

Session 16

Use of Big Data and AI in Green Skills anticipation and qualifications management

3rd ACQF Forum: RPL for Practitioners



Topics

- Measuring Green Skills and Jobs. A data-driven approach – data from African countries, based on employers' demand.
- Using AI in strategic management and comparison of qualifications.



Global job postings snapshot

	Africa	Global	Europe	North America	Asia	South America	Oceania
2023	2,796,104	165,390,867	74,645,707	48,593,581	22,516,258	14,957,862	1,881,355
2024	1,558,614	101,011,679	45,455,335	31,699,694	11,797,977	9,482,465	1,017,594
	4,354,718	266,402,546	120,101,042	80,293,275	34,314,235	24,440,327	2,898,949
2023 vs 2024	-17.07%	-10.20%	-10.21%	-7.77%	-18.36%	-3.58%	-23.79%
% vs Global 2023	1.69%	100.00%	45.13%	29.38%	13.61%	9.04%	1.14%
% vs Global 2024	1.54%	100.00%	45.00%	31.38%	11.68%	9.39%	1.01%

The comparison of Online Job Postings is based on January-August 2023 vs. the same period of 2024

Source: ETF & Lightcast Global Job Postings



Measuring Green Skills and Jobs. A data-driven approach – data from African countries, based on employers' demand

A green jobs definition

Concept of green jobs based on Eurostat methodology as Environmental Goods and Services Sector (EGSS)

It is heterogeneous set of producers of technologies, goods and services that prevent or minimise pollution and minimise the use of natural resources



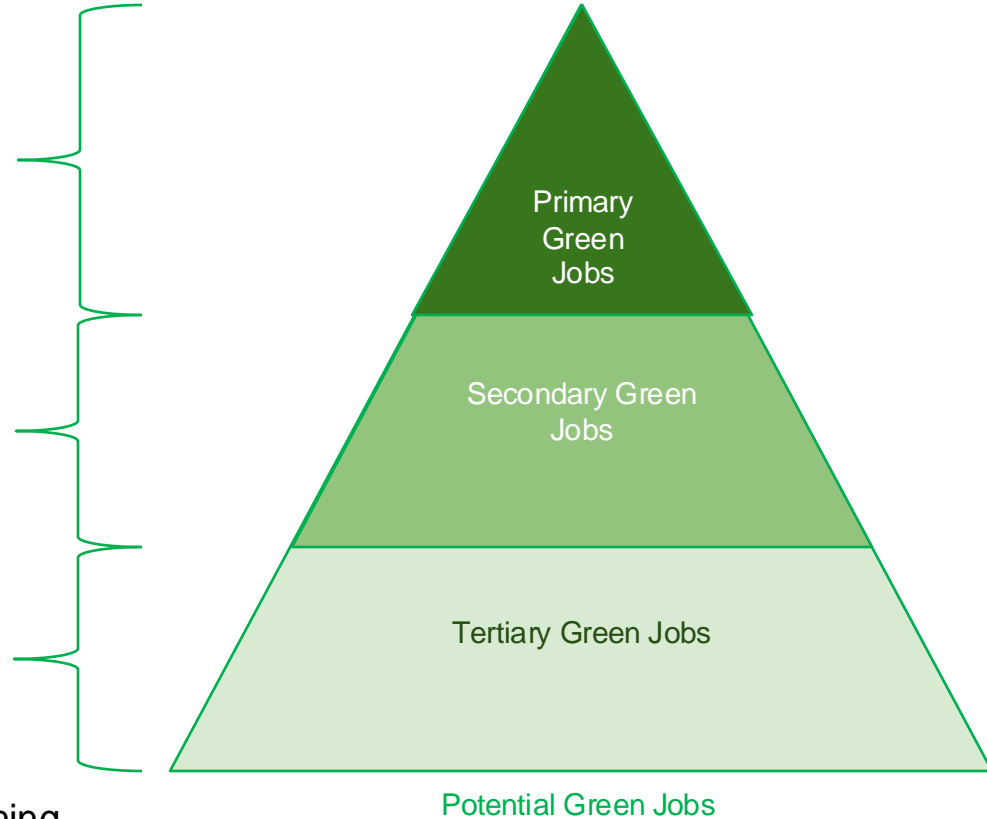
Defining different green jobs

Primary Green Jobs: Jobs directly involved in the development, installation, or operation of renewable energy sources

Secondary Green Jobs: Working for a firm whose primary function is renewable energy, pollution reduction, or similar, but where the worker is not directly involved in one of the Primary Green Jobs described above.

Tertiary Green Jobs: Jobs with an emphasis on carbon reduction or similar in the description, not otherwise categorized above.

Potential Green Jobs: These jobs are such that workers would benefit from green skills for the greening to come.



Green Skills clusters

Environment and Sustainable Tourism

This cluster encompasses skills related to managing natural ecosystems, such as forests and maritime areas, and includes competencies for promoting sustainable tourism.

Sustainable Agriculture

These skills focus on enhancing agricultural practices that are environmentally sustainable and beneficial for producers, consumers, and ecosystems.

Sustainable Construction

Skills under this cluster involve improving energy efficiency in buildings and aligning construction practices with the principles of a circular economy.

Sustainable Economy

This group refers to skills that support the broader concept of a circular economy, including resource efficiency and waste minimisation.

Sustainable Energy

Skills related to transforming energy production by integrating renewable sources, such as solar, wind, or hydro energy.

Sustainable Production

These skills are relevant for modifying existing production methods to reduce environmental impact and increase sustainability.

Sustainable Transport

This cluster involves competencies aimed at reducing emissions from transport, using alternative fuels and promoting mobility-sharing systems.



Green Jobs are on the rise, but magnitude is different in different countries

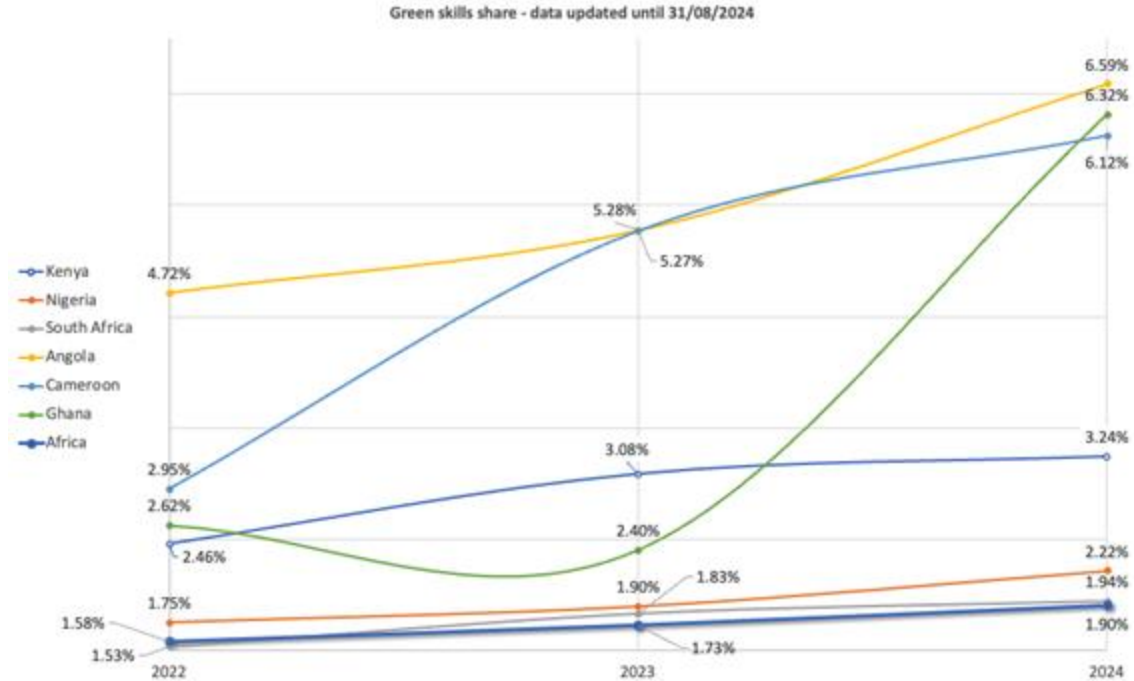
Green share is the share of OJAs containing at least one green skill on the total number of OJAs for a given occupation.

The green share in African countries shows a varied pace of growth. Angola, Cameroon, and Ghana led the growth trajectory, with notable increases by 2024, reflecting a significant focus on green initiatives.

Angola, for example, **moved from a mid-level share in 2022 to becoming a leader by 2024.**

Countries like Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa exhibited slower growth, suggesting a need for enhanced green policy efforts to accelerate progress.

The overall green share for Africa rose only slightly, indicating **that broader continent-wide strategies are still required to support green transitions at scale.**



Demand for 'green' skills in Africa: Rising demand for green skills reflects a shift towards sustainability

The data indicates a growing emphasis on green skills, with **Waste Management leading at over 10%.**

ISO 14000 standards and Renewable Energy skills also show strong demand, emphasizing the industry's move **towards standardization and clean energy adoption.**

Climate-related skills, such as Climate Variability, Adaptation, and Photovoltaics, are gaining prominence, **showcasing a need for resilience in the face of climate change.**

These trends suggest that jobs across all sectors are increasingly incorporating green competencies, reflecting broader environmental awareness and a drive towards sustainability throughout the labor market.

Skills / skill set	%	Nº unique job postings
Waste Management	10.34%	20,494
ISO 14000 Series	8.90%	17,637
Renewable Energy	5.92%	11,743
Environmental Laws	5.30%	10,504
Environmental Protocols	5.08%	10,078
Climate Variability And Change	3.43%	6,807
Photovoltaics	2.40%	4,757
Energy Management	2.37%	4,696
Environmental Compliance	2.13%	4,220
Concentrix Solar	2.11%	4,189
Climate Change Adaptation	1.87%	3,716
Recycling	1.87%	3,704
Solar Systems	1.83%	3,623
Environmental Protection	1.78%	3,524
Energy Conservation	1.77%	3,514
Energy Consumption	1.48%	2,938
Environmentalism	1.30%	2,582
One-Line Diagram	1.27%	2,509
PVsystem	1.21%	2,397
Climate Resilience	1.15%	2,285



The leading green jobs in Africa reflect the continent's shift towards renewable energy and sustainability practices.

