

Autonomous Forklift Market Size & Share Analysis - Growth Trends and Forecast (2026 - 2031)

> **Industry:** Autonomous Driving, ADAS & Safety (Automotive & Transportation)

> **Source:** <https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/autonomous-forklift-market>

> **Scraped Date:** 2026-09-17

Executive Market Summary

Market Metric	Details
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Base Market Size	USD 3.21 billion
Projected Forecast (2031)	USD 3.21 billion
Growth Rate (CAGR)	12.23 %
Largest Market Region	N/A
Fastest-Growing Region	N/A

Market Visualizations & Infographics

![Major players in Autonomous Forklift industry](images/chart_2.png)

![Autonomous Forklift Market Size](images/chart_3.png)

![Autonomous Forklift Market Share by Tonnage Capacity, 2025](images/chart_4.png)

![Autonomous Forklift Market Share by Forklift Type, 2025](images/chart_5.png)

![Autonomous Forklift Market Growth Rate by Region](images/chart_6.png)

![Autonomous Forklift Market Concentration](images/chart_7.png)

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![ESOMAR](images/chart_17.png)

![GPTW](images/chart_19.png)

Comprehensive Research Analysis

Overview Points List Flex 49 Share Feature End

Market OverviewStudy Period | 2020 - 2031 |

Market Size (2026) | USD 3.21 Billion |

Market Size (2031) | USD 5.72 Billion |

Growth Rate (2026 - 2031) | 12.23 % |

Fastest Growing Market | South America |

Largest Market | Asia Pacific |

Market Concentration | Medium |

Major Players*Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order

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Market Overview

Autonomous Forklift Market Analysis by Mordor Intelligence
The Autonomous Forklift Market size was valued at USD 2.86 billion in 2025 and estimated to grow from USD 3.21 billion in 2026 to reach USD 5.72 billion by 2031, at a CAGR of 12.23% during the forecast period (2026-2031).

Strong growth reflects tightening labor availability, rapid e-commerce fulfillment needs, and steady improvements in navigation, sensing, and fleet-coordination software. Electric powertrains dominate shipments as corporations pursue decarbonization commitments, while emerging private 5G networks enable real-time fleet optimization across large campuses. Rising capital-expenditure tax incentives in North America and Europe shorten payback periods, and documented productivity gains ranging from 25% to 100% continue to validate the automation business case. Asia-Pacific remains the demand anchor thanks to cold-chain modernization programs and acute driver shortages, whereas South America leads growth on the back of logistics infrastructure upgrades and favourable macroeconomic reforms.

Key Report Takeaways* By tonnage capacity, the 5 tons segment commanded 41.15% market share in 2025, while the above 10 tons segment exhibits the fastest growth at 18.10% CAGR through 2031.

* By navigation technology, laser guidance retained 38.10% share of the autonomous forklift market size in 2025, with SLAM/hybrid systems advancing at a 20.94% CAGR between 2026-2031.

* By application, logistics and warehousing commanded 49.05% of the autonomous forklift market share in 2025; cold-storage handling is forecast to post a 18.92% CAGR through 2031.

* By propulsion type, electric systems held 71.40% of the autonomous forklift market size in 2025, while hydrogen fuel cells are projected to grow at a 23.65% CAGR to 2031.

* By forklift type, pallet trucks held 36.20% of the autonomous forklift market share in 2025; very-narrow-aisle trucks are projected to expand at a 21.80% CAGR through 2031.

* By end-user industry, retail and e-commerce led 32.30% of the autonomous forklift market share in 2025, while pharmaceuticals is the fastest-growing segment at a 17.35% CAGR.

* By geography, Asia-Pacific led with 45.40% of the autonomous forklift market share in 2025; South America is expected to register the fastest 15.50% CAGR to 2031.

