



AI in Manufacturing Document Workflows: 2026 Benchmark Data

Across 1,300 enterprise leaders in five industries, manufacturing recorded the highest AI deployment rate in document workflows and the strongest governing policy of any sector surveyed. Where deployment is complete, the productivity return is already measurable. Nitro's The State of AI in Document Workflows included 320+ manufacturing leaders in that research. Three findings define the manufacturing benchmark: the lead position on deployment, the operational data imperative shaping automation priorities, and the productivity return showing up on the floor.



The Lead Position

93%

of manufacturing CXOs report AI is deployed in some departments or fully across document workflows, the highest of any industry surveyed.

At the manager level, **49%** report deployment, and **33%** are actively piloting. Manufacturing has committed at the executive level and is rolling out on the floor.



The Data Imperative

61%

of managers say data extraction is what they most want automated.

CXOs rank it the top automation opportunity too, at **59%**. Connecting document data into ERP, MES, and compliance systems is the defining use case, and floor-to-executive alignment on it is the strongest of any industry surveyed.



The Productivity Return

65%

of managers with document AI deployed report it has redirected staff time to higher-value work, the highest of any industry surveyed.

Reduced document processing time (**64%**) and fewer compliance incidents (**50%**) round out the operational picture. The return is showing up in the metrics the business already tracks.



Where the data says manufacturing leaders should act next

Prioritize data extraction across operational workflows

Manufacturing has the tightest floor-to-executive alignment on where AI should go first. Data extraction is the top priority for both, and it maps directly to connecting document data into ERP, MES, and compliance systems.

59%

of manufacturing CXOs name data extraction the top automation opportunity, the highest of any industry surveyed.

59% data extraction

44% summarization and analyzing

42% redacting sensitive information

Consolidate ad-hoc AI use into managed workflows

Manufacturing has the widest split of any industry between end-to-end automation and standalone AI use. Some teams have fully committed; others run document work with ad-hoc AI alongside their document software.

37%

of managers with AI in place use standalone AI tools alongside their document software, the highest of any industry surveyed.

37% standalone AI tools

27% end-to-end automation

31% still piloting

Evaluate document tools on integration depth

CXOs in manufacturing prioritize integration more than any other sector surveyed. Connecting document workflows into ERP, MES, and compliance systems is where the return on AI shows up, and evaluations that stop at AI capability miss it.

29%

of CXOs name integration the most important factor in AI tool evaluation, tied for the top spot with proven time savings.

29% integration

29% proven time saving

15% ease of deployment

Explore *The State of AI in Document Workflows* for the full benchmark behind these findings, including executive and manager views on where AI is delivering measurable outcomes across enterprise document work, and where governance is falling short.

[Read the full report](#)

