

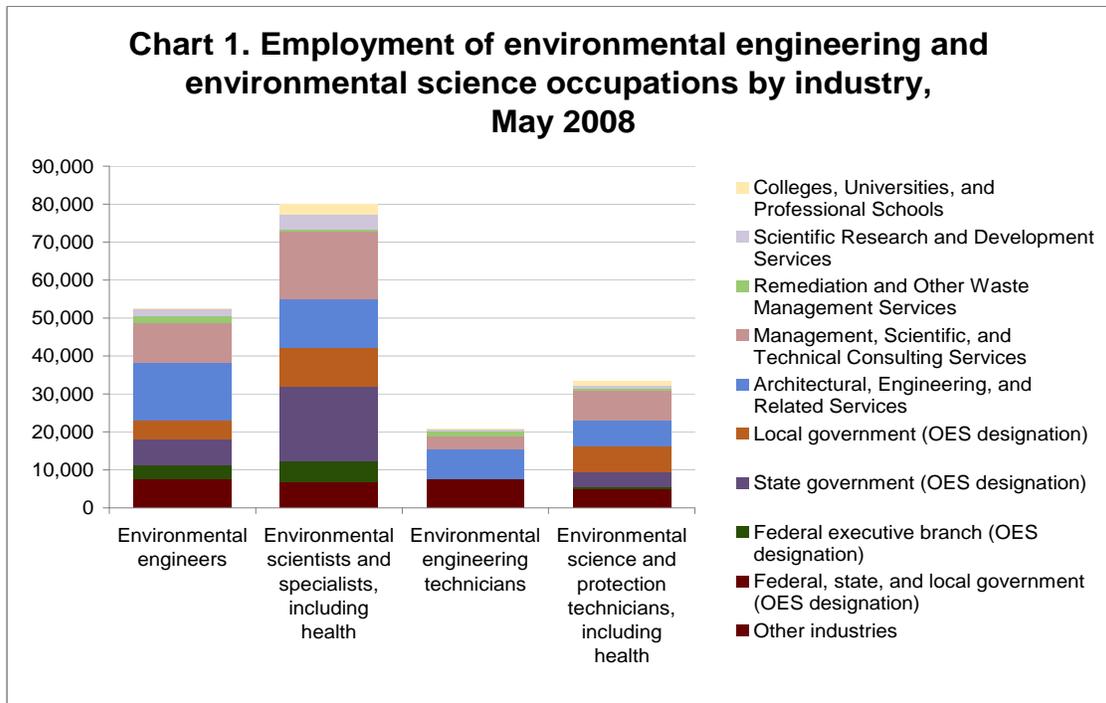
June 2009

Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Highlights



Jobs for the Environment

Although there is currently no standard definition of “green” jobs, Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) data are available for a number of occupations associated with protecting and preserving the environment and natural resources. This highlight presents employment and wage data for eight environmental, conservation, and forestry occupations. Data for over 800 occupations are available from the OES home page at www.bls.gov/oes/.



(See page 5 to view these data in table format.)

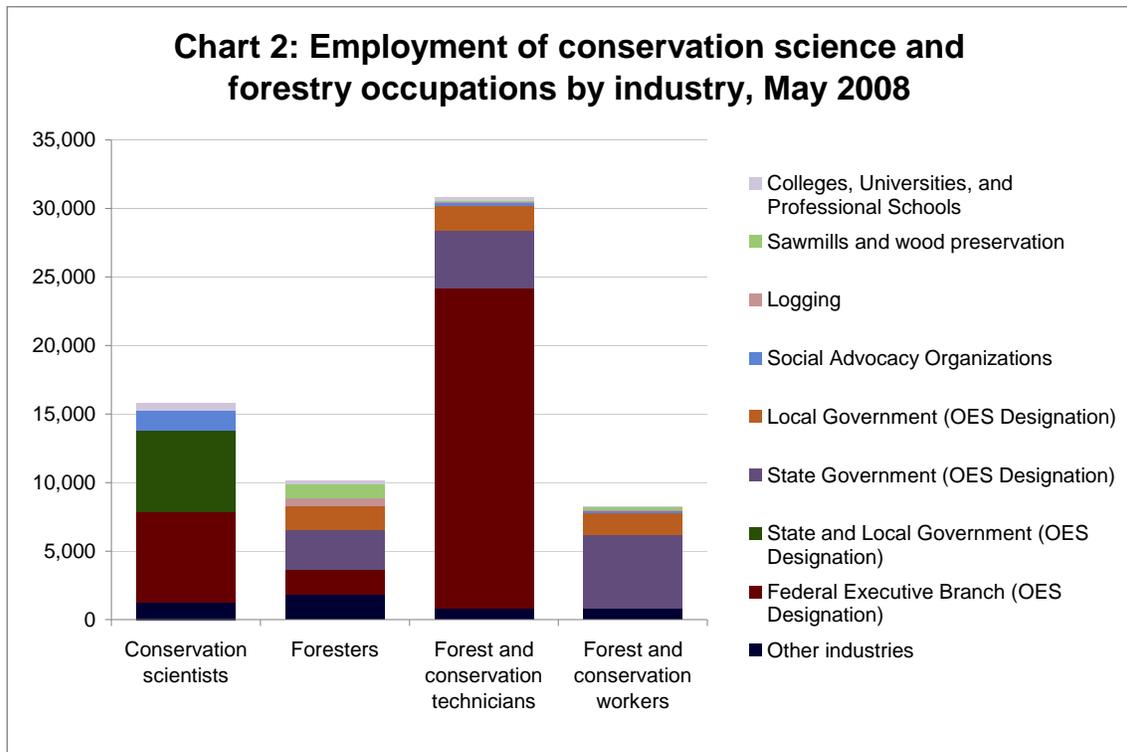
Chart 1 shows employment information by industry for environmental engineers; environmental engineering technicians; environmental scientists and specialists, including health; and environmental science and protection technicians, including health. With total employment of 80,120, environmental scientists was the largest of these four occupations, while environmental engineering technicians was the smallest, with employment of 20,740.

Architectural, engineering, and related services; and management, scientific, and technical consulting services were among the largest employers of all four occupations. These two industries employed approximately 54 percent of environmental engineering technicians, 49 percent of environmental engineers, 44 percent of environmental science technicians, and 38 percent of environmental scientists. Approximately 44 percent of all environmental scientists worked in federal, state, and local government, with about 25 percent employed in state government alone. Government also was a major employer of the other three occupations, accounting for about 34 percent of environmental science technicians, 30 percent of environmental engineers, and 17 percent of environmental engineering technicians. Although significantly smaller in terms of employment, scientific research and development services; remediation and other waste management services; and colleges, universities, and professional schools also were among the largest employers of one or more of these occupations.

Chart 2 shows employment information by industry for four conservation and forestry occupations. Total employment in these occupations ranged from 8,280 for forest and conservation workers to 30,850 for forest and conservation technicians.

Most workers in these 4 occupations were employed in government. About 76 percent of forest and conservation technicians were employed by the federal government. State and local governments were the largest employers of the remaining occupations, accounting for about 38 percent of conservation scientists, 46 percent of foresters, and 84 percent of forest and conservation workers. Social advocacy organizations employed about 1,430 conservation scientists and smaller numbers of the other three occupations. Logging; sawmills and wood preservation; and colleges, universities, and professional schools were among the other industries

employing these occupations. (OES does not cover the private sector forestry industry, which may include additional employment in these occupations.)



(See page 6 to view these data in table format.)

Wages for scientists and engineers were higher than those for the associated technician occupations. Environmental engineers earned an hourly mean wage of \$37.49, making this the highest paying of the occupations shown above. Foresters was the lowest paying of the four scientist and engineer occupations, with an hourly mean wage of \$26.46. Hourly mean wages for the three technician occupations ranged from \$16.98 for forest and conservation technicians to \$21.36 for environmental engineering technicians, while forest and conservation workers were the lowest paid of the eight occupations, with an hourly mean wage of \$12.55.

Although the industries shown in charts 1 and 2 were among the largest employers of these occupations, in general, they were not among the highest paying industries for these jobs. However, there were some exceptions: for example, federal government was one of the highest paying industries for environmental engineers

and conservation scientists, and state government was among the highest paying industries for environmental scientists. Additional occupational employment and wage data by industry are available online at www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrci.htm.

California had among the highest employment of all eight occupations. Texas and Florida had among the highest employment of the four environmental science and environmental engineering occupations, while Wisconsin and Minnesota were among the states employing the largest numbers of both foresters and conservation scientists. Although no states were consistently among the highest paying areas for all eight occupations, California and the District of Columbia were among the highest paying areas for several of the occupations. In some cases, wages for a given occupation varied considerably by state. For example, although New Jersey had among the highest employment of forest and conservation workers, it also had one of the lowest mean wages for this occupation, at \$8.55 per hour, while Illinois was one of the highest paying states for this occupation, with an hourly mean wage of \$22.12. Career guidance for some of these occupations can be found in the Occupational Outlook Quarterly. Detailed occupational employment and wage data for all states and 585 metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas are available from the OES web site.

Table 1. Employment of environmental science and environmental engineering occupations by industry, May 2008

Industry	Environmental engineers	Environmental scientists and specialists, including health	Environmental engineering technicians	Environmental science and protection technicians, including health
Federal, state, and local government (OES designation)	15,660	35,460	3,550	11,260
Federal executive branch (OES designation)	3,770	5,590	NA	330
State government (OES designation)	6,680	19,760	NA	4,060
Local government (OES designation)	5,210	10,120	NA	6,870
Architectural, engineering, and related services	15,110	12,900	7,860	6,590
Management, scientific, and technical consulting services	10,450	17,700	3,360	8,040
Remediation and other waste management services	1,850	550	1,310	490
Scientific research and development services	1,810	3,980	430	820
Colleges, universities, and professional schools	200	2,790	140	1,070
Total, all industries	52,590	80,120	20,740	33,370
Note: NA indicates data not available. Data for each level of government may not sum to the Federal, state, and local government total due to rounding.				

Table 2. Employment of conservation science and forestry occupations by industry, May 2008

Industry	Conservation scientists	Foresters	Forest and conservation technicians	Forest and conservation workers
Federal executive branch (OES designation)	6,620	1,780	23,310	NA
State and local government (OES designation)	5,940	4,630	6,070	6,930
State government (OES designation)	NA	2,960	4,250	5,410
Local government (OES designation)	NA	1,670	1,820	1,520
Social advocacy organizations	1,430	50	160	160
Logging	NA	560	130	70
Sawmills and wood preservation	NA	980	40	240
Colleges, universities, and professional schools	600	290	280	40
Total, all industries	15,830	10,160	30,850	8,280
Note: NA indicates data not available.				