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Date: / / 2026

Ministerial Submission

MS26-000455

FOR INFORMATION — Digital Technology Jobs Update – February Quarter 2026 (from December 2025 to February 2026)

TO: Minister for Industry and Innovation; Minister for Science

CC: Assistant Minister for Science, Technology and the Digital Economy

KEY POINTS

- Australia has reached **999,053 technology-related jobs in February 2026**, an increase of 2.2 per cent (21,450 jobs) since December 2025. This marks the third quarterly increase following 3 consecutive declines in late 2024/25.
 - Technology-related jobs were 4.4 per cent higher than the February quarter 2025, outperforming national employment growth of 1.6 per cent over the same period (see [Attachment A](#)). Further details on the estimates are outlined at [Attachment B](#).
 - Technology-related jobs now account for 6.8 per cent of total employment nationally.
 - The number of technology-related jobs has grown from 903,986 in August 2022 when the Albanese Government set a target of 1.2 million technology-related jobs by 2030.
 - Declines in Australian technology-related jobs in late 2024/25 were in line with global reductions in technology jobs. A range of global economic and political factors are likely to be playing a role in general technology hiring declines:
 - : post-pandemic corrections and a return to normal following an aggressive hiring window during COVID-19,
 - : economic uncertainty and geopolitical considerations,
 - : businesses re-evaluating what artificial intelligence (AI) developments might mean to workforces.
- The recent increase in technology-related jobs coincides with 19,495 advertisements for technology-related jobs during 3 months from December 2025 to February 2026. This is 57.0 per cent higher than the same period last year, or about 7,000 additional vacancies.
 - The high volume of job vacancies reflects robust demand for technology-related roles, particularly within Professional, Scientific and Technical Services.

- More broadly, technology-related job advertisements have strengthened since May 2025, which may signal improved prospects for technology-related jobs growth in coming months following the slump in 2025.
- Despite the recent increases, the department is projecting that total technology-related jobs will not reach the 1.2 million target by 2030.
 - Using an 8-quarter average projection, the expected number of jobs by 2030 is higher than our August projection but remains around 71,000 below the 1.2 million target.
- However, if recent strength in growth in technology-related jobs is maintained, the target may be reached prior to 2030.
 - A 4-quarter average projection to capture post-2025 growth momentum suggests the 1.2 million target could be reached by the May quarter 2027.
 - Alternatively, assuming a return to the pre-dip growth rate observed, the target could be reached by the February quarter 2028.
- Technology jobs in technology-related sectors (31 per cent of tech jobs) led the increase this quarter by nearly 11,000 jobs or 3.6 per cent rise from the previous quarter.
- Technology jobs in non-technology-related sectors (56 per cent of tech jobs) increased by 6,502 jobs, a 1.2 per cent rise from the previous quarter.
- Non-technology jobs in technology-related sectors (13 per cent of tech jobs) increased more than 4,000 jobs, a 3.3 per cent rise from the previous quarter, after a big drop in the last (November 2025) quarter.
- The technology-related occupations with the largest quarterly increases were Software and application programmers (5,660 jobs), ICT support technicians (2,387 jobs), and Computer network professional (2,320 jobs).
- The technology-related sector with the strongest growth was computer system design and related services recorded the strongest growth, adding nearly 17,000 jobs. The sector with the largest falls was Internet service providers, web search portals, and data processing services, declining by almost 2,000.
- Recent hiring activity across Australian Government digital programs, private-sector cloud and SaaS providers between late 2025 and early 2026 is consistent with the observed increase in technology-related employment, particularly within computer system design and related services.
- Overall, Australian employment slightly increased in seasonally adjusted terms between December 2025 and February 2026.
 - Growth in technology-related jobs aligned closely with hiring expansions in agriculture (9.2 per cent), transportation (8.9 per cent), mining (5.6 per cent), and arts and recreation services (5.1 per cent).

- Declines were recorded in rental and hiring (9.7 per cent), information media and telecommunications (6.9 per cent), and energy (5.1 per cent).

SENSITIVITIES AND HANDLING:

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- On 23 March 2026, TCA published *Technology as Australia's productivity engine*, which reinforces the economic importance of the technology workforce.

