Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

Click icon for mobile site
(then pinch to resize page to fit screen)

The Stanford PhD Alumni Employment Project

Doctoral education is an important part of Stanford's educational mission; over half of all Stanford graduate students are pursuing a PhD. In the last fifteen years, Stanford has granted over 10,000 PhDs. These alumni are making an impact around the world. A key part of helping Stanford PhD students prepare for their new roles beyond the university is better understanding the employment opportunities available to Stanford PhDs.

This website contains information on the employment outcomes for 2,420 Stanford PhD graduates. These data were collected during a year-long project conducted in 2013 by Institutional Research & Decision Support (IR&DS) in collaboration with the Office for the Vice Provost of Graduate Education (VPGE). IR&DS researchers employed a systematic internet search process to collect publicly available information on initial and current employment for two cohort blocks of Stanford PhD recipients.

The tabs across the top of the page will allow you to navigate across 20 different interactive data displays. These interactive visualizations are designed to help you explore the data on your own and to find out more about employment opportunities for Stanford PhD graduates.
Note: In tabs with interactive data you can always click on the circular orange "back" arrow to return to the original view.

If you have any questions about this website or the PhD Employment Project, please contact:

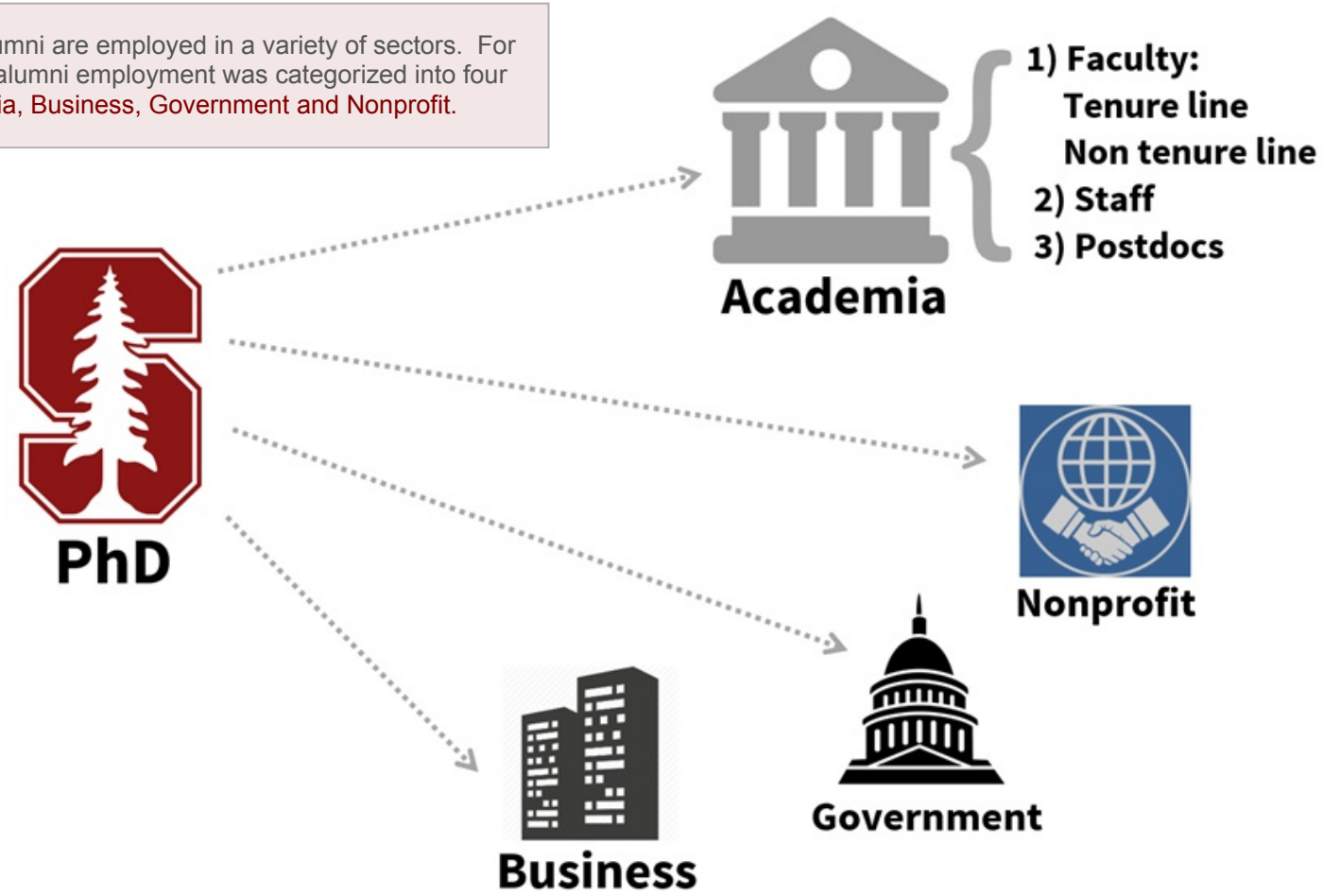
Brian Cook (bcook@stanford.edu)
IR&DS

Stanford | IR&DS VPGE

Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

Career Pathways for Stanford PhDs

Stanford PhD Alumni are employed in a variety of sectors. For this project PhD alumni employment was categorized into four sectors: Academia, Business, Government and Nonprofit.



Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

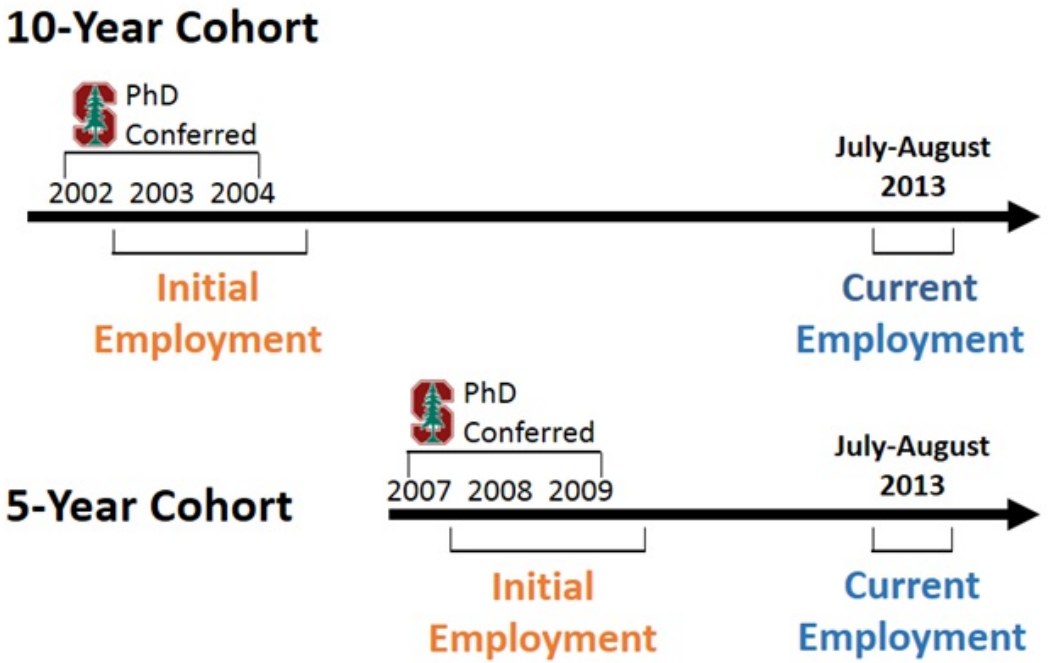
Employment Data Points

Employment Data Collection:

This project used a systematic internet search process to collect alumni employment data using publically available information on the web.

We collected employment data for two PhD cohort blocks. Students who graduated in academic years:
1) 2002-03 & 2003-04 (10-Year Cohort)
2) 2007-08 & 2008-09 (5-Year Cohort)

For each of these cohort blocks, we collected data for two points in time:
1) Initial employment (within 1 year of graduation)
2) Current employment (in 2013)



Click here for more information about how this study was conducted.
(opens a new tab)

Stanford | IR&DS

Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

PhD Alumni in the Study

Click here to see a break-down of PhD alumni by de-partment
(opens a new browser tab)

	10-Year		5-Year				
	2002-2003	2003-2004	2007-2008	2008-2009	Total PhDs	Located: Initial Position	Located: Current Position
Engineering	223	229	229	241	**922**	69%	76%
Biosciences*	66	73	95	74	**308**	78%	83%
Natural Sciences*	82	63	77	84	**306**	76%	82%
Humanities	58	70	74	71	**273**	71%	87%
Social Sciences	57	73	67	64	**261**	80%	84%
Education	36	37	33	30	**136**	85%	85%
Earth Sciences	27	23	31	35	**116**	72%	83%
Business	15	19	22	17	**73**	96%	96%
Law	7	4	8	6	**25**	92%	88%
Total	**571**	**591**	**636**	**622**	**2,420**	**74%**	**81%**

