# NCSES's SKILLED TECHINICAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVE

# 2020 WORKSHOPS





# NCSES Webinar Series: The Skilled Technical Workforce Initiative Workshops

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences

National Science Foundation

# Let's talk about the STW

- NCSES invites you to discuss the Skilled Technical Workforce (STW)
  - Workers that use significant levels of science and engineering expertise and technical knowledge in their occupations and whose educational attainment is less than a bachelor's degree
- A focus on the STW expands not only the federal knowledge of the STEM Workforce but the total U.S. workforce









## Let's talk about why we are here

- Many are contributing to measuring and understanding the workforce
- Effort is larger than one agency or organization
- We need increased coordination
- We need forums for interaction and discussion



# The federal importance of measuring the STW

- A national strategy for training workers across high-demand industries
- The foundation of the S&E enterprise
- The coronavirus pandemic
- Limited data and inconsistent coordination



# The NCSES STW Initiative

NCSES:

- 1 of 13 principal federal statistical agency
- Mandated to be a data clearinghouse on science and engineering enterprise
- Developed a framework to study and measure the STW

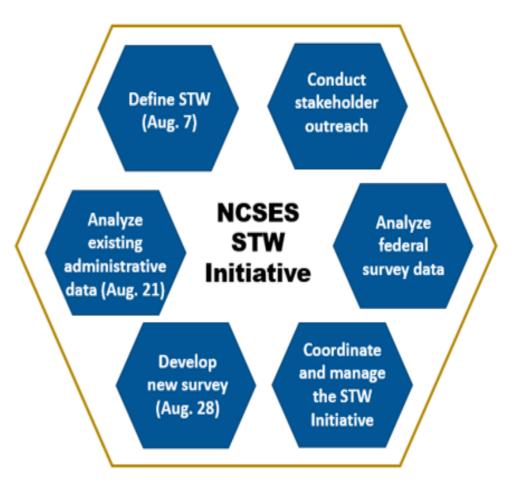




## NCSES efforts to understanding the workforce

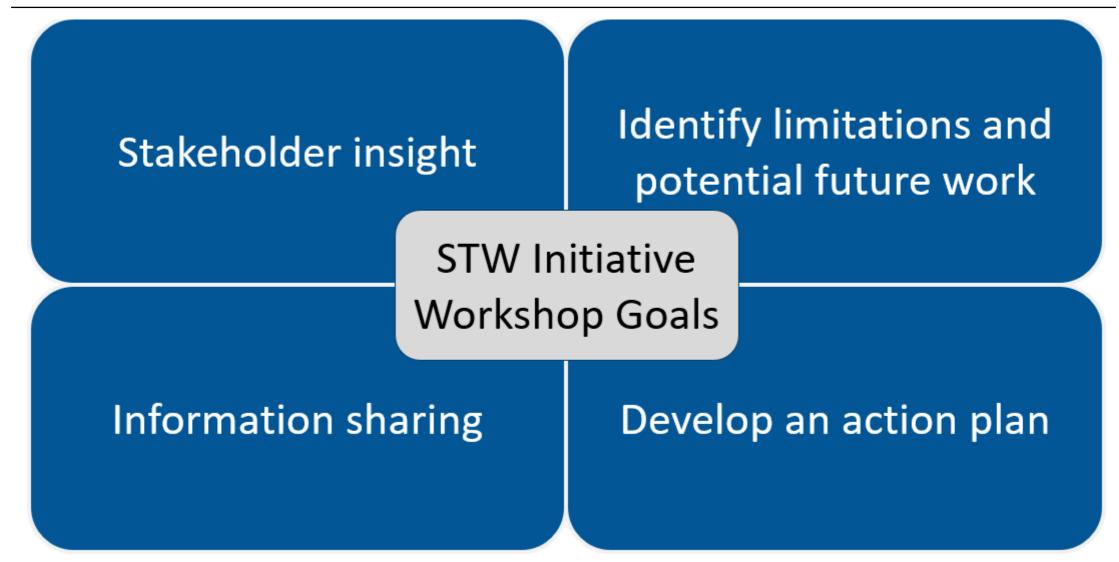


Community of STEM Workforce Efforts





## STW Initiative workshop goals





# Agenda – The STW and Why it Matters

• Keynote speaker – Dr. Victor McCrary

"The Skilled Technical Workforce: Crafting America's Science and Engineering Enterprise"

• NCSES presentation – Dr. Amy Burke

"Skilled Technical Workers: Who They Are and Their Role in the U.S. STEM Workforce"

- Chat and Q&A moderator Dr. Josh Trapani
- Wrap-up John Finamore





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## THE SKILLED Technical Workforce:

Crafting America's Science & Engineering Enterprise



399 What did 139 stakeholders from across the country say the U.S. should do to improve opportunities for skilled technical workers?

4 What 4 recommendation do we offer for building the Skilled Technical Workforce of the future?



# The Skilled Technical Workforce: Crafting America's Science & Engineering Enterprise



# **NSB** and the STW

- NSB has a long-standing interest in the STEM workforce
- Since 2015, we've been calling for a more holistic view of the workforce that moves beyond academic degrees and occupations and highlights the contributions of workers at all educational levels.
  - Revisiting the STEM Workforce (2015)
  - > Our Nation's Future Competitiveness Relies on Building A STEM-Capable Workforce (2018)

## • NSB has in recent years has looked at specific segments of the workforce.

- > SEH Doctorates in the Workforce (2017)
- > The Skilled Technical Workforce: Crafting America's Science & Engineering Enterprise (2019)



# Why the STW Matters

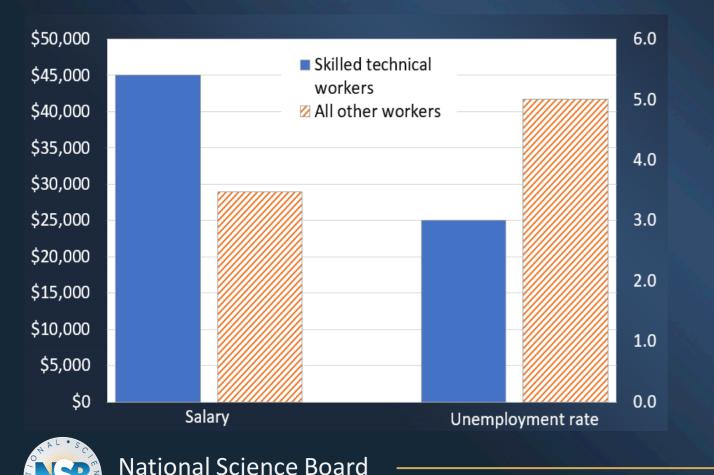
- Increased need for S&T skills and knowledge across many sectors and at all educational levels
- National prosperity and security in a competitive, S&T-intensive world
- Long-term health of the U.S. S&E enterprise
- Near-term workforce needs
- Opportunities for all Americans





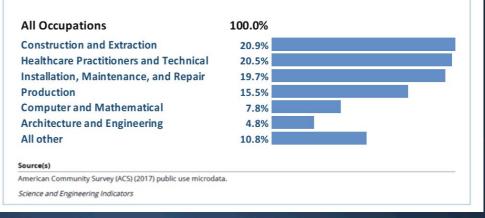
## **STW Data Portrait**

Bar chart describing the average salary for skilled technical workers is estimated to be \$45,000 and almost \$30,000 for all other workers. The estimated average unemployment rate for skilled technical workers is 3.0% and all other workers about 5.3%.



