Standard-documentation

Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Survey on research and experimental development (R&D) in
the Higher Education Sector, in the Government Sector, in
the Private non-profit Sector and the Institutes Sub-sector

This documentation is valid for the reference period:

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Executive Summary

The survey on Research and experimental development (R&D) is a primary survey among approximately 2,000 Austrian R&D performing institutes in the higher education sector, the government sector, the private non-profit sector and in the institutes' sub-sector of the business enterprise sector, which has been carried out by Statistics Austria since 1967. Reference period is the previous calendar year. The survey is carried out as a census survey among all R&D performing institutes in the above-mentioned sectors. Due to the national R&D statistics regulation the surveyed institutions are obliged to report data. Besides data on R&D personnel, R&D expenditures as well as its funding, data on types of research and socio-economic objectives of the research activities are collected.

Aim of this statistics is the compilation of policy-relevant, input-oriented data on the performance of R&D in non-market producing institutions. As R&D, in economic theory as well as in economic policy, is considered a basis for economic growth and an increase of productivity, R&D relevant input and output data, but especially the gross domestic expenditures on R&D (GERD) – which are calculated from the results of the R&D statistical surveys and represent an important European “structural indicator” – are an indicator with significant importance, on a national as well as on EU level.

The results are merged with those of the Company R&D sub-sector to national totals and published. Analyses on the data collected in the framework of the R&D surveys are also used as a base for the annual R&D estimates, especially the annual R&D global estimate.

Coefficients which are derived from survey data are also used for the annual compilation of the Annex T of the Federal Finance Act in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance as the basis of the R&D share of specific budget lines of the federal budget. Additionally, for the annual estimate of the R&D funding of regional governments (“Länder”) results of the respective R&D survey are taken into account.

The methodological basis is the internationally used Frascati Manual of the OECD1 which determines worldwide standards and guidelines referring to the surveys on research and experimental development (R&D). Research and experimental development (R&D) is defined as creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications. The element of novelty and originality (new findings, new knowledge, new knowledge system, new applications) is the most important criteria to distinguish R&D from other scientific activities.

According to the Frascati Manual four sectors of performance2 are distinguished in the framework of R&D statistics:

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2 It must be pointed out that the Higher Education Sector defined in the framework of R&D statistics is not a separate sector in National Accounts and the System of National Accounts (SNA).
Due to internationally harmonised methods and standards of the Frascati Manual the results of the R&D surveys are comparable with the results of previous surveys on research and development as well as regionally and internationally.
<table>
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<th><strong>R&amp;D survey in the higher education sector, government sector, private non-profit sector and in the institutes sub-sector – Main features</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subject Matter</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Type of statistics</strong></td>
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| **Data sources/Survey techniques** | Reports from R&D performing institutions  
Central university administrations  
Budget data from the federal government and the regional governments |
| **Reference period or due day** | Uneven calendar years (from the reference year 2007 onwards the EU rhythm of uneven reference years has been followed) |
| **Periodicity** | Every two years |
| **Survey participation (in case of a survey)** | Compulsory |
| **Most detailed regional breakdown** | Regions |
| **Availability of results** | Final data: t + 18 months |
| **Other** | - |