

Table 9-11. Physical sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All physical sciences fields	Astronomy and astrophysics	Chemistry	Materials sciences	Physics
Doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	4,848	328	2,370	307	1,843
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	36.6	62.5	30.4	30.3	40.9
Definite employment plans (%)	26.5	11.6	29.1	29.3	25.4
Seeking employment or study (%)	35.2	25.3	38.7	39.1	31.7
Other status (%) ^a	1.7	0.6	1.7	1.3	2.0
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b					
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	98.4	D	98.3	95.7	98.4
Other training or unknown ^c	1.6	D	1.7	4.3	1.6
Definite employment plans (%) ^d					
Academe	18.7	D	18.1	D	19.7
In tenure track faculty position	22.1	D	D	D	25.0
Not in tenure track position	71.3	85.7	74.4	66.7	65.2
Government	4.8	D	D	D	4.1
Industry or business ^e	70.8	47.4	70.6	84.4	70.3
Nonprofit organization	3.4	D	D	D	3.2
Other or unknown ^f	2.3	0.0	2.0	3.3	2.8
Primary activity ^g					
Research and development	66.2	51.4	68.7	73.3	62.2
Teaching	13.7	D	14.5	D	D
Management or administration	2.5	D	2.8	D	D
Professional services and other	17.7	24.3	14.0	16.3	22.9
Secondary activity ^g					
Research and development	15.1	D	12.7	D	19.2
Teaching	2.4	D	2.7	D	1.3
Management or administration	14.5	D	19.8	D	7.2
Professional services and other	13.0	D	8.8	D	18.6
No secondary activity	55.0	59.5	56.0	52.3	53.7
Activity unknown	2.1	2.6	1.7	4.4	2.1
Postgraduation location (%) ^h					
United States ⁱ	89.8	83.5	94.3	92.3	85.5
Midwest	16.4	11.1	18.6	17.5	14.8
Northeast	22.3	23.0	23.7	18.6	21.0
South	22.1	20.6	25.5	18.6	19.1
West	28.3	28.8	25.7	37.7	29.8
Outside the United States	10.1	16.5	5.7	7.7	14.3
Location unknown	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	33.0	26.7	35.9	38.8	30.0
Male doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	3,170	210	1,332	191	1,437
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	39.6	60.0	34.6	33.0	42.1
Definite employment plans (%)	25.1	12.4	26.7	28.8	24.9
Seeking employment or study (%)	33.8	27.6	37.0	37.2	31.2
Other status (%) ^a	1.5	0.0	1.5	1.0	1.7
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b					
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	98.8	D	98.7	98.4	98.7
Other training or unknown ^c	1.2	D	1.3	1.6	1.3
Definite employment plans (%) ^d					
Academe	17.5	26.9	17.1	10.9	18.2
In tenure track faculty position	25.2	D	D	D	20.0

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Characteristic	All physical sciences fields	Astronomy and astrophysics	Chemistry	Materials sciences	Physics
Not in tenure track position	69.8	D	D	D	72.3
Government	4.9	D	5.3	D	D
Industry or business ^e	72.2	D	73.0	D	71.2
Nonprofit organization	3.1	D	2.8	0.0	D
Other or unknown ^f	2.3	0.0	1.7	5.5	2.5
Primary activity ^g					
Research and development	68.7	52.0	71.8	75.0	65.9
Teaching	12.7	D	13.5	D	D
Management or administration	2.1	D	2.6	D	D
Professional services and other	16.5	D	12.1	D	19.9
Secondary activity ^g					
Research and development	14.0	D	11.8	D	16.5
Teaching	1.5	0.0	2.0	D	D
Management or administration	14.2	D	21.3	13.5	D
Professional services and other	16.2	D	10.6	D	21.3
No secondary activity	54.1	56.0	54.3	50.0	54.3
Activity unknown	2.3	3.8	2.2	5.5	1.7
Postgraduation location (%) ^h					
United States ⁱ	89.1	D	93.4	D	85.3
Midwest	16.3	13.2	18.1	22.9	14.5
Northeast	22.0	D	24.8	D	19.9
South	22.2	21.7	25.3	19.5	19.9
West	28.2	30.3	24.7	33.1	30.3
Outside the United States	10.7	D	6.6	D	14.4
Location unknown	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	32.9	30.3	35.3	39.0	30.6
Female doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	1,678	118	1,038	116	406
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	30.8	66.9	25.0	25.9	36.5
Definite employment plans (%)	29.3	10.2	32.2	30.2	27.1
Seeking employment or study (%)	37.8	21.2	40.8	42.2	33.5
Other status ^a	2.1	1.7	1.9	1.7	3.0
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b					
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	97.5	D	97.7	90.0	97.3
Other training or unknown ^c	2.5	D	2.3	10.0	2.7
Definite employment plans (%) ^d					
Academe	20.6	D	19.2	D	24.5
In tenure track faculty position	17.8	D	D	0.0	37.0
Not in tenure track position	73.3	71.4	D	D	48.1
Government	4.7	D	D	0.0	D
Industry or business ^e	68.4	D	68.0	D	67.3
Nonprofit organization	3.9	0.0	D	D	D
Other or unknown ^f	2.4	0.0	2.4	0.0	3.6
Primary activity ^g					
Research and development	62.0	50.0	65.5	70.6	50.0
Teaching	15.1	D	15.5	D	D
Management or administration	3.1	D	3.0	D	D
Professional services and other	19.7	D	16.1	D	33.0
Secondary activity ^g					
Research and development	16.8	D	13.6	D	28.3

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(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All physical sciences fields	Astronomy and astrophysics	Chemistry	Materials sciences	Physics
Teaching	3.7	D	3.3	D	D
Management or administration	14.9	D	18.2	D	D
Professional services and other	7.9	0.0	7.0	14.7	9.4
No secondary activity	56.6	66.7	57.9	55.9	51.9
Activity unknown	1.8	0.0	1.2	2.9	3.6
Postgraduation location (%) ^h					
United States ⁱ	91.2	D	95.5	D	86.4
Midwest	16.7	7.7	19.4	7.7	15.9
Northeast	23.0	D	22.2	D	25.2
South	22.0	18.7	25.8	16.9	15.9
West	28.5	26.4	27.1	46.2	27.9
Outside the United States	8.7	D	4.4	D	13.6
Location unknown	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	33.0	20.9	36.7	38.5	27.5

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. The survey data collection for the field of study changed in 2021, which may affect the data comparisons across years. This table uses the new field taxonomy based on a modified version of the 2020 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes and does not match data that uses the trend field taxonomy. 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.