



Sources	AI Skills in the UK		Microsoft	
Date	December 2020			
Potential scale of impact	Certainty of outcome	Impact horizon		
★★★★	★★★★★	H1	H2	H3

[New research by Microsoft](#) reveals that the UK has lower AI maturity, adoption levels and workforce skills than its competitors. The findings reveal that:

- 15% of UK companies can be classified as advanced 'AI pros' - compared to 23% of global companies
- 52% of UK employees are using AI to work faster and smarter - compared to 69% of employees globally
- 35% of UK business leaders foresee an AI skills gap in the next two years. 28% say they already have one
- Only 17% of UK employees are being re-skilled for AI, compared to 38% globally

Previous research from Microsoft UK has shown that organisations embracing AI outperform the competition by 11.5%. To close the AI skills gap, organisations need to invest in building the skillsets of their workforce, focussing on four key steps:

- **Embrace AI** - employers should demonstrate the benefits of AI to their employees, showing how new technology makes their jobs quicker and easier
- **Create agile workers** - as AI changes work, businesses will require people and to change with it. Continuously and in response to changing market need
- **Re-skill employees** - business leaders need to work proactively to help their teams stay on the cutting edge, minimising talent gaps by building, extending and expanding the skills of their current team
- **Dedication to lifelong learning** - businesses must invest in digital talent platforms that foster workforce learning and build a culture of continuous learning to develop competencies that can be nurtured over time.

A [January 2021 report to government](#) by the AI Council suggests that AI could deliver a 10% increase in UK GDP in 2030 if approached correctly. The report suggests near-term directions for all government departments to get the ball rolling.

