# Anthropic CEO warns AI could automate half of entry-level white-collar jobs within five years



Dario Amodei, CEO of Anthropic, has issued a stark warning regarding the future of white-collar employment amidst the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI). He posits that significant layoffs may soon be an unavoidable reality, with predictions suggesting that up to half of all entry-level positions across sectors such as law, technology, and finance could be automated within the next five years. This shift could potentially lead to unemployment rates soaring as high as 20%.

Amodei's concerns highlight a growing unease with AI's capacity to transform the job market dramatically. He remarked that many workers seem largely unaware of the impending changes, saying, "It sounds crazy, and people just don't believe it." He acknowledged that while AI holds the potential for monumental societal benefits, such as medical breakthroughs and economic productivity, it also poses considerable risks for job security. "Cancer is cured, the economy grows at 10% a year, the budget is balanced — and 20% of people don't have jobs," he added, encapsulating the dual-edged nature of technological progress.

The pressure on entry-level roles is not an isolated concern; industry leaders across the landscape fear a domino effect could follow as companies increasingly prioritise efficiency over human labour. According to an Axios report, the technology sector has already seen an approximate 2% rise in layoffs attributed to AI by 2025, reflecting a broader trend of businesses eager to capitalise on rapid advancements in automation. Steve Bannon, a notable figure in political and media circles, has echoed these fears, lamenting that entry-level jobs crucial for career development in one's twenties may be “eviscerated.”

However, beyond these dire predictions lies a complex narrative. Historical precedents such as the introduction of the internet have generated fears of job loss, yet these transitions also led to new employment opportunities in many cases. While Amodei’s projections are alarming, some economists urge caution, recalling that job market disruptions caused by previous technological revolutions did not always culminate in widespread unemployment. A recent study from Oxford Economics illustrates that recent graduates are already facing challenges in securing positions, a troubling sign of AI's early impact on job availability.

Moreover, some organisations that have initially leaned heavily into AI are reassessing their strategies. For instance, companies like Klarna and IBM, which aggressively adopted AI models, have begun to recalibrate their approaches amid concerns regarding reliability and customer preferences. This suggests that while AI's capabilities are promising, the realities of implementation may require more nuanced evaluation.

In light of these fears, calls for proactive measures are escalating from various quarters. Amodei advocates for transparent communication and policy formulation to navigate this change, including proposals such as a "token tax" on revenue generated through AI technologies. The aim is to redistribute wealth and buffer those most adversely affected by the job loss crisis.

Despite the potential societal shifts, the broader implications of AI on the economy and social structure remain murky. As observers warn of a possible “resource curse” scenario—where economic growth fails to translate into improved human welfare—there's an urgent need for collaborative approaches from governments, industry leaders, and communities to ensure that AI's transformative potential can be harnessed for equitable outcomes.

