



Rockwell Automation

Ninety-Nine Percent of Indian Manufacturers Are Investing in AI to Navigate Uncertainty and Accelerate Smart Manufacturing

10th annual global report reveals how the convergence of people and technology is transforming operations and strengthening industrial resilience

Rockwell Automation, Inc. (NYSE: ROK), the world's largest company dedicated to industrial automation and digital transformation, today announced the results of the 10th annual "State of Smart Manufacturing Report." The global study, fielded in March 2025, surveyed more than 1,500 manufacturers across 17 of the leading manufacturing countries, including India.

This year's report reflects on how manufacturers worldwide, balancing innovation with practical implementation, are leveraging data, artificial intelligence (AI), and sustainable practices to navigate a rapidly evolving industrial landscape. As manufacturers continue to face uncertainty driven by economic shifts, the report highlights how companies are turning to smart manufacturing technologies to manage risks, improve performance, and support their workforce.

Indian manufacturers see **AI playing a critical role in business transformation, 99%** have invested in, or plan to invest in, AI/ML over the next five years. Long-term business impact is the main driver for **81% of Indian respondents to invest in technology**. Encouragingly, India organizations see greater benefit in sustainability, **with 94%** reporting some formal sustainability program in place. Indian companies are particularly

focused on energy management and integrating eco-friendly processes across the product lifecycle.

Dilip Sawhney, Managing Director, Rockwell Automation India, said: "This year's report underscores growing influence of advanced technologies on Indian manufacturing. Indian organizations are adapting to fast evolving global manufacturing, economic shifts, and supply chain dynamics. AI and machine learning technologies, once seen as emerging trends, have now evolved into strategic priorities, with nearly every Indian manufacturer seeing value in investing in these technologies."

India outperforms the global average in data utilization, effectively using **53% of the data collected (compared to the global average of 44%)**, indicating its potential to harness analytics for innovation and efficiency. In terms of workforce development, employers in India are prioritizing analytical thinking and communication/ teamwork - skills that align with the demands of a modern, tech-enabled manufacturing environment.

"While technology infrastructure and data readiness remain key barriers, it's encouraging to see Indian manufacturers leading in sustainability policies and outpacing global peers in

effective data use. At Rockwell Automation, we are committed to accelerating this transformation by equipping Indian manufacturers with smart, sustainable, safe, and scalable solutions that address these gaps and enhance competitiveness," added **Dilip Sawhney**.

Key global findings include:

- 81% of manufacturers say external and internal pressures are accelerating digital transformation, with cloud/SaaS, AI, cybersecurity, and quality management ranking as the top areas of smart manufacturing technology investments.
- 95% of manufacturers have invested in, or plan to invest in, AI/ML over the next five years.
- Organizations investing in generative and causal AI increased 12% year-over-year, signaling a maturing approach to advanced technologies beyond experimentation.
- Cybersecurity ranks as the second biggest external risk, with 49% of manufacturers planning to use AI for cybersecurity in 2025 – up from 40% in 2024.
- 48% of manufacturers plan to repurpose or hire additional workers due to smart manufacturing investments. Additionally, 41% are using AI and automation to help close the skills gap and address labor shortages.
- Quality control remains the top AI use case for the second year in

a row, with 50% planning to apply AI/ML to support product quality in 2025.

Beyond these data points, the report reflects broader movement towards more efficient and adaptive operations. Manufacturers are using smart technologies to strengthen supply chains, accelerate sustainability initiatives and make faster, more informed decisions. There has also been a 5% rise in the importance of analytical and AI skills for leaders, showing that talent development and technical innovation must go hand in hand.

Still, many manufacturers face challenges when implementing AI. Nearly half of respondents say the ability to apply AI is now an extremely important skill – up from just 10% last year.

The full findings of the report can be found here.

Methodology

This report analyzed feedback from 1,560 respondents from 17 of the top manufacturing countries with roles from management up to the C-suite and was conducted in association with Rockwell Automation and Sapio Research. The survey

sampled from a range of industries including Consumer Packaged Goods, Food & Beverage, Automotive, Semiconductor, Energy, Life Sciences, and more. With a balanced distribution of company sizes with revenues spanning \$100 million to over \$30 billion, it offers a wide breadth of manufacturing business perspectives.

About Rockwell Automation

Rockwell Automation, Inc. (NYSE: ROK), is a global leader in industrial automation and digital transformation. We connect the imaginations of people with the potential of technology to expand what is humanly possible, making the world more productive and more sustainable. Headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Rockwell Automation employs approximately 27,000 problem solvers dedicated to our customers in more than 100 countries as of fiscal year end 2024. To learn more about how we are bringing the Connected Enterprise® to life across industrial enterprises, visit www.rockwellautomation.com.

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