

Xero, QuickBooks Online and Sage 50 Comparison

To ensure a fair comparison, we have compared the base and premium products.

Sage 50c Overview

This version of sage is a desktop/cloud-based hybrid accounting system. Sage holds a strong market presence in the UK, with the majority of SME's on either their Desktop or Cloud hybrid offerings. Data is stored on 'SageDrive' which is a remote server allowing you to access your data as required and can run offline once access is granted. Sage 50's premium product is filled with a lot of features that its fully-cloud-based competitors do not offer.

QuickBooks Online Overview

QuickBooks in its online variant is a relatively new product. QuickBooks was previously known for its strong reputation as a desktop based solution. To meet changes in the market, they created a completely new cloud system known as QBO or QuickBooks Online. Unlike Sage, QBO is a completely cloud-based software which can be run from any browser on any computer and even has a dedicated mobile app which has minor functionality. By using a completely cloud-based product, you reap the benefits of free product updates, remote and secure data access and integrations with cloud-based operational software.

Xero Overview

Xero, like QBO, is a cloud-based accounting software tool. Xero was created to be a cloud-based tool from the beginning. Xero is often perceived as the market-leading cloud-based accounting software, globally. Xero is one of the easiest accounting systems to use, with an intuitive layout and access to video tutorials and written help guides.

Key Benefits

Bank Feeds

All of these systems can import bank transactions from the bank to minimise the amount of data entry that you perform. Some banks charge the software providers for this service. QBO absorbs this cost, Xero and Sage on-charge for bank feeds.

Remote access

All systems allow you to access your data from any source, however, with Xero and QBO you can access your complete data set on any computer and from any browser. Xero and QBO have mobile apps, which offer specific functionality designed for mobile use. Including invoicing and bank reconciliations.

Custom reports

QBO, Xero and Sage allow you to customise pre-existing reports and have a wide variety of reports available. These reports are suitable for the majority of businesses, and as mentioned offer a degree of customisation. Should the standard reports not suit your needs, Sage offers the ability to build completely bespoke reports from a blank template.

Inventory management


All of these systems offer some form of inventory management. The offerings by Xero and QBO are rather basic. Included in the Professional Sage software, you have access to their inventory module which has a lot of functionality. Xero and QBO offer integrations with dedicated third party stock systems. This would incur an additional subscription cost.

Continued overleaf

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If you would like to discuss this in further detail, please get in touch with our friendly advisor below.

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Third party integrations

The ability to integrate your operational system to your Accounting software is a way to introduce high levels of efficiency. In regards to these three systems, Xero has the largest variety of third-party integrations. Followed by QBO and then Sage. The process of integrating your systems is often referred to as an 'app-stack'. This is where you use multiple integrated 'apps' to meet operational requirements. A common app-stack includes; Xero to fulfil the accounting function, Auto Entry to process expenses, Chaser to keep outstanding debtors in order and Futrli as part of the preparation of monthly management accounts.

MTD Compliance

Sage, QBO and Xero will be MTD compliant by the deadline. MTD goes live in April 2019 and effects all businesses who are VAT registered with a turnover more than £85,000. Only the latest version of Sage 50c will be MTD compliant, so an upgrade may be required.

Demo/ Trial

All of these systems offer 30 day trials. These trials offer full functionality and will allow you to make an informed decisions and test the functionality. QBO has a pre-filled trial company available on this link: https://qbo.intuit.com/redirect/testdrive_uk.

Please contact us should you have any issue accessing the trial, or have any questions during your trial.

Training

We offer personalised training for Xero, QuickBooks Online and Sage to ensure that you get the most out of your accounting system.




This training can be tailored for business owners or finance personnel in your business.

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Base product features comparison

			
	50c Essentials	Essentials	Standard
Monthly cost	£20 p/m	£15 p/m £10 p/m (MHA Moore and Smalley exclusive price)	£22 p/m
Included users	1	3	Unlimited
Microsoft Office 365 Business Premium	X +£		
G-Suite Integration			X
Bank feed import	X +£	X	X +£ (bank dependent)
Sales invoices/ estimates	X	X	X
Email invoices and estimates	X	X	X
Multiple delivery addresses		X	
Recurring invoices		X	X
Invoice reminders			X
VAT reporting	X	X	X
Submit directly to HMRC	X	X	X
Custom reports	X	X	X
Business division reporting		X	X
CIS reporting		X	X
Large range of third party integrations		X	X
Mobile apps	X	X	X
Create purchase orders	X		X
Multi-currency	X +£	X	
Fixed asset register			X
Support included	X	X	X
Inventory management	Basic	Basic	Very Basic
Project management			X +£

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Premium product features comparison

			
	50c Professional	Plus	Premium
Monthly cost	£150 p/m	£25 p/m £10 p/m (MHA Moore and Smalley exclusive price)	£27.50 p/m
Core users	20	Unlimited	Unlimited
Microsoft Office 365 Business Premium	X +£		
G-Suite Integration			X
Bank feed import	X +£	X	X +£ (bank dependent)
Sales invoices/ estimates	X	X	X
Email invoices and estimates	X	X	X
Multiple delivery addresses	X	X	
Recurring invoices	X	X	X
Invoice reminders			X
VAT reporting	X	X	X
Submit directly to HMRC	X	X	X
Custom reports	X	X	X
Business division reporting	X	X	X
CIS reporting	X +£	X	X
Large range of third party integrations		X	X
Mobile apps	X	X	X
Create purchase orders	X	X	X
Multi-currency	X	X	X
Fixed asset register	X		X
Support included	X	X	X
Inventory management	Advanced	Basic	Very Basic
Project management	X	X	X +£

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