

**Table 2****Field of research of postdocs at federally funded research and development centers:  
2012 and 2019**

(Number and percent)

Field of research	2012		2019	
	Total	% of total	Total	% of total
All postdocs	2,793	100.0	3,335	100.0
Science	2,108	75.5	2,132	63.9
Agricultural sciences	0	*	3	0.1
Biological and biomedical sciences	247	8.8	222	6.7
Chemistry	496	17.8	467	14.0
Computer and information sciences	123	4.4	180	5.4
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	240	8.6	262	7.9
Mathematics and statistics	61	2.2	70	2.1
Natural resources and conservation <sup>a</sup>	na	na	27	0.8
Physics and astronomy	861	30.8	773	23.2
Psychology	1	*	0	*
Social sciences	6	0.2	7	0.2
Other science fields	73	2.6	121	3.6
Engineering	612	21.9	1,028	30.8
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	17	0.6	30	0.9
Agricultural engineering	0	0.0	0	0.0
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering	17	0.6	18	0.5
Chemical engineering	84	3.0	183	5.5
Civil engineering	15	0.5	61	1.8
Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering	42	1.5	97	2.9
Engineering mechanics, physics, and science	20	0.7	140	4.2
Industrial and manufacturing engineering	0	*	4	0.1
Materials and metallurgical engineering	226	8.1	221	6.6
Mechanical engineering	91	3.3	176	5.3
Nuclear engineering	48	1.7	66	2.0
Petroleum engineering	0	*	3	0.1
Other engineering fields	52	1.9	29	0.9
Health	30	1.1	1	*
Multidisciplinary	31	1.1	113	3.4
Non-science and engineering	0	*	15	0.4
Field of research not known	12	0.4	46	1.4

\* = value &lt; 0.05%; na = not applicable.

<sup>a</sup> Natural resources and conservation was added in 2017.**Source(s):**

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Postdocs at Federally Funded Research and Development Centers.