

Table 2-6

Employment sector of research doctorate recipients with definite postgraduation commitments for employment in the United States, by historical broad field of doctorate: Selected years, 1992–2022

(Number and percent)

Employment commitment, sector, 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 U.S. employment commitments (number)											
1992	15,632	7,916	1,478	975	745	2,911	1,807	7,716	4,179	2,208	1,329
1997	16,065	9,020	1,774	1,124	850	2,781	2,491	7,045	3,674	2,205	1,166
2002	16,287	8,756	1,966	1,052	738	2,936	2,064	7,531	3,733	2,598	1,200
2007	16,990	9,658	1,958	975	1,253	2,745	2,727	7,332	3,638	2,274	1,420
2012	15,376	9,506	1,988	939	1,225	2,675	2,679	5,870	2,474	2,108	1,288
2017	17,752	11,831	2,682	1,402	1,583	3,010	3,154	5,921	2,465	1,900	1,556
2022	21,450	15,704	3,784	1,956	2,124	3,156	4,684	5,746	2,503	1,679	1,564
Academe (%)											
1992	51.7	41.4	49.1	22.2	59.6	50.5	23.5	62.2	46.8	80.8	79.8
1997	45.8	34.2	45.0	21.9	38.6	50.0	12.8	60.6	46.4	77.7	72.9
2002	52.3	41.6	48.7	23.7	53.8	57.9	16.5	64.7	48.4	81.6	78.7
2007	51.1	39.0	47.7	26.8	42.1	61.3	13.3	66.9	51.5	84.3	78.5
2012	50.5	37.7	46.1	28.1	35.8	59.9	13.5	71.2	57.9	81.4	80.4
2017	46.5	34.2	40.5	23.5	31.1	57.1	13.4	70.9	60.6	77.1	79.7
2022	32.5	22.4	26.9	12.1	21.4	42.3	10.2	60.0	53.4	63.1	67.1
Government (%)											
1992	8.9	12.6	16.8	13.1	4.6	12.7	12.0	5.0	6.8	1.9	4.7
1997	7.3	10.0	10.9	10.4	4.7	10.6	10.4	3.9	4.8	1.8	4.9
2002	7.3	10.4	13.2	8.5	5.3	10.9	9.7	3.8	4.5	2.4	4.7
2007	6.0	8.4	11.6	8.7	2.9	9.7	7.2	2.9	3.4	1.7	3.6
2012	7.3	9.8	11.7	9.5	5.0	11.1	9.2	3.3	3.4	2.0	5.0
2017	7.2	9.0	10.3	8.7	4.0	11.0	8.7	3.6	3.8	2.6	4.6
2022	6.8	7.7	8.2	6.8	3.5	12.4	6.5	4.4	4.5	2.9	5.9
Industry or business (%) ^c											
1992	20.9	35.6	25.0	61.6	34.2	16.9	60.9	5.8	5.6	3.7	9.6
1997	26.7	42.1	22.6	58.8	49.4	18.6	72.2	7.0	5.8	5.5	13.7
2002	24.0	39.5	28.3	63.4	37.4	16.9	71.0	6.1	5.3	4.7	11.3
2007	27.1	43.6	28.5	58.1	51.0	14.4	75.4	5.3	4.3	3.4	10.9
2012	29.1	43.7	28.8	58.5	55.1	15.3	72.9	5.5	4.8	4.1	8.9
2017	34.7	48.6	37.8	62.3	60.4	19.6	73.6	6.8	5.4	5.5	10.7
2022	48.1	61.5	54.1	75.3	69.8	30.4	78.8	11.5	8.5	10.8	17.1
Nonprofit organization (%)											
1992	6.8	7.0	7.6	1.8	1.1	12.7	2.4	6.6	5.6	10.1	3.9
1997	5.6	5.8	5.7	2.6	1.9	11.5	2.4	5.4	4.5	7.7	4.0

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(Number and percent)

Employment commitment, sector, 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
2002	5.7	6.0	7.5	3.0	2.6	9.7	2.0	5.4	5.1	6.4	4.3
2007	4.4	4.9	7.6	3.1	1.9	7.8	2.0	3.8	3.4	4.5	3.5
2012	5.6	5.8	10.3	1.9	2.4	8.1	2.9	5.2	5.6	6.3	2.9
2017	6.3	6.2	9.6	3.5	3.2	8.7	3.6	6.4	6.0	9.1	3.9
2022	6.6	5.8	8.5	3.8	3.2	9.9	3.0	8.6	7.6	12.9	5.7
Other or unknown (%) ^d											
1992	11.8	3.4	1.4	1.2	0.5	7.1	1.3	20.3	35.1	3.5	1.9
1997	14.5	7.8	15.7	6.3	5.4	9.2	2.2	23.1	38.5	7.3	4.5
2002	10.6	2.5	2.3	1.4	0.9	4.6	0.7	20.0	36.7	4.8	1.0
2007	11.4	4.0	4.6	3.4	2.1	6.7	2.0	21.1	37.5	6.0	3.5
2012	7.5	3.0	3.1	2.0	1.7	5.6	1.5	14.8	28.3	6.2	2.9
2017	5.4	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.3	3.6	0.7	12.2	24.3	5.7	1.1
2022	6.0	2.6	2.3	2.0	2.2	5.1	1.6	15.4	26.0	10.2	4.1

^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.^c Includes doctorate recipients reporting self-employment.^d Other is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.**Note(s):**

Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite employment commitments in the United States. A definite postgraduation commitment for 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. 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.gov/pubs/nces23200>).

Source(s):

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