STEM Jobs Data and Projection

STEM workers play essential role in the sustained growth and stability of the US economy, and are a critical component to helping the US win the future (ESA, 2011).

**Growth.** The National Science Foundation (NSF) reports that science and engineering workforce grew from 182,000 to about 5.4 million people between 1950 and 2009, almost 15 times faster than the US population and nearly four times faster than the total US workforce (Butcher, 2013). From 2000 to 2010, growth in STEM jobs (7.9%) was three times as fast as growth in non-STEM jobs (2.6%) in the US (Butcher, 2013; ESA, 2011). According to Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA, 2011), in 2010, there were 7.6 million STEM works in the US, equating to about one in 18 workers.

**Projection.** Georgetown’s Center on Education projects that the total number of STEM jobs will grow 26% between 2010 and 2020. ESA (2011) projects that STEM occupations are projected to grow by 17.0 percent from 2008 to 2018, compared to 9.8 percent growth for non-STEM occupations. STEM jobs are projected to grow at a fast place relative to other occupations.

*Figure 1. Recent and Projected Growth in STEM and Non-STEM Employment*

**Earning.** In 2010, STEM workers command higher wages, earning 26 percent more than their non-STEM counterparts regardless of educational level (ESA, 2011). For people with a high school diploma or less, STEM occupations on average offer $25 per hour, $9 more per hour than other occupations in 2011 (ESA, 2011).
Joblessness. STEM workers are less likely to experience joblessness than non-STEM counterparts (ESA, 2011).

Figure 2. Unemployment Rates in STEM and Non-STEM Occupations, 1994-2010

Education. More than two-thirds of STEM workers have at least a college degree, compared to less than one-third of non-STEM workers (ESA, 2011). STEM degree holders enjoy higher earnings, regardless of whether they work in STEM or non-STEM occupations (ESA, 2011).

References and sources


