



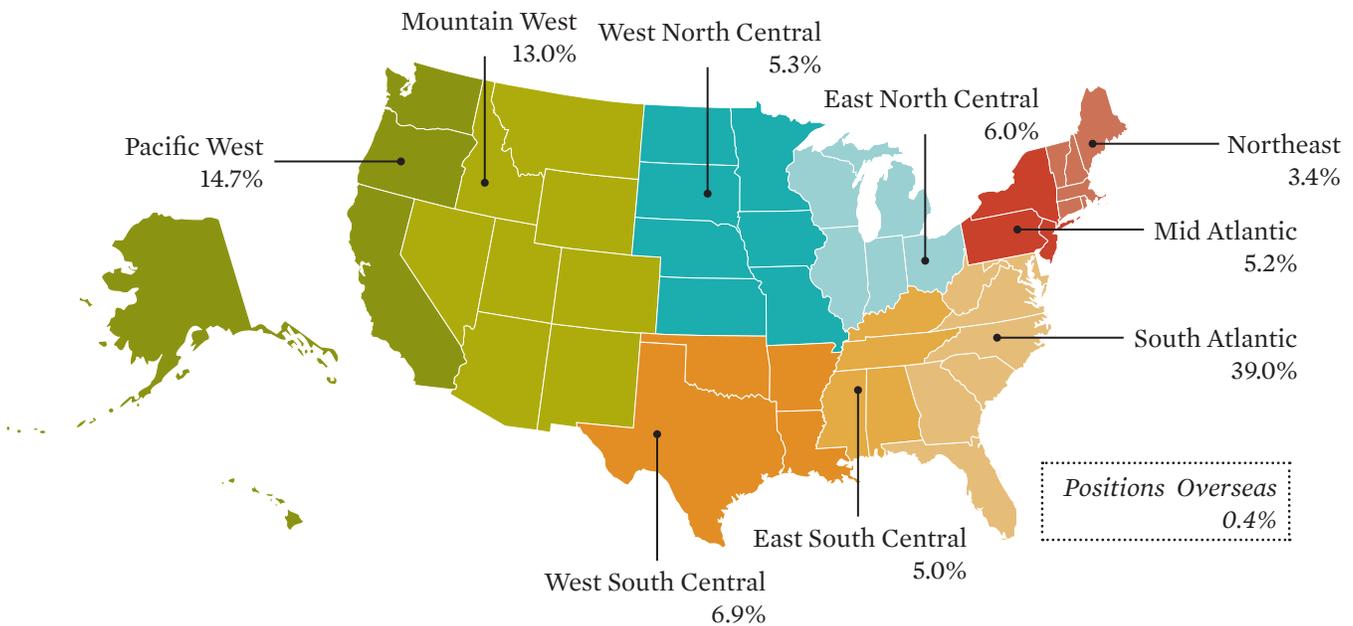
Physical Sciences

FEDERAL CAREER GUIDE

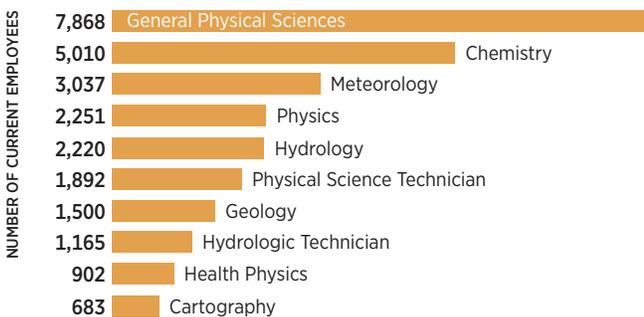
Are you interested in pursuing a job in a physical science field? The federal government offers a variety of opportunities for individuals with knowledge and skills in chemistry, physics, geology, oceanography and more. For example, research chemists develop and test new drugs at the Food and Drug Administration, geologists monitor mineral extraction for the Department of the Interior, and oceanographers improve ways to accurately predict tsunamis at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

This guide will give you a glimpse of the type of physical science jobs available in the government. For more information about searching and applying for positions in the federal government, visit gogovernment.org

Physical Sciences Positions by Region

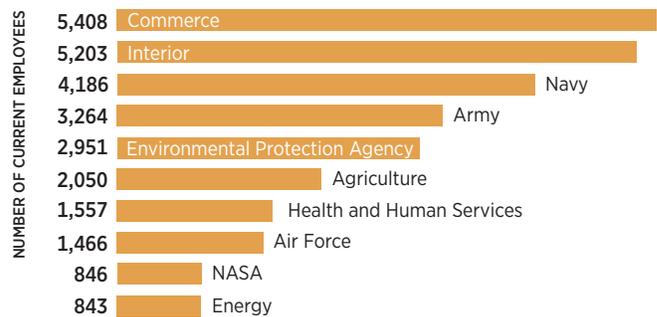


Top Physical Sciences Fields



SOURCE: fedscope.opm.gov

Top Agencies with Employees in Physical Sciences



SOURCE: fedscope.opm.gov

SEARCH FOR PHYSICAL SCIENCES POSITIONS

With so many opportunities to use your physical science skills, it may be helpful to sort positions by **job category**. The most common categories are listed below. You can search [USAJOBS.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov) using these keywords or by using the job series code, a four-digit number corresponding to a government job category.

Job Categories

- 1301** General Physical Science
- 1310** Physics
- 1315** Hydrology
- 1320** Chemistry
- 1330** Astronomy and Space Science
- 1350** Geology
- 1360** Oceanography
- 1370** Cartography

Search Tips

As the nation's largest employer, the federal government has thousands of positions open at any one time. Here are our top tips for finding the right job announcements for you:

- 1. Do Your Research.**
Explore a variety of positions and agencies, then focus your search to a few that align best with your interests and skills.
- 2. Visit Agency Websites.**
Learn more about an agency's mission, structure and current hiring on their website.
- 3. Create an account on USAJOBS.gov**
Save your job searches, build your resume and search for positions at [USAJOBS.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov)

Did You Know?

- At least 46 percent of employees in physical science fields make more than \$100,000 per year.
- A bachelor's degree is the minimum educational requirement for all jobs in the physical sciences. However, many jobs require a master's degree or higher.
- Only 25 percent employees in the physical sciences are female, and the federal government is strongly encouraging more women to pursue careers in the field.

Examples of Job Positions

Hydrologist (1315)

Department: Department of Agriculture
Agency: U.S. Forest Service
Salary Range: \$31,000-\$75,000/year
Location: Throughout the Nation

As a hydrologist, you will:

- Carry out studies on the occurrence, distribution, quantity and quality of water in a given area
- Analyze collected data and prepare written and oral reports

Astrophysicist (1330)

Department: Smithsonian Institution
Agency: Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
Salary Range: \$89,000-\$119,000/year
Location: Cambridge, Massachusetts

As an astrophysicist, you will:

- Lead investigations into radio astronomy studies of circumstellar disk evolution and planet formation
- Prepare scientific papers describing theoretical and observational results
- Write proposals for grant funding

Visit us online at

[gogovernment.org/physicalsciences](https://www.gogovernment.org/physicalsciences)

Learn more about finding a government job or internship in transportation and about:

- The Application Process
- Federal Agencies
- Pay and Benefits
- Writing a Federal Resume
- Security Clearances
- Searching for Positions
- USAJOBS.gov
- Internships
- Employee Profiles

