

Table 2**Postdoctoral appointee and nonfaculty researcher employment, by field: 2017–20**

(Number and percent change)

Characteristic	Postdoctoral appointees						Nonfaculty researchers					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	Percent change		2017	2018	2019	2020	Percent change	
					2017–20	2019–20					2017–20	2019–20
All surveyed fields	64,733	64,783	66,247	65,681	1.5	-0.9	28,180	29,284	30,349	29,661	5.3	-2.3
Science and engineering	46,080	45,478	46,769	47,203	2.4	0.9	20,542	21,848	22,728	22,133	7.7	-2.6
Science	38,241	37,564	38,503	38,741	1.3	0.6	17,268	18,278	18,819	18,212	5.5	-3.2
Agricultural and veterinary sciences	1,024	1,072	1,079	1,678	63.9	55.5	496	565	645	964	94.4	49.5
Biological and biomedical sciences	21,781	21,533	21,847	21,902	0.6	0.3	8,203	8,250	8,229	8,112	-1.1	-1.4
Computer and information sciences	854	879	878	823	-3.6	-6.3	476	515	510	458	-3.8	-10.2
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	2,089	1,726	1,778	1,790	-14.3	0.7	1,794	2,106	2,177	2,150	19.8	-1.2
Mathematics and statistics	991	982	1,070	1,076	8.6	0.6	240	266	305	201	-16.3	-34.1
Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary studies	1,131	980	972	832	-26.4	-14.4	806	832	820	679	-15.8	-17.2
Natural resources and conservation	731	764	806	845	15.6	4.8	364	580	582	573	57.4	-1.5
Physical sciences	7,211	6,976	7,159	6,937	-3.8	-3.1	2,871	3,056	3,316	2,890	0.7	-12.8
Psychology	1,082	1,145	1,152	1,312	21.3	13.9	494	507	576	749	51.6	30.0
Social sciences	1,347	1,507	1,762	1,546	14.8	-12.3	1,524	1,601	1,659	1,436	-5.8	-13.4
Engineering	7,839	7,914	8,266	8,462	7.9	2.4	3,274	3,570	3,909	3,921	19.8	0.3
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	196	207	227	233	18.9	2.6	102	115	124	149	46.1	20.2
Biological, biomedical, and biosystems engineering	1,476	1,529	1,602	1,696	14.9	5.9	451	491	545	525	16.4	-3.7
Chemical, petroleum, and chemical-related engineering	1,262	1,205	1,229	1,157	-8.3	-5.9	340	337	410	330	-2.9	-19.5
Civil, environmental, transportation and related engineering fields	804	739	865	1,006	25.1	16.3	422	414	492	488	15.6	-0.8
Electrical, electronics, communications and computer engineering	1,170	1,197	1,305	1,302	11.3	-0.2	557	588	637	706	26.8	10.8
Industrial, manufacturing, systems engineering and operations research	127	156	167	194	52.8	16.2	119	105	137	155	30.3	13.1
Mechanical engineering	1,089	1,069	1,142	1,149	5.5	0.6	458	489	531	469	2.4	-11.7
Metallurgical, mining, materials and related engineering fields	565	575	665	630	11.5	-5.3	233	267	303	299	28.3	-1.3
Other engineering	1,150	1,237	1,064	1,095	-4.8	2.9	592	764	730	800	35.1	9.6
Health	18,653	19,305	19,478	18,478	-0.9	-5.1	7,638	7,436	7,621	7,528	-1.4	-1.2
Clinical medicine	16,100	16,563	16,650	16,287	1.2	-2.2	6,448	6,159	6,273	6,500	0.8	3.6
Other health	2,553	2,742	2,828	2,191	-14.2	-22.5	1,190	1,277	1,348	1,028	-13.6	-23.7

Note(s):

For more information about the Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering fields, see technical table A-17 in the 2020 data tables (<https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf21319>).

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.