



# Global Manufacturing Prospects 2022

**The CEO view: Supply chain resiliency  
helps achieve a twin transformation**

KPMG International

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# Contents

<b>Resilience is a top priority</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>New technologies' dual role</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Renewed sense of purpose</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ESG to the fore</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>More training and greater skills</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Profiting in adversity</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>18</b>







# Resilience is a top priority

CEOs at manufacturers have learnt two important and related lessons from the pandemic: the vital importance of a resilient supply chain and the need to invest in new technologies to strengthen resilience, by *both* avoiding business disruptions *and* taking advantage of them. If manufacturers take timely actions to ensure a healthy supply chain, it may enable manufacturers to withstand economic shocks in the future and improve competitiveness.

When asked in the KPMG International survey about the impact of the pandemic on their organizations in 3 years' time, more than two-thirds (68 percent) of CEOs say they aim to ensure their supply chain is resilient in the event of a global lockdown. The focus on resilience is the top answer to this question and reflects a new priority. "The need for resilience is forcing companies to be more agile and make decisions faster. Digitization plays a vital contribution to this," says Grant McDonald, Global Industry Leader, Aerospace and Defence at KPMG International.

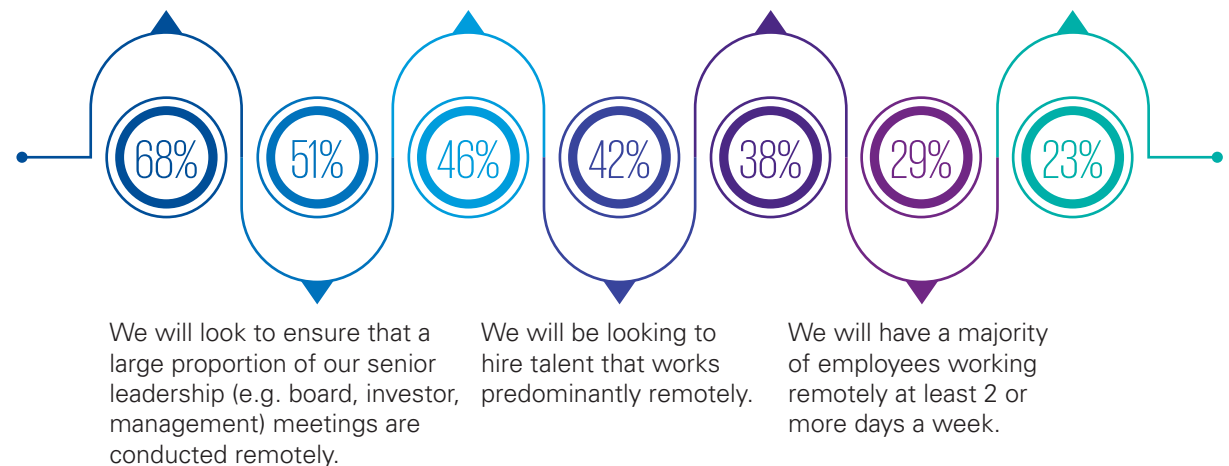
## What impact do you foresee the COVID-19 pandemic having on your organization in 3 years?

We will be ensuring that our supply chain is resilient in the event of a global lockdown/travel restrictions.

We will be looking at shared office spaces to allow employees to work more flexibly.

We will be looking to focus on a culture and policies that foster a better work-life balance for our employees.

We will or have downsized our organization's physical footprint.



Source: KPMG 2021 CEO Outlook



The pandemic is not the only disruptor of the supply chain; geopolitics is also playing a big role. Near-shoring is one method of reducing supply chain risk. “Manufacturers in Western Europe are achieving financial success building factories in Turkey, Hungary, Poland and Romania with costs that are competitive with those in China,” says Kaveh Taghizadeh, Partner, Consulting, Value Chain Transformation at KPMG in Germany.

Another way to mitigate risk is for manufacturers to gain deeper insights into their supply chains. To do this, OEMs will likely have to track their supply chains to at least the level of tier 4, which is very difficult, notes Stéphane Souchet, Global Head of Industrial Manufacturing at KPMG International. To do so entails big changes in the way manufacturers operate. “Companies are moving from just-in-time supply chains to just-in-case and are diversifying their sources of supply. If they plan to re-shore supplies closer to the target market, then supply chains will shorten. For Western Europe, this means shifting procurement to Eastern Europe and North Africa. In Asia, this means focusing on Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand,” he says.