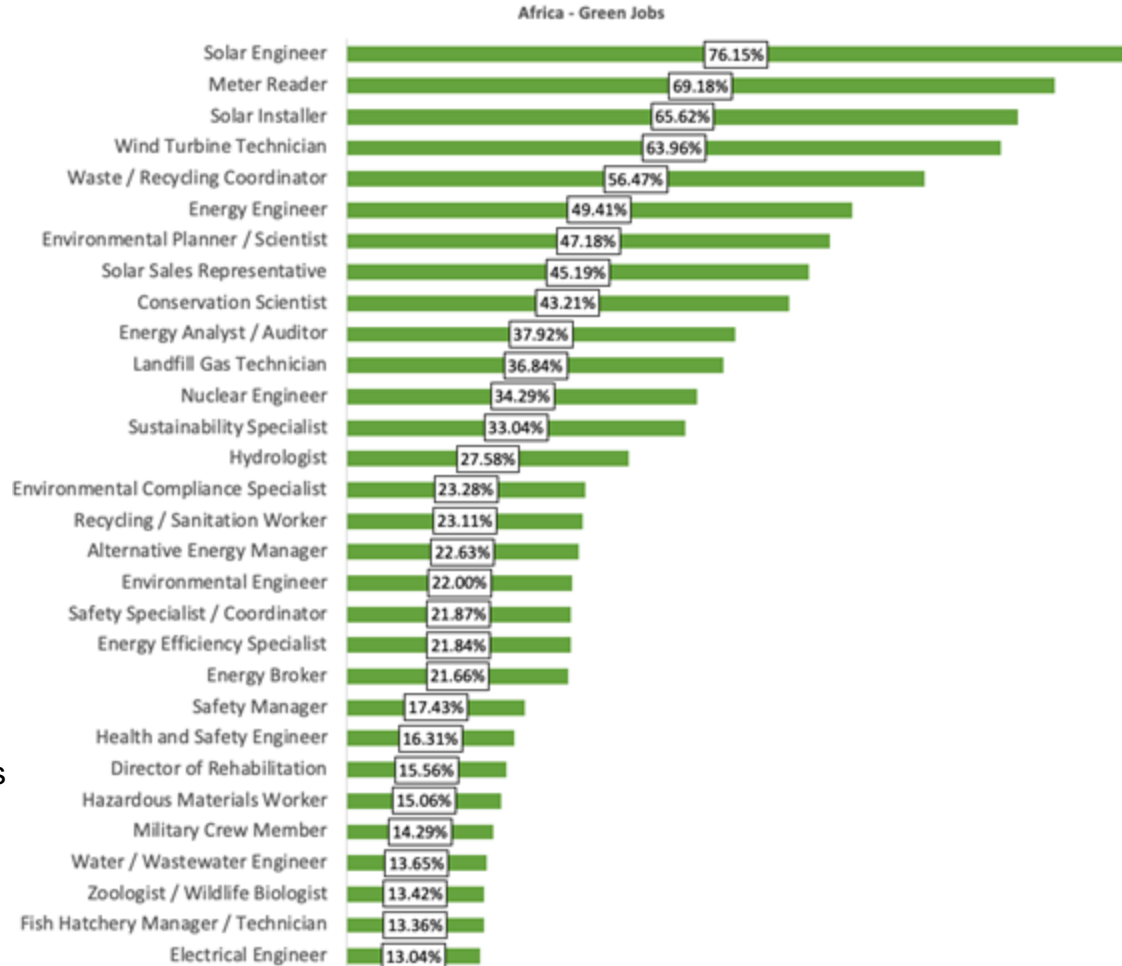
Solar Engineers have the highest green share at 76%, indicating significant demand for solar energy solutions.

Meter Readers, Solar Installers, and Wind Turbine Technicians also exhibit high green shares, ranging from 63% to 69%, emphasizing the **focus on energy transition**.

Waste/Recycling Coordinators and Energy Engineers show more than 45% green shares, suggesting a growing need for **waste management and energy efficiency**.

Environmental Planners and Conservation Scientists round out the top roles, indicating efforts to promote sustainable practices and environmental protection.

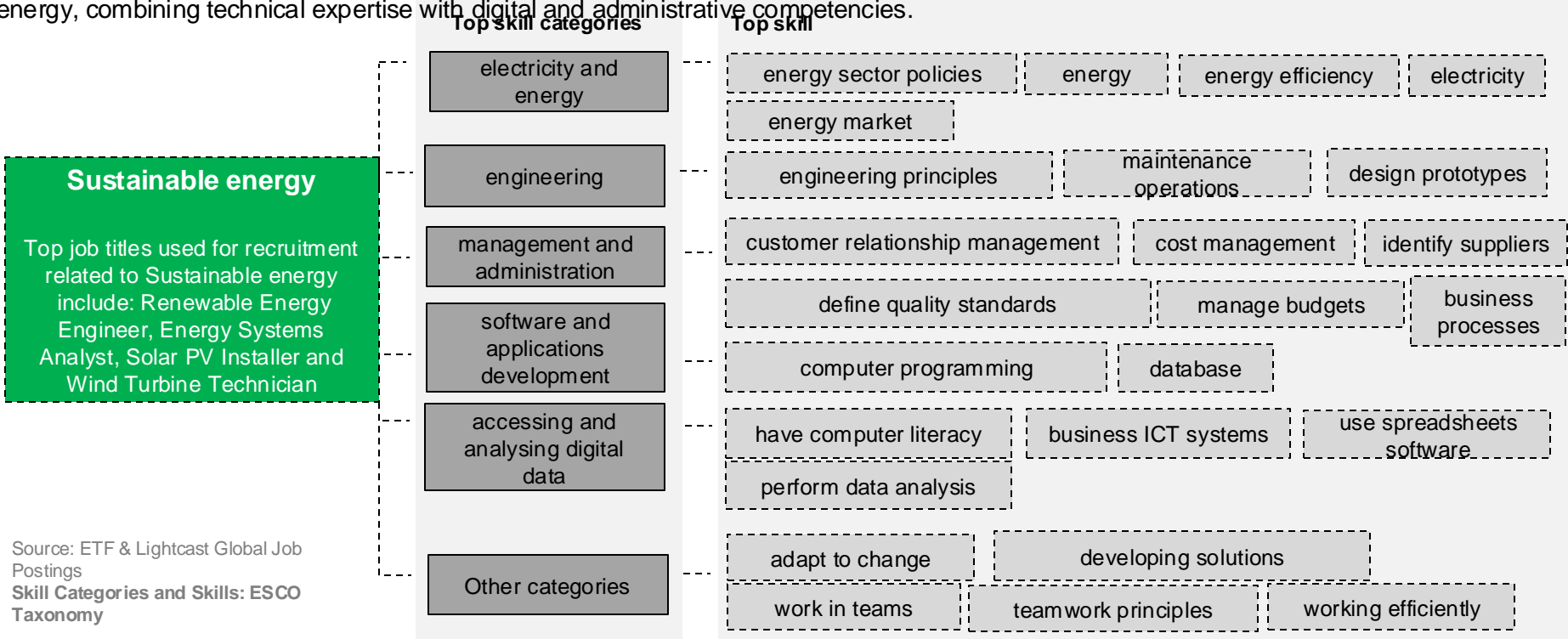
Top green jobs in Africa - Green Share



Defining skill sets: bridging green skills demand with training and policy.

A framework skill set is a combination of abilities, knowledge, and expertise needed for specific tasks or roles. It helps align workforce skills with job demands and training needs.

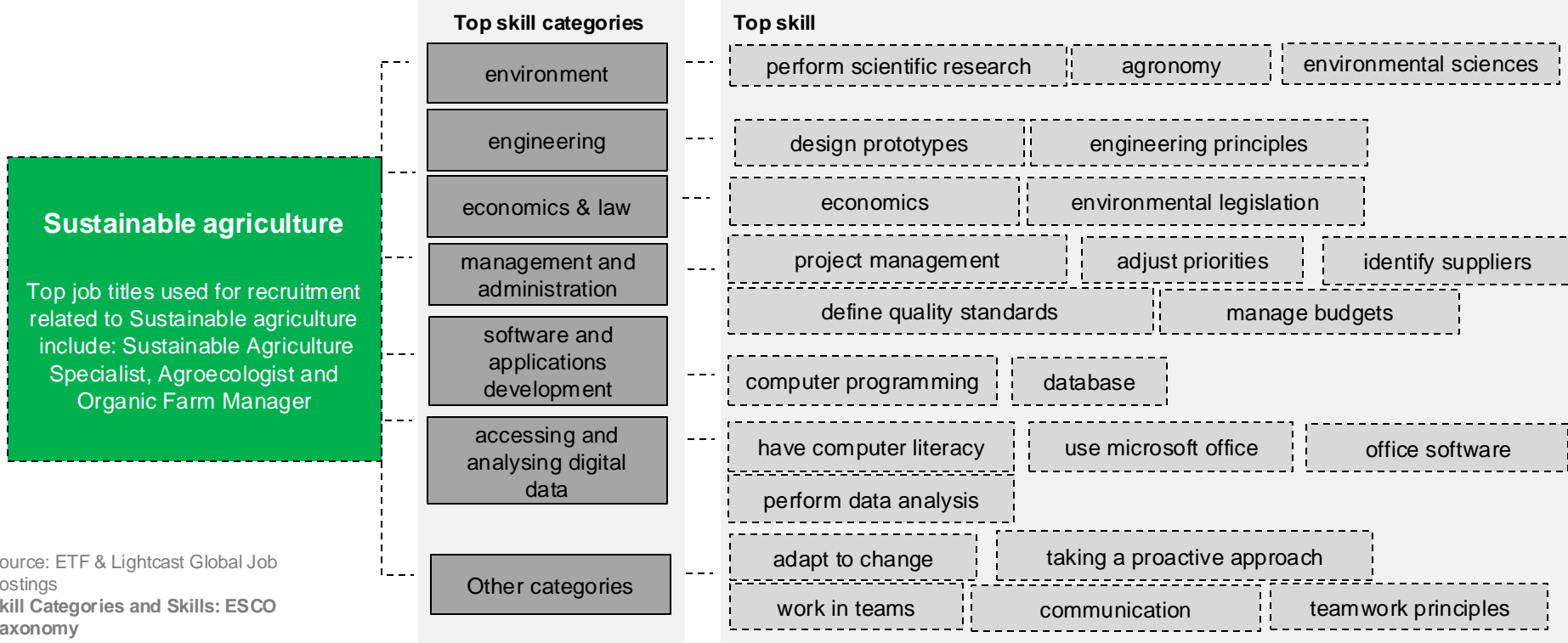
The sustainable energy framework highlights essential job roles and diverse skill categories, including technical knowledge (e.g., energy efficiency, engineering) and managerial skills (e.g., cost management, teamwork). It underscores the interdisciplinary nature of sustainable energy, combining technical expertise with digital and administrative competencies.



Source: ETF & Lightcast Global Job Postings
Skill Categories and Skills: ESCO Taxonomy

Skills Framework for sustainable agriculture jobs

This framework outlines key roles like Sustainable Agriculture Specialist and Organic Farm Manager, highlighting necessary skills across environmental sciences, engineering, economics, and digital data analysis to support sustainable agricultural practices.



Source: ETF & Lightcast Global Job Postings
 Skill Categories and Skills: ESCO Taxonomy

Forestry: Most In-Demand Green Skills in African countries

Top green skills in Africa - Green Share - **Forestry**

In the forestry sector, the data highlights several key skills in demand.

Climate Change Adaptation leads with a 7.25% share, followed by Climate Variability and Change (5.41%) and Reforestation (5.40%), indicating a focus on adapting to and mitigating climate impacts.

Forest Conservation is also high demand, with a 2.70% share, underscoring the importance of protecting forest ecosystems.

The skills in demand reflect a growing need for expertise in both climate resilience and conservation practices within the forestry industry.

Skills	Unique postings	Share%
Climate Change Adaptation	650	7.25%
Climate Variability And Change	485	5.41%
Reforestation	484	5.40%
Waste Management	465	5.19%
Climate Change Mitigation	464	5.17%
Environmental Laws	458	5.11%
Renewable Energy	316	3.52%
Environmental Protection	308	3.43%
Wildlife Conservation	295	3.29%
Climate Resilience	282	3.14%
Environmental Economics	251	2.80%
Forest Conservation	242	2.70%
Climate Policy	240	2.68%
Greenhouse Gas	233	2.60%
Water Conservation	224	2.50%
ISO 14000 Series	208	2.32%
Watershed Management	186	2.07%
Conservation Biology	176	1.96%
Environmental Protocols	162	1.81%
Environmental Compliance	148	1.65%

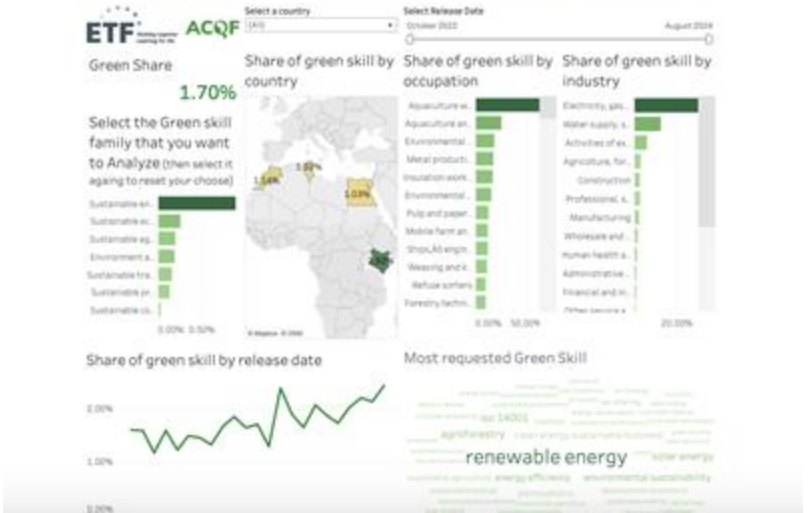


Green skills dashboard for African countries



Utilizing advanced AI models, the platform extracts and categorizes green skills directly from job descriptions. This permits to track the demand for skills that are driving the green economy, offering a real-time view of how green transitions are shaping labor markets in Africa.

