

IMF: new AI-linked skills lift wages but widen inequality and hit young workers

Source copy kept by wheresthe.ai for the story "IMF: new AI-linked skills lift wages but widen inequality and hit young workers" (<https://wheresthe.ai/d/intl-imf-sdn-ai-new-skills-jobs-2026-01/>).

Source: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Staff-Discussion-Notes/Issues/2026/01/09/Bridging-Skill-Gaps-for-the-Future-New-Jobs-Creation-in-the-AI-Age-572136>

Text saved 21 Oct 2026 (the page text after its scripts ran in a browser).

SHA-256 of the saved text: 2bc647f5c62d51ef47f6a3ba6454fb1317cf69589aa6e9bca149ee79cc29801c

Bridging Skill Gaps for the Future: New Jobs Creation in the AI Age

Staff Discussion Notes, January 14, 2026

Source details Canonical URL Bridging Skill Gaps for the Future: New Jobs Creation in the AI Age Other formats Markdown version Structured JSON version Bundle manifest Bibliographic details Authors: Florence Jaumotte, Jaden Kim, David Koll, Elmer Li, Longji Li, Giovanni Melina, Alina Song, Marina Mendes Tavares Published: January 14, 2026 Series: Staff Discussion Notes DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5089/9798229028196.006> Summary of core dynamics The demand and supply of new skills—especially in IT and AI—are reshaping labor markets, impacting wages and hiring. About one in ten job vacancies in advanced economies demands at least one new skill, often appearing first in the United States. The incidence is about half in emerging economies. These skills boost average wages and employment but deepen polarization, mostly benefitting high- and—through higher consumption of services—low-skilled workers, and potentially contributing to the shrinking of the middle class. Vacancies demanding AI skills post higher wages, but the diffusion of such skills is linked to lower employment in occupations with high exposure and low complementarity with AI, posing challenges for the youth. A Skill Imbalance Index reveals wide cross-country differences. Key findings and labor-market implications Prevalence and geography: About one in ten job vacancies in advanced economies demands at least one new skill. The incidence of vacancies demanding new skills is about half in emerging economies. New skills often appear first in the United States. Wage and employment effects: Vacancies demanding AI skills post higher wages. New skills raise average wages and employment overall. Distributional effects: Skill diffusion deepens polarization, mostly benefitting high-skilled workers. Through higher consumption of services, lower-skilled workers also benefit. These dynamics potentially contribute to the shrinking of the middle class. Youth and occupational risk: Diffusion of AI-linked skills is associated with lower employment in occupations with high exposure and low complementarity with AI, posing challenges for the youth. Analytical tools and cross-country variation Skill Imbalance Index: A Skill Imbalance Index reveals wide cross-country differences in the balance between skill demand and supply. Policy recommendations and strategic priorities For economies facing strong demand for new skills: Prioritize education and reskilling. For economies facing strong supply of new skills: Foster firms' absorption through innovation and access to credit.

Source: "Bridging Skill Gaps for the Future: New Jobs Creation in the AI Age", Staff Discussion Note, January 14, 2026.

Content in this bundle Staff Discussion Note Staff Discussion Note (Markdown version) Staff Discussion Note (PDF)