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Disappearing Routine Jobs: Who, How, and Why?

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1 Disappearing Routine Jobs: Who, How, and  
2 Why?\*

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13 **Abstract**

14 We study the deterioration of employment in middle-wage, rou-  
15 tine occupations in the United States in the last 35 years. The decline  
16 is primarily driven by changes in the propensity to work in routine  
jobs for individuals from a small set of demographic groups. These  
same groups account for a substantial fraction of both the increase in  
non-employment and employment in low-wage, non-routine manual  
occupations observed during the same period. We analyze a general  
neoclassical model of the labor market featuring endogenous participa-  
tion and occupation choice. In response to an increase in automation

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