

Tuesday 20 October 2026

AI or remote working: which broke the career ladder?

New research from the Centre for Economic Performance
in the Autumn 2026 *CentrePiece* magazine

Not everything in our rapidly changing world is about artificial intelligence (AI), but it does sometimes feel that way. The [CentrePiece](#) cover story illustrates how a kneejerk reaction to blame AI can blind us to the impact of actions far closer to home. Peter Lambert and Yannick Schindler explore why recruitment of graduates into entry-level office jobs has fallen, and find that while the general release of large language models is undoubtedly having a negative effect, the shift to working from home is also a factor – and currently the one with the bigger impact. Employers, suggest the authors, are looking for staff already versed in the ways of office life, who are easier to manage remotely.

Also in the Autumn 2026 issue:

Tariff confusion

Kalina Manova, Dennis Novy, Thomas Sampson and Aaron Tang show how the way in which the 2025 US tariffs were announced affected imports as much as the tax itself.

Maritime chokepoints

Global trade depends on routes through a handful of narrow chokepoints – **Stephan Maurer, Luke Heath Milsom and Ferdinand Rauch** calculate the cost of closures.

EV growth driven by batteries, not oil shocks

Whatever happens to oil prices, the rise of electric vehicles now has its own momentum, say **Robert Elliott, Gavin DJ Harper and Viet Nguyen-Tien**.

The childcare track

One in three women leave academia after becoming a parent – **Sofie Cairo, Ria Ivandić, Anne Sophie Lassen and Valentina Tartari** unpick why.

Why don't we have nicer buildings?

Distinctive buildings enhance the whole neighbourhood – **Gabriel Ahlfeldt, Ailin Zhang and Elisabetta Pietrostefani** ask what it would take to encourage more beauty in our cities.

Firms are leaving major energy savings on the table

Josh De Lyon and Antoine Dechezleprêtre argue that spreading current best practices could play a large part in reducing industrial emissions.

And our regular features:

Why we need: Replication games

Viet Nguyen-Tien on the public good of stress-testing published papers.

Why we need: An economics media centre

Romesh Vaitilingam on why trust is central to communications.

In numbers

Etienne Dagorn, Isaac Parkes and **Alberto Prati** share a striking graph showing that middle-aged teachers are less lenient markers.

Q&A

Gerald Foong, Stephen Machin and **Matteo Sandi** answer the question of whether economics can help deter thefts of catalytic converters.

My must-read paper

Richard Layard on the paradox which inspired a career in wellbeing economics. Now also available as an episode on the Inspiring Economics podcast.

.....
Notes for editors:

1. CentrePiece is the magazine of the Centre for Economic Performance. It is published three times a year. The Autumn 2026 issue is Volume 31, Issue 3.

2. Annual subscriptions for one year (3 issues): Individuals £13.00. Students £8.00. Organisations (UK and Europe) £30.00. Rest of world £39.00.

[Subscription information is available here.](#)

3. The Centre for Economic Performance is an independent research centre based at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Its members are from the LSE and a wide range of universities within the UK and around the world.

4. For more information contact:

Helen Ward, CentrePiece Editor – 07970 254872 Email: h.ward1@lse.ac.uk

Martin Hannon, communications and events officer – Email: m.hannon@lse.ac.uk

Lia Bergin, communications and events assistant - Email: l.bergin@lse.ac.uk

CEP General – Email: cep.info@lse.ac.uk