

TABLE 3-3

Employed college graduates, by sex, major occupation, job satisfaction, and primary work activity: 2023

(Number)

Sex, occupation, and job satisfaction	Total	Primary work activity					
		Computer applications	Design ^a	Management and administration ^b	Research and development ^c	Teaching	Other ^d
Both sexes	56,061,000	3,263,000	1,692,000	24,369,000	4,519,000	6,878,000	15,339,000
Very satisfied	24,708,000	1,471,000	812,000	10,947,000	2,093,000	2,652,000	6,733,000
Somewhat satisfied	25,691,000	1,533,000	713,000	11,005,000	1,988,000	3,501,000	6,951,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	4,374,000	230,000	146,000	1,900,000	348,000	528,000	1,222,000
Very dissatisfied	1,287,000	30,000	20,000	516,000	91,000	197,000	433,000
S&E occupations	8,711,000	2,421,000	910,000	1,974,000	2,020,000	444,000	942,000
Very satisfied	3,894,000	1,109,000	408,000	855,000	911,000	193,000	418,000
Somewhat satisfied	4,025,000	1,130,000	415,000	919,000	915,000	210,000	436,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	644,000	162,000	75,000	160,000	156,000	32,000	59,000
Very dissatisfied	149,000	20,000	13,000	40,000	37,000	9,000	29,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	813,000	18,000	14,000	158,000	432,000	89,000	102,000
Very satisfied	363,000	1,000	4,000	61,000	197,000	41,000	58,000
Somewhat satisfied	382,000	15,000	9,000	85,000	192,000	41,000	41,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	53,000	D	S	9,000	34,000	6,000	2,000
Very dissatisfied	15,000	D	D	S	10,000	D	1,000
Computer and mathematical scientists	4,573,000	2,185,000	315,000	968,000	610,000	119,000	377,000
Very satisfied	2,004,000	1,000,000	140,000	403,000	264,000	60,000	136,000
Somewhat satisfied	2,141,000	1,019,000	133,000	455,000	285,000	49,000	202,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	363,000	150,000	39,000	89,000	49,000	9,000	27,000
Very dissatisfied	65,000	17,000	S	22,000	S	D	S
Physical and related scientists	430,000	10,000	6,000	78,000	214,000	46,000	75,000
Very satisfied	190,000	5,000	3,000	35,000	98,000	17,000	32,000
Somewhat satisfied	205,000	4,000	3,000	37,000	102,000	25,000	35,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	27,000	S	D	5,000	11,000	3,000	6,000
Very dissatisfied	9,000	D	D	S	4,000	D	S
Social and related scientists	631,000	5,000	6,000	112,000	238,000	150,000	121,000
Very satisfied	285,000	2,000	S	52,000	104,000	58,000	66,000
Somewhat satisfied	266,000	2,000	2,000	38,000	108,000	74,000	41,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	57,000	D	D	18,000	19,000	11,000	7,000
Very dissatisfied	24,000	D	D	S	7,000	S	S
Engineers	2,263,000	204,000	570,000	658,000	525,000	39,000	267,000
Very satisfied	1,052,000	101,000	256,000	304,000	248,000	17,000	126,000
Somewhat satisfied	1,031,000	91,000	269,000	304,000	228,000	21,000	118,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	144,000	9,000	35,000	39,000	43,000	2,000	16,000
Very dissatisfied	37,000	S	11,000	10,000	6,000	D	7,000

