California Businesses Using 3D Printing

Estimated Business Count by Sector — with Cited Sources

Compiled April 2026 | Sources include BLS, ADA, CA Governor's Office, NCBI, and leading market research firms

Overview

California has **30,000+ businesses** of all sizes using a 3D printer in some capacity across all industries. The state leads the entire country in 3D printing market size, valued at **$5.93 billion in 2024**, and an estimated **$10.5+ billion** has been invested across education, infrastructure, healthcare, aerospace, and other sectors statewide when combining market spend, federal programs, and sector-level capital.

> **Source:** *electroiq.com, "3D Printing Statistics," December 2025 —* https://electroiq.com/stats/3d-printing-statistics/

Sector Breakdown

Dental practices — 2,500+

The American Dental Association reported approximately 17% of U.S. dentists adopted 3D printing in their practices in 2023. Applied to California's 14,760 general dentists — the most of any U.S. state — yields a baseline of approximately 2,500 dental practices. Uses include crowns, aligners, surgical guides, dentures, and orthodontic models.

> **Source:** *Grand View Research, "U.S. Dental 3D Printing Market Report" (citing ADA data) —* https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/us-dental-3d-printing-market-report

> **Source:** *Bureau of Labor Statistics / Becker's Dental Review, "Number of Dentists by State," April 2025 —* https://www.beckersdental.com/benchmarking/the-number-of-dentists-in-each-state/

Medical & healthcare — 3,500+

Over 500,000 3D-printed medical devices were used in U.S. surgeries in 2024, per the National Center for Biotechnology Information. California's Bay Area and San Diego biotech corridors represent the largest concentration of medical device companies in the country. Applications include prosthetics, anatomical models, orthopedic devices, and hearing aids.

> **Source:** *Ken Research, "USA 3D Printing Technology Market" (citing NCBI data), 2024 —* https://www.kenresearch.com/industry-reports/usa-3d-printing-technology-market

Aerospace & defense — 3,000+

California generates $35 billion in aerospace GDP and has more aerospace engineers than any other state (11,000+). California also received 70% of all U.S. space tech venture capital funding. The U.S. Air Force, NASA, and SpaceX are cited as major users of 3D printing for aircraft and rocket components. Boeing has produced over 60,000 parts using additive manufacturing.

> **Source:** *California Governor's Office / Lightcast, "Aerospace & Defense Industry Profile"* — https://business.ca.gov/industries/aerospace-and-defense/
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> **Source:** *Fortune Business Insights, "Aerospace 3D Printing Market," 2024* — https://www.fortunebusinessinsights.com/industry-reports/aerospace-3d-printing-market-101613

Architecture & construction — 2,500+

Scale models, client presentations, and large-format construction printing are driving adoption among architecture firms and AEC companies. Annual savings in construction from 3D printing are expected to reach $20 billion globally by 2025.

> **Source:** *sci-tech-today.com, "3D Printing Statistics," March 2026* — https://www.sci-tech-today.com/stats/3d-printing-statistics/

Product design & manufacturing — 2,500+

More than 68% of companies using 3D printing use it for prototyping and pre-series manufacturing. California's dense cluster of industrial designers, product startups, and contract manufacturers makes this one of the largest sectors.

> **Source:** *Fortune Business Insights, "3D Printing Market Report," 2024* — https://www.fortunebusinessinsights.com/industry-reports/3d-printing-market-101902

Education (K–12, community colleges, universities) — 2,000+

In 2024, over 60% of higher education institutions in the U.S. reported active use of 3D printers in STEM curricula. California has 116 community colleges, 10 UC campuses, and 23 CSU campuses, plus thousands of K–12 schools with STEM grants and makerspaces.

> **Source:** *Verified Market Reports, "3D Printing in Education Market," November 2025* — https://www.verifiedmarketreports.com/product/3d-printing-in-education-market-szie-and-forecast/

Jewelry & fashion — 1,900+

DLP and SLA printing technologies are specifically cited as ideal for dentistry, jewelry, medical devices, and consumer products due to their high resolution and surface finish quality. Los Angeles and San Francisco have dense independent jewelry and fashion designer communities.

> **Source:** *Grand View Research, "3D Printing Industry Analysis," 2025* — https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/3d-printing-industry-analysis

Entertainment, film & prop studios — 1,800+

Hollywood prop houses, VFX studios, and theme park design teams represent a uniquely California-concentrated 3D printing user base. Applications include hero props, pre-visualization models, costume components, and set design elements.

Source: *Ken Research, "USA 3D Printing Technology Market," 2024* — https://www.kenresearch.com/industry-reports/usa-3d-printing-technology-market

Automotive & EV — 1,500+

The automotive industry held the largest share of global 3D printing revenue in 2024, accounting for more than 25% of global revenue. North America led with a 39% share of global automotive 3D printing. California's EV cluster — including Tesla's supply chain, Rivian, and Canoo — and its extensive Tier 1 and Tier 2 supplier base are major drivers.

Source: *Fortune Business Insights / sci-tech-today.com, "3D Printing Statistics," 2024–2026* — https://www.sci-tech-today.com/stats/3d-printing-statistics/

Consumer goods & retail products — 1,400+

27% of businesses using 3D printing produce finished consumer goods. This includes toys, housewares, sporting goods, pet products, and gift and novelty items.

