

Social Science

This group includes the following majors:

- **Criminology**
- **Economics**
- **General Social Sciences**
- **Geography**
- **Interdisciplinary Social Sciences**
- **International Relations**
- **Miscellaneous Social Sciences**
- **Political Science and Government**
- **Sociology**
- **Statistics and Decision Science**

Social Science accounts for 6.9 percent of all majors. The median wages for those with a Bachelor's degree who majored in Social Science are \$55,000.¹ The gender makeup in these majors is fairly balanced overall (53 percent men, 47 percent women). Women with these majors make, in the aggregate, about \$46,000, which is \$18,000 less than men. The racial makeup, on average, is 75 percent White, 9 percent African-American, 8 percent Asian, 7 percent Hispanic, and 1 percent Other Races.² Earnings for Asians (\$50,000), African-Americans (\$44,000), Hispanics (\$48,000), and Other Races (\$45,000) are significantly less than the \$60,000 median earnings for Whites.

There is great variation among the majors that make up this group. The major with the lowest median earnings is Sociology, while the highest is Economics. Earnings in Social Science as a whole vary widely, with the 25th percentile earning \$38,000 and the 75th percentile earning \$87,000—a difference of \$49,000.

About 40 percent of the people with Social Science majors obtain a graduate degree and, as a result, get an average earnings boost of 57 percent.

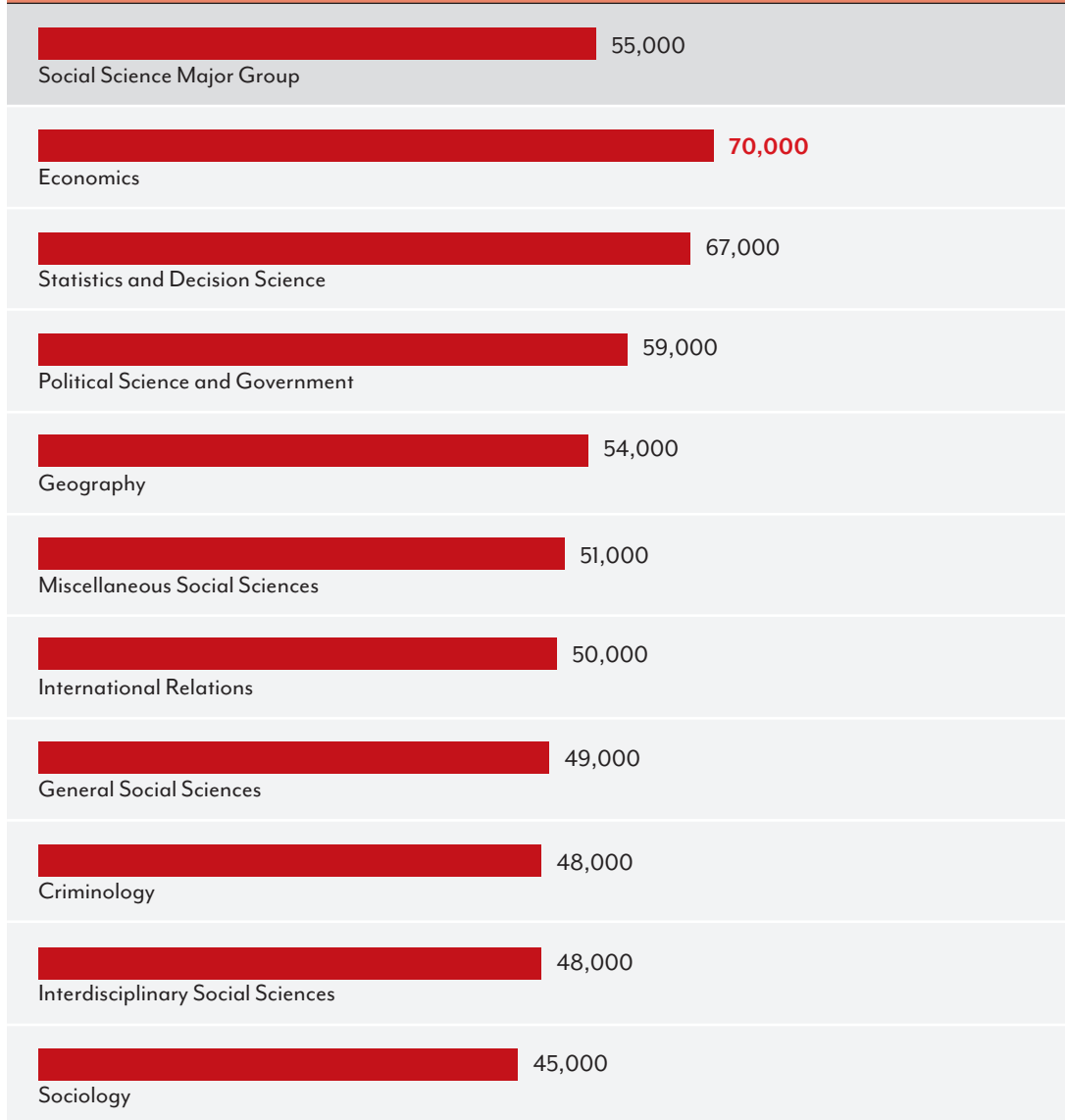
Of people who majored in Social Science, 22 percent work in Management, 16 percent in Sales, 13 percent in Office, 7 percent in Finance, and 6 percent in Business occupations. By industry, 16 percent work in Financial Activities, 13 percent in Public Administration, 11 percent in Professional Services, 9 percent in Health Services, and 8 percent in Retail Trade.

