

TABLE 40. Postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients with definite commitments, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1989–2009

Definite commitments and plan	All fields	Life sciences ^a	Physical sciences ^b	Social sciences ^c	Engineering	Education	Humanities	Other non-S&E fields
	Number							
All definite commitments								
1989	22,815	4,575	3,718	3,880	2,675	4,329	2,064	1,574
1994	24,946	5,147	4,051	4,129	2,956	4,458	2,455	1,750
1999	26,007	5,502	4,147	4,385	3,290	4,296	2,870	1,517
2004	26,560	5,739	3,999	4,436	3,357	4,308	3,029	1,692
2009	30,725	6,940	5,446	5,008	4,575	4,130	2,737	1,889
Reported type of plan								
1989	22,699	4,563	3,705	3,863	2,667	4,296	2,041	1,564
1994	24,781	5,127	4,044	4,095	2,945	4,412	2,422	1,736
1999	25,775	5,462	4,128	4,353	3,273	4,226	2,830	1,503
2004	25,873	5,575	3,930	4,330	3,280	4,179	2,931	1,648
2009	29,917	6,787	5,364	4,888	4,475	3,972	2,653	1,778
	Percent ^d							
Employment								
1989	74.1	41.7	52.2	84.1	80.0	96.6	94.9	97.2
1994	70.6	36.0	48.5	80.2	75.8	96.3	93.4	96.3
1999	69.9	36.6	53.2	74.2	77.5	94.9	91.9	95.4
2004	64.8	32.9	43.8	69.7	63.9	93.8	88.9	94.8
2009	61.6	32.7	44.5	67.0	63.3	94.4	86.5	93.8
Postdoctoral study								
1989	25.9	58.3	47.8	15.9	20.0	3.4	5.1	2.8
1994	29.4	64.0	51.5	19.8	24.2	3.7	6.6	3.7
1999	30.1	63.4	46.8	25.8	22.5	5.1	8.1	4.6
2004	35.2	67.1	56.2	30.3	36.1	6.2	11.1	5.2
2009	38.4	67.3	55.5	33.0	36.7	5.6	13.5	6.2

^a Includes agricultural sciences/natural resources, biological/biomedical sciences, and health sciences.^b Includes mathematics and computer and information sciences.^c Includes psychology.^d Percentages are based on number reporting definite postgraduation commitments with response to type of plan (employment or postdoctoral study).

SOURCE: NSF/NIH/USED/USDA/NEH/NASA, 2009 Survey of Earned Doctorates.