

# UK Manufacturing Council

Annual Survey · Digital Operations · 2026 (Extract)

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## Digital Operations Survey 2026: process digitisation across UK manufacturing

The UK Manufacturing Council's annual survey gathered responses from member organisations on the digitisation of core operational processes. This extract summarises findings relevant to approvals, maintenance and reporting.

### Headline findings

- A majority of members report that at least one core operational process (approvals, maintenance or project intake) still runs primarily in spreadsheets or email.
- Manual consolidation for management reporting remains widespread, with many members citing multiple days of effort per reporting cycle.
- Investment intent in low-code and process-automation tooling has risen year on year.

Process area	Still mainly manual	Investment planned
Capital / expenditure approvals	61%	48%
Maintenance & asset requests	57%	44%
Management / operational reporting	64%	51%

### Member commentary

*"Growth through new sites has exposed how much of our operation still depends on local spreadsheets. Standardising these processes is now a board-level priority for many members."*

— summarised member feedback, UK Manufacturing Council Digital Operations Survey 2026

### Outlook

The Council expects continued movement toward governed digital process platforms, particularly among multi-site members, over the next two years.