In a world where AI is set to become more integrated into everyday working life, navigating the transition without exacerbating inequality will be a daunting challenge. The rapid development of AI technologies must be met with equally swift considerations of their societal impact, lest a significant portion of the population find themselves displaced, grappling with a future that could radically alter the dynamics of work and personal fulfilment.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.techradar.com/pro/are-white-collar-jobs-at-risk-from-ai-anthropic-ceo-dario-amodei-certainly-thinks-so), [[4]](https://www.axios.com/2025/05/28/ai-jobs-white-collar-unemployment-anthropic)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.techradar.com/pro/are-white-collar-jobs-at-risk-from-ai-anthropic-ceo-dario-amodei-certainly-thinks-so), [[2]](https://time.com/7289692/when-ai-replaces-workers/), [[5]](https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-am-e8b4908f-a6fa-40b1-8adc-7d9b60c94da2)
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* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.axios.com/2025/05/30/ai-jobs-replace-humans-ceos-amodei), [[6]](https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-ai-plus-cf521d18-654d-46a2-b138-7f6a9ce36c92)
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* Paragraph 6 – [[5]](https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-am-e8b4908f-a6fa-40b1-8adc-7d9b60c94da2), [[7]](https://justdario.com/2024/04/white-collar-jobs-mass-unemployment-is-inexorably-ahead-of-us-with-brutal-economic-consequences/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.techradar.com/pro/are-white-collar-jobs-at-risk-from-ai-anthropic-ceo-dario-amodei-certainly-thinks-so> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://time.com/7289692/when-ai-replaces-workers/> - This article discusses the rapid approach of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), with experts predicting its emergence between 2026 and 2035. AI technologies already outperform humans in tasks like standardized testing, programming, and science. Industry leaders suggest AGI could replace half of all entry-level white-collar jobs within five years, potentially leading to widespread technological unemployment. The piece also explores the societal implications, including the risk of a 'resource curse' scenario where human welfare becomes secondary. Proposed solutions include democratizing AI access and ensuring decentralized ownership to mitigate risks like AGI misuse.
3. <https://www.axios.com/2025/05/30/ai-jobs-replace-humans-ceos-amodei> - Businesses are increasingly replacing human workers with AI, betting that rapid technological advancement will justify current workforce reductions. CEOs are prioritizing immediate cost cuts in anticipation that AI capabilities will soon meet or exceed human performance. Notably, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei warned AI could eliminate up to 50% of entry-level white-collar jobs and raise unemployment to 10–20% within five years. However, many economists are more cautious, recalling that past digital transformations—like the introduction of PCs and the internet—also sparked job-loss fears that didn't fully materialize. A recent Oxford Economics study highlights rising unemployment among recent college graduates as an early indicator of AI's impact on the job market. Some companies that initially championed AI over human labor have since reconsidered their strategies, illustrating uncertainties in the transition. Historically, major technological shifts—from industrialization to globalization—have always disrupted labor markets. The unpredictable socio-political implications of AI-driven job losses could strain alliances and social cohesion, adding another layer of complexity to an already uncertain future.
4. <https://www.axios.com/2025/05/28/ai-jobs-white-collar-unemployment-anthropic> - Dario Amodei, CEO of AI company Anthropic, has issued a stark warning about the imminent threat artificial intelligence poses to white-collar employment. Speaking candidly after launching his own advanced AI system, Claude 4, Amodei highlighted how technology capable of near-human coding and task execution is progressing rapidly, with the potential to trigger a sudden, large-scale job displacement. Despite AI's power to achieve immense societal benefits, it also presents immediate economic dangers, including job automation across a broad range of professions. Amodei fears mass unemployment could unfold virtually overnight as companies opt to replace rather than hire workers, possibly leading to unprecedented inequality. While some, including OpenAI’s Sam Altman, remain optimistic based on historical patterns of technological transformation, Amodei and others stress the urgent need for government and industry to act preemptively. Proposed solutions include mechanisms like a “token tax” to redistribute AI-generated wealth. The overarching message: AI’s trajectory is irreversible, but with strategic guidance, its impact can be steered more equitably.
5. <https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-am-e8b4908f-a6fa-40b1-8adc-7d9b60c94da2> - A major concern raised in this edition of Axios AM is the potential for a significant white-collar job loss crisis due to rapidly advancing artificial intelligence. Dario Amodei, CEO of Anthropic, warns that AI could eliminate up to 50% of entry-level white-collar jobs, potentially spiking unemployment to 10–20% in the next five years. Fields such as technology, finance, law, and consulting are most at risk. While AI offers positives like medical breakthroughs and economic growth, the transition could lead to abrupt job displacement. Amodei urges transparent communication and policy planning, including a 'token tax' on AI-generated revenue. Meanwhile, the Trump administration is intensifying immigration enforcement, demanding up to 3,000 ICE arrests daily. Other headlines include warming U.S. summers driven by climate change, SpaceX's troubled Starship test flight, logistical challenges facing Trump's missile defense initiative 'Golden Dome,' and surprising resilience in small business optimism despite rising tariffs. Additionally, Burnt Bean Co. in Seguin, Texas, claims the top spot in Texas Monthly’s barbecue rankings.
6. <https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-ai-plus-cf521d18-654d-46a2-b138-7f6a9ce36c92> - Many companies are rushing to replace human workers with AI, betting on rapid technological advancements to justify early job cuts. This strategy, however, risks causing significant disruption, particularly in entry-level white-collar jobs across sectors such as finance, law, and consulting. Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei predicts AI could eliminate up to 50% of these roles in the next five years, although some economists contest this forecast by citing historical technological shifts that resulted in overall employment growth. Companies like Klarna and IBM that initially embraced aggressive AI adoption have already adjusted their approaches due to reliability issues and customer preferences. Meanwhile, The New York Times signed a multiyear AI content licensing deal with Amazon, providing editorial material for use in AI-driven services including Alexa. This reflects a broader trend of media companies navigating licensing and legal actions with AI firms. Additionally, in related developments, new deals, funding rounds, and policy moves, such as Grammarly’s $1 billion investment and Microsoft’s strategic leadership changes, highlight the rapidly evolving AI landscape. Overall, while AI’s impact may reshape the labor market and media usage, the public remains cautious, favoring a more careful integration of the technology.
7. <https://justdario.com/2024/04/white-collar-jobs-mass-unemployment-is-inexorably-ahead-of-us-with-brutal-economic-consequences/> - During the last three days in Dubai, I had the opportunity to talk with a lot of people, the vast majority of them working to develop new AI tools and businesses. The more I heard about what all of them are busy with, the more I grew concerned for the future of so many people who have no idea about what’s coming and are broadly underestimating the impact of AI in their daily lives, starting from their jobs. If you wake up in the morning, commute to an office (or just turn on your laptop if you have the luxury of “working from home”), and spend eight hours of your day repeating the same tasks over and over again, I have bad news for you: in a few years, you won’t be needed anymore. Accountants, customer services, relationship managers, loan officers, account managers, clerks, editors, copywriters, supply chain managers, and even personal assistants will all be replaced by AI bots that can tirelessly work 24/7, 365 days a year. Not only will AI bots take away your jobs forever, but they will do it for a fraction of the cost. People are “bullish” on AI without realizing the catastrophic social consequences and wealth destruction this will cause. Many of these displaced people will either be too young or not have enough financial resources to retire; all of them will have no choice but to migrate into “blue-collar” jobs. However, there will not be enough demand for them in the job market and they will have no choice but to start competing to the bottom in terms of salaries because of the basic law of demand and supply. Paradoxically, AI will have a much harder time disrupting blue-collar jobs for a very simple reason: these jobs will remain much cheaper for companies than replacing them with robots for a long time. However, because of lower and lower salaries, savings rates and discretionary consumer spending are going to collapse. Is this going to solve the inflation problem though? No sir, governments will have no choice but to ramp up “stimmies” distribution to make up for the loss of income of this big chunk of the population and central banks will be forced even more to monetize growing public deficits.