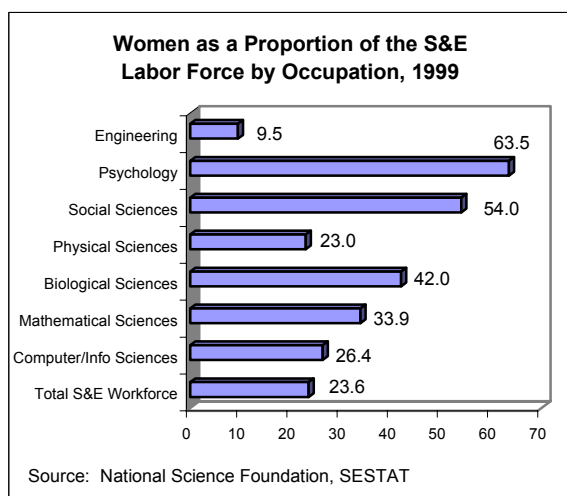
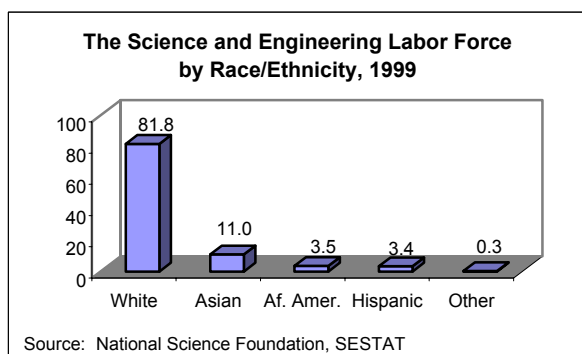


CHAPTER 4 – GENERAL WORKFORCE

Women and minorities comprise a smaller proportion of the science and engineering workforce than they do of science and engineering degree recipients. Women earned over 50% of the bachelor's degrees in science and engineering, 43% of the master's degrees, and 36% of the PhDs in 2000. However, they made up only 24% of the S&E labor force in 1999, and that proportion varied widely by occupation as shown in the accompanying chart.



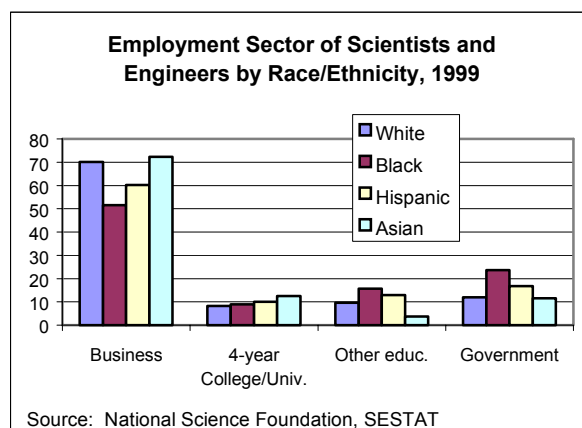
Despite some progress by minorities in preparing for careers in science and engineering, whites continue to be the major group of the S&E labor force. They were 81.8% of the S&E labor force in 1999.



Although women represent about the same percentage of employed doctoral scientists and engineers as in the total labor force (24%), with the exception of Asians, minorities account for a much smaller percentage. Asians, who are 11%

of the total S&E labor force, were almost 16% of the employed doctorates. Underrepresented minorities were slightly over 5% of the doctoral labor force.

Where scientists and engineers work varies by ethnic group as shown in the chart. Although every group was most likely to work in business/industry, a higher proportion of Asians and whites were employed there. African Americans and Hispanics were more likely than whites and Asians to be employed in government.



With the exception of Asians, PhDs are more likely to be employed in four-year colleges and universities. Asian doctorates are more likely to be employed in business.

Recent men and women bachelor's graduates are similar in their pursuit of postgraduate education, but differ in employment status. The male bachelor's graduates of 1997 and 1998 were more likely to be in the labor force and to be employed in science and engineering. Part of the reason women bachelor's science and engineering graduates are less likely than men to be employed in science and engineering occupations is that women are not highly represented in fields in which a bachelor's degree is sufficient for employment within the field. Engineering and computer science, fields in which women are not highly represented, typically provide employment with bachelor's degrees. By minority group, recent bachelor's graduates who were Asian were more likely to go to graduate school full-time.