

TABLE 2-6
Employment sector of research doctorate recipients with definite postgraduation commitments for non-postdoc employment in the United States, by trend broad field of doctorate: Selected years, 1993–2023

(Number and percent)

Employment commitment, sector, and year	All fields	Science and engineering										Non-science and engineering					
		Total	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Computer and information sciences	Engineering	Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	Health sciences	Mathematics and statistics	Physical sciences	Psychology	Social sciences	Total	Business	Education	Humanities and arts	Other non-science and engineering
All U.S. employment commitments (number)																	
1993	15,029	7,626	309	657	371	1,660	178	508	370	722	1,474	1,377	7,403	761	4,052	2,075	515
1998	16,603	9,425	331	892	479	2,586	222	594	438	982	1,305	1,596	7,178	713	3,678	2,285	502
2003	15,636	8,098	327	818	400	1,744	198	610	325	772	1,161	1,743	7,538	614	3,829	2,549	546
2008	17,273	9,896	298	984	761	2,805	228	713	458	793	967	1,889	7,377	825	3,760	2,127	665
2013	15,033	9,496	309	921	779	2,595	179	741	531	786	869	1,786	5,537	730	2,321	1,916	570
2018	18,907	12,743	382	1,500	1,007	3,625	239	933	709	1,278	1,016	2,054	6,164	812	2,650	1,996	706
2023	22,462	16,353	484	2,426	1,385	4,943	293	970	814	1,798	1,069	2,171	6,109	880	2,615	1,780	834
Academe (%)																	
1993	51.7	42.3	41.4	45.5	46.9	23.3	34.8	60.6	73.8	18.6	34.5	69.1	61.4	87.5	44.6	82.8	68.0
1998	45.7	33.9	37.2	34.0	33.8	11.5	34.2	56.2	55.0	16.5	36.3	64.1	61.2	78.7	46.5	78.6	64.5
2003	54.4	45.4	41.3	46.2	58.8	21.7	39.9	61.8	69.5	22.2	41.6	69.5	64.0	84.0	48.5	81.3	70.1
2008	51.1	39.7	41.6	43.0	29.6	15.1	35.5	59.2	56.6	23.2	47.3	70.2	66.4	80.4	50.8	85.3	77.0
2013	50.2	37.4	39.5	40.0	23.6	13.6	36.9	56.8	52.2	21.6	45.0	67.3	72.2	84.1	58.6	82.4	77.7
2018	43.2	31.9	36.9	30.9	25.4	12.8	31.8	55.0	38.4	16.3	42.9	60.1	66.4	78.2	55.3	74.4	72.0
2023	34.2	24.2	31.4	22.1	21.6	9.7	26.6	47.8	27.0	11.5	38.3	50.9	60.9	74.3	51.4	68.1	61.3
Government (%)																	
1993	9.1	12.5	19.7	17.2	4.0	13.0	28.1	10.8	4.9	8.7	15.7	9.7	5.6	2.4	7.4	1.8	11.5
1998	7.1	9.9	14.5	10.2	6.5	10.8	9.5	10.4	5.7	6.9	11.9	9.8	3.5	2.9	4.1	1.8	7.4
2003	7.5	11.1	18.0	14.8	6.0	12.6	22.7	9.2	5.2	9.1	11.0	9.0	3.7	3.3	4.4	1.7	8.6
2008	6.2	8.5	18.8	10.9	2.5	7.3	14.9	10.8	5.5	6.4	12.2	8.1	3.1	2.4	3.7	1.7	5.3
2013	7.5	10.0	18.1	10.9	4.1	9.5	18.4	11.7	4.1	7.3	13.0	11.4	3.2	2.6	3.2	2.2	7.5
2018	6.8	8.0	16.2	8.9	3.3	7.5	18.0	7.1	4.9	5.0	9.8	10.5	4.2	3.6	4.8	2.8	7.1
2023	6.8	7.7	13.6	7.1	3.0	6.1	21.8	8.2	5.5	4.9	13.1	12.3	4.4	3.4	4.2	3.1	8.6
Industry or business (%) ^a																	
1993	20.3	34.7	32.7	27.5	46.4	60.2	33.7	16.5	18.6	69.9	23.1	9.7	5.5	8.7	5.3	3.5	9.9
1998	28.7	44.4	39.0	32.3	55.9	73.7	47.3	17.2	32.6	70.4	23.3	15.5	8.2	13.9	6.9	7.2	14.1
2003	20.8	34.6	30.9	28.7	33.0	62.7	32.3	16.7	23.4	65.0	24.2	12.4	5.9	11.4	4.7	5.2	11.4
2008	27.0	43.3	30.9	36.2	64.9	73.7	43.4	15.7	33.4	63.7	18.9	11.6	5.2	13.6	4.0	3.0	9.5
2013	30.1	44.5	34.3	38.4	68.8	73.2	36.9	15.9	39.7	67.9	22.1	11.6	5.3	9.9	4.5	4.4	6.0
2018	36.8	50.9	36.9	49.1	67.7	74.5	40.6	18.9	52.2	72.7	27.9	17.9	7.8	13.1	6.4	6.9	9.9
2023	46.7	59.9	43.8	61.6	70.3	79.6	42.3	27.6	62.7	79.4	33.2	23.1	11.4	17.3	9.6	9.0	15.7
Nonprofit organization (%)																	
1993	6.0	6.7	3.9	7.2	1.6	2.7	D	8.9	D	1.5	17.1	6.2	5.3	0.8	4.5	7.8	8.3
1998	5.3	5.5	5.7	4.7	1.5	2.2	3.2	10.6	1.8	1.1	15.9	6.0	4.9	2.1	4.8	5.1	9.4

