

# Material Handling Cobots Market 2017 Global Analysis

## Material Handling Cobots Market 2017: A Global Analysis

The year 2017 marked a significant turning point in the adoption of collaborative robots (cobots) across various industries. This article delves into the **material handling cobots market 2017 global analysis**, examining its growth drivers, key players, applications, and challenges. We'll explore the burgeoning sector of collaborative robotics specifically dedicated to tasks like picking, packing, and palletizing, highlighting the technological advancements and market trends that shaped this crucial year. Understanding this period provides valuable context for the explosive growth witnessed in subsequent years. Key aspects like **cobots in logistics**, **collaborative robot applications**, and **industrial automation with cobots** will be discussed in detail.

### Introduction: The Rise of Collaborative Robots in Material Handling

The material handling industry, traditionally reliant on heavy machinery and manual labor, experienced a significant shift in 2017 with the increasing adoption of collaborative robots. Cobots, unlike their industrial robot counterparts, are designed to work safely alongside human workers, sharing workspace and tasks. This collaborative nature made them particularly appealing for material handling applications where flexibility and human-robot interaction were crucial. 2017 saw a significant increase in the deployment of cobots for tasks such as:

- **Picking and placing:** Cobots proved efficient in picking items from conveyor belts or shelves and placing them in designated locations.
- **Palletizing and depalletizing:** Repetitive and physically demanding tasks like palletizing were automated, improving efficiency and reducing workplace injuries.
- **Machine tending:** Cobots assisted in loading and unloading machines, optimizing production lines.
- **Packaging and assembly:** Cobots handled delicate items and assisted in assembly processes, improving precision and speed.

## Benefits of Cobots in Material Handling (2017 and Beyond)

The benefits of integrating cobots into material handling operations in 2017 were immediately apparent and drove market growth. These included:

- **Increased Productivity and Efficiency:** Cobots tirelessly perform repetitive tasks, freeing up human workers for more complex and value-added activities. This translates to higher overall output and reduced production time.
- **Improved Safety:** The collaborative nature of cobots minimized the risk of workplace accidents associated with heavy machinery. Their inherent safety features and collaborative design prevented injuries and created a safer working environment.
- **Reduced Labor Costs:** While initial investment might seem high, the long-term reduction in labor costs and increased productivity quickly provided a return on investment.
- **Enhanced Flexibility and Adaptability:** Cobots can be easily reprogrammed and redeployed for different tasks, making them ideal for dynamic manufacturing environments and adapting to changing production needs.
- **Improved Product Quality:** The precision and consistency of cobot movements translated to improved product quality and reduced errors, particularly in tasks requiring high accuracy.

## Key Players and Market Segmentation in 2017

The **material handling cobots market 2017 global analysis** revealed a diverse landscape of players, each catering to specific market segments. While precise market share data for 2017 is often difficult to obtain without proprietary research reports, key players included established robotics companies like Universal Robots, KUKA, and Fanuc, alongside emerging companies specializing in cobot solutions for material handling. Market segmentation was primarily driven by:

- **Payload Capacity:** Cobots were available in various payload capacities, influencing their suitability for different applications. Heavier payloads were needed for palletizing large items, while lighter payloads sufficed for delicate assembly tasks.
- **Reach and Working Range:** The reach and working range of the cobot determined its suitability for different workspace configurations.
- **Industry Verticals:** Different industries, such as e-commerce, food and beverage, and automotive, had specific material handling needs, leading to tailored cobot solutions.

## Challenges and Future Implications of Material Handling Cobots (Post-2017)

Despite the rapid growth, the material handling cobots market in 2017 also faced challenges:

- **High Initial Investment:** The cost of purchasing and implementing cobots remained a barrier for some smaller businesses.
- **Integration Complexity:** Integrating cobots into existing workflows could be complex and require specialized expertise.
- **Lack of Skilled Workforce:** The need for skilled technicians to program and maintain cobots created a demand for training and education.

However, the overall trajectory was positive. The successes seen in 2017 laid the groundwork for the significant expansion of the material handling cobot market in subsequent years. Technological advancements, falling prices, and growing awareness of the benefits fueled this growth.

## Conclusion

The **material handling cobots market 2017 global analysis** paints a picture of a rapidly evolving sector poised for significant growth. While challenges remained, the benefits of increased productivity, improved safety, and reduced costs drove widespread adoption. The year 2017 stands as a pivotal moment, demonstrating the potential of collaborative robots to revolutionize material handling processes across diverse industries. The ongoing advancements in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and sensor technology promise even more sophisticated and integrated solutions in the years to come, further accelerating market expansion.

## FAQ

### **Q1: What were the biggest advancements in cobot technology specific to material handling in 2017?**

A1: While specific details require access to 2017 technology releases from individual manufacturers, advancements likely centered around improving payload capacity, reach, and end-effector versatility for diverse applications. Improved force sensing and safety mechanisms were also key, allowing closer human-robot collaboration.

