

TABLE R-2

Retirement experiences for doctoral scientists and engineers, by residence location and employment status: 2023

(Number, percent, and SE)

Retirement experiences	U.S. residing doctorate recipients										Non-U.S. residing doctorate recipients									
	Total		Employed, previously retired ^a				Not employed, retired ^b				Total		Employed, previously retired ^a				Not employed, retired ^b			
			Full time		Part time		Under 67		67–75				Full time		Part time		Under 67		67–75	
	Number	SE	Percent	SE	Percent	SE	Percent	SE	Percent	SE	Number	SE	Percent	SE	Percent	SE	Percent	SE	Percent	SE
Doctorate recipient ever retired	194,500	1,700	14.0	0.40	21.9	0.45	15.4	0.50	48.7	0.55	25,000	900	25.0	1.75	25.3	2.00	18.0	1.60	31.8	1.70
Employment situation encouraged retirement																				
Became eligible for pension	55,750	1,225	16.6	0.80	21.0	0.85	14.1	0.80	48.4	1.10	11,150	725	23.5	2.20	21.8	2.60	17.2	2.50	37.5	3.05
Work was not satisfying	44,550	1,200	18.5	1.10	20.8	1.10	21.7	1.00	39.0	1.30	3,600	375	24.6	4.90	27.2	4.95	29.1	4.50	19.1	4.00
Early retirement incentive offer	25,350	900	17.9	1.35	19.0	1.20	16.0	1.40	47.1	1.85	2,650	325	21.3	4.55	30.6	5.95	19.7	5.65	28.4	5.15
Would have been laid off	17,950	725	18.5	1.90	24.7	1.60	16.8	1.55	40.0	1.90	1,350	250	46.6	9.35	17.6	5.55	9.1	3.65	26.7	7.00
New job duties	15,050	800	20.3	1.90	21.4	1.75	21.0	1.95	37.3	2.10	2,100	300	47.9	7.55	24.2	5.50	13.8	5.70	14.0	4.35
Experienced age discrimination	13,850	625	18.2	1.90	25.5	2.20	12.9	1.35	43.5	2.25	1,800	275	24.6	6.65	19.5	6.05	14.6	5.85	41.3	7.10
Other employment situations ^c	65,750	1,300	23.1	0.80	25.1	0.85	14.3	0.85	37.4	0.85	11,150	675	32.8	2.85	26.9	2.70	14.7	2.35	25.5	2.60
Personal factors encouraged retirement																				
Had sufficient income to retire	143,050	1,425	6.7	0.40	22.1	0.55	17.4	0.60	53.8	0.70	12,250	700	12.0	1.85	25.2	2.40	24.0	2.15	38.8	2.65
Wanted more time for personal pursuits and leisure	122,400	1,525	7.2	0.50	23.1	0.60	16.8	0.60	52.9	0.75	11,950	650	13.0	1.95	26.5	2.45	23.6	2.25	36.9	2.50
Wanted more time with family and friends	93,000	1,350	7.7	0.50	24.3	0.75	17.0	0.75	51.0	0.90	9,300	625	13.1	2.10	28.1	3.25	21.9	2.65	36.9	3.50
Became eligible for a government retirement benefit	63,850	1,350	8.1	0.55	22.6	0.85	8.2	0.65	61.0	1.10	9,200	600	23.2	2.75	24.2	3.15	15.5	2.75	37.1	3.35
Personal health	35,700	1,075	9.1	0.85	22.3	1.30	18.4	1.20	50.2	1.55	4,500	425	20.3	3.70	20.8	4.10	27.9	5.05	31.0	4.80
Other personal factors ^d	60,850	1,275	9.0	0.65	22.3	0.95	18.2	0.85	50.5	1.15	5,650	450	21.5	3.40	25.1	3.15	17.2	3.05	36.2	3.40
Overall satisfaction with retirement																				
Very satisfied	134,750	1,550	11.8	0.50	21.4	0.55	14.5	0.55	52.3	0.70	16,100	800	22.3	2.15	23.3	2.35	20.0	2.10	34.4	2.25
Somewhat satisfied	50,200	1,150	18.1	1.05	23.4	1.10	17.4	1.00	41.1	1.10	6,850	450	26.5	3.50	29.9	3.40	16.3	2.60	27.3	3.55
Somewhat dissatisfied	7,350	450	22.5	2.60	21.5	2.35	18.3	2.75	37.7	3.15	1,550	275	38.3	8.70	33.1	8.70	S	S	24.0	7.05
Very dissatisfied	2,200	275	32.1	5.10	19.9	4.05	12.7	3.50	35.3	5.00	500	125	47.1	15.30	D	D	D	D	S	S

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information. S = suppressed for reliability; coefficient of variation exceeds publication standards.

SE = standard error.

^a Employed and previously retired includes individuals who were working during the survey reference week and had retired previously from any position.^b Not employed, retired individuals include those who reported not working and being retired regardless of whether they were currently seeking work or had another reason for not working.^c Other employment situations include wages reduced, hours reduced, new job location, lack of work available, and other employment situations.^d Other personal factors include spouse or partner retiring; the health of family members, relatives, or friends; providing childcare; and other personal factors.**Note(s):**

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 50. Standard errors of numbers are rounded up to the nearest 25. Percentages are rounded to the nearest 0.1%. Standard errors of unrounded percentages (based on unrounded counts) are rounded up to the nearest multiple of 0.05%. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Designation of full-time and part-time employment status is based on principal job only, not on all jobs held in labor force. For example, an individual could work part time in their principal job but full time in the labor force. Full time is based on working 35 or more hours per week. Residence location is based on reported living location on 1 February 2023.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Doctorate Recipients, 2023.