

TABLE 3-1

**Employed college graduates, by level of highest degree, minor occupation, and primary work activity: 2017**

(Number)

Level of highest degree and occupation	Total	Primary work activity				
		Computer applications	Management and administration <sup>a</sup>	Research and development <sup>b</sup>	Teaching	Other <sup>c</sup>
All degree levels	48,223,000	2,477,000	21,389,000	4,883,000	7,118,000	12,356,000
S&E occupations	6,769,000	1,777,000	1,426,000	2,241,000	435,000	890,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	610,000	9,000	81,000	394,000	52,000	76,000
Agricultural and food scientists	41,000	D	9,000	27,000	S	5,000
Biological and medical scientists	455,000	6,000	55,000	326,000	3,000	65,000
Environmental life scientists	27,000	S	10,000	10,000	*	4,000
Postsecondary teachers - life and related sciences	87,000	D	7,000	31,000	47,000	2,000
Computer and mathematical scientists	3,419,000	1,668,000	629,000	677,000	143,000	303,000
Computer and information scientists	3,096,000	1,628,000	580,000	556,000	48,000	282,000
Mathematical scientists	209,000	38,000	43,000	104,000	D	19,000
Postsecondary teachers - computer and math sciences	114,000	S	5,000	16,000	91,000	1,000
Physical and related scientists	366,000	4,000	52,000	191,000	60,000	59,000
Chemists, except biochemists	109,000	D	18,000	65,000	D	26,000
Earth scientists, geologists and oceanographers	69,000	2,000	11,000	43,000	D	14,000
Physicists and astronomers	42,000	2,000	3,000	34,000	D	3,000
Other physical and related scientists	65,000	D	16,000	33,000	D	15,000
Postsecondary teachers - physical and related sciences	81,000	D	4,000	17,000	60,000	D
Social and related scientists	646,000	4,000	117,000	174,000	134,000	217,000
Economists	47,000	1,000	3,000	33,000	D	10,000
Political scientists	33,000	D	12,000	9,000	D	10,000
Psychologists	199,000	D	10,000	28,000	3,000	157,000
Sociologists and anthropologists	24,000	D	4,000	14,000	D	5,000
Other social and related scientists	159,000	S	77,000	61,000	D	19,000
Postsecondary teachers - social and related sciences	183,000	D	9,000	30,000	128,000	S
Engineers	1,728,000	93,000	549,000	804,000	46,000	236,000
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineers	132,000	14,000	35,000	64,000	D	17,000
Chemical engineers	93,000	2,000	19,000	53,000	S	16,000
Civil, architectural, and sanitary engineers	264,000	5,000	115,000	105,000	D	37,000
Electrical and computer hardware engineers	374,000	51,000	70,000	205,000	S	48,000
Industrial engineers	88,000	1,000	43,000	31,000	D	13,000
Mechanical engineers	313,000	6,000	79,000	190,000	D	38,000
Other engineers	406,000	14,000	184,000	141,000	S	65,000
Postsecondary teachers - engineering	59,000	D	5,000	17,000	37,000	D
S&E-related occupations	8,271,000	268,000	1,541,000	686,000	1,201,000	4,575,000
Health-related occupations	5,181,000	21,000	551,000	223,000	284,000	4,102,000
S&E managers	1,048,000	47,000	709,000	93,000	7,000	193,000
S&E precollege teachers	961,000	D	46,000	3,000	902,000	5,000
S&E technicians and technologists	837,000	183,000	179,000	245,000	8,000	222,000

