

WHY DID THEY COME TO THE UNITED STATES? A PROFILE OF IMMIGRANT SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

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Over the past decade, both the U.S. college-educated workforce and the science and engineering (S&E) workforce have grown dramatically (NSF/SRS 2005). An important factor in that growth has been immigration: in 2003, of the 21.6 million scientists and engineers in the United States, 16% (3,352,000) were immigrants.¹ Although it is simple to classify all of these individuals together under one label, doing so masks the great diversity within the group. It includes individuals from every continent in the world including those who came to the United States as infants, as well as those who came when they were well into their professional careers. It also includes those who were fully educated in the United States, some who were fully educated abroad, and some with a combination of degrees earned in the United States and abroad.

This *InfoBrief* describes some of this group's major characteristics in 2003 and presents an analysis of reasons reported by immigrant scientists and engineers for first coming to the United States for 6 months or longer.

Demographic Profile

In 2003, almost two-thirds (64%) of U.S. immigrant scientists and engineers were naturalized citizens, compared with 40% of the overall U.S. immigrant population (U.S. Census Bureau 2001), and another 11% were

¹ *Scientists and engineers* includes all individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher in an S&E or related field or individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher in other fields who work in an S&E or related occupation. *Immigrants* are defined as individuals who were temporary residents, permanent residents, or naturalized U.S. citizens.

temporary residents (table 1).² Three-fourths of all immigrant scientists and engineers were born in Asia or Europe (56% and 19%, respectively). Individuals born in Central America (including Mexico), the Caribbean, and South America account for another 15% (table 2).

Immigrants made up a substantial proportion of minority scientists and engineers in the United States.³ About 1.7 million (83%) of the 2 million Asian scientists and engineers in the United States in 2003 were immigrants. Similarly, 42% of Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, 35% of Hispanic, and 15% of black scientists and engineers were immigrants.

Immigration, Educational, and Occupational Characteristics

Almost two-thirds of immigrant scientists and engineers (63%) came to the United States when they were between 18 and 34. Another 24% came when they were younger than 18, and 14% came when they were 35 or older. Seventy-five percent of immigrant scientists and engineers have been in the United States 10 years or more (table 3).

Most immigrant scientists and engineers earned either all of their degrees abroad or all of their degrees in the

² The surveys on which these data are based undercount the number and percentage of foreign born, especially temporary residents. The surveys do not include immigrants with only non-U.S. degrees who came to the United States after April 1, 2000.

³ The term *minority* includes Asians, blacks, Hispanics, American Indians/Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders.



TABLE 1. Characteristics of immigrant and native-born U.S. citizen scientists and engineers in the United States: 2003

Characteristic	All scientists and engineers		Immigrants		Native-born U.S. citizens	
	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution
All scientists and engineers	21,647,000	100.0	3,352,000	100.0	18,295,000	100.0
Citizenship status						
U.S. citizen, native	18,295,000	84.5	na	na	18,295,000	100.0
U.S. citizen, naturalized	2,132,000	9.9	2,132,000	63.6	na	na
Non-U.S. citizen, permanent resident	860,000	4.0	860,000	25.6	na	na
Non-U.S. citizen, temporary resident	361,000	1.7	361,000	10.8	na	na
Race/ethnicity ^a						
American Indian/Alaska Native	95,000	0.4	2,000	0.1	93,000	0.5
Asian	2,049,000	9.5	1,705,000	50.9	344,000	1.9
Black	1,200,000	5.5	179,000	5.3	1,021,000	5.6
Hispanic, any race	1,093,000	5.0	386,000	11.5	708,000	3.9
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	70,000	0.3	29,000	0.9	40,000	0.2
White	16,866,000	77.9	1,029,000	30.7	15,837,000	86.6
Multiple race	274,000	1.3	22,000	0.7	252,000	1.4
Labor force status						
Employed	18,021,000	83.2	2,823,000	84.2	15,198,000	83.1
Unemployed (not working, but looking for work)	595,000	2.7	140,000	4.2	455,000	2.5
Not in labor force (not working, not looking for work)	3,031,000	14.0	389,000	11.6	2,642,000	14.4
Age profile (years)						
29 or younger	2,367,000	10.9	350,000	10.4	2,017,000	11.0
30–39	5,576,000	25.8	1,032,000	30.8	4,544,000	24.8
40–49	5,885,000	27.2	987,000	29.5	4,898,000	26.8
50–59	4,856,000	22.5	606,000	18.1	4,250,000	23.2
60–69	2,157,000	10.0	292,000	8.7	1,864,000	10.2
70 or older	808,000	3.7	86,000	2.6	722,000	3.9

na = not applicable.

