

Engineering



Employment data shows that now is the time to advance your engineering career in Australia.

Job prospects for engineers look strong as opportunities arise in public infrastructure, sustainable action and the fast-growing technology space.

Key industry takeaways



New public infrastructure projects demand more engineers

Demand for engineering positions across Australia recently reached a 10-year high. In October 2023, shortages reached 229,000 full-time workers.¹

This demand continues to be driven by unprecedented investment in public infrastructure projects, and the increasing need for sustainable solutions across the industry.



The Australian Government announced plans to deliver net zero emissions by 2050²

Australia's Long Term Emissions Reduction Plan is a technology-driven strategy designed to position Australia as a global leader in low emissions technologies.

The media release for the plan stated: "over the next decade, our existing \$20 billion investment in low emissions technology is expected to unlock at least \$80 billion of total private and public investment, including in clean hydrogen, carbon capture and storage and energy storage."

It is anticipated that 85% of the emissions reductions will come from priority technologies, while the remaining 15% will be delivered by future technologies, placing engineers at the forefront of climate change action.

Engineering at a glance

The Australian government projects employment for civil engineers to increase by 14.5% between 2020 and 2025.³



14.5% ↑

Which soft skills will help future-proof your career?⁴

- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Adaptability
- Critical thinking
- Time management
- Interpersonal skills



Five engineering jobs that are in Australia's top 25 fastest-growing careers.⁵

- **Engineering Officers**

Employers look for skills and experience in: Planning, maintaining, and troubleshooting within the fields of civil, mechanical, or electrical engineering
- **Electrical Design Engineers**

Employers look for skills and experience in: Creating electrical schematics and systems, and collaborating with other engineering disciplines to integrate electrical systems into larger projects
- **Platform Engineers**

Employers look for skills and experience in: Terraform, Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery (CI/CD)
- **Data Engineer**

Employers look for skills and experience in: Data engineering, Apache Spark, and Amazon Web Services
- **Integration Engineers**

Employers look for skills and experience in: Designing, implementing, and maintaining integration solutions to improve data flow between applications



Looking to advance your career? Here are some of the most common transition paths to fast-growing engineering jobs.⁵

If you're currently...	This could be your next job title...	Average salary...
A Software Engineer, Data Analyst or Business Intelligence Consultant	Data Engineer	\$125,000 to \$145,000
A DevOps Engineer, Software Engineer or System Engineer	Platform Engineer	\$135,000 to \$155,000
Software Engineer, Integration Specialist or Project Engineer	Integration Engineer	\$115,000 to \$135,000
Design Engineer, Project Engineer, Electrical Project Engineer	Electrical Design Engineer	\$115,000 to \$135,000
A Software Engineer, Data Analyst or Business Intelligence Consultant	Engineering Manager	\$170,000 to \$190,000



What's next...



Increasing demand for engineers is driving up the value on expertise across the sector

According to a report by Infrastructure Australia, the workforce demand for major public infrastructure projects was predicted to peak at almost 306,000 in 2023, close to double the demand in 2020 and triple the demand in 2016.²

This demand not only covers engineers but many roles within the sector, which has led to a broad rise in salaries and project spend for infrastructure roles.

RMIT's engineering courses will equip you with internationally recognised skills in the areas that interest you most. Explore the possibilities of tomorrow with a wide range of disciplines, from civil and mechanical to electrical and electronic engineering.



[Click here to learn more about engineering courses at RMIT](#)

With RMIT's Bachelor of Engineering (Civil and Infrastructure) (Honours), you'll be at the forefront of engineering education designed to satisfy industry demand. This degree will equip you with the skills to plan, design, construct, supervise, manage and maintain infrastructure projects in Australia and overseas. **Start your journey at a university ranked in the top 10 in Australia for civil and structural engineering.**⁶



[Click here to learn more about the Bachelor of Engineering \(Civil and Infrastructure\) \(Honours\)](#)

RMIT's Master of Engineering (Management) is designed to help you advance your career by gaining leadership skills and expertise. Get ahead of the job growth in engineering managers by completing your industry-led master's degree.



[Click here to learn more about the Master of Engineering \(Management\)](#)



What's next...



RMIT researchers lead a project to address sustainability through upcycling plastics

Professor Kalpit Shah, a researcher and academic in the School of Engineering at RMIT, has been leading research to produce high-value products from plastic – carbon nanotubes and clean liquid fuel – while simultaneously upcycling agricultural and organic waste.

“Our method is clean, cost-effective and readily scaleable. Upcycling plastic with home-grown tech would enable us to draw the greatest possible value out of our limited resources and bring us closer towards a true circular economy.”

Become part of the sustainable revolution with RMIT's Master of Engineering (Sustainable Energy), which will give you the skills to lead the future of sustainable energy. Learn from industry partners paving the way for tomorrow's solutions, including CSIRO, Melbourne Water and Acciona Energy, in world-class labs and facilities.



[Click here to learn more about the Master of Engineering \(Sustainable Energy\)](#)

Sources

¹ ConsultANZ 'Australia: 2023 will be a year of exceptional employment opportunities for Civil Engineers'

² The Hon Angus Taylor MP, 'Australia's plan to reach our net zero target by 2050' media release 2021

³ Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, 2023

⁴ Hays '7 job-ready soft skills you need today'

⁵ LinkedIn 'Jobs on the Rise 2024' 2024

⁶ QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024, Civil and Structural Engineering

⁷ Seek 'Career Advice' for Engineerings, 2024

This report is accurate as at August 2024