

# The smart manufacturing journey: Where factories are today—and what's holding back progress

Manufacturers share how they are progressing in their smart manufacturing efforts.<sup>1</sup> Learn how their programs are maturing and what use cases they are betting on.

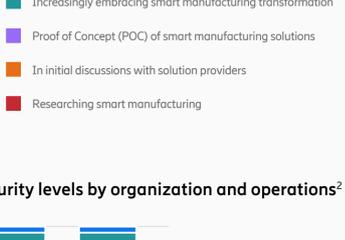


## 01

### How are manufacturers executing on their smart manufacturing strategy?

While most manufacturers are well into their adoption of smart manufacturing, few have reached the level of Leader in their executional maturity.<sup>2</sup>

- Smart manufacturing momentum is strong—75 percent are in proof of concept or scaling.
- Maturity levels differ sharply across operational categories.
- Few organizations have reached advanced maturity.

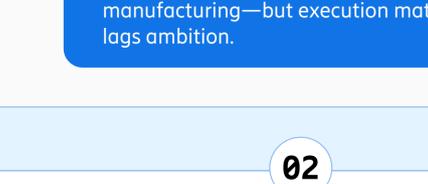


#### How mature is your smart manufacturing strategy?



- Deploying numerous smart manufacturing use cases with a robust process in place to incorporate more in the future
- Increasingly embracing smart manufacturing transformation
- Proof of Concept (POC) of smart manufacturing solutions
- In initial discussions with solution providers
- Researching smart manufacturing

#### Overall smart manufacturing maturity levels by organization and operations<sup>2</sup>



- Level 5 - Leader
- Level 4 - Optimizing
- Level 3 - Transforming
- Level 2 - Enhancing
- Level 1 - Reacting

#### Key takeaway

Most manufacturers are investing in smart manufacturing—but execution maturity still lags ambition.

## 02

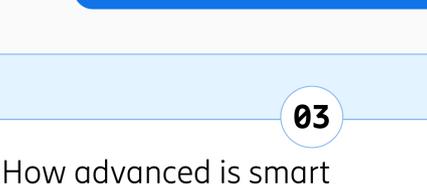
### How ready are organizations to adopt smart manufacturing?

Most manufacturers are adapting their organizational structures, cultures, and budgets to realize smart manufacturing.

- Organizational readiness is improving—and leadership support can drive faster progress.
- Cultural openness is increasing, with strong potential to expand adoption.
- Expanding budgets and simplified deployment are enabling faster smart transformation.



#### How ready is your organization to adopt smart manufacturing?



- Excellent - Best in class support and execution
- Very Good - Most key goals and support met
- Good - Many key goals and support met
- Fair - Some key goals and support met
- Poor - Few key goals and support met
- None - No current support or goals undefined

#### Key takeaway

Leadership support and budget are improving, but organizational complexity is slowing down momentum.

## 03

### How advanced is smart manufacturing on the factory floor?

Manufacturers are advancing smart technologies like AI and robotics, but many initiatives remain limited to pilots or research efforts rather than scaled deployment.

- Factory modernization is moving quickly in areas like smart robots and cloud computing, but progress is slower elsewhere.
- Most factories are in the early phases of analytics adoption with the exception of AI and big data, limiting data-driven decision-making.

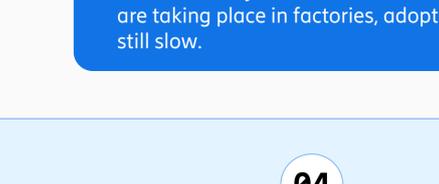


#### How mature is your adoption of factory modernization and tools?



- Full Deployment - All planned deployments are being utilized
- Area Deployment - Some, but not all planned deployments utilized
- Point Deployment - One planned deployment being utilized
- POC - Trialing technology, process, method or tool
- Researching - Working with third-parties to understand
- None - Not actively working towards implementing

#### How mature is your implementation of analytics solutions?



- Full Deployment - All planned deployments are being utilized
- Area Deployment - Some, but not all planned deployments utilized
- Point Deployment - One planned deployment being utilized
- POC - Trialing technology, process, method or tool
- Researching - Working with third-parties to understand
- None - Not actively working towards implementing

#### Key takeaway

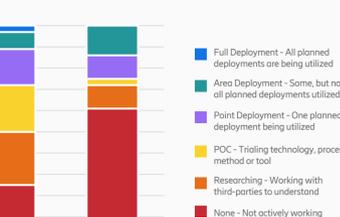
While Industry 4.0 advancements are taking place in factories, adoption is still slow.

