IFR statistical department

World Robotics

Industrial Robots

2026

Statistics, Market Analysis, Forecasts and Case Studies

World Robotics
Industrial Robots
2026

one market

World Robotics 2026 – Industrial Robots

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The robot statistics are based on consolidated world data reported by robot suppliers as well as on the statistics and support of the national robotics associations of North America (A3), Spain (AER), United Kingdom (BARA), People's Republic of China (CRIA), Denmark (DIRA), Japan (JARA), Republic of Korea (KAR), Italy (SIRI), Sweden (SWIRA), and Chinese Taipei (TAIROA).

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We express our most sincere gratitude to all partners!

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Executive Summary World Robotics 2026 Industrial Robots

Worldwide annual installations of industrial robots:

- **2025: 603,307 units (+11%)**
- **2026: 655,000 units (+9%)**
- **2029: 806,000 units (+7% CAGR from 2026 to 2029)**

Robot installations 2025: from plateau to new record

603,307 robots installed in 2025. Annual robot installations leap beyond the 600,000-unit mark.

After four years of around 550,000 new industrial robot installations, global robot demand accelerated in 2025. The previous record level of 552,946 units achieved in 2022 was exceeded by 9%. **Strong demand from the electronics industry, the automotive industry, and from most parts of the general industry** yielded an 11% year-over-year growth of unit installations in 2025.

Despite substantial regional differences, **the global outlook remains positive**. Installations are forecast to rise by 9% to 655,000 units in 2026 and to reach 806,000 units in 2029, corresponding to average annual growth of 7% from 2026 to 2029. **There is no indication that the overall long-term growth trend will come to an end any time soon.**

The global **operational stock** of industrial robots grew by 9% to **5,079,078 units in 2025**. It is expected to grow by 7% on average each year from 2026 to 2029. After breaking the five-million-unit mark in 2025, the operational stock of industrial robots will exceed six million units in 2028.

In 2025, the **market value** increased by 11% to **US$18.6bn**.

Growth in Asia and in the Americas, contraction in Europe

Robot demand in **Asia is booming**: In 2025, **457,315 units** were installed, **up 14%** year-over-year. 76% of all newly deployed robots were installed in Asia, up 2 percentage points from 2024. Three of the top five markets for industrial robots are in Asia: **China is the growth driver and by far the largest market with 354,226 units (+20%)** installed in 2025. The share of domestic suppliers was around 30% from 2019 to 2021 and began to accelerate steeply in 2022. Since 2024, **more than half of the Chinese installations are from Chinese brands**.

The second largest market, **Europe**, experienced a **weak** year with a **14% contraction** of robot demand down to **73,054 units** in 2025. Robot demand in this region also benefited from the nearshoring trend but recently suffered from **weak demand by the automotive industry**.

In **the Americas**, installations were **up by 14%** to a **new record level of 57,044 units**. The **United States** is the largest American market and accounted for 67% (-1 pp) of the installations (38,428 units; +12%) in 2025.

Installations and stock of industrial robots from 2020–2025 by customer industries

For many years, the automotive industry's pattern of purchasing robots largely determined the overall investment pattern in robot installations. This has changed on a global scale and at least in some Asian countries (China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea), where the electrical/electronics industry has become the largest customer industry.

The latest switch took place in 2024, when the **electrical/electronics** industry reclaimed the lead that it maintained in 2025. **Installations were up 10% to 142,235 units**. **The automotive industry** remained the second largest customer of industrial robots in 2025, just around 3,800 units shy of the electronics industry. Demand was **up 10% to a new peak level of 138,429 units**. The **metal and machinery industry** established itself as the third largest customer industry and accounted for 18% (+2 pp) of all installations in 2025. In 2025, installations were **up 22% to a new peak level of 108,571 units**.

Regionalization and market access

Geopolitical tensions, tariffs, non-tariff barriers, industrial policies, and supply chain risks are encouraging manufacturers to diversify production and **establish capacity closer to their main markets**. This does not necessarily increase global robot demand, but it changes where investment takes place. For robot suppliers, regionalization increases the importance of local production, engineering, system integration, and service and support infrastructure. Where **protectionist policies** are in place, market access will increasingly depend on local supply chains, local presence, and compliance with national requirements.

Standardized and modular cells, preconfigured application packages, simpler programming, and faster commissioning can **reduce integration costs** and project risks.

Trends in robot technology

Artificial intelligence is becoming a fundamental **enabling technology** across robotics. Improvements in computing power, data availability, and AI models are expanding both the range and the sophistication of its applications.

The **degree of maturity differs considerably by application**. Machine vision for detection and robot guidance is already established and industry-grade. Predictive maintenance, process optimization and AI-based inspection are also increasingly used

in industry. General-purpose Physical AI systems and learning from simulation and experience, are not yet industry-grade.

Most humanoids remain prototypes or pilot-stage technologies rather than industrial-grade products. At the current stage of technology, industrial robots are economically superior for industrial production tasks. Humanoids may eventually complement these systems in selected applications, but widespread industrial deployment will depend on substantial improvements in reliability, safety, operating time, and economic viability.