

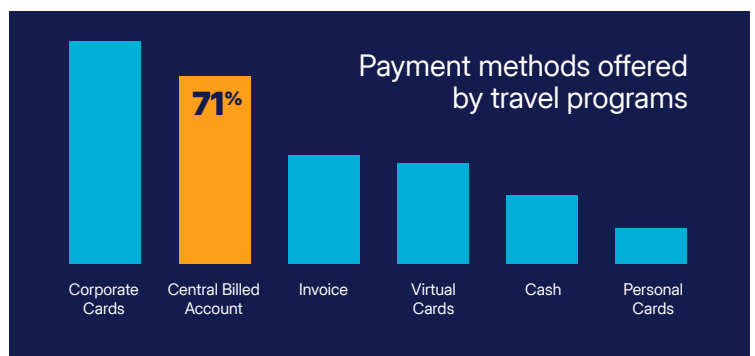
PRINCIPLES OF PAYMENT

Exploring Payment Options: CENTRAL BILLED ACCOUNTS

Our recent survey shows that a majority of travel buyers include central billed accounts, or “lodge cards,” in their payment mix.

It’s easy for travelers to use the unique account number of your company’s business travel account for transactions through a particular provider or travel management company, giving them access to an approved network of travel agencies, suppliers and self-booking tools.

Bookings are made through the travel provider, who pays the end supplier. The company later receives a single billing statement that centralizes



Source: BCD’s online survey of 164 travel buyers conducted from May 10-25, 2023

+ **LODGE CARDS AT A GLANCE**

- **CONVENIENCE**
- **CONTROL**
- **VISIBILITY**
- **SECURITY**
- **RECONCILIATION**

PRO: Guest travel and group travel

PRO: Budgeting control

CON: Reconciliation

all expenses incurred over the billing period, covering all your travelers’ expenses from multiple suppliers.

This is a good solution for guest travel and group events, since travelers don’t need individual cards and the organization can easily manage budgeted expenses like airfare and hotel.

Central billing reconciliation, however, can be tricky. Since purchases are consolidated to a central account, the traveler doesn’t see or control their expenses in the expense system. Instead, manual reconciliation falls directly to the finance or accounting teams, who may not have enough information to properly allocate the expense.

Nonetheless, central billed accounts are a solid option for many travel programs to have in their payment mix.

Are you ready to talk to an expert about optimizing your payment supplier strategy? [Reach out to Advito today.](#)