

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [New Frontiers: The Origins and Content of New Work, 1940–2018'](#)

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Summary: New work emerges in response to technological innovations that complement the outputs of occupations and demand shocks that raise occupational demand. Innovations that automate tasks or reduce occupational demand slow new-work emergence. In our terminology, augmentation innovations are technologies that increase the capabilities, quality, variety, or utility of the outputs of occupations, potentially generating new demands for worker expertise and specialization. Conversely, automation innovations are technologies that substitute for the labor inputs of occupations, potentially replacing workers performing these tasks. Although the flow of augmentation and automation innovations is positively correlated across occupations, the former boosts occupational labor demand while the latter depresses it. The demand-eroding effects of automation innovations have intensified in the past four decades while the demand-increasing effects of augmentation innovations have not.

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