

TABLE S3-1

Measures and size of U.S. S&E workforce: 2017

(Number)

Measure	Education coverage	Data source	Individuals
Occupation			
Employed in S&E occupations	All education levels	2017 BLS OES Survey	6,889,000
Employed in S&E occupations	Bachelor's and above	2017 NCSES/NSF NSCG	6,769,000
Employed in S&E occupations	All education levels	2017 Census Bureau ACS	7,496,000
Employed in S&E occupations	Bachelor's and above	2017 Census Bureau ACS	5,634,000
Education			
At least one degree in S&E field	Bachelor's and above	2017 NCSES/NSF NSCG	24,521,000
Highest degree in S&E field	Bachelor's and above	2017 NCSES/NSF NSCG	18,339,000
Job closely related to highest degree	Bachelor's and above	2017 NCSES/NSF NSCG	6,932,000
S&E occupation	Bachelor's and above	2017 NCSES/NSF NSCG	3,619,000
Other occupation	Bachelor's and above	2017 NCSES/NSF NSCG	3,313,000
Job somewhat related to highest degree	Bachelor's and above	2017 NCSES/NSF NSCG	4,302,000
S&E occupation	Bachelor's and above	2017 NCSES/NSF NSCG	1,152,000
Other occupation	Bachelor's and above	2017 NCSES/NSF NSCG	3,151,000
Job requires S&E technical expertise at bachelor's level			
In one or more S&E fields	Bachelor's and above	2017 NCSES/NSF NSCG	20,935,000
Engineering, computer science, mathematics, or natural sciences	Bachelor's and above	2017 NCSES/NSF NSCG	15,592,000
Social sciences	Bachelor's and above	2017 NCSES/NSF NSCG	9,269,000

ACS = American Community Survey; BLS = Bureau of Labor Statistics; NSCG = National Survey of College Graduates; NCSES/NSF = National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Science Foundation; OES = Occupational Employment Statistics.

Note(s)

Estimates of the S&E workforce vary across the example surveys because of differences in the scope of the data collection (the NSCG collects data from individuals with bachelor's degrees or higher only); because of the survey respondent (the NSCG collects data from individuals, the OES Survey collects data from establishments, and the ACS collects data from households); or because of the level of detail collected on an occupation, which aids in classifying a reported occupation into a standard occupational category. All these differences can affect the estimates. For example, the NSCG estimate of the number of workers in S&E occupations includes postsecondary teachers of S&E fields; however, postsecondary teachers in ACS are grouped under a single occupation code, regardless of field, and are therefore not included in the ACS estimate of the number of workers in S&E occupations. The totals for at least one degree in S&E field and highest degree in S&E field include individuals who are employed and those who are unemployed and out of the labor force. The OES data do not include military. Values are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Source(s)

Bureau of Labor and Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Survey, 2017; Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2017, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS); National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Science Foundation, National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG), 2017.