Of Social Science majors who are in the labor force and employed, 86 percent work full-time. About 6 percent are unemployed.

¹ All of the earnings data presented here is on full-time, full-year workers with a Bachelor's degree only.

² Due to rounding, these may not add to 100 percent.

MEDIAN EARNINGS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE MAJOR GROUP*



* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

ALL

	Social Science Major Group	Criminology	Economics	General Social Sciences	Geography	Interdisciplinary Social Sciences	International Relations	Miscellaneous Social Sciences	Political Science and Government	Sociology	Statistics and Decision Science
POPULARITY OF MAJORS[†]											
Total Bachelor's	2,341,689	62,536	656,030	108,176	104,259	50,626	66,172	16,592	674,123	586,523	16,652
% of Major Group	100	3	28	5	4	2	3	1	29	25	1
MEDIAN EARNINGS BY MAJOR*											
Median earnings	55,000	48,000	70,000	49,000	54,000	48,000	50,000	51,000	59,000	45,000	67,000
EARNINGS AT THE 25TH AND 75TH PERCENTILE*											
Earnings at the 25th percentile	38,000	32,000	42,000	34,000	38,000	34,000	33,000	40,000	39,000	33,000	50,000
Earnings at the 75th percentile	87,000	68,000	108,000	69,000	75,000	71,000	85,000	74,000	90,000	68,000	92,000
Difference	49,000	36,000	66,000	35,000	37,000	37,000	52,000	34,000	51,000	35,000	42,000
PERCENT OBTAINING A GRADUATE DEGREE											
Did not obtain graduate degree (%)	60	78	60	64	70	68	53	54	53	66	48
Obtain graduate degree (%)	40	22	40	36	30	32	47	46	47	34	52
EARNINGS BOOST FROM OBTAINING A GRADUATE DEGREE											
% Earnings Boost from Graduate Degree	57	67	50	47	42	38	51	134	62	34	24
WORK STATUS*											
Full-time (%)	86	87	90	80	89	80	85	78	86	82	81
Part-time (%)	14	13	10	20	11	20	15	22	14	18	19
PERCENT EMPLOYED**											
Employed (%)	94	97	94	94	94	91	93	97	93	95	92

[†] The ACS data are best used to discuss distributional characteristics of the underlying population. However, we also include the number of degree holders to provide the reader with an 'order of magnitude' sense of the number of people with this major.

* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

** Of people in the labor force.

GENDER

	Social Science Major Group	Criminology	Economics	General Social Sciences	Geography	Interdisciplinary Social Sciences	International Relations	Miscellaneous Social Sciences	Political Science and Government	Sociology	Statistics and Decision Science
GENDER COMPOSITION OF MAJORS											
Percent Female	47	42	34	56	30	70	60	54	41	68	51
Percent Male	53	58	66	44	70	30	40	46	59	32	49
EARNINGS BY GENDER*											
Female Median Earnings	46,000	42,000	57,000	42,000	44,000	41,000	42,000	•	49,000	42,000	•
Male Median Earnings	64,000	52,000	74,000	54,000	60,000	63,000	68,000	54,000	63,000	54,000	73,000
Difference	18,000	10,000	17,000	12,000	16,000	22,000	26,000	•	14,000	12,000	•

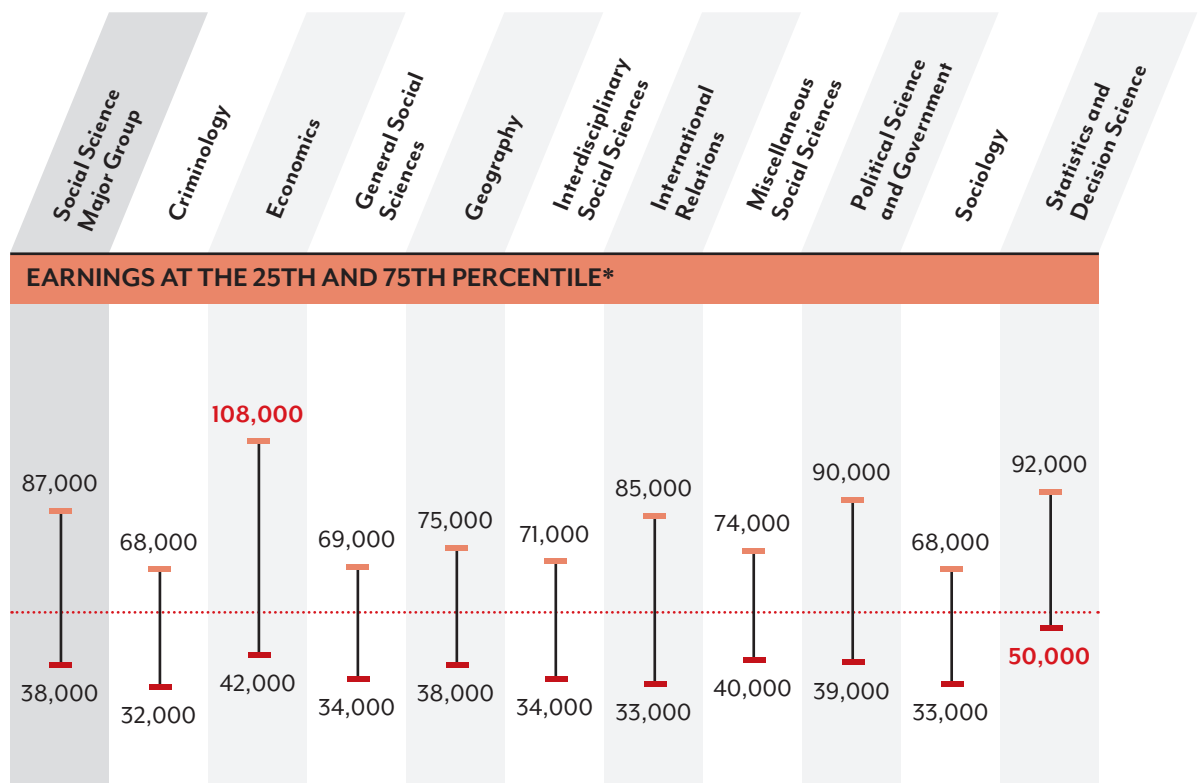
* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

• Sample size was too small to be statistically valid.

