

Table 57

## Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients in life sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2020

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All life sciences fields	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Health sciences
All doctorate recipients (number) <sup>a</sup>	12,561	1,472	8,418	2,671
Postgraduation status (number) <sup>b</sup>				
Definite postgraduation study	4,432	404	3,448	580
Definite employment	3,352	515	1,733	1,104
Seeking employment or study	3,313	412	2,252	649
Other <sup>c</sup>	597	20	514	63
Definite postgraduation study (%) <sup>d</sup>				
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	93.2	95.8	93.6	89.0
Other or unknown <sup>e</sup>	6.8	4.2	6.4	11.0
Definite employment (%) <sup>f</sup>				
Academe	39.0	41.7	29.2	53.0
Government	10.7	20.4	7.7	10.7
Industry or business <sup>g</sup>	39.4	28.2	54.5	21.0
Nonprofit organization	8.0	6.0	5.7	12.5
Other or unknown <sup>h</sup>	3.0	3.7	2.9	2.8
Primary activity <sup>i</sup>				
R&D	46.2	54.7	54.2	29.9
Teaching	25.2	24.1	16.8	38.6
Management or administration	9.1	8.7	6.5	13.4
Professional services	18.9	11.9	21.9	17.7
Other	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.4
Secondary activity <sup>j</sup>				
R&D	25.6	26.2	17.8	37.5
Teaching	10.8	12.5	6.8	16.2
Management or administration	13.9	17.3	14.6	11.3
Professional services	7.2	8.3	6.3	8.1
Other	0.7	0.2	1.0	0.4
No secondary activity	41.8	35.6	53.6	26.6
Activity unknown	6.3	6.6	6.8	5.3
Postgraduation location (%) <sup>k</sup>				
United States <sup>l</sup>	91.7	83.2	93.7	90.3
New England	10.9	5.7	12.9	7.4
Middle Atlantic	12.4	5.3	13.7	12.2
East North Central	10.6	11.1	10.0	12.2
West North Central	5.7	12.5	4.4	5.8
South Atlantic	17.8	14.1	17.1	21.7
East South Central	4.1	5.7	3.3	5.8
West South Central	6.6	7.7	6.0	8.0
Mountain	5.1	6.1	4.7	5.6
Pacific and insular	17.9	14.0	20.8	11.0
Not in United States	8.2	16.6	6.3	9.6
Location unknown	*	0.1	*	0.1
Male doctorate recipients (number)	5,553	746	3,892	915
Postgraduation status (number) <sup>b</sup>				
Definite postgraduation study	2,053	204	1,629	220
Definite employment	1,440	278	774	388
Seeking employment or study	1,376	203	981	192

**Table 57****Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients in life sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2020**

