

**Table 2-3****Postgraduation plans of research doctorate recipients with definite commitments, by historical broad field of doctorate: Selected years, 1991–2021**

(Number and percent)

Definite commitment, plan, and year	All fields	Science and engineering						Non-science and engineering				
		Total	Life sciences <sup>a</sup>	Physical sciences and earth sciences	Mathematics and computer sciences	Psychology and social sciences	Engineering	Total	Education	Humanities and arts	Other <sup>b</sup>	
All definite commitments (number)												
1991	24,217	15,793	4,798	2,932	1,102	4,090	2,871	8,424	4,462	2,462	1,500	
1996	26,077	17,406	5,435	2,841	1,240	4,235	3,655	8,671	4,484	2,711	1,476	
2001	27,052	18,107	5,630	2,873	1,259	4,702	3,643	8,945	4,215	3,283	1,447	
2006	30,106	20,810	6,474	3,152	1,929	4,902	4,353	9,296	4,226	3,273	1,797	
2011	29,295	21,928	6,684	3,379	2,095	5,077	4,693	7,367	2,893	2,754	1,720	
2016	30,768	23,403	6,942	3,572	2,420	5,449	5,020	7,365	2,991	2,579	1,795	
2021	33,216	26,482	7,603	3,815	3,010	5,682	6,372	6,734	2,701	2,171	1,862	
Reported type of plan												
1991	24,114	15,759	4,788	2,930	1,099	4,081	2,861	8,355	4,419	2,443	1,493	
1996	26,031	17,377	5,427	2,837	1,238	4,226	3,649	8,654	4,477	2,705	1,472	
2001	26,906	18,039	5,612	2,866	1,255	4,677	3,629	8,867	4,183	3,246	1,438	
2006	29,501	20,455	6,334	3,118	1,902	4,809	4,292	9,046	4,107	3,183	1,756	
2011	27,744	20,883	6,367	3,272	2,007	4,796	4,441	6,861	2,721	2,554	1,586	
2016	29,296	22,468	6,658	3,472	2,331	5,160	4,847	6,828	2,789	2,389	1,650	
2021	33,170	26,440	7,586	3,808	3,010	5,671	6,365	6,730	2,700	2,170	1,860	
Employment plans (%) <sup>c</sup>												
1991	72.5	60.3	37.6	41.8	77.3	82.7	78.9	95.5	96.1	93.4	97.0	
1996	70.5	58.0	35.2	39.8	73.7	78.1	77.6	95.7	97.2	92.8	96.4	
2001	71.0	60.3	39.1	47.6	73.0	73.9	81.1	92.7	94.1	90.4	94.1	
2006	66.1	54.3	35.5	35.7	68.5	71.1	70.4	92.9	95.1	89.4	94.1	
2011	57.3	46.9	30.7	30.9	58.9	63.1	59.0	88.8	92.1	83.2	92.1	
2016	61.2	53.3	38.4	38.9	68.1	63.1	66.6	87.3	92.1	78.3	92.1	
2021	58.7	52.2	42.1	37.8	66.6	57.3	61.5	84.0	89.9	74.1	86.8	
Postdoctoral training plans (%) <sup>c</sup>												
1991	27.5	39.7	62.4	58.2	22.7	17.3	21.1	4.5	3.9	6.6	3.0	
1996	29.5	42.0	64.8	60.2	26.3	21.9	22.4	4.3	2.8	7.2	3.6	
2001	29.0	39.7	60.9	52.4	27.0	26.1	18.9	7.3	5.9	9.6	5.9	
2006	33.9	45.7	64.5	64.3	31.5	28.9	29.6	7.1	4.9	10.6	5.9	
2011	42.7	53.1	69.3	69.1	41.1	36.9	41.0	11.2	7.9	16.8	7.9	
2016	38.8	46.7	61.6	61.1	31.9	36.9	33.4	12.7	7.9	21.7	7.9	
2021	41.3	47.8	57.9	62.2	33.4	42.7	38.5	16.0	10.1	25.9	13.2	

<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 reporting definite postgraduation commitments with response to type of plan (employment or postdoctoral study).**Note(s):**

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100. Beginning in 2021, a modified version of the 2020 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes was used in the survey data collection; the historical fields were constructed using the SED-CIP code crosswalk in table A-6. Therefore, the field of doctorate data in 2021 may not be comparable to prior years; see the "Technical Notes" for more information, table A-4 for a summary of SED-CIP codes in the new SED field taxonomy, and table A-5 for a full list of SED-CIP codes in the new field taxonomy.

**Source(s):**

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