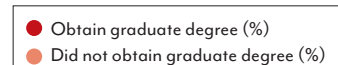
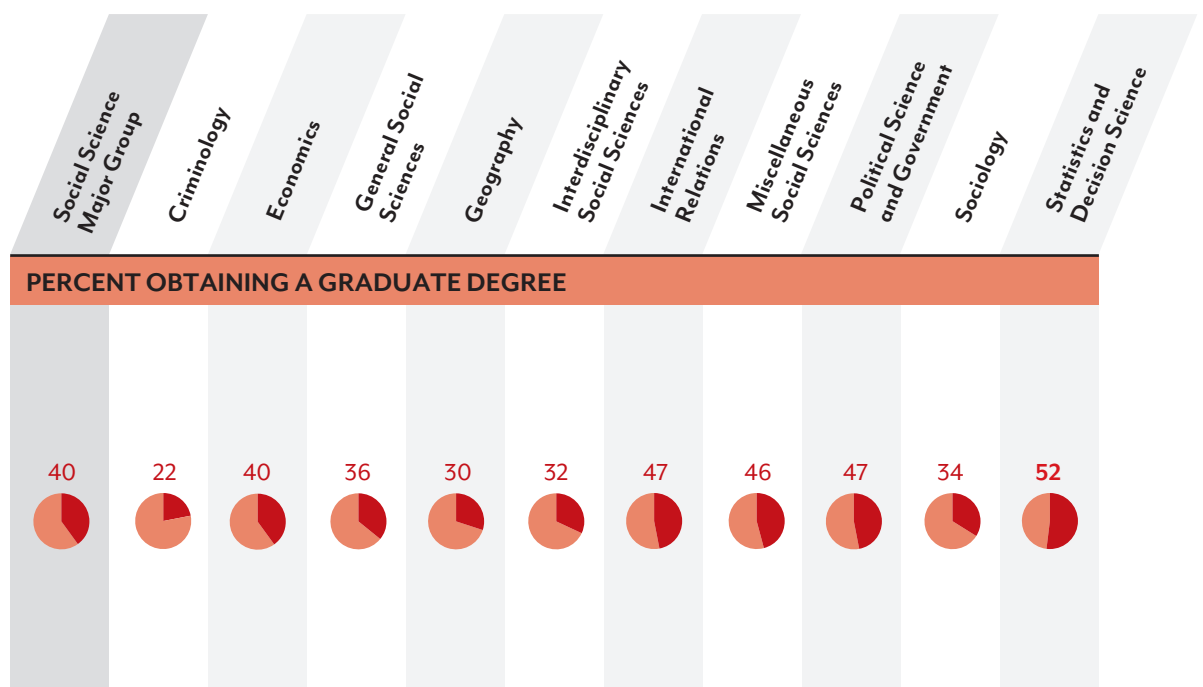
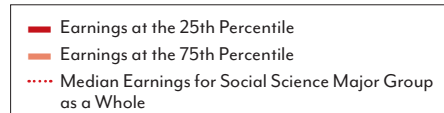
RACE AND ETHNICITY

	Social Science Major Group	Criminology	Economics	General Social Sciences	Geography	Interdisciplinary Social Sciences	International Relations	Miscellaneous Social Sciences	Political Science and Government	Sociology	Statistics and Decision Science
RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF MAJORS ^Δ											
% White	75	73	73	71	89	81	73	77	79	72	61
% African-American	9	9	6	13	3	9	4	16	8	14	8
% Hispanic	7	12	6	9	3	7	13	3	7	7	1
% Asian	8	4	15	6	4	3	10	4	5	5	30
% Other Races and Ethnicities	1	2	<0.5	1	<0.5	1	<0.5	<0.5	1	1	<0.5

^Δ Due to rounding, these may not add to 100 percent.



* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.



