

# ACTIVATEAI · WEEKLY SIGNAL REPORT · ISSUE 1

The AI Automation Gap — April 2026

Focus firm: Blackstone · Role of the Week: AI PM, Stampli · Published every Tuesday

## THIS WEEK

### Blackstone's Portfolio Has an AI Hiring Signal Problem

Every week, companies post job descriptions that confess — in writing — that they are hiring humans to do work that software could automate. We call this the automation gap. This issue, we turn the lens on Blackstone and its portfolio: 250+ companies, 700,000+ employees, \$226B in annual revenue, and a growing queue of AI-adjacent hires that are expensive, slow to fill, and increasingly mis-specified.

**The strategy we always suggest to companies is: Try to optimize but do not lose your corporate culture and history. Automate processes so that your employees become more productive and happier and motivated to "grow the pie". Trust them and they will figure out how. Don't be a Block.**

## THE SIGNAL

### What We Scored This Week

We scored 3 open roles across Blackstone's portfolio using our proprietary automation scoring — applied at the task level across multiple dimensions. Scores are on a 0–100 protection scale. Higher score = more protected from automation. Lower score = more of the role can be automated today.

Company	Role	Score	Rating
Stampli (Blackstone portfolio)	AI Product Manager	33/100	Some work at risk
Smartsheet (Blackstone portfolio)	AI Product Manager	33/100	Some work at risk
Bumble (Blackstone portfolio)	AI Trust & Safety PM	42/100	Some work at risk

Source: Live job postings verified on LinkedIn and company careers pages, April 2026. Proprietary automation scoring — task-level, multiple dimensions.

## ROLE OF THE WEEK

### Stampli — AI Product Manager

**33/100** Some of your work may be at risk

Market research, KPI tracking, and roadmap documentation are highly automatable today. Stakeholder relationships and cross-functional judgment are the skills AI can't replace.

AT-RISK TASKS — most of this work can be automated today	
Define and implement KPIs for AI features	Highly structured — automatable today
Market research and competitive intelligence	Pattern-based, data-rich — automatable today

PROTECTED TASKS — skills AI can't replace	
Cross-functional stakeholder coordination	Relationship-dependent, contextual judgment
Customer discovery and voice-of-customer	Trust and empathy required — not replicable today

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## 6-MONTH FORWARD SIGNAL

### What Changes by Q4 2026

The roles we scored this week sit in the partially automatable zone — not because AI can't touch them, but because human relationship and judgment tasks remain embedded in the job description. That changes as agentic AI matures. By Q4 2026, structured PM tasks — roadmap documentation, KPI tracking, sprint management, competitive monitoring — will be handled end-to-end by AI agents. The PE firms that start building for this now will pull ahead. The ones still hiring for automatable tasks will find themselves overstaffed in the wrong places.

Blackstone's \$4B AI commitment and its Anthropic partnership signal they understand this. The question is whether the portfolio companies' hiring practices have caught up with the thesis.

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## ABOUT ACTIVATEAI

We publish this report every Tuesday. Our proprietary automation scoring evaluates job description task lines across multiple dimensions to identify where the automation gap is largest and where fractional AI talent delivers the fastest return.

### Two products:

- **Signal API** — Weekly role velocity scores and automation gap analysis across Finance and Enterprise SaaS
- **Fractional Marketplace** — Vetted AI PMs, Forward-Deployed Engineers, and AI Consultants available in weeks, not months
- **Score any job title free** — tobywins.ai — PE firm? Ask us about the Workflow Reimagination diagnostic, Tier 1 from \$25K