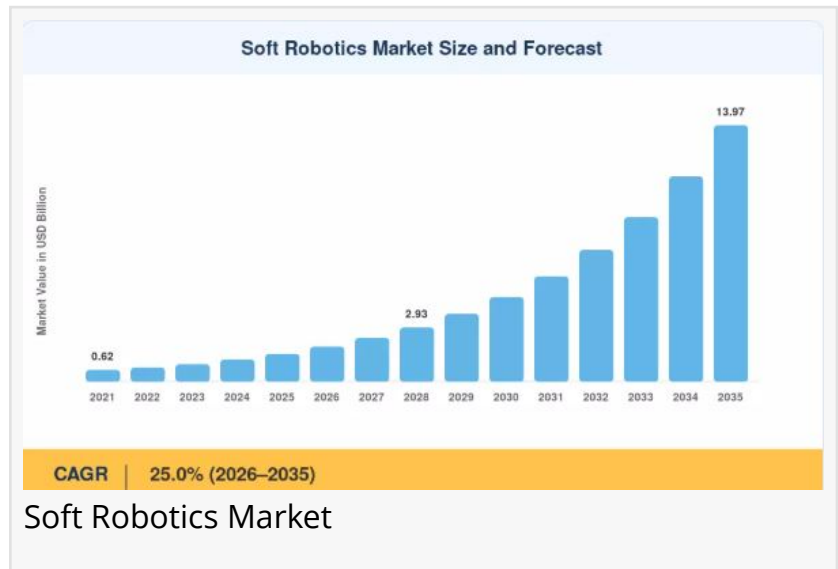


Soft Robotics Market Demand Fuels Growth from USD 1.88 Billion in 2026 to USD 13.97 Billion by 2035

Soft Robotics Market Size, Share and Research Report By Type (Soft Grippers, Co-Robots, Inflated Robots, Wearable Robots, Edible Robots)

NEW YORK,, NY, UNITED STATES, August 11, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Global [soft robotics market](#) reached an estimated USD 1.50 billion in 2025 and is projected to grow from USD 1.88 billion in 2026 to USD 13.97 billion by 2035, registering a CAGR of 25.0% during the forecast period. Two major catalysts are accelerating this trajectory: structural labor shortages across food processing and logistics, with the U.S. recording a 23% vacancy rate in food processing plant roles in 2024, and mounting regulatory and clinical demand for safer human-robot collaboration, backed by more than USD 1.2 billion in combined U.S.



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Soft Robotics Market: The Soft Robotics Market is advancing through flexible, adaptive robotic systems designed for safer and more precise automation across diverse industries.”

*Market Research Future
(MRFR)*

National Robotics Initiative and EU Horizon Europe funding committed through 2028. With soft robotics companies attracting over USD 480 million in venture capital in 2024 alone, up 62% year over year, manufacturers and integrators face mounting pressure to differentiate through material durability, control-system sophistication, and application-specific certification.

Legacy rigid-link industrial robots, which damage an estimated 5–8% of delicate goods during handling, are steadily giving way to compliant, deformable architectures

that mimic biological tissue and adapt safely to irregular objects and human contact. Pneumatic soft actuators built on food-grade silicone remain the dominant technology, while electroactive

polymer systems are emerging as the fastest-growing segment on the strength of wearable rehabilitation demand. This technology shift is not incremental it represents a structural re-platforming of how manufacturers, hospitals, and logistics operators approach delicate handling and human-safe automation.

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□ How Significant Is the Soft Robotics Market's Growth?

The soft robotics market has demonstrated consistent and robust expansion, with the base year valuation of USD 1.50 billion in 2025 expected to grow more than ninefold over the next decade, driven by rising labor costs, structural workforce shortages, expanding minimally invasive surgical robotics adoption, and growing government research funding across North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific.

Surging demand for soft grippers capable of handling irregularly shaped goods has created acute demand across e-commerce fulfillment, food and beverage processing, and healthcare. Simultaneously, government robotics roadmaps in China, Japan, and the European Union are accelerating commercialization beyond laboratory prototypes. Hospitals, agricultural operators, defense agencies, and research institutions are all investing heavily in soft robotic systems to modernize handling, rehabilitation, and exploration capabilities.

□ What Does the Future Hold for the Soft Robotics Market?

[Artificial intelligence](#) and adaptive control stand at the forefront of the market's next growth phase. The convergence of deep reinforcement learning and real-time tactile sensing is transforming soft robots from pre-programmed tools into adaptive agents capable of learning grasp strategies on the fly. Simulation platforms supporting soft-body physics modeling are providing the foundational environments needed to advance [machine-learning](#) controllers, reducing deployment engineering overhead and expanding the market's addressable base beyond current early adopters.

The growing convergence of soft robotics with material science breakthroughs is another defining force shaping the market's future. Self-healing elastomers, liquid crystal elastomers with programmable shape memory, and 3D-printed multi-material actuators are progressing from laboratory demonstrations toward pilot production, promising to extend service life and improve total cost of ownership. Open-source frameworks within the ROS and ROS 2 ecosystem are simultaneously lowering integration costs and accelerating the shift from bespoke engineering projects to plug-and-play automation.

Sustainability and circular-economy mandates are expected to further reshape the category through the early 2030s, as mandatory Scope 3 emissions reporting under frameworks such as

the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive pushes industrial operators toward lightweight, energy-efficient automation systems that reduce operational carbon intensity.

