



April 2026 Sourcing Report



Our April Sourcing Activity Report reveals industrial sourcing trends across **80,000+ categories** on Thomas. It highlights popular industrial categories in April, analyzes key sectors and buyer behaviors, and offers insights into the state of industrial sourcing.

Top 20 Products Sourced on Thomas in April 2026

1. **Chemicals**
2. Steel
3. Packaging Materials
4. Valves
5. Pumps
6. Electric Wire, Cable, and Cable Assemblies
7. Pipe and Piping
8. Metals
9. Dietary Supplements and Vitamins
10. Fittings
11. Coatings
12. Fasteners
13. Metallic Tubes and Tubing
14. Fabrics and Cloths
15. Aluminum
16. Temperature Sensors, Detectors, and Transducers
17. Plastics
18. Tanks
19. Clothing
20. Storage, Shipping, and Disposable Boxes



Product Spotlight

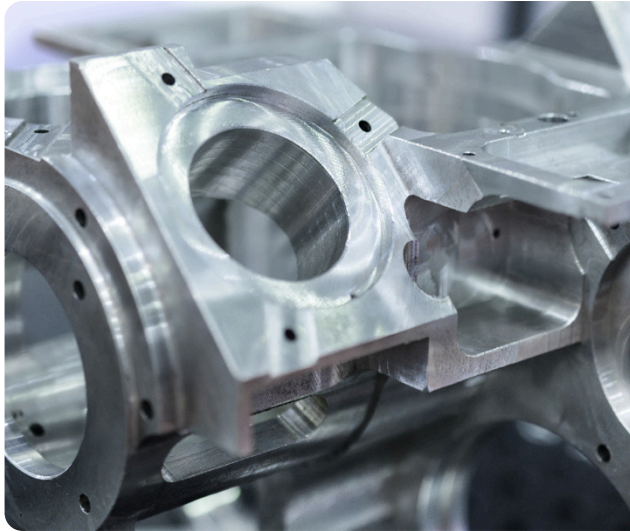
Packaging Materials

Packaging materials became a top sourced product in April as manufacturers ramped up inventory in response to new plastic packaging tax reforms and increased fees for unsustainable materials that took effect during the month. This surge was further intensified by global raw material shortages and price spikes caused by geopolitical tensions, which hit a historic low in availability and prompted buyers to secure long-term supply contracts.

Product Spotlight

Aluminum

Aluminum was a top sourced product last month as global supply chain disruptions triggered a massive surge in protective procurement, with buyers rushing to secure long-term contracts and domestic supply to avoid "no-quoting" from mills facing record-high Midwest premiums. Simultaneously, the demand was amplified by the AI infrastructure and energy transition booms, which required massive quantities of aluminum for data center cooling systems, EV battery housings, and renewable energy components.



