

TABLE 5

Characteristics of most recent vocational certificates among U.S. STEM and non-STEM workers, by education level and occupation: 2022

(Number)

Characteristics	Total	STEM occupation			Non-STEM occupation
		S&E	S&E related	STEM middle skill	
All education levels, total U.S. population ages 16–75	152,524,000	10,318,000	12,461,000	12,963,000	116,782,000
Earned a vocational certificate					
Yes	30,786,000	1,665,000	2,942,000	3,951,000	22,227,000
No	121,738,000	8,653,000	9,519,000	9,011,000	94,555,000
Uses their most recent vocational certificate used for their main job					
Yes	16,170,000	948,000	2,186,000	2,878,000	10,159,000
No	14,616,000	717,000	756,000	1,073,000	12,069,000
Reasons for getting the most recent vocational certification ^a					
Required for the job I was already doing	7,031,000	354,000	634,000	993,000	5,051,000
Required to get a job I wanted	16,121,000	853,000	1,856,000	1,867,000	11,544,000
Allowed me to do more in the job I was already doing	11,764,000	627,000	1,093,000	1,778,000	8,265,000
Allowed me to earn more money	15,629,000	978,000	1,691,000	2,224,000	10,736,000
Allowed me to move up in my job	9,441,000	518,000	1,217,000	1,533,000	6,173,000
It was a new or emerging area in my field	6,204,000	482,000	607,000	679,000	4,436,000
I was pursuing my passion	17,117,000	968,000	1,655,000	2,118,000	12,376,000
Exploring potential interest in a new job or field	16,910,000	1,052,000	1,372,000	1,896,000	12,589,000
Someone recommended this field or job to me	9,320,000	649,000	778,000	1,359,000	6,535,000
It was free or inexpensive opportunity	9,689,000	653,000	782,000	1,477,000	6,778,000
Other	2,096,000	S	144,000	152,000	1,643,000
Organization that issued the most recent vocational certificate					
A high school	1,996,000	47,000	71,000	238,000	1,640,000
A vocational, trade, or business school	12,550,000	499,000	885,000	1,908,000	9,257,000
A community or technical college	8,217,000	362,000	1,147,000	1,213,000	5,495,000
Another college or university	3,495,000	333,000	471,000	243,000	2,449,000
Someplace else	4,527,000	424,000	367,000	350,000	3,385,000
Financial support to obtaining the most recent vocational certificate ^a					
Self (my own money)	16,864,000	903,000	1,797,000	1,810,000	12,354,000
Loans from spouse, partner, or family member	2,779,000	165,000	362,000	292,000	1,960,000
Money from spouse, partner, or family member (does not need to be repaid)	4,195,000	358,000	516,000	303,000	3,018,000
Financial support or reimbursement from employer	5,117,000	402,000	439,000	930,000	3,346,000
Loans from government or private lenders	6,376,000	310,000	700,000	702,000	4,664,000
Grants or scholarships from someplace other than employer	4,632,000	180,000	567,000	647,000	3,239,000
Financial support from a professional association	1,016,000	D	114,000	S	654,000
Other	2,904,000	129,000	213,000	370,000	2,192,000
Length of time to earn the most recent vocational certificate					
2 full-time school weeks	4,002,000	204,000	286,000	510,000	3,002,000
More than 2 weeks but less than 3 months	5,779,000	341,000	295,000	538,000	4,605,000
3 full-time school months but less than a full-time academic year	6,127,000	438,000	404,000	538,000	4,747,000
1 full-time academic year or more	14,878,000	682,000	1,956,000	2,366,000	9,873,000
When the most recent vocational certificate was earned					
1–5 years ago	8,825,000	514,000	740,000	1,103,000	6,468,000
6–10 years ago	4,458,000	319,000	506,000	416,000	3,217,000
More than 10 years ago	16,089,000	784,000	1,641,000	2,246,000	11,418,000
Less than a bachelor's degree	93,782,000	2,724,000	4,549,000	10,956,000	75,552,000
Earned a vocational certificate					

