

Table SLBR-23

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

(Percent)

Field, research activity, and position	1973	1975	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2008	2010	2013	2015	2017	2019
All fields	44.5	40.5	39.7	38.2	35.5	39.8	31.4	46.5	47.9	48.5	36.1	39.4	38.6	45.7	45.1	45.9	46.9	44.5	45.1	44.2	41.0	40.3	39.1
Research as primary or secondary activity	51.9	48.9	52.3	51.8	50.8	55.9	44.5	56.1	58.1	57.8	46.4	50.0	48.2	56.6	56.4	56.7	58.1	55.5	56.2	56.5	52.0	50.3	49.8
Full-time faculty	42.0	39.6	38.2	36.2	38.8	41.7	34.3	45.6	46.6	48.0	32.9	35.7	34.9	43.2	43.6	44.9	46.5	43.7	44.7	43.5	40.3	40.2	39.2
Other full-time positions	60.2	58.8	68.1	58.3	58.5	59.4	49.8	60.6	60.9	58.8	42.5	43.1	46.7	48.9	47.2	46.3	43.6	43.5	41.9	42.8	41.9	39.8	36.4
Postdoctorates	87.7	86.3	86.0	82.1	86.3	82.2	78.5	82.1	83.5	84.5	83.1	80.1	74.1	80.3	74.3	78.1	70.7	71.9	73.2	77.7	70.3	71.1	69.5
Physical sciences	47.3	44.0	43.8	42.8	42.1	46.5	38.2	54.1	57.9	57.0	45.7	49.3	48.6	57.0	55.3	56.5	56.4	53.6	53.9	53.0	51.9	50.1	47.3
Research as primary or secondary activity	56.2	54.1	56.2	57.0	59.0	63.3	52.5	66.2	69.6	68.9	58.6	62.3	59.6	70.1	68.3	69.2	70.0	67.2	67.0	68.8	65.9	63.5	61.0
Full-time faculty	42.2	38.7	38.3	37.4	37.1	42.6	33.2	49.5	53.7	53.5	38.7	42.9	42.1	53.2	51.7	55.0	55.1	54.2	52.8	52.2	51.7	51.3	49.4
Other full-time positions	67.0	61.4	62.8	68.3	59.1	64.8	58.1	71.2	70.1	69.1	60.6	57.0	63.6	65.8	59.7	58.8	58.2	51.4	50.7	51.8	53.8	49.3	39.7
Postdoctorates	90.3	87.4	86.3	81.9	82.5	81.9	75.4	87.9	84.6	81.2	82.0	85.3	81.2	81.3	83.0	78.8	75.7	66.7	78.3	80.0	72.7	69.1	68.9
Mathematics and statistics	26.9	19.1	19.0	21.7	21.3	30.1	21.5	31.1	33.5	34.5	18.8	22.3	20.9	29.1	31.9	31.1	34.8	31.7	34.1	30.5	26.8	29.1	24.7
Research as primary or secondary activity	32.4	23.6	25.0	27.0	27.0	41.3	26.4	36.9	40.8	40.6	24.8	27.0	26.9	35.3	41.7	38.6	43.4	38.5	42.2	40.7	36.6	36.7	32.0
Full-time faculty	26.8	18.8	18.0	20.4	21.0	29.9	21.4	30.4	32.8	34.0	18.3	21.1	19.3	27.7	30.1	31.9	34.8	31.8	35.3	30.8	28.1	30.7	25.6
Other full-time positions	33.6	33.5	46.9	54.6	30.1	43.4	29.1	47.8	52.8	67.2	40.6	34.6	40.0	37.5	54.5	23.1	25.0	29.4	25.0	25.0	23.8	21.4	20.4
Postdoctorates	48.8	35.8	55.1	43.2	56.3	66.3	48.5	34.4	53.4	80.4	s	45.3	35.6	54.7	61.9	65.9	64.2	60.0	57.1	75.0	60.0	60.0	41.6
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	NA	34.8	29.7	44.6	45.0	61.7	52.4	49.4	39.9	43.2	41.1	55.6	47.2	48.9	44.0	43.5	50.7	51.2	45.1	45.5	41.8
Research as primary or secondary activity	NA	NA	NA	34.8	26.9	44.9	36.1	55.6	52.8	54.3	41.1	46.0	46.3	59.3	57.9	54.9	53.8	54.2	61.4	59.6	54.7	55.6	51.9
Full-time faculty	NA	NA	NA	25.0	26.6	38.1	38.0	58.1	52.8	48.2	37.7	40.7	37.9	54.5	48.5	50.0	44.9	44.6	51.7	51.5	46.6	48.6	42.5
Other full-time positions	NA	NA	NA	s	25.0	67.9	80.6	79.7	47.1	67.7	59.1	62.9	50.0	66.7	33.3	50.0	42.9	44.4	50.0	42.9	36.4	36.0	37.2
Postdoctorates	NA	NA	NA	57.1	100.0	100.0	s	88.2	100.0	s	100.0	78.0	97.2	100.0	100.0	95.8	97.9	50.0	66.7	50.0	66.7	66.7	94.3
Life sciences	59.3	58.9	58.1	55.3	59.6	60.0	53.5	65.3	65.1	65.5	52.2	52.5	51.0	57.9	56.6	57.2	58.0	56.6	56.6	54.9	51.1	50.3	49.6
Research as primary or secondary activity	65.8	64.2	66.8	65.2	63.3	68.3	57.8	72.3	73.1	72.0	62.7	63.6	61.6	69.5	67.9	68.0	69.4	69.3	68.7	68.7	63.6	62.1	61.9
Full-time faculty	57.1	56.4	54.9	51.4	55.6	57.8	50.5	63.4	62.1	63.7	48.6	49.0	47.8	55.2	56.3	57.0	58.4	56.1	56.1	54.5	50.5	50.0	50.5
Other full-time positions	68.1	70.9	72.1	64.8	68.5	68.5	58.4	71.0	74.1	67.2	45.8	46.3	47.4	50.0	46.3	46.9	50.0	51.2	50.3	49.5	47.1	45.9	43.2
Postdoctorates	88.8	87.7	88.4	84.6	86.0	82.6	78.3	82.1	86.8	84.4	84.1	81.9	77.7	82.6	77.6	81.3	71.5	77.7	78.7	80.7	75.2	76.8	73.8
Psychology	37.5	36.1	33.2	32.6	32.7	30.1	25.9	31.2	35.5	34.7	25.7	27.6	27.4	32.9	34.3	34.7	36.5	31.9	33.3	31.7	27.1	28.2	28.0
Research as primary or secondary activity	45.4	41.7	41.9	42.7	41.9	42.6	36.6	39.8	46.6	43.5	37.0	39.5	40.5	46.5	48.1	48.2	52.2	43.2	46.6	44.6	39.3	39.0	41.4
Full-time faculty	36.4	34.1	30.6	28.3	27.5	27.3	23.6	28.3	34.0	32.9	25.2	25.1	25.3	31.6	33.6	34.5	37.5	33.9	36.5	34.8	27.8	30.3	30.2
Other full-time positions	48.1	41.6	65.4	46.3	52.3	40.3	32.7	37.1	39.6	36.3	23.8	30.7	30.2	32.6	38.8	35.2	29.8	25.0	23.0	22.2	25.0	20.5	20.4
Postdoctorates	84.9	86.4	82.5	86.8	92.0	84.2	70.8	88.1	66.3	95.8	71.7	71.4	71.8	71.8	59.2	69.0	69.4	60.0	81.8	80.0	62.5	84.6	78.8
Social sciences	25.5	23.7	23.3	20.4	21.8	23.7	17.2	27.2	27.7	28.4	14.2	16.1	15.2	22.9	21.5	21.8	23.1	20.6	19.7	19.7	17.3	17.4	16.5
Research as primary or secondary activity	29.5	26.8	30.6	29.4	25.5	31.4	20.4	30.0	31.1	31.2	17.3	20.9	17.7	27.2	26.5	27.1	28.9	25.7	24.4	24.2	20.9	20.3	20.2
Full-time faculty	25.2	23.7	22.6	19.0	21.2	22.5	16.2	27.1	27.4	27.8	13.4	15.4	14.6	22.5	21.1	22.1	23.9	20.0	20.6	20.0	17.2	17.9	16.6
Other full-time positions	36.3	31.6	35.3	37.3	32.7	34.0	26.6	36.2	33.8	32.7	22.1	22.6	22.5	27.3	26.1	25.6	24.5	22.6	20.3	21.9	20.5	19.4	18.4
Postdoctorates	57.6	54.6	54.7	84.9	47.9	64.6	54.7	27.4	57.6	52.5	88.1	68.5	33.9	65.0	35.8	42.9	22.9	33.3	25.0	50.0	50.0	45.5	40.6
Engineering	53.5	50.6	51.1	49.1	51.0	54.7	43.0	57.1	56.3	63.2	42.6	49.9	49.7	56.9	56.8	57.4	58.7	58.6	58.2	57.6	54.7	51.3	50.6

