

EHS Maturity in Automotive: How Does the Industry Compare?



The Road to EHS Maturity in the Automotive Industry



The Global EHS Readiness Index (GERI) provides insights from over 1000 Global Health and Safety Leaders. This benchmarking report provides a comparison of EHS maturity in the Automotive Industry versus all industries in the study.

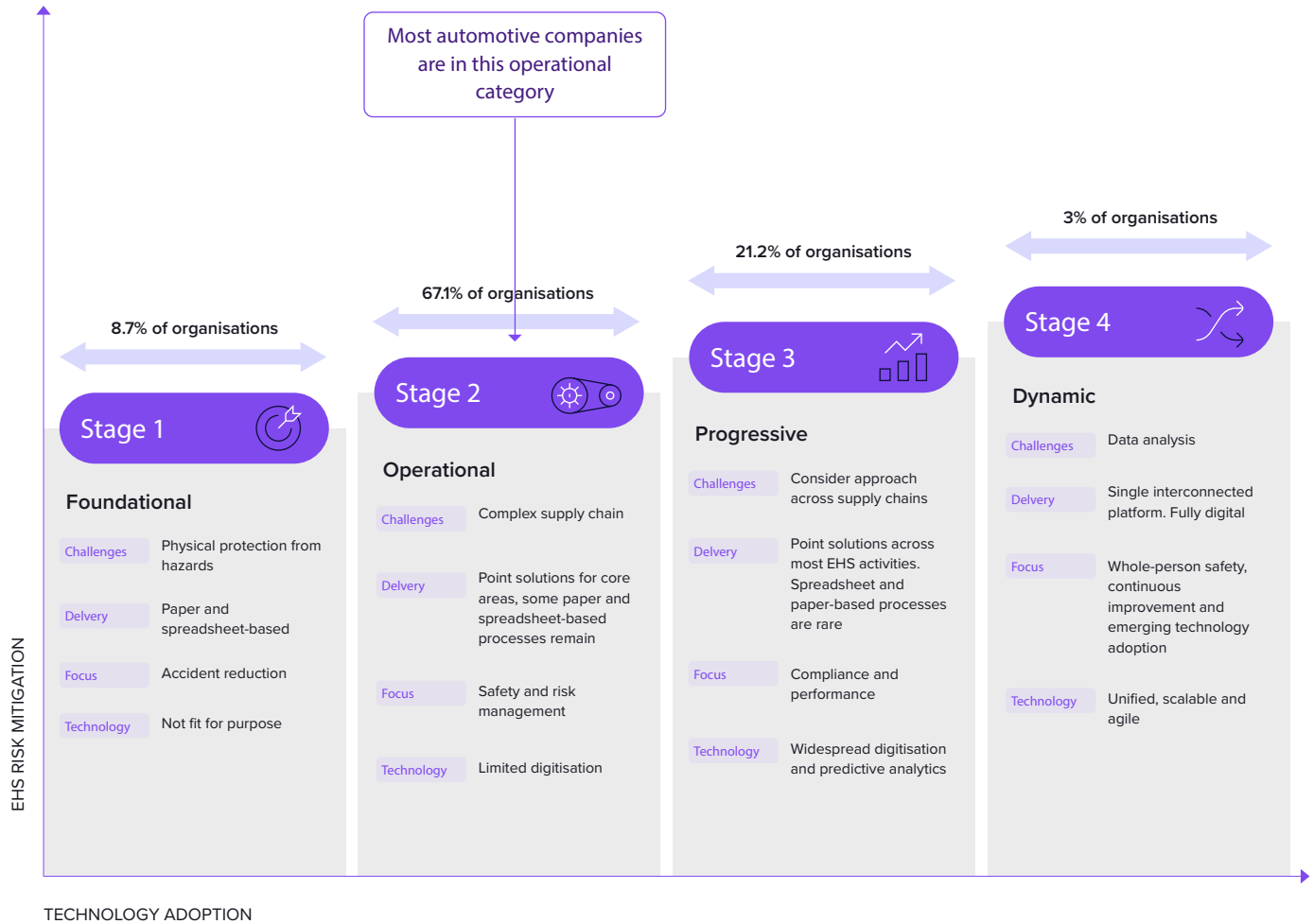
The Automotive Industry is exposed to significant EHS risks. These include physical hazards, chemical exposure, ergonomic hazards, and psychosocial hazards. These risks are heightened in environments where people operate and interact with machinery and heavy materials.

