PLAYBOOK

OPTIMIZING MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS WITH NETSUITE ERP

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Today, manufacturers face increasing pressure to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and maintain product quality while navigating supply chain disruptions and labor shortages. NetSuite advanced manufacturing modules offer an integrated ERP solution that streamlines production, automates workflows, and enhances real-time decision-making.

This playbook outlines a structured approach to leveraging NetSuite ERP for operational excellence. It covers best practices for production efficiency, inventory management, AI-driven automation, and compliance—ensuring manufacturers stay competitive in an evolving market.

Key Takeaways

- A clear roadmap for optimizing manufacturing operations with NetSuite ERP.
- Best practices for streamlining production, inventory control, and supply chain efficiency.
- Insights on how AI and automation improve forecasting, quality control, and decision-making.

INDUSTRY CHALLENGES & THE NEED FOR SMARTER MANUFACTURING

KEY MANUFACTURING CHALLENGES

Supply Chain Instability

52% of manufacturers cite disruptions as a top challenge, leading to delays, overstocking, and stockouts.

Technology Integration Issues

Many manufacturers struggle with outdated ERP systems, data silos, and slow decision-making.

Workforce Shortages

By 2033, the U.S. manufacturing sector may face 1.9 million unfilled jobs, making automation and AI-driven training essential.

Quality Control & Compliance

Stricter regulations require automated tracking and real-time monitoring to ensure consistent product quality.

Rising Costs & Inflation

Manufacturing costs have surged 15-20% in the past two years, affecting margins and pricing strategies.

THE SOLUTION:
NETSUITE ERP FOR SMART MANUFACTURING

To overcome these challenges, manufacturers must shift from reactive to proactive management. NetSuite manufacturing provides:

Real-time Data Insights

Provides immediate data for better decision-making

AI-driven Automation

Automates processes to reduce costs and optimize workforce

IoT and BI Dashboards

Enables predictive maintenance and operational intelligence

Cloud-based ERP Integration

Integrates systems for seamless communication

KEY NETSUITE ERP CAPABILITIES FOR MANUFACTURERS

PRODUCTION PLANNING & SCHEDULING

NetSuite's Demand Planning & Production Scheduling tools help optimize capacity and resource allocation.

- ▶ Automates work orders and material requirements planning (MRP).

- ▶ Enhances shop floor visibility through NetSuite's advanced manufacturing capabilities.

- ▶ Optimizes production based on key inputs. Additional AI-driven forecasting capabilities can enhance predictive accuracy.

INVENTORY & SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

- ▶ **End-to-End Inventory Tracking**

  Real-time stock level monitoring prevents overstocking or shortages.

- ▶ **Supplier Management**

  AI-powered predictive analytics improve supplier negotiations and reduce risk.

- ▶ **Automated Reordering**

  Reduces manual intervention and ensures just-in-time (JIT) inventory replenishment.

QUALITY CONTROL & COMPLIANCE

▸ **Quality Inspections & Compliance**

Supports structured testing and compliance tracking, requiring manual validation for quality checks.

▸ **Real-Time Reporting**

Automates compliance documentation to reduce errors and ensure adherence.

▸ **AI & IoT-Enabled Insights**

NetSuite allows manual quality validation, with testing status updates recorded in the system. AI and IoT integrations further enhance defect detection and predictive quality monitoring.

COST CONTROL & FINANCIAL VISIBILITY

▸ **Real-Time Costing Insights**

Tracks production costs at every stage to prevent budget overruns.

▸ **Profitability Analytics**

AI-driven insights help identify areas for cost reduction without compromising quality.

▸ **Multi-Entity Accounting**

Consolidates financial data across multiple locations for better decision-making.

WORKFORCE & SHOP FLOOR AUTOMATION

▸ **Task Scheduling Support**

NetSuite provides real-time insights on resource availability, required skills, and utilization to assist with manual task assignment. The system can automatically reschedule tasks if a resource becomes unavailable.

▸ **Employee Productivity Tracking**

Measures efficiency in real-time to optimize labor costs

▸ **Digital Work Instructions**

Guides employees through standard operating procedures (SOPs) to reduce training time.

