ONLINE MANUFACTURERS

The percentage of manufacturing establishments with Internet access.

Why Is This Important? In the New Economy, success for manufacturers and their employees will come as a result of the degree to which they embrace technology, both in how they make products and incorporate technology into their products. Workers employed in manufacturing plants with more technologies (e.g., computer-aided design, CNC machines) earn 63 percent more than workers in plants using less.[28] One key technology that manufacturers are embracing is the Internet. In 2000, over 84 percent of manufacturers were online.[29] By the end of 2002, more than 54 percent plan to be able to accept orders from customers online, with 40 percent planning to offer online customer support.[30]

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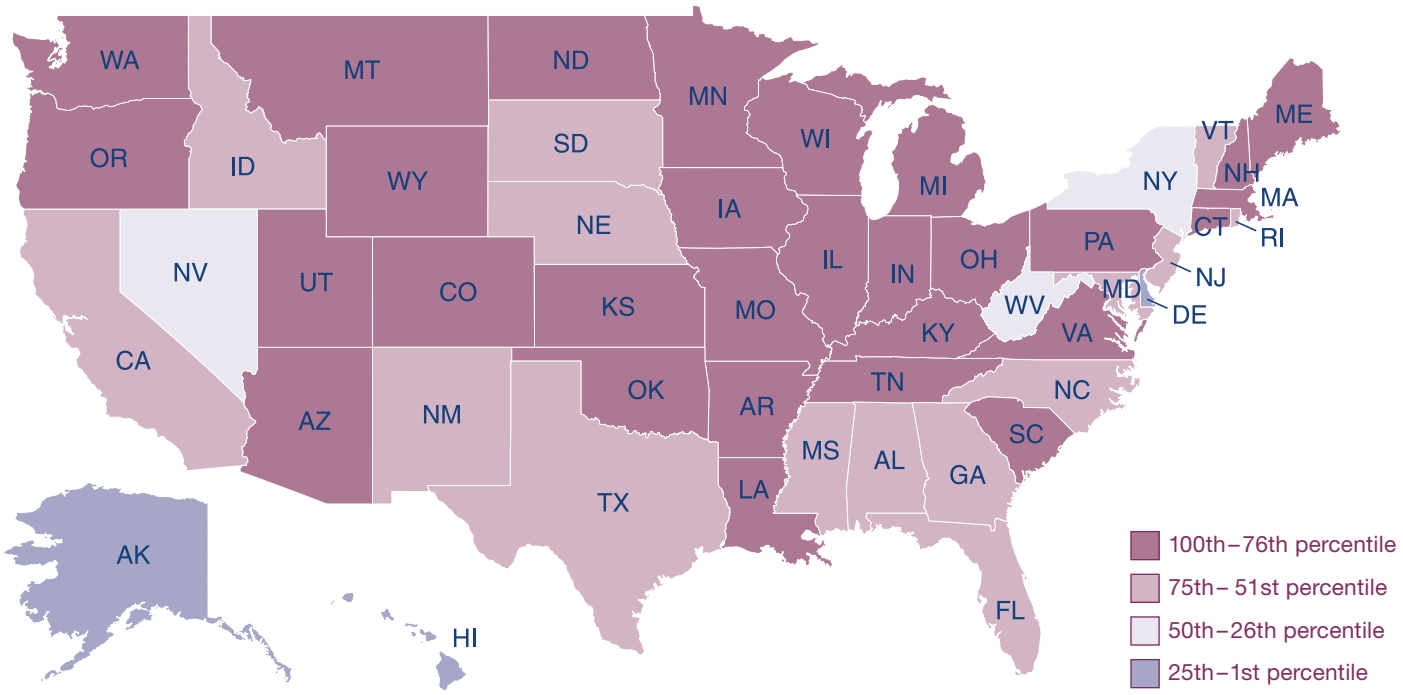
The Rankings: The percentage of manufacturers online ranges from 92 percent in Minnesota to 67 percent in Delaware. While there is no clear geographic pattern to the rankings, there are a few surprises. For example, California ranks 32nd, while New York, generally viewed as a high-tech state, ranks 47th. These differences could result from the size mix of a state's industrial base, as smaller manufacturers are less likely to be online.

The top five		Percent of manufacturers with Internet access
1	Minnesota	91.7
2	North Dakota	90.3
3	Maine	89.5
4	Indiana	89.0
5	Louisiana	88.9
	U.S. average	**84.5**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 data.