



The Cost of Losing Track: Quantifying Annual Losses in Industries Without Precision Tracking

Discover how poor asset tracking drains billions
& how Pozyx UWB solution fixes it.

W H I T E P A P E R

Executive Summary

The Hidden Billion-Dollar Problem: Annual Losses from Poor Asset Tracking

In today's fast-paced industrial world, businesses unknowingly bleed billions each year due to one overlooked but critical factor: poor asset tracking. Industries including manufacturing, logistics, healthcare, retail, and automotive collectively lose staggering amounts of money through misplaced assets, unplanned downtime, wasted labor hours, and unnecessary sustainability setbacks.

Our updated research highlights the magnitude and urgency of this issue:

- **\$1.4 Trillion Lost Annually to Unplanned Downtime:**

Fortune Global 500 companies lose nearly \$1.4 trillion every year—around 11% of their annual revenues—due to downtime incidents. In automotive manufacturing specifically, downtime costs have now surged to approximately **\$2.3 million per hour**.

Source: [Siemens True Cost of Downtime 2024](#)

- **\$22,000 Lost Every Minute from Production Halts:**

Automotive production halts continue to be prohibitively costly, with each halted minute averaging a loss of \$22,000—a stark illustration of inefficiency's financial toll.

Source: [Forbes: Unplanned Downtime Costs More Than You Think \(2024\)](#)

- **265 Million Labor Hours Wasted Annually in Warehouses:**

Warehouses waste approximately 10-15% of their labor hours annually—equivalent to 265 million hours—searching manually for misplaced assets, resulting in over **\$4.3 billion in unnecessary operational costs** each year.

Source: [TeamSense: Labor Wastage in Warehousing Report \(2024\)](#)

- **\$112 Billion Lost in Retail Inventory Shrinkage:**

Inventory shrinkage reached unprecedented levels in 2022, surpassing **\$112 billion**. Retail giants like Walmart and Target publicly cite shrinkage as a major threat to profitability and operational efficiency.

Source: [National Retail Federation 2023 Security Survey](#)

- **\$4,000 in Daily Losses from Misplaced Medical Equipment per Hospital:**

Hospitals frequently misplace essential equipment such as IV pumps and wheelchairs, with one facility cited losing approximately **\$4,000 per day** from time spent searching for or reordering missing devices. These inefficiencies impact both patient care and operational budgets.

Source: [Healthcare Dive: Lost and Found – Keeping Track of Healthcare Equipment](#)

- **Supply Chains Contribute Over 50% of Global Carbon Emissions:**

A large portion of global greenhouse gas emissions—**more than half**—originate from supply chains. Poor asset tracking and inefficient logistics contribute significantly to this footprint. Precision tracking helps businesses optimize movement, reduce waste, and meet climate goals through smarter, data-driven operations.

Source: [World Economic Forum— Why Supply Chain Visibility is Key to Achieving Climate Goals](#)

These losses are not isolated incidents—they are systemic, escalating year over year, and demand immediate attention.

Advanced tracking solutions, specifically Ultra-Wideband (UWB) precision systems like those offered by Pozyx, provide the real-time visibility and centimeter-level accuracy required to address these inefficiencies. The outcomes are clear: measurable ROI, enhanced productivity, substantial cost savings, and significant sustainability gains.

Why Precision Asset Tracking Matters in 2025 and Beyond

In an era marked by rapid technological advancements, stringent regulatory requirements, and heightened consumer expectations, precision asset tracking has transitioned from a luxury to a necessity. Industries across the spectrum are recognizing the critical role of real-time, accurate asset tracking in maintaining operational efficiency and competitiveness.

1. Accelerated Adoption of Industry 4.0 Technologies

The integration of Industry 4.0 technologies is reshaping manufacturing and logistics. Companies are leveraging automation, IoT, and data analytics to enhance productivity and resilience. However, the success of these technologies hinges on the ability to track assets with precision. Without accurate asset tracking, the benefits of Industry 4.0 cannot be fully realized.

Source: [McKinsey & Company – Transforming Advanced Manufacturing Through Industry 4.0](#)

2. Rising Consumer Demand for Real-Time Visibility

Modern consumers expect transparency and real-time updates on their orders. A significant majority prioritize real-time tracking as a key feature in their purchasing decisions. Companies that fail to meet these expectations risk losing customer trust and loyalty.

