

TABLE 3-4

Employed college graduates, by sex, major occupation, job satisfaction, and years since highest degree: 2023

(Number)

Sex, occupation, and job satisfaction	Total	Years since highest degree ^a							
		< 5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	≥ 35
Both sexes	56,061,000	8,240,000	10,731,000	8,855,000	7,320,000	5,612,000	4,848,000	3,917,000	6,538,000
Very satisfied	24,708,000	2,977,000	4,200,000	3,655,000	3,072,000	2,703,000	2,266,000	1,988,000	3,846,000
Somewhat satisfied	25,691,000	4,236,000	5,194,000	4,196,000	3,509,000	2,448,000	2,135,000	1,667,000	2,307,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	4,374,000	763,000	1,006,000	749,000	586,000	382,000	356,000	214,000	318,000
Very dissatisfied	1,287,000	265,000	330,000	254,000	153,000	79,000	91,000	48,000	67,000
S&E occupations	8,711,000	1,569,000	2,023,000	1,378,000	1,113,000	764,000	697,000	505,000	662,000
Very satisfied	3,894,000	657,000	854,000	582,000	486,000	366,000	329,000	254,000	366,000
Somewhat satisfied	4,025,000	753,000	937,000	661,000	530,000	352,000	311,000	220,000	261,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	644,000	123,000	191,000	111,000	82,000	37,000	39,000	29,000	32,000
Very dissatisfied	149,000	36,000	41,000	25,000	15,000	9,000	17,000	1,000	3,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	813,000	181,000	194,000	130,000	77,000	61,000	62,000	45,000	62,000
Very satisfied	363,000	91,000	81,000	43,000	26,000	25,000	28,000	30,000	39,000
Somewhat satisfied	382,000	77,000	91,000	76,000	45,000	31,000	27,000	14,000	21,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	53,000	9,000	19,000	10,000	6,000	3,000	5,000	1,000	S
Very dissatisfied	15,000	S	3,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	D	D	D
Computer and mathematical scientists	4,573,000	725,000	1,050,000	740,000	664,000	451,000	383,000	264,000	296,000
Very satisfied	2,004,000	282,000	451,000	307,000	298,000	217,000	181,000	120,000	147,000
Somewhat satisfied	2,141,000	368,000	478,000	357,000	308,000	206,000	173,000	124,000	127,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	363,000	56,000	103,000	68,000	49,000	25,000	21,000	20,000	21,000
Very dissatisfied	65,000	19,000	17,000	8,000	S	3,000	S	D	D
Physical and related scientists	430,000	96,000	101,000	57,000	41,000	35,000	28,000	31,000	43,000
Very satisfied	190,000	39,000	36,000	23,000	18,000	17,000	15,000	15,000	26,000
Somewhat satisfied	205,000	46,000	55,000	27,000	20,000	15,000	12,000	14,000	16,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	27,000	9,000	8,000	4,000	2,000	2,000	S	S	1,000
Very dissatisfied	9,000	S	S	2,000	S	D	D	D	D
Social and related scientists	631,000	157,000	148,000	97,000	76,000	37,000	39,000	30,000	47,000
Very satisfied	285,000	71,000	62,000	38,000	27,000	17,000	20,000	16,000	34,000
Somewhat satisfied	266,000	72,000	62,000	38,000	38,000	17,000	13,000	S	12,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	57,000	12,000	19,000	12,000	S	S	2,000	S	D
Very dissatisfied	24,000	2,000	S	S	D	D	D	D	D
Engineers	2,263,000	410,000	530,000	355,000	255,000	180,000	185,000	135,000	214,000
Very satisfied	1,052,000	176,000	224,000	171,000	116,000	89,000	85,000	73,000	120,000
Somewhat satisfied	1,031,000	189,000	250,000	164,000	118,000	83,000	86,000	54,000	85,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	144,000	38,000	41,000	17,000	17,000	5,000	11,000	6,000	8,000
Very dissatisfied	37,000	7,000	15,000	4,000	3,000	2,000	S	S	S

