

# 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<br>(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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