

Will AI Steal Your Job? The Truth Might Surprise You

BY YVETTE SCHMITTER

This narrative is everywhere: "AI will take jobs."

It's a statement that strikes fear into the hearts across all workers across every industry. My response has consistently been AI won't take your job, but someone who knows how to use it will. But what if the "AI taking everyone's jobs" narrative isn't the full story? While it's true that AI will disrupt the job market, but this is unavoidable because with rapid technological advancement comes massive impact. However, while there will be a displacement of roles and revamping of industries, what most headlines miss is the bigger picture: AI is also poised to ***create*** a wave of new opportunities. Yes, AI will assume tasks that are currently completed by humans but there's opportunity for net new roles and jobs as a result. In fact, experts suggest that for every job displaced, AI could unlock more roles that we haven't even dreamed of yet. The real question isn't whether AI will take jobs—it's whether we're ready to embrace the jobs of tomorrow. And that's my challenge to you – are you going to be ready to embrace the new roles and jobs of tomorrow?

Feelings aren't facts, so let's dive into the data backed evidence as shared in the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report, challenge the fearmongering myths, explore the real impact of AI on the future of work and then focus on what **YOU** can do to stay competitive and future proof your career. No one has the luxury to afford to wait for the business world to get smarter around them because the future is human + machine, and the future is **NOW**.

For background, the World Economic Forum's 2025 report, 290 pages full of macroeconomic and geopolitical detail, covering 22 industry clusters and 55 economies, which collectively represents 88% of global GDP. However, the theme is hard to miss – rapid technological advancement will bring about massive impact and evolution of jobs and skills across the global workforce starting now in 2025 through 2030. The report while data rich, focuses on the impact of technological advancements, economic shifts and demographic changes.

KEY THEMES AND FINDINGS

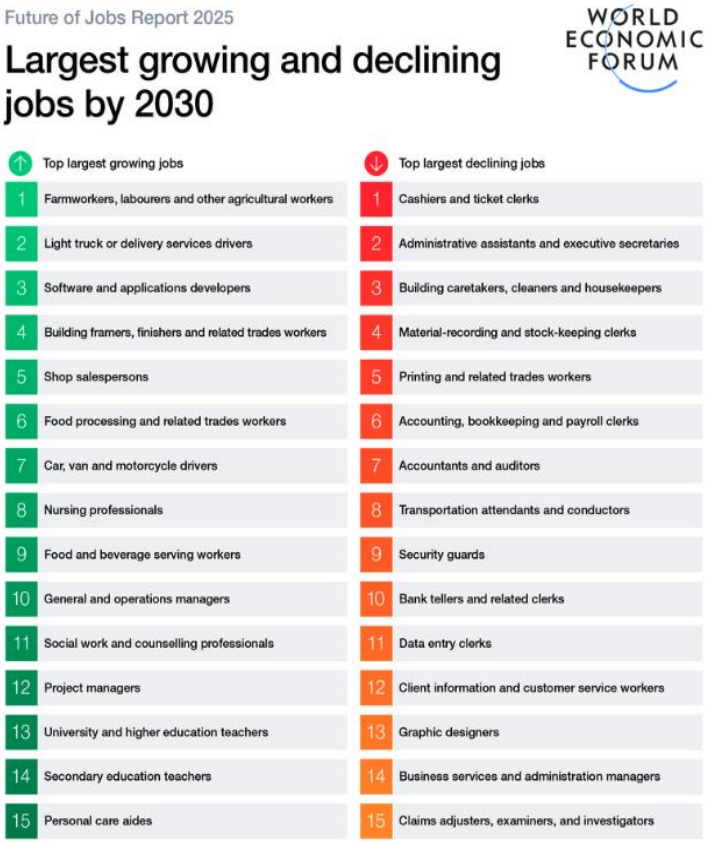
- New jobs will emerge primarily in areas related to technology, data, sustainability and human services.
- Automation expected to significantly impact retail, wholesale of consumer goods and professional services, with automation rates ranging from 25-89% across different sectors.
- 59% of the workforce will require upskilling
- 92M jobs expected to be displaced
- 170M jobs expected to be created
- NET gain of 78M new jobs

Which are the largest growing and declining jobs by 2030? As reported by the World Economic Forum's report, it identified several job categories facing significant decline, notably:

