

## SCIENCE & SOCIETY

### Want a job? Become a PhD

The unemployment rate among U.S. residents with a doctorate in science or engineering runs at about 1.5 percent—or approximately one-quarter the unemployment rate for the entire labor force, according to an Aug. 14 report by Carolyn F. Shettle of the National Science Foundation in Arlington, Va. Essentially unchanged since 1973, the doctoral unemployment rate has remained well below the norm. People with less advanced degrees in science fell midway between the two.

Among the 27,000 persons who received science or engineering doctorates in 1995 (the most recent year for which data are available), research proved the predominant activity only for engineers (67 percent) and physical scientists (54 percent), according to National Research Council data tabulated in the Aug. 29 *CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION*. Roughly one-third of all science PhDs entered teaching, more than twice the rate (12 percent) among the engineers.

—J.R.