



# 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.



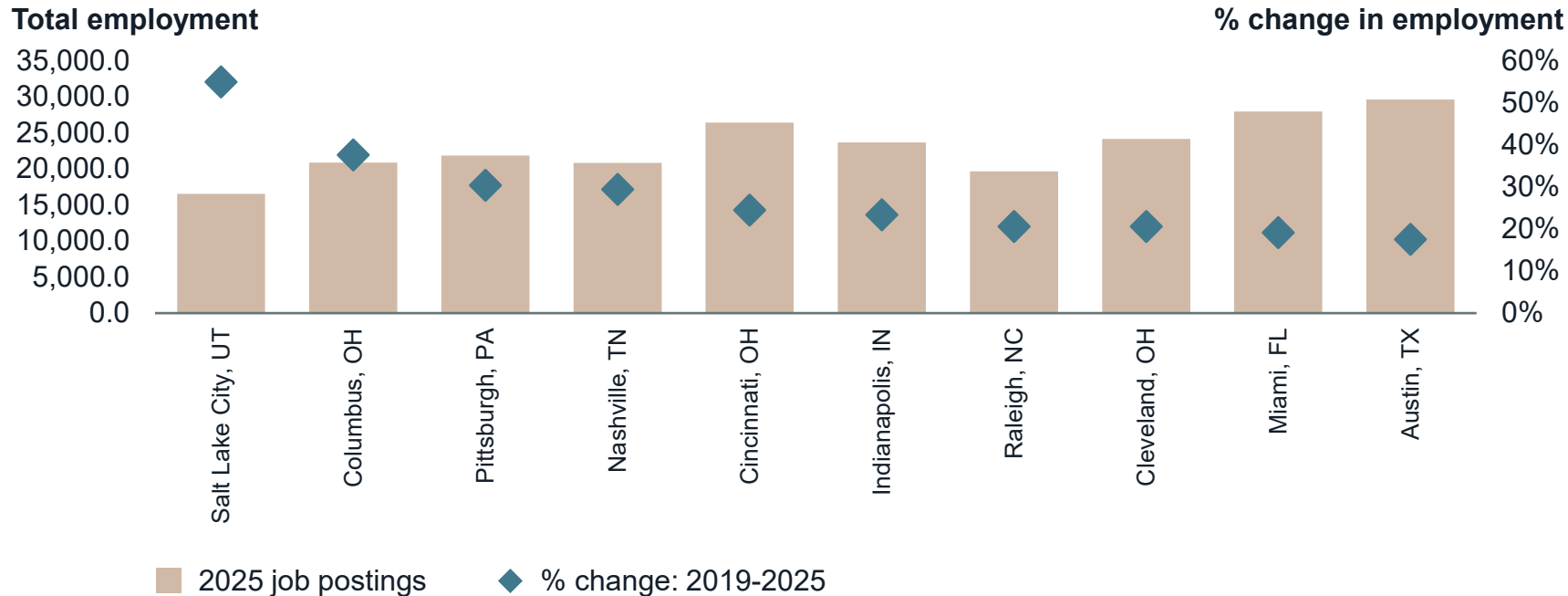
High-growth sectors will drive premium manufacturing real estate demand.



