



















Comparison: aERP vs. Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central — Manufacturing Focus

1. Manufacturing Needs Today

Manufacturing Requirement	aERP (Active ERP)	Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central
Fast adaptation to changing demand	 Native flexibility, no-code changes on the fly	 Requires developer effort or use of Power Platform tools
Control over costs	 Transparent pricing, no hidden modules	 Subscription-based modular pricing, can escalate with scale/customizations
Visibility from raw materials to finished goods	 Real-time visibility across all stages	 Available but requires setup and integration effort
Faster turnaround times	 Fast workflows, predictive planning	 Depends on automation setup, Power Automate required
Supplier and distributor integration	 Built-in no-code integration	 Possible via Power Platform and connectors, but needs setup

2. How They Support Modern Manufacturing

Capability	aERP	Microsoft Business Central
AI-Augmented MRP	 Included natively	 Rules-based, external automation required
Capacity Planning	 Yes, dynamic planning included	 Available but setup depends on manufacturing modules
Multi-location management	 Included out of the box	 Available, requires correct configuration
Shop floor automation	 Automated workflows (AutoPilot engine)	 Needs Power Automate or partner extensions

✔ 3. Inventory Management Excellence

Feature	aERP	Microsoft Business Central
Real-time inventory tracking	✔ Included natively	✔ Included, requires proper setup
Multi-location inventory	✔ Standard feature	✔ Available
Lot/serial tracking	✔ Included	✔ Included
Predictive reordering alerts	✔ AI-driven AutoPilot	⚠ Rules-based reorder policies
Inventory forecasting	✔ Linked to production schedules	⚠ Requires external forecasting tools or Power BI
Full audit trail	✔ Yes	✔ Yes

✔ 4. Supply Chain Optimization & Automation

Feature	aERP	Microsoft Business Central
Vendor performance tracking	✔ Included	⚠ Requires Power BI or external tools
Dynamic lead time management	✔ Built-in	⚠ Requires setup and Power Automate workflows
AutoPilot-driven purchase recommendations	✔ Native AI-powered	⚠ Rules-based, manual setup via extensions
Supplier collaboration portals	✔ Included	⚠ Requires third-party solutions or Power Apps
Integrated forecasting	✔ Yes	⚠ Requires Power BI integration or external tools

✔ 5. AI & Automation Advantage

Automation Feature aERP

Microsoft Business Central

Native AI engine	✔ AutoPilot included	⚠ No native AI, relies on Power Automate and Power BI
Smart workflows	✔ Built-in	⚠ Requires setup with Power Automate
Predictive insights	✔ Included	⚠ Requires external tools like Power BI

✔ 6. Financial Strength for Manufacturers

Financial Feature

aERP

Microsoft Business Central

Multi-entity, multi-currency	✔ Included	✔ Included
Manufacturing cost accounting	✔ Included, with job and plant-level detail	✔ Available, configuration required
Cash flow management	✔ Integrated with operations	✔ Included, strong capabilities
Integrated accounting	✔ Native, no third-party needed	✔ Core feature
Audit trails & compliance	✔ Included	✔ Included

✔ 7. Integration & Customization

Feature

aERP

Microsoft Business Central

No-code customization	✔ Yes, data, UI, workflows	⚠ Requires Power Apps or developer extensions
Integration options	✔ Built-in no-code hub	✔ Extensive, but setup via Power Platform
Deployment flexibility	✔ Cloud and on-premises	⚠ Cloud-first, hybrid available with complexity

✔ 8. Portals, Web Stores & CRM

Feature	aERP	Microsoft Business Central
Customer portal	✔ Included	⚠ Requires Power Apps or third-party apps
Vendor portal	✔ Included	⚠ Requires third-party or custom Power Platform apps
Integrated web store	✔ Native B2B/B2C	⚠ Requires integration with Microsoft e-commerce tools
Built-in CRM	✔ Included	✔ Included, Dynamics 365 integration available
Customer experience	✔ Real-time updates & self-service	⚠ Possible, depends on setup and tools

✔ 9. Pricing & Contract Flexibility

Feature	aERP	Microsoft Business Central
Transparent pricing	✔ Usage-based, fully transparent	⚠ Tiered pricing, modular costs add up
Contract flexibility	✔ No long-term lock-in, only 3 months' notice	⚠ Typically annual subscription terms
Switch without delay	✔ Use now, pay after old contract expires (promo)	⚠ Not applicable

✔ 10. Implementation & Adoption

Feature	aERP	Microsoft Business Central
Implementation speed	✔ Weeks to few months	⚠ 3–6 months or more depending on complexity
Training ease	✔ Simple, no-code UI	⚠ Requires user training for Power Platform and integrations
Scalability	✔ Scales with business growth	✔ Strong scalability
IT burden	✔ Low, business-user driven	⚠ Higher, requires IT/admin or consultant involvement

✓ **Final Summary:**

Category	aERP Advantage
Inventory Management	✓ AI-powered, predictive, fully integrated
Supply Chain Optimization	✓ Dynamic automation, vendor portals included
AI & Automation	✓ Native AutoPilot engine
Financial Management	✓ Manufacturing-specific cost tracking
Integration & Customization	✓ No-code, fast changes without IT dependency
CRM & Portals	✓ Built-in, real-time customer/vendor access
Pricing & Contracts	✓ Transparent, flexible, switch now/pay later
Implementation Speed	✓ Fast deployment and user adoption

✓ **Conclusion:**

Active ERP (aERP) gives manufacturing companies clear advantages over Microsoft Business Central, especially in flexibility, automation, and supply chain responsiveness.

While Microsoft offers a broad ecosystem, it depends heavily on Power Platform extensions and IT resources. In contrast, **aERP's native no-code platform and AI automation** deliver faster time-to-value, lower operational complexity, and transparent pricing with flexible contract terms.