

TABLE 46

Employment sector of doctorate recipients with definite postgraduation commitments for employment in the United States, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1998–2018

(Number and percent)

Employment commitment, sector, and year	Total	Life sciences ^a	Physical sciences and earth sciences	Mathematics and computer sciences	Psychology and social sciences	Engineering	Education	Humanities and arts	Other ^b
All U.S. employment commitments (number)									
1998	16,603	1,817	1,204	917	2,881	2,586	3,678	2,305	1,215
2003	15,636	1,755	970	725	2,889	1,744	3,829	2,564	1,160
2008	17,273	1,995	1,021	1,219	2,835	2,805	3,760	2,148	1,490
2013	15,033	1,971	965	1,310	2,639	2,595	2,321	1,932	1,300
2018	18,922	2,817	1,515	1,721	3,072	3,626	2,656	1,993	1,522
Academe (%) ^c									
1998	45.7	41.8	19.8	43.9	51.4	11.5	46.5	78.6	72.8
2003	54.4	50.7	25.8	63.6	58.2	21.7	48.5	81.4	77.5
2008	51.1	48.6	26.0	39.7	62.4	15.1	50.8	85.1	78.9
2013	50.2	46.2	24.5	35.2	60.0	13.6	58.6	82.2	81.3
2018	43.2	39.7	18.7	30.8	54.5	12.9	55.3	74.5	75.4
Government (%) ^c									
1998	7.1	11.1	7.4	6.1	10.8	10.8	4.1	1.8	4.8
2003	7.5	13.4	11.9	5.7	9.8	12.6	4.4	1.7	5.8
2008	6.2	12.0	8.3	3.6	9.5	7.3	3.7	1.8	3.7
2013	7.5	12.3	9.3	4.1	11.9	9.5	3.2	2.3	4.8
2018	6.8	9.3	7.1	4.1	10.4	7.5	4.7	2.8	5.2
Industry or business (%) ^{c,d}									
1998	28.7	28.6	66.1	44.8	19.0	73.7	6.9	7.3	14.0
2003	20.8	25.0	58.4	28.7	17.2	62.7	4.7	5.2	11.4
2008	27.0	28.1	59.2	53.1	14.1	73.7	4.0	3.1	11.7
2013	30.1	29.3	62.2	57.0	15.1	73.2	4.5	4.5	8.2
2018	36.8	37.5	67.7	61.2	21.2	74.4	6.5	6.9	11.6
Nonprofit organization (%) ^c									
1998	5.3	6.8	1.5	1.6	10.5	2.2	4.8	5.1	5.1
2003	6.0	8.5	2.9	2.1	9.8	2.5	4.4	7.7	4.0
2008	4.7	7.5	2.9	1.8	8.3	2.4	4.1	4.8	2.9
2013	5.6	9.3	2.1	2.3	9.2	2.9	5.1	5.8	4.0
2018	6.4	10.0	3.2	2.4	8.6	3.4	7.9	8.3	4.3
Other or unknown (%) ^{c,e}									
1998	13.1	11.7	5.2	3.5	8.3	1.8	37.6	7.2	3.3

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2003	11.4	2.3	1.1	0.0	5.0	0.5	38.0	4.1	1.4
2008	11.0	3.8	3.6	1.8	5.7	1.5	37.4	5.2	2.8
2013	6.6	2.8	2.0	1.4	3.8	0.7	28.5	5.2	1.8
2018	6.8	3.5	3.4	1.5	5.5	1.8	25.6	7.5	3.5

^a Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological and biomedical sciences; and health sciences.^b Includes other non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.^c Percentages based on number reporting definite employment commitments in the United States.^d Includes doctorate recipients who indicated self-employment.^e "Other" is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.**Note(s)**

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

Source(s)

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