Source: [FedEx – 2024 E-commerce Merchant Report](#)

3. Environmental and Regulatory Pressures

Supply chains are under scrutiny for their environmental impact. Inefficient asset tracking contributes to waste and increased carbon emissions. Implementing precise tracking systems is essential for companies aiming to reduce their carbon footprint and comply with environmental regulations.

Source: [World Economic Forum – Supply Chain Sustainability](#)

The Core Challenge:

Traditional tracking methods, such as manual logs and basic RFID systems, often fall short in providing real-time, accurate data. These limitations can lead to misplaced assets, operational delays, and increased costs. Ultra-Wideband (UWB) technology addresses these challenges by offering centimeter-level accuracy and real-time tracking capabilities, ensuring assets are precisely monitored throughout their lifecycle.

2025: A Pivotal Year for Asset Tracking

As industries continue to evolve, the importance of precision asset tracking will only grow. Companies that invest in advanced tracking technologies like UWB will position themselves for greater efficiency, compliance, and customer satisfaction. Embracing these innovations is not just about staying competitive—it's about leading the way in a rapidly changing business landscape.

*"You can't improve what you can't see.
In 2025, visibility is everything."*

Wim De Smet, CEO, Pozyx

Where Companies Lose Track —and Lose Money

While the Executive Summary delivers a bird's-eye view of the staggering financial losses associated with poor asset tracking, this section dives deeper. Here, we explore how those losses unfold within specific industries—examining workflows, recurring challenges, and the ripple effects of inefficiency. This isn't just about numbers—it's about the operational realities that bleed time, money, and trust.

Manufacturing & Automotive

Modern manufacturing is highly synchronized. A single misrouted pallet or missing component can stall entire production lines. Despite decades of investment in automation, many manufacturers still rely on disconnected systems that fail to track key tools and materials with precision.

Consider a vehicle assembly line: hundreds of parts must move in unison. When just one part isn't where it should be, operations grind to a halt. This results in staggering losses—\$22,000 per minute in auto manufacturing alone. Across the broader industrial landscape, downtime erodes 11% of total annual revenue, often due to preventable visibility gaps.

Source: [Forbes: Unplanned Downtime Costs More Than You Think \(2024\)](#).

Warehousing & Logistics

In today's fulfillment-first economy, speed is currency. Yet many warehouses and distribution centers operate in the dark—staff roam aisles manually locating inventory, often with clipboards or legacy scanners offering no real-time positioning.

These inefficiencies compound: misrouted bins delay packing, idle forklifts stall picking lines, and bottlenecks cascade downstream. The result? Workers spend 10–15% of their shifts locating misplaced assets—totaling 265 million labor hours annually and \$4.3 billion in wasted labor cost.

This isn't just a cost center—it's a competitive liability. As next-day delivery becomes the standard, visibility isn't optional—it's survival.

Source: [TeamSense: Labor Wastage in Warehousing Report \(2024\)](#).



Retail

Shrinkage in retail has moved beyond an operational annoyance—it's a full-blown crisis. But theft alone doesn't account for the \$112 billion in inventory loss reported in 2022. A significant portion stems from poor stock visibility: phantom inventory, duplicate orders, and mismatched counts that quietly siphon away profits.

Even high-end retailers are often unaware of where products sit within their supply chains at any given time. Without precision tracking, items slip through cracks, promotions fall flat due to out-of-stocks, and replenishment cycles lag behind demand.

Source: [National Retail Federation 2023 Security Survey](#)



Healthcare

The stakes are higher in healthcare. When a nurse can't locate an infusion pump, it's not just a time loss—it can delay treatment. Hospitals frequently misplace mobile medical assets like wheelchairs, IV pumps, and monitoring devices, often renting replacements at a premium while the originals sit unused in another wing.

One hospital cited in a 2023 report lost \$4,000 per day simply from staff time spent searching for misplaced items. But the larger cost is systemic: patient delays, longer stays, and diminished trust in care continuity. Precision tracking ensures critical equipment is always locatable—improving both clinical and financial outcomes.