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		Computer applications	Design ^a	Management and administration ^b	Research and development ^c	Teaching	Other ^d
S&E-related occupations	11,253,000	538,000	343,000	2,219,000	818,000	1,046,000	6,288,000
Very satisfied	4,965,000	223,000	169,000	980,000	329,000	440,000	2,824,000
Somewhat satisfied	5,229,000	268,000	141,000	1,043,000	381,000	511,000	2,885,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	847,000	38,000	29,000	161,000	89,000	67,000	462,000
Very dissatisfied	212,000	9,000	3,000	35,000	20,000	28,000	117,000
Non-S&E occupations	36,097,000	303,000	439,000	20,176,000	1,681,000	5,389,000	8,109,000
Very satisfied	15,850,000	138,000	235,000	9,113,000	853,000	2,018,000	3,492,000
Somewhat satisfied	16,437,000	134,000	157,000	9,043,000	692,000	2,781,000	3,630,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	2,883,000	29,000	42,000	1,579,000	103,000	430,000	700,000
Very dissatisfied	926,000	1,000	S	441,000	34,000	160,000	287,000
Female	29,603,000	747,000	515,000	12,640,000	2,026,000	4,915,000	8,759,000
Very satisfied	12,721,000	323,000	257,000	5,659,000	885,000	1,855,000	3,744,000
Somewhat satisfied	13,783,000	357,000	196,000	5,682,000	916,000	2,535,000	4,097,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	2,338,000	63,000	58,000	986,000	186,000	374,000	670,000
Very dissatisfied	761,000	4,000	4,000	313,000	40,000	151,000	248,000
S&E occupations	2,586,000	475,000	189,000	683,000	697,000	198,000	344,000
Very satisfied	1,158,000	218,000	83,000	316,000	303,000	78,000	159,000
Somewhat satisfied	1,164,000	219,000	87,000	293,000	323,000	100,000	143,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	203,000	36,000	17,000	59,000	55,000	14,000	23,000
Very dissatisfied	61,000	3,000	2,000	15,000	17,000	S	19,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	405,000	S	5,000	82,000	210,000	45,000	55,000
Very satisfied	186,000	1,000	3,000	35,000	96,000	21,000	29,000
Somewhat satisfied	186,000	S	2,000	42,000	91,000	21,000	25,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	24,000	D	D	4,000	16,000	3,000	1,000
Very dissatisfied	9,000	D	D	S	S	D	D
Computer and mathematical scientists	1,214,000	428,000	100,000	372,000	166,000	38,000	110,000
Very satisfied	531,000	194,000	39,000	168,000	66,000	18,000	44,000
Somewhat satisfied	555,000	196,000	46,000	161,000	86,000	18,000	47,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	104,000	34,000	S	33,000	11,000	2,000	10,000
Very dissatisfied	24,000	3,000	D	10,000	3,000	D	S
Physical and related scientists	160,000	2,000	2,000	38,000	65,000	16,000	36,000
Very satisfied	65,000	S	S	16,000	27,000	5,000	15,000
Somewhat satisfied	78,000	1,000	1,000	17,000	33,000	10,000	16,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	12,000	D	D	3,000	4,000	S	3,000
Very dissatisfied	5,000	D	D	D	S	D	S

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(Number)

Sex, occupation, and job satisfaction	Total	Primary work activity					
		Computer applications	Design ^a	Management and administration ^b	Research and development ^c	Teaching	Other ^d
Social and related scientists	398,000	S	5,000	69,000	146,000	91,000	86,000
Very satisfied	177,000	D	S	38,000	61,000	31,000	42,000
Somewhat satisfied	171,000	D	2,000	18,000	71,000	48,000	32,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	35,000	D	D	12,000	10,000	7,000	6,000
Very dissatisfied	16,000	D	D	D	3,000	S	D
Engineers	409,000	36,000	77,000	122,000	110,000	8,000	57,000
Very satisfied	200,000	21,000	36,000	58,000	52,000	3,000	28,000
Somewhat satisfied	174,000	14,000	36,000	55,000	42,000	4,000	23,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	28,000	1,000	3,000	6,000	14,000	D	4,000
Very dissatisfied	7,000	D	D	S	S	D	D
S&E-related occupations	6,669,000	126,000	108,000	1,104,000	440,000	639,000	4,251,000
Very satisfied	2,839,000	51,000	53,000	464,000	169,000	246,000	1,857,000
Somewhat satisfied	3,149,000	62,000	42,000	532,000	190,000	333,000	1,989,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	551,000	S	11,000	86,000	S	38,000	333,000
Very dissatisfied	130,000	D	S	22,000	S	23,000	72,000
Non-S&E occupations	20,349,000	146,000	219,000	10,853,000	889,000	4,078,000	4,164,000
Very satisfied	8,724,000	54,000	121,000	4,879,000	413,000	1,530,000	1,728,000
Somewhat satisfied	9,470,000	76,000	67,000	4,857,000	403,000	2,102,000	1,966,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	1,584,000	S	30,000	842,000	61,000	323,000	314,000
Very dissatisfied	570,000	D	D	276,000	13,000	123,000	157,000
Male	26,458,000	2,517,000	1,177,000	11,728,000	2,493,000	1,963,000	6,580,000
Very satisfied	11,987,000	1,148,000	556,000	5,288,000	1,208,000	797,000	2,989,000
Somewhat satisfied	11,909,000	1,176,000	517,000	5,323,000	1,072,000	967,000	2,854,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	2,036,000	166,000	88,000	914,000	162,000	154,000	552,000
Very dissatisfied	526,000	26,000	16,000	203,000	51,000	46,000	185,000
S&E occupations	6,126,000	1,947,000	722,000	1,291,000	1,323,000	246,000	598,000
Very satisfied	2,736,000	892,000	324,000	538,000	608,000	115,000	258,000
Somewhat satisfied	2,861,000	912,000	328,000	626,000	592,000	110,000	294,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	441,000	126,000	58,000	102,000	102,000	18,000	35,000
Very dissatisfied	88,000	17,000	12,000	25,000	21,000	3,000	11,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	408,000	10,000	9,000	76,000	222,000	44,000	47,000
Very satisfied	177,000	S	1,000	26,000	101,000	20,000	28,000
Somewhat satisfied	196,000	8,000	S	43,000	101,000	20,000	16,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	29,000	D	D	4,000	18,000	3,000	2,000
Very dissatisfied	6,000	D	D	D	2,000	D	D

