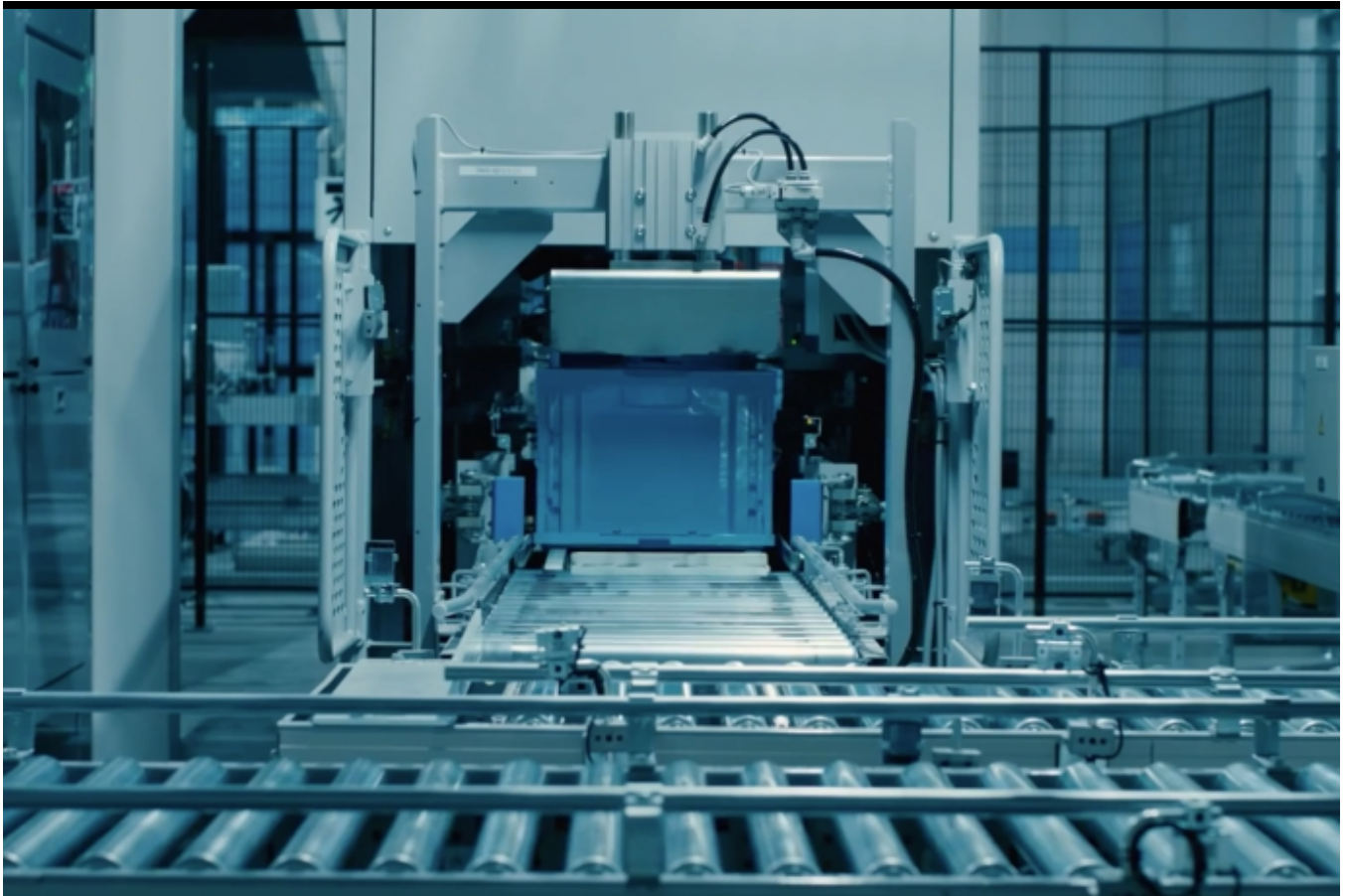


UNIQLO REPLACES WAREHOUSE STAFF WITH ROBOTS

By Holly Friend and Jessica Smith

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Uniqlo automated packing space, Tokyo

Tokyo – A video released by the brand offers a glimpse into an automated packing space once staffed by people.

Uniqlo has just finished transforming one of its warehouses in Tokyo's Ariake district, where robots have been given the role of inspecting and sorting its products. These automated workers have been so successful that 90% of the warehouse's human staff have now been replaced by machines. In the video, robots are seen reading electronic tags, confirming stock numbers and packing items.

This level of automation could soon be the reality for every one of Uniqlo's warehouses, as its parent company Fast Retailing plans to invest £690m (¥100bn, \$882m, €779m) in converting its warehouses around the world.

Automation in the workplace remains a controversial prospect, with 44% of jobs in the UK retail sector expected to be at risk of automation by the early 2030s, according to PwC. For more on how robots are making their mark in retail, read our microtrend [Grocery AI-sles](#).