The chart indicates the skilled occupations are ranked from highest percentage to lowest: Construction and extraction (20.9%); Healthcare practitioner and Technical (20.5%); Installation, Maintenance, and Repair (19.7%); Production (15.5%); Computer and Mathematical (7.8%); Architecture Engineering (4.8%); and All other (10.8%).

#### Skilled technical workers, by occupation: 2017

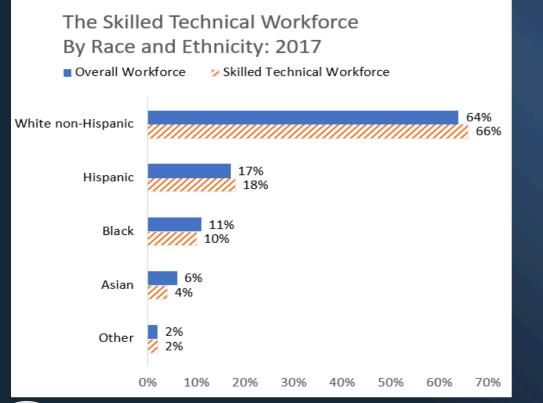


#### Science & Engineering Indicators 2020, "S&E Labor Force"

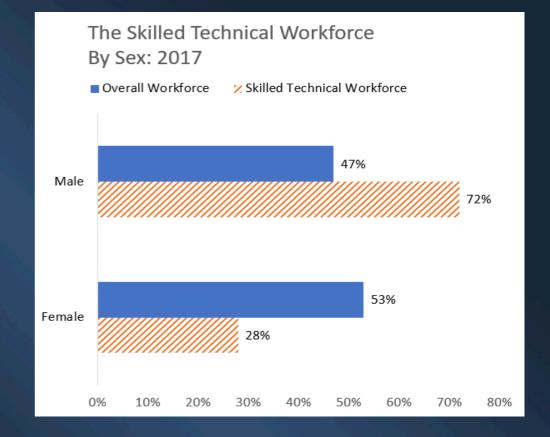
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## **STW Data Portrait**

Bar chart describes the percentages for each race and ethnicity group for the overall workforce versus skilled technical workforce. Overall Workforce for White non-Hispanic (64%); Hispanic (17%); Black (11%); Asian (6%) and Other (2%). Skilled technical workforce White non-Hispanic (66%); Hispanic (18%); Black 10%; Asian (4%); and Other (2%).



The bar chart shows the percentages for males and females for the overall workforce versus skilled technical workforce. Overall Workforce for Male (47%) and Female (53%). Skilled Technical Workforce for Males (72%) and Females (28%).





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National Science Board, "Science and Engineering Labor Force," Science and Engineering Indicators 2020 Data source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017, public use microdata

# **Systemic Challenges and Opportunities**

- Designing STW education to meet the needs of individuals
- Building partnerships among industry, government, and educational institutions to leverage resources and knowledge, and respond to local industry/community needs
- Conveying accurate information about the STW, including employment and career opportunities
- Addressing data gaps and data silos to maximize effectiveness of existing and new programs and initiatives



# **Developing the STW**

- A systems-wide approach to S&E workforce development must include the education and preparation of the STW
- STW pathways *complement* rather than compete with other educational pathways.
  - Emphasis should be on the need for some post-secondary education
  - Avoid pitting 2-year and other nonbachelor's post-secondary educational options against 4-year degrees
  - Data can help us better understand and support these crucial pathways into the STEM-capable workforce



## Recommendations

- Change the Message: The NSB and NSF, and other S&E leaders should communicate the importance of the STW to the nation's S&E enterprise, individual economic prosperity, national security, and U.S. global competitiveness.
- Focus on the Data: To understand and begin to address data gaps, NSF's NCSES, with additional federal resources and collaborating with other statistical agencies, should collect nationally representative data on the education, skills, and workforce characteristics of the STW. NSF should promote partnerships between governmental and non-governmental (industry, academia) stakeholders in the STW to share data and develop tools for public use and workforce planning.



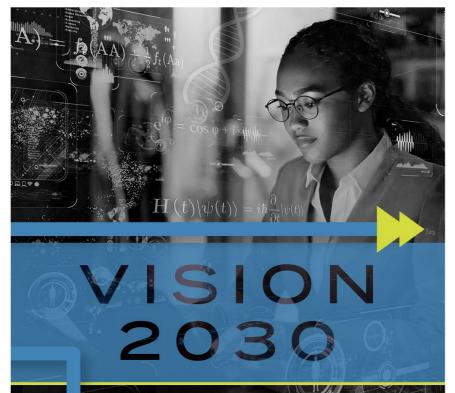
## Recommendations

- Leverage the Portfolio of Federal Investments: NSF should conduct a full portfolio analysis of its STW investments. The analysis could publicize and inform stakeholders about the breadth of NSF's contributions to the STW, build awareness of funding opportunities, and maximize and leverage the impact of these investments.
- Build Partnerships: Two-year colleges and four-year colleges and universities should work as partners, together with business, to grow the STEM-capable U.S. workforce via programs tailored to the needs of local communities. Policymakers can encourage this by developing federal programs that require partnership participation from stakeholders in multiple sectors.





