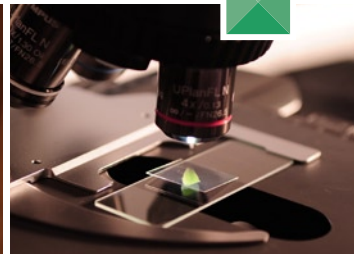
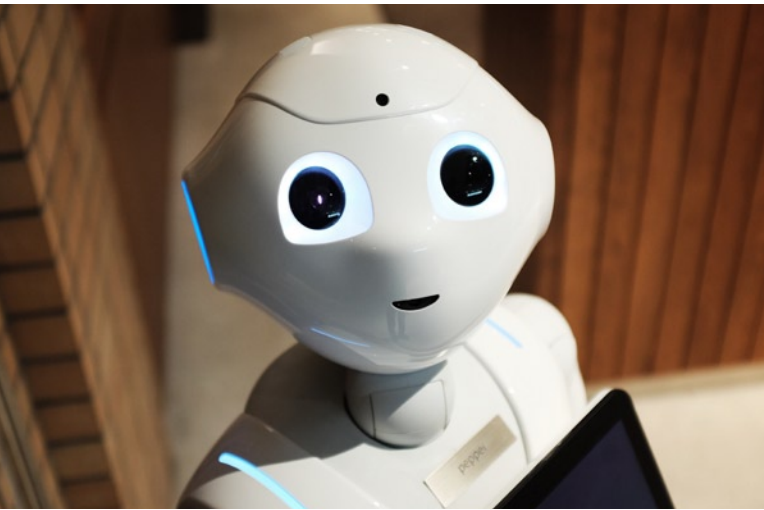




# SCIENCE COUNCILS SECTOR R&D AT A GLANCE

South African science councils form an integral part of the national system of innovation. R&D performed by science councils, in areas such as the social sciences, health, agriculture, industrial development, and water, inform critical policy decisions by government, and other actors. This fact sheet details the profile of R&D expenditure in science councils in 2019/20. Expenditure on R&D increased in the science councils from R5.444 billion in 2018/19 to R6.198 billion in 2019/20. R&D spending by research field and socio-economic objectives in 2019/20 closely mirrored national priority areas, such as economic development, health, and education.



FACT SHEET NO. 36

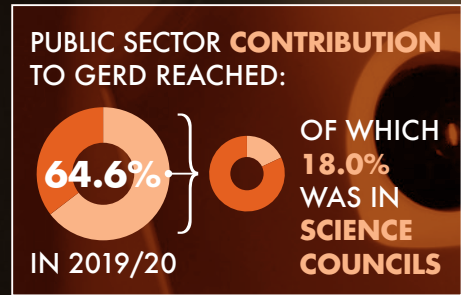
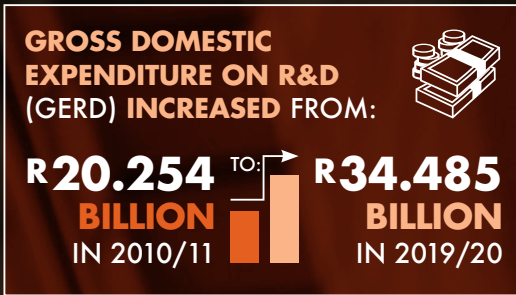
# THE BIG PICTURE



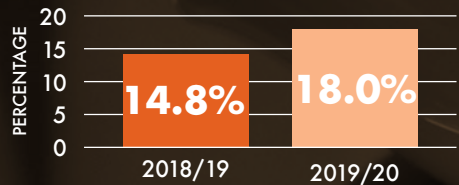
THE VALUE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) IN 2019/20



THE SHARE OF GDP SPENT ON R&D



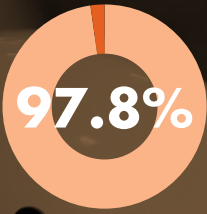
**GERD IN SCIENCE COUNCILS INCREASED FROM:**



# R&D SPENDING PATTERNS



**RESEARCH FIELDS IN SCIENCE COUNCILS WITH THE HIGHEST R&D EXPENDITURE ARE THE NATURAL SCIENCES, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING CATEGORY:**

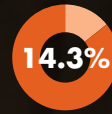


LED BY: **18.9%**

ENGINEERING SCIENCES



INFORMATION, COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES



AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES



MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

**SCIENCE COUNCILS R&D EXPENDITURE IN SELECT POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST:**



ENVIRONMENT  
**14.2%**



SPACE SCIENCE  
**9.9%**



TUBERCULOSIS, HIV/AIDS, MALARIA  
**7.9%**

**R&D EXPENDITURE BY SCIENCE COUNCILS WAS MOST CONCENTRATED IN:**



WESTERN CAPE **14.8%**

GAUTENG **58.5%**

NORTHERN CAPE **10.2%**

**R&D PERSONNEL**



**TOTAL PERSONNEL IN SCIENCE COUNCILS**

= **4 070**, COMPRISED OF:

**1 858**

RESEARCHERS

**1 505**

TECHNICIANS

**707**

OTHER R&D SUPPORT PERSONNEL

**BENEFITS OF R&D SPENDING**



**SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY THAT BENEFITTED MOST FROM SCIENCE COUNCIL INVESTMENT IN R&D IN 2019/20 WERE:**

**17.3%**

NATURAL SCIENCES, TECHNOLOGIES AND ENGINEERING

**11.5%**

DEFENCE

**10.5%**

HEALTH

**8.2%**

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES



## BEHIND THE NUMBERS



The annual South African National Survey of Research and Experimental Development (R&D Survey) is conducted by the Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (CeSTII) at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), on behalf of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). R&D statistics are collected in terms of the Statistics Act No. 6 of 1999, and are quality assured by Statistics South Africa. Data collected through the Survey, and its historic data series, helps to inform decision-makers on investment planning, policy-making, advocacy, and research in South Africa. Data also adds to benchmarking and performance comparisons with our international counterparts.



Access previous survey reports:  
<http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/departments/CeSTii/reports-cestii>



Data and analysis for this publication was prepared by Luthando Zondi and Mario Clayford.



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