Source: [Healthcare Dive: Lost and Found – Keeping Track of Healthcare Equipment](#)



Energy & Environment

Wasted motion and misrouted assets don't just cost time—they emit carbon. In a global economy under pressure to decarbonize, inefficient supply chains have become a front-line sustainability issue. The World Economic Forum reports that over 50% of global emissions come from supply chains.

This isn't just about long-haul transport—think idling forklifts, rerouted trucks, or unused inventory consuming energy in climate-controlled warehouses. These micro-inefficiencies, multiplied across global networks, derail environmental targets. Companies investing in visibility tech like UWB are finding it's not just good for business—it's essential for ESG compliance.

Source: [World Economic Forum— Why Supply Chain Visibility is Key to Achieving Climate Goals](#)



From Losses to ROI

—The Case for UWB Tracking

The previous sections detailed where and how companies are hemorrhaging money due to poor asset visibility. This page marks the shift from problem to solution. Ultra-Wideband (UWB) technology is emerging as the gold standard for real-time location systems—offering precision, speed, and scalability that legacy tracking systems can't match. Here's how UWB directly addresses the critical inefficiencies across sectors—and transforms them into measurable ROI.

What Makes UWB Different?

Unlike traditional RFID, barcodes, or Bluetooth-based systems, UWB delivers real-time, centimeter-level tracking accuracy—with minimal latency and the ability to locate thousands of moving assets simultaneously.

Technology	Accuracy	Latency	Reliability	Cost	Best Environment
RFID	1-5 meters	High	Medium	Low Initial, Limited ROI	Controlled Environments
Wi-Fi	5-15 meters	Medium	Medium	Medium	Indoor, Non-Critical Tracking
Bluetooth (BLE)	1-5 meters	Medium	Medium	Medium	Indoor/Outdoor, Basic Usage
GPS	~5 meters	Medium	High Outdoors	High	Outdoor, Not Accurate Indoor
UWB (Pozyx)	10-30 cm	Low (Real-time)	High	High ROI, Fast Payback	Indoor & Outdoor, Complex Settings

Source: [Pozyx—UWB vs Other Technologies](#)

How UWB Solves Industry-Specific Losses

Manufacturing & Automotive

- **Problem:** Line stoppages due to missing tools or delayed materials.
- **UWB ROI:** Real-time location of work-in-progress parts and assembly tools prevents line disruptions. Predictive alerts notify teams when assets fall out of position.
- **Result:** Reduced unplanned downtime and better throughput.

Warehousing & Logistics

- **Problem:** Workers waste hours locating inventory manually.
- **UWB ROI:** Automated indoor positioning systems guide staff directly to assets. Route optimization reduces steps and improves picking times.
- **Result:** Saved labor hours and faster order fulfillment.

Retail

- **Problem:** Phantom inventory, stockouts, and miscounts.
- **UWB ROI:** Live inventory views eliminate data mismatches. Store associates can find products in seconds.
- **Result:** Reduced shrink, improved restocking, and enhanced customer experience.

Healthcare

- **Problem:** Misplaced equipment increases patient wait times and replacement rentals.
- **UWB ROI:** Critical devices like IV pumps or monitors are always locatable. Movement history adds accountability.
- **Result:** Increased asset utilization, lower rental costs, faster treatment delivery.

Environment & Energy

- **Problem:** Poor asset routing increases emissions and waste.
- **UWB ROI:** Efficient location tracking leads to optimized routing, lower idle times, and reduced unnecessary energy use.
- **Result:** Smaller carbon footprint, better ESG compliance.

Real Results Backed by Pozyx Clients



"We eliminated search time completely. Now we know exactly where every vehicle is in real-time—no more guesswork." – Fleetback x ALD Automotive*

"By implementing UWB tracking from Pozyx, we gained over 3% efficiency in our warehouse. That's hundreds of hours reclaimed." – Bonduelle Group*

*Source: [Pozyx Case Studies](#)

UWB isn't just a tech upgrade—it's an operational breakthrough. For industries plagued by inefficiency, the ROI is immediate, the savings are tangible, and the transformation is real.

