



Harry's Take

July 15, 2025

We Have to Quit Bitching About Losing All Our Jobs: That's So Stupid!

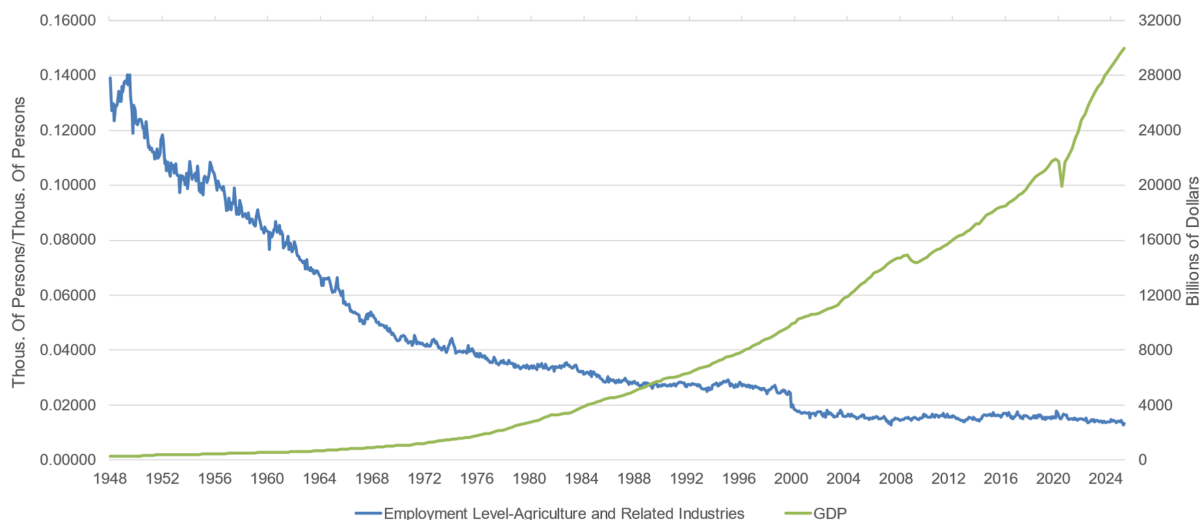
After having studied in great depth the entire history of modern civilization in the classic 10 volumes of *The History of Civilization* by William and Ariel Durant, I was able to get a clear picture of how we became massively richer than any period of our 300,000 history as homo sapiens starting with the Agricultural Revolution around 8,000 BC, or just 10,000 years ago:

We keep using technology to automate our own jobs, especially the largest sector of the time which is most ripe for gains. Roughly 98% of our standard of living came in just the last 3% of our existence!

Yet, in every such era, all you hear in the news and from people is constant crying about "We're Losing All Our Jobs!" That's similar to our fear of growing up wherein all we do is get smarter and more productive.

The real point should be totally obvious. We automate every aspect of our work and life to the degree we can with the technologies available and evolving at the time. This first accelerated with the Ag Revolution and then accelerated again with the Industrial Revolution in the late 1700s forward, and especially after the ground-breaking innovation by Henry Ford of the assembly line in 1914. The greatest thing we did since the 1950s was free women of most household work by automating that, allowing a massive expansion of our workforce. In this chart we see the massive acceleration of GDP per capita just since 1950, more than any time in human history.

Automating Jobs Is How We Get Richer: 80% of Ag Jobs Since 1950



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Level-Agriculture and Related Industries [LNS12034560], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/LNS12034560>, July 14, 2025; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Gross value added: GDP: Business: Farm [B359RC1Q027SBEA], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/B359RC1Q027SBEA>, July 14, 2025. www.hsdcnt.com

Since 1950 our GDP has expanded 107 times while total employment in agriculture has fallen 80%! How do you like them apples? Ag actually peaked around 1908, and manufacturing to follow after 1979, and it continues to fall. Service jobs are now about 84% and we've already been automating the largest sector of simpler, more clerical and human service jobs for decades... try to get a real human on the phone or in a store at most companies!

But the most important sector is our highest paid: managerial and professional jobs and services. People ask me today if I saw AI coming. I just didn't have that term back in my best-selling book of my career: *The Roaring 2000s* in early 1998. A whole section of that book was devoted to "The Automation of Managerial and Professional Work."

Now people ask: Where are the jobs of the future now that we are automating this last highest-end sector and the clear answer is: **entrepreneurs**... people who create something new to expand our work and lifestyles. You can't automate "creating something from nothing" ... yet! And my own research has taught me that once you get to that 10% S-Curve breakout stage to accelerated 90% adoption of a new product or service, the whole growth process should become more predictable, and hence, automatable.

That's people like me and many of you! I haven't worked for someone else since 1989 when I started this newsletter and wrote my first book 36 years ago.

Harry

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