

## AI Job Threat: Expert Warns UK Faces Uncertain Future

August 10, 2025

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Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly shaping the future of work, with growing concerns that it could lead to significant job displacement across the UK. Dr Steve McCabe, a politics and economics expert, has warned that this latest technological revolution may not generate the new employment opportunities seen in previous industrial shifts.

Looking back at history, technological advances such as the Industrial Revolution and the information technology boom led to substantial changes in the labour market. Despite initial fears, these changes ultimately created new industries and jobs. However, Dr McCabe suggests AI poses a different challenge.

“In earlier industrial revolutions, although some roles disappeared, new opportunities were created,” Dr McCabe said. “The real danger of AI is that it will take away jobs, and from where I am standing, I cannot see where the new jobs are going to come from.”

He explained that while IT had promised to liberate workers and improve productivity, it also brought new pressures and challenges to the workforce. AI, he argues, could amplify these issues, especially as it becomes more widespread.

Dr McCabe also highlighted the role of major corporations in this technological shift, noting many may be internationally based with flexible operations that allow them to benefit most from AI developments. This raises questions about the distribution of economic benefits.

“Big companies, often footloose and headquartered overseas, are the main beneficiaries of AI. The critical issue is whether the UK government will be able to secure a fair share of the benefits through taxation,” he said.

The concern is that if taxation and regulation do not keep pace with technological change, the economic gains may bypass the domestic workforce entirely, exacerbating inequality and job insecurity.

This warning comes as the UK government and policymakers continue debating how best to prepare for AI’s impact on employment. While the technology promises increased efficiency and innovations, it also brings uncertainty for many workers, particularly in sectors vulnerable to automation.

Various sectors in the UK economy, from manufacturing to services, could see significant transformation as AI systems handle tasks traditionally performed by humans. This has prompted calls for greater investment in retraining and upskilling programmes to help workers adapt.

Dr McCabe urged governments to take proactive measures to address these economic and social challenges. Without careful planning, he said, the benefits of AI might concentrate in the hands of a few, while many workers face redundancy or lower-quality jobs.

In summary, while AI offers exciting possibilities for technological progress, its impact on the UK labour market remains uncertain. The challenge for policymakers will be balancing innovation with social protection to ensure that economic growth is inclusive and sustainable.