Most definitions of resilience focus on three capabilities: the capacity to decrease vulnerability, the ability to change and adapt, and the facility to recover quickly from disruption.<sup>1</sup> There is no doubt that the events of 2020–21 showed how vulnerable companies were to unexpected dislocation. The pandemic had a particularly dramatic effect on manufacturing supply chains, leading to shortages of key components and rising costs. Managing supply chains certainly presented unique challenges. CEOs were asked to choose which of 12 categories of risk poses the greatest threat to their organization’s growth; supply chain risk was the top choice by far.

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It looks as if the world economy has reached a turning point: The US-dominated trading system appears to be de-coupling from the China dominated one.

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**Kaveh Taghizadeh**

Partner, Consulting, Value Chain Transformation  
KPMG in Germany

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/224144529\\_Perspectives\\_on\\_measuring\\_enterprise\\_resilience](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/224144529_Perspectives_on_measuring_enterprise_resilience)





# New technologies' dual role

The renewed preoccupation with the supply chain is connected to the second big lesson of the pandemic — the need to invest in new technologies, both (1) to decrease vulnerability and (2) to accelerate the recovery of business from a massively disruptive event. Take the first part of these twin objectives.

Chief executives say that the top way to mitigate stress on the supply chain is to extend their company's monitoring deeper into the supply chain to anticipate changes before they have a severe impact. To do this requires technology that can track the myriad transactions, not only with their direct suppliers, but also to the fourth tier, or even further, if possible. This is not something most OEMs felt was necessary before the pandemic.

## What is the top strategy you are using to mitigate stress on your supply chain in the next 3 years?

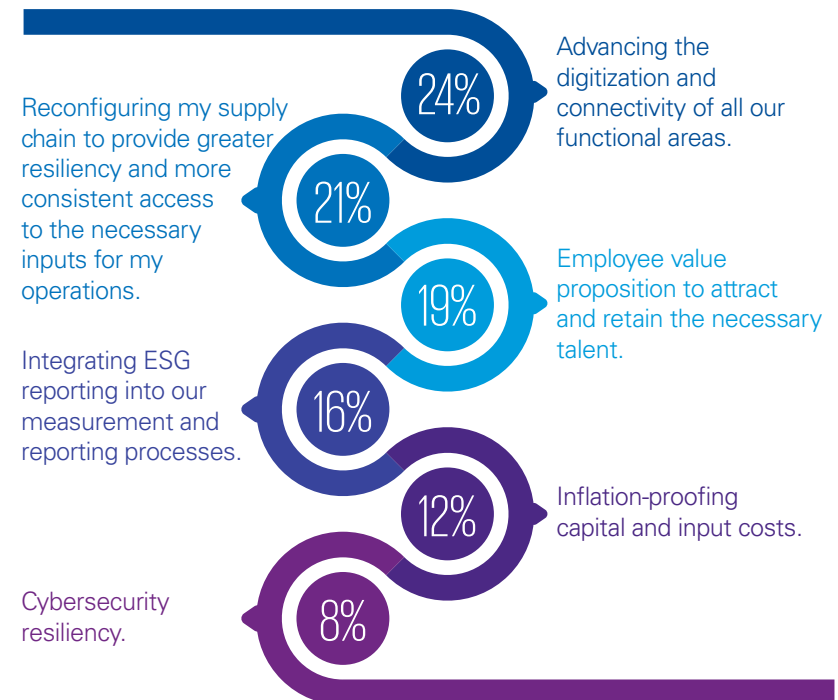


Source: KPMG 2021 CEO Outlook



Artificial intelligence (AI) is one answer. “Manufacturers are adopting supply chain solutions which are AI-centered. These enable companies to manufacture, based on demand and supply data they analyze in real-time. The technology helps them to focus on ensuring that, at any vulnerable point in the supply chain, executives develop risk management around it. AI sits on top of ERP systems to help companies gain end-to-end visibility,” says Vinod Ramachandran.