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All life sciences fields	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Health sciences
Other <sup>c</sup>	305	9	276	20
Definite postgraduation study (%) <sup>d</sup>				
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	91.4	96.6	91.9	82.7
Other or unknown <sup>e</sup>	8.6	3.4	8.1	17.3
Definite employment (%) <sup>f</sup>				
Academe	36.9	42.8	27.5	51.5
Government	10.7	23.0	5.7	11.9
Industry or business <sup>g</sup>	43.4	26.3	58.9	24.7
Nonprofit organization	6.3	3.2	5.3	10.3
Other or unknown <sup>h</sup>	2.7	4.7	2.6	1.5
Primary activity <sup>i</sup>				
R&D	52.1	55.4	58.0	38.6
Teaching	23.3	25.0	15.4	37.2
Management or administration	8.0	10.8	6.3	9.3
Professional services	15.9	8.1	19.3	14.9
Other	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.0
Secondary activity <sup>j</sup>				
R&D	24.6	29.6	16.8	35.9
Teaching	11.4	13.1	7.3	18.1
Management or administration	14.4	18.8	14.1	12.0
Professional services	7.2	7.3	6.8	8.0
Other	0.7	0.0	1.1	0.3
No secondary activity	41.7	31.2	53.9	25.8
Activity unknown	6.5	6.5	8.3	3.1
Postgraduation location (%) <sup>k</sup>				
United States <sup>l</sup>	90.5	79.9	93.5	87.0
New England	11.5	3.7	14.1	7.1
Middle Atlantic	11.3	4.1	12.9	10.4
East North Central	11.3	13.5	10.1	14.1
West North Central	6.0	12.4	4.7	5.8
South Atlantic	16.2	13.3	16.1	18.8
East South Central	4.1	7.1	3.3	5.1
West South Central	6.4	6.8	5.8	8.2
Mountain	5.4	6.0	5.4	5.3
Pacific and insular	17.9	12.0	20.6	11.8
Not in United States	9.5	20.1	6.5	12.8
Location unknown	*	0.0	0.0	0.2
Female doctorate recipients (number)	7,007	725	4,526	1,756
Postgraduation status (number) <sup>b</sup>				
Definite postgraduation study	2,379	200	1,819	360
Definite employment	1,912	237	959	716
Seeking employment or study	1,937	209	1,271	457
Other <sup>c</sup>	292	11	238	43
Definite postgraduation study (%) <sup>d</sup>				
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	94.8	95.0	95.2	92.8
Other or unknown <sup>e</sup>	5.2	5.0	4.8	7.2

**Table 57****Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients in life sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2020**

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All life sciences fields	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Health sciences
Definite employment (%) <sup>f</sup>				
Academe	40.5	40.5	30.6	53.8
Government	10.6	17.3	9.4	10.1
Industry or business <sup>g</sup>	36.5	30.4	51.0	19.0
Nonprofit organization	9.3	9.3	5.9	13.7
Other or unknown <sup>h</sup>	3.2	2.5	3.1	3.5
Primary activity <sup>i</sup>				
R&D	41.8	53.8	51.2	25.1
Teaching	26.6	23.1	17.9	39.4
Management or administration	10.0	6.3	6.6	15.7
Professional services	21.2	16.3	23.9	19.3
Other	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6
Secondary activity <sup>j</sup>				
R&D	26.4	22.2	18.6	38.4
Teaching	10.3	11.8	6.4	15.1
Management or administration	13.5	15.4	15.0	10.9
Professional services	7.2	9.5	5.9	8.2
Other	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.4
No secondary activity	41.9	40.7	53.3	27.0
Activity unknown	6.1	6.8	5.6	6.4
Postgraduation location (%) <sup>k</sup>				
United States <sup>l</sup>	92.8	87.0	93.9	92.2
New England	10.4	7.8	11.9	7.6
Middle Atlantic	13.3	6.6	14.4	13.2
East North Central	10.0	8.5	9.9	11.1
West North Central	5.5	12.6	4.2	5.8
South Atlantic	19.1	15.1	18.0	23.4
East South Central	4.1	4.1	3.4	6.1
West South Central	6.8	8.7	6.1	7.9
Mountain	4.8	6.2	4.1	5.9
Pacific and insular	17.9	16.2	21.1	10.6
Not in United States	7.2	12.8	6.1	7.8
Location unknown	*	0.2	*	0.0

\* = value between 0.00% and 0.05%.

<sup>a</sup> Includes respondents who did not report sex.<sup>b</sup> Includes only respondents who reported postgraduation status.<sup>c</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>d</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>e</sup> Other includes respondents who indicated definite postgraduation study plans for traineeship, internship or clinical residency, or other study.<sup>f</sup> Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment.<sup>g</sup> Includes doctorate recipients who indicated self-employment.<sup>h</sup> Other is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.<sup>i</sup> Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and primary work activity.<sup>j</sup> Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and secondary work activity.<sup>k</sup> Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans and type of plans.<sup>l</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. See table A-6 in the technical notes for a listing of major fields and their constituent subfields.

**Source(s):**

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