

Table 2-1. Postgraduation commitment of research doctorate recipients, by trend broad field of doctorate: Selected years, 1995–2025

(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)																	
1995	41,747	27,704	1,348	5,529	997	6,008	726	1,121	1,190	3,814	3,429	3,542	14,043	1,330	6,648	4,999	1,066
2000	41,369	27,420	1,229	6,044	860	5,323	693	1,349	1,050	3,378	3,616	3,878	13,949	1,065	6,442	5,420	1,022
2005	43,385	29,621	1,207	6,638	1,129	6,426	714	1,465	1,205	3,645	3,322	3,870	13,764	1,171	6,227	5,144	1,222
2010	48,028	35,043	1,157	8,370	1,633	7,578	862	1,792	1,590	4,133	3,420	4,508	12,985	1,366	5,287	4,969	1,363
2015	54,886	41,247	1,490	8,783	2,003	9,875	1,057	2,220	1,815	4,859	3,776	5,369	13,639	1,582	5,098	5,522	1,437
2020	55,200	42,561	1,531	8,403	2,363	10,468	1,241	2,606	2,024	5,000	3,865	5,060	12,639	1,466	4,712	4,924	1,537
2025	59,015	46,876	1,538	9,850	3,438	11,536	1,227	2,487	2,175	5,362	4,076	5,187	12,139	1,398	4,610	4,418	1,713
All postgraduation commitments (number)																	
1995	37,977	25,195	1,214	5,094	914	5,385	667	1,006	1,093	3,481	3,057	3,284	12,782	1,223	5,998	4,611	950
2000	37,743	25,067	1,135	5,653	777	4,830	630	1,220	982	3,087	3,196	3,557	12,676	960	5,795	5,000	921
2005	38,913	26,778	1,057	6,129	1,002	5,774	656	1,314	1,097	3,336	2,878	3,535	12,135	1,007	5,477	4,576	1,075
2010	43,833	32,145	1,044	7,807	1,456	6,963	800	1,628	1,484	3,802	3,003	4,158	11,688	1,191	4,745	4,527	1,225
2015	49,002	36,969	1,342	8,056	1,771	8,871	969	1,988	1,633	4,381	3,112	4,846	12,033	1,366	4,521	4,905	1,241
2020	50,464	39,204	1,403	7,951	2,161	9,655	1,161	2,350	1,878	4,645	3,306	4,694	11,260	1,259	4,284	4,377	1,340
2025	52,607	42,062	1,393	9,074	2,949	10,323	1,135	2,176	1,966	4,888	3,447	4,711	10,545	1,167	4,041	3,876	1,461
Definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral training (%)																	
1995	65.8	64.7	61.2	73.0	67.7	57.0	60.7	67.3	60.0	65.5	66.7	63.4	68.0	75.5	72.9	59.1	70.1
2000	71.2	71.6	65.3	73.4	77.2	69.9	72.1	74.3	75.1	73.9	70.4	69.2	70.3	82.5	75.2	61.8	73.6
2005	70.5	70.3	64.5	71.2	72.9	64.6	75.0	72.4	76.1	71.1	73.3	72.6	70.7	81.9	73.9	64.5	70.2
2010	68.1	68.4	65.1	65.2	71.4	65.4	74.8	69.7	71.6	71.4	72.9	70.2	67.2	79.4	70.7	60.0	68.4
2015	62.0	62.0	60.3	57.3	69.8	58.2	69.2	63.1	69.7	59.3	72.3	66.0	61.9	77.7	64.5	54.7	63.7
2020	70.0	70.4	68.1	65.3	78.2	68.4	72.7	70.2	74.3	69.0	80.3	72.3	68.6	83.4	72.5	59.5	71.4
2025	67.2	66.7	67.9	59.2	73.9	65.6	70.4	69.2	69.1	63.2	76.5	71.7	69.2	80.9	73.0	61.8	69.3
No definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral training (%) ^a																	
1995	34.2	35.3	38.8	27.0	32.3	43.0	39.3	32.7	40.0	34.5	33.3	36.6	32.0	24.5	27.1	40.9	29.9
2000	28.8	28.4	34.7	26.6	22.8	30.1	27.9	25.7	24.9	26.1	29.6	30.8	29.7	17.5	24.8	38.2	26.4
2005	29.5	29.7	35.5	28.8	27.1	35.4	25.0	27.6	23.9	28.9	26.7	27.4	29.3	18.1	26.1	35.5	29.8

Table 2-1. Postgraduation commitment of research doctorate recipients, by trend broad field of doctorate: Selected years, 1995–2025

(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
2010	31.9	31.6	34.9	34.8	28.6	34.6	25.3	30.3	28.4	28.6	27.1	29.8	32.8	20.6	29.3	40.0	31.6
2015	38.0	38.0	39.7	42.7	30.2	41.8	30.8	36.9	30.3	40.7	27.7	34.0	38.1	22.3	35.5	45.3	36.3
2020	30.0	29.6	31.9	34.7	21.8	31.6	27.3	29.8	25.7	31.0	19.7	27.7	31.4	16.6	27.5	40.5	28.6
2025	32.8	33.3	32.1	40.8	26.1	34.4	29.6	30.8	30.9	36.8	23.5	28.3	30.8	19.1	27.0	38.2	30.7

^a 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. The survey data collection for the field of study changed in 2021, which may affect the data comparison across years. This table uses a trend field taxonomy that facilitates trend comparisons with prior years (see table A-5). 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.