

## *Wage Manager Solution 5.0.228 by Sunburst Software Solutions, Inc.*

Overall Rating

9.0



### Product Name

Wage Manager Solution  
5.0.228 by Sunburst  
Software Solutions, Inc.

### Reviewed By

Sarah Watson, CPA  
Certified QuickBooks  
ProAdvisor

[sarahwatsoncpa@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahwatsoncpa@yahoo.com)

### Date Reviewed

6/29/07

### Summary

If you welcome technology that can maximize your efficiency, then you will appreciate the exceptional value of Wage Manager Solution software. Originally released in 2005, the product was designed to simplify and automate the task of payroll wage item modifications and the creation of new payroll wage items for users of QuickBooks Pro/Premier 2003-2007 and Enterprise edition 3.0-7.0. The two-way integration with QuickBooks is seamless and the straightforward program interface allows users to be comfortable with the software in a matter of minutes.

### Strengths

One of the most significant strengths of the product is ease of use. Combined with a modest price, Wage Manager Solution is the only product available that automates the task of payroll wage management for QuickBooks users. Additionally, the program was developed by a team that has over fifty years of combined experience in the construction industry and with payroll management.

### Limitations

The primary limitations of Wage Manager Solution are related to Intuit's Software Development Kit (SDK) that dictates how the developer can interact with QuickBooks. Right now the program can only access wage item types (Yearly Salary, Hourly Wage, etc.) and not the other payroll items (Additions, Deductions, and Company Contributions) available within QuickBooks.

### Wish List

One item I would like to see incorporated into the product is a different color font used for any items that are modified in the grid. This functionality would make it easy to isolate the changes made during the session in case a user gets interrupted during rate updates. Also, due to the sensitive nature of the data involved, I would prefer to see password protected log-ins available to the user.

Product Ratings	Rating	Ratings Definitions
<p><b>Setup and Installation:</b></p> <p>Installation and setup of the program can be accomplished within a matter of minutes. Whether the user opts for delivery of the product by download or CD, the InstallShield® Wizard will walk them through the process. Once installed, the user can access their open QuickBooks file and choose the type of wage items they need to manage. Permissions will need to be granted within each QuickBooks file to either allow access when it is open or closed. The entire process is fast and easy to follow.</p> <p>Wage Manager Solution is also installed concurrently with the company's Certified Payroll Solution product.</p>	9.5	<p><b>10.0 (Perfect):</b> This exceedingly rare score is reserved for a product that is as perfect as it could be.</p> <p><b>9.0 to 9.9 (Spectacular):</b> A product that receives a rating in this range succeeds at meeting all of its intended users' needs and has no meaningful drawbacks.</p> <p><b>8.0 to 8.9 (Excellent):</b> A product that receives a rating in this range is superior in so many ways that its relatively few drawbacks are not very important.</p> <p><b>7.0 to 7.9 (Very good):</b> While the strengths of a product scoring in this range certainly outweigh its weaknesses, it has some minor faults that certain users should be aware of.</p> <p><b>6.0 to 6.9 (Good):</b> This range represents a product that is above average. Its strengths slightly outweigh its weaknesses, making it good for most uses but not a standout.</p> <p><b>5.0 to 5.9 (Average):</b> A product that scores in this range is functional but unremarkable.</p> <p><b>4.0 to 4.9 (Mediocre):</b> Products in this range are below average. They fall in the middle of the pack for most features, but suffer from a few additional major flaws.</p> <p><b>3.0 to 3.9 (Poor):</b> A customer should probably not consider purchasing a product in this range or lower. There may be one or two specialized circumstances, however, that could justify the purchase of this product for a very low price for a specific demand.</p> <p><b>2.0 to 2.9 (Terrible):</b> A product that receives a rating in this range does not satisfy any of its intended users' needs and has no meaningful strengths.</p> <p><b>1.0 to 1.9 (Abysmal):</b> A product in this range should never have been produced. This product has no redeeming qualities and worse, may actually harm the user or the user's productivity.</p>
<p><b>Interface:</b></p> <p>By keeping the interface simple and uncluttered with graphics, a user can start enjoying the benefits of payroll wage item management in an easy to use spreadsheet type grid. Navigation within the program is accomplished by simply selecting a wage item or individual wage and using the buttons on the toolbar to perform the requested function.</p> <p>Additional features are also available in the program's menus.</p>	9.0	
<p><b>Features:</b></p> <p>The primary function of the program is to manage payroll wage item modifications and the creation of new payroll wage items for all employees in one convenient grid. The most common features are to add or copy a wage item, delete a wage or wage item, and to modify an existing wage. These functions can either be performed for a single employee or for all employees at the same time. The user can also take advantage of the import function to pull in a tab delimited ASCII spreadsheet. The only catch is that the wage item must first exist in Wage Manager Solution before the import can be successful.</p>	9.0	
<p><b>Ease of Use/Service and Support</b></p> <p>Wage Manager Solution is an uncomplicated program that performs one basic task – payroll wage item management. The hours saved by automating this function are well worth the modest price of the program.</p> <p>Unlimited free support is available through an on-line user forum and future program enhancements are included in the purchase price. Phone support is available for an additional charge and is provided by a Certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor. A list of common error codes and their solutions are listed in the program help menu.</p>	9.5	

**Data Security / Privacy**

7.9

During the initial setup, a user can choose to either access wage data from an open QuickBooks file or to grant permission to work with the file when closed. By choosing the open QuickBooks file option, the user can maintain control over who views the payroll wage rates of the company if they have established passwords for their QuickBooks file. However, for additional time-savings, the closed file access option is a nice feature for multi-file users. Since Wage Manager Solution handles sensitive payroll wage rates, I would like to see the addition of a password protected log-in. This would grant more control to users to decide if they would like to setup a password or not.

The company maintains a privacy policy on their website. Although it is not directly available within the program help menu, a user can navigate to the company website by accessing the web help and selecting the company policies section.

**Integration with QuickBooks**

9.0

The bi-directional sharing of data with QuickBooks is so smooth that a user might miss the process if not for the log displayed by Wage Manager Solution during the employee data retrieval. Any errors encountered are clearly noted with an informational message. Once a file is written back to QuickBooks, a log is displayed to highlight the number of changes made and any errors which need to be addressed.

If an employee has a wage item setup twice with different pay rates in QuickBooks, Wage Manager Solution cautions the user about a potential error. One of the pay items will not import and if the employee is modified during the session, the duplicate item will be deleted from the employee record when saving the data back to QuickBooks. This error was clearly noted by Wage Manager Solution when it occurred.