

Table 2-6

Employment sector of research doctorate recipients with definite postgraduation commitments for employment in the United States, by historical broad field of doctorate: Selected years, 1991–2021

(Number and percent)

Employment commitment, sector, and year	All fields	Science and engineering						Non-science and engineering				
		Total	Life sciences ^a	Physical sciences and earth sciences	Mathematics and computer sciences	Psychology and social sciences	Engineering	Total	Education	Humanities and arts	Other ^b	
All U.S. employment commitments (number)												
1991	15,465	8,102	1,427	1,092	745	3,007	1,831	7,363	3,997	2,069	1,297	
1996	16,273	8,665	1,542	1,023	806	2,865	2,429	7,608	4,113	2,285	1,210	
2001	17,304	9,660	1,848	1,270	845	3,070	2,627	7,644	3,710	2,712	1,222	
2006	17,681	9,888	1,993	1,026	1,190	2,993	2,686	7,793	3,717	2,631	1,445	
2011	14,167	8,603	1,746	919	1,077	2,586	2,275	5,564	2,369	1,952	1,243	
2016	16,303	10,812	2,300	1,265	1,480	2,841	2,926	5,491	2,435	1,717	1,339	
2021	17,404	12,360	2,908	1,324	1,820	2,774	3,534	5,044	2,286	1,437	1,321	
Academe (%) ^c												
1991	52.1	43.0	51.1	21.0	64.4	52.3	25.8	62.1	46.6	80.2	81.3	
1996	48.8	38.1	51.8	24.8	46.8	53.4	14.1	61.1	46.4	79.2	76.5	
2001	48.4	36.2	45.8	20.2	45.8	54.0	13.4	63.7	49.0	79.1	74.4	
2006	51.1	39.8	47.4	27.7	44.4	59.9	14.3	65.5	51.0	80.8	74.7	
2011	51.8	39.1	48.7	25.8	36.4	60.9	13.6	71.4	57.9	82.5	79.6	
2016	44.6	32.6	38.4	20.0	29.5	54.2	14.0	68.1	58.2	76.3	75.7	
2021	35.9	25.8	30.5	14.9	26.3	43.8	11.6	60.5	53.9	64.7	67.4	
Government (%) ^c												
1991	8.6	11.9	14.8	13.6	4.4	12.3	11.1	5.0	6.6	2.2	4.4	
1996	7.9	10.9	15.2	9.4	4.1	11.3	10.6	4.6	6.4	1.3	4.5	
2001	6.5	8.7	11.6	6.7	4.0	10.4	7.3	3.6	4.5	2.1	4.7	
2006	6.0	8.1	12.0	7.1	4.3	9.5	5.6	3.4	3.8	2.1	4.8	
2011	8.0	11.1	13.3	10.9	7.9	11.1	10.9	3.2	3.2	2.4	4.5	
2016	7.3	9.2	10.4	8.8	3.4	12.3	8.2	3.8	3.8	2.4	5.5	
2021	7.7	8.9	9.1	8.9	3.7	14.5	7.1	4.8	4.2	3.5	7.0	
Industry or business (%) ^{c,d}												
1991	21.1	35.3	25.2	61.6	28.6	17.0	60.3	5.6	5.7	3.5	8.5	
1996	25.9	42.4	24.5	62.6	46.4	17.7	73.0	7.2	6.3	5.0	14.1	
2001	29.4	46.4	33.1	68.3	44.9	20.4	76.0	7.9	6.6	6.5	15.1	
2006	25.0	40.6	25.8	56.4	45.7	13.9	72.9	5.2	3.6	3.8	11.7	
2011	26.9	40.7	26.6	56.4	51.3	13.6	71.1	5.6	4.3	4.4	9.9	
2016	34.6	48.9	37.6	65.8	62.0	19.1	72.9	6.4	4.8	5.1	11.0	
2021	43.2	56.5	48.9	70.3	65.8	27.1	75.8	10.7	8.0	8.8	17.3	
Nonprofit organization (%) ^c												
1991	6.7	7.0	7.1	2.7	2.0	12.5	2.3	6.5	5.6	9.7	4.2	
1996	6.1	6.1	6.7	1.7	1.6	12.2	1.9	6.1	4.5	10.4	3.5	
2001	5.3	5.5	6.5	2.4	2.7	9.8	2.1	5.1	4.4	7.0	3.2	
2006	4.5	4.7	6.2	2.5	1.4	7.7	2.5	4.3	4.3	4.7	3.5	
2011	5.7	6.0	8.7	3.9	2.8	9.2	2.7	5.1	5.4	6.1	3.1	
2016	5.7	5.6	9.2	3.2	2.8	7.9	3.1	5.8	5.4	7.7	4.0	

Table 2-6**Employment sector of research doctorate recipients with definite postgraduation commitments for employment in the United States, by historical broad field of doctorate: Selected years, 1991–2021**

(Number and percent)

Employment commitment, sector, and year	All fields	Science and engineering						Non-science and engineering			
		Total	Life sciences ^a	Physical sciences and earth sciences	Mathematics and computer sciences	Psychology and social sciences	Engineering	Total	Education	Humanities and arts	Other ^b
2021	6.7	6.2	8.7	3.9	2.8	9.9	3.7	8.1	6.5	12.8	5.8
Other or unknown (%) ^{c,e}											
1991	11.4	2.8	1.8	1.0	0.5	5.9	0.4	20.8	35.6	4.4	1.6
1996	11.2	2.5	1.8	1.6	1.1	5.4	0.4	21.1	36.3	4.1	1.3
2001	10.4	3.2	3.0	2.5	2.6	5.4	1.1	19.6	35.5	5.4	2.6
2006	13.4	6.9	8.6	6.2	4.2	9.0	4.7	21.7	37.3	8.6	5.3
2011	7.7	3.1	2.7	3.0	1.6	5.2	1.8	14.7	29.3	4.6	2.8
2016	7.8	3.7	4.4	2.2	2.2	6.4	1.8	15.9	27.8	8.4	3.8
2021	6.5	2.6	2.8	2.0	1.4	4.7	1.8	15.9	27.3	10.1	2.3

^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 employment commitments in the United States.^d Includes doctorate recipients who indicated self-employment.^e Other is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.**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.