



Manufacturing Trends to Watch

2026 Global Real Estate Outlook

Global Research
December 2025



2026 Manufacturing Trends to Watch



Site selection will be increasingly determined by the convergence of talent, infrastructure and power access.



AI-driven predictive maintenance will transform manufacturing facility operations.



High-growth sectors will drive premium manufacturing real estate demand.

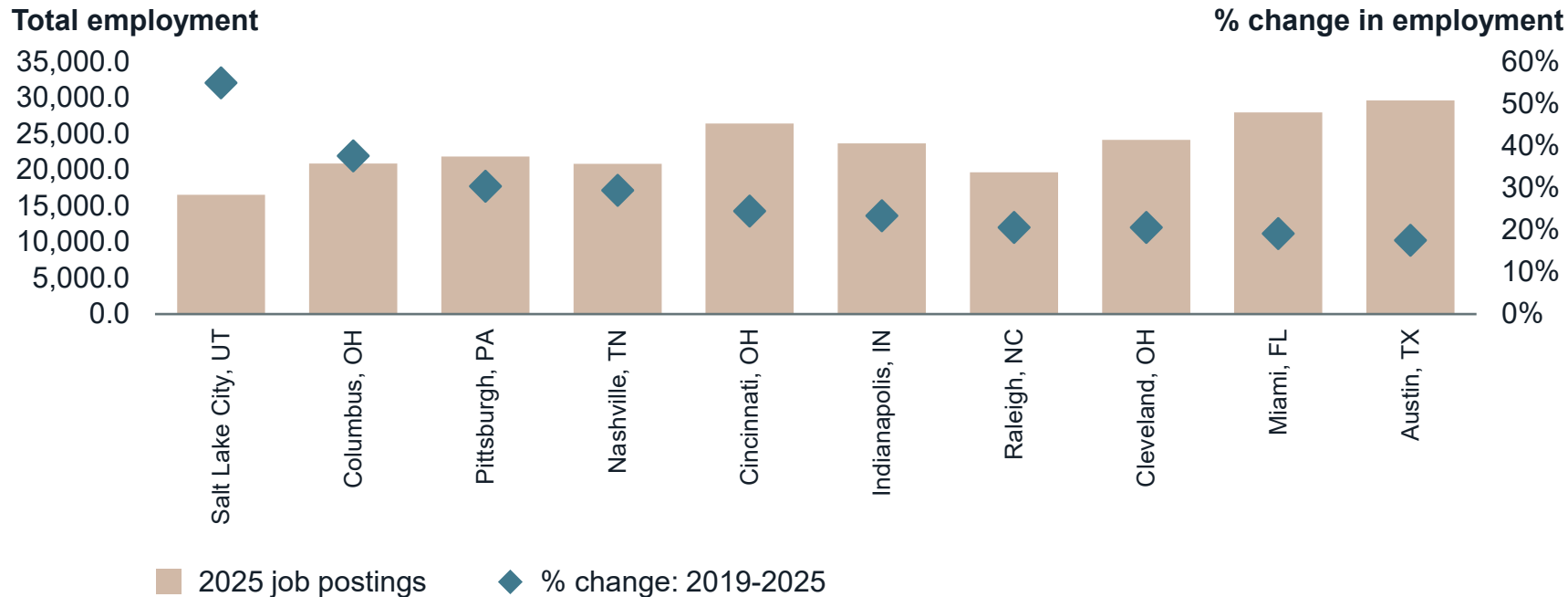


The frontline workforce experience will be crucial to driving continued manufacturing growth.



Manufacturing | Site selection will be increasingly determined by the convergence of talent, infrastructure and power access

MSAs with the largest increase in manufacturing job postings: 2019 - 2025



Manufacturing site selection will be concentrated in markets combining talent availability, infrastructure capacity and cost-effective operations for sustained growth.

