

Table SLBR-15

Employment sector of S&E highest degree holders, by level and field of highest degree: 2019

(Percent distribution)

Highest degree field and degree 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	15,362,000	8.6	6.7	60.3	5.7	8.2	4.9	6.0
Computer and mathematical sciences	2,837,000	6.0	5.9	72.1	3.5	4.7	4.1	3.7
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	2,437,000	15.6	8.6	44.6	7.0	10.8	5.4	8.1
Physical and related sciences	889,000	150.0	6.2	57.7	3.1	6.7	5.6	5.9
Social and related sciences	5,474,000	8.4	10.0	49.2	8.1	12.2	4.7	7.4
Engineering	3,725,000	4.6	1.3	78.4	3.5	2.6	5.4	4.2
Highest degree: bachelor's	10,731,000	5.0	6.2	63.7	6.1	8.1	4.3	6.5
Computer and mathematical sciences	1,896,000	3.7	6.2	72.9	4.1	4.6	4.7	3.9
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	1,688,000	9.3	7.5	49.5	8.5	11.4	4.8	9.0
Physical and related sciences	520,000	8.5	6.0	62.2	3.3	7.8	3.9	8.3
Social and related sciences	4,097,000	5.0	8.8	55.2	7.8	11.7	3.9	7.6
Engineering	2,530,000	2.6	1.2	80.4	4.1	2.5	4.6	4.5
Highest degree: master's	3,350,000	8.8	9.0	58.3	4.3	8.0	6.0	5.6
Computer and mathematical sciences	829,000	6.2	5.6	73.9	2.5	5.4	2.7	3.8
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	388,000	17.0	17.1	35.4	3.4	10.9	6.6	9.6
Physical and related sciences	170,000	15.4	9.5	56.4	3.9	s	6.9	4.3
Social and related sciences	1,001,000	10.2	15.7	35.4	8.3	15.2	7.6	7.5
Engineering	961,000	5.0	1.7	78.2	2.1	2.5	6.7	3.8
Highest degree: doctorate	1,239,000	38.1	4.3	36.9	4.9	6.9	6.6	2.2
Computer and mathematical sciences	112,000	42.4	2.7	46.9	s	3.3	3.5	s
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	360,000	43.3	4.7	31.5	3.6	8.0	6.9	2.1
Physical and related sciences	199,000	31.5	30.0	46.9	2.2	6.7	8.9	0.8
Social and related sciences	335,000	43.5	7.7	19.4	10.5	9.8	5.3	3.7
Engineering	233,000	26.0	0.9	56.9	2.9	3.2	7.6	2.4

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

Note(s):

All S&E highest degree holders include 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. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG), 2019.

Science and Engineering Indicators