Top 10 Statistics from the 2026 Millwork Equipment Trends Report

The Data Shaping Equipment Investment, Automation and Production

Würth Baer Machinery's **2026 Millwork Equipment Trends Report** analyzes federal statistics, peer-reviewed research and industry studies to identify the forces shaping North American woodworking and millwork manufacturers.

1. Only 39% of Shops Plan to Increase Equipment Spending

Just **39% of secondary woodworking manufacturers** plan to spend more on productivity and production capabilities in 2026. That figure has fallen from 49% two years earlier.

2. 62% Have Capital Budgets Below $250,000

Nearly two-thirds of woodworking firms expect to spend **less than $250,000 on capital investments over the next three years**. This makes entry-level and mid-tier equipment the industry's largest equipment market.

3. Growing Shops Are Nearly Twice as Likely to Keep Investing

Among manufacturers that increased sales in 2025, **53% plan to raise investment in 2026**. Only 28% of companies that experienced declining sales plan to do the same.

4. 59% of Shops Are Predominantly Made to Order

For **59% of manufacturers**, made-to-order products represent more than 80% of their production mix. The figure has risen from 47% in 2023, increasing demand for flexible CNC machinery, nesting software and automated setup processes.

5. Productivity Is the Top Reason Shops Automate

Manufacturers rated improved productivity **4.6 out of 5** as a reason to invest in digital manufacturing. Product quality and process consistency followed at 4.4. Labor shortage relief ranked last at 3.5.

6. 21,400 Woodworking Jobs Must Be Refilled Each Year

The United States is projected to have approximately **21,400 woodworker job openings annually through 2034**. These openings will come from employee turnover and workers leaving the labor force, not industry employment growth.

7. Training Is the Industry’s Top Investment Priority

Employee training was named as a planned investment by **39% of woodworking firms**, placing it ahead of every machinery category. Among companies that invested in computerized equipment, 62.7% required formal machine-operation training.

8. Only 6.5% of Shops Are Increasing Robotics Use

Despite rapid growth in the wider automation market, only **6.5% of secondary woodworking manufacturers** reported increasing computerization to support robotics. Robotics remains a frontier technology rather than standard millwork equipment.

9. Woodworking Machinery Parts Costs Have Risen 67.7%

The Producer Price Index for woodworking machinery parts, attachments and accessories has increased **67.7% since June 2012**. The purchase price of a machine represents only part of its lifetime cost.

10. The 50% Cabinet Tariff Begins January 1, 2027

The tariff on certain imported kitchen cabinets and vanities is currently 25%. It is scheduled to increase to **50% on January 1, 2027**, following a one-year delay announced in January 2026.

The Central Finding

The millwork equipment market is separating into two groups. Manufacturers that are growing continue to invest in productivity, quality and flexible production. Manufacturers that delay modernization risk falling further behind as training requirements, parts costs and competitive pressure increase.

Read the full 2026 Millwork Equipment Trends Report:
https://wurthbaermachinery.com/millwork-equipment-trends/

Media Contact:
Taylor J. Shafer
Taylor.Shafer\@WurthBSC.com
763 231 3130 (ext 5149)

About Würth Baer Machinery

Würth Baer Machinery is the machinery division of Wurth Baer Supply Company, backed by the combined experience of Akins Machinery, Hermance Machine Company, and J&G Machinery. Together, they've built one of the largest full-service woodworking machinery dealers in the country. The people behind the name is what sets them apart as a service-first woodworking machinery dealer.