What does the Mathsci-comm network look like?

The Mathsci-comm Network has held two in-person workshops: *Communicating mathematical and data sciences: What does success look like?* (November 2024) and *Listening and responding to public interest* (January 2026).

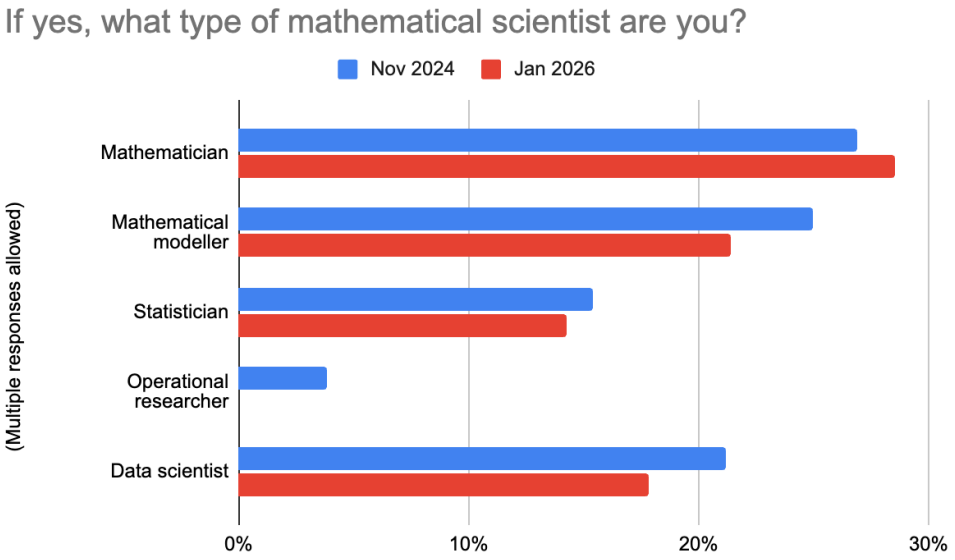
Both events were held at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, organised by the Mathsci-comm Network with the Newton Gateway to Mathematics. These events were endorsed by the Academy for Mathematical Sciences, the Knowledge Exchange Hub for Mathematical Sciences and the Government Analysis Function.

Each workshop attracted over 80 attendees from academic and research institutions and learned societies around the UK, as well as The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Home Office, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, DSTL, FCA, Office for Local Government, UKHSA, EPSRC, Office for National Statistics, Office for Statistics Regulation, Royal Institution, Bank of England, National Cyber Security Centre, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, and Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland. Representatives from the Financial Times, the Science Media Centre, Sense about Science, the Millennium Mathematics Project and the Campaign for the Mathematical Sciences were also present. Other attendees were freelance or were from commercial or third sector organisations.

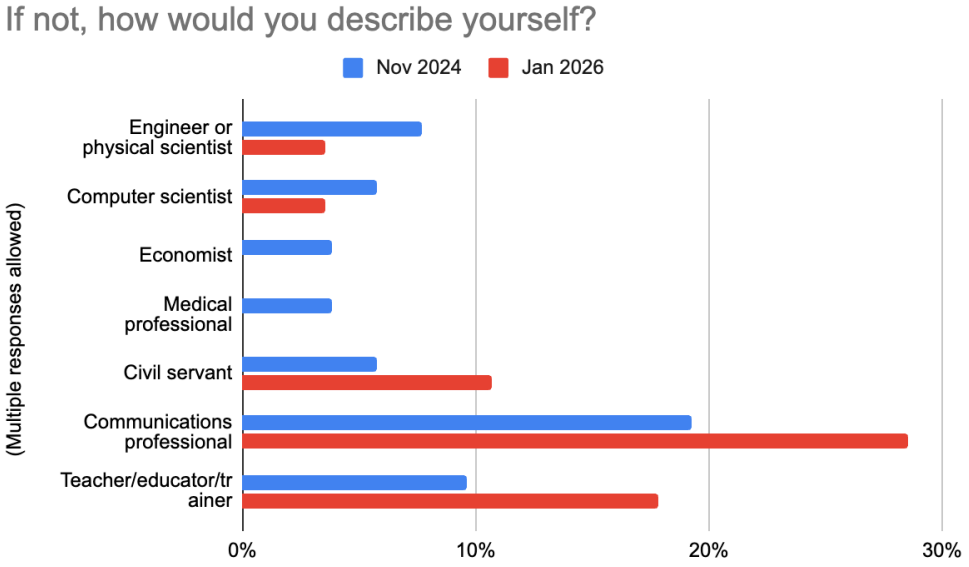
The data collated in this report consists of 52 responses from 2024 (42 via feedback forms collected at the end of the 2024 workshop, alongside 10 responses to an online form by the wider network) and 28 responses from 2026 (via online feedback forms completed at the end of the workshop).

