

Table 2-4

Postgraduation plans of research doctorate recipients with definite commitments, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, and race: Selected years, 1991–2021

(Number and percent)

Definite commitment, plan, and year	Total ^a	Sex		Citizenship status		U.S. citizens and permanent residents							
		Male	Female	U.S. citizen or permanent resident	Temporary visa holder	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino						Ethnicity not reported
							American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian ^b	Black or African American	White	More than one race	Other race or race not reported ^c	
All definite commitments (number)													
1991	24,217	15,116	9,096	18,929	5,284	564	86	878	720	16,439	na	72	170
1996	26,077	15,623	10,449	20,580	5,481	745	119	2,132	882	16,501	na	119	82
2001	27,052	15,452	11,599	20,380	6,646	895	93	1,441	1,090	16,125	210	217	309
2006	30,106	16,766	13,338	20,805	9,241	1,044	74	1,616	1,199	16,182	328	186	176
2011	29,295	16,075	13,219	20,424	8,716	1,141	74	1,673	1,103	15,631	447	137	218
2016	30,768	16,910	13,857	21,579	9,095	1,430	75	1,738	1,197	16,255	646	141	97
2021	33,216	18,052	15,163	21,362	11,670	1,909	70	2,005	1,571	14,709	768	207	123
Reported type of plan													
1991	24,114	15,053	9,056	18,850	5,260	563	86	872	710	16,377	na	72	170
1996	26,031	15,596	10,430	20,546	5,470	745	119	2,127	881	16,473	na	119	82
2001	26,906	15,381	11,525	20,279	6,608	890	92	1,435	1,086	16,051	209	213	303
2006	29,501	16,465	13,034	20,353	9,100	1,013	73	1,579	1,164	15,863	322	175	164
2011	27,744	15,264	12,479	19,266	8,335	1,057	67	1,560	1,029	14,795	428	130	200
2016	29,296	16,190	13,106	20,442	8,764	1,331	72	1,662	1,121	15,407	617	138	94
2021	33,170	18,029	15,140	21,332	11,656	1,907	70	2,005	1,570	14,684	768	206	122
Employment plans (%) ^d													
1991	72.5	69.8	77.0	75.3	62.5	74.4	77.9	63.2	86.3	75.5	na	63.9	72.4
1996	70.5	68.0	74.3	73.2	60.7	75.2	83.2	55.4	84.9	74.7	na	76.5	65.9
2001	71.0	70.0	72.2	72.7	65.7	72.1	81.5	64.3	77.6	73.0	71.8	74.6	77.9
2006	66.1	64.4	68.3	69.1	59.4	69.7	84.9	58.1	76.8	69.7	63.4	70.9	71.3
2011	57.3	55.9	58.9	60.6	49.7	54.9	71.6	54.7	67.2	61.3	55.6	55.4	59.0
2016	61.2	60.7	61.8	62.9	57.3	58.2	75.0	59.3	71.5	63.2	56.6	67.4	72.3
2021	58.7	58.3	59.0	60.9	54.5	58.6	67.1	58.5	74.6	60.1	57.2	68.9	69.7
Postdoctoral training plans (%) ^d													
1991	27.5	30.2	23.0	24.7	37.5	25.6	22.1	36.8	13.7	24.5	na	36.1	27.6
1996	29.5	32.0	25.7	26.8	39.3	24.8	16.8	44.6	15.1	25.3	na	23.5	34.1
2001	29.0	30.0	27.8	27.3	34.3	27.9	18.5	35.7	22.4	27.0	28.2	25.4	22.1
2006	33.9	35.6	31.7	30.9	40.6	30.3	15.1	41.9	23.2	30.3	36.6	29.1	28.7
2011	42.7	44.1	41.1	39.4	50.3	45.1	28.4	45.3	32.8	38.7	44.4	44.6	41.0
2016	38.8	39.3	38.2	37.1	42.7	41.8	25.0	40.7	28.5	36.8	43.4	32.6	27.7
2021	41.3	41.7	41.0	39.1	45.5	41.4	32.9	41.5	25.4	39.9	42.8	31.1	30.3

na = not applicable; respondents were instructed to indicate only one race.

^a Includes respondents who did not report sex and respondents who did not report citizenship status.^b Includes Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders through 2000 but excludes them since 2001.^c Before 2001, this category included respondents who selected More than one race. Since 2001, this category has included Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders, who previously had been included in the category Asian.^d Percentages based on number reporting definite commitments and type of plan (employment or postdoctoral study).

Note(s):

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

Source(s):

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