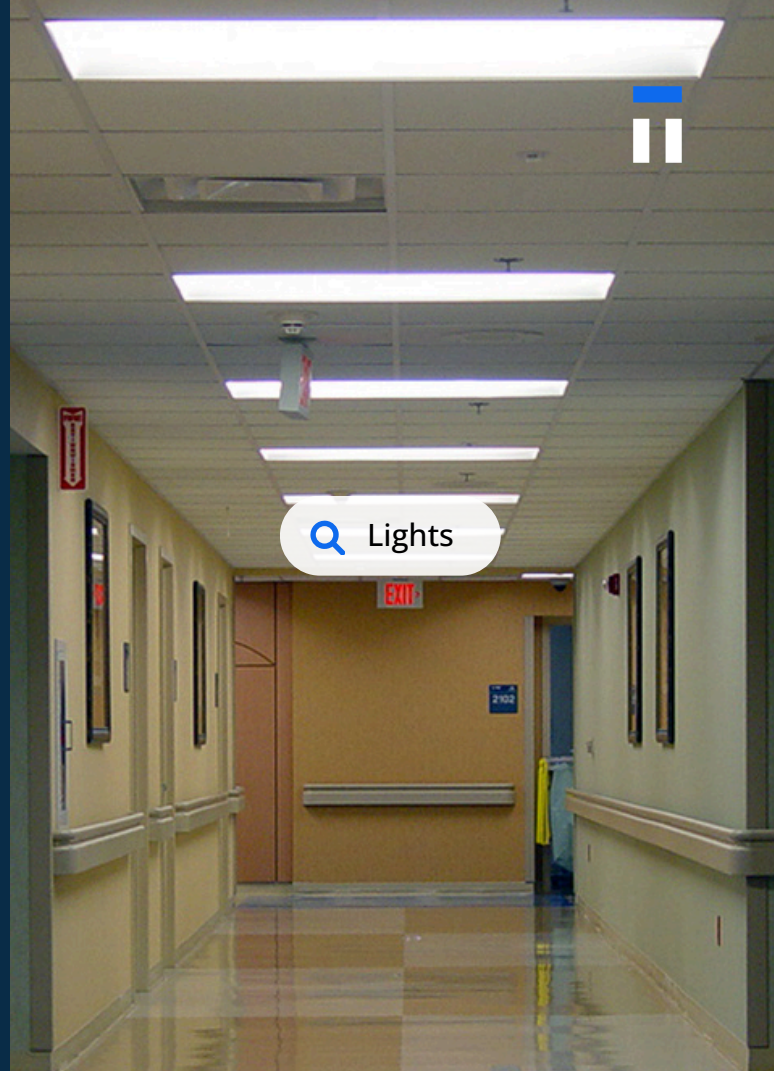
Product Spotlight

Tanks

Tanks were a top sourced category in April as the oil and gas sector intensified procurement of specialized storage vessels and floating roofs to manage inventory shifts amidst global energy price volatility. This demand was mirrored in the chemical and food processing industries, where buyers sought USA-made stainless steel and fiberglass tanks to ensure compliance with stringent FDA safety standards. Many procurement professionals focused on securing localized supply chains, prioritizing domestic manufacturers to bypass high shipping costs and extended lead times.

Top Emerging Products Sourced in April 2026

1. **Lights**
2. Paper
3. Batteries
4. Construction Equipment
5. Medical Equipment
6. Automotive Parts
7. Cranes
8. Gloves
9. Robots
10. Lubricants



Top 20 Services Sourced on Thomas in April 2026

1. **Machining**
2. Contract and Private Label Food Manufacturing
3. CNC Machining
4. Metal Fabrication Services
5. Plastic Injection Molding Services
6. Cutting Services
7. Contract Manufacturing Services
8. Stamping Services
9. Vacuum Forming Services
10. Building Trade Contractors
11. Coating Services
12. Extrusion Services
13. Circuit Board Assembly Services
14. Plating Services
15. Casting Services
16. Contract and Private Label Personal Care Products Manufacturing
17. Design Services
18. Engineering Services
19. Packaging Services
20. Molding Services



Service Spotlight

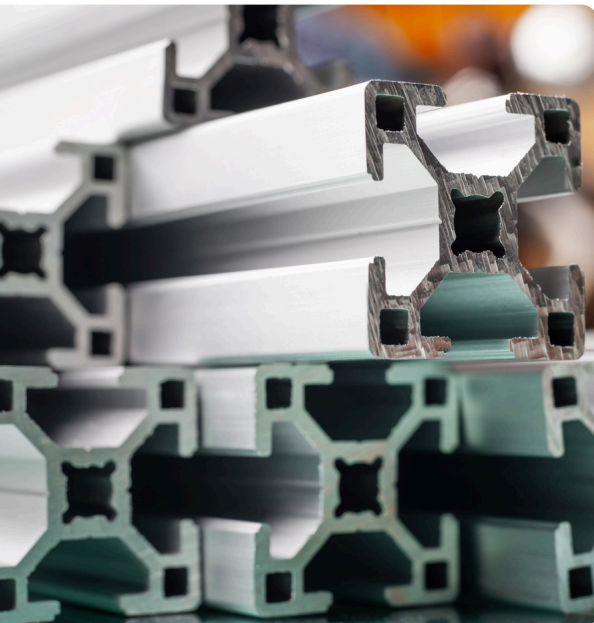
Machining

Machining services were a top sourced category on Thomas in April as aerospace and defense firms accelerated procurement following new federal microelectronics funding and large-scale investments in domestic drone production. This demand was intensified by a massive wave of reshoring, with major manufacturers like Apple and Ford shifting high-precision work to U.S.-based machine shops to bypass logistics risks and newly proposed import taxes.

Service Spotlight

Cutting Services

Cutting services saw a surge in sourcing in April as the aerospace and renewable energy sectors ramped up production, requiring high-precision waterjet and laser cutting for specialized alloy and composite components. This demand was intensified by newly proposed tariffs on imported pre-cut steel, which forced manufacturers to source raw materials locally and contract domestic cutting services to maintain cost-efficiency. The rapid expansion of domestic microchip and electronics manufacturing drove a massive need for ultra-precise micro-cutting services to support the assembly of next-generation hardware and data center infrastructure.



Service Spotlight

Extrusion Services

Extrusion services became a top-sourced category in April as the automotive and aerospace sectors ramped up production of lightweight, complex profiles for electric vehicle frames and high-efficiency aircraft interiors. This demand was further accelerated by the expansion of domestic infrastructure projects, which required massive quantities of extruded aluminum and plastic components for power transmission systems and renewable energy hardware. Procurement professionals prioritized localized extrusion partners to mitigate global shipping delays and leverage advanced multi-material co-extrusion technologies that allow for more sustainable and durable product designs.



