

## AI ISN'T CAUSING MASS UNEMPLOYMENT—BUT IT IS RESHAPING WORK

*While fears of mass unemployment dominate headlines, current data show no measurable increase in overall unemployment linked to generative AI. Research focusing on AI-exposed occupations—such as journalism, marketing, and software development—finds employment levels largely unchanged so far.*

*AI often complements workers by speeding up or improving certain tasks rather than fully replacing jobs. The greatest risk lies in structural unemployment, where entire sets of skills become obsolete, as seen in roles more vulnerable to full automation. This risk varies by occupation and country, with advanced economies both gaining productivity and facing higher exposure to AI replacement.*



Marina Tavares, PhD

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Dr. Tavares became an economist to better understand how large economic forces—such as technological change—shape people's lives, jobs, and opportunities. Her work is motivated by questions about who benefits from innovation and who risks being left behind. As a Senior Economist at the International Monetary Fund, her research focuses on labor markets, technological change, and inequality, with particular attention to how artificial intelligence and automation affect workers across different occupations

and countries. Using a task-based framework, she studies when new technologies complement workers versus when they substitute for specific skills, and how these shifts influence structural unemployment, productivity, and income distribution. Learn more: “*Labor Market Exposure to AI: Cross-Country Differences and Distributional Implications.*” 2023. IMF Working Papers. [doi.org/10.5089/9798400254802.001](https://doi.org/10.5089/9798400254802.001).



Emilie Vestergaard, PhD Student

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Emilie Vestergaard chose to study economics to understand how technological change affects workers and labor markets in the real world, beyond headlines and speculation. As a PhD student in the Department of Economics at the University of Copenhagen, her research focuses on labor economics and the impact of new technologies—particularly generative AI—on employment outcomes. By combining survey data with administrative records, she studies whether emerging technologies lead to job loss, task reallocation, and/or changes in how work is performed. Her work emphasizes empirical evidence, helping distinguish between perceived risks and measurable effects of AI on unemployment and labor market dynamics. Learn more: “*Large Language Models, Small Labor Market Effects.*” 2025. BFI Working Paper. [bfi.uchicago.edu](https://bfi.uchicago.edu).