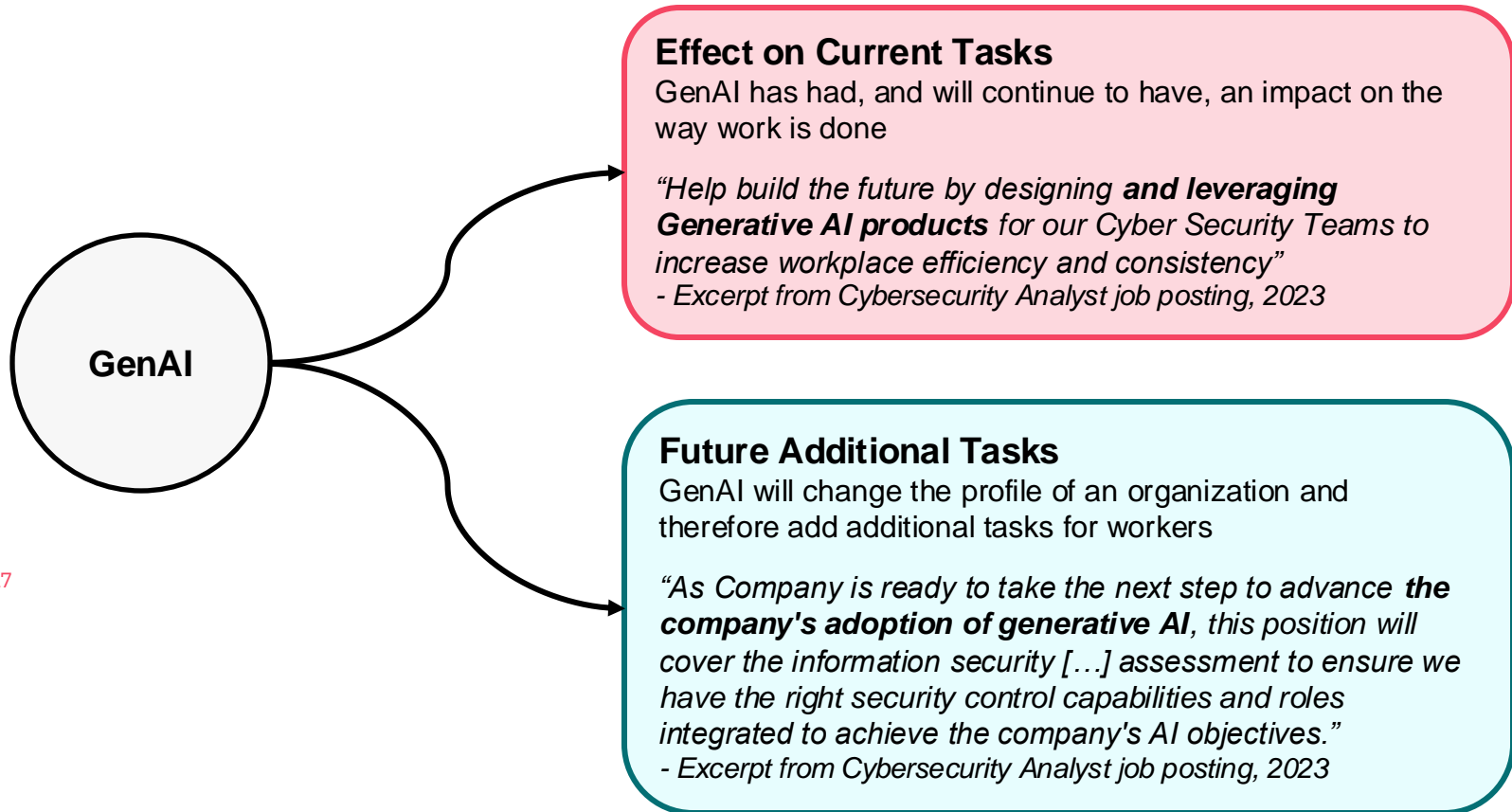
The data used in the Green Skills Dashboard for African countries is sourced from various online job vacancy (OJV) platforms. The green skills taxonomy employed follows the classification defined by European Training Foundation (ETF), categorizing skills that contribute to environmental sustainability and green economic activities. The analysis spans job vacancies from 2022 to 2024, providing an up-to-date figure of green skill trends. To explore the OJV dashboards, please visit <https://acof.africa/skills-data-focus/online-job-ads-analysis-dashboard> and for more detailed methodologies, refer to the <https://www.ETF.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/publications/big-data-labour-market-intelligence-introductory-guide>.



Using AI in strategic management and comparison of qualifications.



Impact of GenAI on Occupations and Organizations



Defining AI

Rich body of research and policy papers offering different definitions of AI

“The science and engineering of making intelligent machines.”

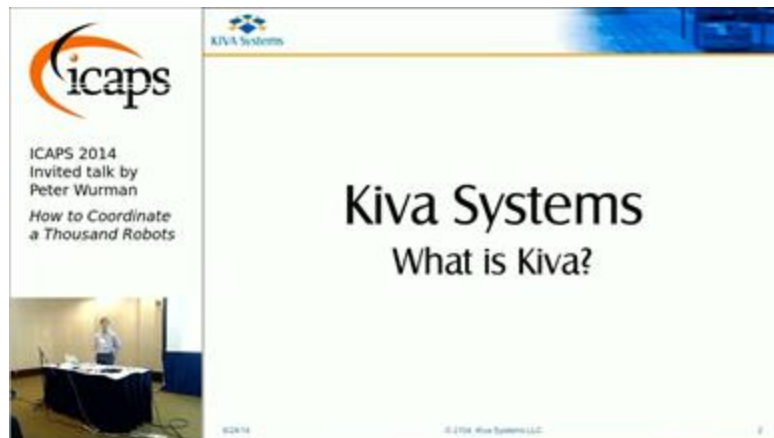
(Stanford University)

“Systems and machines that mimic human intelligence to perform tasks and can iteratively improve themselves based on the information they collect.”

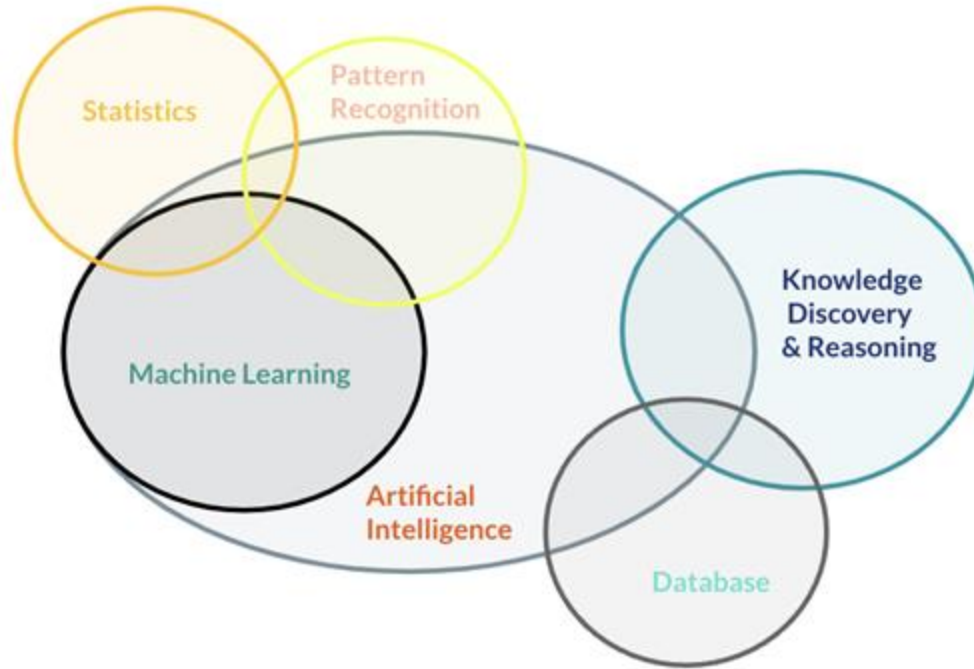
(EUROSTAT)

“Systems that show intelligent behaviour and can perform tasks with some degree of autonomy to achieve a given goal.”

(European Commission)