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# DEVELOP STEM TALENT FOR AMERICA

## Questions?

For further information, contact: Reba Bandyopadhyay, rbandyop@nsf.gov Elise Lipkowitz, elipkowi@nsf.gov 703-292-7000



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## **Additional Slides**



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## NSF INVESTMENTS IN SKILLED TECHNICAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



#### Research

Educational Research NSF Convergence Accelerator Tracks; Al and the Future of Jobs

#### Infrastructure

Advanced Technological Education Science of Learning and tools

#### **Data Collection and Analysis**

Stakeholder Outreach to Identify Data Gaps New National Training, Education, and Workforce Survey Identification/Analysis of other Public and Private Sector Data Sources

#### **Community Building**

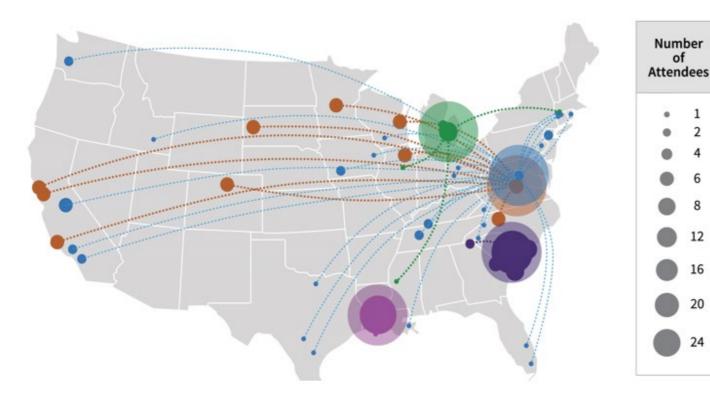
Career Compass Challenge Community College Invocation Challenge

#### Education and Workforce Development

Advanced Technological Education S-STEM CS for All



## **LISTENING SESSION & PARTICIPANT LOCATIONS**



\* Translucent circles represent listening session locations \* Solid circles represent attendee locations

#### **Advanced Technological Education Conference**

Washington, DC – 45 Attendees, 31 Participant Locations Academia – 45

#### **Community College Innovation Challenge**

Alexandria, VA – 56 Attendees, 10 Participant Locations Academia – 45 Industry – 1

#### Florence Darling Technical College

Florence, SC – 40 Attendees, 9 Participant Locations Academia – 20 Industry – 15 Government – 2 Non-Profit – 4

### Macomb Community College

Warren, MI – 22 Attendees, 10 Participant Locations Academia – 10 Industry – 8 Government – 3 Non- Profit – 1

### Baton Rouge Community College

Baton Rouge, LA – 21 Attendees, 2 Participation Locations Academia – 12 Government – 5 Non- Profit – 4



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# Skilled Technical Workers: Who They are and Their Role in the U.S. STEM Workforce

Amy Burke

August 7, 2020

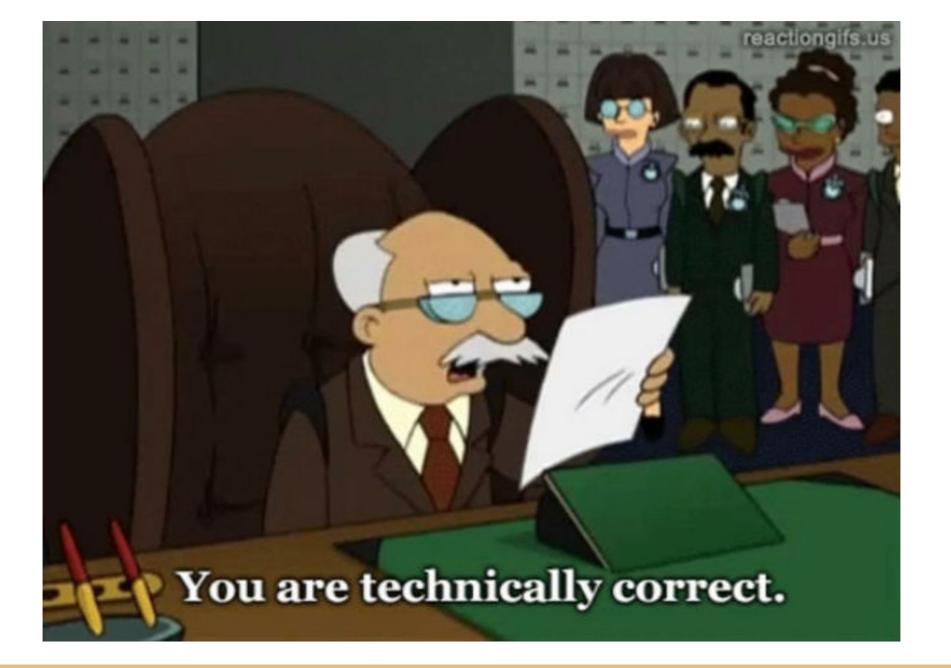
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

National Science Foundation

## Which of these images do you consider part of the STEM workforce?









## **Objective:**

Understand how the STW is defined and measured and what we know about them based on currently available data.

- Definition: What is the STW?
- Measurement: A data framework for measuring the STW
- Here's what we know:
  - How the STW contributes to STEM: STW occupations and industries
  - STW pathways: Certifications, licenses, and education
  - STW opportunities: Earnings and unemployment rates
  - Who are the STW: Demographics of the STW



## What is the Skilled Technical Workforce?

Workers in occupations that use significant levels

## of S&E expertise and technical knowledge and

## who do not have a bachelor's degree.





What I do have are a very particular set of skills, skills that I have aquired over a very long career ..



# O\*NET data used to identify skilled technical occupations

## 1. Score a 4.5 or higher in the following domains:

- Biology
- Building and Construction
- Chemistry
- Computers and Electronics
- Design
- Engineering and Technology
- Food Production
- Mathematics
- Mechanical
- Medicine and Dentistry
- Physics
- Production and Processing
- Telecommunications

## 2. Greater than 50% of workers without a bachelor's degree



## STW workers are employed in a diverse set of occupations

## Science & Engineering (S&E) occupations

Computer and mathematical scientists; biological, agricultural, and environmental life scientists; physical scientists; social scientists; engineers

## S&E-related occupations



Health-related (e.g. health practitioners, health technologists), S&E managers, S&E technologists, other S&E-related occupations

## NEW: Skilled technical occupations



Construction and extraction; installation, maintenance, and repair; production; other skilled technical occupations



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## How are these similar to or different from occupations you use to identify the STEM workers or the STW?

## Science & Engineering (S&E) occupations

Computer and mathematical scientists; biological, agricultural, and environmental life scientists; physical scientists; social scientists; engineers

## S&E-related occupations

Health-related (e.g. health practitioners, health technologists), S&E managers, S&E teachers, S&E technologists, other S&E-related occupations

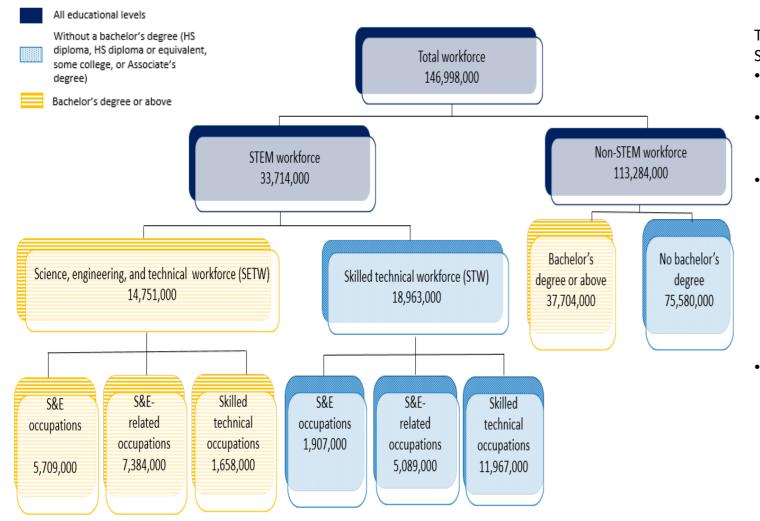
## **NEW: Skilled technical occupations**

Construction and extraction; installation, maintenance, and repair; production; other skilled technical occupations





## New model provides a more extensive view of the STEM workforce



The breakout of the U.S. workforce ages 16 to 65 years old into the STEM and non-STEM workforces.

