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The Changing Dynamics of the U.S. Geoscience Workforce Compared to the International Geoscience Workforce

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The American Geosciences Institute's (AGI) Geoscience Workforce Program collects and analyzes data pertaining to the changes in the supply, demand, and training of the geoscience workforce. These data cover the areas of change in the education of future geoscientists from K-12 through graduate school, the transition of geoscience graduates into early-career geoscientists, the dynamics of the current geoscience workforce, and the future predictions of the changes in the availability of geoscience jobs. The Workforce Program also considers economic changes in the United States and globally that can affect the supply and demand of the geoscience workforce.

Much of the data used by AGI's Workforce Program originates from federal sources, such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Census Bureau, the Energy Information Administration, and the Department of Education, as well as data provided by geoscience societies, and surveys conducted by AGI. AGI has benefited from the large amount of data collected by the U.S. federal government, but that is not always the case in other countries. Therefore, international committees of stakeholders interested in the supply and demand of the geoscience workforce have attempted to investigate the global dynamics of the geoscience workforce.

This presentation will cover some of the major indicators AGI has identified within the U.S. geoscience workforce, such as salary increases over time, changes in the numbers of geoscientists employed within particular industries and occupations, and the upcoming retirements of geoscientists in industry and academia. The discussion will continue with how the U.S. compares with what AGI knows about the global dynamics of the geoscience workforce and future efforts to try and create a more global understanding, particularly of the early career workforce.

