

Table 3. Postdoc and nonfaculty researcher employment, by field: 2020–24

(Number and percent change)

Characteristic	Postdoctoral appointees							Nonfaculty researchers						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percent change		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percent change	
						2020–24	2023–24						2020–24	2023–24
All surveyed fields	65,681	63,328	62,750	65,850	69,877	6.4	6.1	29,661	30,548	32,279	34,342	35,142	18.5	2.3
Science and engineering	47,203	45,529	45,008	47,033	49,247	4.3	4.7	22,133	22,720	23,778	25,175	25,002	13.0	-0.7
Science	38,741	37,189	36,673	37,982	39,702	2.5	4.6	18,212	18,728	19,423	20,600	20,566	12.9	-0.2
Agricultural and veterinary sciences	1,678	1,595	1,705	1,993	2,177	29.7	9.2	964	902	1,068	1,238	1,234	28.0	-0.3
Biological and biomedical sciences	21,902	20,245	19,585	19,520	20,234	-7.6	3.7	8,112	8,187	8,207	8,589	8,795	8.4	2.4
Computer and information sciences	823	880	859	987	1,042	26.6	5.6	458	457	507	631	653	42.6	3.5
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	1,790	1,797	1,787	1,919	2,043	14.1	6.5	2,150	2,308	2,448	2,455	2,253	4.8	-8.2
Mathematics and statistics	1,076	1,112	1,110	1,220	1,238	15.1	1.5	201	235	251	307	199	-1.0	-35.2
Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences	832	878	840	988	1,061	27.5	7.4	679	816	931	818	890	31.1	8.8
Natural resources and conservation	845	889	936	937	969	14.7	3.4	573	620	605	663	649	13.3	-2.1
Physical sciences	6,937	6,823	6,877	7,220	7,570	9.1	4.8	2,890	2,895	2,894	3,095	3,093	7.0	-0.1
Psychology	1,312	1,325	1,308	1,344	1,392	6.1	3.6	749	803	786	950	892	19.1	-6.1
Social sciences	1,546	1,645	1,666	1,854	1,976	27.8	6.6	1,436	1,505	1,726	1,854	1,908	32.9	2.9
Engineering	8,462	8,340	8,335	9,051	9,545	12.8	5.5	3,921	3,992	4,355	4,575	4,436	13.1	-3.0
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	233	277	244	254	246	5.6	-3.1	149	144	153	166	167	12.1	0.6
Biological, biomedical, and biosystems engineering	1,696	1,616	1,540	1,594	1,685	-0.6	5.7	525	589	685	674	680	29.5	0.9
Chemical, petroleum, and chemical-related engineering	1,157	1,167	1,239	1,501	1,552	34.1	3.4	330	307	313	349	363	10.0	4.0
Civil, environmental, transportation, and related engineering fields	1,006	968	1,018	1,070	1,166	15.9	9.0	488	479	569	654	583	19.5	-10.9
Electrical, electronics, communications, and computer engineering	1,302	1,275	1,217	1,339	1,381	6.1	3.1	706	755	734	799	698	-1.1	-12.6
Industrial, manufacturing, systems engineering, and operations research	194	127	143	170	162	-16.5	-4.7	155	107	197	221	164	5.8	-25.8
Mechanical engineering	1,149	1,200	1,189	1,317	1,459	27.0	10.8	469	529	527	560	566	20.7	1.1
Metallurgical, mining, materials, and related engineering fields	630	562	542	557	588	-6.7	5.6	299	259	280	249	260	-13.0	4.4
Other engineering	1,095	1,148	1,203	1,249	1,306	19.3	4.6	800	823	897	903	955	19.4	5.8
Health	18,478	17,799	17,742	18,817	20,630	11.6	9.6	7,528	7,828	8,501	9,167	10,140	34.7	10.6
Clinical medicine	16,287	15,561	15,630	16,393	17,919	10.0	9.3	6,500	6,751	7,351	7,798	8,618	32.6	10.5
Other health	2,191	2,238	2,112	2,424	2,711	23.7	11.8	1,028	1,077	1,150	1,369	1,522	48.1	11.2

Note(s):For more information on the mapping of fields and codes in the Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering, see table A-6 at <https://ncses.nsf.gov/surveys/graduate-students-postdoctorates-s-e/2024#methodology>.**Source(s):**

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