

Money

Work

Which jobs will help you thrive in an AI world?

Experts say there will still be opportunities ahead in everything from teaching to banking and the law. **Sarah Marsh** gathers career advice

Entering the world of work often brings some uncertainty, but now there is another question: how can I AI-proof my career?

We asked people from across various industries what they think the impact of AI will be on careers, and which jobs may be less affected. While it is still early days for the tech, many had ideas about how you can best prepare yourself for a successful career in this new world.

Medicine

'Pharmacists, doctors, nurses and other prescribing clinicians will have a role'

Some of the healthcare jobs most vulnerable to disruption by AI include medical secretaries, pharmacy support staff, prescription processing and call handling teams, says Hira Malik, a superintendent pharmacist and co-founder of Oushki Pharmacy. She says the impact will fall on admin-led healthcare roles where staff are working with set forms, records or patient queries, rather than making clinical decisions. In online pharmacy, that could include checking consultation forms, chasing missing details, processing prescription requests, triaging standard patient queries or routing cases to a pharmacist. While these positions are unlikely to disappear completely, many of the tasks they involve could become automated.

Malik says pharmacists, doctors, nurses and other prescribing clinicians remain far less susceptible to replacement because they carry responsibility for patient safety and treatment decisions. "AI can help organise information and flag risks, but it cannot decide whether treatment is safe or appropriate," she says.

Some specialities, such as plastic surgery, are unlikely to be replaced owing to their highly individual nature, but areas such as radiology

are more at risk. Consultant plastic and reconstructive surgeon Dr Riaz Agha says: "Plastic surgery is too bespoke and too individualised. Every patient is different." But AI may eventually help a surgeon analyse past cases to support their decision-making, he adds.

According to Agha, radiology is a speciality "which is particularly vulnerable". He says: "There have now been many studies showing that AI can interpret scans with extremely high levels of accuracy and reliability. That does not necessarily mean radiologists disappear, but their role may evolve significantly."

His advice is that future doctors should learn how to use AI "properly and understand both its strengths and limitations".

Education and early years

'Childminding is one of the careers least likely to be replaced by AI'

In education, AI is again most likely to affect administrative and routine support roles rather than fully replacing teachers, experts say. "In terms of career choices, teaching is an excellent one," says Sharath Jeevan, founder of Oxford University's Generational Success Lab. "Students will always need trusted adult relationships to help them learn."

Another area expected to continue to employ people is childcare. Brett Wigdortz, founder and chief executive of the childcare agency Timey, says childminding is unlikely to be taken over by technology. While AI can support communication and organisation, he says "people want a human being to take care of their children."

He says that demand for childcare is strong, with places filling quickly, and childminding



▲ Demand for in-person childcare is likely to remain strong, experts say



can offer flexible, home-based work with good earning potential. Other related jobs in the sector include managing nurseries, or high-end nannying or tutoring.

Law

'As AI lowers the cost of delivering legal services... more jobs could be available'

Paralegal and junior lawyer roles are likely to be the most affected by AI because they often involve routine work such as document reviews, drafting first versions of legal documents, gathering information and completing forms. "These are all tasks AI is especially strong at," says Pierre Proner, the chief executive at Lawhive, an online legal services company that uses AI to help people find and work with lawyers. However, AI will not eliminate entry-level legal jobs.

"The roles will remain but they will just change," he says. Instead of spending their days on repetitive legal and administrative work, junior lawyers are likely to focus earlier on applying legal judgment and on developing their skills interacting with

clients. The other area is the supervision of the work that AI agents carry out. "AI still needs oversight," he says.

Brett Dixon, the vice-president of the Law Society of England and Wales, says automating routine tasks could create "more time and opportunities for junior lawyers to think more deeply about complex legal issues".

Some legal areas that are less routine, such as family law or litigation, are less directly affected by AI. However, Proner believes AI agents are still extremely competent at helping a lawyer prepare for a court case, and for running the back office of a law firm more efficiently.