▸ **IoT-Enabled Equipment Monitoring**

Predicts machine failures before they occur, reducing downtime and maintenance costs.

IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP FOR NETSUITE ERP IN MANUFACTURING

Implementing NetSuite ERP in a manufacturing environment requires a structured approach to ensure a smooth transition and maximize efficiency gains. This roadmap outlines the key phases, from initial assessment to long-term scalability, ensuring a seamless and successful deployment.

PHASE 1
ASSESSMENT & STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

- Conduct a process audit to identify inefficiencies in production, inventory, and financial management.

- Define key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure success post-implementation.

- Define clear, measurable goals, including reduced lead times, automated inventory tracking, and improving production efficiency.

- Align leadership and cross-functional teams to ensure a smooth transition and benchmark against industry best practices.

- Develop a customized NetSuite implementation plan tailored to business needs.

SYSTEM CONFIGURATION & DATA MIGRATION

Configuration

Configure and customize NetSuite manufacturing modules based on specific business requirements.

Set up custom workflows for production planning, order management, and compliance tracking.

Workflow Setup

Data Audit

Audit and cleanse legacy data before migration to ensure consistency and accuracy.

Integrate NetSuite ERP with manufacturing execution systems (MES), supply chain software, and financial platforms.

System Integration

System Testing

Conduct initial system testing to validate functionality before going live.

PHASE 3
EMPLOYEE TRAINING & CHANGE MANAGEMENT

- Provide role-based training for shop floor employees, production managers, and finance teams.

- Implement AI-driven operator guidance to assist employees in adapting to new workflows.

- Establish a continuous learning culture with refresher courses and system updates.

- Create a feedback loop to address challenges and continuously optimize processes.

AI INTEGRATION, PILOT TESTING & CONTINUOUS OPTIMIZATION

- Integrate AI-powered automation for predictive maintenance, demand forecasting, and optimized scheduling.

- Run a pilot program in a single department or production line before full deployment.

- Analyze key performance indicators (KPIs), such as order fulfillment rates, downtime reduction, and cost savings.

- Optimize workflows based on real-time analytics and AI-driven recommendations.

- Scale the solution across all manufacturing units for company-wide efficiency gains.

LONG-TERM SCALABILITY & PERFORMANCE MONITORING

- Continuously track and refine KPIs to align with business growth and market changes.

- Implement regular system audits and performance reviews to identify areas for improvement.

- Expand NetSuite capabilities by integrating with emerging technologies like IoT, machine learning, and advanced automation.

- Foster a culture of continuous innovation to ensure long-term sustainability and competitive advantage.

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TOOLS, RESOURCES & KPIS FOR MEASURING SUCCESS

A successful NetSuite ERP implementation isn't just about going live—it's about ensuring continuous improvements in efficiency, cost savings, and production agility. Here are the key tools, metrics, and strategies manufacturers should use to measure and optimize success.

IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST

A successful NetSuite ERP implementation isn't just about going live—it's about ensuring continuous improvements in efficiency, cost savings, and production agility. Here are the key tools, metrics, and strategies manufacturers should use to measure and optimize success.

- ▶ Assess inefficiencies and define measurable goals.

- ▶ Configure NetSuite Manufacturing based on production needs.

- ▶ Migrate and clean data before integration.

- ▶ Train employees and enable AI-driven operator guidance.

- ▶ Pilot, analyze, and optimize before full-scale rollout.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIS) TO TRACK

Tracking the right KPIs is key to measuring success.
Here are some essential metrics to monitor:

Production Efficiency

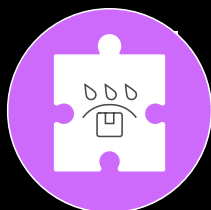Measures output per production hour.

Inventory Accuracy

Reduces discrepancies between stock records and actual inventory.
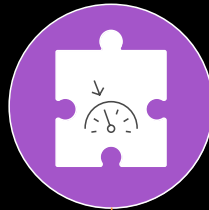
Downtime Reduction

Tracks decreases in unplanned machine stoppages.

Cost Savings

Reduction in operational expenses through automation.

