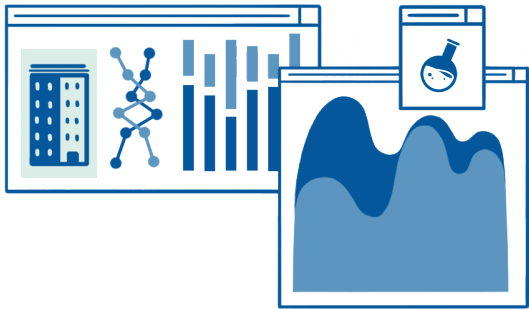


# Measuring Research and Development of U.S. Businesses with 10 or More Employees



## The Business Enterprise Research and Development Survey

The investments of U.S. companies in R&D can lead to new or improved products or processes, allowing businesses to enter new markets, streamline workflows, and increase efficiency. This can lead to growth, reduced costs, and improved productivity, all of which can help companies succeed in competitive markets and boost the economy.

## What is the BERD Survey?

The Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD) Survey annually collects information on R&D performed or funded by U.S. businesses with at least 10 employees. The BERD Survey is developed and cosponsored by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) within the National Science Foundation and by the U.S. Census Bureau.

## How can I use the BERD Survey?

### Data from the BERD Survey can answer questions like

- How much money did U.S. businesses spend on R&D in a particular year?
- How was the majority of R&D funded in a certain industry?
- How much money does the U.S. government spend on R&D within a certain industry?
- In which states do businesses perform or fund the most R&D?
- What percentage of domestic business employees are R&D employees?
- What percentage of domestic business R&D employees are female?



## Why is the BERD Survey important?

The BERD Survey is the primary source of information on domestic and global R&D expenditures and the R&D workforce for companies operating in the United States. Policymakers, business executives, and researchers can use current R&D activity and funding data to help make decisions, analyze trends, and compare company performance with other U.S. businesses.

For more information, the [BERD Survey homepage \(https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvyberd/\)](https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvyberd/) features additional details about the survey, its questionnaires, and links to related publications and products.



## Data details

### Where can I find BERD Survey data?

BERD Survey data can be found in several places throughout the NCSES website. The [BERD Survey data page](https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvyberd/#tabs-2) (<https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvyberd/#tabs-2>) provides data tables that can be downloaded by users. Historical statistics for 1953–2007 from NCSES’s original business R&D survey can be obtained at the [Industrial Research and Development Information System](https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/iris) (<https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/iris>). Microdata for the BERD Survey and its predecessors can be accessed via the [Federal Statistical Research Data Centers](https://census.gov/about/adrm/fsrdc.html) (<https://census.gov/about/adrm/fsrdc.html>).

### U.S. companies report information such as

- R&D performance
- Total and R&D employment
- Sources of R&D funding
- Type of R&D work
- Type of R&D cost
- Capital expenditures for R&D
- R&D application and technology focus areas
- Industry codes based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)
- Business activity codes
- Geographic location of domestic and foreign R&D performance of U.S.-based companies
- Sales

The BERD Survey collects data from businesses with 10 or more employees. For R&D data on businesses with fewer than 10 employees, see the [Annual Business Survey](https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvyabs/) (<https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvyabs/>).

## Products supported by BERD Survey data

BERD Survey data are used in NCSES publications, such as InfoBriefs and special reports. Its data also supplement NCSES publications such as *National Patterns of R&D Resources* and *Science and Engineering Indicators* and are also used by the Bureau of Economic Analysis for inclusion in its System of National Accounts and Foreign Direct Investment programs.



### Survey specifics

**Frequency:** Annual

**Initial survey year:** Predecessor surveys have collected R&D data from U.S. businesses since 1953

**Reference period:** Each calendar year

**Response unit:** Firms

**Sample or census:** Sample

**Population size:** Approximately 1,125,000 companies

**Sample size:** Approximately 42,500 companies



### National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)

For more information about NCSES’s products and data collection process, visit <https://ncses.nsf.gov>. You can also explore our Surveys page at <https://ncses.nsf.gov/surveys> to learn more about NCSES surveys and the BERD Survey, as well as its methodology, survey design, and questionnaires.