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In 2001, Spain had the third highest level of robot investment in Europe, behind Germany and Italy

Spectacular growth in robot investment

Between 1994 and 1999, sales of industrial robots in Spain surged continuously, recording an annual average increase of over 30%. By 2000, sales had reached 2,941 units (see figure 1). In 2001, sales soared by another 22%, reaching a record level of 3,584 units, just above that of France but 85% higher than in the United Kingdom.

At the end of 2001, total accumulated yearly sales of industrial robots reached about 18,100 units. Of these it is estimated that some 16,400 units were still in operational use, up 24% from the 2000 stock.

The robot density in Spain almost at the same level as in France...

For every 10,000 persons employed in the Spanish manufacturing industry at the end of 2001, there were 62 industrial robots, which puts Spain almost at the same level as France (see figure 2). The increase in Spain has been spectacular considering that there were only 8 robots per 10,000 employees in 1990. The Spanish robot density is about 80% higher than in the United Kingdom. In the Spanish motor vehicle industry there are as many as 670 robots per 10,000 production workers.

Welding and plastic moulding are the major application areas

Welding is the predominant application area in Spain. At the end of 2001, it accounted for as much as 54% of the operational robot stock, a figure which has been slowly falling from some 64% in the early 1980s.

The second largest application area was plastic moulding with just below 8% of the stock, followed by machining, also with just below 8%.

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The motor vehicle industry is by far the largest user

The motor vehicle industry is the predominant robot user in Spain, accounting for as much as 68% of the 2001 total operational stock. The second largest user branch was the chemical industry, which made up just below 9% of the stock. The fabricated metal products industry accounted for about 5% of the total stock.

For the global development of industrial robots and service robots, see a parallel press release (ECE/STAT/02/01) issued on the same day as the present one.

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Figure 1. Estimated operational stock of robots at year-end in Spain and shipments during the year

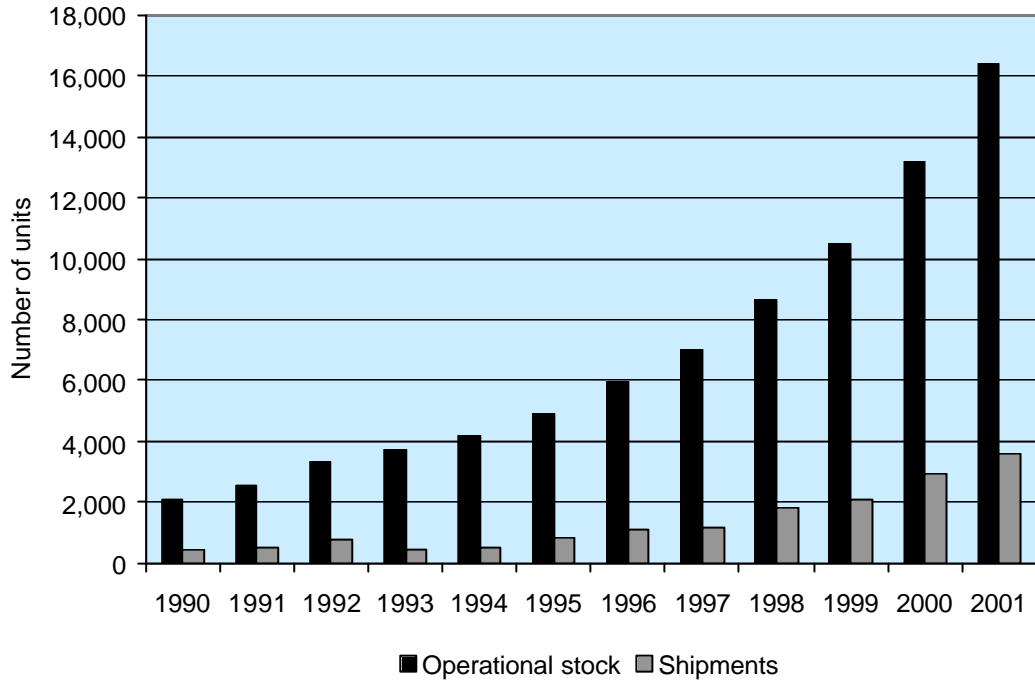
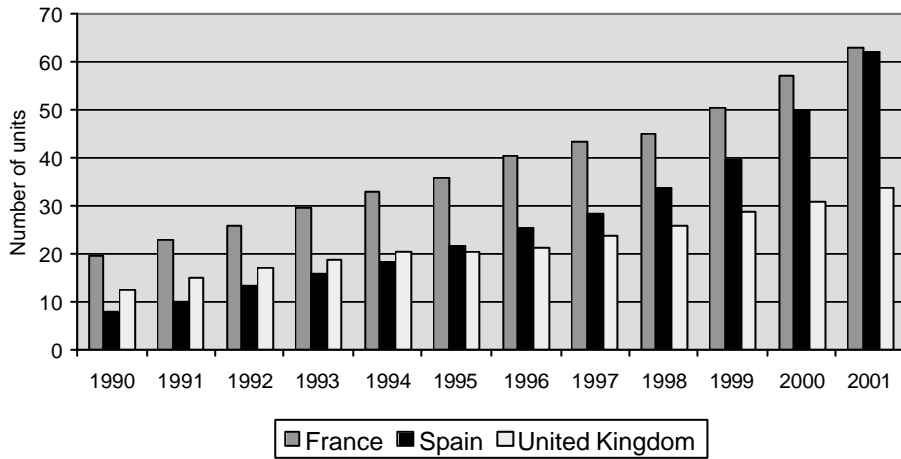
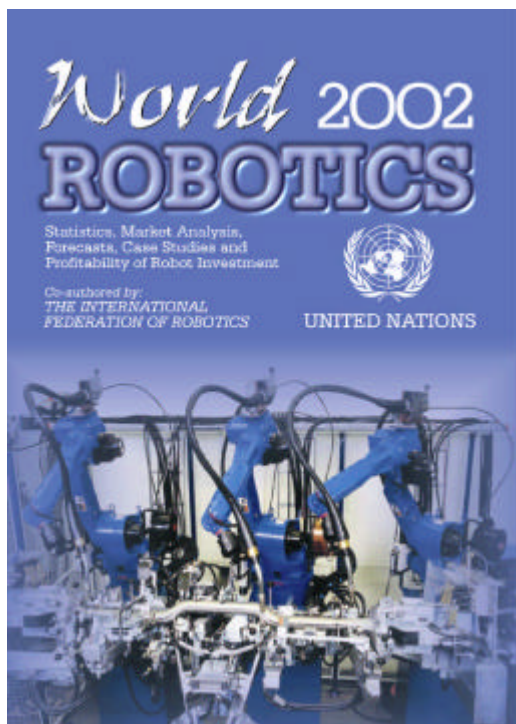


Figure 2. Number of multipurpose industrial robots per 10,000 employees in the manufacturing industry (ISIC rev.3: D)



The publication **World Robotics 2002 - Statistics, Market Analysis, Forecasts, Case Studies and Profitability of Robot Investment** is available, quoting Sales No. GV.E.02.0.8 or ISBN No. 92-1-101047-0, through the usual United Nations sales agents in various countries or from the United Nations Office at Geneva (see address below), priced at US\$ 120:



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