

THE STATE OF SCIENCE IN AMERICA

The health, prosperity, and national security of the United States are built on science and technology. For decades, government investment in research and development has enabled the United States to lead the world in the transformational discoveries and innovative technologies that we largely take for granted today. But amid greater competition and existential threats, the expectation that our position as a global leader is set in stone no longer holds.

The State of Science in America report provides much-needed clarity on the need for a national strategy to inspire and engage the entire science and technology ecosystem in the United States — across federal agencies, sectors, industries, and academia.

A CLARION CALL FOR ACTION

KEY REPORT FINDINGS

America has been the world's innovation powerhouse because we made science and technology a top national priority. However, federal funding in this area has dropped as a percentage of GDP from 1.9% to 0.7% over the past several decades. And while the U.S. remains highly innovative and competitive, we lack a long-term plan to sustain our science and technology edge going forward. The 2022 CHIPS and Science Act represents an important step that we can build on, including ensuring that we fully fund the law's science provisions.

To fully understand the State of Science in America, we took a multi-layered approach: We conducted in-depth interviews with subject matter experts, surveyed 1,981 Americans working across five sectors, and compared our findings with data, polls, and research from several renowned institutions.

Taken together, the report provides a clear call to action on the need to develop and fund a national science and technology strategy that builds on the CHIPS and Science Act to enhance collaboration and coordination across the more than 20 federal agencies with scientific missions—building the momentum to overcome our greatest challenges.

TOPLINE SURVEY FINDINGS



The United States is perceived to be **losing the race** for global leadership in science and technology.



There is a **strong desire for greater scientific leadership in public policy** across all political identifications and workforce sectors.



Respondents believe **the top obstacle to future scientific advancement in the United States** is the quality of K-12 STEM education.



Most respondents are **troubled by the increasing distrust and politicization of science**.



The **federal government is viewed as the driver** of science and technology advancements in the United States.



The rapid growth of artificial intelligence (AI) is **raising significant concern — and potential opportunity**.



A majority across political ideologies and workforce sectors agree that **federal funding of science and technology is vital**.



Those working in national security are especially **worried about international intellectual property theft**.

THE PATH FORWARD

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The report includes six policy recommendations to position the United States to lead globally on the technologies critical to the future, including artificial intelligence, clean energy, and advanced bioscience.



Create a national strategy for advancing science and technology innovation in the United States.



Foster additional coordination among the 20+ federal agencies with scientific missions.



Increase federal funding for S&T From 0.7% to at least 1.4% of U.S. GDP in the next five years.



Bolster STEM education at all levels, with an emphasis on K-12.



Ensure a diverse STEM workforce domestically while also cultivating international talent.



Partner with other nations both allies and rivals on global challenges.

EXPERT ANALYSIS

The Science & Technology Action Committee (STAC) is a nonpartisan alliance of nonprofit, academic, foundation, and business leaders advocating for greater focus and funding of science and technology. Our 25 committee members — leaders in science, health, business, national security, technology, and academia — provided in-depth analysis and unique insights on the State of Science in America today and the steps we must take to boost our economy, increase our national security, and address the existential threats we face both nationally and globally.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The report features results from a survey of 1,981 U.S. adults from five sectors of the workforce to highlight the widespread view that America is falling behind in science and technology — and the steps we must take to regain our preeminence.

AMERICANS WORKING IN THE FOLLOWING FIVE WORKFORCE SECTORS WERE SURVEYED:

K-12 EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, BUSINESS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH (STEM), MILITARY / NATIONAL SECURITY

Within these sectors, we polled both union and non-union workers. In addition to being currently employed, all respondents indicated they are registered voters and provided their political affiliation.

GET IN TOUCH WITH STAC

Members of the Science & Technology Action Committee are available to discuss how the U.S. can engage across federal agencies, sectors, industries, and academia to remain the global leader in science, technology, and innovation. Please contact info@sciencetechaction.org.

