

Who will still need you tomorrow?

Why the daily reports of bankruptcies are about far more than bad economic news



It is Sunday morning. With a hot cup of coffee, I curl up on my sofa once again. My two dogs are lying beside me. They briefly lift their heads, look at me sleepily and then contentedly curl up again. Outside, the day is slowly beginning. Inside, everything is quiet.

For years, this moment has belonged to me. Coffee. Peace and quiet. The news. But lately, this ritual feels different. The moment I open the newspaper or a news app, I am confronted with the same headlines:

- Long-established companies file for bankruptcy.
- Locations are being closed.
- Thousands of jobs are being lost.
- Family businesses are giving up.
- Industrial companies are cutting jobs.
- Retailers are disappearing from our town centres.

And somewhere in between, there are those stark numbers again: 500 jobs. 1,200 jobs. 3,000 jobs. As if they were nothing more than figures. But behind every one of those numbers is a human being. Someone who, only yesterday, believed their job was secure. Someone who may have just taken out a mortgage. Or who still has young children. Or is approaching retirement. Or who simply believed that everything would remain the way it had always been.

I notice myself putting my coffee down for a moment. Not because I am afraid. But because, after being made redundant three times by major corporations for various "force majeure" reasons, I know that uneasy feeling all too well. But something else strikes me, too, because I realise: we are not simply experiencing an economic crisis.

We are saying goodbye to an old world as we knew it. And that is exactly what is leaving so many people feeling lost, powerless and unable to put into words what is happening inside them. There was once a sentence deeply embedded in the way we thought: **“Find yourself a secure job.”**

That was the great dream of many generations. Security. Training. An employer. Work for forty years. Retirement. Done. Of course, not everything was perfect back then either. But there was something that gave many people a sense of stability: predictability. If you worked hard, you could trust that tomorrow would look more or less like today. Careers often followed straight lines. Change came slowly. You had time to adjust. Today, the world feels as though someone has switched off the lead time.

No sooner have we adapted to one change than the next one arrives. Digitalisation. Artificial intelligence. New business models. Rising costs. Changing consumer behaviour. Global crises. And the constant bankruptcies I mentioned earlier. What was considered secure yesterday may already be called into question tomorrow. Our lives have become something of an egg dance. And that is precisely why these daily reports of bankruptcies affect us so deeply. Not just economically, but above all psychologically. Because every headline tells us the same story: **Nothing can be taken for granted anymore.**

And that does something to us. It helps explain why so many people are exhausted. Why uncertainty has become a constant companion. Why we long for guidance. Not for empty slogans telling us to keep going. **But for a compass.**

Perhaps the greatest misconception of our time is that we are still trying to hold on to yesterday's

world, while tomorrow's world has already arrived at our doorstep. Perhaps the safest job of the future will no longer be the one that has existed for thirty years, but the one we are able to shape and reshape again and again. Perhaps adaptability will become more important than predictability. A willingness to learn more important than a CV. Collaboration more important than competition. And perhaps one day, we will give our children very different advice. No longer: **“Find yourself a secure profession.”** But: **“Learn how to live with change.”**

And perhaps this egg dance might even become fun at some point. After all, it is still a dance. Because one thing is clear: security no longer comes from an employer alone. It comes from people who remain curious. Who enjoy the dance. Who are willing to learn new things. Who build connections. Who continue developing their skills. And who have the courage to reinvent themselves again and again. Perhaps that is the real switch of our time. Not the change in technology. Not artificial intelligence. Not the economy. Not the speed of change. **But the switch in our minds.** From holding on to taking an active part in shaping what comes next.

From standing still to joining the dance.

I take the last sip of my coffee. Outside, the morning has grown brighter. The headlines are the same as they were ten minutes ago. And yet, their meaning has changed. Because perhaps they are not only telling us about what is ending. **Perhaps they are also telling us about what is beginning.**

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