

# **Standard-documentation Meta information**

**(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)**

on

## **Survey on research and experimental development (R&D) in the Company R&D sub-sector**

This documentation is valid for the reference period:

**2002-2015**

Status: **12.07.2017**



STATISTICS AUSTRIA  
Bundesanstalt Statistik Österreich  
A-1110 Vienna, Guglgasse 13  
Phone: +43-1-71128-0  
[www.statistik.at](http://www.statistik.at)

---

**Directorate Social Statistics**  
**Organizational unit Science, Technology, Education**

Contact person:  
Andreas Schiefer  
Phone +43-1-71128-7162  
E-Mail: [andreas.schiefer@statistik.gv.at](mailto:andreas.schiefer@statistik.gv.at)

Contact person:  
Karin Bauer  
Phone +43-1-71128-7718  
E-Mail: [karin.bauer@statistik.gv.at](mailto:karin.bauer@statistik.gv.at)

## Executive Summary

The “Survey on research and experimental development (R&D) in the Company R&D sub-sector“ is a primary data collection which has been carried out among enterprises (according to the Frascati Manual) since 2002 every two years (except 2006 and 2007) by Statistics Austria. Since 2007, the reference periods are all odd years. The purpose of the statistics is to compile policy-relevant data about the performance of R&D in enterprises (“intramural R&D”), the quantity and type of intramural R&D expenditures, the funding of intramural R&D expenditures and personnel engaged with R&D. As R&D, in economic theory as well as in economic policy, is considered key for economic growth and increase in productivity, the R&D-relevant input and output indicators which are derived from the results of the R&D statistics (especially the gross domestic expenditures on R&D (GERD) which is an important European “structural indicator”) are given special attention, due to its extraordinary practical and political significance on a national and European level (see “Europe 2020“ target („3% target“); Barcelona objectives of the EU; Strategy for research, technology and innovation of the Austrian federal government with a target of a research intensity of 3.76% until 2020).

Furthermore, the figures on R&D expenditures and its funding form a substantial input for the Global estimate of the gross domestic expenditure on R&D, which is made annually by Statistics Austria, and for the annual Research and Technology Report of the federal government.

The statistical survey which is used as a data source targets at the complete inclusion of all R&D-relevant enterprises; it includes sectors A-S (by NACE Rev. 2), without O. All enterprises with 100 and more employed persons are included and subject to a census. Smaller enterprises (less than 100 employed persons) are surveyed when they are included in a register of R&D performing enterprises which is maintained at Statistics Austria. Altogether, approximately 7,000 enterprises are surveyed, while the participation in the survey is compulsory.

As a source to identify those enterprises which carry out R&D regularly but have less than 100 employed persons, the following information sources are used: results of the previous R&D surveys and innovation surveys, information from the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) about the applicants for direct R&D funding, own media observation as well as a couple of other information sources (such as e.g. reports of several funding agencies or patent applications). Because of the compulsory character of the survey response rates are regularly above 95%. Due to the implementation of standardised definitions the results show high comparability to the greatest possible extent over time and between regions and countries.

According to Austrian survey methodology, based on international standards and recommendations, the company R&D sub-sector – together with the institutes sub-sector – constitutes the business enterprise sector. The company R&D sub-sector is by far the more substantial sub-sector of the business enterprise sector and responsible for around 90% of total R&D expenditure of this sector. It comprises basically all units which are engaged in market production in order to generate a profit or any other financial gain.

All definitions are based on the methodology laid down in the international framework, the Frascati Manual of the OECD. The “business enterprise sector“ is one of the four sectors which are distinguished by R&D statistics in terms of the R&D performing units. The other sectors of performance are the “higher education sector“, the “government sector“ and the “private non-profit sector“.

Research and experimental development (R&D) comprise 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. It must be pointed out that the operationalisation of the definition on which this survey is based on, and therefore the distinction of research and experimental development from other activities as well as the identification of funding of R&D, is a not a simple exercise and can potentially result in fuzziness.

**Business Enterprise Sector – Company R&D sub-sector**

Private and public enterprises producing for the market with the purpose of generating a profit or any other economic gain

**Business Enterprise Sector – Institutes sub-sector**

Members of the umbrella organisation for the cooperative research institutes of Austrian industry (ACR – Austrian Cooperative Research) as well as competence centres

**Government Sector**

R&D performing institutions of the federal, regional and local government(s), professional chambers, social security institutions, and private non-profit institutes financed/controlled by the government sector

**Higher Education Sector**

Universities (including university clinics); Universities of Arts; Austrian Academy of Sciences; Universities of Applied Sciences ("Fachhochschulen"); Private universities; Danube University Krems; University colleges of teacher education; Other higher education sector; experimental institutes at schools of higher technical education

**Private non-profit sector**

Private non-profit institutions with a mainly private, religious or other non-public status or under private law

<b>R&amp;D in the Company R&amp;D sub-sector – Main features</b>	
<b>Subject Matter</b>	Capturing Research and Development activities of enterprises
<b>Population</b>	R&D performing enterprises of NACE Rev. 2 sectors A to S (except O)
<b>Type of statistics</b>	Primary survey
<b>Data sources/Survey techniques</b>	Direct information from enterprises
<b>Reference period or due day</b>	Odd calendar years (from 2007)
<b>Periodicity</b>	Every two years
<b>Survey participation (in case of a survey)</b>	Compulsory
<b>Main legal acts</b>	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, <a href="#">BGBl. II Nr. 396/2003</a> (national regulation)  <a href="#">Commission implementing regulation (EU) No 995/2012</a> of 26 October 2012 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of <a href="#">Decision No 1608/2003/EC</a> of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of Community statistics on science and technology
<b>Most detailed regional breakdown</b>	Regions ("Bundesländer"), NUTS2
<b>Availability of results</b>	Final data: t + 18 months
<b>Other</b>	-