TABLE 3-1

Employed college graduates, by level of highest degree, minor occupation, and primary work activity: 2021

(Number)

Level of highest degree and occupation	Total	Primary work activity					
		Computer applications	Design	Management and administration[a]	Research and development[b]	Teaching	Other[c]
All degree levels	51,764,000	2,911,000	1,468,000	22,217,000	3,893,000	6,634,000	14,640,000
S&E occupations	7,894,000	2,224,000	769,000	1,629,000	1,834,000	428,000	1,009,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	794,000	10,000	7,000	125,000	490,000	67,000	94,000
Agricultural and food scientists	74,000	D	D	13,000	48,000	D	12,000
Biological and medical scientists	572,000	10,000	6,000	86,000	390,000	8,000	72,000
Environmental life scientists	45,000	D	*	19,000	17,000	D	8,000
Postsecondary teachers - life and related sciences	103,000	D	D	6,000	36,000	59,000	S
Computer and mathematical scientists	4,031,000	2,077,000	244,000	722,000	507,000	125,000	357,000
Computer and information scientists	3,627,000	2,024,000	212,000	651,000	385,000	33,000	323,000
Mathematical scientists	293,000	51,000	32,000	65,000	104,000	S	34,000
Postsecondary teachers - computer and math sciences	111,000	2,000	D	5,000	17,000	86,000	D
Physical and related scientists	408,000	9,000	6,000	65,000	199,000	59,000	70,000
Chemists, except biochemists	114,000	S	1,000	18,000	60,000	1,000	32,000
Earth, atmospheric, and ocean scientists	91,000	3,000	S	19,000	49,000	D	18,000
Physicists	41,000	2,000	1,000	S	33,000	D	3,000
Other physical and related scientists, including astronomers	82,000	S	2,000	22,000	39,000	D	17,000
Postsecondary teachers - physical and related sciences	80,000	D	D	4,000	18,000	57,000	S
Social and related scientists	712,000	13,000	9,000	110,000	197,000	138,000	245,000
Economists	47,000	S	1,000	8,000	23,000	D	8,000
Political scientists	39,000	D	D	15,000	11,000	D	12,000
Psychologists	233,000	D	D	21,000	24,000	2,000	183,000
Anthropologists	13,000	D	D	4,000	8,000	D	1,000
Other social and related scientists	191,000	4,000	6,000	55,000	88,000	S	37,000
Postsecondary teachers - social and related sciences	188,000	D	D	7,000	43,000	134,000	4,000
Engineers	1,949,000	115,000	503,000	608,000	442,000	38,000	242,000
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineers	127,000	8,000	32,000	32,000	45,000	D	10,000
Chemical engineers	80,000	5,000	19,000	20,000	20,000	*	15,000
Civil, architectural, and sanitary engineers	303,000	3,000	94,000	116,000	39,000	D	48,000
Electrical and computer hardware engineers	399,000	62,000	109,000	80,000	108,000	S	39,000
Industrial engineers	96,000	6,000	18,000	45,000	6,000	D	20,000
Mechanical engineers	388,000	7,000	155,000	94,000	87,000	1,000	44,000
Other engineers	501,000	23,000	74,000	212,000	123,000	1,000	67,000
Postsecondary teachers - engineering	55,000	D	D	8,000	12,000	33,000	*
S&E-related occupations	9,522,000	330,000	248,000	1,665,000	568,000	1,138,000	5,573,000
Health-related occupations	6,136,000	32,000	10,000	560,000	248,000	245,000	5,039,000
S&E managers	1,135,000	62,000	37,000	789,000	45,000	2,000	200,000

TABLE 3-1

Employed college graduates, by level of highest degree, minor occupation, and primary work activity: 2021

(Number)

