

Table SLBR-7

Unemployment rates of scientists and engineers, by level of highest degree and broad occupational category: Selected years, 2003–19

(Percent)

Degree and occupation	2003	2006	2008	2010	2013	2015	2017	2019
All scientists and engineers	3.2	2.5	3.1	4.3	3.8	3.3	2.7	2.6
Highest degree level								
Bachelor's	3.4	2.9	3.5	4.9	4.2	4.0	3.1	3.1
Master's	3.4	2.3	2.9	4.1	3.7	2.8	2.6	2.2
Professional	1.9	1.1	1.8	2.7	2.3	1.1	1.0	1.6
Doctorate	2.3	1.6	2.0	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.4	1.6
Occupation								
Computer and mathematical scientists	3.7	2.5	3.0	3.7	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.6
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life scientists	2.4	2.2	2.4	3.7	3.3	4.1	4.2	3.9
Physical and related scientists	2.8	2.3	3.0	3.3	4.5	3.2	2.1	2.6
Social and related scientists	1.6	2.5	2.1	2.3	3.3	3.6	3.0	3.1
Engineers	3.8	2.4	2.8	4.6	2.8	2.1	2.6	2.7
S&E-related occupations	2.0	1.5	1.9	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.9	1.9
Non-S&E occupations	3.8	3.0	3.9	5.6	5.0	4.3	3.0	2.9

STEM = science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Note(s):

Scientists and engineers include those with one or more S&E or S&E-related degrees at the bachelor's level or higher or those who have only a non-S&E degree at the bachelor's level or higher and are employed in an S&E or S&E-related occupation. For data on unemployment rates by occupation, calculations assume that unemployed individuals are seeking further employment in their most recent occupation. Non-S&E occupations include middle-skill and non-STEM occupations.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT), 2003, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2013, and National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG), 2015, 2017, 2019.

Science and Engineering Indicators