

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [Applying AI To Rebuild Middle-Class Jobs](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.nber.org/papers/w32140>

Author(s)	David Autor
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**Summary:** Information is merely an input for a more consequential economic function, decision making, which is the province of elite experts — typically the minority of U.S. adults who hold college or graduate degrees. By making information and calculation cheap and abundant, computerization catalyzed an unprecedented concentration of decision-making power, and accompanying resources, among elite experts. Meanwhile, lacking better opportunities, the 60% of adults without a bachelor's degree have been relegated to non-expert, low-paid service jobs. The unique opportunity that AI offers humanity is to push back against the process started by computerization — to extend the relevance, reach and value of human expertise for a larger set of workers. Because artificial intelligence can weave information and rules with acquired experience to support decision-making, it can enable a larger set of workers equipped with necessary foundational training to perform higher-stakes decision-making tasks currently arrogated to elite experts, such as doctors, lawyers, software engineers and college professors. In essence, AI used well can assist with restoring the middle-skill, middle-class heart of the U.S. labor market that has been hollowed out by automation and globalization. Related: Generative AI at Work and Centaurs and Cyborgs on the Jagged Frontier and The Short-Term Effects of Generative Artificial Intelligence on Employment: Evidence from an Online Labor Market

**Primary Topic:** Innovation/Research

**Topics:** Academic paper, Innovation/Research, Productivity, Unemployment/Participation, Wages/Income, Weekly, Workforce

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