

# RISING INDUSTRIAL ROBOT SALES

By John Kosowatz

## The use of industrial robots around the globe is growing.

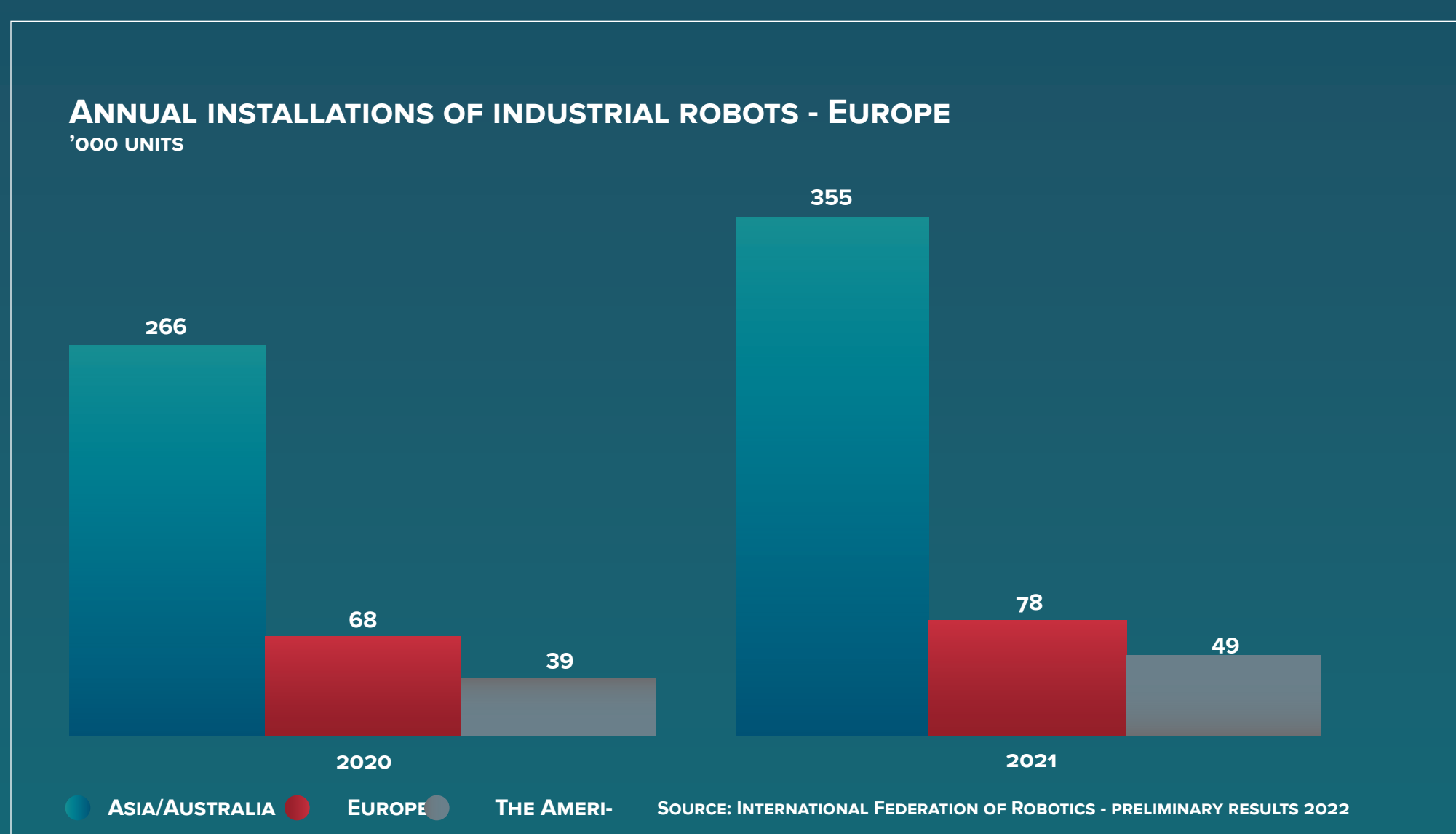
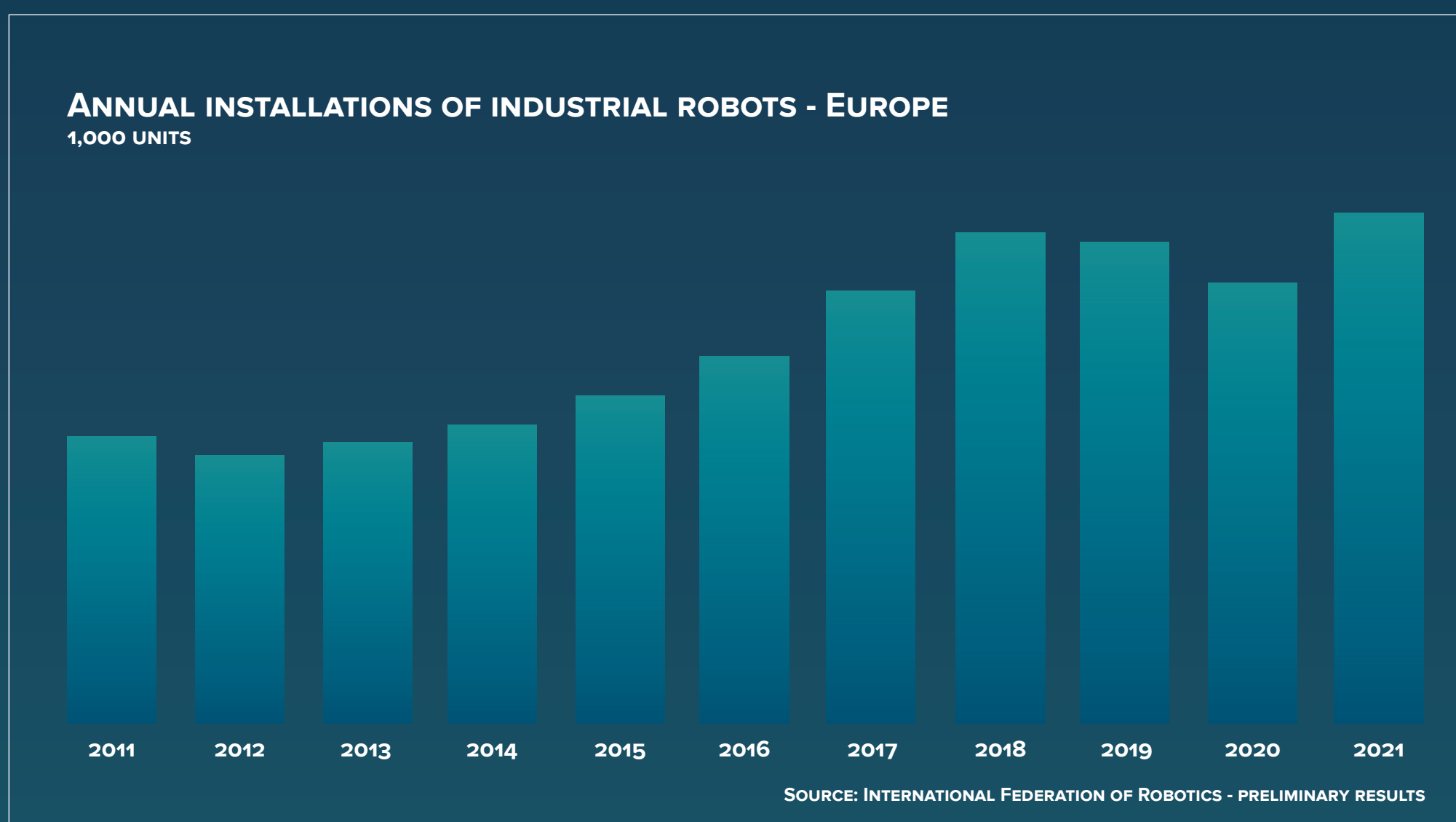
Preliminary data compiled by the International Federation of Robotics shows sales of industrial robots in 2021 made a strong recovery from the previous year, a 27 percent increase. That translates to 486,000 units.

Sales in the Americas jumped 27 percent, with 49,400 units sold, and European sales grew 15 percent, with 78,000 units sold. Asia/Australia had the largest gain, growing 33 percent for 354,000 units, and remains the largest world market.

IRF President Milton Guerry said 2021 was the most successful year so far for the robotics industry.

“Due to the ongoing trend toward automation and continued technological innovation, demand reached high levels across industries,” he said. “In 2021, even the pre-pandemic record of 422,000 installations per year in 2018 was exceeded.”

The electronics industry saw the highest growth, surpassing the automotive industry as the largest customer of industrial robots. Metal and machinery, plastics and chemical products, and food and beverage followed.



PRELIMINARY ANNUAL INSTALLATIONS 2022 COMPARED TO 2020 BY REGION - SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ROBOTICS

In 2021, the main growth driver was **Electronics** (132,000 installations, +21%) which surpassed **Automotive** (109,000 installations, +37%) as the largest customer of industrial robots already in 2020.

**Metal and Machine** (57,000 installations, +38%) followed, ahead of **Plastics and Chemical Products** (22,500 installations, +21%) and **Food and Beverages** (15,300 installations, +24%).