Table 1-5. Distribution of doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers across science, engineering, and health fields: 2017–25

(Number)

Detailed field	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
All fields	28,180	29,284	30,349	29,661	30,548	32,279	34,342	35,142	36,021
Science	17,268	18,278	18,819	18,212	18,728	19,423	20,600	20,566	20,797
Agricultural and veterinary sciences[a]	496	565	645	964	902	1,068	1,238	1,234	1,276
Agricultural sciences	496	565	645	650	602	755	824	900	896
Veterinary biomedical and clinical sciences[b]	na	na	na	314	300	313	414	334	380
Biological and biomedical sciences[a]	8,203	8,250	8,229	8,112	8,187	8,207	8,589	8,795	9,132
Biochemistry	757	723	755	800	822	843	841	913	960
Biology	847	897	766	776	784	754	772	827	706
Biomedical sciences	533	588	622	406	419	571	571	632	725
Biophysics	46	25	36	66	77	79	79	81	51
Biostatistics and bioinformatics	357	393	400	380	338	357	366	417	407
Biotechnology	91	102	91	95	87	87	96	85	160
Botany and plant biology	228	343	314	258	230	218	227	191	209
Cell, cellular biology, and anatomical sciences	600	610	579	548	533	590	675	681	795
Ecology and population biology	242	248	183	230	250	221	236	206	207
Epidemiology	107	99	99	126	128	122	145	168	150
Genetics	510	405	501	545	591	551	557	612	629
Microbiological sciences and immunology	863	773	764	750	711	708	718	761	863
Molecular biology	133	186	233	225	239	210	222	240	246
Neurobiology and neuroscience	852	732	726	789	795	800	920	802	780
Nutrition science	113	165	136	143	137	98	100	93	110
Pathology and experimental pathology	444	398	422	401	382	308	329	385	400
Pharmacology and toxicology	436	372	377	394	433	387	358	474	504
Physiology	616	681	723	731	663	714	708	702	813
Zoology and animal biology	127	160	168	137	174	187	196	138	143
Biological and biomedical sciences nec	301	350	334	312	394	402	473	387	274
Computer and information sciences	476	515	510	458	457	507	631	653	580
Computer science	279	261	274	218	209	192	194	181	193
Computer and information sciences[c]	134	143	137	147	150	174	269	310	251
Computer and information sciences[d]	NA	NA	NA	104	111	134	217	249	186
Super Intelligence, informatics, and computer and information science topics[d,e]	NA	NA	NA	43	39	40	52	61	65
Computer and information sciences nec[c]	63	111	99	93	98	141	168	162	136
Computer and information systems security[d]	NA	NA	NA	2	18	18	16	16	11
Information science and studies[d]	NA	NA	NA	21	19	30	44	61	33
Information technology[d]	NA	NA	NA	14	13	11	16	18	16
Computer and information sciences nec[d]	NA	NA	NA	56	48	82	92	67	76
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	1,794	2,106	2,177	2,150	2,308	2,448	2,455	2,253	2,245

Table 1-5. Distribution of doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers across science, engineering, and health fields: 2017–25

(Number)

Detailed field	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Atmospheric sciences and meteorology	402	426	434	461	471	515	512	425	456
Geological and earth sciences	603	991	1,104	1,046	1,121	1,127	1,247	1,069	1,102
Ocean and marine sciences	399	365	321	330	360	385	418	359	366
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences nec	390	324	318	313	356	421	278	400	321
Mathematics and statistics	240	266	305	201	235	251	307	199	208
Mathematics and applied mathematics[c]	195	207	226	144	176	198	241	164	165
Applied mathematics[d]	NA	NA	NA	50	66	73	99	64	73
Mathematics[d]	NA	NA	NA	94	110	125	142	100	92
Statistics	45	59	79	57	59	53	66	35	43
Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences[c]	806	832	820	679	816	931	818	890	889
Biological and physical sciences[d]	NA	NA	NA	56	38	43	42	45	44
Computational science[d]	NA	NA	NA	38	56	62	58	72	70
Data science and data analytics[d]	NA	NA	NA	22	26	32	56	71	81
International and global studies[d]	NA	NA	NA	16	14	17	15	19	14
Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences nec[d]	NA	NA	NA	547	682	777	647	683	680
Natural resources and conservation	364	580	582	573	620	605	663	649	707
Environmental science and studies	147	217	215	167	204	201	226	234	301
Forestry, natural resources, and conservation	217	363	367	406	416	404	437	415	406
Physical sciences	2,871	3,056	3,316	2,890	2,895	2,894	3,095	3,093	3,095
Astronomy and astrophysics	494	472	602	569	558	573	600	635	674
Chemistry	931	974	983	906	848	876	845	877	841
Materials sciences	82	73	64	73	64	77	69	70	83
Physics	1,306	1,354	1,458	1,151	1,235	1,162	1,210	1,150	1,163
Physical sciences nec	58	183	209	191	190	206	371	361	334
Psychology[a]	494	507	576	749	803	786	950	892	836
Clinical psychology	40	9	11	16	23	9	20	17	12
Counseling and applied psychology[c]	47	38	120	90	75	81	126	112	125
Applied psychology[d]	NA	NA	NA	64	60	70	118	104	122
Counseling psychology[d]	NA	NA	NA	26	15	11	8	8	3
Human development[b]	na	na	na	137	110	148	158	156	197
Psychology, general	247	302	328	348	389	417	472	415	318
Research and experimental psychology	160	158	117	158	206	131	174	192	184
Social sciences[a]	1,524	1,601	1,659	1,436	1,505	1,726	1,854	1,908	1,829
Agricultural and natural resource economics	44	62	51	52	41	31	51	41	52
Anthropology	85	76	99	81	79	74	70	75	76
Criminal justice and safety studies	5	10	13	12	8	21	22	23	8