▲ Less routine legal areas such as family law could be more secure

One of the profession's biggest challenges, Proner says, is determining "what are the progression paths from junior to senior lawyers" when many of the traditional training tasks are being automated.

Graduates, he says, should develop AI skills now, arguing that these are becoming as important as proficiency in Word or Excel once was. He says firms are increasingly assessing candidates on their ability to use the technology, asking potential recruits: "How are you using AI? Are you creating video-coded apps [with AI prompts]? Are you working with AI agents?"

He says far more people need access to the law than firms are capable of working with. As AI lowers the cost of delivering legal services, he says more jobs could be the outcome.

Hospitality

'Human-to-human connection, should not be replaced by AI'

Prof Graham Miller, the academic director of the Westmont Institute of Tourism and Hospitality at Nova School of Business and Economics, says AI could reshape

Motoring
Drivers charging EVs handed parking fines
Page 50

Fantasy house hunt
Homes for sale with chic bedrooms
Page 51

routine operational jobs. More routine tasks, such as "flipping burgers or making pizza", could eventually be automated, whereas AI is "not there yet" when it comes to producing truly innovative and creative cuisine, he says.

Trades

'Hands-on trades such as bricklaying or carpentry offer career opportunities'

Brian Berry, the chief executive of the Federation of Master Builders, says AI is beginning to reshape parts of the construction sector but its impact will be uneven.

"Hands-on trades such as bricklaying, carpentry and plastering are less exposed to AI and continue to offer strong, long-term career opportunities," he says, adding that this is particularly true if you work for small local firms.

Large-scale projects could be affected in the future as some hands-on trades are automated, but its implementation is still a way off, he says.

White-collar and administrative office job roles are being hit, including some jobs in planning and estimating. He says he expects more people to recognise the value that practical trades such as local builders can offer.

However, he says, "perception remains a challenge". Research by the Federation showed that fewer than half of parents (47%) would recommend their child take up a career in construction. "That has to change," Berry says.

Banking and finance

'Demand should rise for data scientists and AI engineers'

Tomasz Noertzel, a senior banking analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence, says the jobs in banking most affected by AI are likely to be "in call centre, customer service staff, middle-office operations teams, retail branch employees and IT support functions". These jobs involve large volumes of repetitive work that can increasingly be handled by AI-powered assistants. "That does not mean these jobs disappear overnight," he adds.

"Demand should rise for data scientists, AI engineers, software developers... with banks expecting growth in technology and data-related roles. Clients want up-to-date information on investment portfolios which can be done with AI."

Noertzel says: "Few banking jobs will be untouched, but high-judgment, specialist roles appear relatively resilient." In a survey of European banks by Bloomberg Intelligence, respondents "viewed research analysts, compliance and surveillance specialists and internal auditors as among the least exposed job categories. Credit underwriting is also increasingly using AI, but banks continue to emphasise human oversight."



Pharmacists involved in treatment decisions are less likely to be hit by AI

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Work

Which jobs will help you thrive in an AI world?

Match the profession with the list of jobs and find the suitable quote from the article:

Medicine

- Front Desk Agent / Receptionist
- Housekeeper / Room Attendant
- General Manager
- Server / Waiter
- Bartender
- Barista
- Host / Hostess
- Kitchen Porter / Dishwasher
- Event Coordinator
- Tour Guide
- Travel Agent

Education and early years

Law

Hospitality

Trades

Banking and finance

- Electrician
- Plumber
- Carpenter
- Pipefitter / Steamfitter
- Mason / Bricklayer
- Painter
- Roofer
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Ironworker

- Physician / Doctor
- Registered Nurse (RN)
- Surgeon
- Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Pharmacist
- Dentist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Medical Laboratory Scientist
- Medical Assistant
- Anesthesiologist
- Veterinarian

