

TABLE A-5b

Science, engineering, and health organizational units with postdoctoral appointees, by detailed field: 2020–22

(Number)

Field	2020	2021	2022
All surveyed fields ^a	7,613	7,624	7,962
Science	4,399	4,457	4,677
Agricultural and veterinary sciences	259	276	337
Agricultural sciences	179	198	220
Veterinary biomedical and clinical sciences ^b	80	78	117
Biological and biomedical sciences	1,796	1,808	1,800
Biochemistry	140	139	138
Biology	186	188	204
Biomedical sciences	71	116	70
Biophysics	19	19	12
Biostatistics and bioinformatics	89	77	87
Biotechnology	20	18	23
Botany and plant biology	48	44	48
Cell, cellular biology, and anatomical sciences	116	118	125
Ecology and population biology	53	57	61
Epidemiology	40	43	51
Genetics	100	105	97
Microbiological sciences and immunology	156	161	173
Molecular biology	50	48	40
Neurobiology and neuroscience	146	137	140
Nutrition science	42	32	36
Pathology and experimental pathology	80	69	69
Pharmacology and toxicology	100	96	97
Physiology	188	172	174
Zoology and animal biology	46	49	43
Biological and biomedical sciences nec	106	120	112
Computer and information sciences	169	196	192
Artificial intelligence, informatics, and computer and information science topics	16	17	19
Computer and information sciences	47	49	47
Computer and information systems security	3	4	5
Computer science	76	88	83
Information science and studies	10	13	18
Information technology	5	3	3
Computer and information sciences nec	12	22	17
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	258	256	270
Atmospheric sciences and meteorology	42	42	47
Geological and earth sciences	140	134	143
Ocean and marine sciences	52	53	56
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences nec	24	27	24
Mathematics and statistics	176	186	200
Applied mathematics	31	34	36
Mathematics	104	102	114
Statistics	41	50	50
Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences ^c	179	174	189
Biological and physical sciences	17	20	17
Computational science	8	9	11
Data science and data analytics	14	13	14
International and global studies	6	5	5
Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences nec	134	127	142
Natural resources and conservation	139	144	162
Environmental science and studies	55	49	59

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(Number)

Field	2020	2021	2022
Forestry, natural resources, and conservation	84	95	103
Physical sciences	565	557	593
Astronomy and astrophysics	66	67	70
Chemistry	223	220	221
Materials sciences	29	29	24
Physics	226	225	258
Physical sciences nec	21	16	20
Psychology	249	246	266
Applied psychology	36	44	42
Clinical psychology	17	20	16
Counseling psychology	8	6	8
Human development ^d	41	35	39
Psychology, general	104	102	118
Research and experimental psychology	43	39	43
Social sciences	609	614	668
Agricultural and natural resource economics	20	22	23
Anthropology	66	57	65
Area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies	102	106	120
Criminal justice and safety studies	10	9	8
Criminology	2	2	5
Economics (except agricultural and natural resource)	56	63	58
Geography and cartography	46	43	44
International relations and national security studies	16	18	18
Linguistics	27	29	30
Political science and government	48	49	56
Public policy analysis	61	59	64
Sociology	61	66	77
Urban studies and affairs	4	6	9
Social sciences, other ^e	90	85	91
Engineering ^f	1,108	1,090	1,152
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	35	35	39
Biological, biomedical, and biosystems engineering ^e	156	146	145
Chemical, petroleum, and chemical-related engineering	139	133	144
Chemical engineering	127	120	135
Petroleum engineering	12	13	9
Civil, environmental, transportation and related engineering fields	175	174	190
Civil engineering	152	154	169
Architectural, environmental, construction and surveying engineering	23	20	21
Electrical, electronics, communications and computer engineering	160	159	165
Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering	144	144	146
Computer engineering	16	15	19
Industrial, manufacturing, systems engineering and operations research	49	44	44
Industrial and manufacturing engineering	30	31	31
Systems engineering and operations research	19	13	13
Mechanical engineering	148	158	163
Metallurgical, mining, materials and related engineering fields ^e	85	78	82
Other engineering	161	163	180
Agricultural engineering	20	19	25
Engineering mechanics, physics, and science	20	24	25
Nuclear engineering	13	12	13

TABLE A-5b

Science, engineering, and health organizational units with postdoctoral appointees, by detailed field: 2020–22

(Number)

Field	2020	2021	2022
Engineering, other ^e	108	108	117
Health	2,106	2,077	2,133
Clinical medicine	1,743	1,713	1,730
Anesthesiology	56	47	46
Cardiology	54	54	60
Endocrinology	43	41	43
Gastroenterology	41	37	43
Hematology	30	27	31
Medical clinical sciences and clinical and medical laboratory sciences	46	48	31
Neurology	121	126	118
Obstetrics and gynecology	54	48	43
Oncology and cancer research	110	107	105
Ophthalmology	70	63	61
Otorhinolaryngology	37	34	35
Pediatrics	132	127	135
Psychiatry	83	88	86
Public health	177	180	185
Pulmonary disease	43	37	35
Radiological sciences	110	102	113
Surgery	175	182	189
Clinical medicine nec	361	365	371
Other health	363	364	403
Communication disorders sciences	32	31	32
Dental sciences	56	62	66
Kinesiology and exercise science	29	25	25
Nursing science	49	41	55
Pharmaceutical sciences	93	100	109
Other health nec	104	105	116

nec = not elsewhere classified.

^a Several field names changed in 2020; the field names listed in this table are the field names used in the Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS) collection and reporting for 2020. For a complete list of field names used from 2017 to 2020, see <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf21318/table/A-17>.

^b In 2020, veterinary biomedical and clinical sciences moved from other health to agriculture and veterinary sciences.

^c Prior to 2020, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary studies was reported as a single broad field with no detailed fields; the detailed fields were added in 2020.

^d In 2020, human development moved from social sciences to psychology.

^e Starting in 2020, some fields were combined for reporting. See technical table A-17 for more information.

^f In 2020, broad fields were added to engineering.

Note(s):

For doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers, "field" refers to the field of the unit that reports information on these groups to the Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS). This table only contains fields where graduate students may be reported. For more information on the mapping of GSS fields and codes, see technical table A-17. Clinical medicine includes postdoctoral appointees in medical clinical sciences, clinical and medical laboratory sciences, anesthesiology, cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, hematology, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, oncology and cancer research, ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology, pediatrics, psychiatry, public health, pulmonary disease, radiological sciences, surgery, and clinical medicine not elsewhere classified.

Source(s):

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