

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

Special Issue

The Future of Work in the Age of AI: Challenges for the Public Sector**Guest Editors: Juan Gabriel Rodríguez and Raquel Sebastián**

Technological change is transforming labor markets at remarkable speed. Automation, digitalization and, increasingly, artificial intelligence (AI) are reshaping tasks, occupations and the organization of work. These technologies may boost productivity, create new activities and improve the quality of some jobs. At the same time, they may displace workers, alter the distribution of wages and opportunities, intensify labor-market polarization and generate new forms of insecurity.

The rapid diffusion of generative AI has renewed the need for careful evidence. Its consequences will depend not only on the capabilities of the technologies themselves, but also on institutions, firms' adoption decisions, workers' skills and the policies that shape transitions. The effects may differ substantially across sectors, occupations, regions and population groups.

The public sector has a central role to play in ensuring that technological progress produces broadly shared gains. Policy choices may influence how workers adapt to changing skill requirements, how risks are distributed, and whether innovation contributes to inclusive growth. Public action may involve education and training, social protection, taxation, labor regulation, competition policy and the design of public services.

Scope of the special issue

To advance the understanding of these questions, *Hacienda Pública Española / Review of Public Economics* is launching a special issue on the labor-market challenges posed by new technologies and on the role of the public sector in addressing them. The special issue welcomes empirical, theoretical and methodological contributions, as well as carefully grounded policy-oriented analyses. Submissions may focus on individual countries or adopt a comparative perspective.

Topics may include, but are not restricted to:

- The effects of automation, AI and generative AI on employment, unemployment, labor-force participation, hours worked and occupational change.
- Task reallocation, job creation and job displacement, including the complementarity or substitutability between new technologies and different types of labor.



- Consequences for wages, productivity, job quality, working conditions, labor-market polarization and inequality.
- Distributional effects across skill groups, age cohorts, gender, migration status, regions, sectors and types of firms.
- Education, reskilling, lifelong learning and active labor-market policies designed to facilitate worker transitions.
- The adaptation of unemployment insurance, social assistance and other social-protection instruments to technological disruption.
- Taxation and public-finance implications, including the tax treatment of labor, capital and technology-intensive activities and the financing of adjustment policies.
- Public-sector adoption of AI and automation, and the implications for public employment, service delivery and government capacity.
- Policy evaluation, institutional design and cross-country evidence on how public interventions can mitigate adverse effects while preserving incentives for innovation.

Journal and review process

Hacienda Pública Española / Review of Public Economics is the leading journal on public economics in Spain. Submitted papers will be evaluated through the journal's peer-review process. The special issue will be edited by Juan Gabriel Rodríguez and Raquel Sebastián.

Submission instructions

Full papers should be in English and submitted electronically by the 31st of December 2026 through the journal's page in Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress) at <http://services.bepress.com/hpe>. Please, remember to select the option "Call for Papers" in the prompt for "Type of Submission".

Pre-formatting to our publication style is not necessary. Final formatting is required only after acceptance

Executive Editors:

Elena Bárcena and Alejandro Esteller