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Other S&E-related occupations	244,000	12,000	55,000	123,000	D	53,000
Non-S&E occupations	33,183,000	432,000	18,422,000	1,956,000	5,482,000	6,891,000
Non-S&E managers	4,510,000	78,000	3,834,000	211,000	41,000	346,000
Management-related occupations	6,428,000	132,000	4,902,000	396,000	66,000	932,000
Non-S&E precollege teachers	4,093,000	D	123,000	32,000	3,846,000	48,000
Non-S&E postsecondary teachers	634,000	D	37,000	54,000	526,000	17,000
Social services and related occupations	1,908,000	S	438,000	110,000	242,000	1,114,000
Sales and marketing occupations	4,353,000	31,000	3,806,000	169,000	26,000	321,000
Art, humanities, and related occupations	1,439,000	46,000	462,000	331,000	30,000	571,000
Other non-S&E occupations	9,818,000	97,000	4,821,000	654,000	705,000	3,541,000
Bachelor's	30,131,000	1,665,000	15,257,000	2,866,000	3,545,000	6,797,000
S&E occupations	3,846,000	1,150,000	928,000	1,158,000	122,000	488,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	230,000	S	31,000	147,000	7,000	40,000
Agricultural and food scientists	18,000	D	5,000	9,000	D	3,000
Biological and medical scientists	183,000	S	20,000	122,000	S	36,000
Environmental life scientists	15,000	D	5,000	6,000	*	2,000
Postsecondary teachers - life and related sciences	S	D	D	S	4,000	D
Computer and mathematical scientists	2,219,000	1,100,000	434,000	406,000	62,000	218,000
Computer and information scientists	2,096,000	1,079,000	402,000	356,000	45,000	214,000
Mathematical scientists	108,000	21,000	31,000	48,000	D	4,000
Postsecondary teachers - computer and math sciences	15,000	D	D	S	13,000	D
Physical and related scientists	164,000	2,000	31,000	74,000	25,000	33,000
Chemists, except biochemists	63,000	D	12,000	33,000	D	17,000
Earth scientists, geologists and oceanographers	28,000	D	5,000	14,000	D	8,000
Physicists and astronomers	9,000	D	S	6,000	D	S
Other physical and related scientists	35,000	D	11,000	17,000	D	7,000
Postsecondary teachers - physical and related sciences	29,000	D	D	S	25,000	D
Social and related scientists	172,000	*	64,000	62,000	13,000	33,000
Economists	S	D	1,000	S	D	S
Political scientists	12,000	D	S	S	D	S
Psychologists	18,000	D	D	8,000	D	8,000
Sociologists and anthropologists	6,000	D	D	S	D	S
Other social and related scientists	89,000	D	S	29,000	D	7,000
Postsecondary teachers - social and related sciences	24,000	D	D	S	10,000	D
Engineers	1,061,000	44,000	368,000	470,000	14,000	164,000
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineers	69,000	5,000	19,000	32,000	D	12,000
Chemical engineers	59,000	2,000	14,000	32,000	D	11,000
Civil, architectural, and sanitary engineers	169,000	3,000	79,000	62,000	D	25,000

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Level of highest degree and occupation	Total	Primary work activity				
		Computer applications	Management and administration <sup>a</sup>	Research and development <sup>b</sup>	Teaching	Other <sup>c</sup>
Electrical and computer hardware engineers	215,000	24,000	43,000	112,000	D	35,000
Industrial engineers	57,000	1,000	27,000	19,000	D	10,000
Mechanical engineers	219,000	2,000	54,000	136,000	D	27,000
Other engineers	259,000	8,000	129,000	77,000	D	44,000
Postsecondary teachers - engineering	12,000	D	S	D	9,000	D
S&E-related occupations	4,338,000	181,000	928,000	380,000	515,000	2,334,000
Health-related occupations	2,671,000	17,000	371,000	100,000	130,000	2,053,000
S&E managers	515,000	25,000	377,000	50,000	D	62,000
S&E precollege teachers	400,000	D	14,000	S	379,000	S
S&E technicians and technologists	586,000	124,000	128,000	149,000	6,000	179,000
Other S&E-related occupations	166,000	9,000	40,000	79,000	D	39,000
Non-S&E occupations	21,946,000	334,000	13,401,000	1,328,000	2,908,000	3,976,000
Non-S&E managers	2,761,000	58,000	2,356,000	114,000	22,000	211,000
Management-related occupations	4,489,000	88,000	3,470,000	266,000	45,000	619,000
Non-S&E precollege teachers	2,221,000	D	60,000	S	2,092,000	S
Non-S&E postsecondary teachers	107,000	D	S	10,000	92,000	S
Social services and related occupations	869,000	S	265,000	67,000	122,000	411,000
Sales and marketing occupations	3,576,000	29,000	3,116,000	151,000	23,000	257,000
Art, humanities, and related occupations	1,067,000	43,000	342,000	250,000	23,000	409,000
Other non-S&E occupations	6,856,000	74,000	3,788,000	448,000	487,000	2,059,000
Master's	13,260,000	741,000	5,362,000	1,339,000	3,038,000	2,780,000
S&E occupations	2,069,000	571,000	425,000	665,000	137,000	270,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	149,000	2,000	27,000	85,000	16,000	19,000
Agricultural and food scientists	13,000	D	3,000	8,000	D	S
Biological and medical scientists	108,000	2,000	19,000	72,000	*	14,000
Environmental life scientists	11,000	D	S	3,000	D	2,000
Postsecondary teachers - life and related sciences	17,000	D	D	1,000	15,000	D
Computer and mathematical scientists	1,039,000	522,000	181,000	206,000	51,000	78,000
Computer and information scientists	911,000	508,000	170,000	166,000	S	65,000
Mathematical scientists	75,000	13,000	10,000	39,000	D	13,000
Postsecondary teachers - computer and math sciences	52,000	D	S	S	48,000	D
Physical and related scientists	98,000	1,000	13,000	56,000	9,000	20,000
Chemists, except biochemists	26,000	D	3,000	15,000	D	7,000
Earth scientists, geologists and oceanographers	29,000	S	4,000	20,000	D	4,000
Physicists and astronomers	12,000	D	D	10,000	D	D
Other physical and related scientists	21,000	D	5,000	10,000	D	7,000
Postsecondary teachers - physical and related sciences	10,000	D	D	S	9,000	D
Social and related scientists	235,000	2,000	38,000	56,000	48,000	92,000