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

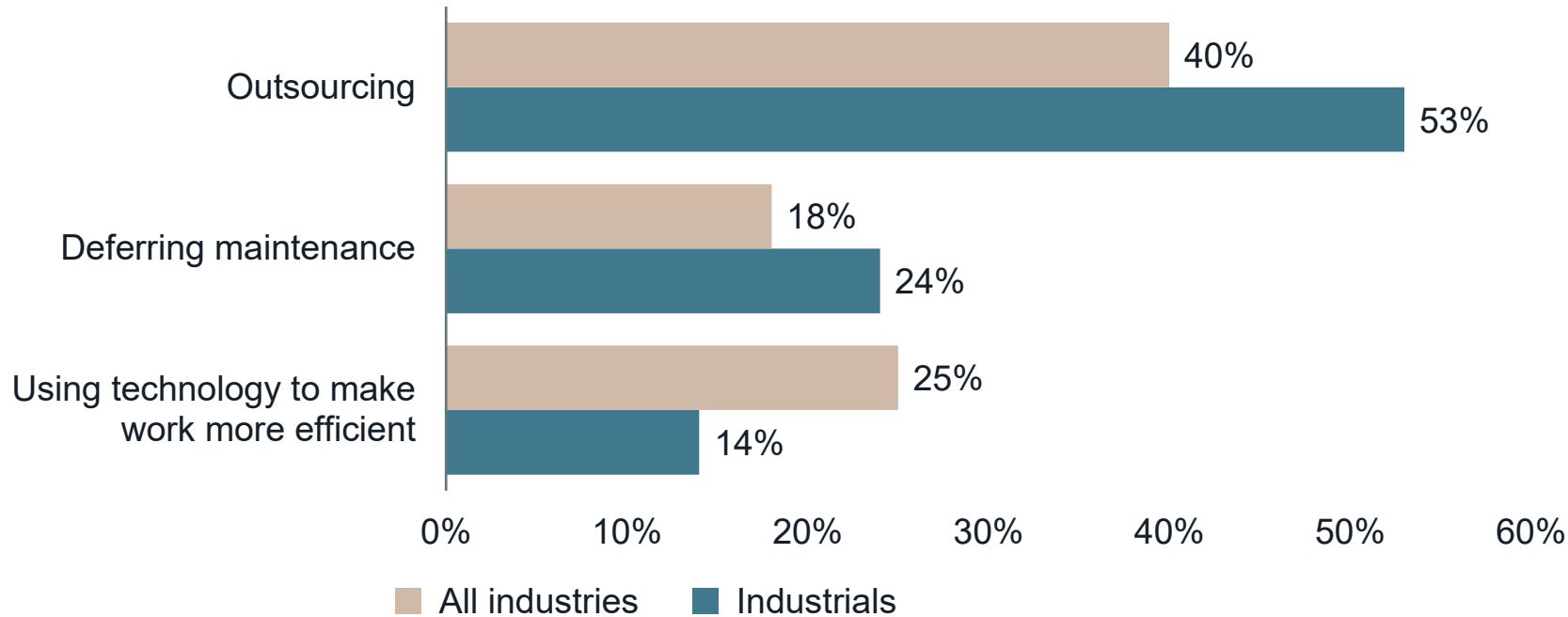


*Manufacturing site selection will be concentrated in markets combining talent availability, infrastructure capacity and cost-effective operations for sustained growth.*

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

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

How organizations are responding to economic uncertainty



**53%**

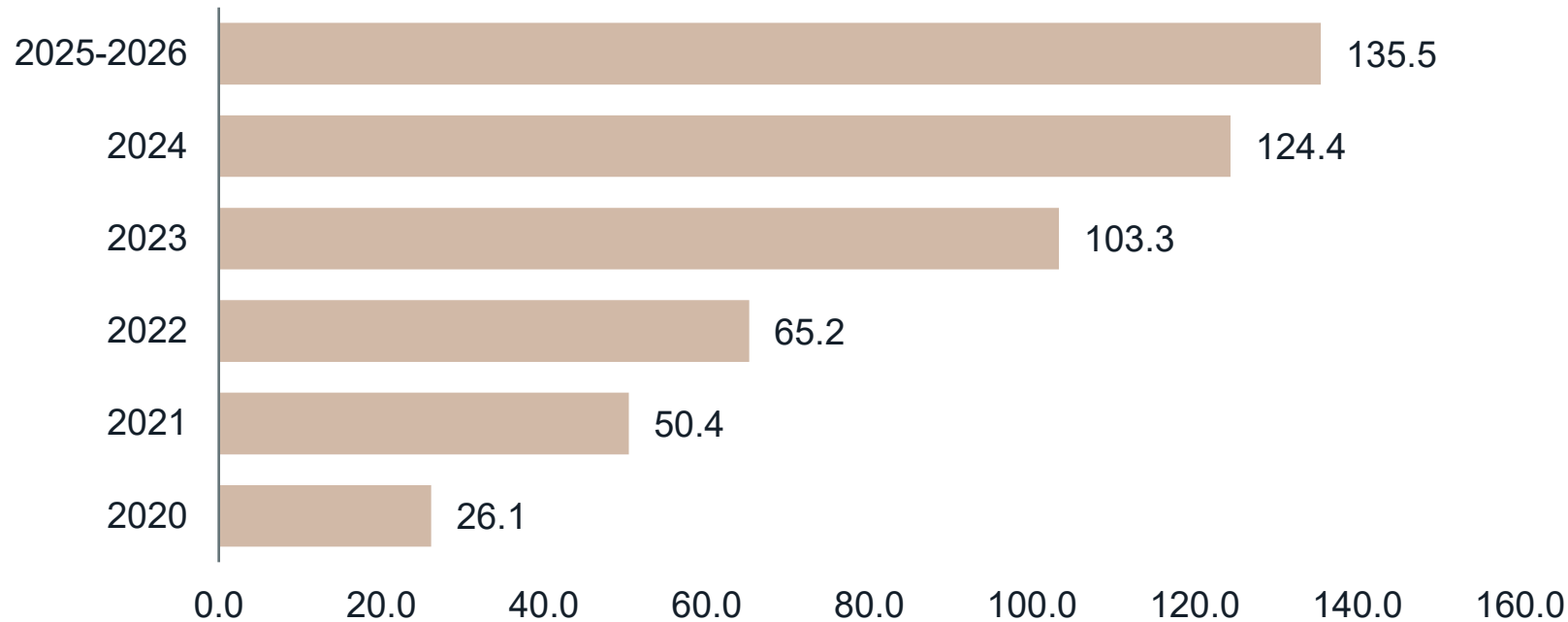
are responding to the economic uncertainty by outsourcing (40% all industries).