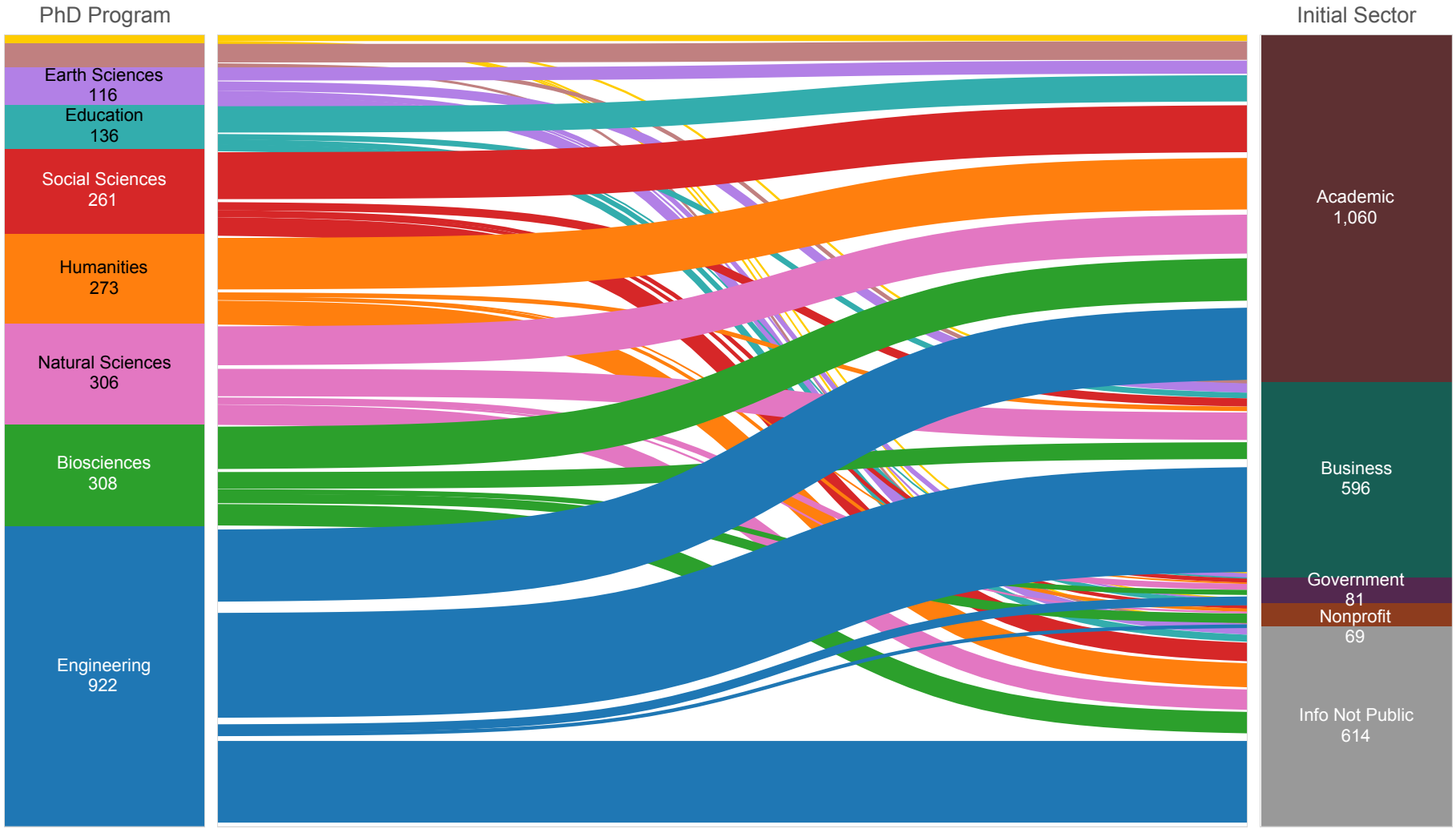
* Biology and Biophysics included in Biosciences

Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

Stanford | IR&DS

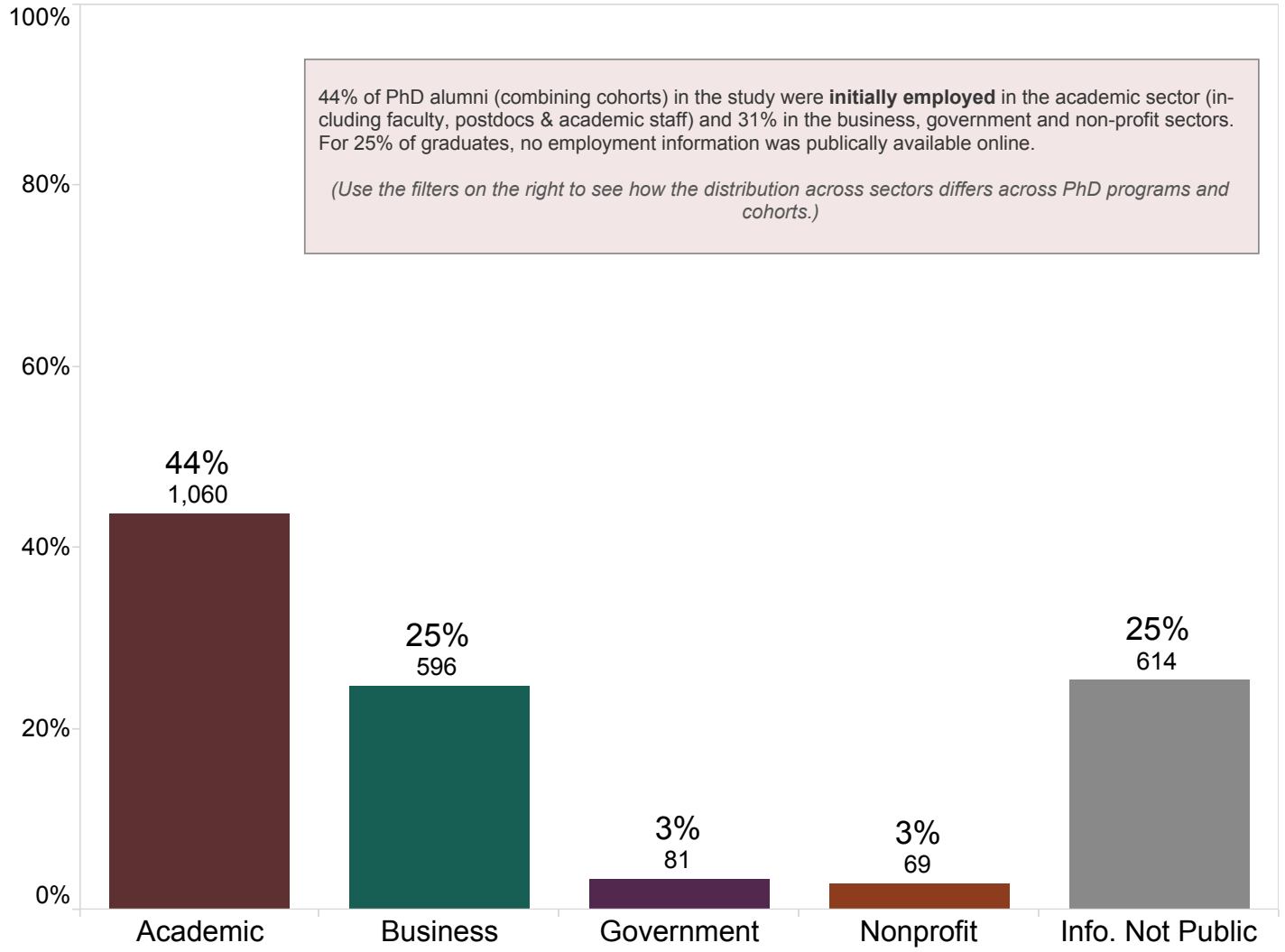
Initial Career Pathways of Stanford PhD Alumni

Hover here for help with this page ?



Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

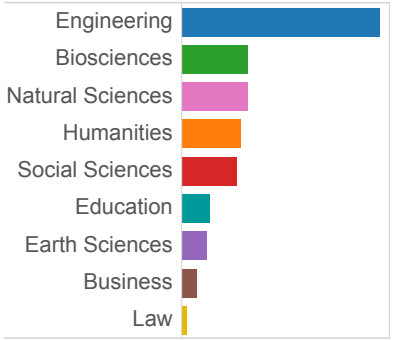
INITIAL Employment Sector



44% of PhD alumni (combining cohorts) in the study were **initially employed** in the academic sector (including faculty, postdocs & academic staff) and 31% in the business, government and non-profit sectors. For 25% of graduates, no employment information was publically available online.

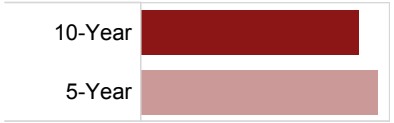
(Use the filters on the right to see how the distribution across sectors differs across PhD programs and cohorts.)

