

# Roadmap for 2025

## THE SIX MANUFACTURING TRENDS THAT WILL DRIVE SUCCESS

Embark on a journey to the future of manufacturing with TBM's 2025 Priorities Roadmap, guiding you through six essential themes identified by manufacturing leaders across the industry. These strategic destinations, highlighted in [TBM's recent 2025 Priorities Survey Results](#), will drive growth over the next 3-5 years, helping manufacturers navigate a rapidly changing landscape. Discover the key stops along the path to operational excellence and sustainable success in this dynamic infographic.

# 2025

### Finding the Right Balance Between Technology and Human Expertise

In the factory of the future, technology and automation should balance with human expertise, and implement using a "crawl, walk, run" approach to mitigate risk and enhance performance.

**51%**

PLAN TO USE AI TO DRIVE OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

**30%**

PLAN TO ADOPT AUTOMATION

**47%**

PLAN TO USE DATA ANALYTICS TO STRENGTHEN OPERATIONS

### Deploying Data More Strategically

Data is abundant yet underutilised; without a clear strategy, data investments yield low ROI. In 2025, firms should focus on using data to solve operational issues rather than prioritising high-level reporting.

**52%**

WILL FOCUS ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FOR IMPROVING EFFICIENCY

### Optimising Talent and Identifying New Ways to Empower and Engage

Recruiting skilled manufacturing labour remains a challenge globally, prompting companies to rethink strategies for attracting, retaining, and developing talent. 40% who focus on retention, with structured onboarding and training see it as critical to success.

**56%**

SEEK TO DO MORE UPSKILLING

**30%**

SAY SUCCESSION PLANNING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IS CRUCIAL

### Cultivating From Within – The Grass isn't Always Greener

Yet many firms still look externally for talent despite labour shortages. To value people as key assets, leadership and development from within must be a continuous, dynamic process.

### Supply Chain Instability is Here to Stay

Agility is the best defence for supply chain disruptions with nearshoring and reshoring as key strategies. Optimising supply chains will be crucial as approximately 30% of leaders prioritise entering new markets and launching products.

**43%**

CITED SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTION AS A TOP OBSTACLE

**90%**

SAY SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES IS IMPORTANT TO STRATEGY

### Strengthening Sustainability and Environmental Best Practises Through Cost-Effective Strategies

However, becoming more energy efficient and sustainable was cited by only 22% as a top operational improvement area. Practising sound operational excellence and lean practises will inherently contribute to environmental and sustainability goals.

Participants in the survey include 177 manufacturing leaders (Director level and higher) across various sectors.

[Read the detailed results here →](#)

# 2028

At TBM, we are here to help your growth over the next 3-5 years

START A CONVERSATION TODAY >>>

### Speed wins every time.

TBM specialises in operations and supply chain consulting for manufacturers and distributors. We accelerate operational performance to make you more agile and help you accelerate business performance 3-5x faster than your peers.