Real-World Case Studies

—UWB in Action

Data proves a concept. Real-world deployment confirms it. On this page, we highlight how Pozyx's Ultra-Wideband (UWB) tracking systems are solving real operational challenges and delivering measurable results across industries—from cold storage to vehicle yards to healthcare facilities. These cases showcase what transformation looks like when visibility becomes precision.

Bonduelle Group - Cold Warehouse Optimization

Industry: Food Processing & Warehousing

Challenge: Traditional tracking systems underperformed in refrigerated environments, making it difficult to locate pallets quickly and maintain traceability.

Solution: Pozyx deployed UWB anchors across Bonduelle's cold storage warehouses and outfitted key assets with UWB tags. A real-time location dashboard enabled full pallet visibility under any temperature condition.

Results:

- Improved operational flow with a **3% efficiency gain**.
- Reclaimed **hundreds of labor hours annually**.
- Enhanced cold chain compliance through accurate, traceable movement.

Source: [Bonduelle Case Study – Pozyx](#)

ALD Automotive + Fleetback - Vehicle Yard Management

Industry: Fleet leasing & Automotive Logistics

Challenge: Tracking 1,000+ vehicles across a 25,000 m² lot led to time-consuming manual searches and inefficiencies in vehicle preparation and release.

Solution: Vehicles were tagged with Pozyx UWB devices, enabling real-time location tracking integrated into Fleetback's digital workflow system.

Results:

- **Eliminated manual search time entirely**
- Streamlined logistics for cleaning, inspection, and delivery.
- Improved employee throughput and customer turnaround.

Source: [Fleetback & ALD Automotive – Pozyx](#)

UWB isn't just a tech upgrade—it's an operational breakthrough.

These aren't theoretical gains—they're results in motion. When assets become visible in real time, delays shrink, efficiency rises, and ROI becomes immediate. This is what transformation looks like.

[View more Pozyx Case Studies](#)

From Visibility to Value

—The Final Word

The Bottom Line

Billions are lost each year across industries—not from major disruptions, but from the accumulation of small inefficiencies: a missing pallet, a misplaced cart, a miscounted bin. What all of these losses have in common is one root cause: lack of visibility. And visibility is exactly what Ultra-Wideband delivers.

Real-time asset tracking isn't just a convenience—it's a competitive advantage. Whether you manage a factory, a warehouse, a fleet, or a hospital, the moment you can locate your assets with precision, everything changes: time is reclaimed, costs go down, and operations flow.

Why Now?

- **Regulatory pressures** are mounting.
- **Consumer expectations** are rising.
- **Sustainability goals** are non-negotiable.

Precision location data isn't just solving today's problems—it's preparing businesses for what's next.

"In today's world, precision isn't a luxury—it's a requirement. Our mission is to give businesses the confidence to act in real time, without guesswork."

— Wim De Smet, CEO, Pozyx

Ready to Transform?

If you've seen delays, downtime, or rising operational costs, you're not alone. But you don't have to accept them. Companies across logistics, manufacturing, healthcare, and retail are already using Pozyx to reclaim control.

- 👉 **Explore full case studies:** [Pozyx—Explore Full Case Studies](#)
- 👉 **See how UWB can work for your operations:** [Pozyx—Request a Demo](#)



About pozyx®

Who We Are

Pozyx is a global leader in real-time location systems (RTLS), delivering scalable Ultra-Wideband (UWB) tracking solutions that empower businesses to optimize operations, reduce losses, and make data-driven decisions.

Founded in Belgium and trusted by companies across logistics, manufacturing, healthcare, and automotive sectors, Pozyx is redefining what's possible when you know—precisely—where everything is.

What We Offer

- **UWB RTLS Solutions** with centimeter-level accuracy.
- **Scalable infrastructure** for both indoor and outdoor environments.
- **Open API and integrations** for fast deployment into existing systems.
- **Global support and installation** via trusted partners.
- **Cloud-based dashboards** for live tracking, analytics, and historical insights.

Our Mission

To eliminate uncertainty in asset tracking and help companies unlock operational excellence through precision location intelligence.

"Our goal is simple: make every asset visible and every workflow smarter."

— Wim De Smet, CEO, Pozyx

Trusted By

- ALD Automotive
- Bonduelle Group
- VIL Flanders
- Airbus Defence
- Hospitals and industrial leaders across the Globe.

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