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(Number)

Sex, occupation, and job satisfaction	Total	Primary work activity					
		Computer applications	Design ^a	Management and administration ^b	Research and development ^c	Teaching	Other ^d
Computer and mathematical scientists	3,360,000	1,757,000	215,000	596,000	444,000	81,000	267,000
Very satisfied	1,473,000	805,000	101,000	235,000	198,000	41,000	92,000
Somewhat satisfied	1,586,000	822,000	86,000	293,000	199,000	31,000	155,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	259,000	115,000	26,000	55,000	39,000	7,000	17,000
Very dissatisfied	41,000	14,000	S	12,000	S	D	S
Physical and related scientists	270,000	8,000	4,000	40,000	149,000	30,000	40,000
Very satisfied	125,000	4,000	S	19,000	71,000	12,000	17,000
Somewhat satisfied	127,000	2,000	2,000	20,000	69,000	16,000	19,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	15,000	D	D	2,000	7,000	1,000	3,000
Very dissatisfied	4,000	D	D	D	2,000	D	D
Social and related scientists	233,000	3,000	1,000	43,000	92,000	59,000	35,000
Very satisfied	109,000	1,000	D	14,000	43,000	28,000	24,000
Somewhat satisfied	95,000	1,000	D	20,000	37,000	26,000	9,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	22,000	D	D	S	9,000	4,000	2,000
Very dissatisfied	8,000	D	D	D	S	S	D
Engineers	1,855,000	168,000	493,000	536,000	415,000	32,000	210,000
Very satisfied	853,000	81,000	220,000	246,000	196,000	13,000	98,000
Somewhat satisfied	857,000	78,000	233,000	249,000	186,000	17,000	95,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	116,000	8,000	31,000	34,000	29,000	2,000	12,000
Very dissatisfied	29,000	S	9,000	8,000	4,000	D	5,000
S&E-related occupations	4,584,000	413,000	235,000	1,115,000	378,000	407,000	2,037,000
Very satisfied	2,125,000	172,000	117,000	516,000	160,000	194,000	967,000
Somewhat satisfied	2,080,000	206,000	99,000	510,000	190,000	178,000	896,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	296,000	26,000	18,000	75,000	19,000	29,000	129,000
Very dissatisfied	82,000	8,000	S	13,000	S	5,000	45,000
Non-S&E occupations	15,748,000	157,000	220,000	9,323,000	792,000	1,311,000	3,945,000
Very satisfied	7,125,000	84,000	115,000	4,234,000	440,000	488,000	1,764,000
Somewhat satisfied	6,967,000	58,000	90,000	4,186,000	289,000	679,000	1,664,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	1,299,000	14,000	12,000	737,000	42,000	107,000	387,000
Very dissatisfied	356,000	D	S	165,000	S	37,000	130,000

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information. S = suppressed for reliability; coefficient of variation exceeds publication standards.

S&E = science and engineering.

^a Design is no longer included in the definition of "Other" and is now its own category.

^b 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.

^c Research and development includes basic research, applied research, and development.

^d Other work activity includes production, operations, and 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. Estimates by sex were based on responses to the question, "What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? 1. Male, 2. Female," which was a change from prior survey cycles. In 2021, the question was "What is your sex? 1. Male, 2. Female," and in 2019 and earlier years, the question was "Are you ... 1. Male, 2. Female."

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Survey of College Graduates, 2023.