

Table SLBR-22

S&E doctorate holders employed in academia, by research priority, type of position, and degree field: 1973–2019

(Thousands)

Research priority, position, and field	1973	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2008	2010	2013	2015	2017	2019
All positions	118.0	145.4	155.3	167.1	176.1	190.2	195.9	206.6	210.6	213.8	217.5	232.5	240.2	245.5	259.5	272.8	276.5	294.8	309.0	329.3	326.6	350.4
Physical sciences	25.5	29.2	28.8	29.9	29.9	32.2	32.8	33.6	33.8	35.0	35.8	37.5	38.7	38.6	39.9	39.6	39.9	43.7	44.9	48.4	46.9	50.5
Mathematics and statistics	9.7	11.7	12.2	12.4	12.9	13.6	13.8	14.5	15.2	15.5	14.6	15.6	15.2	14.9	16.7	17.4	18.0	18.7	19.0	20.9	20.6	21.7
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.1	3.3	3.7	3.8	5.2	5.8	6.9	7.3	8.4	9.1	8.9	10.9
Life sciences	34.9	42.6	47.0	51.3	54.8	58.7	61.2	64.8	66.9	68.2	71.6	77.3	81.9	84.3	90.0	95.5	94.2	102.0	109.8	112.7	112.6	118.8
Psychology	12.2	16.2	17.7	20.1	21.0	23.1	23.7	25.0	25.2	25.0	26.1	27.3	29.0	30.4	31.8	35.0	34.5	35.4	36.3	38.7	38.0	39.9
Social sciences	23.4	31.1	33.6	36.9	38.8	41.9	42.1	44.5	44.8	44.4	42.5	44.9	46.2	46.9	48.1	50.0	52.5	54.9	55.9	59.7	59.9	64.4
Engineering	12.4	14.8	15.8	16.1	18.1	19.9	21.2	22.8	22.8	23.1	23.8	26.6	25.5	26.6	27.8	29.6	30.4	32.8	34.7	39.7	39.8	44.1
Full-time faculty	103.3	125.6	131.2	141.9	148.4	156.9	164.4	169.8	173.1	172.4	171.4	172.9	178.2	180.9	190.6	193.1	199.1	206.9	214.4	227.7	223.4	246.8
Physical sciences	20.8	23.6	23.5	24.3	24.2	25.4	26.4	26.2	26.2	25.8	25.6	25.5	26.3	26.1	27.7	26.9	27.5	29.3	29.5	31.1	29.7	33.5
Mathematics and statistics	9.3	10.9	11.4	11.7	12.3	12.7	12.9	13.5	14.2	14.7	13.0	13.6	12.9	12.4	14.0	14.0	14.8	15.1	15.5	16.8	16.3	17.3
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.8	2.3	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.3	4.2	4.9	5.6	5.7	6.4	7.1	7.1	8.7
Life sciences	29.5	34.9	37.3	40.9	43.5	45.6	48.1	49.3	51.1	50.8	52.8	53.6	56.1	58.3	61.7	62.8	63.5	66.7	70.5	70.8	70.0	76.6
Psychology	10.8	13.9	14.3	16.4	17.3	18.5	19.2	20.2	20.7	19.5	20.1	19.4	20.6	21.2	21.5	23.2	23.0	23.4	24.1	26.0	26.3	28.0
Social sciences	21.6	28.8	30.3	33.7	34.4	36.1	37.6	39.0	39.0	39.2	37.1	36.9	38.2	38.3	39.6	39.2	42.0	43.2	43.6	46.7	46.0	50.1
Engineering	11.3	13.5	14.3	14.7	16.4	17.9	19.3	20.2	20.1	20.1	20.0	21.2	20.7	21.5	21.9	22.1	22.7	23.4	25.0	29.2	28.2	32.6
Research as primary or secondary activity																						