TABLE 3-4
Employed college graduates, by sex, major occupation, job satisfaction, and years since highest degree: 2023

(Number)

Sex, occupation, and job satisfaction	Total	Years since highest degree ^a							
		< 5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	≥ 35
S&E-related occupations	11,253,000	2,183,000	2,410,000	1,808,000	1,238,000	1,033,000	827,000	672,000	1,082,000
Very satisfied	4,965,000	786,000	969,000	767,000	538,000	477,000	425,000	351,000	652,000
Somewhat satisfied	5,229,000	1,141,000	1,195,000	853,000	575,000	460,000	340,000	296,000	369,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	847,000	209,000	185,000	145,000	109,000	87,000	53,000	21,000	38,000
Very dissatisfied	212,000	47,000	61,000	43,000	16,000	8,000	10,000	S	24,000
Non-S&E occupations	36,097,000	4,488,000	6,298,000	5,668,000	4,969,000	3,816,000	3,324,000	2,739,000	4,793,000
Very satisfied	15,850,000	1,534,000	2,377,000	2,306,000	2,049,000	1,860,000	1,512,000	1,383,000	2,828,000
Somewhat satisfied	16,437,000	2,342,000	3,063,000	2,681,000	2,404,000	1,636,000	1,484,000	1,151,000	1,677,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	2,883,000	430,000	631,000	494,000	394,000	257,000	264,000	163,000	248,000
Very dissatisfied	926,000	181,000	228,000	187,000	122,000	62,000	64,000	42,000	40,000
Female	29,603,000	4,745,000	5,894,000	4,868,000	3,942,000	2,907,000	2,503,000	1,855,000	2,888,000
Very satisfied	12,721,000	1,699,000	2,296,000	2,015,000	1,652,000	1,355,000	1,070,000	936,000	1,699,000
Somewhat satisfied	13,783,000	2,474,000	2,865,000	2,312,000	1,880,000	1,302,000	1,141,000	789,000	1,021,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	2,338,000	420,000	534,000	388,000	322,000	209,000	218,000	101,000	145,000
Very dissatisfied	761,000	152,000	199,000	154,000	88,000	42,000	74,000	28,000	24,000
S&E occupations	2,586,000	546,000	632,000	407,000	324,000	201,000	188,000	132,000	155,000
Very satisfied	1,158,000	228,000	275,000	177,000	134,000	101,000	88,000	70,000	84,000
Somewhat satisfied	1,164,000	264,000	287,000	184,000	152,000	84,000	79,000	53,000	61,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	203,000	41,000	57,000	34,000	28,000	13,000	11,000	9,000	S
Very dissatisfied	61,000	13,000	13,000	S	10,000	4,000	S	D	D
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	405,000	104,000	94,000	67,000	40,000	29,000	24,000	23,000	24,000
Very satisfied	186,000	51,000	40,000	23,000	15,000	14,000	12,000	18,000	14,000
Somewhat satisfied	186,000	45,000	42,000	40,000	22,000	12,000	11,000	5,000	10,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	24,000	4,000	10,000	4,000	3,000	2,000	S	*	D
Very dissatisfied	9,000	S	S	D	D	D	D	D	D
Computer and mathematical scientists	1,214,000	185,000	296,000	192,000	177,000	105,000	105,000	62,000	92,000
Very satisfied	531,000	69,000	130,000	83,000	72,000	54,000	43,000	30,000	50,000
Somewhat satisfied	555,000	99,000	134,000	89,000	81,000	44,000	48,000	24,000	35,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	104,000	S	26,000	16,000	18,000	7,000	S	S	S
Very dissatisfied	24,000	S	6,000	3,000	S	D	D	D	D
Physical and related scientists	160,000	39,000	40,000	27,000	18,000	10,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Very satisfied	65,000	14,000	14,000	12,000	9,000	4,000	6,000	2,000	4,000
Somewhat satisfied	78,000	20,000	21,000	11,000	8,000	5,000	3,000	6,000	5,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	12,000	4,000	3,000	S	S	S	D	D	D
Very dissatisfied	5,000	D	S	S	D	D	D	D	D