- The top-level or first-tier Total workforce of an estimated 146,998,000 workers of all educational levels.
- The second-tiered , two sub-groups from Total workforce (from the first-tier level): STEM workforce of all education levels (33,714,000) and non-STEM workforce (113,284,000) of all education levels.
- The third-tier shows two sub groups of STEM workforce (from the second-tier): Science, engineering, and technical workforce (SETW) with a bachelor's degree or above with 14,751,000 workers, and Skilled technical workforce (STW) without a bachelor's degree (i.e., HS diploma, HS diploma or equivalent, some college or associate's degree) with 18,963,000 workers. Also, the third-tiered shows two sub groups of the non-STEM workforce (from the second-tier): Bachelor's degree or above with 37,704,000 workers and No bachelor's degree 75,580,000 workers.
- The fourth-tier shows three sub groups for the Science, Engineering, and Technical workforce (SETW) from the third-tier: S&E Occupations 5,709,000 workers; S&E-related occupations 7,384,000; and Skilled technical occupations 1,658,000. The fourthtiered also shows the same three sub groups for the Skilled technical workforce (STW) from the third tier: S&E occupations 1,907,000 workers; S&E-related occupations 5,089,000; and Skilled technical occupations 11,967,000

NOTE: Estimates may not sum to totals due to rounding and do not include military-specific occupations. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, special tabulations of the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata (2018), data as of July 2020.



# Skilled technical workers are 13% (19 M) of the 146 M workers in the U.S. workforce

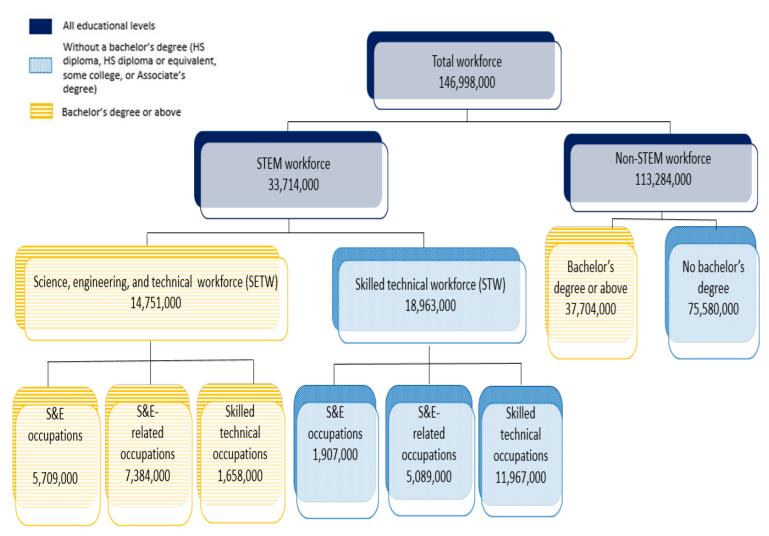
The 100% stacked-column graph that shows horizontal column, the percent of the total workforce that are broken out in two subgroups by occupation type: the STEM workforce 23% and non-STEM occupations 77%. In the second horizontal column, the percent of the total workforce are broken out in four subgroups based on occupation type and education: the SETW 10%, STW 13%, non-STEM with a bachelor's degree 26% , and the non-STEM workforce without a bachelor's degree 51%.

	STEM	SETW: 10%
1%	workforce:	
%	23%	STW: 13%
		Non-STEM
%		bachelor's
%	Non-STEM	degree:
%	workforce:	26%
70	77%	
%		Non-STEM
%		without a
70		bachelor's
%		degree:
%		51%
%		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, special tabulations of the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata (2018), data as of July 2020.



## List what you see as strengths of this approach



The breakout of the U.S. workforce ages 16 to 65 years old into the STEM and non-STEM workforces.

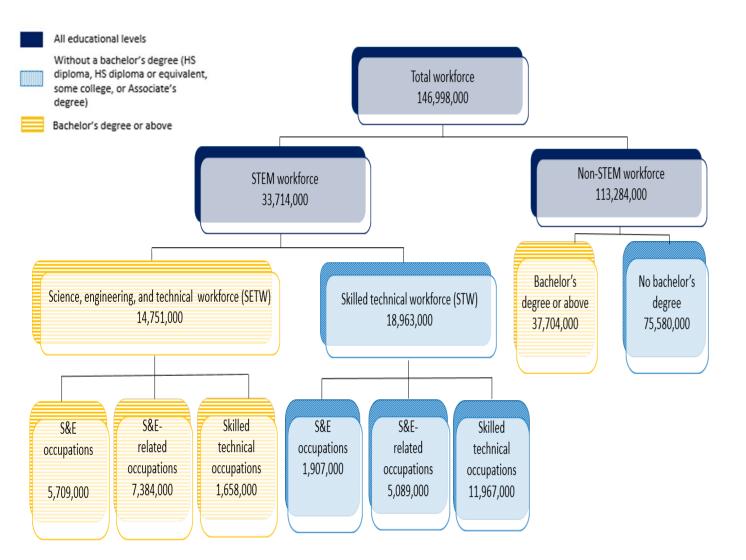
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NOTE: Estimates may not sum to totals due to rounding and do not include military-specific occupations. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, special tabulations of the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata (2018), data as of July 2020.



## List what you see as weaknesses of this approach

## STEM workers in the U.S. workforce, 2018



The breakout of the U.S. workforce ages 16 to 65 years old into the STEM and non-STEM workforces.

