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We recently asked over **200 SME manufacturing business owners** about their opinions on how the last two years have affected their industry and their approach to adopting new technologies.

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Manufacturing overview

Achieving growth is now the main priority for SMEs based in the North West.

Smaller SMEs in the region, however, are more focused on survival as the UK economy adjusts to challenges around the supply chain, energy costs, post-Brexit and COVID.

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1 in 6

North West manufacturing SMEs highlighted improving productivity and adopting digital technology as a key area of focus



1/3

claimed that their latest business strategy included integrating digital technology or a roadmap towards automation



35%

of manufacturers are most focused on survival

Exhibitions and trade shows were cited as the most popular ways for manufacturers to stay up to date with sector news



Industry 4.0

Industry 4.0 is revolutionising the way companies manufacture and distribute their products. Whilst survival is the key area of focus, improving productivity and adopting digital technologies are key drivers for SMEs.

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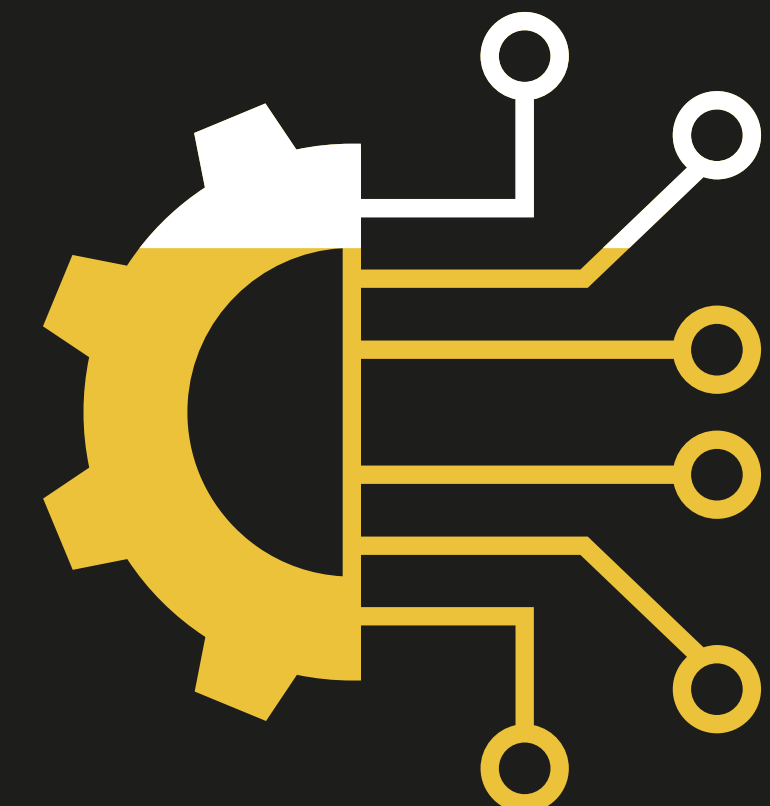
36%

said the main technology they are looking to invest in and adopt is industrial machinery and automation



2 in 5

SMEs claimed that they planned to invest in or adopt new technology in the next few years



72%

72% of micro and small SMEs are interested in improving their data and systems integration

Attitudes to investing in new tech

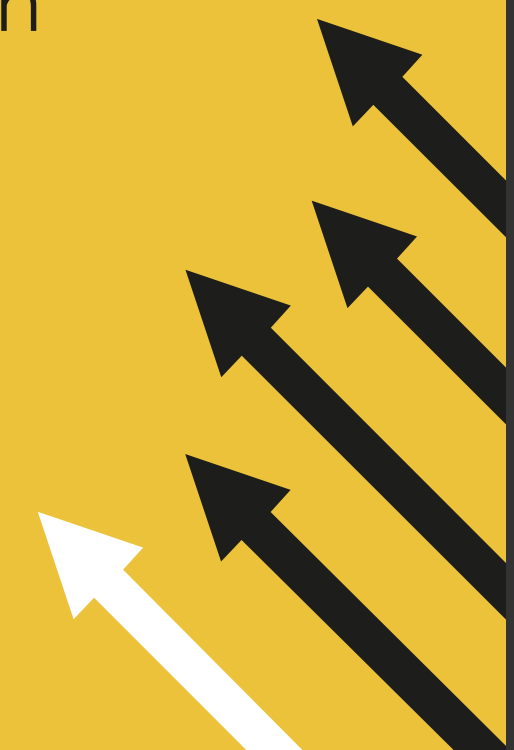
Productivity, efficiency, and growth are key drivers for manufacturers in 2022 and beyond, despite the current business climate.

