

3D Printing Sentiment Index 2019

An index of the current health and growth prospects for the 3D printing market.

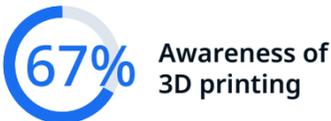
Currently the USA tops the index. A combination of the current size, maturity and growth prospects for the US makes it the number one market currently.

Markets such as the UK & Germany also enjoy a high ranking.

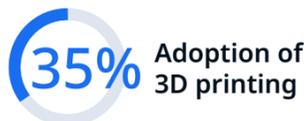
However, China emerges as a market to watch; currently number 5 on the list, its current growth trajectory is likely to see it rise up the index in future.



Global Market Facts



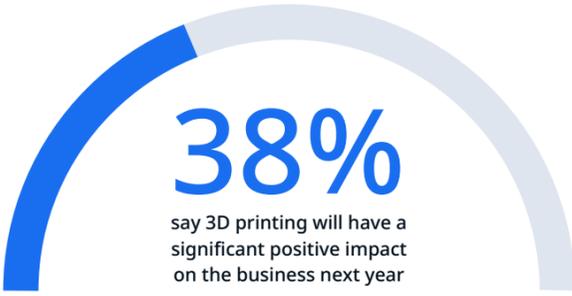
One third of businesses who might potentially use 3D printing have no current knowledge of the technology. This means there is still considerable untapped opportunity and market education remains a key priority for the industry



The majority of businesses do not yet use 3D printing and even amongst those that do, many are still at a fairly early stage of engaging with the technology – just beginning to experiment and find out more about how this new technology can help them.



A small number of people have been using the technology for a while now and, amongst this group in particular, more sophisticated applications are starting to emerge.



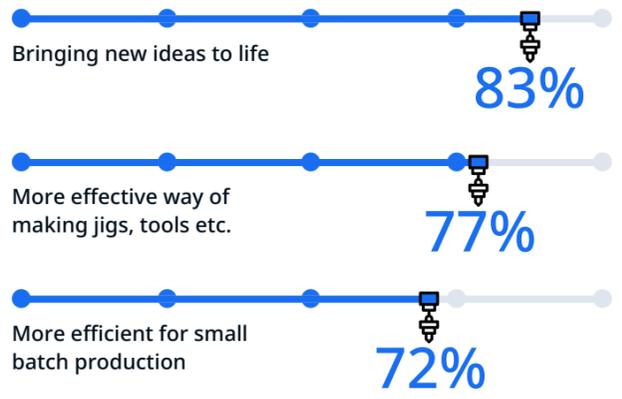
Short-term impact

3D printing is starting to enter a more mature phase of market development. Many people now have the technology and are increasingly expecting that the technology will deliver significant tangible business benefits in the short to medium term future.

Perceived benefits

When asked about the benefits of 3D printing technology a greater many people acknowledged the strong role that this technology has played for many years in helping businesses to create prototypes and bring new ideas to life.

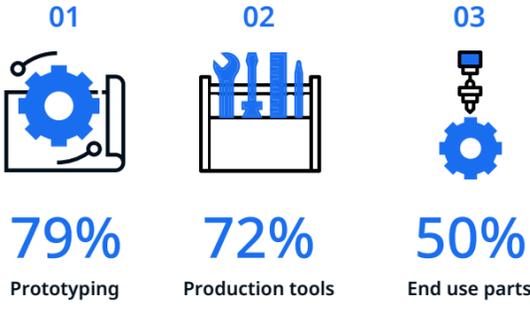
However, an increasing number of people now also believe this technology is ready to go a lot further. Applications such as tool making and even low volume production of end parts are now seen by many in the market as viable areas where 3D printing is now positioned to deliver real benefits.



3D printing usage

The survey confirms that a great many users are using their printers for prototyping but it also shows a greater many people are now utilising the technology more widely.

Making production tools with additive manufacturing is now almost as widespread as prototyping and as many as half of all users have now started printing end use parts.



Key materials used

The dominant materials used for 3D printing at present are plastics and polymers.

However, a significant minority are also printing with carbon fibre and composites of various kinds and, in a small minority of instances, we are starting to see people printing with metals and even with materials as unusual and specialist as wood composites.

