

Table 2-1

Postgraduation commitment of research doctorate recipients, by historical broad field of doctorate: Selected years, 1992–2022

(Number and percent)

Commitment status and year	All fields	Science and engineering						Non-science and engineering			
		Total	Life sciences ^a	Physical sciences and earth sciences	Mathematics and computer sciences	Psychology and social sciences	Engineering	Total	Education	Humanities and arts	Other ^b
All doctorate recipients (number)											
1992	38,886	25,616	7,172	4,517	1,927	6,562	5,438	13,270	6,677	4,387	2,206
1997	42,539	28,486	8,421	4,550	2,032	7,369	6,114	14,053	6,577	5,285	2,191
2002	40,031	26,088	8,478	3,875	1,729	6,925	5,081	13,943	6,508	5,297	2,138
2007	48,132	33,758	10,702	4,956	3,042	7,309	7,749	14,374	6,448	5,085	2,841
2012	50,943	37,846	11,964	5,419	3,496	8,498	8,469	13,097	4,802	5,561	2,734
2017	54,552	41,288	12,554	6,082	3,842	9,034	9,776	13,264	4,826	5,286	3,152
2022	57,596	45,479	13,211	6,649	4,854	9,235	11,530	12,117	4,509	4,464	3,144
All postgraduation commitments											
1992	35,803	23,505	6,726	4,157	1,768	5,934	4,920	12,298	6,177	4,112	2,009
1997	37,872	25,542	7,631	4,109	1,815	6,411	5,576	12,330	5,701	4,706	1,923
2002	36,058	23,772	7,746	3,567	1,600	6,227	4,632	12,286	5,552	4,860	1,874
2007	43,369	30,588	9,832	4,525	2,766	6,499	6,966	12,781	5,788	4,543	2,450
2012	46,544	34,652	11,156	5,015	3,152	7,603	7,726	11,892	4,415	5,072	2,405
2017	49,518	37,715	11,673	5,649	3,492	8,008	8,893	11,803	4,336	4,766	2,701
2022	52,232	41,510	12,228	6,149	4,419	8,281	10,433	10,722	3,966	3,989	2,767
Definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral training (%)											
1992	69.3	68.2	74.5	69.9	64.9	67.7	60.0	71.3	75.3	62.5	76.9
1997	67.4	67.7	71.1	69.8	68.9	64.2	65.3	66.8	72.9	56.7	73.5
2002	72.5	73.0	73.6	76.1	76.1	72.2	69.6	71.5	75.1	64.9	78.3
2007	68.7	68.7	66.4	71.9	73.0	72.5	64.7	68.8	71.6	62.8	73.4
2012	65.9	66.0	62.8	66.9	70.2	70.1	64.0	65.6	69.3	58.5	73.7
2017	66.7	67.0	64.6	65.6	72.7	72.2	64.1	65.6	69.5	57.2	74.3
2022	73.2	73.9	71.7	73.8	77.9	76.3	72.8	70.5	75.2	62.4	75.6
No definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral training (%)											
1992	30.7	31.8	25.5	30.1	35.1	32.3	40.0	28.7	24.7	37.5	23.1
1997	32.6	32.3	28.9	30.2	31.1	35.8	34.7	33.2	27.1	43.3	26.5
2002	27.5	27.0	26.4	23.9	23.9	27.8	30.4	28.5	24.9	35.1	21.7
2007	31.3	31.3	33.6	28.1	27.0	27.5	35.3	31.2	28.4	37.2	26.6
2012	34.1	34.0	37.2	33.1	29.8	29.9	36.0	34.4	30.7	41.5	26.3
2017	33.3	33.0	35.4	34.4	27.3	27.8	35.9	34.4	30.5	42.8	25.7
2022	26.8	26.1	28.3	26.2	22.1	23.7	27.2	29.5	24.8	37.6	24.4

^a Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources, biological and biomedical sciences, and health sciences.

^b Includes other non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.

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. Beginning in 2021, a modified version of the 2020 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes was used in the survey data collection; the historical fields were constructed using the SED-CIP code crosswalk in table A-6. Therefore, the field of doctorate data prior to 2021 may not be comparable to subsequent years. For more information, see the "Technical Notes" and the SED 2021 Taxonomy Changes Working Paper (available at <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nces23200>).

Source(s):

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