



A statistical program by AMT

U.S. MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY ORDERS

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Machinery Orders Continue Rally in Q1 2026 Despite Uncertainty From Iran War

McLean, Va. (May 11, 2026) — New orders of metalworking machinery, measured by the U.S. Manufacturing Technology Orders Report published by [AMT – The Association For Manufacturing Technology](#), totaled \$681.3 million in March 2026. This was a 40.3% increase from [February 2026](#) and a 31.5% increase from [March 2025](#). Manufacturing technology orders tracked by USMTO totaled \$1.61 billion for the first quarter of 2026, a 27.8% increase year over year.

After a year of turbulent uncertainty caused by constantly shifting tariff regimes, [businesses began to settle into a new normal](#) and furthered capital investments to meet resilient consumer demand. That rally in metalworking machinery demand carried into the first quarter of 2026 with little deterrence from the escalating geopolitical uncertainty caused by the outbreak of war with Iran in the closing days of February 2026. While inflation for machine tools picked up at the beginning of the year, a sustained increase in average order value above inflation continues to point to increased demand for automation as manufacturers deal with a [shortage of nearly half a million workers](#).

Contract machine shops, the largest customer of manufacturing technology, increased orders, but at a slower pace than the overall market, continuing the sector's trend of underperforming the broader market. Orders from **aerospace manufacturers** declined around 12% from February 2026 but remained elevated as commercial backlogs grow amid capacity constraints and military production intensifies to replace systems used in the war with Iran. **Manufacturers of engines, turbines, and other power transmission systems** more than doubled their investment over February 2026 levels, nearly matching the investments made in [December 2025](#). Increased demand for electrical power needed for data centers will likely spur additional investment from this sector in the coming months.

[Economic output in the first quarter of 2026](#) showed a resilient consumer and a strong appetite from businesses for capital investment. The latest forecast shows that machinery orders will likely be on par with 2025, yet cutting tool demand is forecast to grow, indicating that manufacturing output will remain high. As quotations are converted to orders and manufacturers' backlogs continue to grow, there is a strong potential for an upside surprise in the remainder of 2026.

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The United States Manufacturing Technology Orders (USMTO) Report is based on the totals of actual data reported by companies participating in the USMTO program. This report, compiled by AMT – The Association For Manufacturing Technology, provides regional and national U.S. orders data of domestic and imported machine tools and related equipment. Analysis of manufacturing technology orders provides a reliable leading economic indicator as manufacturing industries invest in capital metalworking equipment to increase capacity and improve productivity. [USMTO.com](https://www.usmto.com).

AMT – The Association For Manufacturing Technology represents U.S.-based providers of manufacturing technology – the advanced machinery, devices, and digital equipment that U.S. manufacturing relies on to be productive, innovative, and competitive. Located in McLean, Virginia, near the nation’s capital, AMT acts as the industry’s voice to accelerate the pace of innovation, increase global competitiveness, and develop manufacturing’s advanced workforce of tomorrow. With extensive expertise in industry data and market intelligence, as well as a full complement of international business operations, AMT offers its members an unparalleled level of support. AMT also produces IMTS – The International Manufacturing Technology Show, the premier manufacturing technology event in North America. Learn more at [AMTonline.org](https://www.amtonline.org).

IMTS – The International Manufacturing Technology Show is where the creators, builders, sellers, and drivers of manufacturing technology come to connect and achieve the impossible. Attendees discover advanced manufacturing solutions that include innovations in CNC machining, automation, robotics, additive, software, AI, and transformative digital technologies that are driving the industry forward. Owned and produced by AMT – The Association For Manufacturing Technology, IMTS is the largest and most defining trade event for manufacturing technology in the Western Hemisphere. With more than 1.2 million square feet of exhibit space, the show attracts visitors from more than 110 countries. IMTS 2024 had 89,020 registrants, featured 1,609 exhibiting companies, and included a Student Summit that attracted 14,713 visitors. IMTS 2026 will be held Sept. 14-19, 2026, at McCormick Place in Chicago. Discover more at [IMTS.com](https://www.imts.com) and connect with IMTS on [social](#).

(USMTO data is also available at [www.AMTonline.org](https://www.amtonline.org).)

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Orders Through March 2026

Published May 2026

	MAR-26	Previous Month	% Change	Year Ago Month	% Change	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	% Change YTD
National	681.3	485.6	40.3%	517.9	31.5%	1,606.2	1,256.6	27.8%
Regional								
Northeast	\$120.5	\$63.6	89.4%	\$87.5	37.8%	\$236.9	\$213.7	10.8%
Southeast	\$93.7	\$57.5	62.9%	\$72.7	28.9%	\$206.4	\$168.9	22.2%
North Central-East	\$110.5	\$96.5	14.6%	\$116.2	-4.9%	\$303.3	\$282.0	7.6%
North Central-West	\$103.5	\$76.6	35.1%	\$85.9	20.5%	\$267.1	\$202.1	32.2%
South Central	\$57.3	\$53.1	7.9%	\$54.2	5.8%	\$144.2	\$123.8	16.4%
West	\$195.6	\$138.2	41.5%	\$101.4	92.9%	\$448.2	\$266.0	68.5%

\$ – Millions of dollars

D – Dollar values are not disclosed in accordance with established confidentiality rules to protect the confidentiality of individual participant data.



Net New Orders for U.S. Consumption

Date	Cutting Machines		Metal Forming & Fabricating	
	Units	Value	Units	Value
2025 MAR	1,891	\$505,403	17	\$12,481
2025 APR	1,757	\$439,834	16	\$5,895
2025 MAY	1,502	\$383,954	21	\$11,218
2025 JUN	1,595	\$423,959	16	D
2025 JUL	1,576	\$387,377	8	D
2025 AUG	1,844	\$534,328	18	\$4,512
2025 SEP	1,795	\$482,386	28	\$12,428
2025 OCT	2,011	\$551,543	18	\$4,961
2025 NOV	1,643	\$432,440	20	\$3,729
2025 DEC	2,575	\$808,626	20	\$7,938
2026 JAN	1,461	\$427,984	18	\$11,280
2026 FEB	1,689	\$479,806	21	\$5,833
2026 MAR	2,155	\$672,388	23	\$8,873
Average	1,807	\$502,310	19	\$8,104