Academic Area



Click on a program to filter the chart.
(Click again to reset)

Cohort



Click on a cohort to filter the chart.
(Click again to reset)

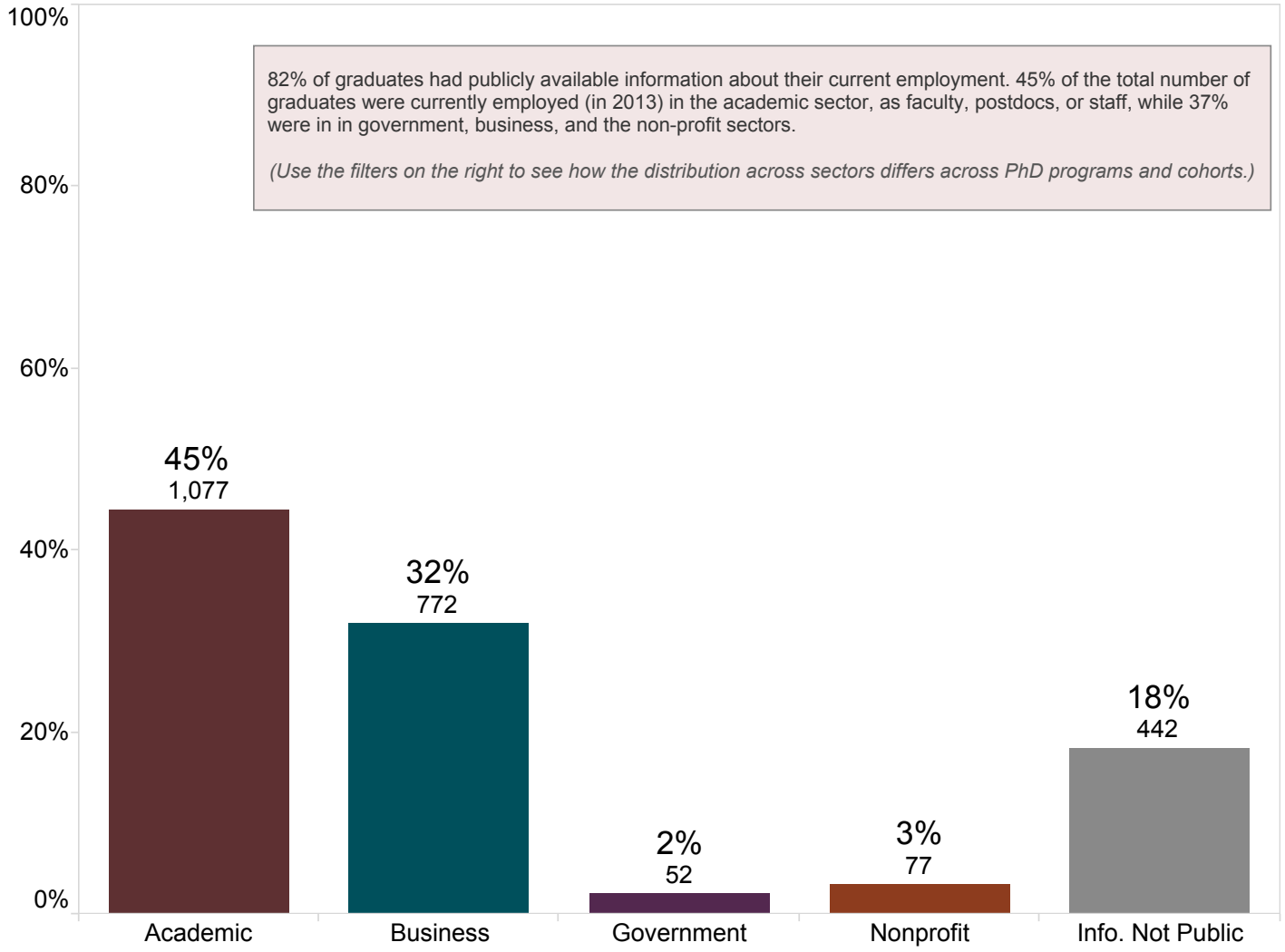
Stanford | IR&DS

Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

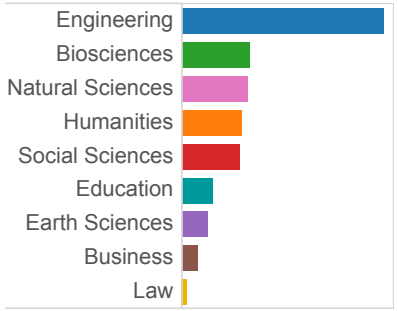
CURRENT Employment Sector

82% of graduates had publicly available information about their current employment. 45% of the total number of graduates were currently employed (in 2013) in the academic sector, as faculty, postdocs, or staff, while 37% were in in government, business, and the non-profit sectors.

(Use the filters on the right to see how the distribution across sectors differs across PhD programs and cohorts.)

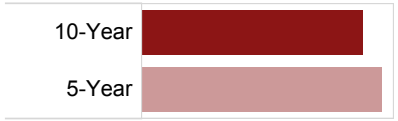


Academic Area



Click on a program to filter the chart.
(Click again to reset)

Cohort



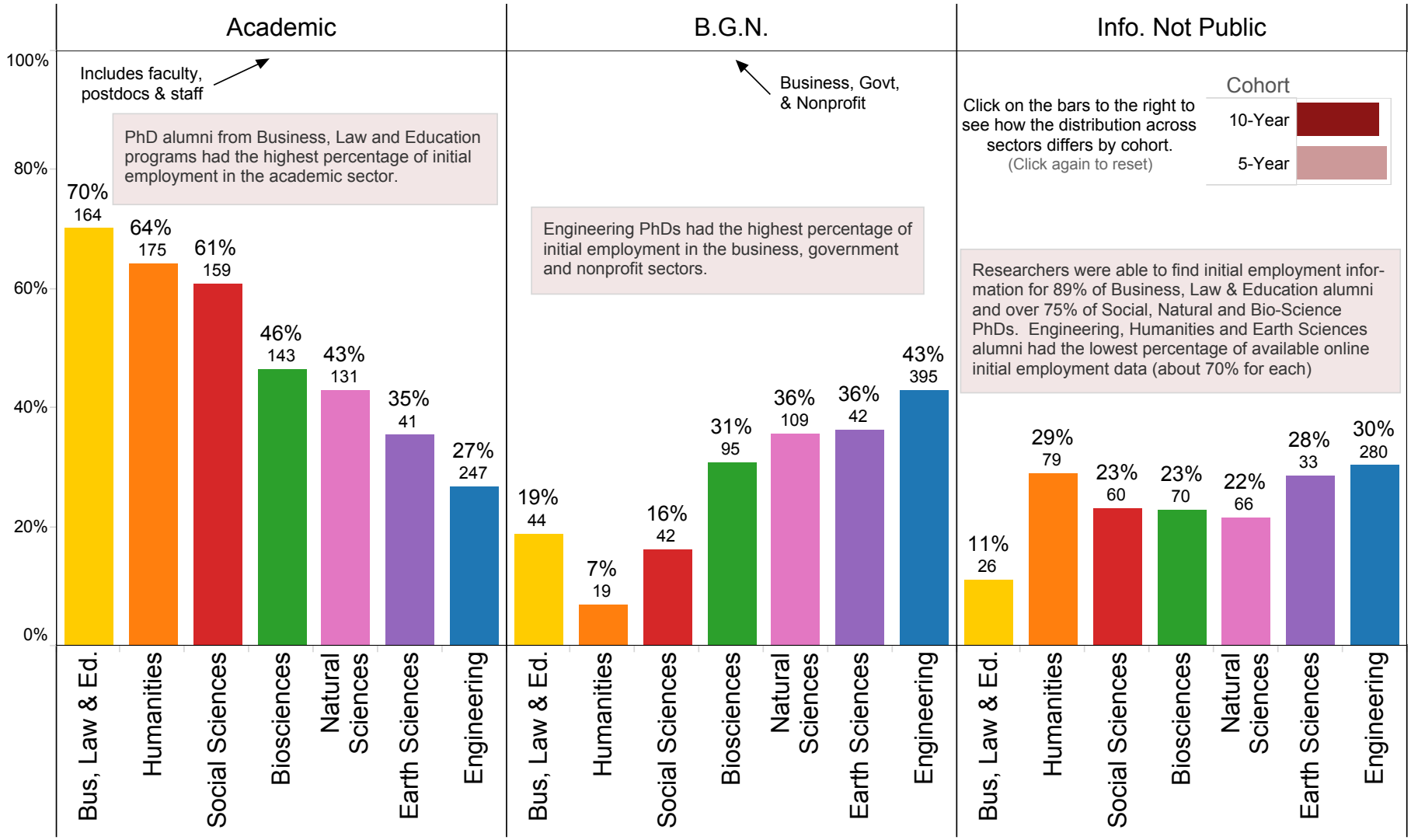
Click on a cohort to filter the chart.
(Click again to reset)

