

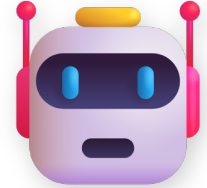


Read the tech article. Classify each statement and explain your reasoning. Watch for confident-sounding opinions without signal words!

Tech facts: research data, official statistics, specifications. Tech opinions: whether tech is "good" or "bad," what we "should" use, and expert predictions about the future.

The Rise of Delivery Robots

Autonomous delivery robots are becoming a common sight in urban areas and university campuses worldwide. These small, wheeled devices navigate sidewalks to bring food, groceries, and packages directly to customers' doors. A recent report by the Robotics Institute of America (RIA) indicated that the number of operational delivery robots globally surged by 45% in 2023, with over 15,000 units deployed across various cities. This rapid expansion suggests a significant shift in last-mile logistics.



Proponents argue that these robots offer unparalleled efficiency and convenience. Dr. Lena Chen, a lead researcher in AI logistics at TechFuture Labs, stated, "Delivery robots are undeniably the most innovative solution to urban delivery challenges. They reduce traffic congestion and carbon emissions, making our cities cleaner and more accessible." She highlights that robots can operate 24/7, unaffected by labor shortages or adverse weather conditions, ensuring quick and reliable service.

However, the rise of these machines is not without controversy. Critics express concerns about job displacement, particularly for human delivery drivers. A study by the Economic Policy Think Tank suggested that widespread adoption of delivery robots could eliminate up to 300,000 delivery jobs in North America by 2030. Furthermore, safety incidents, though rare, have occurred. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) reported 73 minor collisions involving delivery robots and pedestrians or other objects in 2023, primarily due to navigation errors or unexpected obstacles.



Public opinion remains divided. A survey conducted by CityPulse Research found that 60% of urban residents believe delivery robots are a helpful addition to city life, appreciating the speed and novelty. However, 25% reported feeling uneasy sharing sidewalks with them, citing concerns about privacy and potential hazards. The remaining 15% were neutral or undecided.

Despite these challenges, the trajectory for delivery robots appears upward. Many cities are now developing specific regulations to govern their operation, addressing speed limits, right-of-way, and data privacy. Experts predict that as the technology matures and regulations become clearer, these robots will integrate seamlessly into daily life, fundamentally transforming how goods are transported within communities. It is clear that these robots will revolutionize urban living.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- (1) **“The number of operational delivery robots globally surged by 45% in 2023.” FACT or OPINION?** 📦
 (A) Fact (B) Opinion

- (2) **“Delivery robots are undeniably the most innovative solution to urban delivery challenges.” FACT or OPINION?** 🤖
 (A) Fact (B) Opinion

- (3) **“The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) reported 73 minor collisions involving delivery robots in 2023.” FACT or OPINION?** 🚨
 (A) Fact (B) Opinion

- (4) **The statement “widespread adoption of delivery robots could eliminate up to 300,000 delivery jobs in North America by 2030” includes a specific number and comes from a research group. Why is it still tricky to classify as a pure fact?** 🤖



(5) Find a statement in the article that expresses an opinion without using common signal words like “I think,” “best,” or “should.” Explain how you identified it as an opinion. 🌐

(6) The article quotes Dr. Lena Chen, an expert in AI logistics, who says, “Delivery robots are undeniably the most innovative solution to urban delivery challenges.” Should readers automatically trust this statement more because it comes from an expert? Explain using information from the article. 🧑🏫

