41% of companies worldwide plan to reduce workforces by 2030 due to AI

By Olesya Dmitracova, CNN

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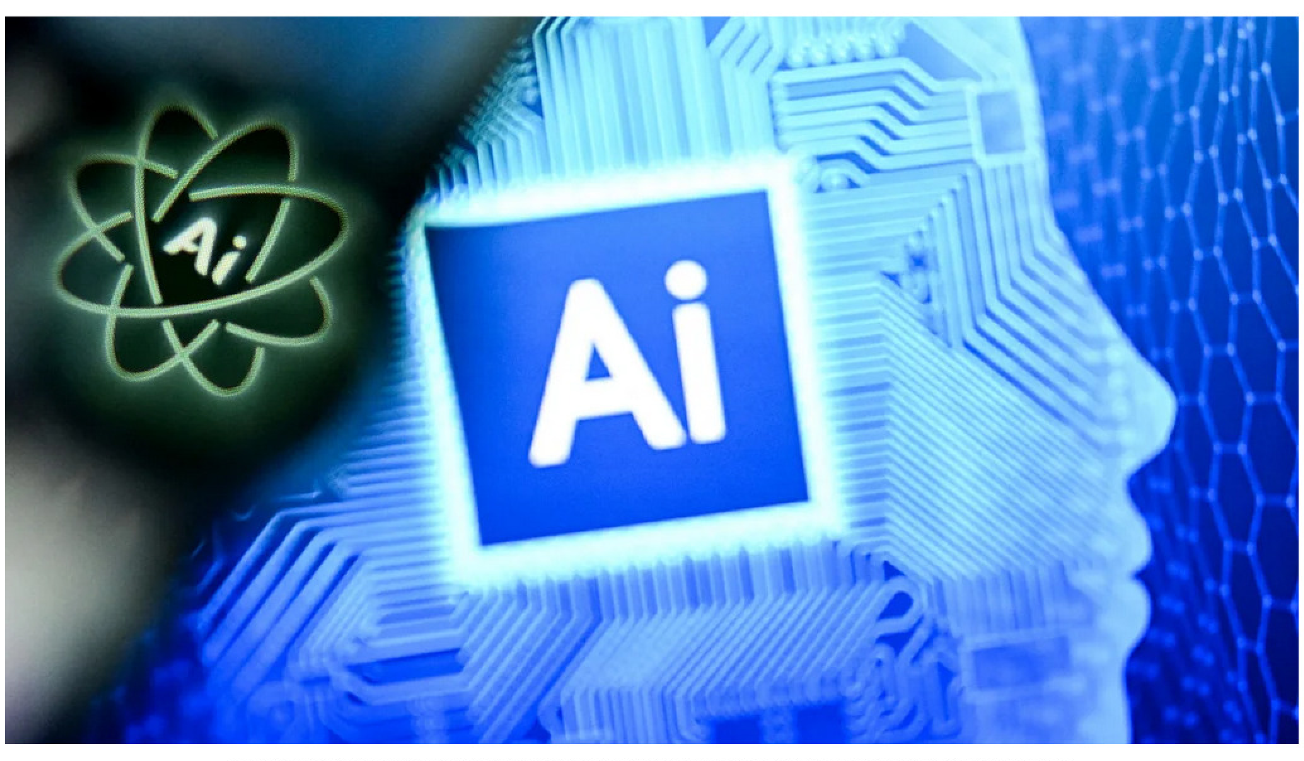
83 comments



Postal service clerks, executive secretaries and payroll clerks are among jobs that employers expect to experience the fastest decline in numbers, whether as a result of the spread of AI or other trends. Kirill Kudryavtsev/AFP/Getty Images

London (CNN) — Artificial intelligence is coming for your job: 41% of employers intend to downsize their workforce as AI automates certain tasks, a World Economic Forum survey showed Wednesday.

Out of hundreds of large companies surveyed around the world, 77% also said they were planning to reskill and upskill their existing workers between 2025-2030 to better work alongside AI, according to findings published in the WEF's Future of Jobs Report. But, unlike the previous, 2023 edition, this year's report did not say that most technologies, including AI, were expected to be "a net positive" for job numbers.