Stanford | IR&DS

Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

INITIAL Employment Sector by Academic Area

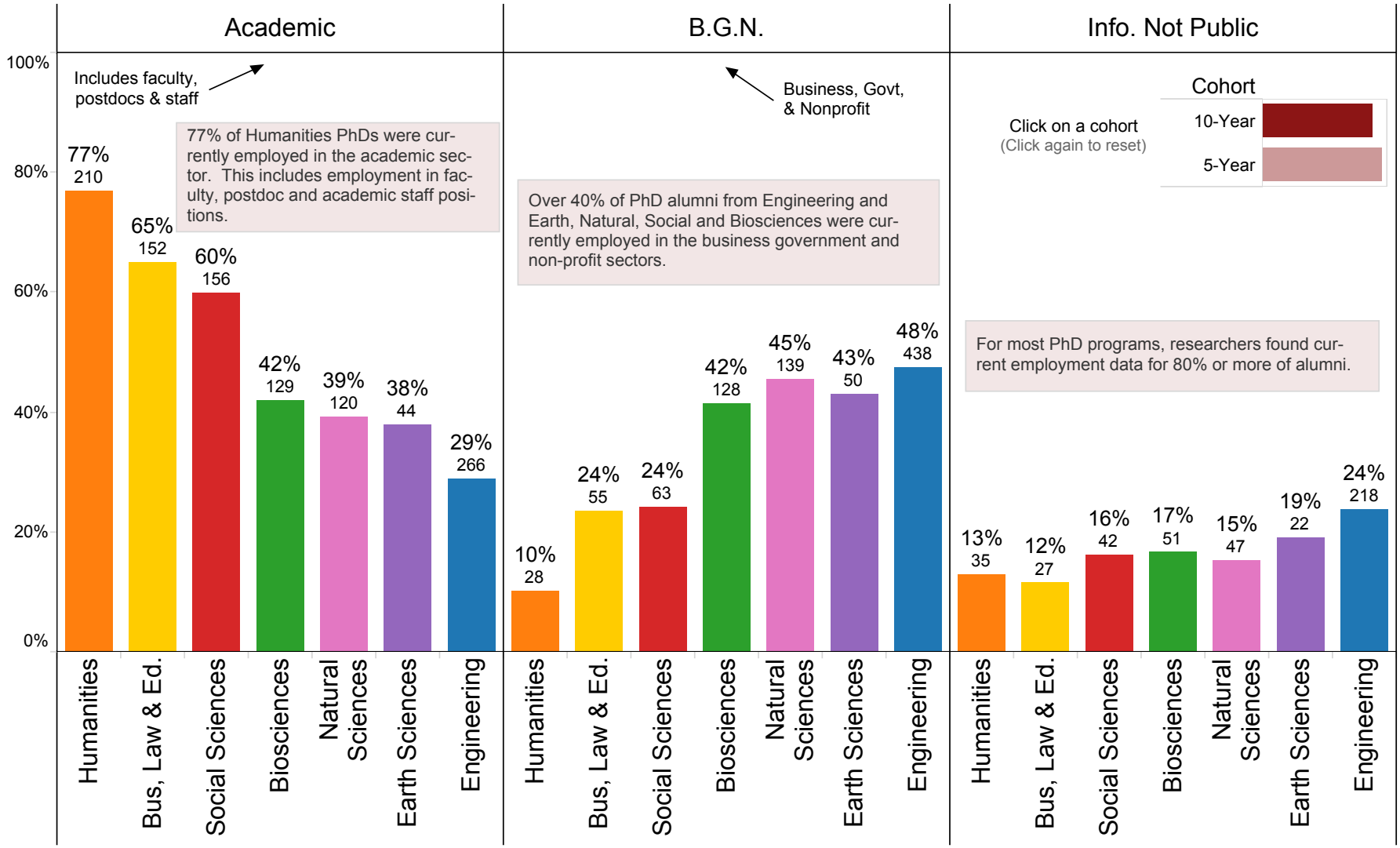
Stanford | IR&DS



Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

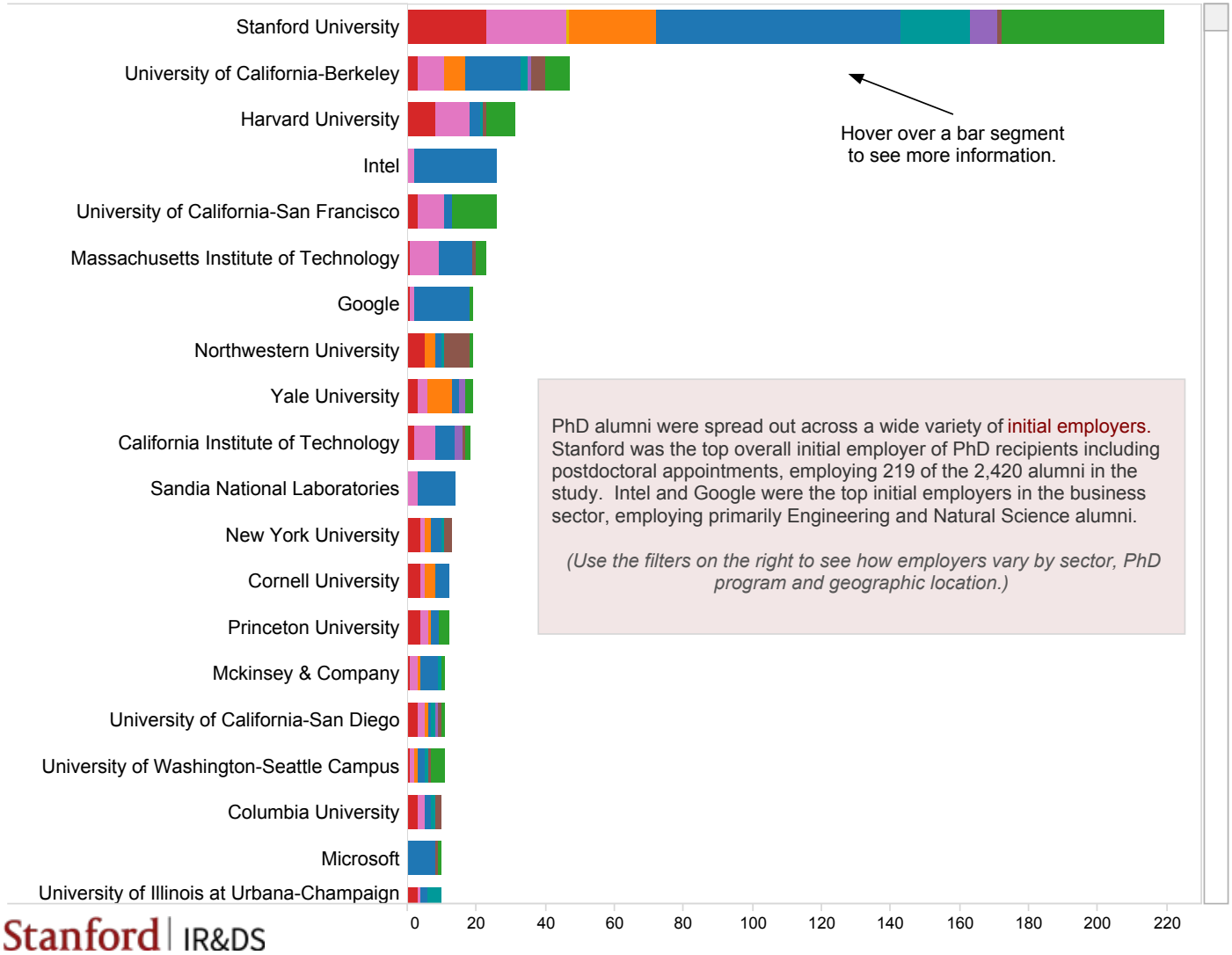
CURRENT Employment Sector by Academic Area

Stanford | IR&DS



Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

Initial Top Employers (US)



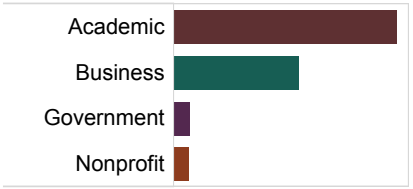
Hover over a bar segment to see more information.

PhD alumni were spread out across a wide variety of initial employers. Stanford was the top overall initial employer of PhD recipients including postdoctoral appointments, employing 219 of the 2,420 alumni in the study. Intel and Google were the top initial employers in the business sector, employing primarily Engineering and Natural Science alumni.

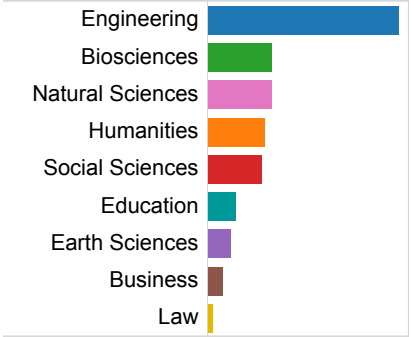
(Use the filters on the right to see how employers vary by sector, PhD program and geographic location.)

Click on a sector, program, and/or state to filter the list of employers.
(Click again to clear)