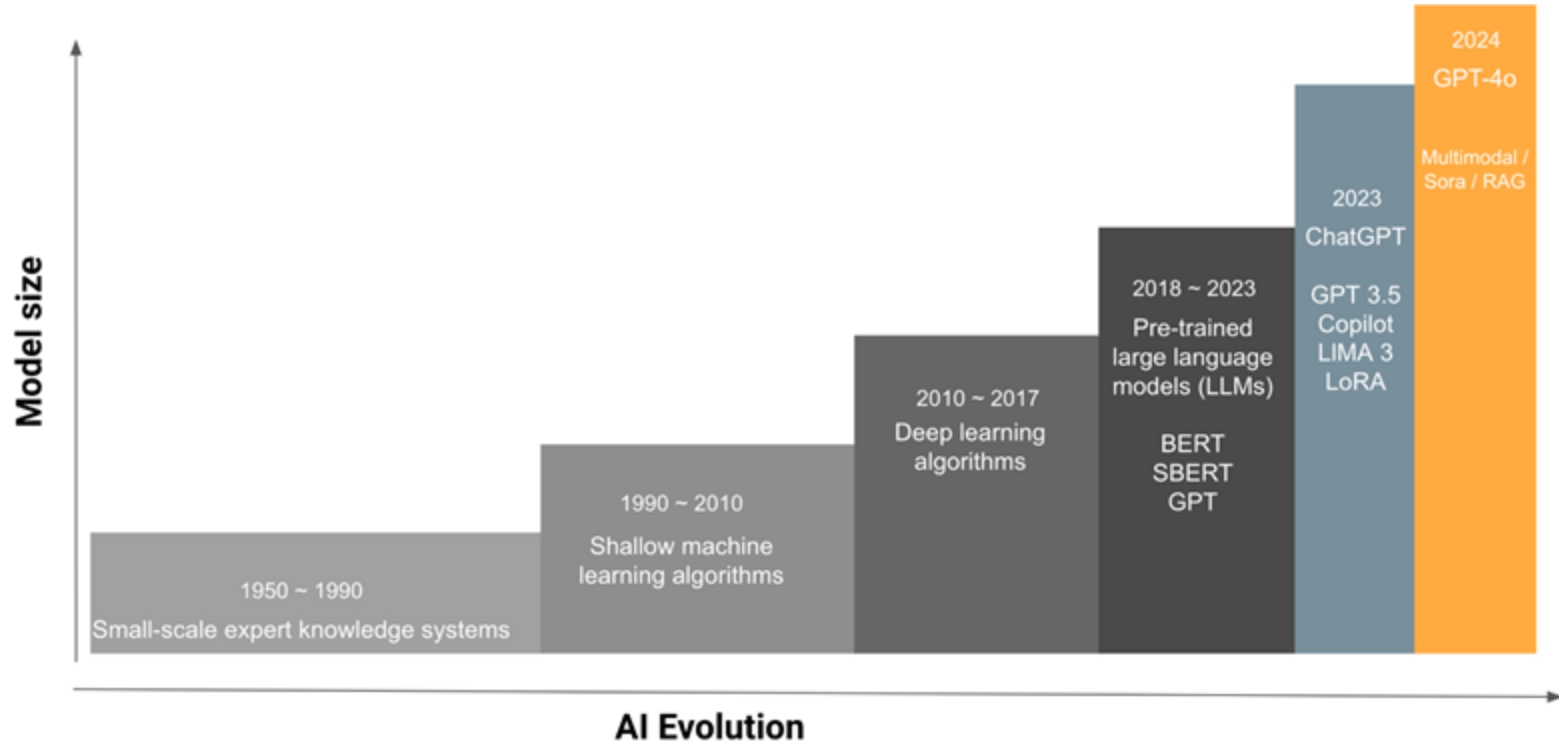
Big Data is the fuel of AI

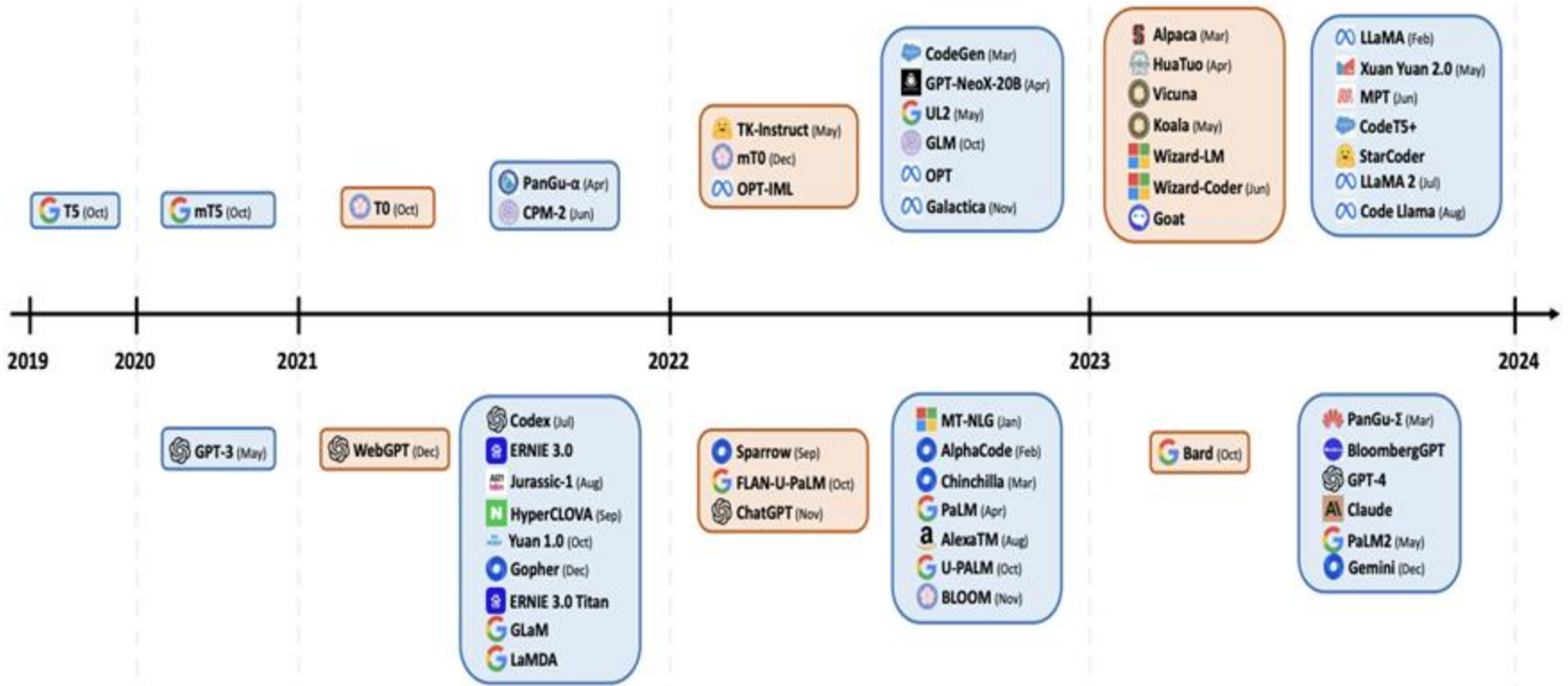


Big Data and AI (Source: ETF Big Data Capacity Development 2023-2024)

The evolution of AI

Rapid growth over the past 75 years - bigger models, faster developments

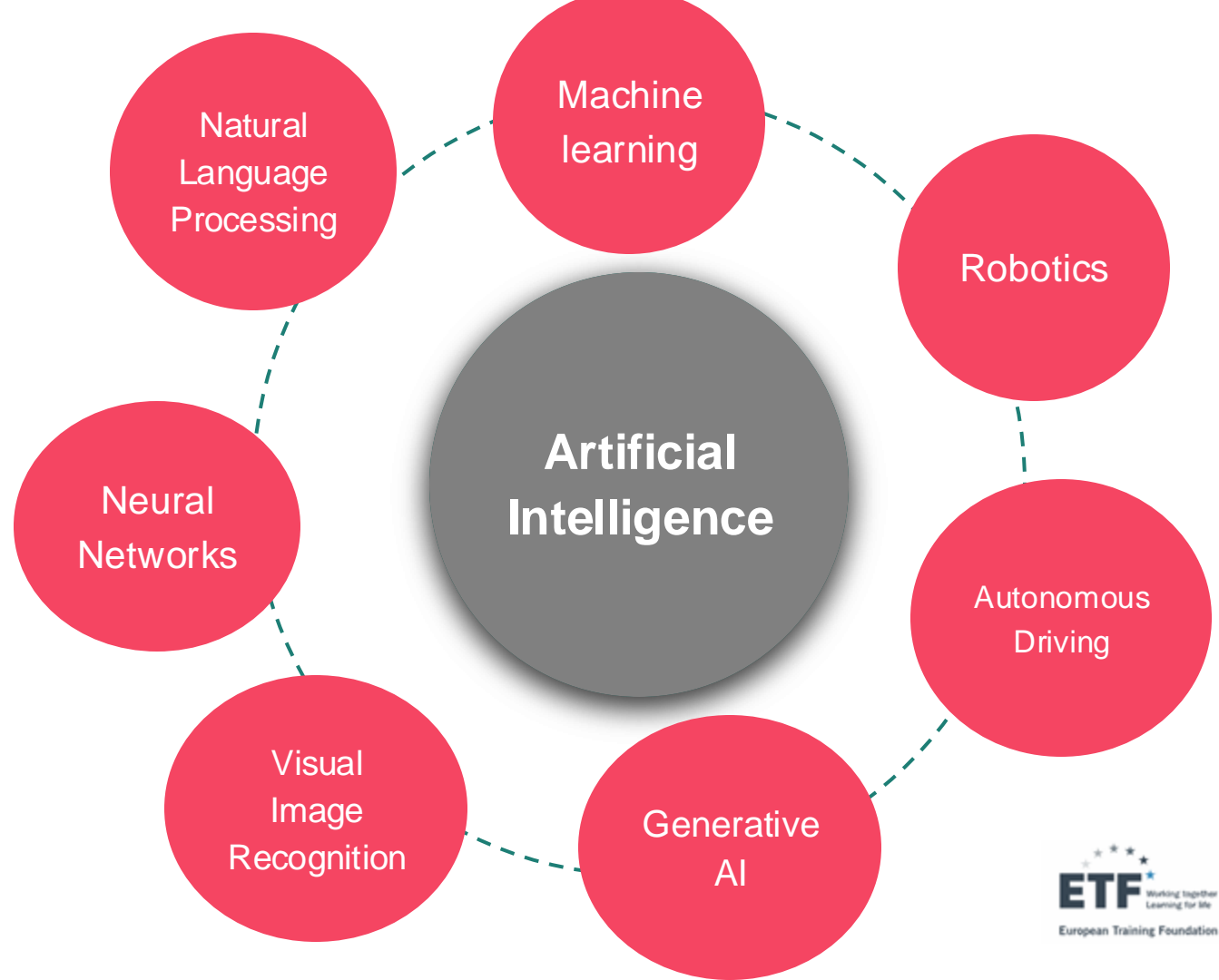




Naveed, Humza, et al. "A comprehensive overview of large language models." arXiv preprint arXiv:2307.06435 (2023).

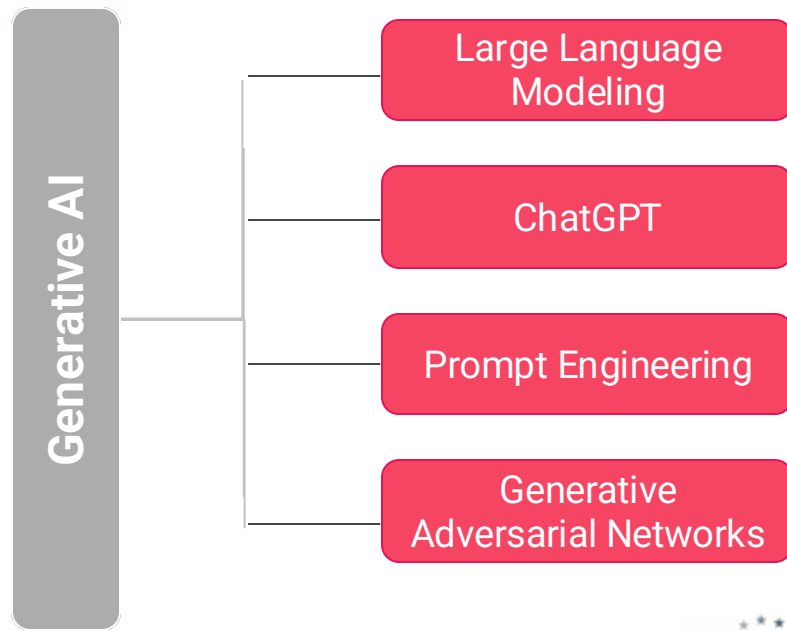


Foundational concepts



Generative AI

*“AI systems that **can create new content**, such as text, images or music, based on the data they have been trained on. These models use techniques such as neural networks and deep learning to generate outputs that mimic human-like creativity.”*



Labour market impact

Profound impact on jobs and the way we work

Job creation

- Prompt engineers
- AI engineers and technicians
- AI content writers
- ...

Task augmentation

- AI virtual assistant supporting researchers with literature review
- ChatGPT for supporting writing an translations
- ...

New career pathways

- A graphic designer into a UX designer
- An event planner into a PR agent
- A proofreader into a translator
- ...

