



State of the Academic Workforce in Astronomy

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About the data

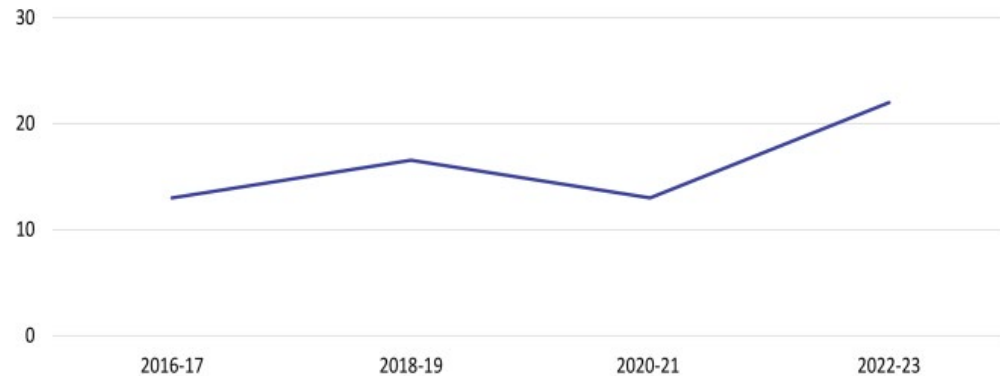
- Collected in Spring 2024 (currently collecting 2026 data)
- Census of all degree-granting, physics and astronomy departments in the US
- Includes any faculty doing teaching or research

The total number of astronomy faculty is growing over time

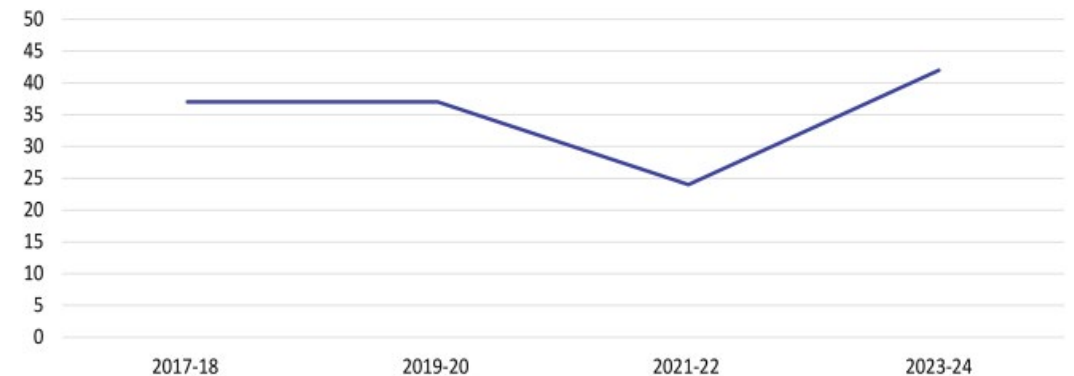
	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
Estimated number of FTE faculty members	700	700	770	770	810	800
Number of astronomy departments	38	38	39	38	40	36
Average number per department	18.4	18.4	19.7	20.3	20.3	22.2

More turnover happened in 2024

Retirements (2017-2023)



New hires (2018-2024)



Astronomy new faculty hires

- Most new hires are:
 - Tenure/tenure-track (58%)
 - Assistant professors (66%)
 - Previously worked at another academic department (58%)
 - Previously worked as a postdoc (37%) or research scientist (29%)
 - Earned their PhD more than 5 years ago (56%)
- International new hires:
 - 21% were previously employed outside the US
 - 18% earned their PhD outside the US

The percentage of women in astronomy departments is growing over time

	2014	2018	2020	2022	2024
Percent of women among astronomy faculty	19%	23%	27%	23%	25%

Academic rank of women in astronomy departments in 2024	Percent of women
Full professors	17%
Associate professors	39%
Assistant professors	36%
Instructors/adjuncts	27%
Other ranks	29%

Percent of non-tenured faculty members has increased over time

	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
Percent employed in non-tenured permanent or temporary positions	24%	28%	28%	27%	29%	34%

Tenure and rank of faculty members in astronomy

Tenure Status	
Tenured	54%
Tenure-track	12%
Nontenured permanent	15%
Nontenured temporary	19%

Rank	
Full professors	45%
Associate professors	15%
Assistant professors	13%
Instructors/adjuncts	6%
Other	21%

Access the full report here



For questions, please contact:

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