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- The department continues to engage with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR), the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and key industry organisations such as Future Skills Organisation (FSO) and Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) to understand the impact of AI on Australia's labour market. FSO are preparing their first biannual National AI Skills Report that looks at addressing policy gaps through recommendations to improve the provision of AI skills to Australians. The DEWR Chief economist is working with ABS and JSA to develop an AI labour market monitoring framework. This monitoring system will focus on relative changes in employment in more- vs less-exposed occupations.

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- The ABS Labour Force Survey will undergo modernisation from April to August 2026, which will result in a temporary disruption to quarterly labour market data. This data interruption affects ongoing reporting on technology jobs, and the Tech Jobs Update will therefore cease from the next quarter.

CONSULTATION

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Manager, Firm, Innovation and Technology
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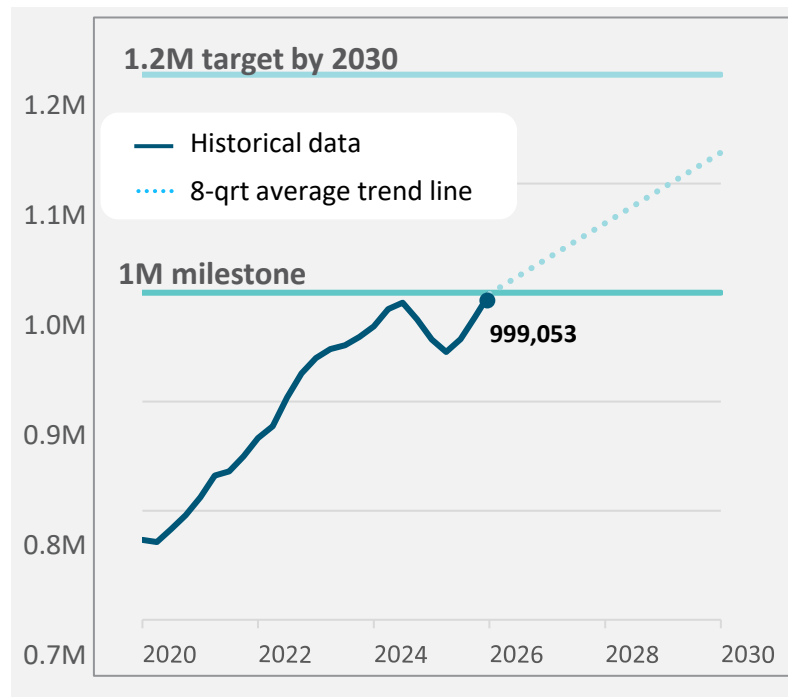
ATTACHMENTS

