

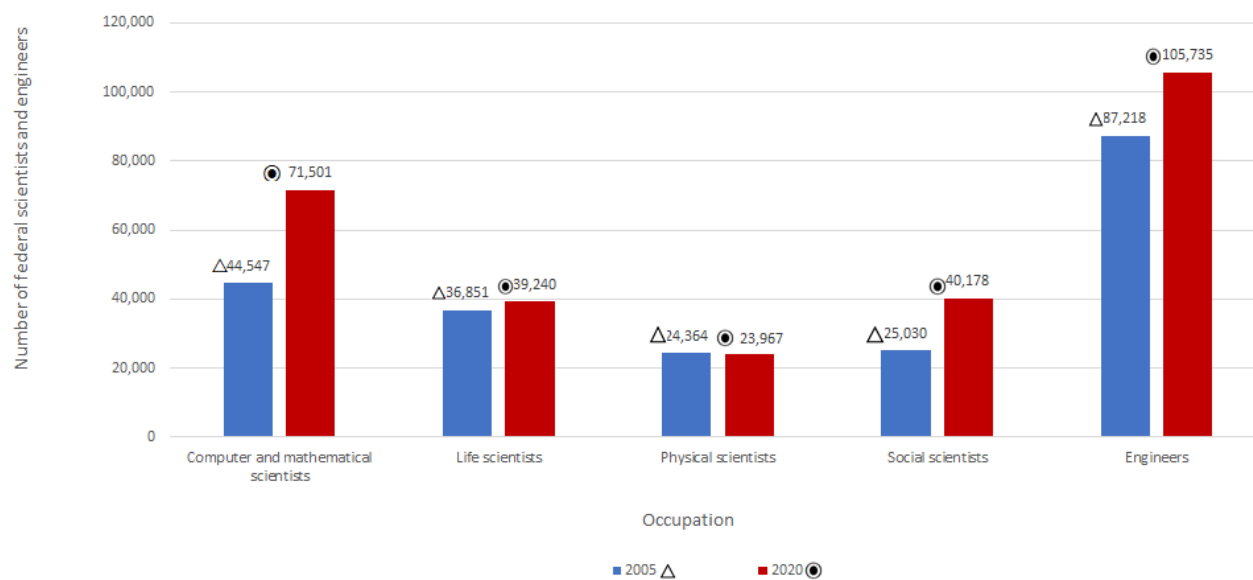


Trends in federal employment of scientists and engineers with a bachelor’s degree or higher, by occupation: 2005 and 2020

In 2020, there were about 281,000 scientists and engineers with at least a bachelor’s degree employed by the federal government, up from 218,000 in 2005. This number included 175,000 scientists and 106,000 engineers. Computer and mathematical scientists were the largest occupation among scientists (41%).

Between 2005 and 2020, the overall number of federally employed scientists grew by 34%, with the largest growth among computer and mathematical scientists and social scientists. During this time, the number of engineers increased from 87,000 to 106,000.

Number of federal scientists and engineers with a bachelor's degree or higher, by occupation: 2005 and 2020



Source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, special tabulations (2020) of Office of Personnel Management data.

