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Emerging Skills Index 2026

The skills rising fastest across learning and hiring — ranked from live search-interest and labour-market data.

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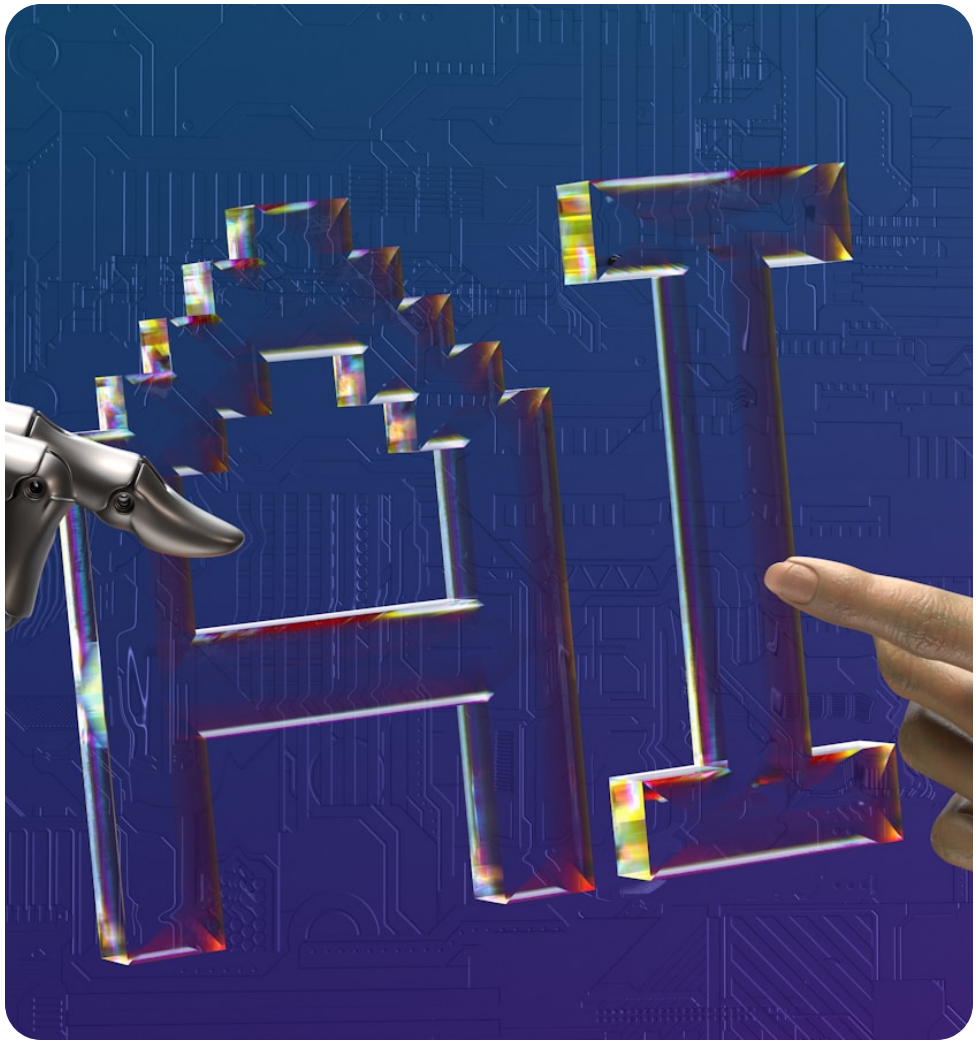
ewance.com · United States edition

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AI isn't one emerging skill — it's a whole new stack

The skills that define employability are turning over faster than at any point in recent memory, and the churn is concentrated in one place. Of the 25 fastest-rising skills in this index, **8** sit in artificial intelligence — led by building **AI agents**, up **13,467%** in five years.

But it isn't only AI. We screened **707** skills and ranked the **387** that show real market signal — spanning AI, computer science, business, and the transversal human skills that rise precisely because AI can assist them but not replace them.



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What this report covers

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KEY FINDINGS

Three numbers that frame 2026

13,467%

five-year growth in search interest for building **AI agents** — the steepest trajectory in the index

8 / 25

of the highest-scoring skills sit in the **AI domain**

387

skills cleared the evidence floor, of **707** screened

The top of the list rewards orchestration and judgment as much as raw building: alongside **Kubernetes orchestration**, it features AI ethics, model governance, and data storytelling — knowing *how* to use AI responsibly is rising as fast as knowing how to build it.

THE RANKING

The Top 25 emerging skills

#	SKILL	5-YR GROWTH
1	**Kubernetes orchestration**	**5,273%**
2	**AI image generation**	**2,525%**
3	**AI video generation**	**4,868%**
4	**Data Annotation**	**1,433%**
5	**Canva**	**430%**
6	**AI Ethics**	**2,942%**
7	**Meeting AI**	**9,481%**
8	**n8n workflows**	**445%**
9	**Model Context Protocol**	**1,632%**
10	**AI Bias**	**2,634%**
11	**AI Agents**	**13,467%**
12	**Figma**	**335%**
13	**Dashboard Design**	**6,650%**

#	SKILL	5-YR GROWTH
14	**Google Analytics 4**	**469%**
15	**Transformer architecture**	**1,550%**
16	**Large Language Models**	**2,879%**
17	**NIST AI Risk Management Framework**	**1,190%**
18	**Storytelling with data**	**3,600%**
19	**FastAPI**	**574%**
20	**Experience economics**	**3,100%**
21	**Zapier**	**259%**
22	**Anti-Money Laundering (AML)**	**385%**
23	**Persona Development**	**326%**
24	**Hugging Face Transformers**	**530%**
25	**Interview Structure**	**692%**

WHERE MOMENTUM IS BUILDING

The fastest-rising skills



THE AI CLUSTER

Data Annotation · AI Ethics · Model Context Protocol · AI Bias · AI Agents · Transformer architecture · NIST AI Risk Management Framework · Hugging Face Transformers

The AI job isn't one role — it spans hands-on building (generation, fine-tuning) and the judgment to govern it (ethics, bias, risk).

METHODOLOGY

How the index is built

Each skill is scored on a composite of **five-year search growth** (weighted highest — the core "emerging" signal, seasonality-smoothed via Google Trends), **interest ahead of job demand** (search volume relative to current job postings), and **search-volume magnitude**, then rank-normalised so a single outlier can't distort the field.

Current job demand is used as an **eligibility floor, not a score reward** — rewarding existing demand would bias the list toward already-established skills, the opposite of "emerging." Search and job-posting data are US-based in this edition.

The index is built from the same canonical skills taxonomy that powers the Ewance platform. The full 387-skill dataset is available to journalists on request at **press@ewance.com**.

ABOUT EWANCE

Where learning meets recruiting

Ewance is a learning-and-recruiting platform where students solve challenges tied to their field of study and earn verifiable certificates, and recruiters discover and verify proven talent. The skills that matter are changing fast — Ewance is how students prove the emerging ones by doing the work.

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