

**Table 42****Postgraduation commitment of doctorate recipients, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1990–2020**

(Number and percent)

Commitment status and year	All fields	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 doctorate recipients (number)									
1990	36,065	6,655	4,212	1,597	6,331	4,894	6,509	3,854	2,013
1995	41,747	7,998	4,540	2,187	6,930	6,008	6,648	5,040	2,396
2000	41,369	8,622	4,071	1,910	7,452	5,323	6,442	5,462	2,087
2005	43,385	9,310	4,359	2,334	7,149	6,426	6,227	5,187	2,393
2010	48,028	11,319	4,995	3,223	7,882	7,578	5,287	5,015	2,729
2015	54,886	12,493	5,916	3,818	9,073	9,875	5,098	5,594	3,019
2020	55,283	12,561	6,247	4,392	8,946	10,476	4,716	4,939	3,006
All responses to postgraduation commitment									
1990	32,708	6,122	3,804	1,425	5,708	4,304	5,993	3,535	1,817
1995	37,977	7,314	4,148	2,007	6,303	5,385	5,998	4,649	2,173
2000	37,743	8,008	3,717	1,759	6,718	4,830	5,795	5,035	1,881
2005	38,913	8,500	3,992	2,099	6,372	5,774	5,477	4,617	2,082
2010	43,833	10,479	4,602	2,940	7,115	6,963	4,745	4,573	2,416
2015	49,002	11,386	5,350	3,404	7,891	8,871	4,521	4,972	2,607
2020	50,505	11,714	5,808	4,041	8,009	9,661	4,287	4,384	2,601
Definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral study (%) <sup>c</sup>									
1990	71.6	74.6	74.0	70.1	69.1	65.9	74.6	66.7	78.5
1995	65.8	70.3	64.8	63.5	65.0	57.0	72.9	59.1	73.1
2000	71.2	72.4	73.6	76.0	69.8	69.9	75.2	61.7	78.1
2005	70.5	70.6	71.7	74.6	73.0	64.6	73.9	64.5	75.9
2010	68.1	65.9	72.0	71.5	71.4	65.4	70.7	60.1	73.8
2015	62.0	58.7	61.1	69.8	68.5	58.2	64.5	54.8	71.1
2020	70.0	66.6	69.7	76.4	75.6	68.4	72.5	59.4	77.2
No definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral study (%) <sup>c,d</sup>									
1990	28.4	25.4	26.0	29.9	30.9	34.1	25.4	33.3	21.5
1995	34.2	29.7	35.2	36.5	35.0	43.0	27.1	40.9	26.9
2000	28.8	27.6	26.4	24.0	30.2	30.1	24.8	38.3	21.9
2005	29.5	29.4	28.3	25.4	27.0	35.4	26.1	35.5	24.1
2010	31.9	34.1	28.0	28.5	28.6	34.6	29.3	39.9	26.2
2015	38.0	41.3	38.9	30.2	31.5	41.8	35.5	45.2	28.9
2020	30.0	33.4	30.3	23.6	24.4	31.6	27.5	40.6	22.8

<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 responding to the survey item on postgraduation commitment.<sup>d</sup> Includes respondents who indicated "other" in all years, respondents who indicated "do not plan to work or study" in 2004 and later years, and respondents who indicated definite plans for "other full-time degree program" in 2007 and later years.**Source(s):**

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