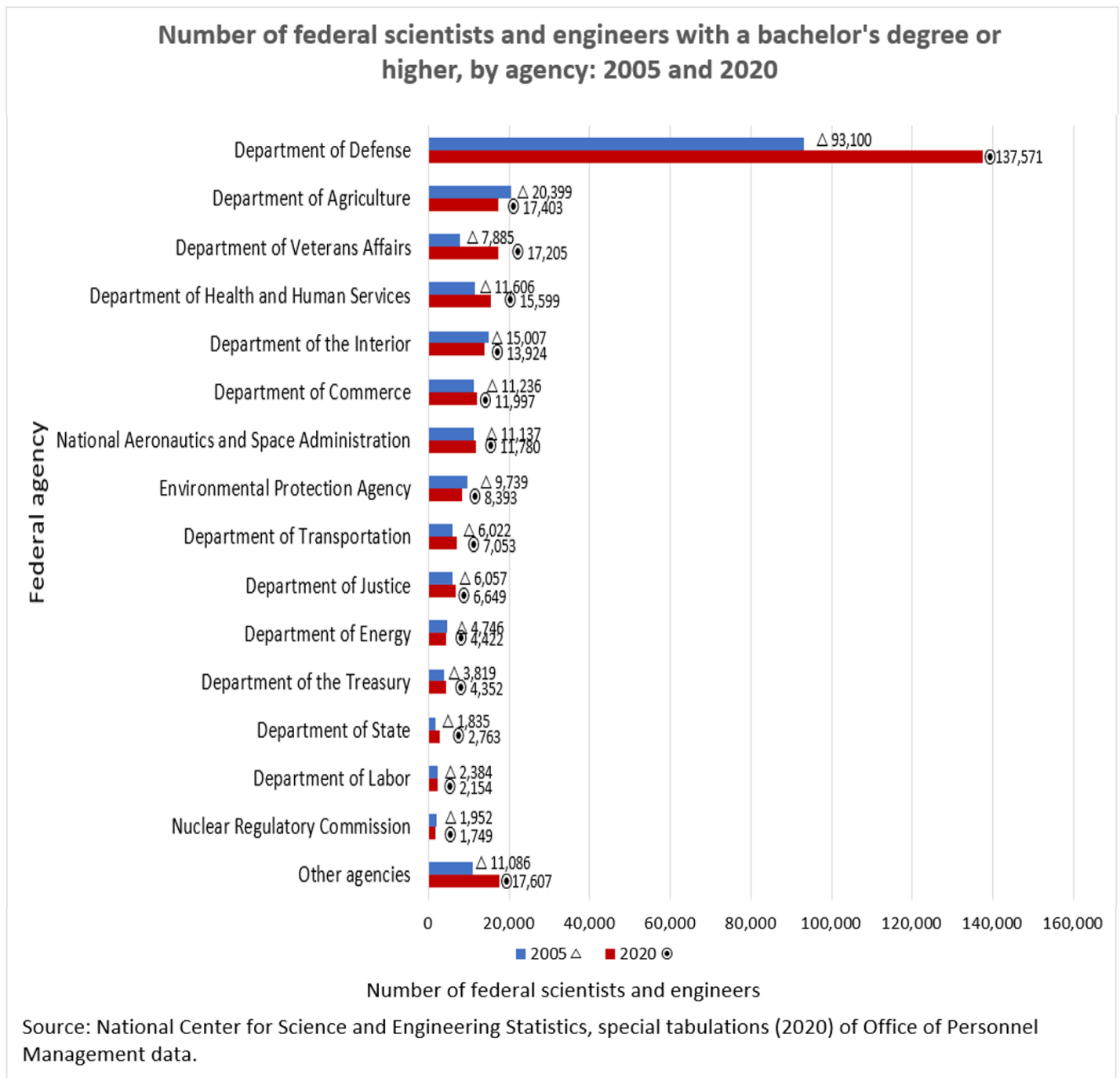
Federal Scientists and Engineers

Trends in federal employment of scientists and engineers with a bachelor's degree or higher, by agency: 2005 and 2020

In 2020, nearly half of federal scientists and engineers with at least a bachelor's degree were employed at the Department of Defense, including the Departments of the Navy (20%), Army (15%), and Air Force (10%).

In the past 15 years, the number of scientists and engineers increased in the Department of Defense and Veteran Affairs, with increases of more than 9,000 each. Smaller increases were seen in the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Transportation, ranging between about 1,000 and 4,000 each.

In contrast, the largest declines were in the Department of Agriculture (-2,996), the Environmental Protection Agency (-1,346), and the Department of the Interior (-1,083).



