

TABLE 59

Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients in physical sciences and earth sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2017

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All physical sciences and earth sciences fields	Chemistry	Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	Physics and astronomy
All doctorate recipients (number) <sup>a</sup>	6,081	2,697	1,165	2,219
Postgraduation status (number) <sup>b</sup>				
Definite postgraduation study	2,174	846	455	873
Definite employment	1,498	708	281	509
Seeking employment or study	1,809	856	321	632
Other <sup>c</sup>	139	72	23	44
Definite postgraduation study (%) <sup>d</sup>				
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	98.1	98.0	98.7	97.8
Other or unknown <sup>e</sup>	1.9	2.0	1.3	2.2
Definite employment (%) <sup>f</sup>				
Academe	25.7	25.1	33.8	22.0
Government	8.9	4.2	27.4	5.3
Industry or business <sup>g</sup>	59.7	66.4	32.4	65.6
Nonprofit organization	3.6	2.4	3.6	5.3
Other or unknown <sup>h</sup>	2.0	1.8	2.8	1.8
Primary activity <sup>i</sup>				
R&D	62.1	64.7	49.6	65.4
Teaching	19.8	20.5	24.3	16.1
Management or administration	3.5	4.4	D	D
Professional services	8.7	6.8	9.9	10.8
Other	5.9	3.5	D	D
Secondary activity <sup>j</sup>				
R&D	16.6	14.3	26.1	14.3
Teaching	4.6	3.7	9.2	3.3
Management or administration	14.2	18.5	12.9	9.1
Professional services	4.0	3.4	4.0	4.8
Other	3.0	2.8	2.2	3.7
No secondary activity	57.7	57.5	45.6	64.8
Activity unknown	4.3	4.2	3.2	5.1
Postgraduation location (%) <sup>k</sup>				
United States <sup>l</sup>	89.1	92.9	86.7	86.0
New England	10.0	10.7	9.8	9.3
Middle Atlantic	11.2	11.7	7.7	12.5
East North Central	12.1	15.4	5.0	12.2
West North Central	3.7	4.8	3.1	2.7
South Atlantic	13.7	12.8	17.1	12.9
East South Central	2.4	3.7	1.0	1.7
West South Central	5.7	5.3	9.6	3.9
Mountain	6.5	4.3	9.6	7.2
Pacific and insular	23.2	23.2	23.4	23.1
Not in United States	10.9	7.1	13.2	14.0
Location unknown	0.1	0.1	0.1	0
Male doctorate recipients (number)	4,068	1,669	645	1,754
Postgraduation status (number) <sup>b</sup>				
Definite postgraduation study	1,537	579	261	697
Definite employment	990	409	165	416

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Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients in physical sciences and earth sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2017

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All physical sciences and earth sciences fields	Chemistry	Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	Physics and astronomy
Seeking employment or study	1,176	508	168	500
Other <sup>c</sup>	84	46	9	29
Definite postgraduation study (%) <sup>d</sup>				
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	98.1	98.4	98.1	97.8
Other or unknown <sup>e</sup>	1.9	1.6	1.9	2.2
Definite employment (%) <sup>f</sup>				
Academe	23.9	23.5	33.9	20.4
Government	8.4	3.7	D	D
Industry or business <sup>g</sup>	62.2	68.7	32.7	67.5
Nonprofit organization	3.6	2.7	D	D
Other or unknown <sup>h</sup>	1.8	1.5	3.0	1.7
Primary activity <sup>i</sup>				
R&D	65.0	66.2	53.8	68.4
Teaching	18.1	19.7	23.8	14.2
Management or administration	2.9	4.6	D	D
Professional services	8.7	6.4	10.6	10.2
Other	5.3	3.1	D	D
Secondary activity <sup>j</sup>				
R&D	15.6	13.8	24.4	13.7
Teaching	4.6	4.4	D	D
Management or administration	15.3	22.1	13.8	9.2
Professional services	4.5	3.6	D	D
Other	2.8	2.3	1.9	3.6
No secondary activity	57.4	53.8	45.6	65.6
Activity unknown	4.7	4.6	3.0	5.5
Postgraduation location (%) <sup>k</sup>				
United States <sup>l</sup>	89.0	92.9	88.0	86.0
New England	9.5	10.0	10.6	8.6
Middle Atlantic	11.2	10.6	7.7	13.1
East North Central	12.7	16.5	5.6	11.9
West North Central	3.7	4.4	D	D
South Atlantic	12.9	12.4	15.3	12.5
East South Central	2.4	3.6	D	D
West South Central	5.7	5.4	10.8	4.1
Mountain	6.7	4.5	10.1	7.4
Pacific and insular	23.5	24.7	22.1	23.1
Not in United States	11.0	7.1	12.0	14.0
Location unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Female doctorate recipients (number)	2,011	1,026	520	465
Postgraduation status (number) <sup>b</sup>				
Definite postgraduation study	637	267	194	176
Definite employment	507	298	116	93
Seeking employment or study	633	348	153	132
Other <sup>c</sup>	55	26	14	15

