

TABLE S3-7

## S&amp;E doctorate holders employed in academia, by type of position and degree field: 1973–2017

(Thousands)

Position and field	1973	1977	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2008	2010	2013	2015	2017
All positions																				
All fields	118.0	145.4	167.1	176.1	190.2	195.9	206.6	210.6	213.8	217.5	232.5	240.2	245.5	259.5	272.8	276.5	294.8	309.0	329.3	326.6
Physical sciences	25.5	29.2	30.0	29.9	32.2	32.8	33.6	33.7	35.0	35.7	37.5	38.7	38.6	39.9	39.6	39.9	43.7	44.9	48.4	46.9
Mathematics and statistics	9.7	11.7	12.4	12.9	13.6	13.8	14.5	15.2	15.5	14.6	15.6	15.2	14.9	16.7	17.4	18.0	18.7	19.0	20.9	20.6
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	0.3	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.1	3.3	3.7	3.8	5.2	5.8	6.9	7.3	8.4	9.1	8.9
Life sciences	34.9	42.6	51.3	54.9	58.7	61.3	64.8	66.9	68.2	71.6	77.3	81.9	84.3	90.0	95.5	94.2	102.0	109.8	112.7	112.6
Psychology	12.2	16.2	20.1	21.0	23.1	23.7	25.0	25.2	25.0	26.1	27.3	29.0	30.4	31.8	35.0	34.5	35.4	36.3	38.7	38.0
Social sciences	23.4	31.1	36.9	38.9	42.0	42.2	44.5	44.8	44.4	42.5	44.9	46.2	46.9	48.1	50.0	52.5	54.9	55.9	59.7	59.9
Engineering	12.4	14.8	16.1	18.1	19.9	21.2	22.9	22.8	23.1	23.8	26.6	25.5	26.6	27.8	29.6	30.4	32.8	34.7	39.7	39.8
All full-time faculty																				
All fields	103.3	125.6	141.9	148.4	156.9	164.4	169.8	173.1	172.4	171.4	174.1	179.8	182.4	190.6	193.1	199.1	206.8	214.4	227.7	223.5
Physical sciences	20.8	23.6	24.3	24.2	25.4	26.4	26.2	26.2	25.8	25.6	25.6	26.7	26.4	27.6	26.9	27.6	29.3	29.5	31.2	29.7
Mathematics and statistics	9.3	10.9	11.7	12.3	12.7	12.9	13.5	14.2	14.7	13.0	13.4	12.9	12.3	14.0	14.0	14.8	15.1	15.5	16.7	16.3
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.8	2.3	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.3	4.2	4.9	5.7	5.8	6.4	7.1	7.1
Life sciences	29.5	34.9	40.9	43.5	45.6	48.1	49.3	51.1	50.8	52.8	53.5	56.1	58.3	61.7	62.8	63.5	66.7	70.6	70.8	70.0
Psychology	10.8	13.9	16.4	17.3	18.5	19.2	20.2	20.7	19.5	20.1	19.6	21.0	21.7	21.4	23.2	23.1	23.3	24.1	25.9	26.3
Social sciences	21.6	28.8	33.7	34.4	36.1	37.7	39.0	39.0	39.2	37.1	37.3	38.7	38.7	39.6	39.2	42.1	43.1	43.5	46.6	46.0