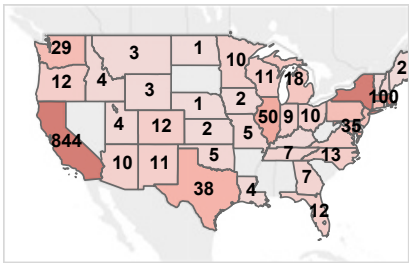
Initial Sector



Academic Area



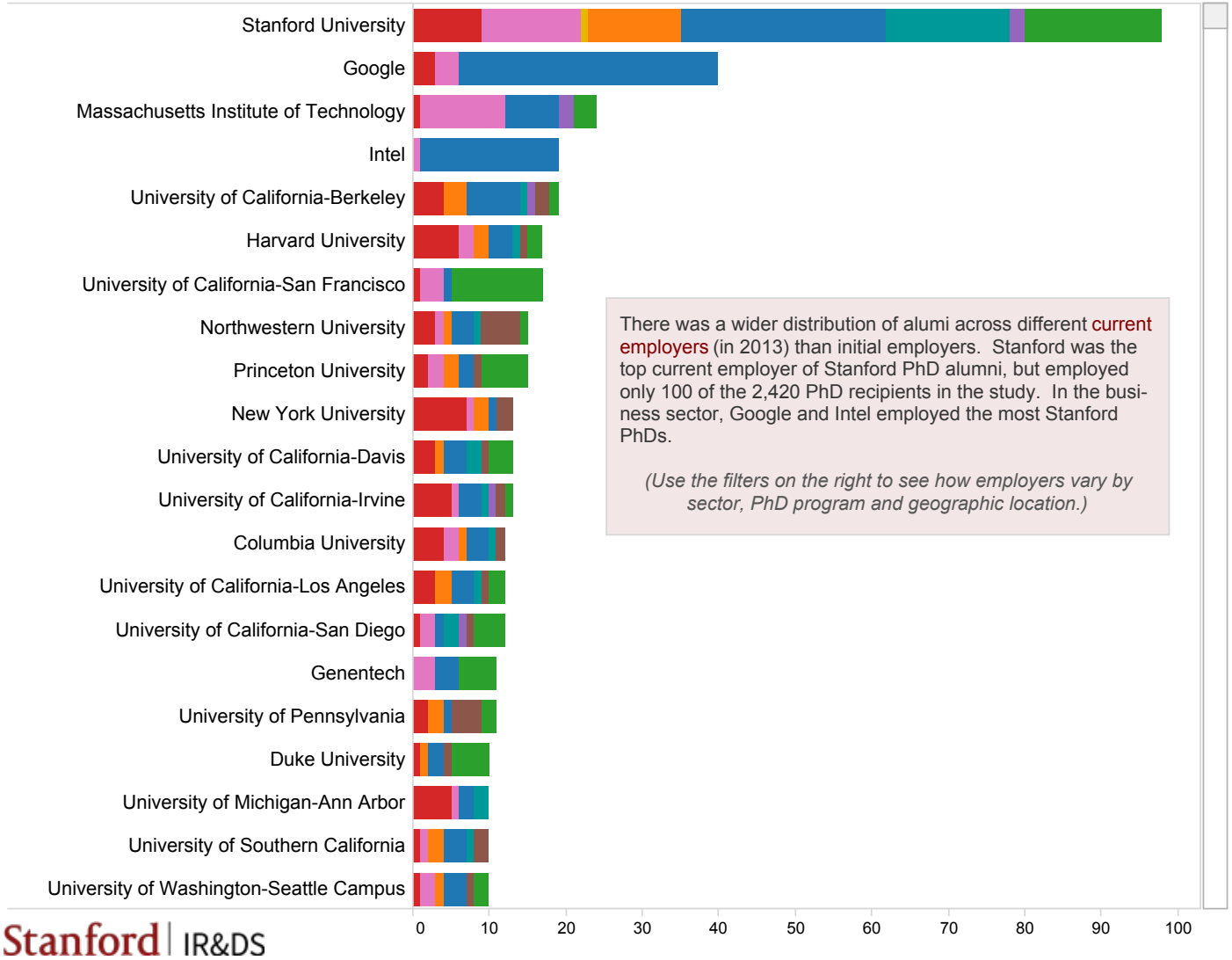
Initial State



Stanford | IR&DS

Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

Current Top Employers (US)

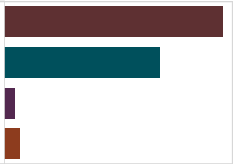


There was a wider distribution of alumni across different current employers (in 2013) than initial employers. Stanford was the top current employer of Stanford PhD alumni, but employed only 100 of the 2,420 PhD recipients in the study. In the business sector, Google and Intel employed the most Stanford PhDs.

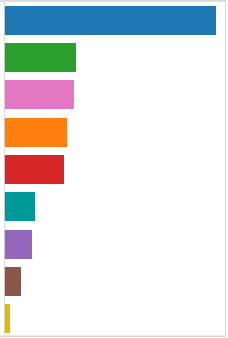
(Use the filters on the right to see how employers vary by sector, PhD program and geographic location.)

Click on a sector, program, and/or state to filter the list of employers.
(Click again to clear)

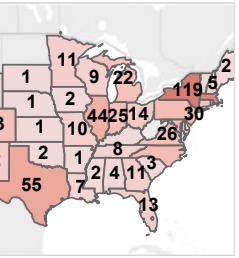
Current Sect..



Academic Area



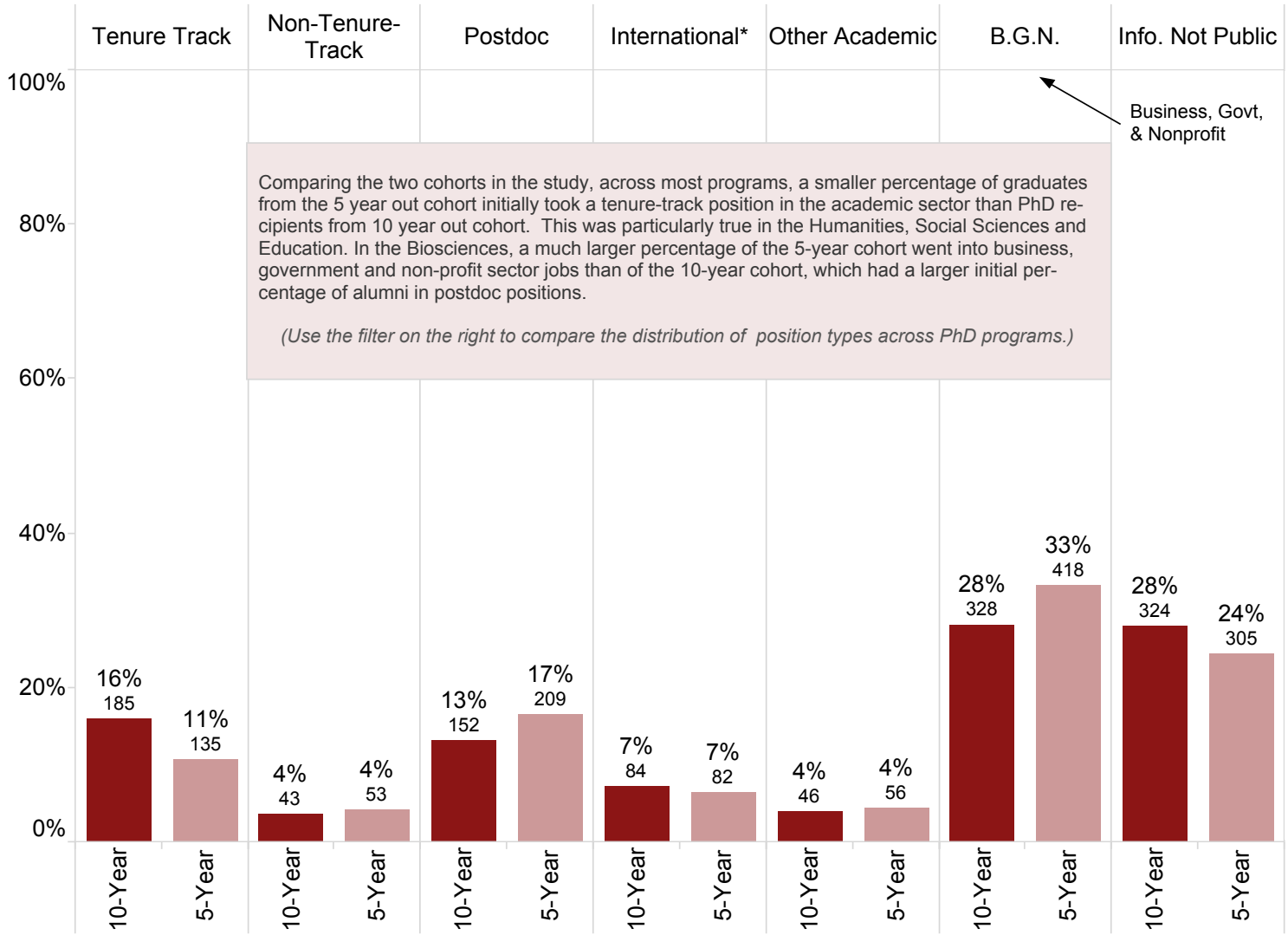
Current State



Stanford | IR&DS

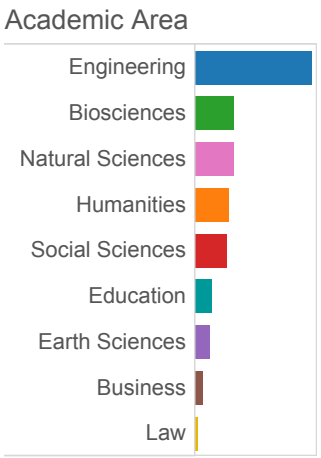
Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

INITIAL Position Type by Cohort



Comparing the two cohorts in the study, across most programs, a smaller percentage of graduates from the 5 year out cohort initially took a tenure-track position in the academic sector than PhD recipients from 10 year out cohort. This was particularly true in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Education. In the Biosciences, a much larger percentage of the 5-year cohort went into business, government and non-profit sector jobs than of the 10-year cohort, which had a larger initial percentage of alumni in postdoc positions.

(Use the filter on the right to compare the distribution of position types across PhD programs.)



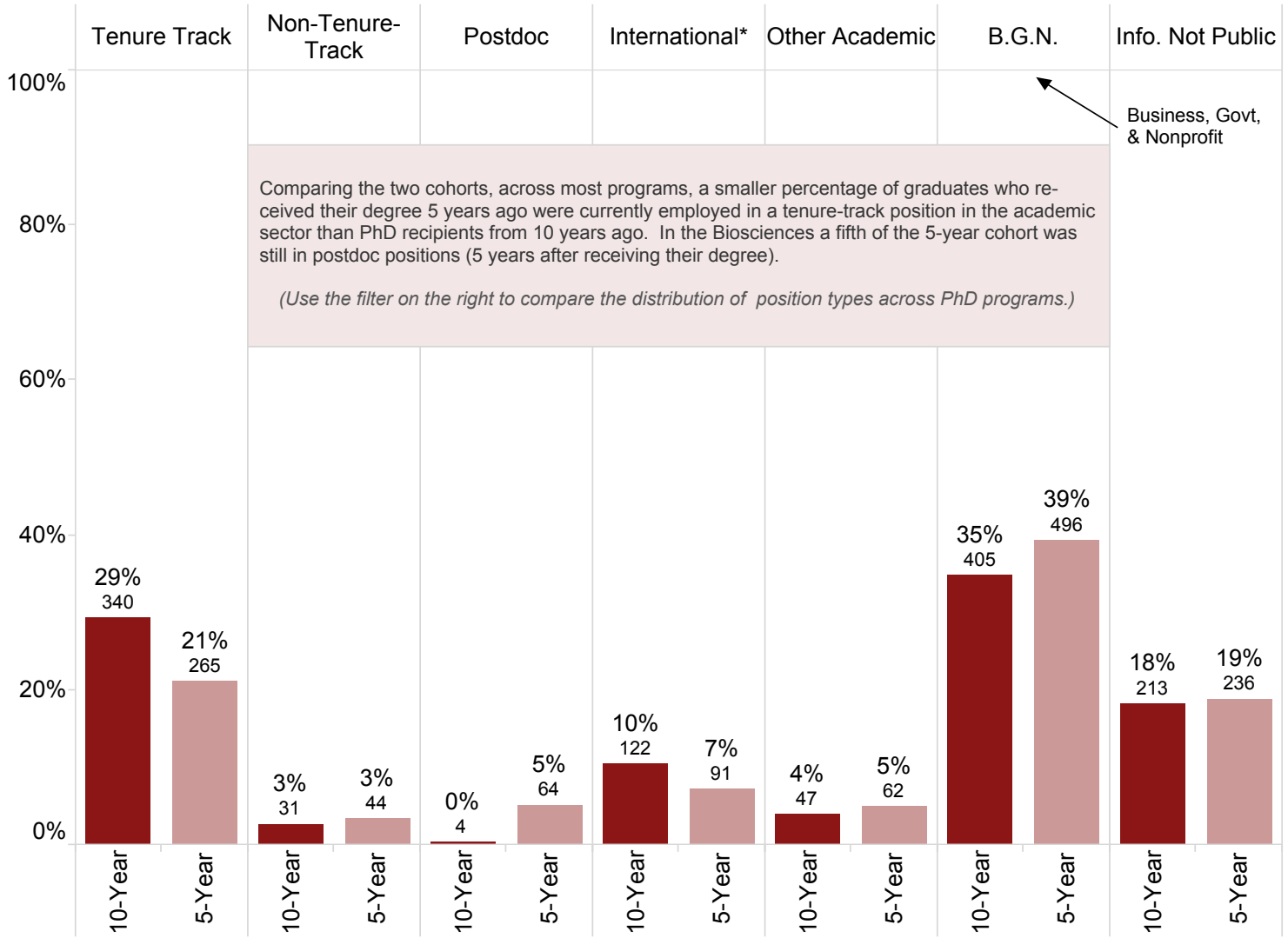
Click on a program above to filter the view.
(Click again to clear)