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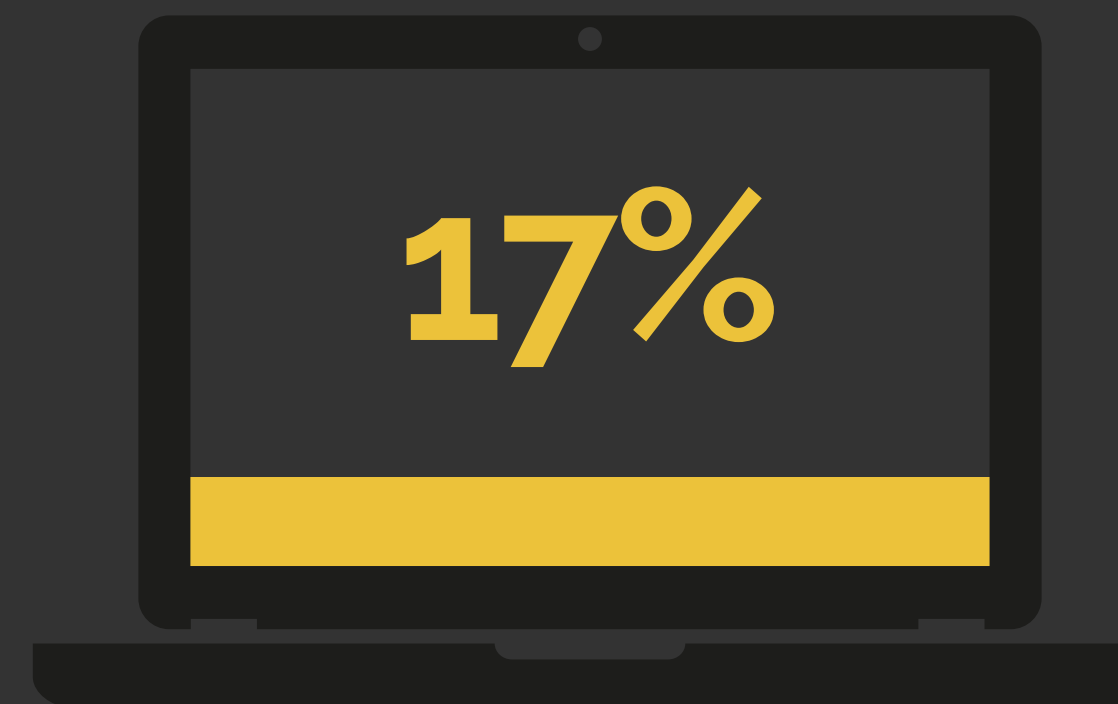
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80%

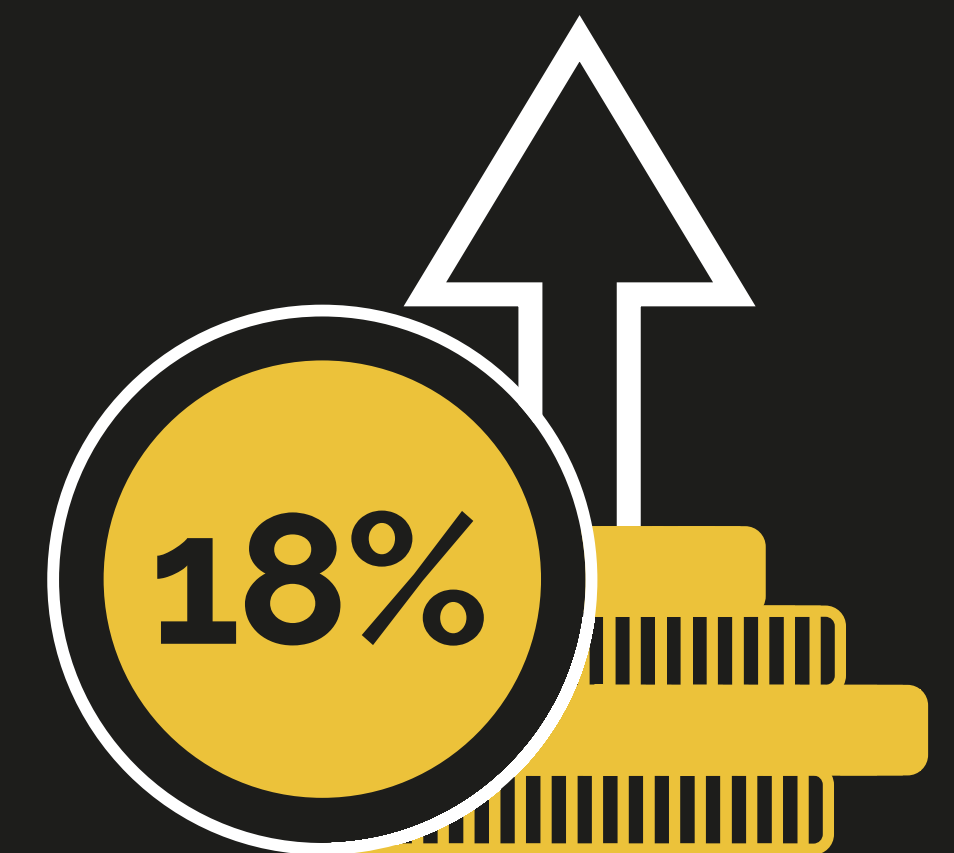
of SMEs are happy to take a calculated risk of investing in new technologies if they can see the clear benefits.



said that improving productivity, efficiency and output is their main motivation to invest in new technologies



of manufacturers are considering new digital tools as a way to help them attract new customers



of businesses said that increasing revenue was their secondary motivator to invest

Barriers to the adoption of Technology

Awareness of organisations offering businesses advice and support remains fragmented. This potentially means SMEs are not aware of the funding and support available to them.

