Standard documentation
Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Annual R&D estimates

This documentation is valid from/for the reference period/due day:
from 2015 onwards

Status: **13 June 2025**

STATISTICS AUSTRIA
Bundesanstalt Statistik Österreich
A-1110 Vienna, Guglgasse 13
Phone: +43 1 711 28-0
www.statistik.at

Directorate Social Statistics
Organizational unit Research and digitalisation

Contact person:
Andreas Schiefer
Phone: +43 1 711 28-7162
E-mail: andreas.schiefer@statistik.gv.at

Executive Summary

The goal of the annual estimates of statistics on research and experimental development (R&D) is to analyse the funding of research in Austria and to estimate the domestic gross expenditures on R&D (GERD) for the current year resp. its components, based on up-to-date documents and information, such as budget data and economic forecasts. The annual R&D estimates comprise the following sub-projects:

- Contribution to the compilation of the Detailed table Allocation of R&D-relevant funds of the federal government (Federal Finance Act 2020, part a and part b“ – abbreviated for simplicity by DTARD), German: "Detailübersicht Forschungswirksame Mittelverwendungen des Bundes"
- R&D-relevant analyses of the federal budget based on the data in the DTARD by socioeconomic objectives, sectors of performance, type of funding (institutional funding, project funding) and transnationally coordinated R&D. Furthermore, basic funding for universities (GUF – General University Fund) is analysed by field of research.
- Estimate of the R&D expenditure of the regional governments (“Länder“)
- Analyses of the federal research database
- Global estimate on the funding of the Austrian gross domestic expenditures on R&D (GERD)

While in the framework of R&D surveys the R&D performing institutions are asked (“performer-based surveys““) in order to – amongst others – compile total R&D expenditures in Austria, the focus of the annual R&D estimates lies on the funding of research (“funder-based reporting“). Data are not collected in a primary survey.

Just as for the R&D census surveys, also for the annual estimates the methodological base is the internationally acknowledged Frascati Manual of the OECD. Research and experimental development (R&D) comprise creative and systematic work undertaken in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of humankind, culture and society, and to devise new applications of available knowledge.

In the various chapters of the federal budget, research-relevant expenditures of the federal government are appropriated and allocated. In the DTARD, the R&D-relevant expenditures (appropriations and outlays) are displayed in a tabular presentation, broken down by budget chapters. The DTARD is compiled by the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF). The selection of the relevant budget lines and/or sub-chapters as well as the determination of the R&D content of each budget item is done in close co-operation between the federal ministries concerned, the Federal Ministry of Finance and Statistics Austria. The DTARD is divided into two parts; part a) includes payments of contributions to international organisations which have research and research funding as (one) aim, and part b), which comprises the domestic expenditures of the federal government for research and research funding. The formal structure of the DTARD corresponds to the presentation of the federal budget in the so-called “Teilhefte”, i.e. budget data in total for three years are presented (two years preliminary appropriations, one year final outlays), broken down by budget lines. R&D coefficients, which are disclosed as whole-number percentages in a tabular presentation are – when there is a direct relationship with empirical

data of the R&D surveys – checked after the availability of the latest R&D survey results and, if necessary, proposed for revision and updated.

In analogy to the DTARD of the federal government, regional governments report R&D-relevant budget data of the region ("Länder") to Statistics Austria annually. The total of this data collected is entered into the global R&D estimate as the funding share of regional governments of the total Austrian research expenditure. The reports of the regional governments are also used as an important information source for preparing and conducting the regular R&D census surveys. Based on the results of the R&D surveys proposals for revisions are developed and reported back to the regional governments.

Annual analyses of the federal research data base comprise breakdowns of paid out funds of the individual federal ministries by socio-economic objectives and fields of performance. The evaluation of the grant data does not only yield important information for identifying potential survey units for the R&D surveys, but also relevant data for plausibility checks in the framework of the R&D surveys.

The global estimate of the Austrian gross domestic expenditure on R&D is in principle carried out once a year (April). In line with the world-wide (OECD, EU) valid Frascati Manual, and therefore guaranteeing international comparability, the expected funding of the expenditure on research and development carried out in Austria is presented. According to these definitions and standards funding from abroad for R&D performed in Austria is included, Austrian payments for R&D carried out abroad, on the contrary, is excluded. There is also a political relevance for the "research intensity", which is used as an important indicator for international purposes and shows the share of domestic R&D expenditure in the nominal gross domestic product (GDP); it is regularly calculated in the framework of the global estimate and updated. Usually the global estimate produces estimated values for the current calendar year, back to the year for which latest results of the R&D survey are available.

For the respective current calendar year, the expected R&D funding shares from the federal government, the regional governments, business enterprise sector, abroad and other financing sectors (other public sector and private non-profit sector) are estimated. The values of previous years are revised, depending on the availability of more up-to-date information (e.g. final instead of provisional budget data, revised GDP values and up-to-date economic forecast data). Within Europe, this nowcasting exercise for the current calendar year is unique.

The R&D global estimate is published annually in the national Research and Technology Report, together with the DTARD analyses and analyses of the federal research data base. Data of the DTARD, broken down by socio-economic objectives, are also reported in the framework of the compulsory data delivery to Eurostat, and the OECD (GBARD).

Subject to a corresponding commission from the Federal Ministry of Finance, the evaluation of tax data on the granting of a research premium – indirect research funding via the tax system to enterprises – should also be included in the annual R&D estimates. However, these analyses have only been carried out twice so far in order to meet the OECD's data requirements on R&D tax incentives.

Annual R&D estimates – Main Key Points	
Subject matter	Annual secondary statistical analyses of the research budgets of the federal government and the regional governments; analyses of the federal research database; compilation of the annual global estimate on the funding of the Austrian gross domestic expenditure on R&D; Analyses of data from financial authorities on the reimbursement of the R&D tax incentive
Population	Gross domestic expenditure for research and experimental development (R&D) in Austria; research grants and contracts of the federal government and the regional government
Type of statistics	Secondary statistics
Data sources/Survey techniques	Budget documents of the federal government and the regional governments Federal research database National and international economic forecasts Detailed results of the national R&D surveys Annual reports and progress reports from research funding institutions (e.g. FWF, FFG) and R&D performing institutions and organisations (ÖAW - Austrian Academy of Sciences, Ludwig Boltzmann Societies) Database of public funding ("Transparenzdatenbank")
Reference period or due day	Analyses of the "Detailed table Allocation of R&D-relevant funds of the federal government" (Federal Finance Act, part a and part b", DTARD): current year, 2 previous years Estimates of R&D expenditures of the regional governments: current year, 2 previous years Analyses of the federal research database: previous year R&D global estimate: current year, previous years (revisions)
Periodicity	Annual
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Does not apply.
Main legal acts	National: R&D statistics regulation, BGBl. II Nr. 396/2003 EU: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 of 30 July 2020 laying down technical and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business
Most detailed regional breakdown	Regions ("Länder") for the estimate of R&D expenditures of the regional governments; otherwise: Austria
Availability of results	Annually in April
Other	-