



THE COST OF DOWNTIME IN MANUFACTURING

Downtime can be the most expensive element of any manufacturing operation. Here are some important facts and tips you should know to cut down on disruptions in your operation.

FACTS ABOUT DOWNTIME

82
%

Nearly 82 percent of businesses reported experiencing unexpected downtime within the past three years, according to a recent study.

2
MILLION

The average downtime lasts about four hours, costing companies roughly \$2 million each time.

1/2

Of those who underwent downtime, nearly half said they were unable to deliver services to customers as a result.

37
%

Approximately 37 percent of businesses said they were hit with a setback in the production cycle of a critical asset because of downtime.

70+
%

More than 70 percent of companies say they don't know exactly when their equipment will be due for maintenance or replacement, increasing their chances of experiencing downtime when it breaks down or fails.

MAIN CAUSES OF DOWNTIME

NEGLECTING MAINTENANCE: Preventive maintenance better ensures vital equipment remains in good condition by refreshing and lubricating components. It also allows technicians to inspect machinery for the early warning signs of deterioration.

NOT UPGRADING: Obsolete machines can be a drag on your entire production line. Because they might operate inefficiently and slow the process, they may force others to shoulder more of the work, which in turn leads to machines wearing down prematurely.

OLD SOFTWARE: More than the hardware could be at fault for downtime. Running systems on software that is a few generations behind puts them at risk of incompatibility with newer ones and may leave you vulnerable to security breaches that can grind your facility to a halt.

INSUFFICIENT TRAINING: No machine can work as well as it should if the operator doesn't fully understand it. When manufacturers neglect training their workers on the line, it can lead to mistakes, misuse and the interruptions that can result.

NO TRACKING: Keeping detailed logs of any backups or hitches in your production cycle can be critical for preventing future incidents. Without such record keeping, you could be unaware of some pinch points that are right under your nose.

SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINING UPTIME

DO A RISK AUDIT: Take the time to assess your current setup and identify any potential pain points you notice. In particular, pay attention to areas where your equipment may be past its prime and needs replacement or upgrading.

GATHER DATA: Installing sensors to detect excessive vibration or torque can help you recognize when conditions may be too extreme for your machinery. The information that sensors provide could be the key to averting a major disruption.

EMBRACE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE: Prolonging the functional life span of your machines and keeping them running means giving equipment a regular tuneup. Sticking to a schedule for torque calibration, lubrication and other measures can lower your odds that something will break down.

INVEST IN TRAINING: When your employees know your equipment inside and out, you can reduce interruptions. Making an investment in rigorous training can save you a lot by preventing malfunctions and the downtime that results from them.

GET PROFESSIONAL HELP: Your production floor most likely is populated by machines and software platforms from a wide variety of providers. This can make maintenance challenging. Hiring a third-party service partner can give you a built-in solution to untangling all their connections.



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