

**Table 2-1. Postgraduation commitment of research doctorate recipients, by trend broad field of doctorate: Selected years, 1994–2024**

(Number and percent)

Commitment status 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 doctorate recipients (number)																		
1994	41,034	27,331	1,357	5,371	903	5,820	791	1,072	1,118	3,949	3,379	3,571	13,703	1,283	6,711	4,668	1,041	
1999	41,101	27,198	1,266	5,760	856	5,330	723	1,179	1,083	3,562	3,668	3,771	13,903	1,109	6,554	5,223	1,017	
2004	42,122	27,842	1,209	6,185	948	5,776	686	1,419	1,076	3,337	3,327	3,879	14,280	1,256	6,635	5,197	1,192	
2009	49,552	35,369	1,343	8,335	1,610	7,642	877	1,725	1,553	4,283	3,472	4,529	14,183	1,405	6,528	4,848	1,402	
2014	53,986	40,708	1,380	8,868	1,988	9,626	1,098	2,236	1,874	4,812	3,724	5,102	13,278	1,584	4,789	5,446	1,459	
2019	55,598	42,897	1,538	8,678	2,220	10,298	1,272	2,532	2,010	5,306	3,909	5,134	12,701	1,528	4,628	5,051	1,494	
2024	58,131	45,929	1,478	9,700	2,982	11,169	1,229	2,509	2,093	5,401	4,083	5,285	12,202	1,400	4,534	4,491	1,777	
All postgraduation commitments (number)																		
1994	37,640	25,081	1,245	5,006	842	5,287	737	951	1,038	3,636	3,050	3,289	12,559	1,185	6,078	4,344	952	
1999	37,198	24,778	1,163	5,389	784	4,863	676	1,045	1,004	3,225	3,195	3,434	12,420	988	5,796	4,771	865	
2004	37,931	25,311	1,067	5,727	859	5,282	644	1,261	1,009	3,084	2,814	3,564	12,620	1,058	5,777	4,736	1,049	
2009	44,926	32,217	1,219	7,734	1,461	6,992	819	1,532	1,436	3,900	2,986	4,138	12,709	1,217	5,871	4,375	1,246	
2014	48,214	36,529	1,259	8,049	1,799	8,679	1,022	1,996	1,684	4,319	3,125	4,597	11,685	1,358	4,227	4,858	1,242	
2019	50,847	39,485	1,418	8,224	2,044	9,451	1,198	2,279	1,852	4,933	3,372	4,714	11,362	1,356	4,216	4,523	1,267	
2024	52,265	41,567	1,350	8,981	2,617	10,043	1,136	2,217	1,914	4,983	3,480	4,846	10,698	1,211	4,036	3,946	1,505	
Definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral training (%)																		
1994	66.3	65.2	61.7	74.3	65.4	55.9	66.2	69.2	58.8	66.1	69.6	62.9	68.5	75.3	73.3	59.1	71.5	
1999	69.9	70.3	66.7	73.7	73.7	67.7	70.7	72.4	72.0	73.4	67.9	67.1	69.2	80.6	74.1	60.5	71.2	
2004	70.0	69.7	67.5	71.6	70.2	63.6	70.8	72.6	75.0	70.8	72.2	70.2	70.8	81.1	74.6	63.6	72.0	
2009	69.5	69.4	68.2	65.9	72.8	66.8	75.5	70.6	71.4	71.4	73.6	72.4	69.6	80.3	71.6	63.0	72.6	
2014	61.4	61.4	58.6	56.5	66.4	57.2	67.6	63.8	67.2	60.2	72.3	66.0	61.4	75.7	64.5	54.6	61.5	
2019	69.0	69.4	65.0	65.6	77.2	67.0	68.6	71.7	75.3	67.2	78.1	71.6	67.9	82.1	72.7	58.5	70.0	
2024	70.3	70.1	70.1	63.1	75.7	69.8	76.4	70.6	71.6	67.0	79.5	74.3	71.4	79.3	75.2	64.2	73.6	
No definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral training (%) <sup>a</sup>																		
1994	33.7	34.8	38.3	25.7	34.6	44.1	33.8	30.8	41.2	33.9	30.4	37.1	31.5	24.7	26.7	40.9	28.5	
1999	30.1	29.7	33.3	26.3	26.3	32.3	29.3	27.6	28.0	26.6	32.1	32.9	30.8	19.4	25.9	39.5	28.8	
2004	30.0	30.3	32.5	28.4	29.8	36.4	29.2	27.4	25.0	29.2	27.8	29.8	29.2	18.9	25.4	36.4	28.0	

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(Number and percent)

Commitment status 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
2009	30.5	30.6	31.8	34.1	27.2	33.2	24.5	29.4	28.6	28.6	26.4	27.6	30.4	19.7	28.4	37.0	27.4
2014	38.6	38.6	41.4	43.5	33.6	42.8	32.4	36.2	32.8	39.8	27.7	34.0	38.6	24.3	35.5	45.4	38.5
2019	31.0	30.6	35.0	34.4	22.8	33.0	31.4	28.3	24.7	32.8	21.9	28.4	32.1	17.9	27.3	41.5	30.0
2024	29.7	29.9	29.9	36.9	24.3	30.2	23.6	29.4	28.4	33.0	20.5	25.7	28.6	20.7	24.8	35.8	26.4

<sup>a</sup> No definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral training includes doctorate recipients who indicated "other" in all years, doctorate recipients who indicated "do not plan to work or study" in 2004 and later years, and doctorate recipients who indicated definite plans for "other full-time degree program" in 2007 and later years.

**Note(s):**

A definite postgraduation commitment includes accepting new employment or a postdoctoral study (postdoc) position or returning to predoctoral employment. 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.