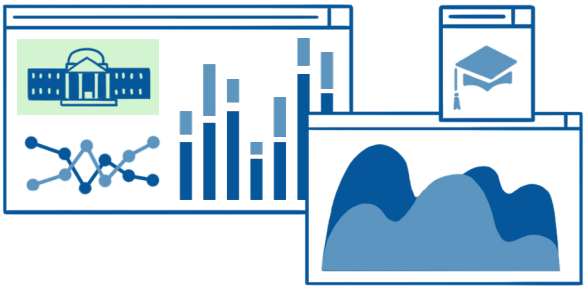
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Measuring the College-Educated U.S. Workforce



National Survey of College Graduates

Understanding how educational background and employment characteristics align within the U.S. workforce helps inform individuals seeking career advancement, businesses studying salary trends, and policymakers contemplating labor force issues.

What is the NSCG?

The National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) is a biennial survey that collects data from college graduates (from any country) who (1) have earned at least a bachelor's degree, (2) live in the United States or Puerto Rico, and (3) are younger than age 76. It is conducted by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) within the National Science Foundation.

How can I use the NSCG?

Data from the NSCG can answer questions like

- What is the median annual salary of female scientists and engineers?
- How much debt was incurred by college graduates to finance their degrees?
- To what extent is the employment of individuals related to their highest degree?
- What is the size of the nation's college-educated science and engineering workforce?
- What percentage of the U.S. college-educated science and engineering workforce has a disability?

Why is the NSCG important?

The NSCG collects data from college graduates trained in all fields with a focus on those employed in science and engineering occupations. This information helps illuminate the relationship between postsecondary education and occupation. The NSCG is a unique source for examining several characteristics of college graduates, including demographic information, salary, and work activities.

For more information, the **NSCG homepage** (https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvygrads/) features additional details about the survey, its questionnaires, and links to related publications and products.

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Data details

Where can I find NSCG data?

NSCG data can be found throughout the NCSES website. The **NSCG data page** (https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvygrads/#tabs-2) offers data tables and access to public-use microdata files. NCSES's interactive **data tools** (https://ncsesdata.nsf.gov/home) allow users to explore NSCG data and to build charts and tables tailored to their unique research interests. Additional data from the survey are also available via the **NCSES Restricted Use Licensing Program** (https://ncses.nsf.gov/about/licensing) and the **Federal Statistical Research Data Centers** (https://census.gov/about/adrm/fsrdc.html).

Graduates report information such as

Employment

- Labor force status
- Employment sector
- Occupation
- Work activities
- Salary
- Job satisfaction
- Certifications and licenses
- Veteran status

Education

- Degrees
- Fields of study
- Educational debt

Demographics

- Sex
- Age
- Race and ethnicity
- Citizenship
- Disability status

Products supported by NSCG data

NSCG data are used in NCSES publications, such as InfoBriefs and data tables. Its data also supplement NCSES publications such as *Science and Engineering Indicators* and *Women, Minorites, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering*.

Survey specifics

Frequency: Biennial

Initial survey year: 1993

Reference period: The week of 1 February

Response unit: Individuals with at least a bachelor's degree

Sample or census: Sample

Population size: Approximately 65 million individuals

Sample size: Approximately 147,000 individuals

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)
For more information about NCSES's products and data collection process, visit https://ncses.nsf.gov. You can also explore our Surveys page at https://ncses.nsf.gov/surveys to learn more about NCSES surveys and the NSCG, as well as its methodology, survey design, and questionnaires.

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