TABLE 3-4
Employed college graduates, by sex, major occupation, job satisfaction, and years since highest degree: 2023

(Number)

Sex, occupation, and job satisfaction	Total	Years since highest degree ^a							
		< 5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	≥ 35
Social and related scientists	398,000	106,000	92,000	68,000	51,000	23,000	22,000	23,000	13,000
Very satisfied	177,000	42,000	42,000	30,000	21,000	11,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Somewhat satisfied	171,000	54,000	35,000	22,000	26,000	10,000	9,000	S	3,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	35,000	8,000	12,000	9,000	S	S	S	D	D
Very dissatisfied	16,000	2,000	3,000	D	D	D	D	D	D
Engineers	409,000	111,000	111,000	53,000	38,000	34,000	29,000	16,000	17,000
Very satisfied	200,000	52,000	49,000	29,000	17,000	18,000	17,000	10,000	7,000
Somewhat satisfied	174,000	46,000	54,000	22,000	16,000	13,000	9,000	6,000	9,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	28,000	S	6,000	2,000	3,000	2,000	D	D	D
Very dissatisfied	7,000	D	S	D	D	D	D	D	D
S&E-related occupations	6,669,000	1,435,000	1,541,000	1,107,000	678,000	565,000	441,000	360,000	542,000
Very satisfied	2,839,000	467,000	625,000	457,000	295,000	252,000	229,000	192,000	323,000
Somewhat satisfied	3,149,000	765,000	756,000	534,000	314,000	258,000	173,000	154,000	196,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	551,000	168,000	116,000	94,000	60,000	51,000	31,000	11,000	19,000
Very dissatisfied	130,000	35,000	44,000	23,000	S	S	S	D	D
Non-S&E occupations	20,349,000	2,765,000	3,720,000	3,355,000	2,940,000	2,141,000	1,874,000	1,363,000	2,191,000
Very satisfied	8,724,000	1,004,000	1,396,000	1,381,000	1,223,000	1,002,000	753,000	674,000	1,292,000
Somewhat satisfied	9,470,000	1,445,000	1,822,000	1,594,000	1,414,000	960,000	889,000	582,000	764,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	1,584,000	211,000	361,000	260,000	234,000	145,000	175,000	81,000	118,000
Very dissatisfied	570,000	105,000	142,000	120,000	70,000	34,000	S	26,000	18,000
Male	26,458,000	3,495,000	4,837,000	3,986,000	3,378,000	2,705,000	2,345,000	2,062,000	3,649,000
Very satisfied	11,987,000	1,278,000	1,904,000	1,640,000	1,420,000	1,349,000	1,196,000	1,052,000	2,148,000
Somewhat satisfied	11,909,000	1,762,000	2,329,000	1,884,000	1,629,000	1,146,000	994,000	877,000	1,286,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	2,036,000	342,000	472,000	362,000	263,000	173,000	138,000	113,000	173,000
Very dissatisfied	526,000	112,000	131,000	100,000	65,000	38,000	17,000	20,000	43,000
S&E occupations	6,126,000	1,023,000	1,390,000	972,000	789,000	563,000	509,000	373,000	507,000
Very satisfied	2,736,000	429,000	579,000	404,000	352,000	265,000	241,000	184,000	282,000
Somewhat satisfied	2,861,000	489,000	649,000	477,000	378,000	268,000	232,000	167,000	201,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	441,000	82,000	134,000	77,000	54,000	24,000	27,000	20,000	23,000
Very dissatisfied	88,000	23,000	28,000	13,000	6,000	6,000	8,000	1,000	2,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	408,000	78,000	100,000	63,000	38,000	32,000	38,000	21,000	38,000
Very satisfied	177,000	40,000	41,000	19,000	12,000	11,000	16,000	13,000	25,000
Somewhat satisfied	196,000	32,000	49,000	37,000	23,000	19,000	16,000	8,000	11,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	29,000	5,000	9,000	6,000	2,000	1,000	S	*	S
Very dissatisfied	6,000	*	1,000	S	D	S	D	D	D

