

Document 1

Foxconn replaces "60,000 factory workers with robots"

Apple and Samsung supplier Foxconn has reportedly replaced 60,000 factory workers with robots. One factory has "reduced employee strength from 110,000 to 50,000 thanks to the introduction of robots", a government official told the South China Morning Post.

- 5 China is investing heavily in a robot workforce. In a statement to the BBC, Foxconn Technology Group confirmed that it was automating "many of the manufacturing tasks associated with our operations" but denied that it meant long-term job losses.

10 "We are applying robotics engineering and other innovative manufacturing technologies to replace repetitive tasks previously done by employees, and through training, also enable our employees to focus on higher value-added elements in the manufacturing process, such as research and development, process control and quality control.

Since September 2014, 505 factories across Dongguan, in the Guangdong province, have invested £430m in robots, aiming to replace thousands of workers.

- 15 Economists have issued warnings about how automation will affect the job market, with one report suggesting that 35% of jobs were at risk over the next 20 years.

Former McDonald's chief executive Ed Rensi recently told the US's Fox Business programme "It's cheaper to buy a \$35,000 robotic arm than it is to hire an employee who is inefficient, making \$15 an hour bagging French fries".

By Jane Wakefield. From: *BBC News*, May 2016.

Document 2



From: <http://technocracy.news>