

TABLE 46

Employment sector of doctorate recipients with definite postgraduation commitments for employment in the United States, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1997–2017

(Number and percent)

Employment commitment, sector, and year	Total	Life sciences <sup>a</sup>	Physical sciences and earth sciences	Mathematics and computer sciences	Psychology and social sciences	Engineering	Education	Humanities and arts	Other <sup>b</sup>
All U.S. employment commitments (number)									
1997	16,065	1,774	1,124	850	2,781	2,491	3,674	2,205	1,166
2002	16,287	1,966	1,052	738	2,936	2,064	3,733	2,598	1,200
2007	16,990	1,958	975	1,253	2,745	2,727	3,638	2,274	1,420
2012	15,376	1,988	939	1,225	2,675	2,679	2,474	2,108	1,288
2017	17,743	2,691	1,404	1,583	3,008	3,162	2,459	1,895	1,541
Academe (%) <sup>c</sup>									
1997	45.8	45.0	21.9	38.6	50.0	12.8	46.4	77.7	72.9
2002	52.3	48.7	23.7	53.8	57.9	16.5	48.4	81.6	78.7
2007	51.1	47.7	26.8	42.1	61.3	13.3	51.5	84.3	78.5
2012	50.5	46.1	28.1	35.8	59.9	13.5	57.9	81.4	80.4
2017	46.4	40.6	23.6	31.0	57.2	13.5	60.5	77.2	79.7
Government (%) <sup>c</sup>									
1997	7.3	10.9	10.4	4.7	10.6	10.4	4.8	1.8	4.9
2002	7.3	13.2	8.5	5.3	10.9	9.7	4.5	2.4	4.7
2007	6.0	11.6	8.7	2.9	9.7	7.2	3.4	1.7	3.6
2012	7.3	11.7	9.5	5.0	11.1	9.2	3.4	2.0	5.0
2017	7.2	10.3	8.7	4.0	11.0	8.7	3.7	2.6	4.7
Industry or business (%) <sup>c,d</sup>									
1997	26.7	22.6	58.8	49.4	18.6	72.2	5.8	5.5	13.7
2002	24.0	28.3	63.4	37.4	16.9	71.0	5.3	4.7	11.3
2007	27.1	28.5	58.1	51.0	14.4	75.4	4.3	3.4	10.9
2012	29.1	28.8	58.5	55.1	15.3	72.9	4.8	D	D
2017	34.7	37.6	62.2	60.5	19.6	73.6	5.4	5.5	10.6
Nonprofit organization (%) <sup>c</sup>									
1997	5.6	5.7	2.6	1.9	11.5	2.4	4.5	7.7	4.0
2002	5.7	7.5	3.0	2.6	9.7	2.0	5.1	6.4	4.3
2007	4.4	7.6	3.1	1.9	7.8	2.0	3.4	4.5	3.5
2012	5.6	10.3	1.9	2.4	8.1	2.9	5.6	6.3	2.9
2017	6.3	9.6	3.6	3.2	8.6	3.6	6.1	9.0	3.9
Other or unknown (%) <sup>c,e</sup>									
1997	14.5	15.7	6.3	5.4	9.2	2.2	38.5	7.3	4.5
2002	10.6	2.3	1.4	0.9	4.6	0.7	36.7	4.8	1.0
2007	11.4	4.6	3.4	2.1	6.7	2.0	37.5	6.0	3.5
2012	7.5	3.1	2.0	1.7	5.6	1.5	28.3	D	D
2017	5.4	1.9	2.0	1.3	3.6	0.7	24.3	5.8	1.1

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

<sup>a</sup> Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological and biomedical sciences; and health sciences.

<sup>b</sup> Includes other non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.

<sup>c</sup> Percentages based on number reporting definite employment commitments in the United States.

<sup>d</sup> Includes doctorate recipients who indicated self-employment.

<sup>e</sup> "Other" is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.

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**Note(s)**

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

**Source(s)**

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