

Table 2-3. Postgraduation plans of research doctorate recipients with definite commitments, by trend broad field of doctorate: Selected years, 1994–2024

(Number and percent)

Definite commitment, plan, 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 definite commitments (number)																		
1994	24,946	16,346	768	3,721	551	2,957	488	658	610	2,402	2,123	2,068	8,600	892	4,458	2,569	681	
1999	26,007	17,413	776	3,969	578	3,290	478	757	723	2,368	2,171	2,303	8,594	796	4,296	2,886	616	
2004	26,561	17,630	720	4,102	603	3,357	456	916	757	2,185	2,031	2,503	8,931	858	4,308	3,010	755	
2009	31,208	22,363	831	5,095	1,063	4,672	618	1,081	1,026	2,784	2,198	2,995	8,845	977	4,205	2,758	905	
2014	29,605	22,435	738	4,551	1,194	4,966	691	1,274	1,131	2,598	2,259	3,033	7,170	1,028	2,727	2,651	764	
2019	35,103	27,392	921	5,393	1,577	6,328	822	1,634	1,395	3,316	2,632	3,374	7,711	1,113	3,064	2,647	887	
2024	36,761	29,122	947	5,666	1,982	7,014	868	1,565	1,371	3,341	2,768	3,600	7,639	960	3,037	2,535	1,107	
Reported type of plan (number)																		
1994	24,781	16,274	762	3,713	551	2,946	486	652	610	2,397	2,116	2,041	8,507	885	4,412	2,536	674	
1999	25,776	17,306	772	3,940	573	3,274	472	750	721	2,362	2,155	2,287	8,470	790	4,226	2,844	610	
2004	25,874	17,211	706	3,976	595	3,280	448	892	738	2,151	1,979	2,446	8,663	836	4,179	2,913	735	
2009	30,401	21,909	809	4,998	1,043	4,571	610	1,047	1,009	2,747	2,146	2,929	8,492	922	4,046	2,673	851	
2014	27,144	20,807	664	4,285	1,116	4,590	644	1,149	1,073	2,479	2,059	2,748	6,337	906	2,429	2,354	648	
2019	35,059	27,354	920	5,379	1,576	6,318	821	1,633	1,393	3,313	2,628	3,373	7,705	1,111	3,062	2,645	887	
2024	36,718	29,081	946	5,647	1,982	7,010	868	1,564	1,367	3,339	2,762	3,596	7,637	959	3,036	2,535	1,107	
Employment plans (%)																		
1994	70.6	57.7	66.3	21.7	85.5	75.8	52.7	82.5	72.5	33.1	70.5	90.5	95.5	97.5	96.3	93.7	94.8	
1999	69.9	58.0	65.3	22.9	89.2	77.5	50.4	79.3	63.9	41.8	61.8	86.1	94.1	97.5	94.9	92.3	93.0	
2004	64.8	50.8	56.9	19.2	77.3	63.9	42.2	74.8	53.0	31.8	53.7	82.9	92.5	96.9	93.8	89.4	92.7	
2009	62.1	50.5	56.7	21.0	74.7	63.9	37.5	73.0	53.0	32.3	48.6	81.5	92.1	97.6	94.4	87.5	89.7	
2014	60.6	52.1	53.9	23.0	78.3	66.1	38.0	69.2	51.4	37.8	44.7	77.9	88.4	96.4	91.8	82.4	86.7	
2019	61.7	54.5	54.8	32.4	80.3	65.7	41.4	66.4	56.9	42.6	41.9	74.9	86.9	94.8	90.8	79.2	86.8	
2024	60.4	54.2	53.4	35.6	74.3	64.4	37.8	62.5	53.8	44.2	44.4	69.9	84.1	92.1	89.0	76.4	81.7	
Postdoctoral training plans (%)																		
1994	29.4	42.3	33.7	78.3	14.5	24.2	47.3	17.5	27.5	66.9	29.5	9.5	4.5	2.5	3.7	6.3	5.2	
1999	30.1	42.0	34.7	77.1	10.8	22.5	49.6	20.7	36.1	58.2	38.2	13.9	5.9	2.5	5.1	7.7	7.0	
2004	35.2	49.2	43.1	80.8	22.7	36.1	57.8	25.2	47.0	68.2	46.3	17.1	7.5	3.1	6.2	10.6	7.3	
2009	37.9	49.5	43.3	79.0	25.3	36.1	62.5	27.0	47.0	67.7	51.4	18.5	7.9	2.4	5.6	12.5	10.3	
2014	39.4	47.9	46.1	77.0	21.7	33.9	62.0	30.8	48.6	62.2	55.3	22.1	11.6	3.6	8.2	17.6	13.3	
2019	38.3	45.5	45.2	67.6	19.7	34.3	58.6	33.6	43.1	57.4	58.1	25.1	13.1	5.2	9.2	20.8	13.2	

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		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
2024	39.6	45.8	46.6	64.4	25.7	35.6	62.2	37.5	46.2	55.8	55.6	30.1	15.9	7.9	11.0	23.6	18.3

Note(s):

Percentages are based on the number of definite postgraduation commitments and the type of plan (employment or postdoctoral study [postdoc]). A definite postgraduation commitment includes accepting new employment or a 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.