

Table 9-7. Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2024

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences fields	Geological and earth sciences	Ocean, marine, and atmospheric sciences
Doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	1,113	635	478
Definite postdoctoral training plans	47.4	44.6	51.3
Definite employment plans	28.9	32.3	24.5
Seeking employment or study	22.4	21.7	23.2
Other status ^a	1.3	1.4	1.0
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b			
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	98.7	97.5	D
Other training or unknown ^c	1.3	2.5	D
Definite employment plans (%) ^d			
Academe	27.6	22.9	35.9
In tenure track faculty position (%)	19.1	D	D
Not in tenure track position (%)	75.3	D	D
Government	26.4	28.3	23.1
Industry or business ^e	37.9	41.5	31.6
Nonprofit organization	5.6	4.4	7.7
Other or unknown ^f	2.5	2.9	1.7
Primary activity ^g			
Research and development	48.9	48.7	49.1
Teaching	13.1	11.2	16.4
Management or administration	8.9	9.6	7.8
Professional services and other	29.1	30.5	26.7
Secondary activity ^g			
Research and development	24.6	25.4	23.3
Teaching	5.1	D	D
Management or administration	16.0	15.7	16.4
Professional services and other	10.2	12.2	6.9
No secondary activity	44.1	39.6	51.7
Activity unknown	2.8	3.9	0.9
Postgraduation location (%) ^h			
United States ⁱ	90.6	88.7	93.1
Midwest	8.0	8.6	7.2
Northeast	18.0	16.6	19.9
South	26.7	26.8	26.5
West	37.6	36.5	39.2
Outside the United States	9.3	11.1	6.9
Location unknown	0.1	0.2	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	37.5	36.9	38.4
Male doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	556	326	230
Definite postdoctoral training plans	49.8	45.4	56.1
Definite employment plans	28.1	31.6	23.0
Seeking employment or study	21.0	21.5	20.4
Other status ^a	1.1	1.5	0.4
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b			
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	98.2	96.6	D
Other training or unknown ^c	1.8	3.4	D
Definite employment plans (%) ^d			

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Academe	24.4	D	D
In tenure track faculty position (%)	23.7	D	D
Not in tenure track position (%)	71.1	D	D
Government	26.3	30.1	18.9
Industry or business ^e	42.3	44.7	37.7
Nonprofit organization	3.8	D	D
Other or unknown ^f	3.2	2.9	3.8
Primary activity ^g			
Research and development	52.3	50.5	55.8
Teaching	11.9	9.1	17.3
Management or administration	5.3	D	D
Professional services and other	30.5	34.3	23.1
Secondary activity ^g			
Research and development	23.8	25.3	21.2
Teaching	6.0	D	D
Management or administration	16.6	15.2	19.2
Professional services and other	11.9	D	D
No secondary activity	41.7	36.4	51.9
Activity unknown	3.2	3.9	1.9
Postgraduation location (%) ^h			
United States ⁱ	90.1	87.6	93.4
Midwest	8.5	8.0	9.3
Northeast	20.6	19.1	22.5
South	26.1	27.9	23.6
West	34.6	32.3	37.9
Outside the United States	9.7	12.0	6.6
Location unknown	0.2	0.4	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	33.5	33.1	34.1
Female doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	557	309	248
Definite postdoctoral training plans	45.1	43.7	46.8
Definite employment plans	29.8	33.0	25.8
Seeking employment or study	23.7	22.0	25.8
Other status ^a	1.4	1.3	1.6
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b			
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	99.2	98.5	D
Other training or unknown ^c	0.8	1.5	D
Definite employment plans (%) ^d			
Academe	30.7	D	D
In tenure track faculty position (%)	15.7	D	D
Not in tenure track position (%)	78.4	67.9	91.3
Government	26.5	26.5	26.6
Industry or business ^e	33.7	38.2	26.6
Nonprofit organization	7.2	D	D
Other or unknown ^f	1.8	2.9	0.0
Primary activity ^g			
Research and development	45.7	46.9	43.8
Teaching	14.2	13.3	15.6

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(Number and percent)

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Management or administration	12.3	D	D
Professional services and other	27.8	26.5	29.7
Secondary activity ^g			
Research and development	25.3	25.5	25.0
Teaching	4.3	D	D
Management or administration	15.4	16.3	14.1
Professional services and other	8.6	D	D
No secondary activity	46.3	42.9	51.6
Activity unknown	2.4	3.9	0.0
Postgraduation location (%) ^h			
United States ⁱ	91.1	89.9	92.8
Midwest	7.4	9.3	5.0
Northeast	15.3	13.9	17.2
South	27.3	25.7	29.4
West	40.8	40.9	40.6
Outside the United States	8.9	10.1	7.2
Location unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	41.7	40.9	42.8

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Other status 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 Definite postdoctoral training plans excludes doctorate recipients reporting plans for other full-time degree program. Percentages are based on the number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postdoctoral plans for study.^c Other training includes doctorate recipients who reported definite postdoctoral plans for traineeship, internship or clinical residency, or other study.^d Percentages are based on the number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment.^e Industry or business includes doctorate recipients reporting self-employment.^f Other is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.^g Percentages are based on the number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and primary or secondary work activity.^h Percentages are based on the number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans and type of plans.ⁱ United States includes doctorate recipients 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):**

A definite postgraduation commitment includes accepting new employment or a postdoctoral study (postdoc) position or returning to predoctoral employment, while postgraduation 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, and new broad, major, and detailed fields are used in tables reporting data from 2021 to the present; see the field list in table A-4. Therefore, the field of doctorate data prior to 2021 may not be comparable to subsequent years. For more information about the 2021 taxonomy change, see the "Technical Notes."

Source(s):

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