

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, 1994–2024

(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)																		
1994	15,141	7,721	296	668	398	1,713	203	476	357	715	1,436	1,459	7,420	721	3,992	2,150	557	
1999	16,267	8,902	347	792	462	2,265	197	542	415	930	1,302	1,650	7,365	674	3,788	2,403	500	
2004	14,870	7,511	300	665	391	1,726	160	600	350	640	1,022	1,657	7,359	671	3,697	2,391	600	
2009	17,179	9,868	369	946	731	2,606	213	714	501	816	1,002	1,970	7,311	781	3,696	2,136	698	
2014	14,802	9,676	291	875	819	2,736	223	741	516	853	865	1,757	5,126	760	2,101	1,750	515	
2019	19,414	13,298	400	1,626	1,138	3,665	294	975	737	1,321	1,045	2,097	6,116	897	2,605	1,930	684	
2024	20,469	14,535	442	1,908	1,372	4,206	306	894	675	1,379	1,186	2,167	5,934	767	2,559	1,790	818	
Academe (%)																		
1994	51.2	42.0	38.5	47.0	41.5	19.6	36.9	58.8	72.3	22.1	36.1	70.0	60.9	87.0	44.3	81.4	66.8	
1999	48.8	37.2	41.8	42.8	36.1	14.1	26.9	57.9	61.4	19.9	35.9	64.6	62.8	80.0	47.2	80.9	70.0	
2004	56.1	46.8	41.0	45.7	52.7	22.0	43.1	65.2	73.1	23.8	46.8	69.6	65.6	81.1	50.2	83.3	72.7	
2009	51.8	41.1	44.7	40.3	28.6	14.4	34.7	65.5	58.7	26.0	49.3	70.1	66.2	81.9	50.3	84.0	78.2	
2014	49.2	37.1	40.2	38.5	21.7	14.9	30.9	59.4	50.8	23.4	47.2	66.5	72.2	81.1	59.4	81.9	78.4	
2019	41.3	29.6	37.8	27.2	22.3	12.1	26.2	49.9	35.4	15.0	40.0	57.5	66.6	78.6	56.9	72.2	72.4	
2024	39.6	30.1	38.0	30.6	27.6	13.9	29.1	50.8	38.5	17.9	38.2	53.8	62.6	76.3	54.6	67.7	63.9	
Government (%)																		
1994	8.6	12.0	18.6	16.0	6.5	12.8	24.6	10.9	3.9	8.4	13.6	10.3	5.0	2.4	6.4	2.0	10.1	
1999	7.5	10.4	17.0	13.4	6.1	9.5	22.8	9.0	4.3	6.8	13.1	10.3	4.1	2.4	5.3	2.0	8.0	
2004	7.4	10.9	20.3	17.3	5.4	10.6	20.0	7.7	5.1	8.4	11.8	10.0	3.8	4.0	4.0	2.2	8.3	
2009	6.7	9.4	19.8	13.6	3.8	8.5	14.6	6.7	6.0	8.8	13.1	8.2	3.1	2.2	3.8	1.5	5.4	
2014	7.3	9.2	17.2	8.8	3.8	10.0	13.9	9.9	5.0	5.7	10.3	10.7	3.7	3.9	4.7	2.1	5.4	
2019	7.2	8.9	12.8	7.6	4.6	8.3	26.2	8.1	4.6	5.5	11.4	12.7	3.6	2.8	3.8	1.9	9.2	
2024	7.6	9.1	14.3	8.9	2.5	7.2	26.1	8.4	4.4	6.5	13.8	14.4	3.9	3.8	3.4	3.2	7.2	
Industry or business (%) ^a																		
1994	21.1	35.2	35.8	25.7	49.5	64.6	31.5	17.0	19.6	64.9	22.2	9.7	6.4	8.6	6.2	4.5	12.2	
1999	27.5	43.8	36.6	33.7	54.8	74.2	44.2	19.7	31.3	70.1	26.3	15.3	7.9	14.5	6.9	6.3	14.4	
2004	18.9	32.5	31.0	27.5	38.9	61.8	30.0	15.5	18.9	59.5	18.8	10.0	5.1	12.7	3.9	4.2	7.7	
2009	25.7	40.9	25.7	33.6	64.2	73.1	46.5	14.0	28.5	58.2	19.7	11.9	5.2	12.3	4.1	3.3	9.0	
2014	32.2	46.2	35.7	43.7	71.7	72.1	47.1	15.0	39.7	67.2	23.7	12.8	5.7	12.6	3.6	4.6	8.2	
2019	38.5	52.5	41.5	54.7	69.3	74.3	39.1	22.1	55.4	75.7	29.0	18.0	8.0	14.5	5.6	7.5	9.6	
2024	40.4	52.4	38.7	51.9	65.4	74.2	37.3	26.3	49.5	70.7	31.8	18.6	10.9	15.9	8.5	10.2	15.6	

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(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	
Nonprofit organization (%)																		
1994	6.5	7.1	5.4	8.1	1.3	2.0	3.9	10.5	1.4	2.1	19.3	5.8	5.9	1.0	5.2	8.4	8.1	
1999	5.4	5.7	2.6	7.1	1.7	1.6	2.5	10.7	1.7	2.0	15.4	6.8	5.0	1.8	4.4	6.8	5.6	
2004	5.7	6.6	6.3	5.7	2.6	4.4	5.6	8.7	1.4	5.6	12.7	7.4	4.7	1.3	4.1	5.9	7.7	
2009	4.7	4.9	6.0	6.8	D	2.1	D	10.1	3.4	3.1	9.8	5.7	4.5	1.5	4.5	5.9	3.0	
2014	5.4	5.6	5.5	6.6	2.2	2.5	6.3	14.3	2.3	1.5	12.7	7.2	5.0	2.0	4.5	6.7	5.4	
2019	6.4	6.0	6.8	6.9	2.5	3.4	5.1	16.7	2.2	1.6	12.0	7.7	7.2	2.1	7.1	9.8	6.6	
2024	6.5	5.8	7.2	7.2	3.1	3.0	5.6	11.0	4.0	3.3	9.2	9.6	8.2	2.0	8.4	10.7	8.3	
Other or unknown (%) ^b																		
1994	12.5	3.7	1.7	3.1	1.3	1.0	3.0	2.7	2.8	2.5	8.8	4.3	21.8	1.1	37.8	3.7	2.9	
1999	10.8	2.9	2.0	3.0	1.3	0.6	3.6	2.6	1.2	1.2	9.4	3.0	20.2	1.3	36.2	4.1	2.0	
2004	11.9	3.2	1.3	3.8	0.5	1.2	1.3	3.0	1.4	2.7	9.9	3.0	20.8	0.9	37.8	4.5	3.7	
2009	11.1	3.8	3.8	5.7	D	1.9	D	3.6	3.4	3.9	8.2	4.1	21.0	2.0	37.3	5.1	4.3	
2014	5.9	2.0	1.4	2.4	0.6	0.4	1.8	1.5	2.1	2.1	6.1	2.8	13.4	0.4	27.9	4.7	2.5	
2019	6.7	3.0	1.3	3.5	1.2	1.9	3.4	3.2	2.4	2.3	7.7	4.1	14.6	2.0	26.6	8.5	2.2	
2024	6.0	2.6	1.8	1.4	1.5	1.7	2.0	3.6	3.6	1.6	7.0	3.7	14.3	2.1	25.2	8.2	4.9	

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 doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation 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.