^a Individuals who reported their ethnicity as Hispanic are listed in Hispanic category, regardless of their race. Individuals who reported multiple races, but are not Hispanic are shown in multiple race category. Individuals shown in remaining categories only reported a single race, and are not Hispanic.

NOTES: Numbers rounded to nearest thousand. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Immigrants are temporary residents, permanent residents, or naturalized U.S. citizens.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT); 2003.

United States. Fewer earned degrees both abroad and in the United States. About two-fifths of immigrant scientists and engineers earned all of their degrees in the United States, about two-fifths earned all of their degrees abroad, and about one-fifth earned some degrees abroad and some in the United States (table 3).

A higher percentage of immigrant than of native-born U.S. citizen scientists and engineers have postbaccalaureate degrees, especially doctoral degrees (9% versus 4%), as their highest degree attained. They were also more likely than native-born U.S. citizens to have

earned their highest degree in an S&E field (63% versus 53%) and to report working in an S&E occupation (31% versus 20%) (table 3).

Reasons for Coming to the United States

The primary reasons that immigrant scientists and engineers gave for first coming to the United States vary according to their demographic and educational characteristics, their country of origin, and the time period when they came. They most often cited family-related reasons (37%), followed by educational opportunities (30%), job or economic opportunities (21%),

TABLE 2. Birthplace of immigrant scientists and engineers in the United States: 2003

Birthplace	Number	Percent
All immigrant scientists and engineers	3,352,000	100.0
United States	12,000	0.3
Asia	1,873,000	55.9
India	515,000	15.4
China, Hong Kong, or Macau	326,000	9.7
Philippines	304,000	9.1
Korea	120,000	3.6
Taiwan	120,000	3.6
Vietnam	97,000	2.9
Iran	87,000	2.6
Pakistan	53,000	1.6
Japan	46,000	1.4
Bangladesh	21,000	0.6
Thailand	19,000	0.6
Europe	632,000	18.8
United Kingdom	122,000	3.6
Germany	71,000	2.1
Russia ^a	63,000	1.9
Ukraine	45,000	1.3
Poland	44,000	1.3
France	25,000	0.7
Italy	24,000	0.7
Romania	22,000	0.7
Ireland	22,000	0.7
South America	179,000	5.3
Argentina	54,000	1.6
Colombia	36,000	1.1
Peru	33,000	1.0
Brazil	20,000	0.6
Venezuela	18,000	0.5
Caribbean	170,000	5.1
Cuba	64,000	1.9
Jamaica	34,000	1.0
Dominican Republic	23,000	0.7
Africa	167,000	5.0
Nigeria	35,000	1.1
Egypt	29,000	0.9
North America (except U.S.)	156,000	4.6
Canada	155,000	4.6
Central America	145,000	4.3
Mexico	93,000	2.8
Oceania	18,000	0.5
Abroad, not specified	2,000	0.1

^a Russia includes only those who reported Russia as a birthplace and does not include those who reported USSR.

NOTES: Numbers rounded to nearest thousand. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Totals for regions include countries not shown separately. Immigrants are temporary residents, permanent residents, or naturalized U.S. citizens. It is possible for immigrants to be born in United States without claiming citizenship; it is also possible for foreign-born individuals to be considered native-born if born abroad to American citizen parents.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT): 2003.

and scientific or professional infrastructure (5%). Seven percent of immigrant scientists and engineers cited other reasons (table 3).

Not surprisingly, those who came when they were younger than 18 came primarily for family-related reasons (about 70%). Those who came when they were between the ages of 18 and 34 came most frequently for educational opportunities (39%), and those who came at age 35 or older came equally for family-related reasons and job or economic opportunities (about 34% each) (figure 1).

Reasons for coming also vary by when the immigrants came to the United States. The most prevalent reasons (40%) given by those who immigrated before 1994 were family related. About 31% came for educational opportunities and 17% for job or economic opportunities. Those who came in 1994 or later, nearly all of whom came to the United States when they were 18 or older, were more likely to cite job or economic opportunities as the primary reason they immigrated (33%). Among these more recent immigrants, 28% came for family-related reasons and 26% came for educational opportunities (figure 2).

