

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

> ****Industry:**** Drones, UAVs & Urban Air Mobility (Aerospace & Defense)

> ****Source:**** [<https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/drones-market>]

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

Executive Market Summary

Market Metric	Details
:---	:---
Base Market Size	USD 9.29 billion
Projected Forecast (2031)	USD 9.29 billion
Growth Rate (CAGR)	9.34 %
Largest Market Region	N/A
Fastest-Growing Region	N/A

Market Visualizations & Infographics

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

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

![Drones Market Share by Application, 2025](images/chart_4.png)

![Drones Market Share by Weight Class, 2025](images/chart_5.png)

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

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

![footer background image](images/chart_10.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 Overview

Study Period

|

2019 - 2031
|

Market Size (2026)
|

USD 9.29 Billion
|

Market Size (2031)
|

USD 14.52 Billion
|

Growth Rate (2026 - 2031)
|

9.34 %
|

Fastest Growing Market
|

Asia Pacific
|

Largest Market
|

North America

|

Market Concentration
|

Medium
|

Major Players

*Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order

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Market Overview

Drones Market Analysis by Mordor Intelligence

The drones market size is expected to grow from USD 8.44 billion in 2025 to USD 9.29 billion in 2026 and is forecasted to reach USD 14.52 billion by 2031 at 9.34% CAGR over 2026-2031. Regulatory momentum is reshaping commercialization, with the US FAA's Beyond Visual Line of Sight framework moving from waivers to standardized operations, shifting thousands of previously waived flights into rout

ine operations for enterprise operators. Europe is codifying interoperable low-altitude airspace through U-space, which lays the structural foundation for networked autonomous operations and cross-border services that many other regions have not yet harmonized. Autonomy and airworthiness are advancing in parallel, as highlighted by EHang operators receiving Air Operator Certificates from the Civil Aviation Administration of China for pilotless passenger flights, signaling readiness for scaled urban air mobility (UAM) services in select cities. In the US, drone delivery remains limited to a set of Part 135-certificated carriers, though approvals are expanding as regulators refine operational guardrails for routine services at scale. Warehouse and inventory applications have already crossed the proof-of-value threshold for many enterprises, with deployments delivering very high gains in both throughput and accuracy, supporting sustained adoption in logistics workflows.

Key Report Takeaways

- * By application, other applications led with a 33.23% revenue share in 2025, and agriculture is forecast to expand at a 10.28% CAGR to 2031.
- * By type, rotary-wing platforms held a 70.25% share in 2025, and they are projected to grow at a 9.92% CAGR through 2031.
- * By weight class, nano- and micro-drones under 2 kg captured a 48.50% share in 2025, and are forecast to grow at a 10.13% CAGR through 2031.
- * By mode of operation, remotely piloted systems accounted for 72.50% in 2025, while fully autonomous platforms are projected to grow at a 11.30% CAGR through 2031.
- * By end user, commercial and consumer users accounted for 65.30% in 2025 and are forecast to grow at a 10.41% CAGR through 2031.
- * By geography, North America held a 37.86% share in 2025, while Asia-Pacific is projected to post a 9.88% CAGR to 2031.

Key Market Trends

Market Trends and Insights

Drivers Impact Analysis of Drones Market*

Driver |
(~) % Impact on CAGR Forecast |
Geographic Relevance |
Impact Timeline |

Increasing investment and venture funding in drone startups

|

+ 1.8%
|

Global, with concentration in North America, Asia-Pacific

Short term (≤ 2 years)

Expansion of DIAB and fully autonomous operational models

|

+ 2.1%

North America, Europe core, spillover to Asia-Pacific urban centers

Medium term (2-4 years)

Progressive BVLOS and U-space/UTM regulatory advancements

|

+ 1.9%
|

United States, Europe, early gains in Norway and Germany
|

Medium term (2-4 years)
|

Scaling of precision agriculture and rural drone service networks

|

+ 2.3%
|

Global, particularly China, United States, Brazil, India
|

Short to medium term (≤ 3 years)
|

Integration of drones with enterprise digital-twin and AI ecosystems

|

+ 1.7%
|

North America, Europe, urban Asia-Pacific
|

Medium to long term (3-5 years)

Rapid maturation of battery, hybrid, and fast charging technologies

|

+ 1.4%

Global, with R&D leadership in United States, China, Europe

Long term (≥ 4 years)