The prevalence of AI titles in online job postings has grown rapidly in recent years

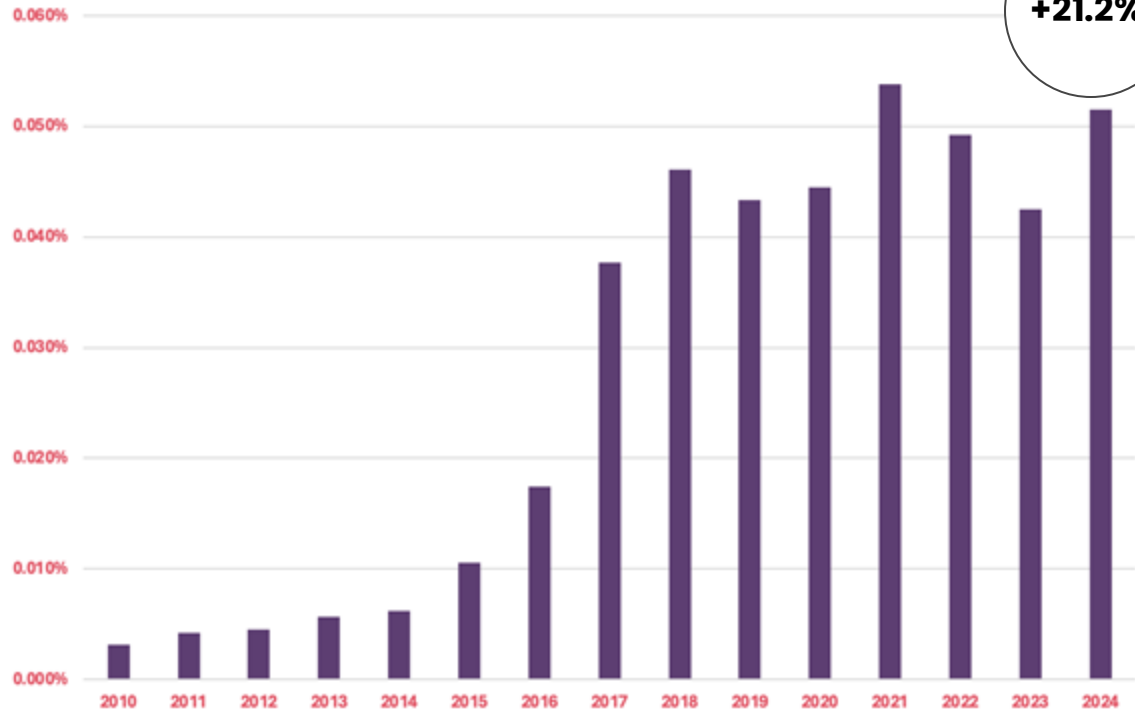
The most common AI titles include **Artificial Intelligence Engineers, Architects, and Scientists**

There is a notable growth in writing-related positions such as **AI Content and Technical Writers**

Three areas where organizations utilize AI skills:

- **Building new products**
- **Enabling new processes**
- **Improving operations**

Job postings for AI titles as a % of total job postings



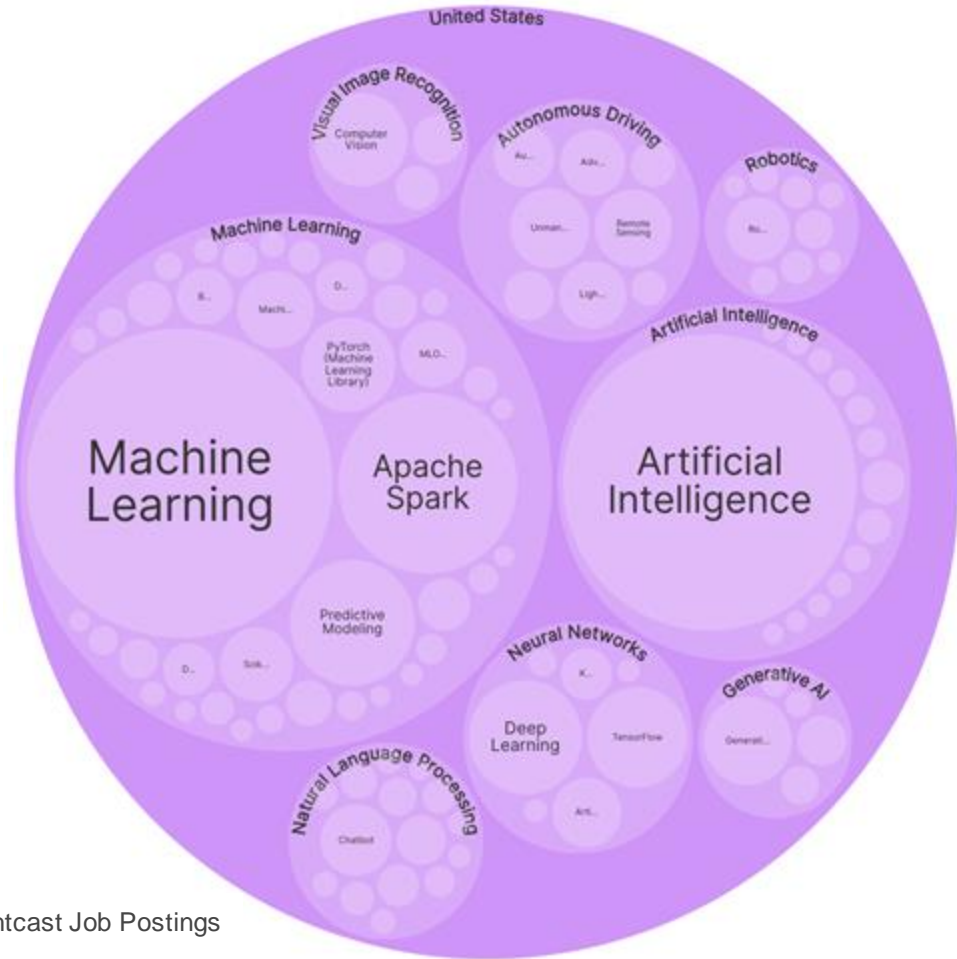
Source: Lightcast Global Job Postings



The AI skills most mentioned in the labour market

Globally, AI, Machine Learning, and Apache Spark are the most in-demand AI skills

Share of job postings requesting AI skills, by skill cluster, 2023



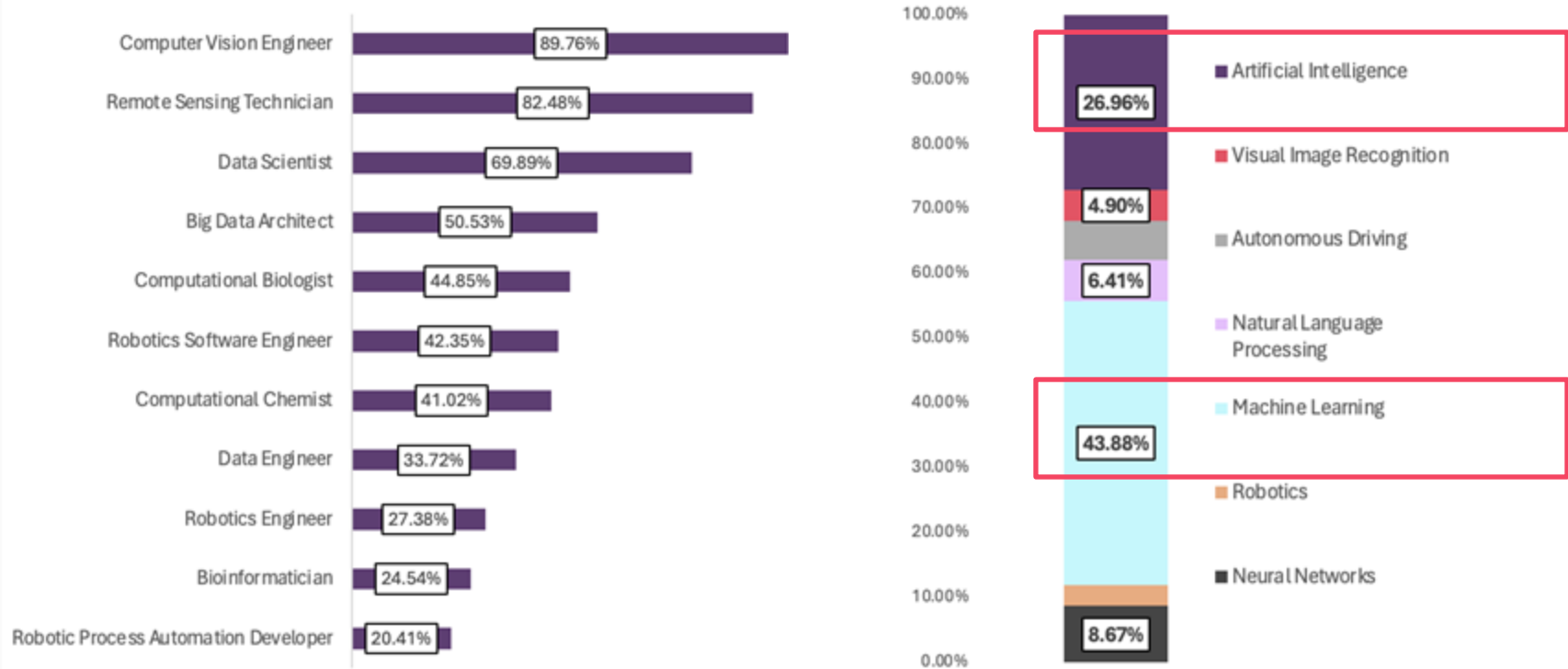
Source: Lightcast Job Postings



Building new products: the emphasis is on job titles associated with computer programming, data science and robotics.

Machine learning and model training are the most in-demand skills.

Share of job postings requesting any AI skill - Distribution of AI job postings by AI skill cluster - 2023

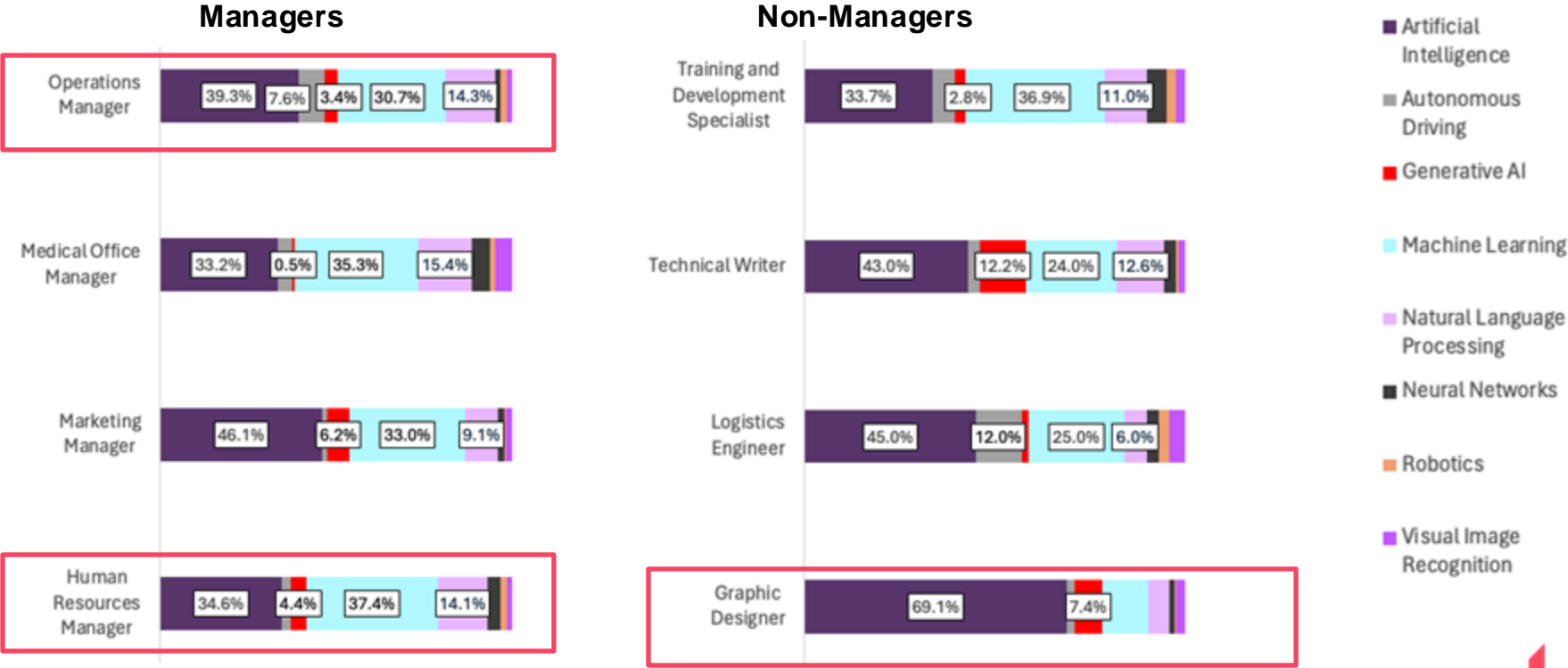


Source: Lightcast Global Job Postings



Enabling new processes: among roles that are requesting AI, job postings imply that HR managers and Operations Managers are leveraging GenAI the most

