

2024 Technology State of the Union



1000+ Promotional Product Distributors, Apparel **Decorators, & Team Dealers**

In April - June 2023, we surveyed more than 1000 companies that sell branded merchandise to learn about their business and how they use technology.

Market Characteristics

76% employees

Have fewer than 10

61% Generate less than \$2.5M in annual sales

41% Belong to a franchise, affiliate, or buying

group network

57% Offer some decoration in-house



The majority of businesses are small teams. In fact, close to 1/3 of businesses are one-person operations handling every element of their business, from sales to accounting.



merchandise space. Nearly 60% of businesses that sell branded merchandise offer some level of in-house

Entrepreneurs and small teams are powering big business in the branded



tools designed specifically for selling branded merchandise so they can provide the right information to their team and decoration partners to get products to customers quickly. Franchises, affiliate networks, and buying groups have seen an increase in membership since 2021, with 41% of businesses that sell branded merchandise

decoration, such as embroidery or screen printing, an increase of 6% from 2021. And decoration can be complicated! This makes it extra important for businesses to use



42%

opting to join one of these associations. Key reasons for joining include improved purchasing power, financial support, and additional services businesses can offer their customers.

39% **Hold inventory** Provide graphic 70% design services

storefront or showroom

Have a physical

We've always had screen print capabilities, but we've increased our focus on enhancing our decoration capabilities and techniques, and that has definitely helped with our team sales and our corporate sales. -Team Dealer

100%

95%

On average, businesses sell 5 types of products to their customers, with apparel and promotional hard goods being the most common.

Product Categories

Decorated Apparel / Uniforms / Spirit Wear



On average, online stores generate up to 14% higher sales than a company's website, making it a highly effective sales tool.

merchandise and are the only sales channel that saw growth between 2021 and 2023.

Percentage of Total Annual Sales by Channel 5% Direct via Sales Rep 9%



specific group from the branding of the store to the products on the storefront. This creates a highly personalized, retail-like experience for customers, encouraging them to place orders for

branded merchandise made specifically

for them.

Dealers Use Online Stores to Sell

Branded Merchandise

This is great news because online stores

generate up to 14% higher sales than a

company's website! Unlike websites that

provide a general experience to the

masses, online stores are created for a

13%

TOP USE CASES FOR ONLINE STORES: Company Swag, Spirit Wear, Employee Uniforms & Supplies

Industry-specific solutions like OMG online stores provide more unique capabilities required for selling customized products and apparel, including specialized reporting,

Retail / In-Store

advanced payment methods like points and redemption codes, as well as fundraising capabilities. Use Cases of Online Stores

Dealers That Use Online Stores Use an Industry-Specific Solution

Distributors, decorators, and dealers

are increasingly opting for technology

designed specifically for selling

branded merchandise.



