

Table 2-3. Postgraduation location and plans of research doctorate recipients with definite commitments, by location of commitment and trend broad field of doctorate: Selected years, 1995–2025

(Number and percent)

| Definite commitment, location, type of 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)                     |            |                         |                                             |                                    |                                   |             |                                              |                 |                            |                   |            |                 |                             |          |           |                     |                                   |
| 1995                                                  | 24,977     | 16,289                  | 743                                         | 3,721                              | 619                               | 3,068       | 405                                          | 677             | 656                        | 2,281             | 2,038      | 2,081           | 8,688                       | 923      | 4,374     | 2,725               | 666                               |
| 2000                                                  | 26,868     | 17,954                  | 741                                         | 4,150                              | 600                               | 3,374       | 454                                          | 906             | 737                        | 2,282             | 2,249      | 2,461           | 8,914                       | 792      | 4,355     | 3,089               | 678                               |
| 2005                                                  | 27,416     | 18,835                  | 682                                         | 4,366                              | 730                               | 3,732       | 492                                          | 951             | 835                        | 2,371             | 2,111      | 2,565           | 8,581                       | 825      | 4,049     | 2,952               | 755                               |
| 2010                                                  | 29,841     | 21,984                  | 680                                         | 5,093                              | 1,040                             | 4,551       | 598                                          | 1,135           | 1,062                      | 2,716             | 2,189      | 2,920           | 7,857                       | 946      | 3,357     | 2,716               | 838                               |
| 2015                                                  | 30,385     | 22,932                  | 809                                         | 4,617                              | 1,237                             | 5,163       | 671                                          | 1,254           | 1,138                      | 2,596             | 2,250      | 3,197           | 7,453                       | 1,062    | 2,917     | 2,683               | 791                               |
| 2020                                                  | 35,310     | 27,591                  | 956                                         | 5,195                              | 1,689                             | 6,606       | 844                                          | 1,650           | 1,396                      | 3,205             | 2,656      | 3,394           | 7,719                       | 1,050    | 3,108     | 2,604               | 957                               |
| 2025                                                  | 35,345     | 28,044                  | 946                                         | 5,374                              | 2,179                             | 6,775       | 799                                          | 1,505           | 1,359                      | 3,090             | 2,637      | 3,380           | 7,301                       | 944      | 2,949     | 2,395               | 1,013                             |
| Reported type of plan (number)                        |            |                         |                                             |                                    |                                   |             |                                              |                 |                            |                   |            |                 |                             |          |           |                     |                                   |
| 1995                                                  | 24,821     | 16,215                  | 739                                         | 3,714                              | 612                               | 3,060       | 402                                          | 673             | 653                        | 2,275             | 2,022      | 2,065           | 8,606                       | 920      | 4,328     | 2,697               | 661                               |
| 2000                                                  | 26,744     | 17,872                  | 737                                         | 4,128                              | 596                               | 3,358       | 451                                          | 900             | 736                        | 2,273             | 2,242      | 2,451           | 8,872                       | 790      | 4,329     | 3,079               | 674                               |
| 2005                                                  | 27,086     | 18,632                  | 665                                         | 4,301                              | 726                               | 3,702       | 488                                          | 940             | 830                        | 2,359             | 2,083      | 2,538           | 8,454                       | 813      | 3,978     | 2,916               | 747                               |
| 2010                                                  | 28,995     | 21,476                  | 654                                         | 5,014                              | 1,017                             | 4,445       | 587                                          | 1,100           | 1,046                      | 2,681             | 2,107      | 2,825           | 7,519                       | 910      | 3,213     | 2,612               | 784                               |
| 2015                                                  | 27,787     | 21,191                  | 734                                         | 4,316                              | 1,115                             | 4,754       | 627                                          | 1,105           | 1,091                      | 2,461             | 2,103      | 2,885           | 6,596                       | 940      | 2,612     | 2,366               | 678                               |
| 2020                                                  | 35,267     | 27,550                  | 954                                         | 5,180                              | 1,689                             | 6,602       | 843                                          | 1,647           | 1,396                      | 3,203             | 2,649      | 3,387           | 7,717                       | 1,050    | 3,108     | 2,602               | 957                               |
| 2025                                                  | 35,299     | 28,001                  | 944                                         | 5,355                              | 2,178                             | 6,768       | 799                                          | 1,503           | 1,358                      | 3,087             | 2,633      | 3,376           | 7,298                       | 944      | 2,947     | 2,394               | 1,013                             |
