

Perceptions of UK Manufacturing Survey results



We wanted to know about the perception of UK manufacturing...

So, we asked 2107 members of the public to tell us their views.

This is what we found out...

Perceptions of UK Manufacturing Survey

Key Statistics



70% of respondents said they had not seen, heard or read anything about UK manufacturing in the last year.



Over 80% of respondents recognised manufacturing as essential to supply chains and the UK's reputation.



64% of respondents told us that compared to other industries in the UK, they think positively about the sector.



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Key Statistics



Respondents who had a positive perception associated manufacturing with manual (39%), technical (29%), highly skilled (21%) work.



Respondents who had a negative perception associated manufacturing with low paid (20%), old-fashioned (17%), inflexible (15%) and insecure (14%) work.



People were generally positive about manufacturing as an industry, but skeptical about job quality.



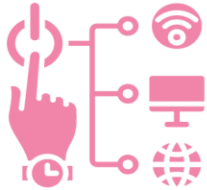
Perceptions of UK Manufacturing Survey

What do people look for in manufacturing jobs?

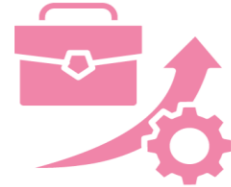
1. Comparable pay and benefits (90%)
2. Wellbeing and flexibility (90%)
3. A clean and safe working environment (89%)
4. Contractual stability and security (89%)
5. An employer who listens to people (87%)
6. Career development opportunities (81%)
7. Mission and values (74%)
8. Equality, diversity and inclusion (73%)
9. Environmental policies (71%)
10. Offering meaningful jobs producing 'valued' products (68%)

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What do people think of manufacturing jobs?



Respondents thought manufacturing generated valued products (75%), meaningful jobs with high technical and digital skills (59%), and career development opportunities (58%).



Only a minority say manufacturing jobs offer wellbeing and flexibility (42%). 60% said that manufacturing jobs are repetitive.



Less than 40% of our sample agreed that they would recommend working in manufacturing to family or friends.



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What is the future of manufacturing work?



Two-thirds of our sample said that manufacturing will be more diverse with more women and minority representation in leadership positions (58%) and this will make the sector more innovative (64%).



However, 81% believed that manufacturing employers need to do more to promote wellbeing and 66% thought that they need to improve recruitment of women and people from minority backgrounds.



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Which new technologies will have the biggest influence on jobs and careers in UK manufacturing?

1. AI/machine learning (26%)
2. Advanced robotics (22%)
3. Other influential technologies include 3-D printing (17%)
4. Advanced materials (16%)
5. High performance computing (14%)
6. Cybersecurity (13%)
7. Next-gen electronics (12%)

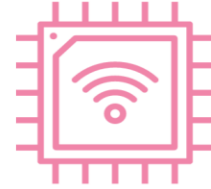


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The impact of digital technology in industry



Over two-thirds of those surveyed think that new technologies will be more about upskilling than downskilling (68%).



Over 70% of respondents think that young people feel less threatened by new technologies and that investing younger digital talent will lead to more innovation.



60% said young people in education aren't as aware of new and emerging digital careers in UK manufacturing as other industries.

