

COBOT VS. HUMAN LABOR: Side-by-Side Comparison

A quick-reference chart to help you evaluate the true cost and impact of manual labor vs. collaborative robots.

FACTOR	HUMAN WORKER	COBOT
ANNUAL COST (FULLY BURDENED)	\$60,000–\$75,000	\$40,000–\$55,000 (one-time + maintenance)
AVAILABILITY	70–85% (breaks, sick days, PTO)	95–99% uptime
TRAINING TIME	Weeks to months	Hours to days
TURNOVER RISK	High	None
CONSISTENCY	Variable (fatigue, distraction)	High (precise, repeatable)
INJURY RISK	Medium to high (strain, repetitive motion)	Minimal (non-fatiguing)
REWORK/DEFECTS	Increases with fatigue	Decreases with repeatability
SCALING COST	Linear (hire one for one)	Scalable (reassignable task-to-task)
TEAM FEEDBACK	Can burn out or get bored	Frees humans for skilled work
JOB IMPACT	May require retention incentives	Viewed as support, not threat

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- A cobot can typically replace or augment **one full-time repetitive role**—without creating friction or requiring fences.
- ROI is often achieved in **9–12 months**, with years of labor savings to follow.
- Cobots don't eliminate jobs—they **support your team** by handling the work that's hard to hire for or sustain long term.

WANT HELP COMPARING THE COST OF A COBOT VS. YOUR CURRENT LABOR SETUP?

Let's run the numbers together.

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