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Employment commitment, sector, and year	All fields	Science and engineering											Non-science and engineering				
		Total	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Computer and information sciences	Engineering	Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	Health sciences	Mathematics and statistics	Physical sciences	Psychology	Social sciences	Total	Business	Education	Humanities and arts	Other non-science and engineering
2003	6.0	6.4	8.0	6.8	2.3	2.5	3.5	11.1	1.8	2.7	14.6	6.5	5.5	1.1	4.4	7.7	7.1
2008	4.7	5.1	5.0	6.3	1.4	2.4	2.6	10.2	2.4	3.0	11.4	6.7	4.1	1.3	4.1	4.8	4.8
2013	5.6	5.8	7.1	6.7	2.1	2.9	3.9	13.4	2.6	1.7	13.1	7.3	5.1	2.1	5.1	5.8	6.5
2018	6.4	6.0	6.5	7.7	2.4	3.4	5.4	15.2	2.5	2.7	10.5	7.6	7.2	2.3	7.9	8.4	6.8
2023	6.5	5.9	7.6	7.3	3.3	3.3	6.1	13.0	2.8	2.8	10.3	10.0	8.1	2.5	7.8	10.9	8.9
Other or unknown (%) ^b																	
1993	12.9	3.8	2.3	2.6	1.1	0.8	D	3.1	D	1.2	9.5	5.3	22.2	0.7	38.2	4.0	2.3
1998	13.1	6.3	3.6	18.8	2.3	1.8	5.9	5.6	4.8	5.1	12.6	4.6	22.1	2.4	37.6	7.2	4.6
2003	11.4	2.5	1.8	3.4	0.0	0.5	1.5	1.1	0.0	1.0	8.5	2.6	20.9	0.2	38.0	4.1	2.7
2008	11.0	3.4	3.7	3.7	1.6	1.5	3.5	4.1	2.2	3.7	10.2	3.3	21.1	2.3	37.4	5.2	3.5
2013	6.6	2.2	1.0	4.0	1.4	0.7	3.9	2.2	1.3	1.5	6.8	2.4	14.2	1.4	28.5	5.2	2.3
2018	6.8	3.2	3.4	3.3	1.2	1.8	4.2	3.9	2.0	3.3	8.9	3.8	14.3	2.8	25.7	7.5	4.2
2023	5.8	2.2	3.5	1.8	1.8	1.3	3.1	3.3	2.0	1.4	5.1	3.6	15.2	2.5	27.0	8.8	5.5

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Industry or business includes self-employment.^b Other is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.**Note(s):**

Percentages are based on the number of definite employment commitments in the United States. A definite postgraduation commitment for employment includes accepting new employment or returning to predoctoral employment that is not a postdoctoral study (postdoc) position. 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 trend fields were constructed using the SED-CIP code crosswalk in table A-6. Therefore, the field of doctorate data prior to 2021 may not be comparable to subsequent years. For more information about the field taxonomy changes, see the "Technical Notes."

Source(s):

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