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(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All physical sciences and earth sciences fields	Chemistry	Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	Physics and astronomy
Definite postgraduation study (%) <sup>d</sup>				
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	98.0	97.0	99.5	97.7
Other or unknown <sup>e</sup>	2.0	3.0	0.5	2.3
Definite employment (%) <sup>f</sup>				
Academe	29.0	27.2	33.6	29.0
Government	10.1	5.0	D	D
Industry or business <sup>g</sup>	55.0	63.4	31.9	57.0
Nonprofit organization	3.6	2.0	D	D
Other or unknown <sup>h</sup>	2.4	2.3	2.6	2.2
Primary activity <sup>i</sup>				
R&D	56.6	62.9	43.8	52.2
Teaching	22.7	21.3	25.0	24.4
Management or administration	4.7	4.2	D	D
Professional services	8.8	7.3	8.9	13.3
Other	7.2	4.2	D	D
Secondary activity <sup>j</sup>				
R&D	18.2	14.7	28.6	16.7
Teaching	4.7	2.8	D	D
Management or administration	12.3	13.6	11.6	8.9
Professional services	3.1	3.1	D	D
Other	3.5	3.5	2.7	4.4
No secondary activity	58.4	62.6	45.5	61.1
Activity unknown	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.2
Postgraduation location (%) <sup>k</sup>				
United States <sup>l</sup>	89.2	92.9	84.8	86.2
New England	11.0	11.9	8.7	11.9
Middle Atlantic	11.2	13.6	7.7	10.0
East North Central	10.8	13.5	4.2	13.0
West North Central	3.7	5.7	D	D
South Atlantic	15.4	13.5	19.7	14.5
East South Central	2.4	3.9	D	D
West South Central	5.5	5.3	8.1	3.0
Mountain	6.0	4.1	9.0	6.7
Pacific and insular	22.5	20.7	25.2	23.0
Not in United States	10.7	6.9	14.8	13.8
Location unknown	0.2	0.2	0.3	0

\* = value < 0.05%; D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

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Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients in physical sciences and earth sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2017

(Number and percent)

<sup>a</sup> Includes respondents who did not report sex.

<sup>b</sup> Includes only respondents who reported postgraduation status.

<sup>c</sup> Includes respondents who indicated that they did not plan to work or study, respondents who indicated some other type of postgraduation plans, and respondents who indicated definite plans for other full-time degree program.

<sup>d</sup> Excludes respondents who indicated plans for other full-time degree program. Percentages based on the number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for study.

<sup>e</sup> "Other" includes respondents who indicated definite postgraduation study plans for traineeship, internship or clinical residency, or other study.

<sup>f</sup> Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment.

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

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

<sup>i</sup> Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and primary work activity.

<sup>j</sup> Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and secondary work activity.

<sup>k</sup> Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans and type of plans.

<sup>l</sup> Includes cases with an unknown U.S. region of employment after doctorate; see technical notes for states or territories included in regions.

**Note(s)**

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100. See table A-6 in the technical notes for a listing of major fields and their constituent subfields.

**Source(s)**

National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates, 2017.