



AI Could Spell the End of Big Business

AI 或将终结大公司

Date: Apr. 26, 2023

Big business has been a **fixture** of American life since the late 19th century, and today more Americans work for big companies than for small ones. That could **be about to** change — in part because of the rise of **artificial intelligence**.

自 19 世纪末以来，大公司一直是美国人生活的一部分，如今，为大公司工作的美国人多于为小公司工作的美国人。这种情况可能将要发生变化，部分原因是人工智能的崛起。

Consider the most **prestigious** service that generates images using AI, a company called Midjourney. It has a total of 11 **full-time** employees. Perhaps more are on the way, but that is **remarkably** few workers for a company that is becoming widely known in its field.

想想最负盛名的人工智能图像生成公司 Midjourney。该公司总共有 11 名全职员工。也许未来还会有更多人加入，但对于一家在其所在领域广为人知的公司来说，这个员工数相当少了。

Part of the **trick**, of course, is that a lot of the work is done by computers and artificial intelligence. I don't think this will lead to **mass** unemployment, because history shows that workers have **typically** managed to move from automating sectors into new and growing ones. But if some of the new job-creating sectors are personal services such as elder care, those jobs are typically in smaller and more local firms. That means fewer Americans working for big business.

当然，部分诀窍在于很多工作是由计算机和人工智能完成的。我不认为这将导致大规模失业，因为历史表明，工人通常会设法从自动化行业转移到新兴行业。但是，如果一些创造就业机会的新部门提供的是个人服务，

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fixture ['fɪkstʃər] *n.* 常客，固定事物；固定装置，固定设施；（定期举行的）体育活动 | At this time of day John is a fixture in the science library. 每天这个时候约翰总在理科图书馆。

be about to do sth. 即将，正要（做某事） | I was just about to ask you the same thing. 我刚才正要问你同一件事情。

artificial intelligence(AI) 人工智能

prestigious [pre'stɪdʒəs] *adj.* 有威望的，声誉高的 | It's one of the best equipped and most prestigious schools in the country. 它是该国设备最好、最有声望的学校之一。

full-time *adj./adv.* 全职的（地），专职的（地），全日制的（地） | They're looking for full-time staff at the library. 图书馆正在招聘专职工作人员。

remarkably [rɪ'mɑ:kəbli] *adv.* 不寻常地，惊人地 | All the students did remarkably well in their exams this year. 所有学生在今年的考试中都表现得非常优秀。

trick [trɪk] *n.* 技巧，诀窍，窍门；诡计，花招；引起错觉的事物 *v.* 欺

如老年人护理，那么通常是由更小、更本地化的公司提供工作岗位。这意味着为大企业工作的美国人会减少。

Or consider ChatGPT, which has been described as the most rapidly growing consumer technology product in history. It is produced by OpenAI, **headquartered** in San Francisco. By one recent estimate the company has about 375 employees. **By contrast**, Meta, even after some **layoffs**, currently has more than 60,000.

或者想想 ChatGPT，它被描述为历史上增长最快的消费类技术产品，由总部设在旧金山的 OpenAI 公司创造。根据最近的一项估计，该公司约有 375 名员工。相比之下，Meta 即使裁掉了一些员工，目前也还有 6 万多名员工。

OpenAI will make more hires. Still, it may be time to **reset** expectations for what a major tech company looks like.

OpenAI 未来会招聘更多员工。不过，也许是时候重塑人们对一家大型科技公司的幻想了。

Important businesses with a small number of employees will need to hire exactly the right people to **oversee** the larger automated and AI-managed **superstructures**. Talent selection will rise in importance as a skill, and the people in these smaller units will command very high **compensation**. Even if those companies do not become formal partnerships, their internal cultures will **adhere** more closely to those of partnerships or sports teams, with a good deal of **mutual** internal monitoring. That too will represent a workplace evolution.