- Bank Tellers and Related Clerks
- Material-Recording and Stock-Keeping Clerks
- Door-To-Door Sales Workers, News and Street Vendors
- Administrative Assistants and Executive Secretaries
- Accounting, Bookkeeping and Payroll Clerks

However, the rapidly growing roles include:

- AI and Machine Learning Specialists
- Big Data Specialists
- Data Analysts and Scientists
- FinTech Engineers
- Sustainability Specialists
- Renewable Energy Engineers
- Robotics Engineers





While there is going to be some shifting and movement, there's enormous opportunity that you can control. Become educated and start using generative AI, starting today. Start small. If your employer doesn't allow use of it at the workplace, start getting comfortable and using it in your personal life. Use AI to help plan your next vacation, create a chore calendar or help answer questions. Find ways to use it and get comfortable and curious about how it can help you.

For those thinking that everything is going to turn into 1s and 0s, there's more and more evidence and clear direction to make the language of code the human language, so you don't need to "code." Let's dispel another myth that about no more need for programmers or developers. People who can code/program will know how to drive more value from these AI tools than others who are not hardcore programmers. Developers will have superpowers but now the average person will be able to do what only coders used to be able to do. Maybe there will not be a need for as many developers but there is still going to be need for them. So, how do you future proof your career as a developer? The answer is learning how to extract the most value out of these tools that drive tangible business value.

Clearly there will be shifting skill demands and the report emphasized the growing importance of both technological ***and*** human-centric skills. The future will be human + machine, while having a diverse set of skills are essential for navigating the evolving workforce landscape there's a significant window of opportunity that exists for enabling dynamic job transitions. The core skills for 2025, according to the surveyed employers, include:

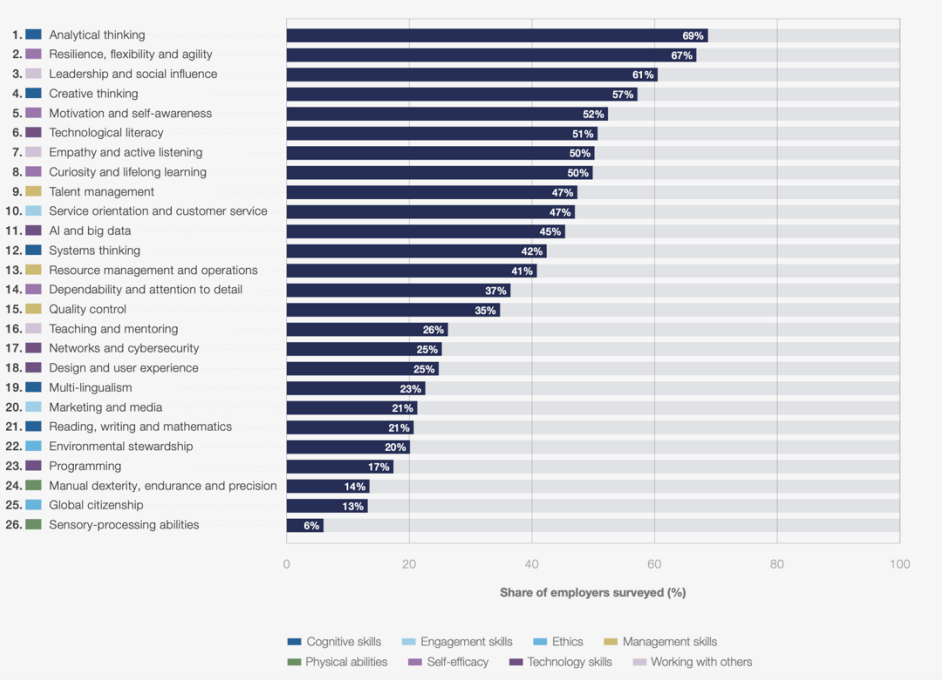
- Analytical thinking
- Resilience, flexibility, and agility
- Curiosity and lifelong learning
- Leadership and social influence
- Creative thinking

And increasingly important skills by 2030 are projected to increase substantially in use:

- AI and Big Data
- Technological literacy
- Networks and cybersecurity
- Resilience, flexibility and agility
- Curiosity and lifelong learning

FIGURE 3.3 **Core skills in 2025**

Share of employers who consider the stated skills to be core skills for their workforce.



Bottomline: Successful navigation of the impending shifts will require you to proactively plan and embark on a lifetime commitment of continuous learning, curiosity and adaptability.