

and 2003, 52% of physics PhD recipients were foreign citizens and 13% were women; in astronomy, 19% were from outside the US and 25% were women. The proportion of new physics PhDs who took postdocs rose for the third straight year to nearly 70% in 2003.

The private sector continues to be the dominant employer of physics degree recipients, but at the bachelor's and PhD levels its share is falling—from around two-thirds of recipients who took potentially permanent jobs in the mid-1990s to about half for the combined classes of 2002 and 2003.

Overall, starting salaries for physics bachelors (see the lower figure on page 28) remained flat or declined slightly compared with two years earlier. The only salaries that went up were those of high-school teachers, which rose by about 8%. The median starting salaries for PhDs in potentially permanent positions were \$42 000 in colleges, \$49 000 in universities, \$80 000 in the private sector, and \$90 000 in the national labs.

More than 75% of physics bachelor's recipients, 84% of physics PhDs, and 94% of astronomy PhDs surveyed said that if they had it to do over again, they would choose the same academic path.

A separate report on employment in the geosciences says that 58% of new PhDs took postdocs in 2003, up only slightly from the year before. In nonprofit organizations, the government, and potentially permanent po-

sitions in academia, median starting salaries were around \$45 000; in industry they were \$70 000.

The *Initial Employment Report: Physics and Astronomy Degree Recipients of 2002 & 2003* is available on the Web at <http://www.aip.org/statistics/trends/reports/emp.pdf>. Single copies may be obtained free of charge from AIP, Statistical Research Center, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740; e-mail stats@aip.org. Employment data for PhDs in the geosciences are available in *Earth & Space Science PhDs, Class of 2003*, a report by the American Geological Institute and the American Geophysical Union; see http://www.agu.org/sci_soc/cpst/2003PhDSurvey.pdf.

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WEB WATCH

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/eclipse/turkey2006.html>



At sunrise on 29 March, people on the eastern tip of Brazil will be the first to see the day's total solar eclipse. The last viewing chance will occur three hours later as the Sun sets over northern Mongolia. You can follow the eclipse on your computer thanks to the Exploratorium. Its webcast, **Total Solar Eclipse: Live from Turkey**, begins at 5 AM EST.

<http://www.setwomenresource.org.uk>

Although its prime focus is on one country, the **UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology** contains information that is more generally helpful. Under Role Models, for example, you can find Sarah House's weblog of repairing water and sewage systems in earthquake-stricken Pakistan.



<http://ben.clusty.com>



The **Clusty** Web portal brings together Ben Franklin's sayings and proverbs and provides links to thousands of sites devoted to the statesman, scientist, inventor, and publisher on the 300th anniversary of his birth.

To suggest topics or sites for Web Watch, please visit <http://www.physicstoday.org/suggestwebwatch.html>.

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