Reasons for immigration differ by region of birth.⁴ Except for Africa and Asia, immigrants from every region reported that the most common reasons for coming were family related. Immigrants from Europe and North America were more likely to report coming for job or economic opportunities than individuals from other regions. Higher percentages of immigrants from Asia, Africa, and South America than of those from other regions reported that they came for educational opportunities. Higher percentages of immigrants from Europe, North and Central America and the Caribbean than of those from other regions came for family-related reasons (table 3). Additional details on selected countries/economies can be found in table 4.

Reasons for coming also varied by S&E occupation and degree field. Immigrants with S&E occupations in 2003 were less likely to have come for family-related reasons than those with S&E-related or non-S&E occupations or those who were not employed. For those with S&E occupations, educational opportunities

⁴ For a complete list of countries/economies included in each region, see <http://sestat.nsf.gov/docs/location.html>.

TABLE 3. Birthplace of immigrant scientists and engineers, by region and other characteristics: 2003
(Percent)

Characteristic	Immigrants by place of birth									
	Native-born U.S. citizens	All immigrants	Asia	Europe	South America	Caribbean	Africa	North America (except U.S.)	Central America (including Mexico)	Other ^a
All scientists and engineers (n)	18,295,000	3,352,000	1,873,000	632,000	179,000	170,000	167,000	156,000	145,000	31,000
Age at first entry for 6 months or longer (years)										
Younger than 18	na	23.6	19.4	26.6	25.6	45.4	13.5	31.2	40.2	22.5
18–34	na	62.8	69.3	52.4	62.7	42.3	70.4	53.7	50.5	60.3
35 or older	na	13.6	11.3	21.0	11.7	12.3	16.2	15.2	9.3	17.2
Year of first entry for 6 months or longer										
1993 and earlier	na	75.3	74.1	76.0	76.0	87.5	74.2	69.1	81.2	73.9
1994–2003	na	24.7	25.9	24.0	24.0	12.6	25.8	30.9	18.8	26.1
Place of postsecondary education										
All degrees earned in U.S.	99.2	38.7	34.0	36.9	44.6	71.0	43.7	44.7	49.8	43.5
Degrees earned abroad and in U.S.	0.5	18.7	24.3	10.7	13.4	6.1	17.4	13.4	10.6	16.3
All degrees earned abroad	0.2	42.6	41.7	52.5	42.1	23.0	38.9	41.9	39.6	40.1
Highest degree of educational attainment										
Bachelor's	60.5	51.1	49.9	45.7	58.6	58.2	53.8	58.0	62.8	49.9
Master's	27.1	30.2	32.1	31.7	26.6	25.8	26.9	21.4	23.1	22.4
Doctorate	3.9	9.4	9.1	13.6	6.2	3.0	11.1	8.4	3.5	22.8
Professional	8.5	9.3	8.9	9.1	8.7	12.9	8.3	12.2	10.7	4.9
Highest degree field										
S&E fields	53.5	62.5	64.1	65.4	59.9	50.5	59.4	55.2	58.1	65.6
Computer and mathematical sciences	7.0	12.6	15.0	9.6	7.4	9.7	10.9	7.2	9.8	14.7
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	8.6	8.4	8.4	8.5	7.0	6.8	11.0	9.3	7.7	12.9
Physical and related sciences	3.8	5.7	6.1	7.3	2.5	3.9	4.2	4.6	2.5	5.8
Social and related sciences	22.6	14.2	11.1	17.5	21.5	18.1	13.8	19.9	20.4	16.3
Engineering	11.5	21.6	23.4	22.5	21.5	12.0	19.5	14.1	17.7	15.9
S&E-related fields	24.0	24.3	24.2	21.4	25.3	34.5	26.4	25.1	25.2	14.8
Non-S&E fields	22.5	13.2	11.8	13.3	14.8	15.0	14.3	19.8	16.6	19.7
Occupation										
S&E occupations	20.1	30.5	34.8	29.1	21.7	15.5	24.2	26.2	21.4	33.1
Computer and mathematical scientists	8.3	14.5	18.0	12.2	8.9	6.5	9.5	9.5	8.8	12.3
Biological, agricultural, and other life scientists	1.9	3.1	3.1	3.8	1.8	1.3	2.9	3.6	1.7	6.2
Physical and related scientists	1.4	1.9	2.0	2.3	1.3	1.0	1.4	2.1	1.0	2.8
Social and related scientists	2.4	1.6	1.3	2.1	2.0	1.5	1.8	2.6	1.6	3.9
Engineers	6.8	9.4	10.4	8.7	7.7	5.2	8.6	8.3	8.3	7.9
S&E-related occupations	24.8	23.9	24.3	19.9	23.1	28.7	32.8	26.2	19.5	22.3
Non-S&E occupations	37.6	29.8	25.4	31.2	42.2	42.6	31.4	30.3	46.0	35.9
Not working, looking for work	2.7	4.2	4.7	4.2	3.5	3.9	3.2	2.1	2.8	1.7
Not in labor force	9.8	11.6	10.8	15.6	9.7	9.4	8.5	15.3	10.2	7.0
Most important reason for coming to U.S.										
Family-related reasons	na	37.1	35.0	41.6	36.2	45.5	24.0	42.4	44.8	35.7
Educational opportunities	na	29.7	35.0	15.2	35.3	21.4	44.8	17.4	24.2	25.7
Job or economic opportunities	na	20.8	20.5	23.9	17.1	10.2	17.8	31.7	20.9	21.5
Scientific or professional infrastructure	na	4.9	4.9	6.0	5.2	1.2	5.6	5.9	3.0	5.7
Other	na	7.4	4.6	13.3	6.1	21.7	7.9	2.6	7.0	11.4

