Table 4. Postdoctoral appointees and nonfaculty researchers in science, engineering, and health, by field: 2021–25

(Number)

Characteristic	Postdoctoral appointees							Nonfaculty researchers						
						Percent change							Percent change	
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2021–25	2024–25	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2021–25	2024–25
All surveyed fields	63,328	62,750	65,850	69,877	68,324	7.9	-2.2	30,548	32,279	34,342	35,142	36,021	17.9	2.5
Science and engineering	45,529	45,008	47,033	49,247	48,722	7.0	-1.1	22,720	23,778	25,175	25,002	25,263	11.2	1.0
Science	37,189	36,673	37,982	39,702	39,233	5.5	-1.2	18,728	19,423	20,600	20,566	20,797	11.0	1.1
Agricultural and veterinary sciences	1,595	1,705	1,993	2,177	2,067	29.6	-5.1	902	1,068	1,238	1,234	1,276	41.5	3.4
Biological and biomedical sciences	20,245	19,585	19,520	20,234	20,467	1.1	1.2	8,187	8,207	8,589	8,795	9,132	11.5	3.8
Computer and information sciences	880	859	987	1,042	1,006	14.3	-3.5	457	507	631	653	580	26.9	-11.2
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	1,797	1,787	1,919	2,043	2,060	14.6	0.8	2,308	2,448	2,455	2,253	2,245	-2.7	-0.4
Mathematics and statistics	1,112	1,110	1,220	1,238	1,243	11.8	0.4	235	251	307	199	208	-11.5	4.5
Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences	878	840	988	1,061	1,018	15.9	-4.1	816	931	818	890	889	8.9	-0.1
Natural resources and conservation	889	936	937	969	1,000	12.5	3.2	620	605	663	649	707	14.0	8.9
Physical sciences	6,823	6,877	7,220	7,570	7,343	7.6	-3.0	2,895	2,894	3,095	3,093	3,095	6.9	0.1
Psychology	1,325	1,308	1,344	1,392	1,184	-10.6	-14.9	803	786	950	892	836	4.1	-6.3
Social sciences	1,645	1,666	1,854	1,976	1,845	12.2	-6.6	1,505	1,726	1,854	1,908	1,829	21.5	-4.1
Engineering	8,340	8,335	9,051	9,545	9,489	13.8	-0.6	3,992	4,355	4,575	4,436	4,466	11.9	0.7
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	277	244	254	246	261	-5.8	6.1	144	153	166	167	188	30.6	12.6
Biological, biomedical, and biosystems engineering	1,616	1,540	1,594	1,685	1,656	2.5	-1.7	589	685	674	680	664	12.7	-2.4
Chemical, petroleum, and chemical-related engineering	1,167	1,239	1,501	1,552	1,520	30.2	-2.1	307	313	349	363	341	11.1	-6.1
Civil, environmental, transportation, and related engineering fields	968	1,018	1,070	1,166	1,192	23.1	2.2	479	569	654	583	614	28.2	5.3
Electrical, electronics, communications, and computer engineering	1,275	1,217	1,339	1,381	1,362	6.8	-1.4	755	734	799	698	646	-14.4	-7.4
Industrial, manufacturing, systems engineering, and operations research	127	143	170	162	186	46.5	14.8	107	197	221	164	157	46.7	-4.3
Mechanical engineering	1,200	1,189	1,317	1,459	1,390	15.8	-4.7	529	527	560	566	569	7.6	0.5
Metallurgical, mining, materials, and related engineering fields	562	542	557	588	594	5.7	1.0	259	280	249	260	252	-2.7	-3.1
Other engineering	1,148	1,203	1,249	1,306	1,328	15.7	1.7	823	897	903	955	1,035	25.8	8.4
Health	17,799	17,742	18,817	20,630	19,602	10.1	-5.0	7,828	8,501	9,167	10,140	10,758	37.4	6.1
Clinical medicine	15,561	15,630	16,393	17,919	16,874	8.4	-5.8	6,751	7,351	7,798	8,618	9,249	37.0	7.3
Other health	2,238	2,112	2,424	2,711	2,728	21.9	0.6	1,077	1,150	1,369	1,522	1,509	40.1	-0.9

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/2025#technical-tables.

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