Disciplines and sectors

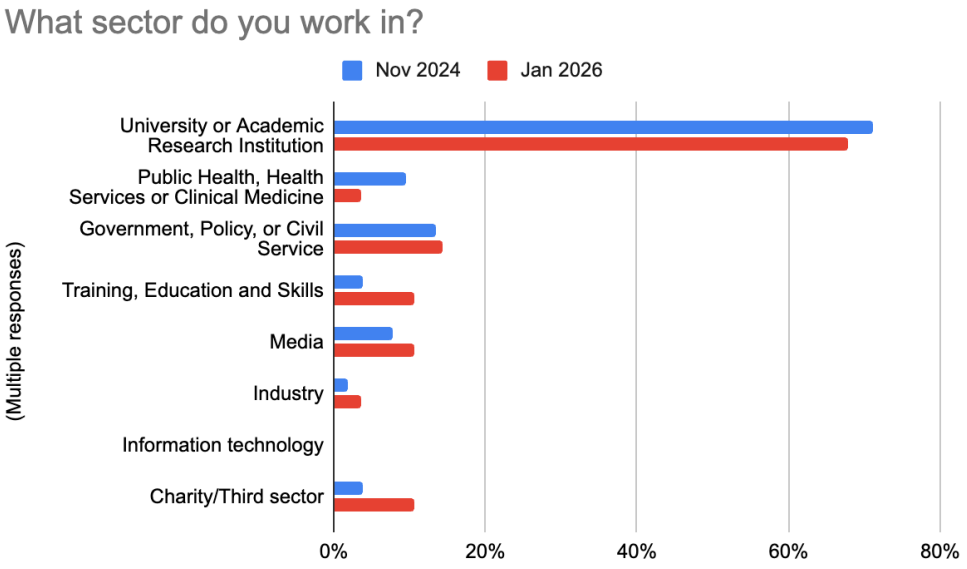
More than half of the Mathsci-comm network describe themselves as mathematical scientists (52% in 2024, 57% in 2026). Around half of these describe themselves as mathematicians or mathematical modellers (27% and 25% respectively in 2024, 29% and 21% respectively in 2026), with the rest primarily data scientists and statisticians (21% and 15% resp. in 2024, 18% and 14% resp. in 2026).



Those that do not describe themselves as mathematical scientists were primarily: communications professionals (19% in 2024, 29% in 2026); teachers, educators or trainers (10%, 18%); and civil servants (6%, 11%); along with smaller numbers of engineers, physical scientists, computer scientists, economists and medical professionals.



The large majority of members work in a university or academic research institution (71% in 2024, 68% in 2026), with the rest working in government, policy or civil service (13%, 14%), public health, health services or clinical medicine (10%, 14%), media (8%, 11%), with the rest working across the charity and third sectors, in industry, and in the training, education and skills sector and working as freelancers.



Experience and training

Almost all members have experience communicating concepts and ideas from mathematics and data science (87% in 2024, 89% in 2026).

In 2026 respondents were asked for key examples for the topics they communicated, which fell into the following areas:

- Statistics, risk and uncertainty
- Data science, AI and machine learning
- Public health and epidemiology
- Physical sciences
- Engineering
- Mathematical modelling
- Neuroscience, psychiatry, mathematical biology
- Policy and regulation
- Education
- Communication

Most members have had some formal or informal training in communicating mathematical science (60%, 79%).

Training people reported included:

2024	2026
• Training workshops (such as those offered by the INI, the KE Hub, Science	• Training workshops (such as those offered by the INI, the Royal Society,

Media Centre and by some named participants from the event) • On the job training / experience / from other communicators • Self-taught through books and other resources • Workplace training and events. • Education as journalist • Media, policy and leadership training • ComSciCon, as well as many workshops and conferences.	and by some named participants from the event) • Postgraduate courses and modules in undergraduate courses • Training through university or professional organisations • Professional experience and on-the-job training

Acknowledgements

This document was produced with the participants of the Mathsci-comm workshops, *Communicating Mathematical and Data Sciences – What does Success Look Like?* (2024) and *Listening and responding to public interest* (2026), alongside members of the wider Mathsci-comm Network.

These workshops were held at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences (INI), organised with the Newton Gateway to Mathematics, and supported by a Network Grant from the INI and EPSRC (Ref: EP/V521929/1).

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