na = not applicable.

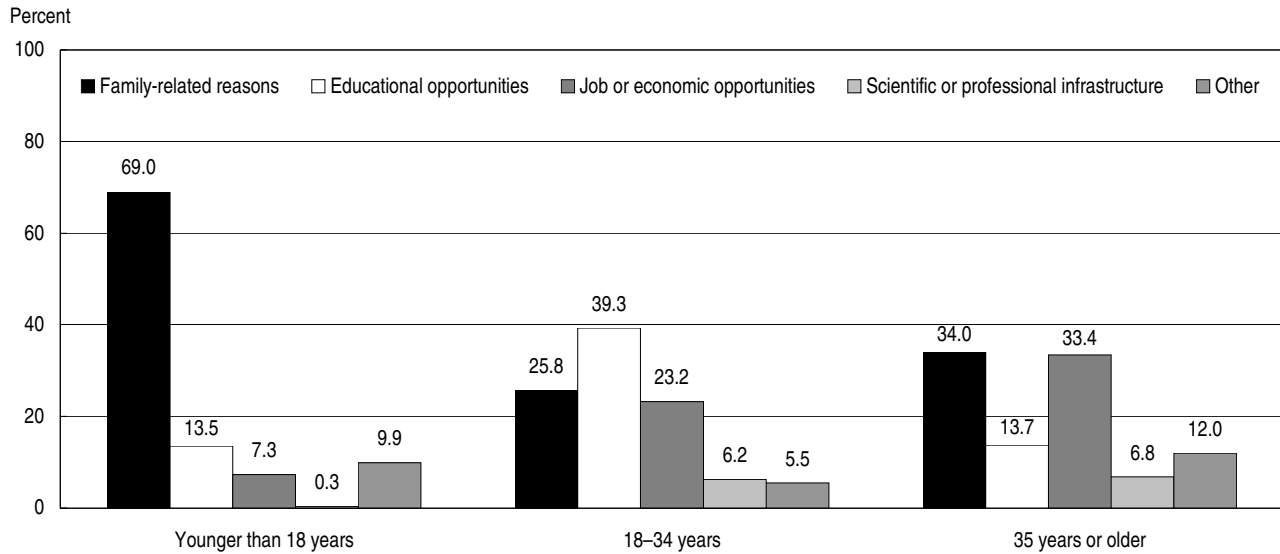
S&E = science and engineering.

^a Other includes immigrants born in United States or its territories, Oceania, or abroad (not specified).

NOTES: Numbers rounded to nearest thousand. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Immigrants are temporary residents, permanent residents, or naturalized U.S. citizens. It is possible for immigrants to be born in United States without claiming citizenship; it is also possible for foreign-born individuals to be considered native-born if they were born abroad to American citizen parents.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT): 2003.

