TABLE 32-3

Labor force participation rate among U.S. residing doctoral scientists and engineers, by occupation: 2021

(Percent and SE)

Occupation	Labor force participation rate	
	Percent	SE
All occupations	86.8	0.20
Science occupations	87.1	0.25
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	87.4	0.40
Agricultural, food scientists	82.7	1.80
Biochemists, biophysicists	87.5	1.50
Biological scientists	88.9	0.95
Forestry, conservation scientists	84.5	2.20
Medical scientists	89.8	0.85
Postsecondary teachers, agricultural, other natural sciences	81.8	2.45
Postsecondary teachers, biological sciences	84.7	1.00
Other biological, agricultural, life scientists	89.9	0.85
Computer and information scientists	89.9	0.65
Computer and information scientists	90.0	0.65
Postsecondary teachers, computer science	89.3	1.75
Mathematical scientists	89.6	0.75
Mathematical scientists	91.4	0.85
Postsecondary teachers, mathematics, statistics	87.3	1.10
Physical scientists	85.5	0.50
Chemists, except biochemists	83.2	1.25
Earth, atmospheric, ocean scientists	84.2	1.20
Physicists, astronomers	86.7	1.40
Postsecondary teachers, chemistry	89.1	1.20
Postsecondary teachers, physics	86.0	1.75
Postsecondary teachers, other physical science	86.0	1.65
Other physical scientists	81.9	3.05
Psychologists	85.7	0.70
Psychologists	85.9	0.75
Postsecondary teachers, psychology	85.1	1.35
Social scientists	86.0	0.65
Economists	85.5	1.80
Political scientists	71.4	5.10
Postsecondary teachers, economics	86.7	1.70
Postsecondary teachers, political science	91.2	1.55
Postsecondary teachers, sociology	84.4	1.85
Postsecondary teachers, other social sciences	87.0	1.35
Sociologists, anthropologists	81.9	2.45
Other social scientists	85.5	1.70
Engineering occupations	90.5	0.45
Aerospace, aeronautical, astronautical engineers	90.3	1.70
Chemical engineers	89.6	1.80
Civil, architectural, sanitary engineers	93.7	1.55
Electrical engineers	91.0	0.90
Industrial engineers	92.8	3.20
Mechanical engineers	90.7	1.25
Postsecondary teacher, engineering	92.2	1.10
Other engineers	88.1	0.95
S&E-related occupations	86.0	0.55
Health occupations, except postsecondary teachers and managers	86.1	0.90
Postsecondary teacher, health and related science	85.1	1.15
S&E managers, including health	87.7	0.85

TABLE 32-3

Labor force participation rate among U.S. residing doctoral scientists and engineers, by occupation: 2021

(Percent and SE)

Occupation	Labor force participation rate	
	Percent	SE
S&E precollege teachers	78.0	2.15
S&E technicians/ technologists	89.2	1.80
Other S&E-related occupations	70.0	8.50
Non-S&E occupations	84.3	0.50
Arts, humanities-related occupations	82.8	1.70
Management-related occupations	85.4	0.95
Non-S&E managers	86.8	0.85
Non-S&E postsecondary teachers	83.2	1.25
Non-S&E precollege/ other teachers	69.3	3.15
Sales, marketing occupations	82.6	1.65
Social service-related occupations	81.0	2.40
Other non-S&E occupations	82.5	1.40

S&E = science and engineering; SE = standard error.

Note(s):
Percentage rounded to the nearest 0.1%, standard error of the unrounded percentage (based on unrounded counts), rounded up to the nearest multiple of 0.05%. Labor force is defined as those employed (E) plus those unemployed and seeking work (U). Unemployed includes individuals who were not working during the survey reference week but had been seeking work in the prior 4 weeks or who were on layoff from their job. Population (P) is defined as all S&E doctorate holders less than 76 years of age, who were residing in the United States during the week of 1 February 2021, and who earned doctorates from U.S. institutions. Labor force participation rate (RLF) = (E + U) / P. If respondent was not employed during survey reference period, occupation when last employed was reported. Individuals who reported never having worked but who were still in the labor force during the reference week are included in overall (All occupations) rate calculation but are excluded from computing the rates by occupation. Residence location is based on reported living location on 1 February 2021.

Source(s):
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Doctorate Recipients, 2021.