Table 3-4. Detailed primary source of federal support for postdoctoral appointees in science, engineering, and health, by broad field: 2025

(Number and percent)

Broad field	Total	DOD		DOE		HHS: NIH		HHS: Other HHS		NASA		NSF		USDA		Other	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All surveyed fields	31,736	2,325	7.3	1,982	6.2	18,461	58.2	664	2.1	698	2.2	3,679	11.6	1,226	3.9	2,701	8.5
Science	18,523	980	5.3	1,300	7.0	9,803	52.9	300	1.6	602	3.3	2,818	15.2	1,081	5.8	1,639	8.8
Agricultural and veterinary sciences	927	30	3.2	24	2.6	172	18.6	10	1.1	3	0.3	62	6.7	489	52.8	137	14.8
Biological and biomedical sciences	10,461	284	2.7	140	1.3	8,047	76.9	206	2.0	21	0.2	808	7.7	359	3.4	596	5.7
Computer and information sciences	358	75	20.9	17	4.7	37	10.3	6	1.7	6	1.7	175	48.9	4	1.1	38	10.6
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	1,007	73	7.2	63	6.3	24	2.4	0	0.0	176	17.5	392	38.9	28	2.8	251	24.9
Mathematics and statistics	324	55	17.0	30	9.3	45	13.9	4	1.2	2	0.6	150	46.3	4	1.2	34	10.5
Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences	410	38	9.3	29	7.1	169	41.2	11	2.7	5	1.2	88	21.5	6	1.5	64	15.6
Natural resources and conservation	450	22	4.9	36	8.0	13	2.9	2	0.4	21	4.7	70	15.6	134	29.8	152	33.8
Physical sciences	3,630	365	10.1	950	26.2	798	22.0	27	0.7	347	9.6	903	24.9	9	0.2	231	6.4
Psychology	576	19	3.3	1	0.2	391	67.9	24	4.2	0	0.0	85	14.8	2	0.3	54	9.4
Social sciences	380	19	5.0	10	2.6	107	28.2	10	2.6	21	5.5	85	22.4	46	12.1	82	21.6
Engineering	4,408	1,035	23.5	673	15.3	1,039	23.6	83	1.9	88	2.0	808	18.3	109	2.5	573	13.0
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	133	73	54.9	7	5.3	7	5.3	0	0.0	20	15.0	14	10.5	0	0.0	12	9.0
Biological, biomedical, and biosystems engineering	881	78	8.9	11	1.2	590	67.0	32	3.6	1	0.1	77	8.7	21	2.4	71	8.1
Chemical, petroleum, and chemical-related engineering	644	97	15.1	158	24.5	137	21.3	11	1.7	3	0.5	173	26.9	10	1.6	55	8.5
Civil, environmental, transportation and related engineering fields	459	78	17.0	60	13.1	22	4.8	3	0.7	18	3.9	112	24.4	24	5.2	142	30.9
Electrical, electronics, communications and computer engineering	637	258	40.5	77	12.1	75	11.8	4	0.6	6	0.9	138	21.7	7	1.1	72	11.3
Industrial, manufacturing, systems engineering and operations research	63	22	34.9	1	1.6	6	9.5	1	1.6	1	1.6	17	27.0	0	0.0	15	23.8
Mechanical engineering	653	216	33.1	106	16.2	110	16.8	21	3.2	22	3.4	105	16.1	7	1.1	66	10.1
Metallurgical, mining, materials and related engineering fields	349	87	24.9	116	33.2	23	6.6	3	0.9	2	0.6	59	16.9	6	1.7	53	15.2
Other engineering	589	126	21.4	137	23.3	69	11.7	8	1.4	15	2.5	113	19.2	34	5.8	87	14.8
Health	8,805	310	3.5	9	0.1	7,619	86.5	281	3.2	8	0.1	53	0.6	36	0.4	489	5.6
Clinical medicine[a]	7,708	262	3.4	5	0.1	6,777	87.9	181	2.3	6	0.1	37	0.5	15	0.2	425	5.5
Other health	1,097	48	4.4	4	0.4	842	76.8	100	9.1	2	0.2	16	1.5	21	1.9	64	5.8

DOD = Department of Defense; DOE = Department of Energy; HHS = Department of Health and Human Services; NASA = National Aeronautics and Space Administration; NIH = National Institutes of Health; NSF = National Science Foundation; USDA = Department of Agriculture.

[a] Clinical medicine includes postdoctoral appointees (postdocs) in medical clinical sciences and clinical and medical laboratory sciences; anesthesiology; cardiology and cardiovascular disease; endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism; gastroenterology; hematology; neurology and neurosurgery; obstetrics and gynecology; oncology and cancer research; ophthalmology; otorhinolaryngology; pediatrics; psychiatry; public health; pulmonary disease; radiological sciences; surgery; and clinical medicine not elsewhere classified.

Note(s):
For postdocs, "field" refers to the field of the unit that reports information on this group to the Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS). Percentages may not add to total because of rounding. For more information on the mapping of GSS fields and codes, see table A-6.

Source(s):
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering, 2025.