

ERP FOR MANUFACTURING & DISTRIBUTION: 7 WAYS TO CUT COSTS AND IMPROVE EFFICIENCY

WHY MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS ARE TURNING TO CLOUD ERP

In the current economy, margins are under pressure. Manufacturers and distributors are dealing with supply chain volatility, rising costs and ever-increasing customer expectations for speed and accuracy. The key to maintaining profitability isn't just cutting costs — it's improving visibility, efficiency and control.

That's why more and more growing businesses are moving away from legacy systems and fragmented spreadsheets to integrated cloud ERP solutions like Acumatica Cloud ERP. These platforms unify every part of the business — from purchasing and inventory to production and financials — giving leaders the real-time data they need to make smarter, faster decisions.

1. GAIN REAL-TIME VISIBILITY INTO YOUR ENTIRE OPERATION

Most manufacturers and distributors still operate with disconnected systems for inventory, sales, production and accounting. The result? Bottlenecks, errors and missed opportunities. With ERP, all data lives in one central place. This means:

- Sales can see exactly what's in stock.
- Production can plan based on real-time demand.
- Finance can monitor margins instantly.

Modern cloud platforms like Acumatica go further by providing dashboards and mobile access — letting managers track performance and costs from anywhere.

2. AUTOMATE MANUAL PROCESSES

Manual data entry, duplicate records and paper-based approvals waste hours every week. ERP automation eliminates these inefficiencies:

- Orders move automatically from sales to production and invoicing.
- Purchase orders trigger stock replenishment.
- Approvals route electronically for speed and accuracy.

The result? Lower labour costs, fewer errors and faster turnaround times.

3. OPTIMISE INVENTORY AND PROCUREMENT

Overstocking ties up cash. Understocking causes missed sales and delays. ERP systems use real-time data to balance stock levels automatically.

With ERP, you can:

- Track inventory across multiple warehouses.
- Forecast demand more accurately.
- Automate purchase orders when stock hits reorder levels.

Acumatica's distribution and manufacturing suites make this easy, offering built-in tools for demand planning, BOM management and supplier performance tracking.

4. IMPROVE PRODUCTION PLANNING AND SCHEDULING

In manufacturing, efficiency often depends on how well you plan. An ERP system provides a full view of production capacity, materials and labour availability. This helps you:

- Schedule jobs efficiently.
- Reduce downtime.
- Avoid shortages and bottlenecks.

With Acumatica, production orders link directly to materials and financials — so you always know your true costs and margins per job.

5. STRENGTHEN COST CONTROL AND PROFITABILITY

Every inefficiency — from rework to late shipments — eats into your margin. ERP helps identify and control these costs by giving you visibility into:

- Material and labour variances
- WIP (work in progress) tracking
- Cost of goods sold in real time

The right ERP system lets you act before small issues become expensive problems.

6. ENHANCE CUSTOMER SERVICE

When customers call, they expect instant answers. ERP gives your sales and service teams real-time access to order history, stock levels and shipping status — ensuring faster responses and better service.

Cloud ERP also integrates seamlessly with ecommerce platforms, letting you manage online orders and inventory from the same system.

7. IMPROVE COLLABORATION AND DECISION-MAKING

With a single source of truth, everyone — from the warehouse to the boardroom — works from the same data. Dashboards and KPIs highlight what matters most, while mobile apps keep teams connected on the move.

Acumatica's cloud platform supports collaboration across departments and even locations, allowing your team to make data-driven decisions quickly and confidently.

THE BOTTOM LINE

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ABOUT APPLIED BUSINESS

Applied Business help UK manufacturers and distributors modernise operations with cloud-based ERP systems like Acumatica. With decades of experience implementing financial and operational systems, we help growing businesses reduce costs, gain visibility and improve performance.

Book a Free ERP Consultation Today

Visit www.appliedbusinesscloud.co.uk to speak with one of our ERP specialists and explore how Acumatica Cloud ERP can streamline your manufacturing or distribution processes.

ABOUT ACUMATICA CLOUD ERP

Acumatica Cloud ERP is a modern, scalable business management platform designed to give growing organisations real-time visibility, flexibility, and control. Built on true cloud architecture, Acumatica connects finance, distribution, manufacturing, CRM, and project management in a single system that's accessible anywhere, on any device.

Unlike legacy systems, Acumatica is designed for adaptability — with open APIs, modular functionality, and a unique consumption-based licensing model that lets businesses grow without worrying about user limits. With continuous innovation, mobile access, and a customer-first ethos, Acumatica empowers companies to streamline operations, improve efficiency, and make faster, data-driven decisions.