Engineering	11.3	13.5	14.7	16.4	17.9	19.3	20.2	20.1	20.1	20.0	21.2	20.9	21.6	21.9	22.1	22.7	23.4	25.0	29.2	28.2
Full-time professors																				
All fields	42.6	51.0	64.4	69.9	72.8	79.1	83.1	82.5	80.0	77.7	80.9	83.1	84.8	87.7	85.3	90.5	93.6	95.3	98.9	94.7
Physical sciences	9.0	10.8	13.1	13.9	14.6	15.5	15.5	14.8	14.2	13.9	13.8	14.2	14.0	14.3	13.3	14.0	15.0	14.6	15.0	13.9
Mathematics and statistics	3.2	3.9	5.0	5.6	6.1	6.5	6.9	6.7	7.1	6.6	6.9	6.6	6.6	7.2	6.9	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.9	7.5
Computer and information sciences	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.8	1.2	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.6	2.6	2.7
Life sciences	12.3	13.9	17.0	19.3	19.6	21.7	22.5	22.9	21.2	22.5	22.5	23.3	24.5	25.7	25.6	26.6	28.1	29.5	28.3	27.5
Psychology	3.9	4.8	6.5	7.0	7.6	8.3	9.1	9.5	8.7	8.7	9.5	9.4	9.9	9.8	9.8	10.0	9.9	10.4	10.9	10.8
Social sciences	9.4	11.3	14.7	15.1	15.9	16.8	18.5	18.6	18.4	16.6	17.1	18.2	18.2	18.6	17.5	19.2	19.6	19.2	20.6	19.7
Engineering	4.7	6.4	8.0	9.0	9.2	10.4	10.6	9.9	10.3	9.1	10.7	10.6	10.7	10.9	10.6	11.7	11.5	11.7	13.5	12.7
Full-time associate professors																				
All fields	31.4	39.7	42.9	45.7	46.9	48.2	47.9	50.5	48.6	49.6	51.0	53.6	52.2	54.3	54.1	57.0	59.1	62.7	69.3	67.7
Physical sciences	6.2	7.2	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.1	5.8	6.3	6.4	6.1	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.4	7.6	8.3	8.6
Mathematics and statistics	2.8	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.0	5.1	4.4	4.0	3.9	4.1	3.6	4.0	3.8	4.3	4.2	4.4	5.1	5.1
Computer and information sciences	NA	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.7	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.3
Life sciences	8.6	10.7	12.5	13.4	14.1	14.1	14.0	14.6	14.6	14.7	15.8	17.3	16.7	17.7	18.1	18.2	19.1	20.3	21.4	20.6
Psychology	3.3	4.3	5.2	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.8	5.8	6.2	6.0	5.9	6.3	7.0	7.0	7.6	8.2	8.8
Social sciences	6.5	9.4	10.2	11.2	11.8	12.7	12.6	12.0	11.6	11.5	11.7	11.9	11.4	12.1	11.8	12.8	13.1	13.8	15.3	14.6
Engineering	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.7	4.7	4.9	5.3	5.9	5.3	6.2	5.8	6.0	6.1	5.9	5.6	5.9	6.2	6.8	8.3	7.9

