IFR International Federation of Robotics

Press release

# European Union's Industrial Robot Stock Hits Record 700,000 Units

• World Robotics 2026 Report by International Federation of Robotics released

Frankfurt, September 24th, 2026 — **The European Union (EU-27) has surpassed the milestone of having 700,000 operational industrial robots in 2025, accounting for 84% of the total number of robots in operation across Europe. This is according to the World Robotics 2026 Industrial Robots report, presented by the International Federation of Robotics (IFR).**

“The European Union's manufacturing sector has invested significantly in automation: From 2015 to 2025, the number of operational robots in the member states grew by more than 80%, from 390,000 to 712,000 units,” says Jane Heffner, President of the International Federation of Robotics.

## Annual installations 2025

In terms of annual installations, the long-term momentum is positive, with a 3% compound annual growth rate from 2020 to 2025. However, Europe is not investing as fast as Asia and North America. In the short term, the EU´s market development experienced an 11% contraction in 2025: Total installations fell to 60,500 units. Asia installed 457,315 units, up 14% year-over-year, and in the Americas, installations hit 57,044 units, up by 14%.

## Customer Industries

The **automotive** industry installed 14,900 units in 2025 – down 25%. With a share of a quarter of all installations, this segment remains the European Union's largest customer market. The **metal** industry in second place installed 13,000 units; demand was down 13%. The **plastics and chemical products** industry followed, with 7,400 units, down 3%, ahead of the **food and beverage** industry, with 5,300 units, up 4%.

## Top EU Markets

**Germany** is the largest robot market in the EU and the fifth-largest globally. 24,800 industrial robot installations account for 41% of the total EU market. The automotive sector continues to serve as a primary pillar, driving 23% of total German demand followed by the metal industry with a share of 21%.

**Italy** remains the second-largest EU market with a share of 13%, installing 7,800 units. Demand remains anchored by strong traditional performance in the metal industry with a share of 29% as the main customer of industrial robots.

**France** and **Spain** follow, both with an EU market share of 7%. **France** installed 4,500 industrial robots, and continues to invest across automotive, with a national share of 21%, and the metal

International Federation of Robotics (IFR) Secretariat
President Jane Heffner
General Secretary Dr. Susanne Bieller
c/o FV R+A im VDMA
Lyoner Strasse 18
60528 Frankfurt am Main
Germany
Phone +49 69 66 03-16 97
E-mail: secretariat@ifr.org
Internet www.ifr.org

industry, with a share of 18%. **Spain** installed 4,300 industrial robots in 2025. The country's automation continues to benefit from its status as Europe's second-largest automotive producer, with a national market share of 43%.

## Outlook

The OECD expects the macroeconomic situation in the European Union to remain weak until 2027, when it will recover moderately. The EU can only remain internationally competitive if it adopts automation to keep pace with rising production costs and lack of labor. This makes Europe an attractive market. Next to established foreign manufacturers from overseas, such as Japan and Korea, Chinese suppliers develop new strategies to enter the EU´s common market – first Chinese suppliers have already established European distribution hubs. Trade restrictions in other key markets like the United States might further fuel this trend.

## Downloads

Further graphs and press releases on the global, Chinese, German and US market you will find at: https://ifr.org/ifr-press-releases/five-million-robots-now-operate-in-factories-globally

### About IFR

The International Federation of Robotics (IFR) is the voice of the global robotics industry. Founded in 1987, the non-profit body represents more than 3,000 organizations. Its membership base includes manufacturers of industrial and service robots, national robotics associations, universities, and start-ups from over 30 countries. Further information can be found at: www.ifr.org

The IFR Statistical Department provides data for two annual robotics studies:

**World Robotics - Industrial Robots:** This unique report provides global statistics on industrial robots in standardized tables and enables national comparisons to be made. It presents statistical data for around 40 countries broken down into areas of application, customer industries, types of robots and other technical and economic aspects. Production, export and import data is listed for selected countries. It also offers robot density, i.e. the number of robots per 10,000 employees, as a measure for the degree of automation.

**World Robotics - Service Robots:** This unique report describes marketable products, tasks, challenges and new developments by service robots application. The report includes the results of the annual IFR service robot survey on global sales of professional and consumer service robots and an industry structure analysis including a full list of all service robot producers known to the IFR. The study is jointly prepared with the robotics experts of Fraunhofer IPA, Stuttgart.

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**Press contact**
International Federation of Robotics
PRESS OFFICER
Carsten Heer
phone +49 (0) 40 822 44 284
E-Mail: press@ifr.org