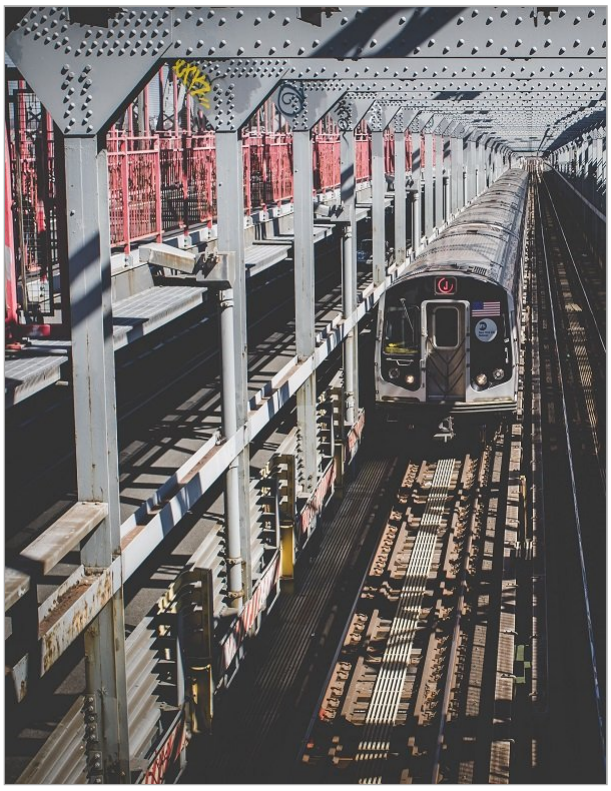


Commentary/Op-Ed - May 2017

Op-Ed: Preparing for an Automated Future

The forces of automation will likely lead to a reduction in jobs in a range of New York City industries, from accountants and X-ray technicians to paralegals and taxi drivers. Rather than wait until it's too late, New York's policymakers must take swift action.

by Jonathan Bowles and Winston C. Fisher

The writing is on the wall. The forces of automation that led to the loss of hundreds of thousands of factory jobs over the past few decades are now poised to bring about massive changes to a much larger swath of the economy—and not just in the Rust Belt. Artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies will likely lead to a reduction in jobs in a range of New York City industries, from accountants and X-ray technicians to paralegals and taxi drivers.

In this op-ed for *Crain's New York Business,* Jonathan Bowles, executive director of the Center for an Urban Future, and Winston C. Fisher, partner at Fisher Brothers and co-chair of the New York City Regional Economic Development Council, urge policymakers to take swift action. Rather than wait until it's too late, New York's government officials, business executives, and civic leaders should be taking steps now to prepare the workforce for the changes that are coming down the pike—and to develop ways to mitigate the job losses and dislocation that is likely to occur because of automation.

Read the op-ed here.

This op-ed is part of CUF's Middle Class Jobs Project, a research initiative generously funded by Fisher Brothers and Winston C. Fisher. As part of the Project, CUF has produced a series of publications, including *Preparing NYC for an Automated Future*, *In Good Health: The Growth Potential of New York City's Digital Health Sector*, *To Grow Middle Class Jobs, Shift Focus From Start-Up to Scale Up*, and *Scale Up New York: Creating Middle Class Jobs by Growing New York City's Small Businesses*

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This op-ed is a publication of the **Middle Class Jobs Project**, a research initiative made possible by the generous support of **Fisher Brothers**

and **Winston C. Fisher**.

General operating support for the Center for an Urban Future is provided by the **Clark Foundation** and the **Bernard F. and Alva B. Gimbel Foundation**.

Center for an Urban Future (CUF) is an independent, nonprofit think tank that generates innovative policies to create jobs, reduce inequality and help lower income New Yorkers climb into the middle class. For 20 years, CUF has published accessible, data-driven reports on ways to grow and diversify the economy and expand opportunity that are anchored in rigorous research, not preconceived notions about outcome. Our work has been a powerful catalyst for policy change in New York City and serves as an invaluable resource for government officials, community groups, nonprofit practitioners and business leaders as they advocate for and implement policies to address some of New York's biggest challenges and opportunities.

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