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# Skilled technical workers contribute their skills and innovative ideas in a variety of occupations



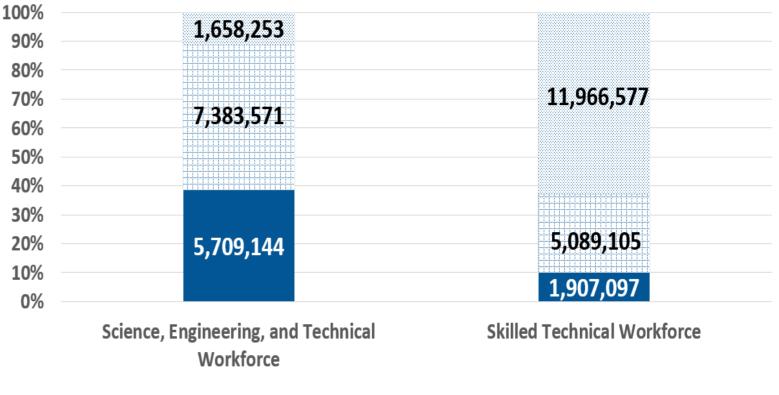




## Over a third of skilled technical workers work in S&E and S&E-related occupations

A 100% stacked column graph with two bars. The horizontal column breaks out the Science, Engineering, and Technical Workforce (SETW) in three occupation groups: S&E occupations (5,709,144 workers); S&E-related occupations (7,383,571) and Skilled technical occupations (1,658,253).

The second column breaks out the Skilled Technical Workforce by S&E occupations (1,907,097); S&E-related occupation (5,089,105), and skilled technical occupations (11,966,577). Most of the SETW are in S&E occupations and S&E-related occupations. Most of the STW workers are in skilled technical occupations, but over a third of the STW workers are in S&E occupations and S&E-related occupations.

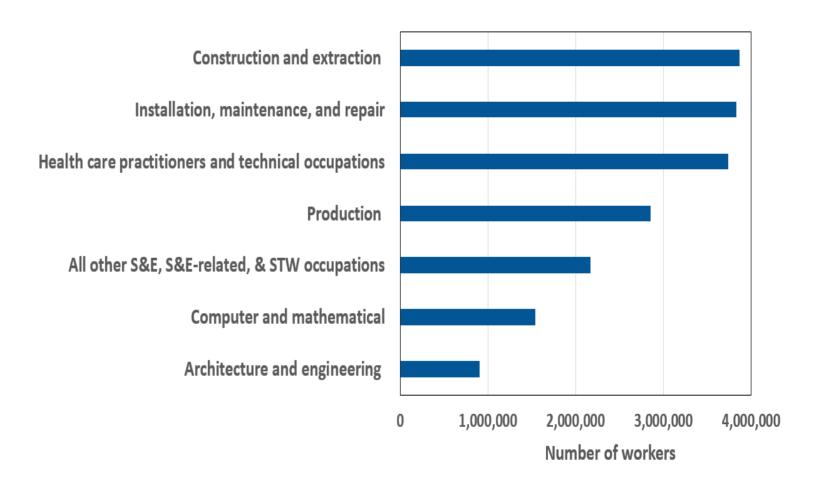


**S&E** occupations **S&E**-related occupations **Skilled** technical occupations



### Three-quarters of the STW work in four main occupation groups

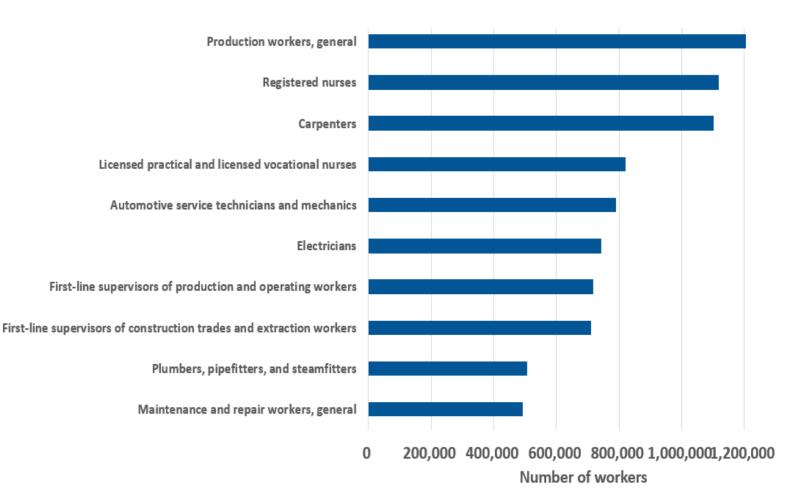
The number of skilled technical workers by broad occupational categories within the STEM categories. Three quarters of the STW work in Construction and Extraction (estimated 3,864,000 workers); Installation, Maintenance, and Repair (3,832,307); Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations (3,740,714); and Production (2,851,895). The remaining occupations on this bar graph are: All other S&E, S&E-related, & STW occupations (2,170,720); Computer and Mathematical (1,542,594) and Architecture and engineering (903,151).





### Ten occupations account for 43% of skilled technical workers

The number of skilled technical workers by individual occupations within the STEM categories. The ten occupations listed account for 43% of skilled technical workers. The ten occupations are: Production workers, general (1,204,957 workers); Registered nurses (1,118,426); Carpenters (1,103,312); Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses (820,672); Automotive service technicians and mechanics (791,214); Electricians (742,879); First-line supervisors of production and operating workers (718,565); First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers (710,972); Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters (507,839); and Maintenance and repair workers, general (492,218).

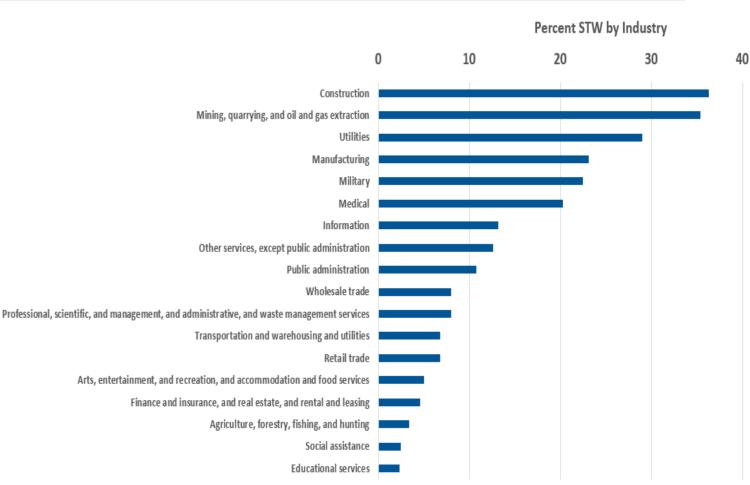




### About a third of workers in construction, mining, and utilities are skilled technical workers

The percent of skilled technical workers by industry type. These are 18 industry type listed: Construction (36.3%); Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction (35.4%); Utilities(29.0%); Manufacturing (23.1%); Military (22.5%); Medical (20.3%); Information (13.2%); Other services, except public administration (12.6%); Public administration (10.8%); Wholesale trade (8.0%); Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative, and waste management services (8.0%); Transportation and warehousing and utilities (6.8%);

Retail trade (6.8%); Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services (5.0%); Finance and insurance, and real estate, and rental and leasing (4.6%); Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (3.4%); Social assistance (2.5%); and Educational services (2.3%).





