

World record: 248,000 industrial robots revolutionising the global economy

Munich, 22 June 2016 – **The worldwide sales of industrial robots achieved a new record number of 248,000 units in 2015. This represents a rise of 12 percent compared to the previous year (2014: 221,000 units). This sees the continuation of the global automation boom, which commenced in the wake of the financial crisis in 2009. The sales figures for industrial robots have increased almost four-fold since that time (2009: 60,000 units). There is no end in sight to this growth trajectory: By 2018, some 2.3 million units will be deployed on factory floors – more than twice as many as in 2009 (1.0 million). So says the 2016 World Robotics Statistics, issued by the International Federation of Robotics (IFR).**

Within the global markets, the positive sales figures are being driven by highly automated emerging countries, and by regions that are already highly developed economically. For example, in Europe the total sales figures for industrial robots in 2015 rose by ten percent to 50,000 units compared to the previous year. The strongest individual markets here are the three EU countries, Germany (20,000 units), Italy (6,700 units) and Spain (3,800 units).

Growth in America proved even more dynamic, with sales increasing by 15 percent to a total of 37,000 units. The USA heads the list with 27,000 units sold (+3 percent). An extraordinarily large leap forward in automation was registered in Mexico. There, sales more than doubled within one year to around 5,500 units. The reason underlying this development is the investments made in the automotive industry, the products of which Mexico exports to the USA and South America.

Asia is still the world's strongest growth market. This region saw a total of 156,000 units sold in 2015 – a rise of 16 percent. With some 68,000 industrial robots sold, China alone surpassed the total market volume for Europe.

Growth in China (2015: +17 percent) saw foreign-based robotic manufacturers profit with a 69 percent share of the total market. At the same time, domestic competitors have, by now, significantly expanded their market share to 31 percent (2013: 25 percent). The robotics markets in South Korea (2015: 37,000 units) and Japan (2015: 35,000 units) continue to occupy second and third places in global sales behind China – followed by the USA and Germany. This top 5 countries account for three-quarters of the global sales of industrial robots.

Broken down into sectors, with the worldwide largest volume it is the automotive industry that holds the lead in automation using industrial robots. During 2015 some 95,000 units were sold in this segment – a rise of one percent. The sectors that posted the strongest growth in 2015 were

the metal industry (+63 percent), the plastics and rubber industry (+40 percent), followed by the electronics industry (+16 percent).

"The wave of digital transformation and automation will continue to drive the robotics boom forward until 2018", says Joe Gemma, President of the International Federation of Robotics. "Revolutionary developments in IT connected with all aspects of the Internet of Things, and new networked services are changing the producing industries fundamentally. Machines, logistics and production plants are merging into integrated cyber-physical systems. The aim is to use smart factories to work more flexibly, more cost-efficiently and more productively."

About IFR

The International Federation of Robotics: www.ifr.org

The IFR Statistical Department publishes two robotics studies each year:

World Robotics - Industrial Robots: This unique report provides global statistics on industrial robots in standardised tables and enables national comparisons to be made. It contains statistical data from around 40 countries broken down into areas of application, industrial sectors, types of robots and other technical and economic aspects. Production, export and import data is listed for selected countries. It also describes the trends in relation to robotic density, e.g. the number of robots per 10,000 employees in relevant sectors.

World Robotics - Service Robots: This unique report provides global statistics on service robots, market analyses, case studies and international research strategies on service robots. The study is jointly prepared with our partner Fraunhofer IPA, Stuttgart.

