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The Picture Today: Seven Jobs Robots Are Already Doing

NOW, WHILE THE THOUGHT OF FUTURE JOBS being taken by robots is quite concerning, it is easy to just bury one's head in the sand and see this as a problem for the future. You probably accept the general idea that there is a high chance of this job or that job being automated, but it all seems to be a decade or two away. So, it is understandable if some of you may be wondering what all the fuss is about.

But the reality is that the replacement of jobs is happening today, now, to people like you and me. Robot automation of human jobs is not going to magically start on a dark day ten or twenty years into the future, it started happening years ago. To help make this point abundantly clear, and to combat any scepticism out there, I thought I would start by outlining eight jobs that robots are already doing.

1:) Fast-Food Sector

Now, I admit that flipping burgers may not be the idea of a dream job, but it is still a job that makes up a substantial part of the labour economy. Recent research shown here in this [white paper by Cornerstone Capital Group](#)², titled: *The Economics of Automation: The Quick Serve Restaurant Industry*, identifies the fast food sector as ripe for automation and replacement of human workers by robots.

In China, engineers have created the first round of prototypes of an army of noodle-making robots that can slice noodles. If you search on youtube for: [Robot Chefs taking over China Noodle Bar](#)³, you will find a pretty convincing video showing these noodle-slicing robots in action.

And this is no AI gimmick either, it is actually more cost-effective; the robot chefs cost \$2,000 (US Dollars) which is less than half the price of a human chef that would cost around \$4,700 a year, and who would also be asking for pay-rises and additional benefits. Robots are not 'Oliver Twist'; they never ask for more. Also these 'noodle bots' apparently slice noodles better than humans and three thousand had already been sold back at the end of 2012, meaning they have already displaced three thousand human chefs.

No sector of the fast-food industry is safe.

If robots can cut noodles, it cannot be such a big leap of the imagination to think they they will soon be able to slice chips, make pizzas, prepare burgers etc. Therefore,