Precision & Recall

ENGINEERS THAT RECRUIT ENGINEERS

Salary Guide Australia 2026

Senior Data/ML/AI engineering.



PERMANENT · AUSTRALIA · 2026

Base salaries by role and level

AUD per year. Superannuation and bonus not included. An unqualified title is mid-level, three to six years in role; Senior is seven to ten; Lead / Principal carries technical direction for a team or platform.

Data engineering and platform

ROLE	BASE SALARY
Data Engineer	$120,000 – $155,000
Senior Data Engineer	$155,000 – $185,000
Lead / Principal Data Engineer	$180,000 – $210,000
Data Architect	$135,000 – $170,000
Senior Data Architect	$170,000 – $205,000
Principal Data Architect	$195,000 – $235,000

Machine learning and AI

ROLE	BASE SALARY
Machine Learning Engineer	$125,000 – $160,000
Senior Machine Learning Engineer	$160,000 – $200,000
Lead / Principal Machine Learning Engineer	$185,000 – $230,000
AI Engineer	$145,000 – $180,000
Senior AI Engineer	$170,000 – $220,000
Lead / Principal AI Engineer	$195,000 – $255,000
Forward Deployed Engineer	$130,000 – $170,000
Senior Forward Deployed Engineer	$155,000 – $205,000
Lead / Principal Forward Deployed Engineer	$180,000 – $235,000

Data science

ROLE	BASE SALARY
Data Scientist	$120,000 – $150,000
Senior Data Scientist	$145,000 – $185,000
Lead / Principal Data Scientist	$180,000 – $200,000

Leadership

ROLE	BASE SALARY
Head of Data / Head of AI	$225,000 – $290,000



The right role. The right hire.

Talk to an engineer.

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