Distribution of AI job postings by AI skill cluster, 2023

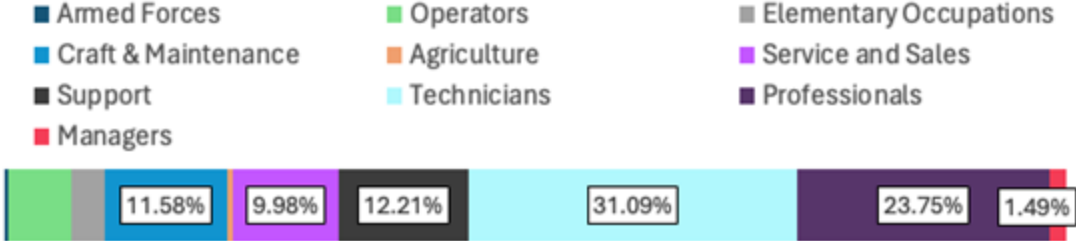


Source: Lightcast job postings



Improving operations: employers ask individual contributors to *use AI to augment tasks*, and managers to determine *how to use AI to augment processes*

Share of job postings requesting any AI skill by professional group



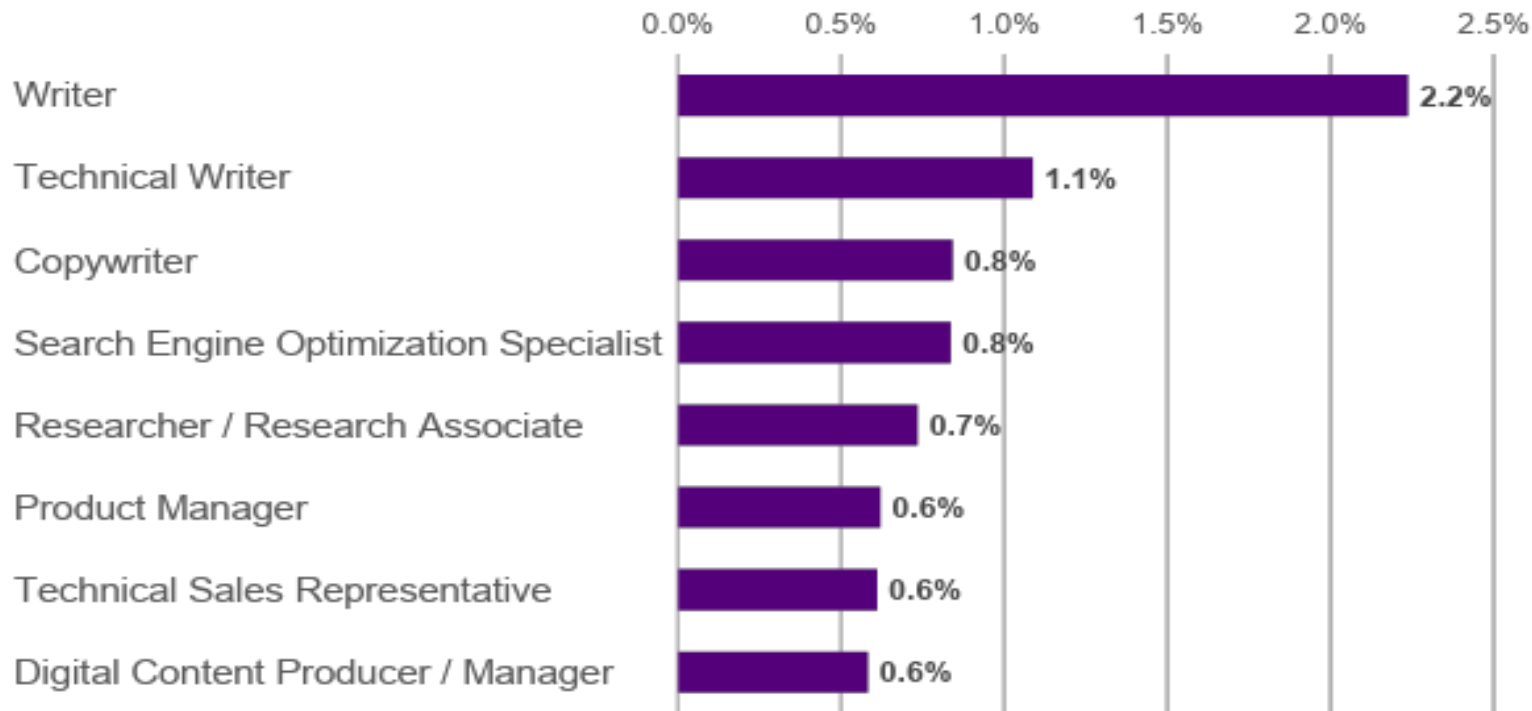
AI use-cases in job postings	
Productivity	Use software and platforms with embedded AI applications Use computer vision systems to inspect and identify defects in manufactured products
Analysis	Organize and analyze data sets to generate meaningful, actionable insights Using AI algorithms to analyze sensor data Utilizing AI techniques such as machine learning to detect fraudulent activities in financial transactions
Strategy	Develop and implement AI strategies Develop and implement process automation strategies Develop change management strategies for AI tools
Ethical AI	Evaluate the ethical implications of AI applications

Source: Lightcast job postings

Non-IT occupations are evolving

AI skills, especially Generative AI, are also demanded outside of tech roles

Share of job postings requesting Generative AI skills, 2023



Source: Lightcast Job Postings



Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) has the potential to bring about enormous productivity gains for individual tasks, but the economic impacts at scale are still being determined.



Task level example

70%

productivity improvement
for generating new code



Occupation level example

14%

improvement in call center agents'
overall productivity



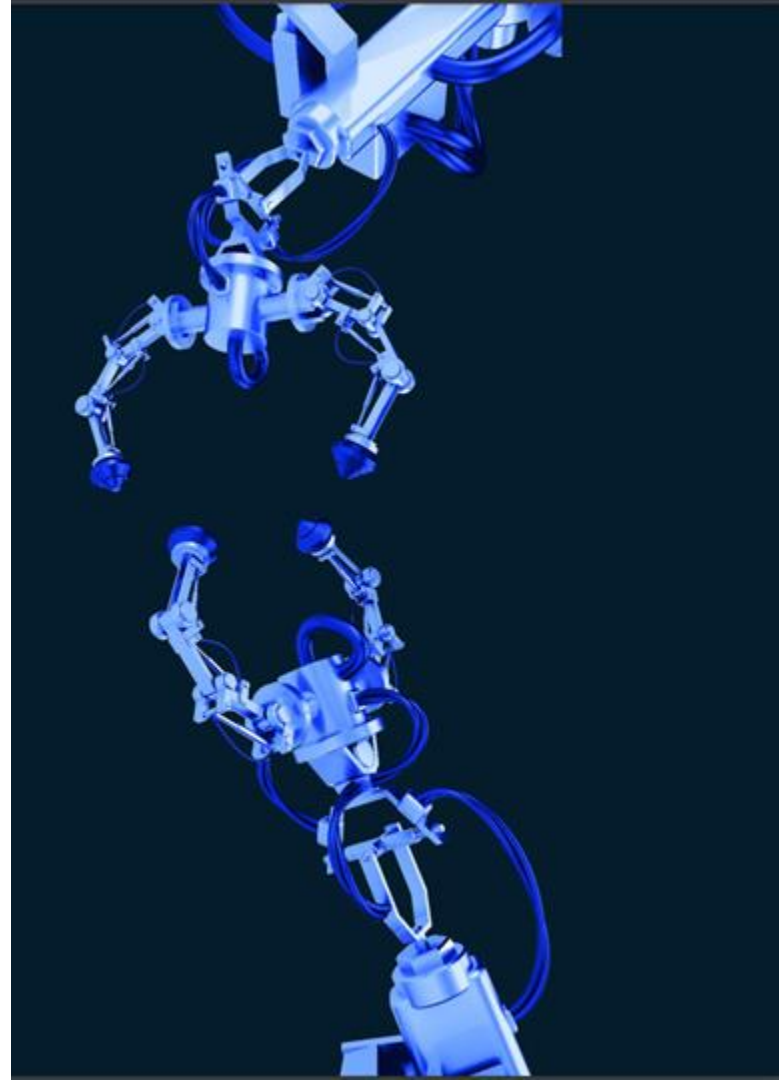
Economy level example

<1%

of occupations have more
than 60% of their workload
currently automatable by AI

AI in education two pillars:

1. Learning AI
2. Learning with AI



Learning AI: Graduate Career Explorer is a tool to support students in finding the best pathways from University courses to the labour market

«In our environment of AI acceleration and uncertainty, we need education systems that help our societies construct ideas about what AI is and should be, what we want to do with it, and where we want to construct guardrails and draw red lines. Too often we only ask how a new technology will change education.»

A more interesting question is: How will education shape our reception and steer the integration of new technology – both technology that is here today and technology that remains on the horizon? Our education systems can define a trajectory and establish norms for how we understand world-changing technology – and, by extension, how we allow it to influence us and our world. This is perhaps the ‘raison d’être’ of education: to help us make informed choices of how we want to construct our lives and our societies.»

UNESCO, 2023 – GAI and Education

The screenshot displays the 'Graduate Career Explorer' web application. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Job Title', 'Skills', 'Salary', 'Employer', and 'Location'. Below these, a central panel contains a search form with the following fields: 'School' (set to '(Tutti)'), 'Level' (set to '(Tutti)'), 'Course' (set to 'Accountancy and Finance BA(Hons)'), 'Career Focus' (set to 'Direct Routes'), 'Region' (set to '(Tutti)'), 'Local area' (set to '(Tutti)'), and 'Employer/Recruitment Agency' (set to '(Tutti)'). A 'Search' button is located at the bottom of this panel. To the right, an 'Overview' section for the 'Accountancy and Finance BA(Hons)' course shows a table of job advertisements with columns for 'Job Adverts', 'Salary', and 'Employer'. Below this, there is a section titled 'Examples of Job Adverts - updated every 30 days' with several job listings and their respective logos.



Learning with AI: enhancing resumes using generative AI and online job postings data

Generative AI can be used to significantly improve resumes by tailoring them to the specific demands of the current job market.

By analyzing online job postings, AI can identify the most in-demand skills, qualifications, and keywords for a given role. Using this information, generative AI tools can automatically update a resume, adding relevant skills and phrasing to better match job descriptions. **The process helps job seekers understand which skills are most valued in their desired field, guiding them in upskilling efforts to align more closely with industry needs.**

By learning from and incorporating job posting data, AI ensures resumes are always current, tailored, and impactful in the competitive job market.