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Economists	14,000	S	1,000	8,000	D	4,000
Political scientists	12,000	D	4,000	5,000	D	2,000
Psychologists	86,000	D	4,000	8,000	2,000	72,000
Sociologists and anthropologists	13,000	D	2,000	7,000	D	3,000
Other social and related scientists	55,000	S	23,000	21,000	D	11,000
Postsecondary teachers - social and related sciences	56,000	D	D	7,000	45,000	D
Engineers	548,000	45,000	166,000	262,000	14,000	62,000
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineers	54,000	S	14,000	27,000	D	4,000
Chemical engineers	22,000	D	4,000	13,000	D	4,000
Civil, architectural, and sanitary engineers	91,000	2,000	35,000	41,000	D	11,000
Electrical and computer hardware engineers	138,000	25,000	24,000	77,000	D	13,000
Industrial engineers	28,000	S	15,000	10,000	D	3,000
Mechanical engineers	80,000	3,000	22,000	44,000	D	11,000
Other engineers	122,000	6,000	51,000	48,000	S	16,000
Postsecondary teachers - engineering	12,000	D	D	1,000	11,000	D
S&E-related occupations	2,262,000	78,000	498,000	217,000	603,000	867,000
Health-related occupations	1,066,000	S	124,000	67,000	107,000	768,000
S&E managers	383,000	19,000	288,000	32,000	4,000	39,000
S&E precollege teachers	527,000	D	32,000	S	490,000	4,000
S&E technicians and technologists	209,000	55,000	38,000	73,000	S	42,000
Other S&E-related occupations	77,000	S	16,000	44,000	D	14,000
Non-S&E occupations	8,929,000	91,000	4,439,000	458,000	2,298,000	1,643,000
Non-S&E managers	1,469,000	18,000	1,285,000	56,000	13,000	97,000
Management-related occupations	1,756,000	40,000	1,302,000	112,000	20,000	282,000
Non-S&E precollege teachers	1,827,000	D	51,000	S	1,722,000	39,000
Non-S&E postsecondary teachers	283,000	D	23,000	7,000	246,000	6,000
Social services and related occupations	955,000	D	154,000	40,000	103,000	657,000
Sales and marketing occupations	708,000	S	640,000	16,000	D	50,000
Art, humanities, and related occupations	331,000	S	113,000	69,000	4,000	142,000
Other non-S&E occupations	1,600,000	23,000	870,000	147,000	190,000	371,000
Doctorate	1,796,000	59,000	351,000	593,000	444,000	348,000
S&E occupations	786,000	48,000	69,000	403,000	165,000	102,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	217,000	2,000	21,000	154,000	26,000	14,000
Agricultural and food scientists	10,000	D	*	9,000	D	D
Biological and medical scientists	153,000	2,000	14,000	124,000	*	12,000
Environmental life scientists	1,000	D	D	1,000	D	D
Postsecondary teachers - life and related sciences	53,000	D	7,000	20,000	25,000	D
Computer and mathematical scientists	150,000	40,000	13,000	61,000	29,000	7,000
Computer and information scientists	78,000	36,000	7,000	31,000	D	S