The recent HSI and Focus Network Global EHS Readiness Index (GERI) highlights gaps in EHS posture in the sector and offers guidance on how to optimise EHS outcomes. Technology plays a key role in managing EHS risk in the automotive industry.



Figure 1

Evolution of the EHS Function in the Automotive Industry



The Key Challenges Faced in the Automotive Sector



The GERI report identified some common challenges within Automotive, which are outlined in detail below.

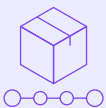
Automotive workplaces are busy and risky, often crowded with manufacturing robots and equipment. They contain moving machinery which operates in collaboration with the workforce. Other common hazards are accidents resulting in burns, punctures, cuts and electrocution.

Leading EHS implementation challenges faced by automotive companies include:



Physical risks

Automotive workers are subject to a variety of physical risks including slips, falls and trips, accidents involving moving vehicles and machinery and exposure to noise vibrations and hazardous substances. Ergonomic risks are a major challenge. These risks include pushing and pulling tasks using carts and dollies, turning and bending wrists when using hand tools and hand vibrations from power tools.



Supply chain management

The complexity of global automotive supply chains makes it extremely difficult to apply EHS and ESG policies consistently across automotive ecosystems. EHS visibility and consistent EHS policy implementation is increasingly important in the sector. According to Gartner 50% of product-centric enterprises are now investing in real-time visibility across supply chains.



Cybersecurity issues

Security and privacy issues are amplified by the complexity of global supply chains which create a vast attack surface for threat actors. Additionally, the use multiple disparate point solutions makes securing data an urgent challenge.



Psychosocial factors and fatigue

Psychosocial factors are often overlooked in the automotive sector. Stress associated with long shifts and job insecurity make mental health issues more likely to occur. This is exacerbated by global economic instability which has a particularly strong impact on the automotive sector.



Adoption of EHS processes and physical risks

Automotive workers are frequently using many different technologies to operate machinery and effectively do their jobs. Adding additional EHS requirements, and ensuring that the processes are adopted, is a major challenge. EHS processes increasingly need to be integrated into operations to ensure they are adopted.

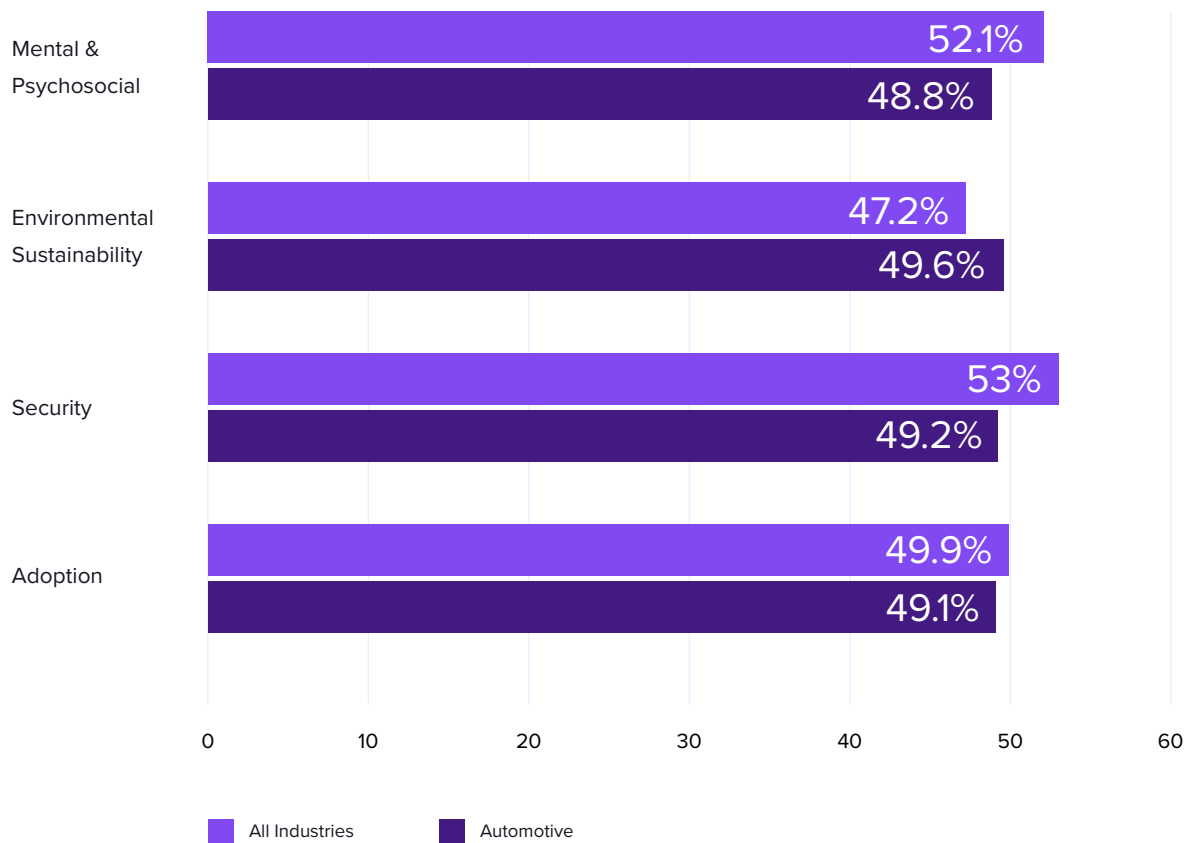
EHS Maturity in Automotive: Area of Focus

