

Use of articles

adapted by D.Potter - 20170505

practice based on an internet press release

Complete the text with either a zero article (-), a definite or an indefinite article

1 We need to track more than GDP to understand how automation is transforming
2 work
3
4 Governments and business don't have [] right information to understand what
5 [] future of work really looks like
6
7 [] new report by [] US-based National Academies of Science Engineering and
8 Medicine suggests that not only has [] automation of work barely begun but
9 that [] ways in which we measure [] effects of technology on employment are
10 inadequate to [] task.
11
12 [] authors argue that to understand how automation is transforming our
13 workplaces, we need better ways of tracking technological change. Put simply,
14 they are saying that if we are what we measure - that is, if policy is driven
15 by [] information we collect - then we are collecting [] wrong information.
16
17 "Data on many of these trends are elusive, reflecting [the] changing nature of
18 society and [] economy, and gaps in [the] statistical infrastructure," the
19 report says.
20
21 It points out, for instance, that we don't have [] regular source of information
22 about workers in part-time and other sorts of casual employment. Nor do we have
23 good information about investment in computer technology at either [] level of
24 [] company or of any given occupation.
25
26 Also lacking is long-term information about [] way in which skills within
27 particular jobs are changing, as well as data on how effective educational
28 practices are in preparing people for work. Such information gaps undermine our
29 ability to respond appropriately to technological change and its effects on
30 employment.
31
32 This is [] huge wake-up call for governments and businesses around [] world who
33 are proving slow to engage with [] changing nature of work and who have tended
34 to hide behind [] mantra of "jobs and growth", as if that will take care of
35 everything. It is [] reminder to all of us that we are long way from
36 understanding what [] future of work really looks like.
37
38
39 Cybersecurity: is [] office coffee machine watching you?
40
41 Artificial intelligence and machine learning can identify threats to an
42 organisation - but at what cost to privacy and whistleblowers?
43
44 Read more
45
46 [] authors call for three new indices to be developed, tools that can be used
47 to plug holes in conventional measures such as GDP, productivity and the
48 unemployment rate - [] technology progress index, [] artificial intelligence
49 progress index and [] organisational change and technology diffusion index.
50
51 They set out [] parameters of each in some detail and, in so doing, open up a
52 much-needed discussion about [] data used to help form public policy.
53
54 We tend to think of measures like GDP and productivity as eternal truths of
55 economics and, indeed, they have proved their worth over time. Nonetheless,
56 some of them are not only reasonably recent inventions, dating from around the

57 second world war, but are designed to measure activity in [] economy of mass
58 manufacturing, [] sector increasingly being displaced by [] information economy
59 as [] primary source of global wealth. This means [] measures themselves are
60 also increasingly irrelevant.

61

62 Advertisement

63

64 As [] economics professor Richard Holden wrote: “ [] IMF model suggests
65 Australian unemployment falling to 5.2% ... in 2017 and to 5.1% in 2018. But that
66 is [] pre-2008 model of how [] labour market and macroeconomy interrelate.
67 Maybe that’s still [] right model but I wouldn’t bet on it.”

68

69 As [] entrepreneur and founder of Wired Magazine Kevin Kelly has said on the
70 subject of productivity: “Productivity is for robots. Humans excel at wasting
71 time, experimenting, playing, creating and exploring. None of these fare well
72 under [] scrutiny of productivity. That is why science and art are so hard to
73 fund. But they are also [] foundation of long-term growth.”

74

75 To help understand [] point Kelly is making, consider that [] quarter of
76 Britain’s top actors have been kept in work over [] last decade by Harry
77 Potter films. So although JK Rowling may be [] billion-dollar industry, her
78 value as [] contributor to national wealth does not improve by subjecting her to
79 [] stopwatch and increased output to improve her productivity.

80

81 What Kelly is saying is that, if you can measure [] job’s productivity, you can
82 probably replace that job with [] machine, so that when it comes to humans in
83 [] workplace we should be measuring different things. “[Our] notions of jobs,
84 of work, of [] economy don’t include [] lot of space for ... experimenting,
85 playing, creating and exploring,” Kelly says, but those are [] very skills
86 that are likely to become more valuable in [] workplaces of [] future.

87

88 So [] value that humans will increasingly bring to [] workplace is to be not
89 [] robot, which will mean measuring our contribution by something other than
90 inputs and outputs.

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92 Seventeen jobs, five careers: learning in [] age of automation

93

94 Online courses will help employees to upskill as redundancies sweep away jobs -
95 but will universities be able to keep up?

96

97 Read more

98

99 [] National Academies report is not arguing for [] wholesale replacement of
100 traditional measures of economic activity but it is saying we need vast new
101 supplementary data to better understand [] ways in which new technologies are
102 affecting [] work that we do. Until we develop and implement these measures,
103 it will mean that, on everything from education to welfare to employment
104 policy, governments are flying blind.

105

106 [] concerns of [] report’s authors are being driven by their belief that the
107 technological disruption of employment has barely begun. They write:
108 “Opportunities for digitising and automating tasks are far from exhausted. In
109 particular, [] workforce will be increasingly affected as more and more
110 cognitive tasks become fully or partly automatable ... and as advances in
111 robotics yield enhanced physical dexterity, mobility and sensory perception in
112 machines. These trends will almost surely change [] demand for [] workers
113 performing these tasks and [] nature of [] organisations in which they work.”

114

115 And so [] sooner we start accurately measuring what is happening, [] better

116

117

118 source:

-- original text --

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118 source:

119 <https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2017/may/04/>

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