

Table 9-7

Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2021

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences fields	Geological and earth sciences	Ocean/ marine sciences and atmospheric science
Doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	981	570	411
Definite postdoctoral training plans	48.5	42.8	56.4
Definite employment plans	25.2	28.6	20.4
Seeking employment or study	25.8	28.1	22.6
Other status ^a	0.5	0.5	0.5
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b			
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	99.2	98.8	99.6
Other training or unknown ^c	0.8	1.2	0.4
Definite employment plans (%) ^d			
Academe	30.0	29.4	31.0
In tenure track faculty position (%)	25.7	D	D
Not in tenure track position (%)	66.2	60.4	76.9
Government	26.7	20.2	39.3
Industry or business ^e	35.2	42.3	21.4
Nonprofit organization	4.9	D	D
Other or unknown ^f	3.2	D	D
Primary activity ^g			
Research and development	52.8	47.1	64.1
Teaching	16.5	17.6	14.1
Management or administration	4.8	D	D
Professional services and other	26.0	D	D
Secondary activity ^g			
Research and development	23.8	28.8	14.1
Teaching	8.2	7.8	9.0
Management or administration	10.0	7.2	15.4
Professional services and other	16.5	17.6	14.1
No secondary activity	41.6	38.6	47.4
Activity unknown	6.5	6.1	7.1
Postgraduation location (%) ^h			
United States ⁱ	88.9	88.0	90.2
Midwest	8.4	10.8	5.4
Northeast	16.2	14.0	19.0
South	27.5	26.0	29.4
West	36.0	36.9	34.8
Outside the United States	11.1	12.0	9.8
Location unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	40.2	39.6	41.1
Male doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	549	338	211
Definite postdoctoral training plans	47.5	41.7	56.9
Definite employment plans	27.0	29.9	22.3
Seeking employment or study	25.1	27.8	20.9
Other status ^a	0.4	0.6	0.0
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b			

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Characteristic	All geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences fields	Geological and earth sciences	Ocean/ marine sciences and atmospheric science
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	99.2	98.6	100.0
Other training or unknown ^c	0.8	1.4	0.0
Definite employment plans (%) ^d			
Academe	25.0	22.8	29.8
In tenure track faculty position (%)	21.6	34.8	0.0
Not in tenure track position (%)	67.6	52.2	92.9
Government	27.7	21.8	40.4
Industry or business ^e	D	45.5	D
Nonprofit organization	D	5.9	D
Other or unknown ^f	4.1	4.0	4.3
Primary activity ^g			
Research and development	56.8	50.5	70.5
Teaching	13.7	13.7	13.6
Management or administration	D	D	0.0
Professional services and other	D	D	15.9
Secondary activity ^g			
Research and development	22.3	26.3	13.6
Teaching	7.2	D	D
Management or administration	D	D	D
Professional services and other	D	D	D
No secondary activity	37.4	37.9	36.4
Activity unknown	6.1	5.9	6.4
Postgraduation location (%) ^h			
United States ⁱ	89.7	89.7	89.8
Midwest	8.3	9.9	6.0
Northeast	13.9	10.7	18.6
South	31.1	28.9	34.1
West	35.5	39.7	29.3
Outside the United States	10.3	10.3	10.2
Location unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	44.0	44.2	43.7
Female doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	432	232	200
Definite postdoctoral training plans	49.8	44.4	56.0
Definite employment plans	22.9	26.7	18.5
Seeking employment or study	26.6	28.4	24.5
Other status ^a	0.7	0.4	1.0
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b			
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	99.1	99.0	99.1
Other training or unknown ^c	0.9	1.0	0.9
Definite employment plans (%) ^d			
Academe	37.4	40.3	32.4
In tenure track faculty position (%)	29.7	D	D
Not in tenure track position (%)	64.9	68.0	58.3

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Characteristic	All geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences fields	Geological and earth sciences	Ocean/ marine sciences and atmospheric science
Government	25.3	17.7	37.8
Industry or business ^e	D	37.1	D
Nonprofit organization	D	D	D
Other or unknown ^f	2.0	D	D
Primary activity ^g			
Research and development	46.7	41.4	55.9
Teaching	20.7	24.1	14.7
Management or administration	D	D	D
Professional services and other	D	D	D
Secondary activity ^g			
Research and development	26.1	32.8	14.7
Teaching	9.8	D	D
Management or administration	D	D	D
Professional services and other	D	D	D
No secondary activity	47.8	39.7	61.8
Activity unknown	7.1	6.5	8.1
Postgraduation location (%) ^h			
United States ⁱ	87.9	85.5	90.6
Midwest	8.6	12.1	4.7
Northeast	19.1	18.8	19.5
South	22.9	21.8	24.2
West	36.6	32.7	40.9
Outside the United States	12.1	14.5	9.4
Location unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	35.4	32.7	38.3

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Includes doctorate recipients reporting: no plans to work or study, some other type of postgraduation plans, or definite plans for other full-time degree program.^b Excludes doctorate recipients reporting plans for other full-time degree program. Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postdoctoral plans for study.^c Other includes doctorate recipients who reported definite postdoctoral plans for traineeship, internship or clinical residency, or other study.^d Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment.^e Includes doctorate recipients reporting self-employment.^f Other is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.^g Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and primary or secondary work activity.^h Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans and type of plans.ⁱ Includes cases with an unknown U.S. region of employment after doctorate, thus the percentages by regions will not sum to the value for United States; see the "Technical Notes" for states or territories included in regions.**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, and the new broad, major, and detailed fields were used in tables reporting only the most recent data year. 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, table A-5 for a full list of SED-CIP codes in the new field taxonomy, and table A-6 for the SED-CIP code crosswalk to the historical field taxonomy.

Source(s):

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