

10 Signs It's Time to Automate Your End of Line Packing & Stacking

Automation isn't just a future consideration, **it's a present-day necessity.** Manufacturers across the U.S. are grappling with labor shortages, frequent changeovers, employee injuries, and increasing pressure to fulfill orders faster and more accurately. **But how do you know when it's time to automate your end of line operations?** Here are 10 clear signs that it's time to move.

In the last 12 months, have you...

- ☐ **Churned more than 30% of your packing and stacking labor?**

Manual case packing and case palletizing roles often see 30–50% turnover annually due to fatigue, injury risk, and low satisfaction.

- ☐ **Filed 2 or more workers' comp claims from bending, lifting, or twisting-related injuries?**

End of line tasks are among the most common sources of ergonomic and musculoskeletal injuries in manufacturing.

- ☐ **Received 2 or more customer complaints or fines for out-of-spec or damaged product?**

Manual errors in packing or stacking can lead to rejected shipments, returned goods, fines, and penalties.

- ☐ **Missed more than 5% of on-time, in-full (OTIF) deliveries?**

Labor gaps and inefficient manual processes are key contributors to missed deadlines.

- ☐ **Struggled to scale output during peak demand periods?**

If your team can't keep up with volume spikes, your growth is being capped by manual end of line processes.

- ☐ **Used temp labor to keep your line moving, but saw more errors and slower throughput?**

Temporary labor brings variability that often reduces consistency and quality on the line.

- ☐ **Experienced excessive downtime during product changeovers?**

Frequent SKU changes can derail manual lines, where each reset costs valuable time and introduces the potential for error.

- ☐ **Seen rising overtime costs or increased reliance on second/third shifts?**

Automation offers consistent, around-the-clock performance without the need for extended shifts, extensive oversight, or overtime.

- ☐ **Lacked real-time visibility into your end-of-line output and performance metrics?**

Manual processes make it harder to track productivity, quality, and uptime, while robotic systems deliver live data.

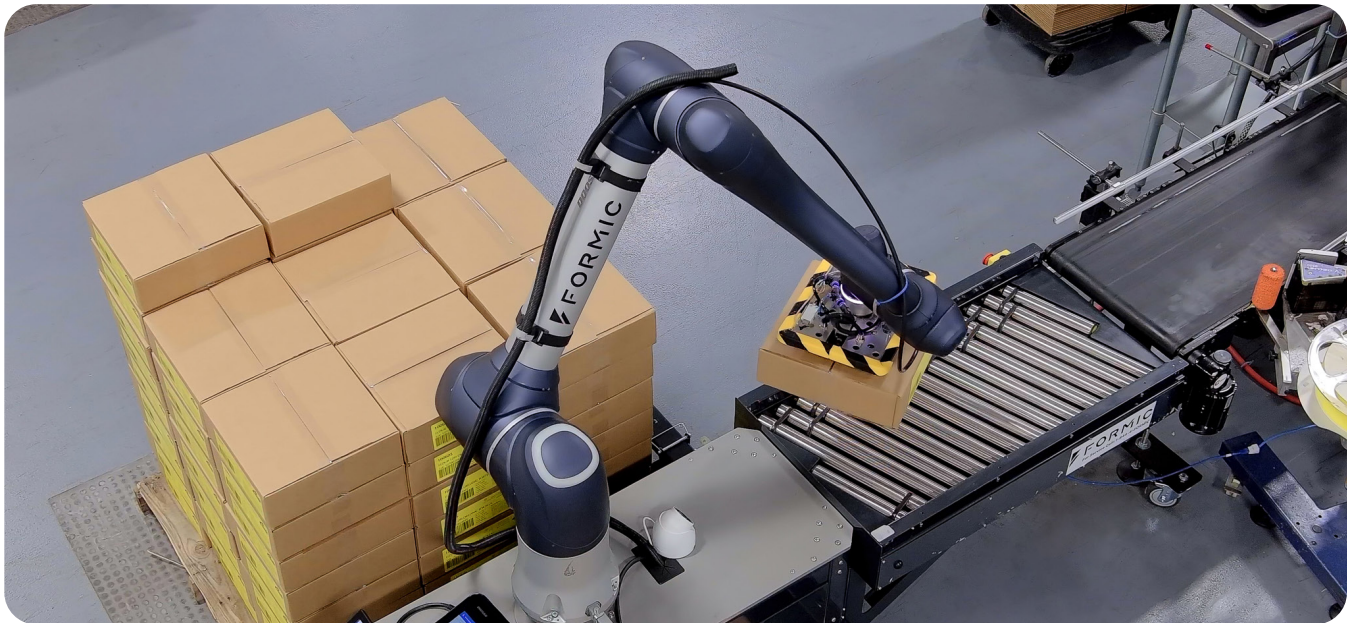
- ☐ **Delayed scaling production or declined business because your current lines can't keep up?**

If demand is rising but your end of line process is the bottleneck, automation can unlock new capacity.

If you checked off any of these, it's time to seriously explore end of line automation.

Let Formic do the work for you and scope how automation fits on your production lines. **Full Service Automation** delivers the equipment and systems to do the job, service and parts to keep it running the way you need it to, and technology and software to measure and improve your productivity — **all for one fixed monthly price.**

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