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Yes	23,717,000	803,000	1,867,000	3,602,000	17,445,000
No	70,065,000	1,921,000	2,682,000	7,354,000	58,108,000
Uses their most recent vocational certificate used for their main job					
Yes	12,096,000	453,000	1,492,000	2,649,000	7,502,000
No	11,621,000	350,000	375,000	953,000	9,943,000
Reasons for getting the most recent vocational certification ^a					
Required for the job I was already doing	5,364,000	148,000	459,000	895,000	3,862,000
Required to get a job I wanted	12,476,000	357,000	1,192,000	1,684,000	9,243,000
Allowed me to do more in the job I was already doing	8,635,000	246,000	774,000	1,628,000	5,987,000
Allowed me to earn more money	11,974,000	466,000	1,198,000	2,008,000	8,302,000
Allowed me to move up in my job	7,032,000	212,000	887,000	1,429,000	4,504,000
It was a new or emerging area in my field	4,437,000	179,000	434,000	631,000	3,192,000
I was pursuing my passion	12,970,000	436,000	1,128,000	1,993,000	9,413,000
Exploring potential interest in a new job or field	12,825,000	502,000	927,000	1,728,000	9,669,000
Someone recommended this field or job to me	6,748,000	318,000	516,000	1,203,000	4,711,000
It was free or inexpensive opportunity	7,338,000	252,000	553,000	1,345,000	5,188,000
Other	1,659,000	S	87,000	S	1,394,000
Organization that issued the most recent vocational certificate					
A high school	1,868,000	D	63,000	232,000	1,569,000
A vocational, trade, or business school	10,937,000	398,000	661,000	1,806,000	8,073,000
A community or technical college	6,342,000	170,000	688,000	1,131,000	4,352,000
Another college or university	1,476,000	D	215,000	190,000	1,006,000
Someplace else	3,094,000	165,000	241,000	242,000	2,445,000
Financial support to obtaining the most recent vocational certificate ^a					
Self (my own money)	12,511,000	546,000	1,040,000	1,562,000	9,364,000
Loans from spouse, partner, or family member	2,205,000	S	312,000	267,000	1,536,000
Money from spouse, partner, or family member (does not need to be repaid)	3,394,000	253,000	352,000	287,000	2,502,000
Financial support or reimbursement from employer	3,497,000	S	240,000	893,000	2,215,000
Loans from government or private lenders	4,911,000	104,000	426,000	667,000	3,714,000
Grants or scholarships from someplace other than employer	3,834,000	87,000	361,000	638,000	2,749,000
Financial support from a professional association	840,000	D	S	S	537,000
Other	2,425,000	D	118,000	364,000	1,899,000
Length of time to earn the most recent vocational certificate					
2 full-time school weeks	3,021,000	103,000	137,000	469,000	2,312,000
More than 2 weeks but less than 3 months	4,516,000	193,000	201,000	417,000	3,705,000
3 full-time school months but less than a full-time academic year	4,477,000	173,000	198,000	494,000	3,612,000
1 full-time academic year or more	11,702,000	333,000	1,331,000	2,222,000	7,815,000
When the most recent vocational certificate was earned					
1–5 years ago	6,942,000	182,000	536,000	1,061,000	5,164,000
6–10 years ago	3,185,000	184,000	292,000	330,000	2,380,000
More than 10 years ago	12,633,000	412,000	1,029,000	2,043,000	9,149,000
Bachelor's degree or higher	58,742,000	7,594,000	7,912,000	2,006,000	41,230,000
Earned a vocational certificate					

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		S&E	S&E related	STEM middle skill	
Yes	7,069,000	862,000	1,076,000	349,000	4,782,000
No	51,673,000	6,732,000	6,836,000	1,657,000	36,448,000
Uses their most recent vocational certificate used for their main job					
Yes	4,074,000	494,000	694,000	229,000	2,657,000
No	2,995,000	368,000	381,000	120,000	2,126,000
Reasons for getting the most recent vocational certification ^a					
Required for the job I was already doing	1,667,000	206,000	175,000	97,000	1,189,000
Required to get a job I wanted	3,645,000	497,000	664,000	183,000	2,302,000
Allowed me to do more in the job I was already doing	3,129,000	381,000	320,000	151,000	2,278,000
Allowed me to earn more money	3,655,000	512,000	493,000	215,000	2,434,000
Allowed me to move up in my job	2,409,000	306,000	330,000	103,000	1,669,000
It was a new or emerging area in my field	1,767,000	303,000	173,000	48,000	1,244,000
I was pursuing my passion	4,147,000	532,000	527,000	125,000	2,963,000
Exploring potential interest in a new job or field	4,085,000	551,000	446,000	168,000	2,920,000
Someone recommended this field or job to me	2,572,000	331,000	261,000	156,000	1,824,000
It was free or inexpensive opportunity	2,352,000	401,000	230,000	S	1,590,000
Other	436,000	D	57,000	D	249,000
Organization that issued the most recent vocational certificate					
A high school	128,000	43,000	D	D	71,000
A vocational, trade, or business school	1,613,000	101,000	224,000	103,000	1,185,000
A community or technical college	1,876,000	192,000	460,000	81,000	1,143,000
Another college or university	2,020,000	267,000	257,000	52,000	1,443,000
Someplace else	1,433,000	259,000	126,000	S	940,000
Financial support to obtaining the most recent vocational certificate ^a					
Self (my own money)	4,352,000	357,000	757,000	249,000	2,990,000
Loans from spouse, partner, or family member	574,000	S	50,000	D	424,000
Money from spouse, partner, or family member (does not need to be repaid)	801,000	105,000	165,000	D	516,000
Financial support or reimbursement from employer	1,620,000	252,000	199,000	37,000	1,132,000
Loans from government or private lenders	1,465,000	206,000	274,000	35,000	950,000
Grants or scholarships from someplace other than employer	798,000	92,000	206,000	D	490,000
Financial support from a professional association	176,000	D	33,000	D	118,000
Other	480,000	86,000	S	D	293,000
Length of time to earn the most recent vocational certificate					
2 full-time school weeks	981,000	101,000	150,000	D	691,000
More than 2 weeks but less than 3 months	1,263,000	147,000	95,000	S	900,000
3 full-time school months but less than a full-time academic year	1,649,000	265,000	206,000	44,000	1,134,000
1 full-time academic year or more	3,176,000	349,000	625,000	144,000	2,057,000
When the most recent vocational certificate was earned					
1–5 years ago	1,882,000	331,000	204,000	42,000	1,305,000
6–10 years ago	1,273,000	136,000	214,000	86,000	837,000
More than 10 years ago	3,456,000	372,000	612,000	203,000	2,270,000

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information. S = suppressed for reliability; coefficient of variation exceeds publication standards of 50%.

S&E = science and engineering; STEM = science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

^a Some categories allow for multiple responses; therefore, summing subcategory counts may result in greater than the total number.

Note(s):

The National Training, Education, and Workforce Survey Pilot data tables are designated as an experimental statistical product. These estimates are experimental statistics and may not meet all the quality standards of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics. Users should take caution when using the estimates presented in these tables. Additional information about the experimental statistical product designation can be found in the "Technical Notes" accompanying these tables.

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. The skilled technical workforce comprises workers in STEM occupations (S&E, S&E-related, and middle-skill occupations) who do not have an educational attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Training, Education, and Workforce Survey Pilot, 2022.