| In the United States (%)                              |            |                         |                                             |                                    |                                   |             |                                              |                 |                            |                   |            |                 |                             |          |           |                     |                                   |
| 1995                                                  | 88.0       | 86.5                    | 70.8                                        | 91.1                               | 85.5                              | 83.3        | 80.1                                         | 88.6            | 83.2                       | 88.1              | 96.6       | 79.2            | 90.9                        | 84.5     | 93.6      | 89.4                | 87.6                              |
| 2000                                                  | 90.7       | 90.0                    | 74.2                                        | 93.8                               | 90.8                              | 88.4        | 88.2                                         | 89.0            | 89.7                       | 91.0              | 97.4       | 83.7            | 92.0                        | 86.5     | 94.2      | 90.9                | 89.9                              |
| 2005                                                  | 90.3       | 89.4                    | 79.7                                        | 94.6                               | 88.3                              | 87.3        | 88.3                                         | 90.6            | 85.3                       | 91.3              | 96.7       | 80.3            | 92.0                        | 85.0     | 94.5      | 91.3                | 89.4                              |
| 2010                                                  | 88.9       | 88.2                    | 83.0                                        | 93.1                               | 86.5                              | 86.5        | 86.4                                         | 93.3            | 84.1                       | 87.4              | 95.2       | 79.5            | 91.1                        | 82.7     | 94.6      | 90.6                | 88.1                              |
| 2015                                                  | 89.9       | 89.5                    | 84.2                                        | 92.1                               | 90.6                              | 89.7        | 88.0                                         | 93.8            | 87.1                       | 88.5              | 96.2       | 81.7            | 91.0                        | 86.1     | 94.3      | 89.6                | 90.0                              |
| 2020                                                  | 90.2       | 90.3                    | 83.3                                        | 93.7                               | 88.7                              | 90.6        | 87.7                                         | 90.4            | 87.2                       | 90.8              | 96.9       | 83.4            | 90.0                        | 84.0     | 93.5      | 89.1                | 88.2                              |
| 2025                                                  | 91.5       | 91.6                    | 90.4                                        | 95.0                               | 92.2                              | 92.2        | 89.6                                         | 94.0            | 85.0                       | 90.1              | 97.0       | 84.0            | 91.3                        | 86.4     | 94.8      | 89.6                | 89.8                              |
| Employment plans (%)                                  |            |                         |                                             |                                    |                                   |             |                                              |                 |                            |                   |            |                 |                             |          |           |                     |                                   |
| 1995                                                  | 61.7       | 48.1                    | 43.8                                        | 17.3                               | 71.1                              | 61.8        | 38.1                                         | 72.5            | 60.5                       | 30.0              | 66.6       | 69.7            | 87.2                        | 82.4     | 90.4      | 84.5                | 84.3                              |
| 2000                                                  | 64.5       | 53.2                    | 47.6                                        | 22.7                               | 82.7                              | 69.6        | 42.4                                         | 73.4            | 60.5                       | 39.8              | 61.9       | 73.3            | 87.3                        | 83.7     | 90.3      | 84.7                | 84.4                              |
| 2005                                                  | 57.8       | 45.2                    | 45.4                                        | 17.6                               | 68.3                              | 57.5        | 34.4                                         | 69.8            | 49.4                       | 30.1              | 50.6       | 68.6            | 85.6                        | 82.7     | 89.2      | 82.2                | 82.5                              |
| 2010                                                  | 50.7       | 39.5                    | 39.9                                        | 17.3                               | 59.3                              | 46.6        | 32.7                                         | 62.2            | 43.8                       | 22.4              | 45.1       | 63.8            | 82.7                        | 79.1     | 88.4      | 78.3                | 77.9                              |
| 2015                                                  | 54.6       | 46.6                    | 43.2                                        | 23.0                               | 72.4                              | 58.1        | 31.9                                         | 64.5            | 51.1                       | 33.7              | 40.5       | 64.2            | 80.1                        | 82.1     | 85.9      | 73.8                | 76.8                              |
| 2020                                                  | 55.4       | 48.9                    | 44.8                                        | 30.7                               | 71.9                              | 58.0        | 32.9                                         | 57.9            | 54.7                       | 39.6              | 38.7       | 62.7            | 78.6                        | 79.5     | 84.5      | 72.8                | 74.3                              |
| 2025                                                  | 55.0       | 49.0                    | 44.3                                        | 29.5                               | 72.5                              | 58.7        | 33.3                                         | 60.3            | 49.7                       | 38.9              | 40.8       | 60.7            | 78.0                        | 80.8     | 84.9      | 69.4                | 75.9                              |