**Which of the following will be your top operational priorities in order to achieve your growth objectives over the next 3 years?**



Source: KPMG 2021 CEO Outlook



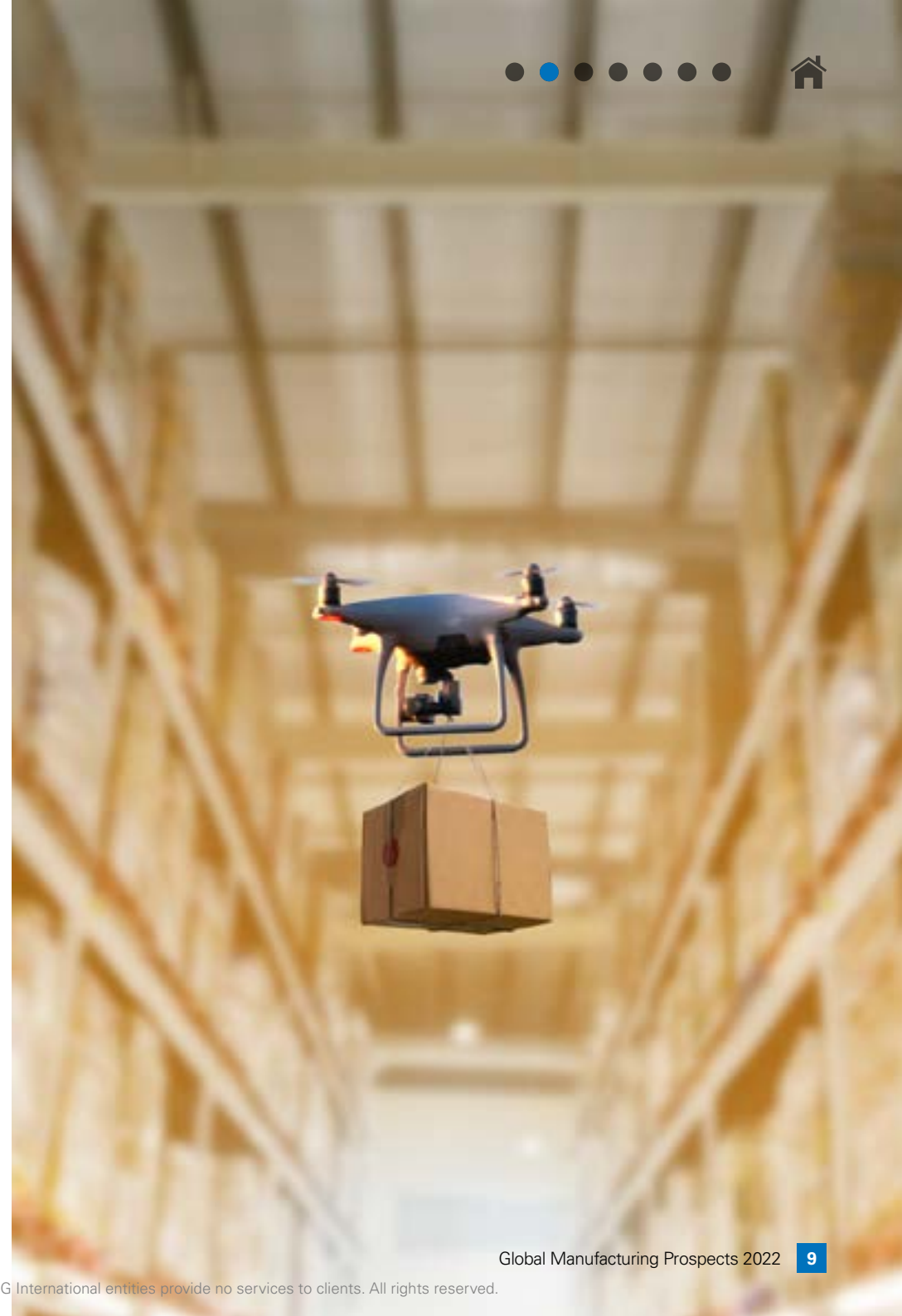
Another potentially game-changing technology is blockchain, but this is not always a realistic solution. “More enterprises are considering blockchain technology to improve the way they track the supply chain, but for it to work you need a broad array of suppliers, and many are not capable of using it, especially in tier 3 and 4,” says Stéphane Souchet. “An electrical equipment maker may be able to extend the use of blockchain that far, but in metals and mining it is likely to be more difficult to do so.”

A further method to improve visibility is to deploy technology to create supplier networks in which connectivity plays a pivotal role. “Digital marketplaces offer a way to connect suppliers and to improve transparency. But changing companies’ attitudes is a challenge, because they are reluctant to share more information on volumes and prices,” he says.

