

Standard documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Survey on research and experimental development (R&D) in the higher education sector, the government sector and the private non-profit sector

This documentation is valid from/for the reference period/due day: **2023**

Status: **9 October 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:
Mag. Dieter Baumann
Phone: +43 1 711 28-7506 E-mail: dieter.baumann@statistik.gv.at

Executive Summary

The survey on research and experimental development (R&D) is a primary survey among approximately 2 200 Austrian R&D performing institutes in the higher education sector, the government sector and the private non-profit sector, which has been carried out by Statistics Austria since 1967. Reference period is the previous uneven 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 business enterprise 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 "Detailübersicht Forschungswirksame Mittelverwendungen des Bundes" (formally known as 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 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. 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:

Higher education sector

- Public Universities (including university clinics, the Universities of Arts and the University for Continuing Education Krems)
- Universities of Applied Sciences („Fachhochschulen“)

¹ OECD (2015), Frascati Manual 2015: Guidelines for Collecting and Reporting Data on Research and Experimental Development, The Measurement of Scientific, Technological and Innovation Activities, OECD Publishing, Paris.

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).

- Private universities
- University colleges of teacher education
- Other higher education sector
- Experimental institutes at schools of higher technical education

Government sector

- Institutions of the federal, regional and local government (except those of the higher education sector)
- chambers
- R&D facilities of units belonging to the social security system
- private non-profit institutions controlled and/or mainly financed by government
- Austrian Academy of Sciences

Private non-profit sector

- Private non-profit institutions

Business enterprise sector (is treated in a separate standard-documentation)

- Institutes sub-sector
- Company R&D sub-sector

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. The Frascati Manual was revised in the year 2015. In accordance with eurostat the guidelines of the seventh edition were implemented in the R&D-survey 2017 for the first time.

R&D-survey – Main Key Points

Subject matter	Research activities (Human resource input for R&D, R&D expenditure, funding of R&D) of R&D performing institutions, except those surveyed in the framework of the R&D survey in the business enterprise sector
Population	R&D performing institutions in the higher education sector, government sector and private non-profit sector (approx. 2 200 statistical units)
Type of statistics	Primary survey; supplemented by administrative data and estimates
Data sources/Survey techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Main legal acts	<p>Verordnung der Bundesministerin für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur, des Bundesministers für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie und des Bundesministers für Wirtschaft und Arbeit über Statistiken betreffend Forschung und experimentelle Entwicklung (F&E-Statistik-Verordnung) vom 29. August 2003, BGBl. II Nr. 396/2003; (national regulation), last change by BGBl II Nr. 150/2008</p> <p>Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 of 30 July 2020 laying down technical specifications 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 statistics</p>
Most detailed regional breakdown	Regions
Availability of results	Final data: t + 18 months
Other	