Nationally, about 1 in 16 workers (6.2% or 8.7 million) have occupations as scientists or engineers (4.8%), or technical workers (1.4%). The STEM workforce is larger still when defined as either those who hold a bachelor’s degree or higher in S&E (23.2 million) or those who use technical expertise in S&E in their jobs (19.4 million).

A state’s S&E performance helps fuel its and the nation’s economy. Four benchmarks of Maine’s S&E performance are highlighted here: the cost of public higher education, the size of the STEM workforce, investment in research and development, and venture capital funding.

**Rising Cost of a Bachelor’s Degree**

A bachelor’s degree is one of several entry points to higher paying jobs associated with science, engineering, and many technical occupations.

Nationally, 31% of the total U.S. workforce has a bachelor’s degree or higher. In contrast, 75% of workers in S&E occupations have a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics*

**STEM Workforce: People Working in STEM Occupations**

Nationally, about 1 in 16 workers (6.2% or 8.7 million) have occupations as scientists or engineers (4.8%), or technical workers (1.4%). The STEM workforce is larger still when defined as either those who hold a bachelor’s degree or higher in S&E (23.2 million) or those who use technical expertise in S&E in their jobs (19.4 million).

Research and development (R&D) spending is a driver of innovation. Investing in science and technology today has ripple-effect benefits throughout the economy over the long term.

Annual state performance in R&D varies considerably, from $253 million (WY) to $126 billion (CA). Maine is one of 12 states that performs less than $1 billion per year in R&D. In this figure, Maine’s percent change in R&D spending is compared to the two highest and the two lowest states within this group.

**Total 2015 Research and Development Performed**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ME</td>
<td>$508M</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
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</table>

**Percent change in R&D spending: 2000 to 2015**

(Adjusted for inflation)

Venture capital investment supports U.S. businesses that take on the risk of developing and commercializing cutting-edge, emerging technologies. States with high values are successful at attracting venture capital to fuel new kinds of business, and ultimately, expand economic growth.

**Total 2016 Venture Capital Investment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>$26M</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>$70.3B</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total annual venture capital investment: 2000 to 2016**

(Adjusted for inflation to 2016 dollars)

Source: NSF, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Patterns of R&D Resources

Source: Pitchbook Venture Capital and Private Equity Database

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