"Advances in AI and renewable energy are reshaping the (labor) market — driving an increase in demand for many technology or specialist roles while driving a decline for others, such as graphic designers," the WEF said in a press release ahead of its annual meeting in Davos later this month.

Writing in the wide-ranging report, Saadia Zahidi, the forum's managing director, highlighted the role of generative AI in reshaping industries and tasks across all sectors. The technology can create original text, images and other content in response to prompts from users.

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Postal service clerks, executive secretaries and payroll clerks are among jobs that employers expect to experience the fastest decline in numbers in coming years, whether due to the spread of AI or other trends.

"The presence of both graphic designers and legal secretaries just outside the top 10 fastest-declining job roles, a first-time prediction not seen in previous editions of the Future of Jobs Report, may illustrate GenAI's increasing capacity to perform knowledge work," the report said.

Conversely, AI skills are increasingly in demand. Close to 70% of companies are planning to hire new workers with skills to design AI tools and enhancements, and 62% intend to recruit more people with skills to better work alongside AI, according to the latest survey, conducted last year.

Striking an optimistic note, the report said the primary impact of technologies such as generative AI on jobs might lie in their potential for "augmenting" human skills through "human-machine collaboration," rather than in outright replacement, "particularly given the continued importance of human-centered skills."

However, many workers have already been replaced by AI. In recent years, some tech firms, including file storage service Dropbox and language-learning app Duolingo, have cited AI as a reason for making layoffs.

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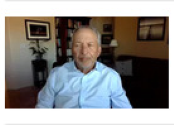
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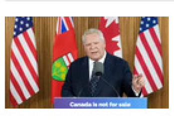
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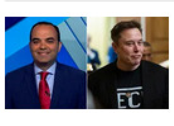
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It'd be great if we could automate vegetable harvesting.
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Donemessedmydrawers
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Awww! AI! Give me a break. I saw a 'short take' on HBO years ago. It showed a master painter for one of the major automakers. He spray painted a car hooked up to computer sensors; the computer memorized all his moves, and he (and all the other painters) was no longer needed.
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Most of these comments are bashing AI and what it can't do - and how humans are superior. This is the "hope-filled American ignorance" that will blindside the masses while AI decimates every zip code in America. Just read the ChatGPT subreddit to get a better clue of how highly skilled workers are ...
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I am on no way. shape or form, a computer software engineer, but I have been reading enough articles about AI to be able to determine that one of its pitfalls is "garbage in equals garbage out". Even before AI, one telltale characteristic of info on the internet is the mind numbing repetativeness o...
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But generative AI has the capacity to produce something new from inputs. That adage doesn't really apply anymore.
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Act Two
Robot/AI goes on to say
What a .. I was, what dominated ..,
to think that you were the earth and the sky,
No, my reverberated friend, you are not the beginning and the end.

Mankind To Robot/AI
You impertinent .. there's not an idea in your head or a word in your mouth that I haven't put there.

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Anything you can do, I can do better. I can do anything Better than you

Mankind To Robot/AI
No, you can't

Robot/AI to Mankind
Yes, I can

Mankind To Robot/AI
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Robot/AI to Mankind
Yes, I can

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cnn-user-mwluav
8 January, 2025
I wonder how many comments to an article like this one are already being written by ChatGPT and its rivals. The Washington Post's comments sections are being summarized by AI, and I imagine that more and more comment readers are just reading the AI summary. If I actually write this comment, I do ...
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cnn-user-r1sso5
8 January, 2025
AI makes stuff up. They just used a nicer sounding name. Same as the military using anomaly instead of crashed. First web search result I get AI says it is summarizing results as an experimental feature. When I dig deeper on the factual sites I find half of AI summary is wrong. The worst part ...
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CaptainDorkOfTheWeeniePatrol
8 January, 2025
AI in its current form is shuffling dominoes. The information is pre-existing and finite.

Even with just 1,000 unique words, the number of permutations is incomprehensibly vast. It would be something on the order of 10256710^{2567}, which far exceeds the number of atoms in the observable universe (1...
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