Methodology

The results presented in this study are based on an analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) five-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) file. The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides data every year. The five-year estimates are "period" estimates that represent data collected over a period of time.

All estimates in this study are of U.S. adults ages 25 years and older who were employed in the civilian labor force. In the study, this population is referred to as "U.S. workers."

U.S. workers are categorized as "newsroom employees" if they 1) worked in the occupations of news analyst, reporter or correspondent; editor; photographer; or television, video and motion picture camera operator or editor; and 2) worked in the industries of newspaper publishers; broadcasting, except internet; or internet publishing and broadcasting and web search portals. Those in all other occupations and industries were categorized as "other U.S. workers."

Within these three industry groups, 47% of newsroom employees were news analysts, reporters and correspondents; 39% were editors; 8% were photographers; and 6% were television, video and motion picture camera operators or editors.

U.S. workers were categorized as having a college degree if they had a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, a professional degree beyond a bachelor's degree, or a doctorate degree.

College major refers to the primary undergraduate field of degree. The broader arts and humanities category includes majors in literature and languages; liberal arts and history; visual and performing arts; communications; and other fields of degree. The science, engineering and related fields category includes such majors as computers, mathematics and statistics; biological, agricultural and environmental sciences; physical and related science; psychology; social science; engineering; multidisciplinary studies; and science- and engineering-related fields.