



EXAMINING THE FUTURE JOB MARKET

PREPARING FOR YOUR CAREER

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YOU KNOW WHAT CAREER YOU WANT. BUT, WILL YOU BE DOING THAT FOR YOUR ENTIRE WORKING LIFE? PROBABLY NOT. CAREERS ARE CHANGING SO FAST THAT YOU COULD HAVE SEVERAL IN YOUR LIFETIME. IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO THINK ABOUT THIS WHEN CHOOSING WHAT TO STUDY OR WHERE TO WORK.

Technological disruption is already killing some jobs and creating others. Why employ an accountant in New Zealand when a computer can do much of the work, or a New Zealand-based teleworker when one in the Philippines or India costs less?

On the other hand, you might find you can use your skills working as something that doesn't even exist right now – such as a body-part maker or domestic robot repairer, according to futurist Morris Miselowski.

It's no more far-fetched than telling a child in the late 1970s that they'd grow up to study and work in social media or nanotechnology. These fields simply didn't exist back then.

Here's what you need to know:

1 BE FLEXIBLE. Jobs as we know them are disappearing and work is becoming more project based. Instead of working 9 am to 5 pm, workers of the future will offer their services for the period of time the company requires, according to Miselowski and others who study the future of work.


2 EMBRACE CONTRACTING. Contracting is scary for people who desire job security. On the other hand, it can be an alternative to relentless hours of desk work, number crunching and keyboard tapping.

It brings the freedom to work when, where and how you want. What's more it provides an opportunity to earn more, keep your CV alive, expand your professional networks and gain experience in a range of positions and industries.

3 GET CREATIVE. Repetitive jobs can be outsourced to lower wage economies. Kiwis who boost their creativity will have more interesting and fulfilling jobs.

4 REBRAND YOURSELF. Be ready to change directions if your career looks like it's about to end up on the scrapheap. Learn about transferrable skills and use yours to duck and dive between roles.

KEY FACTS

-  ■ YOU ARE UNLIKELY TO WORK IN THE SAME CAREER YOUR ENTIRE WORKING LIFE.
- NEW CAREERS AND INDUSTRIES ARE BEING CREATED AS TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES, YOUR JOB IN 20 YEARS' TIME MIGHT NOT EVEN EXIST RIGHT NOW.