

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SURVEY  
OF RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL  
DEVELOPMENT

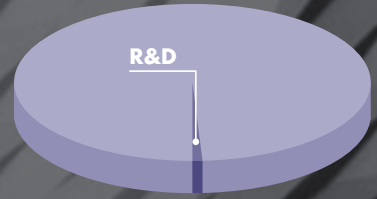


HIGHER EDUCATION  
AT A GLANCE  
**2016/17**

FACT SHEET NO. 12



IN THE 2016/17 SURVEY  
**0.82% OF GDP**  
WAS SPENT ON R&D



THE SIZE OF  
SOUTH AFRICA'S  
GDP IN 2016/17



**R 4 350.314**  
**BILLION**

GROSS EXPENDITURE ON  
R&D (GERD) GREW FROM

**R 16.521 BILLION**

IN 2006/07

**R 35.693 BILLION**

IN 2016/17

**PUBLIC SECTOR  
CONTRIBUTION**

TO GERD REACHED  
**55.7% IN 2016/17,**



OF WHICH  
**32.7% WAS**  
IN **HIGHER**  
**EDUCATION**



**HIGHER EDUCATION**

R&D (HERD) SPEND IN 2016/17



**R 11.659**  
**BILLION**

**HERD AS PROPORTION OF  
GERD INCREASED FROM**



**20.0% TO 32.7%**

IN  
2006/07

IN  
2016/17

IN 2016/17 **HERD** WAS DEVOTED TO:

**BASIC RESEARCH 57.3%**



**EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH 13%**

**APPLIED RESEARCH 29.7%**

**59.8%** OF HERD WAS CONCENTRATED WITHIN **NATURAL SCIENCES, TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING** WITH **MEDICAL & HEALTH SCIENCES** CONTRIBUTING **20.7%**



THE REMAINING **40.2%** WAS SPENT ON **SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES** REFLECTING A **SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT** IN THESE **RESEARCH FIELDS**



**65.5%** OF ALL **R&D PERSONNEL** WERE LOCATED IN THE **HE SECTOR** IN 2016/17



**48.5%**  
STAFF

**51.5%**  
POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS &  
DOCTORAL STUDENTS

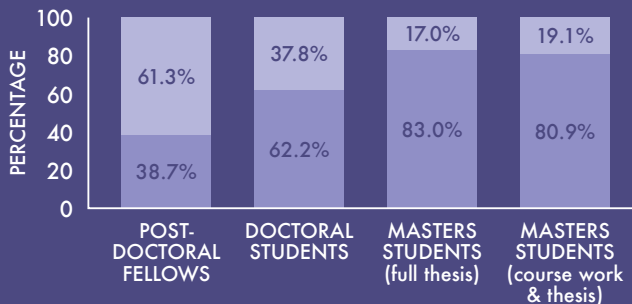
**46 028 = ALL HE RESEARCHERS**

**45.9%** OF **RESEARCHERS** IN THE **HE SECTOR** WERE **WOMEN**



**PROPORTION OF SA VS NON-SA STUDENT SPLIT:**

■ NON-SOUTH AFRICAN  
■ SOUTH AFRICAN



# BEHIND THE NUMBERS

The annual South African National Survey of Research and Experimental Development 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 Technology (DST). 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 streams also add to benchmarking and performance comparisons with our international counterparts.

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

This Fact Sheet was produced by CeSTII in October 2018.

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