## 04

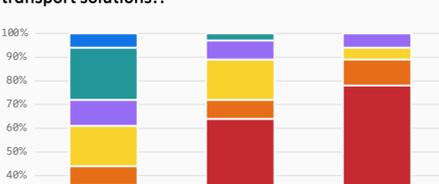
### How modern are today's supply chains and warehouses

Supply chain and warehouse modernization remain early-stage, with most organizations piloting technologies rather than deploying automation at scale.

- Supply chains are still piloting or researching inventory and inspection technologies.
- Autonomous transport tools—like AMRs, autonomous trucks, and drones—have seen very little real adoption in supply chain operations.
- Supply chain automation remains nascent with majority focused on researching and proof of concepts.

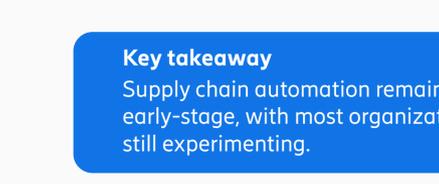


#### How advanced is your integration and use of inventory management and inspection solutions?



- Full Deployment - All planned deployments are being utilized
- Area Deployment - Some, but not all planned deployments utilized
- Point Deployment - One planned deployment being utilized
- POC - Trialing technology, process, method or tool
- Researching - Working with third-parties to understand
- None - Not actively working towards implementing

#### How mature is your integration and use of materials transport solutions?



- Full Deployment - All planned deployments are being utilized
- Area Deployment - Some, but not all planned deployments utilized
- Point Deployment - One planned deployment being utilized
- POC - Trialing technology, process, method or tool
- Researching - Working with third-parties to understand
- None - Not actively working towards implementing

#### Key takeaway

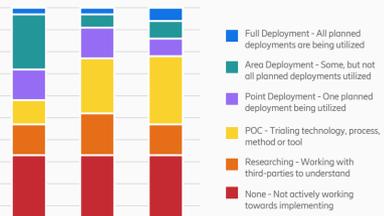
Supply chain automation remains early-stage, with most organizations still experimenting.

## 05

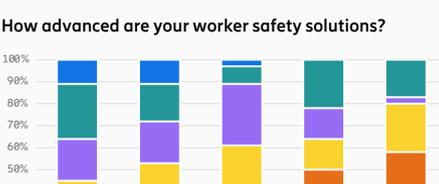
### How are manufacturers preparing their workforce to deliver smart manufacturing?

Workforce digital enablement and safety solutions remain early-stage, making skills development a critical lever for accelerating smart manufacturing.

- Strengthening workforce capability is a major opportunity to accelerate smart manufacturing.
- Most factory workers are just beginning to develop digital and automation readiness.
- Most organizations are in early stages of adopting comprehensive worker safety solutions.



#### How mature are your connected worker solutions?



- Full Deployment - All planned deployments are being utilized
- Area Deployment - Some, but not all planned deployments utilized
- Point Deployment - One planned deployment being utilized
- POC - Trialing technology, process, method or tool
- Researching - Working with third-parties to understand
- None - Not actively working towards implementing

#### How advanced are your worker safety solutions?



- Full Deployment - All planned deployments are being utilized
- Area Deployment - Some, but not all planned deployments utilized
- Point Deployment - One planned deployment being utilized
- POC - Trialing technology, process, method or tool
- Researching - Working with third-parties to understand
- None - Not actively working towards implementing

#### Key takeaway

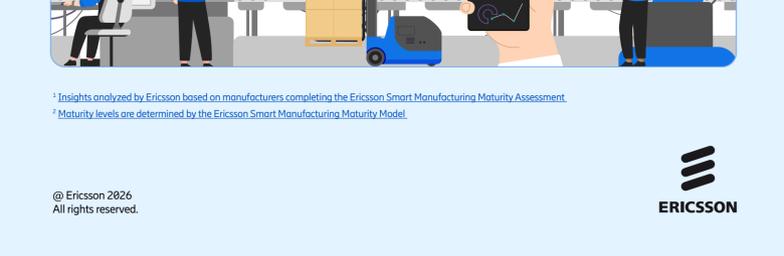
Connected worker tools and safety solutions represent one of the biggest untapped opportunities to accelerate transformation.

## 06

### Where does your factory stand on the smart manufacturing journey?

Benchmark your current maturity with the [Ericsson Smart Manufacturing Maturity Assessment](#) to identify where digital tools, automation, and analytics can accelerate smart manufacturing adoption.

[Take the assessment](#)



<sup>1</sup> Insights analyzed by Ericsson based on manufacturers completing the Ericsson Smart Manufacturing Maturity Assessment.  
<sup>2</sup> Maturity levels are determined by the Ericsson Smart Manufacturing Maturity Model.