### **Q2: How did the rise of e-commerce impact the material handling cobot market in 2017?**

A2: The burgeoning e-commerce sector dramatically increased the demand for efficient and automated order fulfillment. This fueled the demand for cobots in

warehouse operations, particularly for picking, packing, and sorting.

**Q3: What were the main ROI considerations for businesses adopting material handling cobots in 2017?**

A3: ROI calculations needed to factor in the initial investment cost, labor cost savings (considering both reduced staffing and increased productivity), potential improvements in product quality, and reduced waste. The lifecycle costs of maintenance and potential downtime also needed careful consideration.

**Q4: What were the biggest safety concerns regarding cobot deployment in material handling in 2017?**

A4: While inherently safer than traditional industrial robots, concerns existed regarding proper safety protocols and integration. Issues included the potential for unexpected behavior, proper training for human-robot interaction, and ensuring safe operation around human workers.

**Q5: What role did government regulations and incentives play in the 2017 material handling cobot market?**

A5: Government policies varied globally. Some regions provided incentives for automation and adoption of robotics, which positively impacted market growth. Others had regulatory frameworks impacting the deployment and safety standards for cobots, potentially influencing market adoption rates.

**Q6: How did the collaborative aspect of cobots affect their integration into existing workflows in 2017?**

A6: The collaborative design minimized the need for extensive workplace reconfiguration, allowing for easier integration into existing workflows. This was a crucial factor contributing to the speed of adoption. However, careful planning and training were still essential for optimal integration.

**Q7: What were the primary limitations of material handling cobots in 2017?**

A7: Limitations included the payload capacity of available cobots, which restricted their use for heavier items. Programming complexity could also be a barrier for some users, and the need for skilled personnel to handle maintenance and programming remained a challenge.

**Q8: How did the 2017 market analysis inform the development of material handling cobots in subsequent years?**

A8: The analysis of 2017 market trends and challenges guided manufacturers in developing cobots with improved payload capacity, enhanced ease of programming, improved safety features, and a wider range of end-effectors to

address specific industry needs. This data-driven approach accelerated the innovation and evolution of the technology.

### Material Handling Cobots Market 2017 Global Analysis: A Retrospective

The year 2017 represented a pivotal moment in the development of the collaborative robot (cobot) market, particularly within the realm of material processing. This examination delves into the international landscape of material handling cobots in 2017, examining the principal influences of growth, obstacles, and the nascent trends that defined the sector.

Understanding this time provides valuable insights for contemporary market actors and potential investors.

The rising demand for automation across various industries driven the growth of the material handling cobots market in 2017. Production facilities, logistics hubs, and online retail delivery nodes were among the chief adopters of these versatile and safe robotic systems. The ability of cobots to operate jointly with labor personnel, without the necessity for elaborate safety procedures, demonstrated to be a significant benefit.

One of the key drivers was the declining price of cobots. As technology developed, the manufacture costs dropped, making them significantly affordable to a broader range of businesses. This boosted approachability significantly impacted market adoption. Additionally, the ease of setting up and integration of cobots minimized the hindrance to access for smaller-sized enterprises that earlier lacked the means for large-scale mechanization.

However, the market also experienced several obstacles in 2017. The relatively recent nature of the engineering meant that understanding among prospective users was restricted. This lack of understanding obstructed integration. Another difficulty was the necessity for skilled personnel to code and service the cobots. A deficit of qualified technicians could possibly restrict the pace of market development.

Looking at specific uses, the most demand in 2017 was for cobots in choosing and placing operations. This indicates the substantial potential for cobots in optimizing distribution processes. Other significant functions included stacking, machine managing, and manufacturing.

The 2017 global material handling cobots market exhibited considerable opportunity but also highlighted the hurdles linked with the adoption of emerging developments. The falling expense, increased accessibility, and increasing understanding both contributed to the market's expansion. Nonetheless, the requirement for skilled workforce and the challenges linked with integration continued as considerable obstacles. Future growth will hinge on addressing these problems.

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**Q1: What were the main geographical markets for material handling cobots in 2017?**

**A1:** North America and Europe dominated the market in 2017, driven by high robotization adoption rates and a strong manufacturing base. Asia-Pacific also showed substantial expansion, especially in countries like China and Japan.

**Q2: What were the major players in the material handling cobots market in 2017?**

**A2:** Numerous established robotics companies, along with new players, competed in the market. Key companies included numerous multinational enterprises known for their mechatronics skills.

**Q3: How did the progress of sensor technologies affect material handling cobots in 2017?**

**A3:** Improvements in perception systems, such as vision systems and force sensors, enhanced the functions of cobots, allowing them to perform greater intricate tasks with higher accuracy and protection.

**Q4: What were the major challenges to extensive implementation of material handling cobots in 2017?**

**A4:** The substantial upfront expense required for obtaining and installing cobots and the scarcity of skilled personnel competent of programming and repairing them presented significant hurdles to widespread implementation.

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