

# Science and Engineering Degrees: 2009

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### INTRODUCTION

This brief presents data on reported field of bachelor's degrees for the nation, the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico based on the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). It focuses on the distribution of degrees in science and engineering fields (S&E) compared to all other degree fields. The science and engineering category includes fields such as animal sciences, biology, psychology, engineering, and anthropology. Examples of nonscience and nonengineering fields include agriculture, business, communications, education, and social work.

Information on field of bachelor's degree was first collected by the ACS in 2009. Respondents who reported their highest degree completed was a bachelor's degree, master's degree, professional degree, or doctoral degree were also asked to list the specific major(s) of the bachelor's degree. Respondents with more than one bachelor's degree, or with more than one major field, were allowed to report multiple fields of degree. Field(s) of degree for levels of education other than the bachelor's (such as vocational, master's, or doctorate) were not collected.

### SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING DEGREES IN THE UNITED STATES

The map displays the variation in S&E degrees by state for 2009. The table contains the estimated number of people with any bachelor's degree, the number of people with at least one S&E bachelor's degree, and the percentage of people

with at least one bachelor's degree in an S&E field. The estimated number of people in the United States age 25 and over with a bachelor's degree or higher was 56.3 million. Of this group, 20.5 million, or 36.4 percent, held at least one S&E degree.

The percentages of all bachelor's degrees in the S&E fields were 28 or less in Mississippi, North Dakota, and Puerto Rico, and as high as 51 in the District of Columbia.

The District of Columbia and the five states of California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Washington had a percentage of S&E degrees above 40 percent. Nine additional states were also above the national average of 36.4 percent: Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, and Vermont.

### SOURCE AND ACCURACY

Data presented in this report are based on people and households that responded to the ACS in 2009. The resulting estimates are representative of the entire population. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. Due to rounding, some details may not sum to totals. For information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the "2009 ACS Accuracy of the Data" document located at <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2009.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf)>.

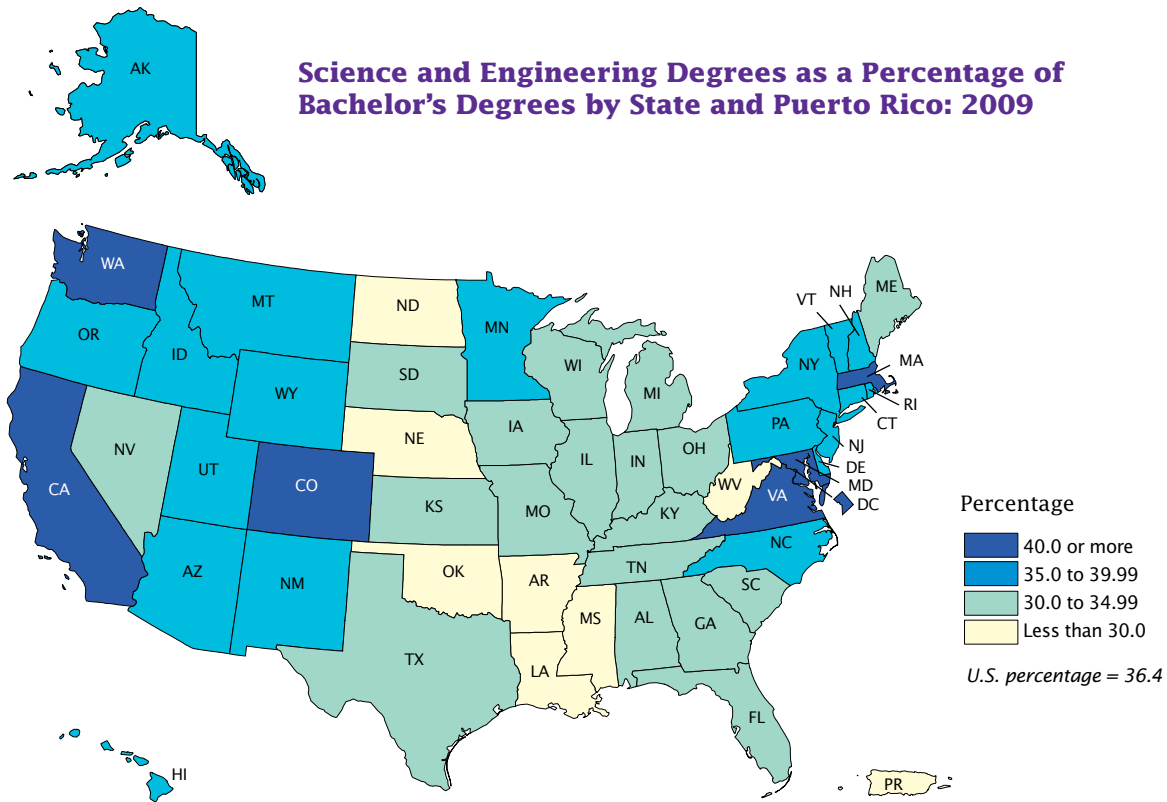
By  
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## Science and Engineering Degrees as a Percentage of Bachelor's Degrees by State and Puerto Rico: 2009



Note: Data are for the total population 25 years and older.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009, Puerto Rico Community Survey, 2009.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data for the nation, states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters (e.g., nursing facilities and prisons). The ACS is conducted in every county throughout the nation, and every municipio in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey. Beginning in 2006, ACS data for 2005 were released for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 and greater. For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit [www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www).

