

# ACTIVATEAI · WEEKLY SIGNAL REPORT · ISSUE 2

The AI Automation Gap — April 2026

Focus firm: KKR · Role of the Week: AI Platform Lead · Published every Tuesday

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## THIS WEEK

### KKR'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 KKR and its portfolio: 225+ companies, tens of thousands of open roles, and a growing queue of AI-adjacent hires that are expensive, slow to fill, and increasingly mis-specified.

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## LAST WEEK

### Meta and Microsoft: 23,000 Roles Gone in One Week

On April 23, 2026, Meta announced it is laying off 10% of its global workforce — approximately 8,000 people — effective May 20, while also canceling plans to fill 6,000 open positions. Meta's head of HR confirmed the cuts were designed to run the company more efficiently and to offset investments in its \$115–135 billion 2026 capital expenditure plan, nearly double its 2025 AI infrastructure spend.

The same week, Microsoft announced voluntary retirement packages to approximately 8,750 U.S. employees — about 7% of its domestic workforce — a first for the 51-year-old company. Microsoft cut nearly 15,000 jobs in 2025 while spending \$88 billion on AI infrastructure. Both companies cited AI efficiency gains as enabling the reductions.

Combined, Meta and Microsoft eliminated or froze more than 23,000 roles in a single week. The roles most affected: content moderation, customer support, software testing, and cloud operations — exactly the categories our scoring identifies as highest automation risk.

Did these companies try to optimize while also growing the pie for their employees? See our philosophy below:

**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.**

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## THE SIGNAL

### What We Scored This Week

We scored 3 open roles across KKR and its 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
KKR (internal)	Head of AI Product Management	72/100	Some work at risk
KKR (internal)	AI Platform Lead	61/100	Some work at risk
Qventus (KKR Series D)	Sr/Lead PM — Agentic AI Platform	67/100	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

### KKR — AI Platform Lead

**61/100** Some of your work may be at risk

Strong protection in stakeholder relationships and organizational judgment — but structured technical coordination tasks face meaningful automation pressure over the next 12–18 months.

AT-RISK TASKS — most of this work can be automated today	
Recruit, hire, train and supervise staff, or participate in staffing decisions	44/100 — Most of this role can be automated
Meet with department heads, managers, vendors and others to solicit cooperation and resolve problems	44/100 — Most of this role can be automated

PROTECTED TASKS — skills AI can't replace	
Provide users with technical support for computer problems	78/100 — Your skills are currently hard to replace
Direct daily operations of department, analyzing workflow, establishing priorities and setting deadlines	72/100 — Some of your work may be at risk

## 6-MONTH FORWARD SIGNAL

### What Changes by Q4 2026

Agentic AI platforms — the exact infrastructure KKR is hiring to build — are moving from experimental to production across financial services in 2026. The MCP and A2A protocols referenced directly in KKR's job posting are reaching enterprise-grade maturity, which will compress the structured coordination and technical support layers of this role significantly.

What remains hardest to replace: the organizational judgment to align competing business units, the stakeholder trust required to drive firm-wide AI adoption, and the ability to translate ambiguous business needs into technical architecture. The firms that invest in people who do those tasks well will pull ahead. The firms that keep hiring for the automatable layer will find themselves overstaffed in exactly the wrong places by Q4 2026.

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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