

# SCIENCE STATISTICS

Office of U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper

- STEMM jobs make up 34% of the US workforce. ([American Association for the Advancement of Science](#))
- STEMM economic activity accounts for 39% of the US GDP (\$11T). ([American Association for the Advancement of Science](#))
- Polls suggest that 90% of Americans rely on federal scientific data for information like weather forecasts, job market reports, and food safety warnings. ([Association of Science and Technology Centers](#))
- Federally funded research led to the creation of over 200 companies across the country including Google. ([The Science Coalition](#))
- Federal R&D funding is around 3% of the U.S. GDP. However, this generates the highest return on investment of any form of federal investment. ([American Association for the Advancement of Science](#))
- Each \$1.00 of investment in the National Science Foundation generates about \$2.00 of economic growth. ([Science](#))
- A \$55 million grant from the National Science Foundation led to the birth of the Internet. ([Science](#))
- The U.S. ranked second to China on the Nature Index for high-impact research in 2025 for the second year in a row. ([Science](#), [Nature](#))
- China publishes more science and applies for more international patents than the U.S., not to mention has more researchers. ([American Association for the Advancement of Science](#))
- A sustained investment of 0.02% or less of the annual GDP over several decades led to the creation of the Internet, the Global Positioning System (GPS), and Siri. ([American Progress](#))
- Since 1945, science and technology have driven 85% of the economic growth in America. ([American Society for Microbiology](#))
- Every dollar invested in the NIH in 2025 returned \$2.57 in economic activity, and NIH funding produced \$94.58 billion in new economic activity across all 50 states. ([United for Medical Research](#))



- Social returns to investment in innovation are even higher: even under the most conservative assumptions, society derives nearly \$5 of benefit from every \$1 spent on innovation. ([NBER Working Paper Series](#))
- American medical innovation has generated an estimated \$167.5 trillion in societal value over a 30-year horizon across four major disease areas. ([U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#))
- For every dollar invested in medical R&D, the U.S. is seeing a 27-to-1 return, underscoring the extraordinary value created by advancements in healthcare innovation. ([U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#))
- HIV patients who would have died within two years in 1995 now live full lifespans—an average of 40 additional years. Heart disease patients gain critical years in their prime working age. Breast cancer survivors are living seven more years than they did three decades ago. And new obesity treatments are poised to add nearly a year of life while dramatically reducing the chronic disease burden that has plagued millions of Americans. ([U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#))
- Since President Trump took office one year ago, the U.S. government has lost more than 10,000 STEM PhDs who were fired, retired, or quit across 14 executive agencies. ([Science](#))
- Workforces of science agencies dropped by nearly 12% between Sept 2024-Dec 2025. ([Politico](#))
- Halfway through this fiscal year, the number of competitive grants awarded by the National Institutes of Health is down by more than half compared with the same period last year. ([Washington Post](#))
- Between January 2025 and February 2026, STEM and health employees at science-focused agencies saw nearly 15,000 jobs cut, outpacing cuts among other federal workers. ([Washington Post](#))