All positions	82.3	85.0	90.0	100.7	104.7	115.2	144.0	151.6	156.6	150.1	153.5	164.7	168.1	172.5	179.3	183.7	187.1	198.2	201.7	220.8	217.3	233.6
Physical sciences	18.8	19.2	18.2	19.5	19.3	21.4	24.9	25.7	25.9	25.0	25.8	27.4	27.2	27.3	28.2	26.9	26.8	28.9	29.5	32.8	30.7	33.3
Mathematics and statistics	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.8	7.2	7.6	9.7	10.2	10.7	9.5	9.4	10.1	9.9	9.8	10.7	11.4	11.7	12.3	11.8	13.4	13.4	14.6
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.6	1.0	1.3	1.7	2.0	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.6	3.9	4.1	4.8	5.1	5.7	6.4	6.2	7.4
Life sciences	26.0	28.7	32.1	37.1	38.3	41.4	48.8	51.8	53.3	51.8	53.8	57.9	60.8	63.1	65.6	66.7	66.4	71.4	74.2	78.3	76.9	81.8
Psychology	7.3	7.7	8.3	9.9	10.5	10.7	14.3	14.3	15.7	14.9	15.6	16.1	17.2	18.2	19.1	20.5	21.3	21.2	20.2	21.1	22.0	23.0
Social sciences	14.3	13.8	14.7	17.6	17.8	20.9	28.5	30.5	31.1	29.3	28.1	29.8	30.9	31.4	31.5	32.7	33.8	35.2	34.7	38.2	38.2	40.8
Engineering	9.0	8.9	9.8	9.5	11.2	12.5	16.8	17.6	18.2	17.5	18.5	20.9	19.4	20.2	20.3	21.4	22.3	24.1	25.6	30.5	30.0	32.8
Full-time faculty	72.0	71.6	74.1	83.8	86.9	95.1	121.4	125.8	131.4	121.7	121.6	124.8	126.3	130.4	135.2	133.7	138.6	142.6	144.4	159.6	156.3	172.7
Physical sciences	15.1	14.8	13.9	15.1	15.1	16.3	19.7	19.9	20.1	18.0	17.9	18.4	18.3	18.6	19.9	18.2	18.7	19.6	19.7	21.9	20.6	23.1
Mathematics and statistics	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.9	7.3	9.1	9.8	10.2	9.1	8.4	9.0	8.4	8.2	9.2	9.6	10.1	10.4	10.0	11.4	11.5	12.1
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	s	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.6	1.8	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	3.3	3.6	4.1	4.1	4.5	5.3	5.2	6.1
Life sciences	21.8	22.9	24.7	28.7	29.6	31.9	38.3	39.0	41.0	38.4	39.5	40.3	41.4	43.5	45.1	44.3	44.5	46.1	47.8	49.9	48.3	53.8
Psychology	6.6	6.7	6.6	8.0	8.8	9.0	12.1	12.2	13.9	12.5	12.9	12.9	13.4	14.1	14.4	14.9	15.9	16.1	15.3	16.4	17.2	18.2
Social sciences	13.6	12.9	13.5	16.5	16.0	18.8	26.1	27.9	28.3	26.7	25.3	25.3	26.7	27.4	27.0	27.2	29	29.6	28.9	31.9	32.2	34.5
Engineering	8.2	8.0	8.9	8.8	10.2	11.4	15.2	15.7	16.2	15.1	15.5	16.5	15.6	16.5	16.2	15.8	16.4	16.9	18.1	22.9	21.5	24.9
Research as primary activity																						
All positions	27.8	37.0	41.3	46.5	48.9	55.9	66.5	72.2	73.9	80.2	83.0	88.6	91.4	93.8	102.9	108.2	107.9	117.5	120.7	133.7	130.1	138.4
Physical sciences	6.6	8.9	8.5	9.4	9.2	11.0	12.3	13.3	13.1	14.7	15.2	15.6	15.1	15.0	16.2	16.3	15.7	17.5	18.2	20.8	19.4	19.7

