

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 | 68.5 | 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 | 25.3 | 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.