

Structure of the Classification

8 The SSOC 2010 comprises five levels of aggregation, namely Major Group, Sub-major Group, Minor Group, Unit Group and Occupation.

Major Group (one-digit or -alphabetical codes) is the highest level of aggregation and represents very broad fields of work rather than specific types of work performed. There are 10 major groups, including nine numerical groups for Professionals, Clerical Support Workers and Craftsmen, etc, and Major Group X. They are each identified by their corresponding one-digit or -alphabetical code, i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or X as the case may be.

Sub-major Groups (two-digit codes) are the sub-divisions of the major groups e.g. Science and Engineering Professionals (Sub-major Group 21) within the Major Group 2 'Professionals'.

Minor Groups (three-digit codes) are the sub-divisions within the sub-major groups e.g. Engineering Professionals (Excluding Electrotechnology) (Minor Group 214) within the Sub-major Group 21 'Science and Engineering Professionals'.

Unit Groups (four-digit codes) are sub-divisions of the minor groups. The classification of unit groups is finer and more detailed than that of the minor groups e.g. Civil Engineers (Unit Group 2142) within the Minor Group 214 'Engineering Professionals (Excluding Electrotechnology)'.

Occupations (five-digit codes) are sub-divisions of the unit groups and the most detailed grouping in SSOC.

9 The skills level associated with each major occupational group are indicated as follows:

- a Occupations in Major Group 2 'Professionals' require the fourth skill level as defined earlier.
- b Occupations in Major Group 3 'Associate Professionals and Technicians' require the third skill level as defined earlier.
- c Occupations in Major Groups 4 'Clerical Support Workers', 5 'Service and Sales Workers', 6 'Agricultural and Fishery Workers', 7 'Craftsmen

and Related Trades Workers', and 8 'Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers' require the second skill level as defined earlier.

- d Occupations in Major Group 9 'Cleaners, Labourers and Related Workers' require the first skill level as defined earlier.

10 Skill level reference is not made to Major Group 1 'Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers' as other aspects of the type of work were considered more important, i.e. policy making and management functions. These aspects are such that there could arise significant skill differences between occupations classified in this major group. Skill level reference is also not made to Major Group X as it is essentially a residual major group, which would be difficult to relate it to any one of the four broad skills levels.

11 The following table summarises the number of sub-groups in each major group and the skill level associated with each of them.

Major Group	Sub-Major Group	Minor Group	Unit Group	Occupation	Skill Level
1 Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers	4	11	33	71	NA
2 Professionals	7	26	78	228	4 th
3 Associate Professionals and Technicians	7	27	84	251	3 rd
4 Clerical Support Workers	5	9	22	57	2 nd
5 Service and Sales Workers	5	16	39	87	2 nd
6 Agricultural and Fishery Workers	2	4	7	17	2 nd
7 Craftsmen and Related Trades Workers	5	19	58	168	2 nd
8 Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	3	17	58	182	2 nd
9 Cleaners, Labourers and Related Workers	5	11	21	56	1 st
X Workers not Classifiable by Occupation	-	-	-	5	NA
Total	43	140	400	1,122	

12 A numerical five-digit coding system is used to distinguish the different levels of classification. The numbering system is hierarchical in nature, showing progressively finer detail in skill specialisation from the highest level of aggregation (one-digit) to the lowest level (five-digit). This allows users the flexibility to tabulate, analyse and publish data according to the level of detail required.

Classification	Title	Code
Major Group	Professionals	2
Sub-Major Group	Science and Engineering Professionals	21
Minor Group	Engineering Professionals (Excluding Electrotechnology)	214
Unit Group	Civil Engineers	2142
Occupation	Civil Engineer (General)	21421
	Structural Engineer (General)	21422
	Building Construction Engineer	21423
	Soil Mechanic Engineer	21424
	Other Civil Engineers	21429

13 In cases where a given level of classification is not divided into groups or occupations at the next more detailed level of classification, the last digit of the code for the only group or occupation at the next detailed level would be '0'. For instance, the unit group 'Secretaries and Verbatim Reporters' is coded as 4120 as the minor group 'Secretaries and Verbatim Reporters' (code 412) contains only one unit group. Similarly, the occupational code for 'Glazier' is 71250 as it is the only occupation within the Unit Group 'Glaziers' (code 7125).

14 At a given level of aggregation, including the most detailed five-digit level, the digit '9' that appears in the last digit position denotes residual occupations grouped at the respective level of detail. These residual categories usually comprise a range of the less common types of occupational groups which are not significant enough to justify a separate code. They are classified in a separate category so that no occupation, however small or insignificant, is left out of the classification scheme.

15 The numerical codes of SSOC 2010 are closely aligned with ISCO-08 to facilitate easy comparison between the two classifications. As such, the codes at the two, three and four-digit levels may not run consecutively if an ISCO code is not used in SSOC. For instance, the SSOC does not contain the ISCO code 1113 'Traditional Chiefs and Heads of Village'.