Table 1-5. Distribution of doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers across science, engineering, and health fields: 2017–25

(Number)

Detailed field	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Economics (except agricultural and natural resource)	166	156	155	176	164	152	152	139	173
Geography and cartography	98	105	110	103	106	100	118	114	116
Human development[b]	160	130	164	na	na	na	na	na	na
International relations and national security studies	45	59	50	51	76	92	139	103	115
Linguistics	46	37	29	39	40	55	59	53	59
Political science and government	72	72	83	64	74	87	93	94	87
Public policy analysis	292	311	337	361	358	468	475	518	435
Sociology and population studies	143	154	164	148	145	168	196	227	223
Social sciences nec[c]	368	429	404	349	414	478	479	521	485
Area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies[d]	NA	NA	NA	134	122	96	143	183	150
Criminology[d]	NA	NA	NA	7	11	15	10	10	13
Urban studies and affairs[d]	NA	NA	NA	18	28	37	21	51	50
Social sciences, other[d]	na	na	na	190	253	330	305	277	272
History and philosophy of science and technology[f]	9	1	3	na	na	na	na	na	na
Social sciences nec[c]	359	428	401	na	na	na	na	na	na
Engineering	3,274	3,570	3,909	3,921	3,992	4,355	4,575	4,436	4,466
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	102	115	124	149	144	153	166	167	188
Biological, biomedical, and biosystems engineering	451	491	545	525	589	685	674	680	664
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering[f]	415	440	492	na	na	na	na	na	na
Biological and biosystems engineering[f]	36	51	53	na	na	na	na	na	na
Chemical, petroleum, and chemical-related engineering	340	337	410	330	307	313	349	363	341
Chemical engineering	281	257	328	274	257	265	303	317	305
Petroleum engineering	59	80	82	56	50	48	46	46	36
Civil, environmental, transportation and related engineering fields[c]	422	414	492	488	479	569	654	583	614
Civil engineering[d]	422	414	492	451	446	497	571	497	517
Architectural, environmental, construction and surveying engineering[d]	NA	NA	NA	37	33	72	83	86	97
Electrical, electronics, communications and computer engineering	557	588	637	706	755	734	799	698	646
Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering[c]	557	588	637	647	684	673	731	630	585
Computer engineering[d]	NA	NA	NA	59	71	61	68	68	61
Industrial, manufacturing, systems engineering and operations research	119	105	137	155	107	197	221	164	157
Industrial and manufacturing engineering[c]	119	105	137	53	53	74	83	84	66
Systems engineering and operations research[d]	NA	NA	NA	102	54	123	138	80	91
Mechanical engineering	458	489	531	469	529	527	560	566	569
Metallurgical, mining, materials and related engineering fields	233	267	303	299	259	280	249	260	252
Metallurgical and materials engineering[f]	181	215	242	na	na	na	na	na	na
Mining engineering[f]	52	52	61	na	na	na	na	na	na

Table 1-5. Distribution of doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers across science, engineering, and health fields: 2017–25

(Number)

