TABLE 3-4

Employed college graduates, by sex, major occupation, job satisfaction, and years since highest degree: 2021

(Number)

Sex, occupation, and job satisfaction	Total	Years since highest degree							
		< 5	5–9	10–14	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	≥ 35
All sexes	51,764,000	8,005,000	9,950,000	7,972,000	6,358,000	5,154,000	4,472,000	3,535,000	6,318,000
Very satisfied	22,804,000	2,950,000	3,904,000	3,344,000	2,749,000	2,441,000	2,136,000	1,749,000	3,531,000
Somewhat satisfied	23,329,000	3,755,000	4,720,000	3,643,000	3,036,000	2,343,000	1,981,000	1,464,000	2,388,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	4,394,000	1,006,000	1,011,000	767,000	447,000	289,000	304,000	260,000	310,000
Very dissatisfied	1,236,000	295,000	315,000	217,000	125,000	81,000	52,000	61,000	89,000
S&E occupations	7,894,000	1,564,000	1,734,000	1,198,000	911,000	777,000	596,000	491,000	623,000
Very satisfied	3,493,000	616,000	733,000	501,000	417,000	359,000	267,000	261,000	338,000
Somewhat satisfied	3,651,000	754,000	807,000	573,000	426,000	361,000	278,000	199,000	253,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	617,000	155,000	147,000	105,000	61,000	49,000	43,000	28,000	27,000
Very dissatisfied	133,000	38,000	47,000	19,000	6,000	8,000	7,000	S	4,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	794,000	192,000	195,000	109,000	71,000	84,000	42,000	42,000	59,000
Very satisfied	346,000	83,000	74,000	43,000	26,000	41,000	18,000	24,000	37,000
Somewhat satisfied	371,000	89,000	99,000	52,000	41,000	37,000	20,000	14,000	19,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	65,000	15,000	18,000	13,000	4,000	6,000	4,000	3,000	2,000
Very dissatisfied	12,000	5,000	4,000	1,000	1,000	D	D	D	D
Computer and mathematical scientists	4,031,000	716,000	861,000	656,000	525,000	424,000	327,000	253,000	271,000
Very satisfied	1,736,000	269,000	367,000	277,000	241,000	187,000	140,000	124,000	130,000
Somewhat satisfied	1,896,000	357,000	389,000	312,000	240,000	205,000	157,000	111,000	126,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	332,000	73,000	76,000	60,000	40,000	26,000	26,000	16,000	14,000
Very dissatisfied	67,000	17,000	28,000	7,000	3,000	5,000	4,000	S	D
Physical and related scientists	408,000	92,000	92,000	60,000	35,000	35,000	32,000	27,000	33,000
Very satisfied	166,000	32,000	34,000	22,000	14,000	17,000	16,000	13,000	18,000
Somewhat satisfied	202,000	51,000	49,000	32,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	12,000	13,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	33,000	7,000	7,000	4,000	4,000	S	3,000	S	2,000
Very dissatisfied	8,000	S	2,000	2,000	S	*	*	D	D
Social and related scientists	712,000	182,000	158,000	105,000	73,000	57,000	41,000	43,000	53,000
Very satisfied	335,000	77,000	69,000	42,000	30,000	32,000	18,000	27,000	40,000
Somewhat satisfied	313,000	81,000	69,000	52,000	40,000	23,000	21,000	14,000	12,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	50,000	19,000	12,000	S	3,000	3,000	2,000	S	S
Very dissatisfied	14,000	S	S	S	D	D	D	D	D
Engineers	1,949,000	382,000	428,000	267,000	207,000	178,000	154,000	126,000	207,000
Very satisfied	911,000	156,000	188,000	117,000	106,000	83,000	74,000	73,000	113,000
Somewhat satisfied	869,000	175,000	201,000	124,000	90,000	81,000	68,000	47,000	83,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	137,000	40,000	33,000	20,000	10,000	12,000	9,000	6,000	9,000
Very dissatisfied	32,000	11,000	6,000	6,000	1,000	2,000	3,000	1,000	2,000
S&E-related occupations	9,522,000	1,862,000	2,006,000	1,477,000	1,059,000	906,000	705,000	533,000	973,000
Very satisfied	4,272,000	681,000	840,000	672,000	473,000	424,000	342,000	262,000	577,000
Somewhat satisfied	4,346,000	905,000	947,000	675,000	499,000	422,000	320,000	233,000	344,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	706,000	206,000	169,000	109,000	75,000	41,000	39,000	31,000	36,000
Very dissatisfied	198,000	70,000	49,000	21,000	13,000	19,000	S	6,000	16,000
Non-S&E occupations	34,349,000	4,580,000	6,209,000	5,297,000	4,388,000	3,470,000	3,171,000	2,511,000	4,722,000
Very satisfied	15,038,000	1,652,000	2,330,000	2,171,000	1,860,000	1,658,000	1,526,000	1,225,000	2,616,000
Somewhat satisfied	15,333,000	2,096,000	2,965,000	2,395,000	2,111,000	1,561,000	1,382,000	1,033,000	1,790,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	3,072,000	645,000	695,000	553,000	311,000	198,000	221,000	201,000	246,000
Very dissatisfied	905,000	187,000	219,000	177,000	106,000	53,000	41,000	52,000	69,000
Female	26,493,000	4,513,000	5,481,000	4,287,000	3,234,000	2,596,000	2,183,000	1,605,000	2,595,000
Very satisfied	11,230,000	1,650,000	2,093,000	1,779,000	1,334,000	1,146,000	1,040,000	758,000	1,430,000
Somewhat satisfied	12,225,000	2,123,000	2,612,000	1,981,000	1,608,000	1,264,000	975,000	681,000	981,000

TABLE 3-4

Employed college graduates, by sex, major occupation, job satisfaction, and years since highest degree: 2021

(Number)

Sex, occupation, and job satisfaction	Total	Years since highest degree							
		< 5	5–9	10–14	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	≥ 35
Somewhat dissatisfied	2,309,000	552,000	580,000	403,000	225,000	133,000	134,000	138,000	143,000
Very dissatisfied	729,000	187,000	195,000	125,000	67,000	52,000	34,000	28,000	40,000
S&E occupations	2,300,000	535,000	516,000	351,000	264,000	217,000	172,000	120,000	125,000
Very satisfied	990,000	204,000	217,000	153,000	116,000	92,000	74,000	63,000	71,000
Somewhat satisfied	1,077,000	270,000	237,000	160,000	131,000	106,000	79,000	48,000	48,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	179,000	50,000	41,000	30,000	14,000	15,000	17,000	8,000	5,000
Very dissatisfied	54,000	12,000	21,000	9,000	3,000	S	S	D	D
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	367,000	85,000	95,000	55,000	42,000	39,000	18,000	12,000	20,000
Very satisfied	160,000	34,000	40,000	24,000	16,000	18,000	8,000	8,000	12,000
Somewhat satisfied	167,000	39,000	45,000	25,000	24,000	17,000	7,000	4,000	6,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	33,000	10,000	7,000	5,000	3,000	4,000	S	*	S
Very dissatisfied	7,000	3,000	3,000	S	D	D	D	D	D
Computer and mathematical scientists	1,053,000	210,000	207,000	158,000	129,000	110,000	104,000	64,000	69,000
Very satisfied	435,000	70,000	86,000	72,000	58,000	41,000	43,000	31,000	34,000
Somewhat satisfied	503,000	118,000	96,000	65,000	60,000	60,000	46,000	26,000	32,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	93,000	20,000	17,000	19,000	10,000	6,000	12,000	7,000	S
Very dissatisfied	22,000	3,000	9,000	2,000	S	S	D	D	D
Physical and related scientists	135,000	34,000	39,000	26,000	10,000	9,000	5,000	6,000	5,000
Very satisfied	51,000	9,000	17,000	9,000	5,000	4,000	2,000	2,000	3,000
Somewhat satisfied	72,000	21,000	18,000	15,000	5,000	5,000	2,000	4,000	2,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	8,000	2,000	S	1,000	*	D	S	D	*
Very dissatisfied	5,000	D	S	S	D	D	D	D	D
Social and related scientists	433,000	121,000	94,000	71,000	50,000	32,000	29,000	21,000	16,000
Very satisfied	188,000	51,000	39,000	28,000	21,000	17,000	10,000	9,000	12,000
Somewhat satisfied	205,000	56,000	41,000	37,000	28,000	13,000	17,000	10,000	3,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	28,000	11,000	8,000	4,000	S	1,000	1,000	S	D
Very dissatisfied	12,000	S	S	D	D	D	D	D	D
Engineers	312,000	84,000	80,000	42,000	32,000	26,000	16,000	17,000	15,000
Very satisfied	156,000	39,000	36,000	20,000	16,000	12,000	10,000	13,000	10,000
Somewhat satisfied	131,000	36,000	37,000	18,000	15,000	11,000	6,000	3,000	4,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	17,000	6,000	5,000	2,000	S	3,000	D	D	D
Very dissatisfied	8,000	S	2,000	S	D	D	D	D	D
S&E-related occupations	5,494,000	1,227,000	1,273,000	905,000	560,000	487,000	345,000	234,000	463,000
Very satisfied	2,403,000	438,000	533,000	417,000	225,000	225,000	174,000	109,000	283,000
Somewhat satisfied	2,538,000	597,000	609,000	405,000	279,000	227,000	155,000	112,000	154,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	418,000	133,000	103,000	71,000	48,000	21,000	13,000	8,000	21,000
Very dissatisfied	135,000	59,000	28,000	12,000	S	15,000	D	S	D
Non-S&E occupations	18,699,000	2,751,000	3,692,000	3,031,000	2,410,000	1,892,000	1,665,000	1,251,000	2,007,000
Very satisfied	7,837,000	1,009,000	1,343,000	1,208,000	993,000	829,000	792,000	586,000	1,077,000
Somewhat satisfied	8,610,000	1,257,000	1,767,000	1,417,000	1,198,000	932,000	740,000	521,000	779,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	1,711,000	369,000	436,000	302,000	163,000	98,000	104,000	122,000	117,000
Very dissatisfied	541,000	116,000	146,000	105,000	56,000	33,000	28,000	23,000	34,000
Male	25,271,000	3,492,000	4,469,000	3,684,000	3,124,000	2,558,000	2,289,000	1,930,000	3,723,000
Very satisfied	11,574,000	1,299,000	1,811,000	1,566,000	1,415,000	1,295,000	1,095,000	991,000	2,101,000
Somewhat satisfied	11,104,000	1,632,000	2,107,000	1,661,000	1,428,000	1,079,000	1,006,000	784,000	1,407,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	2,086,000	453,000	431,000	365,000	223,000	155,000	170,000	122,000	167,000
Very dissatisfied	507,000	108,000	120,000	92,000	59,000	29,000	18,000	33,000	49,000
S&E occupations	5,594,000	1,028,000	1,218,000	846,000	647,000	561,000	424,000	371,000	498,000

