

Transition of doctorate holders from education to work

Year 2014

In 2014, 91.5% of the 2010 doctorate holders were employed and 7% were looking for a job. The situation was better for the 2008 doctorate holders: 93.3% were employed and 5.4% were looking for a job.

Employment is high in all areas, in particular among doctorate holders in mathematics and computer sciences, industrial and information engineering (more than 97% for the 2008 doctorate holders and more than 95% for the 2010 doctorate holders). Conversely, historical, philosophical, pedagogical and psychological sciences doctorate holders have a lower percentage (around 88 percent).

The share of doctorate holders employed in a fixed-term employment was 43.7% for the 2008 cohort and 53.1% for the 2010 cohort. These percentages have increased since the previous survey (2009), when 35.1% of the 2004 doctorate holders and 43.7% of the 2006 doctorate holders were employed in a fixed-term job.

Around 73.4% of the 2008 doctorate holders in employment and 74.4% of the 2010 doctorate holders in employment performed research and development activities in their job. A slight disadvantage for the female doctorate holders is recorded: 30.6% for the 2008 cohort and 29.0% for the 2010 cohort do not perform any R&D activity at all.

Job satisfaction was rated with a 7.2 score on a 0-10 scale. The work dimensions that receive the highest scores are 'autonomy' (with a score of 8) and 'tasks performed' (7.9 score); the dimensions with minimal scores are 'career opportunities' (5.3 score) and 'job security' (5.8 score). Satisfaction levels expressed by the female doctoral graduates on every job aspects are systematically lower than the ones stated by the males.

The median net monthly income of 2008 doctorate holders was 1,750 euros, while the income received by 2010 doctorate holders was slightly lower, 1,633 euros.

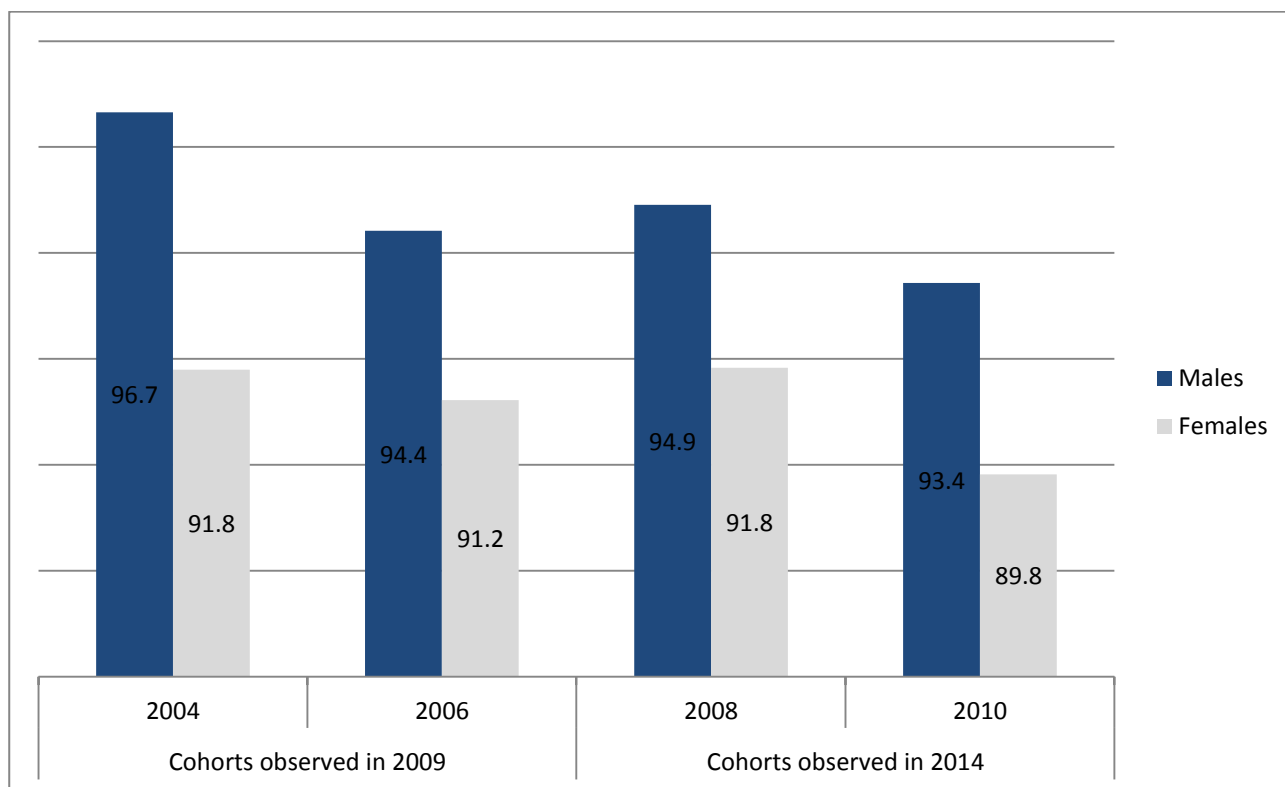
The holders of a doctorate in medical sciences, physical sciences, industrial and information engineering, economical and statistical sciences perceive the highest income, which exceed 1,900 euros for the 2008 doctorate holders and over 1,400 euros for the 2010 doctorate holders. Conversely, the holders of a science of antiquity, a philological, literature, historical, art, philosophical, pedagogical and psychological doctorate received the lowest income, which is anyway higher than 1,400 euros.

At the time of the interview, 12.9% of the doctorate holders usually lived abroad, that is six percentage points higher than the previous survey. Males have a greater tendency to migrate abroad (16.6%) than females (9.6 %).

Physical sciences doctorate holders and mathematics and computer science doctorate holders were the most likely to brain drain, accounting respectively for 31.5% and 22.4% of the Italian doctorate holders living abroad. On the other hand, persons who are less likely to live abroad are the doctorate holders in legal sciences and the agricultural and veterinary sciences (7.5% and 8.1%). The United Kingdom, the United States of America and France are the more attractive countries for doctorate holders (16.3%, 15.7% and 14.2%, respectively).

The income of the doctorate holders living abroad is higher than the total value (that is, 750 euros more for the 2008 cohort and 830 euros more for the 2010 cohort).

FIGURE – EMPLOYED DOCTORATE HOLDERS BY SEX, YEAR OF DOCTORATE AND YEAR OF SURVEY. YEARS 2009, 2014 (PERCENTAGE)



For more details please refer to the Italian version

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