员工人数少的重要企业需要雇佣合适的人来监督更庞大的人工智能管理的自动化上层建筑。作为一种技能，挑选人才将变得更加重要，而这些小公司的员工将会获得非常高的报酬。即使这些公司没有成为正式的合作伙伴，它们内部的文化也会更接近合作伙伴或团队的文化，并且彼此之间会有广泛的内部监督。这也将代表着职场变革。

Investing will evolve as well, with Americans less likely to own businesses in their stock **portfolios**. If businesses become

骗，欺诈 | The trick is to pick the animal up by the back of its neck. 窍门在于抓住动物的后脖颈把它提起来。

mass [mæs] *adj.* 大批的，数量极多的 *n.* 大量，许多；块，团；群众 | There was a mass of people around the club entrance. 俱乐部门口聚集着一大群人。

typically [ˈtɪpɪkli] *adv.* 通常，一般；典型地，具有代表性地；不出所料，果然 | The courses typically last for three days. 课程通常持续 3 天。

headquarter [ˈhedˈkwɔːtə] *v.* 总部设于 | The firm is headquartered in Boston. 这家公司的总部设在波士顿。

by contrast 相比之下，与……相反 | By contrast, she was much more outspoken. 对比起来，她坦率得多。

layoff [ˈleɪf] *n.* 解雇，裁员；休养，疗养 | Textile companies announced 2000 fresh layoffs last week. 多家纺织公司上周宣布再次裁员 2000 人。

reset [ˌriːˈset] *v.* 调整，重新设置 | You need to reset your watch to local time. 你需要把表调整到当地时间。

oversee [ˌoʊvərˈsiː] *v.* 监督，监视，监管 | A team leader was appointed to oversee the project. 任命了一位组长来监管该工程。

superstructure [ˈsuːpərstrʌktʃər]

smaller overall, they will not have the same need to go public to raise capital for expansion. They will be privately held. Venture capital will rise in importance, but since most solo investors face SEC restrictions on making venture investments, they will have to put their money elsewhere.

投资也将发生变化，企业在美国人的股票投资组合中份额会减少。如果企业整体规模变小，它们就不需要上市融资以进行扩张，而是由私人持有。风险投资的重要性将上升，但由于大多数个人投资者在进行风险投资时会受到美国证券交易委员会的限制，他们将不得不把资金投向别处。

Of course not all large companies will **shrink**. Some customer-service companies, such as Starbucks, may not be able to automate their core activities, and they rely on national **branches**, which means they still will have a large number of employees (the current estimate is 400,000). But many Starbucks employees age out of their jobs and enter other **segments** of the labor force. Working for big business might become something people do when they are young and then leave, never to return.

当然，并不是所有的大公司员工都会减少。一些客户服务公司，如星巴克，可能无法实现其核心业务的自动化，他们依赖于全国分支机构，这意味着他们仍将雇佣大量员工（目前估计人数为40万）。但许多星巴克员工因年龄增长而离职，进入了劳动力市场的其他部门。人们年轻时可能为大公司工作，然后会离开，不会再重返大公司。

n. 上层体系，上层建筑

compensation [ˌkɑːmpen'seɪʃn]

n. 报酬，酬劳；补偿金，赔偿金 | hourly compensation of workers 工人的时薪

adhere to 坚持，遵守，遵循 | For

ten months he adhered to a strict no-fat low-salt diet. 十个月来他严格坚持无脂肪少盐饮食。

mutual [ˈmjuːtʃuəl] *adj.* 相互的，

彼此的；共有的，共同的 | mutual respect 相互尊重

portfolio [pɔːrt'fɒliəʊ] *n.* 投资

组合，有价证券组合；文件夹；作品集

SEC 美国证券交易委员会，

United States Securities and Exchange Commission 的缩写

shrink [ʃrɪŋk] *v.* 缩小，收缩，减少；退缩，畏缩 | The market for their

products is shrinking. 市场对他们产品的需求在减少。

branch [bræntʃ] *n.* 分支机构，分部，分店 | The bank has branches all

over the country. 那家银行在全国各地设有分行。

segment ['segmənt] *n.* 部分，部门

v. 切割，划分 | She cleaned a small segment of the painting. 她擦干净了这幅画的一小部份。

➤ 脉络梳理

- Para. 1 引出话题：随着人工智能的崛起，大公司的地位可能会发生变化
- Para. 2-5 举 Midjourney 和 ChatGPT 为例进行论证
- Para. 6-7 指出职场和投资将随之发生变化
- Para. 8 指出客户服务类大公司的员工可能不会减少，但会变成年轻员工暂时工作的地方

➤ 长难句拆解

分句 1: Venture capital will rise in importance,

since 引导的原因状语从句

分句 2: but since most solo investors face SEC restrictions on making venture investments, they will have to put their money elsewhere.