Top Emerging Services Sourced in April 2026

1. Building Trade Contractors
2. Maintenance and Repair Services
3. Import Services
4. Fabrication Services
5. Systems Integrators and Integration Services
6. Contractors
7. Calibration Services
8. Straining Services
9. Robotics and Automation Services
10. Forming Services

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These categories saw the biggest increase in sourcing activity in April 2026, month-over-month, on Thomas.

1. Maintenance and Repair Services +89%
2. Assemblies +73%
3. Machining +57%
4. Construction Equipment +55%
5. Screw Machining +46%
6. Hardware +39%
7. Lumber +30%
8. Automation Systems +29%
9. Electrical Power Generators +26%
10. Doors +26%
11. Cranes +24%
12. Vacuum Forming Services +24%
13. Cleaning Compounds and Chemicals +23%
14. Fittings +23%
15. Building Trade Contractors +22%
16. Plastic Fabrication Services +21%
17. Contractors +20%
18. Machine Tool Parts and Accessories +20%
19. Design Services +20%
20. Transformers +19%

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These categories saw the biggest increase in sourcing activity in April 2026, year-over-year, on Thomas.

1. Screw Machining +121%
2. Plastics +113%
3. Bolts +83%
4. Cutting Services +83%
5. Controls and Controllers +76%
6. Mechanical Wire, Cable, and Rope +76%
7. Valves +74%
8. Fittings +60%
9. Doors +59%
10. Lights +53%
11. Machinery +50%
12. Engineering Services +48%
13. CNC Machining +46%
14. Contract and Private Label Food Manufacturing +44%
15. Hardware +43%
16. Enclosures +39%
17. Conveyors +39%
18. Design Services +38%
19. Hose +37%
20. Metal Fabrication Services +36%

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Thomas Audience Snapshot



1.5M+

Sourcing Sessions Monthly

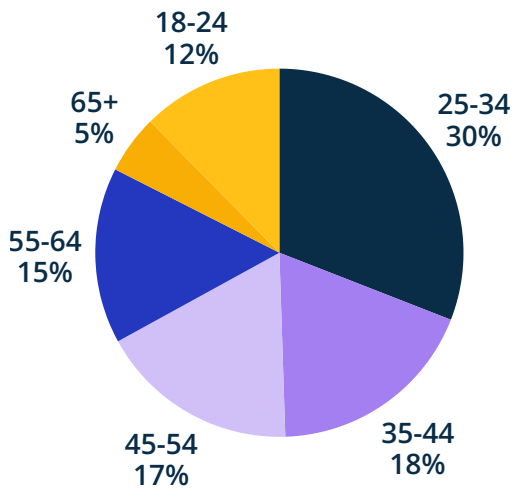
20,000

New Registered Users Monthly

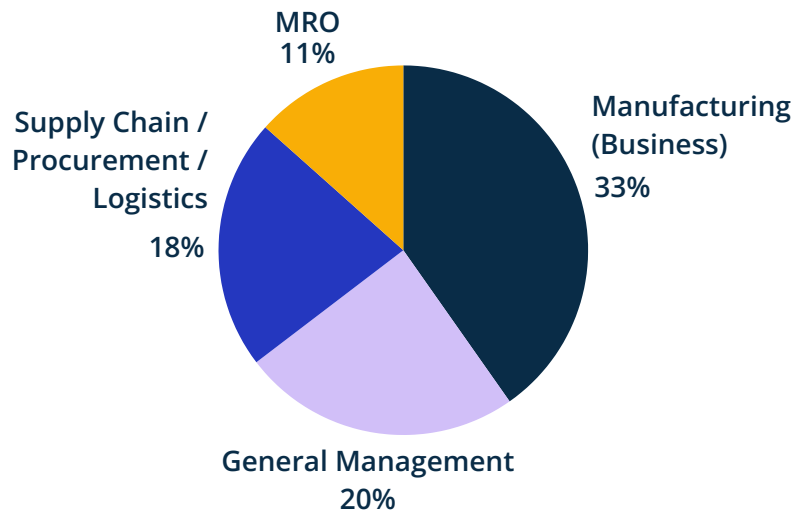
65%

of Our Active Registered Users Represent SMBs

By Age Range



By Job Function

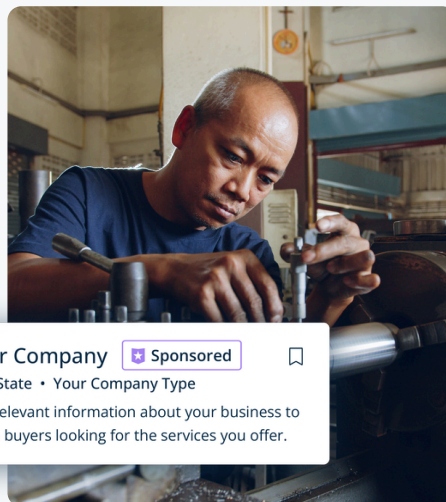


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