

Robots



ENTREPRENEURS

Elon Musk: 'Robots will be able to do everything better than us'

Published Mon, Jul 17 2017 • 12:23 PM EDT • Updated Mon, Jul 17 2017 • 1:30 PM EDT



Catherine Clifford
[@IN/CATCLIFFORD/](#)
[@CATCLIFFORD](#)

SHA



EDITORS' PICK | LEADERSHIP

Why 'Work Will Be Optional,' According To Elon Musk

By [Maria Gracia Santillana Linares](#), Former Staff and [Careers](#), Forbes Staff.

Published Nov 25, 2025 at 03:00pm EST, Updated Nov 25, 2025 at 04:33pm EST



☰ Search

FORTUNE

[Home](#) [Latest](#) [Fortune 500](#) [Finance](#) [Tech](#) [Leadership](#)

FUTURE OF WORK • ELON MUSK

Elon Musk says saving for retirement is irrelevant because AI is going to create a world of abundance: 'It won't matter'



By **Marco Quiroz-Gutierrez**
Reporter

January 12, 2026, 5:14 PM ET

[Add us on](#) 





BENZINGA

Elon Musk Predicts A New Economy: No Poverty, No Hunger And Work Is Optional

Economics

The problem of
limited
resources and
unlimited
desires

With Robots

Unlimited
Labor

With Robots

Limited:
Materials
Energy
Time
Space





Why 'Work Will Be Optional,' According To Elon Musk

By [Maria Gracia Santillana Linares](#), Former Staff and Careers, Forbes Staff

Published Nov 25, 2025 at 03:00pm EST, U



Search

FORTUNE

[Home](#) [Latest](#) [Fortune 500](#) [Finance](#) [Tech](#) [Leadershi](#)

FUTURE OF WORK • ELON MUSK

Elon Musk says saving for retirement is irrelevant because AI is going to create a world of abundance: 'It won't matter'



By **Marco Quiroz-Gutierrez**
Reporter

January 12, 2026, 5:14 PM ET

[Add us on](#)



ENTREPRENEURS

Elon Musk: 'Robots will be able to do everything better than us'

Published Mon, Jul 17 2017•12:23 PM EDT • Updated Mon, Jul 17 2017•1:30 PM EDT



Catherine Clifford
[@IN/CATCLIFFORD/](#)
[@CATCLIFFORD](#)

SHA

Elon Musk has great expectations for his robots. He tells us robots will soon do all the work for us, and they will do it better. Work will be optional for humans. We don't need to save for retirement because soon we will have a world of abundance.

He tells us robots
and Artificial
Intelligence
together will end
poverty and hunger.

This sounds like a wonderful goal, but let's take a closer look.

Economics has been described as the problem of limited resources and unlimited desires. Robots can theoretically supply unlimited labor, but we will still have limited materials, energy, time, and space.

We already have an enormous supply of manufactured products, filling up our disposal areas, and we still have people living in poverty. Before we make too many more products, maybe we should think about what we're going to do with them.

When I was in high school, I spent a lot of time learning Shakespeare and zero time learning economics. Later I found Economics is much more important in my life. Most political issues involve economics, and we could debate them more rationally if we all knew more about the basics. YouTube has a lot of excellent Economics channels. I hope you enjoy mine and many others.