

Table 1**Importance of holding a postdoc to early career doctorates, by origin of doctoral degree, postdoc status, and field of doctoral degree: 2017**

(Number)

Selected characteristic	Early career doctorates	Importance of postdoc for career development			Undecided on career track
		Extremely or very important	Moderately or slightly important	Not important	
All early career doctorates	186,700	75,600	55,200	49,600	6,400
Origin of doctoral degree					
U.S. doctorate	161,800	57,300	51,200	48,000	5,400
Non-U.S. doctorate	24,900	18,300	4,000	1,600	1,000
Postdoc status					
Did not report a postdoc	104,600	15,400	38,000	47,500	3,700
Ever held a postdoc	82,200	60,200	17,100	2,100	2,700
Sample position is a postdoc	36,400	28,300	5,600	700	1,900
Sample position is not a postdoc	45,700	31,800	11,600	1,500	900
Field of doctoral degree					
Science and engineering	112,600	61,400	30,900	16,500	3,800
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	28,900	20,900	5,200	1,500	1,300
Agricultural and environmental life sciences	3,900	2,300	1,200	200	300
Biological and biomedical sciences	24,900	18,700	4,000	1,300	1,000
Engineering	17,200	8,500	5,800	2,400	600
Mathematics and computer sciences	12,100	5,500	3,800	2,400	400
Computer and information sciences	5,900	2,100	2,000	1,600	200
Mathematics and statistics	6,200	3,400	1,900	800	S
Multidisciplinary fields and science and engineering related fields	2,600	1,600	500	500	D
Physical sciences, geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	20,600	15,400	3,300	1,300	600
Psychology and social sciences	31,200	9,500	12,300	8,400	1,000
Psychology	8,700	4,400	2,700	1,400	200
Social sciences	22,400	5,100	9,600	7,000	700
Health	13,400	4,500	4,200	4,300	500
Non-science and engineering	60,700	9,700	20,100	28,900	2,100
Education	21,100	3,200	5,900	11,100	900
Humanities	15,700	3,000	6,700	5,300	700
Other non-science and engineering	23,900	3,500	7,500	12,500	500

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information. S = suppressed for reliability; coefficient of variation exceeds publication standards.

Note(s):

Counts are rounded to the nearest 100. Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Early Career Doctorates Survey, 2017.