The second objective of new technology investment revealed by the survey is to use it to expand revenue more rapidly. According to the survey, the top operational priority to achieve growth objectives over the next 3 years is to invest in the digitization and connectivity of all functional areas. If integrated effectively, this type of investment may also improve agility and speed up innovation.

“In Japan, more companies need to take a ‘lighthouse’ approach to accelerate digital transformation,” says Hidenori Sakata, Supply Chain practice, KPMG in Japan. “Choose a pilot factory or process and radically digitize the operations. Once the benefits are realized, roll it out to other factories.”

Technology investments are also needed to mitigate the risk of cyber attack; CEOs say their biggest cyber worry is the possible impact on supply chains. Their highest priority in improving digital resilience in the next 3 years is to focus on the security of their supplier ecosystem. They expect this effort to bear fruit: Those who are confident their companies are prepared for future cyber attacks outnumber those who feel under-prepared by a ratio of more than two to one. Furthermore, CEOs of manufacturers understand that creating a cyber-aware culture is as important as technological countermeasures.



# Renewed sense of purpose

COVID-19 did not just disrupt supply chains; it also jolted CEOs into pondering deeper questions, such as why they are in business. Some 77 percent of CEOs say they feel a stronger emotional connection to the purpose of their company since the pandemic began. In addition, 67 percent say the overall objective of their organization is the long-term value for stakeholders, almost five times more than the number focused on economic returns to shareholders.

## To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the influence of purpose on decision-making?

I feel a stronger emotional connection to our purpose since the crisis began



Our purpose is a key component of our employee value proposition (EVP)



We are using our corporate purpose to help drive action in addressing the needs of our stakeholders



■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree

Source: KPMG 2021 CEO Outlook

A focus on long-term returns, however, is easier said than done. After all, executives and investors have decried short-run thinking for decades. Now, opinions appear to be muddled. Surveyed CEOs say they want to create a sense of purpose by incentivizing their employees, but when it comes to environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues, they say they do not want their own personal performance to be measured by an ESG yardstick. What is more, CEOs of manufacturers acknowledge that progress on ESG goals is difficult to calibrate, yet 58 percent say they will not rely on external assurance to check the numbers that would show how far they have reached them.

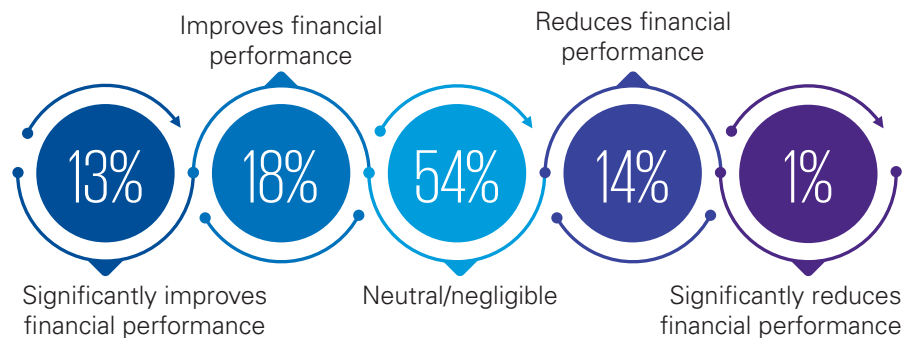


This apparent inconsistency creates a problem for top executives. Almost half (48 percent) say they are under pressure from stakeholders, especially investors, to increase the transparency of their ESG efforts — five times the number who say the opposite. Yet 43 percent of CEOs admit they struggle to articulate a compelling ESG story. This difficulty might be because their approach to ESG appears to be pragmatic rather than visionary.

For CEOs, ESG is seen as a means to an end. This does not mean CEOs fail to see the urgency of the issue; they do, because approximately one-third of CEOs in the survey say that if they fail to meet stakeholder expectations in this area, it will affect recruitment and competitors will gain an edge. “Successful firms understand they need to articulate a compelling ESG strategy to attract talent; showing your commitment to ESG goals is one of the most effective ways of doing this. However, projecting an image has more influence on new hires than existing employees,” says Stéphane Souchet.

Despite this admission, ESG is not seen primarily as a tool for growth by the CEOs surveyed. To be sure, a sizeable minority (31 percent) says a focus on ESG improves financial performance, but 54 percent say it has a neutral effect. Above all, 92 percent believe that conveying a sense of purpose will have the greatest impact on customer relationships.

