

A series of four teal-colored curved lines of varying lengths, arranged in a loose, abstract pattern to the right of the title text.

AI Speaker Conversation Series

Ian Duckles, Professor of
Philosophy, San Diego Mesa
College

Friday, February 27, 11am -
12:15pm

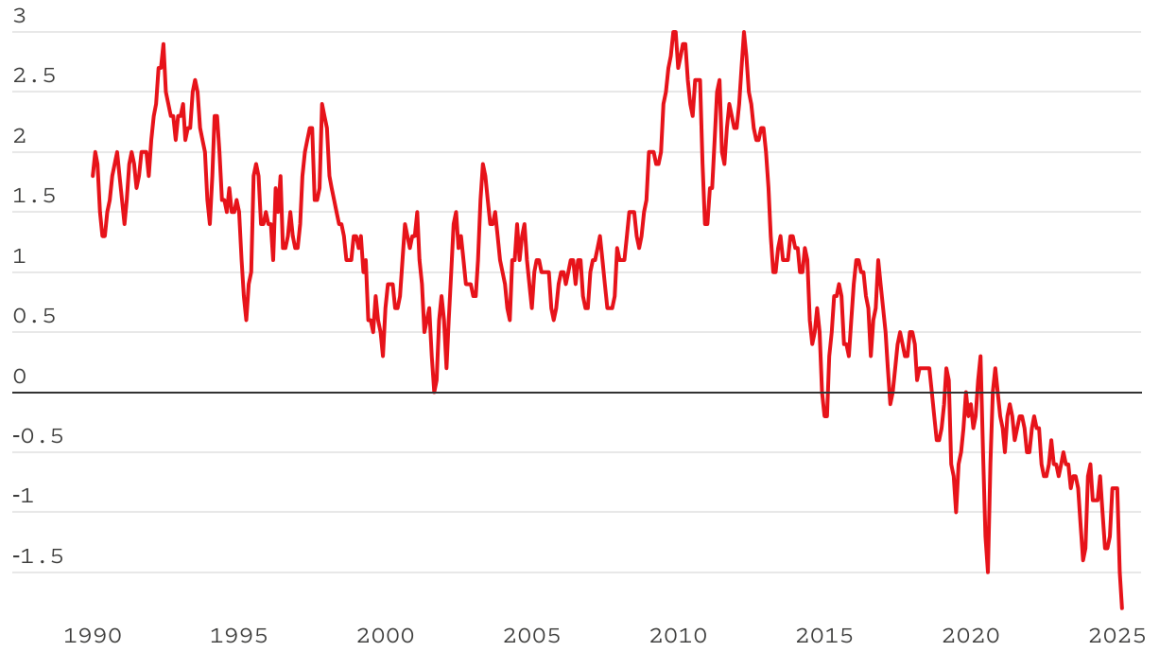


AI and Labor: Exploitation of Workers

- To ensure that the output of generative AI is not offensive, companies pay low-wage workers to sort through text and images and label those images as offensive or not.
- Open AI spent \$200k to outsource this work to laborers in Kenya who were paid less than \$2/hour to review content.
- "Much of that text appeared to have been pulled from the darkest recesses of the internet. Some of it described situations in graphic detail like child sexual abuse, bestiality, murder, suicide, torture, self harm, and incest."

The New Grad Gap

— Total Unemployment minus Recent Grad Unemployment



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (IPUMS).

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AI and Labor: The Job Market

AI and Labor: It's taking jobs



The National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA) Hotline replaced its staffers with a chatbot after they tried to unionize.



Duolingo fired a significant portion of its staff (more than 10%) and replaced the workers with AI as part of its "AI-First" strategy.



"Fiverr, the online marketplace for freelancers, announced that it is laying off about 250 full-time staff members as part of an effort to transform itself into an 'AI-first company.' The layoffs will affect about 30% of the company's staff..."

