

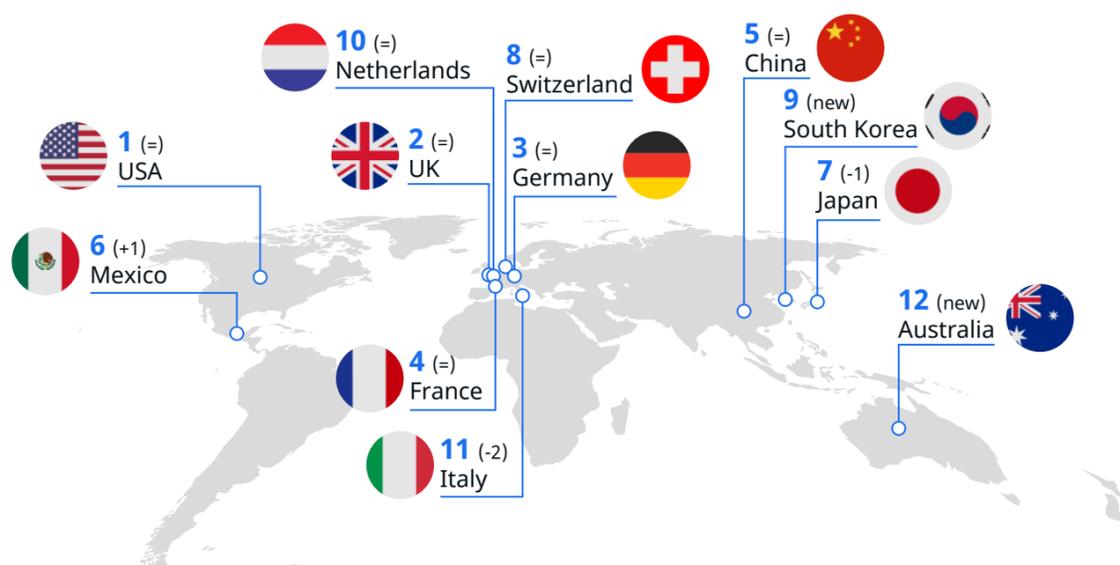
3D Printing Sentiment Index 2021

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

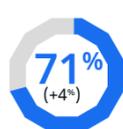
For a second time the USA has topped the index. A continuation of size of market, maturity and growth keeps the USA number one in the market.

Mexico, Japan and Italy are the only countries to move in the rankings compared to 2019, with all other countries maintaining their position.

New to the index for 2021 are South Korea and Australia, these will be markets to watch to see their growth in the next 12 months.

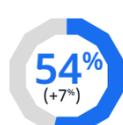


Global Market Facts



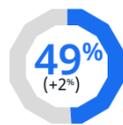
Awareness of 3D printing is rising slowly

In the past 12 months we have seen a slight increase in the number of businesses that have the technology fully embedded. Market education remains key to unlocking the full potential of 3D printing.



3D printing will become a priority for investment in next 12 months

The importance of 3D printing is increasingly recognized within businesses, with over half now believing that 3D printing will become a priority for investment in the next 12 months. To drive this investment, knowledge within the market needs to strengthen and businesses need support to demonstrate ROI; case studies and factory walkabouts could be key initiatives.



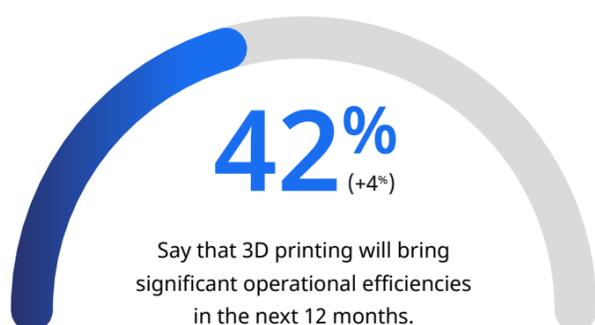
Believe 3D printing will be business critical

Organisations are increasingly seeing 3D printing as business critical. Amongst those with expert / advanced knowledge of the technology almost two thirds (64%) believe the technology will become critical. So as knowledge increases, so to does the perceived importance of investing in the technology.



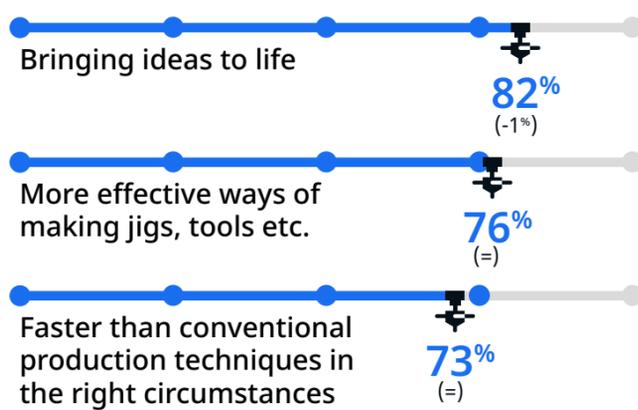
Short Term Impact

3D printing is continuing its journey into 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.



Perceived Benefits

Bringing concept designs to life remains the most commonly acknowledged benefit, but speed efficiencies and more effective ways of making jigs are also seen as benefits to many organisations.



Prototyping
71% (-8%)



Production tools
70% (-2%)



End use parts
55% (+5%)

3D Printing Usage



Prototyping remains the most popular use for 3D printing. There has, however, been a shift in usage in 2020 with more using the technology for end use parts.

Key Materials Used



The dominant materials used for 3D printing at present are plastics and polymers. Some are also printing with carbon fibre and composites of various kinds and, in a small minority of instances, we are seeing increases in printing with metals and even with materials as unusual and specialist as wood composites.



() Shows movement since 2019

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Based on a survey of 2,525 professionals conducted by Savanta in December 2020