

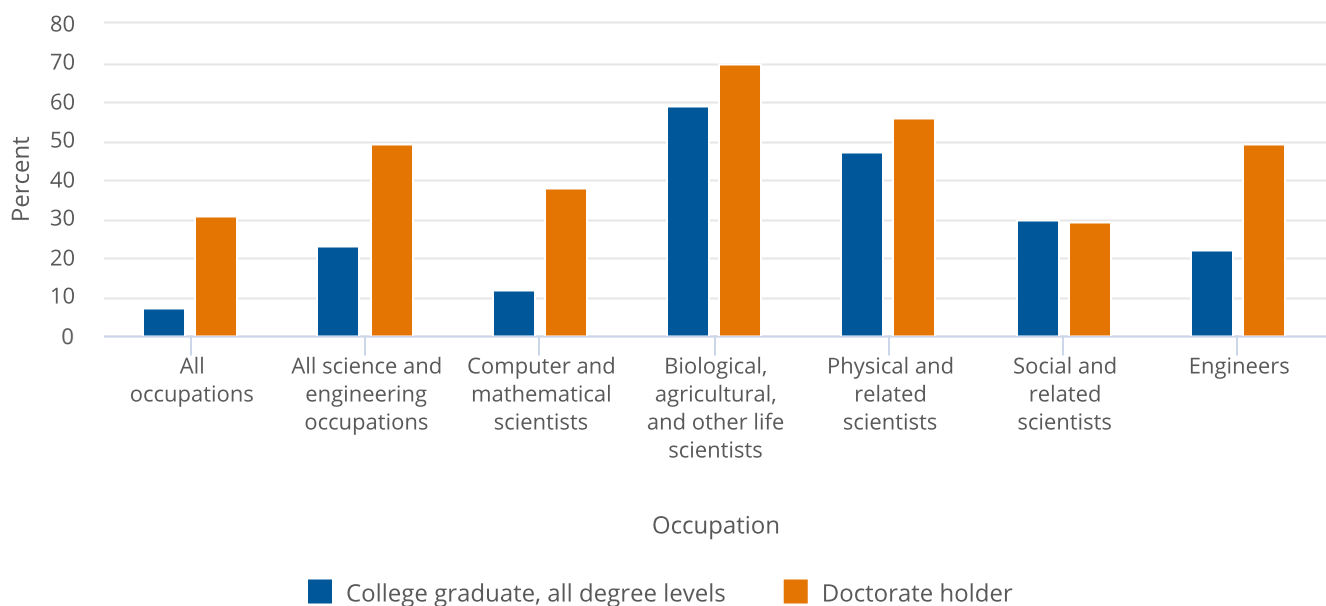


InfoChart

A Quarter of College Graduates and About Half of Doctorate Holders in Science and Engineering Occupations Were R&D Workers in 2019

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Figure 1 | Employed college graduates and doctorate holders performing R&D, by broad occupation: 2019



Source(s): National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Survey of College Graduates, 2019, <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf22310>.

In 2019, among the 50.5 million employed college graduates in all occupations across the nation, approximately 3.7 million (7%) were R&D workers (that is, graduates who reported that their primary work activity was in basic research, applied research, or experimental development). Roughly 1 in 5 (23%) of approximately 7.5 million graduates in science and engineering (S&E) occupations were R&D workers. Among the subset of 2 million employed doctorate holders in all occupations, approximately 638,000 doctorates (31%) reported that their primary work activity was in R&D. Roughly half (49%) of the 938,000 doctorate holders in S&E occupations were R&D workers. Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists had the highest concentration of R&D workers among them (59%), followed by physical and related scientists (47%)—concentrations within these two groups of scientists were even higher for those with a doctorate degree. These findings and other characteristics of employed college graduates in the workforce with a degree in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) can be found in the report *National Survey of College Graduates: 2019*.

Note: NCSES recently revised its definition of R&D workers to better align with international data on R&D employment. See the InfoBrief *Measuring R&D Workers Using NCSES Statistics*.

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