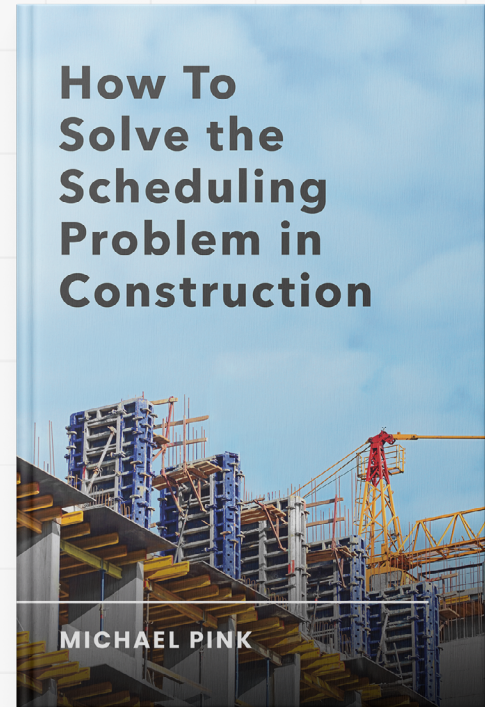
That Means:

- Embedding schedule analytics into your monthly workflow
- Building standards around earned value, delay, feasibility, and compression
- Sharing what you find *transparently* with the field, with leadership, and with partners
- Using the data not just to explain performance, but to improve it

Because without visibility, there's no accountability. And without communication, the schedule can't drive action.

We've spent years helping teams solve this problem, not just by giving them another scheduling tool, but by helping them understand what matters inside the schedule and how to use that insight to manage projects better.

Want to see how it works? Click to download our e-book, How to Solve the Scheduling Problem in Construction, and get the full breakdown.



10 Analytics Every Project Should Track

Good scheduling isn't the finish line. Good analysis is. Below are the ten questions every schedule should help you answer, every month, on every project.

- 1. Schedule Quality** – Does the schedule meet logic, float, and structure standards? Can it be trusted?
- 2. Update Integrity** – Do our updates reflect real progress—or are they being adjusted to “look right”?
- 3. Earned Value** – Are we earning as much progress as planned? Where are we slipping?
- 4. Changes** – What changed this month? Who made the change—and why?
- 5. Compression** – How much work is being pushed into less time? Are we seeing red flags?
- 6. Hit Rates** – How often do we hit our weekly targets? Which trades are consistent—and which aren't?
- 7. Delay** – Are we tracking slippage in real time—or waiting until it hits the end date?
- 8. Feasibility** – Can this schedule still be built as planned? Or are we past the point of recovery?
- 9. Forecast Accuracy** – How well have past projections held up? Are we improving or guessing?
- 10. Critical Path Stability** – Is the critical path shifting for the right reasons—or being manipulated to buy time?

Schedules don't build projects, people do. But people can only make the right decisions when the schedule data is accurate, shared, and actively used.

“If your company wants to leverage data-driven, decision-making processes, and needs true insights into what’s really happening with the schedules on their projects, SmartPM is the product I would recommend.”

Denton Perreault

Vice President of Construction



[Read The Full Story](#)

SmartPM's Hidden Secret

Schedule as the Centerpiece



**Drives Better
Decisions & Reporting**



**Enables Real-Time
AI Forecasting**



**Powers All Project
Analytics**

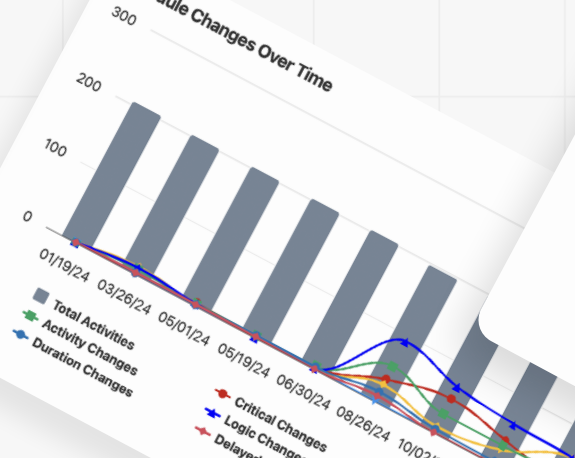


**Connects Cost, Risk,
& Field Data**

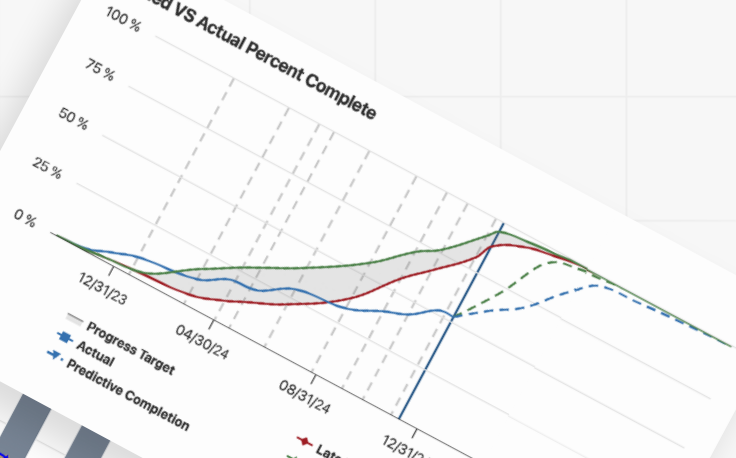


**Exposes Delays
Early**

Schedule Changes Over Time



Planned VS Actual Percent Complete





Want to Know How Your Schedules Stack Up?

Book a discovery call.

We'll run a complimentary SmartPM analysis on one of your current project schedules and walk you through the results.

Get clarity on delays, schedule quality, logic gaps, and performance trends in minutes.

[Book a Discovery Call](#)

