

TABLE 3-8

Unemployment rates of scientists and engineers, by level of highest degree and broad occupational category: Selected years, 2003–17

(Percent)

Degree and occupation	2003	2006	2008	2010	2013	2015	2017
All scientists and engineers	3.2	2.5	3.1	4.3	3.8	3.3	2.7
Highest degree level							
Bachelor's	3.4	2.9	3.5	4.9	4.2	4.0	3.1
Master's	3.4	2.3	2.9	4.1	3.7	2.8	2.6
Professional	1.9	1.1	1.8	2.7	2.3	1.1	1.0
Doctorate	2.3	1.6	2.0	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.4
Occupation							
Computer and mathematical scientists	3.7	2.5	3.0	3.7	3.1	2.7	2.5
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life scientists	2.4	2.2	2.4	3.7	3.3	4.1	4.2
Physical and related scientists	2.8	2.3	3.0	3.3	4.5	3.2	2.1
Social and related scientists	1.6	2.5	2.1	2.3	3.3	3.6	3.0
Engineers	3.8	2.4	2.8	4.6	2.8	2.1	2.6
S&E-related occupations	2.0	1.5	1.9	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.9
Non-S&E occupations	3.8	3.0	3.9	5.6	5.0	4.3	3.0

Note(s)

Scientists and engineers include those with one or more S&E or S&E-related degrees at the bachelor's level or higher or those who have only a non-S&E degree at the bachelor's level or higher and are employed in an S&E or S&E-related occupation. For data on unemployment rates by occupation, calculations assume that unemployed individuals are seeking further employment in their most recent occupation.

Source(s)

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Science Foundation, Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT), 2003, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2013, and the National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG), 2015, 2017.