The SREB Region’s Economic Outlook

The Potential Impact of Automation and AI

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Most of the 50 million workers in the region will be affected by automation in the coming decades. Just 5% of jobs are completely automatable, but 44% of all work activities have automation potential. In the top 5 industries the potential is often greater:

- Production: 86%
- Transportation: 63%
- Sales: 42%
- Food Preparation & Serving: 69%
- Office & Administrative: 64%

37% of workers employed in the top 5 industries are highly vulnerable to rising workforce skill demands. 59% of vulnerable workers employed in the top 5 industries in 2016.

If state and business leaders do not act, workers and their children could be unemployable or stuck in low-wage jobs: an endless cycle of poverty. This multigenerational cycle, combined with rising workforce skill demands, means more workers of all educational attainment levels will be:

- unemployed or underemployed
- earning incomes below the poverty level
- reliant on state services
- earning incomes below the poverty level
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This infographic is the companion piece for SREB’s brief *The SREB Region’s Economic Outlook: The Potential Impact of Automation and AI*, one of several follow-up pieces to SREB’s report *Unprepared and Unaware: Upskilling the Workforce for a Decade of Uncertainty*. For more information, contact Meagan Crowe at meagan.crowe@SREB.org or visit SREB.org/Workforce.