# LinkedIn cuts 668 jobs amid Microsoft restructuring and AI-driven shifts



The wave of layoffs afflicting Silicon Valley has reached LinkedIn, a platform synonymous with professional networking and job searches. In a recent announcement, LinkedIn disclosed significant job cuts, totalling 668 employees, which represent over 3% of its global workforce. This downsizing adds to the difficult climate for technology workers, coming on the heels of Microsoft’s decision to reduce its workforce by 6,000 globally. As LinkedIn's parent company, Microsoft has been executing a broader strategy of job cuts that is reshaping its organisational structure.

The layoffs, which predominantly affected engineering and product teams, were first communicated to the impacted employees on October 16. While LinkedIn had previously issued public statements regarding workforce reductions, this time the silence from the company’s leadership has prompted speculation about the potential for further cuts in the future. In May, LinkedIn CEO Ryan Roslansky personally informed staff about a previous reduction of 716 employees, a stark contrast to the current lack of communication that seems to leave many employees in the dark.

These layoffs arrive amid a larger trend within the tech industry, where companies are reassessing their workforce needs due to advancements in artificial intelligence (AI). As AI tools evolve to perform tasks traditionally handled by engineers—such as coding and product development—corporate leaders are questioning the necessity of maintaining large engineering teams. LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman has spoken out on this issue, emphasising the need for a more nuanced understanding of AI's capabilities, suggesting that technology should not be seen as a replacement for human connection. “I don’t think any AI tool today is capable of being a friend,” he cautioned, highlighting the emotional complexities that accompany AI adoption.

This round of layoffs is not an isolated event but part of a broader pattern among major tech firms like Google, Meta, and others which have similarly trimmed their workforces throughout 2023. The rationale often cited includes restructuring efforts and a pivot toward prioritising AI technologies to streamline operations. Despite the job cuts, LinkedIn reported a robust revenue performance, eclipsing $15 billion for the fiscal year ending in June 2023. Significantly, these results highlight the company’s underlying growth even in challenging times, as it grapples with both external market pressures and internal strategic decisions.

As LinkedIn continues to navigate its path forward, the dual pressures of maintaining operational effectiveness while embracing transformative technologies will shape its future. The context of these layoffs not only resonates within LinkedIn but also reflects a wider reimagining of roles within the tech landscape as companies grapple with an uncertain economic environment and the relentless march of AI.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://www.axios.com/2023/10/16/linkedin-layoffs-restructuring-artifical-intelligence> - LinkedIn announced plans to lay off over 660 employees, representing more than 3% of its global workforce, across various departments including engineering, product, talent, and finance. This marks the second significant round of layoffs this year, following the reduction of 716 jobs in May and the closure of its Chinese app InCareer. The layoffs are part of a broader restructuring effort aimed at optimising operations around artificial intelligence. Founded in 2002, LinkedIn remains a growing social networking site, especially after its acquisition by Microsoft for $26.2 billion in 2016. ([axios.com](https://www.axios.com/2023/10/16/linkedin-layoffs-restructuring-artifical-intelligence?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://apnews.com/article/91602f395e1761be005c19cebe975593> - LinkedIn, the Microsoft-owned career network, is laying off approximately 668 employees, constituting about 3% of its workforce. The layoffs affect its engineering, product, talent, and finance teams. This move follows a previous round of over 700 layoffs in May and additional job cuts from its parent company, Microsoft, throughout the year. Despite these layoffs, LinkedIn continues to grow, with its annual revenue surpassing $15 billion for the first time in the fiscal year ending June 2023. The company, headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, currently employs around 19,500 people and generates revenue from advertisements and subscription-based premium features. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/91602f395e1761be005c19cebe975593?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.theverge.com/2023/10/16/23919241/linkedin-layoff-hundreds-employees-revenue> - LinkedIn is laying off about 668 employees across various teams, the Microsoft-owned company announced on Monday. It’s the second time LinkedIn has announced cuts this year; it laid off 716 employees in May, saying at the time that the move was meant to “re-organize for greater agility and growth.” This time, the cuts are about “streamlining our decision making,” according to LinkedIn’s statement. Microsoft has also announced multiple rounds of layoffs recently, including 10,000 positions it eliminated at the start of this year. ([theverge.com](https://www.theverge.com/2023/10/16/23919241/linkedin-layoff-hundreds-employees-revenue?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-10-16/microsoft-owned-linkedin-pares-668-jobs-in-second-recent-cutback> - Microsoft Corp.’s LinkedIn is cutting about 668 roles across its engineering, product, talent and finance teams. These are the second such cuts this year as fewer companies use the hiring platform and corporate social network. LinkedIn is “continuing to invest in strategic priorities for our future and to ensure we continue to deliver value to our members,” the company said in a blog post Monday. ([bloomberg.com](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-10-16/microsoft-owned-linkedin-pares-668-jobs-in-second-recent-cutback?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2023/oct/16/linkedin-layoffs-microsoft-second-job-cuts> - Microsoft’s LinkedIn said on Monday it would lay off 668 employees across its engineering, talent and finance teams in the second round of job cuts this year for the social media network for professionals amid slowing revenue growth. The cuts, which affect more than 3% of the 20,000-strong staff, add to the tens of thousands of job losses this year in the technology sector in the face of an uncertain economic outlook. LinkedIn to cut 716 jobs and shut down Chinese app InCareer. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2023/oct/16/linkedin-layoffs-microsoft-second-job-cuts?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.theregister.com/2023/10/16/linkedin_layoffs/> - Microsoft is kicking off another round of layoffs, this time cutting 668 jobs across several teams at LinkedIn. News of the cuts came this morning, which LinkedIn confirmed in a brief blog post that it described to The Register as "full." According to the Microsoft subsidiary, the cuts will range across engineering, product, talent, and finance teams and were made as part of organisational restructuring and streamlining "to ensure we continue to deliver value for our members and customers." A more detailed account of the layoffs penned by LinkedIn's SVP of engineering Mohak Shroff and CPO Tomer Cohen was sent to current employees and found its way online today, and with it a more detailed account of the lost jobs. Per the memo, 563 roles in LinkedIn research and development are being cut, 137 engineer management roles, and 38 product staffers among them. The bulk of the cuts - 388 jobs - are being culled directly from engineering teams, though a few people will be saved "to fill critical gaps in our ambitious roadmap," the executive duo said. The remaining 105 eliminated positions, we assume, will come from the aforementioned non-engineering teams. The changes are necessary as Microsoft continues "adapting our organisational structures to improve agility and accountability, establishing unambiguous ownership, and driving improved efficiency & transparency through reduced layering," Shroff and Cohen said. LinkedIn didn't offer us any additional comment beside the brief blog post it published earlier today. Multiple self-identified LinkedIn employees confirmed the layoffs on anonymous tech industry jobs site Blind. A Microsoft employee posting on a Blind thread about the LinkedIn layoffs said rumours in Redmond indicate more job cuts may be announced next week. ([theregister.com](https://www.theregister.com/2023/10/16/linkedin_layoffs/?utm_source=openai))