

Table 59. Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients in physical sciences and earth sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2015

Characteristic	All physical sciences and earth sciences fields	Chemistry	Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	Physics and astronomy
All doctorate recipients (number) ^a	5,924	2,675	1,057	2,192
Postgraduation status (number) ^b				
Definite postgraduation study	1,988	826	405	757
Definite employment	1,104	478	222	404
Seeking employment or study	1,924	936	277	711
Other ^c	159	85	21	53
Definite postgraduation study (%) ^d				
Postdoc fellowship	38.8	36.0	43.0	39.6
Postdoc research associateship	60.5	62.8	56.3	60.1
Other or unknown ^e	0.8	1.2	0.7	0.3
Definite employment (%) ^f				
Academe	24.1	22.6	34.7	20.0
Government	6.9	3.6	14.4	6.7
Industry or business ^g	64.4	70.3	44.1	68.6
Nonprofit organization	2.8	1.5	5.9	2.7
Other or unknown ^h	1.8	2.1	0.9	2.0
Primary activity ⁱ				
R&D	64.5	69.1	56.7	63.3
Teaching	18.6	19.3	20.5	16.8
Management or administration	5.2	3.5	8.8	5.2
Professional services	7.3	5.7	10.2	7.5
Other	4.4	2.4	3.7	7.2
Secondary activity ^j				
R&D	17.2	14.3	26.0	15.8
Teaching	2.8	2.2	5.6	2.1
Management or administration	15.8	20.7	8.4	14.2
Professional services	8.5	9.1	13.5	4.9
Other	2.8	2.0	5.1	2.6
No secondary activity	52.8	51.7	41.4	60.5
Activity unknown	3.8	3.8	3.2	4.2
Postgraduation location (%) ^k				
United States ^l	88.5	92.7	88.0	83.9
New England	9.0	10.3	7.5	8.4
Middle Atlantic	12.6	13.3	9.4	13.5
East North Central	10.3	13.8	4.8	9.4
West North Central	4.2	5.8	3.0	3.0
South Atlantic	12.5	13.9	13.7	10.4
East South Central	2.6	3.4	1.9	2.0
West South Central	8.0	6.7	15.6	5.4
Mountain	6.5	4.5	11.0	6.4
Pacific and insular	22.6	20.9	21.1	25.4

Table 59. Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients in physical sciences and earth sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2015

Characteristic	All physical sciences and earth sciences fields	Chemistry	Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	Physics and astronomy
Not in United States	11.5	7.3	11.8	16.1
Location unknown	*	0.0	0.2	0.0
Male doctorate recipients (number)	3,935	1,598	600	1,737
Postgraduation status (number) ^b				
Definite postgraduation study	1,365	535	233	597
Definite employment	760	287	132	341
Seeking employment or study	1,219	513	155	551
Other ^c	93	46	10	37
Definite postgraduation study (%) ^d				
Postdoc fellowship	37.5	35.7	39.9	38.2
Postdoc research associateship	62.2	63.9	60.1	61.5
Other or unknown ^e	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.3
Definite employment (%) ^f				
Academe	22.2	19.2	33.3	20.5
Government	7.0	D	12.9	D
Industry or business ^g	66.4	74.2	46.2	67.7
Nonprofit organization	2.5	D	6.1	D
Other or unknown ^h	1.8	1.4	1.5	2.3
Primary activity ⁱ				
R&D	66.2	73.2	59.7	62.9
Teaching	17.4	16.3	19.4	17.5
Management or administration	5.5	4.0	D	D
Professional services	6.8	4.7	D	D
Other	4.1	1.8	3.1	6.4
Secondary activity ^j				
R&D	16.3	12.3	23.3	16.9
Teaching	3.0	D	D	D
Management or administration	17.8	25.7	10.1	14.1
Professional services	8.2	9.8	14.7	4.3
Other	3.3	D	D	D
No secondary activity	51.4	46.7	40.3	59.8
Activity unknown	3.8	3.8	2.3	4.4
Postgraduation location (%) ^k				
United States ^l	87.8	92.5	87.4	83.8
New England	9.1	11.3	8.8	7.4
Middle Atlantic	12.7	13.1	8.5	13.9
East North Central	10.3	14.7	4.7	8.6
West North Central	4.2	5.2	D	D
South Atlantic	11.8	12.9	12.9	10.4
East South Central	2.8	D	D	D
West South Central	7.9	6.8	15.9	5.7
Mountain	6.1	D	10.7	D

