



US ECONOMY

[ECONOMY](#) | [WORLD ECONOMY](#) | [US ECONOMY](#) | [THE FED](#) | [CENTRAL BANKS](#) | [JOBS](#) | [GDP OUTLOOK](#)

McKinsey: One-third of US workers could be jobless by 2030 due to automation

- McKinsey research says that up to one-third of U.S. workers — and 800 million globally — could be displaced by 2030.
- The researchers found that "60 percent of occupations have at least 30 percent of constituent work activities that could be automated."
- "Income polarization could continue in the United States and other advanced economies," they added. McKinsey suggests that governments can help retrain workers or supplement income as people adjust.

Thomas Franck | [@tomwfranck](#)

Published 10:08 AM ET Wed, 29 Nov 2017 | Updated 22 Hours Ago



iLexx | Getty Images

As much as one-third of the United States workforce could be out of a job by 2030 thanks to automation, according to new research from McKinsey. The consulting firm now estimates that between 400 million and 800 million individuals globally could be displaced by automation and need to find new work.

"Even if there is enough work to ensure full employment by 2030, major transitions lie ahead that could match or even exceed the scale of historical shifts out of agriculture and manufacturing," according to a report by the McKinsey Global Institute published this month. "Even as it causes declines in some occupations, automation will change many more – 60 percent of occupations have at least 30 percent of constituent work activities that could be automated."

FROM THE WEB

Sponsored Links by Taboola

[Jim Cramer Reveals His Entire Portfolio and Future Trades](#)

Topdust for TheStreet

[When These Puppies Understood What Was Happening, Their Reaction Was Beyond Words](#)

DirectExpose

[New 2018 SUV's Now Available!](#)

Sponsored Links

[How Social Media Influencers Have Infiltrated the PR Landscape](#)

Georgetown University

by Taboola

Professions most susceptible to automation include physical ones in "predictable environments," including operating machinery and preparing fast food, according to the research. Alternatively, automation will have a more muted effect on jobs that involve expertise, managing people, and that require frequent social interactions.

"Unpredictable" jobs such as gardeners, plumbers, or providers of child and elder care are also less likely to see automation over the next decade, as they remain challenging to automate and don't usually earn high wages, according to McKinsey.

This selective effect on the workforce has many worried that income inequality could continue to worsen in the United States.

"Income polarization could continue in the United States and other advanced economies," noted the research. "If reemployment is slow, frictional unemployment will likely rise in the short-term and wages could face downward pressure."

To be sure, McKinsey isn't the only group studying the effects of artificial intelligence on wages and economic growth.

A recent working paper penned by economists from Northwestern, Stanford and the College de France explored what would happen to economic growth if artificial intelligence starts generating original thought. A rapid uptick in the rate of innovation – and in new ideas – has led some to [speculate about economic hypergrowth](#) and ever-increasing GDP gains.

But to help transition to a future with increased automation, businesses and policymakers will "need to act" to keep people employed, suggests the McKinsey research.

McKinsey notes that governments will have to develop and provide extensive job retraining to help displaced workers as well as providing more generous income supplements.

beyond retraining, a range of policies can help, including employment insurance, public assistance in finding work, and portable benefits that follow workers between jobs" as well as "possible solutions to supplement incomes, such as more comprehensive minimum wage policies, universal basic income, or wage gains tied to productivity," the researchers wrote.

The research cited the U.S. High School Movement at the turn of the last century and the GI Bill as key examples of how developed countries can cope with the disruptive effects of a transforming economy.

"In many decades hence, the value of this labor may be diminished if we reach a state in which machines can do a large share of the work," concluded the report. "For workers around the world, policy makers, and business leaders — and not just social scientists who specialize in socio-economic paradigms — that should give pause for thought, and be a spur for action."

WATCH: We got through Changi Airport's new terminal without speaking to a single human (almost)

[Michelle Obama on sexual harassment allegations: 'I can't tell you how sick it makes me'](#)

[Nokia prepares offer to buy Juniper](#)

[Yellen: \\$20 trillion national debt 'should keep people awake at night'](#)

[Here's why Arby's acquisition of Buffalo Wild Wings is good news for Wendy's](#)

[Morgan Stanley predicts 2018 will be 'tricky' for global economies; says sell US corporate bonds](#)

[Canada tests 'basic income' effect on poverty amid lost jobs](#)

MOST POPULAR: TECH



1. [Bitcoin plunges 20% from its high](#)



2. [Cramer on Kroger: 'Death Star' Amazon wasn't going to 'wreck' its margins immediately](#)



3. [EA's day of reckoning is here after 'Star Wars' game uproar, \\$3 billion in stock value wiped out](#)



4. [Human colonies will be on the moon within 5 years, space entrepreneur says](#)



5. [Apple COO Jeff Williams on Apple Watch heart study: 'Hopefully we can save a lot of lives'](#)



We got through Changi Airport's new terminal without speaking to a single human (almost)

10:02 AM ET Fri, 17 Nov 2017 | 03:41



Thomas Franck
Investing Reporter

MORE FROM CNBC

by Taboola

[Stocks making the biggest moves after hours: JNPR, BOX, SMTC & more](#)

[Amazon is flooding the zone with new cloud A.I. tools that translate, transcribe, and track people](#)

[Tiny home sales are booming, why that might not be good for business](#)

[Democrats have already won the tax reform battle](#)

[China has 'grave concerns' about North Korea's latest missile test](#)

[Bitcoin roar: Katy Perry and Warren Buffett apparently gabbed about cryptocurrency](#)

FROM THE WEB

Sponsored Links by Taboola

[The Average Man Can't Name These Engine Parts! Can You?](#)

Zoo.com

[3 Factors that Contribute to AI Success.](#)

SAS

[Did It Happen During WWI or WWII? Only a Few Can Ace This Quiz](#)

HowStuffWorks.com

[He's So Big He Can't Pass The Door](#)

Parentz Talk

[Ads for Luxury Sports Cars Are Available for Viewing.](#)