assistance in problematic areas like parking, and facial and text analysis tools.

Although all businesses are likely to be affected by AI in some way in the coming years, industries that deal with huge volumes of data and high-value problems, such as healthcare, education and finance, are expected to provide the most fertile investment opportunities. But investors should proceed with caution. The first major round of investment in AI technologies occurred in the 1970s, according to experts, and many of these technologies failed to take off. “Questions also remain about how investments in AI technology—spanning algorithms and data—will be protected in an era where intellectual property protections may be receding, engineers and developers are more mobile, and cyber risks continue to grow,” notes Scott Weingaertner, a White & Case partner in New York. “The law is changing, but perhaps not quickly enough. Legal strategies need, where possible, to lead and not lag behind changes in technology.”

And human workers needn’t start to worry about the projected “rise of the machines” just yet. “Jobs are changing due to technologies such as AI, social media, collaboration and the sharing economy, but similar changes have occurred many times in the past two centuries,” says Ben Shneiderman, a professor of computer science at the University of Maryland, who describes some previous public discussions on the issue as “preposterous, misguided and counterproductive.”