Level of highest degree and occupation	Total	Primary work activity					
		Computer applications	Design	Management and administration[a]	Research and development[b]	Teaching	Other[c]
S&E precollege teachers	915,000	D	D	18,000	S	887,000	3,000
S&E technicians and technologists	1,088,000	224,000	116,000	237,000	237,000	3,000	271,000
Other S&E-related occupations	248,000	12,000	85,000	61,000	30,000	D	59,000
Non-S&E occupations	34,349,000	357,000	451,000	18,923,000	1,491,000	5,068,000	8,058,000
Non-S&E managers	4,985,000	62,000	73,000	4,122,000	189,000	32,000	506,000
Management-related occupations	7,868,000	128,000	130,000	6,042,000	385,000	94,000	1,088,000
Non-S&E precollege teachers	3,919,000	D	D	129,000	45,000	3,686,000	59,000
Non-S&E postsecondary teachers	559,000	D	D	37,000	38,000	453,000	30,000
Social services and related occupations	2,072,000	S	S	406,000	66,000	206,000	1,388,000
Sales and marketing occupations	4,448,000	16,000	64,000	3,742,000	122,000	S	483,000
Art, humanities, and related occupations	1,408,000	41,000	105,000	381,000	200,000	47,000	634,000
Other non-S&E occupations	9,089,000	104,000	76,000	4,064,000	447,000	529,000	3,870,000
Bachelor's	31,688,000	1,943,000	958,000	15,513,000	2,024,000	2,967,000	8,284,000
S&E occupations	4,438,000	1,458,000	507,000	1,028,000	793,000	77,000	575,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	295,000	5,000	3,000	69,000	158,000	13,000	46,000
Agricultural and food scientists	34,000	D	D	10,000	16,000	D	8,000
Biological and medical scientists	216,000	4,000	3,000	43,000	127,000	4,000	35,000
Environmental life scientists	26,000	D	*	17,000	6,000	D	3,000
Postsecondary teachers - life and related sciences	18,000	D	D	D	9,000	9,000	D
Computer and mathematical scientists	2,574,000	1,380,000	157,000	467,000	268,000	35,000	266,000
Computer and information scientists	2,438,000	1,361,000	139,000	434,000	234,000	24,000	247,000
Mathematical scientists	124,000	19,000	18,000	34,000	33,000	D	19,000
Postsecondary teachers - computer and math sciences	11,000	D	D	D	1,000	10,000	D
Physical and related scientists	177,000	5,000	2,000	36,000	77,000	9,000	49,000
Chemists, except biochemists	65,000	*	*	12,000	26,000	D	26,000
Earth, atmospheric, and ocean scientists	40,000	2,000	*	9,000	18,000	D	11,000
Physicists	11,000	D	D	*	9,000	D	D
Other physical and related scientists, including astronomers	47,000	S	D	13,000	20,000	D	11,000
Postsecondary teachers - physical and related sciences	14,000	D	D	D	4,000	8,000	D
Social and related scientists	170,000	S	S	47,000	57,000	11,000	49,000
Economists	9,000	D	D	S	3,000	D	S
Political scientists	10,000	D	D	S	S	D	S
Psychologists	38,000	D	D	S	8,000	D	15,000
Anthropologists	3,000	D	D	S	2,000	D	*

TABLE 3-1

Employed college graduates, by level of highest degree, minor occupation, and primary work activity: 2021

(Number)