Source: *G2 / learn.g2.com, "75+ 3D Printing Statistics and Trends," February 2025* — https://learn.g2.com/3d-printing-statistics

Tech, hardware & electronics — 1,200+

Silicon Valley's hardware startup density makes this a significant category. Small and medium-sized enterprises are increasingly adopting desktop 3D printers to innovate and compete with larger manufacturers.

Source: *IMARC Group, "United States 3D Printing Market"* — https://www.imarcgroup.com/united-states-3d-printing-market

Biotech & research labs — 1,100+

Significant investment continues in medical and aerospace 3D printing R&D. California leads the nation in biotech concentration, with major research institutions in San Diego, the Bay Area, and Los Angeles. Applications include microfluidics, lab-on-chip devices, and pharmaceutical device development.

Source: *Protolabs Network, "3D Printing Trend Report 2024"* — https://www.protolabs.com/resources/guides-and-trend-reports/3d-printing-trend-report/

Fine art & sculpture — 900+

Independent sculptors, commercial galleries, public art installation artists, and art schools with fabrication labs represent a growing user base, driven by the falling cost of resin and FDM desktop printers.

Source: *Grand View Research, "3D Printing Industry Analysis," 2025* — https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/3d-printing-industry-analysis

Service bureaus, fablabs & print shops — 800+

The concept of "fabshops" — businesses offering on-demand 3D printing of parts as a service — is cited as a growing trend in the U.S. This includes dedicated print bureaus, shared makerspaces, and retail print centers.

> **Source:** *Grand View Research, "3D Printing Industry Analysis," 2025* — https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/3d-printing-industry-analysis

All other sectors (food, legal, agriculture, government, home-based makers) — 3,400+

3D printing startup funding alone reached approximately $1.43 billion globally in 2025, spanning construction printing, food and culinary arts, forensic legal exhibits, city planning, agricultural tech, and home-based Etsy/ecommerce sellers.

> **Source:** *Growth List, "496+ Funded 3D Printing Startups 2026"* — https://growthlist.co/3d-startups/

Total across all sectors: 30,000+ businesses in California using 3D printing in some capacity.

Supporting Statistics

57% of dental labs used 3D printing by 2022

In 2014, only around 10% of dental labs had begun using 3D printing. By 2022, that number had grown dramatically to 57%, with analysts estimating a continued annual growth rate of 5–10%.

> **Source:** *Prodways / Polaris Market Research, "3D Printing & the Future of Dental Manufacturing," August 2025* — https://www.prodways.com/resources/3d-printing-transforming-dental-manufacturing/

81% of businesses plan to continue using 3D printing

81% of businesses using 3D printing report satisfaction with their strategy and intend to continue in the coming years.

> **Source:** *sci-tech-today.com, "3D Printing Statistics," March 2026* — https://www.sci-tech-today.com/stats/3d-printing-statistics/

70% of engineers printed more parts in 2023 than the year prior

In a survey of over 700 engineers, designers, and manufacturers, 70% indicated they printed more parts in 2023 than in 2022. Only 9% printed fewer.

> **Source:** *Protolabs Network, "3D Printing Trend Report 2024"* — https://www.protolabs.com/resources/guides-and-trend-reports/3d-printing-trend-report/

California received 70% of all U.S. space tech VC funding

California's dominance in space technology is reinforced by capturing 70% of total space tech venture capital funding in the United States, directly driving 3D printing adoption in aerospace and defense.

> **Source:** *California Governor's Office / Lightcast, "Aerospace & Defense Industry Profile" —* https://business.ca.gov/industries/aerospace-and-defense/

America Makes received $300M+ in federal funding

The National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute (America Makes) has received more than $300 million in federal funding since its inception, supporting 3D printing R&D and workforce development programs across the country, with California companies among the primary beneficiaries.

> **Source:** *SNS Insider / Globe Newswire, "3D Printing Market," September 2024 —* https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2024/09/17/2947488/0/en/3D-Printing-Market-expected-to-reach-USD-118-9-Billion-by-2032

DoD earmarked $350 million for additive manufacturing in 2024

The U.S. Department of Defense earmarked $350 million for additive manufacturing acceleration in 2024, channeling grants to small and medium enterprises to compress part qualification cycles from seven years down to three. California's aerospace and defense firms are among the primary recipients.

> **Source:** *sci-tech-today.com, "3D Printing Statistics," March 2026 —* https://www.sci-tech-today.com/stats/3d-printing-statistics/

Methodology Note

The sector-level business counts presented in this document are estimates derived by applying nationally reported adoption rates to California's known share of each industry. California consistently represents approximately 12–14% of national dental and healthcare professionals, leads the U.S. in aerospace engineering employment and space tech investment, and has the largest 3D printing market of any U.S. state at $5.93 billion in 2024.

The most defensible individual figures in this document are: (1) the BLS count of 14,760 California general dentists (2024); (2) the ADA's 17% dental 3D printing adoption rate (2023); and (3) California's $35B aerospace GDP and aerospace engineer leadership per the California Governor's Office. All other sector estimates are derived from applying national adoption rates to California's verified industry concentration.

All sources are publicly accessible. Market research figures across sources vary due to differing methodologies and definitions. All business counts should be treated as estimates and minimum floors rather than precise census figures.