**Please rate the impact of your company’s ESG programs on your financial performance.**



Source: KPMG 2021 CEO Outlook



# ESG to the fore

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Of the three letters in ESG, CEOs say that they are focusing more on social issues than on environmental and governance matters, in response to the pandemic. For workers, a key component of social objectives is promoting diversity, which CEOs in the survey acknowledge helps with the recruitment of Generation-Z and millennial employees.

“Attracting new employees means leveraging all your efforts on diversity, equality and inclusion, and on training recruits. This includes creating successful, hybrid work processes. To keep skilled people, it’s not just about the financial compensation, but also listening more carefully to their aspirations and what they care about, and not taking a top-down approach,” says Stéphane Souchet.

While emphasizing social objectives, CEOs are not ignoring environmental goals; 71 percent do see ‘global challenges’, such as income inequality and climate change, as the biggest threat to long-term growth. More than half (55 percent) say they will invest between one and five percent of revenue to become more sustainable, but this is not a huge amount, considering the global challenge of climate change.

CEOs do want governments to give them a leg up: 76 percent say it is up to governments to stimulate climate investments by the business community. But there will be a quid pro quo. “Governments won’t be providing handouts; officials are saying that if companies do the right thing in terms of ESG goals, then they will receive things like tax concessions and R&D credits,” Grant McDonald adds. “There’s a new ecosystem of funding in this area, consisting of government, business, academia and foundations. The Canadian government is encouraging industrial partnerships and alliances of large numbers of companies to invest in green technologies.”

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Manufacturers are aware they need to invest more in sustainable operations. They will likely have better opportunities for growth and innovation, if they think about it through an ESG lens. Shareholders are urging them to do this. Aero engine manufacturers, for example, are cooperating on the development of new energy systems.”

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**Grant McDonald**

Global Industry Leader, Aerospace and Defence  
KPMG International





## To what extent do you agree with the following statements about CEOs playing an increasing role in addressing global challenges, from income inequality to climate change?

Major global challenges — such as income inequality and climate change — are a threat to our company’s long-term growth and value



As confidence and trust in governments decline, the public are looking to businesses to fill the void on societal challenges such as gender inequality or climate change



Large corporations have the resources — both financial and people — to help governments find solutions to pressing global challenges



Stakeholder scrutiny of our performance on social issues — such as the racial, ethnic and gender makeup of our employees — will continue to accelerate



CEOs will be increasingly held personally responsible for driving progress in addressing social issues



With public, investor and government expectations of diversity, equity and inclusion rising so fast, we will struggle to meet expectations