A: Digital Technology Jobs Placemat February quarter 2026

B: Digital Technology Jobs Dashboard Background

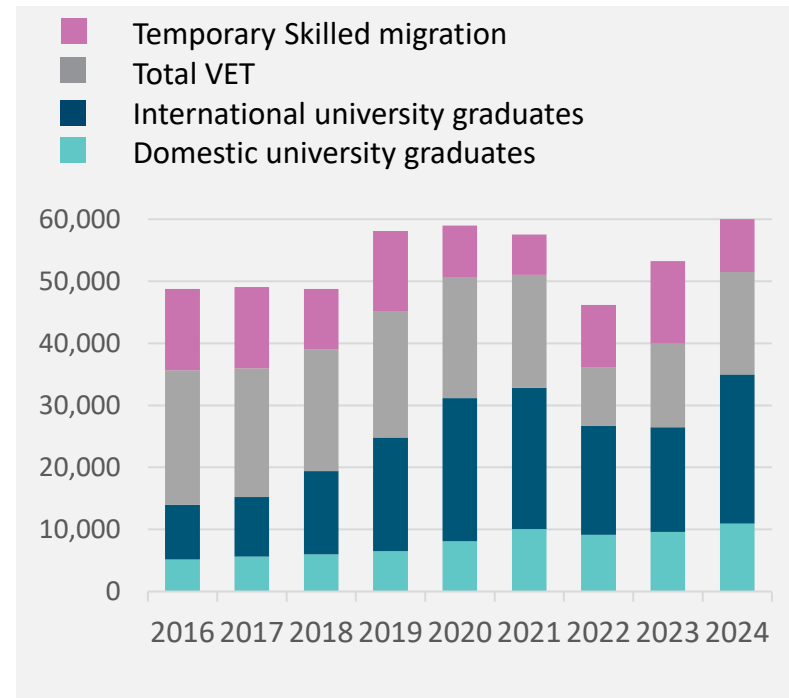
Tech-related Jobs in Australia

Total employment in tech-related jobs



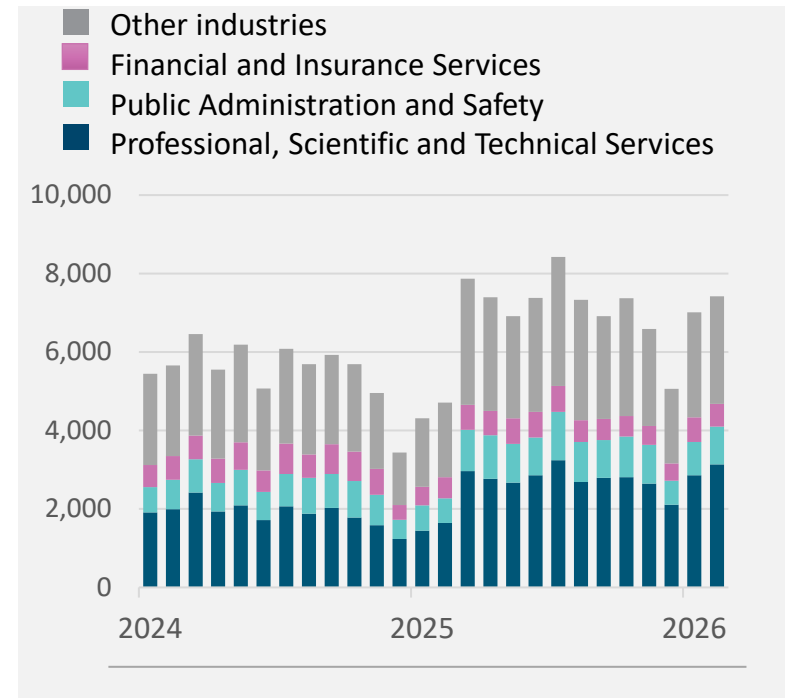
SOURCE: ABS Labour Force Detailed

Sources of tech-related talent



SOURCE: VOCTSTATS; DoE; Permanent Migration Program Outcomes

Total vacancies by industry



SOURCE: Lightcast Jobs and Skills Australia as at February 2026

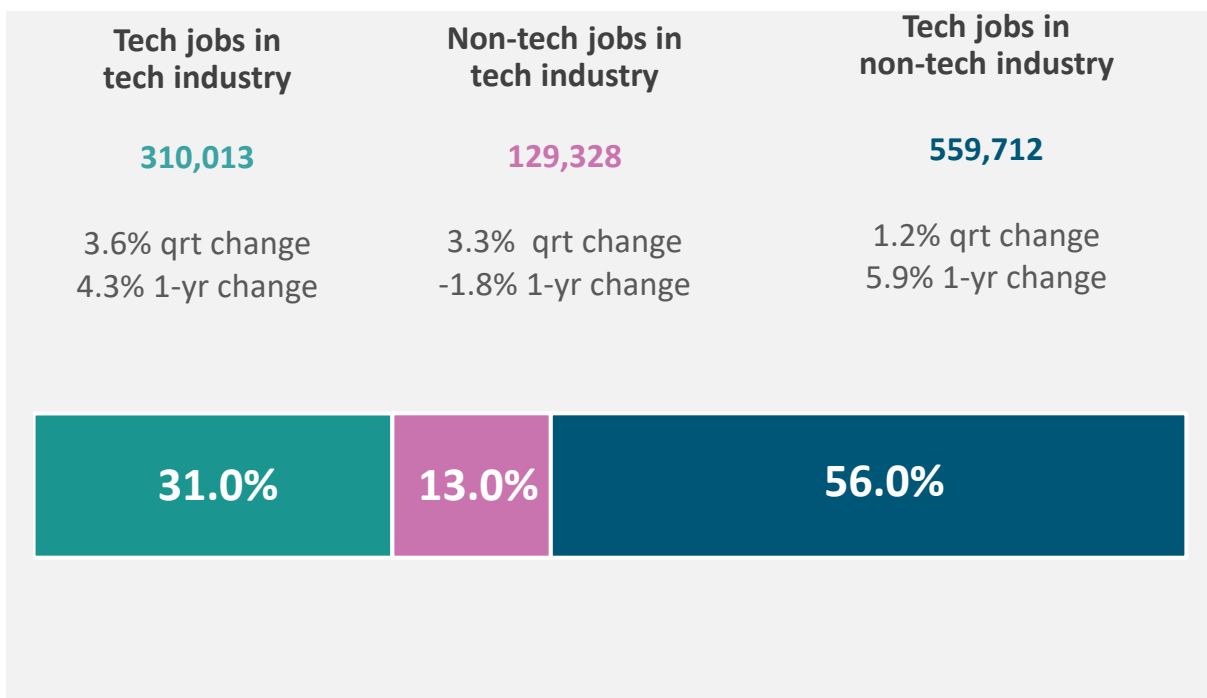
957,168