Key Market Trends

Market Trends and Insights
Drivers Impact Analysis of Autonomous Forklift Market*
Driver | (~) % Impact on CAGR Forecast | Geographic Relevance | Impact Timeline

Labor Shortages and Rising Warehouse Wages | +3.2% | Global, acute in North America and Japan | Short term (≤ 2 years) |

E-Commerce Fulfillment Boom | +2.8% | Global, concentrated in Asia-Pacific and North America | Medium term (2-4 years) |

Cap-Ex Tax Incentives Accelerating ROI | +2.1% | North America and Europe | Short term (≤ 2 years) |

Advancements In Lidar / SLAM Sensors | +1.9% | Global | Medium term (2-4 years) |

Corporate ESG Push Toward Electric Fleets | +1.6% | Global, led by Europe and North America | Long term (≥ 4 years) |

Private 5G-Enabled Fleet Coordination | +0.9% | Asia-Pacific core, spill-over to North America | Long term (≥ 4 years) |

Competitive Landscape

Competitive Landscape

The market is moderately concentrated. Robotics specialists like Fox Robotics and Third Wave Automation increasingly partner with heavyweights to embed AI autonomy into established dealer networks. Toyota's growth fund recently injected USD 27 million into Third Wave Automation, highlighting the convergence of legacy OEM scale and global startup software expertise[2]Toyota Motor Corporation, "Toyota Group to Accelerate Collaboration Towards Transforming into a Mobility Company Through Privatization of Toyota Industries Corporation," global.toyota. Meanwhile, KION is co-developing weather-resistant autonomous trucks for outdoor yards, targeting white-space applications underserved by indoor-only vehicles.

Fleet-management software is emerging as the new battleground, with vendor-agnostic platforms reducing lock-in risks and shifting competitive advantage from mechanical engineering to data analytics. Strategic acquisitions and joint ventures dominate headline activity, signaling recognition that hardware alone no longer assures leadership.

Autonomous Forklift Industry Leaders* Toyota Industries Corporation

* Jungheinrich AG

* Hyster-Yale Group, Inc.

* Mitsubishi Logisnext Co. Ltd

* KION Group AG

* *Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order

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Component Component 3 Scope Of The Report Bottom

Global Autonomous Forklift Market Report ScopeAn autonomous forklift is a type of automated guided vehicle (AGV) that can carry loads along the floor of a facility without a driver onboard. The scope of the report considers pallet trucks/movers/jacks, pallet stackers, and forked automated guided vehicles, which are autonomously operated without manual intervention.

The autonomous forklift market is segmented by tonnage capacity, navigation technology, application, propulsion type, type, and geography. By tonnage capacity, the market is segmented into below 5 tons, 5-10 tons, and above 10 tons. By navigation technology, the market is segmented into laser guidance, vision guidance, optical tape guidance, magnetic guidance, inductive guidance, and others (simultaneous localization and mapping, etc.). By application, the market is segmented into logistics and warehousing, manufacturing, material handling, and others (retail, etc.). By propulsion type, the market is segmented into electric, diesel, and others (LPG, CNG, etc.). By type, the market is segmented into pallet trucks/movers/jacks, pallet stackers, and others (forked AGV, etc.). By geography, the market is segmented into North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and Rest of the World.

The report offers market size and forecasts for autonomous forklifts in value (USD) for all the above segments.

By Tonnage CapacityBelow 5 Tons |

5-10 Tons |

Above 10 Tons |

Segmentation Accordion Item

By GeographyNorth America | United States |
| Canada |
| Rest of North America |
South America | Brazil |
| Argentina |
| Rest of South America |
Europe | Germany |
| United Kingdom |
| France |
| Italy |
| Spain |
| Netherlands |
| Rest of Europe |
Asia-Pacific | China |
| Japan |
| India |
| South Korea |
| Rest of Asia-Pacific |
Middle East and Africa | United Arab Emirates |
| Saudi Arabia |
| South Africa |
| Egypt |
| Rest of Middle East and Africa |

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the current value of the autonomous forklift market?

The global autonomous forklift market stands at USD 3.21 billion in 2026 with a forecast to reach USD 5.72 billion by 2031 at a 12.23% CAGR.

Which region holds the largest share of autonomous forklift deployments?

Asia-Pacific leads with 45.40% of global revenue, driven by Chinese logistics build-out and Japanese labor shortages.

Which application segment is growing the fastest?

Cold-storage handling is expanding at a 18.92% CAGR due to rising pharmaceutical and food-safety requirements.

Why are hydrogen fuel cell forklifts gaining attention?

Hydrogen models can refuel in minutes, making them attractive for multi-shift operations and supporting a 23.65% CAGR through 2031.

What are the main barriers to wider adoption?

High upfront costs and evolving safety certification frameworks remain the principal obstacles, particularly for small and medium enterprises.