



SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SURVEY OF RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

KEY SECTOR RESULTS AND TRENDS

GOVERNMENT SECTOR R&D AT A GLANCE

Government plays a central role as both a funder and a performer of research in South Africa. In 2018/19, government funded 47.5% of R&D performed in South Africa, equivalent to R17.475 billion. The major beneficiaries of government R&D funding in 2018/19 were higher education institutions and science councils. In line with national priorities, government expenditure on R&D was largely concentrated within the medical and health sciences, social sciences, and agricultural sciences.

FACT SHEET NO. 28

THE BIG PICTURE



THE VALUE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) IN 2018/19



THE SHARE OF GDP SPENT ON R&D



SOUTH AFRICA'S ANNUAL R&D SPEND HAS INCREASED OVER THE PAST DECADE:

**R 20.955
BILLION**
IN 2009/10

**R 36.784
BILLION**
IN 2018/19

GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN R&D MORE THAN DOUBLED FROM:



**R 1.076
BILLION**
IN 2009/10

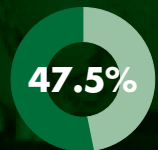


**R 2.223
BILLION**
IN 2018/19

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR R&D



GOVERNMENT FUNDED 47.5% OF R&D NATIONALLY. GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN THE LARGEST R&D FUNDER SINCE 2007/08.



THE TWO SECTORS WITH THE LARGEST SHARE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR R&D IN 2018/19 WERE:



HIGHER EDUCATION

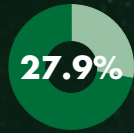


SCIENCE COUNCILS

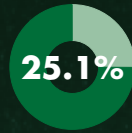
R&D SPENDING PATTERNS



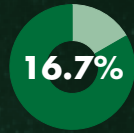
THE SECTORS THAT ATTRACTED THE LARGEST GOVERNMENT R&D INVESTMENT, BY RESEARCH FIELD:



SOCIAL SCIENCES

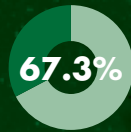


AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

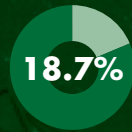


MEDICAL & HEALTH SCIENCES

BREAKDOWN OF GOVERNMENT SECTOR R&D SPEND BY TYPE OF RESEARCH:



APPLIED RESEARCH



BASIC RESEARCH



EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

GOVERNMENT R&D SPENDING SPLIT BY PROVINCE IN 2018/19:

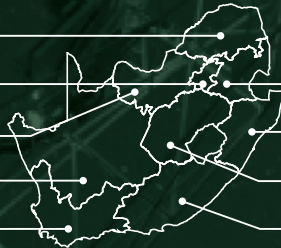
LIMPOPO 4.0%

GAUTENG 37.6%

NORTH WEST 3.0%

NORTHERN CAPE 4.0%

WESTERN CAPE 20.3%



MPUMALANGA 4.0%

KWAZULU-NATAL 10.6%

FREE STATE 2.7%

EASTERN CAPE 13.7%

GOVERNMENT R&D PERSONNEL



THE TOTAL R&D WORKFORCE IN THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR WAS MADE UP OF:

RESEARCHERS (57.1%)



SUPPORTED BY

TECHNICIANS (14.3%)



AND OTHER

SUPPORT STAFF (28.6%)





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>
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