

Table 44**Postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients with definite commitments, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1990–2020**

(Number and percent)

Definite commitment, plan, and year	All fields	Life sciences ^a	Physical sciences and earth sciences	Mathematics and computer sciences	Psychology and social sciences	Engineering	Education	Humanities and arts	Other ^b
All definite commitments (number)									
1990	23,412	4,566	2,815	999	3,943	2,835	4,470	2,358	1,426
1995	24,977	5,141	2,686	1,275	4,095	3,068	4,374	2,749	1,589
2000	26,868	5,797	2,736	1,337	4,692	3,374	4,355	3,107	1,470
2005	27,416	5,999	2,863	1,565	4,649	3,732	4,049	2,979	1,580
2010	29,841	6,908	3,314	2,102	5,077	4,551	3,357	2,748	1,784
2015	30,385	6,680	3,267	2,375	5,404	5,163	2,917	2,726	1,853
2020	35,332	7,804	4,050	3,088	6,056	6,611	3,110	2,606	2,007
Reported type of plan									
1990	23,298	4,557	2,812	998	3,920	2,822	4,428	2,337	1,424
1995	24,821	5,126	2,677	1,265	4,063	3,060	4,328	2,721	1,581
2000	26,744	5,765	2,724	1,332	4,676	3,358	4,329	3,096	1,464
2005	27,086	5,906	2,847	1,556	4,594	3,702	3,978	2,943	1,560
2010	28,995	6,768	3,268	2,063	4,900	4,445	3,213	2,644	1,694
2015	27,787	6,155	3,088	2,206	4,949	4,754	2,612	2,405	1,618
2020	35,289	7,784	4,047	3,088	6,042	6,607	3,110	2,604	2,007
Employment (%) ^c									
1990	73.6	37.5	43.6	79.3	84.5	80.7	96.0	94.2	96.3
1995	70.3	35.6	35.2	75.7	78.7	75.1	96.1	93.0	96.5
2000	71.4	39.8	44.0	76.6	76.2	78.9	95.2	91.9	95.4
2005	64.5	33.1	33.3	65.4	70.7	67.2	93.8	88.9	94.4
2010	57.1	30.0	26.9	57.7	65.6	54.9	93.2	84.7	92.1
2015	60.3	36.7	35.8	66.3	62.6	64.4	91.2	79.8	91.1
2020	61.6	43.1	41.3	70.7	59.5	64.7	90.2	79.5	89.3
Postdoctoral study (%) ^c									
1990	26.4	62.5	56.4	20.7	15.5	19.3	4.0	5.8	3.7
1995	29.7	64.4	64.8	24.3	21.3	24.9	3.9	7.0	3.5
2000	28.6	60.2	56.0	23.4	23.8	21.1	4.8	8.1	4.6
2005	35.5	66.9	66.7	34.6	29.3	32.8	6.2	11.1	5.6
2010	42.9	70.0	73.1	42.3	34.4	45.1	6.8	15.3	7.9
2015	39.7	63.3	64.2	33.7	37.4	35.6	8.8	20.2	8.9
2020	38.4	56.9	58.7	29.3	40.5	35.3	9.8	20.5	10.7

^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 postgraduation commitments with response to type of plan (employment or postdoctoral study).**Source(s):**

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