Tech jobs
February
2025

999,053
Tech jobs
February
2026

+4.4%one-year growth in total
employment in tech

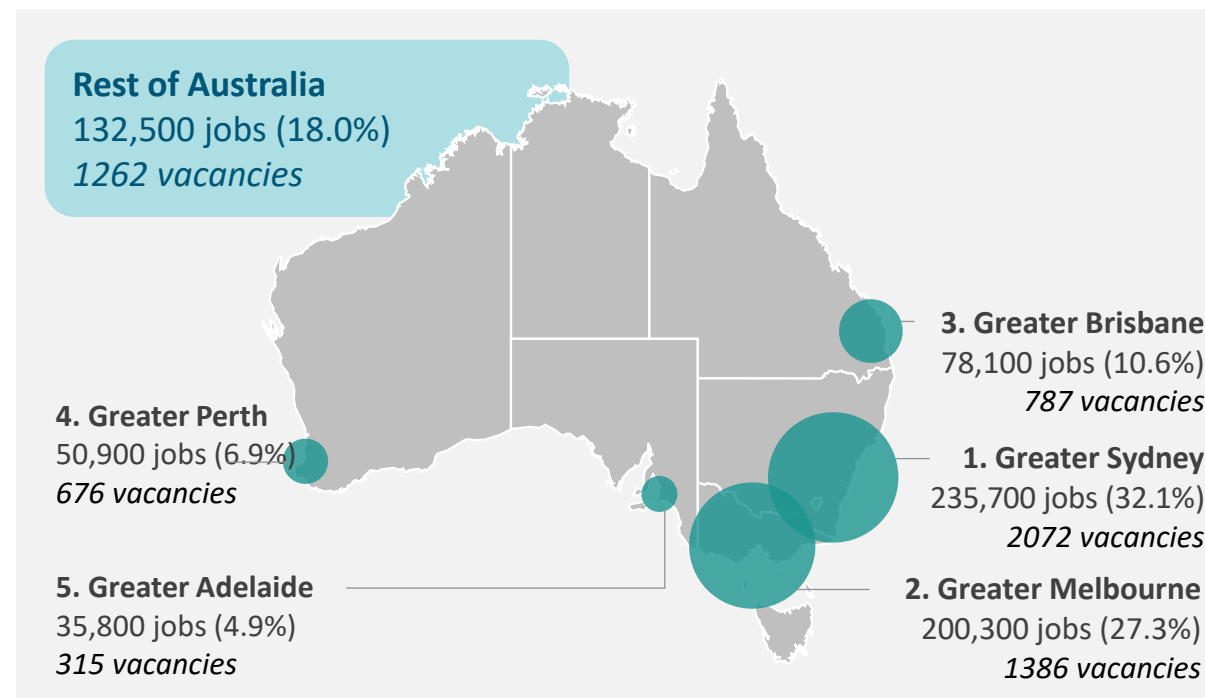
SOURCE: ABS Labour Force Detailed

Composition of tech-related jobs



NOTE: As at February 2026 SOURCE: ABS Labour Force Detailed

Top regions by number of tech job vacancies

NOTE: Jobs as at 2021, vacancies in an average month of the February 2026 quarter.
SOURCE: Census Population and Housing (jobs); Lightcast Jobs and Skills Australia (vacancies)In February 2026, tech jobs
make up**6.8%**

