



TABLE 3-3

Measures and size of U.S. S&E workforce: 2015 and 2016

(Number)

Measure	Education coverage	Data source	Individuals
Occupation			
Employed in S&E occupations	All education levels	2016 BLS OES survey	6,747,000
Employed in S&E occupations	Bachelor's and above	2015 NSF/NCSES NSCG	6,407,000
Employed in S&E occupations	All education levels	2015 Census Bureau ACS	6,703,000
Employed in S&E occupations	Bachelor's and above	2015 Census Bureau ACS	5,036,000
Education			
At least one degree in S&E field	Bachelor's and above	2015 NSF/NCSES NSCG	23,160,000
Highest degree in S&E field	Bachelor's and above	2015 NSF/NCSES NSCG	17,289,000
Job closely related to highest degree	Bachelor's and above	2015 NSF/NCSES NSCG	6,437,000
S&E occupation	Bachelor's and above	2015 NSF/NCSES NSCG	3,445,000
Other occupation	Bachelor's and above	2015 NSF/NCSES NSCG	2,993,000
Job somewhat related to highest degree	Bachelor's and above	2015 NSF/NCSES NSCG	4,148,000
S&E occupation	Bachelor's and above	2015 NSF/NCSES NSCG	1,122,000
Other occupation	Bachelor's and above	2015 NSF/NCSES NSCG	3,026,000
Job requires S&E technical expertise at bachelor's level			
In one or more S&E fields	Bachelor's and above	2015 NSF/NCSES NSCG	19,366,000
Engineering, computer science, mathematics, or natural sciences	Bachelor's and above	2015 NSF/NCSES NSCG	14,140,000
Social sciences	Bachelor's and above	2015 NSF/NCSES NSCG	8,919,000

ACS = American Community Survey; BLS = Bureau of Labor Statistics; NSCG = National Survey of College Graduates; NSF/NCSES = National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics; OES = Occupational Employment Statistics.

**Note(s)**



Estimates of the S&E workforce vary across the example surveys because of differences in the scope of the data collection (the NSCG collects data from individuals with bachelor's degrees and above only); because of the survey respondent (the NSCG collects data from individuals, the OES survey collects data from establishments, and the ACS collects data from households); or because of the level of detail collected on an occupation, which aids in classifying a reported occupation into a standard occupational category. All of these differences can affect the estimates. For example, the NSCG estimate of the number of workers in S&E occupations includes postsecondary teachers of S&E fields; however, postsecondary teachers in ACS are grouped under a single occupation code, regardless of field, and are therefore not included in the ACS estimate of the number of workers in S&E occupations. The totals for at least one degree in S&E field and highest degree in S&E field include individuals who are employed as well as those who are unemployed and out of the labor force.

**Source(s)**

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BLS, OES survey (2016); Census Bureau, ACS (2015); NSF/NCSSES, NSCG (2015), <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvygrads/>.

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