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JOBS AND THE ROBOT REVOLUTION

Technology has given birth to new career paths, but some jobs have disappeared as machines do them faster. An Oxford study claims that computerisation puts nearly half of jobs into the high-risk category, which means they could be redundant within 10 to 20 years. So is there any way to make sure you don't become surplus to requirement?

The jobs that seem to be at high risk are those intermediary roles, a lot of office and administration work and sales work. The rise of robots is far from science fiction. Amazon is already putting robots to work in its warehouses, and plans to use drones to deliver products to customers in 30 minutes or less.

Innovations in self-driving cars are set to transform travel and transportation, while automation is also transforming agriculture, retail and the financial services, and looks set to do the same for law and medicine.

But there are areas where humans can outperform machines. People will be hired for things robots can't do. Take journalism. Some news writing has already been automated, but as journalism is not a pure transmission of information, it isn't a natural field for a robot to excel in. These profoundly human skills, along with others such as creativity, problem solving and caring, are the ones people will get hired for in the future.

So what can you do if you are worried about the long-term potential of your chosen career? One option is to look at the skills shortages where you live and invest in the relevant training. (249)

Adapted from *The Independent*
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