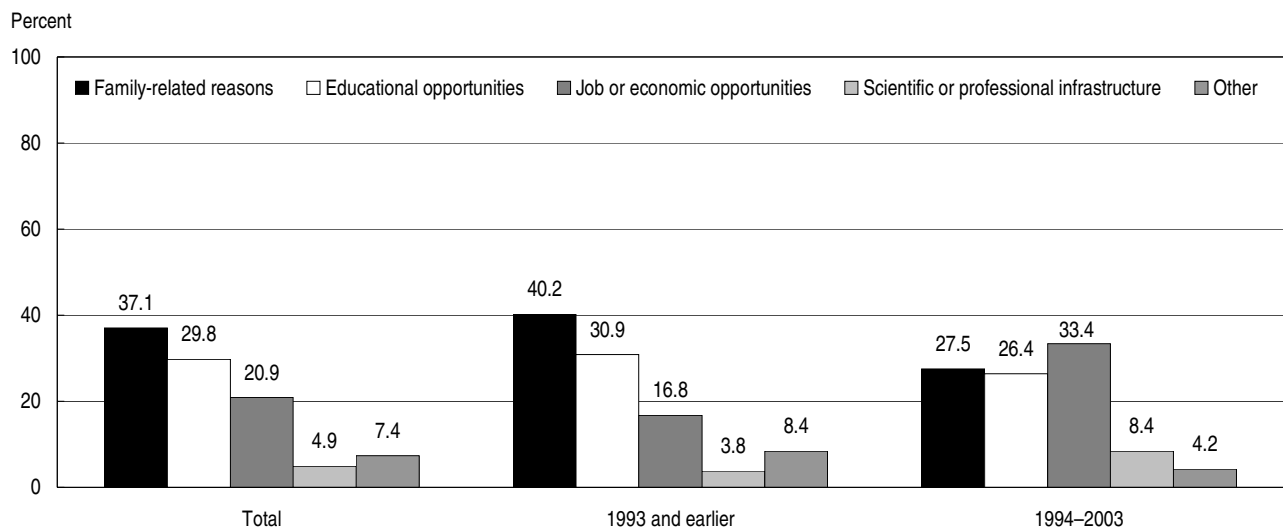
FIGURE 1. Most important reason given by immigrant scientists and engineers for decision to come to the United States, by age at first entry: 2003



NOTE: Respondents were asked when they first came to United States for 6 months or longer.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT): 2003.

FIGURE 2. Most important reason given by immigrant scientists and engineers for decision to come to the United States, by year of first entry: 2003



NOTE: Respondents were asked when they first came to United States for 6 months or longer.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT): 2003.

TABLE 4. Birthplace of immigrant scientists and engineers, by selected countries/economies and other characteristics: 2003 (Percent)