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## S&amp;E doctorate holders employed in academia, by type of position and degree field: 1973–2017

(Thousands)

Position and field	1973	1977	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2008	2010	2013	2015	2017
<b>Full-time junior faculty<sup>a</sup></b>																				
All fields	29.3	34.9	34.6	32.8	37.2	37.2	38.7	40.1	43.8	44.0	42.2	43.1	45.4	48.6	53.7	51.6	54.1	56.4	59.5	61.1
Physical sciences	5.6	5.7	4.6	4.0	4.6	4.7	4.8	5.0	5.2	5.6	5.3	5.9	5.7	6.4	6.7	6.6	6.9	7.3	7.9	7.2
Mathematics and statistics	3.3	3.3	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.4	3.2	2.4	2.6	2.2	2.1	2.8	3.3	3.2	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.8
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.3	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.9	2.1
Life sciences	8.5	10.3	11.3	10.8	11.9	12.3	12.8	13.7	15.0	15.6	15.2	15.5	17.1	18.3	19.1	18.7	19.5	20.8	21.1	22.0
Psychology	3.6	4.8	4.8	4.5	5.0	4.9	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.5	4.3	5.4	5.8	5.7	7.1	6.1	6.4	6.1	6.8	6.8
Social sciences	5.7	8.2	8.8	8.1	8.4	8.2	7.9	8.4	9.3	9.0	8.5	8.6	9.1	8.9	9.9	10.1	10.4	10.5	10.7	11.7
Engineering	2.6	2.7	2.3	2.7	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.8	4.7	4.3	4.8	5.1	5.9	5.1	5.7	6.5	7.4	7.6
<b>Other full-time positions<sup>b</sup></b>																				
All fields	7.6	8.8	12.6	13.4	18.1	16.4	19.2	20.2	22.2	23.9	29.1	31.9	34.8	39.9	40.6	43.9	48.2	55.8	62.6	64.2
Physical sciences	2.2	2.4	2.9	3.0	3.7	3.4	4.0	4.1	4.8	4.9	6.6	7.3	7.7	8.4	7.2	7.4	7.9	8.8	11.1	11.3
Mathematics and statistics	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.5	2.3
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.5	1.4	1.4
Life sciences	2.5	2.8	4.0	4.6	6.2	6.0	6.7	7.2	7.7	8.4	9.8	11.2	12.3	14.2	15.5	16.2	18.4	22.2	25.0	26.3
Psychology	0.8	1.2	2.2	2.2	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.8	3.9	3.9	4.3	4.6	4.9	6.3	6.5	6.8	7.1	6.9	7.9	7.4
Social sciences	1.0	1.2	2.0	2.2	3.2	2.6	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.6	4.0	4.4	4.7	5.0	6.1	6.2	6.9	7.7	8.3	8.0
Engineering	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.5	1.8	1.5	2.1	3.2	3.0	3.6	3.9	3.3	4.7	5.1	6.3	6.5	7.5
<b>Postdocs</b>																				
All fields	4.2	7.6	8.5	8.3	8.7	9.3	11.5	9.9	13.3	16.8	18.9	18.5	17.5	15.7	23.3	17.8	22.8	20.2	19.2	18.4
Physical sciences	1.8	2.4	2.1	1.6	2.1	2.3	2.7	2.2	3.5	4.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	2.6	3.9	3.3	4.6	4.0	3.3	3.4
Mathematics and statistics	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.5
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Life sciences	1.9	4.0	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.6	6.8	6.4	8.2	9.2	10.8	11.7	11.0	10.0	12.8	10.3	12.2	11.9	11.7	10.6
Psychology	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.4	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.2	0.9	1.7	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7
Social sciences	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.6
Engineering	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.2	1.7	1.1	0.9	1.1	3.0	2.1	3.1	2.4	2.2	2.6
<b>Part-time positions<sup>c</sup></b>																				
All fields	2.9	3.4	4.0	6.0	6.5	5.7	6.2	7.4	5.9	5.5	8.9	8.2	9.0	13.3	15.7	15.6	17.0	18.5	19.8	20.6
Physical sciences	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.7	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.6	2.0	2.5	2.8	2.6
Mathematics and statistics	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.6
Computer and information sciences	NA	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Life sciences	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.3	1.6	1.2	2.9	2.6	2.4	4.0	4.4	4.3	4.6	5.2	5.2	5.7
Psychology	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.8	3.2	3.6	3.7	3.8	4.2	4.1	3.6
Social sciences	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.6	2.2	1.8	1.7	2.0	1.3	1.3	2.6	2.2	2.7	3.1	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.4	5.4

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**S&E doctorate holders employed in academia, by type of position and degree field: 1973–2017**

(Thousands)

Position and field	1973	1977	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2008	2010	2013	2015	2017
Engineering	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.8	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.8	1.5

NA = not available.

<sup>a</sup> Full-time junior faculty includes assistant professors and instructors from 1973 to 1995; from 1997 to 2017, full-time junior faculty includes assistant professors.

<sup>b</sup> Other full-time positions include those such as research associates, adjunct positions, lecturers, and administrative positions from 1973 to 1995; from 1997 to 2017, other full-time positions also include instructors.

<sup>c</sup> Part-time positions exclude those employed part time because they are students or retired.

**Note(s)**

Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Academic employment is limited to U.S. doctorate holders employed at 2- or 4-year colleges or universities, medical schools, and university research institutes. Physical sciences include earth, atmospheric, and ocean sciences; life sciences include biological, agricultural, environmental, and health sciences. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100 for data before 2017; for 2017, numbers are rounded to the nearest 50.

**Source(s)**

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Science Foundation, National Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR).

*Science and Engineering Indicators*