

TABLE 4. Selected employment characteristics of doctoral scientists and engineers, by field of doctorate: 2003
(Percent)

Field	Unemployment rate	Involuntarily out-of-field rate	Labor force participation rate
All fields	2.1	5.0	88.5
Science	2.0	5.2	88.2
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	2.0	4.2	88.1
Agricultural/food sciences	1.9	5.4	85.8
Biochemistry/biophysics	2.6	4.1	86.9
Cell/molecular biology	1.9	3.3	93.7
Environmental life sciences	1.3	4.0	86.4
Microbiology	3.0	3.6	85.1
Zoology	0.8	5.9	81.2
Other biological sciences	2.0	4.0	90.2
Computer and information sciences	2.5	4.0	96.7
Mathematics and statistics	2.4	6.2	86.6
Physical sciences	2.6	6.8	86.0
Astronomy/astrophysics	S	6.9	89.8
Chemistry, except biochemistry	3.0	5.7	84.7
Earth/atmospheric/ocean sciences	1.5	6.3	85.6
Physics	2.6	8.7	88.3
Psychology	1.7	4.6	90.9
Social sciences	1.5	5.1	87.9
Economics	0.9	2.2	87.5
Political sciences	1.4	5.7	87.6
Sociology	2.6	5.1	87.0
Other social sciences	1.5	7.3	89.1
Engineering	2.7	4.5	89.0
Aerospace/aeronautical/astronautical engineering	S	6.0	84.6
Chemical engineering	3.2	5.1	85.3
Civil engineering	2.1	2.4	89.2
Electrical/computer engineering	2.9	3.1	91.7
Materials/metallurgical engineering	1.6	8.6	89.4
Mechanical engineering	2.8	5.0	90.1
Other engineering	3.2	3.9	88.0
Health	1.4	2.5	91.1

S = suppressed due to too few cases (fewer than 50 weighted cases).

NOTES: Unemployment rate (R_U) = $U/(E+U)$. Involuntarily-out-of field rate is the percentage of employed individuals who reported working part time exclusively because suitable full-time work was not available and/or reported working in an area not related to the first doctoral degree (in their principal job) at least partially because suitable work in the field was not available. Labor force is defined as those employed (E) plus those unemployed and seeking work (U). Population (P) is defined as all S&E doctorate holders under age 76, residing in the United States during the week of October 1, 2003, who earned doctorates from U.S. institutions. Labor force participation rate (R_{LF}) = $(E+U)/P$.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation/Division of Science Resources Statistics, 2003 Survey of Doctorate Recipients.