

Table 9-2. Non-science and engineering research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and broad field of doctorate: 2025

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All fields	Non-science and engineering					
		Total	Business	Education	Humanities	Visual and performing arts	Other non-science and engineering
Doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	52,607	10,188	1,125	3,522	2,931	692	1,918
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	27.0	10.2	5.7	5.8	15.3	11.3	12.7
Definite employment plans (%)	40.1	58.7	75.1	66.7	46.8	48.8	56.0
Seeking employment or study (%)	29.7	27.9	17.0	24.8	33.8	38.2	27.1
Other status (%) ^a	3.1	3.2	2.2	2.7	4.0	1.7	4.1
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b							
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	95.0	95.5	96.9	94.6	95.5	98.7	94.7
Other training or unknown ^c	5.0	4.5	3.1	5.4	4.5	1.3	5.3
Definite employment plans (%) ^d							
Academe	41.2	62.4	76.2	52.6	68.1	67.2	64.2
In tenure track faculty position	42.4	43.0	82.6	27.2	31.9	32.6	52.9
Not in tenure track position	53.3	53.7	15.4	69.1	64.5	63.9	43.9
Government	7.4	5.2	D	4.2	4.3	D	11.0
Industry or business ^e	38.8	9.8	14.1	7.8	8.5	9.5	12.3
Nonprofit organization	6.7	8.7	D	7.4	12.9	D	8.3
Other or unknown ^f	5.9	14.0	2.6	28.0	6.2	7.4	4.3
Primary activity ^g							
Research and development	42.5	19.0	50.3	11.0	9.9	10.7	26.0
Teaching	26.3	45.3	30.6	39.5	62.6	62.6	41.7
Management or administration	10.3	21.7	8.7	36.2	13.0	10.7	15.2
Professional services and other	20.9	14.0	10.3	13.3	14.5	16.0	17.1
Secondary activity ^g							
Research and development	24.9	29.1	29.8	22.8	35.3	31.3	33.5
Teaching	14.1	22.9	47.8	18.8	15.2	12.6	25.6
Management or administration	11.2	10.2	5.7	10.8	11.4	12.6	10.2
Professional services and other	13.0	8.3	4.7	10.4	6.3	9.2	8.6
No secondary activity	36.8	29.5	12.0	37.2	31.8	34.4	22.1
Activity unknown	2.8	3.0	2.6	3.2	2.6	3.6	3.2
Postgraduation location (%) ^h							
United States ⁱ	91.5	91.0	86.5	94.7	89.9	89.2	89.2
Midwest	16.2	18.8	16.4	18.3	20.4	17.1	19.9
Northeast	20.8	18.8	17.5	16.7	22.4	26.4	16.5
South	28.6	36.3	35.3	42.0	30.9	26.0	36.5
West	25.4	16.5	16.3	17.1	15.8	19.2	15.6
Outside the United States	8.4	8.8	13.3	5.3	9.9	10.8	10.5
Location unknown	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2

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Characteristic	All fields	Non-science and engineering					
		Total	Business	Education	Humanities	Visual and performing arts	Other non-science and engineering
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	40.8	45.6	20.0	63.3	39.6	46.6	36.8
Male doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	27,015	4,037	641	930	1,431	301	734
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	27.3	11.4	6.2	5.9	17.1	9.6	12.3
Definite employment plans (%)	40.5	58.0	74.4	68.8	45.6	47.8	58.4
Seeking employment or study (%)	29.3	27.7	17.5	22.7	34.0	41.5	25.3
Other status (%) ^a	2.9	2.8	1.9	2.5	3.4	1.0	4.0
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b							
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	95.4	95.9	97.5	96.4	95.5	D	94.4
Other training or unknown ^c	4.6	4.1	2.5	3.6	4.5	D	5.6
Definite employment plans (%) ^d							
Academe	35.5	64.0	76.3	55.5	61.8	69.4	64.8
In tenure track faculty position	46.9	48.2	84.9	30.7	31.3	31.0	53.2
Not in tenure track position	48.6	48.3	13.2	65.1	64.5	65.0	43.2
Government	7.5	5.7	D	4.7	4.9	D	11.7
Industry or business ^e	47.9	10.9	14.3	8.0	9.0	10.4	14.5
Nonprofit organization	5.2	8.9	D	7.0	17.3	D	5.4
Other or unknown ^f	3.9	10.4	2.5	24.8	6.9	8.3	3.7
Primary activity ^g							
Research and development	50.4	20.9	50.5	11.5	8.5	7.9	24.9
Teaching	22.0	46.2	30.5	38.5	62.9	64.7	43.6
Management or administration	7.3	18.9	6.9	39.4	12.2	12.2	14.3
Professional services and other	20.2	14.0	12.1	10.6	16.4	15.1	17.2
Secondary activity ^g							
Research and development	23.8	30.6	31.5	24.4	34.4	26.6	34.4
Teaching	13.1	25.1	47.3	18.5	17.1	12.2	26.6
Management or administration	11.2	11.4	6.3	12.1	12.8	17.3	11.9
Professional services and other	14.9	8.0	4.8	11.6	6.2	10.1	8.2
No secondary activity	37.1	25.0	10.2	33.4	29.5	33.8	18.9
Activity unknown	2.9	3.2	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.5	3.7
Postgraduation location (%) ^h							
United States ⁱ	89.9	88.4	85.3	92.5	88.0	87.9	86.7
Midwest	15.4	19.3	16.1	19.4	20.8	21.4	18.9
Northeast	20.2	18.0	18.8	15.5	20.4	20.8	15.6
South	26.9	35.5	34.8	40.9	31.9	26.6	38.0
West	27.0	14.9	14.7	15.5	14.4	18.5	13.9
Outside the United States	10.0	11.5	14.5	7.3	11.9	12.1	13.3

