

DOES A LACK OF ADVANCED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY HARM UK MANUFACTURING?



Despite the plethora of digital processes in the modern economy, recent research indicates that [96% of UK manufacturers](#) feel there has been an underinvestment in digitisation in their sector.

The survey results span a diverse range of areas, from aerospace and defence to medical instruments and electronics, but the sentiments were consistent. Survey respondents overwhelmingly felt that overreliance on legacy technologies was harming the UK's manufacturing industries' prospects.

So, what exactly are the problems with digital underinvestment, and what can be done to improve the sector's performance and reputation?

The Trouble With Digital Hesitancy

Perhaps shockingly, given the wealth of digital solutions available for ERP, CRM and other applications, many [SME manufacturers](#) are still using spreadsheets to process their data. These legacy mechanisms are clunky and error-prone, lacking the verification and algorithmic efficiencies afforded by dedicated software solutions. Their unsuitability for the task often leads to spiralling ad-hoc solutions that are usually complicated and brittle. Above all, they are slow and inefficient for business.

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Outdated systems also make it hard to manage supply chains, and accurately monitor performance – increasingly crucial factors for businesses hit by disruptive world events and spiralling costs.

They also make it difficult to track and share data. Without accountability and monitoring, it can be hard to assess the process performance or business initiatives, and forward planning becomes less precise.

Business Results Of Inadequate Technology

Talent is a company's most vital asset. If companies cannot attract it, they risk missing business innovations and expansion opportunities. But excess reliance on legacy technology makes it increasingly challenging to attract the next generation of talent. These young innovators are often drawn to companies and sectors that embrace modern systems and technological change, not those stuck in the past.

Using The Appropriate Tools

For success, businesses must use the tools appropriate to the task. Transition to advanced digital technology won't happen overnight, but companies should waste no time in creating a digital development strategy that covers the next 5-10 years. As a first

step, proper control of business data is vital and should come before upgrading manufacturing technology.

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For more information, contact [@AndreaWilson](#) at andrea@hone-all.co.uk or Redant Production Control directly at sales@redantsoftware.co.uk