TABLE 76

Postdoc status of U.S. residing doctoral scientists and engineers, by years since doctorate and broad field of doctorate: 2021

(Number and SE)

Years since doctorate and status of postdoctoral appointment[a]	All employed		Science														Engineering		Health	
			Total		Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences		Computer and information sciences		Mathematics and statistics		Physical sciences		Psychology		Social sciences					
	Number	SE	Number	SE	Number	SE	Number	SE	Number	SE	Number	SE	Number	SE	Number	SE	Number	SE	Number	SE
Doctorate recipient	872,100	2,425	647,300	2,000	226,850	1,275	33,600	425	36,600	575	137,050	1,025	113,500	825	99,700	1,000	183,100	1,325	41,650	525
Postdoctoral appointment in 2021	27,150	750	22,100	675	13,650	575	300	100	850	175	5,550	375	850	150	900	150	3,950	325	1,100	150
≤ 5 years	141,750	600	99,900	775	36,150	575	6,600	275	6,150	325	22,050	525	13,550	400	15,350	475	32,750	575	9,100	275
Postdoctoral appointment in 2021	22,200	600	17,750	550	10,300	425	250	75	750	125	4,850	350	800	150	750	125	3,450	300	1,000	150
6–10 years	159,000	975	114,100	1,025	41,900	600	8,250	350	6,800	350	21,350	525	17,150	425	18,700	525	35,750	725	9,150	375
Postdoctoral appointment in 2021	4,250	400	3,700	375	2,950	325	D	D	D	D	600	150	D	D	50	50	450	150	100	50
11–15 years	137,450	875	99,600	925	38,200	775	6,400	350	6,100	350	18,900	525	15,300	525	14,750	600	30,800	825	7,050	375
Postdoctoral appointment in 2021	600	175	550	150	350	150	D	D	D	D	50	25	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
> 15 years	433,900	2,000	333,700	1,700	110,600	1,150	12,300	375	17,600	500	74,750	900	67,550	850	50,900	875	83,850	1,175	16,350	425
Postdoctoral appointment in 2021	100	50	100	50	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

SE = standard error.

[a] A postdoc is a temporary position awarded in academe, industry, nonprofit organizations, or government primarily for gaining additional education and training in research.

Note(s):
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 50. Standard errors are rounded up to the nearest 25. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Postdoc status is reported for principal job as of survey reference date (1 February 2021). Years since doctorate were calculated as academic years since doctorate attainment. Residence location is based on reported living location on 1 February 2021.

Source(s):
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Doctorate Recipients, 2021.