AI and Labor: It's taking jobs

- "Anthropic's latest Economic Index report published on [9/15/25] found 77% of businesses using the company's Claude AI software are doing so for automation purposes like "full task delegation," while just 12% are using the tech for collaborative purposes such as learning. Anthropic used data selected from one million application programming interface transcripts from mostly businesses and software developers for its report.
- "Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei is well-aware of the risks of this shift on the labor landscape. He warned in May [of 2025] that AI could wipe out nearly 50% of entry-level white collar jobs within the next five years. 'Most of them are unaware that this is about to happen,' Amodei told Axios"



AI and Labor: It's taking jobs

- Block (the company behind Cash App and Square) announced yesterday (2/26/26) that they are laying off 40% of their workers (4000 jobs).
- "The core thesis is simple. Intelligence tools have changed what it means to build and run a company. We're already seeing it internally. A significantly smaller team, using the tools we're building, can do more and do it better. And intelligence tool capabilities are compounding faster every week."
- "Within the next year, I believe the majority of companies will reach the same conclusion and make similar structural changes. I'd rather get there honestly and on our own terms than be forced into it reactively." CEO Jack Dorsey in a letter to shareholders

What AI CEO's say about the Labor Market



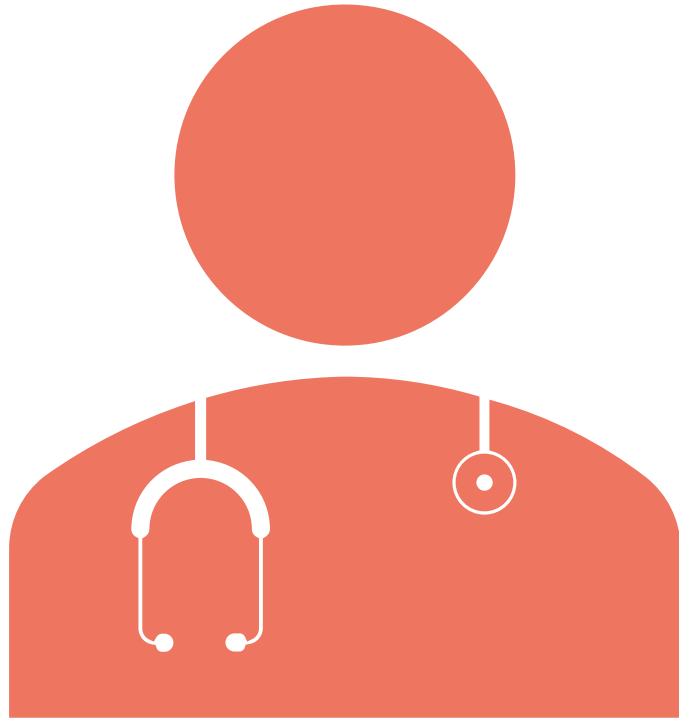
"You went to an elite school, and you studied philosophy; hopefully you have some other skill," he warned, adding that AI "will destroy humanities jobs."



"There will be more than enough jobs for the citizens of your nation, especially those with vocational training," Karp said. "I do think these trends really do make it hard to imagine why we should have large-scale immigration unless you have a very specialized skill."

--Alex Karp, CEO Palantir

What AI CEO's say about the Labor Market



- According to Huang, the real economic gains from AI will come as industries like healthcare, manufacturing, and financial services adopt AI. But to get there, countries first need to build out the lower layers of that cake, which is where trade jobs come in.
- "And so we're talking about six-figure salaries for people who are building chip factories or computer factories or AI factories," said Huang. "Everybody should be able to make a great living. You don't need to have a PhD in computer science to do so."

--Jensen Huang, CEO Nvidia

AI and Jobs: our students will be hurt the worst

- A recent Stanford study found, "early, large-scale evidence consistent with the hypothesis that the AI revolution is beginning to have a significant and disproportionate impact on entry-level workers in the American labor market. "



Discussion Question

Will AI be used to prepare students for the workplace by giving them new skills or will it be a force that eliminates entry level jobs, outsources previously human-centered work to bots, two-tiers our education system into one where the children of the elite are taught how to read and think critically, while the rest of the population is given the equivalent of job training for disposable workers? Are we being sold pauperization under the guise of "equity"?

