

Table 2-7. Postgraduation plans and employment sector of research doctorate recipients with definite plans in the United States, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, and race: Selected years, 1995–2025

(Number and percent)

Employment commitment, sector, and year	Total ^a	Sex		Citizenship status		U.S. citizens and permanent residents							
		Male	Female	U.S. citizen or permanent resident	Temporary visa holder	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino						Ethnicity not reported
							American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian ^b	Black or African American	White	More than one race	Other race or race not reported ^c	
U.S. definite commitments and reporting type of plan (number)													
1995	21,854	12,625	9,227	19,324	2,523	613	91	2,056	856	15,540	na	75	93
2000	24,255	13,525	10,730	19,980	4,257	839	110	1,364	1,088	16,267	na	208	104
2005	24,446	13,247	11,197	18,520	5,890	922	86	1,303	1,075	14,588	233	178	135
2010	25,790	13,742	12,048	19,455	6,201	1,080	67	1,518	1,127	14,775	409	152	327
2015	24,968	13,565	11,403	18,502	6,410	1,110	60	1,464	1,047	14,134	480	123	84
2020	31,821	17,073	14,748	22,158	9,552	1,802	60	1,964	1,493	15,854	731	159	95
2021	29,739	15,855	13,883	20,608	8,975	1,866	65	1,932	1,552	14,144	740	192	117
2022	34,666	18,313	16,350	23,420	11,061	2,254	66	2,255	1,756	15,963	838	174	114
2023	35,272	18,330	16,939	23,687	11,409	2,270	76	2,505	1,815	15,773	920	206	122
2024	33,734	17,265	16,469	22,787	10,825	2,241	64	2,350	1,839	15,011	900	265	117
2025	32,305	16,453	15,852	21,722	10,387	2,192	67	2,359	1,737	14,011	876	305	175
Non-postdoc employment commitments (%)													
1995	70.0	66.7	74.6	72.7	49.5	73.2	73.6	50.0	82.6	75.2	na	72.0	67.7
2000	71.1	69.2	73.5	74.3	56.1	71.6	79.1	62.2	81.5	75.0	na	70.2	74.0
2005	64.1	61.5	67.1	68.8	49.2	65.7	79.1	55.8	74.5	69.6	69.1	62.9	75.6
2010	57.0	55.0	59.3	62.2	40.6	60.9	D	53.8	72.0	62.7	52.6	D	63.3
2015	60.7	60.5	61.0	63.9	51.7	57.0	63.3	59.7	72.4	64.2	62.7	61.0	71.4
2020	61.4	61.1	61.7	64.2	54.8	61.8	78.3	61.7	75.7	63.7	60.5	67.3	76.8
2021	58.5	58.1	58.9	61.7	51.0	59.2	66.2	59.1	74.5	61.0	58.2	70.3	69.2
2022	61.7	62.1	61.3	63.6	57.5	61.2	63.6	62.5	74.1	63.1	58.2	69.0	73.7
2023	63.7	64.2	63.1	65.7	59.3	62.3	73.7	64.8	75.6	65.6	57.2	69.9	77.9
2024	60.6	60.8	60.4	63.9	53.7	58.8	64.1	62.4	74.2	63.8	58.9	68.3	72.6
2025	60.1	60.3	59.9	63.1	53.6	59.1	77.6	58.8	74.5	63.1	59.4	68.9	65.7
Academe (%)													
1995	36.7	31.4	43.9	38.6	22.7	43.4	46.2	18.6	48.2	40.4	na	41.3	35.5
2000	34.6	30.4	39.9	38.0	18.9	40.3	49.1	21.6	42.6	38.8	na	36.1	42.3
2005	34.8	30.4	40.0	38.7	22.5	40.6	41.9	25.8	41.9	39.6	40.3	30.9	38.5
2010	30.0	25.9	34.6	34.0	17.8	34.0	D	23.4	35.5	35.1	26.9	D	34.9
2015	29.5	25.1	34.7	33.8	16.8	30.9	40.0	22.4	38.8	34.8	35.8	35.0	38.1
2020	24.3	20.2	29.1	28.2	15.5	30.3	41.7	19.0	33.0	28.6	25.2	28.3	32.6
2021	21.0	17.1	25.4	24.6	12.6	24.8	40.0	18.0	31.7	24.8	22.2	24.0	23.9
2022	20.1	16.4	24.2	23.7	12.4	25.2	31.8	16.0	29.6	24.1	19.8	24.7	19.3
2023	21.7	17.7	26.2	25.3	14.5	24.6	38.2	18.3	29.5	26.1	22.7	26.7	27.9

