

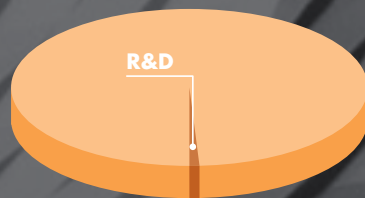
SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SURVEY  
OF RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL  
DEVELOPMENT



SCIENCE COUNCILS  
AT A GLANCE  
**2016/17**

FACT SHEET NO. 16

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

THE **GROWTH** OF **SCIENCE COUNCIL R&D EXPENDITURE**  
HAS **STEADILY INCREASED** FROM

**R 3.137**  
**BILLION**  
IN 2008/09



**R 6.136**  
**BILLION**  
IN 2016/17

**INVESTMENT-ENHANCING  
RESEARCH FACILITIES  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE IS  
EVIDENT IN A CONTINUED  
GROWTH OF CAPITAL  
EXPENDITURE, FROM**

**R 0.384**  
**BILLION**  
IN 2008/09



**R 0.857**  
**BILLION**  
IN 2016/17



**R&D IN BIO-TECHNOLOGY**  
HAS **DOUBLED** SINCE  
2012/13 TO

**R 0.360**  
**BILLION**  
IN 2016/17

## INVESTMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL RELATED R&D AREAS HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED



**6.9%**  
IN 2013/14

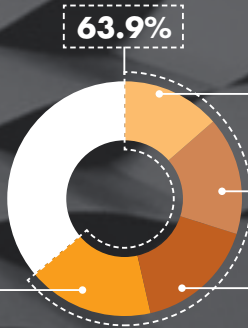


**16.8%**  
IN 2016/17



THE **LARGEST SHARE**  
(**63.9%**) OF **SCIENCE**  
**COUNCIL R&D**  
**INVESTMENT** WAS  
IN THE FOLLOWING  
RESEARCH FIELDS:

**AGRICULTURAL**  
**SCIENCES (17.4%)**



**MEDICAL AND HEALTH**  
**SCIENCES (13.6%)**

**INFORMATION AND**  
**COMMUNICATION**  
**TECHNOLOGY (16.3%)**

**ENGINEERING**  
**SCIENCES (16.6%)**

BY SOCIO-ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES (SEO), IN 2016/17 THE **SECTORS**  
OF THE **ECONOMY BENEFITING MOST** FROM **SCIENCE COUNCIL**  
**INVESTMENT IN R&D** WERE:

**ECONOMIC**  
**DEVELOPMENT**

**40.3%**

**HEALTH,**  
**EDUCATION**  
**& SOCIETY**

**17.5%**

**DEFENCE**

**12.3%**

**NATURAL**  
**SCIENCES,**  
**TECHNOLOGIES**  
**& ENGINEERING**

**11.3%**

THE **MOST IMPROVED SECTOR**  
OF THE ECONOMY WAS THE  
**SEO DIVISION ENVIRONMENT,**  
WHICH **INCREASED** FROM

**7.9%**  
IN 2015/16



**13.9%**  
IN 2016/17

# 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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