TABLE 3-2

Employed college graduates, by employment sector, minor occupation, and job satisfaction: 2021

(Number)

Sector and occupation	Total	Job satisfaction			
		Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
All sectors	51,764,000	22,804,000	23,329,000	4,394,000	1,236,000
S&E occupations	7,894,000	3,493,000	3,651,000	617,000	133,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	794,000	346,000	371,000	65,000	12,000
Agricultural and food scientists	74,000	30,000	39,000	4,000	*
Biological and medical scientists	572,000	240,000	274,000	50,000	8,000
Environmental life scientists	45,000	27,000	14,000	3,000	2,000
Postsecondary teachers - life and related sciences	103,000	49,000	43,000	8,000	S
Computer and mathematical scientists	4,031,000	1,736,000	1,896,000	332,000	67,000
Computer and information scientists	3,627,000	1,551,000	1,729,000	288,000	60,000
Mathematical scientists	293,000	133,000	118,000	36,000	6,000
Postsecondary teachers - computer and math sciences	111,000	52,000	49,000	8,000	S
Physical and related scientists	408,000	166,000	202,000	33,000	8,000
Chemists, except biochemists	114,000	39,000	58,000	13,000	4,000
Earth, atmospheric, and ocean scientists	91,000	42,000	42,000	5,000	1,000
Physicists	41,000	22,000	17,000	2,000	D
Other physical and related scientists, including astronomers	82,000	29,000	47,000	6,000	D
Postsecondary teachers - physical and related sciences	80,000	34,000	38,000	6,000	S
Social and related scientists	712,000	335,000	313,000	50,000	14,000
Economists	47,000	31,000	15,000	2,000	*
Political scientists	39,000	19,000	18,000	S	D
Psychologists	233,000	122,000	97,000	9,000	S
Anthropologists	13,000	6,000	7,000	D	D
Other social and related scientists	191,000	77,000	94,000	17,000	2,000
Postsecondary teachers - social and related sciences	188,000	80,000	82,000	20,000	5,000
Engineers	1,949,000	911,000	869,000	137,000	32,000
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineers	127,000	56,000	60,000	11,000	*
Chemical engineers	80,000	38,000	33,000	7,000	2,000
Civil, architectural, and sanitary engineers	303,000	160,000	117,000	23,000	3,000
Electrical and computer hardware engineers	399,000	196,000	177,000	21,000	6,000
Industrial engineers	96,000	42,000	44,000	7,000	S
Mechanical engineers	388,000	160,000	190,000	31,000	6,000
Other engineers	501,000	236,000	220,000	33,000	11,000
Postsecondary teachers - engineering	55,000	22,000	28,000	4,000	D
S&E-related occupations	9,522,000	4,272,000	4,346,000	706,000	198,000
Health-related occupations	6,136,000	2,741,000	2,787,000	461,000	146,000
S&E managers	1,135,000	558,000	484,000	74,000	18,000
S&E precollege teachers	915,000	410,000	429,000	66,000	11,000
S&E technicians and technologists	1,088,000	438,000	544,000	84,000	21,000
Other S&E-related occupations	248,000	124,000	101,000	20,000	S
Non-S&E occupations	34,349,000	15,038,000	15,333,000	3,072,000	905,000
Non-S&E managers	4,985,000	2,684,000	1,907,000	312,000	81,000
Management-related occupations	7,868,000	3,411,000	3,579,000	703,000	175,000
Non-S&E precollege teachers	3,919,000	1,572,000	1,989,000	285,000	73,000
Non-S&E postsecondary teachers	559,000	241,000	272,000	39,000	8,000
Social services and related occupations	2,072,000	883,000	954,000	182,000	53,000

TABLE 3-2

Employed college graduates, by employment sector, minor occupation, and job satisfaction: 2021

(Number)

