



Want a job in 2025? These are the sectors to focus on

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Five million jobs will soon be lost to automation

Image: REUTERS

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Two-thirds of Americans expect that within 50 years, [robots and computers will do much of the work](#) humans do now.

And less than five years from now, according to the World Economic Forum's *Future of Jobs* report, 5 million jobs will have been lost to automation. But technological advances – in robotics and machine learning, for example – will also create new jobs and change the skills that employers need from human workers.

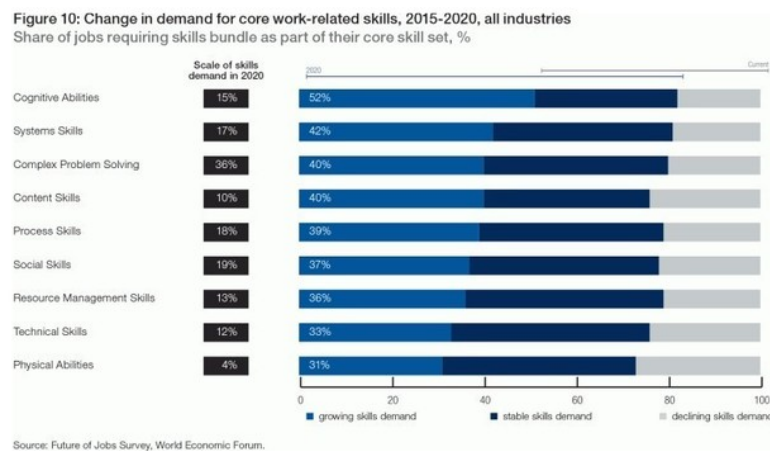


Image: World Economic Forum

To compete in the future job market, workers – even those in occupations less directly affected by automation – will need to update their skillsets, the report says.

Here's a look at a few of the fastest growing occupations identified by the US [Bureau of Labor Statistics BLS](#) and the *Future of Jobs* report, and the [skills you'll need to get them](#).

- Software developer, computer systems analyst and market-research and marketing specialist jobs are set to grow by around a fifth between now and 2024, according to the BLS. For these jobs, technology and computational thinking skills will be vital.

- Medical technicians, physical therapists, and workplace ergonomics expert jobs are set to see increased demand, as care-giving becomes an increasingly important skill in an ageing society.

- Sales and marketing specialists and customer service representative jobs are also set to grow. Sales-related jobs are one of the top five growth areas, according to the *Future of Jobs* report. Social and emotional intelligence and understanding new media platforms and how to communicate effectively will be valuable skills, particularly while robots struggle to master them.

- In a fast-changing world, education and training jobs are expected to increase – at number six on the *Future of Jobs* report list of growth sectors.

- Management analysts, accountants and auditors will see double-digit growth, with adaptability and business acumen being particularly desirable skills for these roles.

By 2020 more than a third of the core skillset of most occupations will be made up of skills that are not considered crucial to the job today, according to the *Future of Jobs* report.

This table shows which job sectors are likely to see the most "skills instability". For example, 43% of the skills currently needed to perform well in the financial services and investors industry will soon become redundant.

Skills stability, 2015-2020, industries overall

Image: World Economic Forum

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Further reading

[The Future of Jobs report 2016](#)

[The Human Capital report 2016](#)

