

**Table 55****Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients, by sex and broad field of study: 2020**

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	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) <sup>c</sup>	55,283	12,561	6,247	4,392	8,946	10,476	4,716	4,939	3,006
Postgraduation status (number) <sup>d</sup>									
Definite postgraduation study	13,546	4,432	2,374	906	2,450	2,332	305	533	214
Definite employment	21,743	3,352	1,673	2,182	3,592	4,275	2,805	2,071	1,793
Seeking employment or study	13,677	3,313	1,645	886	1,765	2,875	1,050	1,612	531
Other <sup>e</sup>	1,496	597	113	67	188	175	127	166	63
Definite postgraduation study (%) <sup>f</sup>									
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	94.1	93.2	97.9	95.7	90.0	95.7	92.5	94.7	95.3
Other or unknown <sup>g</sup>	5.9	6.8	2.1	4.3	10.0	4.3	7.5	5.3	4.7
Definite employment (%) <sup>h</sup>									
Academe	41.9	39.0	17.9	29.5	53.1	14.1	55.9	70.4	73.2
Government	8.0	10.7	10.1	4.3	12.6	8.8	4.1	3.1	6.6
Industry or business <sup>i</sup>	37.9	39.4	67.1	61.9	20.3	72.6	7.4	7.3	13.7
Nonprofit organization	5.9	8.0	3.0	1.8	9.2	3.1	6.4	10.8	3.8
Other or unknown <sup>j</sup>	6.3	3.0	1.9	2.4	4.8	1.5	26.2	8.5	2.7
Primary activity <sup>k</sup>									
R&D	46.5	46.2	70.8	69.5	38.1	74.3	12.8	9.7	41.0
Teaching	28.8	25.2	12.7	20.2	33.7	7.8	40.2	67.5	38.9
Management or administration	10.1	9.1	3.7	2.0	8.5	3.6	33.0	10.6	10.9
Professional services	14.0	18.9	11.9	7.9	19.1	13.7	13.5	11.7	8.8
Other	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Secondary activity <sup>l</sup>									
R&D	23.3	25.6	12.8	17.3	29.5	12.0	25.6	34.8	34.3
Teaching	14.3	10.8	3.0	10.1	19.6	6.4	20.1	12.9	36.8
Management or administration	10.3	13.9	14.1	5.7	9.7	12.1	9.4	9.1	4.8
Professional services	6.5	7.2	5.4	5.4	7.8	6.2	7.2	6.5	4.8
Other	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.2
No secondary activity	45.1	41.8	64.1	60.8	32.9	62.8	37.0	36.3	19.2
Activity unknown	5.4	6.3	5.2	4.6	5.5	4.8	5.5	5.8	5.5
Postgraduation location (%) <sup>m</sup>									
United States <sup>n</sup>	90.2	91.7	90.1	88.1	89.4	90.6	93.5	89.1	86.0
New England	8.6	10.9	9.9	6.9	9.1	8.0	4.5	8.1	6.9
Middle Atlantic	12.2	12.4	11.3	13.6	14.1	9.1	10.8	16.4	13.1
East North Central	10.9	10.6	9.7	9.4	10.5	10.8	14.1	11.7	11.9