Order Fulfillment Rate

Percentage of on-time, error-free order completion.
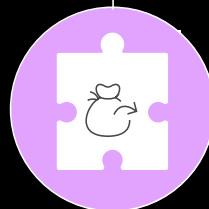
Consistently track these KPIs and optimize workflows to maximize efficiency, reduce waste, and drive sustainable growth with NetSuite ERP.

MEASURABLE IMPACT & ROI OF NETSUITE ERP

Manufacturers that implement NetSuite see significant performance improvements across key operational areas. The following measurable impacts highlight the tangible benefits of adopting NetSuite ERP:

30%
Improvement in Production Efficiency

- Optimized scheduling and automation reduce idle time and enhance resource utilization.
- Integrated workflows eliminate manual bottlenecks and streamline processes.

40%
Faster Order Fulfillment

- AI-driven demand forecasting aligns production with actual market needs.
- Improved supply chain visibility accelerates procurement and delivery timelines.

25%
Reduction in Inventory Holding Costs

- Real-time tracking and predictive analytics prevent overstocking and stockouts.
- Automated demand planning ensures lean inventory management, reducing capital lock-in.

50%
Reduction in Compliance-Related Risks

- Automated reporting and built-in regulatory compliance features minimize errors.
- Real-time quality control ensures adherence to industry standards, reducing costly rework.

CASE STUDY 1

A U.S.-based shutter manufacturer struggled with slow sales cycles and manual pricing calculations. By automating workflows with NetSuite, they enhanced operational efficiency and improved customer experience

Challenge:

- Manual workflows, inefficient data management, and limited scalability hindered growth.

- Sales teams struggled with complex pricing configurations and order tracking.

Solution:

- Implemented NetSuite CPQ and integrated SignNow and SoluPay for seamless processing.

- Automated pricing, sales order tracking, and approvals to improve efficiency

Outcomes

- Sales quoting and order processing became 50% faster, reducing manual effort.

- Scalability improved, enabling the business to handle higher order volumes seamlessly.

READ THE WHOLE CASE STUDY HERE ⊙→

CASE STUDY 2

A Florida-based patio enclosure manufacturer faced inefficiencies due to disconnected systems and manual processes. NetSuite integration provided automation and real-time insights, transforming their operations.

Challenge:

- Disparate systems, manual processes, and limited reporting hindered efficiency.

- Lack of real-time visibility impacted decision-making and project profitability.

Solution:

- Integrated NetSuite with Kronos, MSI Service Pro, and RF Smart for automation.

- Streamlined operations with real-time data access and automated workflows.

Outcomes

- Project turnaround improved by 40%, increasing profitability and reducing delays.

- Business scalability improved with a unified data hub for proactive decision-making.

READ THE WHOLE CASE STUDY HERE

CONCLUSION

Effective NetSuite implementation goes beyond deployment—it's about aligning the system with business needs, ensuring data accuracy, and fostering user adoption. Challenges such as data migration, customization, and user adoption can impact implementation speed, but with the right strategy, they can be managed proactively.

By focusing on early planning, expert guidance, and continuous optimization, organizations can maximize NetSuite's potential and drive long-term efficiency. A well-executed implementation ensures seamless business processes, better decision-making, and higher ROI.

Next Steps

Assess Readiness

Conduct a gap analysis to understand your current system's limitations and set clear implementation goals.

Build a Strong Team

Engage internal stakeholders and expert consultants to ensure a smooth transition.

Prioritize Data Accuracy

Clean and validate data before migration to prevent issues post-go-live.

Adopt a Phased Approach

Roll out NetSuite in stages to minimize disruptions and allow for adjustments.

Train & Support Users

Offer continuous training to drive adoption and enhance user confidence.

Monitor & Optimize

Regularly review system performance and make necessary refinements to align with evolving business needs.

LEARN MORE &
GET EXPERT GUIDANCE

Implementing NetSuite ERP is a strategic move that requires careful planning, the right expertise, and a structured approach. Whether you're evaluating ERP options or looking to optimize your current system, our experts are here to help.

Download our NetSuite Whitepaper to explore strategies for optimizing your supply chain in today's evolving market.

HAVE QUESTIONS OR READY TO IMPLEMENT NETSUITE? OUR ERP SPECIALISTS ARE HERE TO HELP.

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NetSuite

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