

Human Progress DOOMSLAYER

a newsletter that cuts through the gloom



Blog Post | Science & Technology

AI, Tractors, and the Slow Diffusion of Labor-Saving Devices

As large language models like ChatGPT proliferate and improve, all manner of professionals, from writers and lawyers to physicians and graphic designers, seem at risk of losing their livelihoods to machines.

However, history suggests that radical, labor-saving technologies are slow to diffuse across the economy, giving workers plenty of time to adjust.

For one example, take the iconic horses-to-tractor transition of the 20th century.

[Read more](#)

Blog Post | Time Prices

Macintosh Computer Prices at the Age of 40

When Steve Jobs introduced the first Macintosh in 1984, it sold for \$2,495, or 498 hours of unskilled labor. Today, a new iMac costs just 78.7 hours.

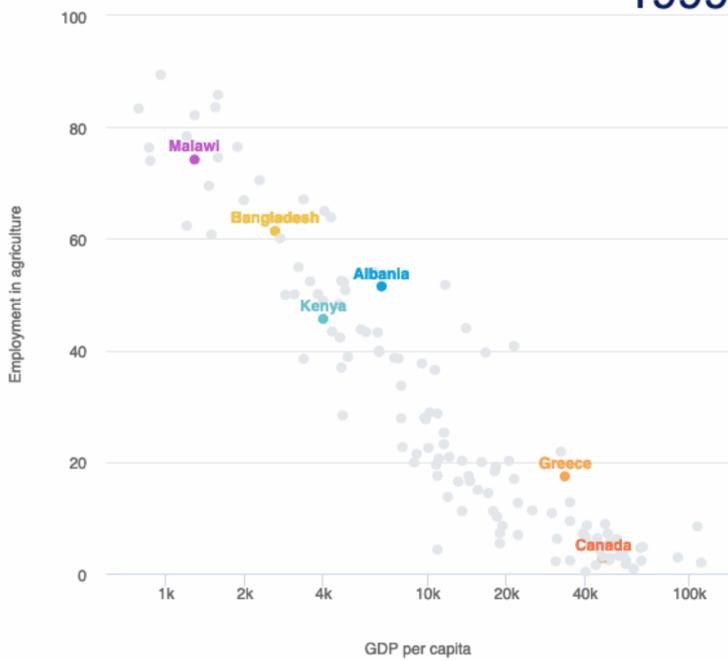


[Read more.](#)

GDP per capita & Employment in agriculture

1990-2023

1999



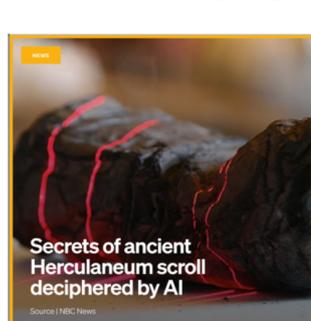
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Technology has a long history of displacing tedious and dangerous jobs and replacing them with better-paying, safer, and more fulfilling occupations.

While we cannot know in advance whether artificial intelligence will do the same, we should be predisposed to hope rather than fear.

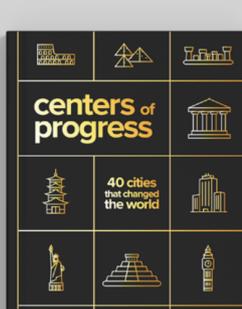
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