

TABLE 2-1
Postgraduation commitment of research doctorate recipients, by trend broad field of doctorate: Selected years, 1993–2023
 (Number and percent)

Commitment status and year	All fields	Science and engineering										Non-science and engineering					
		Total	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Computer and information sciences	Engineering	Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	Health sciences	Mathematics and statistics	Physical sciences	Psychology	Social sciences	Total	Business	Education	Humanities and arts	Other non-science and engineering
All doctorate recipients (number)																	
1993	39,800	26,486	1,235	5,212	880	5,698	721	1,016	1,146	3,681	3,420	3,477	13,314	1,281	6,689	4,372	972
1998	42,636	28,636	1,315	6,011	927	5,922	766	1,285	1,177	3,800	3,673	3,760	14,000	1,175	6,569	5,308	948
2003	40,762	26,759	1,226	5,927	866	5,279	682	1,353	993	3,289	3,277	3,867	14,003	1,036	6,651	5,226	1,090
2008	48,776	34,765	1,252	8,145	1,787	7,863	865	1,689	1,400	4,081	3,357	4,326	14,011	1,421	6,561	4,688	1,341
2013	52,703	39,084	1,391	8,707	1,843	9,000	989	2,109	1,817	4,595	3,592	5,041	13,619	1,551	4,934	5,662	1,472
2018	55,078	42,144	1,499	8,782	2,000	10,164	1,185	2,473	2,022	5,144	3,821	5,054	12,934	1,473	4,818	5,139	1,504
2023	57,862	45,533	1,477	9,575	2,687	11,403	1,231	2,435	2,167	5,460	3,899	5,199	12,329	1,560	4,562	4,453	1,754
All postgraduation commitments (number)																	
1993	36,546	24,320	1,120	4,890	804	5,165	658	931	1,033	3,388	3,123	3,208	12,226	1,173	6,116	4,057	880
1998	38,244	25,739	1,176	5,523	839	5,335	706	1,118	1,058	3,450	3,099	3,435	12,505	1,031	5,792	4,819	863
2003	36,868	24,504	1,099	5,534	775	4,872	641	1,232	926	3,055	2,825	3,545	12,364	881	5,749	4,776	958
2008	44,018	31,502	1,145	7,512	1,624	7,095	810	1,486	1,276	3,699	2,893	3,962	12,516	1,234	5,856	4,227	1,199
2013	47,836	35,631	1,268	8,068	1,692	8,149	927	1,908	1,649	4,222	3,105	4,643	12,205	1,370	4,441	5,073	1,321
2018	50,338	38,754	1,373	8,245	1,815	9,332	1,121	2,240	1,882	4,781	3,306	4,659	11,584	1,284	4,393	4,640	1,267
2023	52,109	41,273	1,308	8,867	2,402	10,294	1,134	2,160	1,984	5,010	3,338	4,776	10,836	1,350	4,046	3,931	1,509
Definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral training (%)																	
1993	67.0	65.8	62.9	75.9	67.9	55.7	66.6	72.0	59.7	67.4	68.1	63.2	69.3	79.2	73.0	60.5	71.6
1998	69.7	70.3	64.3	73.0	72.5	69.8	68.4	73.3	67.5	73.3	69.2	66.6	68.4	83.1	73.7	58.6	70.0
2003	71.3	71.2	68.2	72.5	72.8	64.6	74.9	73.7	74.7	73.2	73.6	72.9	71.5	83.3	75.7	64.2	72.3
2008	69.2	68.4	64.5	64.7	69.8	65.1	75.9	72.3	72.3	70.3	73.8	71.9	71.2	81.7	73.7	64.5	72.5
2013	62.6	62.7	62.2	56.7	68.7	59.5	67.6	63.7	62.3	63.2	72.3	66.5	62.4	76.3	65.8	54.9	65.7
2018	68.2	68.4	64.9	64.5	75.5	65.5	67.0	69.6	74.7	67.0	77.9	70.9	67.5	82.6	71.0	59.1	70.6
2023	73.6	73.8	74.5	68.2	78.2	73.6	77.8	74.4	77.5	73.3	80.0	75.4	73.1	85.9	76.3	65.8	72.4
No definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral training (%)^a																	
1993	33.0	34.2	37.1	24.1	32.1	44.3	33.4	28.0	40.3	32.6	31.9	36.8	30.7	20.8	27.0	39.5	28.4
1998	30.3	29.7	35.7	27.0	27.5	30.2	31.6	26.7	32.5	26.7	30.8	33.4	31.6	16.9	26.3	41.4	30.0
2003	28.7	28.8	31.8	27.5	27.2	35.4	25.1	26.3	25.3	26.8	26.4	27.1	28.5	16.7	24.3	35.8	27.7
2008	30.8	31.6	35.5	35.3	30.2	34.9	24.1	27.7	27.7	29.7	26.2	28.1	28.8	18.3	26.3	35.5	27.5
2013	37.4	37.3	37.8	43.3	31.3	40.5	32.4	36.3	31.5	36.8	27.7	33.5	37.6	23.7	34.2	45.1	34.3
2018	31.8	31.6	35.1	35.5	24.5	34.5	33.0	30.4	22.1	33.0	22.1	29.1	32.5	17.4	29.0	40.9	29.4
2023	26.4	26.2	25.5	31.8	21.8	26.4	22.2	25.6	22.5	26.7	20.0	24.6	26.9	14.1	23.7	34.2	27.6

^a No definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral training includes doctorate recipients who indicated "other" in all years, doctorate recipients who indicated "do not plan to work or study" in 2004 and later years, and doctorate recipients who indicated definite plans for "other full-time degree program" in 2007 and later years.

Note(s):

A definite postgraduation commitment includes accepting new employment or a postdoctoral study (postdoc) position or returning to predoctoral employment. Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100. Beginning in 2021, a modified version of the 2020 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes was used in the survey data collection; the trend fields were constructed using the SED-CIP code crosswalk in table A-6. Therefore, the field of doctorate data prior to 2021 may not be comparable to subsequent years. For more information about the field taxonomy changes, see the "Technical Notes."

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates.