

TABLE 2-4
Postgraduation plans of research doctorate recipients with definite commitments, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, and race: Selected years, 1993–2023

(Number and percent)

Definite commitment, plan, and year	Total ^a	Sex		Citizenship status		U.S. citizens and permanent residents							
		Male	Female	U.S. citizen or permanent resident	Temporary visa holder	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino						Ethnicity not reported
							American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian ^b	Black or African American	White	More than one race	Other race or race not reported ^c	
All definite commitments (number)													
1993	24,480	14,919	9,559	19,176	5,298	626	76	1,088	769	16,501	na	68	48
1998	26,644	15,635	10,987	20,848	5,762	852	108	1,708	975	16,776	na	245	184
2003	26,299	14,595	11,704	19,449	6,804	963	82	1,304	1,114	15,281	256	213	236
2008	30,467	16,547	13,920	20,860	9,552	1,085	82	1,489	1,218	16,182	337	205	262
2013	29,969	16,459	13,509	20,880	8,994	1,190	67	1,565	1,173	16,075	515	151	144
2018	34,308	18,807	15,501	22,953	11,238	1,621	67	2,028	1,457	16,705	765	202	108
2023	38,375	20,285	18,086	24,382	13,792	2,317	76	2,577	1,844	16,272	950	216	130
Reported type of plan (number)													
1993	24,362	14,858	9,502	19,090	5,266	624	76	1,080	763	16,432	na	67	48
1998	26,141	15,386	10,736	20,459	5,654	832	105	1,691	928	16,488	na	240	175
2003	26,213	14,549	11,664	19,402	6,772	960	82	1,298	1,110	15,254	255	211	232
2008	29,533	16,102	13,431	20,174	9,305	1,042	77	1,452	1,164	15,664	324	199	252
2013	27,703	15,302	12,400	19,161	8,448	1,047	59	1,436	1,072	14,800	476	140	131
2018	34,254	18,775	15,479	22,915	11,223	1,618	67	2,025	1,454	16,679	764	200	108
2023	38,328	20,270	18,054	24,352	13,776	2,316	76	2,575	1,841	16,250	948	216	130
Employment plans (%)													
1993	71.0	68.4	75.1	73.9	60.7	74.0	85.5	60.9	83.5	74.3	na	64.2	64.6
1998	71.0	69.7	72.9	73.7	61.3	75.0	82.9	61.6	83.4	74.3	na	66.7	76.0
2003	67.2	64.7	70.4	70.9	56.7	72.9	81.7	59.2	77.7	71.6	62.4	63.5	66.8
2008	64.2	62.4	66.3	67.4	57.3	63.3	71.4	60.9	73.6	67.9	64.5	63.3	65.5
2013	60.6	60.5	60.7	63.1	54.9	59.4	62.7	58.6	70.7	63.4	56.3	66.4	64.9
2018	61.5	61.5	61.5	63.0	58.2	60.3	80.6	57.8	73.0	62.9	61.5	72.5	69.4
2023	63.4	63.8	63.0	64.9	60.7	61.7	73.7	64.4	75.3	64.5	56.8	68.5	75.4
Postdoctoral training plans (%)													
1993	29.0	31.6	24.9	26.1	39.3	26.0	14.5	39.1	16.5	25.7	na	35.8	35.4
1998	29.0	30.3	27.1	26.3	38.7	25.0	17.1	38.4	16.6	25.7	na	33.3	24.0
2003	32.8	35.3	29.6	29.1	43.3	27.1	18.3	40.8	22.3	28.4	37.6	36.5	33.2
2008	35.8	37.6	33.7	32.6	42.7	36.7	28.6	39.1	26.4	32.1	35.5	36.7	34.5
2013	39.4	39.5	39.3	36.9	45.1	40.6	37.3	41.4	29.3	36.6	43.7	33.6	35.1
2018	38.5	38.5	38.5	37.0	41.8	39.7	19.4	42.2	27.0	37.1	38.5	27.5	30.6
2023	36.6	36.2	37.0	35.1	39.3	38.3	26.3	35.6	24.7	35.5	43.2	31.5	24.6

na = not applicable; doctorate recipients were instructed to indicate only one race before 2001.

^a Total includes doctorate recipients who did not report sex or citizenship status.
^b Asian includes Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders through 2000 but excludes them since 2001.
^c Before 2001, other race included doctorate recipients who selected more than one race. Since 2001, other race has included Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders, who previously had been included in the category Asian.

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.

Source(s):
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates.