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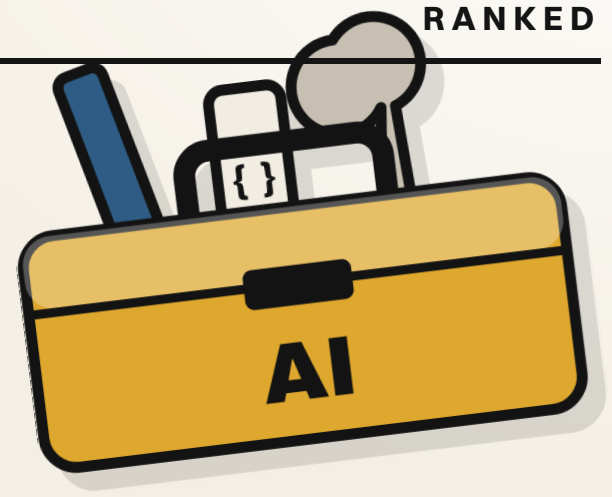
SKILLS OUTLOOK · 2025–2030

RANKED

AI SKILLS LADDER



What employers want most by 2030

AI and big data is the fastest-rising skill in the WEF's survey of 1,000+ employers, with a **net +87**. Programming, the skill most people picture, ranks **17th of 26**.

AI & BIG DATA · TECH & PRODUCT SKILLS · HUMAN & MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Net increase, % of employers

a full rung = every employer

1	**AI and big data**	**+87**
2	Networks and cybersecurity	+70
3	Technological literacy	+68
4	Creative thinking	+66
5	Resilience, flexibility and agility	+66
6	Curiosity and lifelong learning	+61
7	Leadership and social influence	+58
8	Talent management	+58
9	Analytical thinking	+55
10	Environmental stewardship	+53
11	Systems thinking	+51
12	Motivation and self-awareness	+47
13	Empathy and active listening	+46
14	Design and user experience	+45
· · ·	ranks 15–16	Bottom of all 26: reading, writing & maths −4 · manual dexterity −24
17	Programming	+27 ← *coding itself sits 17th of 26*

7 of the top 10 are human skills, not code

62%

Average **wage premium** for AI skills, up from 57%

PWC · 2026

69% vs 9%

Growth in **jobs needing AI skills** vs all jobs

PWC · 2026

2x+

Skills in the most **AI-exposed jobs** change more than twice as fast

PWC · 2026

39%

Of workers' **core skills** expected to change by 2030

WEF · 2025

RISING ON LINKEDIN

Skills on the Rise 2026, named AI skills

Prompt Engineering · **Large Language Models** · **AI Business Strategy**

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SOURCE *WEF Future of Jobs Report 2025 (Jan 2025) · PwC 2026 Global AI Jobs Barometer · LinkedIn Skills on the Rise 2026*

Note: Net increase = % of employers expecting a skill's use to rise minus % expecting a fall, 2025–2030. Grouping by SOA.

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