

Automated Food Preparation Market Forecasts to 2034 - Global Analysis By Food Type (Bakery & Confectionery, Meat & Poultry, Dairy & Frozen Foods, Fruits & Vegetables and Ready-to-Eat Meals), Equipment Type, Technology, Application, End User and By Geography

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Abstracts

According to Statistics MRC, the Global Automated Food Preparation Market is accounted for \$30.0 billion in 2026 and is expected to reach \$53.1 billion by 2034 growing at a CAGR of 7.4% during the forecast period. Automated food preparation uses robotics, specialized equipment, and smart software to complete cooking and meal-preparation processes with minimal human involvement. These technologies can manage activities including ingredient handling, measuring, mixing, cooking, portioning, dispensing, and assembling meals. By automating repetitive procedures, foodservice businesses can improve consistency, operational efficiency, and preparation speed while reducing dependence on manual labor. With labor constraints and growing expectations for rapid service, food operators are increasingly adopting automated preparation solutions. These technologies enable streamlined workflows, fewer preparation errors, greater productivity, and consistent food quality across restaurants, commercial kitchens, and other foodservice settings.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), food-processing equipment workers numbered 282,600 in 2024 and are projected to reach 297,900 by 2034. The BLS notes that some food manufacturers use equipment that automatically weighs and mixes ingredients, reducing the number of workers required to operate machines.

Market Dynamics:

Driver:

Labor shortages and increasing workforce expenses

The difficulty of finding and retaining kitchen personnel is becoming an important factor driving the adoption of automated food preparation solutions. Restaurants, catering companies, institutional kitchens, and other foodservice businesses increasingly face challenges associated with workforce availability, particularly for repetitive preparation duties. At the same time, increasing wages and employment costs encourage operators to seek technologies that can improve workforce utilization. Automated equipment allows businesses to reduce reliance on manual activities, maintain productivity with optimized staffing, and redirect employees toward customer-focused and more valuable tasks, thereby supporting market expansion.

Restraint:

Significant capital requirements and ongoing maintenance expenses

High capital requirements can limit the adoption of automated food preparation technologies, especially among small-scale restaurants and independent foodservice providers. Robotic equipment, automated cooking systems, control technologies, sensors, and associated software may require substantial spending before operations begin. Businesses can also encounter additional expenses related to installation, system integration, staff training, preventive maintenance, technical assistance, and software upgrades. Equipment failures or specialized repairs may create further financial pressure and disrupt normal operations. These continuing costs can make automation less attractive for businesses operating with restricted budgets or uncertain returns.

Opportunity:

Adoption of AI-powered and intelligent food preparation systems

Growing adoption of artificial intelligence, machine learning, computer vision, and sensor-based technologies creates new growth opportunities for automated food preparation solutions. Advanced systems can identify ingredients, evaluate cooking conditions, modify preparation settings, and recognize deviations during production. Intelligent equipment may also facilitate customized meals by adjusting recipes,

portions, cooking temperatures, and preparation times according to individual requirements. Connected automation platforms can gather operational information, allowing foodservice businesses to evaluate equipment performance, identify process inefficiencies, and improve kitchen productivity.

Threat:

Growing exposure to cybersecurity and privacy challenges

Rapid advancements in robotics, artificial intelligence, sensors, software, and automation technologies can create a threat of technological obsolescence within the automated food preparation market. Equipment purchased by foodservice operators may become outdated as newer systems provide improved functionality, greater efficiency, and enhanced connectivity. Businesses may therefore face pressure to continuously upgrade hardware and software to remain competitive, increasing long-term ownership costs. At the same time, intense competition among technology providers can accelerate innovation cycles and shorten product lifespans. Operators may hesitate to invest in expensive systems when future technologies are expected to offer significant improvements.

Covid-19 Impact:

The COVID-19 outbreak accelerated attention toward automated food preparation as foodservice businesses faced heightened hygiene requirements, social distancing, labor disruptions, and demand for contactless services. Restaurants and commercial kitchens experienced major operational difficulties during lockdowns and restrictions, encouraging them to reconsider conventional preparation and service processes. Technologies such as robotic cooking equipment, automated food handling, digital ordering, and contactless systems gained greater relevance because they could help limit direct interaction and support operational efficiency. Therefore, although the pandemic negatively affected foodservice operations initially, it also encouraged technological transformation and created stronger long-term interest in automated food preparation systems.

The meat & poultry segment is expected to be the largest during the forecast period

The meat & poultry segment is expected to account for the largest market share during the forecast period. Processing operations in this industry frequently require automation

because activities such as cutting, deboning, trimming, portioning, sorting, inspection, and handling can be repetitive and physically demanding. Automated systems help processors improve accuracy, consistency, hygiene, and production efficiency while reducing reliance on manual work. As producers seek reliable workflows, consistent product standards, improved productivity, and safer processing practices, automated food preparation technologies have become increasingly valuable across meat and poultry processing operations.

The industrial food manufacturers segment is expected to have the highest CAGR during the forecast period

Over the forecast period, the industrial food manufacturers segment is predicted to witness the highest growth rate. Their expansion is supported by increasing efforts to modernize large-scale production facilities and improve manufacturing efficiency, product uniformity, and food safety. Automated systems can perform demanding preparation activities, including ingredient handling, blending, cooking, cutting, processing, and portioning, while supporting high-volume production requirements. As producers increasingly move toward smart factories and adaptable production systems, industrial food manufacturers are likely to experience accelerating adoption of automated food preparation technologies and sustained segment growth.

