



Research and Development (R&D) in the Business Enterprise Sector

Description

Research and development (R&D) plays an essential role in the process of innovation and represents one of the main driving forces of economic growth. To what extent does the R&D of Swiss private business allow Switzerland to remain competitive and able to establish itself on world markets? How has this area developed over the last decade? An analysis of the results of the R&D survey carried out in the private economy in Switzerland helps to contribute answers to these questions.

Available since:

First year of reference of statistics: 1966 (realisation by VORORT). From 1986, realisation by FSO in collaboration with VORORT (which became economiesuisse). Most variables are comparable from 1992.

Features registered:

The survey unit is the enterprise.

Data on R&D financial and human resources:

- Intramural R&D expenditure
- Type of R&D (basic research, applied research, experimental development)
- The objectives of R&D (25 objectives of NABS)
- Technological fields of R&D (biotechnology, nanotechnology, software)
- Extramural R&D expenditure (mandates and contributions according to beneficiary in Switzerland and abroad)
- Foreign affiliates R&D expenditure
- Nature of intramural R&D expenditure (labour costs of R&D personnel, other current costs and capital expenditure)
- R&D sources of funds (other enterprises, government, etc.)
- People occupied in R&D (formal qualification, occupation, gender and nationality)

Methodology

Survey by questionnaire in 2 stages:

Stage 1: A screening which allows identification of businesses active in R&D

Stage 2: The survey which allows collection of more detailed information on R&D staffing and expenses

The questionnaire can be filled in on-line or on paper.

Degree of regionalisation:

Switzerland, Great Regions

Periodicity:

From 1992 to 2012, the rhythm of surveys is every 4 years. Next survey: year of reference 2015, thereafter with a biennial rhythm.

Reference period:

Civil year

Statistical quality of data:

In practice, the scope and measure of R&D can prove problematic. Any determination of the amount of financial resources spent on R&D and especially the amount of work consecrated to it is based on estimates. Therefore the data should be considered as estimates with guaranteed reliability.

Revision:
Last revision: 2012

Legal bases

Act of 9th October 1992 on Federal Statistics (LSF)
Ordinance of 30th June 1993 regarding organisation of statistics
Ordinance of 30th June 1993 regarding realisation of federal statistical surveys
Ordinance of 30th June 1993 on Business and Establishment Register

Organization

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