

TABLE S3-6

Employment sector of S&E highest degree holders, by level and field of highest degree: 2017

(Percent distribution)

Highest degree field and level	Total (number)	Education (%)		Business or industry (%)			Government (%)	
		4-year institutions	2-year and precollege institutions	For-profit businesses	Self-employed, unincorporated businesses	Nonprofit businesses	Federal government	State or local government
All S&E highest degree holders	14,501,000	8.3	7.2	59.5	6.0	7.5	5.2	6.3
Computer and mathematical sciences	2,567,000	5.8	6.3	71.0	3.8	4.3	4.6	4.2
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	2,290,000	13.4	7.9	47.9	6.0	11.3	6.1	7.3
Physical and related sciences	814,000	16.5	8.1	54.1	5.5	4.4	5.5	5.8
Social and related sciences	5,336,000	7.8	10.9	49.2	8.3	11.1	4.8	7.9
Engineering	3,494,000	5.4	1.4	75.9	4.3	2.7	5.3	5.0
Highest degree: bachelor's	10,241,000	4.8	6.7	63.2	6.5	7.5	4.6	6.7
Computer and mathematical sciences	1,713,000	3.4	6.4	71.7	4.3	4.5	5.1	4.6
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	1,631,000	7.1	7.5	52.7	7.2	11.7	5.6	8.2
Physical and related sciences	466,000	10.1	8.8	59.2	6.0	5.2	2.8	8.2
Social and related sciences	4,044,000	4.7	9.3	55.5	8.3	10.1	4.2	7.8
Engineering	2,387,000	3.6	1.4	77.9	4.5	2.6	4.6	5.3
Highest degree: master's	3,138,000	8.8	9.8	55.8	4.7	8.3	6.3	6.4
Computer and mathematical sciences	754,000	6.6	6.5	72.4	3.2	4.0	3.7	3.7
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	351,000	17.1	13.1	39.3	2.8	13.1	6.6	8.0
Physical and related sciences	179,000	16.2	11.2	52.5	6.1	3.4	7.8	3.9
Social and related sciences	954,000	9.5	18.8	31.3	7.3	16.1	7.1	9.6
Engineering	899,000	5.0	1.6	75.1	3.6	2.8	7.0	5.0
Highest degree: doctorate	1,082,000	39.2	4.0	36.9	5.2	5.7	6.8	2.1
Computer and mathematical sciences	87,000	42.0	2.0	48.0	s	3.0	4.0	s
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	308,000	43.5	3.9	31.8	3.2	7.1	7.8	2.3
Physical and related sciences	168,000	34.5	3.0	42.3	4.2	4.2	10.7	1.8
Social and related sciences	298,000	44.3	1.7	22.1	9.7	7.7	5.0	3.4
Engineering	208,000	27.9	s	55.8	4.3	3.4	5.8	1.4

s = suppressed for reasons of confidentiality and/or reliability.

Note(s)

All S&E highest degree holders includes professional degree holders not reported separately. The 2-year and precollege institutions include 2-year colleges and community colleges or technical institutes and preschool, elementary, middle, and secondary schools. The 4-year institutions include 4-year colleges or universities, medical schools, and university-affiliated research institutes. The education sector includes public and private institutions. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Percentages are based on rounded numbers.

Source(s)

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Science Foundation, National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG), 2017.

Science and Engineering Indicators