Table SLBR-23

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

(Percent)

Field, research activity, and position	1973	1975	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2008	2010	2013	2015	2017	2019
Research as primary or secondary activity	58.4	57.3	60.5	57.5	59.2	61.5	45.0	63.1	63.8	68.3	49.5	57.9	55.4	62.5	64.1	64.7	67.3	67.3	66.7	66.8	62.0	57.8	58.5
Full-time faculty	52.5	49.9	49.3	49.5	49.8	54.7	42.2	56.0	55.2	62.9	40.9	48.4	47.2	55.1	56.7	56.8	58.6	57.7	59.5	57.3	56.5	52.2	51.2
Other full-time positions	65.5	67.3	86.6	53.0	60.7	63.1	44.3	76.4	71.2	66.8	59.5	56.7	65.6	63.3	58.3	62.2	51.9	61.7	55.8	59.6	54.2	50.8	50.5
Postdoctorates	84.7	84.3	74.7	51.1	98.9	82.7	91.4	74.8	76.0	90.0	65.7	72.7	62.1	80.4	56.8	73.8	76.8	71.4	61.3	66.7	54.5	56.9	59.8

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

Note(s):

Data for 1985 and 1993–97 are not comparable with data for other years and understate the degree of federal support. In 1985 and 1993–97, the federal support question asked whether work performed during the week of 15 April was supported by the government; in other years, the question pertained to work conducted over the course of an entire year. Academic employment is limited to U.S. doctorate holders employed at 2- or 4-year colleges or universities, medical schools, or university research institutes. Full-time faculty include full professors, associate professors, assistant professors, and instructors from 1973 to 1995; from 1997 to 2019, full-time faculty includes full professors, associate professors, and assistant professors. Research includes basic or applied research, development, and design. Total includes part-time employment not shown separately but excludes those employed part time because they are students or retired. 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