

Unemployment for doctoral scientists and engineers below national average in 2013

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A new National Science Foundation (NSF) report says the 2013 unemployment rate for individuals with research doctoral degrees in science, engineering and health (SEH) fields was one-third the rate for the general population aged 25 and older—2.1 percent versus 6.3 percent.

According to the report, an estimated 837,900 individuals in the United States held SEH research doctoral degrees in 2013, and nearly 735,900 of them were in the labor force; this includes those employed full time or part time and unemployed individuals actively seeking work.

Statistics show that 25.5 percent of SEH doctoral degree holders in the labor force held a doctorate in the biological, agricultural or environmental life sciences; 18.5 percent held doctorates in engineering; 17.1 percent in physical sciences; 14.5 percent in psychology; 12.3 percent in social sciences; 4.6 percent in health; 4.5 percent in mathematics and statistics and 3 percent in computer and information sciences.

Meanwhile, women continue to represent a growing share of doctorate holders, rising from 30.2 percent in 2008 to 32.9 percent in 2013. The [labor force](#) participation rate among SEH doctorate holders was 89.1 percent for women in 2013, compared with 87.2 percent for men. Female SEH doctorate holders were less likely than their male counterparts to be employed full time in 2013 (72.7 percent of women, 77.5 percent of men) and more likely not to be seeking work (3.7

percent of women, 0.8 percent of men).

Provided by National Science Foundation

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