Level of highest degree and occupation	Total	Primary work activity					
		Computer applications	Design	Management and administration[a]	Research and development[b]	Teaching	Other[c]
Other social and related scientists	91,000	S	D	26,000	35,000	D	26,000
Postsecondary teachers - social and related sciences	18,000	D	D	D	S	11,000	D
Engineers	1,222,000	66,000	341,000	409,000	233,000	9,000	165,000
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineers	66,000	5,000	20,000	16,000	19,000	D	7,000
Chemical engineers	53,000	3,000	15,000	13,000	10,000	D	12,000
Civil, architectural, and sanitary engineers	194,000	2,000	58,000	80,000	24,000	D	29,000
Electrical and computer hardware engineers	242,000	36,000	70,000	50,000	57,000	D	28,000
Industrial engineers	62,000	2,000	13,000	30,000	3,000	D	15,000
Mechanical engineers	274,000	4,000	114,000	71,000	51,000	1,000	33,000
Other engineers	323,000	14,000	50,000	149,000	68,000	D	42,000
Postsecondary teachers - engineering	7,000	D	D	D	D	4,000	D
S&E-related occupations	5,031,000	219,000	167,000	978,000	316,000	463,000	2,888,000
Health-related occupations	3,160,000	28,000	6,000	354,000	130,000	97,000	2,544,000
S&E managers	553,000	34,000	23,000	400,000	13,000	D	83,000
S&E precollege teachers	377,000	D	D	9,000	S	363,000	D
S&E technicians and technologists	784,000	147,000	89,000	170,000	151,000	S	225,000
Other S&E-related occupations	157,000	10,000	49,000	45,000	17,000	D	35,000
Non-S&E occupations	22,219,000	265,000	284,000	13,507,000	914,000	2,427,000	4,821,000
Non-S&E managers	2,978,000	38,000	45,000	2,482,000	94,000	7,000	312,000
Management-related occupations	5,231,000	85,000	72,000	4,047,000	236,000	75,000	715,000
Non-S&E precollege teachers	1,934,000	D	D	68,000	S	1,822,000	27,000
Non-S&E postsecondary teachers	79,000	D	D	9,000	*	66,000	S
Social services and related occupations	897,000	D	D	230,000	39,000	76,000	550,000
Sales and marketing occupations	3,652,000	11,000	52,000	3,069,000	96,000	S	414,000
Art, humanities, and related occupations	1,008,000	38,000	58,000	295,000	127,000	26,000	464,000
Other non-S&E occupations	6,438,000	89,000	56,000	3,306,000	304,000	346,000	2,336,000
Master's	14,688,000	882,000	465,000	5,847,000	1,100,000	3,042,000	3,353,000
S&E occupations	2,411,000	700,000	236,000	494,000	544,000	146,000	291,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	188,000	3,000	2,000	26,000	115,000	16,000	27,000
Agricultural and food scientists	23,000	D	D	1,000	18,000	D	4,000
Biological and medical scientists	133,000	3,000	2,000	22,000	86,000	2,000	18,000
Environmental life scientists	16,000	D	D	3,000	S	D	3,000
Postsecondary teachers - life and related sciences	16,000	D	D	D	1,000	13,000	D
Computer and mathematical scientists	1,251,000	645,000	77,000	229,000	169,000	54,000	78,000

TABLE 3-1

Employed college graduates, by level of highest degree, minor occupation, and primary work activity: 2021

(Number)

