Survey Shows That Temporary Research Positions Are Not Uncommon

Out of 4688 researchers surveyed, 34% are on a temporary contract.

That increases to 59% among younger researchers.

Researchers in mathematics and social sciences are more likely to be on permanent contracts, and those in computer science are least likely.

32% expect to change their position in the next 12 months.

Top 3 reasons these researchers expect to leave:
- Just over 1/4 expect to leave because their contract is running out.
- Just over 1/4 expect to leave to advance their knowledge outside of the organization.
- Approximately 1/3 of researchers expect to leave their positions to relocate.

Survey conducted by Elsevier Customer Insights Team: February 2015.
*Other includes self-employed, consultants, and those who preferred not to say.

Temporary contracts can run for several years. Social Sciences includes Arts & Humanities.