

Toward an O*NET for AI R&D

PRIMARY

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Epoch AI, "Toward an O*NET for AI R&D", published 17 June 2026, by JS Denain, Joe Kwon and Anson Ho.

Proposes an occupational-style taxonomy of AI R&D tasks together with an "Automation Level" (AL) rating rubric running from 0 to 5. The article states: "we rate how much we think current AIs automate each task on a scale of 0 to 5, based on the following rubric", with the level definitions carried in an embedded rubric and a companion document described as the main artifact of the work.

Anthropic's rendering of the same scale, in its own post: AL0 no AI involvement, through AL3 where AI "collaborates" (it can do large chunks of work under close human direction), AL4 where AI "leads" (it can complete most of the task end-to-end from a high-level prompt, while the human supervises), to AL5 where AI operates fully autonomously, with no human in the loop.