Region with largest share:

During the forecast period, the North America region is expected to hold the largest market share because of its well-developed food manufacturing ecosystem and widespread use of advanced automation technologies. Food producers and service operators across the region are increasingly integrating robotics, intelligent systems, and automated equipment to improve productivity, hygiene, and preparation consistency. Rising workforce expenses and labor availability challenges further encourage businesses to reduce dependence on manual food preparation activities. Furthermore, the region has a strong base of automation suppliers, sophisticated production facilities, and established technological capabilities.

Region with highest CAGR:

Over the forecast period, the Asia Pacific region is anticipated to exhibit the highest CAGR, driven by accelerating food industry modernization, increasing automation investments, workforce challenges, and expanding use of robotics. Countries including China, India, Japan, South Korea, and nations across Southeast Asia are adopting

advanced preparation technologies to enhance production efficiency, maintain consistent quality, strengthen hygiene, and reduce dependence on manual processes. The growing consumption of processed and convenience foods is further encouraging food manufacturers to upgrade their production capabilities. Rising labor expenses and improvements in artificial intelligence, robotics, and connected equipment are also supporting adoption.

Key players in the market

Some of the key players in Automated Food Preparation Market include ABB Ltd, AMETEK Inc., Aniai, Anko Food Machine Co., Ltd., Bear Robotics Inc, Chef Robotics, Circus SE, goodBytz, Emerson Electric Co., Fanuc Corporation, Fortive Corporation, GEA Group Aktiengesellschaft, KUKA AG, Miso Robotics, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Rockwell Automation, Inc., Yaskawa Electric Corporation and Picnic.

Key Developments:

In June 2026, Emerson Electric Co. inked a strategic collaboration with SiMa.ai to integrate SiMa.ai's MLSoC (Machine Learning System on Chip) technology into Emerson's industrial PCs. The integration of advanced artificial intelligence capabilities into industrial personal computers will enable Emerson to perform real-time data analysis in factory and remote site environments.

In December 2025, FANUC partners with NVIDIA, bringing physical AI into mainstream manufacturing. The move is set to shape the next generation of smart factories, with the agreement seeing FANUC robots integrated into NVIDIA's advanced AI computing stack, including on-robot systems like NVIDIA Jetson and simulation platforms such as NVIDIA Isaac Sim.

In November 2025, Rockwell Automation and SLB announced that, following a strategic review, both companies have agreed to pursue an orderly dissolution of their Sensia joint venture. Under the agreement, Rockwell Automation will assume one hundred percent ownership of the Process Automation Business that it contributed to the joint venture, while SLB will fully regain ownership of its contributed assets, including Lift Control and Measurements.

Food Types Covered:

Bakery & Confectionery

Meat & Poultry

Dairy & Frozen Foods

Fruits & Vegetables

Ready-to-Eat Meals

Equipment Types Covered:

Automated Cooking Units

Automated Cutting & Slicing Systems

Automated Mixing & Blending Systems

Automated Packaging Units

Automated Cleaning & Sterilization Systems

Technologies Covered:

Robotics & Mechatronics

AI-Driven Systems

IoT & Smart Sensors

Machine Vision & Imaging

Automated Dispensing Systems

Applications Covered:

Quick Service Restaurants (QSRs)

Full-Service Restaurants

Institutional Kitchens

Food Processing Plants

End Users Covered:

Commercial Foodservice Operators

Industrial Food Manufacturers

Residential Consumers

Regions Covered:

North America

United States

Canada

Mexico

Europe

United Kingdom

Germany

France

Italy

Spain

Netherlands

Belgium

Sweden

Switzerland

Poland

Rest of Europe

Asia Pacific

China

Japan

India

South Korea

Australia

Indonesia

Thailand

Malaysia

Singapore

Vietnam

Rest of Asia Pacific

South America

Brazil

Argentina

Colombia

Chile

Peru

Rest of South America

Rest of the World (RoW)

Middle East

Saudi Arabia

United Arab Emirates

Qatar

Israel

Rest of Middle East

Africa

South Africa

Egypt

Morocco

Rest of Africa

What our report offers:

Market share assessments for the regional and country-level segments

Automated Food Preparation Market Forecasts to 2034 - Global Analysis By Food Type (Bakery & Confectionery, Me...

Strategic recommendations for the new entrants

Covers Market data for the years 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2030, 2032 and 2034

Market Trends (Drivers, Constraints, Opportunities, Threats, Challenges, Investment Opportunities, and recommendations)

Strategic recommendations in key business segments based on the market estimations

Competitive landscaping mapping the key common trends

Company profiling with detailed strategies, financials, and recent developments

Supply chain trends mapping the latest technological advancements

Free Customization Offerings:

All the customers of this report will be entitled to receive one of the following free customization options:

Company Profiling

Comprehensive profiling of additional market players (up to 3)

SWOT Analysis of key players (up to 3)

Regional Segmentation

Market estimations, Forecasts and CAGR of any prominent country as per the client's interest (Note: Depends on feasibility check)

Competitive Benchmarking

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