*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

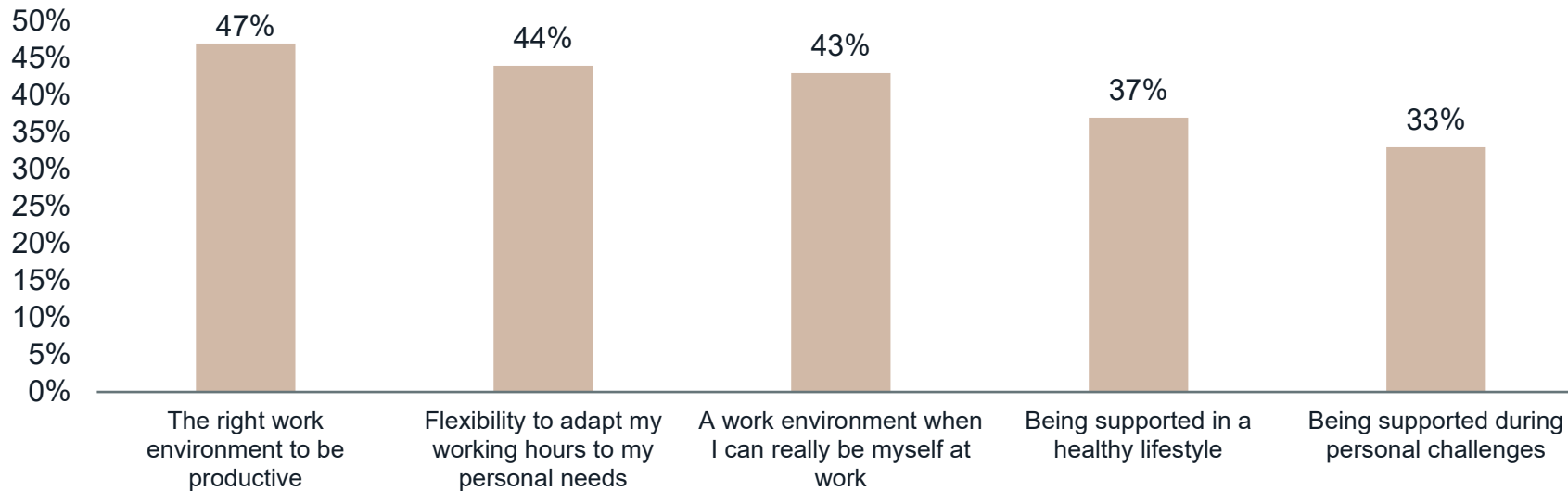


*Purpose-built manufacturing facilities will capture growing market share as the energy storage and semiconductor sectors fuel demand growth.*

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

# 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?



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



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

# Thank you

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