

59% of Canadian Workers Believe AI and Automation Will Have No Impact on Their Job



Futurists and Staffing Experts Predict Skills Gap, According to New Report by Robert Half

TORONTO, June 5, 2019 /CNW/ - Are workers worried they'll be displaced by robots in the future? Not for the most part, new research from global staffing firm Robert Half shows. Only 16% of workers in Canada are concerned that artificial intelligence (AI) and automation will have a negative impact on their job. One-quarter (25%) believe new technologies will have a positive effect, and 59% foresee no effect at all.

But futurists and staffing experts interviewed for Robert Half's new report, [Jobs and AI Anxiety](#), believe emerging technologies are profoundly shifting the workplace. According to more than 300 Canadian business leaders surveyed for the research, one of the top ways technological advancements will affect jobs is they will require new skills from employees.

"The impact of new technologies in the workplace transcends all aspects of business, regardless of industry," said David King, senior district president for Robert Half. "Professionals and organizations alike need to embrace and stay ahead of these inevitable changes in order to meet business demands and remain competitive."

Additional Findings

- In addition to requiring new skills (49%), employers said other top impacts of new technologies on their staff include:
 - Change in processes (48%)
 - Increased employee productivity (45%)
 - Replace routine responsibilities (45%)
 - More time for teams to focus on strategic areas (37%)
 - New career opportunities (37%)
- One-quarter of employees (25%) said they see AI and automation having a positive impact on their job, mainly for the following reasons:
 - Opportunity to focus on creativity and problem-solving (38%)
 - Increased productivity (31%)
 - Ability to develop new skills and deliver better business solutions (19%)

Upskilling for the Future

Business leaders surveyed for the Jobs and AI Anxiety report expect to upgrade the technological skills of their workforce by training current staff (64%), hiring new staff (48%), bringing in consultants who are subject matter experts (41%) and working

with external service providers (39%).

But 90% of managers think it will be challenging to get their staff up to speed on new technologies, and 88% anticipate it will be difficult to find professionals with the requisite expertise.

"Keeping up with the latest technology may feel challenging at times, but it's as important for professional growth as it is for business development," added King. "Workers who demonstrate an eagerness to learn and ability to adapt quickly to change will be in high demand. And companies that provide staff opportunities to experiment with new tools, while taking a proactive approach to identify and address skills gaps on their teams, will be best positioned to navigate the future."

About the Research

The online surveys were developed by Robert Half and conducted by independent research firms. The worker survey includes responses from more than 400 professionals 18 years of age or older and employed in office environments in Canada. More than 300 managers in Canada were surveyed for the Jobs and AI Anxiety report.

About Robert Half

Founded in 1948, Robert Half is the world's first and largest specialized staffing firm. The company has more than 300 staffing locations worldwide and offers job search services at roberthalf.ca. For additional career and management advice, visit the Robert Half blog at roberthalf.ca/blog.

SOURCE Robert Half Canada

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