This snapshot includes the most popular specialist and software skills most sought after by recruiting employers between October 2021 and September 2022 in the UK. It also shows the top SOC occupations within each group that employers have been recruiting for over the past year.

**Top SOC occupations**
*Metal, UK, Oct 2021 to Sept 2022*

- Metal working machine operatives
- Metal working production and maintenance fitters
- Welding trades
- Metal machining setters and setter-operators
- Vehicle body builders and repairers

**Top 10 software skills**
*Metal, UK, Oct 2021 to Sept 2022*

- Amazon Web Services
- Terraform
- Microsoft Azure
- Kubernetes
- Python (programming language)
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft Office
- Docker (software)
- Linux
- Microsoft Outlook

**Key job posting figures**
*(Oct 2021 to Sept 2022)*

- Unique postings: 182,000
- Median advertised salary: £28,608

**Key labour force figures**

- Jobs 2021: 417,900
- Job growth (%) 2030: 2.1%

**Top 15 specialist skills**
*Metal, UK, Oct 2021 to Sept 2022*

- Engineering drawings
- Machinery
- Metal Inert Gas (MIG) welding
- Machining
- Welding
- Machine operation
- Fabrication
- Computer Numerical Control (CNC)
- Gas tungsten arc welding
- Lathes
- Milling
- Sheet metal
- CNC machining
- Carbon steel
- CNC milling

Source: Lightcast Job Postings

**Note:**
The 'specialist' skills lists included in this snapshot have been extracted by their relative importance to the thematic career group and then ranked by the frequency with which they appear in job postings related to the group.

Software skills may overlap with specialist skills, depending on prevalence.