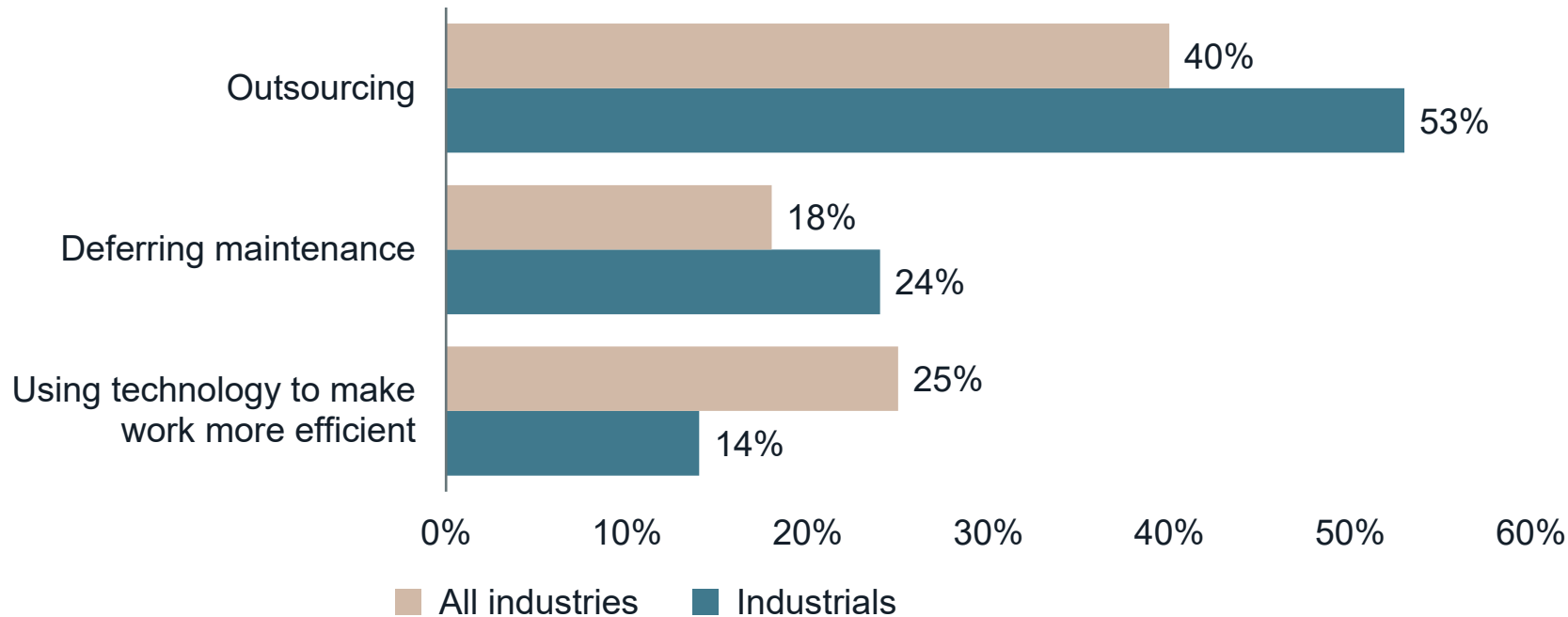
4 of the top 10 MSAs that have seen the largest jump in manufacturing job postings since 2019 are in the Southeast or Texas.

Source: Lightcast



Manufacturing | AI-driven predictive maintenance will transform manufacturing facility operations

How organizations are responding to economic uncertainty



53%

are responding to the economic uncertainty by outsourcing (40% all industries).