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(Number and percent)

Employment commitment, sector, and year	Total ^a	Sex		Citizenship status		U.S. citizens and permanent residents							
		Male	Female	U.S. citizen or permanent resident	Temporary visa holder	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino						Ethnicity not reported
							American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian ^b	Black or African American	White	More than one race	Other race or race not reported ^c	
2024	24.0	20.4	27.8	27.2	17.3	25.5	29.7	20.3	29.5	28.6	23.7	23.0	20.5
2025	24.0	20.3	27.8	27.4	17.0	27.0	32.8	19.1	30.9	28.5	24.3	30.2	28.0
Government (%)													
1995	5.7	5.9	5.4	6.3	0.9	6.7	D	2.7	5.7	6.8	na	D	10.8
2000	5.2	5.6	4.8	6.2	1.0	6.3	9.1	4.0	7.4	6.2	na	4.3	10.6
2005	4.4	4.6	4.2	5.6	0.7	4.2	9.3	4.8	6.6	5.6	7.3	7.9	7.4
2010	5.1	5.2	4.9	6.4	1.0	5.9	D	5.3	9.7	6.3	D	5.3	6.4
2015	4.3	4.6	4.1	5.6	0.9	4.7	D	5.0	8.1	5.5	5.0	D	9.5
2020	4.8	4.8	4.7	6.5	0.8	6.2	11.7	4.5	10.0	6.3	6.7	8.8	7.4
2021	4.5	4.6	4.4	6.2	0.8	5.9	7.7	4.5	9.5	6.0	5.8	9.9	12.0
2022	4.2	4.1	4.3	5.9	0.7	4.7	D	4.0	9.5	5.8	6.3	D	7.9
2023	4.3	4.3	4.4	6.0	0.8	5.9	6.6	4.9	8.9	6.0	4.6	3.9	9.8
2024	4.6	4.6	4.5	6.3	1.1	5.8	7.8	4.8	8.4	6.2	6.6	7.5	9.4
2025	4.3	4.3	4.3	6.0	0.8	5.3	14.9	4.5	10.1	5.6	7.4	5.2	8.6
Industry or business (%) ^d													
1995	15.2	19.4	9.5	14.2	22.6	11.1	11.0	24.5	5.5	13.5	na	17.3	16.1
2000	18.5	23.9	11.7	15.5	32.7	12.5	6.4	29.9	9.7	14.8	na	18.8	17.3
2005	14.6	18.8	9.6	11.6	23.9	7.9	12.8	20.0	6.0	11.6	9.4	9.0	17.0
2010	13.3	17.0	9.0	11.4	19.3	9.7	11.9	19.0	7.8	10.9	11.2	12.5	13.5
2015	19.7	25.3	12.9	15.3	32.2	13.2	D	25.8	9.2	15.0	14.2	D	13.1
2020	24.6	30.2	18.1	19.4	36.7	15.3	11.7	31.3	16.1	18.7	20.8	17.0	18.9
2021	25.3	30.3	19.6	20.9	35.4	17.8	D	29.8	16.0	20.7	20.1	D	21.4
2022	29.7	35.7	23.0	24.1	41.6	21.3	9.1	35.8	18.2	23.7	22.1	24.1	30.7
2023	29.8	36.3	22.7	24.2	41.3	21.2	15.8	34.5	19.2	23.6	22.7	28.6	23.8
2024	24.5	30.3	18.5	20.6	32.7	17.0	12.5	31.7	19.6	19.3	21.0	25.3	29.9
2025	24.1	30.2	17.9	19.6	33.5	16.7	13.4	29.0	16.8	19.0	17.5	20.7	17.7
Nonprofit organization (%)													
1995	4.4	4.2	4.7	4.8	1.3	3.8	D	2.2	D	5.3	na	D	3.2
2000	4.2	3.4	5.2	4.8	1.4	3.7	D	3.6	4.4	5.0	na	D	0.0
2005	3.4	2.8	4.0	4.1	1.1	4.0	7.0	3.2	4.0	4.2	4.3	3.9	5.2
2010	3.0	2.6	3.4	3.5	1.2	3.4	D	3.0	4.7	3.5	D	2.6	3.1
2015	3.7	3.0	4.6	4.6	1.3	4.0	D	4.5	5.8	4.5	4.4	D	8.3
2020	3.7	3.2	4.3	4.7	1.4	4.3	D	4.1	5.6	4.7	D	4.4	8.4
2021	3.9	3.4	4.5	5.0	1.4	5.0	D	4.6	7.3	4.8	5.3	D	6.0
2022	4.0	3.2	5.0	5.1	1.7	5.3	D	4.3	7.7	4.9	5.8	D	3.5