Focus Network's recent Global EHS Readiness Index (GERI) report reveals mean maturity scores by attribute for the automotive sector, in percentages, where 100% is the highest score. Respondents were asked a series of questions relating to each component of the EHS function. Responses to these questions were then used to determine maturity for each component. For example, an organisation that indicates it cannot detect mental health incidents is given a very low score for psychosocial and mental health maturity. Another example is an organisation that indicates it has a centralised compliance management system in place. This contributes to a higher maturity score for compliance obligations. Maturity levels for each component are then aggregated to give an overall mean EHS maturity score.

Figure 2 shows EHS components for the automotive sector that are the least mature. These reveal the biggest gaps in EHS posture for automotive firms. It is these areas that require particular attention. It also illustrates the mean percentage score across all industries. The comparison with all industries reveals that although environmental sustainability requires more focus, this EHS components is relatively mature in the automotive sector compared to other industries.



Figure 2
EHS Components with Low Maturity in the Automotive Sector





Adaptable, Frictionless and Interoperable EHS Technology is Needed for the Automotive Sector

Automotive companies increasingly need a comprehensive EHS platform to address their needs.

EHS leaders in the automotive sector need to unify their risk management systems and gain visibility across all EHS functions. This means that companies need to:

Understand their level of EHS technology maturity. They need to identify what they need to do to ensure that their maturity is aligned to that of other companies in their supply chains.

Have a consistent and unified view of all activities across the supply chain.

All documentation and data should be found in one place. Management and individual workers need visibility of all EHS processes and their implementation. Currently less than 10% of automotive EHS leaders claim to have comprehensive systems which fully manage EHS activities, according to the GERI study.

Ensure workforce adoption. There is an element of 'technology fatigue' in the automotive sector so it is critical that EHS solutions are usable and relevant. According to the GERI study, 51% of automotive EHS leaders cite employee adoption of EHS processes and culture as their number one challenge.

Ensure that technology is adaptable and future-proof. The automotive sector is undergoing radical change. EHS solutions will need to keep pace with this change and ensure that solution can be re-configured and improved continuously.

Fully leverage data. Data needs to be collected and analyzed across the supply chain to optimise EHS workflows and ensure compliance. The GERI study reveals that only 11% of automotive EHS leaders are able to collect and analyse data from across their supply chains.

A platform-based approach to EHS digital transformation offers companies the agility and flexibility to access EHS resources as needed, adding or removing functionality in line with business needs. Such an approach also offers the benefits of scalability and rapid provisioning.