- Lawyer / Attorney
- Paralegal
- Legal Secretary
- Judge
- Law Clerk
- Legal Assistant
- Public Defender
- Prosecutor / District Attorney

- Classroom Teacher
- Teaching Assistant
- Early Childhood Educator
- Nursery Worker / Nursery Assistant
- Headteacher / Principal
- Childminder
- Learning Support Assistant
- Preschool Teacher
- Tutor
- Nanny

- Bank Teller
- Personal Banker
- Relationship Manager
- Loan Officer
- Mortgage Advisor
- Financial Analyst
- Investment Banker
- Accountant
- Auditor
- Financial Advisor / Planner

"Hands-on trades such as bricklaying or carpentry offer career opportunities"

"Childminding is one of the careers least likely to be replaced by AI"

"Pharmacists, doctors, nurses and other prescribing clinicians will have a role"

"As AI lowers the cost of delivering legal services ... more jobs could be available"

"Human-to-human connection, should not be replaced by AI"

Demand should rise for data scientists and AI engineers"



@BEYONDTHEOBVIOUS/ENG



Vocabulary Practice

Exercise 1: Match the Word to Its Definition

Draw a line to connect each word with the correct definition.

Word	Definition
1. to thrive	a. to calculate roughly how much, how long, or how many
2. to affect	b. the way something influences or changes a situation
3. to eliminate	c. able to recover quickly from setbacks and adapt to change
4. to estimate	d. to grow, succeed, and do really well
5. impact (n.)	e. easily harmed or negatively affected
6. disruption	f. someone watching over a task to make sure it's done right
7. supervision	g. the process of taking legal action through the courts
8. oversight	h. to have an influence on; to cause a change
9. litigation	i. the act of monitoring or watching over something to ensure it is correct
10. vulnerable	j. to completely remove or get rid of
11. resilient	k. easily influenced or likely to be affected by something
12. susceptible	l. major disturbance that interrupts the normal way of doing things

Exercise 2: Paraphrasing

Rewrite the sentences, replacing the underlined words with a word from the list. Make any necessary grammatical changes.

litigation, estimate, eliminate, oversight, resilient, vulnerable, affect, impact,

- The company is strong enough to recover quickly from the economic downturn.
- Please try to calculate roughly the cost of the materials.
- Due to a lack of monitoring by staff, the mistake was not spotted.
- The chief executive's resignation had a big influence on the company's share price.
- The goal is to completely remove the risk of infection.
- Smaller businesses are often in a weak position and more likely to be harmed by sudden market changes.
- The new software will not change your main duties, only the way you report them.
- The long legal battle between the neighbours lasted for years.

Exercise 3: Fill in the Gaps

The Career Blog — "Future-Proofing Your Job"
thrive, impact, susceptible, resilient, affect

Choosing a career today means asking one big question: "Could a robot do this?" Jobs that involve repetitive tasks are highly 1. _____ to automation. On the other hand, roles that require emotional intelligence, creativity, and complex problem-solving are where humans truly 2. _____. But remember, it's not just about AI. Think about economic changes. The 3. _____ of a recession, for instance, can seriously 4. _____ your job security in certain sectors. You want a career that is 5. _____ enough to survive market ups and down

Chat Between Friends — Jake and Ahmed

resilient, affect, eliminate, disruption, vulnerable, susceptible, disrupt

Jake: My parents want me to go into accounting, but I keep reading that AI will 6. _____ the need for basic bookkeepers. It'll completely 7. _____ that whole entry-level role.

Ahmed: Maybe. But AI can't build a house. That's why I'm looking at the trades. Plumbing and electrical work are way less 8. _____ to automation. No robot is going to fix a burst pipe anytime soon.

Jake: True. But are they affected by other things?

Ahmed: Oh yeah, totally. The housing market crashing would definitely 9. _____ our work. If no one's building, no one's hiring. But there's such a huge 10. _____ already in the skilled trades that we might dodge that.

