



By 2025, there will be a lack of nearly 400,000 professional health care workers in Japan's silver industry; robotic technologies may fill the gap.



The global market for disabled care and nursing aid robots was small at USD 20m in 2016, but is set to grow.



- In 2018, the Japanese population was estimated at 127.1 million people, a decrease of -299,118 people compared to the population of 127,333,662 people in 2017.
- Japan is currently the world's oldest country, and it's set to get even older. The number of elderly people aged 65 or older accounted for 26.7 % of the 127.1 million total population, up 3.7% from five years ago.
- In 2050, it is estimated by the government that 40% of Japan's population will be over 65. A higher number of old people also reduces the size of the workforce, thus reducing the productivity of the nation.
- Japan is considered as a very technologically advanced country and famous for its technological inventions. It is believed that to cope with large and fast aging society, the Japanese are getting more tech-savvy.
- Innovations are in desperate need in the elder care market to cope with the aging population and to raise productivity.
- In recent years, the Japanese government has been encouraging the development of elderly care robots to help counter the predicted shortage of 380,000 healthcare workers by 2025.
- Since 2015, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has been providing 4.7 billion yen (\$45 million) in subsidies while the Labor Ministry has been spearheading the spread of robots, and spent 5.2 billion yen (\$50 million) to introduce them into 5,000 facilities nationwide.
- By 2035, METI estimated that the domestic robotic industry will reach to 400 billion yen (\$3.8 billion), when one third of Japan's population will be 65 or older.



- **An increasing number of old Japanese people now live alone. Some firms are experimenting with social robots that promise to be conversation companions for older Japanese.**
- **Although robots can assist with power, mobility and monitoring, the Japan government still emphasizes that they will not replace human healthcare professionals in the short term.**
- **On top of that, robots are a costly solution, which require large capital investment and time consuming R&D/testing processes before practical deployment.**
- **According to the International Federation of Robotics, the world market for nursing care and disabled aid robots, made up of mainly Japanese manufacturers, is still relatively small by only around \$19.2 million in 2016.**