Characteristic	Immigrants by place of birth								
	Native-born U.S. citizens	All immigrants	India	China, Hong Kong or Macau	Philippines	Canada	United Kingdom	Korea	Taiwan
All scientists and engineers (<i>n</i>)	18,295,000	3,352,000	515,000	326,000	304,000	155,000	122,000	120,000	120,000
Age at first entry for 6 months or longer									
Younger than 18	na	23.6	7.0	18.8	15.8	31.2	26.8	41.3	25.9
18–34	na	62.8	83.1	68.3	67.7	53.6	58.1	47.5	66.3
35 or older	na	13.6	9.9	12.9	16.5	15.2	15.1	11.3	7.9
Year of first entry for 6 months or longer									
1993 and earlier	na	75.3	60.0	68.4	82.9	69.0	79.1	81.5	84.3
1994–2003	na	24.7	40.0	31.6	17.1	31.0	20.9	18.5	15.8
Place of postsecondary education									
All degrees earned in U.S.	99.2	38.7	13.7	34.6	19.6	44.6	34.9	55.8	35.9
Degrees earned abroad and in U.S.	0.5	18.7	32.2	40.3	6.2	13.5	8.4	15.0	8.4
All degrees earned abroad	0.2	42.6	54.1	25.1	74.1	42.0	56.7	29.2	56.7
Highest degree of educational attainment									
Bachelor's	60.5	51.1	39.8	32.2	80.9	58.0	51.9	57.0	35.7
Master's	27.1	30.2	43.1	42.1	9.7	21.4	25.8	24.3	45.7
Doctorate	3.9	9.4	8.8	19.8	1.2	8.6	16.0	7.7	11.1
Professional	8.5	9.3	8.3	5.9	8.3	12.2	6.3	11.0	7.5
Highest degree field									
S&E fields	53.5	62.5	69.5	74.9	41.1	55.1	66.8	61.9	70.9
Computer and mathematical sciences	7.0	12.6	18.5	20.9	5.6	7.2	7.7	10.4	22.5
Biological, agricultural and environmental life sciences	8.6	8.4	6.7	10.9	5.8	9.3	10.8	11.6	10.7
Physical and related sciences	3.8	5.7	8.0	10.1	1.9	5.0	7.8	4.7	4.3
Social and related sciences	22.6	14.2	9.7	7.9	11.1	20.0	19.1	19.0	11.9
Engineering	11.5	21.6	26.4	25.1	16.7	14.0	21.4	16.3	21.5
S&E-related fields	24.0	24.3	16.8	14.9	47.8	25.1	18.7	25.6	16.9
Non-S&E fields	22.5	13.2	13.8	10.2	11.1	19.8	15.4	12.5	12.2
Occupation									
S&E occupations	20.1	30.5	41.4	50.7	13.5	26.1	32.1	23.8	41.4
Computer and mathematical scientists	8.3	14.5	26.5	23.4	6.2	9.5	11.1	10.2	23.2
Biological, agricultural and other life scientists	1.9	3.1	2.5	8.4	0.5	3.6	4.3	2.4	2.7
Physical and related scientists	1.4	1.9	2.0	4.5	0.7	2.1	2.1	0.9	2.2
Social and related scientists	2.4	1.6	0.8	1.6	0.4	2.6	4.0	2.8	1.4
Engineers	6.8	9.4	9.5	12.7	5.6	8.2	10.7	7.5	11.9
S&E-related occupations	24.8	23.9	19.6	14.4	47.2	26.2	19.9	19.6	19.1
Non-S&E occupations	37.6	29.8	22.9	20.1	26.9	30.4	31.1	39.2	23.0
Not working, looking for work	2.7	4.2	4.9	5.9	2.4	2.1	2.9	4.6	4.2
Not in labor force	9.8	11.6	11.3	9.0	10.0	15.3	13.9	12.9	12.4
Most important reason for coming to U.S.									
Family-related reasons	na	37.1	31.3	32.0	47.2	42.3	41.4	54.0	35.5
Educational opportunities	na	29.7	31.4	46.8	12.5	17.5	12.3	31.2	49.8
Job or economic opportunities	na	20.8	29.1	12.3	36.4	31.8	35.3	11.3	9.0
Scientific or professional infrastructure	na	4.9	6.5	7.3	2.3	5.9	6.6	2.1	5.1
Other	na	7.4	1.8	1.6	1.6	2.6	4.4	1.3	0.6

na = not applicable.

S&E = science and engineering.

NOTES: Numbers are rounded to nearest 1,000. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Immigrants are defined as individuals who were temporary residents, permanent residents, or naturalized U.S. citizens.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation/Division of Science Resources Statistics, Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT): 2003.

were the most prevalent reason for coming. A higher percentage of computer and mathematical scientists than of other S&Es came for job or economic opportunities. Higher percentages of life scientists and physical scientists than of other S&Es came for the U.S. scientific or professional infrastructure (table 5).

Among those with S&E degrees (regardless of occupation), higher percentages of those whose highest degree was in computer and mathematical sciences, physical sciences, or engineering than of those whose highest degree was in social sciences came for educational opportunities or for job or economic opportunities.

Higher percentages of those whose highest degree was in social and related sciences, life sciences, S&E-related, or non-S&E fields came for family-related reasons. Access to scientific or professional infrastructure was not a major factor for coming to the U.S. for S&E degree holders; those whose highest degree was in life sciences or physical sciences did, however,

cite this reason more often than those with highest degrees in other S&E fields (table 5).

Immigrants whose highest degree was a U.S. master's or a doctorate were more likely than those with bachelor's degrees to come for educational opportunities. Those whose highest degree was a non-U.S.