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Mathematics and statistics	1.5	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.7	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.5	2.9	3.3	3.8	5.0	5.6	5.7	5.6	6.4	6.1	7.0
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.9	2.0	2.6	2.8	3.1	3.9	3.7	3.9
Life sciences	12.8	16.6	19.7	23.2	24.3	27.1	31.5	33.8	34.5	36.0	37.7	40.5	43.2	43.7	46.4	47.0	45.3	49.7	51.0	54.4	53.2	54.7
Psychology	2.0	2.8	3.4	4.1	4.4	4.6	5.2	5.9	6.2	6.7	7.4	8.0	8.6	8.7	10.0	11.2	11.1	11.4	10.9	11.3	11.2	12.8
Social sciences	2.8	4.1	4.2	4.5	4.9	5.7	7.5	8.2	8.4	10.7	9.8	9.8	11.1	11.7	13.0	13.6	14.0	15.6	15.9	17.3	16.6	19.3
Engineering	2.1	2.9	3.4	3.3	3.9	4.4	6.2	6.9	7.2	7.9	8.7	10.1	9.4	10.1	11.6	13.1	13.6	15.0	16.0	19.6	20.1	20.9
Full-time faculty	19.8	25.8	28.1	31.8	33.6	39.5	48.6	51.6	53.8	56.8	56.6	56.9	58.9	61.2	70.4	70.2	71.7	75.0	77.4	88.7	84.5	94.6
Physical sciences	3.5	5.0	5.0	5.4	5.4	6.5	7.8	8.0	8.2	8.7	8.4	8.1	8.0	8.0	9.7	9.3	9.4	9.8	10.4	12.1	11.5	11.9
Mathematics and statistics	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.5	2.7	3.2	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.9	2.3	2.3	3.4	3.9	4.6	4.6	4.5	5.4	5.1	5.7
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.6	1.7	2.1	2.1	2.4	3.1	2.9	3.2
Life sciences	9.3	11.4	13.1	15.5	16.5	18.6	22.3	22.6	23.8	24.1	24.7	25.1	26.1	26.9	29.4	27.8	27.1	28.2	29.1	31.0	29.2	32.4
Psychology	1.6	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.9	3.3	3.9	4.5	5.0	5.3	5.4	5.7	5.9	6.1	7.0	7.8	7.8	8.0	7.9	8.6	8.6	9.9
Social sciences	2.5	3.6	3.4	3.8	3.8	4.6	6.3	7.1	7.1	8.9	8.3	7.4	9.0	9.5	10.7	11.3	11.8	12.9	13.0	14.7	14.0	16.4
Engineering	1.5	2.3	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.7	5.0	5.4	5.5	6.0	6.3	6.6	6.6	7.4	8.6	8.5	8.9	9.4	10.1	13.8	13.4	15.1
Teaching as primary activity																						
All positions	73.3	82.2	83.8	95.9	97.7	101.0	99.3	100.9	103.4	98.3	100.2	105.4	108.6	109.0	105.9	109.4	114.0	120.6	124.8	133.7	132.8	140.3
Physical sciences	16.3	16.5	15.9	17.5	16.8	17.4	16.9	16.7	16.8	15.7	15.9	16.7	17.8	17.9	17.0	16.9	17.5	18.8	18.7	19.7	19.6	21.4
Mathematics and statistics	7.4	8.5	8.6	9.1	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.5	10.1	10.3	9.8	10.2	10.5	10.2	9.4	9.9	10.3	10.7	11.3	12.2	12.1	12.7
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.7	1.4	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.5	3.0	3.2	3.8	4.0	3.6	3.7	4.9
Life sciences	16.6	18.1	18.1	20.5	21.1	20.9	20.1	20.3	20.9	20.2	21.8	23.4	25.1	25.7	25.2	27.6	28.2	30.6	33.9	35.0	34.7	36.5
Psychology	7.7	9.4	9.5	11.7	11.6	12.3	13.0	12.8	12.8	11.6	11.9	12.4	13.0	13.3	13.3	14.3	14.4	15.0	14.9	16.3	17.0	15.5
Social sciences	16.9	21.0	22.6	26.8	27.7	29.1	28.5	28.8	29.8	27.6	26.9	28.3	28.0	28.0	27.3	27.5	29.6	29.8	30.0	33.4	33.4	33.9
Engineering	8.4	8.7	9.1	10.1	10.8	11.7	11.3	12.2	12.2	11.6	12.1	12.6	12.1	11.9	11.2	10.2	10.8	11.9	11.9	13.5	12.5	15.5
Full-time faculty	69.9	78.4	79.7	92.1	91.9	94.9	93.6	93.9	96.7	91.4	91.9	92.1	95.0	93.8	89.9	88.4	93.5	96.7	98.2	101.9	100.3	109.2
Physical sciences	15.5	15.7	15.1	16.9	15.8	16.5	16.2	15.6	15.6	14.3	14.4	14.4	15.4	15.1	14.3	13.8	14.2	15.1	14.5	14.6	13.8	16.0
Mathematics and statistics	7.2	8.1	8.3	8.8	9.0	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.6	10.0	9.0	9.1	9.2	8.9	8.5	8.2	8.6	8.8	9.3	9.5	9.2	10.2
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.3	1.7	1.6	2.0	1.7	2.2	2.5	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.0	3.0	4.1
Life sciences	15.7	17.1	17.1	19.6	19.6	19.5	18.7	18.7	19.1	18.4	19.8	20.0	21.6	21.8	21.0	21.8	23.1	24.4	26.1	26.3	26.3	27.9
Psychology	7.3	8.9	8.9	11.0	10.9	11.6	12.1	11.9	12.2	10.5	10.9	10.6	11.3	11.1	10.8	11.1	11.1	11.3	11.0	11.8	12.4	11.9
Social sciences	16.1	20.1	21.4	25.7	25.9	26.8	26.5	26.4	27.6	25.9	24.6	24.6	24.2	24.1	23.1	21.9	24.3	23.9	23.8	25.7	25.5	26.6
Engineering	8.1	8.5	8.9	10.0	10.4	11.2	11.0	11.7	11.8	11.0	11.5	11.7	11.4	10.8	9.9	8.9	9.4	10.0	10.1	11.1	10.2	12.6
Other primary activity																						
All positions	16.9	26.2	30.2	24.7	29.6	33.3	30.1	33.5	33.2	35.2	34.3	38.6	40.2	42.8	49.5	55.2	54.6	56.6	63.5	61.9	63.6	71.7
Physical sciences	2.6	3.8	4.4	3.0	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.6	3.8	4.6	4.6	5.2	5.8	5.8	7.2	6.5	6.7	7.4	8.0	7.9	8.0	9.5
Mathematics and statistics	0.8	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.4	2.2	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.0
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.8	1.1	0.8	1.4	1.5	1.6	2.1