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(Number and percent)

Employment commitment, sector, and year	Total ^a	Sex		Citizenship status		U.S. citizens and permanent residents							
		Male	Female	U.S. citizen or permanent resident	Temporary visa holder	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino						Ethnicity not reported
							American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian ^b	Black or African American	White	More than one race	Other race or race not reported ^c	
2023	4.1	3.2	5.2	5.2	1.9	4.9	6.6	4.8	8.6	5.0	5.0	3.4	4.9
2024	3.9	3.0	4.9	5.0	1.7	4.6	7.8	3.6	7.7	4.9	5.0	6.4	4.3
2025	4.1	3.1	5.1	5.4	1.3	5.5	11.9	4.2	8.8	5.0	6.6	8.5	5.1
Other sector or unknown (%) ^e													
1995	8.0	5.8	11.0	8.8	2.1	8.3	11.0	2.0	19.5	9.1	na	5.3	2.2
2000	8.5	5.9	11.9	9.9	2.0	8.8	D	3.2	17.5	10.1	na	D	3.8
2005	6.9	4.8	9.3	8.7	1.0	9.0	8.1	2.0	16.0	8.7	7.7	11.2	7.4
2010	5.7	4.2	7.4	7.0	1.4	7.9	7.5	3.0	14.4	6.9	4.4	2.0	5.5
2015	3.6	2.5	4.8	4.6	0.5	4.2	8.3	2.0	10.5	4.5	3.3	2.4	2.4
2020	4.0	2.7	5.6	5.5	0.5	5.7	D	2.7	11.1	5.3	3.4	D	9.5
2021	3.8	2.6	5.1	5.0	0.8	5.6	7.7	2.3	10.1	4.7	4.9	6.3	6.0
2022	3.7	2.7	4.8	4.8	1.1	4.6	9.1	2.4	9.1	4.6	4.2	4.0	12.3
2023	3.7	2.7	4.7	5.0	0.9	5.7	6.6	2.3	9.5	4.8	2.2	7.3	11.5
2024	3.6	2.6	4.7	4.9	1.0	6.0	6.3	2.0	9.0	4.7	2.7	6.0	8.5
2025	3.6	2.4	4.9	4.8	1.0	4.6	4.5	2.1	8.0	4.9	3.5	4.3	6.3
Postdoctoral training commitments (%)													
1995	30.0	33.3	25.4	27.3	50.5	26.8	26.4	50.0	17.4	24.8	na	28.0	32.3
2000	28.9	30.8	26.5	25.7	43.9	28.4	20.9	37.8	18.5	25.0	na	29.8	26.0
2005	35.9	38.5	32.9	31.2	50.8	34.3	20.9	44.2	25.5	30.4	30.9	37.1	24.4
2010	43.0	45.0	40.7	37.8	59.4	39.1	34.3	46.2	28.0	37.3	47.4	38.8	36.7
2015	39.3	39.5	39.0	36.1	48.3	43.0	36.7	40.3	27.6	35.8	37.3	39.0	28.6
2020	38.6	38.9	38.3	35.8	45.2	38.2	21.7	38.3	24.3	36.3	39.5	32.7	23.2
2021	41.5	41.9	41.1	38.3	49.0	40.8	33.8	40.9	25.5	39.0	41.8	29.7	30.8
2022	38.3	37.9	38.7	36.4	42.5	38.8	36.4	37.5	25.9	36.9	41.8	31.0	26.3
2023	36.3	35.8	36.9	34.3	40.7	37.7	26.3	35.2	24.4	34.4	42.8	30.1	22.1
2024	39.4	39.2	39.6	36.1	46.3	41.2	35.9	37.6	25.8	36.2	41.1	31.7	27.4
2025	39.9	39.7	40.1	36.9	46.4	40.9	22.4	41.2	25.5	36.9	40.6	31.1	34.3
Academe (%)													
1995	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2000	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2005	29.6	32.0	26.7	24.8	44.6	27.1	14.0	36.7	19.2	24.1	25.8	29.8	20.7
2010	35.1	37.2	32.7	30.0	51.3	31.1	20.9	36.8	21.2	29.7	39.1	28.9	30.0
2015	31.4	32.5	30.0	27.8	41.7	34.0	26.7	31.8	19.7	27.4	31.7	30.1	15.5
2020	29.8	30.8	28.6	26.6	37.4	28.9	18.3	29.2	17.1	26.9	30.0	24.5	11.6
2021	32.9	34.1	31.6	29.0	42.0	31.0	24.6	32.4	18.9	29.5	31.1	26.0	17.9