TABLE 3-4

Employed college graduates, by sex, major occupation, job satisfaction, and years since highest degree: 2021

(Number)

Sex, occupation, and job satisfaction	Total	Years since highest degree							
		< 5	5–9	10–14	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	≥ 35
Very satisfied	2,504,000	413,000	516,000	348,000	301,000	267,000	193,000	198,000	268,000
Somewhat satisfied	2,573,000	484,000	571,000	413,000	295,000	255,000	200,000	151,000	205,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	437,000	106,000	106,000	75,000	48,000	35,000	26,000	19,000	22,000
Very dissatisfied	79,000	26,000	25,000	10,000	3,000	4,000	5,000	S	3,000
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	427,000	106,000	100,000	54,000	29,000	44,000	24,000	29,000	39,000
Very satisfied	186,000	49,000	34,000	19,000	10,000	22,000	10,000	16,000	25,000
Somewhat satisfied	204,000	50,000	53,000	27,000	17,000	20,000	12,000	11,000	13,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	31,000	5,000	11,000	8,000	1,000	S	1,000	3,000	S
Very dissatisfied	5,000	S	1,000	S	*	D	D	D	D
Computer and mathematical scientists	2,979,000	505,000	653,000	497,000	395,000	313,000	224,000	189,000	202,000
Very satisfied	1,301,000	199,000	281,000	204,000	183,000	147,000	97,000	93,000	97,000
Somewhat satisfied	1,394,000	239,000	293,000	247,000	180,000	145,000	111,000	85,000	94,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	238,000	53,000	59,000	41,000	30,000	20,000	14,000	9,000	11,000
Very dissatisfied	46,000	14,000	19,000	4,000	2,000	S	S	D	D
Physical and related scientists	273,000	58,000	53,000	34,000	24,000	27,000	27,000	22,000	28,000
Very satisfied	115,000	22,000	18,000	13,000	9,000	13,000	13,000	12,000	15,000
Somewhat satisfied	130,000	30,000	31,000	17,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	8,000	10,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	25,000	5,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	S	3,000	S	2,000
Very dissatisfied	3,000	1,000	1,000	*	D	D	*	D	D
Social and related scientists	279,000	61,000	64,000	35,000	23,000	25,000	12,000	22,000	37,000
Very satisfied	147,000	26,000	31,000	14,000	9,000	14,000	8,000	18,000	27,000
Somewhat satisfied	108,000	25,000	28,000	16,000	12,000	10,000	4,000	4,000	9,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	22,000	9,000	S	S	2,000	S	S	D	D
Very dissatisfied	2,000	1,000	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Engineers	1,636,000	297,000	348,000	226,000	175,000	151,000	137,000	109,000	192,000
Very satisfied	755,000	117,000	152,000	97,000	90,000	71,000	65,000	60,000	103,000
Somewhat satisfied	738,000	139,000	165,000	105,000	75,000	70,000	62,000	43,000	79,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	120,000	33,000	28,000	18,000	10,000	9,000	8,000	6,000	8,000
Very dissatisfied	23,000	8,000	3,000	5,000	*	1,000	3,000	*	S
S&E-related occupations	4,028,000	635,000	734,000	572,000	499,000	419,000	360,000	298,000	511,000
Very satisfied	1,869,000	243,000	308,000	255,000	247,000	199,000	168,000	153,000	295,000
Somewhat satisfied	1,808,000	308,000	339,000	270,000	221,000	194,000	165,000	120,000	190,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	288,000	72,000	66,000	38,000	27,000	21,000	26,000	23,000	15,000
Very dissatisfied	63,000	11,000	21,000	9,000	S	5,000	S	S	S
Non-S&E occupations	15,649,000	1,829,000	2,517,000	2,265,000	1,978,000	1,579,000	1,506,000	1,260,000	2,715,000
Very satisfied	7,201,000	644,000	987,000	963,000	866,000	829,000	734,000	639,000	1,539,000
Somewhat satisfied	6,723,000	840,000	1,198,000	978,000	913,000	629,000	642,000	512,000	1,011,000
Somewhat dissatisfied	1,360,000	275,000	259,000	252,000	148,000	100,000	117,000	80,000	129,000
Very dissatisfied	364,000	71,000	73,000	73,000	51,000	20,000	13,000	29,000	36,000

* = 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.

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