

Robots on the rise as Americans experience record job losses amid pandemic

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They can check you in and deliver orange juice to your hotel room, answer your questions about a missing package, whip up sushi and pack up thousands of subscription boxes. And, perhaps most importantly, they are completely immune to Covid-19. While people have had a hard time in the coronavirus pandemic, robots are having a moment.

- 5 The Covid-19 pandemic has left millions of Americans unemployed – disproportionately those in the service industries where women and people of color make up the largest share of the labor force. In October, 11 million people were unemployed in the US, compared with about 6 million people who were without a job during the same time last year (...)

- 10 Multiple technology manufacturers have reported increased demand for their **bots (1)** over the course of the pandemic, from drone-like machines that can **roam (2)** hallways to make deliveries and AI-powered customer service software to increased use of self-service checkouts at supermarkets.

While an increase in automation can be good for educated workers and help to stimulate the economy, studies have also shown that new technology tends to leave low-wage workers behind.(...)

- 15 Low-wage workers are not only more susceptible to job loss and wage depression due to automation, but they also experienced the most job losses due to shutdowns. Higher-wage workers are more likely to be able to work from home during the pandemic, while lower-wage workers – a disproportionate number of whom are Black or Hispanic – were more susceptible to layoffs due to shutdown orders.

(1) bots = robots

- 20 (2) to roam = to wander, no destination

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