* Note: Position types not differentiated at non-US Universities

Stanford | IR&DS

Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

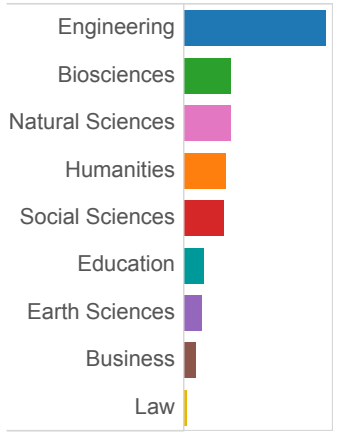
CURRENT Position Type



Comparing the two cohorts, across most programs, a smaller percentage of graduates who received their degree 5 years ago were currently employed in a tenure-track position in the academic sector than PhD recipients from 10 years ago. In the Biosciences a fifth of the 5-year cohort was still in postdoc positions (5 years after receiving their degree).

(Use the filter on the right to compare the distribution of position types across PhD programs.)

Academic Area



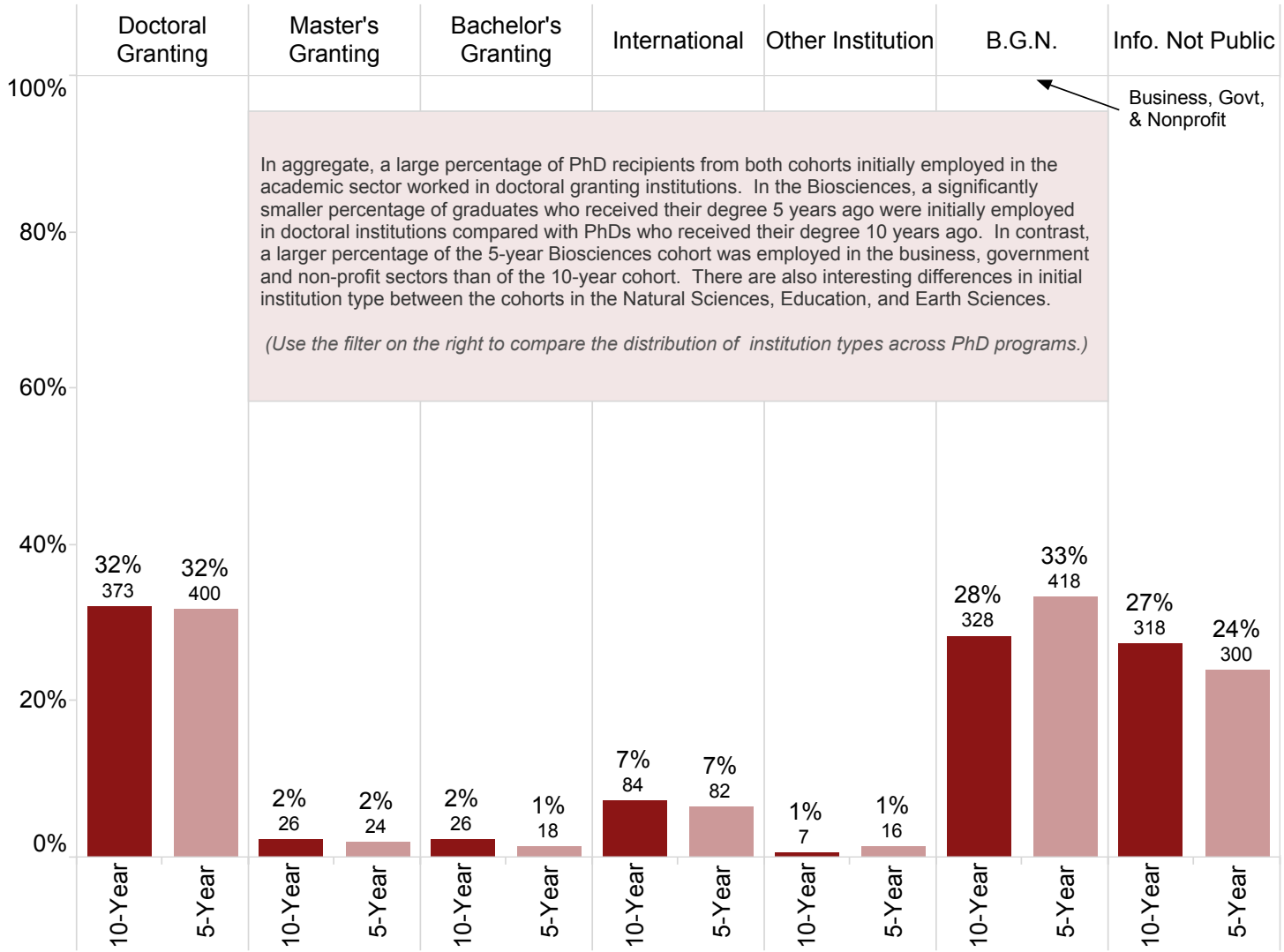
Click on a program above to filter the view.
(Click again to clear)

* Note: Position types not differentiated at non-US Universities

Stanford | IR&DS

Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

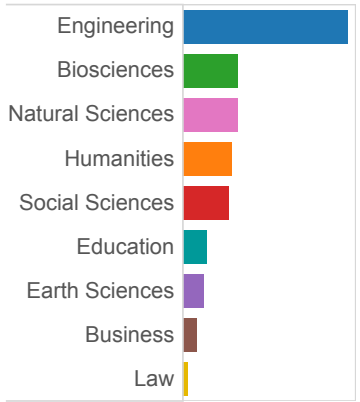
INITIAL Institution Type



In aggregate, a large percentage of PhD recipients from both cohorts initially employed in the academic sector worked in doctoral granting institutions. In the Biosciences, a significantly smaller percentage of graduates who received their degree 5 years ago were initially employed in doctoral institutions compared with PhDs who received their degree 10 years ago. In contrast, a larger percentage of the 5-year Biosciences cohort was employed in the business, government and non-profit sectors than of the 10-year cohort. There are also interesting differences in initial institution type between the cohorts in the Natural Sciences, Education, and Earth Sciences.

(Use the filter on the right to compare the distribution of institution types across PhD programs.)