of total employment

**+1.6%**one-year growth in total
employment across all sectors

SOURCE: ABS Labour Force Detailed

ATTACHMENT B**Digital Technology Jobs Dashboard Background**

1. The technology-related jobs in Australia dashboard (the dashboard) provides insights into the current state of the Australian digital technology job market. The latest dashboard for the February quarter 2026 (from December 2025 to February 2026 inclusive) is at Attachment A.
2. The dashboard shows a range of variables including tech-employment, tech-job vacancies, and sources of tech-talent. This helps us understand the dynamics of the technology-related job market and identify trends and emerging issues.
3. The jobs estimate is calculated by applying the Tech Council of Australia's definition of the technology sector to the detailed Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Quarterly Labor Force dataset.
 - a. Technology jobs include 25 Australia New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations Standard (ANZSCO) occupations including software and applications programmers, ICT project managers, cybersecurity specialists and more.
 - b. The technology industry encompasses 4 broad technology categories including: computer system design; internet publishing and broadcasting; internet service providers, web search and data processing services; and telecommunication services.
4. Other estimates of technology jobs, such as Jobs and Skills Australia's Occupations and Industries Analysis and the Australian Computer Society's IT Occupation List, use different definitions for the technology sector, which may result in different tech-job counts.



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Ministerial Submission

MS26-000017

FOR INFORMATION — Digital Technology Jobs Update – November Quarter 2025

TO: Minister for Industry and Innovation; Minister for Science

CC: Assistant Minister for Science, Technology and the Digital Economy

KEY POINTS

- There were 979,199 technology-related jobs in the November quarter 2025, 2.2 per cent (nearly 21,000 jobs) higher than the August quarter 2025. This marks the second quarterly increase following 3 consecutive declines between November 2024 and May 2025.
 - Technology-related jobs were 0.4 per cent higher than the November quarter 2024 (see [Attachment A](#)). Further details on the estimates are outlined at [Attachment B](#).
 - While this second quarterly increase is a good sign, data in future quarters will help assess if this recovery represents a sustained rebound in technology-related jobs.
 - The number of technology-related jobs has grown from 903,986 in August 2022 when the Albanese Government set a target of 1.2 million technology-related jobs by 2030.
- The recent increase in technology-related jobs coincides with 20,238 advertisements for technology-related jobs in the November quarter 2025. This is 22.1 per cent higher than the November quarter 2024, or 3,668 additional vacancies.
 - The high volume of job vacancies reflects robust demand for technology-related roles, particularly within the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services and Public Administration and Safety sectors.
 - More broadly, technology-related job advertisements have increased consistently on a 12-month basis since March 2025, which may signal improved prospects for technology-related jobs growth in coming months following the slump in 2025.
- Despite the recent increases, the department is projecting that total technology-related jobs will still **not** reach the 1.2 million target by 2030.
 - Using an 8-quarter average projection, the expected number of jobs by 2030 is higher than our August forecast but remains around 131,000 below the 1.2 million target.
- Overall, despite the 2024-25 fluctuation in tech jobs, the share of technology-related jobs has been relatively stable across sectoral categories over the period, with only a small shift towards tech jobs in the non-tech sector (and away from non-tech jobs in the tech sector)—a shift that continued to be observed during the November quarter 2025.