Sector and occupation	Total	Job satisfaction			
		Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Sales and marketing occupations	4,448,000	1,893,000	1,948,000	468,000	139,000
Art, humanities, and related occupations	1,408,000	603,000	651,000	127,000	27,000
Other non-S&E occupations	9,089,000	3,753,000	4,033,000	956,000	348,000
Business or industry	36,346,000	15,990,000	16,185,000	3,223,000	949,000
S&E occupations	5,804,000	2,535,000	2,711,000	459,000	98,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	345,000	150,000	161,000	28,000	6,000
Agricultural and food scientists	50,000	21,000	26,000	2,000	D
Biological and medical scientists	283,000	121,000	132,000	25,000	5,000
Environmental life scientists	12,000	8,000	3,000	D	D
Postsecondary teachers - life and related sciences	D	D	D	D	D
Computer and mathematical scientists	3,432,000	1,447,000	1,635,000	289,000	61,000
Computer and information scientists	3,210,000	1,356,000	1,540,000	260,000	55,000
Mathematical scientists	222,000	92,000	95,000	29,000	6,000
Postsecondary teachers - computer and math sciences	D	D	D	D	D
Physical and related scientists	169,000	66,000	87,000	14,000	3,000
Chemists, except biochemists	75,000	27,000	39,000	7,000	1,000
Earth, atmospheric, and ocean scientists	52,000	22,000	25,000	4,000	1,000
Physicists	9,000	5,000	3,000	*	D
Other physical and related scientists, including astronomers	33,000	12,000	19,000	2,000	D
Postsecondary teachers - physical and related sciences	D	D	D	D	D
Social and related scientists	257,000	138,000	104,000	13,000	3,000
Economists	23,000	15,000	7,000	1,000	D
Political scientists	14,000	7,000	7,000	D	D
Psychologists	128,000	83,000	38,000	5,000	D
Anthropologists	7,000	2,000	4,000	D	D
Other social and related scientists	86,000	30,000	47,000	7,000	S
Postsecondary teachers - social and related sciences	D	D	D	D	D
Engineers	1,600,000	734,000	725,000	115,000	26,000
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineers	104,000	44,000	49,000	10,000	D
Chemical engineers	73,000	35,000	29,000	7,000	2,000
Civil, architectural, and sanitary engineers	207,000	102,000	85,000	18,000	2,000
Electrical and computer hardware engineers	353,000	174,000	153,000	20,000	6,000
Industrial engineers	90,000	39,000	42,000	7,000	S
Mechanical engineers	349,000	143,000	172,000	28,000	5,000
Other engineers	425,000	196,000	195,000	26,000	8,000
Postsecondary teachers - engineering	D	D	D	D	D
S&E-related occupations	6,903,000	3,082,000	3,143,000	521,000	157,000
Health-related occupations	4,857,000	2,155,000	2,210,000	372,000	120,000
S&E managers	912,000	454,000	389,000	53,000	16,000
S&E precollege teachers	D	D	D	D	D
S&E technicians and technologists	897,000	353,000	450,000	76,000	19,000
Other S&E-related occupations	237,000	121,000	94,000	20,000	D
Non-S&E occupations	23,640,000	10,373,000	10,331,000	2,243,000	693,000
Non-S&E managers	3,966,000	2,156,000	1,502,000	242,000	66,000
Management-related occupations	6,433,000	2,716,000	2,994,000	578,000	144,000

TABLE 3-2

Employed college graduates, by employment sector, minor occupation, and job satisfaction: 2021

(Number)

Sector and occupation	Total	Job satisfaction			
		Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Non-S&E precollege teachers	D	D	D	D	D
Non-S&E postsecondary teachers	D	D	D	D	D
Social services and related occupations	1,223,000	601,000	499,000	92,000	31,000
Sales and marketing occupations	4,274,000	1,817,000	1,869,000	450,000	138,000
Art, humanities, and related occupations	1,289,000	566,000	596,000	104,000	24,000
Other non-S&E occupations	6,452,000	2,516,000	2,868,000	778,000	290,000
Education	9,978,000	4,189,000	4,874,000	746,000	169,000
S&E occupations	1,254,000	533,000	589,000	109,000	22,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	323,000	133,000	158,000	28,000	4,000
Agricultural and food scientists	17,000	4,000	11,000	2,000	D
Biological and medical scientists	196,000	73,000	104,000	17,000	1,000
Environmental life scientists	S	S	D	D	D
Postsecondary teachers - life and related sciences	103,000	49,000	43,000	8,000	S
Computer and mathematical scientists	331,000	142,000	157,000	28,000	4,000
Computer and information scientists	194,000	78,000	94,000	19,000	3,000
Mathematical scientists	26,000	11,000	13,000	1,000	D
Postsecondary teachers - computer and math sciences	111,000	52,000	49,000	8,000	S
Physical and related scientists	140,000	57,000	69,000	11,000	2,000
Chemists, except biochemists	18,000	3,000	12,000	2,000	D
Earth, atmospheric, and ocean scientists	14,000	6,000	7,000	1,000	D
Physicists	21,000	8,000	10,000	1,000	D
Other physical and related scientists, including astronomers	8,000	S	2,000	D	D
Postsecondary teachers - physical and related sciences	80,000	34,000	38,000	6,000	S
Social and related scientists	341,000	149,000	147,000	34,000	10,000
Economists	12,000	S	4,000	S	D
Political scientists	5,000	2,000	1,000	S	D
Psychologists	86,000	32,000	46,000	4,000	S
Anthropologists	3,000	2,000	1,000	D	D
Other social and related scientists	46,000	25,000	13,000	8,000	D
Postsecondary teachers - social and related sciences	188,000	80,000	82,000	20,000	5,000
Engineers	119,000	52,000	58,000	8,000	D
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineers	5,000	2,000	S	D	D
Chemical engineers	4,000	1,000	3,000	D	D
Civil, architectural, and sanitary engineers	9,000	6,000	3,000	D	D
Electrical and computer hardware engineers	10,000	4,000	5,000	D	D
Industrial engineers	*	D	D	D	D
Mechanical engineers	12,000	4,000	6,000	2,000	D
Other engineers	23,000	13,000	9,000	2,000	D
Postsecondary teachers - engineering	55,000	22,000	28,000	4,000	D
S&E-related occupations	1,883,000	856,000	878,000	119,000	30,000
Health-related occupations	832,000	384,000	384,000	47,000	17,000
S&E managers	62,000	31,000	29,000	1,000	D
S&E precollege teachers	915,000	410,000	429,000	66,000	11,000
S&E technicians and technologists	69,000	30,000	34,000	5,000	D
Other S&E-related occupations	S	D	D	D	D