Academic Area

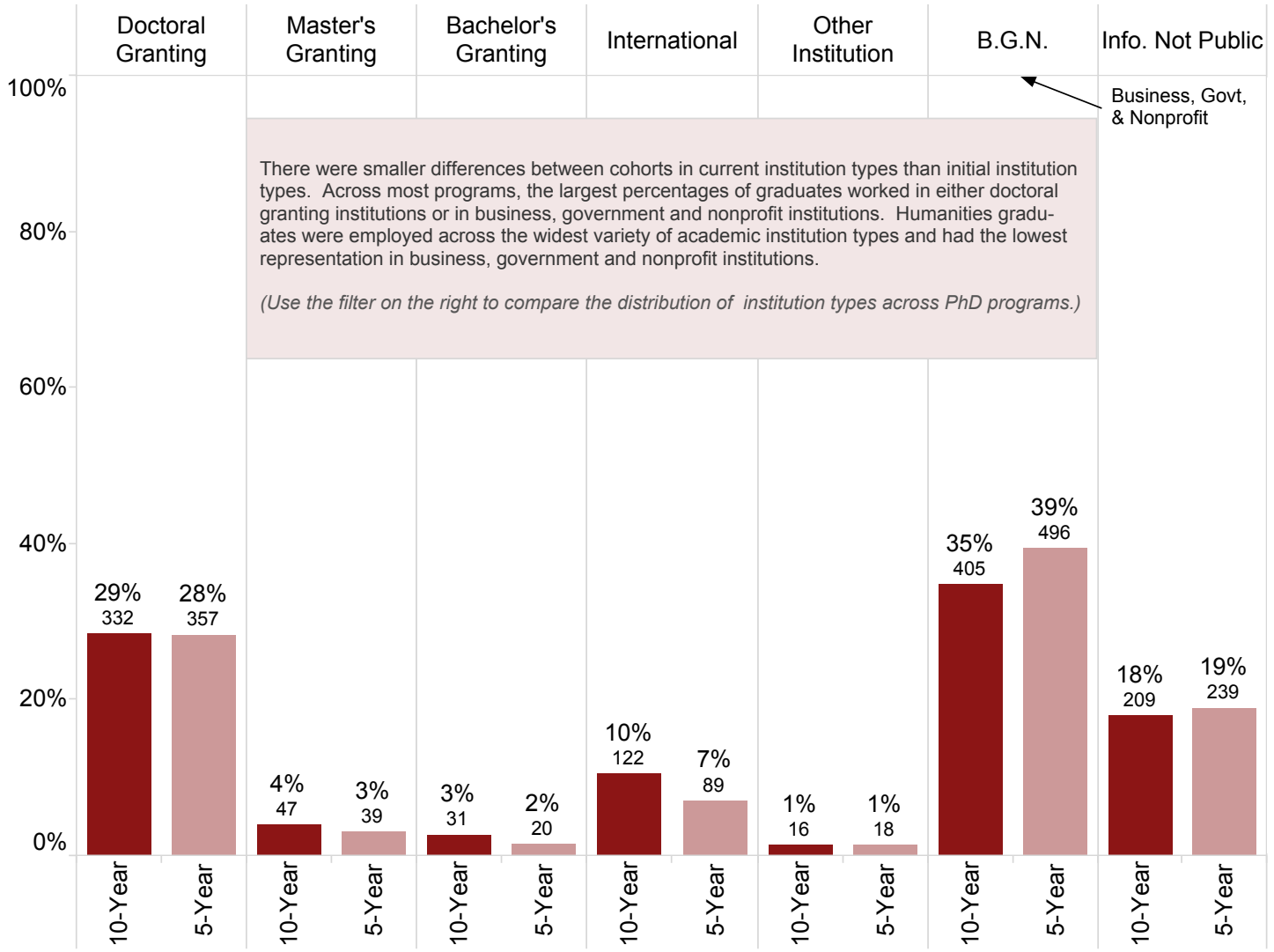


Click on a program above to filter the view.
(Click again to clear)

Stanford | IR&DS

Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

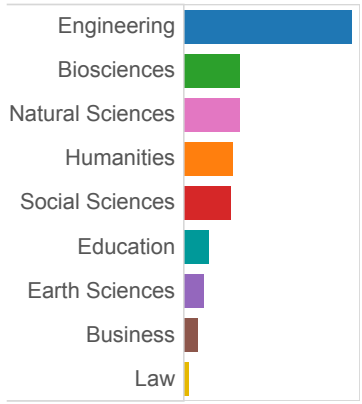
CURRENT Institution Type



There were smaller differences between cohorts in current institution types than initial institution types. Across most programs, the largest percentages of graduates worked in either doctoral granting institutions or in business, government and nonprofit institutions. Humanities graduates were employed across the widest variety of academic institution types and had the lowest representation in business, government and nonprofit institutions.

(Use the filter on the right to compare the distribution of institution types across PhD programs.)

Academic Area



Click on a program above to filter the view.
(Click again to clear)

Stanford | IR&DS

Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

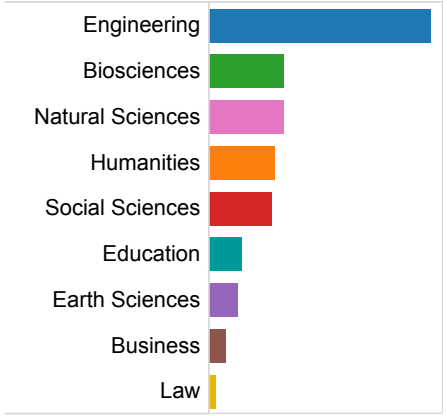
Current (2013) Employers and Job Titles for Alumni in Business, Gov. & Non-Profit Sectors (US)

Current Sector	Current Employer	Current Job Title (B.G.N.)
Business	23andMe	Principal Product Scientist
		Senior Science Content Manager
	219 Design	Founding Partner
	Aavid Thermalloy	Principal Thermal Engineer
	Abbott	Engineering Manager
	Abbvie	Senior Scientist III
	Accenture Technology Labs	Research Manager
	Accretive Health	Chief Data Scientist
	Acuitis, Inc.	Software Engineer
		Staff
	Adamant Technologies	Director of Process Development
	Adobe	Senior Computer Scientist
	Advanced Cell Diagnostics	Director
	Advanced Materials Applications, LLC	Owner and Materials Consultant
	Advanced Resources and Risk Technology	CEO/Founder
	AECOM	Senior Geologist
	Aerion Corporation	Engineer
	AfterCollege	Co-Founder
	Agawi	Video Technologist
	Agilent Technologies	Research Scientist
		Scientist, Genomics R&D
	Agios Pharmaceuticals	Associate Director
	AMEC Environmental & Infrastructure UK Limited	Engineer
	American Express	Director, Machine Learning
	Amgen	Director of Drug Product
		Principal Scientist
		Scientist
	Amyris, Inc.	Principal Quality Engineer
	Analog Devices	New Product Engineering Manager
	Analysis Group	Manager
	Aon	AVP (Actuarial)

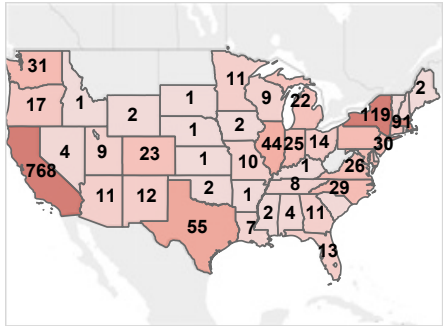
Hover over an employer or job title to see program and state information below.

Click on a program or state below to filter jobs.
(Click on it again to clear the view)

Academic Area



Current State



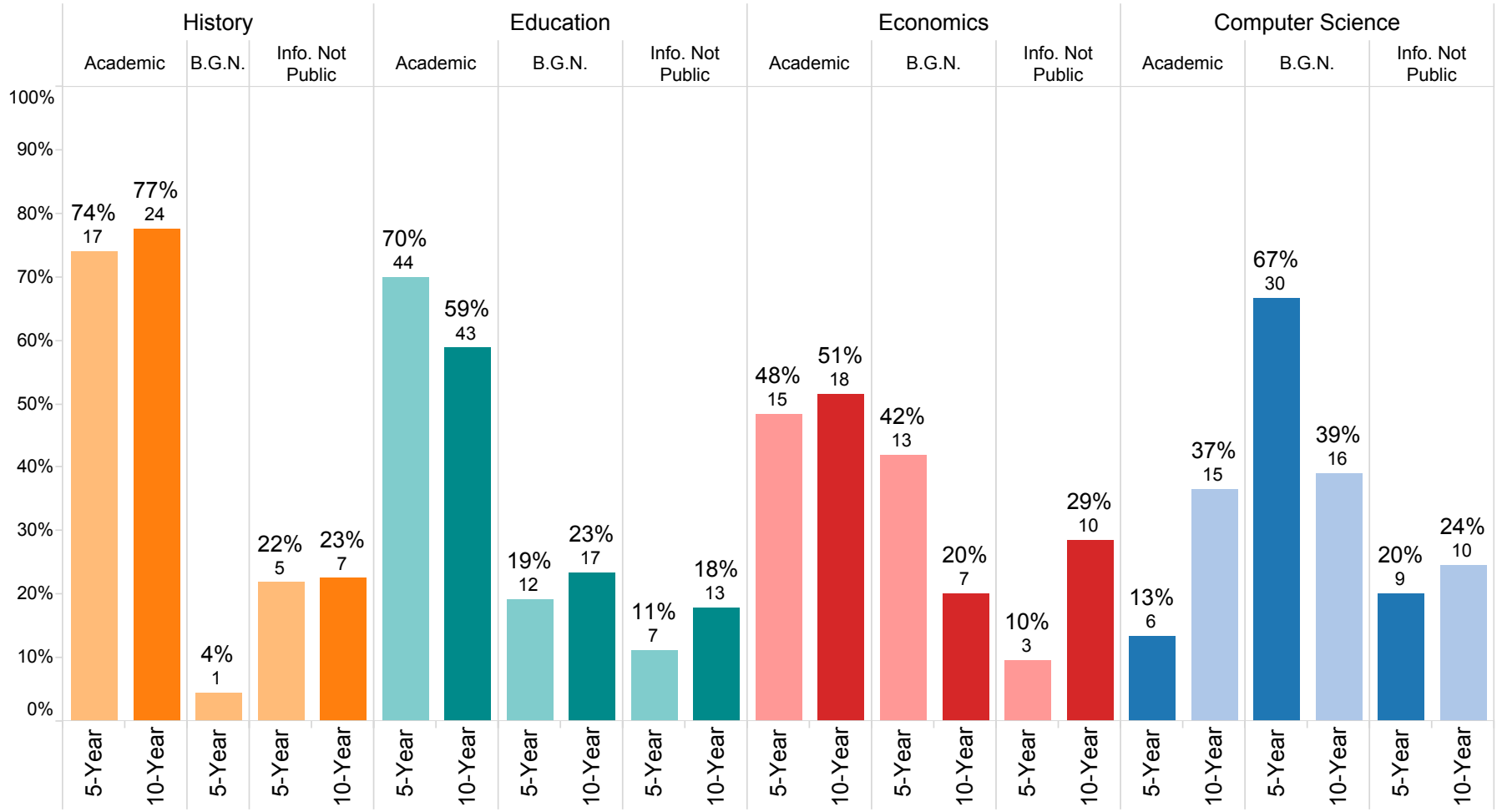
Stanford | IR&DS

Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

INITIAL Employment Sector by Department & Cohort

Use the drop down menu to compare departments (limit selections to a max of 4 departments for best results)