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35%

of SMEs recognised the need to improve operation efficiencies, but are unclear on how to do this effectively



Accountants and the Chamber of Commerce were the two most trusted sources of advice for manufacturers

42%

said that the lack of capital and funding to invest was a key barrier in adopting new technologies



17%

said that the main barrier to accessing support and funding was due to lack of awareness of what is available

Made Smarter in action

We're a government-backed initiative offering funding and expert advice to help UK SME manufacturers adopt digital solutions and work smarter. So far, we've supported over 2,500 manufacturers across the North West and more are signing up every day.

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261 SMEs awarded grants

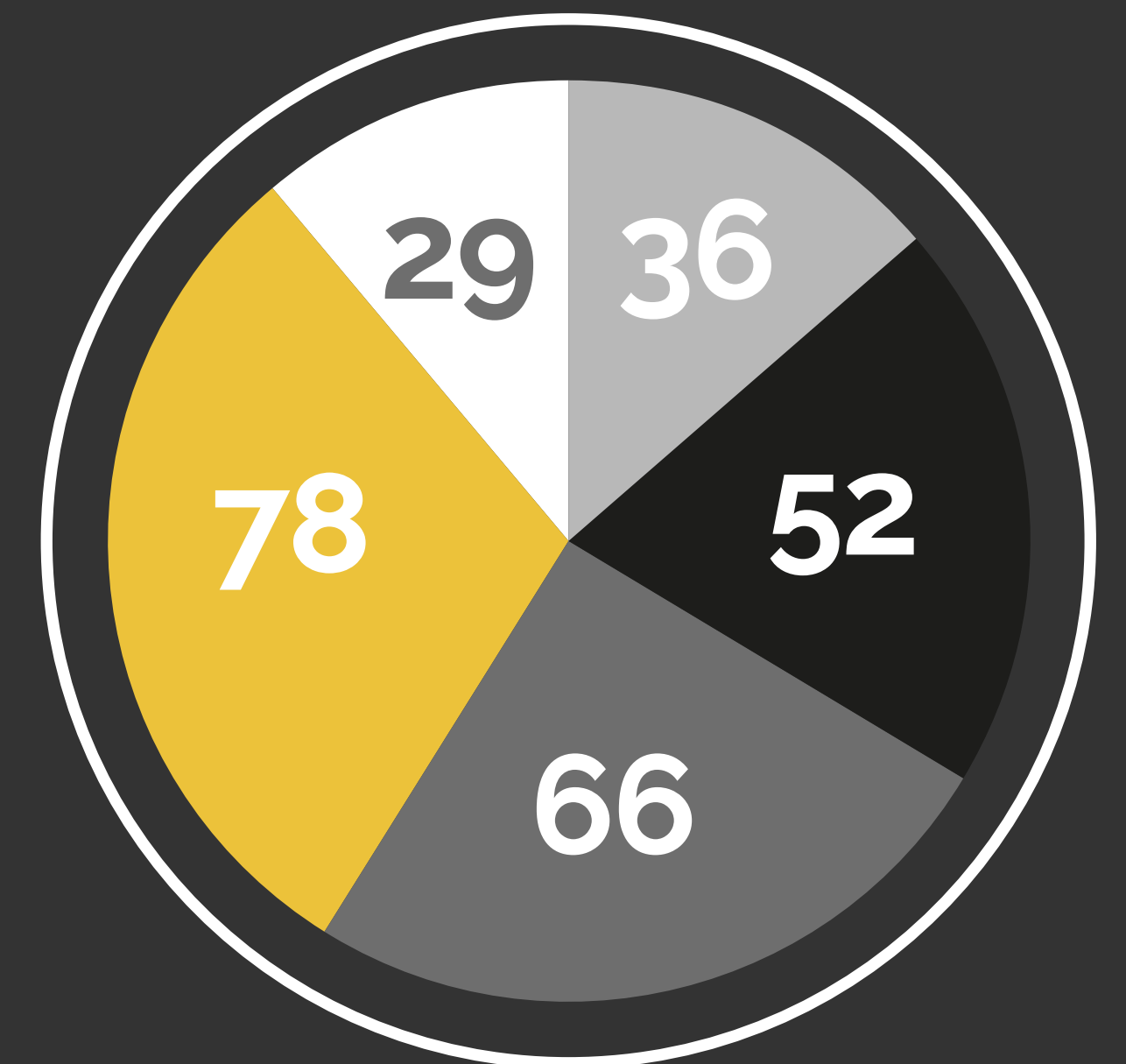
- in Cheshire & Warrington
- in Cumbria
- in Merseyside
- in Greater Manchester
- in Lancashire

Jobs upskilled

2292

New jobs created

1252



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Click here to find out more:

madesmarter.uk/start-your-digital-manufacturing-journey

