

TABLE 2-3

Postgraduation plans of research doctorate recipients with definite commitments, by trend broad field of doctorate: Selected years, 1993–2023

(Number and percent)

Definite commitment, plan, 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 definite commitments (number)																	
1993	24,480	16,002	705	3,712	546	2,876	438	670	617	2,283	2,127	2,028	8,478	929	4,464	2,455	630
1998	26,644	18,094	756	4,034	608	3,722	483	819	714	2,528	2,143	2,287	8,550	857	4,266	2,823	604
2003	26,299	17,454	750	4,011	564	3,148	480	908	692	2,237	2,080	2,584	8,845	734	4,354	3,064	693
2008	30,467	21,550	738	4,863	1,134	4,619	615	1,074	923	2,601	2,134	2,849	8,917	1,008	4,315	2,725	869
2013	29,969	22,348	789	4,573	1,163	4,850	627	1,215	1,130	2,668	2,245	3,088	7,621	1,045	2,922	2,786	868
2018	34,308	26,492	891	5,316	1,370	6,116	751	1,558	1,405	3,205	2,576	3,304	7,816	1,061	3,117	2,743	895
2023	38,375	30,450	974	6,049	1,879	7,578	882	1,607	1,538	3,671	2,670	3,602	7,925	1,159	3,089	2,585	1,092
Reported type of plan (number)																	
1993	24,362	15,952	699	3,709	545	2,867	436	667	615	2,280	2,118	2,016	8,410	924	4,429	2,431	626
1998	26,141	17,881	743	4,003	604	3,693	479	799	703	2,510	2,111	2,236	8,260	839	4,096	2,736	589
2003	26,213	17,410	746	4,001	561	3,138	478	906	689	2,236	2,078	2,577	8,803	731	4,325	3,057	690
2008	29,533	20,965	713	4,754	1,101	4,484	604	1,044	904	2,549	2,056	2,756	8,568	979	4,122	2,637	830
2013	27,703	20,918	719	4,344	1,086	4,531	585	1,122	1,087	2,566	2,090	2,788	6,785	935	2,643	2,469	738
2018	34,254	26,445	889	5,303	1,368	6,105	751	1,557	1,404	3,199	2,571	3,298	7,809	1,059	3,114	2,741	895
2023	38,328	30,415	969	6,038	1,879	7,575	882	1,605	1,535	3,669	2,664	3,599	7,913	1,158	3,086	2,577	1,092
Employment plans (%)																	
1993	71.0	57.8	69.1	21.2	84.0	74.7	51.6	84.7	72.8	35.0	72.1	88.5	96.1	98.7	96.9	94.0	94.4
1998	71.0	60.2	65.0	25.4	85.8	80.3	52.4	83.9	70.7	42.4	64.1	87.1	94.4	96.4	95.5	92.0	94.6
2003	67.2	54.4	63.0	23.5	78.8	68.4	47.3	77.2	53.8	36.9	57.8	83.7	92.5	96.7	94.0	89.8	91.3
2008	64.2	52.8	54.3	23.1	74.7	69.7	41.9	73.3	55.4	33.7	49.2	81.7	92.1	96.5	94.9	87.0	89.2
2013	60.6	51.2	53.3	23.6	76.8	64.7	34.2	70.9	52.9	33.4	44.1	78.6	89.6	95.2	92.2	85.1	88.1
2018	61.5	53.9	55.6	30.6	80.9	65.9	35.3	65.6	55.3	43.2	41.9	75.7	87.0	94.1	91.0	79.7	87.4
2023	63.4	58.1	55.7	41.9	79.4	69.9	35.3	66.7	57.3	51.7	41.2	71.0	83.9	90.3	88.7	75.5	83.7
Postdoctoral training plans (%)																	
1993	29.0	42.2	30.9	78.8	16.0	25.3	48.4	15.3	27.2	65.0	27.9	11.5	3.9	1.3	3.1	6.0	5.6
1998	29.0	39.8	35.0	74.6	14.2	19.7	47.6	16.1	29.3	57.6	35.9	12.9	5.6	3.6	4.5	8.0	5.4
2003	32.8	45.6	37.0	76.5	21.2	31.6	52.7	22.8	46.2	63.1	42.2	16.3	7.5	3.3	6.0	10.2	8.7
2008	35.8	47.2	45.7	76.9	25.3	30.3	58.1	26.7	44.6	66.3	50.8	18.3	7.9	3.5	5.1	13.0	10.8
2013	39.4	48.8	46.7	76.4	23.2	35.3	65.8	29.1	47.1	66.6	55.9	21.4	10.4	4.8	7.8	14.9	11.9
2018	38.5	46.1	44.4	69.4	19.1	34.1	64.7	34.4	44.7	56.8	58.1	24.3	13.0	5.9	9.0	20.3	12.6
2023	36.6	41.9	44.3	58.1	20.6	30.1	64.7	33.3	42.7	48.3	58.8	29.0	16.1	9.7	11.3	24.5	16.3

Note(s):

Percentages are based on the number of definite postgraduation commitments and the type of plan (employment or postdoctoral study [postdoc]). A definite postgraduation commitment includes accepting new employment or a 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.