WHERE SOCIAL SCIENCE MAJORS END UP BY OCCUPATION*

	1st Occupation (%)	2nd Occupation (%)	3rd Occupation (%)	4th Occupation (%)	5th Occupation (%)
Social Science Major Group	MGMT (22)	SALES (16)	OFF (13)	FIN (7)	BUS (6)
Criminology	PROT (31)	OFF (13)	SALES (9)	MGMT (9)	COMM (7)
Economics	MGMT (26)	SALES (20)	FIN (14)	OFF (10)	COMP (6)
General Social Sciences	MGMT (16)	OFF (16)	SALES (14)	COMM (10)	EDU (10)
Geography	MGMT (19)	OFF (13)	COMP (10)	SALES (9)	ARCH (6)
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences	OFF (17)	MGMT (15)	EDU (12)	SALES (11)	COMM (10)
International Relations	MGMT (21)	OFF (19)	SALES (12)	BUS (10)	FIN (6)
Miscellaneous Social Sciences	MGMT (30)	OFF (15)	COMP (8)	SALES (7)	PROT (6)
Political Science and Government	MGMT (24)	SALES (18)	OFF (13)	BUS (7)	PROT (5)
Sociology	MGMT (17)	OFF (16)	COMM (14)	SALES (12)	EDU (7)
Statistics and Decision Science	MGMT (29)	COMP (29)	FIN (13)	OFF (10)	ENGR (6)

* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

Occupation Abbreviations:

Architecture = ARCH
 Arts = ARTS
 Blue Collar = BC
 Building = BLDG
 Business = BUS
 Community Service = COMM
 Computer Services = COMP
 Construction = CON
 Education = EDU
 Engineering = ENGR
 Finance = FIN
 Food Service = FOOD

Health Professionals = HLTH PROF
 Health Support = HLTH SUP
 Installation = INST
 Legal = LGL
 Life Science = LS
 Management = MGMT
 Office = OFF
 Personal Service = PERS
 Production = PROD
 Protective Services = PROT
 Sales = SALES
 Social Science = SS
 Transportation = TRAN

WHERE SOCIAL SCIENCE MAJORS END UP BY INDUSTRY*

	1st Industry (%)	2nd Industry (%)	3rd Industry (%)	4th Industry (%)	5th Industry (%)
Social Science Major Group	FIN (16)	PUB (13)	PROF (11)	HS (9)	RETL (8)
Criminology	PUB (38)	RETL (11)	HS (9)	FIN (6)	PROF (5)
Economics	FIN (27)	PROF (11)	RETL (7)	MAN-d (6)	PUB (6)
General Social Sciences	EDU (17)	PUB (15)	HS (12)	FIN (9)	RETL (7)
Geography	PROF (20)	PUB (16)	FIN (9)	RETL (7)	TRAN (6)
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences	HS (24)	PUB (15)	EDU (14)	PROF (11)	FIN (10)
International Relations	FIN (17)	PROF (17)	EDU (10)	PUB (8)	HS (7)
Miscellaneous Social Sciences	PUB (20)	EDU (12)	OS (11)	HS (10)	PROF (8)
Political Science and Government	PUB (14)	FIN (13)	PROF (13)	RETL (9)	EDU (8)
Sociology	HS (19)	PUB (16)	EDU (11)	FIN (9)	PROF (8)
Statistics and Decision Science	PROF (28)	FIN (26)	PUB (15)	HS (5)	RETL (4)

* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

Industry Abbreviations:

Administrative Services = ADMN

Agriculture = AG

Arts = ARTS

Construction = CON

Education Services = EDU

Financial Services = FIN

Food Service = FS

Health Services = HS

Information = INFO

Management Services = MGMT

Manufacturing (durable) = MAN-d

Manufacturing (non-durable) = MAN-nd

Mining = MNG

Other Service = OS

Professional Services = PROF

Public Administration = PUB

Real Estate = RE

Retail Trade = RETL

Sales = SALES

Social Science = SS

Transportation = TRAN

Utilities = UTIL

Wholesale Trade (durable) = WHLS-d

Wholesale Trade (non-durable) = WHLS-nd