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(Number and percent)

| Definite commitment, location, type of 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 |
| Postdoctoral training plans (%)                       |            |                         |                                             |                                    |                                   |             |                                              |                 |                            |                   |            |                 |                             |          |           |                     |                                   |
| 1995                                                  | 26.4       | 38.5                    | 26.9                                        | 73.7                               | 14.4                              | 21.5        | 42.0                                         | 16.0            | 22.7                       | 58.1              | 30.1       | 9.5             | 3.7                         | 2.1      | 3.2       | 5.0                 | 3.3                               |
| 2000                                                  | 26.2       | 36.9                    | 26.6                                        | 71.1                               | 8.1                               | 18.9        | 45.9                                         | 15.6            | 29.2                       | 51.2              | 35.5       | 10.4            | 4.7                         | 2.8      | 3.9       | 6.1                 | 5.5                               |
| 2005                                                  | 32.4       | 44.2                    | 34.3                                        | 77.0                               | 20.0                              | 29.7        | 53.9                                         | 20.9            | 35.9                       | 61.2              | 46.0       | 11.6            | 6.5                         | 2.3      | 5.3       | 9.1                 | 7.0                               |
| 2010                                                  | 38.2       | 48.7                    | 43.1                                        | 75.8                               | 27.2                              | 39.9        | 53.7                                         | 31.1            | 40.3                       | 64.9              | 50.1       | 15.7            | 8.4                         | 3.6      | 6.3       | 12.3                | 10.2                              |
| 2015                                                  | 35.3       | 42.9                    | 41.0                                        | 69.1                               | 18.2                              | 31.7        | 56.1                                         | 29.3            | 36.0                       | 54.8              | 55.7       | 17.5            | 10.9                        | 3.9      | 8.3       | 15.8                | 13.1                              |
| 2020                                                  | 34.8       | 41.4                    | 38.6                                        | 63.0                               | 16.8                              | 32.6        | 54.8                                         | 32.5            | 32.6                       | 51.2              | 58.1       | 20.7            | 11.4                        | 4.5      | 9.0       | 16.3                | 13.9                              |
| 2025                                                  | 36.5       | 42.6                    | 46.1                                        | 65.5                               | 19.7                              | 33.5        | 56.3                                         | 33.7            | 35.3                       | 51.1              | 56.2       | 23.4            | 13.3                        | 5.6      | 9.9       | 20.2                | 13.9                              |
| Abroad or unknown (%)                                 |            |                         |                                             |                                    |                                   |             |                                              |                 |                            |                   |            |                 |                             |          |           |                     |                                   |
| 1995                                                  | 12.0       | 13.5                    | 29.2                                        | 8.9                                | 14.5                              | 16.7        | 19.9                                         | 11.4            | 16.8                       | 11.9              | 3.4        | 20.8            | 9.1                         | 15.5     | 6.4       | 10.6                | 12.4                              |
| 2000                                                  | 9.3        | 10.0                    | 25.8                                        | 6.2                                | 9.2                               | 11.6        | 11.8                                         | 11.0            | 10.3                       | 9.0               | 2.6        | 16.3            | 8.0                         | 13.5     | 5.8       | 9.1                 | 10.1                              |
| 2005                                                  | 9.7        | 10.6                    | 20.3                                        | 5.4                                | 11.7                              | 12.7        | 11.7                                         | 9.4             | 14.7                       | 8.7               | 3.3        | 19.7            | 8.0                         | 15.0     | 5.5       | 8.7                 | 10.6                              |
| 2010                                                  | 11.1       | 11.8                    | 17.0                                        | 6.9                                | 13.5                              | 13.5        | 13.6                                         | 6.7             | 15.9                       | 12.6              | 4.8        | 20.5            | 8.9                         | 17.3     | 5.4       | 9.4                 | 11.9                              |
| 2015                                                  | 10.1       | 10.5                    | 15.8                                        | 7.9                                | 9.4                               | 10.3        | 12.0                                         | 6.2             | 12.9                       | 11.5              | 3.8        | 18.3            | 9.0                         | 13.9     | 5.7       | 10.4                | 10.0                              |
| 2020                                                  | 9.8        | 9.7                     | 16.7                                        | 6.3                                | 11.3                              | 9.4         | 12.3                                         | 9.6             | 12.8                       | 9.2               | 3.1        | 16.6            | 10.0                        | 16.0     | 6.5       | 10.9                | 11.8                              |
| 2025                                                  | 8.5        | 8.4                     | 9.6                                         | 5.0                                | 7.8                               | 7.8         | 10.4                                         | 6.0             | 15.0                       | 9.9               | 3.0        | 16.0            | 8.7                         | 13.6     | 5.2       | 10.4                | 10.2                              |
