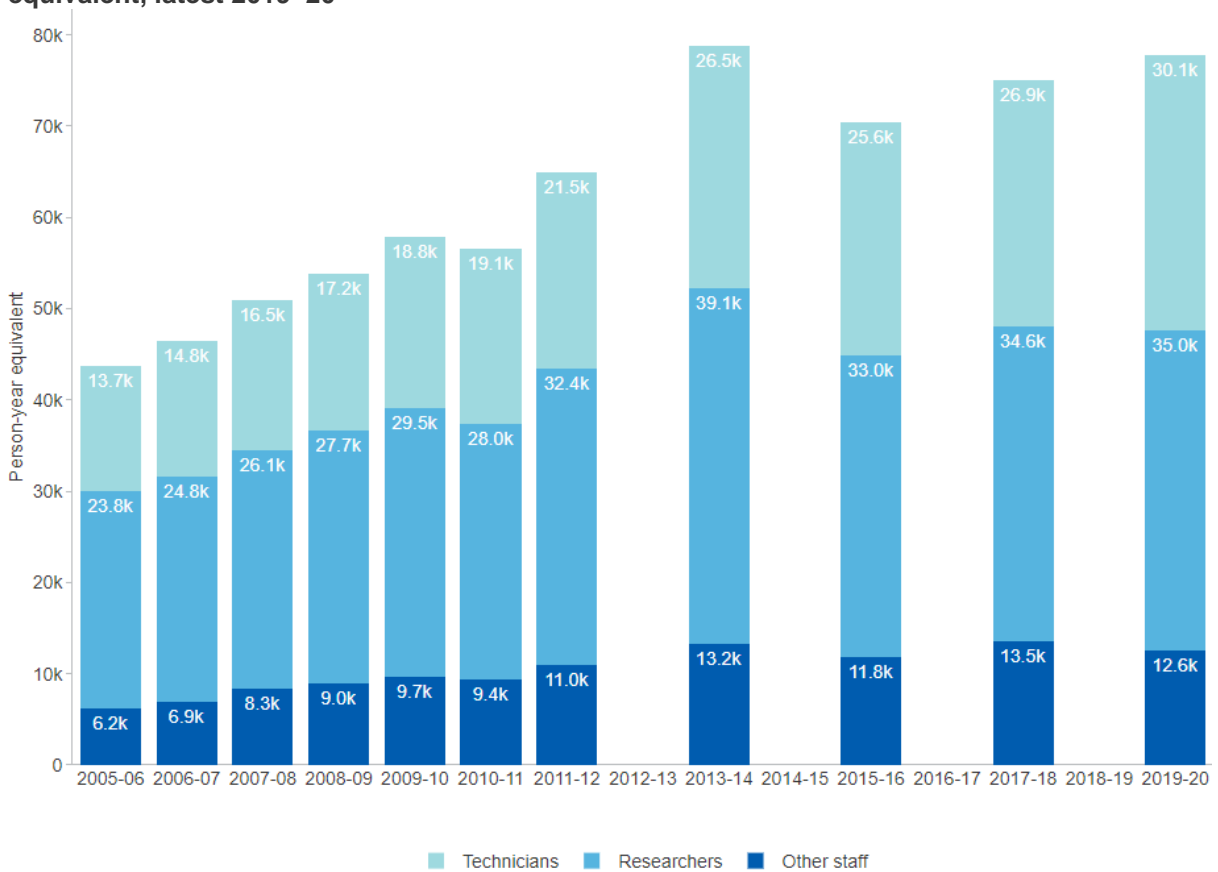


### 4.2.1 Business human resources devoted to R&D

One measure of the capacity of businesses to absorb advanced knowledge is the employment of R&D staff. Evidence shows notable across-the-board increases in business resources devoted to R&D between 2010–11 and 2013–14. These were primarily driven by hiring in medium and large businesses (with more than 20 employees). However, between 2013–14 and 2019–20 large businesses (with 200 or more employees) cut roughly 6,800 R&D-related jobs, which was only partly offset by further hiring in small and medium business in the period (up around 2,500 and 3,300 R&D-related jobs, respectively). By resource type, the main impact of these changes has been felt by *Researchers*, whose employment in business declined from around 39,100 person-year equivalent in 2013–14 to roughly 35,000 in 2019–20. The most recent data shows a tentative increase over the four years to 2019–20. It is possible that the longer-term pattern is related to a general shift away from large businesses towards small and medium businesses, accompanied by a shift away from *Engineering* towards *Information and computing sciences*, as seen in the data by field of research.<sup>1</sup>

**Figure: Business human resources devoted to R&D, by type of resource, person-year equivalent, latest 2019–20**



<sup>1</sup> ABS, *Research and Experimental Development, Businesses, Australia*, Cat. No. 8104.0 (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/industry/technology-and-innovation/research-and-experimental-development-businesses-australia/latest-release>)