Level of highest degree and occupation	Total	Primary work activity					
		Computer applications	Design	Management and administration[a]	Research and development[b]	Teaching	Other[c]
Computer and information scientists	1,072,000	615,000	65,000	199,000	118,000	9,000	66,000
Mathematical scientists	133,000	28,000	11,000	28,000	49,000	S	12,000
Postsecondary teachers - computer and math sciences	46,000	D	D	1,000	S	40,000	D
Physical and related scientists	105,000	1,000	2,000	18,000	51,000	16,000	16,000
Chemists, except biochemists	19,000	D	*	3,000	10,000	D	5,000
Earth, atmospheric, and ocean scientists	32,000	1,000	S	7,000	18,000	D	5,000
Physicists	10,000	D	D	D	8,000	D	S
Other physical and related scientists, including astronomers	25,000	D	D	7,000	12,000	D	5,000
Postsecondary teachers - physical and related sciences	19,000	D	D	D	3,000	16,000	D
Social and related scientists	283,000	S	4,000	46,000	71,000	48,000	103,000
Economists	23,000	S	*	S	8,000	D	3,000
Political scientists	21,000	D	D	4,000	7,000	D	8,000
Psychologists	96,000	D	D	4,000	10,000	1,000	81,000
Anthropologists	7,000	D	D	3,000	4,000	D	1,000
Other social and related scientists	81,000	S	4,000	28,000	37,000	S	9,000
Postsecondary teachers - social and related sciences	55,000	D	D	S	6,000	44,000	D
Engineers	584,000	42,000	150,000	174,000	138,000	12,000	68,000
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineers	53,000	2,000	11,000	14,000	21,000	D	4,000
Chemical engineers	18,000	S	3,000	7,000	4,000	D	3,000
Civil, architectural, and sanitary engineers	98,000	1,000	34,000	33,000	13,000	D	17,000
Electrical and computer hardware engineers	124,000	22,000	35,000	26,000	32,000	D	9,000
Industrial engineers	33,000	4,000	6,000	15,000	3,000	D	5,000
Mechanical engineers	99,000	2,000	39,000	22,000	27,000	D	10,000
Other engineers	146,000	9,000	22,000	56,000	37,000	*	21,000
Postsecondary teachers - engineering	13,000	D	D	D	S	11,000	D
S&E-related occupations	2,578,000	100,000	76,000	561,000	142,000	573,000	1,126,000
Health-related occupations	1,313,000	3,000	3,000	151,000	55,000	80,000	1,021,000
S&E managers	417,000	25,000	13,000	327,000	12,000	S	39,000
S&E precollege teachers	504,000	D	D	9,000	3,000	490,000	S
S&E technicians and technologists	257,000	70,000	25,000	59,000	60,000	1,000	42,000
Other S&E-related occupations	88,000	2,000	35,000	15,000	12,000	D	23,000
Non-S&E occupations	9,699,000	81,000	154,000	4,791,000	414,000	2,323,000	1,935,000
Non-S&E managers	1,668,000	19,000	23,000	1,413,000	58,000	20,000	135,000
Management-related occupations	2,370,000	38,000	53,000	1,840,000	120,000	15,000	304,000
Non-S&E precollege teachers	1,923,000	D	D	59,000	21,000	1,811,000	32,000
Non-S&E postsecondary teachers	231,000	D	D	14,000	6,000	187,000	23,000

TABLE 3-1

Employed college graduates, by level of highest degree, minor occupation, and primary work activity: 2021

(Number)

Level of highest degree and occupation	Total	Primary work activity					
		Computer applications	Design	Management and administration[a]	Research and development[b]	Teaching	Other[c]
Social services and related occupations	1,094,000	D	S	152,000	23,000	108,000	807,000
Sales and marketing occupations	714,000	S	12,000	605,000	21,000	D	61,000
Art, humanities, and related occupations	348,000	D	46,000	76,000	62,000	S	140,000
Other non-S&E occupations	1,351,000	13,000	18,000	632,000	103,000	151,000	434,000
Doctorate	2,141,000	80,000	40,000	408,000	681,000	515,000	416,000
S&E occupations	962,000	59,000	25,000	94,000	483,000	198,000	104,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	291,000	2,000	2,000	28,000	210,000	35,000	14,000
Agricultural and food scientists	17,000	D	D	2,000	14,000	D	S
Biological and medical scientists	206,000	2,000	1,000	20,000	170,000	1,000	12,000
Environmental life scientists	S	D	D	D	S	D	D
Postsecondary teachers - life and related sciences	65,000	D	D	6,000	25,000	34,000	D
Computer and mathematical scientists	185,000	46,000	8,000	21,000	67,000	36,000	7,000
Computer and information scientists	96,000	41,000	6,000	15,000	31,000	D	3,000
Mathematical scientists	35,000	4,000	3,000	2,000	22,000	D	3,000
Postsecondary teachers - computer and math sciences	53,000	D	D	4,000	14,000	35,000	D
Physical and related scientists	125,000	3,000	S	11,000	70,000	34,000	5,000
Chemists, except biochemists	30,000	D	D	3,000	24,000	D	2,000
Earth, atmospheric, and ocean scientists	17,000	S	D	S	13,000	D	S
Physicists	20,000	S	S	S	16,000	D	1,000
Other physical and related scientists, including astronomers	10,000	D	D	D	6,000	D	D
Postsecondary teachers - physical and related sciences	47,000	D	D	2,000	11,000	33,000	D
Social and related scientists	221,000	S	1,000	10,000	65,000	75,000	69,000
Economists	15,000	D	D	2,000	12,000	D	1,000
Political scientists	2,000	D	D	D	1,000	D	D
Psychologists	75,000	D	D	4,000	5,000	D	64,000
Anthropologists	3,000	D	D	D	2,000	D	D
Other social and related scientists	17,000	D	D	1,000	14,000	D	1,000
Postsecondary teachers - social and related sciences	110,000	D	D	3,000	31,000	74,000	2,000
Engineers	141,000	7,000	12,000	24,000	70,000	18,000	10,000
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineers	9,000	S	S	S	5,000	D	D
Chemical engineers	8,000	D	1,000	1,000	6,000	D	D
Civil, architectural, and sanitary engineers	10,000	D	2,000	3,000	3,000	D	3,000
Electrical and computer hardware engineers	32,000	3,000	5,000	4,000	19,000	D	2,000