Federal Scientists and Engineers

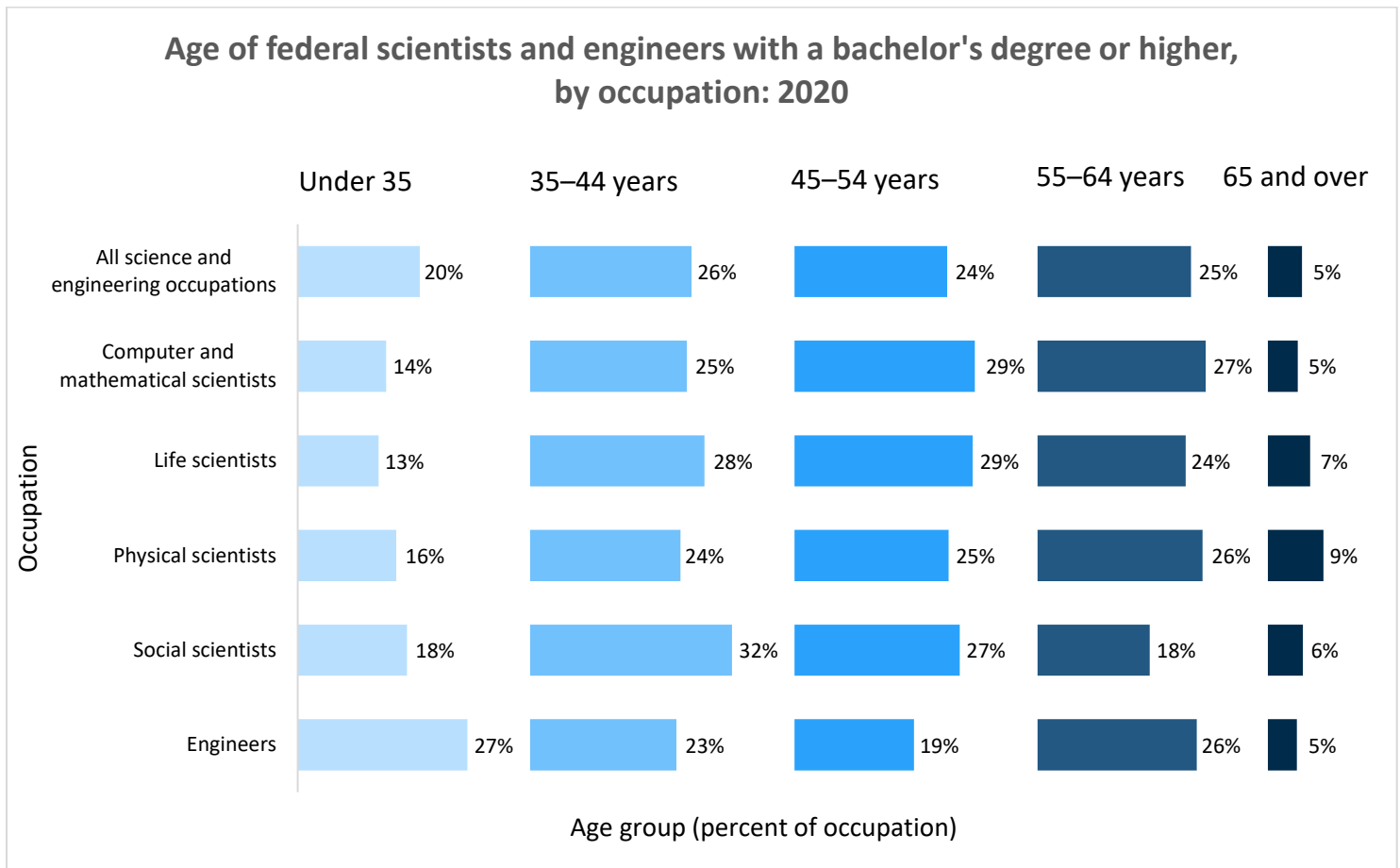
Age of federal scientists and engineers with a bachelor's degree or higher, by occupation: 2020

In 2020, 5% of federal scientists and engineers were age 65 and over and 25% were between 55 and 64.

Physical scientists had a slightly larger proportion of people aged 55 and over (35% compared to between 24% and 32% in other occupations).

About half of the federal engineers and social scientists were under the age of 45. Engineers had the largest proportion of people in the youngest age group: 27% were under 35, compared to between 13% and 18% in the other science occupations. In the case of social scientists, nearly one-third (32%) were between 35 and 44 years old, compared to between 23% and 28% in other occupations.

In the past 15 years, across all federal science and engineer occupations, the proportion of federal workers who were under 35 years increased by 4% and the proportion of those who were 55 and over increased by 8%. In contrast, the proportion of federal scientists and engineers who were between 35 and 54 declined by 12%.



Source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, special tabulations (2020) of Office of Personnel Management data.