

Box E1. The historical evidence on technology and employment is reassuring (continued)

Revolution. However, automation going forward might prove to be more disruptive than in recent decades—and on par with the most rapid changes in the past—in two ways. First, if technological advances continue

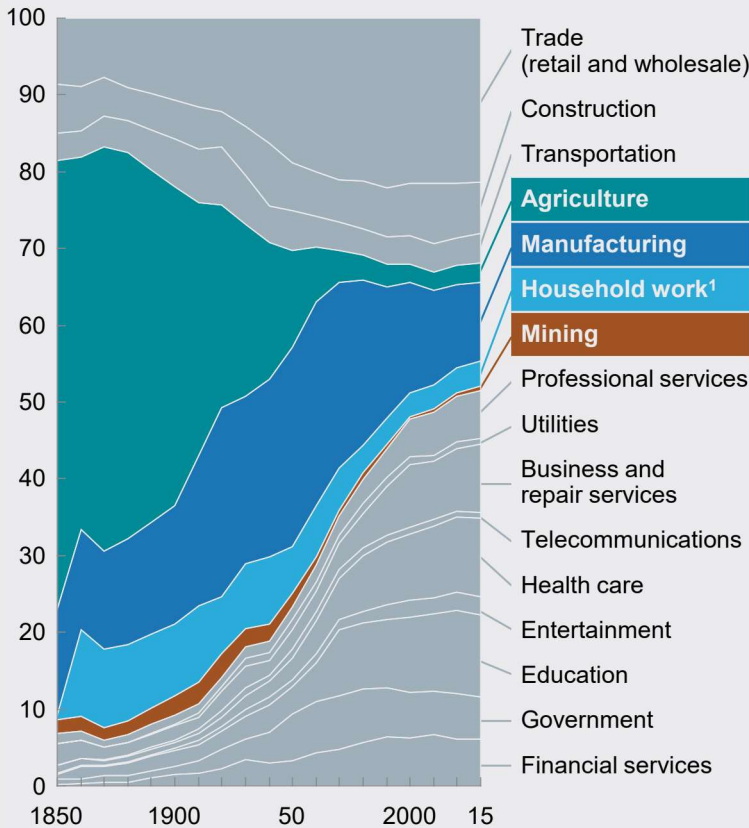
apace and are adopted rapidly, the rate of worker displacement could be faster. Secondly, if many sectors adopt automation simultaneously, the percentage of the workforce affected by it could be higher.

Exhibit E3

History shows that technology has created large employment and sector shifts, but also creates new jobs

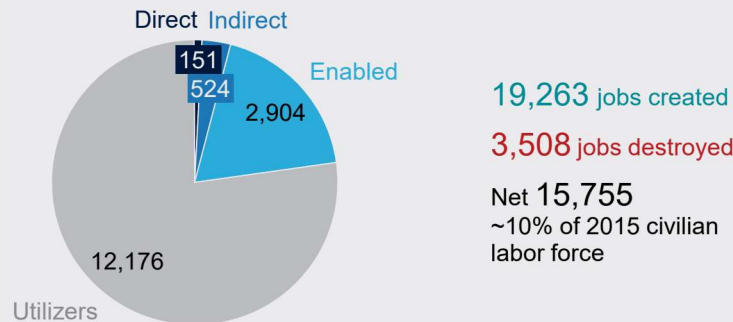
Large-scale sector employment declines have been countered by growth of other sectors that have absorbed workers

Share of total employment by sector in the United States, 1850–2015



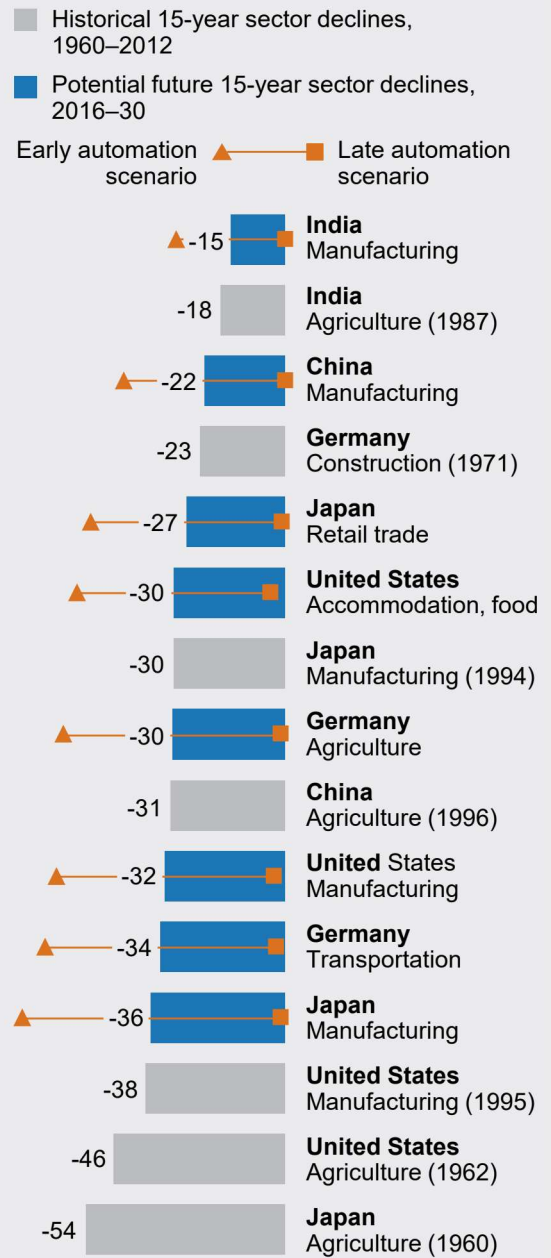
Technology creates more jobs than it destroys over time, mainly outside the industry itself

Example: Personal computers (total US jobs created, thousand)



Selected examples of large sector employment declines, past and future

% decline in sector employment
% of FTEs



¹ Increase from 1850 to 1860 in employment share of household work primarily due to changes in how unpaid labor (slavery) was tracked.
NOTE: Numbers may not sum due to rounding.