# 276K

**tech workers were
replaced by AI
in the last 2 years.**

Here's what actually happened next.
The data tells a story nobody expected.

# The companies that made the biggest cuts

**30,000** | **Amazon**
Corporate roles, 2025-2026. Cited "AI-driven efficiency."

**5,000** | **Salesforce**
Support roles. AI handles 50% of customer interactions now.

**1,500** | **Meta**
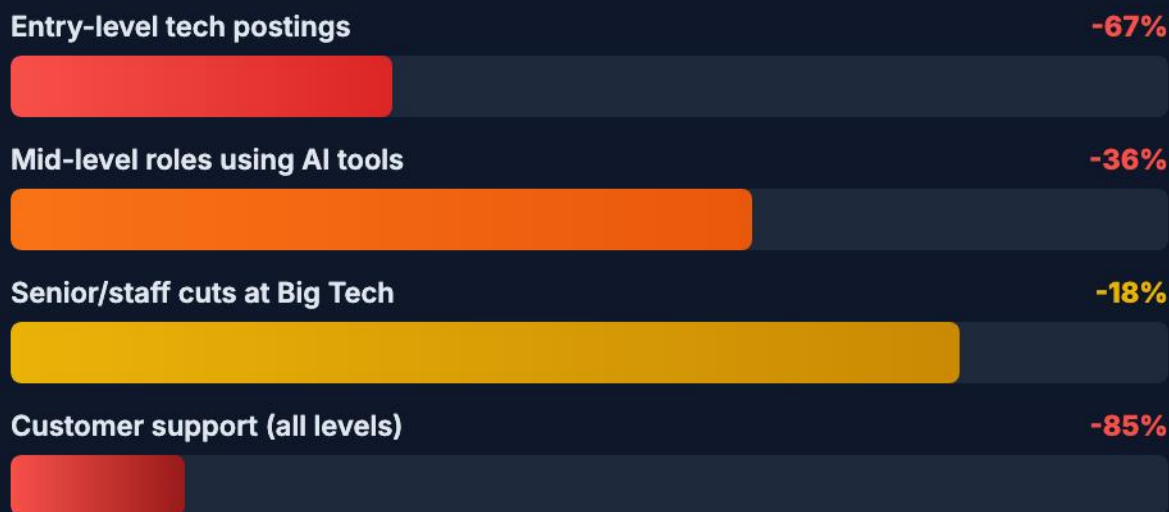Reality Labs. Feb 2026. Pivoting resources to AI.

**700** | **Klarna**
Customer service. Replaced entire teams with AI agents.

That's **427 tech layoffs per day** in the first half of 2025.

# It's not just juniors.
# It's everyone.

**Entry-level tech postings**                           **-67%**

**Mid-level roles using AI tools**                       **-36%**

**Senior/staff cuts at Big Tech**                        **-18%**

**Customer support (all levels)**                        **-85%**

**49% of US companies** using AI
have already replaced workers.

Sources: SignalFire · Challenger Gray · WEF Future of Jobs 2025

# Then something unexpected happened.

# 55%

## of companies that replaced workers with AI regret it.

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### Klarna

**Fired** 700 customer service employees.

**Deployed** AI agents to replace them.

**Quality crashed.** Customers revolted.

**Now rehiring** humans.

Source: Forrester Predictions 2026

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# But here's the
# real twist.

While 276K people lost their jobs...

## +143%
Growth in AI engineer job postings YoY

## $157K
Median salary for AI roles. 25% above market.

## +400%
Surge in job postings mentioning "AI" in 2 years

Sources: Veritone · PwC · WEF

# The salary gap is getting brutal.

**SOFTWARE ENGINEER**

## $105K

Median. Flat growth. Shrinking demand.

**SAME PERSON + AI SKILLS**

**AI / ML ENGINEER**

## $157K

Median. 41.8% YoY growth. Exploding demand.

## +56%

salary premium for specialized AI skills (PwC)

# The cycle nobody
# is breaking.

**1**     Company fires workers. "AI will handle it."

**2**     AI can't actually do the full job yet.

**3**     Quality drops. Revenue suffers.

**4**     Quietly rehire. Offshore. Lower pay.

**5**     Announce more AI layoffs next quarter.

**37% of companies** still plan to replace more workers with AI by end of 2026.

# The people getting fired and the people getting hired have the **same job title.**

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The only difference is
who learned to work **with** AI
and who got replaced **by** it.

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