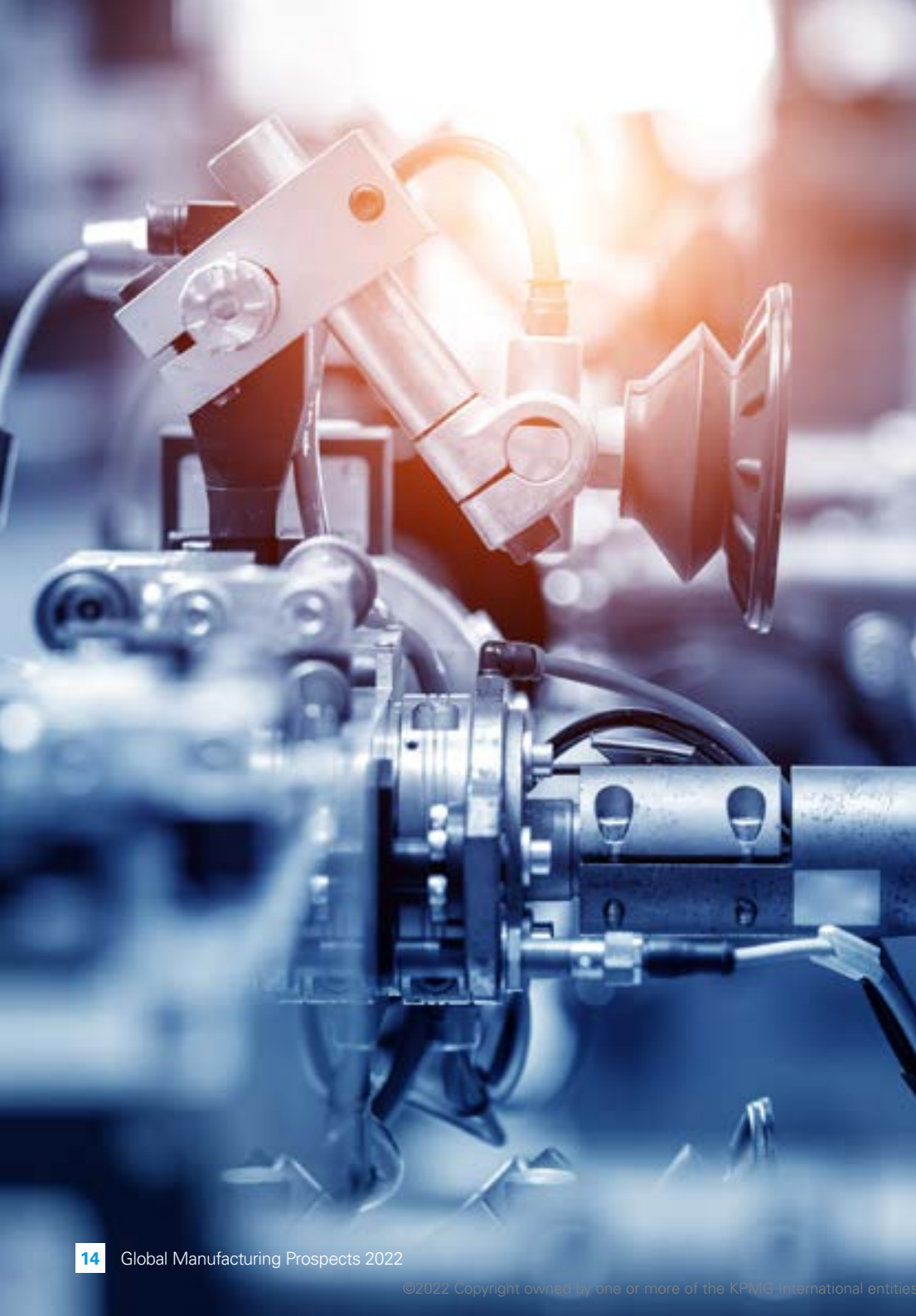
The global pandemic’s negative impact on women in the workplace has made it difficult to achieve our gender parity goals at the leadership level



■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree

Source: KPMG 2021 CEO Outlook





## A drive to decarbonize

New [research by KPMG International](#) in its report on the Net Zero Readiness Index shows that industry (both manufacturing and other industrial sectors, such as energy) is the sector with the highest degree of variability by country in terms of decarbonization progress and government action. The top five countries in terms of readiness for industrial decarbonization are, in descending order, Japan, Norway, the UK, Germany and Denmark.

### Top five countries in industrial decarbonization readiness



Score based on a range of economic indicators.

Source: Net Zero Readiness Index 2021

Areas of focus include improving the efficiency of industrial energy consumption and an urgent need to address scope 3 emissions in the supply chain (i.e. all indirect emissions, other than the indirect emissions that come from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting company). In the case of equipment such as jet engines, operational emissions far outweigh those required to build them, meaning industry has an even greater impact than its numbers suggest.

“There is an urgent need to address scope 3 emissions, although an increasing number of companies are taking accountability for them in emissions reductions targets, in response to customer and investor pressure,” says Wafa Jafri, Director, Energy Lead Advisory, KPMG in the UK.

These findings are borne out by a separate study, published in 2021,<sup>2</sup> of the sustainability of the supply chain — a report co-sponsored by KPMG International. Among the areas of focus that have intensified most for manufacturers between 2020 and 2021 is energy saving and renewables.

<sup>2</sup><https://sscs.mit.edu/>



# More training and greater skills

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A reason for focusing on social issues among ESG objectives is the growing need for skilled workers: 84 percent of CEOs say they plan to increase headcount in the next 3 years. However, since COVID-19 struck, they have had even more difficulty than usual in hiring them. Forty-five percent say they are investing in developing the workforce's skills to meet their growth objectives — and even more, 55 percent, say they are investing in new technology.

“Aerospace and defense companies are always in need of STEM graduates. For those in mid-career, employers need to do something different to ensure nobody is left behind. A lot of aerospace manufacturers have moved some operations to Mexico, creating training colleges and nurturing hubs around them, following the model of Montreal and Toulouse,” says Grant McDonald.