<https://cv-consultant.streamlit.app/>



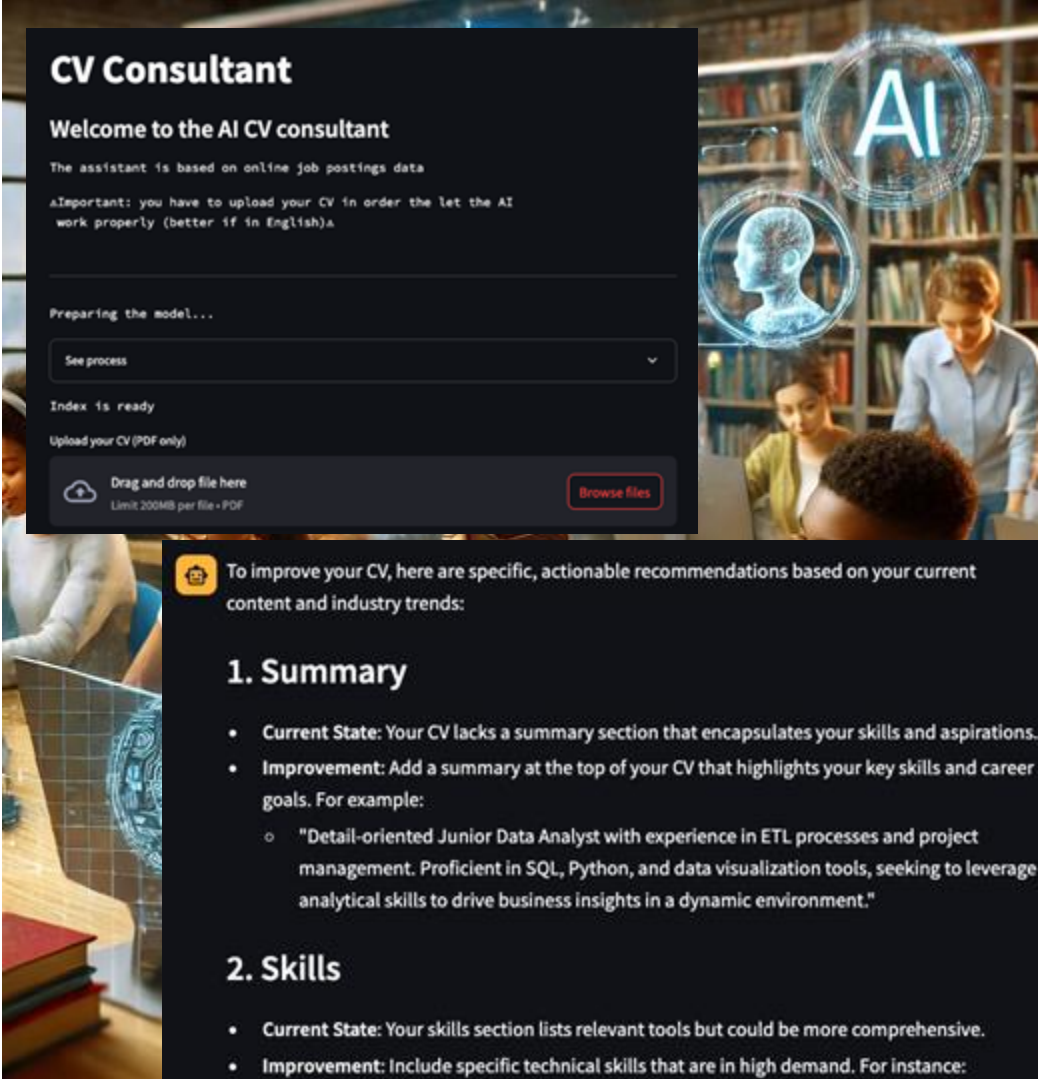
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<https://cv-consultant.streamlit.app/>



CV Consultant

Welcome to the AI CV consultant

The assistant is based on online job postings data

⚠️Important: you have to upload your CV in order the let the AI work properly (better if in English)⚠️

Preparing the model...

See process

Index is ready

Upload your CV (PDF only)

Drag and drop file here
Limit 200MB per file • PDF

Browse files

📁 To improve your CV, here are specific, actionable recommendations based on your current content and industry trends:

1. Summary

- **Current State:** Your CV lacks a summary section that encapsulates your skills and aspirations.
- **Improvement:** Add a summary at the top of your CV that highlights your key skills and career goals. For example:
 - "Detail-oriented Junior Data Analyst with experience in ETL processes and project management. Proficient in SQL, Python, and data visualization tools, seeking to leverage analytical skills to drive business insights in a dynamic environment."

2. Skills

- **Current State:** Your skills section lists relevant tools but could be more comprehensive.
- **Improvement:** Include specific technical skills that are in high demand. For instance:

Learning with AI: using occupation profiles as a new way to navigate qualifications and choose the best pathways

Common Occupational Profiles: A data-driven definition of a job, with the focus on skills insights.

They mix conventional data and new metrics to inform

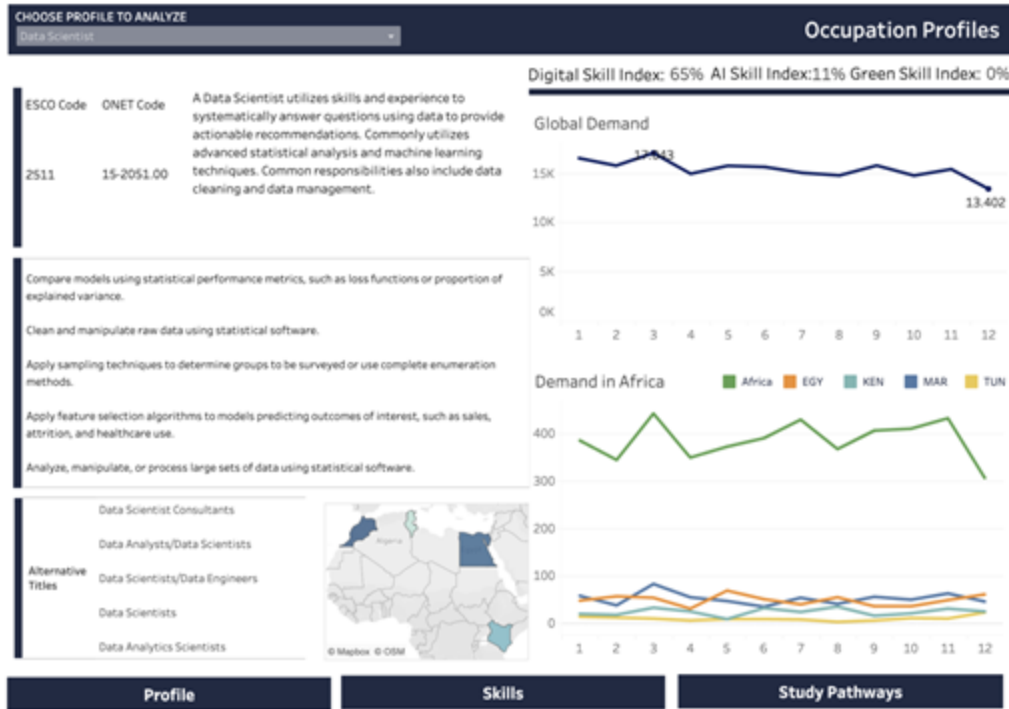
about the demand and the possible study pathways to an occupation (qualification).

<https://acqf.africa/skills-data-focus/occupation-profiles-dashboard>



From skills data to common occupational profiles

Skills frequency and international taxonomies are the starting point...



The dashboard introduces the user with the possibility to choose a specific profile and get the following information regarding it:

- Description of the chosen profile
- Correspondence of chosen profile with profiles from ESCO and ONET taxonomies
- Task Description provided by ONET
- Alternative job titles the profile is presented on the market
- Global Demand (number of job postings) for the job profile within 2023
- Demand within all the African countries and 4 countries Egypt, Kenya, Morocco and Tunisia specifically



How to inform on skills trends?

Defining, distinguishing and necessary skills

- 1. Defining Skills** represent the day-to-day tasks and responsibilities of the job. An employee needs these skills to qualify for and perform successfully in this occupation.
- 2. Distinguishing Skills** are advanced skills that are called for occasionally. An employee with these skills is likely more specialised and able to differentiate themselves from others in the same role.
- 3. Necessary Skills** are specialised skills required for that job and relevant across other similar jobs. An employee needs these skills as building blocks to perform the more complex Defining Skills.



From skills data to common occupational profiles

Capture and compare emerging trends



The Skills section in the dashboard analyzes skills for the selected job profile:

- Top Specialized skills by recall of skills within the available job postings Globally, within EU and among job postings of specific 4 countries in Africa. Recall is shown as a % share of available skills
- The data is color coded by the projected skill growth on the market. The exact value of the projected growth can be seen upon hovering on the skill in the skill Tooltip
- Tooltip also demonstrates the detailed description of the skill

Area: EU
Skill Name: Algorithms
Skill Growth: 7,82%
Frequency in the Market: 25,00%
Difficulty to Fill: High difficulty to fill
ESCO Label: algorithms

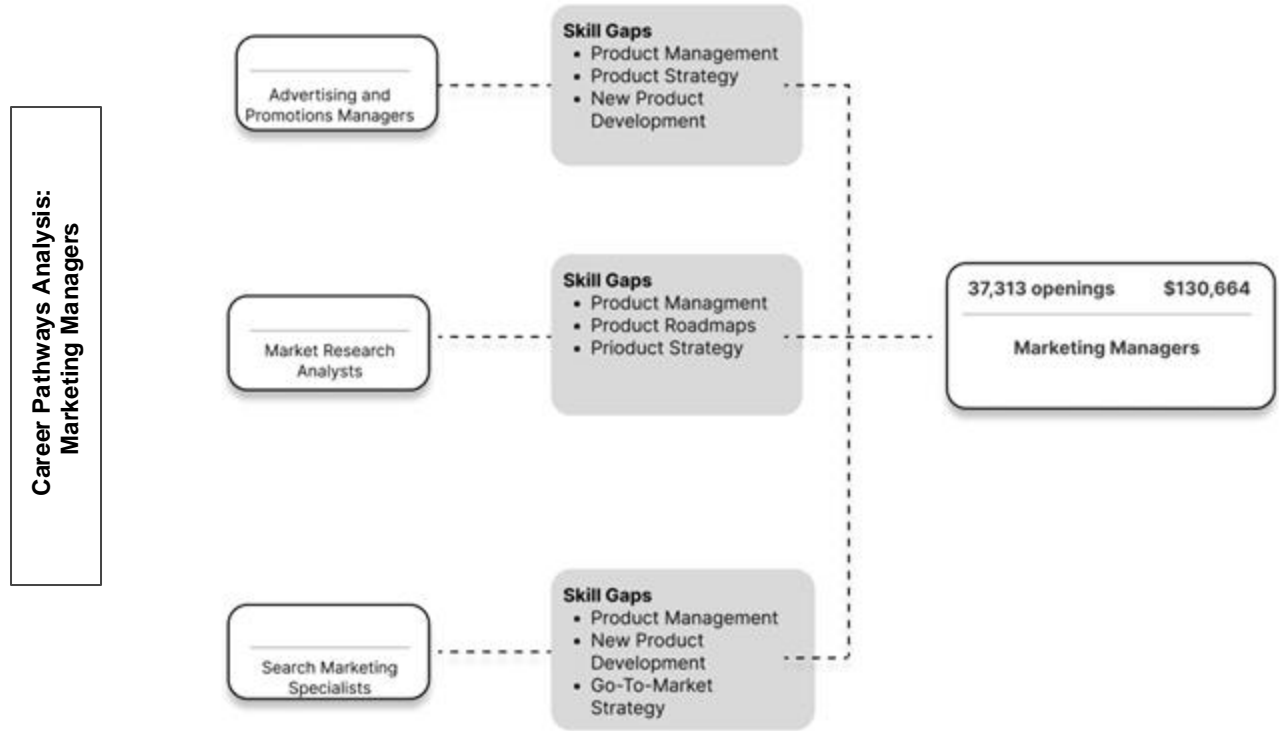
Description: Algorithms is a specialized skill that involves developing a logical process or a set of rules to solve a problem or perform a particular task. It entails identifying the steps required to solve a problem efficiently and optimizing them to minimize time complexity and maximize performance. Algorithms are used in various fields such as computer science, mathematics, and engineering, and require expertise in data structures, programming languages, and problem-solving techniques. Developing effective algorithms is a critical skill for software developers, data scientists, and other professionals who work with large datasets and complex systems.