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□ Who Are the Key Players in the Soft Robotics Market?

The soft robotics landscape is characterized by a mix of specialist pure-play startups, bio-inspired research powerhouses, and established robot OEMs forming strategic alliances. Key participants shaping the competitive dynamics include:

Soft Robotics Inc. — the food-focused pure-play leader behind the mGrip modular gripper platform built for protein and dairy handling

Festo SE & Co. KG — a bio-inspired R&D powerhouse advancing the BionicSoftHand and DHEF adaptive gripper for safe human-robot collaboration

RightHand Robotics — an e-commerce fulfillment specialist behind the RightPick autonomous piece-picking platform

Ekso Bionics — focused on medical wearables through its EksoNR neurorehabilitation exoskeleton

Empire Robotics — targeting industrial versatility with its VERSABALL jamming gripper technology

Myomo Inc. — specializing in upper-limb rehabilitation through its MyoPro powered orthosis

Bioservo Technologies — serving occupational health with its Carbonhand and Ironhand assistive gloves

qbrobotics — supplying academic and research platforms through its qbSoftHand variable stiffness actuators

Robotiq — a cobot integration specialist known for its adaptive 2F and 3F gripper lines

Universal Robots (Teradyne) — acting as a platform ecosystem enabler through its UR cobot lineup fitted with soft end-effectors

Competition in the market is intensifying as manufacturers race to differentiate through modular gripper platforms, cycle-life warranties, sensor-integrated control systems, and strategic alliances between soft robotics pure-plays and established industrial automation conglomerates such as

ABB, Fanuc, and Universal Robots.

□ What Are the Emerging Trends in the Soft Robotics Market?

Several transformational trends are redefining how the soft robotics market evolves through 2035:

Labor Shortages Accelerating Adoption in Food Handling: Structural vacancy rates in food processing roles are pushing operators toward soft grippers that handle delicate products without bruising, cutting product waste by an estimated 6–9% in pilot deployments.

Surgical Robotics Creating Premium Demand: Soft catheter and endoscope devices are commanding average selling prices three to four times higher than rigid equivalents, supported by shorter patient recovery times and strengthening reimbursement cases.

Government Funding as a Catalyst: Public commitments from the U.S. National Science Foundation, the EU's Horizon Europe program, and China's national robotics roadmap are de-risking private capital and compressing commercialization timelines.

E-Commerce Fulfillment Volume Surge: Global e-commerce parcel volume surpassing 220 billion units in 2024 is pushing warehouse operators toward soft grippers capable of handling irregularly shaped pouches, bags, and flexible packaging that rigid vacuum systems frequently drop.

Soft Robotics as a Service (SRaaS): Subscription-based deployment models are converting capital-intensive hardware purchases into recurring-revenue relationships, already accounting for an estimated 12% of new installations in North America.

Wearable Rehabilitation and Assistive Devices: Soft pneumatic gloves for post-stroke hand therapy have achieved clinical validation at leading research hospitals, with reimbursement codes now established across the U.S., Germany, and Japan.

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□ How Is the Soft Robotics Market Segmented?

The soft robotics market report provides a comprehensive segmentation framework:

- 1 By Type: Soft Grippers, Co-Robots, Inflated Robots, Wearable Robots, Edible Robots, Others
- 2 By Technology: Pneumatic Soft Actuators, Cable-Driven Mechanisms, Electroactive Polymers, Shape Memory Alloys, Hydraulic Soft Actuators
- 3 By Application: Medical and Healthcare, Food and Beverages, Logistics, Entertainment & Gaming, Automotive, Survey & Exploration, Others

4 By End User: Manufacturing Enterprises, Healthcare Providers, Research Institutions, Government & Defense

□ What Are the Regional Insights from the Soft Robotics Market?

North America commands approximately 38% of global soft robotics market share, underpinned by early adoption in e-commerce fulfillment and FDA-cleared medical devices. The United States alone accounts for roughly 82% of regional revenue, driven by a world-leading venture funding ecosystem and dense university robotics labs, while Canada's federal automation fund supports robotic harvesting pilots and Mexico draws first-wave soft gripper deployments as a nearshore food processing hub.

Europe holds the second-largest share at approximately 27%, with Germany accounting for roughly 34% of regional revenue through its Industrie 4.0 ecosystem and Fraunhofer Institute research network. The United Kingdom's National Health Service has invested heavily in robotic-assisted surgery infrastructure, while France's agriculture ministry has dedicated funding to automated fruit and vegetable handling.

Asia-Pacific is the fastest-growing major region at a 28.5% CAGR, propelled by China's classification of soft robotics as a strategic emerging technology, Japan's Society 5.0 agenda targeting soft wearable robots for elder care, and South Korea's semiconductor and electronics handling demand. Australia's agricultural export automation is further reinforcing regional momentum.

South America is anchored by Brazil, where leading protein processors have launched soft gripper pilot programs targeting reduced trimming waste, supported by preferential financing rates that shorten payback periods for entry-level systems to under 18 months.

Middle East & Africa rounds out the global picture, with the UAE's national food security strategy mandating expanded domestic food processing capacity and Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 industrial diversification program earmarking significant funding for advanced manufacturing technologies, including soft robotics.

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