# The impact of AI on the Labour Market

Future of work and new employment dynamics in the Americas

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http://oe.cd/employment-outlook



## **Does automation mean the end of employment?**





# The risk of automation is high



Share of employment in occupations at the highest risk of automation by country, 2019



## But in many countries, employment is at a record high

Employment to population ratio, ages 15 to 64



2012 ▲ 2021



# Exposure AI may be related to HIGHER rather than lower employment in occupations with high computer use





# High-skilled workers possess more skills that cannot be automated yet ("bottleneck skills")



Shares of bottleneck and highly automatable skills and abilities, by occupation



## There are fewer and fewer jobs for the low-educated





# Workers are positive about the effect of AI on job quality

### The impact of AI on performance and working conditions

% of workers who work with AI





## But workers have concerns about the way AI is being used

### Workers expressed worries about privacy and excessive data collection

% of workers who reported AI-related data collection

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree Don't know







## Al is increasingly in the news for the wrong reasons...



### Al incidents affecting workers, past year

\*An AI incident can be reported by one or more news articles covering the same event.





## Some groups risk being left behind

### % of all employers saying AI will help/harm certain groups





## **OECD Principles for Trustworthy Al**

### Values-based principles

### Recommendations for policy makers







# Labour market opportunities and risks mapping: Identifying the gaps



## & development of an action plan





## Investing in skills will be important

Share of employers saying lack of skills is a barrier to adopting Al % of employers









## Workers who have received training are more likely to report positive outcomes of Al on performance and working conditions







## Social dialogue can lead to better outcomes

The impact of AI on performance and working conditions, by worker consultation % of workers who work with AI



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# Thank you

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# Automation was affecting employment within countries: there was lower growth in high-risk occupations





# Al has made the most progress in abilities that are required to perform non-routine, cognitive tasks





# High-skilled occupations have been the most exposed to recent advances in AI

### Average exposure to AI across countries by occupation





# The impact on employment appears to have been limited so far

### Al impact on overall employment in company

% of employers in manufacturing and finance sectors who say that employment has increased/decreased/stayed the same

■ Increased		sed		eased	■ No effect ■ Don't know		Don't know				
Employment increased 20 %		Employr	Employment decreased 25 %			No employment effect 53 %					
0	10 2	20 3	0 4	0 5	50 6	60 7	8 0	0 9	0 10 %		



# Why is the employment effect of AI small (so far...)?

- Currently, Al adoption is low and the cost savings to firms are modest
- Firms rely on worker attrition rather than layoffs to adjust labour demand
- Given labour shortages, workers were typically reallocated within firms





## Many workers are worried about job loss to Al

Share of workers worried about losing their job to AI in the next 10 years % of workers

Extremely worried		Very worri	ed Mo	derately worried	ed Slightly worried Not worried at all		all Do	Don't know		
0	1	0 2	0 3	30 4	0 5	6	60 7	0 8	0 9	0    100 %



# Al could help people with disabilities in the labour market

## People with disability (PWD) face persisting difficulties in the labour market

### Artificial Intelligence brings new risks for PWD

- Reliability
- Bias and discrimination
- Privacy
- Inequalities in use

### Artificial Intelligence brings new opportunities for PWD

- Multi-purposed
- More personalised
- Well-suited for collaborative development
- Easier to integrate in mainstream technology
- Lower cost

## Challenges to R&D

## Challenges to commercialisation

## Challenges to adoption







# Al may be especially helpful for the low-skilled, and those with less experience

Call centre resolutions per hour, by agent tenure



Source: Brynjolfsson, E., D. Li and L. Raymond (2023), Generative AI at Work, NBER WP no. 31161.

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# Workers with AI skills are increasingly demanded in the labour market

### % of vacancies demanding AI skills





## More employers say that AI has increased the importance of human skills than of specialised AI skills









## Action is already being taken – but more will be needed

- 2019 OECD AI Principles (being updated)
- Al does not operate in a regulatory vacuum but likely need to adapt policies
  - E.g. data protection and privacy, anti-discrimination, OSH, freedom of association
- Many countries are introducing AI-specific legislation
  - E.g. EU AI Act, EU Platform Directive, Executive Order on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence
- Who are the workers most at risk and how can policies be better targeted?

