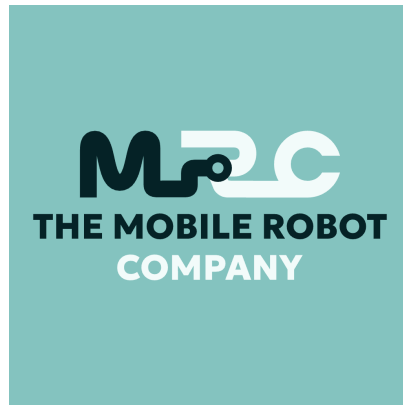




The Mobile Robot Company

Knowledge Center — Labor Reallocation · 2026-08-04

<https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/results/labor-reallocation>

Labor Reallocation

The J1600 is built on the thesis that robots should assist rather than displace operators. Its business effect is reallocation: operator hours move from repetitive transport to the decisions and [exceptions](https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/scenarios/handling-exceptions-and-irregular-loads/) that require human context.

The division of work

[Dual mode](https://info.mobilerobot.com/products/j1600/dual-mode/) draws a clear line between what people do and what the robot does:

Human operator	J1600
Judge load stability, pallet condition, congestion, urgency, and exceptions	Build and update a 3D map and navigate to saved points
Pick pallets and perform difficult or at-height handling (up to 1,600 mm)	Carry up to 1,600 kg along repetitive routes
Select the destination and what happens after delivery	Avoid obstacles and apply speed-dependent safety fields
Confirm entry into autonomous mode	Drop at floor level, then return, park, continue, or wait
Override or resume manual control at any time	Repeat stored tasks consistently

Where the recovered hours go

Time freed from walking pallets is redirected to work the robot cannot do: inspecting inbound goods, spotting damaged pallets and unstable loads before they become incidents, resolving congestion, reprioritizing when a production line is starving, and [handling sensitive or unusual loads](https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/use-cases/sensitive-or-unstable-loads/). These are exactly the situations where human context outperforms automation — the reasoning behind [human-in-the-loop automation](https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/concepts/human-in-the-loop-automation/).

The result is more productive use of skilled labor: pallet-jack operators become flow managers of their area rather than couriers within it.

Responding to labor shortages

Labor shortage and high labor dependency are among the customer problems the J1600 targets. When hiring is hard, automating the transport portion lets an existing team cover more flow: one operator can keep loading or picking while the robot runs deliveries in parallel. Because [training](https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/getting-started/operator-training/) takes about 30 minutes for an existing electric-pallet-jack operator and no automation specialist is needed for reconfiguration, the reallocation does not create a new dependency on scarce technical staff.

Not a people-free process

The desired outcome is explicitly not a warehouse without people. [Task initiation, pickup, and mode confirmation always sit with a person](https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/user-guides/operator-manual/), and manual takeover is immediate via the tiller. Sites that need full task-labor elimination are the domain of fully automated systems — with the integration, infrastructure, and cost that entails. See [productivity improvements](https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/results/productivity-improvements/) for the comparison.

Related pages

- [Reduction in manual walking](https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/results/reduction-in-manual-walking/) — the mechanics of the freed-up time
- [Safety improvements](https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/results/safety-improvements/) — the risk side of moving people out of repetitive transport
- [Internal production logistics](https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/industries/internal-production-logistics/) — reallocation on the factory floor