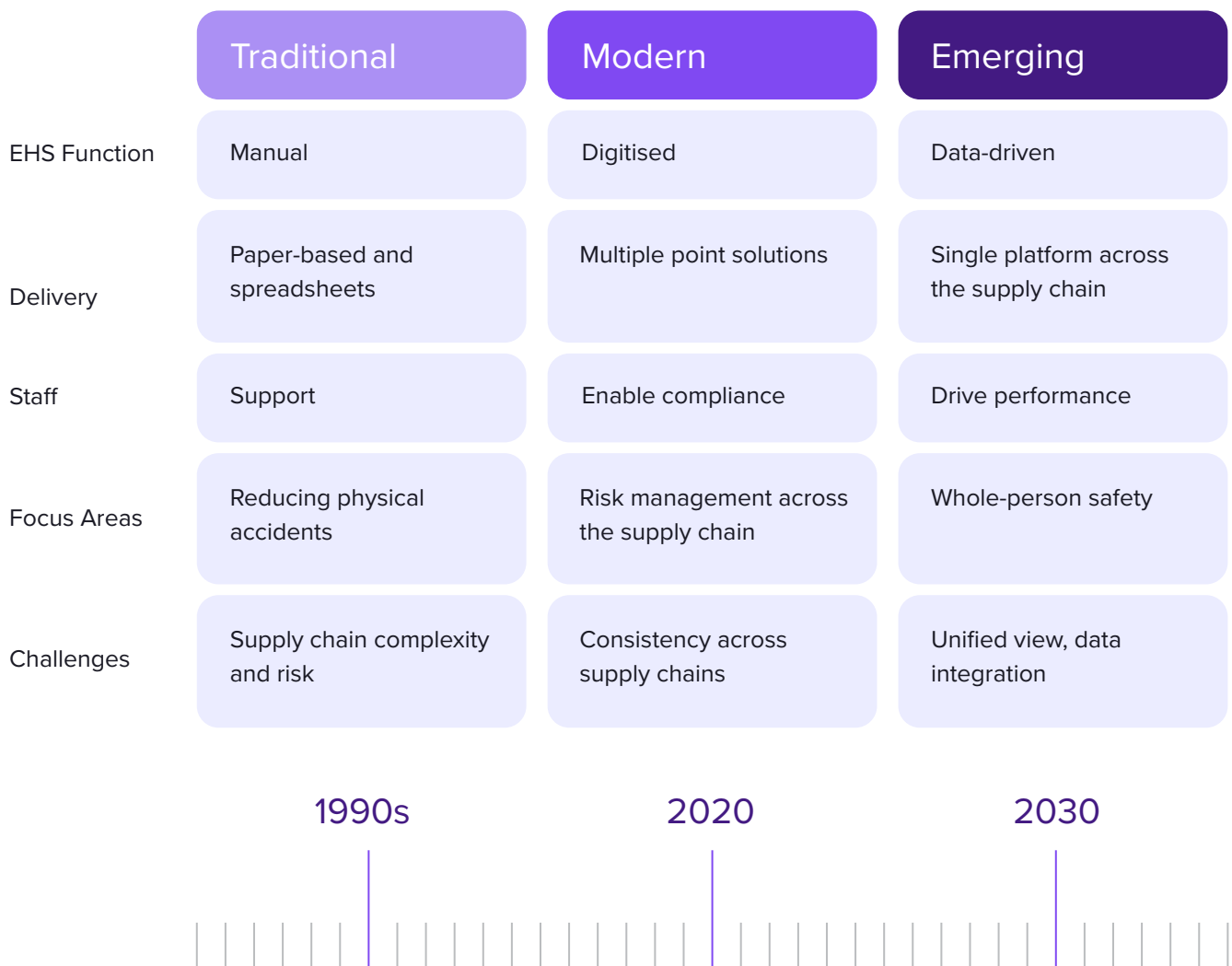


Emerging EHS Trends in the Automotive Sector

As complexity increases within the Automotive sector, so does the move to more advanced EHS processes and systems. These trends are summarised below.

Figure 3

The Evolution of the EHS Function in the Automotive Sector





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