Department(s)
Multiple Values



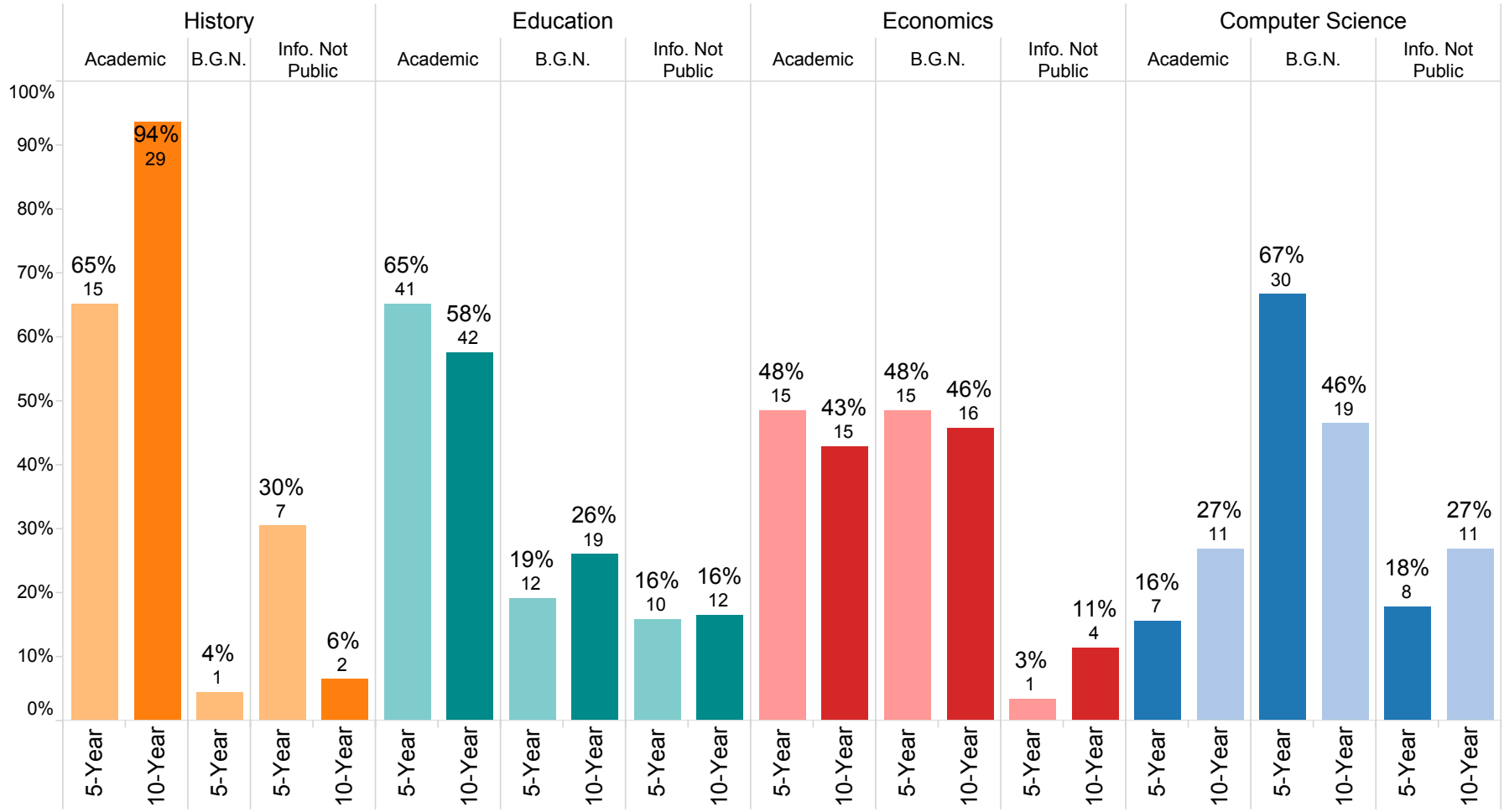
Stanford | IR&DS

Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

CURRENT Employment Sector by Department & Cohort

Use the drop down menu to compare departments (limit selections to a max of 4 departments for best results)

Department(s)
Multiple Values



Stanford | IR&DS

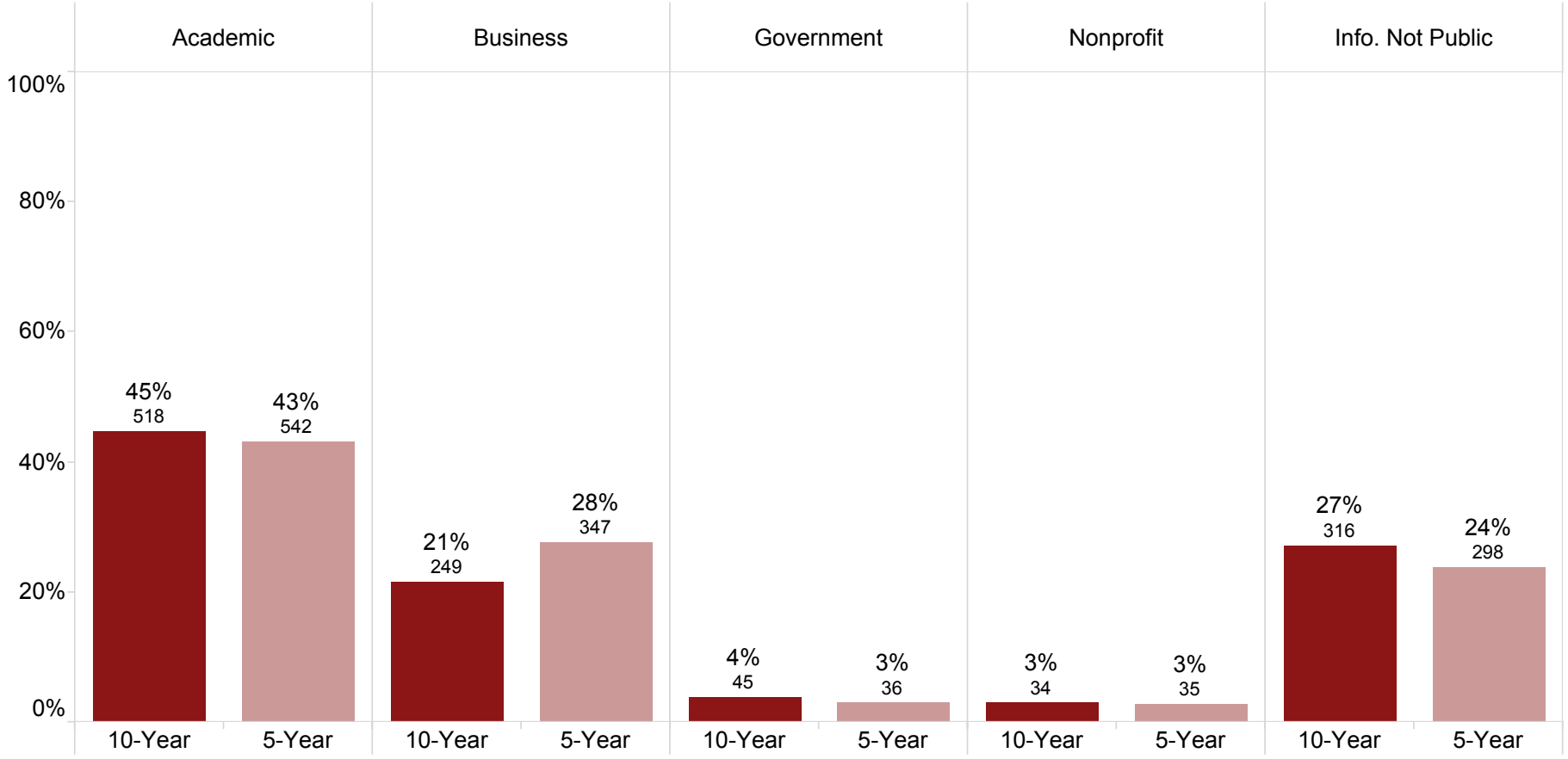
Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

Choose an Academic Area
All

Choose a Department:
All

PhD Employment Data: Initial Sector
Academic Area: All
Department: All

Choose Type of Employment Data:
Initial Sector



Stanford | IR&DS

Stanford PhD Alumni Employment

PhD Employment Project: PhDs by Program and Department

Academic Area	Department	Total PhDs
Biosciences	Biology	66
	Neurosciences	38
	Genetics	32
	Cancer Biology	29
	Biophysics	23
	Biochemistry	22
	Developmental Biology	21
	Immunology	21
	Biomedical Informatics	19
	Microbiology and Immunology	15
	Chemical and Systems Biology	8
	Molecular Pharmacology	7
	Molecular and Cellular Physiology	5
	Structural Biology	2
	Total	308
Earth Sciences	Geological & Environmental Sciences	57
	Geophysics	30
	Petroleum Engineering	18
	Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources	8
	Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences	3
	Total	116
Engineering	Electrical Engineering	331

Use the dropdown menus below to filter the list of programs and departemnts.

Academic Program
All

Department
All

Hover over the Total PhDs column and click on the "+" icon to see a breakdown of PhDs by cohort and year (click on "-" to go back). You can also sort the columns using the sort icon that appears when you hover over column headers.

Stanford | IR&DS