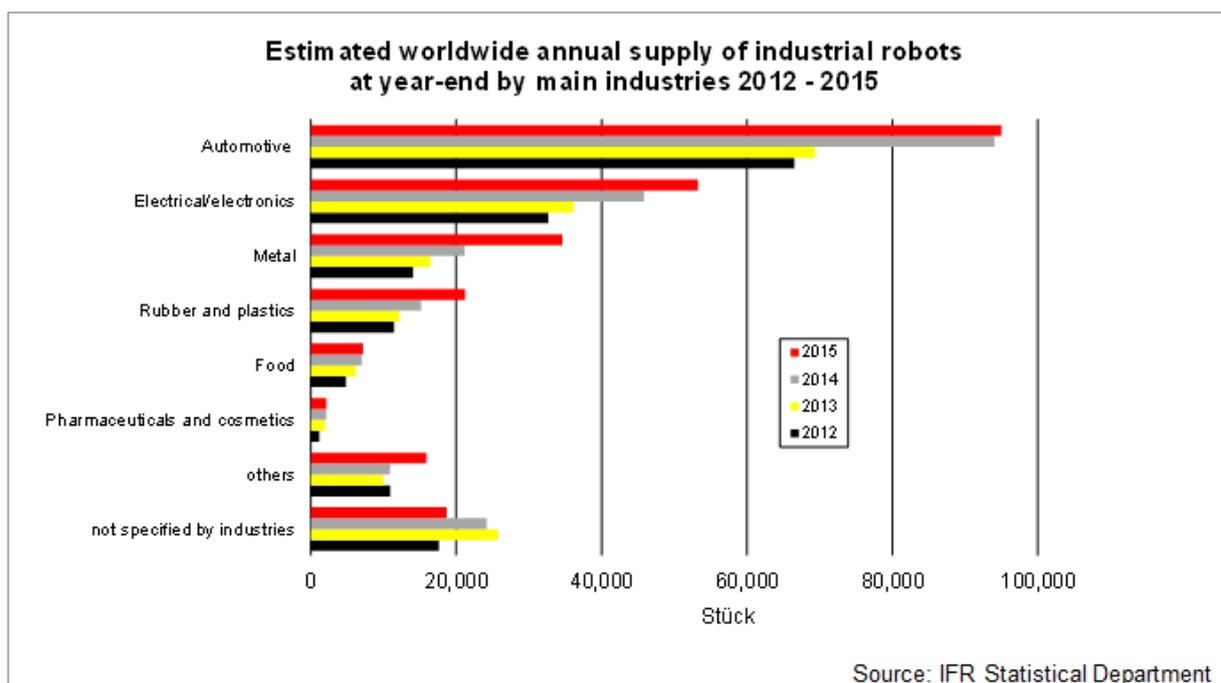
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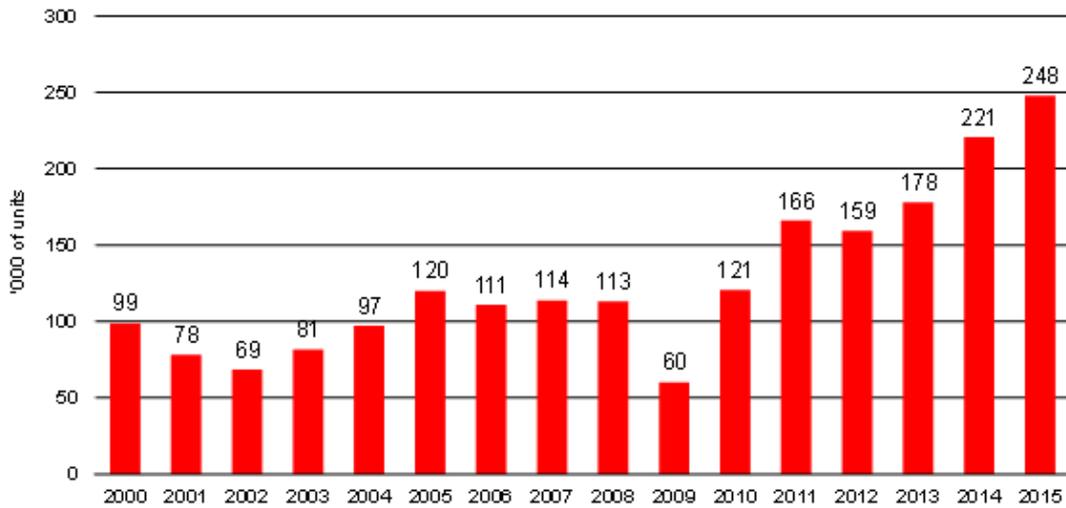
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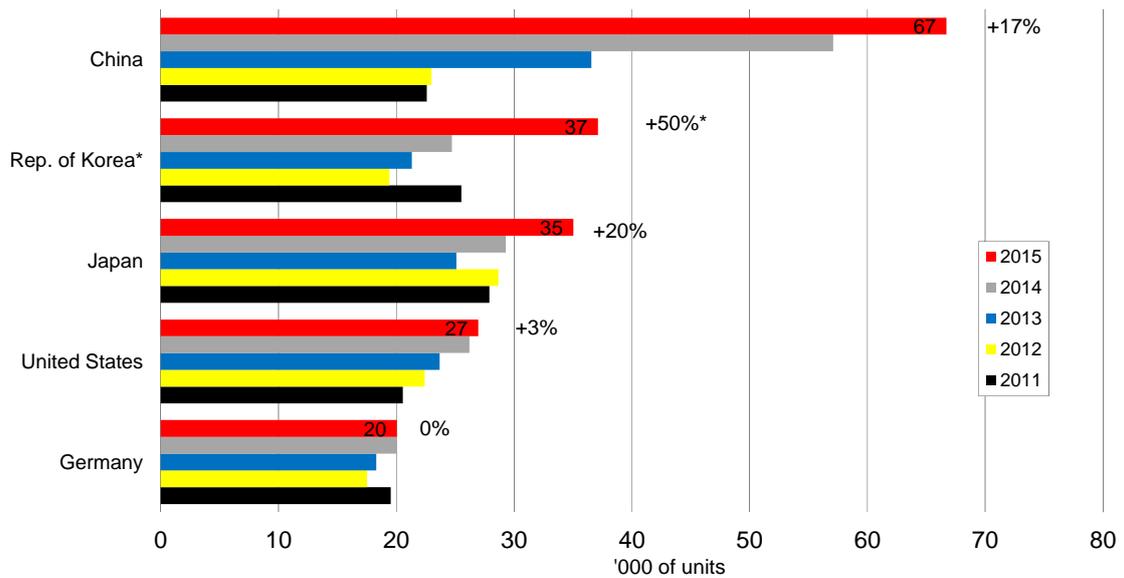
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Worldwide annual supply of industrial robots 2000 - 2015



Source: IFR Statistical Department

Annual supply of industrial robots largest markets 2011 - 2015



*increase 2015 partly due to additional companies reporting only in 2015

Source: IFR Statistical Department