

Table 9-7. Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences fields	Geological and earth sciences	Ocean, marine, and atmospheric sciences
Doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	1,101	582	519
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	44.7	40.2	49.7
Definite employment plans (%)	25.7	29.9	21.0
Seeking employment or study (%)	27.0	26.8	27.2
Other status (%) ^a	2.6	3.1	2.1
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b			
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	98.8	98.3	99.2
Other training or unknown ^c	1.2	1.7	0.8
Definite employment plans (%) ^d			
Academe	30.4	31.0	29.4
In tenure track faculty position	31.4	37.0	21.9
Not in tenure track position	65.1	61.1	71.9
Government	22.3	18.4	28.4
Industry or business ^e	38.5	44.3	29.4
Nonprofit organization	7.4	5.2	11.0
Other or unknown ^f	1.4	1.1	1.8
Primary activity ^g			
Research and development	49.3	40.5	63.5
Teaching	19.1	22.0	14.4
Management or administration	5.1	5.4	4.8
Professional services and other	26.5	32.1	17.3
Secondary activity ^g			
Research and development	30.9	35.1	24.0
Teaching	5.5	4.2	7.7
Management or administration	14.0	15.5	11.5
Professional services and other	14.3	15.5	12.5
No secondary activity	35.3	29.8	44.2
Activity unknown	3.9	3.4	4.6
Postgraduation location (%) ^h			
United States ⁱ	89.4	87.0	92.1
Midwest	8.9	11.5	6.0
Northeast	17.3	14.2	20.7
South	25.9	26.2	25.6
West	36.9	34.3	39.8
Outside the United States	10.6	13.0	7.9
Location unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	39.7	38.7	40.9
Male doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	571	313	258
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	46.4	41.2	52.7
Definite employment plans (%)	26.1	32.3	18.6
Seeking employment or study (%)	26.1	25.2	27.1
Other status (%) ^a	1.4	1.3	1.6
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b			
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	98.1	96.9	99.3
Other training or unknown ^c	1.9	3.1	0.7
Definite employment plans (%) ^d			

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Academe	28.2	D	D
In tenure track faculty position	40.5	D	D
Not in tenure track position	54.8	46.4	71.4
Government	20.1	15.8	29.2
Industry or business ^e	46.3	50.5	37.5
Nonprofit organization	4.0	D	D
Other or unknown ^f	1.3	2.0	0.0
Primary activity ^g			
Research and development	46.9	37.5	66.0
Teaching	D	D	10.6
Management or administration	D	D	0.0
Professional services and other	30.8	34.4	23.4
Secondary activity ^g			
Research and development	30.8	D	D
Teaching	4.2	D	D
Management or administration	13.3	14.6	10.6
Professional services and other	15.4	15.6	14.9
No secondary activity	36.4	33.3	42.6
Activity unknown	4.0	5.0	2.1
Postgraduation location (%) ^h			
United States ⁱ	86.7	82.6	91.8
Midwest	10.4	12.6	7.6
Northeast	15.0	11.3	19.6
South	24.6	24.8	24.5
West	36.5	33.5	40.2
Outside the United States	13.3	17.4	8.2
Location unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	39.4	37.4	41.8
Female doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	530	269	261
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	42.8	39.0	46.7
Definite employment plans (%)	25.3	27.1	23.4
Seeking employment or study (%)	27.9	28.6	27.2
Other status (%) ^a	4.0	5.2	2.7
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b			
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	99.6	D	99.2
Other training or unknown ^c	0.4	D	0.8
Definite employment plans (%) ^d			
Academe	32.8	D	D
In tenure track faculty position	22.7	D	D
Not in tenure track position	75.0	76.9	72.2
Government	24.6	21.9	27.9
Industry or business ^e	29.9	35.6	23.0
Nonprofit organization	11.2	D	D
Other or unknown ^f	1.5	0.0	3.3
Primary activity ^g			
Research and development	51.9	44.4	61.4
Teaching	D	D	17.5

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(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences fields	Geological and earth sciences	Ocean, marine, and atmospheric sciences
Management or administration	D	D	8.8
Professional services and other	21.7	29.2	12.3
Secondary activity ^g			
Research and development	31.0	D	D
Teaching	7.0	D	D
Management or administration	14.7	16.7	12.3
Professional services and other	13.2	15.3	10.5
No secondary activity	34.1	25.0	45.6
Activity unknown	3.7	1.4	6.6
Postgraduation location (%) ^h			
United States ⁱ	92.5	92.7	92.3
Midwest	7.2	10.1	4.4
Northeast	19.9	18.0	21.9
South	27.4	28.1	26.8
West	37.4	35.4	39.3
Outside the United States	7.5	7.3	7.7
Location unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	40.2	40.4	39.9

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.