# What are the ways occupations and industry data related to the STW can be used in your own work?



## There are multiple paths to the skilled technical workforce



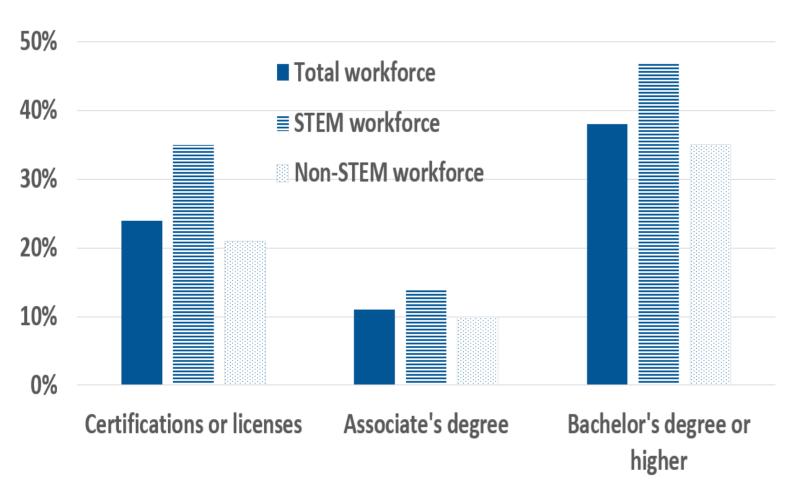








# STEM workers are more likely than non-STEM workers to have training beyond high school



Percent of the total, STEM, and non-STEM workforces for three educational groups:

- Certifications or licenses,
- Associate's degree, and
- Bachelor's degree or higher.

For the Certifications or Licenses, : Total workforce (24%); STEM workforce (35%); and Non-STEM workforce (21%). For the Associate's degree: Total workforce (11%); STEM workforce (14%); and Non-STEM workforce (10%). For the Bachelor's degree or higher : Total workforce (38%); STEM workforce (47%); and Non-STEM workforce (35%).

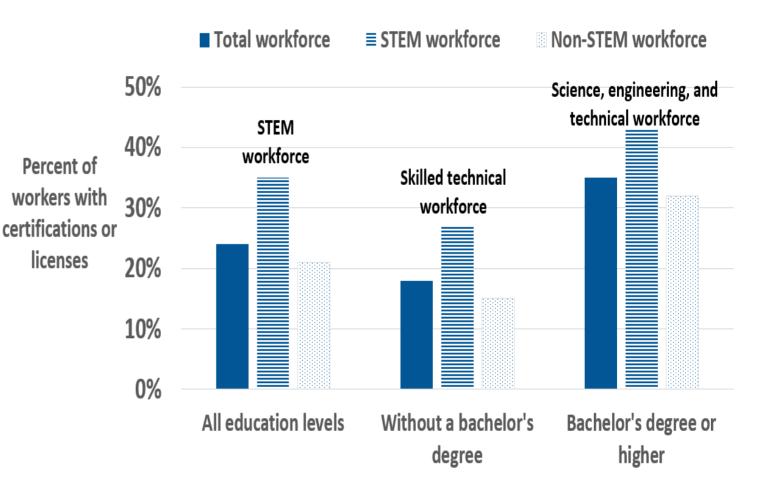
Source: Special tabulations of the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), Current Population Survey: Version 7.0 [2018]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2020. https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V7.0 Accessed 25 July 2020.



# STEM workers are more likely than non-STEM workers to have certifications or licenses

The percent of the total, STEM, and non-STEM workforces with certifications or licenses for three educational groups:

- All Education Levels : Total workforce (24%); STEM workforce (35%); and Non-STEM workforce (21%).
- Without a bachelor's degree, which is the second set of columns: Total workforce (18%); STEM workforce (27%); and Non-STEM workforce (15%).
- For the 'Bachelor's degree or higher', which is the third and final set of columns: Total workforce (35%); STEM workforce (43%); and Non-STEM workforce (32%).



Source: Special tabulations of the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), Current Population Survey: Version 7.0 [2018]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2020. <u>https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V7.0</u> Accessed 25 July 2020.

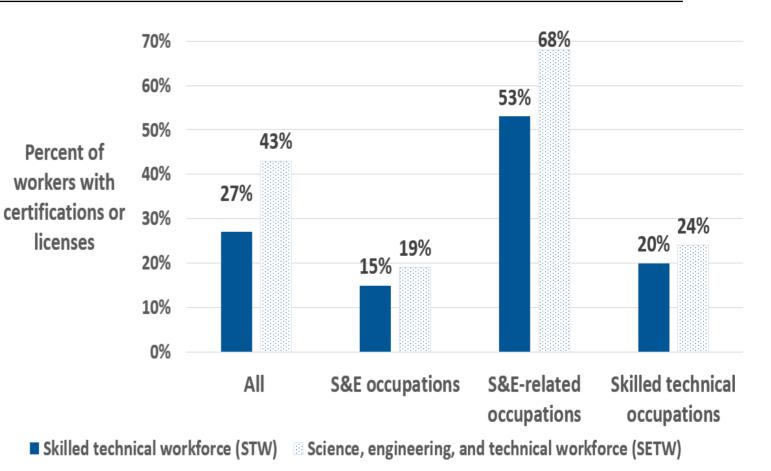


## Science, engineering, and technical workers are more likely than skilled technical workers to have a certification or license.

The percent of the skilled technical workforce (STW) and science & engineering and technical workforce (SETW) with certifications and licenses for four groups:

- , All
- S&E occupation,
- S&E-related occupations, and
- Skilled technical occupations.

The percentages for All: STW (27%) and SETW (43%). The percentages for S&E occupations: STW (15%) and SETW (19%). The percentages for S&E-related occupations: STW (53%) and SETW (68%). The percentages for Skilled technical occupations: STW (20%) and SETW (24%).



Source: Special tabulations of the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), Current Population Survey: Version 7.0 [2018]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2020. <u>https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V7.0</u> Accessed 25 July 2020.