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Life sciences	5.5	8.0	9.3	7.6	9.4	10.6	9.7	10.7	11.5	12.0	12.2	13.4	13.6	14.8	17.6	20.9	20.8	21.6	24.9	23.3	24.7	27.7
Psychology	2.5	4.0	4.8	4.4	5.0	6.2	5.6	6.3	6.2	6.7	6.9	7.0	7.3	8.4	8.1	9.5	9.0	9.1	10.4	11.1	9.8	11.6
Social sciences	3.7	6.0	6.8	5.6	6.1	7.1	6.1	7.6	6.6	6.1	5.8	6.8	7.2	7.2	8.2	8.8	8.9	9.5	9.9	9.1	9.9	11.2
Engineering	1.9	3.1	3.3	2.7	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.0	3.8	4.0	4.7	5.5	6.2	5.9	6.0	6.8	6.7	7.2	7.6
Full-time faculty	13.6	21.3	23.4	18.0	22.9	22.5	22.2	24.2	22.6	24.1	22.9	23.9	24.2	26.0	30.3	34.6	33.9	35.1	38.8	37.1	38.6	43.1
Physical sciences	1.8	2.9	3.3	2.0	3.0	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.6	3.8	3.9	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.5	5.6
Mathematics and statistics	0.7	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.0	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.0	1.4
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.6	1.1	1.2	1.5
Life sciences	4.5	6.4	7.1	5.8	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.9	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.5	9.6	11.3	13.2	13.3	14.0	15.3	13.5	14.5	16.3
Psychology	2.0	3.0	3.2	2.9	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.0	3.4	3.9	3.7	4.4	4.1	4.1	5.1	5.6	5.4	6.2
Social sciences	3.0	5.2	5.5	4.2	4.7	4.7	4.8	5.4	4.3	4.5	4.2	4.8	5.0	4.7	5.8	6.0	5.9	6.5	6.8	6.3	6.6	7.1
Engineering	1.6	2.7	2.8	2.0	2.9	2.9	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.1	2.2	2.8	2.7	3.3	3.5	4.7	4.4	3.9	4.7	4.3	4.7	5.0

NA = not available; s = suppressed for reasons of confidentiality and/or reliability.

Note(s):

Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Academic employment is limited to U.S. doctorate holders employed at 2- or 4-year colleges or universities, medical schools, and university research institutes, excluding those employed part time because they are students or retired. Full-time faculty include full professors, associate professors, assistant professors, and instructors from 1973 to 1995; from 1997 to 2019, full-time faculty include full professors, associate professors, and assistant professors. Research includes basic or applied research, development, or design. Physical sciences include earth, atmospheric, and ocean sciences; life sciences include biological, agricultural, and environmental life and health sciences.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR).

Science and Engineering Indicators