- Technology-related jobs in non-tech sectors followed the upward trend to rise by 18,040 jobs (3.4 per cent), continuing the rise in the August quarter 2025. This segment remains the largest (56.6 per cent) component of the tech workforce.
 - This growth may reflect a broader trend of non-tech sectors increasingly embedding AI and cybersecurity capabilities to boost productivity and modernise operations, signalling a shift from outsourcing to building in-house capability.
- Technology-related jobs in technology-related sectors increased by around 8,000 jobs, representing a 2.7 per cent quarterly rise.
 - The growth was recorded in most technology occupations with the largest quarterly rises in ICT related roles such as Managers (increased 1,731 jobs); Sales Professionals (increased 1,638 jobs); Support Technicians (increased 1,597 jobs).
 - Declines were only seen in 4 technology occupations, with the largest declines in Database and Systems Administrators recording the largest decline of 2,120 jobs.
- Non-technology jobs in technology-related industries declined more than 5,000 jobs, reversing the increase observed in the last (August 2025) quarter. This may reflect core tech firms shedding operational overheads.
- Overall, Australian employment slightly increased in seasonally adjusted terms over the same quarter.
 - Growth in technology-related jobs aligned closely with hiring expansions in energy (7.6 per cent), rental and hiring (4.9 per cent), wholesale (2.9 per cent), accommodation (2.4 per cent), administration (2.3 per cent), other services (2.0 per cent).
 - Declines were recorded in traditional industries, including agriculture (7.8 per cent), arts and recreation services (6.3 per cent), transportation (2.3 per cent), financial and insurance services (1.6 per cent).

SENSITIVITIES AND HANDLING:

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- The department continues to engage with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and key industry organisations such as Future Skills Organisation and Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) to understand the impact of AI on the workforce. It is important this work continues to be resourced as AI adoption increases.

