

## AI will take "first jobs"

Many of the "first jobs" young people hold are likely to be taken over by artificial intelligence, according to the Brookings Institution.

Some 49% of workers aged 16-24 are at risk of losing their jobs. "Gen Z" workers are on the hook because more than 70% of their current skills can be automated.

They represent about 9% of the workforce but are nearly 40% of the cashiers and waiters and nearly 25% of retail salespeople.

About 45% of the Tucson metro area's 375,000 jobs are vulnerable, the study says. Jobs where tasks are routine either physically or mentally are most easily filled by robots, kiosks or other automation.

A study by the McKinsey Global Institute named these jobs as the most likely where automation will replace people:

- Retail clerks
- Data analysts
- Fast-food workers
- Truck, taxi and delivery drivers
- Security guards
- Front-line soldiers

## Got enough time?

Everybody seems to feel pressed for time. Yet research finds that people who are busy tend to be happier than those who are idle.

So where is the line between going crazy and relaxing? Researchers have found it has to do with "discretionary time" -- time to do what you want.

The research discovered that for employed people, their satisfaction with life

peaked when they had about 2½ hours of free time a day. For people who didn't work, the optimal amount was four hours and 45 minutes.

Family commitments (as parents of any newborn will attest) and control over work schedule seem to be the leading factors preventing more discretionary time.

More isn't necessarily better. Free time might be less fulfilling if it can't be spent with others. For example, early retirees might find their friends are all working, so there's nobody to play golf with.

## Audits coming back?

IRS audits hit a ten-year low in fiscal year 2018, but that may be turning around this year.

After years of hiring freezes and retirements by IRS staffers, the first class of new IRS auditors recently completed training and have moved into field offices.

While it will take several more years of recruiting to fill the IRS' depleted ranks, taxpayers may see the impact of additional, eager auditors starting this year.

In 2018, IRS audited 892,000 individual returns out of 150 million returns filed, for an audit rate of 0.6%. S-corporations and partnerships had a 0.2% audit rate.

The Taxpayer Advocate points out the "real" audit rate for individuals is more like 6.2%, when computerized correction letters and other correspondence is counted. To most taxpayers, getting any letter from IRS asking for more money feels like an audit.