TABLE 5. Immigrant scientists and engineers most important reason for coming to the United States, by occupation and educational characteristics: 2003 (Percent)

Educational characteristics and occupation	All reasons (n)	Family-related reasons	Educational opportunities	Job or economic opportunities	Scientific or professional infrastructure	Other
All immigrants	3,352,000	37.1	29.7	20.8	4.9	7.4
Occupation						
S&E occupations	1,022,000	26.2	36.9	22.1	8.6	6.2
Computer and mathematical scientists	487,000	27.0	33.9	27.4	5.6	6.1
Biological, agricultural and other life scientists	102,000	20.0	34.9	10.9	29.5	4.7
Physical, and related scientists	64,000	23.2	42.4	12.9	16.8	4.7
Social and related scientists	54,000	33.4	46.3	11.5	2.7	6.1
Engineers	314,000	26.4	39.4	21.1	5.8	7.3
S&E-related occupations	802,000	40.1	27.2	20.9	5.0	6.8
Non-S&E occupations	998,000	42.2	25.3	21.9	1.5	9.0
Not employed	529,000	43.8	28.3	16.4	4.0	7.6
Place of postsecondary education						
All locations	3,352,000	37.1	29.7	20.8	4.9	7.4
All degrees earned in U.S.	1,297,000	50.2	31.9	8.1	0.9	9.0
Degrees earned in U.S. and abroad	628,000	16.8	60.6	10.9	7.7	4.0
All degrees earned abroad	1,427,000	34.1	14.2	36.9	7.4	7.4
Highest degree field						
S&E fields	2,096,000	35.3	30.5	21.2	5.3	7.7
Computer and mathematical sciences	421,000	31.8	34.5	22.3	4.3	7.1
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	283,000	40.5	28.4	13.2	12.1	5.8
Physical and related sciences	190,000	30.6	31.5	21.2	10.3	6.4
Social and related sciences	477,000	50.5	21.8	18.0	0.7	9.0
Engineering	725,000	26.6	34.5	25.7	4.9	8.3
S&E-related fields	815,000	39.1	27.0	21.1	5.6	7.2
Non-S&E fields	441,000	41.7	31.1	18.9	1.9	6.3
Highest degree level and location of highest degree						
All degrees	3,352,000	37.1	29.7	20.8	4.9	7.4
Non-U.S.	1,472,000	34.0	15.0	36.0	7.4	7.6
U.S.	1,881,000	39.5	41.3	9.0	3.0	7.3
Bachelor's	1,714,000	45.1	20.1	24.5	1.8	8.5
Non-U.S.	896,000	39.2	12.1	38.2	3.1	7.3
U.S.	819,000	51.6	28.8	9.4	0.5	9.8
Master's	1,011,000	30.1	39.4	19.9	4.2	6.4
Non-U.S.	287,000	30.1	10.7	43.8	5.9	9.5
U.S.	724,000	30.0	50.8	10.4	3.5	5.2
Doctorate	315,000	15.5	47.9	12.4	19.8	4.4
Non-U.S.	118,000	16.7	14.4	26.3	37.0	5.6
U.S.	198,000	14.9	67.8	4.1	9.6	3.7
Professional	312,000	37.6	33.2	12.4	9.2	7.6
Non-U.S.	171,000	25.3	37.8	17.8	12.4	6.8
U.S.	141,000	52.6	27.6	5.9	5.3	8.7

S&E = science and engineering.

NOTES: Numbers are rounded to nearest thousand. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Immigrants are individuals who were temporary residents, permanent residents, or naturalized U.S. citizens.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT): 2003.

master's most frequently came for job or economic opportunities. Individuals whose highest degree was a non-U.S. doctorate most frequently came for the U.S. scientific or professional infrastructure. Those with highest degrees at the bachelor's, masters or doctoral level outside the United States were less likely to come for educational reasons and more frequently reported coming for job or economic opportunities than those who had highest degrees at those levels, but earned in the United States (table 5).

Data Notes

Data presented in this report are from the 2003 Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT), which integrates three large demographic and workforce surveys of individuals conducted by the National Science Foundation: the National Survey of College Graduates, the National Survey of Recent College Graduates, and the Survey of Doctorate Recipients. These surveys are of 102,350 individuals representing a population of about 21.6 million scientists and engineers, including people trained in S&E or S&E-related fields or working in S&E or S&E-related occupations. The wording of the question on reasons for coming to the United States was as follows: "Which factors were important in your decision to first come to the United States for six months or longer?" (Mark yes or no for each item). The response categories were: family-related reasons, educational opportunities in the United States, job or economic opportunities, scientific or professional infrastructure in my field, and other—

specify. Respondents were then asked to identify the most important reason of all those they selected.

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