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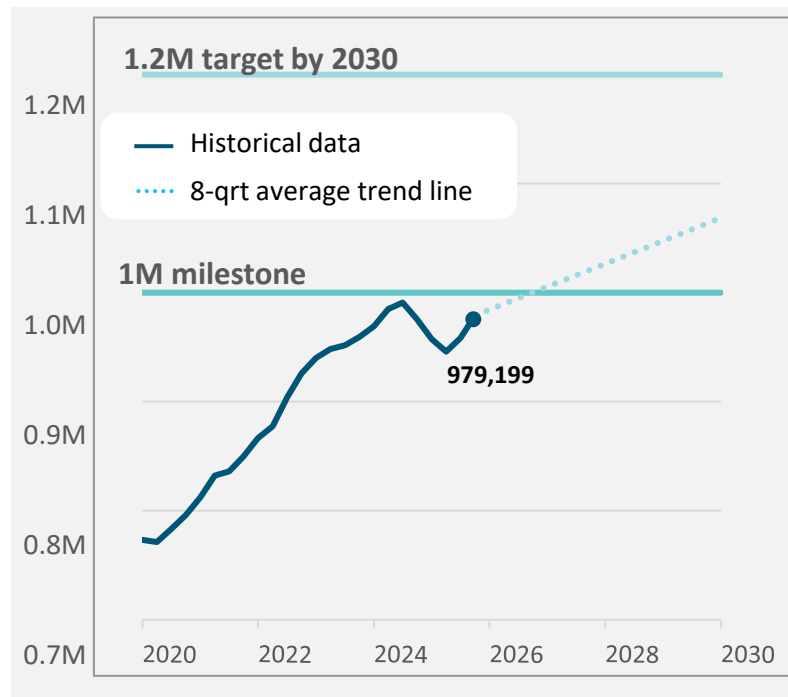
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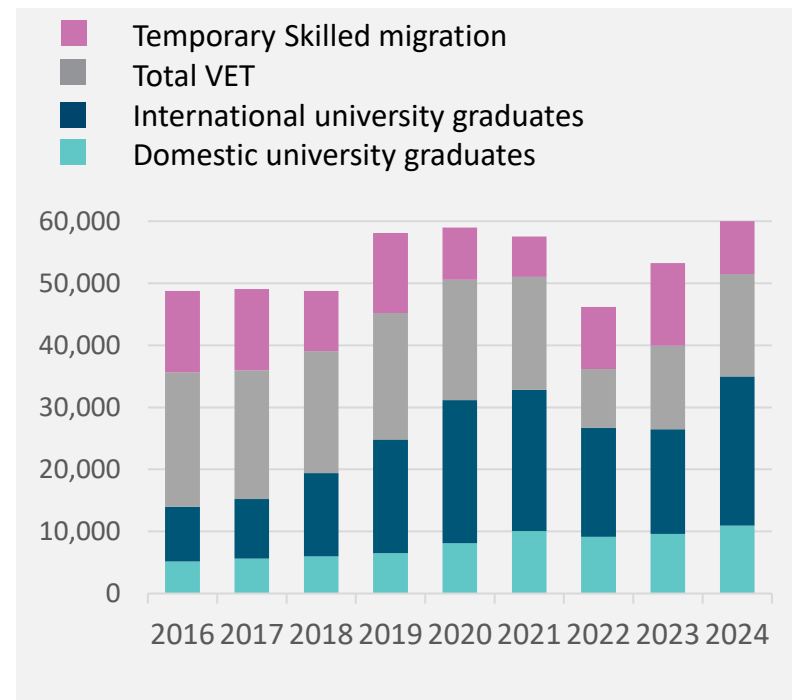
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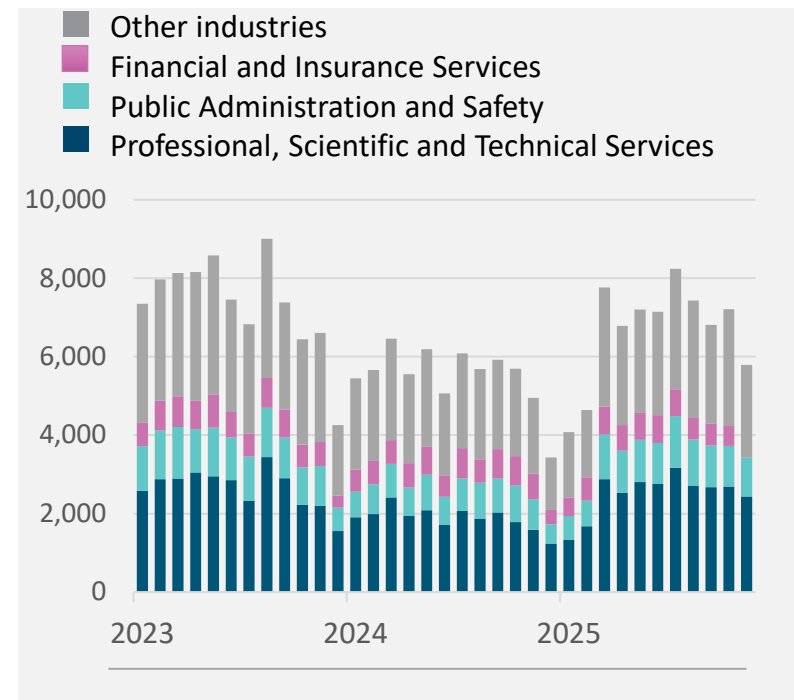
SOURCE: ABS Labour Force Detailed