**Table 55****Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients, by sex and broad field of study: 2020**

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	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>
West North Central	4.7	5.7	3.0	2.7	5.2	3.4	6.4	5.9	5.3
South Atlantic	15.8	17.8	14.3	12.1	17.9	12.6	19.3	14.6	17.6
East South Central	4.0	4.1	2.6	1.8	3.2	3.2	8.4	5.6	5.1
West South Central	7.5	6.6	6.1	5.3	6.9	7.9	11.3	9.2	10.0
Mountain	6.2	5.1	8.5	4.3	5.8	7.6	7.6	4.8	5.0
Pacific and insular	19.7	17.9	24.3	31.0	15.9	27.5	10.8	11.9	9.9
Not in United States	9.7	8.2	9.9	11.8	10.6	9.4	6.5	10.9	14.0
Location unknown	*	*	0.0	0.1	*	0.1	0.0	0.0	*
Male doctorate recipients (number)	29,886	5,553	4,177	3,297	3,588	7,882	1,456	2,516	1,417
Postgraduation status (number) <sup>d</sup>									
Definite postgraduation study	7,447	2,053	1,648	692	841	1,756	81	288	88
Definite employment	11,839	1,440	1,102	1,627	1,602	3,272	892	1,034	870
Seeking employment or study	7,300	1,376	1,055	653	727	2,130	296	823	240
Other <sup>e</sup>	749	305	67	54	65	120	37	79	22
Definite postgraduation study (%) <sup>f</sup>									
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	94.5	91.4	97.9	95.5	92.0	95.9	93.8	93.8	96.6
Other or unknown <sup>g</sup>	5.5	8.6	2.1	4.5	8.0	4.1	6.2	6.3	3.4
Definite employment (%) <sup>h</sup>									
Academe	36.1	36.9	16.0	27.4	52.6	13.5	58.5	65.6	73.3
Government	8.3	10.7	8.6	3.9	14.6	9.2	4.9	3.1	6.4
Industry or business <sup>i</sup>	46.1	43.4	71.2	64.5	20.6	72.9	7.0	9.1	14.3
Nonprofit organization	5.2	6.3	2.7	1.8	8.4	3.0	6.7	13.4	3.6
Other or unknown <sup>j</sup>	4.4	2.7	1.5	2.4	3.8	1.4	22.9	8.8	2.4
Primary activity <sup>k</sup>									
R&D	55.1	52.1	74.8	72.0	43.7	75.8	14.1	9.0	42.4
Teaching	24.4	23.3	10.2	18.5	33.0	7.9	36.4	66.5	39.3
Management or administration	7.9	8.0	3.1	1.9	7.2	3.6	38.6	9.8	9.6
Professional services	12.1	15.9	11.2	7.1	15.5	12.3	10.6	14.2	8.0
Other	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.7
Secondary activity <sup>l</sup>									
R&D	20.7	24.6	11.7	15.8	28.7	12.0	23.8	33.2	35.3
Teaching	13.2	11.4	3.1	10.4	20.5	5.9	22.3	14.7	37.2
Management or administration	10.7	14.4	13.8	6.0	9.7	12.4	10.8	10.0	5.2
Professional services	6.5	7.2	5.2	5.6	8.6	6.5	7.8	6.1	3.8

Table 55

## Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients, by sex and broad field of study: 2020

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	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>
Other	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.2
No secondary activity	48.5	41.7	65.9	61.8	32.1	62.8	34.8	35.5	18.2
Activity unknown	5.5	6.5	5.8	5.2	5.2	4.9	6.2	5.2	6.7
Postgraduation location (%) <sup>m</sup>									
United States <sup>n</sup>	88.6	90.5	89.3	87.5	85.3	89.8	91.9	87.5	82.4
New England	8.3	11.5	9.4	6.6	8.8	7.4	4.2	7.9	6.2
Middle Atlantic	11.6	11.3	10.9	13.5	13.4	9.2	10.7	16.0	12.1
East North Central	10.8	11.3	9.7	9.7	10.0	10.8	14.6	11.3	12.6
West North Central	4.2	6.0	2.6	2.7	4.6	3.3	6.8	6.2	5.1
South Atlantic	14.3	16.2	12.9	11.5	17.8	12.3	19.1	14.6	15.2
East South Central	3.7	4.1	2.6	1.9	3.4	3.3	8.1	5.8	4.9
West South Central	7.2	6.4	6.6	5.1	6.1	7.7	10.7	9.4	9.7
Mountain	6.3	5.4	8.4	4.2	5.4	7.7	7.4	4.0	4.9
Pacific and insular	21.6	17.9	25.7	31.5	15.2	27.5	10.0	11.4	10.2
Not in United States	11.4	9.5	10.7	12.4	14.7	10.1	8.1	12.5	17.5
Location unknown	*	*	0.0	0.1	*	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Female doctorate recipients (number)	25,392	7,007	2,068	1,095	5,358	2,593	3,259	2,423	1,589
Postgraduation status (number) <sup>d</sup>									
Definite postgraduation study	6,099	2,379	726	214	1,609	576	224	245	126
Definite employment	9,904	1,912	571	555	1,990	1,003	1,913	1,037	923
Seeking employment or study	6,377	1,937	590	233	1,038	745	754	789	291
Other <sup>e</sup>	747	292	46	13	123	55	90	87	41
Definite postgraduation study (%) <sup>f</sup>									
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	93.6	94.8	97.7	96.3	88.9	95.0	92.0	95.9	94.4
Other or unknown <sup>g</sup>	6.4	5.2	2.3	3.7	11.1	5.0	8.0	4.1	5.6
Definite employment (%) <sup>h</sup>									
Academe	48.7	40.5	21.5	35.7	53.5	16.1	54.7	75.1	73.1
Government	7.7	10.6	13.0	5.6	10.9	7.6	3.7	3.1	6.7
Industry or business <sup>i</sup>	28.0	36.5	59.2	54.2	20.1	71.5	7.6	5.5	13.1
Nonprofit organization	6.9	9.3	3.7	2.0	9.8	3.3	6.3	8.1	4.1
Other or unknown <sup>j</sup>	8.7	3.2	2.6	2.5	5.7	1.6	27.7	8.2	2.9
Primary activity <sup>k</sup>									
R&D	36.2	41.8	63.3	62.2	33.5	69.6	12.1	10.5	39.8
Teaching	34.0	26.6	17.3	25.0	34.3	7.4	41.9	68.6	38.5
Management or administration	12.8	10.0	4.7	2.2	9.6	3.8	30.4	11.3	12.0

