

SignalHire Reveals Top 10 Most In-Demand AI Jobs for 2026: Data Engineers Lead Recruiter Searches

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Analysis of 850M+ professional database shows AI-skilled workers now earn 56% more than peers in identical roles

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, UNITED STATES -- [SignalHire](#) has released its [2026 AI Jobs Analysis](#), revealing the artificial intelligence positions generating the highest recruiter interest worldwide. The findings show Data Engineers leading demand, more than double any other AI position, as organizations race to build the data infrastructure essential for AI deployment.

Top 10 In-Demand AI Positions

Based on recruiter search patterns across SignalHire's 850M+ professional database:

Data Engineer (\$130K–\$200K+)

AI Engineer (\$140K–\$180K)

Data Scientist (\$139K–\$180K+)

Machine Learning Engineer (\$158K–\$245K)

AI Developer (\$120K–\$160K)

Automation Engineer (\$100K–\$140K)

Deep Learning Engineer (\$150K–\$220K)

ETL Developer (\$90K–\$130K)

NLP Engineer (\$140K–\$200K)

AI Infrastructure Engineer (\$150K–\$200K)

Key Market Findings

The analysis aligns with broader industry research:

56% wage premium: PwC's 2025 Global AI Jobs Barometer shows AI-skilled workers earn 56% more than colleagues without AI abilities in identical roles—up from 25% the previous year

50% job listing growth: Deloitte reports generative AI developer positions increased 50% between 2022 and 2024

35% projected growth: Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts Data Scientist employment will grow 35% through 2032

Entry Points for Career Changers

The research identifies three accessible pathways into AI careers:

Automation Engineer: Ideal for professionals with programming and business process knowledge

ETL Developer: Natural transition for database administrators and SQL experts

Data Engineer: Logical progression for software engineers with database experience

Why Data Engineers Lead

“While AI Engineers and Data Scientists generate most media attention, Data Engineers topped our

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recruiter searches by a significant margin," the analysis notes. "Organizations have recognized that AI models require clean, accessible data infrastructure before any machine learning can occur."

About SignalHire

SignalHire provides contact intelligence solutions with 850M+ professional profiles for recruiting, sales, and talent acquisition teams worldwide.

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