Sources of tech-related talent



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Total vacancies by industry



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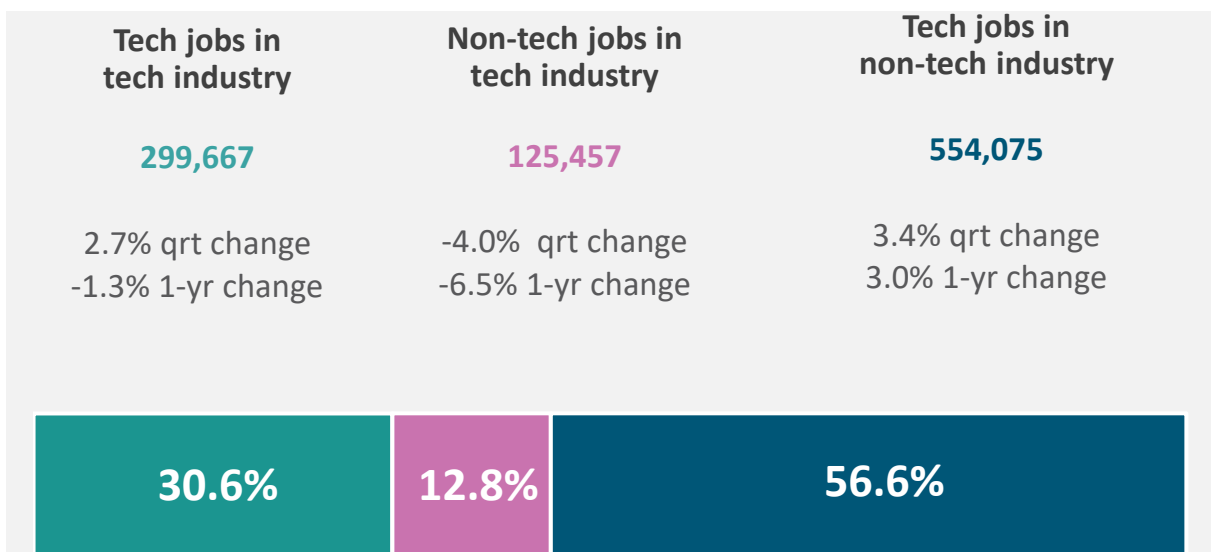
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Tech jobs
November
2024

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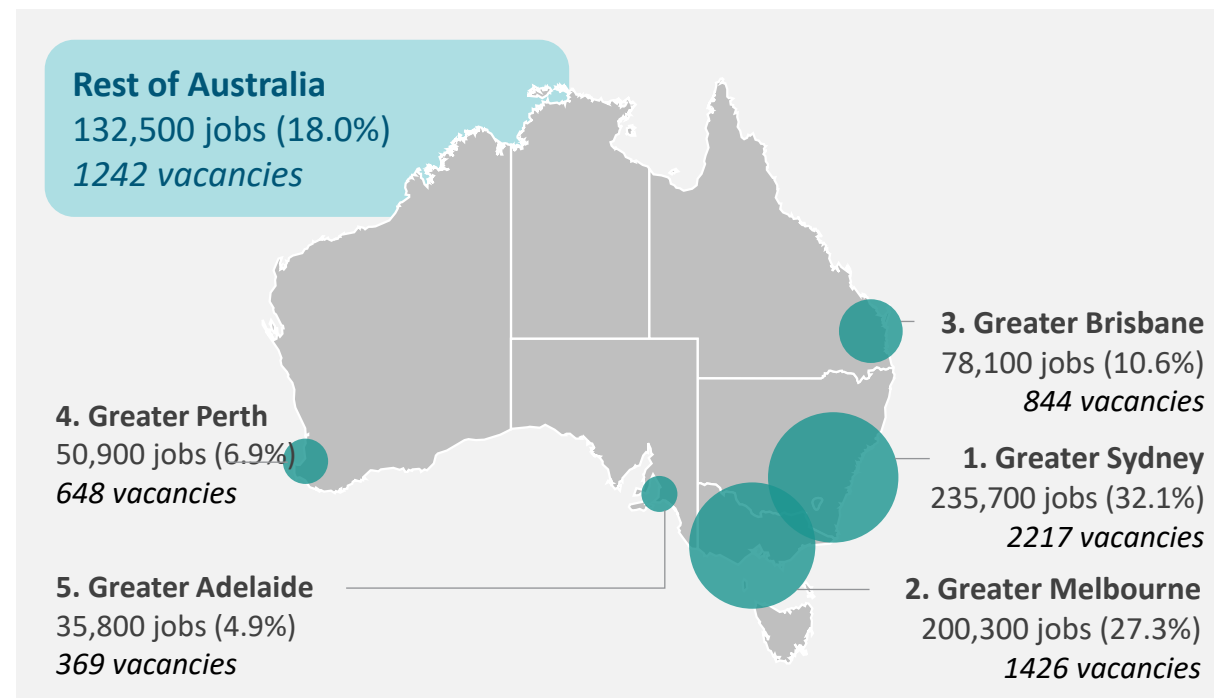
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Data referenced

1. ABS Labor Force Detailed, November quarter 2025, viewed 18 December 2025.
2. Lightcast data, August quarter 2025, viewed 25 September 2025.