



- Globally, the manufacturing technology sector is evolving rapidly through the adoption of advanced machinery, automation, AI, and digital twin technologies. Countries such as Germany, Japan, and the United States are leading in the integration of robotics, 3D printing, and smart factories, which are reshaping production efficiency and sustainability.¹
- In 2025, manufacturers are shifting toward human-centric automation, integrating AI-first cultures and sustainable production models. The sector is expected to grow at a CAGR of 7.2% globally, with increased investment in cyber-physical systems, predictive maintenance, and green manufacturing.²
- South Africa's manufacturing sector contributes 13.5% of GDP, with growth driven primarily by automotive, food processing, chemicals, and electronics, with increasing emphasis on digital transformation, energy efficiency, and supply chain resilience.³
- Employment numbers in the manufacturing sector increased from 1.63 million in September 2024 to 1.68 million in December 2024, indicating a positive trend in job creation within the sector.⁴



WESTERN CAPE MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY FACTSHEET

OUR UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

1 ADVANCED INFRASTRUCTURE

The Western Cape offers access to ports, highways, and industrial parks, enabling efficient supply chain operations and export readiness. The province is well connected to the world via submarine cables that land in the province, and advanced data centre infrastructure

2 INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

The region supports cross-sector innovation, with manufacturing tech firms collaborating with fintech, cleantech, and smart cities initiatives, amongst others.

3 ECONOMIC ZONES

Atlantis SEZ and Freeport Saldanha IDZ anchor Western Cape manufacturing, driving energy, green tech, and sustainable innovation for global competitiveness.

1. Manufacturing Technologies Association. (2021). The Role of Manufacturing Technology in Modern Production. Available at: <https://www.mta.org.uk/resources/role-manufacturing-technology-modern-production>
 2. Engineering News. (2025). Five key trends driving the manufacturing sector in 2025. Available at: <https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/five-key-trends-driving-the-manufacturing-sector-in-2025-2025-02-13> [Accessed 27 Aug. 2025]
 3. Engineering News. (2025). South Africa's manufacturing sector: Driving growth through key industries. 1 July. Engineering News, [online]. Available at: <https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/south-africas-manufacturing-sector-driving-growth-through-key-industries-2025-07-01> [Accessed: 28 August 2025].
 4. www.ceicdata.com. [n.d.]. South Africa Employment: Labour Force Survey: Manufacturing | Economic Indicators | CEIC. [online] Available at: <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/south-africa/employment-by-industry/employment-labour-force-survey-manufacturing>.

WHY INVEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE

Key Companies

Western Cape hosts firms in precision engineering, packaging, electronics, and industrial automation. These include companies working on CNC machining, robotics integration, and smart factory systems. This includes representation of leading global firms..

Startup Momentum:

Manufacturing tech startups are emerging in robotics, 3D printing, and digital twin simulation, supported by incubators and innovation hubs across the province.

Technology Adoption

Local firms are rapidly adopting AI for predictive maintenance, IoT for real-time monitoring, and cloud-based ERP systems for operational efficiency.

Local Case Study

Hisense:

In June 2024 when Hisense, a white goods and consumer electronics company, opened a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Atlantis, Western Cape, with an investment of R350 million. The 25 200-square-meter plant is set to produce flat-panel televisions and refrigeration units for the sub-Saharan African market, with the potential to create over 1 200 jobs.⁵

Dataprophet:

A key player in this stage of the value chain, helps manufacturers better understand, control and improve their production processes. Through AI software, it analyses factory data to identify areas for improvement and suggest changes. This data-driven approach helps reduce defects, increase efficiency and improve yields. DataProphet partners with manufacturers across various industries and local universities to share best practices and regularly hosts community AI events.⁶



WHERE TO INVEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE

Smart Manufacturing Zones: Atlantis SEZ, Freeport Saldanha IDZ , offer infrastructure and incentives for manufacturing tech firms.

Automation & Robotics: High demand for industrial automation, robotics integration, and AI-driven production systems.

Green Manufacturing: Opportunities in renewable energy components, sustainable packaging, and circular economy solutions.

Digital Twins & Simulation: Investment in virtual modelling, predictive analytics, and simulation tools for design and operations.

Cross-Sector Integration: Manufacturing tech intersects with cleantech, smart cities, and logistics, creating synergies for innovation.

MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY BUSINESSES IN THE WESTERN CAPE

Hisense



Tru-Cape



dataprophet

PARAMOUNT

SIEMENS

TIGER BRANDS



* Kimberly-Clark



Scan for more information

E-mail: Investment@westerncape.gov.za

5. Hisense opens high-tech manufacturing facility in Western Cape - The Home Of Great South African News. [online] The Home Of GreatSouth African News. Available at: <https://www.sagoodnews.co.za/hisense-opens-high-tech-manufacturing-facility-in-western-cape/> [Accessed 18 Feb.2025].

6. Weforum.org. (2025). The Next Frontier of Operations. [online] Available at: <https://initiatives.weforum.org/frontier-tech-for-operations/organizationdetails/dataprophet/0010X00004MxGpdQAF> [Accessed20 Feb. 2025].