



# 2018 Manufacturing Risks and Opportunities



## Attracting and Retaining a Quality Workforce

Productivity challenges exist when a manufacturer can't retain a consistent workforce. A significant skills gap exists between an aging workforce and the new workforce. How companies bridge this gap will have a major impact on their future success.



## Cybersecurity

Manufacturers need to be proactive in cybersecurity by implementing effective controls to prevent and detect cyber-crime.



## Big Data Management and IT Infrastructure

Manufacturing involves a great deal of data and reliance on IT systems. Many companies are unsure of how to access and use that data to leverage positioning within a competitive market.



## Product Development and Innovation

Focus is needed to manage the innovation process and allow for a good flow of new product ideas and innovations to enhance future success.



## Regulation Compliance and Traceability

The manufacturing sector faces increasing regulation and compliance measures.



## Safety, Including Overtime Management

Safety is a major concern for manufacturers as their employees routinely work around heavy equipment.



## Embracing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

American manufacturers start 2018 with lower income tax rates which afford manufacturers the opportunity to invest back into their businesses.



## Robotics and Automation

Advancements in technology have afforded manufacturers new tools that will alleviate some of the labor challenges. Robot orders indicate high interest in the automobile industry, electrical/electronics industry and metals industry.

**Read the full article:** [deandorton.com/2018-manufacturing-risks](http://deandorton.com/2018-manufacturing-risks)

**Sources:** International Federation of Robotics; Robotic Industries Association; National Association of Manufacturers Outlook Survey



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