Detailed field	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Other engineering	592	764	730	800	823	897	903	955	1,035
Agricultural engineering	52	60	55	54	55	48	53	51	68
Engineering mechanics, physics, and science	200	220	186	177	193	199	190	185	157
Nuclear engineering	22	41	41	45	40	41	35	32	58
Engineering, other	na	na	na	524	535	609	625	687	752
Engineering nec[c]	285	400	372	na	na	na	na	na	na
Nanotechnology[f]	33	43	76	na	na	na	na	na	na
Health	7,638	7,436	7,621	7,528	7,828	8,501	9,167	10,140	10,758
Clinical medicine	6,448	6,159	6,273	6,500	6,751	7,351	7,798	8,618	9,249
Medical clinical sciences and clinical and medical laboratory sciences	NA	NA	NA	167	134	128	477	383	477
Public health	611	646	687	616	656	742	911	799	833
Anesthesiology	147	139	155	122	108	129	129	181	185
Cardiology and cardiovascular disease	248	238	200	182	215	227	228	230	224
Endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism	98	102	107	91	103	109	122	123	143
Gastroenterology	96	92	98	96	112	105	89	76	71
Hematology	111	114	160	164	180	199	168	174	154
Neurology and neurosurgery	493	425	496	469	527	580	533	730	989
Obstetrics and gynecology	117	94	104	93	106	107	121	137	129
Oncology and cancer research	620	637	630	644	549	648	587	642	718
Ophthalmology	377	297	261	287	259	303	295	349	372
Otorhinolaryngology	116	142	121	125	119	119	148	180	184
Pediatrics	657	624	597	643	632	742	743	769	764
Psychiatry	236	235	241	307	279	351	346	424	481
Pulmonary disease	144	136	107	119	100	116	118	107	87
Radiological sciences	395	436	391	401	381	444	465	555	589
Surgery	505	523	527	507	561	572	608	697	700
Clinical medicine nec	1,477	1,279	1,391	1,467	1,730	1,730	1,710	2,062	2,149
Other health[a]	1,190	1,277	1,348	1,028	1,077	1,150	1,369	1,522	1,509
Communication disorders sciences	66	68	46	49	83	86	85	103	89
Dental sciences	78	92	110	103	123	140	159	159	145
Nursing science	101	96	97	103	117	166	187	180	183
Pharmaceutical sciences	368	344	392	377	372	379	469	523	524
Veterinary biomedical and clinical sciences[b]	260	330	290	na	na	na	na	na	na
Other health nec[c]	na	na	na	396	382	379	469	557	568
Kinesiology and exercise science[d]	NA	NA	NA	46	31	49	50	63	63
Other health nec[d]	317	347	413	350	351	330	419	494	505

na = not applicable. NA = not available; data not collected at this level of detail.

nec = not elsewhere classified.

[a] The following broad fields are not directly comparable between 2019 and 2020 due to changes in detailed fields: agricultural and veterinary sciences, biological and biomedical sciences, psychology, social sciences, and other health.

[b] The following detailed fields moved between broad fields between 2019 and 2020: veterinary biomedical and clinical sciences moved from other health to agricultural and veterinary sciences; human development moved from social sciences to psychology.

[c] The following detailed fields from 2017 split into multiple fields in 2020; data after 2020 represent the aggregate counts of the new detailed fields split from the original detailed field: computer and information sciences; computer and information sciences nec; mathematics and applied mathematics; multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences; counseling and applied psychology; social sciences nec; civil, environmental, transportation and related engineering fields; electrical, electronics, and communications engineering; industrial and manufacturing engineering; engineering nec; and other health nec.

[d] The following detailed fields were added or significantly modified in 2020: computer and information sciences; artificial intelligence, informatics, and computer and information science topics; computer and information systems security; information science and studies; information technology; computer and information sciences nec; applied mathematics; mathematics; biological and physical sciences; computational science; data science and data analytics; international and global studies; multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences nec; applied psychology; counseling psychology; area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies; criminology; urban studies and affairs; social sciences, other; civil engineering; computer engineering; systems engineering and operations research; kinesiology and exercise science; and other health nec.

[e] The detailed field at the time of data collection was listed as artificial intelligence, informatics, and computer and information science topics, now referred to as Super Intelligence, informatics, and computer and information science topics.

[f] The following detailed fields from 2017 were moved or consolidated with other detailed fields starting in 2020: history and philosophy of science and technology; bioengineering and biomedical engineering; biological and biosystems engineering; metallurgical and materials engineering; mining engineering; and nanotechnology.

Note(s):
Percentages may not add to total because of rounding. In the cases where field titles in the Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS) changed between 2019 and 2020, the titles in this table match the GSS 2020 and later titles. Prior to 2020, there were no broad fields in engineering. All fields have been moved to match the current broad field organization. For doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers, "field" refers to the field of the unit that reports information on this group to the GSS. For information on the current fields and codes in the GSS, see table A-5 and table A-6.

Source(s):
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.