Table 59. Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients in physical sciences and earth sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2015

Characteristic	All physical sciences and earth sciences fields	Chemistry	Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	Physics and astronomy
Pacific and insular	22.8	20.8	19.5	25.8
Not in United States	12.2	7.5	12.6	16.2
Location unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Female doctorate recipients (number)	1,988	1,077	457	454
Postgraduation status (number) ^b				
Definite postgraduation study	623	291	172	160
Definite employment	344	191	90	63
Seeking employment or study	705	423	122	160
Other ^c	66	39	11	16
Definite postgraduation study (%) ^d				
Postdoc fellowship	41.6	36.4	47.1	45.0
Postdoc research associateship	56.7	60.8	51.2	55.0
Other or unknown ^e	1.8	2.7	1.7	0.0
Definite employment (%) ^f				
Academe	28.2	27.7	36.7	17.5
Government	6.7	D	16.7	D
Industry or business ^g	59.9	64.4	41.1	73.0
Nonprofit organization	3.5	D	5.6	D
Other or unknown ^h	1.7	3.1	0.0	0.0
Primary activity ⁱ				
R&D	60.7	63.0	52.3	65.6
Teaching	21.5	23.9	22.1	13.1
Management or administration	4.5	2.7	D	D
Professional services	8.2	7.1	D	D
Other	5.1	3.3	4.7	11.5
Secondary activity ^j				
R&D	19.3	17.4	30.2	9.8
Teaching	2.4	D	D	D
Management or administration	11.5	13.0	5.8	14.8
Professional services	9.1	8.2	11.6	8.2
Other	1.8	D	D	D
No secondary activity	55.9	59.2	43.0	63.9
Activity unknown	3.8	3.7	4.4	3.2
Postgraduation location (%) ^k				
United States ^l	90.0	93.2	88.9	84.3
New England	8.7	8.5	5.7	12.6
Middle Atlantic	12.4	13.5	10.7	12.1
East North Central	10.3	12.2	5.0	12.6
West North Central	4.1	6.8	D	D
South Atlantic	14.2	15.6	14.9	10.3
East South Central	2.0	D	D	D
West South Central	8.4	6.4	15.3	4.5

Table 59. Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients in physical sciences and earth sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2015

Characteristic	All physical sciences and earth sciences fields	Chemistry	Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	Physics and astronomy
Mountain	7.4	D	11.5	D
Pacific and insular	22.3	21.2	23.3	23.8
Not in United States	9.9	6.8	10.7	15.7
Location unknown	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0

* = value < 0.05%; D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Includes respondents who did not report sex.

^b Includes only respondents who reported postgraduation status.

^c Includes respondents who indicated that they did not plan to work or study, respondents who indicated some other type of postgraduation plans, and respondents who indicated definite plans for other full-time degree program.

^d Excludes respondents who indicated plans for other full-time degree program. Percentages based on the number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for study.

^e "Other" includes respondents who indicated definite postgraduation study plans for traineeship, internship or clinical residency, or other study.

^f Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment.

^g Includes doctorate recipients who indicated self-employment.

^h "Other" is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.

ⁱ Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and primary work activity.

^j Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and secondary work activity.

^k Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans and type of plans.

^l Includes cases with an unknown U.S. region of employment after doctorate; see technical notes for states or territories included in regions.

NOTES: Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100. See table A-6 in the technical notes for a listing of major fields and their constituent subfields.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates, 2015.