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Mathematical scientists	25,000	4,000	2,000	17,000	D	2,000
Postsecondary teachers - computer and math sciences	47,000	D	4,000	14,000	29,000	D
Physical and related scientists	101,000	1,000	8,000	62,000	26,000	4,000
Chemists, except biochemists	20,000	D	2,000	17,000	D	1,000
Earth scientists, geologists and oceanographers	11,000	S	S	8,000	D	D
Physicists and astronomers	21,000	D	1,000	18,000	D	D
Other physical and related scientists	8,000	D	D	6,000	D	D
Postsecondary teachers - physical and related sciences	41,000	D	3,000	12,000	26,000	D
Social and related scientists	201,000	D	13,000	53,000	67,000	67,000
Economists	10,000	D	S	7,000	D	3,000
Political scientists	2,000	D	D	1,000	D	D
Psychologists	75,000	D	3,000	12,000	D	60,000
Sociologists and anthropologists	5,000	D	D	5,000	D	D
Other social and related scientists	14,000	D	3,000	10,000	D	S
Postsecondary teachers - social and related sciences	95,000	D	6,000	20,000	66,000	3,000
Engineers	116,000	4,000	14,000	72,000	17,000	10,000
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineers	8,000	D	D	4,000	D	D
Chemical engineers	11,000	D	1,000	8,000	D	S
Civil, architectural, and sanitary engineers	4,000	D	D	2,000	D	D
Electrical and computer hardware engineers	20,000	1,000	3,000	15,000	D	S
Industrial engineers	2,000	D	D	D	D	D
Mechanical engineers	12,000	1,000	S	10,000	D	D
Other engineers	24,000	S	3,000	17,000	D	4,000
Postsecondary teachers - engineering	35,000	D	2,000	16,000	17,000	D
S&E-related occupations	267,000	7,000	42,000	56,000	48,000	112,000
Health-related occupations	166,000	D	10,000	24,000	27,000	105,000
S&E managers	46,000	D	27,000	10,000	D	7,000
S&E precollege teachers	22,000	D	D	D	21,000	D
S&E technicians and technologists	32,000	4,000	5,000	22,000	D	*
Other S&E-related occupations	S	D	D	D	D	D
Non-S&E occupations	743,000	5,000	240,000	134,000	231,000	134,000
Non-S&E managers	167,000	S	112,000	36,000	S	11,000
Management-related occupations	81,000	2,000	48,000	17,000	D	13,000
Non-S&E precollege teachers	20,000	D	S	D	15,000	D
Non-S&E postsecondary teachers	215,000	D	10,000	34,000	167,000	3,000
Social services and related occupations	69,000	D	16,000	S	17,000	34,000
Sales and marketing occupations	13,000	D	5,000	S	D	6,000
Art, humanities, and related occupations	30,000	D	5,000	9,000	2,000	14,000
Other non-S&E occupations	149,000	D	39,000	35,000	22,000	52,000

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Professional	3,036,000	12,000	419,000	85,000	90,000	2,430,000
S&E occupations	67,000	8,000	4,000	15,000	10,000	30,000
S&E-related occupations	1,404,000	D	72,000	33,000	35,000	1,262,000
Non-S&E occupations	1,565,000	D	343,000	37,000	45,000	1,138,000

\* = suppressed when population estimate < 500. D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information. S = suppressed for reliability; coefficient of variation exceeds publication standards.

S&E = science and engineering.

<sup>a</sup> Management and administration includes respondents who reported the following work activities: accounting, finance, or contracts; human resources; quality or productivity management; sales and marketing; or managing and supervising.

<sup>b</sup> Research and development includes basic research, applied research, development, and design.

<sup>c</sup> Other work activities includes production, operations, maintenance, professional services, and other activities not broken out separately.

**Note(s):**

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

**Source(s):**

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Survey of College Graduates, 2017.