**Table 55****Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients, by sex and broad field of study: 2020**

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	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>
Professional services	16.4	21.2	13.3	10.2	22.1	18.2	14.9	9.2	9.5
Other	0.6	0.5	1.3	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.2
Secondary activity <sup>l</sup>									
R&D	26.4	26.4	15.0	21.7	30.2	11.8	26.5	36.4	33.3
Teaching	15.5	10.3	2.9	9.3	18.9	8.0	19.1	11.0	36.5
Management or administration	9.8	13.5	14.6	5.0	9.6	11.3	8.8	8.2	4.4
Professional services	6.6	7.2	5.7	5.0	7.2	5.4	6.9	6.8	5.7
Other	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.1
No secondary activity	41.1	41.9	60.8	57.8	33.6	62.7	38.1	37.1	20.0
Activity unknown	5.2	6.1	4.0	2.7	5.6	4.6	5.2	6.5	4.3
Postgraduation location (%) <sup>m</sup>									
United States <sup>n</sup>	92.2	92.8	92.0	89.7	92.1	93.0	94.2	90.7	89.3
New England	8.9	10.4	10.8	7.8	9.3	9.9	4.7	8.3	7.5
Middle Atlantic	13.1	13.3	12.0	13.9	14.6	8.6	10.9	16.9	13.9
East North Central	10.9	10.0	9.6	8.3	10.9	10.5	13.8	12.0	11.2
West North Central	5.2	5.5	4.0	2.7	5.7	3.7	6.2	5.6	5.5
South Atlantic	17.6	19.1	17.3	14.0	17.9	13.5	19.4	14.7	19.7
East South Central	4.3	4.1	2.5	1.7	3.1	3.0	8.5	5.5	5.2
West South Central	8.0	6.8	5.0	5.9	7.4	8.6	11.5	9.0	10.2
Mountain	6.1	4.8	8.6	4.8	6.2	7.3	7.6	5.6	5.1
Pacific and insular	17.5	17.9	21.3	29.4	16.4	27.4	11.1	12.5	9.5
Not in United States	7.7	7.2	8.0	10.1	7.9	6.9	5.8	9.3	10.7
Location unknown	*	*	0.0	0.1	*	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

\* = value between 0.00% and 0.05%.

<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> Includes respondents who did not report sex.<sup>d</sup> Includes only respondents who reported postgraduation status.<sup>e</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>f</sup> Excludes respondents who indicated plans for other full-time degree program. Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for study.<sup>g</sup> Other includes respondents who indicated definite postgraduation study plans for traineeship, internship or clinical residency, or other study.<sup>h</sup> Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment.<sup>i</sup> Includes doctorate recipients who indicated self-employment.<sup>j</sup> Other is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.<sup>k</sup> Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and primary work activity.<sup>l</sup> Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and secondary work activity.<sup>m</sup> Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans and type of plans.<sup>n</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.

**Source(s):**

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