Still, CEOs do see training as the most important factor in making a success of hybrid working, and they want to give their workers a strong voice on issues, such as climate change. Workers are likely to continue to work part of the time at home and part at the office. So far, this has been a mixed success. Productivity has not been impaired by hybrid work patterns, but team building and innovation have become harder. Certainly, the large number of resignations during the pandemic has become a big headache for CEOs.

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Companies should try to ensure their skilled workers meet in person regularly, by making plans to do so and sticking to them. They must not fall into the trap of complacency with the status quo of hybrid working. Employees have to feel they are part of a team and part of a company, by meeting in person; otherwise, there is a risk that employees will drift away and find work elsewhere.”

**Kaveh Taghizadeh**

Partner, Consulting

Value Chain Transformation

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**What are the key success factors to ensure employees are engaged, motivated and productive in a world where hybrid work is increasingly common?**



Source: KPMG 2021 CEO Outlook

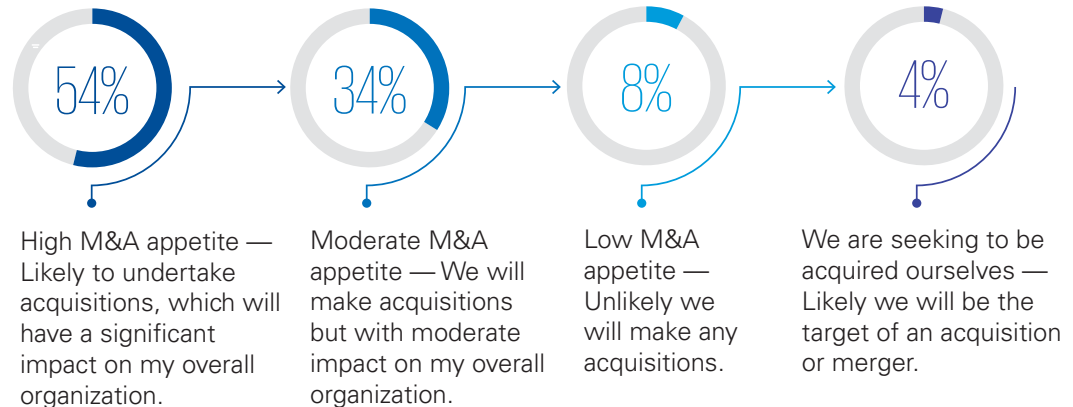
# Profiting in adversity



The economic dislocation of 2020–21 has created massive challenges for CEOs, but there is a positive side to the upheavals. The disruption caused primarily by the pandemic is seen by CEOs as a business opportunity, especially if they decide to take the initiative instead of being borne along by events. Seventy percent of CEOs say their companies are disrupting their industry, rather than waiting to be disrupted, and 70 percent see technological disruption as more of an opportunity than a threat.

One way to seize the opportunity is to do M&A deals, and 54 percent say they have a big appetite for corporate transactions. “In aerospace and defense, those companies that are the disruptors are the ones with the financial resources and an imaginative game plan to do M&A deals. The big prime contractors are lending money to lower-tier suppliers to keep them going. They are also taking stakes in new technologies via such firms as 3D printing firms; if they bought them outright, they would likely smother them,” says Grant McDonald.

### Over the next 3 years, how would you describe your organization’s M&A appetite?



Source: KPMG 2021 CEO Outlook

Despite the enthusiasm for M&A, it is not seen by CEOs as the main route to faster growth; the top choices are the forming of alliances and organic expansion. “Deals in the future are more likely to be transformative than ones intended to increase market share. This goes for break-up deals, too. It’s a sign of intense deal activity,” says Stéphane Souchet.



# Conclusion

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Amid a period of transformative industrial change, the main lesson to be drawn from the CEO survey is an evergreen theme that is more urgent than ever: companies shift attention away from their supply chains at their peril. Operational effectiveness cannot be achieved without a resilient supply chain. This report's analysis of top executive opinion strongly supports the view that a healthy supply chain is likely to support a healthy manufacturer. But how can this be achieved?

The combination of a pandemic and climate change is accelerating digital transformation, as companies search for tools to mitigate new risks and maximize new opportunities. The survey suggests that CEOs may not yet have grasped that the goals of digital transformation and ESG are both consistent and work powerfully together. Digitization can mitigate supply chain risk and enhance sustainability, but CEOs need to see ESG as a strategic imperative not simply a means to an end. They won't likely have a healthy supply chain if they don't focus on ESG, and without a healthy supply chain, they will likely struggle to meet their long-term goals.