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(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All fields	Non-science and engineering					
		Total	Business	Education	Humanities	Visual and performing arts	Other non-science and engineering
Location unknown	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	37.8	38.4	17.2	58.6	36.7	44.5	33.5
Female doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	25,592	6,151	484	2,592	1,500	391	1,184
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	26.8	9.4	5.0	5.7	13.6	12.5	12.9
Definite employment plans (%)	39.6	59.1	76.0	65.9	47.9	49.6	54.6
Seeking employment or study (%)	30.1	28.0	16.3	25.6	33.7	35.5	28.2
Other status (%) ^a	3.4	3.5	2.7	2.7	4.7	2.3	4.2
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b							
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	94.6	95.2	95.8	93.9	95.6	98.0	94.8
Other training or unknown ^c	5.4	4.8	4.2	6.1	4.4	2.0	5.2
Definite employment plans (%) ^d							
Academe	47.4	61.3	76.1	51.6	73.7	65.5	63.8
In tenure track faculty position	38.8	39.6	79.6	25.8	32.5	33.9	52.7
Not in tenure track position	57.1	57.4	18.2	70.7	64.5	63.0	44.4
Government	7.2	4.9	3.5	4.0	3.8	0.0	10.5
Industry or business ^e	29.1	9.0	13.9	7.7	8.1	8.8	10.8
Nonprofit organization	8.4	8.5	3.8	7.5	8.9	19.1	10.2
Other or unknown ^f	8.0	16.3	2.7	29.1	5.6	6.7	4.6
Primary activity ^g							
Research and development	34.0	17.8	50.0	10.8	11.1	12.8	26.8
Teaching	30.9	44.6	30.8	39.9	62.4	61.0	40.4
Management or administration	13.5	23.6	11.1	35.0	13.7	9.6	15.8
Professional services and other	21.7	14.0	8.1	14.3	12.8	16.6	17.0
Secondary activity ^g							
Research and development	26.1	28.1	27.5	22.3	36.0	34.8	33.0
Teaching	15.2	21.6	48.3	18.9	13.5	12.8	24.8
Management or administration	11.3	9.5	5.0	10.3	10.1	9.1	9.1
Professional services and other	11.0	8.4	4.7	9.9	6.4	8.6	8.9
No secondary activity	36.4	32.4	14.4	38.6	33.9	34.8	24.2
Activity unknown	2.8	2.9	2.2	3.3	2.4	3.6	2.8
Postgraduation location (%) ^h							
United States ⁱ	93.3	92.8	88.0	95.5	91.9	90.1	90.9
Midwest	17.2	18.5	16.8	17.9	19.9	14.0	20.5
Northeast	21.5	19.4	15.8	17.1	24.4	30.5	17.1
South	30.4	36.8	36.0	42.4	30.0	25.5	35.5
West	23.6	17.6	18.4	17.7	17.2	19.8	16.8

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(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All fields	Non-science and engineering					
		Total	Business	Education	Humanities	Visual and performing arts	Other non-science and engineering
Outside the United States	6.6	7.0	11.7	4.5	8.0	9.9	8.8
Location unknown	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	44.1	50.4	23.7	65.1	42.5	48.1	38.9

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.