Competitive Landscape

Competitive Landscape

Competitive dynamics in the drones market highlight the importance of high-volume commercial segments. In the US and allied markets, public-safety buyers focus on secure data handling and compliant sourcing, favoring vendors with established certifications. The commercial portfolio remains fragmented across sectors such as imaging, inspection, logistics, and agriculture, where price competitiveness and ease of use are critical factors. Autonomy and airworthiness serve as strategic differentiators in civilian applications. Operators obtaining certifications for pilotless passenger flights gain a competitive time-to-market advantage in regulated UAM operations. In Europe, procurement trends favor vendors that comply with privacy and data protection requirements. At the same time, in the United States, delivery operators meeting stringent airworthiness standards continue to expand their market share.

Supply resilience and sourcing controls play a significant role in shaping strategic positioning. OEMs that prioritize secure components and firmware control enhance their standing in jurisdictions with strict public-sector requirements. Enterprise portfolios that integrate airframes, autonomy software, and lifecycle services are improving unit economics as clients transition from pilot projects to full-scale programs. These developments underscore a drones market driven by regulatory compliance, supply chain assurance, and seamless integration into operational workflows.

Drones Industry Leaders

*

SZ DJI Technology Co., Ltd.

*

AeroVironment, Inc.

*

Autel Robotics Co., Ltd.

*

Yuneec (ATL Drone)

*

Parrot Drones SAS

*

*Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order

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Scope Methodology P Space

Our study defines the global drones market as the yearly revenues generated from the sale of unmanned aerial vehicles that are remotely piloted, optionally piloted, or fully autonomous and that weigh less than 600 kg. Values cover hardware platforms across consumer, commercial, and defense use cases and exclude add-on services, software sold separately, payloads fitted after sale, and passenger eVTOL aircraft.

Scope exclusion: Counter-UAS systems and ballistic loitering munitions are outside the study.

Segmentation Container

*

By Application

*

Construction

*

Agriculture

*

Energy

*

Entertainment

*

Law Enforcement

*
Other Applications

*
By Type

*
Fixed-Wing Drones

*
Rotary-Wing Drones

*
Hybrid/VTOL Drones

*
By Weight Class

*
Nano/Micro (Less than 2 kg)

*

Small (2 to 25 kg)

*

Medium (25 to 150 kg)

*

Large (Greater than 150 kg)

*

By Mode of Operation

*

Remotely Piloted

*

Optionally Piloted

*

Fully Autonomous

*
By End User

*
Commercial and Consumer

*
Government and Civil

*
By Geography

*
North America

*
United States

*
Canada

*
Mexico

*
Europe

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United Kingdom

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France

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Germany

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Russia

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Rest of Europe

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Asia-Pacific

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China

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India

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Japan

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South Korea

*
Rest of Asia-Pacific

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South America

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Brazil

*
Rest of South America

*
Middle East and Africa

*
Middle East

*
United Arab Emirates

*
Saudi Arabia

*
Rest of Middle East

*
Africa

*
South Africa

*
Rest of Africa

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the projected size and growth rate of the drones market by 2031?

The drones market size is projected to reach USD 14.52 billion by 2031 at a 9.34 % CAGR, reflecting regulatory normalization of BVLOS operations and broader enterprise adoption.

Which applications are driving the fastest growth within the drones market?

Agriculture is the fastest growing application segment with a projected 10.28% CAGR through 2031, supported by scaled fleets, integrated agronomy software, and higher duty cycles during peak seasons.

How are US and EU regulations shaping commercial drone operations?

The US is moving BVLOS from waivers toward normalized rules and delivery relies on certificated Part 135 carriers, while Europe's U-space harmonizes traffic services across member states to support automated operations.

What is the role of autonomy in the future of the drones market?

Fully autonomous platforms are growing faster than pilot-operated systems, enabled by dock solutions, onboard AI, and traffic services, while near-term deployments still center on human-in-the-loop operations in most jurisdictions.

Which companies exemplify scaling under regulated programs?

The US Army Short-Range Reconnaissance (SRR) and the US Air Force contracts to Skydio and Teal Drones, Inc. highlight defense-grade autonomy at scale, while EHang's operator certificates mark the first commercial pilotless passenger services, both signaling maturity in regulated operations.

Where are drones delivering the clearest ROI in enterprise settings?

Warehouse inventory automation has shown strong improvements in count time and accuracy, and agricultural spraying demonstrates sustained field productivity with integrated autonomy and rapid charging.