TABLE 3-4

Employed college graduates, by sex, major occupation, job satisfaction, and years since highest degree: 2023

(Number)

Sex, occupation, and job satisfaction	Total	Years since highest degree ^a							
		< 5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	≥ 35
Computer and mathematical scientists	3,360,000	540,000	753,000	549,000	487,000	346,000	278,000	202,000	204,000
Very satisfied	1,473,000	212,000	322,000	224,000	226,000	164,000	138,000	90,000	97,000
Somewhat satisfied	1,586,000	269,000	343,000	267,000	227,000	162,000	125,000	100,000	92,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	259,000	41,000	77,000	52,000	30,000	18,000	14,000	12,000	14,000
Very dissatisfied	41,000	17,000	11,000	5,000	S	S	D	D	D
Physical and related scientists	270,000	57,000	62,000	29,000	22,000	25,000	20,000	22,000	34,000
Very satisfied	125,000	25,000	22,000	11,000	9,000	13,000	9,000	13,000	23,000
Somewhat satisfied	127,000	26,000	34,000	16,000	12,000	10,000	10,000	8,000	11,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	15,000	5,000	5,000	1,000	1,000	S	S	D	*
Very dissatisfied	4,000	D	D	S	D	D	D	D	D
Social and related scientists	233,000	50,000	56,000	29,000	25,000	14,000	17,000	7,000	34,000
Very satisfied	109,000	29,000	20,000	8,000	6,000	7,000	10,000	6,000	24,000
Somewhat satisfied	95,000	18,000	27,000	16,000	12,000	7,000	4,000	1,000	9,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	22,000	4,000	7,000	3,000	S	D	D	D	D
Very dissatisfied	8,000	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Engineers	1,855,000	298,000	419,000	303,000	217,000	146,000	156,000	119,000	197,000
Very satisfied	853,000	123,000	175,000	142,000	99,000	71,000	68,000	63,000	113,000
Somewhat satisfied	857,000	143,000	196,000	142,000	103,000	70,000	77,000	49,000	77,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	116,000	27,000	35,000	15,000	14,000	3,000	9,000	6,000	7,000
Very dissatisfied	29,000	S	13,000	4,000	2,000	1,000	S	S	S
S&E-related occupations	4,584,000	748,000	868,000	701,000	560,000	468,000	386,000	312,000	540,000
Very satisfied	2,125,000	319,000	345,000	311,000	242,000	225,000	196,000	159,000	329,000
Somewhat satisfied	2,080,000	376,000	438,000	320,000	262,000	202,000	167,000	142,000	173,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	296,000	41,000	68,000	51,000	49,000	36,000	21,000	10,000	19,000
Very dissatisfied	82,000	12,000	17,000	20,000	7,000	S	2,000	S	18,000
Non-S&E occupations	15,748,000	1,724,000	2,578,000	2,314,000	2,029,000	1,674,000	1,450,000	1,377,000	2,602,000
Very satisfied	7,125,000	531,000	980,000	925,000	826,000	859,000	759,000	709,000	1,536,000
Somewhat satisfied	6,967,000	897,000	1,241,000	1,088,000	990,000	676,000	595,000	568,000	913,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	1,299,000	219,000	271,000	234,000	161,000	112,000	89,000	83,000	131,000
Very dissatisfied	356,000	77,000	86,000	67,000	52,000	27,000	7,000	17,000	22,000

* = 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.

^a Years since highest degree is calculated as the difference between academic years of highest degree attainment and survey reference year and therefore is a whole number.

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.