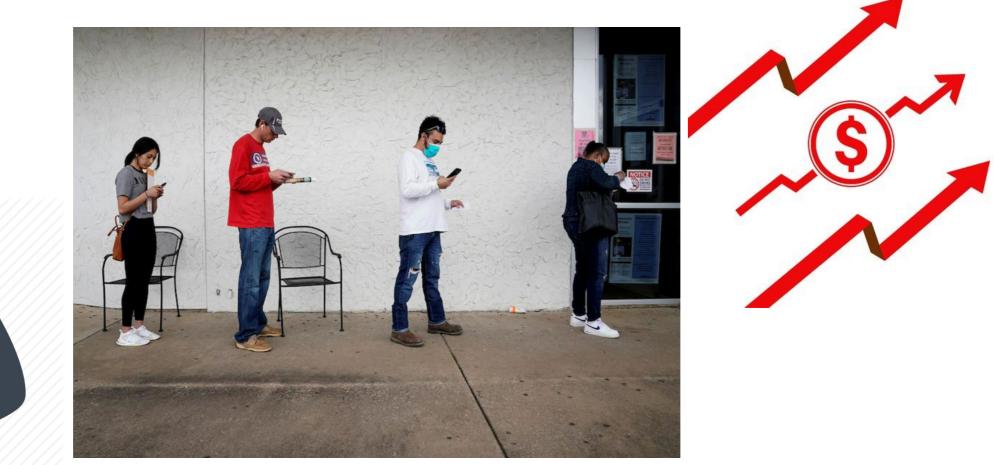




## What other information or additional details for the available information would you like to know about STW pathways and how to acquire the skills needed to be a part of the STEM workforce?



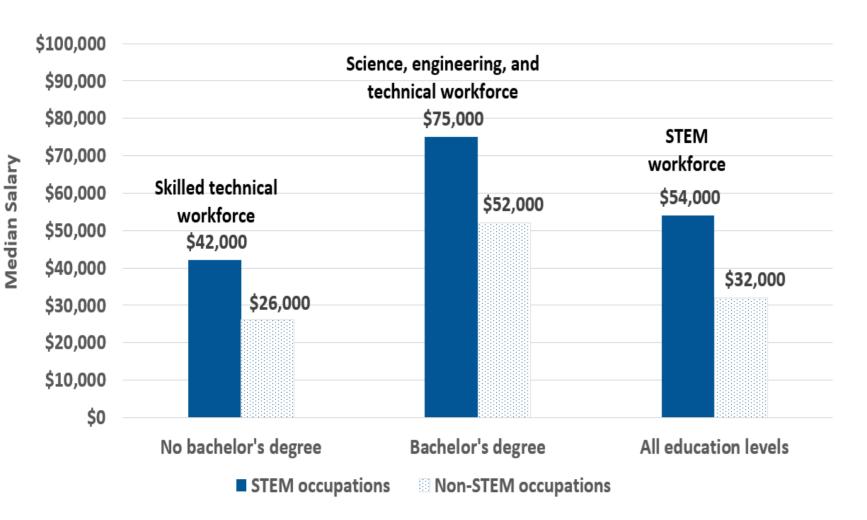
Skilled technical workers have better labor market outcomes than other workers without a bachelor's degree.







## Median salaries are higher for the STW than other workers without a bachelor's degree, 2018 (pre-COVID-19)



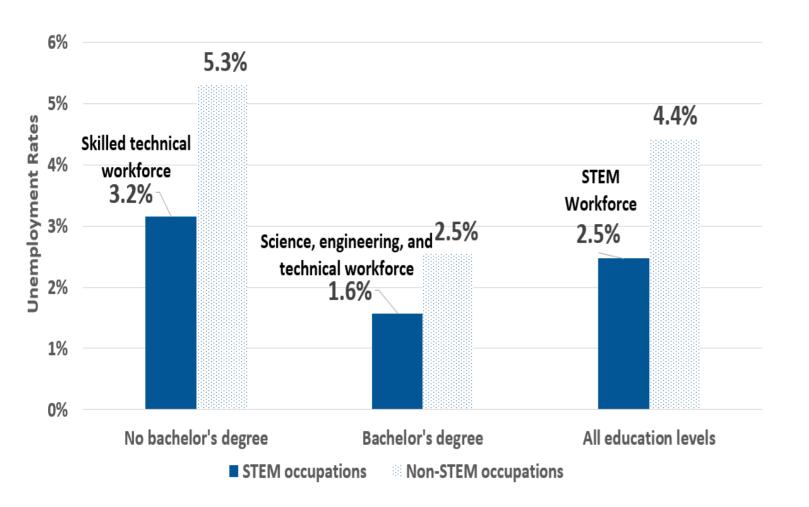
Graph with median salaries of three groups:

- workers no bachelor's degree,
- with a bachelor's degree, and
- all education levels by STEM and non-STEM occupations.

No bachelor's degree group: STEM occupations (42,000 workers) and Non-STEM occupations (26,000). Bachelor's degree group: STEM occupations(75,000) and Non-STEM occupations (52,000). All education levels group: STEM occupations (54,000) and Non-STEM occupations (32,000).



## Unemployment rates are lower for the STW than other workers without a bachelor's degree, 2018 (pre-COVID-19)



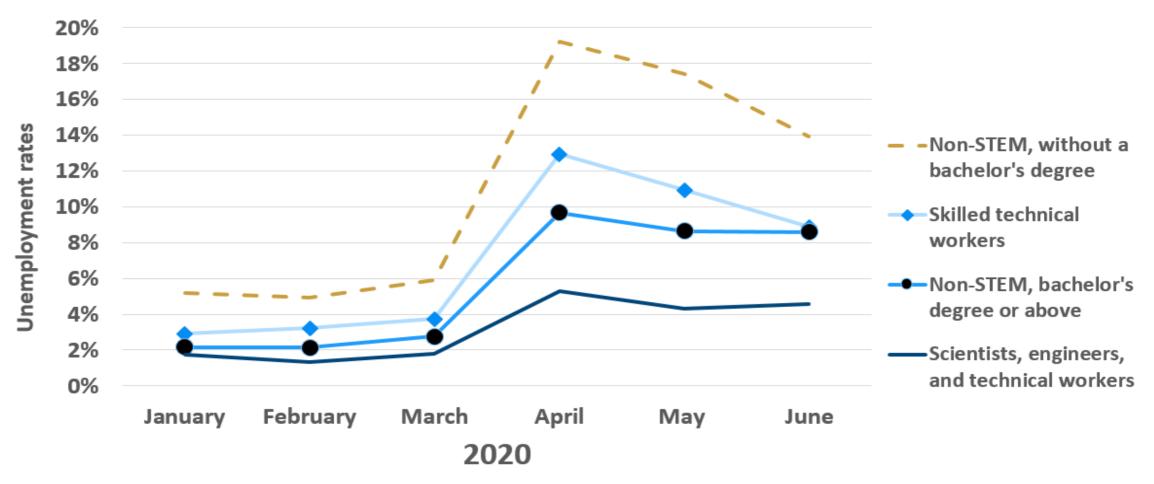
Unemployment rates of workers for three groups:

- No bachelor's degree,
- Bachelor's degree, and
- All education levels by STEM occupations and non-STEM occupations.