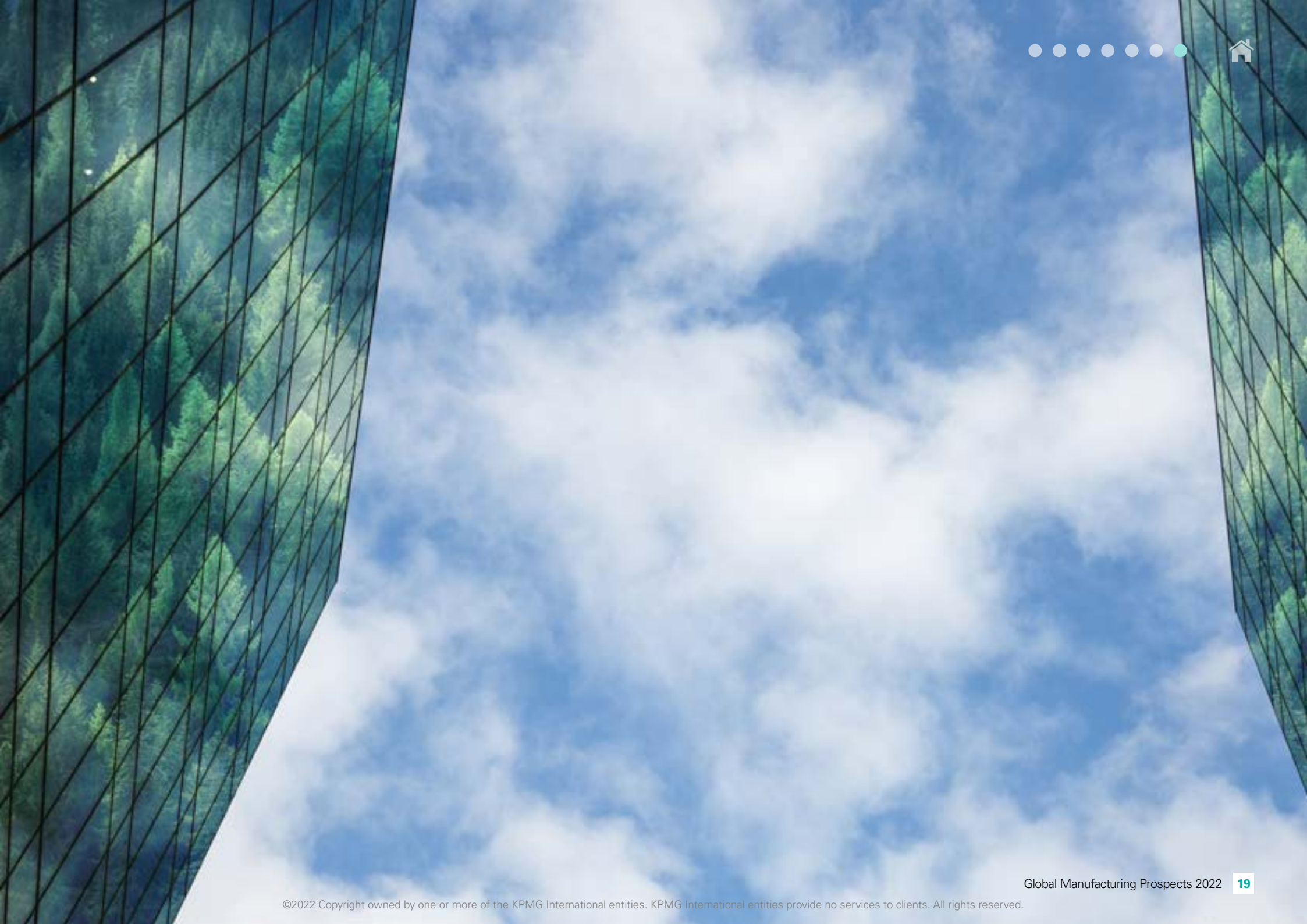
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Manufacturers should now focus on a twin transformation: intelligent digitization and ambitious ESG goal-setting. If they are executed effectively, they are likely to reinforce each other to create a more competitive enterprise and a more habitable planet.

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**Stéphane Souchet**

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