

TABLE 57-1

Median annual salaries of U.S. residing full-time employed doctoral scientists and engineers, by field of doctorate and primary or secondary work activity: 2021

(Dollars)

Field of study	All full-time employed		Computer applications		Design		Management, sales, or administration ^a		Professional services		Any R&D ^b		Teaching		Other ^c	
	Median salary	SE	Median salary	SE	Median salary	SE	Median salary	SE	Median salary	SE	Median salary	SE	Median salary	SE	Median salary	SE
All fields	122,000	1,500	141,000	3,500	144,000	3,000	140,000	500	125,000	500	122,000	2,000	94,000	1,000	119,000	2,500
Science	117,000	1,500	140,000	1,500	139,000	2,000	130,000	1,500	120,000	3,500	116,000	2,000	90,000	500	110,000	1,500
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	115,000	1,000	117,000	4,000	120,000	5,500	130,000	1,500	150,000	6,500	112,000	2,000	90,000	500	106,000	3,500
Agricultural and food sciences	109,000	2,000	120,000	9,500	136,000	5,500	123,000	5,000	91,000	18,000	105,000	4,500	93,000	2,000	99,000	10,000
Biochemistry and biophysics	122,000	4,000	135,000	10,000	119,000	18,000	145,000	6,500	195,000	18,500	120,000	2,500	90,000	5,500	99,000	13,000
Cell, cellular biology, and molecular biology	120,000	4,500	115,000	15,500	118,000	21,500	135,000	6,000	167,000	13,500	113,000	3,500	88,000	4,000	104,000	10,500
Microbiological sciences and immunology	124,000	4,000	94,000	6,500	119,000	8,500	139,000	4,000	168,000	20,000	120,000	2,000	85,000	5,500	110,000	11,000
Natural resources and conservation	96,000	2,500	97,000	5,000	104,000	6,500	106,000	3,000	89,000	5,500	96,000	3,000	81,000	4,000	99,000	8,500
Zoology	98,000	4,500	100,000	19,500	78,000	18,500	105,000	6,000	89,000	12,500	93,000	6,000	90,000	3,500	95,000	18,000
Other biological sciences	114,000	2,000	117,000	4,000	120,000	6,000	125,000	1,500	148,000	6,500	112,000	3,000	90,000	1,500	110,000	3,500
Computer and information sciences	160,000	1,000	175,000	7,000	180,000	5,500	191,000	6,500	150,000	23,000	158,000	4,500	100,000	1,000	169,000	19,000
Mathematics and statistics	113,000	4,000	140,000	5,500	160,000	4,000	148,000	8,500	133,000	21,000	118,000	5,000	90,000	2,500	93,000	8,000
Physical sciences, geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	125,000	500	130,000	2,500	135,000	5,000	144,000	2,000	159,000	8,000	125,000	500	87,000	2,000	120,000	1,000
Astronomy and astrophysics	120,000	3,500	109,000	12,500	157,000	4,500	140,000	6,500	190,000	45,000	115,000	9,000	93,000	8,500	98,000	27,000
Chemistry, except biochemistry	123,000	3,000	130,000	10,000	130,000	5,000	140,000	3,000	159,000	8,500	123,000	3,000	81,000	2,500	124,000	6,000
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	107,000	3,000	101,000	5,000	121,000	4,500	120,000	1,500	116,000	5,500	108,000	3,000	89,000	2,000	96,000	6,500
Physics	140,000	1,500	150,000	6,000	139,000	3,500	165,000	5,500	176,000	14,000	140,000	1,500	94,000	3,500	120,000	6,500
Psychology	106,000	1,500	123,000	6,000	131,000	7,000	111,000	2,500	109,000	2,000	105,000	2,000	90,000	1,000	95,000	7,000
Social sciences	109,000	2,000	135,000	4,500	134,000	6,500	128,000	3,000	139,000	11,000	108,000	3,000	92,000	1,500	109,000	5,000
Economics	149,000	3,000	145,000	9,000	161,000	20,500	172,000	6,500	197,000	12,000	142,000	5,500	118,000	4,000	165,000	21,500
Political science and government	108,000	3,000	126,000	18,500	142,000	43,500	129,000	5,000	122,000	22,000	100,000	4,500	92,000	2,500	119,000	10,500
Sociology, demography, and population studies	96,000	3,500	113,000	17,000	116,000	21,500	118,000	5,000	88,000	20,500	96,000	4,000	83,000	3,500	97,000	21,500
Other social sciences	92,000	1,500	119,000	13,500	104,000	20,500	100,000	2,500	118,000	9,500	92,000	2,000	85,000	1,500	85,000	4,500
Engineering	145,000	1,000	149,000	3,500	149,000	1,000	160,000	4,000	156,000	8,500	140,000	2,500	106,000	2,500	135,000	4,500
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	149,000	1,000	149,000	2,500	144,000	7,500	162,000	8,500	190,000	46,000	146,000	5,000	102,000	13,500	151,000	19,000
Chemical engineering	141,000	5,000	132,000	12,000	147,000	5,500	159,000	6,000	195,000	40,500	140,000	4,500	121,000	9,000	137,000	5,500
Civil engineering	120,000	1,000	124,000	8,500	120,000	7,500	134,000	8,000	120,000	17,500	110,000	4,500	102,000	3,500	103,000	16,500
Electrical and computer engineering	160,000	2,000	160,000	5,000	169,000	3,000	180,000	5,000	170,000	15,000	159,000	1,000	109,000	3,000	143,000	5,000
Mechanical engineering	132,000	4,500	135,000	4,500	136,000	7,000	160,000	3,000	119,000	12,000	129,000	3,000	100,000	3,500	116,000	9,000
Metallurgical and materials engineering	144,000	3,500	137,000	11,500	135,000	3,000	165,000	6,000	174,000	20,000	143,000	4,000	105,000	11,000	130,000	5,500
Other engineering	138,000	3,500	137,000	4,000	145,000	7,000	150,000	6,500	175,000	10,500	132,000	3,500	110,000	3,500	135,000	9,000
Health	115,000	2,000	127,000	5,500	133,000	7,000	131,000	4,000	127,000	5,500	113,000	3,500	95,000	3,000	126,000	10,500

SE = standard error.

^a Administration includes accounting, finance, contracts, and human resources.

^b R&D includes basic research, applied research, and experimental development.

^c Includes production, operations, maintenance, and other activities not broken out separately.

Note(s):

Median annual salaries are for principal job and are rounded to nearest \$1,000. Standard errors are rounded up to the nearest \$500. Full time is based on working 35 or more hours per week. Primary and secondary work activities were self-defined by respondent in response to the question: "On which two activities...did you work the most hours during a typical week on this job?" If respondent reported more than one category of activity as primary or secondary work activity, respondent's salary appears in both categories. 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.