

SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

Civilian scientists and engineers as a percentage of the workforce.³⁶

Why Is This Important? In the New Economy, the key engines of growth, technology, and research-based companies are fueled by a large and high-caliber scientific and engineering workforce. As the economy became more technology-based, scientists and engineers as a share of workforce increased by 16 percent between 1995 and 1999. In addition, in spite of the concern about “brain drain” of newly minted scientists and engineers to other states, the correlation between the number of employed Ph.D. scientists and engineers and Ph.D. degrees in science and engineering from universities in a state is remarkably high (0.97). So growing or attracting a high-quality scientific workforce is critical to continued economic growth. These workers enable more innovation in state economies (in both new products and production processes) and in so doing lead to more value-added and higher-wage jobs.

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The Rankings: States with the highest rankings tend to be high-tech states such as Massachusetts, California, and Colorado; states with significant corporate R&D laboratory facilities (such as Delaware, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont); or states with significant federal laboratory facilities (like Maryland, New Mexico, and Rhode Island). In addition, many of these states have robust higher education programs in science and engineering. States that lag behind have few high-tech companies or labs, and relatively limited science and engineering higher education programs.

The top five		Scientists and engineers as a percentage of all jobs
1	New Mexico	1.21%
2	Delaware	1.07%
3	Maryland	1.05%
4	Massachusetts	0.92%
5	Vermont	0.70%
U.S. average		0.49%

Source: National Science Foundation, 1999 data.

