

TABLE 28. Postdoctoral appointees in science in all institutions, by science field: 1979–2010

Year	Total	Agricultural sciences	Biological sciences	Communication ^a	Computer sciences	Earth, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	Family and consumer sciences/human sciences ^a	Mathematical sciences	Multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary studies ^a	Neuroscience ^a	Physical sciences	Psychology	Social sciences
1979	12,519	228	6,866	ne	38	315	ne	162	ne	na	4,056	454	400
1980	13,042	259	7,083	ne	43	312	ne	162	ne	na	4,279	475	429
1981	13,731	292	7,678	ne	35	346	ne	113	ne	na	4,477	471	319
1982	13,698	302	7,713	ne	47	340	ne	194	ne	na	4,298	520	284
1983	14,562	318	8,337	ne	80	420	ne	170	ne	na	4,458	437	342
1984	14,979	384	8,683	ne	59	493	ne	203	ne	na	4,408	423	326
1985	15,576	374	9,128	ne	70	379	ne	226	ne	na	4,539	510	350
1986	16,512	421	9,692	ne	75	420	ne	201	ne	na	4,860	521	322
1987	17,369	453	10,353	ne	103	424	ne	229	ne	na	4,968	460	379
1988	18,024	476	10,653	ne	96	496	ne	284	ne	na	5,201	498	320
1989	18,978	522	11,425	ne	84	453	ne	225	ne	na	5,366	536	367
1990	19,853	536	11,909	ne	71	594	ne	249	ne	na	5,592	464	438
1991	20,595	580	12,455	ne	120	625	ne	206	ne	na	5,722	508	379
1992	21,514	640	13,158	ne	145	692	ne	201	ne	na	5,792	525	361
1993	22,219	720	13,778	ne	164	765	ne	224	ne	na	5,669	521	378
1994	23,181	729	14,379	ne	185	824	ne	239	ne	na	5,884	551	390
1995	23,512	724	14,659	ne	213	845	ne	262	ne	na	5,851	582	376
1996	23,892	699	14,890	ne	250	861	ne	326	ne	na	5,828	594	444
1997	24,293	724	15,082	ne	322	942	ne	308	ne	na	5,968	586	361
1998	25,023	695	15,761	ne	374	902	ne	279	ne	na	6,004	617	391
1999	25,784	750	16,097	ne	334	925	ne	351	ne	na	6,157	716	454
2000	26,911	822	16,734	ne	344	1,155	ne	385	ne	na	6,270	730	471
2001	27,044	833	17,032	ne	336	1,049	ne	353	ne	na	6,223	809	409
2002	28,371	963	17,640	ne	356	1,129	ne	395	ne	na	6,619	815	454
2003	29,856	1,054	18,625	ne	355	1,182	ne	449	ne	na	6,829	960	402
2004	30,116	959	18,716	ne	384	1,263	ne	468	ne	na	7,059	902	365
2005	30,290	1,007	18,747	ne	406	1,364	ne	500	ne	na	7,011	884	371
2006	30,245	927	18,807	ne	467	1,495	ne	579	ne	na	6,703	873	394
2007old ^a	30,986	948	19,218	ne	516	1,322	ne	621	ne	na	6,760	1,106	495
2007new ^a	31,281	985	19,109	30	456	1,250	8	624	244	285	6,719	1,088	483

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2008	32,741	1,147	19,827	32	493	1,339	19	723	348	343	6,885	1,077	508
2009	34,388	1,083	20,159	38	594	1,424	22	737	459	645	7,447	1,219	561
2010 ^b	37,095	1,195	21,537	60	748	1,760	30	756	765	818	7,703	1,077	646

na = not applicable; data were not collected at this level of detail. ne = not eligible; data were not collected for this field prior to 2007.

^a In 2007, eligible fields were reclassified, newly eligible fields were added, and survey was redesigned to improve coverage and coding of eligible units. "2007new" presents data as collected in 2007; "2007old" shows data as they would have been collected in prior years. "Communication" and "family and consumer sciences/human sciences" are newly eligible; data for these two fields are only in 2007new. "Multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary studies" is also newly eligible; data may have been reported under other fields before 2007. "Neuroscience" is reported as separate field of science in 2007new; data were reported under health field "neurology" in 2007old and previous years. See appendix A in <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf10307/> for more detail.

^b In 2010, postdoc section of survey was expanded, and significant effort was made to ensure that appropriate personnel were providing postdoc data (see appendix A for more information). Thus it is unclear how much of increase reported in 2010 represents growth in postdoctoral appointments and how much results from improved data collection. More information on changes in postdoc data will be available in forthcoming InfoBrief at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/gradpostdoc>.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation/National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, NSF-NIH Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.