Technology Disrupted Work and Access to Employment Opportunities

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These views are those of the author and not necessarily of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis or the Federal Reserve System.
Share of employed in occupations that can be remote

- COVID vulnerable
- Work limitation
- Everybody else
NO. OF NEW SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY AWARDS
Percent of the Working Age Population on Social Security Disability
Access to Technological Disrupted Work with a Criminal Record

• Technology is disrupting the space where individuals with criminal records work.
  • Those with criminal records often piece together temporary & part time jobs.
  • Those with criminal records are 50% more likely to report entrepreneurial activity

• Yet technology may be increasing barriers to these types of work
  • Trust seen as a critical ingredient into making these platforms work.
  • Air BnB, Taskrabbit, Rideshare all exclude those with criminal records
  • Some states mandate exclusion of those with records in some of this work.

• Old way of work discouraged crime
  • High autonomy jobs correlated with higher deviance for young adults & recently released
Technology has expanded access to employment opportunities for some and limited access for others. This is just one way in which the impact of technology on inequality is unclear. 
• Access to training 
• Disconnect between wages and productivity 
• Fodder for research for decades, even centuries, to come!