Next-Step Jobs: Career and Study Pathways

Career Pathways enables education providers to identify common skills requirements to advance the local workforce into a need-to-fill role.

Pathways are built between roles with strong skill adjacencies, and specify the last-mile skill gaps that can be addressed with targeted training.



From skills data to common occupational profiles

Identifying career and study pathways

CHOOSE PROFILE TO ANALYZE
Executive Assistant Occupation Profiles

Career Pathways

	Advancement	Lateral Advancement	Lateral Transition	Similar \bar{r}	Skill Gap
Managing Director (General)				95,66%	Executive Recruitment
Financial Recruiter				75,36%	NextGen Enterprise
Logistics / Supply Chain Account ...	83,80%	63,43%		72,94%	Digital Resource
Logistics / Supply Chain Account ...					
Outside Sales Account Represen...					
Territory / Regional Sales Repre...					
Territory / Regional Account Ma...					
Technology Account Executive					
Talent Management Specialist					
Sushi Chef					
Sous Chef					

Location (Tutti)

Degree Name

Certificate IV in Secretarial Studies.pdf (Q0468)	Botswana
Certificate V in Office Administration(Q0238)	Botswana

Profile Skills Study Pathways

The section analyzes the pathways for the selected profile: **career pathways** related to the specific profile and **educational pathways** leading to them.

For the selected profile, list of occupations are presented, distributed by 4 different hierarchical categories: Advancement, Lateral Advancement, Lateral Transition or Similar level. For each of them, the index of similarity is given.

Upon selecting specific career, user can also see the skill gap existing from the chosen profile and the original profile of the analysis. The skills are color coded by the skill weight to analyze the gap.

User is also presented with the list of the degrees connected to the profile of analysis at various locations in African countries.



What does this mean for policy-makers and education providers?

Policy-makers and education providers need to work together to link qualifications and demanded skills to respond to a rapidly changing labour market.

- **Planning and development:** which courses are more likely to provide students a strong career outcome?
- **Inform students:** communicate to students how your courses will prepare them for their future.
- **Course design:** what knowledge, competencies and attributes does a course need to develop to prepare students for the world of work?
- **Careers advice:** empower careers advisors with detailed insights to enrich their guidance, unlocking new possibilities for students.
- **Civic engagement:** engage with wider stakeholders with a common language of data.





Thanks !

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Appendix



What are the impacts on the Labour Market?

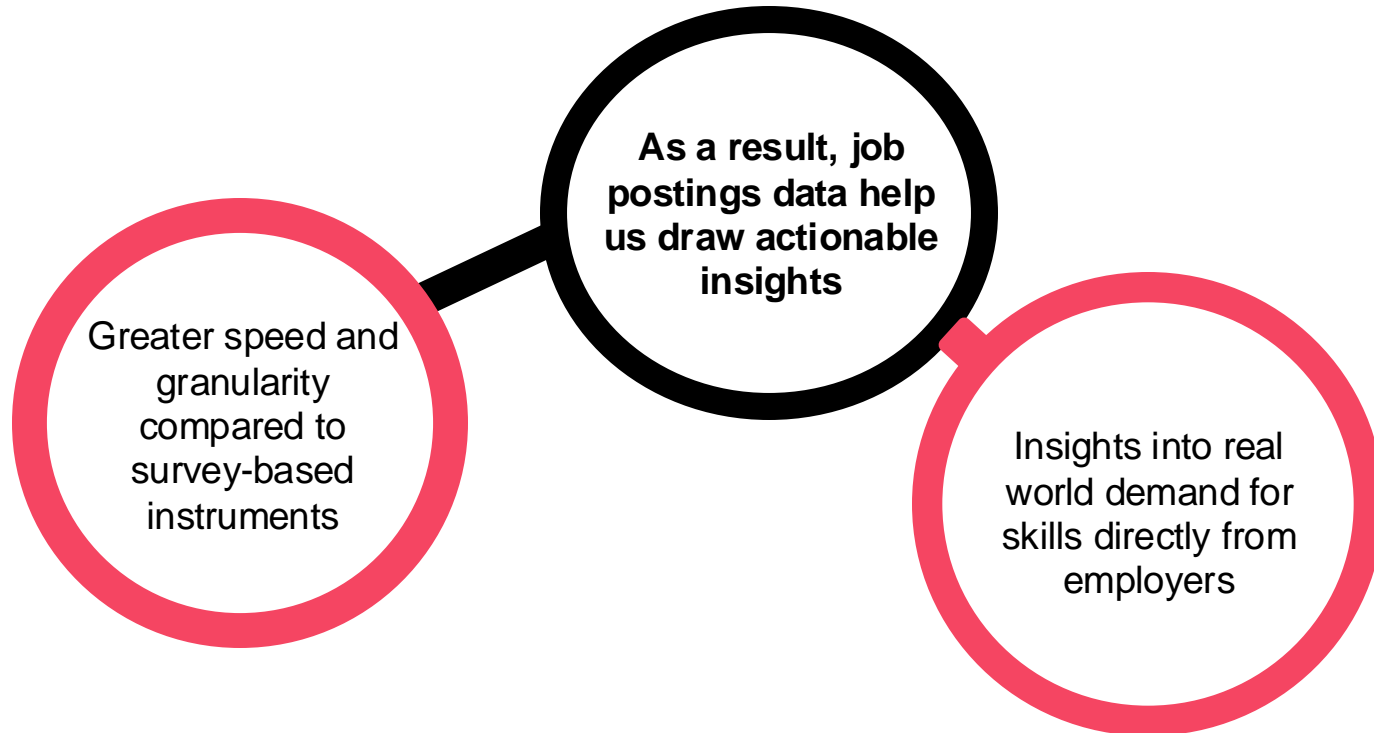
Some of the 2024 Key Trends

Talent shortage

- Digitalization of professions
- Relevance of Soft skills
- New professions and skills emerging
- Green economy and sustainability
- Artificial intelligence

What a billion of job postings can tell us

Vs. traditional labour market information from official statistics



JUNIOR DATA SCIENTIST & ANALYST PLACEMENT

London • Hybrid remote

Internship

You must create an Indeed account before continuing to the company website to apply

[Apply on company site](#)



As at Data Scientist a [redacted] you will join the rapidly developing data team, who are responsible for measurement solutions and modelling expertise help a diverse client-set understand the true value of their media investment, create compelling data stories on how to drive growth, and automate the insights into the planning cycle through their advance and integrated tech stack.

We are looking for [inquisitive, articulate, numerate and above-all, enthusiastic] placement students to support the wider team in delivering these critical insights and building on the capabilities of our product.

You will be part of a close-knit and friendly team who share results and celebrate success together.

[redacted] is a media agency that's made differently. We're purpose-led, data-driven and proudly independent. Our independence means we can focus 100% on doing the right thing to secure success for our clients and our brilliant people. We are trusted to deliver that success for some of the UK's most ambitious and complex organisations, including SunLife, Guide Dogs, RNLI, Laithwaites and National Trust.

WHAT YOU'LL BE DOING

Work closely with business to identify issues that can be resolved using data solutions effectively for decision making

Machine learning tools and statistical methods to solve complex problems

Build algorithms and design experiments to merge, manage, interrogate, and extract data to supply tailored reports to colleagues, clients and wider areas in company

Support the account management and planning teams across all facets of campaign measurement across media channels

Develop automated data processes using Python/R

Ability to organise a variety of large data sets

Undertake regular analysis and reporting for retained clients

Maintain clear and coherent communication, both verbal and written, to understand data needs and report results

Working with the Datalab team and other senior business stakeholders to develop analytical propositions

THE SKILLS YOU WILL BRING

Highly numerate undergraduate studying a relevant degree in mathematics, statistics, econometrics or computer science

Pre-requisite skills: Strong Excel and MS Office usage

Experience of coding in Python, R or SQL

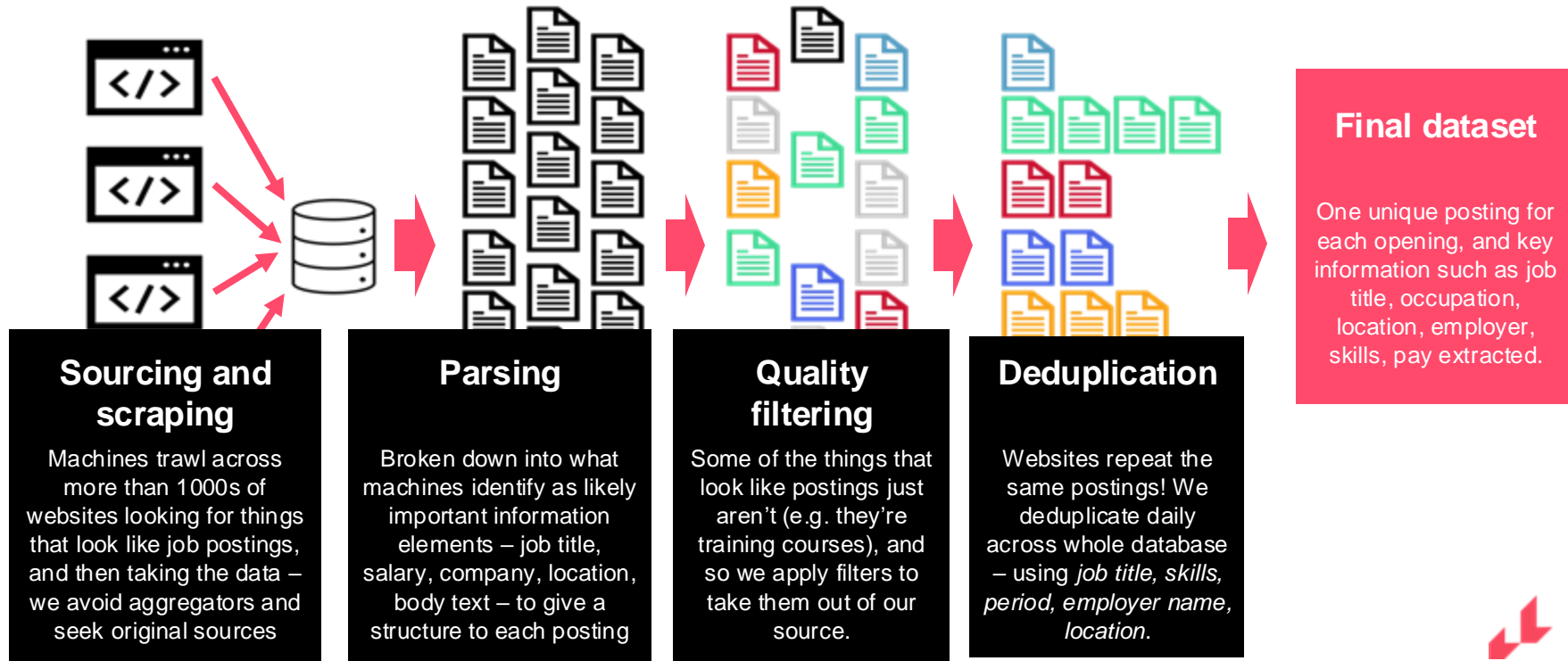
Experience of data visualisation tools like Tableau/Qlik/Power-BI/Google Data Studio would be useful but not essential

Theoretical understanding of statistical techniques such as regression and developing confidence measures.

Strong data manipulation skills and a keen eye for detail.

How we draw meaningful insights

Turning big noisy data on job postings into clear and actionable data points



Type of data	Years of data	Ease of time series analyses	Data representativeness	Compatibility across economies	Real-time data access	Regular taxonomy (classification) updates	Data granularity
Traditional labor market data	~50	High	Apply statistical sampling methods and weights	✓			Low
Big data	~10	Medium	Captures digitized labor market; can benchmark against public data to gain insight	✓	✓	✓	High