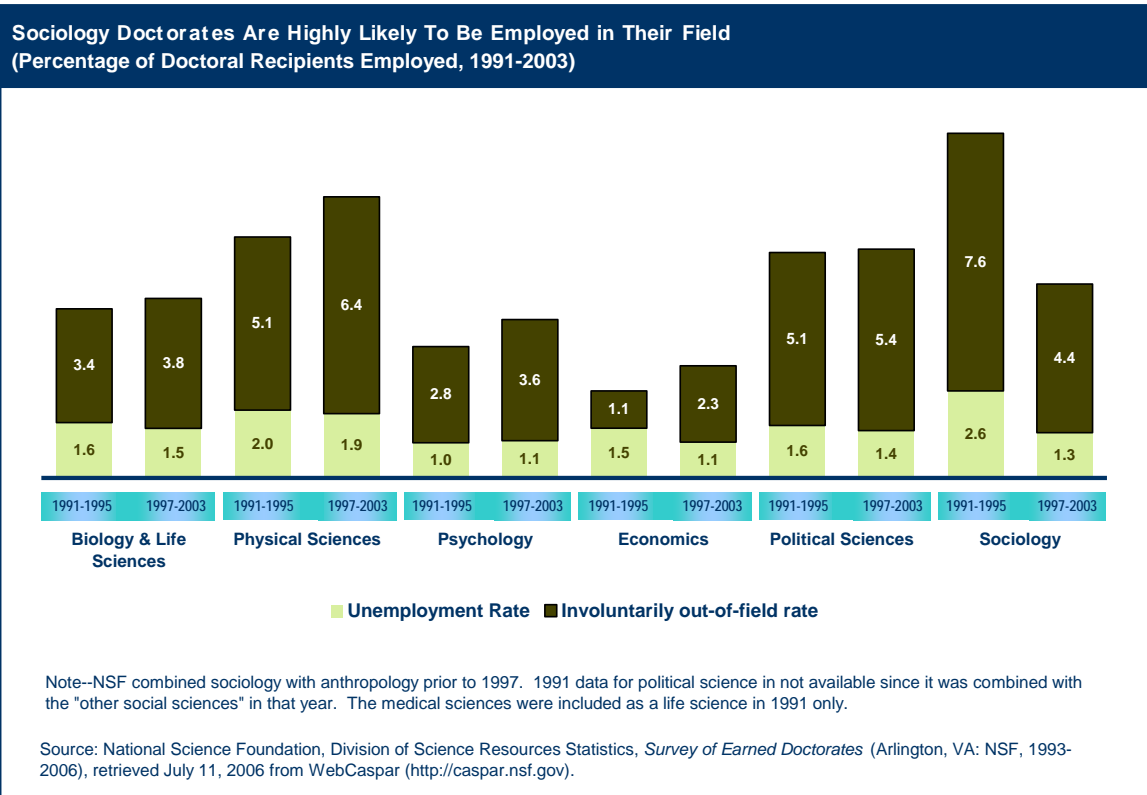


Sociologists work on important topics of concern in the "real world" inside and outside the university upon completion of their degrees. They apply sociological concepts and methods with them in a wide variety of industries and occupations. An average of 9 out of 10 sociology PhDs under age 75 were in the labor force--that is, employed or looking for work--between 1999 and 2003, the last year for which data were available from the National Science Foundation. This rate is similar to the other social science disciplines.



Since 1997, the vast majority of PhD sociologists in the labor force were employed and working their field. Only 1.3 percent of sociologists were unemployed, and 4.4 percent were working out-of-field. These figures are slightly higher than some social science disciplines and slightly lower than others.

Sociology faculty members carry out sociology's mission by teaching, doing research, and administering programs. According to NCES estimates, in AY 2003/04 about 27.2 percent of sociology faculty were employed by research universities, with another 17.5 percent at doctoral institutions, 41.6 percent at master's comprehensive institutions, and 13.8 percent at baccalaureate-only institutions.¹

¹ U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *NSOPF 2004 National Study of Postsecondary Faculty* (Washington, DC: NCES, 2007), retrieved June 15, 2007 with DAS-T Online Version 5.0 (<http://nces.ed.gov/dasolv2/tables/index.asp>). See also our AY 2001/02 survey results on baccalaureate and graduate programs in sociology available at <http://www.e-noah.net/asa/asashoponlineservice/ProductDetails.aspx?productID=ASAOE624R03>.