TABLE 3-1

Employed college graduates, by level of highest degree, minor occupation, and primary work activity: 2021

(Number)

Level of highest degree and occupation	Total	Primary work activity					
		Computer applications	Design	Management and administration[a]	Research and development[b]	Teaching	Other[c]
Industrial engineers	1,000	D	D	D	D	D	D
Mechanical engineers	14,000	D	2,000	2,000	10,000	D	*
Other engineers	32,000	1,000	2,000	6,000	18,000	D	4,000
Postsecondary teachers - engineering	34,000	D	D	6,000	11,000	17,000	*
S&E-related occupations	374,000	11,000	6,000	60,000	74,000	53,000	169,000
Health-related occupations	237,000	D	D	15,000	32,000	29,000	159,000
S&E managers	63,000	3,000	2,000	39,000	16,000	D	5,000
S&E precollege teachers	25,000	D	D	D	D	24,000	S
S&E technicians and technologists	46,000	7,000	3,000	7,000	25,000	D	4,000
Other S&E-related occupations	2,000	D	D	D	S	D	D
Non-S&E occupations	805,000	10,000	10,000	254,000	124,000	264,000	143,000
Non-S&E managers	212,000	4,000	3,000	140,000	36,000	S	23,000
Management-related occupations	116,000	S	3,000	50,000	25,000	4,000	31,000
Non-S&E precollege teachers	27,000	D	D	S	D	24,000	D
Non-S&E postsecondary teachers	230,000	D	D	12,000	30,000	183,000	4,000
Social services and related occupations	62,000	D	D	16,000	D	18,000	23,000
Sales and marketing occupations	23,000	D	D	16,000	4,000	D	2,000
Art, humanities, and related occupations	38,000	D	D	S	8,000	D	22,000
Other non-S&E occupations	97,000	S	D	11,000	17,000	30,000	38,000
Professional	3,246,000	7,000	5,000	450,000	88,000	110,000	2,587,000
S&E occupations	82,000	6,000	S	13,000	15,000	8,000	39,000
S&E-related occupations	1,538,000	D	D	65,000	35,000	48,000	1,389,000
Non-S&E occupations	1,626,000	D	3,000	371,000	39,000	54,000	1,159,000

* = 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] 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.

[b] Research and development includes basic research, applied research, or development.

[c] Other work activities includes production, operations, maintenance, professional services, and other activities not broken out separately. "Design" is no longer included in the definition of "Other" and is now its own category.

Note(s):
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Source(s):
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Survey of College Graduates, 2021.