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(Number and percent)

Employment commitment, sector, and year	Total ^a	Sex		Citizenship status		U.S. citizens and permanent residents							
						Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino					Ethnicity not reported	
		Male	Female	U.S. citizen or permanent resident	Temporary visa holder		American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian ^b	Black or African American	White	More than one race		Other race or race not reported ^c
2022	30.2	30.6	29.7	27.5	36.0	30.2	30.3	28.7	19.2	27.8	30.7	22.4	21.9
2023	28.5	29.0	28.0	25.7	34.6	29.5	18.4	27.0	17.9	25.5	32.7	21.8	18.0
2024	31.7	32.6	30.8	27.6	40.3	31.1	29.7	29.6	19.4	27.7	31.1	27.9	17.1
2025	32.6	33.2	32.0	28.8	40.7	32.2	16.4	33.5	17.9	28.9	32.0	25.2	21.7
Outside of academe or unknown (%) ^f													
1995	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2000	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2005	6.4	6.5	6.2	6.4	6.2	7.2	7.0	7.5	6.3	6.3	5.2	7.3	3.7
2010	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.8	8.1	8.0	13.4	9.4	6.7	7.7	8.3	9.9	6.7
2015	7.9	7.0	9.0	8.3	6.6	9.0	10.0	8.5	7.9	8.4	5.6	8.9	13.1
2020	8.8	8.1	9.7	9.2	7.8	9.4	3.3	9.1	7.2	9.4	9.6	8.2	11.6
2021	8.6	7.8	9.5	9.3	7.0	9.8	9.2	8.5	6.6	9.6	10.7	3.6	12.8
2022	8.1	7.3	9.0	8.9	6.5	8.6	6.1	8.7	6.7	9.1	11.1	8.6	4.4
2023	7.8	6.8	8.9	8.6	6.1	8.2	7.9	8.2	6.5	8.9	10.1	8.3	4.1
2024	7.7	6.6	8.8	8.5	5.9	10.1	6.3	8.0	6.4	8.5	10.0	3.8	10.3
2025	7.3	6.6	8.1	8.0	5.7	8.7	6.0	7.7	7.6	8.0	8.7	5.9	12.6

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information. na = not applicable; doctorate recipients were instructed to indicate only one race before 2001, and sector for postdoctoral training commitments was not collected prior to 2004.

^a Total includes doctorate recipients who did not report sex or citizenship status.

^b Asian includes Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders through 2000 but excludes them since 2001.

^c Before 2001, other race included doctorate recipients who selected more than one race. Since 2001, other race has included Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders, who previously had been included in the category Asian.

^d Industry or business includes self-employment.

^e Other sector or unknown is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.

^f Outside of academe includes industry or business, government, nonprofit organizations, other sectors, and unknown.

Note(s):

Percentages are based on the number of doctorate recipients with definite commitments in the United States and with a known type of commitment (postdoc or employment). Hispanic or Latino may be of any race; race categories exclude Hispanic origin. Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

Source(s):

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