

NEWSLETTER

MACHINERY & AUTOMOTIVE

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Retail and production predicted to hit new heights

China Association of Automobile Manufacturers data shows 2025 Jan-Nov auto production/sales hit 31.23/31.13 million units, up 11.9%/11.4% YoY and hitting new highs. Over 11.2 million vehicles got trade-in subsidies. Exports reached 6.34 million units (+18.7% YoY). China Passenger Car Association forecasts 2025 passenger car retail sales at 23.78 million units, a 4% YoY rise. **(China Daily)**

L3 autonomous driving takes to city streets

In 2026, Level 3 autonomous driving debuted in Beijing and Chongqing, with Changan and BAIC Jihu awarded the first market access permits. Launched by multiple departments in 2023, the pilot covers passenger cars, trucks and buses. L3 is conditional automation (system-controlled, human response needed), marking China's autonomous driving shift from tech verification to mass production. **(China Daily)**

New measures of new energy vehicles batteries to eliminate outdated technologies

The China National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) will introduce management measures for the comprehensive utilization of power batteries for new energy vehicles and will intensify restrictions and elimination of outdated technologies and equipment. By 2030, the comprehensive utilization of solid waste will be significantly increased. **(Sina Finance)**

China has become a net exporter of industrial robots

According to data from China Customs, China's 2025 high-tech product exports are projected to rise 13.2% YoY, contributing 2.4 percentage points to total export growth. Specifically, specialized equipment, high-end machine tools and industrial robot exports rose 20.6%, 21.5% and 48.7% respectively. Notably, industrial robot exports surpassed imports last year, making China a net exporter. **(The Beijing News)**

Key areas and hot topics in industry and information technology in 2026

On January 12, 2026, Li Lecheng, Minister of Industry and Information Technology, clarified in a media interview that China's cutting-edge scientific and technological research and industrial development during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030) will focus on key areas such as quantum technology, humanoid robots, brain-computer interfaces, deep-sea and polar research, and 6G. **(Sohu)**