Jake: I guess every career has risks. I just need to figure out what I'm least 11. _____ to losing sleep over. I'm not as mentally 12. _____ as you!



@BEYONDTHEOBVIOUS.ENG

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Comprehension

Exercise 4: True or False?

Read the statements and decide if they are True (T) or False (F) according to the article. Correct the false ones.

1. T / F The article says that AI's main impact on medicine will be on doctors and surgeons making clinical decisions.
2. T / F According to Dr. Riaz Agha, radiologists will disappear completely because AI is better at reading scans.
3. T / F In education, the most valuable and hardest-to-replace element is the trusted relationship between student and teacher.
4. T / F According to the Law section, one of the biggest problems is that there are no longer any tasks for junior lawyers to do.
5. T / F In hospitality, the article suggests AI will likely replace the "human-to-human connection" in front-office roles.

Summarizing

Complete the table below by listing (1) the jobs at most risk from AI and (2) the jobs seen as more resilient, according to the article.

Sector	Most Vulnerable Jobs/Roles	Most Resilient Jobs/Roles
Medicine		
Education		
Law		
Hospitality		
Trades		
Banking		

After-Reading Discussion

1. Which expert's opinion in the article surprised you the most, and why?
2. The banking section says, "Few banking jobs will be untouched, but high-judgment, specialist roles appear relatively resilient." Do you agree that human judgment will always be a "safe" skill from AI? Can you imagine a future where AI makes better judgments than humans in some areas?
3. The article repeatedly highlights the value of "trusted adult relationships" (teaching) and "human-to-human connection" (hospitality). Is this a universal truth, or could people one day trust an AI caregiver or enjoy interacting with an AI hotel receptionist? Why or why not?
4. The law section states that lowering the cost of legal services with AI could create *more* jobs. What is the potential social benefit of this? Can you think of other professions where using AI could make an essential service more accessible to everyone?
5. Based on the article, what two key pieces of advice would you give to a young person choosing a career path? The article advises aspiring lawyers to learn to use AI tools. Do you think this is good advice for *all* university students, regardless of their major?
6. The article identifies a "perception" problem that stops people from entering the trades. Why do you think fewer than half of parents would recommend a construction career to their children, even if it's AI-resilient? What could change this perception?



@BEYONDTHEOBVIOUSNG

Vocabulary List

- **to thrive** – to grow, develop, or succeed in a healthy and vigorous way
- **AI-proof the career** – to make a job or career resistant to replacement by artificial intelligence
- **impact of AI** – the effect or influence that artificial intelligence has on work, industries, or society
- **to affect** – to have an influence on or cause a change in something
- **vulnerable** – open to harm, damage, or being negatively affected
- **disruption** – a major disturbance or change that interrupts the normal way of doing things
- **triage patient queries** – to sort and prioritise patients' medical questions or concerns based on urgency
- **susceptible to** – likely to be affected or harmed by a particular thing
- **bespoke** – custom-made or tailored to a specific individual's needs
- **childminding** – the job of looking after children, usually in the carer's own home
- **to eliminate** – to completely remove or get rid of something
- **supervision** – the act of overseeing or directing work, tasks, or people
- **human oversight** – monitoring and control carried out by a person rather than a machine
- **litigation** – the process of taking legal action or resolving disputes in court
- **proficiency** – a high level of skill or competence in a particular area
- **hands-on trades** – skilled manual jobs involving practical, physical work
- **white-collar jobs** – professional, office-based, or administrative occupations
- **to estimate** – calculating roughly the value, cost, or quantity of something
- **retail branch employees** – staff working in a physical shop or local bank branch
- **resilient** – able to recover quickly from difficulties or adapt well to change
- **compliance and surveillance analysts** – professionals who monitor and ensure adherence to laws, regulations, and internal policies
- **exposed job categories** – types of work at higher risk of being negatively affected, automated, or eliminated