## Total Population With Bachelor's Degrees and With Science and Engineering Degrees by State and Puerto Rico: 2009

Area	Total population with bachelor's degrees					
	Estimate <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Total population with science and engineering degrees			
			Estimate <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>United States . . . . .</b>	<b>56,335,654</b>	<b>171,795</b>	<b>20,498,538</b>	<b>89,611</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Alabama . . . . .	686,543	12,245	216,050	7,084	31.5	0.8
Alaska . . . . .	114,535	5,559	44,526	3,503	38.9	2.4
Arizona . . . . .	1,085,753	14,044	380,717	9,279	35.1	0.8
Arkansas . . . . .	358,933	9,504	102,173	4,972	28.5	1.2
California . . . . .	7,110,449	41,480	2,990,726	27,567	42.1	0.3
Colorado . . . . .	1,181,594	15,302	479,385	8,638	40.6	0.6
Connecticut . . . . .	843,502	11,640	332,553	9,396	39.4	0.9
Delaware . . . . .	171,091	6,009	62,715	3,870	36.7	1.8
District of Columbia . . . . .	200,382	5,000	102,203	4,239	51.0	1.8
Florida . . . . .	3,233,714	25,701	1,072,760	15,536	33.2	0.4
Georgia . . . . .	1,716,045	21,504	570,366	12,109	33.2	0.5
Hawaii . . . . .	261,095	6,888	92,436	5,791	35.4	1.8
Idaho . . . . .	230,252	6,022	83,210	3,928	36.1	1.3
Illinois . . . . .	2,581,463	17,778	894,174	13,837	34.6	0.5
Indiana . . . . .	944,320	14,704	289,498	8,057	30.7	0.7
Iowa . . . . .	496,918	9,576	152,511	6,123	30.7	1.0
Kansas . . . . .	533,004	9,566	160,737	5,749	30.2	0.9
Kentucky . . . . .	603,567	12,395	183,213	6,610	30.4	0.9
Louisiana . . . . .	620,131	11,881	173,913	5,803	28.0	0.8
Maine . . . . .	249,275	7,829	86,810	4,509	34.8	1.4
Maryland . . . . .	1,355,268	16,700	591,897	11,532	43.7	0.7
Massachusetts . . . . .	1,716,578	18,229	720,463	12,902	42.0	0.6
Michigan . . . . .	1,628,826	21,418	561,935	10,722	34.5	0.5
Minnesota . . . . .	1,098,041	13,828	386,044	8,771	35.2	0.6
Mississippi . . . . .	365,660	9,502	97,918	4,861	26.8	1.2
Missouri . . . . .	999,095	14,352	302,013	8,819	30.2	0.7
Montana . . . . .	177,632	6,493	62,283	4,350	35.1	2.1
Nebraska . . . . .	315,465	7,589	89,526	4,176	28.4	1.0
Nevada . . . . .	376,423	8,862	123,040	5,200	32.7	1.3
New Hampshire . . . . .	288,873	6,998	111,128	4,562	38.5	1.3
New Jersey . . . . .	2,037,481	21,317	799,085	13,454	39.2	0.6
New Mexico . . . . .	327,130	6,924	126,062	4,798	38.5	1.4
New York . . . . .	4,275,463	30,486	1,575,997	18,928	36.9	0.4
North Carolina . . . . .	1,632,573	19,109	591,311	12,068	36.2	0.6
North Dakota . . . . .	108,035	3,947	29,134	2,072	27.0	1.4
Ohio . . . . .	1,866,776	19,330	600,768	11,293	32.2	0.5
Oklahoma . . . . .	540,276	9,481	153,529	5,470	28.4	0.9
Oregon . . . . .	754,459	12,227	299,923	8,343	39.8	0.9
Pennsylvania . . . . .	2,271,270	19,144	807,225	11,500	35.5	0.4
Rhode Island . . . . .	217,976	7,157	82,276	4,326	37.7	1.5
South Carolina . . . . .	734,662	12,752	251,180	7,175	34.2	0.8
South Dakota . . . . .	131,554	5,248	39,560	3,091	30.1	1.9
Tennessee . . . . .	969,266	13,985	301,117	7,492	31.1	0.6
Texas . . . . .	3,917,304	30,669	1,369,822	19,252	35.0	0.4
Utah . . . . .	448,121	9,764	160,223	6,016	35.8	1.0
Vermont . . . . .	140,634	4,400	54,377	2,726	38.7	1.8
Virginia . . . . .	1,770,257	19,314	742,583	14,150	41.9	0.6
Washington . . . . .	1,379,728	15,657	586,533	11,716	42.5	0.6
West Virginia . . . . .	218,270	6,542	63,536	3,555	29.1	1.5
Wisconsin . . . . .	965,428	11,464	316,503	7,601	32.8	0.6
Wyoming . . . . .	84,564	3,800	30,871	2,269	36.5	2.5
Puerto Rico . . . . .	556,734	9,136	149,685	5,811	26.9	1.0

<sup>1</sup>The estimates in this table are for the total population 25 years and older.

<sup>2</sup>Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009, Puerto Rico Community Survey, 2009.