

Appendix table 7-26

Public self-assessment of knowledge of what scientists and engineers do day-to-day on their jobs, by respondent characteristic: 2012

(Percent)

Characteristic ^b	Knowledge of what scientists do ^a						Knowledge of what engineers do ^a					
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Don't know	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Don't know
All adults (n = 1,152/1,104)	10	25	32	23	8	2	13	29	32	16	8	2
Sex												
Male (n = 521/490)	10	28	34	22	5	1	16	35	34	10	4	2
Female (n = 631/614)	9	23	31	24	10	3	10	24	31	22	11	3
Formal education												
< High school (n = 162/146)	11	25	24	20	13	8	16	32	21	11	11	10
High school diploma (n = 346/325)	9	19	33	30	9	1	9	19	38	22	10	2
Some college (n = 304/304)	8	27	33	22	8	2	12	32	31	17	8	1
Bachelor's degree (n = 224/205)	9	28	37	19	5	1	14	31	37	13	5	0
Graduate/professional degree (n = 116/124)	18	32	33	17	0	0	20	40	26	12	2	0
Science/mathematics education ^c												
Low (n = 626/622)	9	22	30	26	11	3	9	27	31	20	11	3
Middle (n = 207/191)	7	26	36	23	6	3	18	20	40	15	4	3
High (n = 251/233)	15	36	31	15	1	1	18	40	29	9	4	0
Family income (quartile) ^d												
Top (n = 240/206)	10	26	39	19	6	1	15	32	30	13	7	3
Second (n = 239/255)	7	22	33	28	9	2	13	31	35	14	6	1
Third (n = 281/240)	10	27	31	23	8	1	9	32	31	19	8	1
Bottom (n = 288/275)	14	24	28	23	9	1	13	26	30	18	11	2
Age (years) ^d												
18–24 (n = 76/64)	5	32	31	21	6	4	3	28	41	20	3	5
25–34 (n = 174/183)	8	33	24	28	4	3	7	29	30	21	12	1
35–44 (n = 201/184)	16	22	30	21	10	2	18	34	26	14	7	1
45–54 (n = 221/202)	12	20	31	24	11	3	17	25	35	13	7	3
55–64 (n = 229/191)	10	25	38	18	8	1	16	21	35	19	6	1
≥ 65 (n = 239/265)	7	22	38	27	6	2	11	34	31	13	8	2
Minor children at home ^d												
Yes (n = 344/339)	13	27	29	21	7	3	14	29	31	15	8	3
No (n = 787/752)	8	24	34	24	7	2	12	29	32	17	8	2
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile) ^e												
Top (n = 333/283)	10	32	38	15	4	1	17	34	35	10	4	1

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	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Don't know	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Don't know
Second (<i>n</i> = 329/326)	10	25	30	28	7	0	11	31	30	21	6	2
Third (<i>n</i> = 298/285)	11	25	31	24	8	1	10	28	32	16	12	2
Bottom (<i>n</i> = 192/210)	8	13	30	25	14	11	13	19	31	19	12	6

^a Sample was split for this question: 1,152 survey respondents were asked about scientists, and 1,104 respondents were asked about engineers.

^b First *n* is the number of survey respondents asked about scientists; second *n* is the number of respondents asked about engineers.

^c Low = ≤ 5 high school and college science/mathematics courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥ 9 courses. Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" responses and refusals to respond are not shown.

^d Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" responses and refusals to respond are not shown.

^e See notes to appendix table 7-8 for an explanation of the trend factual knowledge of science scale.

NOTES: Responses to *Would you say your knowledge of what scientists/engineers do day-to-day on their jobs is excellent, good, fair, poor, or very poor?* Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2012).

Science and Engineering Indicators 2014