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China's Industrial Output Growth Picks Up in August as high-tech, Robot Output Gains

August 2026 China industrial output +5.2% year-on-year (+0.7% month-on-month); Jan–Aug +5.3%. High-tech manufacturing +16.7%, equipment +12.1%; industrial robots +34.6%, Li-ion batteries +57.2%, 3D printing +29.9%. Manufacturing +6.1%, mining –1.4%, utilities +4.9%. Jan–July major industrial profits 4.58 trillion yuan (+17.6%). PMI 49.8, outlook 53.8; new drivers more than 60% of output growth. **(Xinhua)**

NEV Brands Eye Bright Export Future

Chinese new energy vehicles (NEVs) brands go global via local plants, not just exports: Jan–Aug auto exports 7.153 million (+66.7%), NEVs 3.435 million (+1.20%). Chery revived Spain's Ebro (1,000 jobs), kept 692 in South Africa, BYD Bahia employs 5,500 (86% local, 20,000 jobs target, over 50% local parts by 2027). Zeekr reshaped Malaysia's view; China NEVs cut 1 million barrels of oil demand. **(Xinhua)**

Automation Drives Greener Truck Manufacturing

Dongfeng Motor's D600 intelligent truck factory in Shiyan (opened in January 2026) employs 227 robots and can produce one cab every 87 seconds. The investment exceeds 1.2 billion yuan (\$179 million), with an annual capacity of 260,000 truck bodies, 40% increase in efficiency. Localized parts account for over 50% of the total. Full operation may drive over 50 billion yuan (\$7.47 billion) upstream and downstream output. **(China Daily)**

More than 300 Robots Showcase Real-world Skills at Hangzhou Event

On Sep 20, 2026, Hangzhou hosted an intelligent robot application-skills exhibition with 300+ robots showing real-world skills—assembly, service, and industrial tasks. Event highlights China's robotics scale-up: Jan–Aug industrial robots +34.6%, high-tech manufacturing +16.7%. Zhejiang pushes "robot+ scenario" adoption across factories, elderly care, logistics and retail. **(Global Times)**

2026 Marks the Beginning of Mass Production for Humanoid Robots

2026 is being hailed by industry as the "first year of mass production" for humanoid robots. In the first half of the year, China shipped over 40,000 humanoid robots, accounting for 97% of the global market, and the total annual production is expected to exceed 100,000 units. Morgan Stanley has nearly doubled its 2026 forecast for humanoid robot shipments in China, from 28,000 units to 50,000 units. **(36Kr)**