No bachelor's degree group (aka skilled technical workforce): STEM occupations (3.2%) and non-STEM occupations (5.3%). Bachelor's degree group (aka science, engineering, and technical workforce): STEM occupations (1.6%) and non-STEM occupations (2.5%). All education levels group: STEM occupations which is the STEM Workforce (2.5%) and non-STEM occupations (4.4%).



#### STEM workers have had lower unemployment rates than their non-STEM counterparts during the COVID-19 crisis



Notes: Does not include those enrolled in high school. Does not include military occupations. Data not seasonally adjusted. Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), Current Population Survey: Version 7.0 [2018]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2020. https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V7.0 Accessed 5 Aug 2020. **Data table** for the line graph.



# What other labor market outcome information would you like to know about?

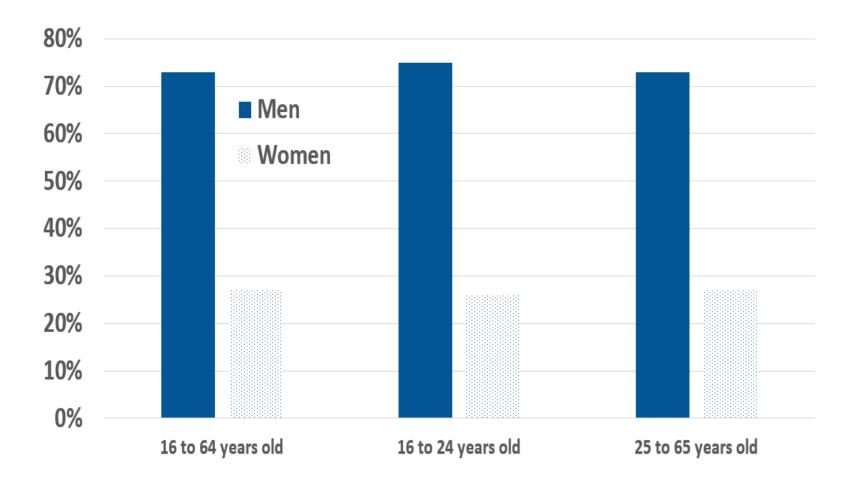


## The skilled technical workforce provides opportunities for women and underrepresented minorities to work in STEM





### Most skilled technical workers are men regardless of age group

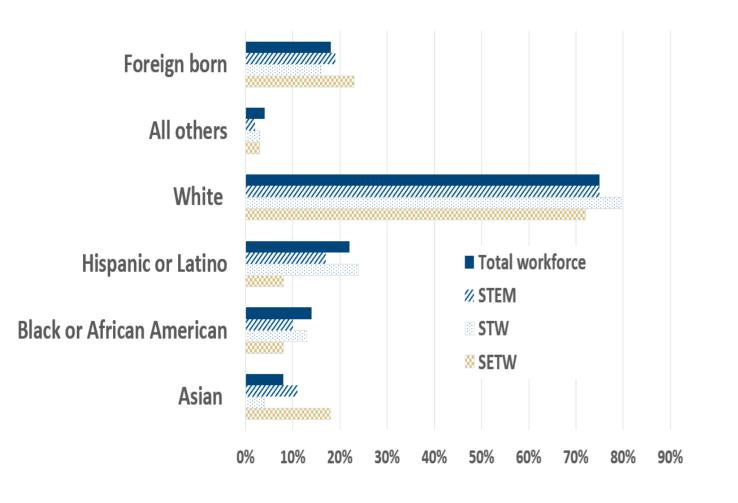


The percent of men and women in the skilled technical workforce for three age groups:

- 16-64 year old: Men (73%) and Women (27%);
- 16-24 year old: Men (75%) and Women (26%); and
- 25 to 65 year old: Men (73%) and Women (27%).



# The racial and ethnic distribution of the STW is similar to the total U.S. workforce



The percent of workers by race, ethnicity, and foreign-born status for the following groups:

- the total workforce
- STEM
- STW, and
- SETW

Data points for the following six racial/ethnic groups are as follows :

- Foreign born: Total workforce (18%), STEM (19%), STW (16%), and SETW (23%).
- All others: Total workforce (4%), STEM (2%), STW (3%), and SETW (3%).
- *White:* Total workforce (75%), STEM (75%), STW (80%), and SETW (72%).
- Hispanic or Latino: Total workforce (22%), STEM (17%), STW(24%), and SETW (8%).
- Black or African American: Total workforce (14%), STEM (10%), STW (13%), and SETW (8%).
- Asian: Total workforce (8%), STEM (11%), STW (4%), and SETW (18%).



## What data would you like to see that would help your organization's understanding of the demographic makeup of the STW, SETW, or STEM workforces?



### Defining and measuring the skilled technical workforce: Key takeaways



The STW is made up of workers who use significant levels of S&E expertise and technical knowledge and who do not have a bachelor's degree.

## **19 M** The number of U.S. skilled technical workers (2018).

# 13% The share of the U.S. workforce who are skilled technical workers.



Defining and measuring the skilled technical workforce: Key takeaways (cont'd)



The STW is a SUB-WORKFORCE of the STEM workforce.

3% and 5% Pre-COVID-19 unemployment rates (Jan 2020): STW and non-STEM workers without a bachelor's degree.

9% and 14% COVID-19 unemployment rates (June 2020): STW and the non-STEM workers without a bachelor's degree.







#### Contact: Amy Burke aburke@nsf.gov

What didn't we talk about today that you'd like to see in future discussions and analyses of the STW?

### Workshop Wrap Up and Next Steps

- STW Initiative workshop #1 Takeaways
- Reminder: Two more STW workshops:
  - "Administrative and Other Supplemental Data Sources for the STW" August 21 @ 1pm EDT
  - "Surveying the STW to Answer Policy-Relevant STEM-Workforce Questions: The 2021 National, Training, Education, and Workforce Survey (NTEWS)" August 28 @ 1pm EDT
- Visit the NCSES STW Initiative website <u>https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/stw/skilled-technical-</u> <u>workforce.cfm</u>



## Reach Out for Additional Questions or Comments

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## "STEM workers have had lower unemployment rates than their non-STEM counterparts during the COVID-19 crisis"

2020 Month	Non-STEM, without a bachelor's degree (legend: dash line)	Skilled technical workers (legend: diamond-marker line)	Non-STEM, bachelor's degree or above (legend: circle-marker line)	Scientists, engineers, and technical workers (legend: solid line)
January	5.21%	2.92%	2.17%	1.74%
February	4.92%	3.22%	2.15%	1.35%
March	5.91%	3.74%	2.76%	1.77%
April	19.23%	12.93%	9.68%	5.31%
May	17.41%	10.92%	8.65%	4.29%
June	13.91%	8.87%	8.60%	4.58%

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