

Anticipated Labor Impact of Commodity Robots Paired with Next-Gen AI Systems

Prepared for Executives in Positions of Influence

Introduction: The rapid evolution of technology, particularly in the realm of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics, is poised to reshape the labor landscape. This document aims to shed light on the anticipated impacts, emphasizing the urgency of policy advisement and proactive planning.

Key Highlights:

1. **Exponential Growth in AI & Robotics:** The pace of technological advancements in AI and robotics is increasing exponentially. This isn't just a linear progression; it's a curve that's steepening with time.
 2. **Challenges & Breakthroughs:** The primary challenges in this domain had been computational power and the development of self-directed systems; these obstacles have been removed.
 3. **Beyond White-Collar Jobs:** The common misconception is that AI and robotics will only impact white-collar jobs. However, with the right reward functions, even commodity robots can be transformed into competent laborers for physical tasks.
 4. **Shift in Corporate Strategies:** Major corporations and investment firms are already adjusting their strategies in anticipation of these changes. IBM's recent decision to replace a significant portion of its workforce with AI is a testament to this shift.
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Relevant Sources & Demonstrations:

- **Cleaning & Healthcare:** Somatic recently released a [video](#) showcasing their robots autonomously cleaning hospital facilities. This robot is [available to rent today for \\$1000/month](#).
 - **Construction:** DeepMind trained cheap commodity robots to [play soccer](#) effectively, Boston Dynamics have [robots working on construction sites](#), etc; these are [commercially viable today](#).
 - **Corporate Shifts:** IBM has [announced](#) a hiring freeze and plans to replace up to 30% of its workforce with AI in the coming years. IBM also expects that [40% of the workforce will need to be retrained](#) in the next 3 years. The ILO released a [comprehensive report on task automation](#).
 - **AI in Customer Service:** AI systems designed to replace call center workers are already [available](#) and being actively utilized, signaling a shift in customer service operations.
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Conclusion:

The integration of commodity robotics with advanced AI systems is not a distant future scenario; it's happening now.

As these technologies continue to evolve and become more accessible, the labor market will undergo significant transformations. It's imperative for business leaders and policymakers to understand these changes and prepare accordingly.