

3D printing by the numbers: Making 3D printing work for your organization

Manufacturers have successfully implemented 3D printing into their business since 1986 — yes, this innovative trend has existed for more than 30 years — now it's time to truly adopt. From sustainability benefits to increased speed to market, here are some surprising stats about the 3D printing industry.



67%

of companies using 3D printing report an increase in productivity.¹

WHY

3D printing speeds up the development and production process, gets designs to market faster and creates flexibility in production, allowing a quicker response to change with product lineups.

88%

of manufacturers are using 3D printing to create prototypes for a host of smart reasons.³

WHY

Allows for more competitive pricing, accelerated development cycles, greater flexibility in design and customization — simplifies the supply chain by eliminating multilevel production planning.

30%

of manufacturers leverage 3D printing, and 40% plan to in the next 12-24 months.²

WHY

Resources. From adoption challenges to lack of skillset, knowledge base, and expertise in effectively using 3D printing.



68%

of manufacturers utilizing 3D printing are using it for prototyping.⁴

WHY

It's a fast and reliable way to produce multiple design iterations before proceeding into production tooling, speed decision-making, and minimizing risk and resource usage.

72%

of companies reported significant impact to profitability by utilizing 3D printing.⁵

WHY

Our study found that Manufacturing companies that used 3D printing were significantly more profitable than their competitors. It reduces time and iterations when creating prototypes.

35%

the number of unfilled job openings in the durable goods manufacturing sector even if every skilled worker in America was employed.⁶

WHY

Studies predict a shortage of more than two million American manufacturing workers by 2030, representing an opportunity cost of \$1 trillion annually.⁷

Ricoh found that bringing rapid prototyping in-house vs. offsite with a service bureau can result in up to⁸

90% 
time savings

90% 
cost savings

85% 

of outsourced 3D print is now brought on-site



Introducing RICOH All-In 3D Print

Elevate your business through the power of 3D printing innovation

41% of manufacturers cite a lack of talent, while **42%** say lack of current expertise is their roadblock to adopting 3D printing.⁹

Team up with Ricoh — a leader in on-site printing operations and 3D printing technology innovation — and take advantage of our fully managed solution for on-site production of 3D printed deliverables.

You get skilled personnel, support, printing hardware, production software, maintenance, and supplies. Managing and maintaining 3D equipment is complex and requires time-consuming strategic cleaning tactics using hazardous materials — safety protocols must be in place. We have the expertise to manage the 3D printing process efficiently.

Additionally, we streamline usage into a fully integrated 3D printing enterprise tool that includes short-run production. Our on-site experts are augmented and supported remotely by Ricoh's Center for Additive Manufacturing facility specialists at North Carolina State University.



Please explore our [web page](#) to learn more.

¹ MPI for Ricoh Additive Manufacturing Study. 2024.

² Deloitte. 2023 manufacturing industry outlook. 2023.

³ Digital, Data, and Design Institute at Harvard. Can Nike use 3D-printing to sustainably mass customize its offer to consumers? 2017.

⁴ Outlook for Brands. Digital Transformation And Industry 4.0: Revolutionizing Manufacturing. 2023.

⁵ Protolabs. Market Insights and Forecasts for 3D Printing Trends in 2023. 2023.

⁶ Forbes. The Labor Shortage is Killing American Manufacturing Here's How AI Can Bring it Back to Life. 2022.

⁷ Deloitte. Creating pathways for tomorrow's workforce today. 2021.

⁸ Ricoh case study www.ricoh-usa.com/en/insights/case-studies/rapid-prototyping-additive-manufacturing-lab

⁹ PwC. 3D Printing comes of age in US industrial manufacturing. 2016.

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