

China Installs 59 Percent of World's Industrial Robots

- World Robotics 2026 Report by International Federation of Robotics released

Frankfurt, September 24th, 2026 — **China has further expanded its global market share of industrial robot installations: A total of 354,000 units were deployed in 2025. This equates to almost three out of every five installations worldwide, marking a new peak.**

“China's success in modernising its industrial system is based on its national robotics strategy, which was initiated ten years ago,” says Jane Heffner, President of the International Federation of Robotics. “The recent update, launched as part of China's 15th Five-Year Plan 2026–2030, aims to focus its AI research on physical applications, with robots being the main drivers of economic growth.”

Customer Industries

The **electrical and electronics** industry installed 96,400 units in 2025 – up 16%. With a share of 27% this segment remains the largest customer market. China's **automotive industry** installed a new peak level of 78,900 units. The country's number two customer industry grew by 38%. The **metal and machinery industry** in third position installed 78,700 units – up 44%.

In recent years, the robotics industry has been trying to open up new markets in China's general industry. The sustained success of these attempts remains uncertain. The **food and beverage** industry, for example, displayed an extraordinary growth rate of 86% in 2024 – but installations declined by 37% in 2025. Similarly, robot installations in the **textiles, leather, and wearing apparel** industry skyrocketed 2019-2024 (CAGR) by 115%, but collapsed by minus 92% year-on-year in 2025. In contrast, installations in the **paper and paper products** industry continued to grow by 15%, after an average annual growth rate of 55% from 2019 through 2024 (CAGR).

Domestic and foreign suppliers

The installations of domestic suppliers from China displayed 15% growth year over year in 2025, reaching 55% of total installations. Installations of foreign robots were up 27% in 2025. Since 2024, more than half of the Chinese installations have been from Chinese brands.

Outlook

The Chinese market for industrial robots is far from saturated: Growth of 5% to 10% on average each year until 2029 is likely. The economy is suffering from a labor shortage due to demographic change. Therefore, robotic automation will be a preferred solution, making production resilient to a lack of labor resources. Guided by the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030), China's robotics strategy emphasises technological self-reliance and the modernisation of traditional industries. The Chinese robotics industry is moving towards becoming an innovator in physical AI and a developer of intelligent industrial robotics.

Downloads

Further graphs and press releases on the global, European, 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.

Follow IFR on [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#)

Press contact

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