| Employment plans (%)                                  |            |                         |                                             |                                    |                                   |             |                                              |                 |                            |                   |            |                 |                             |          |           |                     |                                   |
| 1995                                                  | 8.6        | 8.9                     | 24.2                                        | 3.4                                | 10.6                              | 13.4        | 10.9                                         | 9.8             | 9.5                        | 2.7               | 2.5        | 18.2            | 8.1                         | 14.9     | 5.7       | 8.9                 | 11.2                              |
| 2000                                                  | 6.9        | 6.9                     | 19.9                                        | 2.7                                | 7.7                               | 9.3         | 5.8                                          | 9.6             | 4.9                        | 3.4               | 1.5        | 14.6            | 6.8                         | 12.8     | 4.9       | 7.3                 | 9.6                               |
| 2005                                                  | 6.7        | 6.7                     | 12.6                                        | 2.0                                | 9.5                               | 9.7         | 4.5                                          | 7.9             | 5.1                        | 1.9               | 1.9        | 16.7            | 6.8                         | 13.7     | 4.5       | 7.1                 | 9.9                               |
| 2010                                                  | 6.4        | 6.0                     | 10.6                                        | 1.8                                | 7.9                               | 8.3         | 3.2                                          | 4.9             | 4.8                        | 2.5               | 2.2        | 15.3            | 7.5                         | 16.3     | 4.8       | 6.8                 | 10.5                              |
| 2015                                                  | 5.7        | 5.3                     | 10.5                                        | 2.5                                | 5.5                               | 6.3         | 3.5                                          | 4.7             | 3.5                        | 2.2               | 1.8        | 12.8            | 7.2                         | 12.9     | 5.2       | 6.7                 | 8.8                               |
| 2020                                                  | 6.2        | 5.8                     | 11.2                                        | 2.8                                | 8.0                               | 6.6         | 3.6                                          | 7.9             | 4.7                        | 3.1               | 1.2        | 12.0            | 7.7                         | 14.6     | 5.8       | 6.6                 | 9.7                               |
| 2025                                                  | 4.7        | 4.3                     | 5.6                                         | 1.8                                | 5.2                               | 4.6         | 2.9                                          | 4.9             | 3.3                        | 2.5               | 1.7        | 10.7            | 6.4                         | 12.0     | 4.6       | 5.8                 | 7.8                               |
| Postdoctoral training plans (%)                       |            |                         |                                             |                                    |                                   |             |                                              |                 |                            |                   |            |                 |                             |          |           |                     |                                   |
| 1995                                                  | 3.3        | 4.6                     | 5.0                                         | 5.5                                | 3.9                               | 3.3         | 9.0                                          | 1.6             | 7.4                        | 9.1               | 0.8        | 2.7             | 1.0                         | 0.7      | 0.6       | 1.7                 | 1.2                               |
| 2000                                                  | 2.4        | 3.0                     | 5.8                                         | 3.4                                | 1.5                               | 2.3         | 6.0                                          | 1.4             | 5.4                        | 5.6               | 1.1        | 1.8             | 1.2                         | 0.8      | 0.9       | 1.8                 | 0.4                               |
| 2005                                                  | 3.0        | 3.9                     | 7.7                                         | 3.4                                | 2.2                               | 3.1         | 7.2                                          | 1.5             | 9.6                        | 6.7               | 1.4        | 3.1             | 1.2                         | 1.4      | 0.9       | 1.6                 | 0.7                               |
| 2010                                                  | 4.7        | 5.9                     | 6.4                                         | 5.1                                | 5.6                               | 5.2         | 10.4                                         | 1.8             | 11.1                       | 10.1              | 2.6        | 5.2             | 1.4                         | 1.0      | 0.6       | 2.6                 | 1.4                               |
| 2015                                                  | 4.4        | 5.2                     | 5.3                                         | 5.4                                | 3.9                               | 4.0         | 8.5                                          | 1.4             | 9.4                        | 9.3               | 2.0        | 5.5             | 1.8                         | 1.1      | 0.5       | 3.7                 | 1.2                               |
| 2020                                                  | 3.6        | 4.0                     | 5.5                                         | 3.5                                | 3.3                               | 2.8         | 8.8                                          | 1.7             | 8.0                        | 6.2               | 1.9        | 4.6             | 2.2                         | 1.4      | 0.8       | 4.3                 | 2.1                               |
| 2025                                                  | 3.8        | 4.1                     | 4.0                                         | 3.2                                | 2.6                               | 3.2         | 7.5                                          | 1.1             | 11.7                       | 7.5               | 1.3        | 5.2             | 2.3                         | 1.6      | 0.5       | 4.6                 | 2.4                               |

**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. 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.