TABLE 3-2

Employed college graduates, by employment sector, minor occupation, and job satisfaction: 2021

(Number)

Sector and occupation	Total	Job satisfaction			
		Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Non-S&E occupations	6,842,000	2,800,000	3,407,000	517,000	117,000
Non-S&E managers	508,000	250,000	228,000	25,000	S
Management-related occupations	458,000	192,000	224,000	34,000	S
Non-S&E precollege teachers	3,916,000	1,572,000	1,986,000	285,000	73,000
Non-S&E postsecondary teachers	559,000	241,000	272,000	39,000	8,000
Social services and related occupations	411,000	139,000	219,000	44,000	8,000
Sales and marketing occupations	115,000	41,000	61,000	S	D
Art, humanities, and related occupations	92,000	26,000	41,000	S	D
Other non-S&E occupations	783,000	341,000	376,000	55,000	11,000
Government	5,439,000	2,625,000	2,270,000	425,000	118,000
S&E occupations	836,000	425,000	350,000	49,000	13,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	126,000	63,000	52,000	9,000	2,000
Agricultural and food scientists	7,000	5,000	2,000	D	D
Biological and medical scientists	93,000	46,000	39,000	7,000	S
Environmental life scientists	26,000	12,000	11,000	S	D
Postsecondary teachers - life and related sciences	D	D	D	D	D
Computer and mathematical scientists	268,000	147,000	104,000	14,000	3,000
Computer and information scientists	223,000	117,000	95,000	9,000	S
Mathematical scientists	45,000	30,000	10,000	S	S
Postsecondary teachers - computer and math sciences	D	D	D	D	D
Physical and related scientists	99,000	43,000	46,000	8,000	S
Chemists, except biochemists	20,000	9,000	6,000	S	S
Earth, atmospheric, and ocean scientists	25,000	14,000	11,000	1,000	D
Physicists	12,000	9,000	3,000	D	D
Other physical and related scientists, including astronomers	41,000	11,000	26,000	3,000	D
Postsecondary teachers - physical and related sciences	D	D	D	D	D
Social and related scientists	114,000	49,000	62,000	3,000	1,000
Economists	13,000	8,000	4,000	*	D
Political scientists	20,000	11,000	S	D	D
Psychologists	20,000	6,000	13,000	D	D
Anthropologists	3,000	2,000	2,000	D	D
Other social and related scientists	59,000	22,000	34,000	S	D
Postsecondary teachers - social and related sciences	D	D	D	D	D
Engineers	229,000	125,000	86,000	14,000	5,000
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineers	19,000	10,000	8,000	D	D
Chemical engineers	3,000	S	S	D	D
Civil, architectural, and sanitary engineers	87,000	52,000	29,000	6,000	1,000
Electrical and computer hardware engineers	37,000	17,000	18,000	S	D
Industrial engineers	5,000	3,000	2,000	D	D
Mechanical engineers	26,000	12,000	12,000	1,000	S
Other engineers	52,000	27,000	17,000	5,000	S
Postsecondary teachers - engineering	D	D	D	D	D
S&E-related occupations	736,000	335,000	325,000	66,000	11,000
Health-related occupations	446,000	203,000	193,000	42,000	8,000
S&E managers	161,000	74,000	67,000	S	D

TABLE 3-2

Employed college graduates, by employment sector, minor occupation, and job satisfaction: 2021

(Number)

Sector and occupation	Total	Job satisfaction			
		Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
S&E precollege teachers	D	D	D	D	D
S&E technicians and technologists	122,000	56,000	61,000	3,000	S
Other S&E-related occupations	7,000	S	S	D	D
Non-S&E occupations	3,867,000	1,865,000	1,595,000	311,000	95,000
Non-S&E managers	511,000	277,000	177,000	46,000	10,000
Management-related occupations	977,000	503,000	361,000	91,000	22,000
Non-S&E precollege teachers	D	D	D	D	D
Non-S&E postsecondary teachers	D	D	D	D	D
Social services and related occupations	438,000	143,000	236,000	45,000	14,000
Sales and marketing occupations	59,000	35,000	18,000	S	D
Art, humanities, and related occupations	27,000	11,000	14,000	D	D
Other non-S&E occupations	1,855,000	896,000	788,000	123,000	47,000

* = 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.

Note(s):
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Business or industry includes self-employed individuals, nonprofit organizations, and other unspecified types of employers. Education includes 4-year colleges and universities, medical schools, university-affiliated research institutes, 2-year colleges, pre-college institutions, and other educational institutions. Government includes federal (civilian), military, state, and local employers.

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