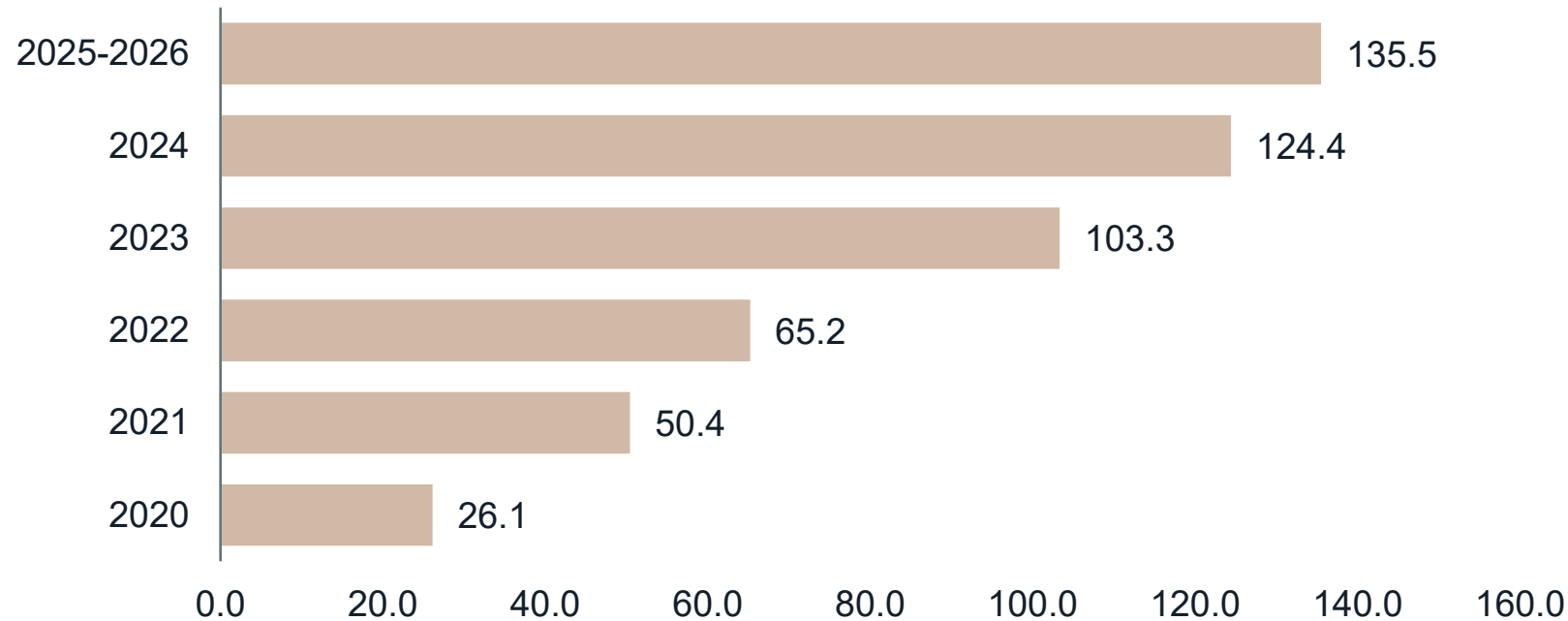


Predictive maintenance adoption will accelerate as organizations leverage AI and IoT sensors to reduce operating costs and extend asset lifecycles.



Manufacturing | High-growth sectors will drive premium manufacturing real estate demand

U.S. Manufacturing requirements



Purpose-built manufacturing facilities will capture growing market share as the energy storage and semiconductor sectors fuel demand growth.

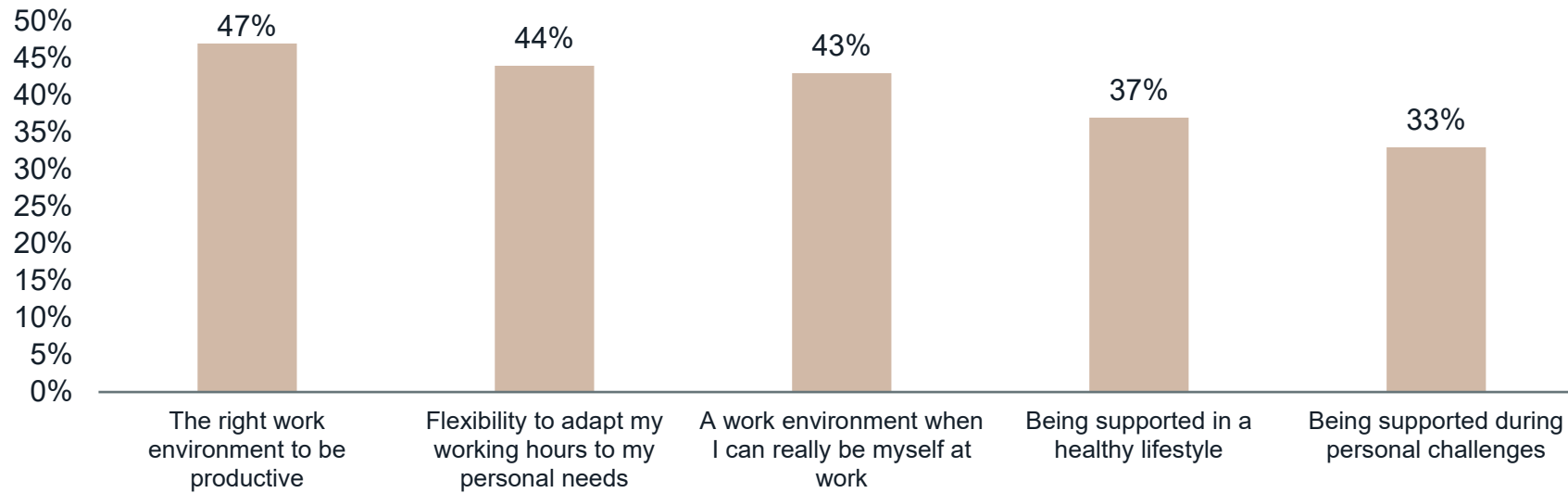
30% of U.S. industrial demand is forecasted to be manufacturing related by 2028, compared to 19.2% of demand as of 2025.

Source: JLL Industrial Tenant Demand Study 2025-2026



Manufacturing | The frontline workforce experience will be crucial to driving continued manufacturing growth

What frontline employees who work at a factory or manufacturing facility expect from their employer to improve their wellbeing at work?



Manufacturing organizations must prioritize thoughtful design and flexibility to attract skilled talent as frontline worker satisfaction rates indicate significant retention improvement opportunities.

21% of frontline employees that work in a factory or manufacturing facility are considering leaving their current employer.

Source: JLL Workforce Preferences Barometer

Thank you

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