



Press release

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15 Education and Science

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Research and development in private enterprises 2015

Enterprise R&D investment of over CHF 15 billion in 2015

Neuchâtel, 12.01.2017 (FSO) – **Enterprises in Switzerland devoted more than CHF 15.7 billion to their research and development activities (R&D) in 2015. This represents a rise of 10% compared with 2012. Almost 57,000 people worked within enterprises to carry out these research activities. At international level, Switzerland is among those countries where enterprises are the most active in R&D. These are some of the main findings from the survey conducted by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) in partnership with economiesuisse.**

In 2015, enterprises in Switzerland spent almost CHF 43 million per day, including Saturdays and Sundays, to carry out their own R&D activities (intramural R&D). This is the highest level ever recorded, surpassing that of the previous survey conducted in 2012 by the FSO.

Switzerland well situated

In international comparison, Switzerland maintains its position as one of the countries with the most active enterprises in terms of research and development. For two decades, R&D expenditure has increased faster than economic activity as a whole in Switzerland, measured by gross domestic product (GDP).

Pharmaceuticals play a leading role

"Pharmaceuticals" is the industry investing the most in R&D. It alone represents 35% of total R&D expenditure amounting to CHF 5.5 billion. The other two main industries are "Research and Development" and "Machinery", which represent 16% and 10% respectively of total R&D expenditure by enterprises.

All industries have increased their intramural R&D expenditure with the exception of "Metallurgy", which saw a marked decline (-30%) and "Others" which fell slightly (-3%). The greatest increase (+66%) was seen in the "ICT services" industry.

Revival of basic research

2015 was marked by a sharp rise in enterprises' expenditure dedicated to basic research. The amounts allocated more than doubled between 2012 and 2015 reaching CHF 3.5 billion. This means that nearly a quarter of expenditure went on basic research. This proportion is much larger than usual as enterprises are tending to neglect basic research in favour of applied research activities and experimental development.

Increase in R&D personnel

In 2015, 57,000 people were actively involved in research and development work in enterprises. This represents a 10% increase in R&D personnel, following a similar trend to that of all R&D expenditure. Three-quarters of personnel have a tertiary qualification (77%). Women represent 22% of research personnel, foreigners 38%.

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Publications:

Dépenses et personnel de recherche et développement des entreprises privées en Suisse 2015,
order number: 486-1500. Price : free of charge
Forschung und Entwicklung: Aufwendungen und Personal der schweizerischen Privatunternehmen 2015,
order number: 485-1500. Price: free of charge
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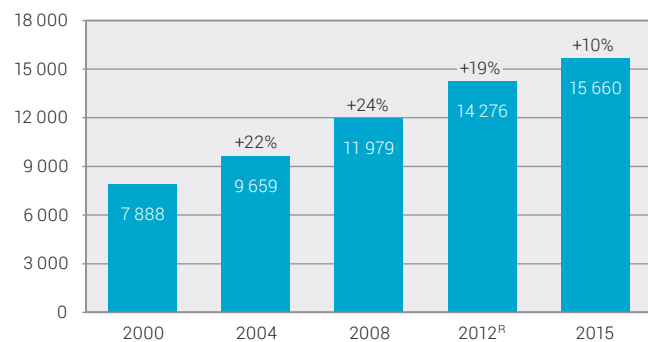
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The contents of this press release as well as the relevant information for the press conference were made available contributors 15 working days before the press conference.

Intramural R&D expenditure, 2000–2015

In CHF million at current prices (rate of change as %)

G1



^R = revised data

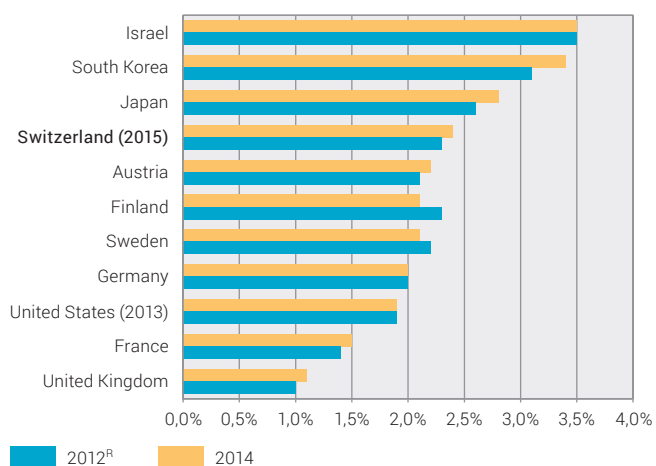
Source: FSO – Research and development (R&D)
in private enterprises (private RD)

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Intramural R&D expenditure of enterprises, international comparison, 2012^R and 2014

As % of GDP

G2



^R = revised data for Switzerland

Source: OECD – Main Science and Technology Indicators, February 2016

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Intramural R&D expenditure, by industry¹, 2012^R and 2015

In CHF million at current prices (rate of change as %)

	Intramural R&D expenditure		Rate of change
	2012 ^r	2015	2015
Food	61	72	17%
Chemicals	507	629	24%
Pharmaceuticals	4 999	5 537	11%
Metallurgy	456	319	-30%
Machinery	1 559	1 589	2%
High technology instruments	1 021	1 053	3%
ICT ² manufacture	1 045	1 143	9%
ICT ² services	342	568	66%
Research and development	1 912	2 443	28%
Other industries	2 373	2 307	-3%
Total	14 276	15 660	10%

R = revised data

¹ Grouping of NOGA economic branches² ICT: Information and communication technologies

Source: FSO - Research and development (R&D) in private enterprises (private RD)

R&D personnel, by sex and nationality, 2000-2015

As headcount (HC) and relative share as %

	2000	2004	2008	2012	2015
Total (HC)	42 231	37 819	45 623	51 715	56 933
Women (HC)	8 086	8 529	9 381	12 924	12 809
% Women	19%	23%	21%	25%	22%
Foreigners (HC)	13 309	12 035	14 796	20 111	21 603
% Foreigners	32%	32%	32%	39%	38%

Source: FSO - Research and development (R&D) in private enterprises (private RD)